



Newsletter

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The independent voice for
archives in the Capital

Chairman's Letter January 2012

A Happy New Year to all our members and readers – though if you are reading someone else's copy – do think of joining AfL and receiving your own *Newsletter* and privileges!

I would like to introduce to you my Deputy Chairman, Siân Wynn-Jones. Siân has worked quietly but innovatively behind the scenes for some while, with the Comms Team and now the Board. It was Siân's initiative for AfL to take a place at the major archival show – *Who Do You Think You Are?* in 2011. Now, for the second year running, AfL is to have a presence at the show which runs from the 24th to the 26th February 2012 at Olympia. The URL for the website is here: <http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/> Do look at the website, book your tickets and come along and see us at the AfL stand – or better still - volunteer to take a turn assisting us. Contact us via the AfL enquiries address: enquiries@archivesforlondon.org and use this address too if you have any ideas for how you'd like us to represent London Archives at the event.

London will be busy with major events this year as you know, hosting large events for celebration of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee in June and in July, August and September, the Games of the XXX Olympiad and the Paralympic Games. London Archives have been preparing for the Olympics by providing information to their institutions, contributing to the Cultural Bid, working up Smart Phone Apps to assist tourists with locating sites of historical interest and visiting archives and revealing the stories they hold. The AfL led *Winning Endeavours* website is a major source of the story of London sport and the Olympics and I encourage you to keep looking at it this year – it will be archived itself at the end of

2012. <http://www.winningendeavours.org/> This site will allow you to search for images relating to London's Olympic past – the 1908 and 1948 games hosted by the capital, athletes from London who have competed in the Olympics and London's sporting heritage. It also support work in schools with resources packs for some key stages in the curriculum and 2 walking guides, one for use when exploring Shepherd's Bush and the site of the 1908 Olympic Games, and one for use when exploring the newly-constructed Olympic Park for the 2012 Olympic Games.

AfL is thinking about how to celebrate the Jubilee and we will be posting ideas on the website, again if you have suggestions or can offer us assistance with an event, please use the enquiries email address.

Besides the celebrations, AfL remains aware of difficulties facing many archive services in the capital at present and we will continue to work with such services to ensure continuity of London's heritage and preserve the expertise of the Archivists and users affected.

I look forward to seeing many of you at AfL events during the coming year, and remember that you can keep up with us on the website and now via twitter @archives4london – another of Siân's innovations - and she reports that we now have over 1,000 followers – so sign up to Twitter now via AfL website <http://www.archivesforlondon.org/>

With best wishes
Anne Barrett

Chairman AfL

British Newspaper Archive grows

Readers will be aware that the company Brightsolid, that owns the family history web sites findmypast and GenesReunited, went into partnership with the British Library to digitise much of the collection. If you visit www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/ you can

Search the archive for free, but to view the results requires a subscription. A 2-day subscription can be bought for just under £7, perhaps useful for a bit of 1-off research. A full year can be bought for £80. Looking at the summary results from a search suggests that the digitisation could be more accurate, although the results were decipherable.

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London Hearth Tax

The *Local Historian* for November 2011 contains an article about the Hearth Tax. Readers may well know that the Hearth Tax returns are being transcribed and published in book form, on a county basis, by the British Record Society in conjunction with Roehampton University. One of the earliest volumes was that for Cambridgeshire published in 2000, so the project has been going for some time. Although the Hearth Tax was in force between 1662 and 1689, it is mainly the earlier returns that survive, and in some cases the information from the 1676 return. It is the 1662 to 1666 returns that form the basis of the published volumes. In many interim years, the tax was farmed out, and the farmers collected the tax and handed over the money, but there are no records.

The *Local Historian* article is based on work for the forthcoming London and Middlesex volume, and looks in particular at the number of empty properties. The number of houses paying the tax was some 44%, with the remaining 56% being split almost equally between exempt properties (exemption was granted to low-value houses) and empty ones. Why were there so many empty houses? One reason, almost certainly valid, was the expansion of London after the Restoration, with many houses having been built but not yet occupied. (A few years later Nicholas Barbon was to make a great deal of money through speculative building and renting.) The article suggests that there may have been a degree of collusion between the collectors and the occupiers, with the occupiers persuading the collectors to put in a false return (no doubt with a smaller payment to the collector). The tax for Michaelmas 1666, although not due until 29 September, was clearly being worked on before the fire which broke out on 2 September, as Farriner's house in Pudding Lane is listed, with five hearths and an oven.

One explanation for the empty houses may be the plague of 1665, during which many people left London: were their houses still empty, or had they returned and then left London again in the summer, fearing a return of plague?

The article points out that various analyses can be done on the data, both demographic and statistical. Unsurprisingly they have looked at the data for Roehampton, and compared it with adjacent Putney. Although the *average* number of hearths per house is larger in Roehampton, the percentage of houses with three or more hearths is larger in Putney. Does Roehampton have a two-

peaked distribution, representing an area with wealthy and poor inhabitants, but fewer of the 'middling sort'? Putney, in contrast, shows something closer to a statistically normal distribution.

Dropping down to the street level, there are streets where one side shows consistently more prosperous houses (more hearths) than the other side — why?

LAMAS transactions 2010

The volume containing the 2010 transactions of the London and Middlesex

Archaeological Society (LAMAS) was published in November. It is a fascinating volume, almost worth the cost of membership for this alone, apart from the regular meetings the society holds.

To give some idea of the scope, the first article deals with Neolithic remains at Canning Town, the last with the foundation of the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum in Wandsworth in 1857. The latter was a school for daughters of servicemen killed on duty: the school later moved to Essendon in Hertfordshire, but closed in 1972, although the building remained and is today the home of an artists association [ALRA](#). The volume also ventures out to Stanmore (a mediaeval deer park), and this editor's favourite, an item about a house at 7a Pountney Hill, in the City.

Photographic Images

A new directory has been created by the Photography and Archive Research Centre, London College of Communication, to help researchers to look for photographs relating to their interests. "The project is led by Val Williams, and its researcher, since 2004, is Bob Pullen, who writes

"The Directory is a portal to Institutions in the UK, and provides information and contact details of publicly accessible photographic collections. It is a constantly developing resource of information on photographic collections, and its value and significance as a research tool will steadily increase as institutions add their collections to it. ... there is no substitute for visiting institutions, talking to those responsible for collections, and actually holding photographs in your hands."

The web site does not hold images, it is an index to institutions that do with descriptions of their holdings and specialities. It can be found at: www.directoryphotographiccollectionsuk.org

Dickens at Museum of London

Recreating the atmosphere of Victorian London through sound and projections, you'll be taken on a haunting journey to discover the city that inspired his writings.

Paintings, photographs, costume and objects will illustrate themes that Dickens wove into his works, while rarely seen manuscripts including *Bleak House* and *David Copperfield* – written in the author's own hand – will offer clues to his creative genius.

During your visit you'll discover how Dickens' childhood experiences of London, working in a blacking factory while his father was locked away in a debtor's prison, were introduced into the stories he wrote. The great social questions of the 19th century, including wealth and poverty, prostitution, childhood mortality and philanthropy, will also be examined, all of which set the scene for Dickens' greatest works.

Highlights of the exhibition will include an innovative audio-visual experience bringing to life the desk and chair where Dickens worked on his novels, and a specially commissioned film by one of the UK's leading documentary filmmakers, William Raban, which will explore the similarities between London after dark today and the night time city described by Dickens over 150 years ago.

Galton Institute / Eugenics Society

Through to September this year the Wellcome Library



will be digitizing the papers of the Eugenics Society and putting them on-line. These papers they describe as one of their most popular collections for researchers. The digitizing will result in the non-availability of some of the papers to personal callers at times.

The Wellcome Library web site describes the society in these terms:

Founded as the Eugenics Education Society in 1907, the society aimed to promote public awareness of the existence of hereditary qualities both positive and negative, and the need to encourage social responsibility with respect to these qualities. Unlike the Galton Laboratory, (named after Sir Francis Galton and founded in 1904) the Eugenics Society was a popular, rather than a scientific, institution; its Aims and Objects varied during the years and in 1963 it abandoned propaganda on being granted charitable status.

Besides its involvement in the theoretical aspects of eugenics the Society was also interested in the practical means by which eugenic ideals could be attained, so these records contain a good deal of material on subjects such as the treatment of the mentally and physically defective, the development of birth control methods, the legalisation of sterilisation, the use of artificial insemination. The Society became the Galton Institute in 1989.

Other Wellcome Library collections included in this phase of its digitization project are the substantial Francis Crick archive, the papers of Fred Sanger, Arthur Ernest Mourant, the Medical Research Council Blood Group Unit, Honor Fell, and Carlos Paton Blacker.

World War 1

With some 30 months to go to the centenary of the outbreak of WW1, events and memorials are starting to build up, especially on the internet.

The web site www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu/ announces a "three-year project will make over 400,000 WWI sources publicly and freely available online for the first time - content that is often rare and highly fragile because of the deteriorating quality of the paper it was produced on and generally only accessible in reading rooms", to be completed by April 2014. The project is joining up with 12 European partners to put key documents and images on the internet.

A news release from the National Archives:

The Imperial War Museum has launched a new initiative through the social networking and photo sharing site Flickr, aiming to put faces to some of these names that can be found on war memorials and in other written records.

To mark Armistice Day 11.11.11, the IWM has made 100 portraits of people who served available through their Faces of the First World War project on Flickr Commons. The photographs were acquired by the museum between 1917 and 1920 as part of its mission to record experiences of the war and offer a personal and poignant record of its impact.

In some cases bereaved families donated their only photograph. Some of them have only a name, rank and unit - others are accompanied by detailed letters and biographies. Britain and the Commonwealth are represented, as are the range of military ranks and services.

More portraits with biographical details will be added to the site every weekday until August 2014, the 100th anniversary of the war's outbreak.

The aim is to help the public discover the life stories of the people in the photographs by adding comments, information, links or text to the photos. It is hoped people may find an ancestor or make a connection to a name on a local war memorial or from a local regiment.

"The First World War Centenary is a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world," says IWM Director General Diane Lees. "The war was a turning point in world history. It claimed the lives of more than 16 million people across the globe and affected the lives of millions more."

Lees says that, despite the intervening century, everybody in the world "still has a connection" to the First World War, "either through their own family history, links to their local community or because of its long term impact on the world we live in today."

Faces of the First World War is part of IWM's preparations to mark the First World War Centenary in 2014-2018 by leading an ambitious four-year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War galleries at IWM London in 2014. See more at www.1914.org.

The web site nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/default.htm may also help: however, many records have not been digitised so cannot be accessed online, and often there are no on-line indexes.

Editor's Gallimaufry

Churchill College, one of the newer Cambridge colleges, is named after the great British war-time politician, who was present to plant a tree when the college was founded. Of greater relevance to this newsletter is the fact that it now houses not only his archive, but also the archives of several other twentieth century British states-(wo)men including Margaret Thatcher - a handbag was on display on the occasion of my visit! - it was on display next to a picture of Neil Kinnock (whose papers they also hold) with a smiling Arthur Scargill. Not in real life at Maggie, though! The college has an ambitious programme to digitise, and put online, a large portion of its collection. In the meantime the catalogue can be searched at janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/ (find the 'advanced search' button near top left and when it comes up restrict the search to Churchill Archives). The college welcomes visits from bona fide researchers with an interest in their holdings: you do not need a link with the university, but, as with many searchrooms, space is limited and booking essential (via www.chu.cam.ac.uk/archives/).

Big Ben: did you know that you can climb the Clock Tower at the Houses of Parliament to see and hear the famous bell 'Big Ben' strike the hour. The easiest way to get tickets, which are free, is to write to your MP and ask. But be warned, there is no lift, you have to climb 334 steps to get up, and then come down them again. The tower was planned as part of the rebuilding of Parliament after the fire of 1834, but it was not completed until 1859, and the bell was added later. The first bell was cast near Stockton-on-Tees, but was irreparably damaged before it was ever installed, and a second bell was cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry (which still exists, and is open to visitors): this bell has been in use since 1863. No one seems quite sure where the name Big Ben comes from, but the favourite theory is that it comes from Sir Benjamin Hall. As well as seeing the bell strikes on the hour (they provide earplugs, I was only 6ft away from the bell), you also see the mechanism that drives the hands. Apart from an electric motor which winds the weight back up, the whole mechanism is 'clock-work' operated by weights that hang down inside the tower, with a pendulum which is famously regulated by placing pennies (old pre-decimal ones, of course) on the weight at the bottom: it ticks every 2 seconds, and that is how the hands move. When built, the clock was required to be accurate to within 2 seconds a day, a precision which contemporary clock-makers said was unachievable, but they succeeded: today, they check it with the speaking clock, for which a phone is installed! Lots more information at www.parliament.co.uk/bigben.

After my visit I went to the **Parliamentary Archives**, housed in the Victoria Tower at the Houses of Parliament. Here you can consult original acts of Parliament — I was researching an act from 1609, and the original act was produced for me. For obvious security reasons, you need to book a place in advance to use these archives. See www.parliament.uk/archives.

Chislehurst Caves are located only a few minutes walk from Chislehurst railway station, in a part of London whose development is largely the result of the coming of the railway. The caves are in fact man-made

excavations, the result of mining operations to extract chalk and flints, which occur naturally embedded in the chalk. Chalk is soft and easily mined, and was used for making lime, itself the basis of early mortar and lime-wash, an early whitewash. There is no record of the precise age of the caves, but the nomenclature, which divides the caves into 'Druid', 'Saxon' and 'Roman' sections, is probably accurate in recording an age of at least 2000 years. The web site (www.chislehurst-caves.co.uk) and the tours of the caves concentrate on the recent history of the caves, which were used as an ammunition dump in WW1, then for growing mushrooms, then as shelters for thousands of people during WW2, and subsequently, but no longer, as venues for pop and jazz concerts.

The act of shaping the flints is called knapping: flintlocks for firearms were made by knappers, and it was suggested that the word knapsack has its origin in the bags that the knappers used to carry the flints (although the editor has his doubts about this etymology).

The caves are open Wednesday to Sunday, and tours last just under an hour.

The playwright **Ben Jonson** was a Londoner, and the author of several enduring Elizabethan plays including *The Alchemist* and *Volpone*. He also lived a notorious and intriguing life, which included a couple of spells in gaol and a charge for manslaughter after he killed an actor in a duel. He walked from London to Scotland in 1618. His own account of the journey was destroyed in a fire at his house a few years later and no direct record of the trip has existed – until now.

Researchers from The Universities of Nottingham and of Edinburgh are examining an anonymous 41-page journal which was found among papers in the archives of the Aldersey family of Aldersey Hall in Cheshire in 2009.

The document is entitled "My Gossip Jonson's foot journey and mine into Scotland", was written by a mystery companion and may represent the only surviving first-hand account of the legendary literary journey.

"Jonson's 'foot voyage' has long been thought of as one of the more striking episodes in a sumptuously colourful life," says Dr Loxley. "This newly discovered account is a treasure trove of detail on Jonson's famous walk for anyone with an interest in British cultural history. "It is hoped a version will appear in a new Complete Works of Ben Jonson by Cambridge University Press, due out in spring 2012."

London Archaeologist, the journal of the **London Archaeologist Association**, contains reports of archaeological investigations in London. The back issues from 1968 to 2008 can be viewed on-line at archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/london_arch/. Some items technical reports on digs, but there is much material for the general reader: sadly no index to articles, though.

Collection of theatrical memorabilia

Letters penned by Oscar Wilde and Charles Dickens are among a vast haul of theatrical treasures revealed in October by the archives at Royal Holloway, University of London. They were collected by Roy Waters, who had close links with the college's Drama department. On his death he left the college both the collection and funds for cataloguing and maintenance.

The Dickens letter is to the actress Fanny Kelly who famously turned down a proposal of marriage from the writer and essayist Charles Lamb in 1819. Wilde's letter was penned to Herbert Everett from Babbacombe Cliff, where he is said to have fallen in love with Lord Alfred 'Bosie' Douglas.

Wilde thanks Everett for a gift, describes his stay at Babbacombe and writes of a visit from art critic Robert Ross. He also refers to his forthcoming trip to London at Easter for the production of his new play *A Woman of No Importance*.

Waters also hoarded over 8,000 programmes, hundreds of cartes de visites, cabinet photographs and photographic postcards of actors and actresses, including some very rare Oscar Wilde examples.

Waters' is said to have begun the collection as a project to decorate the scuffed flock wallpaper that covered the walls of his new home. "Friends suggested he treat his home like a theatre foyer, camouflaging the walls with posters and playbills," explains Adele Allen, Special Collections Archivist at Royal Holloway.

Postal Museum and Archive

"We would like to reassure readers and everyone who has an interest in the UK's unique postal heritage that the historically important records at the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA) are secure (Under threat: 400 years of social history, *Society*, 28 September)."

In 2004, Royal Mail Group took the pioneering step to establish the BPMA as a charitable trust. A deliberate decision was taken to protect artefacts by placing them in separate legal ownership, and the archive material is classified as public record and is protected by law. The heritage was further strengthened more recently during the passage of the Postal Services Act. A clause was added to the legislation that recognised the significance of the postal heritage under the care of the BPMA by requiring an annual report to be submitted to parliament on the care of the collections. This will continue whatever decisions are taken on the future ownership of Royal Mail.

Royal Mail Group continues to provide £2m a year to the BPMA, and work continues to establish a new, permanent home for the archive, as well as the museum's large collection of historic postboxes, vehicles, uniforms and more.

Cutbacks in Archive Services

A message from Nick Kingsley at the National Archives:

In the current difficult economic environment many archive services are faced with sharply reducing budgets and/or with radical proposals for structural and governance changes. In order to ensure that the

national network of archival provision remains as comprehensive, resilient and sustainable as possible, The National Archives is keen to work with archive services facing such changes, and their governing bodies, to ensure that the full range of available options is evaluated, the impact of particular measures is fully understood, and that the best options available are selected.

We have built up considerable experience in engaging with service managers and employing bodies to help services develop creative options and evaluate proposals, and we are in the process of developing written guidance on alternative governance structures for local authority archives. We would urge all archive services facing significant budgetary pressures or proposals for strategic realignment of services to contact us at the earliest possible time to talk through the shape of emerging proposals and to secure our awareness and involvement in discussions, either formally or informally.

During the winter of 2011/12, when many archive services are going through their budget-setting process, The National Archives is implementing a new staffing structure in its Archives Sector Development department. The new structure will ensure that each major collecting institution has an identified Engagement Manager who will seek to build a long-term support relationship with the archive and with senior managers responsible for the service. The Engagement Managers will not, however, be in post until early in 2012, and in the short term archives should talk in the first instance to their existing regional liaison contact, who will arrange relevant expert input as appropriate. Regional liaison contacts will be in touch with local authority services in the next few weeks, particularly to update our information on budget setting decisions for 2012-13.

Mapping London

[Locating London's Past](#) is a JISC website that lets users

delve into the capital's past: it claims to map information from an array of sources, covering:

- crime and punishment
- the distribution of wealth, poverty and occupations
- the ownership of consumer goods
- mortality

Alastair Dunning, programme manager at JISC, said: "Researchers in the humanities and social sciences are turning increasingly to geographical analysis as a way of bringing the facts and figures to life. What's exciting about this resource is that the existing data you can explore today is just the start – the interface could be expanded to include new data sets and new maps, making it potentially useful to scholars in dozens of different disciplines. JISC's commitment to funding open source projects means that other universities are already looking at how they might reuse the programmes that the Sheffield team has developed."

The editor's attempts to view the web site were frustrated by appalling slow responses. It seems an interesting project, let us hope it can be made usable.

SEMINAR REPORTS

Oral History at the British Library Mary Stewart and Elspeth Millar on 6 October

Mary Stewart and Elspeth Millar from the British Library Sound Archive gave an engaging and enlightening talk about the oral history collections at the British Library (BL). Oral history is 'the oldest and newest form of history'; from earliest times histories were passed down from generation to generation through the telling of stories. The introduction of the printed book largely did away with this tradition but by the 20th century, a growing interest in social history and 'history from the bottom up', coupled with the rapid development of recording technologies led to a resurgence in interest in oral history and the stories of 'normal' people. The BL seeks to continue this interest and aims to provide an oral history of the nation by actively collecting recordings from people of all areas of British life.

The BL currently have over 350 oral history collections and this is growing due to their on-going collection strategy. The cataloguing of oral histories relies on existing archival cataloguing standards, with emphasis on 'descriptive' and 'administrative' information, but thought is also given to the format of the recording, and who owns the rights to the information contained in the record. Some histories have restricted access due to the personal information contained within them but overall the BL aims to make these most down-to-earth of historical records as accessible as possible. Access can be made on-site at the BL, or online via the BL Sounds website: <http://sounds.bl.uk/>

Medieval Records of the City of London

Caroline Barron on 10 November

Caroline Barron, renowned medieval historian, gave a talk that focused on a series of 15th century journals of the Court of Common Council held at the old Guildhall Record Office that she used while undertaking a PhD in the 1960s. Caroline gave the talk a strong personal element, reminiscing about her time as a student and of her earliest experiences of visiting an archives search room. She recalled with humour her horror at being initially unable to read the handwriting of the journals and her pretence to the archivist that she could!

Palaeography was a prominent factor in Caroline's talk, and she handed round copies from the microfiches of the journals. The hand was indeed difficult to interpret, but with Caroline's explanations it soon became clear that the documents contained a fascinating insight into medieval London. The journals were used to record the activities undertaken by the Court, so there were pages recording the elections of aldermen and mayors, lists of members of the Common Council and oaths given by the Bailiff of Southwark, for example. The clerks also used the journals to make rough notes, such as drafting a welcome speech to the visiting Queen Marie of Anjou in 1445. Overall Caroline gave a fascinating introduction to the jostling, vibrant world of 15th century London, where men selling rotten pies were ordered to stand in the pillory with the pies

around their necks, and attendees at Court threw fruity insults at each other.

Reports by Sarah Hale

The Scout Association Archive

The January seminar was given by Daniel Scott-Davies, Archive Manager for the Scout Association.

Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the scouts, was also a hero of the relief of Mafeking (1899). He published *Scouting for Boys* in 1908, and to some extent the scout movement dates from that. In the beginning girls wanted to join, so very soon a separate Girl Guides movement was formed: today the two operate together. Daniel's talk suggest that from there things snow-balled. Almost from the beginning there was a branch of Sea Scouts. Wolf cubs for younger boys soon followed, and the scouts played a valuable role on the home front during World War 1, doing jobs as messengers and organising recreation: a 16-year old scout was awarded the V.C. Towards the end of that war a senior section was formed for boys over 18 who wanted to continue their involvement. Gilwell Park in east London became a base for the scouts around this time: it continues in use to this day, having become the scout headquarters in 2001. Gang shows started in the 1930s and ran until 1974. The scouts made a contribution in WW2 as they had in WW1, and the scout 'bob-a-job' week started in 1949, to continue until 1970, after which of course the shilling vanished from our currency.

The scouting movement has a great record of helping: it has helped victims of the Chernobyl disaster, and has sponsored a lifeboat at Hartlepool.

The scouting movement started a retail branch which they sold to Blacks in 2006 (and Blacks has recently been a victim of the recession, having been sold to J-B sports).

Daniel also talked about the link with Scott of the Antarctic. The ship *Discovery* was built in 1900, and was used by Scott in 1901 in a successful mission of research and exploration. It became the ship of the Sea Scouts, and can still be seen today in Dundee, where it was built. All in all a very wide-ranging talk.

Web sites: www.scoutsrecords.org/ for everything you want to know about the history of the scouts; www.youtube.com/user/ScoutArchive has a number of scouting film clips. For Gilwell Park see wikipedia at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilwell_Park.

The seminar was very poorly attended, with only 13 members: there was a raffle with gifts donated by Andrea Tanner, to whom our thanks, so if you did not attend you missed a good chance of a prize.

AfL Conference 2011—Reports on talks School Archives: A Neglected Resource?

A talk by Elizabeth Well, Westminster School Archive

The interpretation of archives in a formal learning environment was discussed by Elizabeth Wells, drawing on her experiences as Archivist at Westminster School. The limitations of school archives were clarified as those collections held at independent schools, as state schools must deposit their archives with a local record office. With over 2600 independent schools in the UK, educating about seven per cent of children in the country, independent schools are perhaps not as marginal as they first appear.

Elizabeth discussed the types of records held at Westminster School and what they reveal about the institution. School registers are an extremely useful resource, not only containing names of students but also background and future career information, as well as names of significant alumni. Samples of exam papers highlight changes in the curriculum over time. School magazines add meat to the bones of the history of a school providing greater detail of school life.

It is important that the educational work of the school archivist ties into the curriculum, but also broadens out from it too allowing students to develop new skills. An extra-curricular programme exists at Westminster School which includes developing research and presentation skills for lower school students, and for sixth formers, palaeography skills and an understanding of how to use an archive. Students are also encouraged to take an active role in the school's oral history project.

Despite the benefits that school archives give the learning environment there are challenges to overcome. Resources (funding and space) represent the biggest challenge. Schools can lack the professional competency needed for a proficient archival service: using volunteers and lacking of a qualified archivist. Executive support is also essential for success; inefficient internal backing, an inability to see potential in archival resources, concerns over the reputation of the school, and difficulties in allowing public access can compromise the aims of the archivist to advance the collection in their care. Finally the archivist may have to balance conflicting and unexpected demands in a role that will often encompass more than simply the duties of an archivist.

All is not lost: gaining an entry on the index of the National Register of Archives adds a significant official element to the archive. Support and guidance for school archivists can be reached through the School Archivists Group which is affiliated with the Archives Records Association and currently has about 190 members. Resources from The National Archives, Parliament, and Institute of Education provide further guidance for school archivists. The history of a school is a unique selling point and teachers should be encouraged to take pride in their archive leading to greater advocacy, and perhaps even a friendly competitive edge through the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, Independent Schools Council and the Eton Group. Finally, if all else fails, ask your school how it manages its history, putting pressure on it to manage the archive collection.

UCL: non-conformist university.

A talk by Anne Barrett, Imperial College London

Prior to the establishment of University College London, attendance at an English university was dictated by class, privilege and affiliations. Anne Barratt's paper discusses the foundation and early development of UCL, and its achievements as a non-conformist university.

The university opened in 1828 as a secular institution based on utilitarian principles. Its establishment caused significant political and ecclesiastical upheavals at the time. The founders of UCL encountered opposition from the Church of England which prevented it from receiving the Royal Charter needed to legally award degrees. The established institutions of Oxford and Cambridge also opposed the establishment of UCL; entry to these institutions required religious affiliation to the Church of England, and women were not admitted. In opposition, Kings College London was established as a rival university in a wing of Somerset House where teachers had to be members of the Church of England.

Despite strong adversity, UCL was the first institution in London, and indeed the country, to register students who did not conform to the Church of England. Often referred to as 'that Godless institution in Gower Street', the notion that UCL was without religion is incorrect as religions were remarkably well represented among the supporters for the university. The Jewish community in particular were noted for their support. Although religion was vetoed as an entry requirement, the university welcomed students of any religious denomination, as well as non-conformists and radicals. Furthermore, in the quest for good teaching staff, examples of clergymen taking lectures can be found.

At the time, university subjects and academic professions were in transition and were increasingly being taught by trained professionals rather than enthusiastic amateurs. The German university model was held as ideal as it was based on liberality and teaching through lectures and practical classes. An academic career was difficult however due to low wages and limited funding for research. Lecturers were paid according to the number of students in their classes and were under pressure to organise their courses around many other duties sometimes including another job. UCL initially struggled to establish the study of science and the relationship between arts and science was less distinct than it is today. UCL's first prospectus recorded eight divisions of subjects, but the subjects we would today recognise as the separate sciences were taught under 'Physics'.

Despite being a secular institution UCL was not very open to the working classes; students were required to study full time and pay fees and so a degree of wealth was necessary to fund a degree course. Student life was not as cohesive as it is today and accommodation and societies were not available during the early years of the university. The first students union was established in 1893, followed by a women's students union in 1897. Women were admitted to study at the university but were often taught separately. However the Slade School of Fine Art, which opened in 1871, had no objection to integrated teaching.

Politics and Policy-making in London Education: mapping generations of activism'

Jane Martin, Institute of Education

The journey of women in to educational politics in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was shaped by party politics, philanthropy, trade unionism and social movements. Jane Martin's paper considers the significance of these factors and the role of women in carrying forward the radical tradition that became an essential component of London's education service.

The presence of women on the various education authorities helped to shape London's education service which coincided with the increasing representation of women in political parties in the same period. The rise of the Labour party opened important opportunities for women. Labour leader, Herbert Morrison sought the vote from the rate-paying middle class and encouraged a particular candidate – the well-educated, middle class woman. The Labour party represented an avenue for women to bring to the fore radical demands in state education, whilst women contributed to Labour's advance to power in urban Britain.

The philanthropic endeavours of women assisted in addressing the division between East and West London and the social disorder experienced in poorer areas. Eveline Lowe (the first woman chairman of the London County Council) was particularly active in the establishment of social settlements in Bermondsey which aimed to provide mutual support and the opportunity to meet like-minded people, ensuring that the education debate remained under discussion.

From 1888 and the London match-girls strike, women became increasingly involved in political activism. Social movements such as the suffragettes' movement saw women taking more important roles at local government level.

Mary Bridges Adams' working class social origins shaped her view of the importance of the relationship between knowledge and power. Representing Greenwich on the London School Board provided Mary with the opportunity to voice her views in a political context. Fundamental to Mary's success were the strong women's guilds of the Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society. Interestingly, Mary's welfare demands to the board, including free education up to university, maximum class sizes of thirty, and free school meals, are recognised in our educational systems today.

Helen Bentwich played an active and key role in the establishment of comprehensive schools after the First World War. Her Anglo-Jewish elite heritage and her mother's philanthropic activities, including the establishment of Jewish clubs for girls, shaped Helen's involvement in the progress of education in London. As Chairman of the London County Council in 1956 she represented a period of matriarchy for the government body with Lady Elizabeth Evelyn Pepler as deputy.

Women were deeply concerned with the development of democracy and citizenship, an increasing number of them felt compelled to take social and political action, and their endeavours were aided by a vastly changing political landscape.

The Origins and legacy of the George Padmore Supplementary School',

Remi Harris and Sarah Garrod

The speakers discussed the development and revival of the George Padmore School, giving an insight into the early period of the Black Education Movement based in North London. Launched in 1970, the George Padmore School was one of the first supplementary schools for black children. It was set up by Trinidadian poet, writer, publisher and activist John La Rose in response to a national education system perceived to be prejudiced against black children.

In 1969 an Anti-banding campaign by parents protested against proposals by the Haringey Education Committee; a report adopted by Haringey Borough Council written by Alderman Alfred Doulton claimed that children from West Indian immigrant backgrounds had low IQs which accounted for the poor academic performance in schools with significant West Indian populations. A high proportion of West Indian children were placed in Educationally Sub-Normal (ESN) Schools. Undercover work revealed and publicised inadequate educational provision for black children in these schools. In the national curriculum there was no provision for teaching black history and culture in state schools with very few books or resources available.

In March 1969 John La Rose began to experiment with the idea of providing supplementary education to address the perceived prejudice experienced by black children. With five children, several of whom were drawn from his family he set up the Albertina Sylvester Supplementary School for primary school children and the George Padmore Supplementary School for secondary pupils.

The Albertina Sylvester School had one trained teacher plus a teaching assistant and was attended by around 10 children. Classes were held on Saturdays between 11:00-1:00pm. Attendance at the George Padmore School was divided into two groups for lower and upper secondary years; both groups had around 14 students with one trained teacher and one teaching assistant per group. Classes were held after school on Mondays and Fridays and from 1975 on Saturdays as well. Subjects included Pan African history and culture. The schools were managed by volunteers and parents were asked to contribute £1 per month to help with running costs. Communal meetings were held every month for teachers, parents and students to increase a sense of solidarity at a time when mainstream schools discouraged parent/teacher associations.

From 1975 John La Rose, parents and teachers became more involved in the Black Parents Movement which campaigned for social and political reform in policing, education, housing and unemployment. The number of black supplementary schools, youth clubs and sporting activities increased. In October 1975 the decision was taken to merge several black supplementary schools in North London to maximise use of resources. The merged schools looked to obtain permanent premises but funding was insufficient.

The school reformed as the George Padmore Supplementary School in the late 1980s.

Education for a new social order: Kingsley Hall

Alice Mackay

Kingsley Hall was successful in receiving a Your Heritage Grant in 2008. Project Archivist Alice Mackay gave a presentation on the Muriel Lester collection, discussing the educational ideas and practices of the Lesters at Kingsley Hall.

Sisters Doris Lester (1886-1965) and Muriel Lester (1883-1968) founded Kingsley Hall upon their Christian, feminist, pacifist and socialist principals. Christian socialism was at the heart of their family life. They were both compulsive writers so their ideals and educational work are well documented.

In February 1915 the first Kingsley Hall opened in an old chapel in Bow. The Lesters built relationships with the local community and the old chapel was redecorated with local volunteers. They wanted to build a new social and learning environment in which the community would actively participate. They saw children as real hope for the world and wanted to nurture through them a generation which would contribute to a socialist utopia based on Christian principles. The emphasis was on the development of the whole person; mind, body and spirit.

They emphasised that their mission was not one of pitying charity; it was for the whole community and belonged to the community. Politically active, they maintained a pacifist position throughout both world wars and had strong links to the suffragette movement. The fact that Gandhi stayed at Kingsley Hall when he visited in 1931 is indicative of the Lesters' internationalism. Muriel travelled around the world in the 1930s promoting peace missions and lecturing at conferences.

The Lester's raised a lot of money to build Children's House. Charles Cowles-Voysey was the architect who designed the house in 1923 to provide an ideal home for children; it provided Montessori apparatus, a lending library, hot dinners and a playground on the roof. Outings were organised for children and parents. Sunday school was an opportunity for older children to have a learning experience. The Children's House reports show that young people were encouraged to think for themselves and have their own discussions.

Oral history is being used to get an impression of Kingsley Hall's long term achievement. Interviews with people who were involved in Kingsley Hall's history suggest that the Lester's vision of pacifism and internationalism live on through the generations of people in Bow's community.

Aspects of electrical engineering in London

Dr Brian Bowers

Dr Bowers explored education in nineteenth century London through the lives of four engineers; Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875), REB Crompton (1845-1940), J Ambrose Fleming (1849-1945) and Alexander Trotter (1857-1947)

Charles Wheatson's family manufactured and sold musical instruments in Gloucester. Although he did not have much interest in the commercial side of the family business Wheatson was fascinated by the science of music; how instruments work and the transmission of sounds. He experimented in his father's shop with musical instruments and his 'Enchanted Lyre' brought

him to the public's attention. He continued to experiment with sound and was recognised by the scientific community, gaining credit for his design of an experiment to measure the velocity of electricity in a wire. He was a pioneer of electrical measurements and invented the first practical electrical telegraph, and the concertina. In 1834 he was appointed professor of experimental philosophy (practical physics) at Kings College London. Kings College London and the Institute of Engineering and Technology archives hold collections on Wheatson for further interest.

Crompton was from a wealthy family; he had a workshop on the family estate where he designed and built his own steam engine; bluebell. He was a naval cadet and at the age of 11 he travelled to the Crimea just after the end of the war to visit his brother. He then returned to Harrow for his education. He joined the British Army and served in India where he developed steam transport for the army. After his return from India, Crompton decided to pursue his interest in engineering. He worked for engineering company Dennis & Co where he designed a mechanical foundry for iron pipes. The company ran day and night, so good lighting was needed. He went to Paris to learn about and import electrical lights but thought he could improve on the design. He developed his own and bought out Dennis & Co. The company became a major force in the electrical industry. The Science Museum Archives hold material on Crompton.

J Ambrose Fleming was from an enterprising though not wealthy family. His ambition was to become a professional engineer but his family couldn't afford the training. Educated at UCL and Cambridge, he had to work for his income. He worked as a science teacher to enable his education to continue and worked as a scientific advisor to the Edison Electrical Light Company. He joined UCL as Professor of Electrical Engineering, the first post in the country. He became Scientific Adviser to the Marconi Company and in 1904 invented the thermionic valve, the invention that made radio practical. He is also famous for the left hand rule for electrical motors. UCL archives and Sidmouth Museum are good resources for more information

Alexander Trotter's education began by attending Christmas Lectures at the Royal Institution. He became the editor of *The Electrician* and an electrical advisor to the Board of Trade and was a well-known figure in the world of engineering. He attended as a commissioner the first big exhibition of electrical engineering in Paris in 1881.

Examination papers taken by prospective electrical engineers held at the IET archives show that a good general education was important. Exams included an English essay, suggesting a desire to produce cultured, educated engineers. However as the career of these four prominent engineers demonstrate, practical experience and passion for the subject were essential.

Panel Session, Chaired by Andrea Tanner.

How are Archives used for Educational purposes?

Roland Allen from Big Wheel Theatre Company, Maureen Roberts from London Metropolitan Archives, and Richard Daniels from Stanley Kubrick Archives, University of Arts, London.

The panel session focussed on the profile of archives in institutions and amongst the public and how this impacts on their use in public engagement.

Maureen Roberts, LMA Interpretation Officer talked about her role in promoting the 2005 acquisition of the Huntley Archives; the records of one of the first black publishers in Britain in the early 1960s. Maureen believed members of the public would be interested and inspired by this collection; part of her role is to encourage public engagement through organising events such as conferences, exhibitions, festivals, workshops, community groups, creative writing classes and digitisation. There is an annual conference which uses the Huntley Archive, opening it up to community groups. Activities and programmes based around collections establishes links with the local community and also teaches people research methods. A key challenge is convincing people of the importance of archives within institutions as well as individual's archives. Maureen emphasises that it is important to educate people about what constitutes an archive and to encourage people to deposit theirs.

Richard Daniels, senior archivist at the University of the Arts Stanley Kubrick archive has established an educational programme based around the archive which is embedded in teaching across the university in a wide range of courses such as script writing, photography, set design and research skills. He also gives tour of the archive for school and university groups from around the country. He shares Maureen's concern about the position and value of archives within institutions and believes there is a need to teach more widely about archives; what they are and why they are important.

The Big Wheel Theatre Company interprets archives in a unique and creative way. The emphasis is on facilitation; theatre is used to help people to engage with archives. People have different ways of learning and Artistic Director Roland Allen advocates flexibility in approach. Roland discussed the diversity of topics tackled by the company from the government's standing on mental health issues to teaching French. With creativity even very young age groups can appreciate and learn from archives. They have recently been involved in 'Winning Endeavours', a project bringing together resources related to the Olympic Games. The Big Wheel Theatre Company has facilitated training sessions for archivists seeking to use sporting themes in their outreach programmes.

The emphasis in the discussion was on challenging people's expectations in helping them to understand what an archive is and the variety of ways in which public engagement with archives can be achieved for educational purposes.

Report by Alice Kirke

Visit Report: National Archives Maps

The November visit was to the National Archives where our hosts were Rose Mitchell, Map Archivist, and Andrew Janes. Andrew will be known to many members as he is a member of the AfL communications team, and he gave a talk before letting us loose on the displays that had been set out.

The map collection at the National Archives is strongest in records of the 19th and 20th centuries. It

holds maps not just of Great Britain and Ireland, but also of a number of colonies, and of some areas that were never colonies, but which were of interest to sailors, explorers or administrators. It is reckoned to hold some six million items, but no one knows for sure.

One reason for this is the question "what is a map?". If I make a drawing of my back garden, is it a map? Or rather, where should we draw the line between a map and a plan (which the garden drawing might be better called) — probably whatever definition you come up with there will be exceptions. Is the world-famous 'map' of the London Underground a map? It does not represent distances or directions at all accurately, but it shows you how to get from Amersham to Brixton. What else do you use a map for? Then there are topographical views, hydrographic and marine charts, town plans, railway-workers maps (very specialist), battlefield maps for military history.

No map can show everything, what is put in and what left out are a reflection of both the map-maker's knowledge, and what he thinks will be useful to his intended users: the old road atlas I keep in the car shows no railway lines at all. Maps of the same place at different points in time can be a source of historical knowledge as they may show how a place has developed, although they may just reveal different styles of map-making.

The display that had been set out covered four tables, each with a theme: Finding Your Way, Town and Country, Empire, and War and Peace. On the last table a map with reference locations of flying camels caused laughter: no not some amazing animal used by Lawrence of Arabia, but the Sopwith Camel airplane, which came into use c1917.

Also in the display: a hand-drawn map by Livingstone showing the course of the Zambezi; two maps of St. Helena, which showed that at some point Napoleon and the Governor had swapped houses. The tithe maps of 1836, and the valuation office survey started in 1910, are both popular sources of information with family historians, the latter especially as it can be correlated with the 1911 census which has been released. (Ordnance Survey maps are not at the National Archives, they are subject to legal deposit.)

There is a new web site under development, a test version can be accessed at discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk. You can search using AND and OR: the query "clerkenwell AND map" brings 13 results, but "clerkenwell AND (map OR plan)" brings 32. The parentheses are essential: "clerkenwell AND map OR plan" brings back several thousand results, for reasons which those who know boolean algebra will readily understand.

The editor, on behalf of all those who went, extends his thanks to all those involved in organising this visit.

SEMINAR REPORTS

Archives for London AGM and seminar London's Local Archives - Shape of Things to Come

The AGM was held in 8 Spetmber 2011. The three speakers were: Oliver Morley (Chief Executive and Keeper at The National Archives); David Mander, OBE (Chair of Archives for London); and Isobel Watson (Friends of Hackney Archives).

Oliver spoke about TNA's new responsibility for the archives sector arising from the demise of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) with effect from October. His PowerPoint presentation began with a picture of ships at sea which he felt was appropriate given the current situation. He said that it was not a picture of battleships, as some had suggested! Rather, it was a convoy to illustrate the concept of together for strength in tough times.

There has been limited time for TNA to plan for this given that it was only in July 2010 that closure of MLA was announced. This was followed in December 2010 by the announcement that responsibility for museums and libraries would be transferred to the Arts Council England (ACE), with no mention of what would happen to archives. In April this year the new role for TNA was confirmed.

Wider funding such as Renaissance grants will stay with ACE but TNA will liaise with ACE.

TNA's goal will be to create a stronger sector in tough times taking note of:

- The unique statutory position which requires archives to be maintained and access provided
- The essential local legacy
- The fact that archives are often at minimum sustainable level already
- There are more ways to scale up : Sectors and Boundaries
- Looking for partners that can work together

Within the culture sector, archives has taken the least hit so far – about 5%.

With the merger that gave rise to the Archives and Records Association and the demise of MLA there are fewer partners and so it will be easier to come together when necessary.

TNA understands users in a way that some other bodies do not. TNA will have a three-pronged responsibility to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport:

- Leadership and consultation
- Policy – information and advice
- Strategic engagement.

Currently TNA is involved in 15 new cataloguing projects; 26 traineeships; 104 archives in a national digitisation project; £1m funding for research and support for a web continuity project. In the future it will be providing single leadership for the sector; integrated support services; technical and commercial support; and an archives accreditation scheme. In October TNA will relaunch its website to reflect its new role.

David Mander spoke about the proposed merger of Bexley and Bromley library services. The plan seems to be to streamline back office functions while minimising changes to front line services.

Hammersmith and Fulham Archives is likely to be the

first to adopt the partnership model put forward by London Metropolitan Archives. The cuts proposed for Camden have been reduced and acceptable solutions are being looked for. In the current climate, the choice appears to be between locality on the one hand and quality and cost on the other.

In the final talk, Isobel Watson gave a very impassioned plea for local history centres which was well received. In some ways the general public recognises the value of these centres more than archives but they can be seen by professionals as of less value. Very often a wealth of local knowledge is provided by staff at local history centres that is not always available at archives.

History of the Christmas Card Anna Flood on 1 December



The history of the Christmas card was the suitably festive theme of British Postal Museum and Archives (BPMA) Archivist Anna Flood's talk. The BPMA has a large number of Christmas cards in its collections, and Anna showed us a selection of cards from the 1800s to the 1950s. The commercial production of printed cards to be sent during yuletide first began in earnest in 1843, when civil servant Henry Cole produced a family themed card to be sent via the Penny Post, introduced in 1840. The introduction of Christmas greetings cards coincided with the publication of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', in addition to a number of other now commonplace Christmas traditions, such as the decorated evergreen tree and the exploding cracker.

These were not the first cards that were sent. There had been a longer tradition of sending cards at New Year, and cards at Valentine's Day are also recorded earlier than Christmas cards.

By the late-1800s, the sending of cards for Christmas was extremely popular, and the card making industry developed rapidly, especially following improved printing technology. Fine art cards became common, though many people still made their own cards by hand. The imagery of early cards were often indistinguishable from Valentine's cards, but traditional Christmas symbolism soon became prevalent, such as holly and ivy, robins and Saint Nicholas. Cards could also reflect social trends and reveal social attitudes. By far the most touching cards were those sent by the men in the trenches during the First World War to their loved ones. Beautifully embroidered and carefully looked after until posted, the cards show how important they were to boosting morale.

That Christmas Day was a working day for postmen, even into the 1960s, was illustrated by cards which were postmarked '25 Dec'



AfL Events: Seminars and visits

Note: these details are given in good faith but may be subject to last minute changes: please check your monthly emails to confirm that an event is going ahead as noted here.

Visits

If you book a visit and are then unable to attend, please let Lucy know: some visits are oversubscribed and we may be able to re-use your place; if not we can advise our hosts of smaller numbers. On one visit last year, 6 people failed show, but only one let us know in advance.

February 22 at 2pm Kingston Museum and Heritage Service led by Jill Lamb, 20 people
 March 22 at 2pm News International Archive, 20 people
 April 23 at 11am Drapers Hall, led by Penny Fussell, 30 people
 May 20 at 2pm East End Walks, led by David Rosenberg, 20 people

Seminars

The following seminars are planned: please check your monthly email for last minute changes.

2 Feb *Maps of London* with Peter Barber, British Library
 1 March *Researching retail in London* with Neil Taylor, retail archives researcher
 5 April *Central Sources for Pauper History and the Nineteenth Century London Poor* with Paul Carter (TNA)
 3 May Title to be advised: a talk by Ruth Richardson, based on her book:
Dickens and the Workhouse: Oliver Twist and the London Poor

Non AfL notices

Bishopsgate Institute always has a varied programme of talks, walks and lunchtime concerts. The programme for January to June 2012 can be seen at www.bishopsgate.org.uk/events and includes events celebrating Dickens (born 1812), the Queen's diamond jubilee, and of course the London Olympics.

Lambeth Archives are closing for an annual stock-take from 23 January until Monday 6 February.

Who Do You Think You Are: Family historians will not need reminding that the this year's instance of the now annual *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* comes to London's Olympia on 24-26 February.

Titanic: At the start of January the National Archives was advertising that they still have a few places left for their conference on 14 April, dealing with the Titanic disaster and the social milieu of the time.

National Archives releases: The National Archives has released a batch of files from 1981. Under the PREM19 (Prime Minister) series are files from Margaret Thatcher's second year of office. A year of turmoil and spending cuts, say the news release — *plus ça change*. It was also the year the SDP was founded.

Olympics

The next newsletter will be coming out in May 2012, just before the London Olympics. If you have any material on the theme of Archives and Olympics that might be of interest to others, especially pictures, that we may use (without infringing copyright, or with due acknowledgement), please let the editor know.

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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