



From the Chairman

As you read this, I will have completed my first year as Chairman, a year assisted greatly by the teams in place both on the AfL Board and on the Communications Team and I would like to thank them all for their input and initiatives.

This year we have had great events to celebrate in the UK, and particularly in London, with the marvellous events of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. AfL contributions were to hold a seminar led by the Director of Records of the Royal Household and promote our website project on the Olympics, *Winning Endeavours*. These items are written up in this edition of the Newsletter and the Winning Endeavours quiz is still available at www.winningendeavours.org.

Now to fond farewells: to two stalwart Board members who have been with AfL from its inception: Treasurer, David Prior, who has supported AfL with his financial skills, he leaves the finances in great shape, and many thanks are due to him; and David Mander who preceded me as Chairman, and helpfully remained on the Board and worked hard on our advocacy role. He will continue with an aspect of this, but is moving on to take a national role in the Archives and Records Association, after 30 years of working in a voluntary capacity for London archival organisations.

It is pertinent here to say, that to celebrate the work and achievements of Board members and that of Archives for London and its predecessors, the Greater London Archives Network, London Archives Users Forum and the London Archives Regional Council, we are holding the *Pearl Party* on 22nd November, to which all members are invited. Further details will be available on our website and mailed out shortly.

However, to reassure you about business, we do have a new Treasurer, Imogene Inge, and in the advocacy role, Simon McKeon whom we welcome to the AfL Board.

At our AGM I will be reporting that membership increased by almost 5% on 2011, standing at 257 at the end of March 2012, much

recruitment was due to AfL's presence at the heritage exhibition, WDYTYA. We would love archive users to volunteer at the stand for next year – it is fun - and you get into the whole exhibition free, and have time to look at other stands – so how about it? Contact me, Sian Wynn-Jones or AfL team members informally to learn more.

Generally, in the future, Archives for London would like to develop work with archive users and we really would like to know what you would like to see us do, please send in your ideas via the website or to the postal address, to me or team members at any event you attend and they will pass it on. We would also be very pleased to have a volunteer user on our Board or Communications Team. If you would like to consider this, approach us informally or use the addresses given.

In a month's time, on 6th October, you have an opportunity to join us at AfL's 2012 conference, which is centred on Charles Dickens, artfully entitled by one of our archive users: *Some Tales of One City: Dickens and London*. Booking is open via the AfL website www.archivesforlondon.org/conference2012. We have some fascinating speakers and a chance to network with them at the reception afterwards.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported Archives for London this year in any way, and thank all who have joined in our activities, contributed to and read our newsletter and also those members who may not have been able to attend events, but remain with us. Once again I look forward to meeting you at future events.

Best wishes
Anne Barrett
Chairman, Archives for London
September 2012

AfL Conference 2012 What the Dickens is going on? see back page!

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Winning Endeavours promotion

When I saw AfL's request for help in promoting the Winning Endeavours website I had only been retired from the Essex Record Office for six months and was enjoying a more relaxed lifestyle. However I was tempted to volunteer as I had been involved with the Winning Endeavours project and various London 2012 conferences and projects whilst at ERO, and was looking forward to the Olympics coming to London. I had already downloaded the Winning Endeavours Stratford walk and explored the area armed with map and guide, and had arranged to lead the walk for my local walking club, so I was reasonably familiar with the Winning Endeavours website!

An initial telephone call to Siân Wynn-Jones, Deputy Chairman AfL, attendance at an AfL committee meeting in London and several phone conferences followed. These resulted in a number of suggestions and action points. I know how difficult it is for archivists to take on additional tasks so was happy to help in a small way with promoting WE.

Firstly I compiled an updated press release to advertise the learning resources and the walks added to the website since its launch in April 2011. Siân, and AfL Communications Team members Julie Makinson circulated the press release at the end of February with 150 days to go to London 2012, and Louise Pichel added it to the AfL website.

As AfL had a stall at *Who Do You Think You Are?* at Olympia 24-26 February we thought this would be a good opportunity to promote Winning Endeavours. I put together a quiz using information from the theme pages of Winning Endeavours, which we handed out that weekend. I also compiled some quirky facts on London sport, mostly taken from the WE website, which were displayed behind the AfL stall. I enjoyed helping on the Saturday especially as this was my first time at WDYTIA?

For many years whilst at Essex Record Office I took part in a family history phone-in on BBC Essex. This local radio station attracts a wide audience in parts of London as well as in Essex and had been supporting preparations for the Olympics. I emailed the presenter Steve Scruton and told him about Winning Endeavours, and I'm pleased to say that he invited me to talk about the project on his afternoon programme. I went over to the BBC Essex studio in Chelmsford one afternoon in June and talked to Steve live on air for about 15 minutes about Winning Endeavours. Steve was particularly interested in finding out

where the images had come from and whether they had been available before. He asked why the project had been set up and how it had been achieved. He was also enthusiastic about the walks which can be downloaded from the website.

For the June AfL visit I led the Winning Endeavours Stratford walk (see report elsewhere in the newsletter). Finally Siân was keen to promote Winning Endeavours on twitter and to link her tweets to important dates throughout the summer, so I compiled a campaign calendar with dates of key events for London sport and for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. Hopefully our efforts have resulted in Winning Endeavours reaching a wider audience. Typically as this Newsletter will be out before the end of the Paralympic Games you can see the athletes predecessors s taking part in the opening ceremony and in sports at the Stoke Mandeville Games in 1948 on Winning Endeavours.

<http://www.winningendeavours.org/>

Jenny Butler

(See also the report on the walk, *Ed*)

Camden's archives flourish

Tudor Allen, the archivist at Camden's archives, has reported an increase in

interest in the Borough's newspaper archives after he helped the BBC's WDYTIA programme featuring actress Samantha Womack. The date 4 March 1899 looms large, as on that date the *Hampstead and Highgate Express* had an article detailing the death at the age of six of her great uncle Anthony Garrond after his nightshirt was set alight by a gas stove in the workhouse. The *Hampstead Record* of the same date reported that her great-great-grandmother Jessie was also an actress and had abandoned her two children in an orphanage to pursue her career on the stage in New York: they included Ms Womack's great-grandmother Beatrice.

Mr. Allen says that, in these days of everything digital, people had not realized that the newspaper archive existed. The only way to search it is to visit the archive and look at them: they are not digitized.

If the programme has alerted people to the usefulness of newspapers for research, this surely must be good.

20 year rule

AfL readers, being archive-aware, will probably know this: the Government confirms transition to '20-year rule' will begin from 2013.

The Government will move towards releasing records when they are 20 years old instead of 30 from next year, making thousands of historical records public much earlier than previously possible.

From 2013, two years' worth of government records will need to be transferred to The National Archives over a 10 year transition period until a new '20-year rule' is reached in 2023. After this point, government will revert to transferring a single year's worth of 20 year old records to The National Archives each year.

The transition, beginning in 2013, will apply to the majority of public records transferred to The National Archives and 70 institutions that act as their own place of deposit, with the exception of records selected for transfer to one of the 116 local authority places of deposit, where the impact of introducing the change now could outweigh any benefit. The intention is to commence a second 10 year transitional period for these organisations from 2015, subject to the outcome of a full impact and cost assessment. The Ministry of Justice says the first phase - transferring central government records to The National Archives - will affect 3.3m records and cost between £34.7m and £38.5m over 10 years (although presumably some of these costs would have been incurred in any case).

Italian Banking Records

Among the pages of a bound collection of traditional English crests held at the London College of Arms are several papers belonging to a book of debtors and creditors for Florentine merchant-banking company, Domenico Villani & Partners.

They include coats of arms estimated to have been painted in 1480, during a time when good quality paper was scarce and anything that was available was re-used, and were painted over banking records from 1422-24 which hint at the extensive trade in wool and other commodities produced in Britain during the era.

Dr Guidi, of the University of Florence, commented: "What makes the discovery of these pages so surprising is that, usually, the foreign offices of the Florentine companies periodically sent the books back home so they could be checked. In this case, the books remained in London, where they gradually lost their documentary value and some 55 years later were considered scraps of good quality paper to be re-used for the drawing of coats of arms."

The ledger suggests that London was exporting raw wool, woollen cloth and tin, and imported spices, dyes and other luxury goods. Little surprising there.

Mendham Collection

Nineteenth century clergyman Joseph Mendham formed a 5,000-strong collection, which details early tensions between Catholics and Protestants. It has been in Canterbury Cathedral library since 1984.

However, part of the collection is owned by the Law Society, who say they need to sell the documents to

raise much-needed cash: they have given the university and cathedral until November to submit a bid to reclaim the collection. They say: "In these challenging times, we can no longer justify the ongoing cost of maintaining the collection, which despite its great value to academics does not form part of an archive useful to our members. We owe it to our members in these hard-pressed times to get the very best price that the market can offer." The collection is to be put up for auction. In spite of a petition, officials from the university and the cathedral could not prevent the removal. Dr Alixe Bovey, director of the university's Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, said: "They took 300 volumes last Wednesday and out of those I would say they are worth more than half of the total collection. They are by far the earliest, rarest, most important books and it has really punched a hole in the collection."

The reports suggest there is some bad blood between the Archives and the Law Society, who are effectively accused of riding rough-shod over the archives' interests.

Tower Hamlets Archives

From the week commencing Monday 10th September 2012 Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives will be temporarily closing to enable the restoration/ replacement of the building's roofs and the installation of a new lift. They expect to re-open early in 2013. They will be offering a limited remote enquiry service by phone and email during the period of closure.

Royal Worcester

John Flight, who ran the Royal Worcester porcelain factory with his brother Joseph, kept a diary from around 1785 until his death, aged just 25, 6 years later. John travelled to Europe to learn the secrets of his company's competitors, and worked his way through revolutionary France to spy on the porcelain makers. In his own English he writes: 'I go on buying bodys and glazes to get a tollerable insight into the manufactory but I much want to do more in this myself. I must continue by some method to do it.'

An image of the journal can be seen on the Daily Mail web site.

Irish Records

Reports from witnesses to the Irish 1916 Rising and the War of Independence from Britain that followed are online. The Irish state's military has digitised documents from the Bureau of Military History 1913-1921. In the 1950's first-hand accounts were obtained from many of the surviving figures in the political struggles, covering the formation of the Irish Volunteers in 1913, to the truce with Britain in July 1921. The release statement says it "includes 1,773 witness statements containing 360,000 pages of name- and word-searchable documents; rare photographs; and voice recordings onto the website". Visit www.militaryarchives.ie and follow the link.

**Major Accessions to Repositories in 2011
Relating to London
Part 1: London Local Authority Archives**

Barking and Dagenham Archives, Valence House Museum, Becontree Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 3HT
Herbert Lockwood, historian: research notes 1900-2000 (ACQ2011/033)

Barnet Local Studies and Archives, The Burroughs, NW4 4BQ

Alder School, East Finchley: records 1881-1978 (Ms 23407)

Christ Church Church of England School, Barnet: records 1872-2005 (Ms 23382)

Bexley Local Studie, Townley Road, Bexleyheath, DA6 7HJ

Arthur Henry Thomas Boswell, photographer: personal papers, lantern slides and prints 1890-1955 (PHBOS)

Bexley Association of Voluntary Service papers containing records of relations between the gypsy community and the local authorities 1969-1975 (CSBVS)

Emmanuel Methodist Church, Sidcup: minutes, corresp and financial papers 1936-2003 (NCMSD)

Erith Fire Watching Group: minutes, notebooks and ephemera 1939-1945 (LAER/CD)

Erith School: records 1905-2010 (LAXERI)

New Horizons, Bexley: minutes, reports and accounts c1991

Royal Alfred Seafarers Society, Banstead, Surrey: records 1930-1939 (INRSS)

Sidcup Hill Primary School: admission registers, log books, scrapbooks and photos 1908-2011 (LAXSHI)

Third East Wickham Brownies: register of members and corresp 1958-1995 (CSEWB)

Brent Archives, 95 High Road, NW10 2SF

Brent Museum: film reels showing local events and activities in Wembley and Willesden 1930-1959 (A4/2011)

Donnington Primary School, Brent: registers and records 1990-2009 (A40/2011)

Roe Green Infant School, Brent: admissions registers 1930-1970 (A41/2011)

Willesden and District Badminton Association: minutes, accounts and records 1951-1980 (A36/2011)

Bromley Local Studies & Library, High Street, Bromley, BR1 1EX

Joyce Walker: slides of West Wickham with index 1923-2010 (2112)

Churchill Theatres Trust, Bromley: corresp, accounts and reports 1992-2004 (1983)

Farnborough Methodist Church, Bromley: records 1925-2009 (2146)

Petts Wood evening Townswomen's Guild: records including minutes (2110)

St Mark's Church, Bromley: parish records 1899-2002 (2065)

West Wickham Methodist Church: records 1933-1999 (2051)

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England, Justinian Lodge 2694, London: minutes and papers 1897-2011

Highgate Society: minutes and papers 1972-2011

Highgate Cemetery Trust: minutes and papers 1975-2000

Mazzini Garibaldi Club, London: minutes, corresp, accounts, registration and papers 1864-2005

City of Westminster Archives Centre, 10 St Ann's Street, SW1P 2DE

Aquascutum Group plc, clothing manufacturers and retailers, London: minutes, royal warrants, photographs, visitors books and other records 1900-2009 (Acc2686)

S Ward Ltd, delicatessen, St Ives: corresp 1939-1968 (Acc2697)

All Saints, Ennismore Gardens, Knightsbridge: records 1839-1950 (Acc2696)

St Peter's College, Westminster: list of scholars and Deans of Christ Church Oxford, Masters of Trinity College Cambridge and Head Masters of Westminster School 1561-1790 (Acc2683)

Westminster Building Trust: corresp with Charity Commission c1930-1960 (Acc2687)

Croydon Local Studies Library, Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR9 1ET

Emily Nutt, Croydon: corresp between Emily Nutt and Ernest Rodway 1922-1936 (A1031)

Ernest Rodway: corresp between Ernest Rodway and Emily Nutt 1922-1936 (A1031)

Ashcroft Theatre Club, Croydon: minutes, photos and scrapbooks 1973-2010 (A1034)

Croydon Camera Club: minutes, corresp and albums 1912-2004 (A1030)

London Borough of Croydon: Tramlink Working Group minutes 1992-1998 (A1049)

Southern Railway Athletic Club, Croydon: Bowls Section minutes 1933-1987 (A1046)

Tunstall Nursery School, East Croydon: minutes and admission registers 1971-2001 (A1028)

Woodside and Thornton Heath Adult Schools: minutes and accounts 1905-1984 (A1026)

Ealing Local History Centre, 103 Ealing Broadway Centre, W5 5JY

Ealing Allotment and Gardens Society: minutes and corresp 1965-2010 (407)

Lammas Bowling Club, Ealing: minutes and accounts 1915-1985 (406)

Southall Bowling Club: minutes and corresp 1919-2001 (417)

Enfield Local Studies Archive, 39 London Road, Enfield, EN2 6DS

Grange Park Floral Art Club: minutes, corresp and photographs 1959-2012

Pilgrims Reading Group, Enfield: minutes and accounts 1927-2011

Planet Amateur Film Society, Southgate: papers, film stock, sound recordings and photographs 1933-1967 (PAFS)

Women's Cooperative Guild, Southgate: minutes 1936-1941

Greenwich Heritage Centre, Artillery Square, Royal Arsenal, SE18 4DX

Joseph Reginald Brennan, illustrator: documents, photographs and drawings 1910-1993 (JRB)

Benjamin Green, tailor, Charlton and Ilford: passports, rent book and documents rel to his business 1924-1979

(SG1)

Bexley and Greenwich Trades Council: minutes 1900-1999 (WF1)

Friends of the Greenwich Millennium Embroideries: minutes, designs, photographs and publicity material 2000-2011 (FOGME)

Hackney Archives Department, Dalston Lane, E8 3BQ

Lloyd, Attree & Smith, tailors, London: records and photographs c1880-1980 (2011/24)

Hackney Environmental Forum: minutes, accounts, corresp and photographs 1989-2007 (2011/50)

Lordship Housing Estate Tenants' Association, Hackney: minutes 1950-1963 (2011/05)

Hammersmith and Fulham Archives and Local History Centre, 191 Talgarth Road, W6 8BJ

Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group: additional records incl agenda, minutes, corresp and other papers 1993-2004 (A2011/5)

Hillingdon Local Studies, 14-15 High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1HD

Ramblers Association, Hillingdon: minutes and corresp 1978-1995 (ADB/11/09)

Hounslow Library Local Studies Service, Treaty Centre, High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1ES

Brentford Waterways Oral History Archive: 20 CDs with accompanying listing of tracks and interviewees 2000-2001 (HALS/ARC 298)

Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Hounslow: display material for 30 years of Hounslow's Gurdwara (Sikh Temple) (HAL/ARC 300)

Islington Local History Centre, 245 St John St, EC1V 4NB

Sir George Heynes Radford, politician and solicitor: diaries, corresp, accounts, photographs and personal effects c1850-1940 (S/GHR)

Kingston Heritage Service, Richmond Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT2 5PE

Chessington Cricket and Sports Club: records c1930-2000 (KX475)

Kingston and Richmond Vegetarians: records 1992-2001 (KX469)

Kingston Choral Society: records (KX472)

New Malden Hard of Hearing Group: records c1973-2010 (KX477)

Ramblers Association, Kingston: records 1963-1995 (KX470)

Scout Association: Tolworth Group: records 1952-1979 (KX473)

Surbiton and District Caledonian Society: records 1949-1992 (KX478)

Surbiton Club for the Blind: records (KX481)

Tolworth and District Leisure Gardeners Society: records 1948-2007 (KX476)

United Reformed Church, Tolworth: records of The Circle (KX482)

Lambeth Archives Department, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9QY

Lambeth Parents Action Group: minutes, corresp and records 1988-1996 (2011/2)

London Borough of Sutton: Archives, St Nicholas Way, SM1 1EA

Mellows Park Bowls Club, Wallington: records 1935-2011 (Acc. 822)

St Helier Memories, a community history of St Helier

estate, London: oral history interviews, part of a memory bank project 1930-1939 (Acc. 790)

London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, EC1R 0HB

Clarnico Ltd, confectioners, London: corresp, accounts, ledgers and records 1818-1980 (LMA/4591)

Pritchard & Burton, tobacco manufacturers, London: accounts, journals and photograph albums 1869-1949 (LMA/4577)

St Martins-Le-Grand Investment Co Ltd, London: records 1901-1981 (B11/050)

Wordsearch Ltd, marketing designers for architecture and property, London: prints, slides and photographs 1985-2005 (B11/049)

All Hallows by the Tower, City of London: records 1452-1995 (P69/ALH1)

Association of British Insurers: records 1888-2000 (CLC/B/017)

Carlton Club: minutes, candidate books, accounts, annual reports and records 1832-2000 (B11/110)

English Partnerships, regeneration agency: records 1988-2003 (PM11/006)

Greater London Inner North Coroners District: St Pancras Coroners Court files 2008-2008 (COR/IN/2008/02)

Greater London Inner North Coroners District: Poplar Coroners Court inquest files 2008-2008 (COR/IN/2008/01)

Greater London Inner South Coroners District: Southwark Coroners Court inquest files 2008-2008 (COR/IS/2008)

Greater London Northern Coroners District: Edgware Coroners Court inquest files 2009-2009 (COR/N/2009/01)

Greater London Northern Coroners District: Barnet Coroners Court inquest files 2009-2009 (COR/N/2009)

Housing the Homeless, London: annual reports, accounts, grants and case files 1968-2000 (B11/106)

National and Local Government Officers Association, City of London Branch: minutes, corresp, leaflets and cash books 1938-1989 (B11/112)

National Council on Archives: records 2000-2011 (B11/014)

St Dunstan in the East Church, City of London: minutes and records 1852-1960 (P69/DUN1)

St Michael's Church, Chiswick: minutes and records 1907-2009 (DRO/188)

Worshipful Company of Carriers: minutes, accounts and papers 1613-2000 (CLC/L/CK)

Southwark Local History Archive, 211 Borough High Street, SE1 1JA

British Rail: board railway plans 1864-1949 (2011/65)

Southwark Travellers Education Support Service: records 1985-2011 (2011/15)

Southwark LGBT Forum: records 1994-2009 (2011/6)

B-One EK Bengali Project incl DVDs of project interviews and photographs 2010-2011 (2011/57)

John Crutchley, dyer, Southwark: dye and account books from Crutchley family dying business 1700-1799 (2011/5)

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

Vernon Lushington, barrister: papers incl essays, lecture notes, legal case notes and press cuttings 19th-20th

cent (8815)

Local Authorities Against Heathrow Terminal 5 (LAHT5): records incl Steering Group minutes and corresp, press releases and publications 1992-99 (CC1205)

Wandsworth Heritage Service, 265 Lavender Hill, SW11 1JB

Batstone family of Wandsworth Common: family corresp and diaries of three generations 1879-1969 (D211)

Sean Creighton: minutes, corresp and reports from time in Labour Party, as Councillor for Fairfield Ward and as Governor of Allfarthing Primary School 1951-1994 (D212)

Ann Creighton, campaigner: minutes, corresp, reports and ephemera 1951-1994 (D212)

Henry Ward, county councillor, Wandsworth: papers rel to the London Hospital, Toynbee Hall and Henry Ward's business 1879-1960 (D211)

Putney Society, community group: records 1960-1999 (D149)

Part 2: National and University

National Maritime Museum: The Caird Library, Manuscripts Section, Greenwich, SE10 9NF

J Kirkaldy & Son Ltd, paint, varnish and enamel manufacturers, painters and plumbers, London: cash book 1808-1819 (MSS/80/095)

River Thames Shiprepairers Ltd, London: records incl papers of London Graving Dock Ltd, R & H Green & Silley Weir Ltd and their subsidiaries c1890-1982 (MSS/83/056)

Victoria & Albert Museum, Archive of Art and Design, 23 Blythe Road, W14 0QX

Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers: minutes, publications and papers c1940-79 (AAD/2011/14)

The Women's Library, 25 Old Castle Street, E1 7NT

Keeping Pace, Older Women of the East End Exhibition: transcripts, interviews, film and images 2003 (8KPC)

London University: Senate House Library, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU

London Schools and Colleges Dining Club: minutes, accounts and membership information 1926-2011 (MS1182)

Southampton University Library, Highfield, Southampton, SO17 1BJ

Meyer Lerner, Chief Minister of the Federation of Synagogues and founder of the Sabbath Observance Society: papers 19th-20th cent (MS 391)

Aerofilms Images

A large collection of pictures, originally taken by the company Aerofilms, was acquired by English Heritage and linked organisations when the company Aerofilms faced difficulties 5 years ago. The pictures were taken from 1919 onwards, as their name suggests, from the air. A collection of the earlier ones (1919-1953) has been put online at <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk> and provide a valuable view of Britain, particularly between the wars. The collection covers the whole of Britain, not just London, although London is well represented.

I put in a search with the words 'Alexandra Palace' to see if there were pictures of the palace on the hill in

north London, and the list returned covered Glasgow to Ilfracombe, many images seemingly without either word in the description, so your editor found the search facility somewhat idiosyncratic. However, in a good find, it did match the word 'Palace' to bring up a great image of the Crystal Palace at Penge, in 1928 before it was destroyed by fire.

A feature of the site I did like was that each image is annotated with its O.S. co-ordinates, and you can click to view a modern map of the area. You can also search using the co-ordinated for images of the same, or nearby, locations, which revealed a further 4 images of Crystal Palace, 3 from the same year and an earlier one from 1921. The last was either taken on a misty day, or the print has faded a little in the 90 years since it was taken. Pictures can be downloaded for personal use, and there are facilities for users to add comments.

The site is still expanding, the information on it says that it will develop until the end of 2014, although there are no plans to include images from later than 1953.

LMA newsletter

The editor received the latest LMA Newsletter, which is available by free subscription. Surely there must be an online archive, but attempts to find it have, so far, failed. It says there are a number of changes planned to the catalogue, and in particular those who log in using their history card will soon require a password which will have to be entered at each logon.

The agreement by which LMA had been administering a temporary limited access service to the Hammersmith and Fulham Archives Centre came to its scheduled end on 31 May 2012 after almost a year. The baton was handed over to Westminster City Archives on 1 June 2012.

It also mentions the forgotten man of English science. Hooke's major contribution to science and architecture



is clearly revealed in his diary, which also chronicles other aspects of his daily life in London from his work as City Surveyor to evenings out in City taverns and coffee-houses. The Bowen Collection of photographs of Second World War bomb damage in the City of London has been conserved.

Malian Manuscripts

When I was there a few years ago, Timbuktu was a rather sleepy town on the River Niger. But it housed an important library: historically Timbuktu had been a major trading town, lying on the intersection of an east-west and a north-south trading route, a place where gold and salt were traded. It was also a centre of Arabic learning, no doubt partly helped by the large number of merchants passing through. Recent events have changed all that.

Al Andalus, modern Andalucia, was the part of Spain occupied by the Moors until their expulsion under Ferdinand and Isabella: when the Moors left they took with many manuscripts, including rare accounts of important historical periods such as the spread of Islam in Andalus, the expulsion of the Moriscos from Spain, the rise and fall of the Songhai Empire.

In the 14th century, Timbuktu shone as the crown jewel of the Malian Empire, thanks in particular to Mansa (KanKan) Musa. Musa recruited scholars, intellectuals and even architects from Andalus and Egypt in order to build his kingdom into a centre of learning. Djinguereber Mosque, known as a learning-centre, built by El-Saheli of Granada for Musa, still stands in Timbuktu.

One man who had been a member of the Toledo community, Ali bin Ziyad al-Quti, headed for West Africa bearing manuscripts. The manuscripts recount the period through a history over five centuries of a family named Kati, which is the longest known history line of any Andalus family outside of Spain. They also include a 12th century Quran from Ceuta (Almohad era), the Sudanese Chronicles of El-Saheli of Granada, and Tarikh Al-Fattah (Chronicles of the Conquest), a 15th century book about Africa written by Africans. Kati died in 1593, and his library is a legacy his descendents have protected with great zeal. For their protection, the manuscripts were later distributed amongst the family, and hidden to protect them from colonial powers and ardent Islamists.

In the 1990s, Ismael Diadie Haiyara Kati, together with his father, undertook the heroic task of tracing the old family members and collecting all the Kati manuscripts. Some are destroyed or damaged, but they managed to collect over 3,000 manuscripts. Spain financed the construction of a building that housed the Bibliotheca Kati (Fondo Kati). It houses works in Arabic, Hebrew and Aljamiado (Romance languages written in the Arabic script) written by Andalusian scholars and immigrants, Jewish merchants, Arab intellectuals and Christian renegades. From medicine and mathematics to philosophy and law, the Kati collection is a treasure in every sense of the word, covering a period that extends from the 12th through to the 19th century. With the recent turmoil in Mali, the family is believed to have taken the manuscripts and hidden them. We must hope that they are safe, and that when peace returns they will be found again, intact.

Editor's Summary, taken from english.ahram.org.eg.

Right: hotel at Timbuktu

Maps of London

Members will recall the exhibition of the British Library of

map of London. It was curated by Peter Barber, who also gave some gallery talks at the exhibition. Peter came to Afl to deliver the February seminar on the subject, reviewed in newsletter 21. At the time Peter mentioned that the book *London a Life in Maps*, that was published about the same time as the exhibition, was not an exhibition catalogue, but that such a book would be produced retrospectively.

That book has now been published, jointly by the British Library and the London Topographical Society (TopSoc). Afl members who are also TopSoc members will have received a copy as their 2012 publication. Members who are not in TopSoc can buy copies from the BL.

The book runs to over 350 pages and if it does not have an illustration on every page, some have two to make up, so it is superbly illustrated. Like Peter's talk, it is chronological in arrangement, starting with an image of London on a Roman coin of 297. There seems to have been little map-making in England prior to the reign of Elizabeth, when map-making started in earnest, for example the work of Christopher Saxton and John Norden both of whom mapped much of England. London has the earlier copperplate map of c1559. Many of the earlier maps were 'birds-eye' views, and some say it was only with the fire of 1666, after which there were no buildings to depict, that there emerged the pure plan map with which we are most familiar today.

Maps were drawn for specific purposes, and left out items which were not relevant to that purpose, so an owner might have a map drawn of his manor, beautifully detailed within the manor's bounds, and a complete bank as soon as the boundary was crossed—the map of Bethnal Green is an example of this.

As we get into the Victorian era maps abound, especially those involved with the construction of railways, but railway maps are sui generis.

You can while away hours tracing the expansion of London of the years from this book, too.

A real gem.



Winning Endeavours walk in Stratford

Seven AfL members and their guests joined me on the 20th June for the Winning Endeavours walk in Stratford. We met at Hackney Wick station on one of the rare sunny days in June. From there it was a short walk to the River Lea Navigation and probably the best view of the Olympic Stadium along the route. This section of the Navigation, from Lea Bridge to Old Ford Lock, is Hackney Cut, an artificial channel built in 1769 to bypass the large curve of the River Lea to the east. We walked southwards along the towpath (also popular with cyclists), and soon saw the Hertford Union Canal joining Hackney Cut from the west. In fact the whole area is a maze of rivers, streams, canals and channels. I passed around copies of some old maps including a section of Chapman & Andre's map of Essex 1777, which clearly shows the River Lea and flowing from it four mill streams to the east (now mostly in the area of the Olympic Park).

At Old Ford Lock we crossed onto Fish Island to see the warehouses and Percy Dalton's peanut factory buildings, now converted into studios used by artists including Bridget Riley. Returning to the Lock we continued along the towpath (the River Lea re-joins the Navigation soon afterwards) and walked under the Northern Outfall Sewer, constructed by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1862-63 as part of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's scheme for tackling London's sewage problem. The Winning Endeavours walk leaflet gives more details about these and other sites along the route.

At Bow Bridge (the third on this site) we went up to Stratford High Street and walked eastwards, stopping for a good view of the Orbit in the Olympic Park, the 115 metre high steel structure designed by Anish Kapoor. Walking along the Bow Back River past the fine blue lock-keeper's cottage, we were again following the original Winning Endeavours walk. We turned south along the Three Mills River and reached Three Mills, consisting of the House Mill a fine 18th century tidal mill (Grade I listed), the Clock Mill (Grade II listed) and the Custom House. There's a visitor centre and café in the Miller's House, so the walk ended with a lunch of delicious chunky sandwiches!

Before investigating the River Lea area for myself about a year ago, I knew little of its fascinating history, except that the River Lea was the ancient boundary between Essex and Middlesex. Whilst an archivist at Essex Record Office I often had to disappoint researchers who expected ERO to hold the parish registers of Stepney or Bow (most were very surprised to learn that these parishes had never been in Essex as they were west of the Lea!). I certainly enjoyed leading the walk in such an interesting area, and the AfL group were very good company.

The Greenway and Viewtube will re-open at the end of September, so why not download the walk from the resources page of the Winning Endeavours website www.winningendeavours.org and go and explore the Olympic Park area in the autumn? *by Jenny Butler*

Editor's Gallimaufry

A report in the Economist a little while ago pointed out that whilst we can still read the 'Domesday Book' 900 years after it was written, a follow-up for the 900th

anniversary in 1986 was recorded on laser discs, which are now obsolete. Have you got any of those old 5in 'floppy' disks? They too went out years ago, and today many new PC's do not have the hardware to read 3in disks, which did outlive them.

The digital era claimed it brought with it the promise of indefinite memory. But digital data often have a short life. Adam Farquhar, who is in charge of the British Library's digital-preservation efforts said "If we're not careful, we will know more about the beginning of the 20th century than the beginning of the 21st century".

Is the moral that you should ensure you print out (on acid-free paper, or course) anything that is of archival interest?

. LAMAS (London and Middlesex Archaeological Society) will be holding its annual conference on 17th November at the Museum of London. The title is *A capital Way to Go: Death in London Through the Age*, and as the title suggests the theme is aspects of sepulture, although the programme for the day is not entirely grave. The 'early bird' booking rate (until 31st October) is £10. Full details online at www.lamas.org.uk/localhistory2012.html. Their newsletter also mentions a London Heritage conference on historic buildings planned for September 2013 (advance planning for you), although they say booking is not yet open for that. Closer in time, any members involved with education might like to be aware of a workshop on the role of local history and historians in education on 17th October, also at the Museum of London (details also on the LAMAS web site).

. Home Guard: not as old as was thought. A press release from the National Archives reveals that many Home Guard volunteers were too young to enlist in military service, rather than too old as previously thought. Their release is the culmination of a pilot project which the National Archives says aimed to explore new ways of transferring, preserving and making important records available in a digital format only, whereby the digital record rather than the paper documents, will become the official public record.

The Home Guard were commonly thought to have been comprised mostly of men who were too old to serve in military service, but the pilot project revealed that 50% of the records selected for the project, were of men under the age of 27, with a quarter aged 18 or younger. It means that around half of the records from the pilot cannot be released into the public domain, because for data protection reasons they are subject to a closure period of 100 years from date of birth

. Browsing through *Everyday Life in Johnson's London*, a very readable account Of C18 London by Richard Schwartz (Professor of English at Missouri). His chapter on health states: "A bolus [round mass] of spiders was taken against fever. For whooping cough and ague some consumed fried mice". Thanks heavens medical science has moved on.

SEMINAR REPORTS

The Royal Archives in the 21st Century

In July David Ryan, Director of the Records at the Royal Archives, Windsor, gave an inspirational talk on the use of online resources and social networking to promote the records of the Royal Family during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

The Royal Archives were founded in 1912 and hold the records of the private life of the monarch and their family and the papers of the Royal Household. The records (4km worth) are stored in the Round Tower of Windsor Castle, where access is provided to researchers and those creating Royal Collection exhibitions.

In 2011 the Archives began plans for a long-term digitisation project with annual phases based on different areas, including academic, educational, and general research. The first phase (2011-2012) was aimed for delivery during the Diamond Jubilee, and focused on the records of Queen Victoria, including her journals and her scrapbook.

Queen Victoria's scrapbook was digitised and created into an interactive website aimed at children aged 7-11, which also provided notes for teachers. The website was launched in April 2012 and can be found here:

www.queen-victorias-scrapbook.org/. The project proved comparatively inexpensive and within the first 24 hours of its going live the website received 1 million hits.

The next project was on a larger scale as it involved the digitisation of all pages from the 141 surviving journals kept by Victoria from 1832 to 1901. So far 35,000 pages have been scanned and transcribed and are available to view on the dedicated website (www.queenvictoriasjournals.org), and the project is due to finish in January 2013. It is possible to browse and search all available pages, as well as download and print them for free. There are also a number of academic articles available to read.

To accompany these websites, the Royal Archives also set up a Twitter account in Queen Victoria's name, which can be followed via <https://twitter.com/QueenVictoriaRI>, which tweeted quotes from Victoria's journals as the celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee unfolded in June.

Following his talk, Ryan concluded with an enthusiastic summary of the ways the Royal Archives have been reaching out to new audiences. The projects have proved to be exciting and popular, and have reached mass international audiences. He advised that in undertaking a digitisation scheme on this scale, conservation and day-to-day administration should never be underestimated, but also reminded us that digitisation can be an aid to improve preservation measures. To find out more about the Royal Archives, please see their website: www.royal.gov.uk

In June Dr Alastair Massie of the National Army Museum (NAM) joined us for a fascinating seminar full of dashing derring-do! The official records are held at The National Archives in the War Office series, and include service records, war diaries and pensions information. The NAM collections include diaries, memoirs and letters which complement the official records and often provide more personal, vivid, eyewitness accounts. The papers include stories of great bravery and heroism, such as a note written by an officer involved in a skirmish in 1809: "I am shot through the body and arms – for God's sake send me a surgeon, English if possible". The shaky text had been scrawled in the officer's own blood – he later died.

It was interesting to hear how the archives can be used to complement the museum collections, providing greater context and bringing the objects to life. For example, we were shown an image of a uniform jacket which had a large hole in the shoulder. Dr Massie described finding letters home from the owner of the jacket, describing his shoulder wound, how the bone is shattered and fragments are being pulled from the wound, and how he will be left visibly deformed. Should anyone comment on his deformity he exhorts his family to tell them with pride that he received those wounds at Waterloo.

Other useful sources include the family papers of regiment commanders, which sometimes contain official papers which were never sent to the War Office; the papers of Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, at the University of Southampton; personal papers of officers held at the British Library; regimental and corps museums; and the papers of militia and volunteer forces at local record offices. Another sometimes overlooked source for the Napoleonic Wars is the papers of militia and volunteer forces at local record offices. Dr Massie found much useful information at the Royal Engineers Museum and Library when he was researching engineers who constructed Martello tower defences around the English coast. The website www.armymuseums.org.uk/ is a useful portal listing the various regimental and corps museums.

Dr Massie was asked about the balance presented by surviving documents, which seem to be mainly accounts by officers. He confirmed that the majority of surviving accounts were written by officer ranks and it is hard to find documents which reflect the experience of the lower ranks, simply because of the different literacy levels. This tends to add a false sense of glamour to accounts of the war.

Dr Massie will return to speak to us about records relating to the Crimean War in March 2013.

Report by Katharine Short, AfL Seminar Organiser

**Archives and the Napoleonic Wars:
The National Army Museum and Beyond**



AfL Events: Seminars and visits

The following events are planned: please check your monthly email for last minute changes. Seminars at LMA (except November) start at 6pm, visit times are as noted.

- 25 September *Visit: Society of Antiquaries* with Heather Rowland (max 20 participants, at 10:30).
 4 October: *Seminar: PD 5454: Guide to the storage and exhibition of archive materials*, with Chris Woods of the National Conservation Service.
 22 October *Visit: Foster and Partners* with Karyn Stuckey (max 20 participants, at 2:30).
 1 November *Visit* to King's College London Archives.
 20 November *Visit: Conway Hall* with Cathy Broad (max 20 participants, at 2pm).
 6 December *Seminar: Frost Fairs on the Frozen Thames*, speaker Nicholas Reed.
 The December visit is still being planned.
- 2013
- 10 January *Seminar: My experiences researching the life and works of sculptor Oscar Nemon* with Lady Aurelia Young, the sculptor's daughter.
 25 January *Visit: Transport for London Corporate Archives*, with Tamara Thornhill, (max 35 participants).
 7 February: *Seminar: The Human Genome Archive Project*, with Jenny Shaw, Human Genome Archive Project Officer.
 7 March *Seminar: Archives of the Crimean War at the National Army Museum*, speaker Dr Alastair Massie
 4 April Events still in planning: details will be advertised later.
 2 May *Seminar: The Standard Chartered Bank cataloguing project*", with Anne Marie Purcell and Katie Keys, project archivists.

Conference 2012—Tales of One City

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. Arguably the greatest writer of the Victorian era, Dickens' works remain as popular today as they were in his lifetime. At the heart of most of his work is the Great Wen – London – in all its guises. In celebration of the bicentenary of his birth, which was on 7th February 1812, Archives for London, the Dickens Museum and the Centre for Metropolitan History are holding a one-day conference which will explore Dickens' relationship with London and the ways in which life in the capital influenced and shaped his life, his work and his social conscience.

Covering many aspects of Dickens' life, including his childhood, his relationship with the Poor Law, his domestic life and the role that London played in firing his imagination, this event draws on primary archive sources, as it seeks to shed light on the effect living in London had on Dickens and his work, and its enduring place in the imaginations of those who are captivated by the world of Charles Dickens.

Confirmed speakers include: Alex Werner & Tony Williams on Dickens' Victorian London; Michael Allen on Dickens's Early Life; Nicholas Waloff on Dickens' Servants; Ruth Richardson on the Oliver Twist workhouse, and Tony Williams on the Museum of London Exhibition and the accompanying book.

The conference will take place on 6th October at Chancellors Hall in Senate House, University of London, and will run from 9:15 to 5:30. Tickets are £45, and include refreshments, lunch and a wine reception at 6pm after the conference.

This is the first time AfL held a joint conference. Do come and join us in an interesting new venture.

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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