



Newsletter

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The independent voice for
archives in the Capital

From Anne Barrett, AfL Chairman

Welcome to the May edition of the AfL Newsletter. It is to be hoped that by the time you receive this that spring will be in the air.

In the air for AfL is our theme for the year, the 1960s. Why the 1960s? Because we thought it would be fun to explore this important society changing decade 50 years on. Much of the 1960s was new and experimental and so we are joining in that spirit and altering our method of holding a conference. We are having not one day, but 3 half days, all culminating in evening socialising and networking opportunities.

The 60s at 50.

We are planning an afternoon of talks around 1960s music and, that evening, a Super Summer Soiree – so a chance to shake a tail feather and /or let your hair down to 60s music along with the rest of us! This will be in June or July, so we are hoping for warm weather.

In September we plan an afternoon session of talks on Fashion and Design. This will be followed by an early evening guided walk along the King's Road, following the route of the first 1960s boutiques, which were at the heart of cool London. Afterwards, a networking refreshment stop especially for us, around Sloane Square.

The important subjects of 1960s Society, Science, Politics and Architecture will have their own set of talks and an evening event in November.

More information will be forthcoming on the website and in members mailings, so look out for them. Best of all, volunteer to help organise them – the 1960s gives us plenty of scope for fun with archives. See below for how you can work with us:

This is how you can be involved:

We have developed a Working Party (WP) system to give broader, more focussed opportunities to members to volunteer to assist at a specific event or series of events.

The first WPs are concerned with arranging the 2013 conference events which I mentioned above – each WP will have a lead member from the AfL Board attached to it, and no one will be left doing it all themselves, so please be bold and sign up to a WP and volunteer ideas and / or assist in running an event.

We would love you to join us – many hands make light work and create more

fun, so please get in touch. Contact us via workingparty@archivesforlondon.org

In your message mention:

Music and Summer Soiree ; Or

Fashion and Design AND / Or Fashion and Design Walk; Or

Society, Science, Politics, Architecture

Or a combination if you have the time to be involved in more than one session!

Which brings me to membership and our survey at www.tinyurl.com/AfLvoice2013

Please give us your opinions as AfL members, we really do want to hear from you.

You can also keep in touch with AfL on:

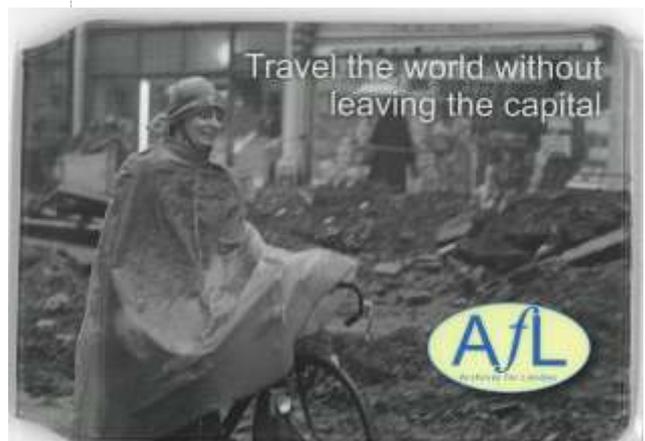
Twitter [@archives4london](https://twitter.com/archives4london) www.twitter.com/archives4london and on Facebook www.facebook.com/archives4london

Lastly in this message, I would like to draw your attention to the splendid item we have produced: a travel card wallet with an image from the 1960s (image supplied by Bexley Archives, with our thanks). The wallet sold very well at February's WDYT YA Live, where AfL again had a presence. This time we partnered with The National Archives and they gave surgeries on specific topics at specific times, which were well attended.

Remember our monthly seminar programme continues with great speakers for great audiences *and* a chance to buy the travel card wallet!

I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting as many of you as possible at AfL events.

Best wishes, Anne, May 2013.



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The Centre for Scientific Archives @the Science Museum.

Services to assist in the Preservation of British Scientific Heritage: *Capture Secures Access*

Scientific heritage at risk requires a national plan and a project operations centre to capture, and ensure its accessibility for future generations

The Centre for Scientific Archives (CSA) was established as a charitable business in 2009 to provide critical services that aid in the preservation of British scientific heritage. It continues the foundational work of the Contemporary Scientific Archives Centre (1973-1987, Oxford University) and the National Cataloguing Unit for the Archives of Contemporary Scientists (1987-2009, University of Bath) building on a 30 year history of identifying and cataloguing the manuscript papers of scientists and placing them with established archives. The vision of the Centre is to rebuild these services using networked digital technologies enabling far greater access and community engagement with these historical resources.

The CSA provides essential services complementing existing facilities provided by established archives, museums, universities and libraries. The model has been proven to be effective in the pre-digital era and is now being rebuilt to take advantage of the technologies on offer. It has a four phase business plan to 2020 to develop these.

It does however need champions besides those great institutions that have been supporting it in discussion or in kind, which include The National Archives, The British Library, The Royal Society, Churchill Archives Centre, The British Society for the History of Science. The CSA has also been recognised by the All Party parliamentary Group on Archives and History and The Lord Chancellor's Forum on Historical Manuscripts and Academic Research.

Do get in touch if you have an interest in assisting with our work, we would be pleased to discuss new ideas!

A round up of the CSA's work since 2009:

Legacy projects:
Completed: Sir Gareth Roberts Papers (Physicist) Deposited in Sheffield University November 2012.

Sir Joseph Rotblat, Pugwash Papers (Physicist) deposited in Churchill Archives Centre Cambridge November 2012.

Continuing: Sir Denis Rooke Papers (Chemical Engineer) Industrialist and engineer, funders to remain anonymous. Undergoing cataloguing, due to be deposited in Loughborough University.

Philip Hall Papers (Mathematician) Funding from Cambridge Philosophical Society; King's College Cambridge, London Mathematical Society to be deposited in Cambridge University Library.

New Projects: Sir Colin Buchanan Papers (Civil Engineering/Transport) for deposit in Imperial College Archives catalogue undergoing finalisation; **Joseph Rotblat: (Correspondence)** project beginning November 2012 to be deposited in, Churchill Archives Centre.

Presentations: In July 2013, the CSA has a half day symposium session at the 24th International Congress for History of Science Technology and Medicine University of Manchester 22nd-28th July 2013. With a co-organiser from the American Institute of Physics, speakers from USA; Australia; Europe; UK. The session has three sections:

Historians of Science and Archivists: Continuing Synergies

Technology: Global Linked Data: Working with Knowledge

The CSA: Development Achievements: the Future.

See the conference website at: <http://www.ichstm2013.com/> (CSA session is SO72). Contact: a.barrett@imperial.ac.uk c/o 455 Sherfield Building, Imperial College, London, SW7 2AZ.

Current website address: note under review <https://sites.google.com/site/centreforscientificarchives/>

Anne Barrett, Chairman of Trustees Centre for Scientific Archives, and AfL chairman:



One of the CSA Work ooms

Excavations

Mass Burial at Spitalfields : MOLA undertook excavations at Spitalfields in which some 10,500 human skeletons were discovered by archaeologists a decade ago. Radiocarbon dating showed that there were mass burial pits where the bones dated from around 1260. Why? The date does not correspond with any events known to have taken place in the mediaeval period, like the Black Death or the Great Famine. Matthew Paris' chronicles mention 'heavy rains' and reports the deaths of 15,000 people, and the 'Chronicles of the Mayors and Sheriffs of London' (online at www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=64825) reads 'In this year, there was a failure of the crops; upon which failure, a famine ensued, to such a degree that the people from the villages resorted to the City for food; and there, upon the famine waxing still greater, many thousand persons perished; many thousands more too would have died of hunger, had not corn just then arrived from Almaine [Germany]'

The MOLA web site (www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk/NewsProjects/SpitalfieldsVolcano.htm) says: there are references to a cataclysmic volcano that erupted at this time. It is believed to have erupted somewhere in the tropics, perhaps El Chichón in Mexico or Quilotoa in Ecuador. Its force was such that ice-core data is evident in both hemispheres. The effects of this massive eruption were felt across the globe, as a 'dry fog' descended across the world, cooling the Earth's surface. Don Walker, MOLA Osteologist, said: "This is the first archaeological evidence for the 1258 volcano and is an excellent example of the complexity of knowledge that can be gained from archaeological evidence. It is amazing to think that such a massive global natural disaster has been identified in a small area of East London."

The findings are contained in the MOLA monograph "A bioarchaeological study of medieval burials on the site of St Mary Spital: excavations at Spitalfields Market, London E1, 1991–2007".

Seething Wells: The River Thames flows in a loop round the south of Hampton Park. In Surbiton, on the SE part lies Seething Wells. A hall of residence of the same name is a part of Kingston University, and a team from the University has recently been investigating the history of the area. A report can be found at <http://www.kingston.ac.uk>. It was the site of a waterworks which opened in 1852, and is easily found on the map of London in 1912 (London Topographical Society vol, 166). The water works, situated right on the edge of the river, provided clean water at a time when the use of polluted water caused cholera levels to rise. The Thames was becoming increasingly unclean, prior to the 'Great Stink' of 1858, largely caused by dumping untreated sewage into the river. The Wells site lies a little further from the river, and may have been a park or gardens in the mid 1800's. The excavations have found a cinder and gravel path, which Dr Helen Wickstead, who is leading the work, says shows that the path was functional. Aerial photography reveals outlines of features of the garden, which Dr. Wickstead says can be

found on maps of the area. Although most of the finds are from the Victorian period, they have also found fragments believed to be Neolithic.

Although no longer in use for water purification, the filter beds still exist and provide a habitat for wild-life. A proposal to develop the area was put forward, and is being resisted by friends <http://www.friendsofseethingwells.org>

The Black Death

Unsurprisingly, given the history of London, the Crossrail project, which is digging a tunnel across much of central London, is uncovering remains from many periods. It has been known for some time that when the Black Death struck London in 1348 plague pits were dug to for mass burial of the dead. Of the three well-known ones, the most westerly is that dug across what is now Charterhouse Square (behind Barbican tube station), although the precise extent seems not be known. Portions of it have been uncovered as part of the work on Crossrail. Bones have been found alongside pottery that can be dated to the mid-14th century, confirming the date. Although the site is small, Jay Carver, project archaeologist for Crossrail, says it is an important mediaeval find, The human remains "tell us something about the population at the time - about them as individual people, as well as being victims of the Black Death." In addition, the bodies may contain DNA from the bacteria responsible for the plague - from an early stage in the pandemic - helping modern epidemiologists track the development and spread of differing strains of a pathogen that still exists today. You can see the bones in the picture. below.

From the bbc/crossrail web site.



London Gardens

London has an amazing amount a green space that is little known, except to people who live next door to it. A web site has been developed that lists most of London's open space. You can search for those in your own borough, and along with basic information like opening times and nearby transport links, there are detailed histories of the sites. You can find everything from Hyde Park to small private gardens. Visit www.londongardensonline.org.uk/.

Local Archives

Hillingdon Local Studies, Archives and Museum Service closed to the public in March as Uxbridge Library for refurbishment. They will be in temporary accommodation with no public access until 2014. Although they hope to be able to run a limited enquiry service, there will not be access to all the collections. In early April a statement said that they were their temporary location was not confirmed. Contact by email at archives@hillingdon.gov.uk.

Hammersmith and Fulham

David Mander (erstwhile AfL chairman) reports that the Council is meeting the costs of including public facilities and storage for the archives service at the refurbished Hammersmith Library. This provides a firm future for the service in advance of the end of the lease at its present home at Lilla Huset in Talgarth Road in 2016. Fulham Archive Consultation Group members welcome the development. The volunteer role has been an important element in supporting the professional archive service, provided initially by staff from London Metropolitan Archives and subsequently by Westminster City Archives staff through the Tri-borough Library Service. Volunteers will continue to help support the archives service when it moves to its new home. The present arrangements at Lilla Huset will continue until preparations for the move, at present expected in the summer of 2014.

The press release (http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/News/Hammersmith_renaissance_continues_with_modernised_library.asp) claims that Hammersmith Town Centre is currently undergoing a renaissance, with hundreds of news homes and retail space getting planning permission, the Lyric Theatre being extended and the new King Street proposals being warmly received by local people. The development includes a modern, refurbished library in Hammersmith.

The Shepherds Bush service is branded as 'More than a Library!' because it offers residents a variety of services under one roof. The council wants to apply that ethos to Hammersmith Library, on Shepherds Bush Road. Shepherds Bush Library, situated at Westfield opened in September 2009 and has seen a 300 per cent increase in membership compared to the branch that it replaced. The £2million library was built at zero cost to the taxpayer, as the council stipulated that Westfield would need to build it when planning consent for the shopping centre was granted.

A member of BALH (who for his own protection shall be nameless) wrote : The tendency of central government to talk about local democracy and then to interfere at every stage, never ceases to upset me.

Peterborough City Council has hived off its cultural and sports role, including archives, to a body known as VivaCity which receives council funding but on a diminishing basis. The archives there are already having to look for income-generating business elsewhere. Is the £100k a sweetener to promote another Big Society spiffing wheeze?

York

On 29th January Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude, visited library staff in York's Explore Centre who are set to become part of the first library and archive service mutual in the country. During the visit, the Minister announced that the Cabinet Office Mutuals Support Programme will provide up to £100,000 of business planning and legal advice for the project.

City of York Council runs fifteen libraries and a historic archive service, which employs nearly 100 people who will form a new social enterprise to give the staff greater scope to work with the local community and more say in how services are delivered. The service will continue to receive funding from the council but will also have the flexibility to earn income, such as through the existing successful cafes or by creating new services.

Francis Maude said: "Libraries are treasured local services. Running them as mutuals could raise service quality and make them financially sustainable in the long-term. People who work in libraries and local public archives are the real experts, they know what local people want and how best to deliver it. The mutual model puts power in their hands."

"City of York Council's support for this project is great news for local people. Together with the library service employees, they are pioneering a new way of delivering library and archive services which will be a model for others to follow. And I'm very pleased to pledge substantial backing from the Cabinet Office Mutuals Support Programme, which will help get this project off the ground."

Councillor James Alexander, Leader of City of York Council said: "We have seen library closures happening across the country, including in many local council areas, and want to avoid this happening in York so a mutual approach is a sensible option worth exploring. This £100,000 from the Cabinet Office will let us support the service in any transition to a new method of delivery and is a great endorsement of the approach we are investigating to protect our library service for York residents. Our plans are for a professionally-led service, supported by the community, for the community it serves."

Janene Cox, President of the Society of Chief Librarians said: "The York Mutual is providing an interesting model for the management and delivery of Public Library Services. It is extremely positive to see that it retains the support of York City Council and also that it recognises the value of the role of both the Librarians and the Archivists who currently work within the service. Within SCL we will be keen to monitor the progress of this new operating model."

Oliver Morley, Chief Executive and Keeper at The National Archives said: "Trusts and other mutual governance structures are an important and valuable option to consider when designing sustainable archives and records services."

Knowledge Organisation

There is a vast amount of information floating about the web, which is the source of much of the content of the AfL newsletters. The editor was delighted to find a version of Tim Berners-Lee's 1989 proposal, for what has since evolved into the web, at info.cern.ch/Proposal.html. It seems from this that up to 1989 many online systems had been hierarchical, each datum in them having a parent, and any number (including none at all) of sub-items. But this is not the way we think, we make leaps and connections between related, sometimes unrelated, ideas: hyperlinks. And the rest is history.

There is now so much floating around that it is easy to be overwhelmed: we need our own mind maps for looking after our personal interests. It therefore seems appropriate to mention the *International Society for Knowledge Organisation* (IKSO) which hold its UK Biennial Conference in London on 8/9 July 2013. Quoting from their web site:

"Knowledge Organization (KO) is not just a fascinating research domain to attract our foremost thinkers; it also presents practical challenges to each of us as individuals, sorting out the files on our desktops physical and virtual, searching for inspiration via the Internet, or participating in the fora of social media. But there's a paradox: while KO practices permeate society, the name "Knowledge Organization" is known only to a few. Invisible boundaries separate KO researchers from the practitioners who could benefit from their findings, and also come between distinct fields of application such as records management, web design, librarianship, information retrieval, etc.

"This conference aims to explore such boundaries, challenge them and advance our thinking into new territory. Practitioners as well as theoreticians are invited to attend and participate, along with consultants, researchers, teachers and students. There will be a mix of short and longer presentations, as well as a display of posters. The papers submitted will be peer-reviewed and published electronically on the website, together with slides and audio recordings."

By the time this newsletter appears you will have missed the early bird discount, so registration for the two-day event will be £180.

The proceedings of the previous conference is online at www.iskouk.org/conf2011/programme.htm.

Institution of Civil Engineers: image library

The ICE's web site contains numerous images of architectural interest from around the world, including many of London. At the top of the web site was a Chromolithograph of Baker Street station dating from 1863, the year that the Metropolitan Railway, now the Metropolitan line of the London Underground, opened, and a very appropriate for the year of the underground's sesquicentennial. More macabre was a Prison Ship at Deptford from a drawing by Prout in 1826. (The URL is rather long, use your search engine to find it.)

Festival of Architecture

London is the home of a festival of architecture during

June. The web site with all the details is at www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org/. I regret that the newsletter editor thought, at least from the web site, that you have already to be knowledgeable about architectural practice to get a lot out of this, but take a look and see if you think me wrong. Related to this ...

Hawksmoor

An [Exhibition](#) on the architecture of Hawksmoor, about to open as this newsletter is being written, is advertised at Somerset House. The web site (above) says "This exhibition focuses on a series of important London churches built by the English architect Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661–1736) during the early part of the 18th Century. The key distinguishing features of Hawksmoor's churches are their spires, each designed with different qualities, which rose throughout the city and became major urban markers." The web site has links to a map showing the site of the extant churches, with pictures. Curated by Mohsen Mostafavi with photography by H el ene Binet.



Civic Trust Awards

The Civic trust has announced its awards. The full list can be found on the web site at

www.civictrustawards.org.uk. One of the most dramatic looking building is Canada Water library, which 'redefines the function of a library', and the award describes as thoughtfully designed and cleverly lit.

Image  
Timothy
Crocker.



The London Society

Having recently celebrated its centenary, the London Society is passing through a difficult time with a shortage of people to fill its key roles. Thus is a pity as the Society produces an excellent journal, and, like AfL, arranges visits to a range of interesting locations in London.

Indeed, some of the visit reports that have appeared in past AfL newsletters result from the editor's membership of both organisations!

The most recent journal draws my attention to several things that I am sure will interests other AfL members, if they have not already seen them.

Dr Lemes de Oliveira writes about a scheme thought up 100 years ago to create 'green wedges' in London. Rather than a green belt which went round London, these wedges would have radiated outwards, the geometric increase in circumference as one moves outward creating the wedge shapes. The plan was further developed after the Great War, but seems then to have run into the sand, and not been taken up.

Another article in the same journal reviews the most recent volume of the *Survey of London*, covering Woolwich. Amusingly the review draws attention to the fact that there was football club called Woolwich Arsenal, which moved from south of the river in 1913 and dropped the word 'Woolwich' from its name: guess where it ended up.

Like the London Society itself, the Survey of London appear to be passing through a period of difficulty. They are currently sponsored by English Heritage and published by the Yale Center for British Art, but English Heritage are reviewing their sponsorship and it is suggested they may withdraw from the project in a few years' time. Would that be the end of the Survey?

Old St Pancras

St Pancras Old Church is one of the oldest established in London. The altar houses a 7th century altar stone and medieval fabric survives, although much of the visible church dates from 1848. It retains its rural character, where the River Fleet once flowed, surrounded by a Victorian park and historic burial grounds, including the tombs of John Soane, Mary Wollstonecraft and many others of note. These monuments, and the church itself, have survived the dramatic impact of the railway lines running through the churchyard, into and out of the train station that takes its name.

Ancient drains threaten the longevity of this picturesque Grade II* listed building and the St Pancras Old Church appeal was launched on St Pancras Day, May 12, 2013 to help raise funds. All money raised will go towards building new drains and securing the cracks in the stone walls. To support the Appeal, please join us at our series of talks on the history of this fascinating part of London given by leading historians and authors.

LAMAS Conference 2013 ...

Will be on 16th November at the Museum of London, and take as it topic *The River and Port of London*.

Royal Archaeological Institute Journal

The Royal Archaeological Institute is one of the learned

institutions based at Burlington House. It has been publishing a journal since 1844, and the early issues from 1844 to 1963 are now available on line, and free to download. (More recent issues are online, but only available to members.) There is a search facility by issue or keyword, so naturally I used the latter and searched on 'London'. This threw up a list of titles, with the journal in which they appeared (giving a clue to date). Clicking on any title takes you to the table of contents for that issue (not directly to the article, so you then have to scan the page), but each article is individually down-loadable, so you do not have to download a complete issue to read one item of interest.

It has to be said that modern research has moved our knowledge on in a number so areas. I looked briefly at the article from 1903 entitled *Remarks on the Primitive Site of London* and even with my limited knowledge it was obvious that we now have a much clearer idea on the development of London. However, seeing the way ideas develop and change can be instructive, and some of the material has not been superseded. The journal of course deals with British archaeology, and is not confined to London. Click [here](#), or put the title your search engine.

Bloomsbury

UCL has set up a website as the result of a project to explore the history of Bloomsbury, and to chart Bloomsbury's development "from swampy rubbish-dump to centre of intellectual life." In her introduction to the website, Rosemary Ashton writes "The Project's timeline begins in the year 1800, when Francis Russell, fifth Duke of Bedford, obtained two acts of Parliament to develop his large Bloomsbury estate, the area stretching north from Great Russell Street to Euston Road and encompassing new squares including Russell, Tavistock, Woburn, and Torrington Squares, while the estate belonging to the Foundling Hospital further east was being developed at the same time, with streets and squares leading to Gray's Inn Road."

Considered as being bounded by Holborn, Tottenham Court Road, Euston Road and Gray's Inn Road the area includes UCL and several other bits of the University of London.

Although Bloomsbury is in many minds associated with the Bloomsbury Group, centred around Virginia Woolf, none of that group appears in the index of names on the web site. Rather it delves a little further back in time, to the early nineteenth century. There are brief biographical entries on many people, such as George Birkbeck, one of the founders of the University (and, one assumes, the person after who Birkbeck College is named), and Thomas Cubitt who built many of the houses, and whose younger brother Lewis was responsible for Kings Cross station.

Visit www.ucl.ac.uk/bloomsbury-project to view the project and for more information.

Archives miscellany

Cataloguing

Vivienne Aldous, former professional archivist and now a lecturer in History at UCS Suffolk, wrote a piece on the Archives NRA news-feed. It drew my attention to two web items: the first is a light-hearted look at document production in a record office, which may bring a smile to anyone who has ever worked in that environment, or used a record office: go to seax.essexcc.gov.uk/ and, on the right hand side of the page, click on 'Document Production video'. She also cited Professor William Cronon's website at www.williamcronon.net/researching/index.htm - saying that it "takes nothing for granted, so can be especially useful when considering how students should be thinking about research more generally, and how archivists can present material to students in a research context."

Illustrating some of the problems she wrote "Maybe as archivists, we sometimes take it for granted that people will just intuitively know the principles of a catalogue and where to find records according to provenance - to us, it's obvious that the estate records of Gradgrind House in Loamshire will be with the archives of Lord Duckworthy's main residence in Woodburyshire, since his family owned both seats, but we should not assume it's as obvious to non-professionals"; adding "I don't think you can teach anyone to interpret a document if they don't understand the context(s) in which it was produced, preserved and got to where it is now for them to use." (My thanks to Ms Aldous for permission to quote her at length. Ed.)

Tutorial

A separate but related theme on the same newsfeed mentioned the web pages at <http://archiveshub.ac.uk/guides/usingarchives/>. These offer a useful tutorial for those starting out in research in archives. On the [visitinganarchive](#) page of the site you will find a link to a video in which AfL board member Sian makes a brief appearance.

ARA

The Archives Records Association (ARA) have announced a new campaign for the promotion of archives across the country.

The new campaign, a successor to the Archive Awareness Campaign (AAC), hopes to increase public awareness of the work of the archive sector. It will raise the profile of national institutions, local authority record offices, universities, community and private archives. It will highlight the benefits archives bring to communities, the impact they can have on peoples' lives and seek to encourage a wide range of people to connect with their local history and culture.

To support the delivery of the campaign, ARA has appointed Forster Communications to research and develop a creative concept to inspire everyone – those who already know, those who partly know, and those who know nothing about the essential and inspiring role of archives.

Forster is working with archivists, users and non-users to develop the ideas for the campaign. Forster will produce a creative framework and toolkit to make sure

that those who work in archives of all kinds can easily take part in the campaign.

The National Archives and ARA will announce full details of the campaign and how you can get involved in spring 2013. The main thrust of the campaign will take place in the autumn with activities and promotion at a local and national level.

Scouting

he Scout Association Archive has gained a number of grants to catalogue, digitise and place online the papers of the founder of Scouting. The project has started and is expected to be completed by June 2014.

The papers of Robert Stephenson Smythe Baden-Powell begin with his childhood sketches, photographs and school reports circa 1860s-1870s. The Army took him to India, Afganistan, Malta, Ireland and Africa which he documented in scrap albums and diaries before his retirement in 1910. The project will include albums of photographs and plans of his defence of Mafeking which made his name famous throughout the world during the Second Boer War. Having published Scouting for Boys in 1908 he was faced with creating an organisation after boys and girls started to form Troops by themselves after reading the book, the papers illustrate how he designed the badges/uniform, structure, programme and deal with political and religious attempts to steer the Organisation in a different direction during the interwar period. These documents explore the first thirty formative years of how the Movement developed to become a global membership of 31 million.

The **Children's Society**, in association with the Wellcome Trust, has launched a project to catalogue and index the records of The Children's Society that are the most rich in medical information. The project will catalogue the case files of children that were in The Children's Society's care, each of which contains a medical certificate giving information about the child's history of vaccinations, disabilities and childhood diseases. Between its inception in 1881 and 1870, the Society ran a network of children's homes for poor and disadvantaged children. The records of these homes can help to explain what life was like for children in care during the late 19th and 20th centuries.

A spokesman said: "Hidden amongst these records is a wealth of primary resources about the history of medicine, including information about the history of children's health and healthcare, children's mental health and 'maladjustment' diseases of poverty, alcoholism and nutrition. It is a very exciting project that will unearth information about what life was like for these children."

Another part of the project will seek to create preservation copies of later case files that are only stored on microfilm; this will ensure that deterioration of the microfilms will not result in this information being lost forever.

Underground tunnels

Where is the oldest tunnel on the London rail network? We all know the underground started in 1863 with a line from Paddington to Farringdon, so if you were told that a tunnel used by the underground was started in 1827, you might question me. The tunnel in question is the one used by the old East London branch of the Metropolitan line, which ran from Shoreditch to New Cross. Today that line has been incorporated into the 'overground' network line that runs from Highbury to Croydon. However, it is the re-use of a tunnel started by Marc Brunel, and also worked on by his son, the more famous Isambard Kingdom Brunel (son of Marc and Sophia Kingdom). The tunnel was started with a view to making it easier to transport goods between the north and south sides of the river in the days when sailing ships coming in to the port of London could wait many days before they could unload, and there would be an advantage in being able to unload on the Surrey side and transport goods to the main London docks on the north.

The tunnel was never used for this purpose, one possible reason being that there was no access to the tunnel other than by steps. The initial ground breaking was in 1825, but that was to build the shaft down to the tunnel level. When that had been sunk, the actual tunnelling could begin. It took much longer than was expected: the estimate before work began was 3 years, but it was not opened until 1843, and then as a foot tunnel: Queen Victoria made an unexpected visit to the tunnel on 26th July that year.

With the tunnel now in regular use for rail traffic it is now only possible to visit it by special arrangement on days when engineering work suspends rail traffic; but you can peer along the tunnel from the south end of Wapping station. Near Rotherhithe station there is a small Brunel museum, with a garden atop the access shaft. On my visit we were allowed into the shaft itself: you have to bend low to get in through an access point scarcely 3ft high: the original Victorian steps are no longer there, but the line of them can be seen in the brickwork. A floor has been inserted inside the shaft, and the sound of the trains running directly beneath you can be clearly heard.

Brunel devised a shield as a device for boring the tunnel. This was an innovation at the time, but has been used many times since and a derivation from that original idea was used when boring the channel tunnel.

Going Underground

Back in January the IHR held a 2-day conference under the above title, no doubt motivated in part by the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first section of the London underground in January 1863, the Paddington – Farringdon line.

I give here my personal reaction to the event (Ed): I was only able to attend the first day and I confess to being rather disappointed. However, I have spoken to a couple of people who attended both days, and one of them, on hearing my opinion of day one, agreed and replied "and the second day was even worse"!

As it was an event hosted by the Institute of Historical

Research, I went along expecting some heavyweight history on subjects like the network, its development, and the impact it had on London both physically, the disruption whilst the lines were built --- the early lines were cut and cover, so enormous trenches had to be dug. I had not expected sessions on the poetry of Seamus Heaney, a recording of noises on the underground, what interests the 'anoraks' of the network, and "commemorative genealogy" (don't ask me, I missed that session).

If one is listening to a full day of lectures, a couple of lighter sessions are in order to provide variety, but for me this was all too lightweight and missed an opportunity to present some serious work. If you did not attend, you saved some money.

Senate House London

As the above event was held at Senate House, it seems appropriate to include this news on the land-mark here.

Commissioned as the first purpose-built home and central headquarters of the University of London, Senate House welcomed its first occupants in 1936, a century after the University was granted its Charter. It was designed as the centrepiece of architect Charles Holden's plan for a campus that, in the words of visionary Vice-Chancellor William Beveridge, would be "something that could not have been built by any earlier generation than this... an academic island in swirling tides of traffic, a world of learning in a world of affairs."

Ranked among the capital's earliest skyscrapers and clad in Portland Stone, Senate House is home to the University's world-famous library, as well as administrative offices and meeting rooms. It was the first large-scale building in the country to be heated by electricity, using an early form of storage heater. The offices were naturally ventilated, but an early form of air conditioning was installed in the main public rooms.

After 70 years, during which Senate House was used in wartime by the Ministry of Information (a development that is said to have inspired George Orwell's description of the Ministry of Truth in his novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*), Holden's Grade II* listed masterpiece was in need of attention. A multi-million pound refurbishment programme, begun in 2006, provided the building with modern, upgraded and more cohesive office space, improved meeting and teaching facilities and new and enhanced library resources.

The University of London's original remit of overseeing examinations has evolved into the provision of a wide range of value-added activities and services for its 19 autonomous Colleges of outstanding reputation. These services range from distance learning and research facilitation to career development advice and information technology solutions. Today, Senate House is not simply an icon of 20th century architecture, it is equipped for the next stage of the University's evolution.

AfL Visit: The Wiener Library

The Wiener Library, located at 29 Russell Square, is dedicated to the 'Study of the Holocaust and Genocide'. It was founded by, and takes its name from, Alfred Wiener. Wiener was German Jew: he fought in WW1, but in the 1930's became unhappy with the rise of Fascism and moved, first to Amsterdam c1933, and then on to the UK just before the outbreak of WW2. He may have started his collection in the 1920's, but material collected prior to this move to Amsterdam was lost, and the current collection dates from 1933.

The library has been housed in several locations around London; it has been in its Russell Square home for less than 2 years, a building it acquired thanks to help from the University of London – on the same side of the square is the University's *Centre of the Study of Anti-Semitism*.

On entering, you are greeted with an attractive and airy reception room facing on to the square. This room houses rotating exhibitions of material from the collection, and on the occasion of our visit there was a collection of cartoons by Stephen Roth – yes one of the responses to the tragedy in Germany was the production of cartoons that poked fun at the Nazis and their weltanschauung. Apparently it was only as a result of the recent move, when all the material had been packed, transported and then unpacked again, that the archive discovered that it has got the original drawings of cartoons by Stephen Roth, complete with the artist's pencil annotations.

Below the reception room there is an archive basement, but (to be honest) if you have seen a couple of archive basements you have probably seen enough, it's the content that makes them interesting.

The study areas are on the first floor. Here there are open shelves with about half the books that the archive holds. Books from the basement archive can be requested, and will be produced less than 10 minutes ("not an hour like the British Library" as our guide said!). Most of the books are in English, many published in the USA which, with its active Jewish population, has a great interest in the subject. There are books published in German, too.

For the newsletter editor, the most fascinating items that they hold is the of personal items. These can be quite touching: the ones that we were shown were from a family, some of whose members are still alive in the USA, but which they had chosen to donate to the Wiener collection. A letter written at the time of the donation gave the family's background, and there were photographs of their home in Austria before they left, newspapers cuttings from the time, and related memorabilia.

The focus is not exclusively on the holocaust, and non-Jewish conflicts are not ignored: the evening of our visit there was a lecture on the conflict in Darfur. This is part of an active programme of lectures. Details of all the events can be found on the web site. These are on whole free to attend, although booking is advised.

Visit www.wienerlibrary.co.uk for information.

Seminar: Royal Albert Hall

Appropriately, after the December visit, the April

seminar dealt with the history of the RAH. It was given by Fiona Gibbs, who, as well as working at the hall, is a concert violinist from across the road at the Royal College of Music.

The area around the Albert Hall along Exhibition Road which leads up from South Ken tube station, which opened in 1869, was developed after the Great Exhibition of 1851. The building that housed that exhibition stood in the park opposite the present hall's site (and as is well known was moved to Crystal Palace where it was destroyed by fire in 1936). The site of the hall was a building called Gore House, which held a restaurant, hoping to tempt visitors to the exhibition, apparently not very successfully. The 1851 commission became the owner of the lands, and remains so until today. The idea of a hall was mooted in the 1860's: one of those involved in the design of the hall was Henry Cole, whose name is preserved in the Cole Wing at the V&A, and is reputed to have had the idea of funding the construction by selling the seats. One early idea was a hall that would hold 30,000 people, although this was over-ambitious. The foundation stone was laid by Queen Victoria in May 1867, and the Hall was opened in March 1871: it was named in honour of Prince Albert who had died, it is said of typhoid, 10 years previously. The main span of the domed roof was so large (for the time) that it was constructed off-site to test it, and then dismantled, brought to London by horse, and re-assembled.

Today the hall, which is a grade 1 listed building, is probably best known for the annual service of remembrance which is held there in November, and for the Proms, but it holds events all through the year including boxing matches and concerts by popular artistes. Amongst the many events documented on the web site (<http://www.royalalberthall.com>) is a race with a running track constructed around the arena.

The Proms moved here during the WW2, after the Queens Hall, where they were held before the war, had been destroyed by bombing in 1940. During the war the Proms sometimes went on until midnight or later. The orchestra left the stage and those members of the audience who had any ability gave performances. On one occasion a lady stood up and said she would like to sing, but the only songs she knew were German lieder; so it was that during the war the RAH audience was listening to German songs.

Ever since the foundation the boxes have been privately owned. Even today, they can change hands for some £500,000, and there is a fee of £1000p.a. for holding one, but they are considered a good investment for some companies who want a prestigious place for entertaining their clients. Those that are privately owned are often passed on by inheritance.

Fiona brought along with her a very interesting selection of memorabilia from her archive, and there was plenty of interest in browsing through it from her audience.

VISIT REPORTS

55 Broadway

It was very appropriate that, in the month when London has been celebrating 150 years of the underground, the AfL January visit was to 55 Broadway, the office block above St. James's Park underground station, which houses offices belonging to Transport for London. We were given a talk by the entire staff of the archive department, all two of them, Tamara Thornhill and assistant archivist Stephanie Rousseau, whose role is to "Preserve the Corporate Memory".

55 Broadway is a Grade I listed building. It was designed by Charles Holden, who was also responsible for several underground stations (notably those on the Piccadilly Line when it was extended north from Finsbury Park c1930), and also London's Senate House. 55 Broadway straddles the underground station, and when down in the basement, which houses a small part of the archive, the sound of the trains rumbling through the station is quite clear. Most of the archives are held off-site at Deepstore in Cheshire. We also had a quick trip up to the 10th floor, where you can step out onto a small roof-garden and stare across to New Scotland Yard. When built (1927-29), 55 Broadway was planned as, and was, the tallest building in London, but has since lost that distinction.

The archives hold staff records, and genealogical enquiries from researchers with ancestors who worked in transport form a large part of the enquiries received. They hold staff magazines, which have notes on former staff, and staff ledgers. There are also designs and buses and rolling stock for the railways, and records relating to the buildings: indeed the oldest document they hold is one dated 1556, a deed from a building that was on the site now occupied by Aldgate underground station.

It is interesting to see a map of the underground network as it was in 1913, laid out geographically like the Paris Metro, rather than the Peck's 'conventional' map to which Londoners have become accustomed. Images of the two early maps can be seen on the web site (URL below). Peck's map has become almost an international symbol of London: another item that can claim the sort of recognition is the 'Roundel', the circle and bar that is the symbol of London transport and can be seen all over the capital at bus stops. It started life as a plain red disk in 1906, and seems to have taken its modern form a decade later. The archive have a subject guide on it, which reveals that some of the records from the time of Frank Pick, have gone missing. Pick was an administrator of ability who had a profound effect on transport in London: his life is well written up in the wikipedia article about him.

If you are researching any part of the history of transport in London, you may visit the archive for yourself. Be aware that you need to contact them, both for an appointment (they do not operate an 'open house' policy), to be sure that they hold relevant records, and, if they do, that they will be on-site when you visit

The web site <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/historicalarchives/17324.aspx> has much more background than I can put in here. (Editor)

Middle Temple Hall

The area called the Temple is named after the Knights Templar, who occupied the area until the 1330's, about which time they ceased operating. The Temple church, one of their traditional round churches, still exists not far away. At this point the lawyers moved in, and there are records of their use from 1334. The temple was originally divided into Inner and Outer Temples, the two being divided by the limit of the old city. Outer Temple seems to have vanished from memory, and was only confirmed to have existed as recently as 2008.

Between these two there was, naturally enough, Middle Temple. They built a hall in 1562, in the reign of Elizabeth I, and she is known to have watched Shakespeare's twelfth night here in February 1602, not long before her death. The place from which she watched is was very likely the great table which still stretches across the west end of the hall. This was a gift from Elizabeth, the tree from which it is made having been cut down from Windsor Forest c15xx, and transported down the Thames to the hall. It was brought in to the hall through one of the windows, still in log form, cut into planks some 29ft long in situ, and the planks were made into the table. It would not now be possible to take the table out of the hall in one piece without demolishing some part of the doors or windows!

The transportation was made easier by the fact that at the time the Thames, then a wider and slower flowing river than it is today, covered much of the garden that today lies between the hall the Embankment. Temple Stairs are clearly marked on the *Braun and Hogenburg* map of London from 1572. From here lawyers would have taken a boat up to Westminster Hall, where a great deal of their business would have been conducted. The river would have been both faster and cleaner than trudging through the muddy streets along the Strand, as we know, 100 years later, from Pepys frequent use of the river as recorded in his diary. The door from the hall adjacent to the modern kitchens is known to have been a water gate, c1550. The narrowing of the Thames has had a similar effect on Chelsea Physic Garden, which also had a water gate at one time.

Middle Temple Hall survived the ravages of the Great Fire of 1666, which burnt parts of the Inner Temple, but did not get quite so far as this. It was also undamaged during WW1, and although the east window was blown in during WW2, the wall did not support the roof and the fabric of the hall survived and was restored. This means that the wonderful hammer beam roof is original.

One of the traditions is that of 'Reader', a member of the Inn who gives a lecture each term, originally to teach the younger members of the bar about points of law. Each reader has a coat of arms displayed in the hall, and with two readers a year, one for each term, there are now so many coats of arms that they stretch out into the adjacent passageways.

There are pictures, and more history of the hall on the web site at www.middletemple.org.uk

SEMINAR REPORTS

Oscar Nemon

The January seminar was given by Lady Aurelia Young, who spoke about the life and work of her father, Oscar Nemon, and also about the assistance she has received from archivists around the world in piecing together her father's life story.

Oscar Nemon was a sculptor: possibly his most famous work is the statue of Winston Churchill in the lobby of the houses of parliament. The toe of this statue has been eroded by generations of MPs rubbing them for luck, so much so that at one time a notice was put up asking members to desist.

Oscar was born, as Oscar Neumann, in the Jewish community in Croatia, on 13 March 1906, the middle child of his parents' three; he died in Oxford in April 1985. His birth was protracted, but at a critical moment a shout from outside (to a horse) of "Come on Oscar" was heard, and immediately the baby was born. On leaving his homeland, he moved first to Vienna where he worked in a bronze foundry owned by an uncle.

His first major public commission, awarded in 1927 when he was 21, was for a portrait of Dr Ante Aksamovic, Bishop of Djakovo. In the years up to the war he made portrait reliefs and medals in bronze, many now held by the Ashmolean Museum; he was the artist of the profile on the Churchill crown coin issued at the latter's death in 1965.

He moved on to Brussels, where he sculpted Lindbergh, the man famous for his solo Atlantic flight (also 1927), where he met Queen Astrid of Belgium and Rodin. About 1931 Oscar returned to Vienna to sculpt Freud, who had thought that Oscar merely wanted to meet him; in spite of a shaky start, the two became friends. and met again after the war when Freud was in Hampstead. Oscar came and settled in England before the outbreak of WW2, initially choosing to live in rural Surrey where he would be out of the view of those who might be suspicious of his origins: several members of his family died in Auschwitz during the war.

In 1941 he moved to Oxford, his home for the rest of his life, where, to start with, his accommodation was in two Nissan huts, one of which served as a home, the other as a studio. He married Patricia, the daughter of a well-to-do Norfolk family. Aurelia amused us by showing a picture of a toy railway Pullman car bearing the name Aurelia, which she said was her parents' source of her name.

The list of those he sculpted is impressive: the Queen; war leaders – Eisenhower, Earl Alexander of Tunis and Montgomery; politicians – Macmillan, Truman and Thatcher; the newspaper magnate, Lord Beaverbrook and child psychiatrist, Donald Winnicott.

His main medium was bronze: to make a bronze statue you make first a model in clay or plaster. In many cases both model and bronze survive, but there are several models which it seems were never cast, and others which are believed to have been cast but for which the finished bronze is now missing.

For information and a selection of images visit <http://oscardnemon.org.uk/>.

Documenting Science — Preserving the Legacy of the Human Genome Project by Jenny Shaw

The history of the study of genetics dates back to the 19th century, with the 'Father of Genetics' Gregor Mendel undertaking ground-breaking studies on pea plants. By 1953, Francis Crick and James D Watson had discovered the structure of DNA. Fred Sanger received two Nobel Prizes in 1958 and 1980 for his work on proteins and sequencing of DNA, with his work paving the way for the sequencing of the human genome.

The Human Genome Mapping Project began in 1989, funded by the Medical Research Council. Sequencing the human genome is an extremely time-consuming and resource-heavy activity, with the base genes (which are radioactive) being x-rayed and manually read. As the human genome has 3 billion base genes, the project needed to find an industrial, mechanised method of reading the bases. Automated sequencing units were thus developed using the method invented by Sanger.

The project to map the human genome was international but the race was largely held between the UK and the US. It was also a race between private and public resources, with the main competition coming from Celera, the organisation that produced the automated sequencing machines.

In 2009, concern was expressed by the Wellcome Trust (who had entered the field in 1992) about the long-term preservation of the records created by the project. And so a project was initiated to survey and capture the records of the scientists involved in the human genome project. Jenny Shaw was employed to undertake this role, with the task of developing an effective survey methodology, identifying key records already held in archive repositories, and key records held elsewhere.

The methodology that Jenny chose was based on the Minnesota Method, a proactive survey approach which relies on documentation strategy and functional analysis, and was used by The National Archives in their Olympic Strategy. The steps that Jenny followed are as follows: 1. Define Collecting Area, in this case, the period from 1977-2004 in the UK; 2. Undertake analysis of existing collections, using Archon, National Register of Archives, and Accessions to Repositories list on The National Archives website; 3. Determine the documentary universe, by looking at the broader context; 4. Prioritise areas of collecting, focusing on individuals and organisations and the connections between them, and collaborating with other archives. The survey is still yet to be completed but Jenny has come to the following initial conclusions – documenting science has its challenges due to organisational cultures and dissenting views between individuals and professional networks and lack of record keeping knowledge has created gaps, especially during the 1970s and 1980s. However, once the survey is complete, the record of scientific endeavour in the field of genetics will be significantly enhanced.

Report by Sarah Hale



AfL Events: Seminars and visits

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

6th June, Volunteering in the Archives Sector with Susan Lumas

Susan will share her unique and voluminous experience of volunteer archive projects. Her talk will span the beginnings of the Public Record Office/TNA, including coping before the advent of volunteers and computers, to her participation in recent archives projects as a volunteer. Bringing together her experiences on both sides of volunteer projects, Susan will cover the both the factors necessary to successful project planning and administration, and speak about what motivates someone to volunteer and continue to the conclusion of a project.

Sue Lumas has worked on projects involving volunteers since 1983, both inside and outside the PRO/TNA, as a member of staff, project co-ordinator and volunteer. She joined the public record office in 1974, knowing nothing about archives but was attracted by a well-worded recruitment advertisement labelled- HISTORY AT YOUR ELBOW. Volunteers did not exist in those days, but now there are many working happily at Kew- happily because there is much to be done, and happily because those who volunteer generally get hooked and enjoy new vistas to be found in the projects they attempt.

4th July Break-up of Empire: Communities Adrift. with Clifford Pereira

Clifford Pereira is a Historical Geographer and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and is honorary researcher at Royal Holloway, University of London.

The 1950's and 1960's were a period when "the winds of change" swept across the globe. In this period of socio-political transition new societal structures were developing and old ones were collapsing. Many communities across the globe were deemed "redundant" by new states and these sought to migrate to the "mother land". This talk looks at some of these communities, their arrival in the UK and the importance of archives to them.

Visits: Sorry, I have been unable to contact AfL visits co-ordinator to obtain details. Ed.

Editor's Apology

I tried to get issue 23 out in a hurry on my return from Christmas holiday, and I regret that I omitted to fill in the table of contents on page 2 of that issue, and the paper copies were sent out incomplete. I was able to correct this in the pdf copy that was sent out by email, and the version submitted to the web site. The corrected copy is the AfL web site at <http://www.archivesforlondon.org/wp-content/uploads/AfLissue23.pdf>.

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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