
THE ISLINGTON SOCIETY

NEWS

**OCTOBER
1997**

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

It is plain daft that central London's day-time road traffic speed is the same in 1997 as it was in 1897. But it is hardly surprising.

Eighty five per cent of central London's commuters arrive by public transport every morning but the 15% who arrive by car account for 67% of the central area's rush hour road traffic! They also account for about 50% of the rush hour traffic in boroughs adjacent to the central area - like Camden and Islington (less in the north of the borough but more in the south and much more south of the Angel which counts as central London).

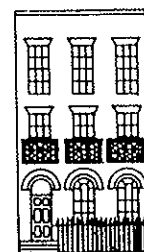
The result is that nearly every street in inner London is now treated as a thoroughfare rather than as a place. Pedestrians and cyclists have been driven out: not usually because their mode of transport is slower but because it has been made unpleasant by the presence of too many motor vehicles. This in turn has lost pedestrians their safety in numbers and has made it particularly hazardous for children to play in the street or walk to school: the result is that journeys solely for the purpose of taking children to school now account for 16% of London's rush hour traffic.

It is particularly ironic that the increase in car traffic is not only polluting the atmosphere and destroying our physical environment but is also making it more difficult to get around London or to get goods collected and delivered. Unrestricted use of the private car has palpably failed as a mode of urban transport. A sane society would tolerate it no longer and would scorn government "policy" over the last thirty years which has amounted to nothing more than allowing traffic to restrain itself by its own congestion.

The Road Traffic Reduction Act (March 1997) reached the statute book with all party support and is clearly a significant step on the road to sanity. But Jeremy Corbyn, Islington North's M.P. and one of the promoters of the Bill, admits that the Act lacks teeth. It is hoped that these will be provided by amendments going through Parliament now which are expected to be enacted by next spring: in plenty of time to provide the proposed London Regional Authority with the means to

do something positive about strategic planning and transport. In the meantime, we have a consultative document from the government which suggests measures aimed to force commuters to use public transport. It invites submissions and suggestions in advance of a White Paper next spring.

Groups like The Islington Society have an urgent duty to initiate debates on ways of achieving traffic reduction locally. We already have a group of the Society's members, led by Norman Beddington, discussing the problem with Council officers; but to widen the discussion further we have, amongst other events, our public debate on 26th November (chaired by Roger Blitz, editor of the Highbury and Islington Express) on the motion that "Islington would be a better place without private cars".



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the geologist
lived here

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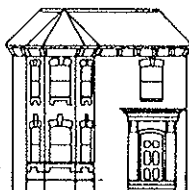
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Sir ALFRED BOSSOM
the architect MP
lived here



Comment

A glance at our programme of forthcoming events shows a great preponderance of meetings concerned with traffic and transport. I explain below why I make no apology for the number devoted to this subject, but I do apologise for our failure to mix them up a bit better. Our last three public meetings were about buildings: modern architecture, housing and architectural history. Out of our next five meetings, four are connected with transport.

The catalyst for the formation of The Islington Society in 1960 was the threat to our stock of good nineteenth-century buildings: a threat which arose from the lack of sites for new housing as land made available by war damage and slum clearance was gradually used up. We were not opposed to good, modern architecture. However, we argued that our Georgian streets and squares were not only essential to the character of this corner of London but that, rehabilitated, they would make better housing than that provided by the typical, monolithic blocks that were planned to replace them. We lost the "battle" over Union Square and Packington Street; but that became the *cause celebre* which helped us to win the "war". And how right our judgement turned out to be. Much of the 1960s housing built in other areas has already been disgraced and demolished: while the 1860s stock we defended has been rehabilitated to provide satisfactory accommodation within both the public and private sectors.

Although we still need to be vigilant, especially over poor quality conversions, the threat to historic buildings has now been superseded by the threat from increasing traffic as the major cause for concern amongst those who cherish the physical environment in which we live.

For the last decade Islington Council has had a policy of trying to reduce the traffic in the Borough but has lacked the means to make the policy effective. Now that the Council has the support of the 1997 Road Traffic Reduction Act, it seems that The Islington Society has an important and urgent role to play in organising debates about ways in which traffic reduction can be achieved: thus reducing pollution, improving the environment and adding to the quality of life of all those who live or work in our Borough.

Harley Sherlock
Chairman

**Traffic Pollution - What can we do about it?
7.30pm, Wednesday 8th October**

An Islington Society public meeting at which Doug Gleave, Co-ordinator of Islington Local Agenda 21's Traffic and Pollution Working Group, and Paula Waldron, Islington's Air Pollution Officer, will guide us through the intricacies of the subject without getting us bogged down in too much scientific jargon.

A bit like the situation on smoking a generation ago, the direct connection between pollution and ill-health is apparently difficult to prove; but we all "know" it will be proved sooner or later and that we exceed recognised guidelines on pollution levels at our peril. We also know that politicians are sufficiently sensitive to the issue for it to be a useful weapon in the battle to curb excessive car use.

The talk will be on Wednesday 8th October in the Town Hall, Upper Street and starts at 7.30pm.

Major Local Planning Issues

The number of planning applications continues to increase with a noticeable preponderance of them in the City fringe areas of Finsbury and Clerkenwell. The latest in a long line of proposals for turning offices into residential use is the very large site between Cowcross Street and Albion Place which takes its name from the "Danish Bacon" warehouse. The Warehouse and surrounding buildings will be preserved but the partially built offices which occupy the rest of the site will be completed structurally and mostly converted into flats. The offices would have been unlikely to provide many jobs for local people and, as most people who work in the City commute from far away, it must make sense to build accommodation for City workers thus reducing the need for long distance commuting.

The preponderance of current applications in the north of the Borough seems to be for the sub-dividing

of large Victorian houses to provide several small flats. Some of the internal planning of these conversions is to a very poor standard but the planning acts allow virtually no control over interiors, even in conservation areas, except when the buildings are statutorily "listed" as being of architectural or historic merit. This could be a possible but difficult campaigning issue.

Probably the most significant of the current planning applications are those for the partial demolition of the Marquess Estate, the object of which is to re-open the roads that previously ran through the area with a view to making the estate part of the street pattern of the Borough rather than set aside for council housing. Without well thought out traffic management, the proposals could lead to an increase in the commuter traffic through the area to the detriment both of the estate itself and of some

of the surrounding roads. But one of the conditions of the outline permission already granted is that traffic management proposals must be subject to public consultation and Council approval before work on the roads can start.

Undoubtedly, the most controversial planning application expected soon is that for the expansion of the Arsenal Football Club. While many people want Arsenal to remain in the Borough, it is difficult to see how local residents can be expected to tolerate the compulsory purchase of their homes or suffer even more traffic on match days. In the 1960s (when attendances were higher than those anticipated now) everyone arrived on foot or by public transport. The present trend is for ever increasing numbers to arrive by car. Unless this can be reversed it is difficult to see how Arsenal's expansion can be accommodated.

Trams: More transport for less money
7.30pm, Wednesday 29th October

George Stern says that Upper Street, with its cafes, restaurants and shops, needs trams because it needs silent non-polluting public transport.

He argues that trams are the answer for London. Quiet, clean and efficient, they attract drivers away from their cars. They are not obstructed as buses are - motorists stay clear. You get fifteen miles of tram track for one mile of tube line. Trams are, long term, cheaper than buses. Currently the taxpayer spends £1,000 million a year subsidising motoring in London through road building and tax relief on company cars. A tram based transport would cost the taxpayer less than is spent now.

On Wednesday, 29th October George Stern will talk to a joint meeting organised by The Islington Society and the Simon Wolff Charitable Foundation. It will start in Islington Town Hall, Upper Street at 7.30pm.

London Government

A comprehensive wish list of policy decisions and changes for London affecting planning, conservation and transportation has been sent to the new Government and other interested parties by The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies, of which The Islington Society is a founding and leading member. The Forum first applauded the bringing together of land use, transport and regional policy in John Prescott's super ministry. It urged that the proposed Regional Authority for London should have an equally wide remit.

The Forum represents some 110 societies including many local associations from all parts of greater London and has, since its formation in 1988, campaigned, with members' support, for an elected strategic authority. It is not surprising, therefore, that together with eighty per cent of Londoners, it warmly welcomes the Government's plan for such an authority.

It is preparing its detailed response to the 61 questions in the green paper "New Leadership for London". This will take into account responses received from its members.

From discussions so far, the Forum is likely strongly to argue the case for a strictly streamlined strategic authority, one of whose key functions should be the control of the whole range of transport provision through the London Transport Authority. The Forum will be making a strong case for an effective role in the authority's decision making for London amenity societies.

It believes that the new authority must pursue the potential for cost savings but have adequate funding including potential new sources of revenue. Examples include a transport levy on business, taxation of non residential parking and road pricing with revenue spent on public transport improvement.

There are crucial questions on the roles and election systems for the mayor and the assembly. Proportional representation using a single transferable vote appears to give the best chance of representing the diversity of Londoners' views and interests and ensuring that if the mayor is to be directly elected that person will have to win more than half of the votes cast.

Marion Harvey, Chairman of London Forum and past Chairman of the Society, and Harley Sherlock, Chairman of the Society, have key roles in the preparation of the Forum's final document which gives The Islington Society a strong say. Society members who have views on the government's proposals should be sure to let either of them know. Marion Harvey may be contacted at London Forum, 70-77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP - telephone 0171-250 0606. Harley Sherlock's contact details are in the panel on page 2.

**Islington without cars
7.30pm, Wednesday 26th November**

"Islington would be a better place without private cars" is the motion for a public debate organised by The Islington Society and the Highbury & Islington Express. It will discuss whether we have reached the point where the disadvantages of private cars in urban areas are outweighing their advantages. The debate will be at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street and will start at 7.30pm.

Chairman - Roger Blitz, Editor of the Highbury & Islington Express.

Proposing the motion - Lynn Sloman, Deputy Director of Transport 2000 and local resident.

Opposing the motion - Brian Payton-Smith, Manager, Highbury Ford's Business Dealer Centre.

The proposers and opposers of the motion will be limited to ten minutes each for their opening addresses and three minutes each for their summing up at the end. The rest of the evening is yours. So let's hear your views.

Subscriptions

Members voted at this year's Annual General Meeting for increased rates of subscription. These were effective immediately for new members and from 1st January 1998 for existing members. It was requested at the meeting that members be given a banker's order form so that they could instruct their banks to pay subscriptions at the new rate and this form is enclosed.

The form may be used by members either to change existing instructions to their bank or building society or to set up a new instruction. Please complete and return it if you have not already given your bank fresh instructions. Having your subscription paid this way saves you and the Society a lot of trouble.

The annual subscription rates are £20.00 for a

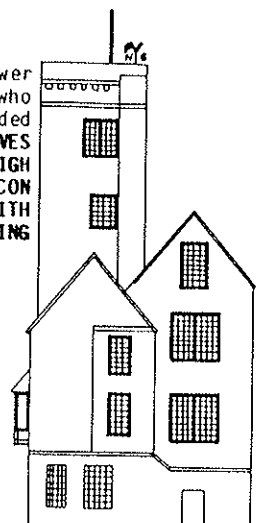
corporate or business membership, £10.00 for a couple or family and £8.00 for a single person. The Society is anxious not to exclude anyone on financial grounds and, in addition to the usual concessions, will accept a lower subscription from anyone who feels that it is appropriate to his or her circumstances. Concessions are 50% of the full rate. However, the Society will greatly appreciate receiving an increased amount from any members who feel that it would be appropriate in their own cases to add a donation to the subscription due.

The form also allows for taxpaying members to pay under a deed of covenant which would enable the Society to recover from the Inland Revenue a further 30% of the subscription paid. Do complete this too if you are a taxpayer and expect to remain a member

of the Society for at least another four years.

Finally, there are a few members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1997. A final reminder is enclosed for these. If you are one of them, why not pay the arrears by cheque and enter into a banker's order for the future so that this problem does not arise again?

Canonbury Tower
Among those who
stayed here included
ANNE of CLEVES
Sir WALTER RALEIGH
FRANCIS BACON
OLIVER GOLDSMITH
WASHINGTON IRVING



**Arts and entertainment for everyone
7.30pm, Wednesday 28th January**

As Islington continues to develop as an arts and cultural centre, what can be done to make access to good quality libraries and adult education as easy as access to betting shops and amusement arcades?

As more artistic enterprises are established, cultural support for the whole community is being reduced. Are we to become a Borough of artistic excellence for the few? How can the aspirations of the entire local community be met?

Liz Roberts, Islington's Chief Librarian, will talk to a joint meeting of The Islington Society and Friends of Islington Libraries (FOIL) at Islington Town Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th January.

New River Walk

The Canonbury Grove section of the New River Walk was closed on 22nd September for the second and final stage of its refurbishment. Silt removal will begin on 1st October and is due to be completed before the Christmas holidays and it is hoped to include some cleaning out of the Douglas Road ponds in this period.

Tenders have been invited for the installation of a new pump and circulation pipework which is programmed to start early in January. All work, including landscape restoration, is due to be completed in time for the park to be re-opened in April 1998.

The Friends of the New River Walk were saddened by the sudden death in August of John Garnett. He was a founder member and vice chairman with responsibility for masterminding the highly successful fund raising campaign which raised £40,000 of matching finance required to obtain the grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

John will be greatly missed by his many friends, by all who unknowingly benefited from his hard work, wise counsel and infectious enthusiasm and at the New River Walk celebration party planned for June 1998.

National Trust at the Aggie

Country Living magazine is hosting a special opening of the The Country Living Christmas Fair in aid of the National Trust on Wednesday 12th November at the Business Design Centre. The fair has, under one roof, all the ingredients for a traditional Christmas - fine foods and wines, gifts, decorations, children's toys and wrappings. Tickets for this evening cost £12.50 plus booking fee and the Trust will receive £5.50 for every ticket sold. To book tickets, call the box office on 0120-767 4757.

While in Seasonal mood, *I.S.NEWS* takes this opportunity to wish all its readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Brochure

The Islington Society needs more members. Adjacent local amenity societies have larger memberships and there is no reason why the Society should lag behind them. A recruitment programme is being worked out by the Executive Committee but the most effective form of recruitment is through existing members.

The Society now has a recruitment brochure available. It tells about the objectives and achievements of the Society and incorporates an enrolment form with a banker's order and deed of covenant. Printed on a single A3 sheet and folded into leaflet size of 210mm x 99mm it fits into a standard leaflet holder and easily goes through a standard letter box!

Supplies may be obtained from Sondra Beecroft, the Society's Secretary, or Jim Lagden, Membership Secretary. Their contact details are in the panel on page 2. Please obtain some and put them to good use in recruiting new members.

**Society's Annual Members' Dinner
7.15 for 7.45pm, Wednesday 18th March 1998**

Responding to suggestions made in reply to the Society's Members' survey earlier this year, the Committee has decided to hold a members' dinner. It will be a purely social affair with no official guests though members may bring one guest each. It is hoped that it will become an annual event.

The dinner will be at Marsden's Restaurant, 189 Upper Street, N1 on Wednesday, 18th March 1998. Members are invited to be there by 7.15pm so that dinner can be served at 7.45pm. There is to be a choice, including a vegetarian option, on the menu. The meal, including three courses, wine and coffee will cost £25.00 a person including service. There will be a cash bar for drinks both before and after dinner.

As numbers are limited, tickets will be allotted to members on a first come, first served basis. Applications must be accompanied by a remittance covering the cost. Regrettably, refunds for cancellations made after 31st January can only be given if the tickets are re-sold.

So, to avoid disappointment, apply now on the application form below and come along and help make this a memorable occasion.

The Islington Society's Annual Members' Dinner - Application for tickets

Please photocopy this form or cut it out, complete it in CAPITAL letters and return it, with your payment, to:

Sondra Beecroft, Secretary, The Islington Society
24 Islington Park Street, London N1 1PX

Names, as to be written on place card for seating plan, of:

Member.....

Partner/Guest.....

Address of member.....

.....

Postcode.....Contact telephone number.....

Please send me (*number*) ticket(s) for The Islington Society's Members' Dinner at 7.15pm for 7.45pm on Wednesday, 18th March 1998 for which I enclose my remittance for £..... (*£25.00 a person - cheques should be payable to The Islington Society*). I understand that refunds for cancellations made after 31st January cannot be given unless the tickets are re-sold.

Signature.....Date.....

The Development of the Anderson's Yard Site

History

It was reported in the last issue of I.S. NEWS that the Anderson's Yard Campaign Group had merged with The Islington Society. Those who have been involved in the AYCG will know how, in 1989 and 1990, local people campaigned against Imry Merchant's plan to destroy the old Collins Music Hall building and construct a massive office block of monumental proportions facing Islington Green.

The AYCG undertook extensive research into what local people wanted on the site which is bounded by Islington Green, Upper Street, Gaskin Street and Essex Road. It persuaded the Council to reject Imry Merchant's plans. It raised funds to argue the case against the developer's appeal which was eventually turned down by the Department of the Environment.

The AYCG then worked at suggesting ways in which the site could be developed in line with the wishes of the community. However, the recession, especially in property, struck and for many years the site remained mainly derelict apart from some shops leasing spaces around the edges of the site. Now the economy is recovering and exciting developments are taking place at last.

Housing

Everyone will have seen the cranes above the centre of the Anderson's Yard site.

Grove World's housing is now being built. There will be 83 new one, two or three bedroom apartments. The first block should be completed in May 1998.

In the centre of the site there will be a health club, with a swimming pool, which should be opened in May 1998. There will also be retail units and a restaurant on the Essex Road side. Behind these there be a through route, a feature which the local community required, which will be open from dawn to dusk, and a garden. An application has been made to the Council to name this upper area of the site Anderson's Square. It is planned that the whole development will be completed by late 1998 or early 1999.

Theatre on Islington Green

"The Collins Music Hall", which has Sally Green as Director and Acting Chairman, has already, with the help of a grant from the National Lottery, drawn up plans for a Theatre in the old Collins Music Hall space next to Waterstone's bookshop. The main plans have already been granted planning permission by the Council. These are for a 550 to 700 seat theatre which will convert easily from a proscenium end stage to a thrust stage similar to that used by the Swan Theatre in Stratford.

The Royal Shakespeare Company is actively involved in promoting the scheme and

would hope to use the theatre for about six months of the year; the Manchester Royal Exchange is also interested in the space for about three months each year; other high quality touring companies will be attracted to the space at other times. A bar, cafe, art gallery and rehearsal space are also planned for the site. The main entrance to the theatre will be off Islington Green next to the Waterstone's frontage; discussions about pedestrianising Islington Green are under way with the Council.

Currently, however, these exciting plans hang in the balance. The Lottery panel of the Arts Council now prefers to phase Lottery awards rather than granting the whole sum initially. The Criterion Theatre Trust is submitting an interim application for a £600,000 grant to fund further architectural development and marketing research in support of the main application for funding. This interim application is being considered in mid September and the decision should be known in mid to end September. If this application is successful the additional development work can be submitted after Christmas to support the main application. It is hoped that a decision on the full application would be available in March. Supporters can now only wait, with fingers crossed, for the project to be granted the funding to go ahead.

The Society's Conservation and Planning Committee

Hackney to Chelsea Line

Planning for the Hackney to Chelsea tube line continues. Currently the route is safeguarded. In Islington, the route runs through Kings Cross to the Angel, on to Essex Road and thence to Hackney.

During 1995, the travelling public was consulted for their views on alternative routes. These mostly concerned the south end of the line but in Islington it was suggested that the line should go from Kings Cross direct to Highbury and on to Hackney.

Many respondents, including this Society, objected to the proposal that the line might omit Angel and Essex Road Stations. The line's project office has now acknowledged that the safeguarded route is the one most favoured by the consultees.

The consultation process clearly confirmed that the line would be a most welcome addition to the capital's transportation system but don't hold your breath.

Construction is likely to take five years and before that starts there is the small matter of £2 billion to find.

Replacement railings

It is good to see railings that were removed as part of the war effort being replaced. Unfortunately, in many cases, the replacements being erected in

conservation areas do not properly reflect the original designs. In particular, uprights tend to be the wrong shape and size and spears to be fixed close to the top rail. Spears should be carried up on the upright, some way clear of the horizontal rail, with the uprights extended down into the stone plinth. The joints between the upright and the plinth should be waterproofed with hot run lead.

There are plenty of contractors able to do this job properly. Harriet Hawkes of the Borough's Conservation Department is happy to answer queries or provide drawings showing suitable details.

Wynford House

Good news on this scheme. The Council has accepted the proposals put forward by Avanti, a well respected firm of architects. They will now work up a detailed scheme which includes the retention and renovation of the existing buildings.

Copenhagen Street

The Council has recently rejected a planning application for housing adjacent to the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Copenhagen Street because the proposals take insufficient account of the need for access to open spaces in the area. This outcome is a reflection of the considerable campaigning zeal of Society member Lisa Pontecorvo.

Buildings at risk

The Borough's Conservation Department keeps a list of buildings in Conservation Areas that are poorly maintained, empty or neglected. These are termed "Buildings at risk". Once on the register, the owners are identified and then pressed to give the buildings the love and care that they need.

This process has been going on for a number of years. Regular reports are made to the Council's Conservation Advisory Committee and some useful progress has been achieved.

Friern Manor Dairy, with tiled pictures of rural bliss on the walls, has been rescued from its semi derelict state as a car repair shop and has opened as an up market pub. The role in this of the Islington Buildings Preservation Trust is described on page 11 of this issue.

The Leysian Mission near Old Street roundabout narrowly avoided demolition and has now been converted into flats with shops on the ground floor.

No. 396 City Road stands in a prominent position to the east of the clocktower at the Angel crossroads but has been sheathed in scaffolding and tattered polythene sheeting for two years. Now it has been bought by a firm of solicitors who plan to convert the building into good quality offices.

Islington's Conservation Advisory Committee

There have been relatively few matters affecting Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings in recent months, partly due to the election. Despite this, there have been concerns to keep the Conservation Advisory Committee occupied, including those raised by The Islington Society.

Some are discussed below.

Cable London

The trial of an underground cable cabinet in Highbury Place ran for eight months, from November 1996, and was a success. This pattern can now be used in particularly sensitive areas where there are no places within the necessary distance from individual dwellings for the siting of above ground cabinets. Islington has been singularly successful in forcing Cable London to consider this solution, in large part due to the fuss made by this Society and the knowledge of Councillor Paul Jackson, Chair of the CAC, who was able to call the cable company's bluff when they said below ground cabinets were not possible.

Roger Mears, the Society's representative on the CAC, tried to monitor the positioning of cabinets in Conservation Areas from marked up drawings submitted by Cable London after the layouts had been decided. He was extremely upset when their positioning in Gibson Square gardens, and the mutilation of the adjacent York stone pavement proved so disastrous. So he spent Friday mornings over a period of three months this summer walking the streets of Conservation Areas with Alec Forshaw, the Borough's Conservation Officer, and

Jim Martin of Cable London deciding ahead of time where cabinets might be acceptable. It proved possible to find sufficient satisfactory locations in most areas but half a dozen remain in which it will be necessary to install cabinets below ground. Residents should now be able to use cable television and telephone without the necessary equipment becoming an eyesore. Many other boroughs were not so lucky. In Bloomsbury cabinets are often right in front of Listed Buildings.

Railings

The suggestion was made in the recent Members' Survey that, as a Millenium Project, some of the cast iron railings in the Borough might be painted their original colours. Analysis of samples of paint from early railings showed that most were painted dark green for most of their life; black was introduced only since the second world war. The idea that groups of residents might club together to paint the railings of an entire terrace or square at one time was given a cautious welcome, reservations being expressed about the necessity of avoiding a piecemeal effect and about a change from the colour which is now accepted as the "correct" one. The Islington Gazette ran this as its front page story!

Hat and Feathers

The Hat & Feathers Conservation Area, at the corner of Old Street and Goswell Road, was initially declared in order to save the Hat and Feathers public house, which is now being restored, from demolition. The area has recently been extended to include a significant part of the adjoining area which is of similar character. Unfortunately, the move was made too late to save the works of the The Great Gas Manufactory belonging to the "Chartered" Gas Light and Coke Company. It was one of the first three gas factories in the world, where experimentation took place over the period from about 1859 to 1871 in producing coal gas for sale to the public. When the owners got wind of the possible declaration they demolished the buildings and with them, it is feared, much of the archaeological remains.

Upper Street high pavement

The Highways Agency plans for improvement of the bus stops and ramps at the Angel appear to have been put on the back burner. The Society pressed the Council to exert pressure on the Agency to bring the proposals, which were at an advanced stage of preparation, back into the programme.

Islington Building Preservation Trust

The Islington Building Preservation Trust (IBPT) entertained its Friends and supporters at a celebration of the Trusts' first five years. This special event was held on Tuesday, 3rd June in the impressive but rarely seen surroundings of the Grand Hall at Finsbury Town Hall, one of the buildings in the Trust's on-going caseload.

David Gibson, Chairman of the IBPT, architect and Executive Committee member of The Islington Society, welcomed the guests and introduced Alec Forshaw, Director of the Trust and Islington Council's Conservation Officer, who talked about projects that the Trust has completed and some that are ongoing or yet to be started. Jack Morris, Director of the Trust and Chairman of the Business Design Centre, explained the scheme for enrolling Corporate Friends of the Trust for a once for all subscription to see the Trust over its financial commitments of the next three years after which it is planned to be financially self supporting.

Background

The IBPT was initiated at a meeting of the local amenity societies on Islington Council's Conservation Advisory Committee but is wholly independent of the Council. The local authority and English Heritage have duties and powers under various Planning Acts to protect the listed buildings. Unfortunately,

there are cases where the Council is unable to act because of conflicting duties or financial or legal constraints or does not through a lack of will. This applies to privately owned buildings as well as those in Council or Government ownership. There are many good buildings, too, which are important locally, but not statutorially listed and with which the Council has very little power to intervene.

This is where IBPT comes in. It can provide independent technical advice, backed by local knowledge. It can research the background to particular problems and act as enabler or negotiator between owners and the authorities. Where there are complex legal, financial or administrative circumstances, it can apply pressure or negotiate to unravel the problems. The Trust can act as an independent agent to deal with complicated funding or contractual issues.

The Trust has been especially successful in helping to raise funds for buildings, monuments really, that have no commercial value. Much of its work has been with public spaces, parks and railings.

Casework

Its casework approach, initially based on the English Heritage register of Buildings at Risk, has given more flexibility than concentrating on one or two restoration projects alone.

Buildings can quickly deteriorate when they are neglected because of a change of ownership or through being left empty. Equally quickly, they cease to be "at risk" with new, sympathetic owners and restoration work.

There are successes, remaining causes for concern and continuing cases. Some of these will be looked at in this and future issues of *I.S. NEWS*.

Two completed cases

Number 3 Highbury Place was the IBPT's first case. After pressure on the owners, in support of the Council and English Heritage, the building has been handsomely restored. It is now let, in beneficial use, and removed from the Buildings at Risk register.

Friern Manor Dairy, Crouch Hill is an eye-catching, decorative building. A condition survey of its fabric, with an estimate of its cost, was provided by the Trust for the use of the Council and English Heritage use in assessing the extent of work needed to the building. Urgent repair notices were issued on the basis of this survey. The Trust arranged for minor repairs to broken gate pivots to be carried out, this early work preventing more serious, long term damage. The building has now being repaired and converted into a public house.

To be continued in a future issue.

Were you there? This is some of what you may have missed.**After the Great Fire**

London After the Great Fire - Design and Development from 1660 to 1720 was the subject of an informative, entertaining and illustrated talk with exquisite slides. In the lively debate afterwards Elizabeth Mckellar of Birkbeck College demonstrated the extraordinary breadth of her scholarship.

It is perhaps right to assume that London is the "unplanned" city that just grew. It is certainly right to assume that 1666 led to building regulations related to the spread of fire but it is wrong to assume that it also led to the birth of what little formal planning the capital has.

Until at least 1800 the main structure of London's terrace housing was usually timber framing but such buildings were brick faced and separated by brick party walls. And this combination of timber and brickwork gave us a hierarchy of well designed, standardised town housing.

Probably the finest of all "Georgian" squares was built at Covent Garden by Inigo Jones several years before the Fire, and the best part of a century before the Georgian era began! Christopher Wren's Great Plan for a new London was virtually ignored, as was John Evelyn's. Out of the typically English muddle, however, there grew eventually a form of good, simple domestic architecture which lasted a hundred years and from which lessons can still be learned.

Geoffrey Gribble Award

The presentation, on Wednesday 11th June, of The Islington Society's 1997 Geoffrey Gribble Award was made by the Mayor of Islington, Cllr Rupert Perry. The award is given for a recently completed new or refurbished building project and this year was made to St Luke's Churchyard in Old Street. It has been restored from being a

vandal ridden dump into a churchyard appropriate to the Grade I listed church that it surrounds and a pleasant open space in which to sit. A bronze plaque set in the paving commemorates the award, the first given to a space rather than a building.

Manley Memorial Pub Crawl

The weather in the early evening of Friday, 20th June, was about as miserable as it gets in June. Rain was sheeting down and the wind was ensuring that everything got wet. Nevertheless, an intrepid band was at the Crown in Clerkenwell Green.

Again, the evening was guided by Andrew Bosi, best known as a very active councillor and less well known as a campaigner to preserve noble institutions such as real pubs. Bill Manley, whose sister was among the Memorial Group, liked his beer and really did treat his local pubs as homes from home.

With perversity, the weather improved to become a pleasant evening in which one could stand outside the generally crowded and sometimes noisy pubs. It was fun. We went from the Crown to the Sekforde Arms to the Betsey Trotwood and the Lamb in Farringdon Road where Andrew gave his first rendition from Gilbert and Sullivan. On to the Jerusalem Tavern for duets from Councillors Bosi and Tibbs with a backing group including Folly Sherlock and Lisa Pontecorvo. Visits to The Castle and The Smithfield Tavern wound up a worthy memorial pub crawl!

Islington in 2020

Predictions in the early 1960s of what the U.K. and London would look like in 25 years were well wide of the mark. The projected London population of 5 million is now 6.2 million and growing. More people do work from home but most still travel to work. Car ownership has doubled but vehicles and

pedestrians do not use separate space.

So, Ian Crawley, the planning chief in Islington's Technical & Environmental Services Department, was reluctant to give the Society's meeting on Wednesday, 2nd July, his personal predictions for Islington in 2020. But, fascinatingly, he did.

The population of the Borough, which peaked at the beginning of this century at 440,000 and dropped to its lowest point following World War II, has now gone up to 180,000 and will increase to around 210,000 by 2020. This increase is possible because of additional, unanticipated housing space being available. 1,000 units in Clerkenwell have been converted from commercial and industrial use because of the fashion for loft living and more units, probably 2,000, are now under construction. Space which will not again be used industrially will free up large areas for housing around Smithfield, Kings Cross and the Whittington site in Archway after the hospital has been rebuilt.

There will be substantial commitment to public transport investment and restraint of private car use. Farringdon will be the most accessible place in South East England! The East London line extension will bring passengers up through the Kingsland Road area to Highbury Station. Thameslink 2000 will be greatly extended at each end and the frequency of trains will be tripled from 8 to 24 an hour in each direction. The trains will use a re-modelled Farringdon Station and a new station at St Pancras. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link will bring not only Channel Tunnel trains but also commuter trains from Kent into a transformed St Pancras Station. The Chelsea to Hackney Line will ease pressure on the West End section of the Victoria Line, the busiest part of the tube system, and run through Kings Cross and the Angel and under Essex Road to Hackney.

OTHER ISLINGTON SOCIETIES

If you would like a Society in Islington with which you are involved to be considered for listing here, please contact the Publications' Editor (see panel on page 2) with details. He will need to know the name of the Society, a brief summary of its activities, the name, address and telephone number of a contact person and anything else that you think is interesting about it. We are always looking for Societies which fall within the objectives of The Islington Society and may be of interest to its members. Corrections to any of the listings should also be given to the Publications' Editor.

Amwell Society
8 Cumberland Gardens
London WC1X 9AG

Contact Jane Wainwright
Telephone 0171-837 8732
Activities: Conservation and amenity
Society based in the conservation area
bounded by Kings Cross Rd, Pentonville
Rd and Rosebery Ave.

Angel Association
19 Haverstock Street
London N1 8DL

Contact Vicky Wisher
Telephone 0171-253 0243
Activities: Amenities and
conservation society for St Peter's
Ward; registered charity; affiliated
to the Civic Trust.

Canonbury Society
59 Canonbury Road
London N1 2DG

Contact John Laphorne
Telephone 0171-359 5144
Activities: The principal aim of
the Society is to conserve the special
character of Canonbury.

Clerkenwell Music Series (Friends of)
Magnolia House
131 The High Street
Swanage
Dorset BH19 2NB

Contact Oswaldo Guerra y Vilar
Telephone 01929-422100
Activities: Support the activities of
the Clerkenwell Music Series.

FOIL (Friends of Islington Libraries)
347 Liverpool Road
London N1 1NL

Contact Kathleen Frenchman

Telephone 0171-607 2665
Activities: FOIL campaigns for public
libraries of the highest possible
quality: meetings are conversations
with prominent local authors or
discussions on local library issues.

Islington Archaeology & History
Society, 8 Wynatt Street
London EC1V 7HU

Contact Catherine Brighty
Telephone 0171-833 1541
Activities: Monthly talks September
to June; occasional visits and walks;
quarterly newsletter; publications on
Islington's history, architecture and
archaeology.

Islington Boat Club
16-34 Graham Street
London N1 8JX

Contact Liz Appleton
Telephone 0171-253 0778
Activities: A water adventure
playground & youth centre for young
people aged 9-18. Open evenings & week
ends term time, every day in holidays
& at half term for activities on and
off site.

Islington Chamber of Commerce & Trade
64 Essex Road
London N1 8LR

Contact Jennie Twydell
Telephone 0171-226 1593
Activities: Islington Chamber of
Commerce represents, promotes and
enhances businesses in the borough.

Islington Chinese Association
33 Giesbach Road
London N19 3DA

Contact Katy Tse Blair
Telephone 0171-263 5986

Activities: Advice sessions, 5 day
luncheon club, meals at home for older
people, women's group, youth group,
cultural & educational activities.

Islington Gardeners
6 Dagmar Passage
London N1 2DN

Contact Betty Taylor
Telephone 0171-226 2420
Activities: Garden Society for any
Islington resident interested in
gardening, offering talks, shows,
competitions and coach trips and
garden centre discounts.

Islington Museum (The Friends of)
268 Upper Street
London N1 2UQ

Contact Jim Lagden
Telephone 0171-267 9100
Activities: The Friends support the
Museum practically and financially and
staff it on a voluntary basis.

Islington Narrow Boat Association
76 Noel Road
London N1 8HB

Contact Crystal Hale
Telephone 0171-226 4597
Activities: Operates 70 ft narrow
boat designed for Islington community
groups & schools for day trips and
week end and six day cruises;
available for private hire. (Bookings
0171-267 3722).

London Canal Museum
12-13 New Wharf Road
London N1 9RT

Contact Martin Sach
Telephone 0171-713 0836
Activities: Museum of canals and

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OTHER SOCIETIES

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waterways, housed in former Carlo Gatti ice house by Battlebridge Basin and open every day except Monday. Permanent & special exhibitions, lectures & events.

Museum of the Order of St John
St John's Lane
London EC1M 4DA

Contact Pamela Willis
Telephone 0171-253 6644
Activities: Islington - From Crusade to First Aid! Museum open 10-5 Mon-Fri, 10-4 Sat. Tours of Tudor St John's Gate, Grand Priory Church & 12th Century Crypt 11 & 2.30 Tue, Fri & Sat.

New River Walk (Friends of the)
3 Hope Close
Wallace Road
London N1 2YS

Contact John Tasker
Telephone 0171-354 3363
Activities: Support and the raising of matching funding for the successful Lottery bid to restore the New River Walk and its ponds.

Sadlers Wells Islington Group (SWING)
Sadlers Wells Foundation
23 Islington High Street
London N1 9LG

Contact David Gladstone
Telephone 0171-713 0754
Activities: SWING's immediate objective is the funding of a foyer in the new Sadlers Wells Theatre - target sum £250,000.

Tower Theatre (Friends of the)
Canonbury Tower
Canonbury Place
London N1 2NQ

Contact Abby-Lee Knight
Telephone 0171-226 5111
Activities: Promote activities for the support of the Tower Theatre; programme of events for Friends.

ISLINGTON EVENTS' GUIDE

The events' guide gives you information about events taking place in Islington over the next five months. Booking priority may be given to members of the sponsoring organisation which may request a donation from non members or make a charge which is not shown or there may be concessions available. This guide is believed to be accurate but you should check details of events which you would like to attend.

Contact the Publications' Editor (see panel on page 2) if you are involved in events taking place in the Borough during the period from February to July 1998 and would like them to be considered for inclusion in the next events' guide. He will need to know, by 15th January, brief details of the event, where and when it is taking place, the admission price and the organiser's name and 'phone number.

October

Wed 1 till April 1998. Canonbury Grove section of New River Walk closed for final stage of refurbishment.

Sat 4. The Making of a Meadow. Come along and lead Dominic O'Neil a hand in preparing an area in Barnsbury Wood to make a meadow. Free. Ring Islington Ecology Centre on 0171-354 5162 for details. Islington Wildlife Diary.

Tue 7-30 Nov. Waterways Rescue, Past, Present & Future. Exhibition at London Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Wed 8. Traffic Pollution: What Can We Do About It? Talks by Doug Gleave, Co-ordinator of Local Agenda 21's Traffic & Pollution Working Group, and Paula Waldron, Islington's Air Pollution Officer. 7.30pm Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. The Islington Society. 0171-253 5979.

Thu 9. Twenty Years of Waterways Campaign Rallies. A lecture by Arthur Farrand Radley, Vice president IWA, London Region. 7 for 7.30pm. London Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Sat 11,14-18. Tower Theatre. The Dark Is Light Enough by Christopher Fry. 7.30pm (Matinee Oct 12, 3pm). Box office 0171-226 3633.

Sun 12. Harvest of the Meadow. A fungal foray around the Gillespie Park

Nature Reserve led by Clifford Davey one of London's leading mushroom experts. 2-4pm. Free. Islington Ecology Centre, Drayton Park, N5. Islington Wildlife Diary 0171-354 5162.

Wed 15. Walking the Triangle: River Lea, New River and Regent's Canal. Talk by Mike Gray, Chairman, Friends of Sutton House. 8pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper St, N1. £1 (conc. 50p) from non members. Islington Archaeology & History Society. 0171-833 1541.

Wed 15-9 Nov. Out of Many - One. Celebrating Islington's cultures - Exhibition recreating a 1960s African-Caribbean front room. Music, dance, story telling, crafts and food. Wednesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm, Sunday 2pm to 4pm, Islington Museum, 268 Upper Street, N1. 0171-354 9442.

Thu 16-30 Nov. Glass, Light and Space. The work of 13 glassmakers who are pioneering the use of glass on an architectural scale and in architectural spaces. Crafts Council, 44a Pentonville Road, N1. 0171-278 7700.

Sat 18. Trees in Tongue. A poetic appreciation of the trees of the Parkland Walk including simple creative writing exercises for all to join. 2-4pm. Free. Meet Richard Meyers at Crouch Hill Recreation Centre, Crouch Hill, N19. Islington Wildlife

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EVENTS

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Diary 0171-354 5162.

Sat 25,28-31. Tower Theatre. Road by Jim Cartwright. 7.30pm (Matinee Oct 26, 3pm). Box office 0171-226 3633.

Wed 29. Trams: More transport for less money. A talk by George Stern who claims that trams, quiet, clean and efficient, are the answer for London. 7.30pm Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. The Islington Society jointly with Simon Wolff Charitable Foundation. 0171-253 5979.

November

Sun 2. Autumn Colour. A guided walk around the Gillespie Park Local Nature Reserve with a special emphasis on autumn colour. 2-3pm. Free. Meet Dominic O'Neil at Islington Ecology Centre, Drayton Park, N5. Islington Wildlife Diary 0171-354 5162.

Tue 4. City Foxes. The urban fox is one of the great success stories of our time. They can now be found in every part of Islington, even as close to the City as Clerkenwell. Talk presented by Trevor Williams of the "Fox Project". 7-9pm. Free. Islington Ecology Centre, Drayton Park, N5. Islington Wildlife Diary 0171-354 5162.

Tue 4. A special meeting to celebrate National Libraries Week with Michael Ignatieff. 7.30pm. Free, all welcome. Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. Friends of Islington Libraries (FOIL). 0171-607 2665.

Sat 8,11-15. Tower Theatre. The Mill on the Floss adapted for stage by Helen Edmundson from George Eliot's novel. 7.30pm (Matinee Nov 9, 3pm). Box office 0171-226 3633

Fri 13. Buildings of London's 18th and 19th Century River Front. A lecture by Chris Ellmers, Museum of London & Project Co-ordinator Museum in Docklands. 7 for 7.30pm. London

Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Wed 19. John Grooms - Past, Present & Future. Talk by Keith Wendon, Director of Fundraising & Communications. 8pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper St, N1. £1 (conc. 50p) from non members. Islington Archaeology & History Society. 0171-833 1541.

Wed 19-30. Art By Under Fives. A fresh look at spontaneous art from Islington playgroups. Wednesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm, Sunday 2pm to 4pm, Islington Museum, 268 Upper Street, N1. 0171-354 9442.

Sat 22,24,26,28. Tower Theatre. April in Paris by John Godber. 7.30pm (Matinee Nov 29, 3pm). Box office 0171-226 3633.

Sun 23. Trees, Myth and Magic. An open day at Barnsbury Wood focussing on the folklore of the trees. 2-4pm. Free. Meet Dominic O'Neil at Barnsbury Wood, Crescent Street N1. Islington Wildlife Diary 0171-354 5162.

Tue 25. AGM of the London Forum followed by "New Architecture in Historic Places", a talk by Richard MacCormac, Past President, RIBA and incoming President, London Forum. 6pm. 77 Cowcross Street, EC1. Bookings Fred Trollope 0181-699 8197.

Tue 25,27,29. Tower Theatre. September in the Rain by John Godber. 7.30pm (Matinee Nov 23, 3pm). Box office 0171-226 3633.

Wed 26. The motion for debate is "Islington Would Be a Better Place Without Private Cars". Proposed by Lynn Sloman, Deputy Director of Transport 2000, Opposed by Brian Payton-Smith, Manager, Highbury Ford's Business Dealer Centre and Chaired by Roger Blitz, Editor of the Highbury & Islington Express. 7.30pm at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. Organised jointly by The Islington Society and the Highbury & Islington Express. 0171-253 5979.

December

Tue 2-4 Jan. Canal Art and Painted Canal Ware. Exhibition at London Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Tue 2. The Islington Society. Meetings of Executive and Planning & Conservation Committees.

Wed 3-24. Christmas Crackers Exhibition. A selling exhibition of contemporary crafts providing an opportunity to buy marvellous, hand produced gifts made in Islington. Prices from £10 up. Wednesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm, Sunday 2pm to 4pm, Islington Museum, 268 Upper Street, N1. 0171-354 9442.

Sat 6. Silhouettes. A winter tree identification walk along the Parkland Walk. 2.30-3.30pm. Free. Meet Richard Meyers at Crouch Hill Recreation Centre, Crouch Hill, N19. Islington Wildlife Diary 0171-354 5162.

Sat 6. Concert by Haydn Chamber Orchestra conducted by Andrew Shulman, soloist Simon Blendis - violin. Programme to include Barber's Violin Concerto. 8pm. Christ Church, Highbury Grove, N5. Tickets £6 from Islington Music, Shillingford Street, N1. 0171-354 3195.

Sun 7. Woodland Craft Fair. An event for all the family including demonstrations by experts on a range of woodland crafts such as bodging, wood carving and natural fibre techniques. Includes a special tree dressing event and a chance to buy woodland craft products in time for Christmas. 1-4pm. Free. Meet Ray Busfield and Sara Burdeley at Islington Ecology Centre, Drayton Park, N5. Islington Wildlife Diary 0171-354 5162.

Thu 11. In Cressy's Wake. The story behind Narrow Boat, Tom Rolt's famous book that launched the Inland

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EVENTS*continued from page 15*

Waterways Association. A lecture by Tony Condor, Curator, National Waterways Museum, Gloucester. 7 for 7.30pm. London Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Thu 11-29 Mar. Bernard Leach: Potter & Artist. A collaborative exhibition with Arts Inc., Japan uniting, for the first time, pieces from U.K. and Japanese public and private collections. Crafts Council, 44a Pentonville Road, N1. 0171-278 7700.

Sat 13,14,16-21,27-31 & Jan 2&3. Tower Theatre. Mother Goose, traditional pantomime by Trudy West. 7.30pm (Matinee Dec 14,20,21, 27,28 & Jan 3, 3pm). Box office 0171-226 3633.

Mon 15-17. Tower Theatre. Wake Up, It's Christmas! with Lazy Daisy, presented by Slapstick Productions. Details of daytime performances from box office 0171-226 3633.

Wed 19. Floral Worlds - Victorian Gardens in Hackney. Talk by David Mander, Hackney Borough Archivist. 8pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper St, N1. £1 (conc. 50p) from non members. Islington Archaeology & History Society. 0171-833 1541.

January 1998

Tue 6-8 Feb. Canal Life, Boats and Canal People. Exhibition at London Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Tue 6-30 Apr. Trade on the Grand Junction and Regent Canals. Exhibition at London Canal Museum 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Thu 8. Regent's Canal Dock. A lecture by Tim Smith of GLIAS. 7 for 7.30pm. London Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Wed 14-1 Mar. Glad Rags: Islington Street Fashion 1918-1947. This

exhibition explores the local rag trade and street fashions from the first shop-bought clothes of the twenties to the re-modelled dresses of wartime. Wednesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm, Sunday 2pm to 4pm, Islington Museum, 268 Upper Street, N1. 0171-354 9442.

Sat 17. Concert by Haydn Chamber Orchestra conducted by Sian Edwards, soloist Imogen Cooper - piano. Programme to include Mozart's Piano Concerto K 456. St Michael's, Highgate. Tickets from the North London Hospice. 0171-353 8841.

Wed 21. Speaker's name & subject to be announced. 8pm, Islington Town Hall. £1 (conc. 50p) from non members. Islington Archaeology & History Society. 0171-833 1541.

Tue 27. The Islington Society. Meetings of Executive and Planning & Conservation Committees.

Wed 28. Arts and Entertainment for Everyone. A talk by Liz Roberts, Islington's Chief Librarian. As Islington continues to develop as an arts and cultural centre, what can be done to make access to good quality public libraries and adult education easy and to prevent it becoming a borough of artistic excellence for the few? 7.30pm Islington Town Hall, London, N1. The Islington Society jointly with the Friends of Islington Libraries (FOIL). 0171- 607 2665.

February

Thu 12. Trade in the Grand Junction & Regent's Canals. A lecture by Alan Faulkner, author of Grand Junction Canal. 7 for 7.30pm. London Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. 0171-713 0836.

Wed 18. Speaker's name & subject to be announced. 8pm, Islington Town Hall. £1 (conc. 50p) from non members. Islington Archaeology & History Society. 0171-833 1541.

Regular events

Barnsbury Wood is open to the public every Tuesday between 2 & 4pm. This is an opportunity to come along during a quiet time, meet the warden or join in practical monitoring or conservation tasks. Barnsbury Wood, Crescent Street N1. 0171-354 5162.

Conservation work days are held at sites across the Borough every Wednesday from 1 October to 31 March. To join the Nature Conservation Team on any of these days just turn up at the Ecology Centre, Drayton Park, N5 between 9 & 9.30am. 0171-354 5162.

Guided walks of Islington take place throughout the year. They normally last for about two hours and cost £4 with concessions. You can either join one or arrange a group booking. For details contact Angel Walks on 0171-226 8333 or Discover Islington on 0171-250 1023.

FURTHER ISLINGTON SOCIETY EVENTS FOR YOU TO NOTEMarch

Wed 4. Great Traffic Jams of the World. Michael Palin, author, actor, traveller and environmentalist, gives the annual James Ogilvy-Webb Memorial Lecture. 7.30pm. Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. The Islington Society. 0171-253 5979.

Wed 18. The Islington Society Dinner, a purely social affair which, it is hoped, will become an annual event. Admission only by tickets bought in advance. See page 7.

April

Wed 22. Islington Society Annual General Meeting followed by Tony Allcock, Editor of the Islington Gazette, giving "A Journalist's View of Busybodies Like The Islington Society". 7.30pm. Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. 0171-226 7429.