



# Newsletter

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## Welcome to AfL's Newsletter.

As with the weather, change is in the air. We have some changes to our Board and volunteers, we're embracing new technology and have an exciting announcement for our Summer Soirée which sees AfL take a change of air.

We say thank you to Ruth Kusionowicz, a board member who has taken an opportunity to travel in Australia for a couple of years, and also to Megan Dunmall for her assistance with publicity as she stands down to concentrate on a new job although she continues to manage our Facebook presence [www.facebook.com/archives4london](http://www.facebook.com/archives4london) (please do like us if you haven't already), and continued thanks to Siân Wynn-Jones for running our publicity. We are looking for someone to help in this important work, so, if you feel you have the skills or would like to discuss assisting Siân, please contact us.

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for the year ahead, and a particularly big thanks to those who have helped us streamline the not unsubstantial membership renewal process and paid through internet banking. This really does make a difference to the volunteer hours we have, and frees up time to focus on continuing to bring you a varied and exciting members' programme. The good take up of online membership payments and of online event booking through Eventbrite really does help us harness new technology for everyone's benefit!

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, now is the time to do so. We have a beautiful venue for our Summer Soirée. Readers of this newsletter are the first to hear that our annual summer social is confirmed as 23<sup>rd</sup> July, at Orleans House in Twickenham. We're delighted that Rachel Tranter, Richmond Council's Head of Arts Services, will give us talk on the history of Orleans House and Gallery, as part of what is set up to be a truly special evening. Not only will AfL members be able to attend for free, you will have the exclusive opportunity to register for this event from 10<sup>th</sup> June; with bookings for the chargeable tickets for non-members available from 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

And finally a reminder to put our conference dates in your diary. In this 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta we're bringing you THE conference on liberty, how it is documented and what this means. So please put 25<sup>th</sup> September at the Guildhall - which will include a chance to see their copy of the Magna Carta - and 2<sup>nd</sup> October at the Society of Antiquaries, in your diary. Tickets (with a good discount for AfL members) will be available from the summer.

As always my thanks to members and volunteers - I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Best wishes Anne Barrett Chairman Archives for London.

The independent voice for  
archives in the Capital



**Archives for London**  
Summer Soirée

23<sup>rd</sup> July  
Orleans House

members' only booking  
from 10 June



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### A year of anniversaries

Readers will not need to be reminded that 2015 sees quite a few anniversaries. 50 years since the death of Winston Churchill is noted in the write-up of the Cabinet War rooms visit.

Somewhat longer ago, 1000 years to be precise, 1015, King Cnut invaded England: although he arrived as an invader, after some initial skirmishes his 20-year reign established a thriving and cultured Anglo-Saxon country: his legacy survived, making England a very desirable place to invade in 1066.

Still very much in historians' minds, 19 June 1215 saw the signing of Magna Carta. Although most of its clauses have since been repealed, and the agreement is said to have had little impact at the time, Magna Carta is today seen as one of the cornerstones of British democracy and law. 50 years later, on 20 January 1265, Simon de Montford, called an elected body to meet in what is sometimes thought of as the first English Parliament.

The Battle of Agincourt, fought on 15 October 1415, is (I suggest) best remembered today from the famous representation in Shakespeare's *Henry V*. The battle itself was a dramatic affair, as a small army of tired archers and men-at-arms triumphed over much of French nobility on a muddy battlefield. Although the battlefield itself is in France, the invasion was planned in England, in a campaign that allegedly began with an insulting gift of tennis balls from the French to the king at Kenilworth Castle. The invasion force gathered at Portchester Castle in Hampshire

And on a lighter note, let's not forget that it is 150 years since the publication of the greatest book ever written by a mathematical logician, (not forgetting Bertrand Russell's *Principia*): yes, *Alice in Wonderland* came out in 1865.

18<sup>th</sup> June was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Battle of Waterloo**, although I am sure AfL members will not need to be reminded of this. There is a web site dedicated to the battle at <https://www.waterloo2015.org/en/history>, from which much information about the battle may be drawn. The prints and drawing gallery of the British Museum has (until mid-August) an exhibition covering the whole of the life of Napoleon, with drawings by British cartoonists James Gillray, Thomas Rowlandson, Richard Newton and George Cruikshank, with others from French sources: and this has no doubt been put on now because of the

battle that ended his career and led to his second exile.

Having been first exiled to Elba the previous year, Napoleon escaped from there in March 1815 and made his way to Paris, where he took up Government. That same month, Austria, Prussia, Russia and Britain signed a treaty which banished Napoleon from Europe, and committed them to fighting him. The following month, a letter of proposal of peace from Napoleon had no effect, other than the imprisonment of the bearers!

On 13 June, Napoleon left Paris and led his army towards Charleroi, which he reached two days later. In the battles on that day, one branch of the French force defeated the Prussian army, which lost some 20,000 men (against 7,000 French), although the Prussians kept their fighting spirit for another day. The other branch of the French force found itself facing Wellington and the Prince of Orange, but failed to defeat them. French losses were over 4,000, Wellington's about 5,000 men, so that one day saw 36,000 dead on both sides. The losses at Waterloo campaign have been said to be greater than those during the worst days of WW1, when calculated as deaths per day.

Three days later, the armies met again in the battle at Waterloo. It started at about 11:30 with a 'batterie' from 80 French cannon. The fighting continued through the day until 9pm, by which time Napoleon had retired defeated: he was exiled again, this time to St Helena, where he died six years later.

Although Waterloo is today in Belgium, that country was only formed in 1830, and the battle was fought in what was then part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The full story of the day is on the web site given above. It also reports that recent surveys have found that three-quarters of the population have little knowledge of the events of 1815. The National Army Museum has put together a web site with details of the events promoting the history of the battle: visit [www.nam.ac.uk/waterloo200](http://www.nam.ac.uk/waterloo200).

The Duke of Wellington was born Arthur Wellesley: he acquired his title as a mark of his victory at Vitoria in Spain, (a battle also commemorated by one of the strangest pieces of music ever written by Beethoven). He later acquired Apsley House in London, now open to the public, owned by English Heritage, but a property still available for use by his descendants. He was also twice Prime Minister.

## Roman London—London Archaeologist

London Archaeologist is a publication that does what it says on the cover: it prints articles on the history of London derived from archaeology. I am sure that many AfL members will be aware of it, but if there are any, like the editor, who have not discovered it, it is worth investigating. Although much of the work is centred on pre-conquest London, articles do venture as late as the 17th century.

As well as a quarterly publication, there is an annual lecture, which this year was a talk given by Dominic Perring, author of *Roman London*, first published in 1991 and now about to be revised as the intervening 25 years have seen great developments in our knowledge of Roman London. In the brief time he had for his hour-long talk, Dominic whipped through numerous developments in our knowledge of Roman London: many of these have been enabled by Pre-Construct Archaeology, who have gone into London's building sites and explored them before any remains are destroyed or damaged by pile driving and other ground works for new buildings.

A large amount of early Roman construction was in wood, and we now have good dating sequences from dendrochronology. From this we know that many of the trees used were local, and felled immediately before use. The central settlement was established in 47/48AD, the same time as Verulamium and Colchester, marking this as the time when the Romans arrived and stayed

Although the Romans founded London, the revolt under Boudicca in AD 60/61 meant that Verulamium (St Albans), Colchester and Silchester were more important military settlements in the first century. London was a city apart, surrounded by Iron Age settlements, whose occupants may have become Romanised over time. Londinium's position on the river gave it good trading links, and initially it grew as a trading town, not a military establishment. The Thames at the time was a wider river than today, and Bermondsey (as hinted by the -ey at the end of the name) was an island which was an important part of the settlement, which was predominantly Kentish. The core Roman town north of the river occupied a small area to the east of the Walbrook, and here the forum was located.

With the arrival of Hadrian c.121 there was development and expansion of the city, although the archaeology reveals an extensive fire about the year 130. London's surrounding wall was built later that century: small parts survive, but it is best remembered by the numerous -gate names of present day London, from Aldgate to Moorgate.

London Archaeologist can be accessed online, although not the last

two years issues, via the web index at [archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/london\\_arch/volumes.cfm](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/london_arch/volumes.cfm).

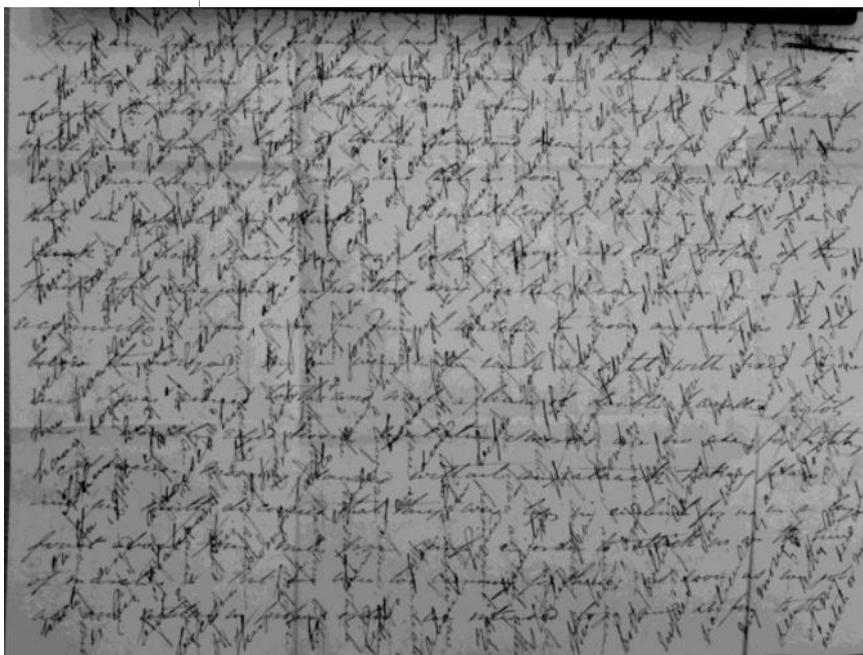
## The Fanning Letters

A group of letters has emerged from two boxes of business papers of the solicitors Burton Yeates Westbury, formerly of 22 Surrey Street, The Strand.

They comprise some 17 letters written in the 1830s-40s, which were kept with the solicitors' own documents, either because of their interest or perhaps because of a family connection, though this has not been established. The letters have now been transferred with other documents to the City of Westminster Archives Centre, where they are deposited as 2804/77.

The William Fanning is most probably the merchant of that name (1816-1887) recorded in the Australian Dictionary of Biography ([adb.anu.edu.au/biography/fanning-william-3497](http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/fanning-william-3497)). This identifies him as a son of William Fanning (1785-1859) and his wife Sophia Cecilia, née Harley; at least two of the letters are from Sophia Fanning in Finchley to 'My dearest Willie' (Sophia and William were indeed in Finchley in the 1841 census, and an 1839 letter, from Bombay was written to the Manor House, Finchley). William arrived in Sydney about 1842 and in 1843 entered partnership as a general merchant with George Richard Griffiths. They imported teas from China and wine and spirits – no doubt using the contacts built up when he was in China. The State Library of New South Wales holds records of Griffiths, Fanning & Co.

The correspondence in this collection was addressed to Rotterdam, Macau, Canton, etc. generally to William Fanning, c/o Messers Dent & Co. The letters are particularly notable as invariably being crossed, and in some cases 'double crossed' – making them exceptionally difficult to read. One is illustrated here. © reproduced by permission of BRA/Solicitor's Regulatory Authority Historic Documents project



### Sir Hugh Myddelton and the New River

The March 2015 issue of journal of the London/North Middlesex FHS has a reprint of an article written in the 1960s by Mr R.B.K. Petch. With their permission I have made a précis of it as I thought it very informative.

To fill his water-bucket the medieval Londoner dipped it into the Walbrook or the Thames, or took it to St Clement's Well if he lived in Fleet Street, or to the Clerke's Well. Elsewhere he possibly favoured one of the other wells, perhaps the Holy Well in Shoreditch.

Water was precious, and conduits were built to take from where it flowed to where it was required. In 1237 permission was given for the water of Tyburn to be conveyed by means of conduits into the City. Stow speaks of the Great Conduit, which came to a head or reservoir in West Cheape, as being completed in 1285. He lists others as being built at later dates: one which brought water to Aldermanbury in 1471; others to Grass Street in 1491; to Bishopsgate in 1513; to London Wall in 1528; to Aldgate in 1535 and to Lothbury in 1546.

Only the poor risked drinking water, the better-off employed it solely for cooking purposes. Small beer was the drink on which children were reared.

By around 1600 the River Thames was becoming heavily polluted and the water from it was increasingly suspect as highly dangerous to health. Over thirty years before Parliament had granted to the citizens of London the right to dig a river so that an adequate supply of clean and good water could be brought to the City, but nothing had been done. After the pestilence of 1603, in 1605 and 1606 the Corporation of London was empowered by Parliament to lead pure water in a 'New River' from the springs of Middlesex or Hertfordshire.

At this juncture, enter Hugh Myddelton, goldsmith and member of the Company of Merchant Adventurers. He decided to bring the river from two springs close to Ware in Hertfordshire: one at Chadwell and the other two miles away at Amwell.

The cutting of the New River began immediately. Myddelton took it by way of Broxbourne, Enfield and Hornsey, past the foot of the hill on which Alexandra Palace now stands, to the Round Pond at Clerkenwell. Chadwell and Amwell are some twenty miles from the City but to ensure a gentle gradient to keep the water flowing, Myddelton chose a course which stretched for nearly forty miles. It had to follow the lie of the land.

A bill was introduced in Parliament to repeal the permission given for the New River to be cut but nothing came of it. Then James I became interested in the undertaking. Part of the river passed through the purlieu of the King's residence at Theobald's Park, Enfield, and the King decided to help Myddelton. His right to proceed with the cutting of the river was confirmed. James also undertook to pay half the expenses in return for the right to receive half of any profits that might eventually be made.

In 1613 the work was completed and the official opening was arranged for Michaelmas Day. Myddelton's elder brother, Sir Thomas Myddelton, was Lord Mayor for the year and he, together with the Aldermen and Common Council attended the ceremony.

### Royal Archives

The Royal Household has already put online 141 volumes of Queen Victoria's private diaries. They can be found at [www.queenvictoriasjournals.org](http://www.queenvictoriasjournals.org), whilst a second site [www.queen-victorias-scrapbook.org](http://www.queen-victorias-scrapbook.org) concentrates on her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. It contains documents from the Royal Archives, paintings and photographs from the Royal Collection.

They have now announced a project, to run over some 5 years, to digitise records from the time of George III, who reigned for 60 years from 1760 to 1820, and also some documents from the reigns of kings from George I to William IV. A team led by Dr Joanna Newman, international vice-principal at King's College London, is working with the Royal Household on the project. Dr Newman is quoted as saying that in the 350,000 pages, many never seen before "will potentially transform our understanding of Georgian Britain, the Enlightenment and the War of Independence."

Prof Edward Byrne, principal of King's, recalled that "King's was founded by King George IV – George III's eldest son and successor – and with Her Majesty the Queen as our present-day patron, we are delighted and honoured to have been approached by the royal household to work on this prestigious project and to continue our long history of association with the Crown."

Reporting on a visit to the Royal Library at Windsor it was revealed that it was the first time the Queen had seen the documents, which were previously kept under lock and key in the Royal Archives. Dr Newman explained: "They were kept in the Tower at Windsor, and were inaccessible to academics because security clearance was required to get in there."

Among the documents shown to the Queen was a report written by an English spy called Aristarchus and sent back from America to George III, and a letter written by Queen Charlotte in copperplate script in which she discussed philosophy. Queen Charlotte also described life at court and domestic details of the royal household, from childbirth to ladies in waiting.

The archive also holds gifts to the Queen which in recent years have included a history of accountancy in Ireland, a Brazil football shirt and a Lego model of Tower Bridge. There is also a beautifully illustrated collection of poems given to George IV. The queen was shown some of the content of the archive, much of which she herself had probably never seen before. Looking at a beautifully illustrated collection of poems given in 1812 to George IV, then Prince Regent, by the Shah of Persia, the Queen remarked to guests: "You don't get gifts like that any more."

It has been suggested that family historians who have an ancestor who was in royal service might find records of their forebears in the archive. How good to be able to write in your family history 'According to the Royal Archives, my ancestor Fred Smith ....'

### LAMAS Spring conference

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) holds two conferences every year, of which the spring one reports on recent archaeological work in London. Much of this is written up in one of the detailed reports that are published either by the Museum of London itself or by the archaeology group MOLA: summaries also appear in the society's volumes of transactions. This year's spring conference was held at the Museum of London on 21 March. The morning session of the conference covered recent work, the afternoon session on research on recent finds. The latter, although very interesting, was extensively illustrated by pictures of the finds, without which any write-up makes little sense, so I include here a few notes from the morning session only.

**Adelphi:** As is now fairly well known, the early Anglo-Saxon settlement of Londonwic was not located in Roman Londinium but further west, at the sites of what is now the Adelphi, Shell building and Savoy hotel. At that time the river was much wider and slower flowing, reaching possibly at one time as far as the line of the present Strand. Archaeologists had an opportunity to excavate at a rather small and cramped site in the basement of the Adelphi. They reported finding large quantities of Roman building materials, and concluded that there has been systematic removal of material from Londinium, so much so that it was concluded it was paid work. There was also evidence of dumping at the waterfront, so that the stratigraphy of the finds is not a good guide to relative age. Finds included Roman coins datable to 655, tree remains dendro-dated to 679 and, in the lower levels, lead weights thought to have been used on fishing nets: there are few other metal goods, suggesting that the Saxons here were not great metal-workers. There were parts of barrels of Central European origin, thought to be wine barrels: presenter Dougies Killock suggested that our Saxon predecessors shared the English love of *liebfraumilch*: no, surely they had better taste than that.

**Barts Hospital** is undergoing redevelopment, and as this takes place the archaeology is being explored. The site is located just outside the old city walls, and part of the old western cemetery may lie under the existing buildings. A few Roman skeletons have been found, somewhat fewer than were expected, together with grave goods. The line of the Roman wall, built c200, has been found, together with a ditch. Although in the early Saxon period wall was not maintained as the city was abandoned, it was repaired when the city was reoccupied c900 and repaired regularly thereafter. Rubbish was thrown into the ditch so although it contains many artefacts that are of interest, as I note on the Adelphi site above, nothing can be concluded about the relative age of the items

The site houses a Roman quarry, thought to be over 5 metres deep: the excavations were unable to get to the bottom if this. Some of the lower levels are below the water table, and the water-logged environment has helped preservation of some materials. A wood felloe was found: this is the outer section of wheel into which the spokes were inserted, and the spoke holes were present, although the spokes were not in situ.

At a higher level there was a cellar with a brick floor and fire debris: speaker Anthony Francis suggested this was from the 1666 fire of London, as the hospital was just on the eastern edge of the burnt area.

**Kew Bridge Road:** the report was about work on a small early Neolithic site at 41-42 Kew Bridge Road, part of which was disturbed by a ramp to an underground car park, but further excavation revealed that the site was not so disturbed as had at first been thought. Pottery from c3500BC was found. Perhaps unsurprisingly from its Thames-side location, there were large numbers of fish-bones found: there are also numerous blades and microliths. The site was adjacent to the Roman Road from London to Silchester, although nothing Roman has been identified from the site.

**Sipson's Farm:** moving further out of London, this is an area just north of Heathrow: the area is being excavated for gravel, and the area was explored archaeologically in advance of the excavations. The speaker, Bob Cowie, said that he was tempted to call his talk '50 shades of brown' and the reason for this was clear from his images. Much of the soil shown in his pictures was a light brown, the colour varying slightly with depth and across the site. In the Neolithic period the area was probably wooded, with clearings: cremation burials have been found, and flint adzes, scrapers and blades. The sequence continues with bronze age field systems being identified, and then to the late Iron age and Romano-British periods, showing that this part of London has a long occupation history. Strangely nothing Saxon has been found, although there is evidence of later, mediaeval, occupation. Was it, like Roman London, a site that was abandoned and re-occupied, or has the archaeology been lost?

**Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS):** the last speaker of the morning was Ben Paites from PAS, who gave special emphasis to the amount of material that has been recovered from the Thames: we have all seen the 'beaches' along the Thames that are exposed when the tide is low, and these are good areas in which metal-detectorists make finds. Many are recorded on the web site ([finds.org.uk](http://finds.org.uk)), although in some cases although items are found and recorded, they are returned to the finder and may then be lost to archives.

Using the web site you can see a map showing the locations of the find in a particular county or administration: doing this for the GLC area From the Iron Age there are over 300 coins recorded, whilst the Roman period has over 1500 objects, including coins. These are abundant for the period after the revolt by Boudicca, who attacked both Colchester and London (Colchester was at the time a more important town for Roman rule than London).

There is obviously a flourishing group of detectorists at West Wickham near Bromley, as there is a large number of finds from that area.

Reports on much of the work presented by all the speakers, and other work not covered by the conference, can be found on the website at [www.mola.org.uk](http://www.mola.org.uk).

Image, right, of coin from river, id LON-AFE61A, © PCS. reproduced under creative commons licence.



### Captain's Registers

The editor was asked by a friend if anything could be added to a report about one Captain Andrew Sinclair. Using Ancestry at LMA it was easy to establish that he was born in 1837 in Tingwall on Unst, the most northerly of the Shetlands, and was son of David and Margaret. The 1841 census has him aged 4 at Colaster on Unst, in a household with no men recorded. Given the sea-faring background of that part of the country, I think we might assume they were all at sea, and anyone brought up in that environment will have a strong feel for the sea in all its moods. Andrew is still in the Shetlands in the 1851 census, but left shortly after and went to Liverpool. Ancestry has images of his certificate as mate, and then as captain in 1868. From here on using the captains' registers at LMA we can find his ships and voyages to Burma and the South Pacific, and then to the USA. In 1877-78 there are no voyages recorded, and perhaps as a result of this gap there is a second certificate as master in 1878.

If you go to the Guildhall, they have filmed copies of Lloyds List, together with a handwritten index of ships and their captains. I struck lucky in 1881, as in Lloyds List for Wednesday October 12 1881, page 10 column 33 we find the report:

Mobile: Sep 30 Captain Sinclair of the barque Mathilde, reports the loss of his vessel at Orlando Point Cuba on the morning of Sep 24. the vessel was bound from Annotto Bay Jamaica, for Wolgast, with a cargo of logwood. Crew brought to Mobile.

(For those whose American geography is as poor as mine: Mobile is the chief town of Alabama, at the mouth of the river variously called the Mobile or Alabama. Orlando Point on Cuba is not far from the infamous Guantanamo Bay in that island.)

The captains' registers show that Sinclair sailed to the north Pacific in a sloop the *Springburn* in 1894 after which he appears to have retired (he would be aged 60): a single journey to Brazil is recorded in 1901 in which he served as mate rather than captain.

He was not at sea at the time of the 1881 census either, as he is recorded in Liverpool with his wife Ann and only son Thomas. Thomas' occupation is given as accountant's apprentice, so did not follow his father to sea. Andrew also has 5 daughters. He married in 1864, having met his wife Ann Elizabeth Smith in Liverpool, although she too was a Shetlander.

Further information on shipping and ships' crews can be obtained from the National Archives: if you put the ship number shown in the Captains' registers into the crew list search page at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/merchantseaman1858-1917.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/merchantseaman1858-1917.htm) you can find if there is information in the BT99 series: these have not been digitised so a visit to Kew is needed to view them. These sources have been used by the writer Laughton Johnston who writes, in his book *A Kist of Emigrants*, about the lives of Shetlanders and who writes about Sinclair, reporting that on an early voyage as a master he had trouble with the crew off Bombay, where he took them before the magistrate.

It seems that no matter where your ancestors live in the UK, you may stand a chance of finding some records of them in London archives if they had a profession. I just have a long line of *Ag Lab's*.

### Shifting seasons

Robert Marsham was, amongst other things, a naturalist. He was born in 1708 in the village of Stratton Strawless, in Norfolk, due north from Norwich.

Marsham was fond of trees and planted a vast forest which was cut down last century to help towards the war effort. The last known remaining tree is a giant cedar, still visible on the estate. Marsham's aim was to improve his timber production, and he was one of the first to carry out repeated experiments on root cutting, trenching and bark scrubbing.

The reason he is of archival interest is that he, and his family after him, kept records of the first signs of spring from 1736 until the 1950s. The records include information such as leafing dates for 14 forest species. The records have been used by researchers from the University of Edinburgh, and have helped them establish how signs of spring have been appearing earlier, with warmer springs causing most woodland plants to leaf earlier. However, warmer autumns are having the opposite effect on some species, meaning the traditional timings at which different trees grow leaves and flowers are shifting.

This report adapted from the *Eastern Daily Press*. It only goes to show that whatever records you keep, someone, somewhere, may find them interesting one day!

### Archival Overflow

Emily Sharpe reported on a meeting discussing what to do with archaeological archives in the UK as institutions rapidly run out of space to store them. Indeed, many museums have stopped acquiring these types of collections, (three years ago 9000 were identified as closed to new accessions) though excavations continue.

"We have archival material in museums that are becoming increasingly inaccessible because of the lack of specialist archaeology curators and we have museums that are ceasing to collect this material which has created a backlog that has nowhere to go".

Some £200m is spent each year on archaeological excavations. Roy Stephenson warned that if this material remains inaccessible to the public, its value is going to be questioned. "We have to demonstrate the public benefit of these collections."

Some have suggested that the solution to the museum storage issue is simply to collect less. But Stephenson pointed out that developers are going to question why they are spending millions to excavate something that is just going to be thrown away. "There has to be a demonstrable research process in retention rather than in dispersal, and the emphasis should be on retention," he said. "We should focus on what to select to keep," Brown said, adding that economics and available storage space should not be used as the criteria for what archival material is kept. "It takes about a generation for scholars to reassess an archive. If we make the wrong decisions now, the next generation will feel it. It won't be felt in my time, but I'll probably get the blame anyway." The question remains open, but the panel was unanimous in saying museums should not sell unwanted pieces.

### Royal College of Music Museum

The Royal College of Music, situated at the foot of the steps on the south of the Royal Albert Hall, has a small museum which AfL members with a musical bent, and especially if pianists, might be interested to visit (although opening hours are not generous).

On entry the first thing one sees, because of their size, is an array of keyboard instruments: the oldest is a harpsichord from 1531 with a painted Venus inside the lid, sadly not in playable condition. Even older is a clavictherium dating from about 1480, but in very poor condition. This instrument may be thought of as an early harpsichord or spinet, but with the strings vertical behind the keyboard. Sufficient survives that the college has been able to build a modern reconstruction, which was played when I was there.

The other keyboards can be played, the earliest an instrument from 1675, and are used by students for experience of playing on historical instruments.

Our guide played short piece on a modern reproduction clavichord, which showed just how quiet that instrument is: it is barely audible at the far end of the room. They also have a barrel-organ, which works off rolls, so does not need keyboard skills: you just turn a handle which both operates a wind pump to voice the pipes, and scrolls a roll on which marks. It has gone slightly out of tune, if you know of barrel-organ tuner please let the RCM know, they need one.

The upper gallery houses wind and string instruments: tiny, long thin violins called a pochette, also called a 'kit'. The latter name is particularly associated with dancing masters who would teach their pupils the steps, with the instrument lodged at the waist, and no doubt using the bow, when not playing, to emphasise the steps.

They have two serpents on display, not the sort that will bite you, but a wind instrument, possibly an ancestor of the tuba, but made of wood. No doubt the origin of the name is the curved shape of the instrument. It is first recorded in 1590. (Search Wikipedia, which has a good picture of one.)

There is a rotating display of instruments from non-European cultures: in March this was showed Indian instruments.

Not just the museum, but the whole building, had a great display of portraits of musicians. Under the patronage of the musical impresario Salomon, the composer Haydn came to London, not once but twice, in 1791 and again in 1794. The portraits in the museum are dated 1791, so are clearly linked to the first visit to England. They have a picture of George Grove, who was the first director from 1882, and whose name will be familiar to all lovers of music from the dictionary of Music and Musicians which he initiated, and of which he was the first editor. It is still published, the 1980 edition ran to 20 volumes each of about 800 pages.

An early patron of the school was George Donaldson: the room named after him has a Gothic revival coffered ceiling, and holds busts, including Elgar's, and portraits.

The museum is open to the public, free Tuesday to Thursday 11:30 to 16:30. Web site at [www.rcm.ac.uk/museum](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/museum).

### Stratford Place

The visit I mention on the left was organised through the Art Fund, as was another to the Oriental Club in Stratford Place. There is little of archival interest on display in this building, but the visit sparked off some reading on the history of the area.

The street, and the house of the same name at its northern end, are named after Edward Stratford. He was the son of an Irishman who was made Lord Baltinglass in 1763. (His promotion to the peerage seems to have been an attempt to strengthen the then Government's majority in the Lords by the election of 'compliant substitutes': this appears to be a topic that would merit another essay.) He then became Viscount Aldborough, Earl Aldborough, Viscount Amiens (as his mother's line was from there). Edward became the second Earl Aldborough on his father's death in 1777, at which he renamed his house Aldborough House: it has since reverted to its original name.

A few years before his father's death, Edward Stratford was living in Dean Street: he applied for a lease on the land of the City Mead estate on the north of Oxford Street, as he had heard that the current lease to a Mr Shakespear was about to expire: he applied for the lease saying he would put up new buildings. Much of the money for his projects came via his wife Anne Herbert, whose family were of Glemham Hall in Suffolk.

The design of Stratford House is questioned: there is a tradition that it was the Adam brothers' work, a view disputed by those who are experts in their work, and nothing in the known records of the Adams makes any reference to Stratford or his house. Any drawings and plans for the building have disappeared, and there are no records in the family papers, still. A candidate is Richard Edwin who did drawings for similar properties and rented no. 5 on the east side of the Place. He is given unequivocally as the architect in the *London Encyclopaedia*.

A building on the west side of Stratford place in 1686 was The Lord Mayor's Banqueting House. An image of this can be found on the British Museum [site](#).

An early picture shows a house of 5 bays and 3 storeys, with three further single-storeyed bays on each side; the latter were extended to two storeys in 1890s, and then a third was built on by Lord Derby in 1908, when it became Derby House following the sale by the then occupants, the Colebrooke family. As well as building upwards, he did away with the stables, which enabled the building of a state drawing room (now the club's dining room) and a ballroom above.

Stratford Place is near the course of the Tyburn: which rises on Hampstead Heath, forms the lake in Regents Park, follows Marylebone Lane to Wigmore St. then takes a more westerly route than the lane, and runs between Gees Court on the west and Stratford Place, to cross Oxford St (anciently Tyburn St), (it gave its name to the gallows, a bit further west), The Tyburn forms a lake in grounds of Buckingham Palace, and enters the Thames between Westminster and the Tate, possibly at Thorney Island near Westminster. Marylebone was St Mary le Bourne, and the bourn is the Tyburn.

## Volunteering

The editor is a volunteer so was interested to read the report produced by the ARA on volunteering in Archives. This is available online and can be downloaded from [www.archives.org.uk/ara-in-action/campaigns/volunteering/volunteering-reports-and-case-studies.html](http://www.archives.org.uk/ara-in-action/campaigns/volunteering/volunteering-reports-and-case-studies.html) (look for *Volunteering\_in\_Archives\_in\_2014\_Final.pdf*). It seems that more women than men volunteer, by a ratio of 2:1, and that more than two-thirds are over 55, with retired persons predominating, perhaps unsurprisingly as many in that age range don't have to worry about earning their crust. And on one basis the amount contributed was calculated at some £2million p.a. Whilst some people, probably the younger members, do volunteer to improve their career prospects, the report observes that 'the clear majority were volunteering for social reasons and personal enjoyment'. It also comments that there is a marked preponderance of local history (the motivation for some 70% of respondents in 2014, down a bit from the 2009 survey) and family history interests (just under 40%: no figure given for 2009), which I suspect will not come as much of a surprise to A&L members. And whilst tasks like giving talks, providing advice and outreach are undertaken, the number of people doing those tasks is outnumbered several times by those doing data input, cataloguing and transcription: the first group of tasks does require more background knowledge, might that be part of the issue?

It was also noted that volunteers might feel they were taking work away from permanent staff, so if you use volunteers, it may be worth stressing that 'the task would not get done if it weren't for the volunteers' (if it's true!): too formal an application process can be a deterrent, although the professionals do need to know a volunteer's strengths and abilities. Years ago one of the staff at my local record office was going through an Excel spreadsheet copying data from one column to another, muttering how long it was taking. I said it could be done more quickly and reliably with an Excel macro (VBA for the technical). In half an hour I wrote the code, tested it on a copy of the data (of course the first attempt was not quite right). The lady in question was delighted that the task was done so easily. So it is worth looking for those odd-ball skills that just one day might be useful; and not just in IT, that just happened to be my background.

Volunteers' grouses: bureaucracy, in various guises such as permits and passes; inability to access the internet to check up on information. Size of job is important too, whilst it may be good to have something you can get your teeth into, a job that looks as if it will stretch for on 'for ever' is a turn-off and may result in the volunteer simply stopping: staff need not to forget that volunteers have that option. And lastly, management: set a programme of work, do not make it look as if it's 'John has turned up, what are we giving him to do today?'. A volunteer needs access to experienced staff to resolve queries, and if no-one is available this can be daunting, but we don't want someone coming along every half hour asking 'All ok?'

I am glad to say that the LMA scores well here.

## Potteries archives

Visiting Stoke-on-Trent, and the Potteries area generally, was a sad affair some 10 or more years ago: the area was very run down, many of the pottery firms on which its fame was built had closed down and moved away, and the big Shelton steel works ceased operation around 2002, causing unemployment.

However, the area is now happily having a revival. The superb Wedgwood museum at the company's former site at Barlaston opened a few years ago, helped by a campaign of the Art Fund to prevent the collection being sold off to meet pension requirements (it is currently closed for a 'revamp', so do not try to visit at the moment). The archive of Minton, now a part of the Wedgwood group, and seemingly similarly threatened with sale and dispersal, has also been rescued and will go on display, probably at the same site.

The Art Fund the National Heritage Memorial Fund have bought the historic collection for £1.56 million and gifted it to the Stoke-on-Trent City Archives.

Items including designs and drawings which chart the history of Royal Doulton's famous Minton brand from 1793 will now go on display at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery and the Wedgwood Museum.

Wolstanton-based historian Mervyn Edwards said: "This archive dates back to 1793, so whether you're a pottery aficionado or a social historian, this will be a great boon. The saving of the Minton Archive and return to Staffordshire, on the back of the Wedgwood archive being saved, is a really important step in bringing together Stoke-on-Trent's incredible ceramic heritage.

"Now that we have the Wedgwood, Spode and Minton archives saved I hope that soon we will have an expanded ceramic museum where they can all be brought together. We have an incredible resource here now."

## Snippets

*From Alison Walker:*

According to *A Bishop's Tale*, the archives at Mechelen in Belgium housed in the diocesan seminary are now properly catalogued. But "some told of an earlier archivist who so despaired of ever organising the massive collections that when he needed a particular document he simply resorted to walking around the stacks with an image of St Anthony, finder of lost objects." (*I hope this makes you smile.*)

*Snippet 2.* A copy of the 1300 issue of Magna Carta had been found in the archives kept in Maidstone, Kent, but belonging to the town of Sandwich, although sadly it is torn and has about a third missing. Only a small number of towns have such a copy.

It was authenticated by Professor Nicholas Vincent, of the University of East Anglia: "It is a fantastic discovery which comes when the four other known versions were brought together at the Houses of Parliament." He said the fact Sandwich had its own Magna Carta gave backing to the theory that it was issued more widely than previously thought to some 50 cathedral towns and ports "It must have been much more widely distributed than previously thought because if Sandwich had one... the chances are it went out to a lot of other towns."

## Cabinet War Rooms

2015 sees the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Winston Churchill, whose funeral was on 30 January 1965, six days after his death. He was aged 90, his death had been anticipated, and a well-planned operation swung into action. It was therefore very appropriate that the Art Fund had planned a visit to the Cabinet War Rooms (not, I regret, an AfL visit, but I think worthy of a report).

The war rooms are entered at the foot of Clive Steps, on Horse Guards Road at the western end of King Charles Street. The unassuming entrance does not prepare you for the fact that you are about to descend into a space that eventually reached 30,000 sq ft, stretching back towards the basement of the Treasury Building.

What you see here divides into 2 parts: the Churchill Museum, an area devoted to the life story of Winston Churchill; and rooms which were the heart of his operation of government during the war, which have been put back as they may have been in August 1945. At the end of the war the rooms were cleared out and vacated.

The main rooms occupy a single storey at basement level: below is a semi-basement, with ceilings so low that you cannot stand up: this was used for sleeping quarters, although most staff preferred to get away if they could: there were chemical toilets, which get the place a bad odour. However, some secretaries worked 16-hour days, at the end of which they were probably only too happy to collapse into whatever bed could be found.

In the war rooms the first room you encounter is the Cabinet War room, setup with seat for the three chiefs of staff in the middle so that they could be grilled on the progress of the war. It was suggested that at the start Churchill tried a 'too much hands-on' approach, but as the war developed and more information became available, it was impossible for him to be given more than a digest, and the detail was left more to the chiefs, to their relief.

Further on is Churchill's bedroom, obviously the most spacious and luxurious of all (not that the idea of 'luxury' is appropriate here) a map room, and a telephone room which had a direct line to the American President: you can listen to a reconstructed phone call from 1945 in which Churchill and the then US president Truman discussed announcing the end of the war.

The room is which the secretaries sat at their typewriters has been reinstated with a wonderful set of 1945 type-writers.

The Churchill museum area presents the whole of his life, not just his involvement in WW2. I cannot do justice to it in this short report, so I will use two Churchill quotes "I'm easily satisfied: I like the best", and of his successor Attlee "A sheep in sheep's clothing".

The war rooms are administered as part of the Imperial War Museum; information about opening and prices at <http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms>. The image on the home page showing a slot in which signs about the weather above has an amusing story: 'Windy' was a code for air-raid.

## 2015 anniversaries

2015 sees several other anniversaries, apart from the 50 years since the death of Winston Churchill (see left). The editor has plundered several on-line sources to see what else shows up: his selection follows ...

Somewhat more than 50 years ago, but very much in historians' minds, is that 19 June 1215 saw the signing of Magna Carta. Although most of its clauses have since been repealed, and the agreement is said to have had little impact at the time, Magna Carta is today seen as one of the cornerstones of British democracy and law. An online article on the web pages of the Daily Mirror (that fount of historical information) points out that it was confirmed with a seal, not with the pen that King John is depicted holding on the new £2-coin. 50 years on from 1215, on 20 January 1265, Simon de Montfort, called an elected body to meet in what is sometimes thought of as the first English Parliament.

Back another 200 years: King Cnut invaded England in 1015: although he arrived as an invader, after some initial skirmishes his 20-year reign helped to establish a thriving and cultured Anglo-Saxon country.

The Battle of Agincourt, fought on 15 October 1415, is (I suggest) best remembered today from the famous representation in Shakespeare's Henry V. The battle is described as 'a dramatic affair, as a small army of tired archers and men-at-arms triumphed over much of French nobility on a muddy battlefield'. Although the battlefield itself is in France, the invasion was planned in England, in a campaign that allegedly began with an insulting gift of tennis balls from the French to the king at Kenilworth Castle. The invasion force gathered at Portchester Castle in Hampshire.

1665 was a plague year, one of the last plagues to visit London, possibly because the city became healthier following a small fire the following year (which I trust AfL will mark in autumn next year). England was at war with the Dutch (but it was for much of the 1660s), and after the capture of New Amsterdam, the town was placed under the control of the Duke of York in 1665, so became known as New York. Both the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* and the *London Gazette* were first published in London in this year.

The Battle of Waterloo took place on 18 June 1815. English Heritage say they will 'mark the bicentenary with a series of exhibitions across key locations associated with the victor of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington. Apsley House in London, given to him by the grateful national, will showcase the honours given to the Duke, while nearby Wellington Arch will host an exhibition on the battle.'

60 years ago, on 20 October 1955 the last volume of J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* was published. The story became one of the best selling novels of all time, over 150 million copies sold around the world.

And on a lighter note, let's not forget that it is 150 years since the publication of the greatest book ever written by a mathematical logician, (not forgetting Bertrand Russell's *Principia*): yes, *Alice in Wonderland* came out in 1865.

## VISIT and SEMINAR REPORTS

### Visit : Richmond Archives and Local Studies

On 19 February visits co-ordinator Jane Insley had arranged a visit to Richmond.

The London Borough of Richmond is unique in one respect, it is the only London borough to straddle the Thames, being formed from the old London boroughs of Richmond south of the river in Surrey, and Twickenham, north of the river, originally in Middlesex. It is also a very green borough, including Richmond Park, the botanic gardens at Kew, and the large park that surrounds Hampton Court: just to the south, although not in the borough, there is also the green expanse of Wimbledon Common.

The area around old Richmond town hall was redeveloped in the 1970s and 1980s. The old town hall building, that now houses the archives and local studies library, is the oldest one in the area. It opened in 1893, and it became the archives in 1988. The building was hit by a bomb in 1940, a photograph showing the damage was on display, but this damaged mainly the top floor of three and the lower two are late Victorian.

Our host was archivist Felix Lancashire, who had selected some documents illustrating the history of the borough.

The oldest item on display was a list of payments to gardeners at the palace park in the first three months of 1615/16: although it mentions men as employees without naming them, there were also women employed and they are named and identified, some as 'goodwife' and some as 'mother': what was the difference? were the former married but childless?

Next in date was a wonderful document dated 9 March 1635, an agreement between representatives of the king and John Poole, who own land in Hampton and is agreeing to sell land the king wants for part of his palace estate at Hampton: one has the impression that he did not have much choice whether he sold or not, or what price he got.

A nineteenth century poster for a Rock Band caused much amusement: not a rock band in the modern sense of the phrase, but one whose instruments were made from a special type of rock from Skiddaw, Cumbria.

The Creed register for the Richmond Union workhouse was open at a page noting the admission of Edward Barney, found on 30th June 1908 in a railway carriage at Barnes station (whence his name), guessed as about 6 months old. Was he illegitimate and abandoned, or the child of someone who could not look after him, or possibly both.

The catalogue of the archive is online at [www.calmview.eu/Richmond/Calmview/default.aspx](http://www.calmview.eu/Richmond/Calmview/default.aspx), although not everything is in the online catalogue. The archive had a thriving community of volunteers who have helped to digitise many of the maps and plans.

This visit was the last one in the current visits programme, as, with her other commitments, Jane is unable to find the time needed to plan them. It is a pity to lose the visits programme, if any member has a contact with any archive that would host a visit, or would be willing to plan a visit, even just a one-off, please contact the editor or any member of the AfL team.

### Busie Old Fool, unruly Sunne

The line above, as you will recognise, is the first line of John Donne's poem *The Sun Rising*, in which he complains at the sun for getting him out of his mistress' bed after (we assume) a night of love-making. In her edition of his songs and sonnets, Helen Gardner describes him as one of England's greatest love poets, and much of his poetry is full of a delicious eroticism. Perhaps, as our speaker said, he can be too clever, but when he gets it right, he strikes gold.

However, Donne was not only a poet: he was Dean of St Paul's for the last 10 years of his life (1621-31), and it was on the religious aspect of his life that Rev Canon Mark Oakley spoke when he gave AfL's March seminar on the life of Donne. He suggested Donne's life as a priest may be the least known of his many personae.

Donne was a Londoner, he was both born (1572) and died (1631) in the shadow of St Pauls. He was the son of an ironmonger who died in 1576, leaving his mother, Elizabeth Heywood, with several children. Elizabeth was descended from Sir Thomas More. Both families were Catholics, at a time when Catholicism was recusancy.

Donne went, at the age of 11, to study at Oxford, then moved on to Cambridge: he was unable to take a degree at either university since at that time the graduation ceremony required the taking of the oath of supremacy, which acknowledged Elizabeth as head of the Church, which as a recusant he would not do. In later life, 1615, he embraced the Church of England, received a degree of Doctor of Divinity from Cambridge, and was then appointed Dean at St Pauls. As Dean he was required to preach at least 12 sermons a year: many of his sermons survive, and the published edition runs to 10 volumes.

What Donne did in the years after graduating is not known in great detail. A biography by Isaak Walton (of *Complete Angler* fame, but also a biographer) says he travelled in Spain and Italy and returned with a good command of their languages.

He was back in England in 1601, when he married Anne Moore, to whom he was distantly related on his mother's side. The marriage was not approved of by either his own or Anne's family, and Donne spent a short while in the Fleet prison for his presumption. The event also ended his diplomatic career. On getting out of the fleet he lived in Surrey, where many of his 12 children were born (2 were still-births, another 4 did not survive to adulthood). Anne died in the birth of her last child in 1617.

He continued to write, and many of his poems found favour with his patrons, who included King James. It was possibly at the insistence of King James that Donne converted to the Church of England, and this helped him to re-establish his position.

Donne seems to have acquired a sizeable library, and part of it got to the hands of Robert Ashley, who left his books to Middle Temple, where they are still held today.

The cathedral of St Paul that Donne knew was the fourth church, the one that was burnt down in 1666: little survived that fire, but a life-size statue of him in a shroud, by Nicholas Stone, was one of the few things that did.

## SEMINAR REPORTS

### The Marx Library — April Seminar

AfL's April seminar was given by Meirian Jump of the Marx library, situated not far from the LMA at 37a Clerkenwell Green. Meirian has been working there for some six months, and her talk suggested that although the library has an extensive collection, cataloguing has not been at the top of their priorities: indeed she said that there was at the moment a moratorium on new accessions until they had an idea of what was already held.

The collections specialise on Marxism, the working class and trade unionism (no surprises there). In questions a member of the audience mentioned the Bishopsgate Institute library, which is also strong on the last of those, and one feels that there may be scope for co-operative working between them, once the Marx library has a good catalogue. Meirian also observed that a number of the staff at the library are involved, they are active in the labour movement.

Last year the library was host to a seminar marking 150 years since the founding of the International Workingmen's Association, at which Marx gave a speech. It is even more appropriate as the group met in the Clerkenwell area.

The library has a strong section on the Spanish Civil war, and as next year sees the 80th anniversary of its outbreak, special attention is being given to it. The *International Brigades* was the name given to a number of groups from the UK, and other countries, who went to fight against Franco in 1936, and the library holds records of their activities. Further away, the centenary of the Russian revolution of 1917 will be marked. The Heritage Lottery Fund is helping with a project on socialist opposition to WW1.

The Clerkenwell area has been the home of a number of people and movements with left-wing leanings. Support for John Wilkes led to rioting there in the late 1760s, and Lenin and Stalin are both reported to have passed through. The IHR [web-page](#) on the area says 'during the 1830s and 40s Anti-Corn Law and Chartist meetings became regular events'.

The history of the house is interesting. The first building here, erected in 1738, was known as the 'Welsh School' from its first use as a school for children of Welsh background. This lasted some 40 years. When the school moved out, the building was sublet as nos 37 and 38. 37 became a public house, which was in turn divided into 37 and 37A when the pub closed c1838. No 37A was successively home to the *London Patriotic Society* and then to the *Twentieth Century Press*, which printed Marx and was financially supported by William Morris. When that closed, in 1922, the building had various occupiers with print and paper connections, until it was acquired in 1934 as the Marx memorial library, in which role it continues today.

More information on their website at [www.marx-memorial-library.org](http://www.marx-memorial-library.org). There are tours of the building on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1pm (booking advised).

### Robert Hooke—Science in the City

Our speaker, Felicity Henderson is Lecturer in Archives and Material Culture at the University of Exeter. Her research focuses on early-modern manuscript culture and the history of science, and she is currently working on a new edition of Robert Hooke's diary.

Felicity's fascinating talk referred to a wide range of archival evidence to reconstruct Hooke's life and examined how he moved between various scientific and mercantile communities within London, and how he became one of the UK's first paid research scientist.

Robert Hooke was born on the Isle of Wight and educated at Westminster School under the infamous Richard Busby. While studying at Oxford he became an assistant to Robert Boyle, aiding him with his air pump experiments, an iconic instrument that would later become a defining feature of the Royal Society.

Hooke was soon to become entrenched in experimental science and study - he became Curator of Experiments for the Royal Society, Lecturer for Geometry with Gresham College (the location for the Royal Society's meetings, now on the site of Liverpool Street Station), and was also employed by John Cutler to give lectures on science and the arts.

Naturally, it is through surviving archival records, including Hooke's personal diary and the institutional archive of the Royal Society, that we get the best idea of who Hooke was, though traces of Hooke can be found in archives all over London.

The Royal Society were very keen record-keepers and their Journal Books give a good sense of the discussion and thinking that took place during their weekly meetings, which Hooke frequently attended. Following the 'Baconian' method of gathering information, the Royal Society recorded every aspect of the discussions that took place, even if it later proved to be irrelevant. The other historical records that reveal Hooke are of course, his personal diaries. These initially only recorded the weather, but gradually grew to be a general memorandum of his life, recording scientific conversations, the people he met, financial transactions, and visits to coffee houses.

Hooke was a frequent visitor to coffee houses, and indeed, a prominent member of London society. After the Great Fire he became Surveyor of London. Through his association with Sir Christopher Wren, he contributed to the building of the Monument, which was initially intended to be a zenith telescope. Indeed, there is a sense that Hooke saw London as his own giant laboratory, and saw the coffee houses as a way of sharing his scientific findings, and developing new ones. Hooke was a great believer in the practical application of science, and his interactions with others reflected this. For example, there is evidence that he shared ideas on the earliest known experiments in cast iron, improving the production processes of printing calico, and developing transparent earthenware called 'English China'.

*Report written by Sarah Radford*



### AfL Events: Seminars

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

- 3 September London Journal: 40th anniversary *with* editor Charlie Turpie and Bob Shoemaker
- 25 September Magna Carta conference at Guildhall – see our chairman’s piece on page 1.
- 1 October Through the Door (National Poetry Day). We hope for contributions from Thomas Heatherwick archives, the Port and River Archives; Imtiaz Dharker, Alice O’Hanlon, Vicky Holmes
- 2 October Society of Antiquaries – see our chairman’s piece on page 1.
- 5 November The National Archives with Jeff James: his seminar will be at TNA as the LMA will be closed
- 3 December AGM/Party - speaker not yet known.

As noted in the Richmond visit report, the visits programme is suspended for lack of an organiser.

### Correction and elucidation

If anyone followed the link in the Orwell article on page 4 of issue 29, they will have seen that the editor typed the wrong date, it was 1931, not 1923 as shown; 1931 was just two years before Orwell published *Down and Out*. My thanks to John Eversley for pointing this out. John also adds that the incident is covered in Bernard Crick’s 1982 biography of Orwell: *George Orwell – a Life*, published by Penguin. It has on page 86: *Saturday afternoon a week or ten days before Xmas,*

*1931. The object to get to prison .... got more drunk than I intended. Then on p87: Led to Police Stn (not until Monday did I realise it was Bethnal Green) 10’ x 5’ by 10’ high cell.*

*p88: Unutterably boring. Taken to Old St Court in Black Maria singing Christmas carols.*

John adds “I think it is generally thought that the cell in Bethnal Green Police station became the model for room 101 in 1984. The Police station is now the offices of Providence Row Housing Association.”

Thanks to John for the extra detail.

### LAMAS

The editor’s write-up of the LAMAS spring conference is on page 5 of this newsletter. The society has been in existence since 1860, and has published volumes of transactions since that date. They are a wonderful re-

source history of London. If you go to [www.lamas.org.uk/archives/transactions](http://www.lamas.org.uk/archives/transactions) all the volumes prior to 2009 can be down-loaded.

London is lucky to have both LAMAS and London Archaeologist (see p3), but is there a risk of overlaps?

### Editor’s note

This issue is appearing a little later than the usual date of 15th May: this is occasioned by the editor being on holiday for part of that month and needing time to get the issue up to date. Its production is a one-man show!

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](mailto:newsletter@archivesforlondon.org)  
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