



Newsletter

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Chairman's Letter May 2012

2012 is a year of global focus on London. In June we have Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, and later in the summer the Olympic and Paralympic Games. London is also celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens with worldwide contributions. All these activities owe something to the records kept of past events which inform us of how things worked or the sort of celebrations that were held for earlier anniversaries. From records and images of Royal barges and processions, to documents and films of the previous Olympiads held in London, and to Dickens' manuscripts and correspondence, it is clear that archives score highly in assisting with these events and celebrations, but one difference is that now, archives are created consciously and proactively leading up to events, such as the Diamond Jubilee, which website: <http://www.thediamondjubilee.org/> invites everyone to send a message to Her Majesty and enables access to archival documents and images as in *Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Scrapbook* www.queen-victorias-scrapbook.org

The People's Record : Recording the impact of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: <http://www.peoplesrecord.org.uk/>

The National Archives are: *'...are working to ensure that records created before, during and after the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Cultural Olympiad are well managed, permanently preserved and appropriately shared.'*

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/london-2012.htm>

Archives for London of course has its own contribution to make in the *Winning Endeavours* website <http://www.winningendeavours.org/> join in a walk and quiz. The AfL programme discusses the AfL 2012 conference about *Dickens' London* join us in October. Meanwhile see Dickens 2012: <http://www.dickens2012.org/> a co-ordination by the Charles Dickens Museum, Film London and The Dickens Fellowship.

Now to highlight AfL's advocacy work; we take Archive Services and any threat to them very seriously and get involved as much as possible. David Mander reports on advocacy with Camden and on Hammersmith and Fulham Archives Services. David and I discussed The Women's Library position with Paul Bow-

ler, Deputy CEO of London Metropolitan University. We are satisfied that LMU is actively engaged in looking for a positive long-term outcome for the Women's Library and that AfL will be kept updated on developments. A timely reminder to Archive Services and Users that AfL has a 'healthcheck' service: *The AfL archives healthcheck has been designed to help archive services identify key information and opportunities in light of current economic and political environment. It will also inform AfL's advocacy activities. For more information go to <http://www.archivesforlondon.org/healthcheck/>*

Deputy Chairman Siân Wynn-Jones writes: Archives for London again took a stand at the *Who Do You Think You Are? (WDYTYA?) Live* weekend at Olympia in February. Which attracted more than 12,700 visitors.

For many people, family history is their first contact with archives, and 70 per cent of these people don't go to any similar events. AfL volunteers were busy all weekend promoting our passion and expertise of how to get more out of London's archives through AfL's events and special projects such as *Winning Endeavours*. The leaflets and information from our institutional members proved very popular again - we're aware how difficult it is for individual archives to be at this event and are proud to advocate on your behalf.

AfL's presence at WDYTYA? Live is a big commitment in both time and money; special thanks to everyone who volunteered and to Kings College Archives for a financial donation to help us be there.

We must here celebrate the recruitment of **13 new members** at the event! A big welcome to you all.

AfL is that unique body, an organisation for Users and Practitioners alike, please add your voice: send in your archival news, include services used, events and experiences eg contrasts with past and present Jubilee's and Olympics.

Enjoy the coming festivities.

With Best wishes

Anne Barrett: Chairman Archives for London

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Camden Archives and Local Studies service

The deliberations of the Camden Local Studies and Archives Reference Group on the future of Camden's archives and local studies service (CASLS) concluded in December. The Group was chaired by Camden's Deputy Leader, Cllr Sue Vincent, who is also a councillor for the Holborn ward which includes Holborn Library where CALHS is based and included representatives from local groups, TNA and Archives for London. Release of the final report was delayed by illness of Cllr Vincent and by issues raised by the Camden History Society (CHS) and Archives for London.

The terms of reference of the report were modified to exclude any debate on staffing, and in the event the CASLS establishment has been reduced by a further two posts, seeing the loss of any designated library posts and through redundancy and retirement losing considerable expertise in the process. The Archivist becomes the effective service manager and the part time conservation post is retained.

The Group was able to contribute to recommendations on reductions to opening hours. The new pattern provides 28 hours per week on Monday, Tuesday (10-6), Thursday 10-7) with alternative Saturday openings from 11-5pm. In addition the service will provide appointment only access on Fridays.

The report supported retaining the service at Holborn, with short term provision to move the storage and conservation facility into Holborn Library to allow the Cockpit Yard premises to be redeveloped. In the longer term there is the promise to look at including CASLS in any redevelopment on this site.

AfL and CHS had raised concerns over some of the more optimistic targets to develop the service, notably on expanding outreach, undertaking new digitisation work, raising additional income (in part from a potential partnership with the British Library to showcase selective Camden images on their website) and seeking external partnership working. All of these would greatly improve service delivery and value for money, but both bodies were concerned that the reduced service lacked the capacity to implement any proposals without additional support from senior management. In the event we did not get the assurance we were seeking for a capacity assessment, though there have been some indication in the form of emails from the Head of Camden's Library Service that support will be provided to take

forward ideas of partnership and premises development. The reductions in staff have not been accompanied by reductions in income generation and even with the reduced opening hours we remain concerned that available resources will be directed to meeting those targets and keeping up public service delivery.

There is the potential for service development. Continued monitoring will be needed by local groups and AfL to see what Camden Council actually achieves.

Hammersmith and Fulham Archives

The future of the archive service changed

at the beginning of this year, when the newly formed Tri-Borough Library Service for Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster indicated that it would take an active role in future archive service for Hammersmith and Fulham.

To allow more time to plan new arrangements, the arrangement with the London Metropolitan Archives which has maintained the current opening hours has been extended until the end of May and at this stage the current volunteer support rotas will also finish then. The Tri-borough Director of Libraries and Archives, David Ruse, who now attends the Hammersmith and Fulham Archives Consultation Group meetings, has indicated that it is his intention to ensure continuity of service at Hammersmith once LMA ceases to provide support.

David Mander of AfL continues to chair the Consultation Group and will pass on further developments via the AfL web site.

Above items both by David Mander

The Hundred Years War Re-Evaluated
Forthcoming event at the Tower of London. "This war was one of the most significant conflicts of the later middle ages. A series of bitter wars fought on land and at sea between 1337 and 1453. The legacy of the

wars is manifold, establishing the martial reputations of leading personalities, including Edward the Black Prince and Henry V." (from web site). 29 Sept 2012, for details visit www.royalarmouries.org.

Today ... it's the *Today* Programme.

I was walking into the house wrestling with the weekend luggage realising that my mobile phone was ringing. I answered the phone – 'Sorry to ring you on a Sunday' said the LSE Press Officer, 'but the *Today* programme want someone to go on tomorrow morning and talk about Beatrice Webb's diaries and the LSE Digital Library.' I dropped the luggage, gulped said I'd think about it, panicked for five minutes and then rang back to agree to the gig.

Six thirty the following morning and a car was waiting to whisk me from Ealing to the BBC Television Centre in White City. An assistant escorted me to the Green Room (in reality a glass box with coffee machine and curling sandwiches) and at 7.20am I entered the studio for three minutes of fame. The presenters and interviewees sit at a large round table; John Humphries is reading the papers opposite. The red light is on and we are on air – Justin Webb introduces me and three and a half minutes later I finished talking to around 7 million people. I spent the rest of the day fielding emails from friends and colleagues who had burnt the toast after recognising my voice and found that hits on the LSE Digital Library has spiked at 500 over the day.

Advocacy, promotion, publicity are high priorities for archivists and other heritage professionals in our switched on and wired up world but how do you get the attention we all believe our fabulous collections deserve. At LSE Library we have worked closely with the Press Office to ensure that our news reaches the eyes and ears of colleagues and the general public on a regular basis. The online publication of Beatrice Webb's diaries was a major landmark for LSE marking the launch of the LSE Digital Library a new service designed to provide access to both digitised and born digital materials. The Library and Archives had a plan to get information to professional colleagues and researchers through mailing lists and newsletters but we believed that Beatrice Webb's diaries recounted stories and events of interest to a wider public.

We worked with the Digital Library Manager to draw up a press release spending time looking at the diaries to find

interesting and topical quotes. In the end we went with three main quotes – one on perfidious bankers and the withdrawal from the gold standard in 1931, a second on the delights of shopping for clothes after ten years of work on trade unions and a third about Queen Victoria's Diamond



Picture Beatrice Webb in the 1930s

Jubilee. Sadly Beatrice Webb never commented on the Olympic Games! These quotations were designed to appeal to a wide contemporary audience who might not be interested in the technical issues around building a digital archive but would happily use it.

Most press releases result in articles in magazines, newspapers and online news sites – but if you hand out a press release you need to be prepared to follow through and speak with the press or be interviewed for TV or radio. It pays to be prepared:

- Make sure you know what is in the press release inside out and have interesting snippets to add.
- With twelve hours to prepare for a radio interview I sat down and tried to think of the message we wanted to convey about Beatrice Webb and the Digital Library – I ended up with pages of notes but narrowed them down to three things I particularly wanted to get across. I managed to get two of them into the interview which seems a reasonable hit rate.
- Follow up on the interview broadcast – use Twitter, Facebook, blogs, and notice boards to make sure that everyone at work knows what has happened. This isn't boasting it is publicity!

Live TV or radio is a nerve wracking business, but enthusiasm and interest go a long way and archivists have enthusiasm plus knowledge and expertise in abundance. The former *Today* presenter Brian Redhead once said 'If you want to drop a word in the ear of the nation, then this is the programme on which to do it.' If you have the chance to talk to 7 million people about your archives – you can't turn that down can you?

By Sue Donnelly, Archivist, LSE Library.

Titanic

This newsletter is due out just one month after the sinking of the Titanic. As is well known, the ship collided with an iceberg late in the night of 14th April 1912. It

was 5 days into its maiden voyage, and this was less than a year after the launch in Belfast. The National Archives has assembled a web site with many details of the event, at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/titanic/>.

You can find stories of staff and passengers on the web site. These include records of those known from the passengers manifests to have been on the ship, but who perished in the sinking, many of whose bodies were never recovered, including that of the captain Edward John Smith, and the ship's designer, Thomas Andrews, who was on the voyage. The saddest is that of the Sage family, who planned to start a new life with other family members already in the US, but all 11 family members on the voyage were lost at sea.

Pictures of life on the ship have survived because Francis Browne, a priest, sailed on the ship as far as Cork, where he was recalled. He took over 1000 pictures, held in Irish Picture Library, and a selection has been published in *Father Browne's Titanic Album*.

Lloyds building Visit

The LMA lays on an annual visit for its volunteers (of whom the editor is one), and this year's was to an eerily quiet Lloyds building: quiet, as was much of the city, as it was a Saturday afternoon. The building, now 25 years old, is famous for being 'inside out', with all the lifts and service pipework being located on the outside rather than in a central column. This does mean that the trading floors are completely open. Only the lower 3 floors and the top are used by Lloyds, the intermediate floors being let out to other financial organisations. Much business is still done in person, there being a tradition that you make eye-to-eye contact with the person with whom you are trading.

In spite of a modern building, there is still some tradition: the staff who handle messages for the traders are still called waiters, and remind us that Lloyds takes its name from Edward Lloyd, who ran a coffee shop in Lombard Street c.1695. The building has a central well, in the middle of which hangs the Lutine Bell, which was rung to bring news, one bell for bad news, two for good: today its use is largely ceremonial.

On floor 11 we looked down the central well to the Bell, and were taken in to the Adam Room. Amazingly, the room dates from 1763, was bought in its entirety in 1958 and installed in the old building when the new building was planned it was dismantled piece by piece and then re-installed on the 11th floor (interactive image at www.lloyds.com/flash/Adam-Room/main.htm). One thing that was not there in 1763 is a set of hidden spotlights which are directed to shine precisely on the pictures which decorate the walls.



Picture: The Lutine Bell in the present Lloyds Building

Early London Playhouses

The December 2011 issue of *Genealogists' Magazine* contains an article by Jessica Freeman about the playhouses of Tudor London. The Globe and the Swan, both associated with Shakespeare, together with the Rose and the Hope, lay to the south of the Thames. The earliest firm date we have for any of these is 1587, for the Rose.

On the north of the River, mainly to the east of London, we know of Red Lion (1567), the Theatre (1576), the Curtain (1577), all earlier. There is no record in London of anything like the mediaeval 'mystery' cycles

of York and Chester, although there may have been occasional plays such as that in Clerkenwell in 1408, which is recorded in *The Great Chronicle of London* (of c.1512: published 1938, edited by A.H. Thomas and I.D. Thornley).

Freeman notes that there are records from c.1530 of plays performed in the livery halls of London. The courtyards of coaching houses were also appropriated for theatrical purposes from time to time, and bear-baiting and fighting competitions were popular entertainments in these less 'refined' arenas. Freeman's article also mentions the problems that the theatres were believed to cause: failure to attend church, apprentices skiving off to see a play. It all seems quite modern. The web site <http://www.emlot.kcl.ac.uk/> (Early Modern London Theatres) will tell you more about the theatres.

Bishopsgate Institute

The library and institute are a constant source of

material and events. For those interested in the history of the Olympics, which I hardly need remind you come to London soon, June sees a series of lectures on the Olympics. There are discussion sessions on the politics of sport, the commercialisation of the games, what might the legacy of the Olympics be after this year, what did previous Olympics leave behind (there were Olympics in London in 1908 and 1948)?

Recent Bishopsgate newsletters have recorded, inter alia, the arrival of the Feminist Library Ephemera Collection, which contains over 5,000 items detailing the activities of the women's movement from the 1970's onwards. The Feminist Library Pamphlet Collection is already fully catalogued and available for searching via our online Library Catalogue.

There are also six illustrated brochures describing our special historical collections. The institute claims to have over 100 archive collections and over 100,000 printed items covering the themes of London history, labour history, freethought and humanism, co-operation, and protest and campaigning. All the holdings are available for consultation in the dedicated Researchers' Area.

Short subject guides covering the holdings on the above topics, and also Lesbian and Gay topics, the Newsmedia Archive and London History can be downloaded from the website.

Visit www.bishopsgate.org.uk for full details.

The Institute has also put online a collection of photographs of Spitalfields taken by Charles Goss 100 years ago, just before WW1. The best of them just has to be the one of the shop named the *Norton Folgate Toilet Club*. This appears to incorporate a barbers shop, as the placard on the wall, clearly readable in the picture, advertises Haircutting, and Wet and Dry Shampoo, all at 3^d a go (for youngsters, just over 1p).

Go to spitalfieldslife.com and search for Goss.

Web sites

Network rail have created a website which holds an on-line archive of drawings and plans. The editor's personal reaction to the website was that it would be fascinating to those with an interest in railway architecture or the technical side of railway operations, as there appear to be quite a few architectural drawings and plans: those of station buildings will certainly interest students of urban architecture, but those of track layouts are definitely for specialists. London seems to be sparsely represented: there were images of Paddington station, but little else that I could find: I understand the archive is based at York.

Most of the images can be bought on-line, and are water-marked to prevent copying. Visit www.networkrail.co.uk/VirtualArchive

Maps : The University of Portsmouth, the Great Britain Historical GIS team and Klokant Technologies have a new web site, Old Maps Online www.oldmapsonline.org

The press release stated that the site "does not itself contain any old maps, but rather the catalogues of, currently, five map collections", which were detailed as those of, A Vision of Britain through Time, The British Library, David Rumsey Collection, Moravian Library, National Library of Scotland. The release adds: "There are a bit over 60,000 maps accessible via Old Maps Online, and currently they are mostly for Britain. To be included, the maps have to be:

- Scanned;
- Freely and directly accessible online;
- Geo-referenced, so we know the real-world coordinates of the corners."

Although the site does not contain maps, a simple click on the description in most cases takes you to an on-line scan of the map. The publicity states:

"You can search for maps in Old Maps Online not by the name of the author or the sheet title, but by the area the map covers and the date. Searching is done by using a map: for a given area, zoom into where you are interested in; ... There are timeline sliders to narrow the focus.

"The maps that best match your area of interest are listed on the right. Click on the thumbnail image for a pop-up with more details, and click on the bigger thumbnail in the pop-up to go to the full image at the relevant map library."

The site is up and running today, and the administrators say that it will expand substantially over the coming year as collections are added. Although currently strongest for the UK, coverage is global and there are already many maps for the rest of Europe. The editor found it very easy to use and search.

The oldest London map I found was dated 1666, showing the area devastated by the fire of that year, so very possibly surveyed in 1667. The collection seems rich in early nineteenth century maps of London boroughs. As the publicity says, the maps are freely available, although be aware of copyright if the maps are to be used for more than private research.

Perspectives on the Great War

There is already interest in looking at the centenary of

the Great War, World War 1. Queen Mary, University of London has already announced a conference to run 1-4 August 2014. The following is a summary of their press release:

Following an initial announcement and having found a considerable level of interest, we are now able to provide further information about this interdisciplinary conference.

The ideal objective will be the formation of an international scholarly community with its own digital presence and programme of events to follow up what could be an initial gathering of colleagues with similar interests.

The key-note speakers will be Professors Elza Adamowicz (London), Christopher Clark (Cambridge), Jonathan Steinberg (Pennsylvania) and Sam Williamson (Sewanee History Project).

Broad Topics will be Political and military history; colonial history; social and cultural history; religious history; medical science and technology; historiography; discourse analysis; legacy, memory and 21st-century cultural reflexes. *(Press release ends)*

Apart from the above, we expect the Imperial War Museum to act as a focus for many activities. The British Association for Local History (BALH) is also starting to plan activities for the centenary, although it has not announced its plans yet.

Who Do You Think You Are? Live



Report on AfL's presence at the 2012 show by Sarah Hale.

I attended WDYTIA? on the Saturday morning and we certainly seemed to talk to a lot of people. By mid-morning the exhibition hall was very busy and over 100 people dropped by the AfL stall. AfL was located in the 'London' area of the exhibition hall, along with various other London and south-east based local history societies. Quite a number of people we talked to assumed that we were an archive repository and asked us what kind of records we held, but luckily this gave us the opportunity to set the record straight and spread the word about who we are and what we do!

As a delegate I was given a free pass to attend one of the pre-booked talks, on how to use social media websites such as Friends Reunited, Facebook and Twitter, for family history purposes. Though obviously aimed more at researchers than archive practitioners, this was a very interesting talk as it revealed an aspect of family history research that I not previously considered.

This was the first time I had attended WDYTIA Live and it was an eye-opening experience. There was a great atmosphere in the hall (I particularly enjoyed spotting the people dressed up in military uniforms and medieval costume) and it was wonderful to meet so many people who have a passion for history and archives.

Isaac Newton

Isaac Newton (1664-1727) studied at Trinity College as a sizar, the poorest grade of student, many of whom did menial tasks for wealthier students to earn their places. His family could have funded him: he seems to have fallen out with his mother after she re-married. He studied in Cambridge, where he spent much of his life, becoming Lucasian Professor of Mathematics there (a post more recently held by Stephen Hawking), and famously arguing in the fledgling Royal Society about optics with Robert Hooke in 1672, after which he had little to do with the Society until Hooke's death in 1702 when Newton returned to London and became its president.

Newton's more scientific writings remain with his university, in Cambridge. Many have been put online and can be viewed at cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/newton. Although his most famous work, the Principia, is in Latin, some are in English.

However, in his later life Newton turned to studies less orthodox by today's standards, and wrote about alchemy, Kabbalism and the Talmud, the geometry of Solomon's Temple, and interpretations of the Bible. Much of his alchemical work ended up in the possession of Maynard Keynes, but the religious writings passed on to a Jewish document collector, Abraham Yahuda, who attended the same auction in 1936. The collection went to the Jerusalem National and University Library, who have put the data online at <http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/collections/Humanities/Pages/newton.aspx>:

"Newton, even at this relatively late historical stage, was by no means atypical. His belief that scripture provided a code to the natural world was one held by other commentators. The way in which all manner of apparently disparate areas of study – theology, alchemy, divination, physics, optics, healing and plain old black magic – intertwined in this particular age is itself an area of study in which both philosophers of science and historians of the esoteric have been taking some interest." (quote from Liz Williams in the Guardian) This is the material that found its way to Jerusalem. Much of the on-line text is in Latin, which Newton learnt at a young age.

Information can also be found at the University of Sussex's Newton Project at <http://www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk>.

Taken from the Guardian newspaper's web site.

Central Office of Information Films

The Central Office of Information (COI) has been wound up. It was famous for its films, and the British Film Institute National Archive is to acquire its archive of over 20,000 films. The earliest films date back to before the war, and reflect many of the important issues of their day. Early post-war films dealt with the consequences of reconstruction. The 1970s saw film to promote personal and road safety – telling children how to cross the road – and more recent films have covered important subjects such as climate change, internet safety, and how to survive a nuclear attack

Amanda Nevill, chief executive BFI said, "The COI

films are wonderful and important examples of British filmmaking. Often quirky and eccentric these films over the last 66 years tell rich and diverse stories about British life. The fact that they were used so effectively by Government departments really demonstrates the power that film has in capturing the nation's attention and influencing Britain and we are very proud that the BFI National Archive is the films new guardian."

As the successor body to previous Government bodies with film interests - at the General Post Office with its famous GPO Film Unit, then the Ministry of Information and its Crown Film Unit, the COI was set up in 1946. This rich tradition of British public service filmmaking, preserved and curated by the BFI, yielded over 45,000 titles.

With thanks to the Guardian newspaper's web site.

St Giles Rookery

Camden Library in Holborn runs a series of lectures on local history topics relating to the area. One of the April talks was on the St Giles 'rookery', which has also been the subject of a MoLA report following redevelopment of the site in 2006, occasioned by the demolition of an MoD building. A double basement had disturbed the archaeology in part of the site, but the part that had been used as a car park yielded results.

The area, as the name St Giles in the Fields suggests, was at one time open fields. There are records of a leper hospital in the area, away from the city and probably associated with a religious foundation, and swept away under Henry VIII. It seems to have become a more popular area thereafter, and occupation grew from c.1600, and notably after the Fire (1666), so that by 1725 it is described as wealthy.

Alongside this the period 1685-1715 also saw the number of dwellings rise by 50%, 2000 to 3000, and of the latter over 500 acted as gin shops: this was the start of the 'rookery' period. The expression *a cellar in St. Giles's* came to denote the lowest poverty (quoted by Parton in 1822). Hogarth's 1750 etching Gin Lane is set in the area – he shows the tower of St George Bloomsbury in the background. At the time of the rookery the area was a complete warren of narrow streets and houses into which one ventured at one's peril, and no reliance should be placed on any maps of the area from this time: the surveyors probably just guessed.

Joseph Kirkman had a brewery on the site in from 1785 (was there a previous one?), and apparently lived on site, so there were some well-to-do people. At the end of the wars with France in 1815 discharged soldiers, many with little money and no employment, settled in the area. However, with a new workhouse post 1834 the area seems to have started to improve – perhaps one of the few places that got better under the New Poor Law.

Strand Lives

Kings College has been presenting a series of talks under the title *Strand Lives*. They look at people and institutions that have been based in that street. The newsletter editor got along to the last two of the series.

Somerset House is named after Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, who, on the accession in 1547 of the 'boy king' Edward VI, became Lord Protector and acquired the title Duke of Somerset. He had already acquired part of the site, which had been the site of an inn, a church and an inn of chancery. He cleared the buildings there, and commissioned a new palace to be built. He never lived to see it completed: Seymour fell from grace and was executed in 1552, at which time it was said to be still incomplete. Part of the rubble that was cleared from the site may now underlie Kings College in the Strand. The house acted as a palace for several of the royal consorts during the following centuries, one the earliest being Anne of Denmark, wife of James I, from whom for a time it acquired the name Denmark House: later Catherine of Braganza, queen of Charles II, and lastly Queen Charlotte, George III's queen, in 1761. A little later it was described as old, ramshackle, but "rather romantic".

The **Royal Academy** was founded in 1768 and spent its first few years in Pall Mall, at a site now occupied by the Institute of Directors. In 1771 the state apartments of Somerset House were made available to it, but only for a short time, as demolition of old Somerset House commenced 1776. The building that stands today was erected piecemeal, its construction proceeding in parallel with the demolition of the old one. At this time the Strand was not the most salubrious of streets being frequently lined with prostitutes who took their customers into one of the many inns that lined the road. The R.A.s lived locally in Covent Garden, Soho and Leicester Fields (today's Square), some further out towards Marylebone.

Given by Charles Saumarez Smith chief executive of the RA, this was a wide-ranging and quite absorbing talk.

I regret that were I to include my opinion of the last talk in the series, I would run the risk of having the libel lawyers descend on AfL. I found it was too academic to follow the argument presented, and the connection with Inigo Jones, mentioned in the talk's subtitle *Inigo Jones on the Strand*, escaped me.

The speaker did mention that Inigo Jones designed a number of court masques. These were given before wealthy audiences in enclosed spaces, unlike the theatres of the day that were open to the elements, as anyone who has been to the reconstructed Globe will know. The masques were in many ways precursors of the musical stage-works (can we call them operas?) of Purcell. The Banqueting House, that still survives in Whitehall, was designed by Jones for some of these performances, and has the double cube shape that was thought to be in perfect proportion.

The talks are linked to King's College's web site www.strandlines.net, which is an interesting resource for exploring a street which has for long been a major London highway between the city and the seat of government.

Charles Dickens

Readers will not need reminding that this year is the bicentennial of Charles Dickens birth. There is a Dickens exhibition running at both the Museum of London and in Holborn and Camden Library. And the AfL conference this year, to be held on 6th October will have as its theme 'Dickens' London'. It is being put on in partnership with the Dickens House Museum and the Centre for Metropolitan History, and takes place in the prestigious surroundings of the Chancellor's Hall at the Senate House.

About the exhibition at Camden, Tudor Allen, senior archivist there, writes:

Streets of Dickens currently showing at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre explores the many connections between Charles Dickens and that part of London today forming the borough of Camden. Mounted to mark the bicentenary of the novelist's birth this free exhibition comprises photographs, art works and archives from Camden's collections including original Dickens letters. The author lived in a number of places within the locality, including Furnival's Inn and Doughty Street in the 1830s and Tavistock Square throughout the 1850s. He went to school at the Wellington House Academy on Hampstead Road and worked as an office boy in Gray's Inn in his youth. He worshipped at the Foundling Hospital chapel, raised funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital, drank at Jack Straw's Castle, spoke at the Freemason's Hall, buried his father and daughter at Highgate Cemetery. *Streets of Dickens* includes ample quotations from the great author which show how he drew inspiration for much of his writing from this part of London, describing vividly in his factual pieces areas such as Seven Dials and the St Giles rookery, in his fiction setting many of his most memorable scenes and characters here. Fagin's den was off Saffron Hill, Mrs Gamp lived in Kingsgate Street, Holborn, Pip lodges at Barnard's Inn, the murderer Sikes flees through Hampstead and Highgate. By placing the historic images side by side with the words of the writer, the exhibition aims to bring alive the Camden Dickens knew. For further details and opening hours, visit: <http://camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure/local-history/local-history-news-and-events/>



Picture: Staple Inn on Holborn Hill, late 1860s
© London Borough of Camden

Short notices

A collection of odd items that have crossed the editor's desk and which may be of interest ...

Queen Victoria: The Royal Family has released an archive of letters, journals, paintings and photographs for the launch of a web site chronicling the life and reign of Queen Victoria www.queen-victorias-scrapbook.org. This is in celebration of this year's Diamond Jubilee, and appropriately enough has a section on Victoria's own Jubilee celebrations in 1897.

Alan Turing: Amid celebrations to mark the centenary of his birth, two 70-year-old papers by Alan Turing on the theory of code-breaking have been released by the government's communications headquarters, GCHQ. They are available to view at the National Archives and were dated by a reference in them to Hitler's age. It is believed Turing wrote the papers while at Bletchley Park working on breaking German Enigma codes.

The work at Bletchley park was also fundamental for the early development of the modern digital computer.

The full story is on the BBC web site www.bbc.co.uk/news (and search for Turing).

Colonial Records: A large batch of records from The Foreign Office is being transferred to the National Archives from Hanslope Park in Buckinghamshire, in a programme running through to next November. Many were thought to have been "lost" or destroyed: they were secretly sent back to the UK when former colonies became independent, and shed new light on how British officials ran overseas territories including Kenya, Cyprus and present-day Malaysia. It may be that whilst the papers were at Hanslope, staff were encouraged to believe that they belonged to another organisation whose archive building had been damaged by fire.

The papers record how colonial administrators planned to burn other classified papers - potentially revealing abuses committed under British rule - before handing power to the new indigenous governments. The Colonial Secretary of the time, Iain Macleod, said the aim was to ensure no files were passed to a post-independence regime which "might embarrass any governments (British or otherwise); members of the police, military forces, public servants or others or be used unethically by ministers in the successor Government."

There are suggestions that the present government is continuing a tradition of secrecy, and that the archives contain more papers than they are willing to admit to, or release: however, an academic from Cambridge who is reviewing the release denies this, saying that only 1% of the material has been redacted because of continuing concerns.

Both the Independent and Guardian have versions of this story. More details on either newspapers' web site (put "Hanslope Park" in your search engine).

James Joyce MSS: An interesting spat has developed between the National Library of Ireland (NLI) and Mr. Danis Rose over the manuscripts of the author James Joyce. It is now 70 years since Joyce's death (1941) and the author's copyright has lapsed. Mr. Rose is publishing copies of the works and is claiming copyright.

His editions are being published by an American house in Michigan, which we assume would not be subject to EU law. Naturally enough the NLI is alarmed, as it has its own plans to put the manuscripts online.

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) is to close its existing home at Freeling House, which has very limited space for exhibitions and displays, and open new home at Calthorpe House, on London's Mount Pleasant site, where the country's oldest mail centre is located, and quite close to the existing home of the BPMA.

Royal Mail Group will grant a lease of 999 years for Calthorpe House, a property which will provide a secure foundation for the BPMA once redeveloped and extended. Agreements have been made to fund the conversion of Calthorpe House to meet the basic needs of the organisation. In addition, Royal Mail and POL are providing other support, including a £500,000 grant.

The BPMA is a combined museum and archive, bringing together The Royal Mail Archive and a Museum Store. With collections ranging from staff records to stamps, poster design to photography and from transport to telegrams, it cares for the visual, written and physical records from over 400 years, illuminating the fascinating story of British communications. The Public Records Act 1958 provides that Royal Mail and the Post Office maintain and provide access to records. For more information see www.postalheritage.org.uk.

In 1862 a **Turkish bath** was opened at 76 Jermyn Street: one of its facilities was a needle bath, which sent out fine shots of water, whence the name. The bath continued there until the start of WW2, when it closed, as use had been declining; it was destroyed by a bomb in 1941. There are reports of Auden and Isherwood taking the young Benjamin Britten there in 1937, by which time it had also become something of a 'cruising ground' for gay men: illegal at the time of course, but in an upmarket area of London, and if used discreetly, no doubt the authorities turned a blind eye. A second set of baths survived the war: it included a ladies-only bath, the Savoy baths in Duke of York Street, where Grace Robertson went in with a camera: her photographs survive, and some can be found on-line.

Hawksmoor: a small exhibition in the RA's architecture space documents the work of this architect, who worked with Wren and was designer of 6 churches in London. These include Christ Church Spitalfields, one of the '50 new churches', damaged in WW2 but restored, and now the centre of a music festival every June.

The **National Monuments Record** is now renamed English Heritage Archive: many of its photographs have been digitised and put online. An internet gateway is now available at www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/

Yesterday's News — Visit to News International

Perhaps the most striking feature of London's archives is their diversity. This is true not just of the collections but also of the organisations that look after them. Although I have spent most of my career working with central government records, I am always interested in learning more about business and other private sector archives. As, like me, the News International archive lives in Enfield, the chance to visit it on 2 March with a group of fellow AfL members was too good to miss.

News International is, of course, the company responsible for some of the UK's best-known newspapers: *The Times*, *Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the now-defunct *News of the World*. Although very small compared to some of London's better-known archives, News International's is the largest, as well as the oldest, archive belonging to a UK news organisation archive, and one of the most significant news archives in the world. Head archivist Nick Mays and his assistant Anne Jensen made us very welcome.

The archive moved to Enfield during the summer of 2011 as there was no longer suitable space for it at News International's main site in Wapping. The Enfield site does not belong to News International but is owned and operated by Crown, a multi-national storage and relocation company. Crown also stores News International's semi-current paper records, and records belonging to other clients, on the same site. Members of Crown staff joined us for the visit to explain how their operation works. I was surprised and pleased to learn that I had a personal connection to the site: it used to be occupied by the Belling cooker factory where my grandfather worked for over forty years.

Although Crown is very experienced in providing commercial records storage, News International's is the only historic archive that it looks after, so special (and very thorough) preservation and security arrangements are in place. While, like most institutions, News International has found that perfect compliance with the BS5454 environmental standard is an impossible dream, Crown's specially-constructed archives vault provides a stable and carefully monitored environment. The disaster planning arrangements (i.e. the measures against fire, flood and other emergencies that are so vital for all archives) are particularly impressive.

News International has its own small office and searchroom on the Crown site, enabling Nick and Anne to divide their time between Enfield and Wapping. Although access for external researchers is at the Enfield site, records can be delivered to Wapping at two hours' notice if needed by News International staff. Though unusual, and possibly unique, among London's archives, the working relationship between Crown and News International is clearly very satisfactory for both parties.

A highlight of any AfL visit is always the display of a selection from some of the collections, and this is where Nick and Anne's enthusiasm for their work came across most strongly. Perhaps the most fascinating item in the archive is a *tabua*, a polished whale's tooth from Fiji, symbolic of friendship. This was a gift from the Fijian government to a man who had successfully petitioned the UK government, via

the letters page of *The Times*, to return the Fijian royal mace to its place of origin. Another unusual item is a walking stick belonging to Captain Edward Stirling, the probable originator of 'The Thunderer' as a nickname for *The Times*. More conventional records on display include original letters from Ian Fleming, Josef Stalin, Oscar Wilde and (fittingly in his bicentenary year) Charles Dickens. Offering a unique perspective on news stories of the past, the display made a wonderful end to a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

By Andrew Janes

Bevis Marks

Bevis Marks is the name of a street in London, the name also used for a synagogue in the street. Prompted by a visit, I have been looking at the associated history. The oldest record of the name seems to be as Bewesmarkes, in 1407. The name is possibly a corruption of Buries Markes (Bury's market) as the area was owned by the abbots of Bury St Edmunds until the dissolution: Bury Street still runs nearby. The road is most famous for the synagogue of the same name, the oldest in England, built c1700. After the expulsion of the Jews under Edward I in 1290, they were not legally readmitted until allowed in by Cromwell (who may have wanted to borrow money) during the Commonwealth period. However, it is suggested there were secret communities around Creechurch Lane, who, after celebrating the Sabbath privately in one of their homes, would have gone publicly to one of the local churches on Sunday (to conform with the law). Pepys' diary mentions the precursor synagogue here, recorded by a plaque on Cunard House as used 1657-1701.

The Sephardi Jews, to which congregation this synagogue belongs, were the community expelled from Spain under the edict of 1492 by "Los Reyes Católicos" Isabella and Ferdinand. Many refugees from Spain (possibly 90,000) were taken in by the Ottoman Empire (modern Turkey), but the contingent that came to England were mainly Jews who came via the Netherlands, which was the favoured destination for the Portuguese Jews, expelled later, in 1497.

Right:

The plaque on the wall at the corner of Creechurch Lane and Bury Street (editor's photo)



SEMINAR and VISIT REPORTS

Central Sources for Pauper History and 19th century London Poor

Paul Carter and Andrea Tanner gave the April seminar. Paul Carter is Principal Modern Records Specialist at The National Archives and was Director of the 'Living the Poor Life' project that involved the cataloguing and digitisation of thousands of pages of Victorian workhouse and poor law records. In his talk Paul gave an introduction to the history of pauper welfare in Britain, and how Poor Law records can provide an insight into the lives of everyday people in the 19th century.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 radically changed the way poor relief was distributed in Britain. Prior to 1834, poor relief was provided by the local parishes, but following the Amendment Act, the system was centralised with the introduction of the Poor Law Commission, and the formation of Poor Law Unions, which grouped together several parishes. There was also a strong emphasis on making relief an abhorrent last-resort, with workhouses becoming 'feared institutions'.

TNA hold the records of the Poor Law Commission, which created a central registry system to administer the Amendments. The Commission met regularly, five days a week, and discussed cases from all over the country. As a result a large number of records were created, including Abstracts of Correspondence, records of liaison of the Commission with other government departments such as the Admiralty, and the records of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners. To find out more, TNA have a number of pages on their website devoted to poor law records: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/workhouse.asp>.

Andrea Tanner, Archivist at Fortnum and Mason, gave a talk about the administration of poor relief in the City of London, based on her doctoral thesis. London was a bit of an anomaly for the Poor Law, due to its size and number of inhabitants. There were 108 parishes in London and 101 Poor Law Guardians were created for the Act. Due to the City of London being very wealthy, the union didn't always pay poor rates and so Londoners proved very reluctant to be unionised. Nonetheless the City was still subject to the Amendment Act, and a City of London workhouse was built in Bow Road at a cost of £55,000, which included a chapel with stained glass windows and central heating throughout. Further information about the workhouse can be found here: <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/CityOfLondon/>

Report by Sarah Hale

dealers in wool and cloth, and you had to be a member if you worked in that trade: the fraternity protected and regulated the trade. There is a charter of 1364, but the fraternity is known to have existed as early as 1189, when Henry FitzAlwyn was elected mayor of London: tradition (but no proof) says he was a member. The company is ranked number three of the Great Twelve. During the 1500's the links with the cloth trade weakened, and today there is little left, only 4 out of 700 members are in the trade. The company now does a great deal of charitable work, with trusts worth some £2.5m from bequests made to it, and from income and property rents. It owns almshouses in Tottenham, Greenwich, and Southwark.

The earliest meetings of the fraternity were held in members houses, but by the 1450s the fraternity had acquired a house and grounds in St Swithins Lane, which it still owns. The present hall, or rather site, was acquired in 1543 under Henry VIII, having previously been the property of Cromwell, together with gardens which belonged to the monastery of Austin Friars to the east of the site (near where the Dutch Church now stands). The archives hold the conveyance, for £1,200. The nearby building in Draper's Gardens is on land acquired at the same time, whence the name. The hall from 1540 was destroyed in the great fire of 1666, and the rebuilt hall was destroyed some 100 years later, by another fire, in 1772, and again rebuilt. The existing building fabric is substantially from that rebuilding: there was no structural damage in WW2, although windows were blown out and a ceiling fell in during bombing in 1941. However, much of the interior décor is Victorian, with plenty of reference to Jason and the Golden Fleece.

There are three grades in the fraternity: freemen, liverymen, and members of the court that runs the society. Admission is largely by patrimony (i.e. to those whose father is a member), and the present queen was admitted by that route, when still Princess Elizabeth, in 1947. A portrait of the Queen painted in the year 2000 hangs in the Court Dining Room.

The Drapers Gardens site has recently been redeveloped, and an archaeological investigation at the time found Roman artefacts including a complete timber door. These finds are now with the Museum of London.

The archives hold few details of the buildings, but of course a wealth of information about past members. A number of historical documents was put out for us to view, including a book of receipts from the kitchens of 1570. Our trip concluded with a visit into the strong-room to see the silver and plate the company owns.

For more information, visit the web site at www.thedrapers.co.uk/

Visit to Drapers' Hall

Originally members of the Drapers' Company were

SEMINAR REPORTS

Peter Barber : Maps of London

The February seminar was given by Peter Barber, Head of Map Collections at the British Library. It was an absorbing and well-illustrated talk that covered maps of many types, starting with a representation of London that was found in an image of Emperor Constantius of 297, found at Trier. A image by Matthew Paris showed the walls of London, St Paul's, and the Tower. Maps can be useful to the historian (with the right knowledge) as they show what the map-maker or commissioner thought was important, and can provide insights into their 'mind-set'.

Many early maps strike the modern eye as perspective views, and the Wyngaerde panorama of c1545 is one of these: one can make out the lines of the streets, and it has a superb image of London Bridge. One of the earliest maps that would fit a modern limited idea of a map comes 10 year later in the Copperplate map of London, of which sadly only parts survive. The Braun and Hogenberg map of 1572 may have been based on it. It shows the whole of the city and west to Westminster. There is also a text box describing the Stilliards, which were the centre of the Hanseatic League in London and may give us a clue as to who commissioned the map: and the Royal Barge is shown on the Thames. It brings home the usefulness of the Thames as a means of transport in the days when many streets were narrow and full of rubbish.

Early maps were often perspective, showing the buildings along the streets, and trees in parks (even when there were not any there!). It is sometime suggested that it was the fire of 1666 that caused the first pure plan type of map, with which we are most familiar today, to be produced as after the fire there were no buildings, only the street plan. The map of the defences in the Civil War from 1643 shows this not to be the case, as it is a pure plan with no buildings.

The purpose of a map is not necessarily geographical: Peter showed us an image in which the coat of arms of the owner of the estate was the first thing that caught your eye, and tucked away at the side of the page was a map of the estate: "this is me, and this is what I own".

Peter's presentation moved through the nineteenth century, when maps become more plentiful and specific, such as maps for visitors to the Great Exhibition of 1851, to the first A-Z of 1913.

One of the best-known maps to Londoners is the 'tube' map, which is not a geographical map at all (compare the Paris Metro map, which is), and whilst invaluable for planning a route can give misleading impression as to distances above ground. This exemplifies that maps present only part of the world, and in some cases can even show things that are not there ... sometimes deliberately, to confuse a potential enemy, sometimes because a planned development failed to materialise.

Although we could have accommodated a few more attendees, this was, as it should have been, a well-attended seminar.

London's Luxury Archives and WW2

Neil Taylor give the seminar on 8 March. He is a design

historian at the Royal College of Art, and gave a fascinating insight into a part of the Second World War the history books don't usually tell you about – the manufacture and purchase of luxury goods. By searching through the archives of prestigious organisations such as Burberry and Fortnum and Mason, Taylor has found that the common perception of war-time Britain as a grim, austere world consisting of rationing and shortages, was inverted by the continuing production and consumption of luxuries that was actively encouraged by the government.

It may seem odd that luxury was pursued as a policy by the British government but in the early years of the war, especially during the 'Phoney War' (September 1939 to May 1940), luxury products made by elite British companies, were deemed to be patriotic. It chimed in with the common propaganda of the time to 'Keep Calm and Carry On'. By encouraging the production of luxury goods, the government hoped to maintain the status quo and nurture a sense of civilian morale. As the 'Real War' set in with the emergency budget and luxury goods did become more difficult to obtain, such goods were exported to one of the UK's most important allies – the United States.

Even during times of intense rationing, the glossy magazines of the time continued to advertise items of extravagant cost – crocodile skin gas-mask cases, jewel-encrusted identity bracelets, glow-in-the-dark hats for black-outs, and silk pyjamas for the Anderson shelter. Organisations argued that it was better to use your clothes coupons on good quality products rather than waste them on cheap items that would fall apart, and companies also offered alteration services in the spirit of 'Make Do and Mend'. By 1942 Fortnum and Mason had even begun selling second-hand jewellery. So while war-time Britain may have been a difficult time for many, for luxury goods companies it was business as usual and some fortunate people continued to live in a gilded world.

Report by Sarah Hale
Oxford Street

At the British Library the other day, pursuing some personal interests, I requested a copy of Mayhew's *Shops and Companies of London*, published in 1865. I found this quote, which made me smile: It fills a corner,

and I hope you will like it:
"Considered as a whole, Oxford Street is decidedly not an attractive thoroughfare. It is a useful omnibus and cab route, but not a pretty lounge for the delicate-minded idler, saturated with elevated theories of the beautiful." *Plus ça change [Peter, the editor].*



AfL Events: Seminars and visits

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

AfL Conference — Dickens' London

The AfL conference this year will be held on 6th October in the Chancellor's Hall at the Senate House, the theme being 'Dickens' London'. It is being put on in partnership with the Dickens House Museum and the Centre for Metropolitan History. More details nearer the time, but book the date in your diary now.

Regular monthly seminars

- 14 June : *Archives for the Napoleonic Wars at the National Army Museum and beyond*, by Dr Alastair Massie of the National Army Museum
 5 July : details still being finalised, but we hope a talk on a Royal archives topic .
 No seminar in August
 6 Sept: *The Day Parliament Burned Down*, by Caroline Shenton, Head of Parliamentary Archives
 4 Oct: *PD 5454: Guide for the Storage and Exhibition of Archival Materials*, by Chris Woods, Director, National Conservation Service
 6 Oct: Conference: see above.

Visits

- 20 May 2pm *East End Walks* with David Rosenberg, 20 people max
 20 June 11am *Exploring the Olympic Park's Industrial Past* with Jenny Butler, 15-20 people
 No visit in July or August
 24 Sept 2pm *Society of Antiquaries* (details still to be finalised)
 October *Foster and Partners* (day/time to be advised)

Winning Endeavours Quick Quiz

Find the answers alongside pictures, documents and the inside track on UK Olympics history on the Winning Endeavours website www.winningendeavours.org : no prizes, just the kudos of getting it right..

1. In the 1908 Olympics the tug-of-war event was won by the City of London Police Force. True or False?
2. Great Eastern Railway ran special day trips from all the main stations in the Eastern Counties to the Olympics on 24th July 1908, the day of the Marathon race, with return trains at midnight. True or False?
3. USA topped the medal table with 56 gold medals in the 1908 London Olympics. True or False?
4. During the 1948 London Olympics the male competitors stayed in RAF camps and the female competitors stayed in London Colleges. True or False?

Apology: the pieces which appeared in the previous Newsletter, no. 20, reviewing the seminar talks on 'School Archives: A Neglected Resource?' 'UCL: non-conformist university.' and 'Politics and Policy-making in London Education: mapping generations of activism' were written by Hannah Jenkinson. The editor offers apologies to Ms Jenkinson that her name did not appear to credit her.

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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