

ISLINGTON *news*

The Journal of the Islington Society incorporating FOIL folio

Islington stunned by fatal accident to leading campaigner

Thousands of North Londoners were delayed on their journey home on the evening of Monday, September 8th by an accident on Holloway Road but it was only the following day that news reached us that the victim was Lisa Pontecorvo. She had been cycling across the signalised crossing outside Central Library and when the stationary traffic was able to move forward the driver of a cement lorry was unable to see her. Lisa was a tireless campaigner on a multitude of issues, chiefly where planning is concerned. She supported cycling campaigns more by action than word, since she cycled all round the Borough in pursuit of community benefit. Lisa was the sort of person for whom the phrase *pro bono publico* might have been invented and in an age and a community where all too few are able or willing to work in a voluntary capacity, her loss will be keenly felt.

Tributes from Society members

Our President summed up the news succinctly: "truly distressing, and a real loss". Former Vice-Chair David Gibson wrote: "I had no idea that it was a close friend of Mary's and mine who was killed. We stayed with her in Switzerland for a few days last year and happily that memory will stay us; a more charming, erudite and thoughtful host you could not image. I am very, very sorry that this has happened." Former chair and founder of the London Forum, Marion Harvey, said "I am deeply shocked. What a loss to the community and the society. She was also very supportive of the London Forum, and such a tireless and effective campaigner." Other members wrote to express their shock at the news.

Matilda Street chimney

My earliest recollection of a successful campaign spearheaded by Lisa concerned the industrial chimney in Matilda Street. Possibly as a result of a personality clash between council officers, it seemed that the chimney would be demolished. Lisa's perseverance ensured that it stands as an attractive feature of the housing development that now surrounds it. Lisa's next campaign, against the indiscriminate extension of residential properties upwards through the creation of Mansard rooves, was more controversial, but it did lead to a more consistent policy being drawn up by the planners and applied across the Borough.

King's Cross and the P & O development

Lisa was to the fore in the work of the Cally Rail Group which has occupied the last twenty years. There was the threat of prolonged closure to Caledonian Road during the building of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, the impact on Gifford Street and most recently the plan to pack the triangle site with all the affordable housing that should have been spread across the Railway Lands development. Lisa was most effective over the "P & O" site, where aided and abetted by the then council leader

the developer planned a scheme devoid of all respect for the unique history of King's Cross and the many remaining buildings. Lisa mobilised an effective lobby of the Council, and of English Heritage, with a picket of the launch of one of their publications. While advocating the preservation of a sense of place by the sensitive conversion of old buildings to modern uses, EH were undermining their *raison d'être* by giving support to a totally inappropriate scheme. Happily the developers were quick to see the advantages of working with the community and the eventual scheme won the first Architecture & Conservation Award in the series sponsored by the BDC.

Edward Square

Despite the major role that Lisa played in the P & O saga, and her ultimate success there, most Islingtonians will regard Lisa's greatest triumph as the restoration of Edward Square as a well used Community space. She unearthed helpful legislation to designate it a Town Green; she persuaded the King's Cross Partnership to provide financial support from its community budget (the only major community benefit to emerge from seven annual regeneration budgets) and she has continued to sustain use of the area through the Friends of Edward Square (FREDS). Local schools have particular reason to be thankful and the news will have upset pupils returning to Copenhagen School in particular. As our Vice President wrote to Lisa in May, "All the work that local people did to revive [Edward] square is indeed a good example for the rest of the country; and it was your leadership that ensured it happened".

Marking Lisa's work

The Society will want to mark all that Lisa has done for Islington and is planning a short tour of some of the sites which she influenced for good. Lisa was a regular supporter of the Bill Manley Pub Crawl and a walk in her honour seems the very least we can do. Andrew Bosi

Now It is not just Small Shops under threat

There was a further jolt to those of us seeking to retain local shops over the summer. To add to the inexorable erosion of small shops - the butcher on the corner of Liverpool Road and Barnsbury Street is the latest likely victim - even larger shops are now disappearing. The departure of Woolworth's from the Angel Town Centre was a major blow: with Chapmans having gone a few years ago, there is now no source of hardware available. Its reported replacement with a branch of Waitrose will do little to assuage the prejudices against Islington which obtain in certain sections of the media.

Of less notice, but of greater concern to those of us on the less fashionable side of N.1, is the closure of Murray's Fresh Foods in Dalston market. Although across the Borough divide, it is the nearest shopping centre for East Canonbury and the eastern part of Mildmay. Murray's Fresh Foods were in fact just fresh meat sold at discounted prices which competed with Sainsbury's nearby. Dalston is undergoing a transitionary period because work to

bring the East London Line extension to Highbury & Islington has resulted in the purchase and closure of all the shops above the railway line as it leaves Dalston Junction and runs underneath Kingsland Road. However, the market, indoor shopping centre and Murray's are outside this area.

Woolworth's encouraged its customers to visit its Camden Town store instead, rather ominously for the nearer and more accessible branch in Holloway. It seems to many of us that this chain, once the mainstay of summer holiday's because of its presence in every sea-side resort, rather lost its way after it ceased to be a sixpenny store. In the north-east, it lost out to Boyes who seem to have managed to prosper by sticking with the 1950s style Woolworth's abandoned. At one time, the Islington branch experimented with a delicatessen, but the frequent changes of style did nothing to encourage regular customers.

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Becks British Carnival Novelties Ltd, 139, Upper Street.

Number three in our series on bygone shops of Islington.

Becks British Carnival Novelties was established in 1919 and from 1966 - 1971 it was run by Malcolm Heaysman who was known locally as Mr. Beck. They advertised as 'Becks export to The world' and on the cover of their 1960's catalogue No.68 they had a map of the world showing the countries they traded with. Their 36 page catalogue contained a vast amount of carnival and party novelties and disguises many of which are not available now.

Like Joe Meek's tenure of 304, Holloway Road, (*Islington News*, Summer 2006) this story was to end in tragedy, the indirect result of a lifestyle that in these more enlightened times might scarcely raise an eye-brow.

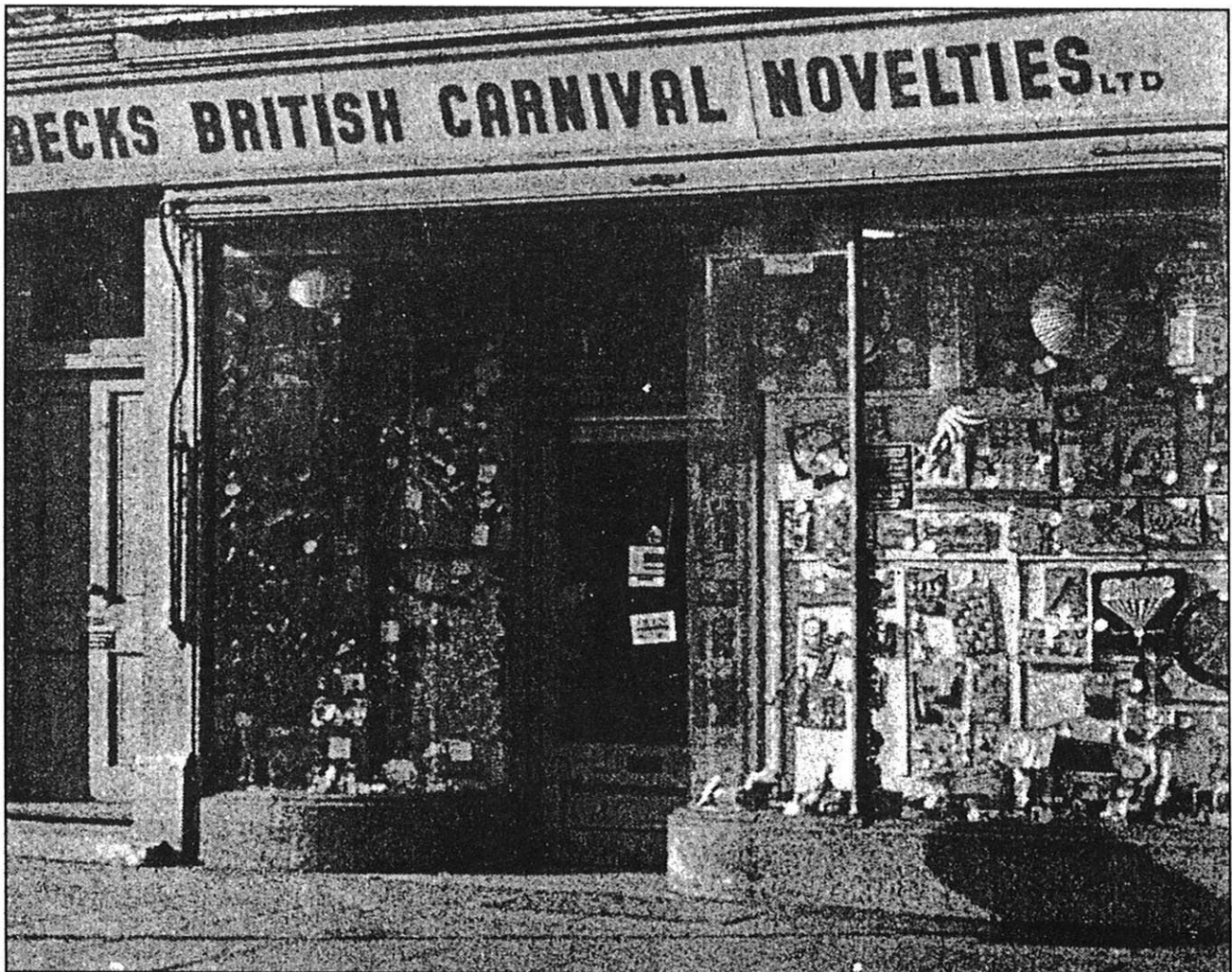
There was a large room above the shop that Mr. Beck kept locked saying that it was private and nobody was to go in there. However one day his wife found the keys and was horrified by what she found. Inside the room was what later was described as 'A huge quantity of women's clothing draped around the place, bursting out of suitcases -

a sort of Pandoras box of women's clothing with looking glasses and mirrors placed around the room.'

Family life proved difficult after that and became even worse when on his birthday Mr. Beck came down 'looking like a ballet dancer wearing stockings, nightdress, bra and girdle.'

His mother had recently bought him a farmhouse which he was renovating at Gwynfe, Carmarthenshire and on his way to the farmhouse he was followed and battered to death with a heavy wooden post. An underworld character was the first suspect but later his stepson confessed.

Today the shop is largely forgotten but there are numerous references to it on the internet because their factory and showroom which was just around the corner in Almeida Street is now the famous Almeida Theatre. S.W.



Book review**Walking London's Medical History**

Bob O'Dell's perambulations have led him to this book review.

Being an inveterate walker, when I noticed a copy of *Walking London's Medical History* in the bookshop at the Wellcome Collection in Euston Road I couldn't help but pick it up. And I didn't put it down until I'd followed a medical history route home again. Islington resident (and Islington Society member) Nick Black has written a fascinating account of the complex and confusing history of health care in the form of walking trails. As he says, we could sit and read about it, but walking and looking is more fun.

Black is Professor of Health Services Research at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (University of London) and a leading author of books and articles on health research. Adding to that his interest in history and architecture, and we have the makings of the seven walks.

The concise introduction prepares us with an overview of the aims and themes of the book. Through the walks he tells the story of the development of health services from medieval times to the present. He is also seeking to help preserve our legacy as memory of the original function of health care buildings risks being lost as the buildings are demolished or converted to other uses. And thirdly, in presenting lessons to be learnt from the past, he aims to increase our understanding of current health care challenges.

Each of the seven walks has a major theme, as well as minor ones too. Walk 1: Church, Crown and City, in Covent Garden, looks at how the three powers have competed to control health services and influence policy. Walk 2: The Lost Hospitals of St Luke's, from Angel to Old Street, considers how the fortune of districts and hospitals can change dramatically. Walk 3: A Cradle of Reform, in northern Bloomsbury, leads us through a small part of London where health care was radically altered in just 40 years. Walk 4: The Challenging Isle takes us to Soho for a look at the way individual creativity and entrepreneurship can shape the development of health care. Walk 5: Merge or Move is set in Fitzrovia where hospitals have had to choose

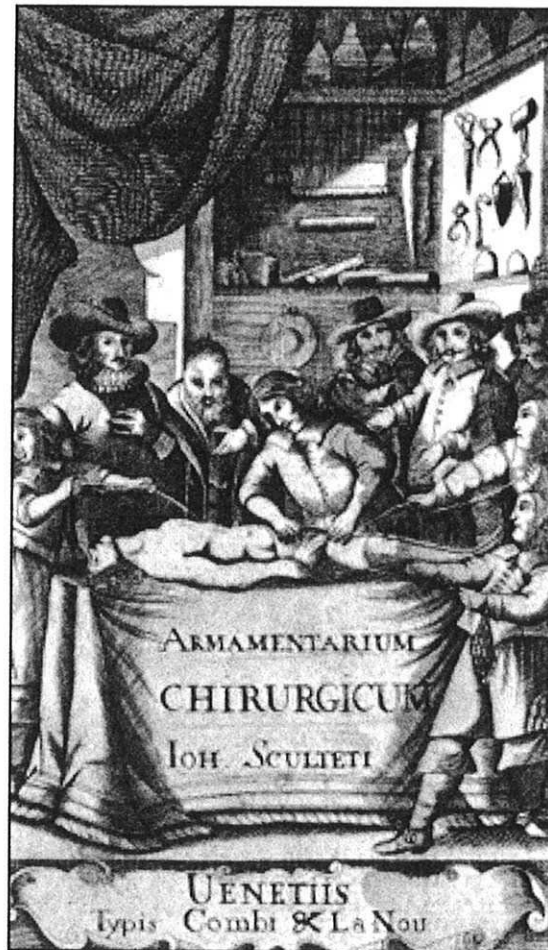
between merger or moving away from central London. Walk 6: From Trades to Professions, not surprisingly, is set in Marylebone. Walk 7: 'Merrie Islington' to 'the contagion of numbers' brings us back to Finsbury and Islington to consider how primary care developed from unlicensed healers to a coordinated, multi-professional system.

The walks are carefully laid out and presented, starting and finishing at Underground stations and with clear maps for each walk, as well as precise directions in the text. Length in distance and time is also shown. Moreover, the book is well illustrated with colour photographs of existing buildings and illustrations of lost buildings. Succinct overviews of specific topics (e.g., ambulances, skin hospitals, electricity) are presented in boxes throughout the book and referenced both by colour and page. It's not a book about 'the great men of medicine', but rather aims to give us a sense of how health care services have always been an integral and extensive part of the physical and social fabric of London. The walks are indeed fun, all the while revealing unsuspected information about the city and buildings we may see everyday.

The walk up St John Street is also an opportunity to stop in at the Finsbury Library, home to both the Islington Local History Centre and the new Islington Museum. The museum's displays about health care in the borough add to the medical history walks. And currently (7 Aug-31 Oct) the museum has a special display for the 70th anniversary of the Finsbury Health Centre. That building, now sadly lacking in maintenance, was itself a huge advance towards an integrated health service for local residents, ironically now under threat despite government support for the concept of polyclinics it pioneered. BO'D

Nick Black, *Walking London's Medical History*, The Royal Society of Medicine Press, 2006; ISBN 978-1-85315-619-9

Islington Museum, 245 St John Street, EC1; 10am-5pm, closed Wednesday & Sunday; tel 020 7527 2837; disabled access available.



News from the Mayor's office

Mayor Announces Reduction and Re-organisation of the Greater London Authority

The Mayor set out plans for re-organisation of the Greater London Authority (GLA) at the September Assembly meeting. The Acting Head of Paid Service, Jeff Jacobs will lead on a move towards a more strategic role, with four new departments in place by 2010/2011. These are: "Corporate Affairs", responsible for external liaison with Government, London Boroughs and other partners; "Finance and Operations" responsible for improvement and efficiency throughout the GLA group; "Development and Environment" responsible for ensuring that London's growth and infrastructure needs are met in a sustainable way; and "Community and Intelligence", which is to strengthen communities, tackle deprivation and improve social mobility. There will be a stand alone Olympics team reporting directly to the Mayor.

London's Four Deputy Mayors

Statutory Deputy Mayor for Communities, Richard Barnes is responsible for Health, social inclusion

issues, equalities (including disability), diversity aspects of procurement and is also the Leader of the Conservative group on London Assembly. Deputy mayor Government Relations, is Ian Clement, Leader of Bexley Council and Executive Member of London Councils (the body that represents London's boroughs) is responsible for advising and leading on the Mayor's relationships with the Government, and London Boroughs and to lead on international relations, promoting London's position as a leading world city on behalf of the Mayor.

Deputy Mayor, Policing, is Kit Malthouse, Chartered Accountant, London Assembly member and former Council member of Westminster. He quickly made his mark at a well reported meeting with the outgoing Commissioner.

Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning (Sir) Simon Milton is responsible for advising the Mayor on Planning Housing and Sustainable development. He was Leader of Westminster Council from 2000.

Blue Plaques in Islington 8: The Clerk's Well.

The latest blue plaque to be featured by Alan Turner is one of the older rectangular plaques commemorating a place rather than a person. Unusual in Islington (or Finsbury at the time it was introduced), other examples exist within the City of London.

It is probably not well-known that not all the plaques are placed to the memory of individuals, but that some represent important buildings or historical sites. One such is the plaque installed by the former Finsbury Borough Council after the renovation in 1984 of the Clerk's Well. The well is over 800 years old, having been first mentioned in 1184 by the scholar and chronicler William Fitzstephen, a very interesting man who wrote a great deal about London, particularly in his guide to London, *Florilegium Urbanum* written in Latin. He was clearly a great admirer of London and makes the city sound very attractive. A few instances: "It is fortunate in the wholesomeness of its climate, the devotion of its Christians, the strength of its fortifications, its well-situated location, the respectability of its citizens and the propriety of their wives" or "...the mild sky doth soften the hearts of men not so that they become weak slaves of lust but so they are not brutal and uncivilised, instead of being of a kind-hearted and generous disposition.". He also wrote that the northern suburbs have springs of high quality and water that is "sweet, wholesome and clear". Among them he said that "Holywell, Clerk's Well and St Clement's Well have a particular reputation; they receive throngs of visitors and are especially frequented by students and young men of the city who head out on summer evenings to take the air."*

Various sources agree that the well was closed and lost to public view in the 19th century, but that it was rediscovered during building works in 1924. After a major renovation in 1984 the well was made available and could be seen on application

to Finsbury Library. The location is behind the window of an office building at the south end of Farringdon Lane where it meets Clerkenwell Green and in the window there is a number to call at Finsbury Library for those who wish to visit the well. I called, only to get the message: "This number does not take incoming calls". This is clearly a very useful way of keeping the public at bay and must have great potential not only in local government but in industry and commerce. For a quiet life give them a number that doesn't work! It seems that if you want to see the well, you have to be very purposeful and not allow yourself to be put off by a bit of dreary bureaucracy. I assumed that responsibility might have been taken over by Islington, so I telephoned various departments but no-one seemed to know anything about it. In fact I could not find anyone who had heard of the Clerk's Well, even at "Local History". Eventually I came across a number on a tourist map of the area which turned out to be this same "Local History" at Islington Council. The person on the end of the line did know about it and was apparently responsible for letting people in by appointment. However, I could not get her to do this for me - she pleaded that they didn't have the staff and it was too far from their office, etc., etc. I had to be satisfied with the glimpse of the well through the window.

As the photograph shows, the plaque is an unusual one. It is blue but offers no information other than that the well is there.

*Further information in Mary Cosh's book "A History of Islington".

Society publications

Twentieth Century Buildings in Islington, by Alec Forshaw, £14.99, ISBN 0-9541490-0-9

The Story of Day Flats in and around Islington, by Andrew Bosi, £5, ISBN 0-9541490-1-7

An architect in Islington, by Harley Sherlock, £14.99, ISBN 9-78-0-9541490-2-4

[all of the Society's publications are available from the Society at 35, Britannia Row, London, N.1 or from local bookshops]

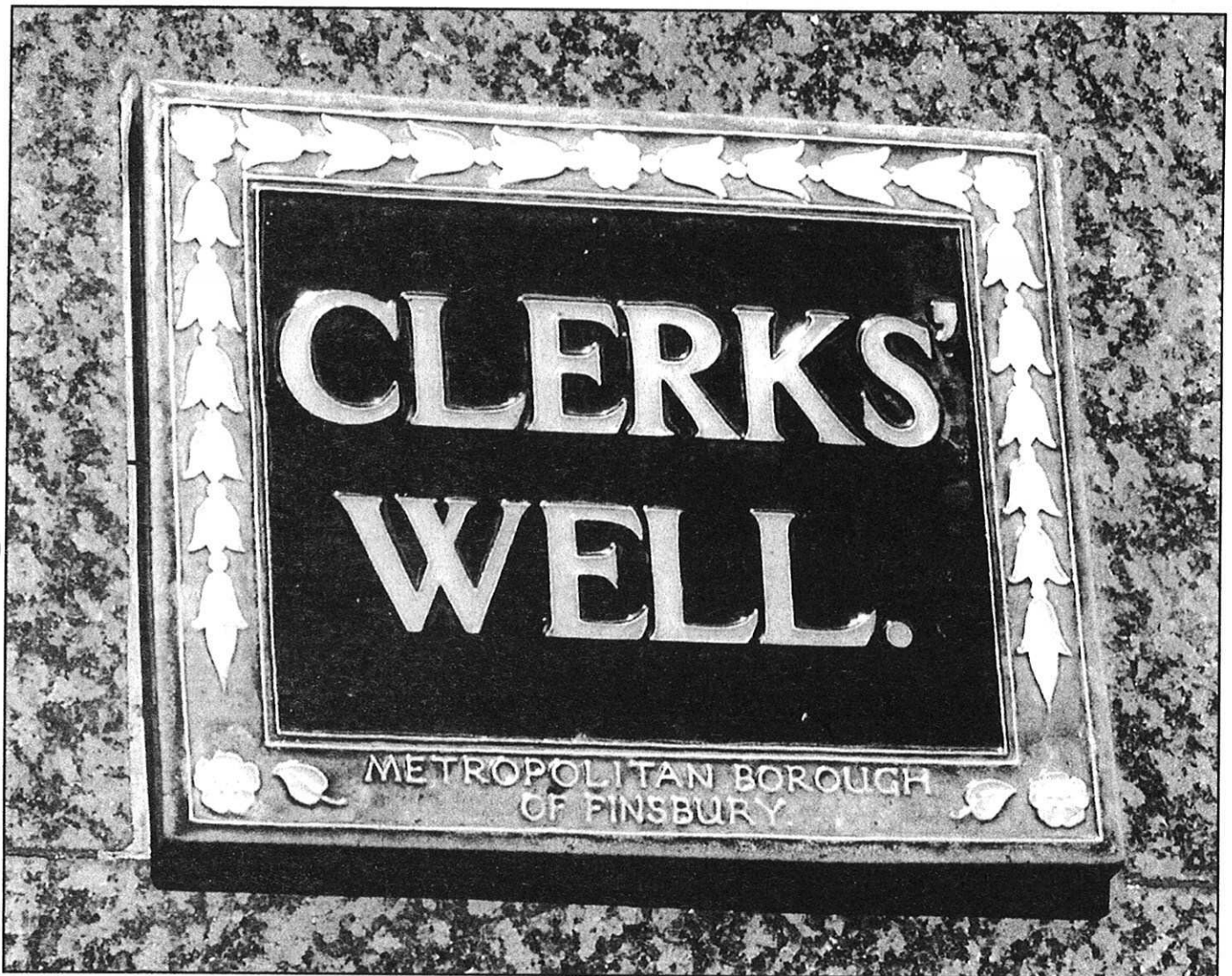
Books from our President and Vice-Presidents

Suicide of the West, by Richard Koch & Chris Smith, £14.99 and available on Amazon, ISBN 0-8264 9023-9.

A History of Islington, by Mary Cosh, published by Historical Publications at £18.95, ISBN 0-948667-974

53 Cross Street - the biography of an historic house by Mary Cosh & Martin King, published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society

An architect in Islington, by Harley Sherlock, £14.99, ISBN 9-78-0-9541490-2-4



Draft Heritage Bill: what next?

The Government is expected to respond within 60 days from the date of publication unless there is an agreement with the Committee that it can have longer, so the Government's response was due by the end of September/beginning of October.

The National Trust is also convening a round table discussion to examine the evidence on skills and resources in early September. DCMS and English Heritage are working on the review of Planning Policy Guidance with input from the sector. EH is also working on the Implementation Programme which is expected to be published in September.

Heritage Link is now looking into funding a Heritage Bill post 2008-9 to create sufficient capacity to monitor the

Bill and amendments as it passes through Parliament, to brief Parliamentarians and, drawing on the expertise in the Heritage Link membership to keep them and others fully informed.

And at last, now their Report has been published, the evidence to Select Committee is in the public domain. Heritage Link's response can be found at <http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/2008/07/31/heritagelinks-response-on-the-draft-heritage-protection-bill/> and others will be posting theirs on their websites. Those who submitted evidence are listed at the end of the Committee's Report.

St. Mary Magdalene Academy

Members of the Society will have the opportunity to visit St. Mary Magdalene Academy, Liverpool Road, N1 (www.smmacademy.org) on Thursday 20th November at 6.30 p.m. The entrance to the Academy is on the corner of Lough Road with Bride Street. The Principal, Paul Hollingum, will give us a talk followed by a tour of the building. The Academy's biblical motto is "Show by a good life that your works are done by gentleness born of wisdom".

The SMM Academy opened in September 2007 as the first Church of England secondary school in Islington. Sponsored by the London Diocesan Board for Schools, the Academy's specialism is "Humanities & Global Citizenship".

The Academy's Principal, Paul Hollingum, was previously Headteacher of a secondary school in Tower Hamlets. In the current Prospectus the Principal writes: "I believe St. Mary Magdalene Academy will provide a first class education for your

child and prepare them for the challenges of living, working and participating fully in our global society". The Academy teaches children aged from 4 to 18 years. In 2007 there were over 800 applications for the 180 places in Year 7. In September 2007, the Academy had 210 Primary students and 180 Year 7 students. Last month a further 180 Secondary students were admitted. Admissions each year will raise the Academy's total by 2013 to 1,350 students with numbers as follows:

Reception to Year 6	30 admissions a year
Years 7 to 11	180 "
Years 12 and 13	max. 250 a year

School uniforms are blue and white.

A small number of students will be admitted in 2009 into the Sixth Form to prepare for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

The Academy's new building has a remarkable design with excellent facilities for staff and students, which we will be able to appreciate during the tour.



Plans to demolish Smithfield Market turned down

One of the most controversial recent Planning Inquiries has finally been decided. The application to demolish part of Smithfield General Market has been turned down. Developers had wanted to knock down the General Market building as part of a redevelopment of the area. SAVE Britain's Heritage and English Heritage had led the campaign to stop these buildings in a Conservation Area being demolished.

Adam Wilkinson SAVE's former Secretary who led the SAVE case at the inquiry said that the decision was a 'vindication of SAVE's long-held stance that the demolition of these handsome buildings is a nonsense and that they are well capable of economic re-use. They can contribute so much more to London than yet another office block.' For more information, visit the web-site <http://www.savebritainsheritage.org>

What future for Smithfield?

We are grateful to the London Forum of Civic & Amenity Societies for the following report, published in their Summer 2008 newsletter prior to the decision reported above.

Can the historic buildings be retained?

Green Belt Policy and Statistics English Heritage's barrister Robert McCracken QC, delivered some damning comments at the Inquiry into redevelopment proposals for the Smithfield Market Building by Thornfield and the Corporation of London.

"These applications are an attempt to drive a bulldozer, preceded by a ball and chain, through national and local heritage policies."

"This decision will be a test of the Government's commitment to its heritage policies and a development plan led system of planning and of its commitment to participatory decision making. It raises the question of whether the City is in effect a plan free office zone. It will be closely watched by landowners and developers.

"If a... landowner.. can, with impunity, flout national and local policies, then local authorities

throughout the kingdom, most of whom are subject to far greater financial pressure, will seek to do the same... Landowners will neglect historic buildings in the hope of enjoying similar benefits."

Much of the evidence focused on the financial viability of the proposed redevelopment, and English Heritage's demands that the General Market Building be retained and refurbished for new uses. It emerged that the developer, Thornfield, bought the basement car park beneath the building for £12 million in 2007; this additional cost makes the proposals unviable, but makes retention and repair of the existing building more financially attractive. The alternative, according to English Heritage, would be to leave a vacant site in the heart of the area for the foreseeable future.

www.englishheritage.org.uk/smithfield gives more details.

Experts explore how Victorian homes can help combat climate change, 11 November

This autumn, national heritage charity the Victorian Society is holding a seminar on Greening your Victorian house to help owners of ordinary Victorian houses meet the challenge of climate change head-on. Bringing together heritage experts and eco-campaigners, the seminar at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre will examine ways to increase the energy efficiency of Victorian and Edwardian homes without compromising their historic character.

Speakers will include Caroline Gunn, Senior Building Services Engineer at English Heritage, John Duggart, Chairman of the Sustainable Energy Academy, and Sarah Harrison, who has cut the emissions from her nineteenth century Camden home by 80% whilst preserving the character of the conservation area in which it stands. For more information visit www.victoriansociety.org.uk or call Catherine Dorrington on 01462 896 688

Transport News Round-up

First the good news. The government and the Mayor of London continue to say the right things about CrossRail which has now passed all its Parliamentary hurdles and only awaits clarification about funding before work can commence. Another round of exhibitions detailing the latest thinking on the plans for construction of the line, and detailing its benefits, has just concluded. The Islington Exhibition was held at the gallery behind the offices of Alan Baxter & Associates in Cowcross Street.

Another piece of good news is that, having lost advisers on a scale of downright carelessness rather than misfortune, the Mayor is now to chair *Transport for London*. We have heard plenty from the new Mayor and now is the time for action which is more likely from this position of responsibility.

Nowhere is action more needed than at Holloway Road, both to address the accident black-spot that claimed the life of Lisa Pontecorvo and has been known of for three years, and to restore the human scale to Highbury Corner. With regard to this gyration, surely familiar to the Mayor personally, there are worrying reports that the budget for small scale programmes including this scheme is being cut. These proposals cost far less than glamorous schemes like CrossRail, but they are of enormous benefit to ordinary people going about their daily business. In particular, the effect of the time wasted at poor interchanges cannot be understated. They add disproportionately to journey time and to the stress associated with travel in London.

Work has begun on upgrading the Overground prior to the introduction of the improvements that will link it to the East London line and ultimately create an orbital route around London. Through September the Barking to Gospel Oak line has been closed; the "main" North London line is diverted via Primrose Hill (which now looks like buddleia hill) until mid-November. For one week the disruption was particularly severe, made worse by planned engineering work at weekends and late evenings on the Victoria line.

The purpose of the work is to enable taller freight trains to use the line and we understand that bridge clearance to this end has been achieved. However, to accommodate more trains, freight and passenger, the signalling needs to be upgraded and this has not yet happened. Moreover, there are rumours that the restoration of track at Camden

Road has now been deemed too expensive to carry out, which means that the extra trains planned to run from Camden Road to Stratford outside the peak periods will not happen. During the peaks, trains use the track through Primrose Hill as a sidings to enable these extra trains to run. Freight is banned in the peaks, but outside them freight trains need these tracks for through running. Hence the disingenuous denial that amounted to an admission of guilt when the *Islington Tribune* sought an official comment in response to the rumour.

Transport for London continue with modest improvements to the bus network, and the latest round of proposals includes a welcome increase in frequency on the number 30 route. At one time the second most frequent bus on the Balls Pond Road, the 30 has slipped to fourth as improvements to other routes have passed it by. Extensive work at Dalston Junction has narrowed the road and led to delays on all the Balls Pond Road services.

Fortunately, these works are not going to be as prolonged as those at Tottenham Court Road, where disruption is promised for seven years! This is not all bad news because it will force *Transport for London* to reduce the number of buses on New Oxford Street, which simply lacks the physical space to cope with four high frequency routes with buses that are nearly sixty feet long. The current plan is to restore the status quo ante and return the 19 and 38 to their old route along High Holborn to Shaftsbury Avenue. However, interchange with other bus routes may be more difficult and there may in any case be no interchange with the station which is undergoing major renewal and given new links to CrossRail platforms. This work commences in January 2009.

In line with the Mayor's election pledge, consultation is in process about the possible removal of bendy-buses from the 38, for which the contract is due for review. However, the contract for bendy-buses on the 149 has just been extended by two years. The results of the competition for a 21st century low floor routemaster, probably more relevant to the 38 than the 149, are due to be announced next month.

Shepherd's Bush station on the West London Line opened on September 28th, giving us a through train to an out-of-town shopping centre (if we want it).

Michael Marland: tireless campaigner to the end

Michael Marland died earlier this year. His work as an educationalist was celebrated in obituaries in *The Guardian* and other newspapers. However, in retirement from teaching and headship, he chaired the Upper Street Association which was at the forefront of campaigns to celebrate our heritage. The plaque marking the V2 bomb at Highbury Corner, on the flank wall of Compton Terrace, is a reminder of his and the Association's work. So too is the sole surviving remnant of the former magnificent Highbury station which he sought to have listed. Perhaps his most interesting campaign, however, is one that combines heritage and education, namely the desire to have listed the Canonbury school caretaker's house at 122, Canonbury Road.

Canonbury Road school was one of the first wave of Board schools which absorbed several church run schools. It opened in 1877, two years after nearby Shepperton Road school. In the Edwardian era there was further expansion and existing schools were extended: Ecclesbourne Road in 1906 and then Canonbury Road in 1910. This latter extension included the provision of a freestanding caretaker's house at 122, Canonbury Road. Whereas the school extensions follow a familiar pattern clearly identifying them as the work of LCC architects, the caretaker's house is unique. It contrasts starkly with the adjacent two-storey Georgian terrace, of which only one property, number 124, survives. It complements the school building in height and shape, but has contrasting features too such as the projecting eaves. These eaves differ from those of other buildings of the preceding period, which were controlled by fire and safety legislation. Recessed window and door frames and walls extended above the eaves were seen as essential protection against fire spreading.

The ground floor windows have gently curved red-brick lintels and white frames that make a strong and pretty feature. The first floor windows

rise above the eaves, with a sloping roof panel above them. On the side wall the window is of the same decorative red extension brickwork as the ground floor.

The front door is within a red-brick panel, with vertical extensions either side, and an eye-catching circular window just beneath the eaves. The door has an attractive wooden porch cover, supported from above by decorative wrought-iron stay bars.

The ground floor is of London stock brick, which had been standard for a more than a century, but the first-floor walls are white pebble-dashed. This and the decorative red brick pointing up the windows and door make an interesting contrast.

This Arts and Crafts 1910 house is a very good example of Islington's architectural variety and richness and has the interesting history of the School Board extension, and fully justifies listing on this account.

This article is based on Michael Marland's own submission, on behalf of the Upper Street Association, to English Heritage. We regret that the accompanying photograph intended to appear below was lost in the post en route to the printers.

From the Society**Future events**

Wednesday 8th October: 7.30 AGM at Islington Town Hall followed by a talk on "Islington and the Olympics" by John Armitt, Chairman of the 2012 Olympics Development Authority.

Wednesday 15th October: 7.30 Joint meeting with the Arch. and Hist. Society in Islington Town Hall. Our Life Vice-President, Harley Sherlock, will be speaking on the subject of "A Teenager at War".

Thursday 20th November: 6.30 Visit to the St. Mary Magdalene Academy, Liverpool Road, N7 with a talk by the Principal, Paul Hollingum, followed by a tour of the Academy.

Our monthly **Meet the Officers** events continue at the Marquess Tavern on the first Tuesday of each month, from 9 p.m.

Other Events in Islington:

Memorial event in Edward Square to celebrate and commemorate the life of Lisa Pontecorvo. (see front page). This will be held on Friday 14th November at around 2pm in Edwards Square which is just behind the south-west junction of Copenhagen Street and Caledonian Road. There will be a large marquee erected, refreshments, music, art and performances arranged (so far) from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, local schools and from Lisa friends and neighbours. Much of the organisational burden is being handled by staff in the Council's Greenspace department and we are very grateful for their contribution.

North One Artists. Exhibition at The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, EC1, 11.00 - 5.00 pm until 18th October

London Canal Museum, 12 New Wharf Road, N1. Exhibition of contemporary mosaics by British artists until 8th November Tuesday to Saturday 10a.m. - 4. pm.

Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N1. "Waste" by Harley Granville Barker until 15th November 7.30 p.m. Saturday matinees 3 p.m.

Estorick Collection, 39a Canonbury Square, N1.

"Cut & Taste" European Photomontage 1920 - 1948 until 21st December Wednesday to Saturday 11a.m. - 6 p.m. (Thursdays until 8 p.m), Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m.

What else do we do

- we support conservation planning work to preserve the borough's historic fabric and individual buildings of distinction
- we campaign for a high standard of design in new buildings
- we encourage best practice through awards for good architecture in new or refurbished buildings
- we organise a varied programme of events including talks, walks and site visits
- we campaign for better public transport and for priority for people travelling on foot or by bike
- we produce publications that celebrate Islington's architectural history and its social and cultural diversity
- we publish neighbourhood walking trails to foster exploration awareness and pride of place
- we build links between residents officials and councillors
- we publish a regular newsletter
- we send representatives to advise Council groups dealing with development, the environment and transport
- we are represented on the London Forum of Civic & Amenity Societies, which takes up cross-borough issues of concern and is a member of the Civic Trust

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