



Newsletter

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Archive Services At The City Of London

The three separately managed City organisations and from three sites, London Metropolitan Archives in Clerkenwell, the Corporation of London Records Office at Guildhall and Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section are being amalgamated to form one coordinated archive service under the name London Metropolitan Archives. By Easter 2010 there will be one principal location and access to archives at the London Metropolitan Archives site in Clerkenwell. Latest accessions news and other Guildhall news elsewhere in this newsletter.

London Olympics—Winning Endeavours Project

Jade Everingham writes: I have recently been appointed by Archives for London as the project officer for a nine month project titled “Winning Endeavours: Sources for Twentieth Century International Sporting Heroes and Events in South East England”.

The project aims to collate scanned images of documents, newspaper articles, visual material and ephemera relating to the 1908 and 1948 Olympic Games, as well as the 1948 Paralympics and possibly London's sporting representatives in general, that are currently held in repositories across London and the South East. The overall goal is to attract new audiences to sporting archives, and new users for under-used archive and newspaper resources, especially children and young people. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the three organising partners are Archives for London, London Metropolitan Archives and the British Library.

The project is being run on a day-to-day basis by London Metropolitan Archives, who will digitise the sources identified for inclusion. The digitised material will be

made available on a newly-created website, to be used as a resource for journalists and researchers but also anyone wanting to know more about London's place in Olympic history. It is intended that the website will remain live until the end of 2012, and will be then archived at the British Library.

Publicity and an outreach programme will be run by LMA's Interpretation Team and contributing repositories will be invited to take part in the outreach activities being offered.

Participation in this project will enable archive repositories to raise their profile, and will pave the way for new and exciting partnerships, enabling archive services to work together towards a common goal. Participating in the Winning Endeavours project is particularly beneficial for many small borough archives, as the contacts and resources available to the London Metropolitan Archives, Archives for London and British Library are being opened up to archive services that may lack these.

I would greatly appreciate your contacting me if you think there is a possibility

that you might have any material that may be of use, or know of any material in a repository where you undertake your own research. This can include archival documents, photographs, newspaper articles or ephemera. At this stage there is no need for you to undertake complex searches within your collections for relevant material. If you have an inkling that there might be something of use please let me know and I will undertake the research. Once I have built up a picture of the sources available I will arrange an appointment to visit each repository to research and assess the material, and if it is suitable for the project it will be digitised by the LMA and eventually become a part of the Winning Endeavours website. Please note that copyright needs to be cleared for all images loaded onto the site, so I will be asking you about that when I visit.

If you have any questions or would like more information about Winning Endeavours please contact either at the email address below, or in writing at the LMA. Please get in contact: jade.everingham@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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The Broadlands Archives at Southampton : an appeal from Prof. Woolgar

The Broadlands Archives are one of the foremost manuscript collections in the Special Collections Division of the University of Southampton Library. The archive contains items dating from the sixteenth century to the present, centred on the Temple (Palmerston), Ashley, Cassel and Mountbatten families. It is an exceptional collection, including many materials of the first rank for the history of the UK and its relations with its colonies and foreign powers. The Mountbatten papers are effectively the foundation archive for the modern states of India and Pakistan, and in addition illuminate Britain's first major act of post-war decolonisation; the papers of the third Viscount Palmerston include some 40,000 letters, many from his private correspondence as Foreign

Secretary and Prime Minister; and the diaries of the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, reformer and philanthropist, are one of the great monuments to social progress in Victorian England.

The Trustees of the Broadlands Archives have determined to sell the collection and have offered it to the University. The expectation is that if our negotiations fail, the collection will be sold at auction, and may well be broken up and dispersed, with many parts not finding places in public repositories. The net price is a substantial one, £2.85 million, and we believe we have about 3 months to complete the transaction. The University is undertaking a major fund-raising campaign to assure the future of the collection. It is working with

funding bodies including the National Heritage Memorial Fund, but will need to raise considerable sums from other sources.

The university would very much appreciate support in acquiring this for the University and in the national interest. If you would like to contribute, please visit our website <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/> and do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail (C.M.Woolgar@soton.ac.uk) or at the Hartley Library, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ.

The website also holds a more detailed description of the archive.

Royal Society : 350 years

The Royal Society is celebrating 350 years of its publishing activities: the website at <http://trailblazing.royalsociety.org/> contains a time line with a number of significant scientific discoveries and important national events.

A sample of one of the items illustrated is the sweat gland (illustrated). The site gives the history of the experiment. In 1775, Charles Blagden went in to a room heated by a furnace to at least 260°F. At this temperature the 'greatest part of a beefsteak was pretty well done in 13 minutes' and eggs that were removed after 20 minutes were found to be 'roasted quite hard'. Yet Dr Blagden and his colleagues, and a dog,

were unharmed by an 8-minute exposure and their core temperature did not change. Blagden and his colleagues showed that the reason humans and dogs are able to survive such heat is owing to evaporative cooling, either from sweating, as in the case of humans, or from panting, as in the case of the dog.



Image (c) Royal Society for Trailblazing

Leaving home: diaspora and migration

Related to the planned theme of this year's AfL conference (see back page), our conference organiser draws our attention to the web site <http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/>. The summary on the web site reads "Diasporas, Migration and Identities is a trans-disciplinary research programme funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. It includes arts and humanities scholars working on individual research, large collaborative and interdisciplinary projects, and in international networks. The aim is to research, discuss and present issues related to diasporas and migration, and their past and present impact on subjectivity and identity, culture and the imagination, place and space, emotion, politics and sociality."

The web site holds a fascinating range of case studies, all the way from the experience of immigrants in Roman Britain to Scotland in the 1980's, although the focus is inevitably largely twentieth century. Do descendants of immigrants want to return home? What and where is home? What does it mean to apply for asylum? There is a report on Odessa and Istanbul in the light of twentieth century developments, the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and of Soviet Russia.

The Diasporas, Migration and Identities Programme Final Event will take place on Wednesday 10 February 2010 at Tate Britain. Email Katie Roche (k.a.roche@leeds.ac.uk) by the end of January to find out if places remain, if you wish to attend.

Faden's map of London, 1788

Map-maker William Faden was born in 1750 and, possibly from an involvement in the American Wars of Independence, produced an atlas of North America in 1776. His interest to Londoners is the maps of London he produced. A copy of the 1800 one can be viewed online at <http://archivemaps.com/mapco/faden/>

[faden.htm](#); the map also has been redrawn and the redrawn version for sale: details available at <http://www.fadensmapoflondon.co.uk/> where the web site claims that the map was drawn in 1788 at the mile/inch scale. The Motco image, clearly of a circular map, extending as far out as Hertford,

Tilbury, Godstone and Datchet, states 2miles/inch, so clearly this is a later edition. Faden's maps are discussed in a short item in 'Local History News' issue 93. The article suggests that the earlier map may have been produced from Faden's collection of copper plates of earlier maps, which Faden collected.

The government's official archives digital tape library system.

The National Archives said the new one petabyte capacity — just over one million gigabytes — is equivalent to 20 million four-drawer filing cabinets. This will allow it to handle a "flood" of official digital records over the coming years.

The archive said it chose a tape system, rather than a disk version, as it was greener. It estimated that a comparable disk-based system would have used 25 times as much energy for spinning and cooling, even when they are not reading or writing data.

The new system will store both 'born-digital records', such as websites and digital documents, and digital copies of paper records.

David Thomas, director of technology at the National Archives, said: "This is a fantastic step forward for us as we work to ensure continued access to digital information in the future.

"The capacity of this machine is huge. But in this digital age we live in, we are producing vast amounts of information every day, and these types of machines will have a growing role in the archives of the future."

The National Archives' current collection holds some 11 million records, including paper and parchment records, electronic records and websites, photographs, posters and drawings, plus an estimated six million maps.

The BBC archive, as reported in The Guardian

The BBC archive (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/>) is not just any archive. The broadcaster has shaped the UK's cultural heritage for more than 80 years, contains important snapshots of the nation's history; and will soon begin to be accessible online.

According to the director of BBC Vision, Jana Bennett, there are plans to launch an online catalogue of every TV and radio show the corporation has broadcasted by Christmas 2010. The BBC then plans to gradually make this material available to the public, with a deadline for digitising as many shows as possible - rights and other issues permitting - by the BBC's 100th anniversary in 2022.

That is going to be a lot of work. The BBC's archives occupy 4.5 miles of shelves), with 2.5m hours of film and video, 6m photographs, 4.5m pieces of sheet music, 5 miles of documents about programmes, staff, finance, correspondence and 200,000 word pronunciations. They are stored in 26 sites all over the UK.

But thanks to technological progress Bennett is optimistic about enabling public access to the archives. "It's the potential for new technology to unlock our public archives and make them available to the public that I believe is going to give an entirely new meaning to public service broadcasting and to the notion of a cultural and creative commons.", she said in a recent speech at the London School of Economics. http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/speeches/stories/bennett_lse.shtml

However, digitising the material is not the only problem, Bennett added. She said: "There are all sorts of challenges to overcome before we can do that: digitising the mountain of material, working through rights issues, dating and authenticating it, protecting privacy... and so on. The list is long."

Part of the BBC's plan is to incorporate professional and commercial options when it launches the archive. "One of the many ways in which we can build on this value is by making our programme archive available to the public, finding ways to make full use of the new models - both commercial and non-commercial - that are being driven by advances in online technology".

At the moment the archive's interface is mainly geared towards educational interest - the website appears to focus mainly on its rich historical past. This digital museum will be brought into the 21st century - with the possibility of the archive becoming "a giant apps store", says Bennett.

Image library



Dave Postles has uploaded a free collection of images onto Google Picasa. He writes "they are also mapped on Google maps, so you which can go to the map view (right hand link) which gives the location as well as the image. The images are buildings and landscape features in England and Wales from the Upper Palaeolithic (Creswell Crags) to 19th-century workshops."

<http://picasaweb.google.com/leicmrc/Leicmedres#> and <http://picasaweb.google.com/leicmrc/Leicmedres2#>

The editor could not spot any from London, but liked image 211, illustrated, of Lyddington Bede House (bishop's palace, complete with mediaeval scooter: Lyddington lies between Leicester and Peterborough). The web sites have a collection of thumbnails. Clicking on an image takes you to an enlarged image with a map

of the location, and a description, although (in November 2009) the editor found not every picture to have complete details: no doubt they will appear.

Volunteering in Archives

The newsletter editor, himself a volunteer, was very pleased to read this item. It can be found in full at http://www.ncaonline.org.uk/research_and_development/volunteering_in_archives/

Written by the National Council on Archives (NCA) and funded by the Museums Libraries & Archives Council (MLA), the Report "Volunteering in Archives" gives a picture of the army of volunteers across the archives sector, outlines the benefits for the individuals who volunteer, shows how archive services can make more effective use of the time donated by volunteers and acknowledges the importance of promoting diversity in terms of volunteer recruitment.

The Report shows how people identify and value the skills they acquire through their voluntary work with archive services. Nearly one-third of respondents said that they had benefitted from improving their IT and other work-related skills, but other major benefits to the individual volunteer include gaining a better sense of being part of a community,

improving confidence when job hunting and increasing social life and gaining new friends.

The Report also examines how archive services use and manage their volunteers. The National Archives Self Assessment exercise, which covers local authority archive services in England & Wales, identified that three-quarters of respondents have a volunteer policy in place. Archive services are investing more resources into proper management of their volunteers, which not only benefits the volunteers themselves, but also allows archives to provide more services to the users.

Issues relating to the recruitment of volunteers are also tackled and the Report highlights the need to do more in terms of attracting a more diverse range of volunteers into the archive sector. Whilst there are many examples volunteers using the opportunity to volunteer as a way of helping them to enter the archive profession, the Report emphasises the need for archive services to broaden the appeal of volunteering in the sector to non-users.

National Archives RecordKeeping Magazine, and its successor

The last edition of RecordKeeping magazine is available to read online at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/services/recordkeeping.htm>

Recordkeeping has been published quarterly by the National Archives for nearly five years, during which time it has been researched and written by volunteers from across the archive and record keeping communities. However, considerably more people are now choosing to download the online version rather than receive the paper magazine, making it a costly way to distribute news. In response to this and after much consideration, the National Archives says "we have decided to replace the magazine with an online newsletter. This will allow us to meet the demand for online news, but also, in these challenging economic times, will be a more cost effective way of reaching those interested in archives and records. We'd like to thank all those who have contributed articles over the last five years, and we will keep you updated on plans for the format of the new e-newsletter. If you have any comments on what you'd like the simpler e-newsletter to

cover, we would be interested in your views." Please email recordkeeping@nationalarchives.gov.uk with any comments or feedback.

The issue of the replacement publication, *Archive Sector Update* can be read on-line at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/archive-sector-update-summer-09.pdf>. The scope is of course national: amongst the items it notes is the acquisition by the Manx archives of papers relating to the 'pirate' radio station Radio Caroline, which older readers will remember, if only for illicit listening in the days before Radio 1.

On a more serious note the Nick Kingsley writes in the newsletter to record changes in the management of the National Archives. Other items reflect on business archives, and the importance of teaching and of encouraging higher standards in the classroom.

The publications area, at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/publications.htm>, has details of other publications of potential interest to archivists.

Fire fighters

The archives hub, at <http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/firefighters.shtml>, has an extensive collection of links for the records of fire and rescue and civil defence services, with an emphasis on descriptions for the papers of men and women working for Air Raid Precautions services (ARP) and the National Fire Service during the Second World War. The web site states.

"In the 19th century, many parishes had their own fire engines, and many insurance companies maintained their own fire brigades, as did some manor houses, colleges, and factories. By the end of the century, most towns had their own fire brigades, with horse-drawn fire engines and steam-powered pumps.

"In the late 1930s, the Spanish Civil War (<http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/spanishcivilwar.shtml>) showed the devastating effect of incendiary bombs used in air raids. With the threat of war across Europe, the Home Office began to reorganise Britain's fire services, and thousands of volunteers joined the Auxiliary Fire Service and Women's Voluntary Service for Air Raid Precautions (later Women's Royal Voluntary Service). Women were also encouraged to take an active role in the National Fire Service, which was formed in 1941. Membership of the Fire Brigades Union (<http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/spanishcivilwar.shtml>) rose from 3,000 in 1939 to almost 70,000 in 1942."

The web site holds an extensive collections of links to collections descriptions, and a bibliography.

Guildhall Library and LMA Accession news

Editor's summary of the recent newsletter, which will be the last to be published following the link-up with LMA.

The editor's summary of a long November list of accessions: see online the newsletter for fuller details.

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance (Guildhall reference 2009/19)

We have received 65 linear metres of additional archives of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, including life policy registers from 1870s and further archives of companies absorbed by Guardian Assurance and Royal Exchange Assurance. Highlights are two volumes of Guardian Assurance surveyors reports and maps of houses in London in the 1820s, pen and ink sketches of Fire Office and other staff by an employee of the Royal Exchange, 1860s-70s, and the life policy of Benjamin Disraeli.

Pollinger Limited, authors' agents (LMA references B08/076, B09/128)

Dating from ca. 1935, this large collection was deposited in 2008 and 2009, and consists of correspondence, authors' contract files, biographies and photographs. **Access to the collection is by appointment only. Permission is required from Pollinger Limited for all records dated after 1950.** For information on history of the firm see <http://www.pollingerltd.com/history/index.htm>

Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications Limited (LMA/4462)

Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications Limited (LMA/4462) and Eric and Jessica Huntley (LMA/4463) were the first deposit at LMA from the African Caribbean community, made in 2005. They comprise the extensive and eclectic archive of Eric and Jessica Huntley, the founders of Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications and proprietors of the Walter Rodney Bookshop in Ealing, London. The Huntley archives document not only the publishing business, but also the rich variety of political, educational, community and family activities which the business supported.

A free leaflet "Researching Walter Rodney in the Huntley archives" is available. You can download it at http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Leisure_and_culture/Records_and_archives/Visitor_information/free_information_leaflets.htm.

Eric and Jessica Huntley (LMA/4463)

Dating from the 1952 Windrush period, papers include those of organisations which the Huntleys founded and/or contributed to relating to political campaigning, the local community, supplementary education, environmental and other initiatives. Related collections relating to New Beacon Books and John La Rose, who worked closely with the Huntleys and their business are held by the George Patmore Institute, 76 Stroud Green Road, London N4 3EN. See also the visit report in this newsletter.

Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section's catalogues are currently available online via the City of London's library catalogue at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/librarycatalogue.

London Metropolitan Archives' catalogues are available online at http://search.lma.gov.uk/OPAC_LMA/login.html. The online catalogue now incorporates some new features and improved searching so take a look!

The merger of the City of London's archive services has provided us with a golden opportunity to unite all the archive catalogues in one bespoke archival catalogue. Work is going on behind the scenes to prepare the Manuscripts Section's

data for uploading into LMA's Online Collections Database. We are currently working on parish, livery company and business records and you may already have seen entries for these appearing on the LMA catalogue at http://search.lma.gov.uk/OPAC_LMA/login.html as the data is uploaded. We are making good progress and in the first four months have edited the data for 44,563 records, around 35.5% of the final total.

Only once all the Manuscripts data has been fully uploaded into the Online Collections Database will it be removed from the library catalogue. In the meantime, please continue to use the library catalogue at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/librarycatalogue for access to the catalogues of Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section's collections. The easiest way to search for the Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section's documents mentioned in this newsletter is to either enter the name of the person or institution in an Author search, or the Manuscript number in a Classification search.

New Series Available:

City Assessments (LMA reference: COL/CHD/LA/03).

These were assessments carried out on the financial position of inhabitants of the City for taxation purposes. The taxes involved included hearth tax, poll tax, royal and military aid, houses, windows and lights, and orphans tax. The majority of the assessments relate to a specific parish and a specific tax. The assessments date from around 1670 to the early 19th century and there are 1,462 individual assessments altogether.

The history of the Lord Mayor's Show

This year marked the 749th Lord Mayor's Show. **Dr Tracey Hill**, Head of English and Cultural Studies at Bath Spa University, writes about the history of this most ancient and colourful of London's traditions, much of which she has gleaned from the records of the City of London livery companies held by Guildhall Library:

Dr Hill's book, *Pageantry and Power: a cultural history of the London Lord Mayor's Show, 1585-1639* will be published by the Manchester University Press early in 2010. You can contact her at t.hill@bathspa.ac.uk.

The Foundling Hospital records at LMA

Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital is the longest-established children's charity in England, founded in 1739 and still providing care today under the name of Coram. You can find a quick guide to tracing a foundling in the records of the Foundling Hospital at LMA at http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Leisure_and_culture/Records_and_archives/Visitor_information/free_information_leaflets.htm.

Civil Registration Indexes to Births, Marriages and Deaths now available at LMA

The full range of the General Register Office's Indexes for England and Wales were made available at LMA in early December 2009. The indexes, which are held on microfiche, include the following event types: Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1837 to 2008, Overseas Events from 1761 to 2008, Adoptions from 1927 to 2008, Civil Partnerships from 2005 to 2008, and the most recent indexes for Births and Deaths up to September quarter 2009. LMA will receive indexes for more recent events as and when they become available.

BL sound archives

To say they are diverse may be understatement. There are Geordies banging spoons, Tawang lamas blowing conch shell trumpets and Tongan tribesman playing nose flutes. And then there is the Assamese woodworm feasting on a window frame in the dead of night.

The British Library revealed it has made its vast archive of world and traditional music available to everyone, free of charge, on the internet. Visit <http://sounds.bl.uk/>

That amounts to roughly 28,000 recordings and, although no one has yet sat down and formally timed it, about

2,000 hours of singing, speaking, yelling, chanting, blowing, banging, tinkling and many other verbs associated with what is a uniquely rich sound archive.

"It is recordings from around the world and right from the beginnings of recorded history," said the library's curator of world and traditional music, Janet Topp Fargion. "This project is really exciting. One of the difficulties, working as an archivist, is people's perception that things are given to libraries and then are never seen again – we want these recordings to be

accessible."

Much of the British archive was obtained by the library in 2000-01 in a lottery-funded project.

"These were recordings that were under people's desks and in people's attics and now we're really excited because we're able to put them out to a much wider audience," said Fargion. "These are unpublished and often raw recordings and there are people fluffing the words and discussing the songs so they give you a real sense of the store of traditional music that people carry around with them in their heads."

Ancestry WW2 archives digitisation

They were tales the immediate postwar generations knew by heart: plucky PoWs scheming their way out of German camps in gliders fashioned from wooden bed slats or scattering tunnel sand casually down trouser legs. From today, the escapades immortalised in films such as the Great Escape and the Colditz Story will be accessible to all, though a new searchable internet database of British and Commonwealth prisoners during the [second world war](#). Until now only available to those who laboriously flicked through dusty volumes at the National Archives in Kew, south-west London, records detailing 100,000 army personnel held between 1939 and 1945 in Germany, Austria and Poland, are now digitised and searchable by name and regiment. Among the illustrious figures to be found are George Lascelles, the Queen's cousin, who was seventh in line to the throne when he was captured by German forces in 1944 and taken to Oflag IV-C – better known as Colditz – in Saxony, eastern Germany. Another is Desmond Llewelyn, who spent five years in a German camp before resuming his acting career and eventually achieving fame as "Q" in the James Bond films. The real-life participants from the Great Escape are, for now, absent as they were Royal Air Force detainees whose records have not yet been digitised, as is the case with details of British troops held elsewhere during the conflict. The records, which are almost all for British personnel, along with a few hundred Canadian and Australian troops, were compiled by the German captors, who were obliged under the Geneva Convention to notify the UK and other nations about those being held. Also available from today is a still more sobering set of records, the so-called roll of honour, listing the 170,000 army personnel who died in the conflict, including in many cases where and how they were killed. Timed to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the war next month, the archives have been compiled by a commercial family tree research website, Ancestry.co.uk, which already holds a mass of searchable data from the first world war along with the usual census and birth, marriage and death information.

Until now it has carried very little from the second world war, in the main because of government restrictions on the release of [military](#) personnel files when those concerned might still be alive. "There has never been much available from this war, so we're very happy to be doing it," said Dan Jones, head of international content for the company. "With the death of the last few Great War veterans there's maybe a sense of a baton being passed on, that it's now time again for the personal stories of those who took part in the second world war. "The list of war dead was compiled by military officials during the war as a rolling record, with details usually scribbled down using abbreviations or forms of shorthand. These have now been translated with the help of military experts, meaning people can – if they choose – perhaps discover where a relative died and what wound they suffered." In the context of genealogical this can be a hugely moving moment for someone," said Jones. "Imagine, say, learning that your ancestor died at Dunkirk only days, or even hours, before the evacuation."

Such archives, along with the recent digitalisation of historical records for headings such as crime, occupations and residential addresses, were making private genealogical research a more involving process, he added. "It all helps to broaden family history away from just names on trees." While the PoW archive might seem more glamorous – "I'm sure everyone would be interested to know they had a relative at Colditz," Jones said – life inside the camps was no high-spirited game. Aside from the genuine risk of getting shot during an escape attempt, everyday life could be brutal and gruelling.

James Wicketts, a prisoner at Stalag XXIB in Szubin, central Poland, later recalled the "dire" living conditions and diet of boiled potatoes. "One of the jobs assigned to prisoners within the camps was the digging up of graves in a Jewish cemetery and taking the gold from the corpses. Many of us refused to participate, quoting the Geneva Convention in protest, but our pleas fell on deaf ears," he said in reminiscences released to mark the launch of the archives.

Survey of London : Woolwich and Battersea

The Survey of London has turned its attention south of the river. Woolwich and Battersea will be the next areas to be described by the Survey. Work on the volumes is said to be well in hand, and publication is planned for 2012.

Voyage to America

The lost voyage: First English-led expedition to North America

Press release issued 27 August 2009

Evidence of a previously unknown voyage to North America in 1499, led by a Bristol explorer, is to be published this week in the academic journal *Historical Research*.

The article by Dr Evan Jones, a historian at Bristol University, suggests that a Bristol merchant, William Weston, undertook a voyage to the 'New Found Land' just two years after the first voyage of Venetian explorer John Cabot who sailed from Bristol to 'discover' North America in 1497.

Cabot led a second, larger, expedition the following year (1498) to explore the new land, with support from King Henry VII. However, a third expedition undertaken by Weston in 1499 with the support of the King, has remained unknown until now.

The main evidence for the voyage comes from a personal letter written by

the King to his Lord Chancellor on 12 March 1499. In this, Henry VII instructs his minister to suspend an injunction served against Weston in the Court of Chancery because Weston shall shortly 'with God's grace pass and sail for to search and find if he can the new found land'.

Dr Evan Jones said "Henry VII's letter is an exciting find because so little is known about the early English voyages of discovery. We knew that our knowledge of the first English expeditions to the New World was very incomplete. But this is beginning to show just *how* incomplete it is. Up till now, no one has ever even heard of William Weston. Yet this letter reveals him to be the first Englishman to lead an expedition to North America."

A personal letter – now in The National Archives – written by Henry VII to his Lord Chancellor on 12 March 1499 in which he writes that William Weston shall shortly 'with God's grace

pass and sail for to search and find if he can the new found land'.

Photo by Dr Evan Jones



Henry VII's letter is an exciting find because so little is known about the early English voyages of discovery. We knew that our knowledge of the first English expeditions to the New World was very incomplete. But this is beginning to show just how incomplete it is. Up till now, no one has ever even heard of William Weston. Yet this letter reveals him to be the first Englishman to lead an expedition to North America.

Henry III Fine Rolls Project

The fine rolls of King Henry III (1216-72) are an important source for the study of politics and society in thirteenth-century England. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and jointly run by King's College London, Canterbury Christ Church University and The National Archives, the project democratizes the rolls by making them freely available for the very first time in book form and online, and most importantly, accessible in English as well as the original Latin!

Consisting of long parchment rolls, which can measure over ten metres when fully extended, and an elegant, if highly abbreviated, Latin text, the fine rolls record offers of cash to the king for a whole series of concessions and favours. Subjects were induced to make a fine if they had committed a transgression, such as poor Henry Huse who was caught in the

royal forest with his dogs, and had to pay the large sum of £5. They would also make fines to obtain the king's preferment. On one occasion, the Queen's steward, Mathias Bezill, offered 10m. (just over £6) to have the sheriff of Gloucester removed from office. On a more routine basis, fines were also payable to establish markets and fairs. The fine rolls also shed light on the daily workings of England's medieval government. Because material was systematically copied from the fine rolls and sent to the Exchequer - essentially to check that all of the money offered was being collected - the rolls record information that was of specific interest to the Exchequer barons, namely, the appointment of new local officials, taxation levies and debt repayment. For all of these reasons the fine rolls are a crucial source for the study of royal patronage, genealogy, justice and commercial development.

The London Journal

The November 2009 issue of *The London Journal* contains book reviews, and four articles which between them cover the period from 1660 to 1940. The first article looks at the Marriage Duty assessments made in the first year of the tax, 1695 (it continued until 1706), and contrasts the returns from Cheapside and Tower Hill Precinct. Although both are within the city boundary (but not the old walls), Cheapside is revealed as an area whose inhabitants are wealthier. The analysis of the family composition reveals an average of only 0.8 children per family, well below replacement level, and suggesting to this writer that London's growth has long been fuelled by immigration rather than the fecundity of its inhabitants. The second article looks at the villas that were used in the eighteenth century as retreats from the city: although looking especially at Putney, the article covers London as a whole, showing that the areas along the river were especially popular, although perhaps to the surprise of modern readers, Hackney was very popular (as it had been in the previous century, famed for its 'healthy air'). The article on the provision of workhouses post 1834 under the New Poor Law shows that London did not rush to build new workhouses, preferring to extend existing facilities. When new ones were built, they tended to be large, union workhouses. The final article looks at the urban environments of the young in the first half of the last century, contrasting London and Chicago.

To subscribe to *The London Journal*, visit www.maney.co.uk/journals/LDN

Archive thefts in the news

A compendium of news items dealing with thefts from archives reached the editor. Each had a URL pointing at the associated news item, and these are included here with a brief note. Some of the thefts were a few years ago, but this goes to show that the problem is on-going.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court heard that Oliver Fallon, from London, made five visits to the Scottish Catholic Archives in Edinburgh in July 2006. He pleaded guilty to ripping out pages and stealing 288 items, worth £26,400. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7398426.stm

Knightsbridge-based Farhad Hakimzadeh, chairman of the Iranian Heritage Foundation, cut out pages from manuscripts at the British Library and Oxford University's Bodleian Library. He removed the pages with a scalpel that he smuggled into the institutions' rare books reading rooms, hiding his actions from CCTV cameras installed to protect the books. Then he took the pages home and inserted them in his own inferior copies.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/lawandorder/3490521/Iranian-businessman-mutilated-priceless-British-Library-books.html>

The man appears to take a blade, quickly cut out a plate and slip it on to his chair. He apparently repeats the exercise several times before

transferring a small pile of maps into his coat. Following his visit, officials were shocked to find that eight maps dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries were missing. They circulated a warning, along with images of the visitor, around Europe. The alert rang alarm bells with staff at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. They checked volumes of maps and discovered that they too had been the victim of a "map ripper". Such is the concern that Scotland Yard has just included the alleged offender on its "most wanted" list alongside men wanted for questioning about murders, sex attacks and gangland crime. He is in effect Britain's most wanted art thief. The thefts in Denmark and Wales have also prompted libraries and museums to check their security measures. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2003/may/19/education.arttheft>

Antiques dealer Raymond Scott has been charged with stealing a £3 million first edition of Shakespeare's works. Mr Scott, 51, was originally arrested in June last year on suspicion of taking the 1623 folio from Durham University library in 1998. The 900-page folio is the earliest compilation of the works of Shakespeare and one of only 250 surviving copies. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/lawandorder/4374635/Antique-dealer-charged-with-stealing-Shakespeare-folio.html>

A book dealer who stole rare

volumes valued at more than £230,000 from the Rothschild family after being hired to catalogue its private collection was jailed today for two years and four months. David Slade, 59, admitted taking more than 30 books belonging to the millionaire Sir Evelyn de Rothschild over a four-year period from the Rothschilds' library at their Ascott House estate near Wing, Buckinghamshire. He then sold them at auction, never arousing suspicion because of his sterling reputation in the book world. Among the books put up for auction between 2003 and 2007 were a Chaucer title sold for £15,000, another book entitled *Voyages from Athens to Constantinople*, which fetched £33,000, and four gospels that sold for £21,000. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article5663010.ece>

A member of the RIBA's staff stole historic photographs and prints from the institute's drawings collection and sold them on auction site eBay for £1,000. Former assistant curator Sally North stole 26 items, including photographs of arts and crafts architect CFA Voysey's furniture, and sold five of them on eBay. North was sentenced to 200 hours community service and ordered to pay a £1,000 fine in court last week after pleading guilty to the theft. <http://www.bdonline.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=426&storycode=3063316>

Miscellany: Events, moves and newsletters

British Association for Local History (BALH): The annual Local History Day this year is on 5th June. It will be held at the Imperial War Museum, (rather than Friends House as in previous years). The programme includes a discussion on "Local History & the Internet" with Jacquelené Fillmore and Bamber Gascoigne, and a lecture by Dr Adam Longcroft on Vernacular Architecture. See <http://www.balh.co.uk> for full details.

The Blitz and its Legacy is the title of a conference to be held 3rd-4th September 2010 in London. For details contact either Dr. Mark Clapson (M.Clapson@westminster.ac.uk) or Professor Peter Larkham (peter.larkham@bcu.ac.uk).

Lost London 1870-1945: an exhibition at Kenwood House, based on a book of the same title by Philip Davies, running to April. Both are based on the LCC photograph collection.

The quarterly newsletter of the **Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section** is ceasing publication. Back numbers can be accessed online at www.history.ac.uk/gh/news98.htm for the time being. The last issue is summarised in this newsletter.

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives newsletter for October 2009 can be read at <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/public/documents/PDF/Local%20History/TH%20LHLA%20newsletter%20Oct%2009.pdf>

Newsletter of the Library of the Religious **Society of Friends** issue 4. <http://www.quaker.org.uk/library-newsletter>

The Transport for London Historical Archives Service has now relocated to: 14 Pier Walk, North Greenwich, London, SE10 0ES, Tel: 020 3054 3688. Email: grouparchives@tfl.gov.uk

Hackney Archives are now open on 5 days a week, rather than 4 as previously, including every Saturday. The full hours are as follows: Monday: closed. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9.30am-1pm and 2-5.30pm. Friday: 9.30am-1pm. Saturday: 10am-1pm and 2-4.30pm. For full details about the collections visit <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/ca-archives>.

LAMAS lectures <http://www.lamas.org.uk/> 13 April 2010: *London Stone: Making a Myth*. 11 May 2010: *Life in London's Eastern Suburb c.1550-1700*

AfL PAGES — Visits, Seminars

AfL visit to Guardian Group at Kings Place — 18 November 2009

On 18 November a group of AfL members visited the new offices of the Guardian at Kings Place, just north of Kings Cross, where they have been based since the building opened just over a year ago.

Founded as Manchester Guardian in 1821 by John Edward Taylor, following Peterloo massacre in 1819, to support the repeal of the corn laws. Started at a weekly costing 7d, but later moved to twice weekly. In 1855 following the removal of stamp duty the paper became daily and the price dropped to 2d.

Long serving editor C.P. Scott was in charge from 1875 to 1929. He bought the paper in 1907, and it became more national in outlook. In 1921 it celebrated 100 years with the motto "comment is free". In 1936, as the paper was still owned by the family, and to avoid possible death duties which might have caused closure, the paper was placed in a trust, the Scott Trust, which still owns the paper today.

In 1959 the name Manchester was dropped from the title, although the paper was still based there. In 1961 it started printing in London; in 1964 the editor moved to London, and in 1976 it moved to the Farringdon Road site and became effectively a London paper. The following year the famous 1st April edition featured the island of San Seriffe as the new holiday destination, an issue which many remember, and which featured in a cartography exhibition at the British Library. The paper went through a period when it was (in) famous for its misprints, being called the Grauniad in some quarters: modern computer-based formatting together with built-in spelling-checkers have eliminated that problem.

The group also owns the Observer, a title that does back even further, to 1791, and claims to be the longest running Sunday paper still printing. That paper was acquired by the

Astor family in 1945; it too was placed in a trust, but the trust collapsed. Competition from the *Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday* almost closed the paper, but it survived, and in 1993 the paper would be bought by the Guardian Media Group.

The group started an archive in 2002: there was no prior attempt at collecting, so some items have gone to the John Rylands archive in Manchester, and others to the University of Austin in Texas. Back issues of the newspaper can of course be consulted at the newspaper archive in Colindale, and many can be viewed on the website www.guardian.co.uk.

The Guardian clearly believes in outreach, there are regular visits by school groups, one of which nearly mowed us down!

The building at Kings Place houses other company offices as well as the Guardian, whilst the lower floors hold the Kings Place concert halls, the latest addition to London's music scene. Here a variety of music can be heard: lieder, chamber instrumental, and jazz; the offices lookout over the ground-floor circulation areas.

Stepping out on to the terrace you are on one of the basins of the Regents Canal. Named after the Prince Regent and built (or rather dug) largely between 1810 and 1820, the canal now provides a fascinating route from Limehouse on the Thames to Little Venice at Paddington and beyond. Apart from a couple of short sections through tunnels most of the tow-path is walkable (and of course level), and yields views of many aspects of London. Canal-side properties with moorings now fetch substantial sums when they come up for sale.

AfL Visit : George Padmore Institute, 16 September 2009

AfL organised a visit to the George Padmore Institute in September 2009. Sadly, the group numbered only six. We were given a talk by the archivist about the collection and its history, and a selection of items had been put out to illustrate the diversity of the collection.

Known to its friends as the GPI, the George Padmore Institute was named after the late George Padmore, and founded by John La Rose in 1991, several years after Padmore's death. To quote the web site site (<http://www.georgepadmoreinstitute.org/>), Padmore "was a key figure in the organisation of the influential 5th Pan African Congress held in Manchester in 1945 and was an adviser to Kwame Nkrumah before and after the independence of Ghana in 1957. George Padmore died after a short illness in 1959."

The Institute is located at 76 Stroud Green Road, just north of Finsbury Park Station in north London. Originally a Victorian terraced house with living quarters above a shop, the ground floor of no 76 is occupied by New Beacon Books, a bookshop established in 1966, also the brain-child of John La Rose.

The Institute is located on the upper floors, in what was the living quarters of the house. It is open by appointment only. The first floor is a search room which can also double as a lecture room: here we were given a talk on the history and aims of the institute. The second floor houses the archive itself. Compared with many, it is small: the archive shelving occupies two sides of one room. One side contains catalogued items, the other those still being worked on, although no doubt as the cataloguing work proceeds that balance will change. The institute has sufficient funds to employ a full-time archivist. Standards are high: acid free paper and good quality archive boxes are used, all the catalogued items in boxes were neatly tied, so they will not spill open if picked up badly, and clearly labelled.

But what does the archive hold? As with any archive documents, books, leaflets and posters, pictures, newspapers, printed material in general, are central. But this is a twentieth century archive, the vast majority of its material being post WWII, so other media, like film and DVD, are also there. The theme of the archive may perhaps be summarised as "the black colonial experience".

AfL October Seminar : Herald's Visitations

Heraldry may be defined as the systematic use of hereditary devices centred upon the shield. Although proto-heraldic devices were in use before the twelfth century, the introduction of the hereditary principle took place only in the second quarter of the twelfth century. It is generally agreed that the problem of identification, caused by the anonymity of a fully armoured knight of the early twelfth century, was the originating cause of the development of heraldic devices; the popularity of the tournament may well have been the immediate stimulus. Our earliest evidence for heraldry comes in the main from seals, and certainly coats of arms were used for identification on seals and elsewhere from an early date. But they retained throughout the medieval period an intimate connection with military service, with tournaments, and with the ethos of the knightly caste, chivalry. This military connection would not be lost until the middle of the fifteenth century, when war had become professionalized, and merchants, lawyers and others were increasingly accepted into the ranks of the noble.

The 1633-35 visitation of London was carried out by Henry (later Sir Henry) St George. We have an idea of how the heralds approached the task, and also of how they might be perceived by others, from instructions issued to them in 1633 or 1634. One item on the list said the heralds should "endeavour by all possible means to give gentlemen that content as they may be induced to believe that it is not their money we look after, but to do them and their posterity right in the preservation of their descents, matches, alliances and issue." This visitation is of significance in that there were more pedigrees and arms entered than for any other visitation of the counties of England between 1530 and the close of the activity in 1689. 1,172 men registered their pedigrees.

The only record of this visitation survives as College of Arms Ms C24, which is the preliminary draft, not the office copy. The entries are signed but not dated. A small notebook in the College's archive gives lists of individuals arranged by ward, with each list dated. The first ward to appear is Bassishaw Ward, visited on 6 February 1633 (probably meaning 1634). Only eleven wards are mentioned, the last being Coleman Street ward, visited on 28 March 1634. Those identified as possible gentry were summoned to appear before the herald and his clerk, probably in the morning at some convenient place in or near the ward. They would then produce what they thought were their arms, and their pedigrees, which in most cases are relatively brief. If the right to arms was deemed to have been proved on the spot, the entry was drawn up and signed, with a sketch of the arms. If further proof was required, a grace period was given. The entry was still drawn up and signed, but it was noted that the deponent had been 'respite for proof' or a similar phrase. It is clear that in some cases the proof was furnished; entries are annotated with references to grants of arms, or to earlier visitations.

In other cases no satisfactory proof could be provided. These were annotated as 'no proof made' or similar; in a few cases the entire entry was crossed out and annotated 'ignobilis'. An example is the entry for Robert Johnson of London, grocer, son of John Johnson of Abbots Anne, Hampshire, archdeacon of Worcester: this is annotated 'These armes and creast cannot be proved to be due unto this family wherupon I delivered him his fee againe the 2 of December 1634 and am to question him further in the Earl Marshalls Court for assuming them.'

AfL November Seminar : Serendipity In The Archives

Long ago, when I was young, I was deputy-librarian at Lambeth Palace, clearing up after the bomb damage of the war. My chief, Dr C. R. Dodwell, told me to write an account of the Library's adventures during the Civil War. The Library was confiscated by Parliament and, after Archbishop Laud's execution and several law suits, given to Cambridge University. When the war was over and Charles II was on the throne, Lambeth wanted the books again, but Cambridge would not give them back, until it suddenly seemed to change its mind, though there was no clue as to why.

I was puzzled over this, and did not want to write an incomplete account. I felt stuck. One day, I was on duty in the Reading Room. We had borrowed a manuscript from the Bodleian for Dr Talbot of the Wellcome Institute, and I had it ready for him. It was a collection of miscellaneous papers. Out of curiosity, I opened it at random and saw a torn scrap of a letter. Idly I began to read it and realised it was about a law suit over another collection of books which had once belonged to a Dr Holdsworth. It went on to say that if the suit could be heard in an ecclesiastical court, judgment would be given to present the Holdsworth volumes to Cambridge University Library in exchange for returning the Lambeth books to their own shelves beside the Thames. In spite of the bomb damage of another war, they are there to this day.

by Ann Saunders

Harkstead is a small village a few miles from Ipswich. My ancestor, George Glandfield (1612-1676) was a successful

farmer here. He was son of Richard son of Edmond, and Edmond had been a miller. But what makes it more exciting is that one of the Manorial rolls of Harkstead that survive (for 1564) mentions a Richard Glamfield alias Smith, miller. If only he were the father of Edmond, and so my 11xgreat grandfather, born about 1510! But, in Genealogy, as opposed to wishful thinking, the thought is not father to fact.

Then, in the British Library, I decided to look at "Ancient Charters" to see if there was anything for Harkstead. It was unlikely – you would normally be extremely lucky to find even one for any village. Harkstead had six. So, I ordered up the first English one from 1571. It was not yet fully unrolled when my eye caught "... Edmond Glannfyld alias Smyth of Stutton ..."). So that was where he had been born and why I hadn't found his baptism in the Parish register! But what I had found, long ago, was the date of his (first) marriage – 1572. So this lease was part of his marriage settlement! It was a lovely moment. As I re-rolled the charter, on the back I saw writing, now very faint after years of exposure to light but, though faint, it was clear. "Sealed and delivd the day and year within written in the presence of Ricus Glamvill als Smythe of Stutton and Robert Runting of Holbrook". The lease was a father's gift to Edmond on his wedding! Robert Runting had been Executor of the will of Edmond's bride's dead father and was her guardian. I had the whole family – like the Tailor of Winchester, seven at one go!

AFL CONFERENCE 2009 : Reports on some of the talks

The Notting Hill Riots of 1958 - Dave Welsh

Community, oral and trade union historian, Dave Welsh took the conference on a unique and innovative journey to the Notting Hill Riots, the racist rampage which threatened to tear apart an already tense community in the 1950's. Using techniques such as psychogeography and contemporary photographs, Welsh attempted to piece together the psychological and physical landscape of the Notting Hill and Notting Gate areas in order to determine the causes and the course of this outbreak of communal violence in London.

Welsh pointed out how urban geography had a role to play, with certain key landmarks acting as focal points and transport arteries like Latimer Road serving as barriers and divides between the white and black communities. These elements were juxtaposed with a modern map of the area, in which a new road system had a cut a swath through the neighbourhood and abolished the old geographic reasons for tension.

The psychological atmosphere was vividly painted – there had been a spate of racist attacks across London and across the country, from Camden and Shepherd's Bush to Nottingham. Thus it was emphasised that these events were not isolated, however infamous. The origin of the violence was also, to the modern listener, surprising – the Teddy Boys, often associated more with fashion and music, were at the vanguard of the racist attacks, calling as they did so for a White Britain. What started with chanting and drive-by raids soon turned into clashes involving hundreds over the stifling late-summer of 1958. The disorder caused several injuries and massive notoriety.

It was used by far-right politicians such as the perennial Oswald Mosley to fan the flames for "immigration reform", a call for a halt to economic migrants from overseas and for the implementation of deportation for those already in-country. The involvement of larger parties ensured that outside agitators swarmed into the area looking for trouble, with opportunistic racists hunting for targets. Having been brought to national attention, Welsh described how the press condemned the disorder, with the *Mirror* being particularly vocal for its anti-racist stance.

If so far the violence had been characterised by scuffles and injury, it was soon to be marked by tragedy, as Welsh divulged the darker moments of the disorder, and it was the murder of a black youth in 1959 that caused the largest and most forceful reaction. But this reaction came in the form of stronger social resistance, a new birth of activism and anti-racism which could only have been solidified by such a crisis. Welsh added that the Carnival, a celebration of the multi-cultural values of the area, was born out of this post-riot atmosphere, and that long-term, community organisation and the expression of communal identity could be traced back to this perilous hour.

Report by Martin Rush

Rally to Aldgate! - David Rosenberg

Schoolteacher and local tour guide David Rosenberg summoned the spirit of 1936 related the story of the East End anti-fascist movements which stopped Oswald Mosley. This topic, which is becoming increasingly relevant to a new generation of activists, was carefully analysed and dissected by Rosenberg, with enough colour to separate legend from reality. The underlying message of Rosenberg's talk was that, alongside the heroism and élan of individual events such as the Battle of Cable Street, went much less dramatic but equally important acts of organisation-building. These twin elements of popular action combined to mean the destruction of the British Union of Fascists as a viable entity in the East End.

In the 1930's, Fascism had long taken over Italy, but the rise of Hitler in Germany meant that the authoritarian tide in Europe was rising. It was by no means clear, therefore, that a British Fascist movement, led by the beguiling, aristocratic figure of Mosley, could be resisted. At first, his ideas were attractive, and Rosenberg presented laudatory articles from the *Daily Mail* which demonstrated how effectively Mosley was beginning to win over portions of the establishment. The evolution of Moseley's movement was traced – from a Mussolini-clone preaching a Corporate State to a Nazi-inspired quest to rid Britain of its Jewish community, held doubly-responsible for the supposed twin evils of capitalism and communism.

Elegantly, Rosenberg switched emphasis from Moseley's ideology and its relations with the corridor of power to the East End of London, and the facts on the ground. There were

100,000 Jews in East London at this time, with 60,000 in one particular square mile of Stepney. They lived in "abject poverty", in sweatshops or unemployed. Consequently, the Communist Party and the Independent Labour Party were active, and it was through the character of Phil Piratin that we discovered how an anti-fascist movement was formed. Piratin discovered that the key to defeating fascism was to win over their recruits. He, alongside others of the East End Jewish community, started forming organisations like the "Stepney Tenants Defence League" which organised on class, rather than racial, lines, in a bid to unite the community.

Thus, having outlined the two opposing forces, Rosenberg brought us to the dramatic denouement – the physical meeting of the two at Cable Street, on October 4th, 1936. Mosley had wanted to stage a march through the East End in order to rally his followers and intimidate the minorities of the area. Piratin, and the anti-fascists realised that neither the police, the Home Secretary nor mainstream politicians were going to stop the march, and decided to do so themselves. Between 100,000-400,000 demonstrators "rallied to Aldgate" creating a "sea of people" which the police could not force a path through, turning Mosley back. It was a salutary and symbolic moment for anti-fascists – Mosley had not passed. The hard work had only just started in persuading people to leave the BUF, and the same physical conditions remained but as Piratin himself described – "the people had changed."

Report by Martin Rush



Forthcoming seminars in 2010: All take place at the LMA on Thursdays at 6pm

- 4 Feb Making Outreach work for you, given by Chris Weir, Nottingham County Council Archives.
 4 March The East India Company in London: merchant princes and warehouse servants, given by Margaret Makepeace and Richard Morel – of the British Library.
 1 April Genealogy in London, given by Sherry Irvine, a lecturer specializing in English, Scottish, and Irish family history.
 3 June Janet foster's seminar "Keeping it in the Family: managing your family archives" postponed from December 2009 due to illness.
- Other topics planned, but not yet finalised, include
 How to take good images of archive materials using digital cameras delivered
 Business Archives in London
- As arrangements may change, please do check the web site, or the AfL events monthly email from Nicola Avery.

AfL Visits programme

AfL has the following visits planned : the monthly email has the booking form, which will confirm the details

- 12 Feb 2pm Architectural Association Archives, group size 30-100.
 17 Mar 2pm Linnean Society, group of 13-20 people.
 April We hope to have a visit to the EMI archives: arrangements still be finalised.
 16 May Our first walk, East End Walks. Starting point and time to be advised.
 Our Summer event is a visit to Woburn Abbey: this is still in planning: check the website for details

We want to make the visits programme reflect our members' interests. If you, or a colleague or friend, have been on a visit with another organisation and enjoyed it, or there is somewhere you think would make an interesting visit, please let us know: email visits@archivesforlondon.org with your suggestions.

If you enjoy one of our visits and would care to write it up, please do, and email your write-up to the editor, address below.

AfL Conference 2010 : Preliminary Announcement

The editor learns that this year's AfL conference will have as its topic *Coming to London*. Conference is usually held in early October, watch the website for details. The September newsletter will also have details.

Institute of Historical Research: seminars on London history on Wednesday at 5:30, open to all, free

- 27 January: Matthew Stevens (CMH/IHR): **London women in the city and Westminster courts in the later middle ages**
 10 February: Tim Wales (KCL) :
Public health, political culture and the decline of infant mortality in West Ham, 1886-1939
 24 February: Jim Clifford (York, Ontario)
Remaking the Bow Back Rivers: environmental and social intervention to decrease flooding and unemployment in West Ham, 1905-1935
 10 March: Jordan Landes (CMH/IHR) : **London Quakers in the Atlantic world before 1725**

Check the web site at <http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/134> for updates.

The editor welcomes contributions to the Newsletter and letters for publication. Please send your contribution to: Peter Jackson, Archives for London, c/o London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB.
 Or preferably by email to: newsletter@archivesforlondon.org

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