

ISLINGTON *news*

The Journal of the Islington Society

Islington consults on revised plan

The current Islington Plan was approved in 2011 and a new one is urgently required, to be consistent with a new London Plan which is currently before an inspection panel for its Examination in Public. The EiP began last month and is scheduled to sit until May.

There is added urgency because impending changes to the National Planning Policy Framework of 2012 are widely regarded as inappropriate to London.

Islington's consultation was over the Christmas period and the Islington Society is grateful for a short extension to enable its response to be agreed at a Society committee meeting. In summary, the Society has called for greater protection for locally listed buildings; for more support for sustainable buildings (more ambitious targets for life expectancy and swifter moves to zero carbon); stronger sanctions against buy-to-leave; more protection from basement extensions; retention of the existing resistance to tall buildings; making the site development plan a living document subject to continual review (the present one is out of date as circumstances have altered); that viability assessments should reflect the Council's own assessment based on existing land use value; and firmer support for removal of the Nag's Head gyratory.

Having invested in a review of locally listed buildings, it makes sense to do everything possible to retain buildings on the revised list. The draft Plan refers to buildings lasting for sixty years, but many of our most attractive buildings date from Victorian times and are still providing desirable residential and other accommodation a sesquicentenary later.

The Plan's target for zero carbon is the year 2050 but the Society believes that new buildings should all conform to that target much sooner, and has suggested 2025.

Surprisingly, the draft fails to make clear that the phenomenon of buy-to-leave is completely unacceptable when there is an acute housing shortage and people are compelled to live in overcrowded conditions or to commute absurdly long distances to work.

Basement extensions elsewhere in London have undermined neighbouring properties and the Society is anxious that the Plan should discourage these as far as possible. It is also disappointed that, no doubt under pressure from successive Mayors, the new plan relaxes restrictions on tall buildings in five locations in Islington.

The issue about viability is a London wide problem and has been used by developers to deny the levels of affordable housing which London urgently needs. Council's are under-resourced to challenge what may be spurious assessments. Government hostility to planning which leads to an extension of permitted development rights also has the effect of further reducing income from planning applications which is needed to sustain such challenge.

It is widely acknowledged that gyratory schemes are hostile to pedestrians and cyclists. Shops in the wrong place lose footfall. While schemes to remove relatively minor Gyratories at Archway and Highbury Corner are highly controversial, the Nag's Head gyratory is probably the longest left in London now that Shoreditch has been successfully tackled. It extends from the Holloway Prison site to Finsbury Park station. The Society is disappointed that the urgent need to restore two-way working is given little support in the revised Draft Plan.

More details of the Society's response will appear on the Society web-site.

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Islington Society News

All members of the Islington Society are cordially invited to the 100th Birthday Celebration of Mary Cosh, one of its founder members.

The celebration will be at **Frederick's** Restaurant on **Saturday 2nd March 2019** at 2.30 - 4.30 pm. There will be celebratory speeches, wine and canapés.

Space is limited. Book a place.

Tickets are £20.

Cheques payable to the Islington Society by 26th February 2019

Send to : Islington Society, c/o Colman Coyle, Wells House, 80 Upper Street, London N1 0NU

Annual Dinner

Advance Notice is given of the Annual Dinner date: Tuesday, October 8th. It is planned that this should take place close to King's Cross, consistent with our policy of moving around the Borough.

Bill Manley Memorial Pub Crawl

The 2019 pub crawl also follows the tradition of moving around the Borough. The Blackstock Road/ Highbury Park axis has been neglected hitherto, mainly because of a shortage of good beer in the days when most of the pubs were associated with a sporting event nearby. This year's crawl will start at the **Woodbine**, 215, Blackstock Road, London, N.5 at 6 p.m. on Friday June 21st. Other pubs to be visited include the Bank of Friendship, the Highbury Barn and the Alwyne Castle. The first three named pubs will be part of the crawl for the first time.

Next Newsletter

Copy date for our next newsletter is June 2nd, 2019. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the chair, the editor, or the Society's adopted policy.

Islington Society: What 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 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 send advisers to 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 and is a member of Civic Voice
 - we publish a regular newsletter
- Our web site is www.islingtonssociety.org.uk

CURRENT OFFICERS

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Islington's London School Board Schools

The Islington Society has been closely involved with the current review of the borough's locally listed buildings. These are buildings which have no statutory protection but which are regarded as valuable to the community for their architectural and historic merit. This review, done by volunteers, is nearing completion and it is becoming possible to see some of the themes which have emerged from the many hundreds of buildings on the local list. Andrew Clayton is one of those volunteers and has been looking at some of the London School Board schools in Islington. They are a memorial to one of London's great Victorian municipal achievements, education for all.

The London Board schools are one of Islington's most familiar architectural sights. There are so many that we sometimes fail to notice them and it is only in recent years, as they have been cleaned and restored, or converted to other uses, that their merits have been noticed. This article looks at three of them on the Islington local list: Holloway School, the former Baltic Street School, now the London College of Fashion, and the former Shepperton Road School.

The London School Board was set up after the Education Act of 1870. Before that there had been a broad reluctance to educate the working class. As Mary Cosh [A History of Islington, 2005] puts it there was "a fear of an articulate proletariat which might spell political - radical - trouble." What education there was, was firmly in the hands of the church or of low quality private schools. But after

the passing of the Education Act the board moved astonishingly quickly. It estimated that it had immediately to build new schools for some 112,000 pupils. By the end of 1873 the board had completed 36 schools, 28 were being built, 22 contracted for and a total of 79,625 pupils were being educated.

This was obviously an extraordinarily intense architectural venture. It was in the hands of E.R. Robson from 1871 to 1884, then his successor T.J. Bailey until the London School Board was replaced in 1904. They adopted an Arts and Crafts Queen Anne Baroque style, deliberately as un-churchy as possible. Above all, they were practical. As Robson himself put it, "Architecture is not mere display, it is not fashion, it's not for the rich alone."



Winslow Hall, Buckinghamshire

The English Baroque country house style, epitomised by Winslow Hall in Buckinghamshire, adapted well to school architecture if there were plenty of space. Board schools were designed to impress and civilize but they were also practical, roomy and light. Holloway School is a fine example of this style. It is symmetrical with four central bays, three stories high, with a hipped roof: flanked by taller ranges topped by balustrades and pinnacles. Holloway School is one of the later board schools, built in 1901 when T.J Bailey headed the architects'



Holloway School

department. As elsewhere, the quality of materials is high, with elaborate stone detailing.

The site that Bailey and his colleagues had to deal with on the corner of Golden Lane and Baltic Street East in Clerkenwell was much more cramped. The school is symmetrical only in some of its details and the grandeur was concentrated on one façade, the pedimented gable end facing up Honduras Street. Otherwise the building is much plainer with Baroque detailing saved for the separate boys and girls entrances.



Former Baltic Street School. Façade facing Honduras Street

The façade facing Honduras Street makes up for the plainness elsewhere. It has a strong pediment above with a cartouche bearing the date 1888. Below are a pair of scrolls flanking a central scallop motif above the main window.

The Shepperton Road School, off New North Road, is a simpler affair and returns to the symmetrical ideal. Again, there is a good serving of detail and ornament though the style overall seems more Arts & Crafts than Queen Anne. The school

has three central gable ends facing the street with flanking wings projecting slightly forward with higher gables. The ground floor windows are arched with keystones and stone rusticated surrounds. At the centre are a pair of plaques with the school's and London Schools Board names. It has been dated 1879, which puts it within the E.R. Robson tenure at the head of the architects' department.

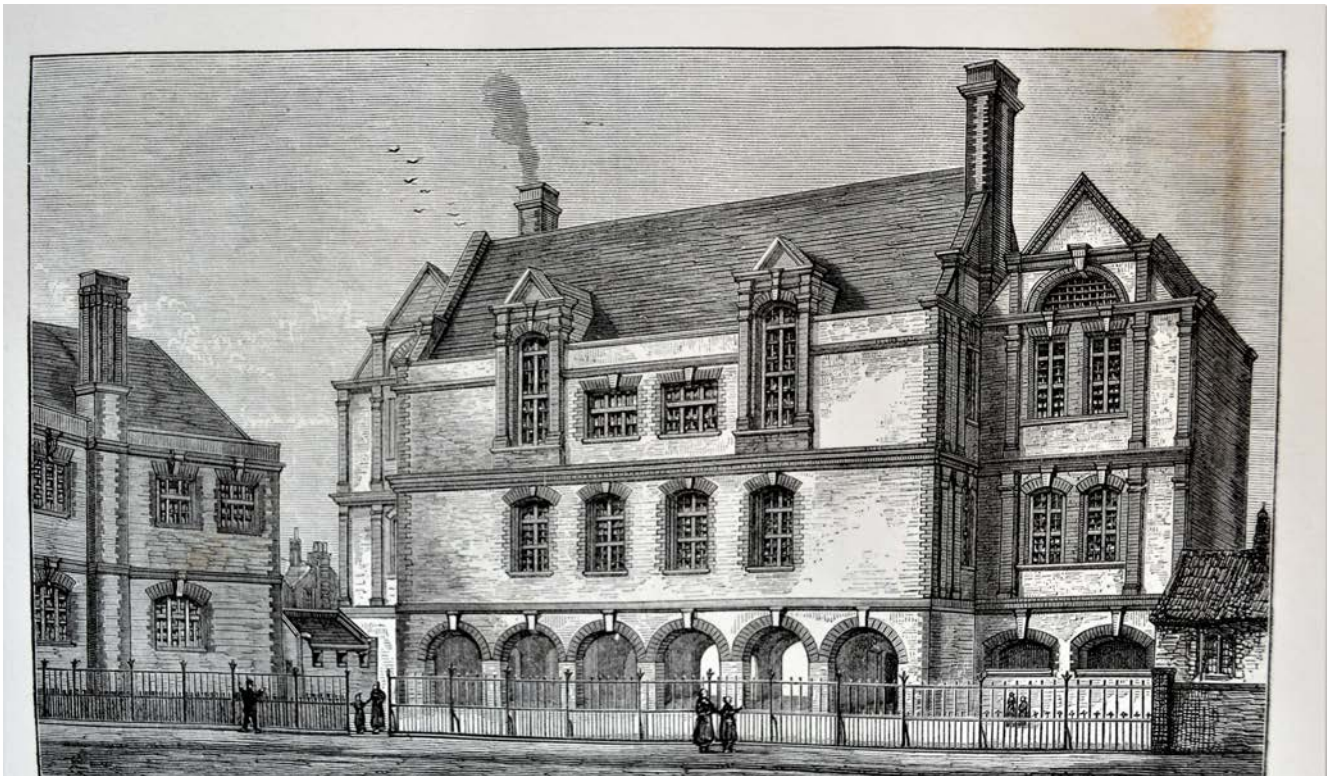


Former Shepperton Road School

All of this cost money of course, and the London School Board was expensive. London spent 53s 5d (£2.67) per pupil per year compared to the national average of 35s 3d (£1.76). School boards as a whole came to be seen as a luxury and an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy as local government developed. They were abolished in the 1902 Education Act and the London County Council took over the School Board's duties in 1904.

But what the educators and architects achieved in only a little over thirty years was astonishing. They built some 400 schools in that

time, of which Islington has many fine examples. They changed attitudes to the education of the "working classes" from a socially risky thing to do to a vital element in the creation of an intelligent and productive workforce. They valued the education of girls as well as boys, though there was some stereotyping of the type of skills they were taught. And above all they broke the stranglehold of the established church on the education of young people, leaving a legacy of school buildings for the many not the few. AC



New North Community School - 4th name on site

The New North Community School, which opened in April 2007, features a nursery, children's centre and purpose built dance studio. It was entirely funded by the development of 59 affordable housing units and 62 private sales units built on former playground. Construction utilised sustainable materials including recycled roofing, bricks and aluminium with all the timber sourced from managed forests. New North Academy, as rechristened in 2011, replaced and amalgamated Charles Lamb and Ecclesbourne Primary Schools which were in need of renewal. Originally known as Anglers' Gardens Board School in 1875, it was renamed Popham Road School in 1903. It then became Charles Lamb Primary School in c. 1949.

The site can be traced back to 1805 when it was orchards on Richard Dent's 1805 map of Islington. In 1872 it was announced that the still-undeveloped land would be taken by the School Board for London, measuring 19,575 square feet. An impressive 'Queen Anne' movement primary school, the 1873 design was published in E.R.

Robson's *School Architecture* (1874) [from which the illustration above is taken], and opened in 1875. It was enlarged to the south in 1902. A secondary block (Junior Mixed and Infants departments) was built in 1914 on the north side of Dibden Street and this seems to have taken over as Charles Lamb Primary School when the 1875 building was unfortunately demolished in 1972. Wonderfully, the original drawings for Anglers' Gardens Board School survive in London Metropolitan Archives and it turns out that Robson designed the school and many others for the Board. He had been appointed as architect to the School Board for London in 1871 and Mark Girouard's *Sweetness and Light The 'Queen Anne' Movement 1860-1900* (1977) gives the background story here, even illustrating Anglers' Gardens as a representative Board School. Aspects of New North Academy have not aged terribly well and what a pity the 1875/1902 building had to go - it didn't even look derelict in 1972.

Book Review**The Story of Crossrail**

Islington author Christian Wolmar has added to the growing library of his publications what should have been a timely report on London's newest railway. Timed to arrive on the bookshelves just days before the first train through the central tunnel after a gestation period of thirty years, its prescience was undermined at the end of August with the announcement of a delay to "Autumn 2019".

Although the book was written by that stage, there was time to include what was thought to be the final twist. Wolmar makes the point that once a new line opens, last minute delays are swiftly forgotten and there is plenty of recent anecdotal evidence to support that view, from the Jubilee Line extension to the most recent extension of the Docklands Light Railway.

Most observers were expecting a delay to May 2019 so the announcement last August was seen to be conservative. The subsequent discovery that even Autumn 2019 may have been wildly optimistic came too late for publication and presents the prospective purchaser with an interesting dilemma. Should she or he wait for the second edition? Those of us who were around for

the original safeguarding and hoped to see both this and the Hackney-Chelsea line in our lifetime will respond in the negative. However, it is available in e-book form as well as hard back.

Wolmar traces the history from the first east-west bus route across London, through the two existing sub-surface and tube lines to the long drawn out battle to see the present project come to fruition. With his wide network of contacts, his understanding of how railways work and most significantly of how politics works, Wolmar is uniquely placed to compile such a comprehensive history, and this is what we have.

Some readers will be surprised at how effusive a known railway sceptic can be for the project. For as long as trains fail to appear this criticism may persist. The book should however whet the appetite for the day when the Reading Beer festival becomes as accessible as similar events in Greater London.

The Story of Crossrail by Christian Wolmar, ISBN number 9781788540254 is published by Head of Zeus Ltd., price £20. AB

Edna Griffiths

Former Mayor and Islington Society member Edna Griffiths has died. A tenacious fighter for disabled access, Edna never allowed her own impaired mobility to obstruct her contribution to the work of the Planning Committee, including the frequent Saturday mornings spent on site visits. She was the Borough's first citizen between 1992 and 1993.

For many years she was resident in Ronalds Road, but had moved to a home in Essex nearer her family. The funeral took place in Chelmsford.

Books from our President and Vice-President

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, photographs by Pauline Lord, published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Society publications

[available from the Society at Resource for London, 356 Holloway Rd., London, N.7 or local bookshops]
Twentieth Century Buildings in Islington, by Alec Forshaw, £14.99, photographs by Richard Leeney, ISBN 0-9541490-0-9

The Story of Day Flats in and around Islington, by Andrew Bosi, photographs from C.F. Day Limited and Oliver Craxton, £5, ISBN 0-9541490-1-7

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

Councillor shunned by TfL



Transport for London has refused to share its plans for Highbury Corner with the Islington Design Panel, despite a request to do so from Islington's lead councillor on Environment and transport issues, Claudia Webbe.

The request was made following an agreement to do so at a meeting of the panel. There has been no consultation on the detail of the scheme, just as the original consultation was flawed because it failed to offer the James Dunnett scheme under which the eastern arm would have been

closed. That scheme addressed the disastrous impact on buses.

After years of disruption caused by the need to renew the 150 year old bridge over the North London line, residents are now enduring more circuitous routes to the station along narrower pavements. There is no room for wheelchairs on the east side of Upper Street, and the alternative route through Compton Terrace Gardens has a flight of steps. A whole swathe of trees from the arboretum made way for the six lanes of traffic that will soon divide it from the green space in front of Dixon Clark Court.



Cabinet Reshuffle - changes at City Hall

Council Leader Richard Watts has made two changes to his cabinet following the decision of Cllr. Joe Calouri to stand down as executive member for children, young persons and families. Into that role steps Cllr. Kaya Comar-Schwartz. Her place at community development goes to Cllr. Una O'Halloran, a life-long Islington resident and the popular Mayor of Islington in 2017/18.

Cllr. O'Halloran has been chairing the Scrutiny Committee on Policy and Performance and her successor has yet to be elected.

Joe Calouri is taking a post as deputy

director of the John Smith think tank. Members of the Council Executive in Islington are all full-time councillors.

Meanwhile, three long standing Assembly Members have announced they will not contest the 2020 elections, including the member representing Islington Hackney and Waltham Forest, Jennette Arnold, and the Planning chair, Nicky Gavron. Both of them have been members since the GLA was created in 2000. Andrew Dismore, who represents our neighbouring seat which includes Camden, is also standing down.

Review of Ward Boundaries

We reported last time on an impending review of the Ward boundaries within Islington, independently of the review of Parliamentary boundaries. We understand that the growth in population since the last review, made in 2000, will make Islington eligible for 51 councillors rather than 48 as at present (but not quite the 52 we had from the previous review in 1976, or the 65 before that).

GLA Housing

Sadiq Khan has announced that he will develop a 'new blueprint for stabilising or controlling private rents in the capital' - and the Guardian's remarkably prompt report on the matter suggests that this will be 'the key plank of his 2020 re-election bid'. He will lobby the government to award him the powers he needs to drive through this and other reforms. The Mayor has long promised to pursue a rehaul of existing regulations

GLA Planning

The Mayor and GLA planning officers have in the first instance sided with heritage groups on the issue of Foster + Partners' proposed 305.5m meter 'Tulip' tower in the City. The Mayor's initial representation asserts that the application as it currently stands 'does not fully comply with the London Plan and the draft London Plan'. His planning officers' report identifies a list of issues that will need to be addressed for that position to change, ranging from a failure to 'provide free to enter publicly accessible viewing areas' to fears that it will 'cause harm to the historic environment' and compromise strategic viewing corridors.

The Public Representation Hearing on Rockwell's VIP trading estate scheme in Greenwich, which had been rejected by the Labour-led borough, took place on 29th January, and the Mayor upheld the Borough's decision. This is the first time call-in to this Mayor has not resulted in approval. Meanwhile, Planning Resource reports that the Conservative-led Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has launched a legal challenge against the Mayor's decision to call

The most likely effect of the change is to introduce a 17th ward. This would retain the equity of everyone being represented by three councillors, rather than a mix of two-member and three-member wards. Whereas the greatest growth has come in Highbury West, home to the former Highbury stadium, there are changes elsewhere including a reduction in the population of Clerkenwell.

and hinted that he would seek such powers. The Mayor also launched a new fund to support the delivery of community-led housing. While the pot of funding and its impact on housing delivery are relatively small - the £38m. facility is 'expected to unlock 500 community-led homes by 2023' - such efforts are crucial to diversifying the sources of London's housing supply, as well as building the capacity of small housebuilders.

in Queensgate Bow UK Holdco's application for a new 30-storey hotel. The council had refused the application, mainly on grounds of the proposed building's height, and media reports suggest that the Communities Secretary may intervene in support of the local authority.

Islington Quiz No.3

What significant policy change was made to the setting of Borough boundaries in 1899?.

Answer : the previous practice of avoiding boundaries down the centre of roads was reversed. Where gardens were uneven, the old practice resulted in house owners with a small part of their garden in a neighbouring Borough

Islington Quiz No. 4

Why might a trip to the Almeida theatre followed by a stop at a nearby pub obviate the need for a longer journey on the Victoria line?

Better Archway Forum plan for Methodist Hall

The iconic and locally listed Archway Methodist Hall is under threat from developers. Plans to turn it into flats were abandoned in 2015 but at the end of last year a planning application was lodged which would involve its demolition.

The council has undertaken, through volunteers, a major review of the local list and this application could be the first test of its resolve to support those buildings that remain on a revised list. The developer claims that the failure of the previous scheme demonstrated that the planning brief was not viable. It called for a community space in conformity with the original intention of the Methodists to provide a building open to all. However, the "usable arts space" was at best a lecture hall and thus not very usable.

The Better Archway Forum has countered

the latest plan with plans of its own, drawn up by Adrian Betham. Adrian worked with Harley Sherlock on plans for a traffic management scheme at Archway which sadly were rejected in favour of what we have now.

The BAF plans provide for the local arts community within the existing building and in line with the planning brief. It has contacted major international arts organisations which could finance the scheme if it receives planning permission.

Sadly users of the Hall are unlikely to have an easily accessible Post Office nearby. Royal Mail is consulting on replacing the Crown Office next to Archway station with a franchise in the back of a nearby shop. It implies that the principle is not for consultation, only the detail.

Campaign against intrusive telephone kiosks stepped up

The campaign against pseudo telephone kiosks, which the Society among many within the London Forum has been opposing for over a year, has gained traction with a report in the Sunday Times that they are providing a ready vehicle for drug dealers to peddle their trade.

Owners are taking advantage of the planning concession given originally to the Post Office (later BT) to provide a public service in the form of telephone kiosks. The demand for these has been reduced since many people took to the anti-social habit of walking around with a portable

telephone in blissful ignorance of all around them.

However, the permission remains and has been exploited by bolting on advertising panels and other revenue raising facilities. The Secretary of the Islington Society recently wrote to the local papers commending Islington Council for resisting planning applications as far as possible, and pointing out the huge drain on council resources is involved in dealing with them.

Below: Crouch Hill has seen many changes since this was taken, but intending passengers would now welcome these heritage units back (see page 11)



New name and strategy for the HLF

The Heritage Lottery Fund will now be known as The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This is intended to make a clearer link between playing the National Lottery and the good causes that benefit. The Big Lottery Fund, the UK's largest community funder, changes its name to The National Lottery Community Fund

It has now opened its simplified portfolio:

- National Lottery Grants for Heritage - an open programme for any type of heritage project from £3,000-£5million
- Heritage funding campaigns designed to fulfill

strategic needs or funding gaps. The first two campaigns will launch in 2019, focusing on helping: organisations build their capacity and organisational resilience or to build digital capabilities

- Joint funds to deliver strategic initiatives in partnership with other organisations, such as the Future Parks Accelerator partnership with the National Trust
- Social investments such as impact funds and loans
- Two rounds of major grants of over £5m in 2020-21 and 2022-23.

More funding to help town centres and high streets thrive

Communities across the country can bid for up to £50,000 to help make local areas more attractive for business, High Streets Minister Jake Berry MP has confirmed in a press release. The latest round of the £500,000 British Improvement Districts (BIDs) Loan Fund will support business owners and local leaders to set-up a BID, which allow communities to come together to deliver additional local services and upgrade commercial areas for the benefit of business. Unfortunately, the widespread application of "Permitted Development Rights" is likely to undermine high streets, however well funded the B.I.D.

Consultation on Georgian and Victorian terraced housing

Following requests for a more up to date replacement for the English Heritage document "London Terraced Housing 1660 - 1860", this guide intends to provide a concise overview of the development of terraced housing and an approach to change in these historic buildings. It is for local authorities, owners and others involved in the conservation of Georgian and Victorian terraced housing. It gives a historic overview of terraced housing and identifies important features of

different types of terrace.

The consultation is seeking comments on the draft text and also suggestions for important issues to cover for proposed future guidance specifically aimed at owners of terraced housing. It is open until 22nd March at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/about/what-we-do/consultations/guidance-open-for-consultation/>

London Night Time Commission report launched

In the last week of January, the London Night time Commission launched its report into the night time economy. They have redefined "night" as 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. This means it now encompasses many activities undertaken by older people. However, older people and vulnerable groups are less likely to participate in or contribute to the night time economy. The biggest barrier to its growth is the cost of transport, although the night tube is warmly welcomed.

The report contains ten recommendations

for the Mayor. Chaired by Kate Nicholls of UK Hospitality, the Commission members included Jan Hart, Islington's Director of Public Protection.

Transport News Round-up

GOBLIN developments

Late in December, Transport for London awoke to the imminent danger of losing all train services due to lack of rolling stock. They negotiated a further extension to the lease on the remaining six diesel trains. This involved a progressive loss of the trains, starting at the end of January and ending in March. By the time the first of these six departed, a 378 five-car train from the other electrified London Overground lines had been converted back to four-car, tested on the Barking Gospel Oak line and pressed into service. Two others are to follow, which will put some strain on the Overground services they leave behind. It is understood that the programme of refurbishment of these ten year old trains, which takes one train out of service at any one time, will be suspended until the loaned train sets can return.

In the meantime, weekend services are disrupted *sine die* to improve the chances of all available units being available during the week. Normal service will be resumed when the class 710 trains, designed for the Barking/Gospel Oak but too clever for their own good, are finally cleared for service. This is thought to be June at the earliest. Bombardier will then pay for a month's free travel to compensate long suffering passengers. There remains a threat, indeed a likelihood, that maintenance issues will disrupt weekday services as well.

Crossrail costing £30m. a week

The review *into* Crossrail by KPMG was published in the last week of January to reveal the cost of delay to Crossrail: £30 million pounds a week. As the project seems to be two years behind schedule, that amounts to an extra £3 bn. Money earmarked for the development of Crossrail2 has been diverted to Crossrail1, and the chances of CR2 happening by 2041, the end date for the London Plan now being Examined in Public, must be close to zero. There is considerable hostility to another mega project in the south-east from those in the North, which is not helped by the Mayor extolling the virtues of EU membership instead of taking a more hands on approach to the transport problems. Moreover, the name Crossrail2 is now a hindrance, being associated with expensive mega-projects, while the objectives of the more modest Chelsea-Hackney line (or even Hainault-Wimbledon) have been lost.

We reported last time on the signalling problems that many informed sources were expecting to result in delay. Subsequently it has

emerged that NONE of the Central London stations would have been ready in time either. The new chief executive praises his predecessors but then admits they were not aware of the extent to which each element of the project was behind schedule.

The problems now seem to have been made worse by acute over-optimism. Wolstenholme, the long serving chief executive, moved on in April 2018 saying that the project was all but complete. The finance team was wound down in the expectation that they would not be spending much money after March 2019 and of an income stream to meet any late costs. The KPMG report suggests that the lack of a budget is adding to costs.

Bus service cuts

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the TfL response to the numerous criticisms of its plans to cut central London bus services. Most were based on the anticipated loss of custom occasioned by transfer to the new Elizabeth line. The London Forum is holding an open meeting on buses on Tuesday February 12th in the afternoon - a change from the usual practice of meeting in the early evening.

TfL are not alone in attacking buses. Westminster's plan for Oxford Street accepts the cuts TfL proposes, albeit at least keeping them on the main road rather than diverted away from the shops they serve. Its plan for Aldwych seems to have no place for buses at all. Camden has a more reasonable approach in its plan to remove the gyratory around Tottenham Court Road. It will however have to overcome the power of the taxi lobby if bus users are to benefit. TfL has dropped its support for the traffic scheme at King's Cross following the Commissioner's pledge to ensure that buses were properly considered and provided for in any future traffic management schemes. It is a pleasure to record an instance of a well received statement of policy being followed up with action to implement it.

Heathrow consults on expansion impacts

A consultation is underway, conducted by Heathrow Airport itself. They are suggesting that it might be better to spread the misery more widely so that those affected by aircraft noise suffer it for shorter periods. There are also changes to the flight paths away from Heathrow, though they appear to be to the north of Islington.

Consultation ends on March 4th. AB

Future Society events

The Society gives reminders by e-mail of meetings about a week before they are held. Please let the Secretary have your e-mail address if you are not on the existing mailing list.

Mary Cosh centenary celebration, March 2nd.
Details on page 2. Pre-booking necessary.

Bill Manley Memorial pub crawl starts at the Woodbine, Blackstock Road, on Friday June 21st.

The Annual Dinner date is Tuesday October 8th.
The Committee meets normally on the third Thursday of each month.

Other Events in or around Islington:

Archaeology & History Society

(7.30 p.m. Islington Town Hall)

Non-IA&HS members welcome, donation invited.
Further information in the web site.

Meetings are scheduled on February 20th, March 20th, April 17th, May 15th and the AGM on June 19th. James Dunnett is speaking on Brutalist Architecture at the March meeting.

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

"Ruskin and the idea of Craftsmanship", to be held at St. Botolph's-without-Bishopsgate on Thursday, March 7th. Price £11 to non-members. Further details from www.spab.org.uk

Sadler's Wells Theatre, The Peacock and Lilian Baylis Studio

Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1. Website for details: "www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/list."

Events include Alice in Wonderland (February 16th), BalletBoyz (March 5th-9th), and the Northern Ballet (March 26th-30th)

King's Head Theatre

Opera: Bizet's "Carmen", February 7th-March 9th; Gilbert & Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore" April 10th-May 11th, Timpson the Musical February 18th-March 9th.

Comedy: "The Crown Dual" March 12th-April 6th

London Forum of Civic & Amenity Societies

020 7993 5754

All meetings at The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, usually at 6 p.m. for 6.30.

Tuesday February 12th: Buses and sustainable transport (this is an AFTERNOON meeting at 2

for 2.30 p.m.)

Thursday April 4th: rejuvenating Societies.

May 16th, June 19th, July 10th topics to be agreed.

Islington Museum & Local History Centre

245, St. John Street. tel. 7-527 2837

Exhibition: Making the invisible visible February 1st- March 30th.

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, 39a Canonbury Square

Opening hours Wed. to Sat. 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.,
Sunday 12 noon-5 p.m. Late evening events to 9 p.m. every first Thursday of the month.

January 16th- April 7th: Fausto Melotti. (Talk on March 9th)

Almeida Theatre,

Almeida Street, N.1 0207 359 4404

Monday-Saturday 7.30 p.m., Saturday matinée 2.30 p.m.

April 8th-June 1st: Chekhov's Three Sisters.

Islington University of the Third Age (U3A)

Monthly Meetings at 10.30 am, The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road: details and membership www.IslingtonU3A.org.

Islington U3A has about 500 members with many special interest groups, mostly meeting in members' homes.

Rosemary Branch

2, Shepperton Road, N.1 0207 704 6665

The Good Old Days Music Hall (Mar 22nd, Ap.26th); Mystery Meat (Feb.28th & Mar.28th).

Upstairs at the Gatehouse

North Road/ Hampstead Lane, N.6 0208 340 3488 7.30 p.m. except Sundays 4 p.m.

"Bad Girls - the Musical" Feb. 13th - March 3rd

Old Red Lion Theatre

418, St. John Street, E.C.1 0207 837 7816

www.oldredliontheatre.co.uk

Park Theatre

Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park. 0207 870 6876

Two auditoria Mon.-Sat evenings 7.30; matinées 3 p.m. Thurs. & Sat.

February 26th- March 23rd: "We're staying right here" by Henry Devas.