



From the Chairman

Welcome to the **AfL** Newsletter at the start of another New Year, one which sees the commemoration of such diverse major events as the 500th Anniversary of Trinity House, the centenary of Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans- Antarctic Expedition and, that event which you may perhaps be most aware of, the centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

The theme we have chosen for 2014 is *Decades of Change*, broadly interpreted to take in the period from the end of the Victorian era to the aftermath of WWI. This gives us scope to expand our horizons of events either side of WWI. There are so many events planned around this important centenary by many organisations that we feel we must supply other topics to keep a balance. Although our conference (probably to be held in May) will discuss WWI, our seminars and visits will remain as varied as ever in their content.

Following on from our very successful 60s at 50 theme of 2013, all 3 events of which were well attended and enjoyed, our prestige event

will again be in collaboration with Chelsea organisations. It will feature our summer soirée at Sussex House School, a 19th century Norman Shaw house, decorated and furnished in the Arts and Crafts style.

Other great news, a new project during 2014: AfL will be working with Poet in the City on *Through the Door* (we jointly gratefully acknowledge Arts Council funding). This project will see 7 poets going into 7 different archives and writing poetry based on the collections, with events to be held to showcase the poetry. This is a very exciting partnership, initiated by David Mander, and developed by the present team. Look out for progress postings and associated events on our website.

But, before those events, do remember WDYTYA Live February 22nd to 24th, where AfL again has a stand; again volunteers welcome for this fun few days – please contact us if you would like to participate, even for a couple of hours!

Finally, Happy New Year to all members!

Anne Barrett *Chairman Archives for London*

The People's Charter of 1838: The Chartist Legacy to Democracy

On 22nd October 2013, I was lucky enough to attend the All Party Parliamentary Group for Archives and History annual lecture as a representative for AfL. Held in the Speaker's State Rooms at the Houses of Parliament, the talk was about the People's Charter of 1838 and given by Malcolm Chase. Dr Hywel Francis, Chair of the All Party Group, introduced the professor and explained that the reason for this year's topic was the 175th anniversary of the Charter and the establishment of a permanent display on this subject in the Houses of Parliament.

The People's Charter of 1838 was a set of six points for Parliamentary reform. Ultimately it failed to secure these reforms, but was hugely influential in the development of future democracy. At the heart of Chartism was the idea of Parliamentary corruption, with MPs passing laws that only benefitted them, and representatives that couldn't be trusted by the masses. [Chartism was a large, widely-supported movement, although it sought the vote for men alone, choosing to separate its campaign from

that for female suffrage.] Malcolm Chase emphasised the multiplicity of small victories that the Charter won, despite being unsuccessful in its overall aims. It increased class consciousness, established a national press, made local and national authority more cautious in applying policies of repression, and encouraged political awareness among local men.

The All Party Group was set up in 2008 under the National Council on Archives. It has allowed the archive sector to engage more effectively with relevant people in Parliament and create strong links with those who can advocate our work. This is done without the need for affiliation with individual political parties or the party in power at any one time. The People's Charter was a particularly pertinent subject in this time of distance between the elected and its constituents, and a decline in voting turn-out for elections. But as Professor Chase stated, 'Chartism belongs to us all, whatever our political party persuasion' and was therefore a fitting topic for their third annual lecture.

Ruth Kusionowicz

Treasurer, Archives for London

Inside this Issue (summary)

The Children's Society	p3
Conservative Party web site	p3
Archives, Photography and the Internet	p3
Al Qaida	p3
Salvation Army	p4
Born Digital	p4
Post Christmas Reading	p4
Sussex Records	p4
Visit: London Library	p5
Visit: Parker Library	p5
Ballet Rambert	p6
National Railway Museum —WW1	p6
Great War at Home	p6
Forgotten Spaces	p6
Ministry of Defence Archives	p7
BALH	p7
LAMAS Conference	Pp 8-9
Highgate Cemeteries	p9
AfL Seminar reports	Pp 10-11
- Survey of London	p10
- Tower Hamlets	p10
- Inconvenient People	p11
AfL visit to St Paul's	p11
The AfL page: Events and Seminars	p12

Jessica Huntley

Members who attend AfL's seminars regularly cannot fail to be aware that the room at the LMA where we hold them is called the Huntley Room. I am sure that members will have seen the information on the LMA news feed that Jessica Huntley died on 13 October last.

Jessica Huntley was born, as Jessica Carroll, on 23 February 1927 in Bagotstown in Guyana, then British Guiana. Her early life must have been hard: she was the youngest of five children and her father died when she was aged only three. Poor family finances meant that she was unable to complete her schooling, but she attended evening classes in typing and, hoping to move to a clerical post, went to work in a garment factory. Here she encountered the poor employment conditions of the female workers, and she took up their cause.

In 1950 she married Eric Huntley. Over the next seven years they worked in the Guyanese People's Progressive Party (PPP). A measure of her political involvement may be judged by her choosing to name her first son Karl, after Karl Marx.

Eric Huntley came to England in 1957, and when, in elections shortly afterwards, Jessica failed to gain a seat for the PPP, she decided to join her husband in England. She had to leave her sons in Guyana, they only came to join their parents in 1962.

Later in the 1960s Eric and Jessica set up Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications. This takes its name from Paul Bogle and Toussaint L'Ouverture. Paul Bogle was a Jamaican who was hanged on 24 October 1865 for supposedly fomenting rebellion; Toussaint L'Ouverture is credited with creating the modern state of Haiti by leading what the web site on his story calls, the largest slave revolt in history.

In their early days in the UK they stayed with John La Rose. John La Rose (1928-2006) was a 'cultural activist' who founded New Beacon Books and was a Friend of George Padmore. The George Padmore Institute above New Beacon's bookshop in Stroud Green (near Finsbury Park) was the destination of one of AfL's visits last year. The family then moved to west London, finally settling in Ealing in 1972.

The Huntley Archive was donated to the London Metropolitan Archives, and can be found there under series references LMA/4462 and LMA/4463.

The Guardian newspaper's web site has a full obituary with many links at www.theguardian.com/books/2013/oct/27/jessica-huntley

AfL Conference November 2013 People, Politics and Planning: How Permissive was 1960s London?

Elain Harwood and Geraint Franklin examined the major urban schemes of 1960s London revealing changing priorities and expectations. Hyde Park's ambitious Park Lane Improvement Scheme successfully solved a severe traffic congestion problem, yet the irretrievable loss of parkland and architectural heritage sustained through this project passed without comment; Later plans to redevelop Covent Garden were met with a public outcry; here sheer public force put down the ambition of public planners. The 'we can do anything' attitude began to dwindle.

Geoff Pick spoke on the balance between the local and metropolitan and the tensions between the boroughs and the GLC, such as housing, transport and education, following the 1963 London Government Act, and the creation of the GLC (1965). He particularly explored the impact on the archival record, salvaged from this.

Max Morgan-Witts gave a talk rich in colourful anecdotes drawn from his impressive career in TV broadcasting. The cost of recording made it cheaper to transmit programmes live, keeping production teams on their toes. He recalled actors simply adlibbing when they forgot their lines, and an actor on The Army Game being knocked accidentally unconscious live on air. In 1963 he joined the BBC's new Science and Features Department. Having to learn fast about unfamiliar subjects was all part of the thrill of his work; his first documentary on 'Solid State Physics' was nominated for a BAFTA.

Mark Dunton explored the history of the Post Office Tower. It was London's tallest building, designed to transmit radio beams unobstructed, providing an urgently needed increase in long-distance telecommunication networks. Londoners must have been fascinated to see this glass, steel and concrete structure unfolding. Three observation platforms and a revolving restaurant afforded a panoramic view of the city. The building captured the public's imagination, and soon featured in popular culture, like Dr Who.

John Davis analysed the development of the permissive society in 1960s Soho. Nude revue bars had avoided the LCC's jurisdiction, by setting up as nominally private clubs. To escape prosecution, they eschewed direct obscenity in rather innocent stage shows. While never officially sanctioned or tolerated, no earnest attempt was made to suppress this trade. Eventually the GLC granted licences to formerly clandestine clubs, simply in order to impose Health & Safety regulations on overcrowded venues. The resulting 'anything goes' attitude soon transformed Soho's 'naughty but nice' vibe.
Report by Sarah Thiel

The Children's Society

Known as the Waifs and Strays' Society at its foundation in 1881, since 1946 it has been The Church of England Children's Society, and has used the shorter name since 1982. It has put online a 'virtual archive' under the name Hidden Lives Revealed (www.hiddenlives.org.uk). This has details of the society's work from 1881 to 1918, during which period they claim to have looked after 22,500 children.

There is a mass of information on the web site, and anyone with an interest in the social history of the period, especially as it relates to children, would be sure to find something here. The most important information is the case histories: these have been 'fully anonymised' (to quote the site) so that it is not possible to identify the children, although some of the letters from those offering homes to the children contain names.

There are photographs of some of the children, especially in later life after they left the care of the waifs and strays. There is a list of the homes the society has run, too many to count, must be over 100, many with pictures. The very first was a home for 12 girls in Dulwich of which there is a picture. The first boy to be taken in had been a crossing sweeper on Clapham Common in 1880: he went to their home in Clapton.

There are digitised copies of the society's publication, including *Our Waifs and Strays* with stories of the children, and the Annual Reports with information about the homes they are running. The Children's Society has an in-house archive service, which can be contacted by emailing:



archive@childrenssociety.org.uk.

Image above © The Children's Society

A snippet

Did any other members AfL see the report on the archives_nra newsfeed, taken from the Albuquerque Journal, concerning an event in Timbuktu. I had thought that US newspapers regarded anything outside their own state as foreign, and, if on a different continent, totally arcane. I was wrong! (although I wonder how many of their readers would be able to find Timbuktu on a map, let alone having been there, as have some AfL members). Apparently a member of al Qaida stopped at the grocery there, bought a pot of mustard costing \$1.60, and asked for a receipt. It seems that this level of detail in al-Qaida's record keeping is nothing unusual.

I thought this a fun item for the bottom of a page. (Ed.)

Conservative Party web site

Reports appearing in two newspapers, *The Guardian* and *Computer Weekly*, suggest that the Conservative party has not quite lived up to its promises on open-ness. *Computer Weekly* went so far as to suggest they were hiding data in a secret corner of the web in the same manner as the secret sites used for data exchange by paedophiles. The papers say that the web sites use 'blockers', files that tell web crawlers to keep out: in case I am losing you here, web crawlers are programs that go round the internet building up the databases that are used when you put in a query into search engines like Google; and a blocker will stop it doing that. And of course if the search engine cannot find your site, people can visit it only if they know the URL. With URLs like <http://www.computerweekly.com/blogs/public-sector/2013/11/conservatives-erase-internet-h.html> proliferating (that's the *Computer Weekly* page with the report, which *can* be found via Google), you do not want to have to type that too often, let alone any chance you might have of thinking it up for yourself.

The reports say that included in the now-inaccessible items are the transcript of a speech from 2007 in which David Cameron said "political leaders will have to learn to let go ... let go of the information that we have guarded so jealously." Does he need to learn from his own words? More generally, it is claimed that records up to 2010, from the Tories' period as the opposition, and in which they made various undertakings about what they would do in government and how they would cure Labour's "ills", have also mysteriously vanished. *Computer Weekly* said that the Conservative Party "erased the official record of their speeches from the Internet Archive, the public record of the net - with an effect as alarming as sending Men in Black to strip history books from a public library and burn them in the car park."

The idea may yet back-fire. The British Library takes archives of websites and has the data in its internet archive, although that is only accessible from Euston Road. Both the *Guardian* and Google claim to have copies of the now inaccessible material, so if anyone compares the old with the current, lacunae may emerge!

We all know that entire web sites can come and go, the web is a transient area, so perhaps archivists should be grateful for the British Library's archiving policy.

Archives, Photography and the Internet

Is the use of digital cameras, and phones with cameras attached, having an effect on the way archives work. For example, if a researcher finds an item of interest, he can snap it, email it a colleague, or post it on a web site within minutes. A researcher with a helpful contact who takes pictures for him can study documents thousands of miles away: even these can be put together this way, with supervisor and student hardly meeting face-to-face. What are the implications of this for researchers, managers of archives repositories, and potential donors. If you have any opinions, email the editor. A summary of any responses will be in the next newsletter.

Salvation Army

An announcement from the salvation army reads: "The archive and library catalogue of The Salvation Army International Heritage Centre is now available on-line using CalmView software. More than 5,000 documents and books can be searched at www.calmview.eu/SalvationArmy/CalmView. This represents only a small fraction of our total holdings. Additional catalogue records will be added several times a year.

The catalogue comprises descriptions of records relating to:

- The Salvation Army's international administration, including material on work in Europe, South Asia, Africa and the Americas.
- Social Services, including maternity homes, children's homes, hostels and emigration schemes.
- Salvation Army churches ('corps') in the UK and Ireland.
- Salvation Army ministers ('officers'), such as the family of William and Catherine Booth, the founders of The Salvation Army.
- The Christian Mission, the predecessor organisation of The Salvation Army (1865-1878).

The catalogue also contains descriptions for the majority of the books and pamphlets in our reference library."

The online data is a catalogue of the holdings, no images are held online. The Heritage Centre is at William Booth College, Champion Park, London, SE5 8BQ, which is close to Denmark Hill station.

Born Digital

An article in the Financial Times revisited a problem on which the newsletter has reported before, the increasing number of items that 'never existed'. A university archivist who collects rare documents of all sorts was reported as saying "a major issue with collecting anyone's documents that were created after about 1990 is that the really desirable documents don't physically exist ... or, rather, they do exist but they're lying comatose inside a 1995-ish laptop". Apparently (and of this I was not aware) the electrons that are responsible for recording the data drift away, and a laptop's drive may erase itself at a half-life rate of about 15 years.

The most important question: what would I really like to see? Well, many writers email themselves a copy of their novels at the end of every day, using the cloud as a back-up mechanism. Imagine if one were able to take all of those daily backups and then place them into a sort of stop-frame animation, one could see how an author constructs their work: words per day; words cut and pasted; paragraphs deleted; items shuffled about; typos; notes to self. Then, when the editing process begins, one could watch how a novel is hacked and pruned and reshaped – an organic process displayed in a dynamic organic mode. This would be a fascinating new way of appreciating a book's creation – a visual language to describe a verbal process. And while this is just a fanciful idea, it does point out a chasm that now exists before the old manuscript and the new, and gives a taste of a visit to the archives of tomorrow.

Post Christmas Reading

Rachel Hardiman made an enquiry on the Archives NRA

email list seeking recommendations for reading material suitable for a non-professional who finds himself in charge of an archive: although the enquiry referred to the archives of a religious order, most of the recommendations were of more general interest. She made the following summary of the recommended list of books. I thought it might be of interest to members.

Bettington, Jackie (ed) (2008) *Keeping Archives* (3rd edn). Sydney: Australian Society of Archivists

Ellis, Judith (ed) (1993) *Keeping Archives* (2nd edn). Sydney: Australian Society of Archivists [this edition got recommended as more clearly laid out for the beginner than the 3rd edition]

Ford, Jeanette White (1990) *Archival Principles and Practice: A Guide for Archives Management*. McFarland & Co Inc. (An introduction for beginners, inventively using cartoons: does not appear to be in print but available second-hand)

Forde, Helen and Rhys-Lewis, Jonathan (2013) *Preserving Archives* (2nd edn). Facet Publishing

Hunter, Gregory S. (2003) *Developing and Maintaining Practical Archives: A How-To-Do-It Manual*. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers

Iredale, David (1985) *Enjoying Archives* (2nd edn). Phillimore & Co Ltd.

Iredale, David: *Local history research and writing—a manual for local history writers*

Millar, Laura A. (2010) *Archives: Principles and Practices*. Facet Publishing

Yakel, Elizabeth (1994) *Starting an Archives*. Society of American Archivists/ Scarecrow Press

Zamon, Christina J. (2012) *The Lone Arranger: Succeeding in a Small Repository*. Society of American Archivists.

Sussex Records

Summarised from the *Brighton and Hove News*: The former East Sussex Record office in Lewes closed a few months ago, having been declared not fit for purpose. After six years of design, planning and building, and at a cost of £19million, the new archives and historic records centre called The Keep, at Woollard's Field, Falmer, was opened by the Queen on 31st October. As well as being home to the official archives and historical records of East Sussex, it will also house municipal records of Brighton and Hove. It houses not only the county archive but about 350,000 items from the Royal Pavilion and Museums and archives from Sussex University. These include the Mass Observation Archive of social history records as well as manuscripts by two writers, Rudyard Kipling and Virginia Woolf.

The library of the [Sussex Family History Group](http://www.sussexfamilyhistorygroup.org) will be based at The Keep. The group aims to encourage people to study family history and genealogy and to preserve and publish relevant documents.

With 115 seats, the new reading room is much more capacious than the former one at Lewes, but the expanded holdings will no doubt result in greater use.

London Library

Not really to do with archives, but the editor joined a small group who had a tour of the London Library and were shown its facilities. It is such a well known institution that I thought a write-up might be of interest.

It was founded in 1841 by Thomas Carlyle. At its foundation the library was located in Pall Mall. It moved to its present site at the corner St James's Square only 4 years later, 1845. The administrators had the foresight to buy the freehold of the site in 1879: what a wise decision — who knows what such a prime site might be worth today, although I doubt they would ever sell it! Since moving there, various extensions have been added, moving both backwards from the corner of the square where the entrance is located, and upwards, so that the library seems to ramble past numerous nooks and crannies over 6 floors. Part is named the Eliot house, after the poet and critic TS Eliot who was a member. They claim the library holds a million books, and is the oldest private library in the world.

It has its own idiosyncratic cataloguing system devised by the librarian Charles Hagberg Wright in the 1890s: no Dewey decimal or Library of Congress here. The collection is strongest on the arts and humanities, but weaker on science and technology. They never discard a book, so if a later edition is acquired the two books sit side by side for comparison. The library also offers a postal service for out of town members.

A bomb hit during WW2 damaged some 16,000 books. That seems to be about the only loss since 1841.

I rather liked the section of the library which has cast iron floors, where from the top floor you can look down through the grills through four floors to the bookstacks below: bit dizzying, especially if you are liable to vertigo.

The newspaper archive has copies of The Times, the actual newspapers not digital copies (which are available online at subscribing libraries). At the suggestion of one member of the group the issues for May 1914 were pulled out, and we read the reaction of the time to the outbreak of war.

The current president, an honorary post, is Tom Stoppard. Other current members, of whom there are about 7000, include broadcasters Andrew Marr, and Simon Schama. A small display of membership forms revealed that Bram Stoker (of *Frankenstein* fame) joined in 1890. Churchill, Darwin, Betjeman were all members.

I had expected there would be a larger membership, but membership does cost £460 a year, so you need to be a serious bibliophile, or researcher, to take out a membership.

As well as a tour of the various bookstacks and reading areas, our tour included the conservation studio where books are lovingly repaired: one of the staff was carefully piecing together a map of Peru dated 1903, two others carefully repairing the boards of dismembered books. The quote was that a repair should be 'obvious at 6 inches, invisible at 6 feet'.

Visit www.londonlibrary.co.uk for samples of their quarterly magazine, and information about the library.

Don't drop it, it's valuable!

By a pure coincidence, a few days after the visit to the London Library (see left). I was in the Parker Library of Corpus Christi College in Cambridge. The library is named after Matthew Parker, priest and ultimately Archbishop of Canterbury. Parker was born in 1504, and lived in the reign of Henry VIII, through the dissolution of the monasteries the lives of the two following monarchs, and into the reign of Elizabeth. He was also to have been an avid book collector, no doubt aided by a number of precious books and manuscripts coming from the libraries and scriptoria of the recently-dissolved monasteries.

The library is supervised by Dr Christopher de Hamel, the Fellow Librarian, who was our guide for the visit. He had got out for us a number of the library's treasures. He picked up one volume and passed it round the table, with the words I quote above. He followed with an explanation: Thomas à Becket had been in France for much of the second half of 1170, returned to England at the end of November that year, only a month before his murder. The book was one that he had with him on that day. So as we turned the leaves, our fingers were sliding where Thomas' own had turned them. Makes you think! (and I am glad to report the book was returned to our host unharmed.) Parker's own markings can be seen in the text, showing passages he thought significant for proving the establishment of an English church independent of the pope, and going right back to Anglo-Saxon times.

Parker was 'elected' Master of Corpus in 1544; the college did not really have a great deal of choice, his candidacy was backed by the king, and when a king like Henry VIII spoke, you jumped. However, the college gained in the end, it acquired his library at his death.

Virtually the entire library has been photographed and put online, except for some 20 MSS (out of over 600) which are too fragile to be handled for photography. They can be seen, together with information about each item, and the history of the library at parkerweb.stanford.edu.

Amongst the items that the library holds I would like to pick out a copy of the history of Henry of Huntingdon (MS 280), Bede's history of the English church (MS 359). Matthew Parker's copy of *The Old English Grammar* by Ælfric (MS 449) is fun to view for the way he moves between Anglo-Saxon and Latin in the middle of a paragraph, not to mention the modest opening 'Ego Ælfricus ut minus sapiens'. If you enjoy early English, try the *Ancrene Wisse* (MS402), the *Rules for Anchoresses*, which is in beautifully written Middle English, with the first few pages in a more modern cursive hand.

Criticism (just to show we are not totally brainwashed): although it is fantastic to have all these images online, it would be even better if they were resize-able and could be magnified to see the details: I did not find a way to do this.

The Ballet Rambert

The Ballet Rambert announced before Christmas that it was moving into a new home on the London's south bank, although nothing in publicity that I saw said exactly where! In conjunction with the move they have put online a brief summary of the archives they hold, although they admit that these are uncatalogued, so anyone wishing to research the history of modern dance as reflected in their work and performances has a job on their hands. The press release says:

The Rambert collection focuses on Rambert Dance Company and its predecessor organisations: The Marie Rambert Dancers; the Ballet Club in the 1930s; and Ballet Rambert (1935-1987).

The Archive also holds smaller collections for other organisations which have directly affected the Company or grown out of Ballet Rambert. These include the Camargo Ballet Society (1930-33), Dance Theatre (1937), the London Ballet (1938-40), Ballet Workshop (1951-55) and other productions which took place at the Mercury Theatre, Notting Hill Gate.

In addition there are collections of material relating to individuals associated with the company like Andree Howard, Paula Hinton and Walter Gore. This includes the Marie Rambert Archive documenting the life of the Company's Founding Director presented to the Archive just before her death in 1982, material passed on to the Archive by Angela and David Ellis (her daughter and son-in-law) in autumn 2002 and Company documents. We are grateful for the significant gifts the Archive has received from former members of the Company and its supporters.

The collection includes:

Board and Administrative papers: Management and administrative papers for the organisation dating from the mid-20th century. Includes Rambert trust Ltd board papers, financial records and files relating to British and overseas tours.

Publicity material: A range of programmes, posters, leaflets, photographs and press cuttings dating back to 1926.

Design material: Designs for costumes, sets and lighting, as well as costumes from seminal productions.

Audio visual material: Rambert productions have been recorded on video from the early 1970s and all premieres are now recorded to DVD. Unfortunately due to contracts and intellectual copyright copies of most material is not available to researchers. However, it is possible to visit the archive to view individual items for non-commercial purposes.

Productions and Backstage records: Production Files, Choreographic Notes, Notation and Music Scores. Stage management material including prompt books and stage management reports

Special Collections: In addition to the main collection of Rambert Dance Company material there are a number of smaller collections relating to organisations and people connected with the Company. In some cases, as with the Charles Boyd Collection or the Reg Wilson Collection, these are purely records of their interaction with the Company. In other cases, such as Walter Gore- Paula Hinton Archive, the records have a broader coverage.

National Railway Museum—WW1

The National Railway Museum has put online a database of railwaymen who went to war.

Some of the entries are immensely detailed and informative. I put in my own surname, and found there are some 70 Jacksons: here is what I got from one of the fuller entries:

Wilbert Howard Jackson was the son of John Spurgeon Jackson of 53 Willoughby Lane, Tottenham, and the husband of Edith Kate Jackson of 34 St Awdry's Road, Barking, Essex. In his railway career he was clerk at Liverpool Street Continental section of the Great Eastern Railway, which he joined on 6 Feb 1905. He was called up in February 1916, a private in Royal Fusiliers, 4th Battalion (military number G/24860) and died of wounds, age 25, on 16 August 1916; he is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial. Main railway source: Great Eastern Railway staff magazine: 1917, March Supplement 2. The records also contain a photograph. A pretty full summary, you will agree.

There is scope for doing some statistical analysis as rank, railway company and job are always recorded: some of the other columns of the table are more patchy. A fascinating resource for family history and of course the burgeoning interest in WW1. Visit www.nrm.org.uk/RailwayStories/worldwarone.aspx.

The Great War at Home

A 2-day conference under the above title will be held at Senate House London on 3rd/4th July. The blurb for the event (from the web site at anglo-american.history.ac.uk) reads:

"Fought across the world, the First World War struck deepest at home. Few neighbourhoods, villages, towns or regions emerged untouched by the global conflict on 1914-18. Next year's Anglo-American conference takes as its theme the impact of the First World War on the locality and local institutions, on the family and social life, and on the memorialisation of war in the built environment and in private life.

Co-organised with the British Association of Local History, the Victoria County History and the American Association for State and Local History, the conference aims to be an international festival of local history seen through the lens of war. Our focus is not restricted to the UK, but will cover 'home fronts' across the world, including those of Britain's empire, allies and other combatant nations."

Forgotten Spaces

Fancy swimming in Aldwych Tube station?

In October/November there was an exhibition at Somerset House in the deadhouse (you might call them cellars, under the main square, where they have the ice rink) with the title Forgotten Spaces. It showed a number of plans that had been put forward for the reuse of odd places that are either derelict or not used to maximum advantage. What a pity there was not even a small leaflet with summaries, there were some really interesting schemes here.

Do you remember that odd spur of underground that used to run from Holborn to Aldwych? One scheme suggested turning the station into a swimming pool.

Ministry of Defence Archives

From the Guardian last October

The Ministry of Defence is unlawfully holding thousands of files that should have been declassified and transferred to the National Archive under the 30-year rule. These include many documents about the conflict in Northern Ireland that were sent to the warehouse when the British army's Northern Ireland headquarters closed four years ago.

Files are being stored at a warehouse operated by TNT Archive Services in Derbyshire, despite the department's legal obligation to assess them for declassification once they are three decades old and either hand them to the archives at Kew, or publicly give a reason for keeping them classified. While MoD archivists say over 95% of the files are likely to be of no historic interest and will eventually be destroyed rather than archived, thousands will need to be.

The disclosure of the existence of the MoD stockpile echoes the admission by the Foreign Office in 2011 that a vast archive of its colonial-era documents had been concealed for decades at Hanslope Park.

The MoD's hidden archive dwarfs that of the Foreign Office, however, and the ministry says that such is the "history, scale and complexity" of its work that it cannot be sure that its offices and warehouses do not contain more than the 66,265 files it has so far identified.

Military historians are dismayed by its failure to meet its obligations under the 1958 Public Records Act. "It has major implications for understanding our past," said Huw Bennett, of Aberystwyth University, who was an expert witness in the Mau Mau court case that resulted in the government paying compensation to thousands of elderly Kenyans for their mistreatment during a 1950s insurgency, and which revealed the existence of the Hanslope Park archive. Foreign secretary, William Hague, gave a pledge in May 2011 they would: "release every part of every paper of interest subject only to legal exemptions".

But it is in Northern Ireland that the disclosure of the existence of the archive is likely to cause the greatest concern. The archive contains documents from the 1970s and early 80s, some of the most bloody and controversial years of the Troubles. Moreover, its existence has not been declared to the Historic Enquiries Team (HET), a police unit that is reviewing hundreds of violent deaths during the conflict, including large numbers of cases in which people were killed by police officers or troops.

Under the terms of the 1958 act, the MoD must transfer all records of historic interest to Kew, where they are open to public scrutiny. The act allows government departments to withhold files for national security reasons "or for any other special reason", but only after permission has been obtained from the Ministry of Justice, and even then the file must be detailed on the National Archive catalogue and be subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Eight years ago the MoD said it was withholding files on the grounds that they had been stored in a building in London where asbestos had been discovered. It subsequently said that a number of those files could not be transferred to the National Archive because they had been destroyed as a result of water damage.

BALH

If you are a member of the British Association for Local History (BALH) you may well have seen mention of the above which, comes from *Local History News*. (And if you are not a member you should consider joining!) Every June they hold a local history day, which this year will be in London on 7 June. Two keynote talks will be about the York Cause Papers project which has put online 13,000 documents of court proceeding from the Diocese of York. The second talk by John Minnis of English Heritage will look at the impact of the motor car on English landscape in the period 1918-38. Non-members may attend Local History Day.

I am indebted to BALH's *Local History News* for the following items: apologies if you have already seen them.

Archiving Web sites: the British library, the repository of a copy of every printed book published in the last 300 years (plus copies of the *AfL* newsletter), has clearly become worried about the amount of information that is being published digitally on web sites, some of which may vanish after a short time, if say the creator fails to pay the ISP for continuing hosting. It is proposing to take a copy of every web site within the .uk domain, amounting to some 5 million pages in year 1 alone. Whether they will include .org and .com sites owned by UK-based organisations is not clear. An advisory committee has been set up under Richard Gibby . (richard.gibby@bl.uk).

Indeed, from the report on page 2 of this newsletter it would seem this policy may already have started.

Anniversaries and the Heritage Lottery Fund : A new Anniversaries Fund will be set up "to commemorate, our rich history". The statement goes on "Some of the moments on the horizon that could be supported by this initiative include: the centenary of Dylan Thomas' birth; the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta; the 600th anniversary of Agincourt; the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo; the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death; the 700th anniversary of Bannockburn; the 150th anniversary of Beatrix Potter's birth, as well as a range of significant dates relating to the Second World War and a decade of anniversaries in Northern Ireland."

Not often Dylan Thomas appears in the same paragraph as Magna Carta.

The **Victoria County History** is working on parts of **Middlesex:** there's a challenge, if you remember that historically Middlesex contained much of the old GLC area north of the Thames, excluding the City of London: how will it work with the Survey of London? Will the two surveys avoid overlap? There seems to be work currently taking place on the history of Westminster: three pdf files can be found on web site. One is a map showing the wards, the second the section on the history of the church of St. Clement Danes, almost as far as Westminster extends towards the city, the third a draft of the section on local government. (This last did not display in a very readable manner in my browser). The URL is too long to include here, but on-line readers can use this [link](#).

LAMAS Conference

Last September the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) held a conference on *London's Heritage*. The editors summary of what he heard.

Londinium's Walls There was a wall along the river waterfront: parts of it have been found at Baynards Castle: dendrochronology dates the wall to 255-275. This fits in with history, as we believe London was fortified then, probably to protect the city: the likelihood of attack was, however, seen as low. Britain was part of the Gallic empire, which extended to the Rhine, and was seen as something of a bread-basket to supply the troops at that frontier, so it may have been to protect the produce from theft.

Two Middlesex Barns (Harmondsworth and Ruislip) Both lie in the LB of Hillingdon, the Harmondsworth Barn just outside the current extent of Heathrow airport. They are agricultural barns whose origin goes back to the Anglo-Saxon period, although the extant structures are only 600 years old. The Ruislip barn was probably built c1300, but we have no documentation. In recent years it has been modernised for use as a function space, and is not further discussed.

The Harmondsworth Barn, Grade 1 listed, is documented in the Winchester records to 1426/1427, and dendrochronological evidence supports this dating. It is some 12 bays with a total length of 192ft, 37ft wide and 39ft high, and is the largest timber-framed building surviving in England. The trees were felled near Kingston. Crops were stored 'on the ear' (i.e. as cut) and removed and threshed as required during the year, but even after harvest the barn was probably never completely full. It was a manor barn, not a tithe barn, the surrounding land was productive (today it has grade A farmland rating). After WW2 it passed through various hands, the owners permitted it to decay to the point where there were tiles missing from the roof and rain got in, until in 1991 English Heritage stepped in and made compulsory repairs. It won a Civic Trust award: but the company that owned it went broke in 2004, and it came into English Heritage's hand in 2011. John Betjeman described it as the 'Cathedral of Middlesex'.

It is planned to restore the barn in 2014, and it will be closed for most of the year; it is in any case only open 2 days a month.

Fournier Street

Fournier Street (previously Church Street, renamed as there were too many Church Streets) lies in Spitalfields; Spitalfields was named as, prior to the dissolution, it lay in the fields of the (Ho)spital of St Mary. Even in 1680 it was surrounded by market gardens. Wood and Mitchell developed it along the lines of Barbon's development of Red Lion Square, speculatively selling off plots to developers who built the houses. In 1711 the land was sold to the church commissioners, and the church was one of the few actually built under the *50 New Churches* act of Queen Anne. In Fournier Street, no. 2 was the Rectory, and no. 5 was a grander house built for Marmaduke Smith. In the rest of the street standard 3-bay houses were built (door and 2 windows on the ground floor), with three floors, a basement (some houses have a small basement window as pavement level, some basements are unlit), and an attic. Although built after the 1666 fire, the regulations of the Fire Act

did not apply as Spitalfields lay outside the city. A feature of the houses, still visible today, is the large attic windows, which provided maximum light for the French Huguenot silk weavers who came to live there, having left France after the Edict of Nantes withdrew toleration for French protestants. When the silk trade collapsed, and Jews moved in, the church became a synagogue, c.1890. The Booth map of poverty shows that street as tolerably well-to-do, but there are neighbouring areas, both north and south, are marked black, the poorest, almost criminal, areas. When the Jews moved out, the area was taken over by the Bangladeshi/Punjabi community, who are still very much in evidence. The church at the eastern end of the road has served three faiths, and is now a mosque. Sadly many of the high-rise buildings from city developments now loom over the street.

Horniman Museum, Coombe Cliff conservatory.

This cast iron and glass conservatory is the work of the Saracen Factory of Walter McFarlane in Glasgow. Built in 1894 it was initially part of the Coombe Cliff house of the Horniman family in Croydon.

The museum was founded by Frederick Horniman, MP, collector and son of John Horniman who established the tea business. Frederick gave the house to the nation in 1901. The house was heated by Paxton stoves, named after Joseph Paxton who devised them for heating his great 'conservatory' the Crystal Palace, originally used for the famous 1851 exhibition, and whose structure the conservatory reflects in a much reduced scale. It has a superb central octagon. The house passed through various hands, being at one time in 1930 a convalescent home for children. By 1982 the building was derelict, it was acquired by the GLC, dismantled and the parts stored at Crystal Palace. However, English Heritage took an interest and it was decided to re-erect it on the site of the Horniman Museum: this was a labour of love, as there were no drawings and the parts were unmarked, so working out how they all fitted together was like a jig-saw puzzle.

Details of the restoration of the house at <http://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/coombe/coombe.htm>

[LAMAS Conference, continued from previous page] Finsbury Health Centre

This building should be well-known to AfL members, being only a stone's throw from the LMA building. It was built 1935-8 to a design by Berthold Lubetkin (1901-



1990). Lubetkin also designed parts of London zoo, and collaborated with Ove Arup on the gorilla house there. Born of Jewish stock in Georgia, Lubetkin worked at one time in Moscow and by 1930 in Paris. He thought about returning to Moscow, but disliked Stalin's regime there and came to London in 1931, and spent most of his life thereafter in England.

The Health Centre first opened on 21st October 1938, and is now a Grade 1 listed building. At the time of its construction (before the start of the NHS), this part of London was relatively poor and the death rate, especially from tuberculosis was much higher than in other parts of London. The clinic was originally called a chest clinic, you could not mention tuberculosis.

The entrance is light and airy: the architect did not want to create impression of somewhere that you came to be told you were about to die. The layout is well thought-out, on 3 floors with main medical rooms at ground level, lots of space for services in the basement, and offices on top: symmetrical design with two wings.

Convoys Wharf, Deptford

This is an area that is about to be developed: the speaker left this listener in no doubt that there is at the moment friction between developers who want to cram in as much residential development as possible (3,500 homes), and the heritage lobby. The site is historically important: it was Henry VIII's Royal dockyard, Mary Rose was built here, the Armada left from here: was it the site of the legendary laying down his cape by Sir Walter Raleigh for Elizabeth I? It also includes part of the site of Sayes Court, home of the diarist John Evelyn. A plan from 1623 survives, a 1774 model, and a view by Joseph Farington (c.1800) in the National Maritime Museum.

Much of the site has been flattened, although the Master Shipwright's House of 1708, just outside the development area, still stands, together with a nearby Office Building of 1720 and the prominent Olympia Warehouse of 1846. This last was built over dual slipways to enable shipbuilding to take place under cover: the slipways are curiously aligned, at an angle to the river, and facing upstream. There was a Tudor storehouse, but of this nothing remains above ground: foundations of this and other buildings remain underground, and have been studied by archaeologists.

Ruth Richardson then gave one of her impassioned talks about the **Cleveland Street Workhouse** and its association with Charles Dickens. I am sure interested members will have heard her talk at the Dickens event last year at Senate house, so I will not take up space with it here.

The last dealt with the development of **Kings Cross** and the great span that has been opened of the western side of the station. What a pity, though, from a traveller's point of view, that the suburban platforms could not have been brought into this space!

Visit to Highgate Cemeteries

The two cemeteries in Highgate, the east and the west, occupy nearly 40 acres. The west cemetery opened in 1839, and was so well used that in less than 20 years the company that ran it opened an extension, now the east cemetery, in 1857: the two are separated by Swains Lane, itself an interesting lane whose name may

refer to the route used to drive pigs to pasture higher up Highgate Hill. As the lane is not consecrated ground, an underground route from the chapel, located in the west cemetery, was constructed to provide access to the east ground. People are still being buried in both cemeteries, although plots are expensive. Whereas the east cemetery can be visited at will (subject to an admission fee), the older west cemetery can only be visited with a guide. In the 1960s the company operating the cemeteries was short of money and the west was neglected for several years, and subject to vandalism. Both cemeteries are now in the hands of the Friends of Highgate Cemeteries, a registered charity which maintains the spaces, and is doing as much work as it can to restore and maintain the spaces. There are over 50,000 separate graves, and with many being family graves there are estimated to be some 170,000 people buried in the two halves. In the chapel is an office where a volunteer was entering data into a spreadsheet recording the names of those buried and who owns the plots from a burial book.

Probably the most famous resident of either cemetery is Karl Marx, in the east. An enormous bust on a plinth bearing the words "Workers of all lands unite" looms over a corner of the cemetery with bouquets left by passing worshippers. Near here many people with 'leftist' leanings are buried: I noticed the grave of the Marxist historian Eric Hobsbawm, who died in 2012.

However, it is the west cemetery that one needs to visit. The site is on quite a slope (Swains Lane runs up to Highgate), many of the graves have, or had, trees growing by them, or are overgrown with ferns and grass. The weather has rendered many of the carved inscriptions unreadable, although the occupants will be known from the grave books. A wonderfully gloomy set of catacombs was sadly subject to some of the worst of the vandalism, and many of the coffins were damaged and have been removed. The Circle of Lebanon, so called because the circle surrounds a Cedar of Lebanon that is said to predate the construction of the cemetery, so a circle of family vaults was built around it. The Egyptian Avenue with its mock-Egyptian entrance, off which the plaster is now falling, revealing very plain brickwork underneath.

Here you can find Carl Rosa, founder of the opera company that still exists; John Maple of the erstwhile furniture store in Tottenham Court Road (his grave survives, the store closed more than 10 years ago, I thought of the gravedigger in Hamlet who "makes houses that last till doomsday"); Alexander Litvinenko the Russian who died from polonium poisoning; and Alma Mahler, daughter of the Austrian composer (I never knew she had come to England). Go and visit!

SEMINAR REPORTS

October Seminar: Survey of London

Andrew Saint gave the October Seminar speaking about the work of the Survey of London. The two latest volumes, covering Battersea, were due out later that year. (They are now, Jan 2014, available.)

The work of the Survey started in the 1890s under the inspiration of Charles Robert Ashbee, who was described as an 'architect, designer and Romantic Socialist'. At the time he lived at Toynbee Hall in Mile End, although he later moved to the Cotswolds.

The area around Mile End was being extensively redeveloped then, and it was thought a good idea to capture a 'picture' of London whilst it stood. It was a time when there was a lot of 'surveying' going on: Charles Booth's work *Life and Labour of the People in London* on the London poor was done mainly in the 1890s. Not only that, there was no control of demolition, at that time, as the idea of 'Listed Buildings' only came in with the 1947 Town and County Planning Act.

The first volume was devoted to the Trinity Hospital in the east end and published in 1896, a house that was (and still is) a home for retired sea captains: in spite of initial enthusiasm, that they could polish off the whole of the capital in 10-12 years, the second volume, for Chelsea, only appeared in 1909. There are now some 50 volumes, but looking at the map that shows the extent of coverage, it seems unlikely that the whole of the old LCC area will be covered in our lifetimes!

Books have been either volumes on the old parishes of London or monographs: the latter have been fewer in number, two recent have been one on County Hall, and one on the Charterhouse. The latter was within the scope of the recently published Clerkenwell volumes, but the site has such a complex history it was thought it deserved a volume to itself, (The LMA catalogue of the Charterhouse records extends to 500 pages, although it does include entries for the parishes that the Charterhouse owned.)

The early volumes were published by the LCC. At one stage the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (RCHM) was involved, but the project passed in 1999 to English Heritage, and the volumes are now published by Yale University Press. Like the Victoria County History volumes, much of the text is available online (on the [English Heritage](#) web site), although in some cases without the illustrations that are such an essential part of the Survey. These too have developed, many in the early days being line drawings, whereas the most recent volumes have photographs in full colour.

Andrew mentioned three other people who have written on London's architecture. John Summerson's book *Georgian London* he described simply as 'perfect', a book that rejuvenated London history after it was first published in 1945, and still in print. H.J. Dyos who has written several books on urban history, but in particular *Victorian Suburb: a study of the growth of Camberwell*. And thirdly Steen Eiler Rasmussen *London; the unique city*.

November Seminar: Tower Hamlets

As has happened in past years, the November seminar moved away from LMA as the date fell during LMA's

annual closure. A small group assembled at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives (THLHLA) in Bancroft Road to hear Malcolm Barr-Hamilton, Borough Archivist, and Tamsin Bookey, Heritage Manager, talk about the collections.

Tower Hamlets formed in the 1965 reorganisation of London Boroughs from the previous boroughs of Stepney, Poplar and Bethnal Green. It is bounded by the City of London in the west, Hackney north, Newham east, with the river Thames, including the big loop of the Isle of Dogs, forming the southern boundary.

Although the archive is now on an even keel, it has had a chequered history in recent years, acquiring its first archivist first in 1986. The Bancroft Road site, the former Vestry Hall of Mile End Old Town, originally housed both a library and the archives. There was an attempt to close the archive completely and disperse the collection in 1990, but this was stopped: in 2007 the library moved out, and many assumed archive had too, but this was not so. In 2008, after a hard-fought local campaign, backed by poet Benjamin Zephaniah and then-shadow cabinet minister Ed Vaizey, the most recent proposed sale of the Bancroft Road Building was also halted. Much of the archive catalogue is still in card indexes, with no online catalogue, although there is a plan to start using the current CALM system to make the catalogue available over the council website.

There is a high level of immigration, and this is one of the fastest growing areas on England, with a big Bangladeshi community, and many Somalis too; over 110 languages are spoken in the borough, creating a high demand for ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages). As many of these communities have no traditions of written heritage, the archive is making oral history records.

Historically Stepney was a mass of small parishes (indeed the Wikipedia entry says that the civil parish contained over 60 ecclesiastical parishes in 1800), including the liberty of Norton Folgate which was a mere 8 acres, part in the City of London (which at that time was a similar mass of tiny parishes). However, the collection started to be formed in 1901, there was help from Carnegie in 1905, so much so that the building had to be extended on the south side in 1935-7.

Our hosts had put out a range of items from the archives for us to view. These included what I believe to be their oldest item, the Poplar and Blackwall minute book for the years 1593-1675, and from the same hamlet the workhouse register of 1773-9. Another old volume was the Hamlet of Spitalfields minute book 1673-1710. Early visitors to the area are documented in the register, kept in English, of St George's Lutheran church, home to a German community. A long run of history is recorded Stepney meeting house book 1644-1824. This seminar gave a wide overview of the history and present state of Tower Hamlets.

VISIT and SEMINAR REPORTS

Visit to St Paul's

Thanks to Sarah Hale, a member of the AfL board and archivist at St Paul's Cathedral, the AfL November visit was to that hallowed institution. One of the first things to point out is that many of the records of St Paul's (such as the records of the Dean and Chapter) are not held on site, but are at the LMA. The records kept at the cathedral are on the whole fairly modern — given the antiquity of the cathedral, the first foundation is often dated to 604, but there may have been a church here even earlier. Many of the records were lost in 1666, as the fire destroyed the old cathedral, the present building being the work of Wren, completed about 1710.

Our visit started in the library. This is at triforium level on the south side of the building, and was restocked by the Commissioners for rebuilding St Paul's. There was also a bequest in 1712 of nearly two thousand volumes from the library of Henry Compton, Bishop of London, whose bust stands there. The focus of the library is works on the history of the Church in England, on Wren and the building of the Cathedral, the Church in the City, and books written by members of staff.

We then made our way across the west end of the nave, looking along the length of the cathedral as we did so, to the north side where the corresponding room, identical in layout, holds the great model. This is a model of the cathedral as it might have been built, but the finished building differs in a number of respects from the model. Around the walls of the room are drawings from the time of possible designs, including several which show the dome surmounted by a spire, one very elaborate made me think of a piece of sweetcorn. There was discussion at the time of rebuilding whether the new cathedral should be in the shape of a Greek cross, with equal arms, or the traditional Latin cross layout of most English churches, which of course won out.

Going back to the south side Sarah then led us through intriguing walk-ways, skirting the crossing (in the centre an orchestra was rehearsing a piece by John Rutter for a concert that evening: St Paul's does not have a good acoustic for music, far too much reverberation!), round to a room at the south east which houses the on-site archive documents. Sarah had picked out sketches for the paintings which adorn the inside of the dome, and also of the suspended baskets from which the painters worked to create them: they looked rather precarious, but there is no record of accidents. Moving on again we found one way to the NE corner of the where the collection of bits of masonry being repaired, many marked 'Two man lift'. A window looked out across that part of city, now rebuilt, which an archive photograph shows totally flattened in 1945.

After this, I took the chance to climb to the whispering gallery (although sadly no demo of its famed whisper), past the stone gallery, to the exterior golden gallery, with wonderful views in the evening sunlight. How good that the planners have prevented high rise blocks too close.

Inconvenient People

and how to find them: tales of Victorian 'lunacy panics'

For the AfL December seminar, Sarah Wise presented an overview of her book *Inconvenient People* – a collection of case histories of people declared insane in highly-questionable circumstances during the Victorian era. We were treated to stories of those on the receiving end of the misuse of the Lunacy Acts and their eventual triumphs against their conspirators, as well as the lessons Sarah learnt from using archival sources.

This seminar explained the background and understanding of mental health during Victorian times, and dispelled some myths and assumptions we may have had. For example, putting unmarried mothers into asylums is actually a phenomenon of the 20th Century, not the 19th. One particularly enlightening section of Sarah's talk was about the incarceration of male members of society. During the Victorian period, husbands, fathers and sons were just as likely to be labelled insane and put away into asylums. The majority of these types of cases centred around the opportunity to gain their money or control of their estate. Women could also use the lunacy laws to remove violent or drunkard husbands from their household, as this was cheaper and less embarrassing than divorce or a judicial separation. In fact the role of alcohol was significant in mental health at this time, with a fifth of male lunatics incarcerated for 'mania' brought on by drink.

When it came to exploring the archives, Sarah found a large portion of her time was spent on negative research – information that couldn't be 'fleshed out'; gaps or the end of a paper trail; and sources that no longer exist. She also realised that digitisation made records quicker and easier to find, but sources would be less likely to be read in context. Ultimately, she highly recommended total immersion in primary sources for this kind of research.

A typical story from September 1881 is told on her web site www.sarahwise.co.uk/inconvenient.html. "The plot was undertaken against an elderly, wealthy vicar – a figure of authority and great respectability; but in fact, such gents were disproportionately likely to be the target of such conspiracies, especially when they were so headstrong as to wish to marry, or to make/remake a will. At such moments, relatives could become rattled – suspecting that large inheritances were about to be diverted." She tells how the vicar was abducted on the day before his planned second marriage, and held by his abductors, and so prevented from reaching his wedding. This particular case worked out well, as he was able to bribe his way out and was reunited with his intended the next day.

Mrs Louisa Lowe was a patient at one asylum, and her complaints give us a picture of its deficiencies. The bad smell from the adjacent lake made her nickname the asylum Pond Hall. She said that the privies in the asylum ('windowless and pestilential') emptied straight into the pond, rendering the smells even more disgusting.



AfL Events: Seminars and visits

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

- 6th February Medical Officer of Health Reports - digitisation project: Wellcome Library
- 6th March WW1 Genealogy/finding your ancestor: speaker to be confirmed
- 3rd April Home History in London Archives: Mel Backe-Hansen
- 1st May News International War Correspondents: Anne Jensen

Visits

Lucy Shepherd has organised the AfL visits for some time: members who attend seminars will know her, as she regularly checks the attendance list on the door. She is stepping down from this role, and Jane Insley, who also delivered the January seminar, is taking over. I am sure all AfL members will wish to join with me in recording thanks to Lucy for all her work, and also to welcome Jane to a hot seat. I regret that in the period of the changeover I have not been able to get details of all the planned visits, other than the January one noted below, and also that a visit to the Bishopsgate Institute (see picture) is in planning, possibly as the March/April visit.

23 January : James Watt and Our World – The Man, the Workshop and the New Industrial Age: a Science Museum exhibition tour led by one of the curators:

James Watt, the steam pioneer, made sure that his retirement home at Heathfield near Birmingham had a little room where he could experiment to his heart's content. His garret workshop was eventually transferred to the Science Museum in 1924, where it has been studied ever since. The tour will give an insight into the making of the recent redisplay by one of the team, with reference to the archive work that illuminated the stories behind the workshop contents. Come and glimpse the secret life of one of the founders of the Industrial Revolution.

24 February : Great Ormond Street Hospital Museum : details will be circulated .



Vacancy: Volunteer Publicity Officer

AfL is seeking a new Publicity Officer (commencing April/May), part of the core team that communicates our passion for London's archives and their users.

Working closely with the Board marketing lead, and the seminar, visits and website officers you will continue to build our audiences and deliver targeted notices to increase attendance and awareness of AfL's regular

members' programme and special activities. You will need an eye for simple but effective copy and design, be aware of AfL's existing and potential audiences, be comfortable working with Microsoft Office and enjoy contributing to social media. As part of the AfL Forum you will actively contribute to planning future activities through our twice yearly all hands meetings with the Board and other officers. For further information please email sian.wynn-jones@bt.com .

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

If any material has been used inadvertently without acknowledging the author or copyright holder, please contact the editor (as above) who will include an acknowledgement in the next issue.

*The AfL Newsletter is published by Archives for London Ltd, a limited company registered in England and Wales
Company number: 5635424*

Registered offices: 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB.

Opinions expressed are those of contributors and are not necessarily endorsed by Archives for London or its officers. The original contents are copyright, January 2014.