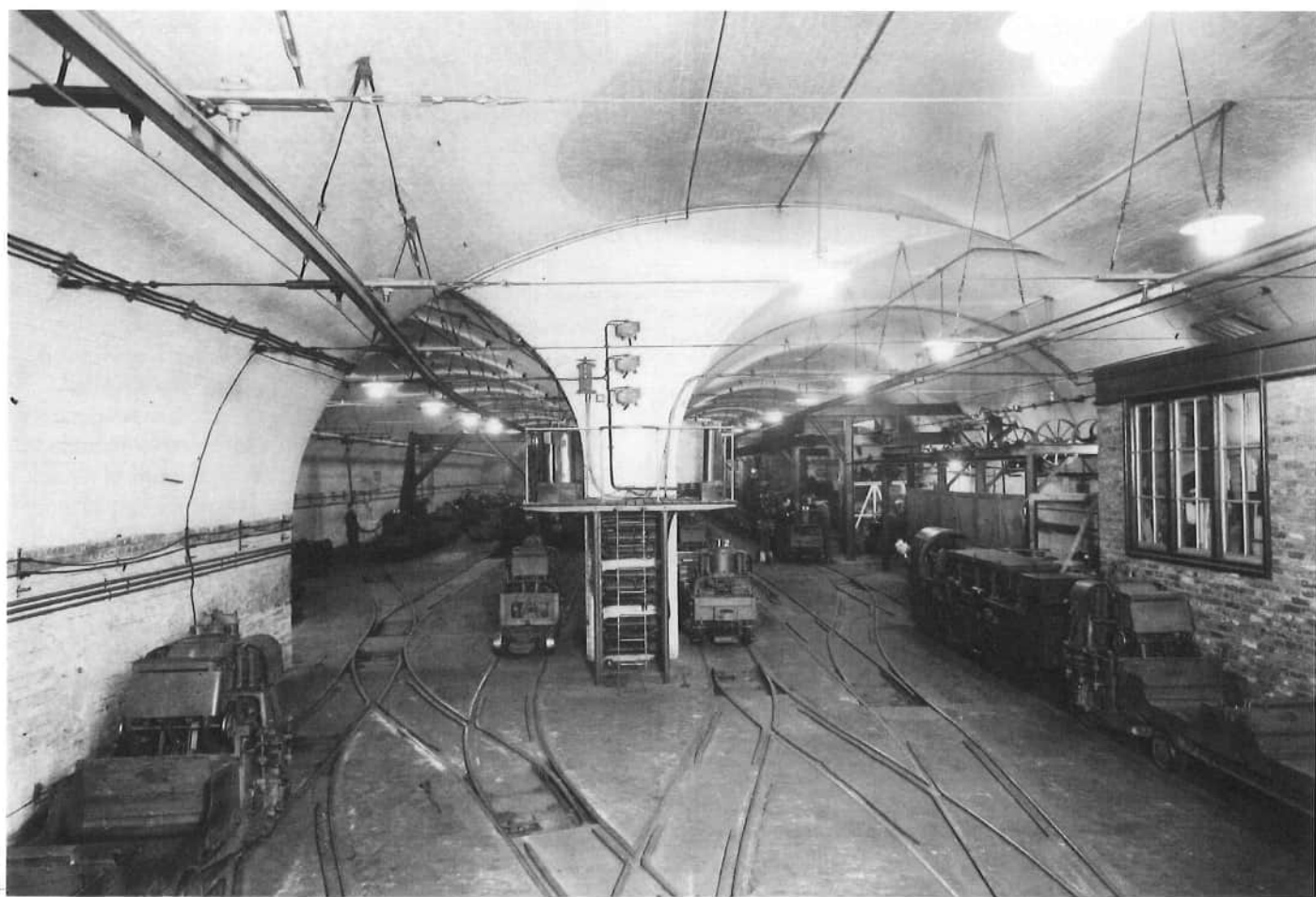


Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

*Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society
incorporating Islington History Journal*

Vol 4 No 1 Spring 2014



The rail that carried the mail

Plans for a postal museum could see mail trains run at Mount Pleasant again

Growing up in wartime Islington ● A tidal mill that ground grain for gin and bread ● Union Chapel organ sounds brilliant once more ● Seven Sisters stories ● George Orwell's Cold War ● Exhibition review: the first Britons ● New book on Jewish communities in Islington ● Books, including bargains ● Your local history questions answered ● News and events

About the society

Our committee

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What we do: talks, walks and more

The Islington Archaeology & History Society is here to investigate, learn and celebrate the heritage that is left to us.

We organise lectures, tours and visits, and publish this quarterly journal.

The society was set up in 1975 and is run entirely by volunteers.

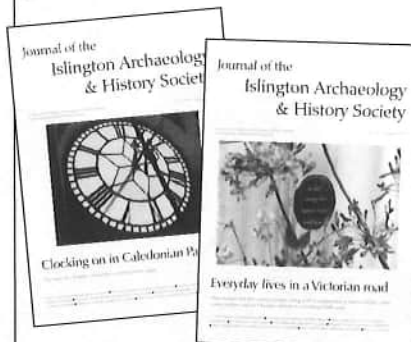
Keep in touch online

We have a website at www.islingtonhistory.org.uk and a Facebook group at



www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory.org.uk

Journal back issues and extra copies



Journal distribution is overseen by Catherine Brighty (details left).

Contact her for more copies, back issues, if you move house and about membership. Back issues can be downloaded from www.elcomms.com/iahs.

Contribute to this journal: stories and pictures sought

We welcome articles on local history, as well as your research, memories and old photographs.

A one-page article needs about 500 words, and the maximum article length is 1,000 words. We like receiving pictures to go with articles, but please check that we can reproduce them without infringing anyone's copyright.

The journal is published in print and online in pdf form.

Deadline for the summer issue is 30 April.

Ever wondered...?

Do you have any queries about Islington's history, streets or buildings? Send them in for our tireless researcher Michael Reading and maybe other readers to answer. Please note we do not carry out family research. See Letters, page 6

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Any questions?

Contact editor Christy Lawrance (details left).

The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society is published four times a year

ISSN 2046-8245

Printed by PrintSet, 15 Palmer Place, London, N7 8DH, www.printset.co.uk

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Membership per year is: £10 single; £12 joint at same address; concessions single £6/joint £8; corporate £15; overseas £20. (Membership renewals are sent out when due.)

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Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 4 No 1 Spring 2014

A market would open Smithfield up to all

As the journal was going to press, the public inquiry into Smithfield Market was coming to an end. While Smithfield is just over the border in the City, it will affect Islington – Islington Council was one of those to object to plans to replace much of it with office blocks.

Some of us may see parallels with the story of the Royal Agricultural Hall in Angel, once so derelict that trees grew out of the floor. It was threatened with demolition before being reborn as the thriving Business Design Centre.

Recently, SAVE Britain's Heritage and the Victorian Society put in a planning application for a public market at Smithfield. They are supported by Eric Reynolds, famous for Camden Lock Market, Gabriel's Wharf and Spitalfields Market, and Cathedral Group, a developer with a track record of working on heritage buildings.

It's not just about people seeing bland modern offices instead of grand Victorian buildings. A market would allow the public inside to see the magnificent soaring interiors and the strong curves of the ironwork. For free.

Less notable buildings than Smithfield have been listed. Had the general market been given this protection, a Spitalfields-type market might be open and people able to wander in and marvel already.

Turning the Royal Agricultural Hall – once home to livestock shows, athletic events and Cruft's dog show – into a business centre seemed an extraordinary idea at the time.

A new Smithfield Market, backed by commercial as well as heritage expertise, may be as successful.

Christy Lawrance
Editor



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In brief

Smithfield Market's future in the balance

The public inquiry into the redevelopment of Smithfield Market was taking place as the *Journal* went to press. This will decide whether to allow most of the site to be demolished to make way for office blocks. SAVE Britain's Heritage and the Victorian Society with Camden Market developer Eric Reynolds have submitted plans for a modern market.

Voices of scientists recorded for archive

Over 100 British scientists and engineers have been recorded for a British Library oral history archive. This tells the stories of remarkable scientific and engineering discoveries as well as personal recollections.
www.bl.uk/voices-of-science

King's Head to live on as a pub theatre

The King's Head Upper Street is to continue as a pub theatre, its new owner, real ale pub chain Young & Co, has said. There has been a King's Head pub on the site since the 1500s; it is mentioned in Samuel Pepys' diaries. The current building dates from 1860.



Post stories and pictures, and read and comment about heritage on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory

Fire station closes after 140 years



Clerkenwell Fire Station: doors are designed for horse-drawn and handcart fire engines

Clerkenwell Fire Station – the oldest fire station in Europe, which opened in 1872 – closed on 9 January.

Islington Council led a group of local authorities in a legal challenge to stop fire service cuts, but this was lost.

The closure has ended several hundred years of firefighting in the area. Clerkenwell's parish fire engine was used during the Great Fire of 1666.

Clerkenwell Fire Station, designed by HFT Cooper of

the fire brigade branch of the London County Council architects' department, is listed grade II. Built 1912-17, it replaced a fire station built on the same site in 1871-73.

Firefighters and their families used to live in flats on the upper floors.

There are two wooden doors on the Farringdon Road side of the building. The narrow one was used for handcart fire engines and the wider one for horse-drawn engines.

Designer of best tube poster trained in Islington



BRIGHTEST LONDON
IS BEST REACHED BY



The artist often included himself in his posters – he's the man on the middle escalator with the beard and top hat

A poster by an artist who trained at an Islington college has been voted the best London Underground poster of all time.

Brightest London is Best Reached by Underground was designed by Horace Taylor in 1924 and shows the underground as bright, popular and fashionable.

Taylor attended Camden School of Art in Dalmeny Avenue as well as Royal Academy schools. He worked as a stage designer and newspaper cartoonist before focusing on commercial art.

Over 42,000 people chose from the 150 posters in London Transport Museum's *Poster Art 150 – London Underground's Greatest Designs* exhibition. *Brightest London* got 1,752 votes.

The Camden School of Art was founded in 1881 in Parkhurst Road, moving to Dalmeny Avenue in 1889.

The *London Manual* (probably of 1908) states the school provided "drawing, design, modelling; courses for training art teachers; bookbinding, dress fashion design, lithography, needlework, &c."

Islington makes history with first gay marriage under new law

Britain's first gay marriage is due to take place in Islington. Peter McGraith and David Cabreza are due to get married at midnight on Friday 28 March, as soon as a new same-sex marriage law comes into force. Islington Council leader Richard Watts said: "It's fitting they have chosen Islington for their history-making ceremony because since the first-ever gay rights demonstration at Highbury Corner in 1970 we have been at the forefront of the equality movement."

Wellcome releases thousands of images

Over 100,000 manuscripts, photographs, paintings, etchings and advertisements have been made available online through Wellcome Images. They include works by Vincent van Gogh and Francisco Goya, Thomas Rowlandson, James Gillray and Robert Cruikshank. The earliest item is a 2,000-year-old Egyptian prescription on papyrus.

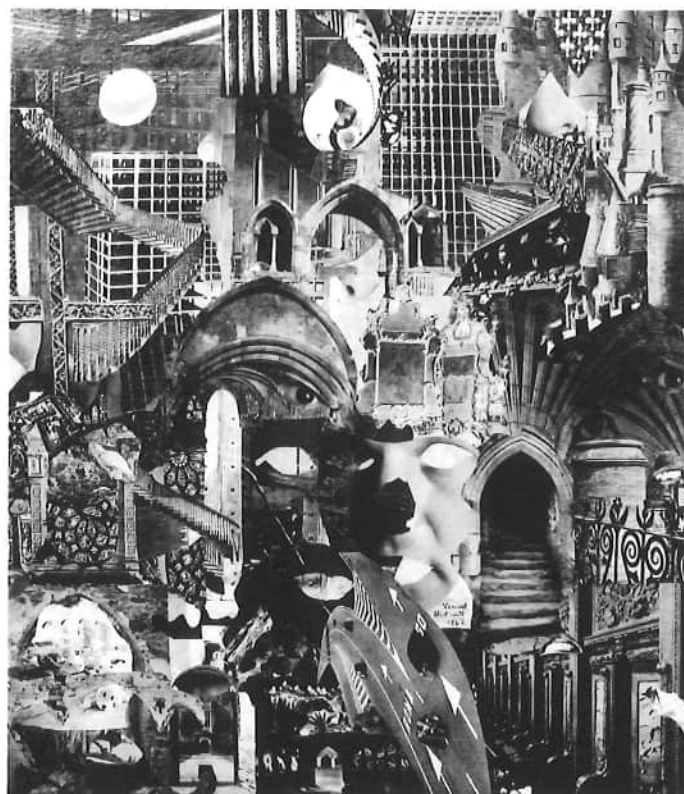
• <http://wellcomeimages.org>

Early kitchen shows fire use and domestic ritual

The world's earliest hearth has been found in Qesem Cave, Israel. The hearth, in the centre of the cave was 4m², larger than others of its time, so may have been used by a group of hominins in a domestic ritual. This may reflect a development in the nature of fire use.

• Shahack-Grossa R et al (2014) Middle Pleistocene (300 ky ago) Evidence for the repeated use of a central hearth at Qesem Cave, Israel. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 44: 12-21

Halliwell work acquired



A collage by Kenneth Halliwell went on display at Islington Museum as part of LGBT History Month.

The £2,800 collage, *Untitled No 2*, was bought with a lottery grant. The council bid for the collage at an auction – which was filmed for the BBC's *Flog It!* show.

Untitled No 2 joins the council's collection of book jackets defaced by Halliwell

and his partner playwright Joe Orton. The couple were jailed in 1963 for adding text and pictures to the covers.

Halliwell lived with Orton in Noel Road. He killed Orton then himself in 1967.

• A book, *Malicious Damage: the Defaced Library Books of Kenneth Halliwell and Joe Orton* by Ilsa Colsell, which reproduces the covers, is on sale at the museum for £35.

Time called on Good Intent pub

The Good Intent, by the Whittington Park, is to be demolished to make way for six luxury homes.

The High Court rejected the council's bid to overturn the Planning Inspectorate's decision to approve the plans.

The council said this went against its pub protection policy but the judge said the overall aim of the policy had been satisfied if not its precise requirements.



The Good Intent: a pub has been on the site since 1830

There has been a pub on the site since 1830. The pub opposite – the Black Horse – closed a few years ago.

First signs of Roman London headhunting or gladiator fights

Evidence of Roman headhunting or gladiatorial combat has been revealed by forensic research into human bones found at a Walbrook stream site.

The site is likely to have been the burial ground of the victims, mainly young men, whose remains showed signs of a violent life. It is the first such evidence of its type found in the capital.

The 39 skulls and one femur were discovered 1988, but forensic analysis was completed only recently.

Museum of London research osteologist Dr Rebecca Redfern, who led the study, said there was no sign of social unrest or battle in London at the time, and forensic analysis of injuries sustained was carried out.

"It has led us to two possible outcomes – these are fatally injured gladiators, or the victims of Roman headhunting – a tantalising prospect," she said.

"This is the first time that we have evidence of these types of violent acts in London. The next step in the research is to look at where these people came from."

Heather Bonney of the Natural History Museum, who completed microscopic analysis, said: "These individuals probably met a violent end, and their heads were then separated and deposited. Some had sustained numerous injuries, which provide a fascinating insight into violent activities in Roman London."

Redfern R, Bonney H (2014) Headhunting and amphitheatre combat in Roman London, England: new evidence from the Walbrook Valley. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 43: 214-226

Letters and your questions

We welcome letters. Our researcher Michael Reading can answer your questions, so get in touch if you have a query about Islington, or can answer or add to anything here

The umbrella makers of Elmore Street

I wonder if you can help me find some information on umbrella making in Islington 1880-1940.

I can find very little information about this, which may have been a small, family-based industry done from home.

The censuses of 1901 and 1911 show my relatives the Bingles were living on Elmore Street. Several generations lived in a number of houses on either side of the street.

The women were listed as umbrella cover makers. I expect this involved needlework piecework done by women at home.

Did the Bingles manufacture umbrellas at home or in a nearby workshop? Would the men have been involved in making the ribs as labourers, or were they involved in the overall production and distribution of the finished product?

Jennifer Leith
jenniferleith@gmail.com

Michael Reading writes:
The London Post Office street directory CD for 1880 shows a list of residents in Elmore street, but no one named Bingle.

The list of the CD for 1906

is much shorter list, all tradespeople, but no Bingles. A second disc for this year, which includes the trade directory, lists six categories of trades under Umbrella:

- Umbrella and parasol makers
- Umbrella furniture makers
- Umbrella gingham makers
- Umbrella handle makers
- Umbrella stand makers
- Umbrella stick makers.

The largest group is umbrella and parasol makers, which contains over 300 names – but not Bingle. I also looked up Bingle in Elmore Street for 1912 and 1921 without success.

In 1906, there was an umbrella stick maker and an umbrella and parasol maker at 137 and 150 Balls Pond Road respectively, and an umbrella furniture maker at 127 New North Road. These are all fairly close to Elmore Street.

London Post Office street directories are available on microfilm at the London Metropolitan Archives and run from 1800 to approximately 1990.

It is probable that your relatives were employees of one of the many umbrella makers, and several may have worked for the same employer.

Looking through the lists

for umbrella trades, I gained the impression that most would be very small businesses.

We are also looking at the situation of over 100 years ago. Many consumer goods bought then were made in Britain but many trades have since been lost to overseas suppliers.

The businesses I suggested were taken at random for their nearness to Elmore Street, but there were others not too far away, easily reached by public transport, which would have been a tram.

I could not find an umbrella trade association but you could try the umbrella firm of James Smith & Sons, Hazelwood House, 53 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1BL, www.james-smith.co.uk, which was established in 1830.

To end on a personal note, in 1947, at the age of 14, I began piano lessons at 51 Elmore Street, and continued for about four years. Sadly, I no longer play.

Jennifer Leith replies:

I was wondering if I got the name or address wrong, so forwarded your reply to my sister in Canada who is the family genealogist. She said I had the surname wrong on Elmore Street – the Hitchings family, who lived at number 11, were all umbrella makers, according to the 1871 census.

My grandmother, born in 1883, was Lily Bingle. She went to live with her aunt Caroline Hitchings, part of

the extended Hitchings family. In the 1901 census, Caroline Hitchings and Lily Bingle were living at 58 Oakley Road and both were listed as umbrella cover makers.

The 1871 census shows two Hitchings families – William aged 47, born in Holborn, living at no 10 (street name illegible, in St Leonard's parish, Wenlock Ward, Hackney). He is listed as neither employed nor unemployed – would that make him self employed?

The family on Elmore Street included John Hitching aged 34 (cousins or brothers of William?), an umbrella maker.

He lived there with his wife and children, as well as his mother Caroline, aged 70. They had a domestic worker, so must have been doing well. Caroline eventually moved across Elmore Street to live with her son James and his family.

The lack of an umbrella trade association has made it difficult for me to find out where the workshops and factories are.

I would love to hear from readers who have any information on umbrella making or family histories showing relatives were umbrella makers.

Jennifer Leith
jenniferleith@gmail.com

The mysterious German family and a bakery fire
On behalf of Trevor Hill, I am doing some research on the origins of the Kessel

When one researches family myths and legends that have been handed down by word of mouth, they are often not what has been believed for so long

family who owned a bakery at 261 Holloway Road.

They were Heinrich and Ella Elisabeth Kessel (formerly Jacobi), and Heinrich was a "master baker". Apart from a family photo taken by JH Killick at 399 Holloway Road, the only thing that is known about them is that they had three children.

When a fire broke out in the bakery in 1896 only their youngest daughter survived; she was only a couple of weeks old by the time. She was taken care of by the Paine family who treated her as their own daughter but never adopted her.

She married and had four children, one of them being Trevor. He only learned about his German roots when he was about 11 years old, but then and even later was not allowed to talk about this.

Now, aged 88 years, he is desperate to learn anything about his German ancestors, since the sources are very scarce.

Would you be able to assist me in my research? I am looking for anything that could help trace their history back to Germany, such as articles about the fire in the local press or records of the bakers' guild.

Martin Herzog
martin.herzog@virginmedia.com

Michael Reading writes:

It is often the case that when one researches family myths and legends that have been handed down by word of mouth, they are not what has been believed for so long, as you will see from my research.

Information from the 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses shows that all the Kessel family survived any fire in the bakery of 1896 and that "Henry" and "Edda" had



People watch floodwaters rise in Ipswich in January 1887; at the time, umbrellas were made in home-based businesses in Islington

four children, not three. She had the four children in five years, starting at the age of 32; she expired at the age of 39, probably through exhaustion.

By 1902 they were orphans after Henry died, the eldest 11 years old and the youngest aged six years.

The three boys – if they survived to that time – would have been old enough to fight in the 1914–18 war, so a search of the Commonwealth War Graves website may be appropriate.

If you subscribe to one of the genealogy websites, you can search for birth, marriage and death references. Through the sites, you can contact the General Register Office to obtain certificates, which cost £9.25 and take about 10 days to arrive.

If there was a fire, it may well have been reported in the *Islington Gazette*, which is available on microfilm at the Islington Local History Centre.

The London Metropolitan Archives' information leaflet no 17 is *The German Community in London*. You could also contact Anglo-German Family History Society, 4 Channel Heights, Bleadon Hill, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS24 9LX,

www.agfhs.org.

Finally, no 261 Holloway Road is now a modern building, with the ground floor occupied by the London Coffee Club and flats on the upper floors.

This enquiry has strayed into family history, which is not the society's forte, but, having begun searching, I was interested enough to continue.

Martin Herzog writes:

Thank you so much for your research, for sharing its rather surprising results, and the numerous new leads.

The census figures show that the Kessel family history has become something of a riddle.

Why would Trevor's mother tell him that she was the only one of the family rescued from the fire which may or may not have been taken place? Didn't she want him to ask further questions about her siblings? What would have become of them? Were they adopted by other families? Descendants of them could still be around.... Maybe a reader knows someone.

This will all be very exciting for Trevor.

Martin Herzog
martin.herzog@virginmedia.com

Pre-1970s pictures of New North Road area sought

We are building pocket parks on the north side of the canal where New North Road intersects with St Paul, Rydon and Linton Streets.

Do you know where I might find some pre-1970 photographs or illustrations of this area? Do any readers have any?

Joe Radmore

joeradmore@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Reading writes:

The London Metropolitan Archives hold a large collection of photographs of parts of Islington. Many were taken after 1950 to approximately 1970. The collection is organised alphabetically by street name so look for streets nearby as well as New North Road.

There is also a good collection of maps and photographs at the Islington Local History Centre.

Looking for Canonbury relatives and their homes

Before moving to Canonbury Square, my ancestors lived at 9 Astey's Buildings in Islington.

According to *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 8: Islington and Stoke Newington Parishes* (1985): "Thatched House Row was built on the Lower Street frontage between 1758 and 1762, and behind it Astey's Buildings and Pleasant Row were built facing each other across the New River by John Astey between c1761 and 1764."

Does your society have any photos of this property or road before they were redeveloped?

My Deane ancestors lived in Canonbury Square and Cloudesley Crescent. I'd be interested in hearing from anyone with links to them.
Christopher Deane
chris_deane101@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Reading writes:
Astey's Buildings were on the east side of the New River, with Pleasant Row on the west side. Built in 1761-64, they became Astey's Row from 1820. From 1879-80, Astey's Row incorporated Canonbury Cottages (1824) and Tufnell Place (1817), and was renumbered throughout. Pleasant Row is now Pleasant Place.

In 1893, the New River was covered over the length of Astey's Row to its end at the Thatched House public house, now named the Embassy.

The covered ground was used partly for commercial purposes and partly left as waste ground. In 1956, this area was turned into an ornamental garden as a continuation of the New River Walk.

In 1897-98, two blocks of flats were built in Astey's Row and remain today – Lincoln House and Worcester House.

The remainder of Astey's Row was rebuilt after an HE bomb penetrated nos 4-5, demolishing the building and part of no 6 on 16 September 1940. The Thatched House was destroyed on the night of 8 March 1941 with considerable loss of life.

The society does not hold any archives or photographic collections, but there is a large collection of photographs at the London Metropolitan Archives.

I know this area very well, as I was born just 50 yards from the Thatched House.

Talk for Tufnell Park tales and Seven Sisters stories

Do you live in Tufnell Park? Have you ever lived or worked on Seven Sisters Road or know someone who has?



Garden at Astey's Row built over the New River, with the late 19th century flats to the left

We are looking for residents of Tufnell Park who have lived there for 20 years or longer and people from Seven Sisters Road to talk about their history and tell their stories.

We are also looking for photographs and memorabilia from these areas to record and contribute to both heritage projects.

If you are interested in interviewing people, we can train you in oral history collection.

To participate, please contact me or drop in to our tea party on the first Friday of each month at 4pm-5pm, Unit 35, Studios, 10 Hornsey Street, N7 9EL.

The Seven Sisters project (see opposite) runs until June.

Nessa Finnegan
nessa@therowanartsproject.com, 020 7700 2062

Rev Taylor, George Orwell and the chapel lion

I'm looking for anyone who remembers Rev Ronald Taylor, minister of Union Chapel 1940-80, who would to allow me to record their memories – I have some wonderful printed material about him. I'd also like to record anyone with memories of George Orwell, even if just by sight.

My favourite Taylor story so far is from his own manuscript *150 Years Not Out* about a day he was invited to preach in 1940. After the service, he was invited then to stay with the deacons for coffee. The deacons feared the chapel could be in danger from enemy bombs so retreated down into "a labyrinth of basements".

Taylor felt this might put him in greater danger from the buildings collapsing above him. Containing himself, he entered a dimly lit room – to find himself confronted by a lion.

The lion turned out to be stuffed. It belonged to the scouts, who'd brought it back some years before.

Taylor doesn't record what became of the lion.

Andrew Gardner
andy@islingtonhistory.org.uk

Author wanted for illustrated Islington book
Amberley Publishing is

looking for an author for its proposed book *Islington Through Time*.

Books in Amberley's Through Time series show pairs of pictures of the same view, one historic and recent. They usually have 90 photographic pairs.

Authors provide text and images, which Amberley puts together and publishes.

Authors receive an 8% net royalty on copies sold, as well as a 50% discount on all Amberley books, including their own (which they would then be free to sell on). In addition, authors receive 10 free copies of their book upon publication.

Elizabeth Watts
Commissioning editor,
Amberley Publishing,
E.Watts@amberley-books.com

Old Islington pictures on Italian website

I recently came across a website containing a lot of historical photographs while searching for images of my area in Bexley in Kent.

As I work in Islington and receive your journal, I thought your members would like to see it. Go to <http://tipsimages.it>, click the search button and boxes will appear underneath, click "Immagini editoriali" - then search away.

I sent it to my local studies and they had never seen the majority of the images on there.

Clare Lodge
By email

Send letters to christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk or c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, N7 0QB. Letters may be edited. Say if you would like your email/postal address printed, so readers can contact you

Note: the society won't trace your family tree, but can help with, say, a business a family member ran or a place where they they lived.

Seven Sisters stories

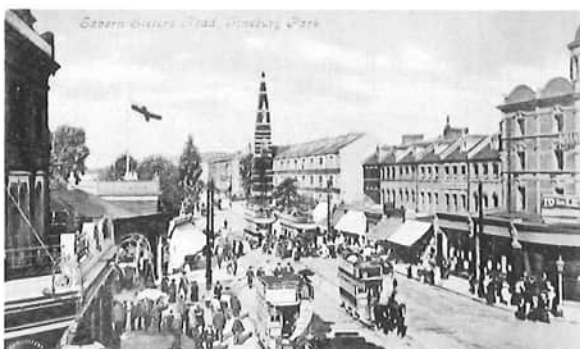
Seven Sisters Road's long history of culture, arts and politics is the subject of a heritage project. Lilia Prier Tisdall explains

Where does this mysteriously evocative name for the double-

decker clogged thoroughfare that links Holloway to Tottenham by way of Finsbury Park come from? Trees, is the answer. Seven elm trees encircling a walnut tree at Page Green, at the Tottenham end of the road, to be precise.

We can trace the intriguing formation back to the 1630s when William Bedwell, vicar and chronicler of Tottenham history, cited them as one of the top three attractions in the area. This does not tell the whole story though, for how did these trees become known as the seven sisters? Here a pleasing little puzzle remains.

There is a letter in the Islington Local History Centre which explains that the road is "said to have been named from seven trees, which were planted by seven sisters, one of them a cripple. Of the trees, six are supposed to have grown straight, and the seventh to have been deformed, it having been planted by the cripple".



Above: the Seven Sisters in 1830; below: postcard of Seven Sisters Road at Finsbury Park, looking east, circa 1910



In *A History of Islington*, Mary Cosh writes – with a better sense of political correctness – that they were ceremoniously planted by the sisters when they were about to be separated or to commemorate the burning of protestant martyrs.

Another suggestion is that they are the remnants of some ancient pagan ritual, dating back to before the Romans settled in this area. Finally, the most boring explanation is that elm trees can grow naturally in a circle....

Whichever story is true, it provides a nice green bit of history for a rather long stretch of concrete.

Play to politics

Today, the Seven Sisters Road is the subject of Holloway-based arts charity Rowan Arts' latest heritage project.

Laid down in 1832, the modern road traverses the three boroughs of Islington, Haringey and Hackney, passing three underground stations, one large park, one river and countless pound shops and pawnbrokers.

Dig a little deeper, and one soon discovers that the Seven Sisters Road has a fascinating cultural history encompassing cinemas, dance halls, concert venues, art galleries, sports grounds and political activism.

Thanks to the Rainbow Theatre (built in 1930 and formerly the

Astoria cinema/concert hall), the Seven Sisters Road has been visited by just about any famous rock/pop star you can think of, including Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Duke Ellington, The Beatles, and The Who. Jimi Hendrix first set fire to his guitar on its stage. The Red Rose Club at 129 Seven Sisters Road was home to the North Islington Labour Party during the 1980s as well as launching the careers of comedians such as Jimmy Carr, Russell Brand and Richard Herring, to name a few.

Less showbiz, but with an important legacy, 225 Seven Sisters Road opened its doors in 1983 as the first ever Black Art Gallery, which aimed "to actively promote and support the continued development of Afrikan-Caribbean visual and oral arts as routes of positive self-expression by our community".

Rowan Arts is investigating the way such history still links Holloway to Tottenham, and is collecting the memories of those who live, work and play on the Seven Sisters Road.

To find out about the project, please contact Nessa Finnegan on 020 7700 2062, nessa@therowanartsproject.com or visit www.rowanarts.net.

Lilia Prier Tisdall is heritage project assistant at Rowan Arts

Mail collections

An new museum will open up centuries of mail history – and visitors may even get to travel on the postal railway, says Harry Huskisson

Hidden away on a small Islington side street and next to the country's oldest mail centre at Mount Pleasant, Freeling House in has been home to the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) since its foundation in 2004.

The unimposing building belies the riches within. Combined with a huge museum collection in a warehouse in Debden, Essex, these tell the extraordinary story of 400 years of Britain's social and communication history through one of our most familiar services – the post.

Postal services in the UK can be traced back to 1516, when Tudor court official Brian Tuke was given responsibility for the regular running of the King's Posts by Cardinal Wolsey, then chancellor to Henry VIII.

However, more than a century would pass before the public could use the service, when Charles I opened his Royal Mail, creating the service still known by the same name.

The BPMA reveals the story of this service from 1635 to today, illuminating the role it has played in shaping our shared national heritage.

Collection spanning 400 years

With documents dating back to the reign of Charles I, the Royal Mail archive holds records of Britain's postal service over four

centuries, from Stuart monarchs through industrialisation and penny postage to the global conflict and rapid technological change of the 20th century.

As well as ledgers, pension records and minutes – and sheets of Penny Black stamps – the archive holds many secrets. Unexpected items include telegrams relating to the sinking of the *Titanic* and a first edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, intercepted in the post for being obscene.

Permanent display space is limited and, 15 miles from the archive, the museum store is home to the BPMA's larger exhibits. The store opens occasionally so visitors can see the collection (see Events, page 26). Items range from the small, such as letter boxes, to the very large which include pneumatic underground mail cars, alongside some curiosities, such

1: Mail Rail car;
2: railway mechanics;
3: postman operating mail route control panel

as a Victorian five-wheeled cycle. As these exhibits do not have written descriptions or signs, curator-led tours are the only way to understand the stories behind them.

New museum

At the moment, the archive contains just four glass cases for displaying items and the archive is running out of room. In addition, water from the River Fleet sometimes permeates a basement wall.

The BPMA is working to build a new, national museum due to open in 2016 not far from Freeling House. Much of the funding for this has been secured. A permanent home for



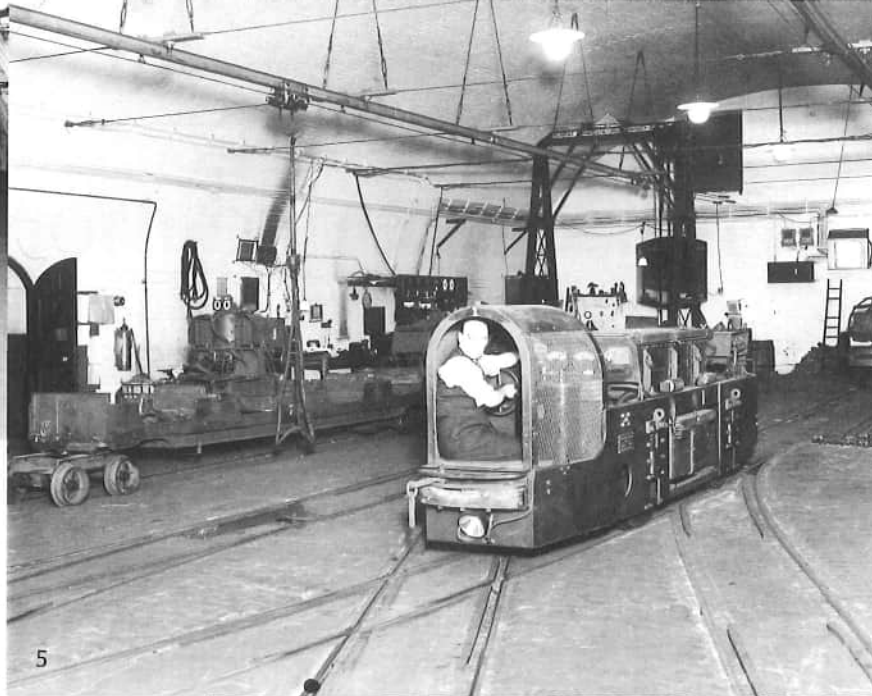
the collections is planned, including interactive exhibition space with five zones to explore, a state-of-the-art search room and archive repository, research facilities and a learning space increasing access to the collections and offering a resource for thousands more visitors than currently possible.

Reopening the railway

In addition to the new postal museum, the BPMA has grand ambitions to open part of the old Post Office underground railway – Mail Rail – to the public for the first time in its history.

Mail Rail ran industriously under the streets of London





largely unnoticed for more than three-quarters of a century, from Whitechapel in the east to Paddington in the west.

It was the world's first driverless, electrified railway and remains the only purpose-built underground mail transit system.

Originally designed to avoid the congestion and fog of London, it transported the capital's mail 70-90 feet below London's crowded streets from its opening in 1927 to being mothballed in 2003.

It ran continuously – including throughout World War II – for up to 22 hours a day around its six and half mile network. Some of the original 1926 locomotives are still used for maintenance work to this day.

While the railway has for many years drawn attention from curious and industrially minded people eager to go down into the tunnels and explore this hidden subterranean world, until now it has rarely been possible. All that is, hopefully, about to change.

The BPMA plans to offer visitors the opportunity to

4: loading post onto a train;
5: operating a shunt vehicle;
6: the railway in c1969;
7: descent to the Mount

travel a 1km loop of track under Mount Pleasant in purpose-built passenger cars, replicating the trains used on the network and allowing them to enjoy a sensory experience of Mail Rail first hand.

On their journey visitors will see Mount Pleasant station, old Mail Rail trains, industrial apparatus and the impressive feats of industrial engineering the system boasts.

The experience will be accompanied by a guide and audio and visual displays along the route, bringing the journey to life.

Alongside this ride, the BPMA also intends to open the old car depot, where the engineers used to work on the trains, as an exhibition space where visitors will be able to learn more about this remarkable system.



The images numbered 1 and 7 are by Jonathan Bradley, who photographed the whole Mail Rail network. His images appear in *Mail Rail: an Exhibition of Photographs*, a free display in the BPMA search room at Freeling House

The journal's cover image shows the car depot and workshop in 1932

Timing critical

The plans for Mail Rail hang in the balance. The BPMA has to raise £2m by the end of March to take over the car depot space, paving the way for a visitor ride. Raising this money will unlock a potential £4.5m Heritage Lottery Fund grant and allow the first phase of the Mail Rail project to open alongside the new postal museum in 2016.

The BPMA is in discussion with a number of trusts, foundations and businesses, but still requires project sponsors to ensure that this rich part of our industrial, social and communication heritage is not lost forever.

To find out more about the plans and Britain's postal past, see www.postalheritage.org.uk

Harry Huskisson is communications manager at the British Postal Museum & Archive

Glorious once more

The organ at the Union Chapel now sounds as brilliant as it did when it was built in 1878. Janet Gilbert tells the story of its restoration



Removing the organ: the stage was taken down, scaffolding put up, and covers protected the pews and pulpit

“This,” said the engineer disapprovingly, gazing at me sternly over his half-moon glasses, “is the dirtiest instrument I have ever seen.”

I had just started working for Union Chapel’s organ project. Here I was, facing the leader of the restoration team from organ builders Harrison & Harrison – and he was shocked. I was at a loss. How had it come to this?

To find out, we need to skate back to the mid 19th century, and examine the role of music and the organ in the chapel’s history. It’s 1844. Queen Victoria is on the throne. Charles Dickens has published *A Christmas Carol*. Samuel Morse has sent the first telegraph. At the Union Chapel, Henry Allon, aged 26, has been appointed as minister.

From the outset, Allon promoted music in worship. He brought in new hymn books, and the congregation practised four-part harmony in weekly classes led by organist Henry Gauntlett, who composed *Once in Royal David’s City*. In 1852,

Allon installed a new organ, built by London manufacturer Gray & Davison.

Membership increased. After capacity was doubled to 800, Allon commissioned another organ, from GM Holdich, based at 261 Liverpool Road. This organ, with three manuals and 38 stops, was installed in 1867 and the Gray and Davison organ sold to a church in Brighton.

The need for space became acute, it was decided to pull down the old chapel and build a larger one in its place. An architectural competition was held; Allon said the whole congregation should be able to see and hear the preacher, and the preacher should be able to see all the congregation. The acoustics should be suitable for both preaching and prayer. The congregation would sing in harmony, so there was no need for a choir area.

The competition was won by James Cubitt, who designed a huge irregular octagon, topped with a dome, with unimpeded sightlines and stunning acoustics, which would seat

1,700. Work started in early 1876.

Both Cubitt and Allon disliked the idea of the organ as a visual feature, and it was placed behind and below the pulpit. The congregation would concentrate on the music, which would have an ethereal quality. Allon intended to reinstate the Holdich organ, but Holdich protested: “I refuse to build any organ that is buried in a pit.” Allon sold Holdich’s organ to what is now the United Reformed Church in Hinckley, Leicestershire – it is still there.

Allon commissioned a new organ – the third in 25 years – from Henry Willis. “Father” Willis had an unmatched reputation for the quality of his instruments and the marriage of his designs with spaces. He built around 2,000 organs, including those at St Paul’s Cathedral, Alexandra Palace and the Royal Albert Hall.

Willis provided a three-manual organ with 37 stops, with much of the workings several feet below floor level, to enrich resonance. It had cutting-edge hydraulic blowing equipment, with a wooden lever for hand blowing in case of hydraulic failure. It is regarded as one of Willis’s finest organs, partly because its tonal design is so exquisitely in keeping with the chapel.

The new Union Chapel was inaugurated in December 1877 and 3,500 people packed in to hear Charles Spurgeon preach. The following March, he returned to preach at the inauguration of the organ – where he criticised the large sums being spent on “worthless noiseboxes” which “drowned the only sound of praise God cared to hear, the



human voice". He then said he would like to see every organ in the country smashed up. The congregation hissed.

The reputation of the music at Union Chapel grew.

However, times were changing. In 1892, Allon died. Many people left Islington for the suburbs, and church attendance started to fall.

The organ was played and tuned but little maintained. Around 1930, the hydraulic blowers were replaced with an electric system. In 1946, Monk and Gunther, a Tottenham firm, made some minor repairs.

Attendance dwindled. There was no money for maintenance and, by 1981, demolition was considered. This was the catalyst for the formation of the Friends of Union Chapel. Repairs were carried out and the chapel took on a new life – and income stream – as a concert venue.

Nearly worn out

By 2007, the organ was becoming unreliable. In 2012, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded 75% of the cost of organ repairs and an outreach programme. By then, the organ had around 18 months of playable life before it became irreparably damaged.

Organbuilders Harrison & Harrison in Durham were selected to restore its musical character and mechanism. In summer 2012, concerts were suspended while work started on the laborious and filthy task of dismantling the organ. The stage was taken down, scaffolding put up and a crane brought in to extract larger parts. For weeks, workers unscrewed, pulled apart, labelled, checked and packed parts in size from smaller than a thumbnail to larger than the pulpit. All except some large, undamaged pipes were driven to Durham in three pantechnicons.

In October, a group toured the workshops in Durham where staff combined skills such as cleaning, soldering, carpentry, and French polishing, with a delicacy of touch and an



Above: organ pipes are packed up; below: Harrison & Harrison's restoration team

unashamed passion, along with an unsurpassed knowledge of the history and workings of these huge, fragile instruments.

Back at the ranch, the hydraulic blowers were being hauled back into life. It was a huge undertaking by small firm Duplex led by James Richardson-Jones. When the blowers were opened for the first time in 80 years, James found to his shock that they hadn't been drained before being closed. They held the blackest of dirty water, some of which had leaked out and had caused no end of damage. James reclaimed as much original material as possible, made other parts and spent hours cleaning, scouring, polishing and coaxing the system to work. We now have the only working hydraulically blown organ in the country.

In January 2013, the first of the pantechnicons rumbled back. Again, we stopped concerts. The stage came down, the scaffolding went back up, and the team cleaned, hammered and built. The men were very professional, always ready to explain what was going on or share a pot of tea. They set up a bath next to the pulpit, filled daily with hot water and Fairy liquid in which the pipes were cleaned. Quite a sight.

Tuning and voicing took five or six weeks. Voicing, a hugely

complex art, involves regulating the tone quality of each pipe, while tuning sets the pitch.

As news of the restoration spread, more and more organists came to play for an hour or two. For many, it was like seeing an old friend. The organ now sounds as brilliant as it did in 1878.

In July 2013, a launch week of concerts in all types of music celebrated the organ. That week, I could face Czes, the team leader who had startled me all those months ago. His verdict: "It's wonderful. It's world class. You should be very proud."

Janet Gilbert spoke to the IAHS on the restoration; this was followed by an organ recital by Adrian Gunning



Orwell's Cold War

Andrew Gardner reflects on George Orwell's writing around the time he lived in Canonbury, and how his work was influenced by political circumstances

As the 70th anniversary of the V1 bomb that devastated Compton Terrace approaches, George Orwell is of particular interest. On and off, he lived at 27b Canonbury Square from 1944 to 1948, as his letters and papers show.

He also spent time reporting from France during the liberation, and writing on the Isle of Jura after the war when being "smothered under journalism" became too much for him.

Even in 1949, he reckoned he had about 10 years and two more great novels left in him.

It was in 1945 that *Animal Farm* was finally published after a year of rejections by publishers. With the UK still in alliance with the Soviet Union, most felt the satire to be so acute as to be untouchable.

The advent of the Cold War changed that and, with the novel's success in the US in particular, royalties were sufficient that he could refuse to accept any payment for copies translated into the Slavonic and East European languages.

Therein lies a confusion, which persisted through to the end of the cold war and beyond. Although he had selected the Russian Revolution to characterise his satire on "revolution gone wrong" in *Animal Farm*, it was intended to act as a warning against totalitarianism. So misunderstood was this that the 1970s South American dictatorships saw such a champion of anti-communism that they never banned it – nor

indeed *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Nineteen Eighty-Four's origins predate *Animal Farm's*, and took a much greater time to coalesce. It is possible that Orwell's early thoughts took root, if imperceptibly, in his mind during and after the Spanish civil war. The lost struggle there presented itself more clearly in *Animal Farm* with its parallels in *Homage to Catalonia*, in which he wrote: "It was the first time that I had ever been in a town where the working class was in the saddle."

Fortress Europe

Nineteen Eighty-Four really began to take shape during Orwell's BBC broadcasts on the battle of Stalingrad: "Evidence accumulates that the Germans are now thinking in terms of a merely limited victory. They are talking of their impregnable position on the Atlantic coast and of the power Europe has to be self-sufficient in food and raw materials when scientifically organised. The picture which is



George Orwell's 1933 press card photo

being drawn by German journalists and broadcasters is of Europe as a vast fortress, of course the German people will be the master race, and the other European peoples will be reduced to varying degrees of serfdom. No doubt the main object of this new turn in German propaganda is to reconcile the German people to a prospect of endless war and at the same time to persuade the Allies that further attacks are useless. It must be admitted, however, that the picture of Europe as a huge self-contained slave camp is not altogether fanciful" (BBC News Review, 17 October 1942).

The question was not as much which latter-day empire would be the victor as much as whether



Orwell's vision of the postwar world as imagined in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, with two empires locked in an impasse and the balance of power held alternately by a third power in the far east

either would reign differently.

By the time Hitler and Stalin had consolidated their power at home in the 1930s, both were moving towards precisely the same system of government, which was national socialism – an anathema to Orwell. It was not lost on him that the camp at Buchenwald remained in operation after 1945 under new ownership.

Whichever side won Europe – and it should not be forgotten that communism came close to winning Greece, Italy and France – it was clear that the US would dominate those opposed. Not for nothing did Orwell rename Britain Airstrip One.

His geopolitical picture of the postwar world was clear – of two empires in an impasse that neither could win or lose, with a balance of power held by a third power in the far east allied alternately. He was not far wrong in his vision.

The question remained for his dramatis personae: who would participate in this future conflict? Hand-to-hand conflict from street to street and house to house then cellar to cellar as in Stalingrad was not realistic, neither was the nuclear option.

That answer came in the development of the V1, the rocket bomb. His fictionalised population would not have to fight actively, but could be kept sufficiently scared to believe in it. Winston Smith is employed to continually alter the truth, but it is Julia's revelation in the novel, not his, that perhaps they are being continually bombed by their own side. As it turned out, Winston remained closer to events than Julia in a constant bombardment of words.

The Soviet Union is long gone. The parallel today – and the stuff of countless conspiracy theories – is of an endless war fought by propaganda. Are we told daily of new enemies to fill the void? We hear helicopters all night and police sirens in the early hours. Are they protecting us or are they to make us feel that we

Above right: In *Homage to Catalonia*, Orwell wrote: "It was the first time that I had ever been in a town where the working class was in the saddle." Right: plaque marking Orwell's time at Canonbury Square



A German crew rolls out a V1 rocket bomb: the population in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* would not have to fight but fear of war could keep them in line

are protected?

• The society holds walks on George Orwell's Islington. Email: walks@islingtonhistory.org.uk for more information

Andrew Gardner is chairman of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Further reading

Orwell G, Davison P (1998, now out of print) *The Complete Works of George Orwell*. Secker & Warburg, London.

The Complete Works of George Orwell includes all his known letters, papers, BBC transcripts, essays, articles and fiction. Volumes 1-9 contain Orwell's works unedited; volumes 10-20 gather the all his known work in a chronology that shows the development of his thought.

Numbers and names of volumes:

1. *Down and Out in Paris and London*

2. *Burmese Days*

3. *A Clergyman's Daughter*

4. *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying*

5. *The Road to Wigan Pier*

6. *Homage to Catalonia*

7. *Coming Up for Air*

8. *Animal Farm*

9. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

10. *A Kind of Compulsion* (1903-36)

11. *Facing Unpleasant Facts* (1937-39)

12. *A Patriot After All* (1940-41)

13. *All Propaganda is Lies* (1941-42)

14. *Keeping Our Little Corner Clean* (1942-43)

15. *Two Wasted Years* (1943)

16. *I Have Tried to Tell the Truth* (1943-44)

17. *I Belong to the Left* (1945)

18. *Smothered Under Journalism* (1946)

19. *It is What I Think* (1947-48)

20. *Our Job is to Make Life Worth Living* (1949-50)



A tidal mill tale



The House Mill has ground flour for penny loaves and grain for the 19th century gin craze, and is one of the few grade I listed industrial buildings in London. Brian Strong tells its story

The House Mill at Bromley-by-Bow is London's only surviving tidal water mill and is arguably the largest surviving tidal mill in the world.

It has been the site of milling since the time of the Domesday Book, when there were eight water mills on the river Lea, in the manor of West Ham. Almost certainly they were tidal mills, using the huge amounts of water brought up the Thames and the Lea by the tide. The site became known as Three Mills by early medieval times.

Until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the mills belonged to the Abbey of Stratford Langthorne (where Stratford is today). They were then sold into private hands. At that time, they would have been milling grain to provide flour. In 1598, John Stowe recorded in his *Survey of London* that in living memory the "Bakers of Stratford" (modern Bow) were permitted to bring their carts to sell bread at specified points in the City of London, provided that their penny loaves were two

ounces heavier than those baked in the City.

In 1727, the Three Mills site was acquired by a consortium led by Peter Lefevre, whose father was a Huguenot refugee. The purpose was to build a distillery. This was the height of the so-called gin craze and, by 1732, the first distillery buildings as well as a brewery were in operation.

Lefevre soon moved on to set up another distillery, the Four Mills Distillery just downstream on the Middlesex side of the river. Three Mills and Four Mills

soon became two of the largest distilleries producing alcohol for the gin trade.

Lefevre's place was taken by his former apprentice, Daniel Bisson, who was also of Huguenot extraction. In 1763, he built a house for his son, the mill manager, also named Daniel. In 1776, he built a huge new mill on the site of a previous mill, between the two houses in which he and Daniel jnr lived, hence the name House Mill.

After both died, the site was acquired by Philip Metcalfe, who rebuilt the timber-framed House Mill after a fire in 1802 which burned it to a shell, though the front brick wall, with a cartouche in Bisson's name, survived. In 1817, Metcalfe also built the Clock Mill, again on the site of

Above (l-r): the House Mille, the rebuilt Miller's House and the Clock Mill. Right: the approach along Three Mill Lane





an earlier mill. The third mill built early in the 19th century was a windmill, which appears to have disappeared by about 1840. It was replaced by a steam engine.

Three Mills seems to have gone through hard times in the mid 19th century, but little is known about this. In 1872, the site was acquired by Nicholson's Gin and the mills continued to grind grain for the distilling process up to World War II.

In its last phase of operation, the House Mill had four water wheels, operating 12 pairs of millstones. The Clock Mill had three water wheels, operating another six pairs of millstones. In 1938, both mills were able to operate for 6-8 hours on every tide. The steam engine operated a further eight pairs of millstones which could be operated for 24 hours per day if required. This indicates the huge throughput of milled grain required for the distillery.

An unusual feature of the House Mill is that eight of the pairs of millstones were built to the design of 19th century engineer Sir William Fairbairn, who invented a system of "silent millstones", which operated on a combination of gravity and centrifugal force to feed the grain into the stones. As far as is known, this is the only example of this equipment surviving anywhere in the world.

The mills continued to operate until the Blitz when, on 15 October 1940, an incendiary bomb fell on a four-storey

Above: approaching the Clock Mill on Three Mill Lane; right and below: waterwheel and interior of the House Mill



bonded warehouse, causing a huge fire. One of the houses was destroyed and the other was never lived in again. Yet strangely, both mills survived.

After the war, the House Mill was used as a warehouse for a time then left derelict. In the 1970s, the Clock Mill was converted to offices. It was then proposed to demolish the House Mill as part of a redevelopment scheme. This led to a public outcry. The House Mill was listed as grade I – one of only a

handful of industrial buildings in London to have that status. Eventually, agreement was reached to set up a charitable trust to take over the House Mill and the site of the miller's house.

The House Mill building has been restored, assisted by grants from English Heritage and government inner city regeneration funds. The miller's house has been rebuilt to the 1763 design, with reused 18th century bricks, assisted by European Union funding. The trust is now negotiating with the Heritage Lottery Fund so machinery can be restored to working order. ●

Brian Strong is a volunteer at the House Mill

Visiting the House Mill

The House Mill is open every Sunday from 11am-4pm, May-October. Group visits at other times may be arranged by calling 020 8980 4626



National Mills Weekend

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 May • www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk

National Mills Weekend sees mills around the country open to visitors.

Sites you can see in London – as well as Three Mills Island, where

House Mill is – include Brixton Windmill, Keston Windmill, Shirley Windmill, Wimbledon Windmill, Kew Bridge Steam Museum

waterwheel and Merton Abbey Mills waterwheel. ● Search for mills to visit and check opening times at www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk

A child in wartime Islington

Patricia Payne's early childhood involved bomb blasts, rationing, lots of family members nearby and a father away in the army



I was born in 1938 in Outram Street at the York Way end of Copenhagen Street.

My mum told me that before the war she'd take me in my pram to the cattle market in Market Road and I hated it and screamed every time. I have no recollection of that, but I do remember a greengrocer in Copenhagen Street giving me a banana when Mum was on her way to Chapel Street. That was before I was one; Mum said the greengrocer closed down as war started in 1939.

It was now 1939, and we were at war. Dad had been called up to join the army. I can't remember where he was stationed at first, but eventually he was sent to Burma to fight the Japanese; he was a chindit, fighting in the jungle. Dad never spoke about it after the war had ended, but I have since read a book about the chindits and it broke my heart, what they went through. So now it was Mum and me. She put on a brave face, like thousands of women. She didn't know if she would see Dad again.

A few of the family lived in Outram Street. We lived at no 19, one granny, grandad and uncle lived at no 2 and the other granny, two uncles, auntie and cousins all lived at no 11. One uncle was in the fire brigade, one was in the air force and one was a parachutist in the army.

We had to have identity cards and gas masks.

When the bombs started

coming, the siren would warn us. Once the siren started, we all had to rush to the air raid shelter. We mostly had them in our back yards and, for those who didn't, they were in the streets.

When the warning came at night, Mum would wake me, put on my "siren suit" (like a onesie) and rush me to no 22 where all the women and my boy cousin could all be together until the all clear. Because my cousin and I only knew the war, we weren't scared, but obviously all the women were. We used to put our heads out to see if we could see the planes.

We were comfortable in my auntie's shelter, with comfy chairs, and auntie was one of the few to have electricity, my uncle having rigged up an extension lead, so we had a two-bar electric fire on plus a little stove where she made hot cocoa.



"We had to have identity cards": sixteen-year-olds receive adult ID cards at the Islington Labour Exchange. Patricia D Harding (centre right), a typist telephonist for a building contractor, was a member of a girls' club called the Copenhagen Recreation Club. Posters in the room encourage people to serve in the forces

"Dad was a chindit, fighting in the jungle": chindits at rest in a jungle bivouac

Rationing started, but I can't remember the amount of food we were allowed, very little I know, but it did us no harm. It was a big worry for the housewives though.

All us kids thought about was sweets being rationed. There was no milk chocolate and the sweet coupons in the book were for 4oz, but we used to buy 2oz so the shop keeper had to cut the coupon in half. We used to get our sweets, shampoo and some bits and pieces from a shop that was in the middle of Outram Street called Parkins.

Outram Street was cut in half on side by a court way (alley) into the next street. It's strange; because of that court way, the kids from the top half didn't play with those from the bottom half. We were friendly but two different groups. There were quite a few kids in the street, as the houses had three storeys – ground, first and top – so there were three families in each.

We had no hot water, no electricity, no bathroom, no garden and an outside loo for everyone in the house. No one bought a house then, we all just had two or three rooms. The tin bath in front of the fire was hard to fill and to empty. But we were all clean.

The mums in the street swept in front of their house every morning and cleaned the front door step. I wish that still went on today. The windows were cleaned regularly, except when they were knocked out by bomb blasts.

I wasn't evacuated during the war. Living near King's Cross station was dangerous but I'm still here.

Mum had gone back to work full time in a greeting card factory in City Road. My granny looked after me. Mum also did "out door" work – lots of women did that. She used to tie pretty bows on cards at home, so the kitchen table would be full of reels of coloured ribbon in the evening.

Although the war was on, Granny still took us out and about. I remember one day going the Queen's Crescent in Kentish Town to see her sister. One the way home, the siren went and we were under a railway bridge at the bottom of Goodsway for the duration of the bombing. I knew Granny was scared.

Apparently, when the sirens went, I used to run up and down the street warning everyone to go into the shelters – I was only four. One lunch time, the warning came and Granny and I went into her shelter with the upstairs facilities. Well, my God, that was a heavy bombing and really near; the whole place shook and the noise was deafening. When the all clear came, we came out and there were no stairs – and no passage or front door. Firemen were outside to help us, together with my auntie shouting: "Where's my Pat?"

What had been hit was Copenhagen Street at our end and, because our house was the nearest, we'd been blitzed badly. Mum heard about it and ran all the way home from City Road. Our house wasn't too bad, just no windows.

The part of Copenhagen Street that had been hit was at the bottom of Outram, Delhi, Havelock and Pembroke Streets. There had been lovely little double-fronted houses (more like cottages) there, plus a pub called the Golden Lion. The house at the bottom of the above streets was blitzed worse, being the nearest.

When the war ended, there was lots of debris around and, as we



Bomb damage at Barnsbury Road, which crosses Copenhagen Street, in 1940

had no gardens, we made use of this, playing on it, making houses from the bricks. Sometimes we found flowers still growing (from the houses that had gardens) and we'd put them in the houses. Boys played there too.

Sometimes we'd find wood; we could break it or one of the dads would chop it, and we would sell it. We would earn enough money to go to the pictures as the Mayfair was only 10d or Saturday mornings at King's Cross was 6d. We also collected empty bottles to take back to a shop for money, or old rags (yes, we recycled then).

A night-time knock at the door

My dad came home (thank God) from Burma. I remember that night clearly.

As I said before, Mum did out door work in the evenings and, while she worked, my granny from no 11 came in to play with me. Because there were lots of coloured ribbons, I liked to tie bits in Nana's hair, fingers and toes. Being a lovely granny, she kept them all on when we went to bed. We all slept in the same bed. Granny always brought her own pillow with her.

Well, we'd all gone to bed and all gone to sleep, then there was a knock on the door. Mum went to answer it. It was a lady who worked on the railway (as they

We had no hot water, no electricity, no bathroom, no garden and an outside loo for everyone in the house. No one bought a house – we all just had two or three rooms

did during the war). She lived in the next street. She said to Mum: "Are you Mrs Ramsey?"

"Yes."

"Your husband is waiting for you in York Way for you, George. We didn't want to give you a shock, by just turning up."

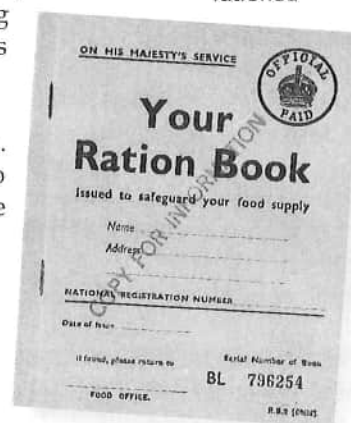
"Thank you, thank you," said Mum.

She rushed to get some clothes on and went down to York Way. She came back with Dad and his kit bag, and said to me: "Here is your daddy." I was seven and only knew him by photos.

I gave him a big hug. He had tears in his eyes and couldn't believe how I had grown. Granny had to go back to her house with her pillow and ribbons everywhere.

Next issue:
Patricia starts school

A sample child's ration book: "All us kids thought about was sweets being rationed"



Publications and bookshop

A new publication from the society unveils the surprising history of Islington's Jewish communities, plus types of heritage assets, Camden review, medical histories and bargains in our bookshop

The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s by Petra Laidlaw was launched at the Islington Museum at the end of January.

The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s

Petra Laidlaw

£9.99 + £2.60 p&p, Islington

Archaeology and History

Society, 2013, 101pp

plus index, appendixes and bibliography



Islington is, as the author notes, "not generally thought of as a place with much of a Jewish history".

This book corrects that misconception. Through intensive research in local archives, careful sifting through newspapers and journals of the period, and

an absolute familiarity with the published literature, Petra Laidlaw has provided an illuminating study of the communities of Jews who made their home in the parishes that comprise the modern borough of Islington. This high-quality research is then brought to life by revealing sketches of prominent personalities in the Jewish communities and a clarity of writing that makes this book an engaging and compelling read.

Although Jews had settled on this island in the medieval period, the 19th century saw the beginnings of a much larger wave of Jewish arrivals fleeing persecution and seeking a better life in Britain. Sephardic Jews who had lived on the Iberian peninsula had been forced to convert to Catholicism or were hunted by the

Inquisition; German-speaking Ashkenazi Jews came to Islington from central and eastern Europe, seeking to escape anti-Semitic prejudice and grinding poverty.

Immigrants from these two groups combined to create a Jewish community in Islington that numbered, by the 1880s, about 4,000 people – or 5% of the entire Jewish population in Britain.

They chose Islington because it was a growing borough, which provided a range of housing – from grand squares to impoverished dwellings – in close proximity to the commercial centres of London and an array of synagogues. Islington's reputation for tolerating dissent and dissenters also, no doubt, proved attractive and was enhanced by these Jews' arrival.

The author takes pains to demolish simplistic generalisations about the Jewish community that developed. While a number of Jewish immigrant families in the borough achieved extraordinary success – a prime minister of Great Britain and a prime minister of New Zealand, as well as the first proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph* and the founder of the Reuters news agency, to give a few examples – the community was also composed of the infamous as well as the famous, the impoverished as well as the prosperous.



Petra Laidlaw at her book's launch at the Islington Museum

What comes across strikingly is how similar the Jewish experience in Islington was to that of other immigrant groups. Initially isolated, confronted by prejudice and possibly discrimination, they congregated in particular areas, on particular streets, developed their own set of institutions (such as shops and synagogues), and gradually assimilated into the wider community. Some converted to Christianity, others abandoned religion entirely. Many moved to other parts of London and further afield.

There is no synagogue left in Islington, and the remaining Jews in the borough are essentially invisible, but that absence makes this fascinating account of the contribution that Jewish immigrant families made to the development of Islington in the 18th and 19th centuries all the more important.

Dr Thomas Lorman is a researcher at University College London

More books and order form overleaf

Reviewers wanted

Are you interested in reviewing books or attending exhibitions for the *Journal*? If so, contact editor Christy Lawrance on christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk, and say if you have an area of interest or expertise.

Journal back issues

We have some back issues of the *Journal*. Some have sold out, so contact Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541 to find out if we have the issue you would like in stock.

Buying from us

Listed opposite are books, maps and other items that you can order using the form overleaf (photocopies fine), or buy at our meetings and at local fairs.

We also take bulk and trade orders – contact Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541.

Buy from the society store

The society stocks books, postcards, maps and more – some are listed below. Where no price is given or if you wish to order several items or in bulk, please call Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541.

Historical maps

Our old Ordnance Survey maps cover Islington and other parts of London – they have a high turnover so call us on 020 7833 1541 to check if we have your area.

Book title	Author	Price (£)	p&p (£)	Total (£)
An Architect in Islington	Harley Sherlock	14.99	2.60	17.59
Angus McBean in Islington	Mary Cosh, ed	4.00	1.10	5.10
The Building That Lived Twice	Alec Forshaw	20.00	2.60	22.60
Church Design for Congregations	James Cubitt	11.00	1.40	12.40
Cinemas of Haringey	Jeremy Buck	9.99	1.40	5.39
The Contexting of a Chapel Architect: James Cubitt 1836-1912	Clyde Binfield	18.00	1.90	19.90
Criminal Islington	Keith Sugden, ed	5.00	1.40	6.40
53 Cross Street. Biography of a House ON SALE	Mary Cosh and Martin King	9.95	1.90	11.90
Dead Born	Joan Lock	7.99	2.20	10.19
Dead Image	Joan Lock	7.99	2.20	10.19
Discover De Beauvoir Town and Environs	Mike Gray and Isobel Watson	1.50	0.69	5.19
Discover Stoke Newington. A Walk Through History	David Mander and Isobel Watson	4.95	1.10	6.05
Dissent & the Gothic Revival	Bridget Cherry, ed	15.00	1.40	16.40
An Historical Walk Along the New River	Mary Cosh	4.00	1.10	6.69
An Historical Walk Through Barnsbury	Mary Cosh	4.00	1.10	5.19
Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios	Chris Draper	5.00	1.40	6.40
Islington: Britain in Old Photographs	Gavin Smith	12.99	1.40	14.39
Islington: the Second Selection	Gavin Smith	12.99	1.40	14.39
Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios	Chris Draper	5.00	1.40	6.40
London Cat 1	James Dowsing	3.50	0.69	4.19
London Cat 2	James Dowsing	4.50	0.69	5.19
London Dog	James Dowsing	3.50	0.69	4.19
Only Bricks and Mortar ON SALE	Harry Walters	5.00	1.40	8.39
New City: Contemporary Architecture in the City of London	Alec Forshaw	19.95	2.60	22.55
20th Century Buildings in Islington	Alec Forshaw	14.99	2.60	17.59
London's New River in Maps. Vol I Part I	Michael Kensey	£20		
London's New River in Maps. Vol I Part 2	Michael Kensey	£25		
The Squares of Islington Part II. Islington Parish	Mary Cosh	7.50	1.40	7.90
Other items				
Old Ordnance Survey maps		2.50	0.69	3.19
Union Chapel mug		6.00	2.20	8.20
New River Tea Towel		6.00	1.40	7.40



New books

New City. Contemporary Architecture in the City of London

Alec Forshaw, with photography by Alan Ainsworth £19.95 + £1.60 p&p, Merrell, 224pp; available from the IAHS The City of London saw massive redevelopment over the past 25 years. This looks at its architecture from office blocks to shops, cultural institutions and public spaces and includes over 200 photographs. Photographs from the book go on display at the Barbican in March. See Events, page 26.

Bag a bargain!

Two IAHS books are on sale.

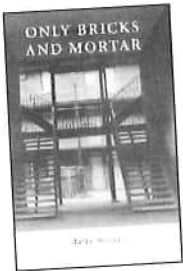
53 Cross Street. Biography of a House

Mary Cosh and Martin King, with photographs by Pauline Lord. Hardback. £9.95 (was £20) + £1.90 p&p This book is a must for anyone interested in the history of home decor. It tells the story of how one house changed from 1785 when it was built to today, illustrated with glorious colour photographs.



Only Bricks and Mortar

Harry Walters £5 (was £7.99) + £1.40 p&p A tale of growing up and working class life from the 1930s through World War II to the 1970s in the notorious council tenements known as the Cottages in Popham Road, where *Cathy Come Home* was filmed.



Camden History Review, Issue 37

Camden History Society

£5.95 +£2.50 p&p

This volume contains six substantial, well-referenced and interesting articles by academics and researchers.

It opens with a piece that highlights tragic local cases of nurse children (boarded with another family and often neglected), baby farms (money-making exercises) and babies abandoned by desperate mothers.

An account of two local farmhouses is followed by items on the Camden connections of a famous resident, author Jerome K



Euston Square station in 1985: review gives detailed history

Jerome, and of a less well known one – tailor, speculator and bon viveur Donald Nicholl.

A wide ranging history of Gower Street (later renamed Euston Square) underground station, which can reasonably be claimed as the world's oldest, covers the challenges

of building and operating the underground. It examines the health hazards created, and the railway company's claim that, on the contrary, the underground atmosphere was good for your health.

The final article tells the dramatic story of a gas explosion on Albany Street in 1848, which caused a huge fire, widespread damage and numerous injuries. There was only one fatality, a 15-year-old nursemaid. The inquest that followed attracted great attention, but there was insufficient evidence to find the London Gas Company guilty of negligence.

Anne Carwardine

Introductions to Heritage Assets (Buildings)

English Heritage

Free to download

The illustrated volumes in this series summarise building types, especially those that have been little studied. Many are postwar and relatively common.

Buildings and Infrastructure for the Motor Car

John Minnis, Kathryn A Morrison

www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/iha-buildings-infrastructure-motor-car/

This gives looks at buildings



and road systems often taken for granted. Buildings included here include factories, filling

stations, showrooms, car parks and transport cafes, motels, service stations and domestic garages.

The English Public Library 1945-85

Elain Harwood

www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/iha-english-public-library-1945-85/

This looks at postwar library buildings, and how they have been adapted. It also highlights how original features, such as light fittings, stained glass and shelving, are at risk through refurbishment or conversion.

The Late 20th-Century Commercial Office

www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/iha-late-20th-century-commercial-office/

The considers designs from buildings that exhibited continuity with prewar structures through use of stone and classical detailing, to office towers, out of town business parks and "high tech" designs, with exposed structures and glass facades.

How to Cure the Plague and Other Curious Remedies

Julian Walker

£10, British

Library

Publishing,

[bl-shop@](mailto:bl-shop@bl.uk)

bl.uk, 020

7412 7735

This is an illustrated compilation of some of the most curious and disturbing treatments for illness from the middle ages to the



19th century. It runs from the strange – eating only boiled carrots for a fortnight to treat asthma, highly recommended in the 18th century – to the repulsive, such as the Anglo-Saxon practice of painting warts with a mixture of mouse blood and dog urine.

However, the introduction points that while remedies were often based on superstition, many herb-based treatments formed the basis of modern medicines.

Medicine and Science in the 1860s. Proceedings of the Sixth British Congress on the History of Medicine

Wellcome Library

Free, <http://wellcomelibrary.org/player/b20086155>

Searchable recently digitised write-up of 1967 congress examining the dawn of germ theory, medical attendance on royalty, the impact of Darwin's *Origin of Species* on medicine and biology, antiseptic surgery, health in the navy and more.

Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

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The first Britons

An exhibition that brings to life the story of the earliest humans in Britain, going back a million years, is not to be missed, says Jon Cotton

The discovery of ancient human footprints on the beach at Happisburgh in Norfolk provides the perfectly timed backdrop to the Natural History Museum's new exhibition on the first Britons.

For it seems likely that these ephemeral traces – first spotted in May last year and since washed away by the sea – are the very earliest evidence for a human presence yet recognised in these islands. Dating to around 950,000-850,000 years ago, they comprise the imprints of an adult and several children likely to belong to a species of early human known as *Homo antecessor* – Pioneer Man.

The exhibition, *Britain: One Million Years of the Human Story*, celebrates the work conducted by the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain (AHOB) project.

And what work there is to celebrate! Ably led by Professor Chris Stringer, the 50-strong team of researchers have utterly revolutionised our understanding of early hominins in this country.

When AHOB was launched in 2001, the earliest human presence in Britain had just been backdated to around 500,000 years ago, as the Boxgrove finds trumped those from Swanscombe by 100,000 years.

Initial re-evaluations by AHOB of old material from Westbury-sub-Mendip then new discoveries from Pakefield quickly pushed this back to around 700,000 years ago. Since then, a string of extraordinary finds further along the eroding north Norfolk coast at Happisburgh – culminating in the footprints

on the beach – virtually doubled the time frame.

The exhibition, in the museum's Jerwood Gallery, is divided into six sections: First Arrivals, 950,000-700,000 years ago (Happisburgh and Pakefield); Rhino Butchers, 500,000 years ago (Boxgrove); The Big Freeze, 450,000 years ago (Anglian



ice-sheet diverts the Thames); Neanderthal Beginnings, 400,000-180,000 years ago (Swanscombe and Crayford); A Deserted Island, 180,000-60,000 years ago (lions and hippos in Trafalgar Square); and Humans Return, 60,000-12,000 years ago (Kent's Cavern, Creswell Crags and Gough's Cave). A seventh, concluding section, the Human Story of Britain Today, uses the DNA results of six celebrities (including Clive Anderson, Bill Bailey and Sian Williams) to trace the dispersal of anatomically modern humans out of Africa



The stars of the show: two life-size and characterful models of a Neanderthal (left) and an anatomically modern human (above). Below: Gough's cave cannibalised skull cup

and across Europe and Asia.

This is a do-not-miss show: all of the iconic British human fossils and associated finds have been assembled in one space for the first time. So the Boxgrove tibia, the wooden spear tip from Clacton, the Swanscombe skull, the Red Lady of Paviland and the Gough's Cave cannibalised skull cups are all present and correct.

The London region has contributed some equally iconic faunal specimens – these include the cut-marked brown bear claws from Grays Thurrock and the cave lion skull from Crayford borrowed back from the Museum of London's prehistoric gallery.

The many objects are invitingly displayed and enhanced by sound and film clips – a hyena circling a kill, a deft flint knapper at work and so on. Perhaps the stars of the show are the two life-size, stunningly characterful reconstructions of a Neanderthal and an anatomically modern human which dominate the sixth section. These, like the rest of this well-paced exhibition, breathe new life into what it was like to be human in Britain up to one million years ago... and still counting.

Britain: One Million Years of the Human Story runs at the Natural History Museum until 28 September 2013. See www.nhm.ac.uk/britainmillionyears



Jon Cotton is a prehistorian and archaeological consultant. He worked for the Museum of London for over 30 years as a field archaeologist then as senior curator, prehistory and public archaeology

What's on

Events, exhibitions, courses, walks and more. Contact details of organisers are in the directory on page 28 – events may change or need advance booking. Islington Archaeology & History Society events are listed on the inside back page

Tuesday 11 March, 8pm

The Sandridge Coin Hoard

Lecture by David Thorold, keeper of Archaeology for St Albans Museums.

Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 8QE. Hendon and District Archaeological Society

Wednesday 12 March, 8pm

She dared to be a doctor: the story of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

Talk by Eleri Rowlands. Union Church Hall, N8. Hornsey Historical Society

Wednesday 12 March, 1pm

Entertainment in London in the 18th Century

Talk by Mike Rendell. Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Wednesday 12 March, 6pm

War halls: royal houses

from the Saxons to the Hundred Years' War

Talk by Dr Simon Thurley. Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Thursday 13 March, 6pm

Gresham and Defoe (underwriters): the origins of London Marine Insurance

Talk by Dr Adrian Leonard on history of marine insurance underwriting back to the 1400s, followed by a reception. Free, Barnard's Inn Hall, Gresham College

Friday 14 March, 8pm

Remarkable pots and extraordinary uses – some unusual byways of archaeological ceramics

Talk by Jacqui Pearce. 8pm, £1, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane. Enfield Archaeological Society

Saturday 15 March, 3pm

Edna Manley: Gallery Talk

Gallery talk on Jamaican sculptor Edna Manley. Free, Petrie Museum, 020 7679 4138, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie/whats-on

Saturday 15 March, 5pm

The Thames – a journey through time

Walk led by London City guide Pat Smith. Historical Association, book on 020 7323 1192, jillkilsby2012@live.co.uk

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 March, 11am-5pm

Get behind the scenes at London Transport Museum Depot

Weekend of bus-themed activities to celebrate Year of the Bus, including a steam bus, a replica of Hancock's 1833 Enterprise (pictured),

model layouts, behind-the-scenes tours, heritage bus runs, a mini bus rally, a bus pit tour, rides on the miniature railway and films. £10/concs, London Transport Museum Acton Depot, www.ltmuseum.co.uk.

Monday 17 March, 1pm

The Second World War: shellshock to psychiatry

Talk by Dr Roderick Bailey. Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Thursday 20 March 7.30pm,

Who lies in Highgate Cemetery?

Highgate Society, 10A South Grove, N6. Camden History Society, joint meeting with the Friends of Highgate Cemetery

Thursday 20 March, 7.30pm

Film: City of Ships

Port of London Authority 1951 film of London Docks. Led by Ray Newton and John Tarby. Latimer Congregational Church Hall, Ernest St, E1. East London History Society

Tuesday, 25 March, 1pm

The museum and historical collections of the Bank of England

Talk by Jennifer Adam. Free, Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall

Wednesday 26 March, 8pm

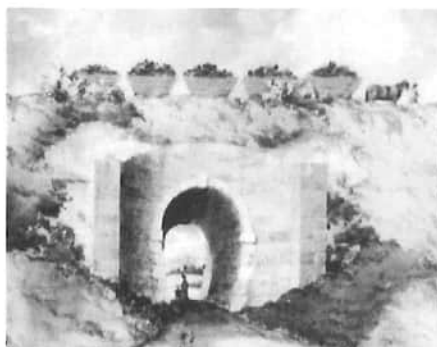
The Turin Shroud

Talk by Colin Barratt. St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane. Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

SERIAC 2014: Bricks, Bugs and Computers

Industrial archaeology conference

Topics include the river Wandle's industrious history, Handley brickworks, early computing in Croydon (including a 1930s film), unusual building materials, fermentation industries, the Surrey Iron Railway (pictured left, with horse power) and secret underground London.



The day will be followed by visits to Shirley Windmill or Croydon Airport, or a walking tour via Park Hill water tower and Surrey Street Pumping Station.

Saturday 12 April

£12, Royal Russell School, Croydon

Organised by Great London Industrial Archaeology Society, 12 Barton Close, London E9 6EZ, seriac@glias.org.uk, 020 8658 8666

Tuesday 1 April, 1pm
Gideon Mantell: unfair dismissal?

Talk by Professor Joe Cain.
 £4, booking essential on 020 7869 6568, Hunterian Museum

Tuesday, 1 April, 6pm
The girl of the period
 Talk by Professor Lynda Nead, on how 19th century fashion blurred the boundaries between "pure" and "fallen" women.
 Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Tuesday 8 April, 6pm
Meet the curators – a fusion of worlds: ancient Egypt, African art and identity in modernist Britain
 Talk by curators of A Fusion of Worlds exhibition.
 Free, Petrie Museum. Book via <http://fusionofworlds.eventbrite.co.uk>

Tuesday 8 April, 8pm
Restoring House Mill
 Lecture by Brian Strong.
 Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 8QE. Hendon and District Archaeological Society

Friday 11 April
The excavations and fieldwork of Enfield Archaeology Society 2013 and AGM
 Talk by Dr Martin Dearne and Mike Dewbrey.
 8pm, £1, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane. Enfield Archaeological Society

Saturday, 12 April, 2pm
What does the hearth tax tell us about London on the eve of the Great Fire?
 Talk by Dr Andrew Wareham.
 Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU.
 £3, Historical Association, 020 7323 1192, jillkilsby2012@live.co.uk



See the Enterprise – the first ever mechanically propelled public service bus – on 15 and 16 March at the London Transport Museum's depot. Enterprise's company office was in City Road

Tuesday 15 April, 6pm
The referendum on Europe, 1975
 Talk by Professor Vernon Bogdanor
 Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Wednesday 16 April, 6pm
Humanity and a million years of sea level change
 Talk by Dr Nicholas Flemming on evolution and climate change. About 3,000 prehistoric sites have been found on the sea floor.
 Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Saturday 19 April, 10.30am-1pm and 2pm-4.30pm
Black History Studies Tour of the British Museum
 £10, Black History Studies, 020 8881 0660, 07951 234233, info@blackhistorystudies.com

Wednesday 23 April, 6pm
Playing catch-up: palaces from the Hundred Years' War to the Wars of the Roses
 Talk by Dr Simon Thurley.
 Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Thursday 24 April, 1pm
Music in context: in abstract – Schubert
 Talk by Professor Christopher Hogwood plus performance.

Free, St Sepulchre Without Newgate, Gresham College event

Thursday 1 May, 3pm
Middle class recruits to Communism in the 1930's: family members' memories and other reflections
 Workshop led by Professor Nicholas Deakin, followed by evening drinks reception.
 Barnard's Inn Hall, Gresham College, booking required.

Tuesday 6 May, 1pm
The Gresham Ship: an armed Elizabethan merchantman recovered from the Thames
 Talk by Dr Gustav Milne.
 Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Wednesday 7 May, 6.30pm
A bolt from the blue? England in 1914 on the eve of war
 Talk by Nigel Jones.
 Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU.
 £3, Historical Association, 020 7323 1192, jillkilsby2012@live.co.uk

Sunday 11 May, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm
Guided tunnel boat trips
 Fifty-minute guided tour through London's longest canal tunnel.

£8.30/concessions, booking required, London Canal Museum

Tuesday, 13 May, 8pm
The Bishop's hunting park in Highgate
 Lecture by Malcolm Stokes.
 Avenue House, 17 East End Rd, N3. Hendon and District Archaeological Society

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 May
National Mills Weekend
 Mills open around the country. www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk

Tuesday 13 May, 1pm
Eccentric – the life of William Price
 £4, booking essential, 020 7869 6568, Hunterian Museum

Wednesday 14 May, 1pm
How to place slavery into British identity
 Talk by Dr William Pettigrew.
 Free, Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall

Wednesday 14 May, 6pm
The iconography of blindness: how artists have portrayed the blind
 Talk by Professor William Ayliffe, including changes in attitudes towards blind people over the years.
 Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

Thursday 15 May, 1pm
Education, research and government in the ancient Greek World
 Talk by Professor Eleanor Dickey.
 Free, Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall

Thursday 15 May, 1pm
Day trip to historic Portsmouth harbour
 Trip organised by Hendon & District Archaeological Society. £40. www.hadas.org.uk, 020 8449 7076. Book by Tuesday 15 April.



This near-pristine Roman sculpture of an eagle holding a snake – described as “among the very best statues surviving from Roman Britain” – is on display at the Museum of London until April, possibly longer. It dates to the first or second century AD, and is believed to be from a mausoleum unearthed near the Minories in the City of London

Friday 16 May
Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum
 Talk by Paul Roberts.
 8pm, £1, Enfield
 Archaeological Society

Tuesday 20 May, 6pm
The growth of Euroscepticism
 Talk by Prof Vernon Bogdanor.
 Free, Museum of London,
 Gresham College

*Sunday 25 May, 11am, 12pm,
 2pm, 3pm and 4pm*
Guided tunnel boat trips

Fifty-minute tour through canal tunnel.
 £8.30/concessions, booking required, London Canal Museum

Tuesday, 27 May, 600pm
Britain and 1914
 Talk by Prof Vernon Bogdanor.
 Free, Museum of London,
 Gresham College event

Wednesday, 4 June, 6pm
Magnificence: a tale of two Henrys
 Talk by Dr Simon Thurley on palaces of Henry VII and VIII.

Free, Museum of London,
 Gresham College event

Thursday 5 June, 6pm
Continuity and development in architecture
 Gresham special lecture, given by RIBA president Stephen Hodder, followed by reception.
 Guildhall, Gresham College event, booking required

Sunday 8 June, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm
Guided tunnel boat trips
 Fifty-minute guided tour

through London’s longest canal tunnel.
 £8.30/concessions, booking required, London Canal Museum

Thursday 12 June, 1pm
Good, bad and ugly: the history of polio vaccines
 Talk by Professor Gareth Williams.
 Free, Gresham College,
 Barnard’s Inn Hall.

Friday 13 June
Walbrook Square excavations and Temple of Mithras
 Talk by John Shepard.
 8pm, £1, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane. Enfield
 Archaeological Society

Booking now for the summer
28 July-1 August
Training dig
 Covers main tasks associated with an excavation. £100 for the week.
 Bexley Archaeological Group Contact Pip on
 principalfieldofficer@bag.org.uk

Ongoing

Behind the scenes at the Archaeological Archive
11am, 2pm, first and third Friday and Saturday of the month
 Tour the world’s largest archaeological archive and handle some of the finds from more than 8,500 excavations. £5, Museum of London, book ahead, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/tours

Behind the scenes at the museum depot
 Tours of London Transport Museum’s depot in Acton. The museum store houses over 370,000 objects, including road and rail vehicles, bus and rail sheds,

signs, ceramic tiles, ephemera and ticket machines.
 Last Friday and Saturday of every month (not December), £12/concs, book on 020 7565 7298 or at www.ltmuseum.co.uk

The British Postal Museum & Archive: online exhibitions
 Online exhibitions, including the Great Train Robbery, Diamond Jubilee, the People’s Post, the Post Office in Pictures, the World’s First Scheduled Aerial Post, Victorian Innovation, Brunel and the Mail, Mount Pleasant – the Largest Sorting Office in the World and Moving the Mail:

Horses to Horsepower.
<http://postalheritage.org.uk/page/onlineexhibitions>

Tour of the British Postal Museum & Archive store
 Curator-led tour, plus time to look around by yourself. Includes a fleet of postal vehicles and over 200 post boxes, from one of the first boxes trialled in the UK to modern designs.
<http://www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/museum-tours>

Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association: walks
 Guided walks around Islington and Clerkenwell led by one of the mayor of Islington’s official guides.
www.ciga.org.uk

Historic almshouse tour
 Visit the Geffrye’s restored 18th-century almshouse, which has been taken back to its original condition and offers a rare glimpse into the lives of London’s poor and elderly in the 1700s and 1800s.
 £2.50/concs, various times, info@geffrye-museum.org.uk 020 7739 9893

Mail Rail: a photographic exhibition
 Photos taken all in recent years cover the whole the network, from the tunnels to the underground stations. Free, British Postal Museum and Archive, www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/mail-rail-exhibition

Exhibitions

Until 15 March

Portals to the past

Archaeological finds from Crossrail excavations, including skulls from Roman London, a Roman cremation pot, 9,000-year-old flint and 16th century jewellery. Free, Crossrail Visitor Information Centre, behind Centre Point, 6-18 St Giles High Street, WC2H 8LN. Tuesday-Saturday from 11am. www.crossrail.co.uk/archaeology.

Until Sunday 23 March

Beyond El Dorado: power and gold in ancient Colombia

The truth behind the myth of El Dorado is revealed in this exhibition. On display are more than 300 objects made of gold and other precious metals from pre-Hispanic Colombia. £10/concessions, British Museum

Until Wednesday 26 March

New City

Exhibition of photographs from *New City: Contemporary Architecture in the City of London* by Alan Ainsworth (see Publications, page 20). Free, Barbican Library

Until Sunday 27 April

The Cheapside Hoard: London's lost jewels

The Cheapside Hoard, a significant discovery of 16th and early 17th century jewels and gemstones, offers insights into Elizabethan and Jacobean London. Museum of London £10/£9/concs

2 May-19 August 2014

Comics unmasked: art and anarchy in the UK

The UK's biggest exhibition of British comics will feature original artwork and bizarre objects covering the form's tumultuous history from



Pin with dragon's head, AD950-1000. See Vikings: Life and Legend, until 22 June

Victorian comics to titles such as Batman, exploring political and social issues raised.

British Library, <http://www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/comics-unmasked/>

Until Saturday 24 May

A fusion of worlds: ancient Egypt, African art and identity in modernist Britain

Exhibition exploring how modernist artists – Jacob Epstein, Edna Manley and Ronald Moody – have been inspired by Ancient Egypt. Free, Petrie Museum, 020 7679 4138, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie/whats-on

Until 26 May

Beautiful science: picturing data, inspiring insight

Beautiful Science explores how understanding has evolved alongside the ability to represent, graph, and map data. Going back to the 18th century, it looks at John Snow's use of maps to identify the source of cholera, then how Florence Nightingale used graphs to demonstrate more soldiers were dying of

hospital acquired infections than in battle.

Free, British Library, www.bl.uk/beautiful-science

Until Tuesday 27 May

The Brits Who Built The Modern World 1950-2012

Exhibition showing vast change brought to the world's cities by British architects from the postwar years. Over 190 photographs, drawings, models and other materials are on display in the RIBA's new architecture gallery. The exhibition is part of a RIBA season inspired by the BBC series *The Brits Who Built The Modern World*. Free, Royal Institute of British Architects

Until Sunday 15 June

Empire builders: 1750-1950

The origins of British architectural influence outside and within the Empire are explored through drawings, watercolours, photographs and models. Free, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Until Sunday 22 June 2014

Vikings: life and legend

This exhibition features many archaeological discoveries and objects never seen before in the UK, alongside artefacts from various collections. New finds have changed our understanding of the nature of Viking identity, trade, magic and belief and the role of the warrior in Viking society. At the centre of the exhibition will be the timbers of a 37m Viking warship, the longest ever found. £16.50/concs, British Museum, www.britishmuseum.org or 020 7323 8181



Emerald watch: see Cheapside Hoard, until 27 April

Until Sunday 29 June

John Pantlin: photographing the mid-century home

A small display photographs of homes in the 1950s and 1960s by British photographer John Pantlin, from RIBA's Robert Elwall Photographs Collection. Free, Geffrye Museum

Until Sunday 6 July

Carscapes: how the motor car reshaped England

Dramatic aerial photographs show the surprising grandeur of motorway design in an exhibition exploring how motoring heritage has developed its own art and architecture. £4/concs, Quadriga Gallery, Wellington Arch, 020 7930 2726, www.english-heritage.org.uk/quadriga

Until Sunday 13 July 2014

William Kent: designing Georgian Britain

William Kent was the most prominent architect and designer in early Georgian Britain. This exhibition will bring together over 200 objects including drawings for buildings including the Treasury and Horse Guards, designs for landscape gardens, sculpture, furniture, silver as well as paintings and illustrated books. £9/concs, Victoria and Albert Museum.

Until Sunday 28 September

Britain: one million years of the human story

A major exhibition illustrating life in prehistoric Britain. On show will be the skull of the earliest known Neanderthal in Britain, the Clacton spear, the oldest wooden spear in the world, skull cups, animal remains and models of early Britons. Some objects will be on display for the first time.

Review, page 23
£9/concs, Natural History Museum

Directory

History, civic, amenity and archaeology societies, museums and online resources

Check opening times before visiting. If you would like your organisation listed here or to update details, email editor Christy Lawrance on christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk or c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, N7 0QB

Alexandra Palace TV Group
Runs museum. Tony Wilding, 71 Dale View Avenue, E4 6PJ, 020 8524 0827

Alexandra Palace TV Society
Archives: 35 Breedon Hill Road, Derby, DE23 6TH, 01332 729 358, apts@apts.org.uk, www.youtube.com/aptsarchive

All Hallows by the Tower Crypt Museum
020 7481 2928, www.ahbtt.org.uk/visiting/crypt-museum/

Amateur Geological Society
25 Village Road, N3 1TL

Amwell Society
8 Cumberland Gardens, WC1X 9AG, 020 7837 0988, info@amwellsociety.org

Ancestor Search
Guidance on where to look. www.ancestor-search.info

The Angel Association
www.angelassociation.org.uk

Archives Hub
<http://archiveshub.ac.uk/>

Arsenal FC Museum
020 7619 5000, www.arsenal.com

Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics
www.asprom.org

Bank of England Museum
Threadneedle St, EC2R 8AH, 020 7601 5545, www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum

Barnet Museum and Local History Society
www.barnetmuseum.co.uk

BBC archive
www.bbc.co.uk/archive

Benjamin Franklin House
Craven Street, WC2N 5NF, 020 7925 1405, info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and Museum
Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3BX, 020 3228 4227, www.bethlemheritage.org.uk

Bexley Archaeological Group
www.bag.org.uk, Martin Baker: 020 8300 1752

Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archive
230 Bishopsgate, EC2M, 020 7392 9270, www.bishopsgate.org.uk/

Bomb Sight
Online map of WW2 bombs in London 1940-41, www.bombsight.org

British Airways Heritage
www.britishairways.com/travel/museum-collection/public/en_gb

British Museum
Great Russell Street, WC1, 020 7323 8299, information@britishmuseum.org

British Postal Museum and Archive
Freeling House, Phoenix

Place, WC1X 0DL, and store at Debden, Essex, 020 7239 2570, info@postalheritage.org.uk

British Vintage Wireless Society
secretary@www.bvws.org.uk

Brixton Windmill
020 7926 6056, www.brixtonwindmill.org/

Bruce Castle Museum
Lordship Lane, N17 8NU, 020 8808 8772, museum.services@haringey.gov.uk

Burgh House and Hampstead Museum
New End Sq, NW3, 020 7431 0144, www.burghhouse.org.uk

Camden History Society
020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Camden New Town History Group
www.camdennewtown.info

Camden Railway Heritage Trust
21 Oppidans Road, NW3, secretary@crht1837.org

Canonbury Society
www.canonburysociety.org.uk, 1 Alwyne Place, N1

Cartoon Museum
35 Little Russell Street, WC1, 020 7580 8155, www.cartoonmuseum.org

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers Heritage Group
www.hevac-heritage.org/

City of London Archaeological Society
email@colas.org.uk

Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association
07971 296731, info@ciga.org.uk

Clockmakers' Museum
Guildhall Library, www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library

www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library

Cockney Heritage Trust
www.cockneyheritagetrust.com

Courtauld Gallery
Somerset House, WC2R 0RN, 020 7848 2526, gallerinfo@courtauld.ac.uk

Cross Bones Graveyard
www.crossbones.org.uk

Crossness Pumping Station
020 8311 3711, www.crossness.org.uk

Docklands History Group
020 7537 0368, info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk

Dictionary of Victorian London/Cat's Meat Shop
Encyclopaedia and blog, www.victorianlondon.org

East London History Society
42 Campbell Road, E3 4DT, mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk

Enfield Archaeological Society
www.enfarchsoc.org

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art
39a Canonbury Square, N1 2AN, 020 7704 9522, info@www.estorickcollection.com

Alexander Fleming Museum
St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, W2 1NY, 020 3312 6528, www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/museums-and-archives/

Friends of Hackney Archives
Hackney Archives, Dalston Sq, E8 3BQ, 020 8356 8925, archives@hackney.gov.uk

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
www.friernbarnethistory.org.uk. Photo archive: www.friern-barnet.com

Friends of the New River Head

c/o Amwell Society

Foundling Museum

40 Brunswick Square, WC1,
020 7841 3600, www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk

Freud Museum

20 Maresfield Gardens,
NW3, 020 7435 2002,
info@www.freud.org.uk

Friends of Friendless Churches

www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Garden History Society

70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7608 2409, gardenhistorysociety.org

Geffrye Museum

136 Kingsland Road, E2 8EA, 020 7739 9893, www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

Georgian Group

6 Fitzroy Square, W1T 5DX,
info@georgiangroup.org.uk

Grant Museum of Zoology

020 3108 2052, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology,
zoology.museum@ucl.ac.uk

Gresham College

Free lectures on different topics, www.gresham.ac.uk

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)

14 Mount Rd, EN4 9RL, 020 8692 8512, www.glias.org.uk

Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury, EC2V 7HH,
020 7332 1868, textphone
020 7332 3803, guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Hackney Museum

1 Reading Lane, E8 1GQ,
www.hackney.gov.uk/cm-museum.htm

The Hackney Society

Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, E5 0LY, 07771 225183,
info@hackneysociety.org



Stairwell in Dr Johnson's House, where Samuel Johnson compiled his *Dictionary of the English Language* in the 18th century

Hendon and District Archaeology Society

020 8449 7076, secretary@hadas.org.uk

Heritage of London Trust

020 7730 9472, www.heritageoflondon.com

Historic Hospital Admission Records Project

www.hharp.org/

Historical Association, Central London Branch

020 7323 1192, www.history.org.uk, chrissie@ganjou.com

Historic Towns Forum

www.historictownsforum.org

History of Harringay

www.harringayonline.com/group/historyofharringay

Honourable Artillery Company Museum

City Road, EC1, 020 7382 1541, www.hac.org.uk

Hornsey Historical Society

The Old Schoolhouse, 136

Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL,
hornseyhistorical.org.uk

Hunterian Museum

RCS, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums

IanVisits

London blog and listings, including historical events.
www.ianvisits.co.uk

Islington and Camden Cemetery

High Road, East Finchley, N2 9AG, 020 7527 8804,
www.islington.gov.uk/Environment/cemeteries

Islington Local History Centre

Finsbury Library, 245 St John St, EC1V 4NB. 9.30am-8pm Mon and Thurs (shuts 6pm every other Monday); 9.30am-5pm Tues, Fri and Sat; closed Weds and Sun; closed 1pm-2pm; 020 7527 7988; local.history@islington.gov.uk, www.islington.gov.uk/heritage

Islington Museum

245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB, 10am-5pm, closed Weds and Sun, 020 7527 2837, islington.museum@islington.gov.uk, www.islington.gov.uk/museum

Islington's Lost Cinemas

www.isingtonslostcinemas.com

Islington Society

35 Britannia Row, N1 8QH,
www.isingtonsociety.org.uk

Jewish Museum

www.jewishmuseum.org.uk

Joe Meek Society

www.joemeeksociety.org

Dr Johnson's House

17 Gough Square, EC4,
www.drjohnsonshouse.org

Keats House

020 7332 3868, keatshouse@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Kew Bridge Steam Museum

Green Dragon Lane, TW8, 020 8568 4757, www.kbsm.org

Locating London's Past

www.locatinglondon.org

London Canal Museum

12-13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT, 020 7713 0836, www.canalmuseum.org.uk

London Fire Brigade Museum

020 8555 1200 x 39894,
www.london-fire.gov.uk/OurMuseum.asp

London Lives 1690-1800

www.londonlives.org

London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Rd, EC1 0HB, 020 7332 3820, ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

020 7814 5734, www.lamas.org.uk

London Museums of Health and Medicine
www.medicalmuseums.org

London Socialist Historians Group
http://londonsocialisthistorians.blogspot.com

London Vintage Taxi Association
www.lvta.co.uk

London Transport Museum
020 7379 6344, www.ltmuseum.co.uk

LT Museum Friends
020 7565 7296, www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends

London Underground Railway Society
enquiries@lurs.org.uk

London Westminster & Middx Family History Society
www.lwmfhs.org.uk

Markfield Beam Engine and Museum
Markfield Park, N15, 01707 873628, info@mbeam.org

Mausolea & Monuments Trust
www.mmtrust.org.uk

Marx Memorial Library
37a Clerkenwell Green, EC1 0DU, 020 7253 1485, info@marx-memorial-library.org

Medieval Pottery Research Group
www.medievalpottery.org.uk

Museum of Brands
2 Colville Mews, Lonsdale Road, W11, 020 7908 0880, info@museumofbrands.com

Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture (MoDA)
020 8411 4394, www.moda.mdx.ac.uk/home

Museum of London
150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN, 020 7814 5511, info@museumoflondon.org.uk

Museum of London Archaeology
Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1, 020 7410 2200, www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk

Museum of London Docklands
020 7001 9844, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands

Museum of the Order of St John
St John's Gate, EC1M 4DA, 020 7324 4005, www.museumstjohn.org.uk

Musical Museum
399 High Street, TW8 0DU, www.musicalmuseum.co.uk

National Archives
020 8876 3444, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

National Piers Society
www.piers.org.uk

Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering and Technology
020 7371 4445, office@newcomen.com

Newington Green Action Group
020 7359 6027, www.newingtongreen.org.uk

New River Action Group
mail@newriver.org.uk, 020 8292 5987

North London Railway Historical Society
www.nlrhs.org.uk

Northview – a Rare Survivor
www.northview.org.uk

Pauper Lives in Georgian London and Manchester
http://research.ncl.ac.uk/pauperlives

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology
UCL, Malet Pl, WC1, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie

Proceedings of the Old Bailey
www.oldbaileyonline.org

Ragged School Museum
020 8980 6405, www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk

Rescue/British Archaeological Trust
www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk

Rowan Arts Project
Islington arts charity. 020 7700 2062, www.therowanartsproject.com

Royal Air Force Museum
020 8205 2266, www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
66 Portland Place, W1B 1AD, www.architecture.com

Science Museum
Exhibition Road, SW7 2DD, www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Sir John Soane's Museum
13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3BP, www.soane.org

Smithfield Trust
70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7566 0041, smthfld@gn.apc.org

Society of Genealogists
020 7251 8799, www.societyofgenealogists.com

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
37 Spital Sq, E1 6DY, 020 7377 1644, www.spab.org.uk

Stuart Low Trust
www.slt.org.uk/

Royal Archaeological Institute
admin@royalarchinst.org

Thames Discovery Programme
Mortimer Wheeler Hse, 46 Eagle Wharf Rd, N1, 020 7410 2207, enquiries@thamesdiscovery.org

Theatres Trust
020 7836 8591, www.theatretrust.org.uk

Transport Trust
Lambeth Rd, SE1, 020 7928 6464, www.transporttrust.com

Twentieth Century Society
70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7250 3857, www.c20society.org.uk

Union Chapel and Friends of the Union Chapel
Compton Avenue, N1 2XD, www.unionchapel.org.uk/pages/friends.html

Victoria & Albert Museum
Cromwell Rd, SW7, 020 7907 7073, www.vam.ac.uk

V&A Museum of Childhood
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA, 020 8983 5200

Victorian Society
020 8994 1019, www.victoriansociety.org.uk

Wallace Collection
Hertford House, Manchester Sq, W1M, 020 7563 9500, www.wallacecollection.org

Wallpaper History Society
wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk

Walthamstow Historical Society
www.walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org.uk/

Wellcome Collection
www.wellcomecollection.org

John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism
49 City Rd, EC1, www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/museum.htm

William Morris Gallery
Forest Road, E17, 020 8496 4390, www.wmgallery.org.uk

Wilmington Square Society
www.thewilmingtonsquaresociety.org

Women's Library Collection
thewomenslibrary@lse.ac.uk

Events

Wednesday 19 March, 8pm, Islington Town Hall
Sir Edward Watkin: visionary or lunatic?

Richard Wallington, chairman of the Friends of Union Chapel

Extending the Metropolitan Line to Manchester and Paris, a tower to rival the Eiffel Tower and a tunnel below the English Channel were some Edward Watkin's ideas.



Sir Edward (1819–1901) was a railway entrepreneur and MP. His projects included the expansion of the Metropolitan Railway, the high-speed Great Central Main Line and an attempt to dig a channel tunnel to connect his railway empire to the French rail network. His iron tower in Wembley, which would have been taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, became known as Watkin's Folly.

Wednesday 16 April
Dr Who: the first 50 years

Andrew Cartmel, former script editor of Doctor Who



Andrew Cartmel, who was the script editor on *Dr Who* for its last three series, gives his perspectives on the first 50 years of the programme.

Andrew Gardner, whose father worked on *Dr Who* from 1963 to 1967, will speak briefly on why much of the BBC archive is missing, and on efforts to put it back together again.

Wednesday 21 May

Our May meeting was being arranged as we went to press. Check our website at www.islingtonhistory.org.uk and our Facebook group (right) at www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory for updates on this and other meetings

Wednesday 18 June, 8pm, Islington Town Hall
Samuel Plimsoll: the campaign to save lives at sea

Nicolette Jones, author of *The Plimsoll Sensation: the Great Campaign to Save Lives at Sea*

After Nicolette Jones moved into Plimsoll Road in Finsbury Park, she became curious about Samuel Plimsoll, after whom the road and the local pub were named.

Researching his life, she discovered a story of a timeless fight to bring in life-saving safety measures on ships. He encountered much resistance from shipowners, including some fellow MPs but, among the public, his campaign inspired novels, plays, music hall songs and poems.

Annual general meeting

The June talk will be preceded by the AGM at 7.30pm.

Sunday 30 March

Walk: Jewish Islington 1730s-1880s

This walk is organised by Petra Laidlaw, author of *The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s* (see page 20). It goes through some of the main Islington areas in which Jews were living and worshipping during 1730-1880.

More information and to book, contact Petra Laidlaw on ajdb@btinternet.com.



The Islington Archaeology & History Society meets 10 times a year, usually on the third Wednesday of each month at 8pm, at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. £1 donation/free to members. Everyone welcome.

The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society Back page picture

These are some of the 2,200-plus pipes in the Union Chapel's organ – the only working hydraulically blown organ in the country – now restored to its 1878 glory. See page 12

