



# Newsletter

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## From the Chairman

The End of summer / beginning of autumn greetings to all! Many of us will now be back in harness after summer breaks.

AfL began summer with its annual Summer Soiree at the Royal College of Music, hosted by their Librarian Peter Linnitt and held in their prestigious reading rooms. Peter described and showed us some of their treasures, and whilst the wine flowed, a trio of RCM musicians played. We are very grateful to Peter and his team for hosting us, and to the Gibbs String Trio for once again entertaining us.

The AfL Board ended their summer co-hosting a meeting with ARA (The Archives and Records Association) on 30<sup>th</sup> August.



The AfL Board met delegates to the ARA Conference at Wembley 30<sup>th</sup> August

The Board and the All Hands Forum have been as busy as ever arranging events for AfL members, and here is a reminder of a couple of some forthcoming:

### 16<sup>th</sup> September

AfL is co-hosting a workshop on the extraordinary physicist, electrical engineer, biographer and Quaker, Silvanus Phillips Thompson. <https://silvanusphompson.wordpress.com>. This is open to all. To register for the workshop, visit [tinyurl.com/AfLEvents](http://tinyurl.com/AfLEvents). The charge for the day is £25 (£10 for AfL members).

### An introduction to online London Genealogy, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

The next of our new AfL Practical sessions is an interactive workshop aimed at those who are unsure of where to begin with genealogy. Looking at family history sources available online, this session will show how you can help yourself and others make the most of their family history, involving LMA's computers to search for family history information. Plus, a behind the scenes tour of LMA, and discussion throughout. LMA Senior Archivist **David Luck** who works in LMA's Public Services helping onsite users and remote enquirers with their family history searches will run the event for AfL. **Friday 23 September 2016, 10.00am-12.30pm** Book your place: Eventbrite <http://tinyurl.com/AfLEvents> AfL members £10, **non-members £20**. Refreshments provided.

As always we welcome all archive users and potential users, to AfL events and hope to see many of you at these over the coming months.

Anne Barrett  
Chairman, AfL

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### Fire, fire!

350 years ago, plus a few days from the issue of this newsletter, one of the greatest disasters to befall London occurred: the Great Fire of 1666. Members who are attending the AfL conference in October may care to visit the exhibition at the Museum of London which is also commemorating the event. It runs until next year, so you do not need to rush.

Let me get my one grouse out of the way to start with, and that is that a lot of the effects are designed to appeal to a younger audience, and I thought them a bit distracting from a more serious message: of course it is good to encourage an interest in our history amongst youngsters, how does one make a balance?

As is well known, the fire started at the house of one Thomas Farriner, a baker in Pudding Lane (although Dorian Gerhold has argued that the house was not in Pudding Lane): Farriner is said to have been a supplier of bread to the Navy. A facsimile of the hearth tax in 1666 on display show that his house had 5 hearths and an oven. He claimed that he had dampened down his fires and left one smouldering on the night of 2<sup>nd</sup> September. A little after 1am, the household was awakened by the smell of smoke, and realised that the house was on fire. Farriner escaped from his upstairs bedroom over the roof of an adjoining property with a servant and children Thomas, Hanna and Mary (he was a widower, his wife had died the previous year): one maid was too afraid to go across and was one of the few who died in the fire.

An English astrologer, William Lilly, was ordered to appear on 25 October 1666 at the House of Commons before a committee set up to examine the cause of the fire. He claimed to have predicted the outbreak of the fire fourteen years before when he had published *Monarchy or No Monarchy*, a book containing hieroglyphic drawings one of which featured a large fire. He fell under suspicion of causing the fire. Documents from 1667, held at the LMA, contain stories about Dutchmen being seen with fire balls and causing damage.

The Fire destroyed 13,000 houses, 87 parish churches and St Paul's Cathedral, 44 Company Halls, other important buildings such as the Royal Exchange and Guildhall, note to mention Bridewell prison, the Session House, and bridges across the Fleet. It made 100,000 people homeless.

The preceding summer had been very dry, there was a strong wind blowing from the east (a map shows Pudding Lane situated well to the east of the burnt area), the fire broke out in the night when many

were asleep, London's houses were largely of wood, not brick, and the habit of building houses out over the street on jetties (which left room in the street but gave more space on upper floors: it's an interesting word, literally something thrown out, linked to the French *jeter*, and current English in the sense of a walkway thrown out into a river) meant that on the upper floors you could lean out and shake hands with the person opposite you. And of course that the fire could easily jump across. As well as the wood, along the river plenty of pitch was stored for use in the maintenance of boats, as well as 20 barrels said to have been in Pudding Lane itself: pitch was very flammable.

The Lord Mayor, Thomas Bloodworth, was alerted, and has gone down in history for his remark that 'a woman could piss it out'. The fire burnt through the next couple of days, and the plans of its spread show that with its front extended the largest area was burnt on 4<sup>th</sup>. The heat and wind helped burning fragments to rise into the air and be carried west, landing on unburnt property and spreading the fire. Then the wind dropped, fire breaks were created, as the fire moved toward the temple area where buildings were of brick, not wood, so more fire resistant. In the east the fire reached almost to the Tower of London, but again the solid construction of that part put it at less risk.

People fled, carrying with them their most precious belongings: carts were said to be charging £20 (equivalent to £3000 of modern money) to take goods out to the unaffected areas, and the exhibition includes a spinet (an early one-manual harpsichord) which was saved from one house—presumably it was valuable. Those near the river who had, or could hail, a boat escaped that way.

Two famous diarists of the time, Samuel Pepys and Thomas Evelyn, have both left first-hand accounts of the fire. Evelyn was one of the people who drew up a suggested plan for the new layout of the city. Several others are on display, one of an almost regimented layout of squares, in the centre of each was located a parish church: others are not so strict, but show an attractive layout. But it was not to be, the city was rebuilt on the old street plan, much of which survived until 1940, to be lost in the war and subsequent rebuilding.

What we have gained is Wren's magnificent rebuilding of St Pauls, together with all his other city churches.

Modern archaeological techniques have located a burnt layer in some parts of the city, a layer attributed to the fire. It continues to attract interest.

## Seals

No, not the ones that swim, but the ones that are often found dangling at the foot of medieval documents. They were the subject of a talk on the occasion of the publication of the London Record Society's (LRS) volume for 2016, given by John McEwen. His book is an extensively illustrated volume dealing with some 2000 seals found in a number of depositories, including the LMA, the National Archives, Westminster Archives, Canterbury Cathedral archives, and others.

The talk was given in the Lady Chapel of St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, a church founded in the twelfth century, so a fitting venue for a talk that concentrated on thirteenth century seals (although the Lady Chapel has only served that function since 1855).

John commented that in these days of digital photography producing such a book is much easier than it was: items can be photographed by the owners and emailed, without loss of quality, through several steps: it is possible to take several different views and select the best, and pictures can be digitally enhanced to bring out otherwise faint details.

But what were seals used for, what can they tell us? Any person who had to deal with documents would have had a seal, and whilst some went with an office a large number were personal. The N.E. corner of St Pauls church yard (roughly where the tube station entrance now stands, John joked), was where you went to get the seal-stamp made. However, the seal of Henry III was made by a goldsmith, William of Gloucester.

Typically a seal had some text around the edge, and a picture in the centre: as in the image below, two knights riding on a horse with the inscription 'Sigillum Militum Xpisti'. This looks like an apt seal for a poor knight who did not have his own horse. There had to be some link with the person who owned the seal: this was in the period before the emergence of surnames, so people had by-names, which might refer to their place of origin (like William of Gloucester), in which case the picture might be a notable land-mark, their trade (tools), or might be a nickname which could be illustrated. For less well-off seal owners, there was a range of 'stock' images which the die-maker could furnish.

If you lost your seal this was a calamity, it might fall into the wrong hands and be mis-used. You then went to the market-place and make a public proclamation that it was lost, to invalidate it for future use.

I will end with a personal observation about the LRS volume: with images of 2000 seals they are all rather small, and the introductory text was quite short. For me better to have had fewer but larger illustrations, picking out details of the more unusual seals, and a longer discussion on their use, origin and history.



## The Royal Institution Science lives here

I joined a guided visit to the Royal Institution (R.I.) to see the extensive galleries, many housed downstairs. They have a building in Albemarle Street, a prestigious location just north of Piccadilly.

The society was founded by Joseph Banks, quite specifically the records reveal, on 9th May 1799. Banks at that time was president of the Royal Society. He got 58 gentlemen to contribute 50 guineas each (reckoned to be equal to about £6000 of today's money). The building in Albemarle Street was purchased shortly thereafter, at a cost of £4850 (which exceeds those initial contributions, so more must have been found). Since then the R.I. has remained on the same site, that is for over 200 years, although the building has changed — the façade was added in 1838.

The R.I decided to make itself more widely known by arranging lectures: the Christmas lectures for younger people are famous and continue to this day: and as we were touring the building the excited screams from some young children working on the experiments was almost deafening! The young Humphrey Davy (aged 22) was appointed in 1801. Davy is most famous for his discovery of nitrous oxide, laughing gas as it is often called. He became professor of Chemistry and a few years later invented the safety lamp, an invention credited with saving the lives of many miners.

Numerous scientists have worked at, or had links with, the R.I. One of the best known is Michael Faraday, who attended Davy's lectures, and travelled with him across Europe. Faraday worked in the laboratories in the basement, where his equipment is on display. Faraday was also deeply religious, belonging to a little-known group called the Sandemanians, named after their Scottish founder. Building on the work of the Danish physicist Hans Oersted, he discovered the interaction of electric current, magnetism, movement: do you remember your three finger rule from school physics? Not that he invented it, it is attributed to John Fleming.

Father and son Braggs, William and Lawrence, worked here. In 1913 they discovered the internal structure of diamond, and they later shared a Nobel Prize for their work, which founded the discipline of X-ray crystallography. (The radio presenter Melvyn Bragg is a distant relative of these two.)

The site itself has an interesting history: it was the site of a house commissioned in 1664 by Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, so known as Clarendon House, and later as Albemarle House. At this time this area was little developed, as can be seen in William Morgan's 1682 map of London, where Albemarle House is clearly marked on the north side of Piccadilly. Edward fell from favour under Charles II, left the country and died in exile: his son Henry Hyde sold the site to the Duke of Albemarle (whence, I assume, the name of the street). The latter sold it on to a group of developers who included Thomas Bond, Henry Jermyn (Baron Dover), and Margaret Stafford, all of whom have streets named after them in this part of London.

More information, and history of the Royal Institution at [www.rigb.org](http://www.rigb.org).

## BALH Local History Day

The British Association for Local History (BALH) Local history day is held every year in June. It always consists of two lectures, morning and afternoon, and also the BALH AGM and presentation of awards for local history writing. This write up deals just with the talks: the afternoon talk was about the landscape and garden designer 'capability' Brown, but in the morning there was a talk on business archives in which Richard Wiltshire from LMA participated.

Along with Alex Ritchie from the National Archives, Richard spoke about business archives. There are two sides to archives of any type: finding those that have been deposited, and encouraging businesses both to keep records to form an archive, and depositing what they have: this applied equally to business archives. To find what exists Alex naturally recommended the use of the Discovery search engine

([discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk)). He reckoned that about 75% of business archives are held in local record offices, although many of these are linked to the discovery search engine, which will tell you what repository holds the records. A further 22% is held in the National Archives and specialist archives: the remaining 3% are in corporate archives retained by the businesses or (in the case of mergers) their successors.

Some of the information exists only in hard copy index form, from notes taken before the advent of internet access and a visit to the record office will be needed to see what exists. In other cases information is thought to exist, but no one is quite sure where it is: the department store Bourne and Hollingsworth, no longer trading, is in this category. There are also specialist groups, such as ABC, the Architects Builders and Construction archives, which is quite strong on the 'A', but less well represented for the other two groups.

It is important to make businesses aware of the value of an archive. Apart from its value to posterity, a good archive may yield information on what has been done before and failed, avoiding the repetition of an expensive mistake, or what worked. It was observed that even quite small businesses may hold interesting records, and, to laughter, a massage parlour was cited as an interesting case.

When a business fails emergency operations may be needed to recover the archive, which often has little perceived value to the creditors or administrators. They will be looking for saleable items to settle debts, and archives may be seen as a liability, and simply be trashed. If it is possible to rescue a business, its records may be a valuable resource to the new owners. The web site of the business archive council ([businessarchivescouncil.org.uk](http://businessarchivescouncil.org.uk)) has advice on archive maintenance for businesses (but does not itself hold any archives).

Turning to the records held at LMA, recall that a business based in London may be national in scope, so records deposited there are not limited to the London area. A case in point, which has been the subject of a huge indexing project, is the Sun Insurance Company, who insured properties all over the country. Another significant company whose archive LMA holds is Lyons, famous for its corner tea-shops.

On the subject of BALH, if you visit [balh.org.uk/publications/local-historian](http://balh.org.uk/publications/local-historian) you can find back copies of issues of the Local Historian back to 1992 which can be downloaded freely. They are of course not limited to London, but cover the whole country. Each issue is a single pdf file, the articles are not separate. (It would be good if BALH can add an index page so you know the content of each journal before download.)

**Capability Brown:** Tom Williamson, professor of history at UEA, gave an entertaining talk on his life. If the talk had a theme, what came over to me was that Brown was not as revolutionary as many would claim. He reckoned that in the years following the restoration (1660), English garden style had been formally 'Palladian' (for which, think of the big formal gardens of French chateaux), but that this started to change in the early years of the 1700s, so that by the time Brown was working he was following a trend. Look at William Kent's designs for Stow. Indeed the art historian Gombrich, in his *Story of Art*, describes Kent as the man who 'invented the English landscape garden as the ideal surrounding of Palladian villas', and does not mention Brown.

The lack of formality in the gardens was a reflection of the change in society, which was also becoming less formal in its interactions. This also follows from the Restoration, when many of the former middle class acquired substantial properties, but kept the social habits of their rank, rather than moving to the formality that had characterised the upper classes.

Many of Brown's design feature a lake, and he was careful to ensure that his lakes were properly fed and drained: and the main house would be placed well above the lake, both measures to ensure there would be no flooding. Lakes have always been a feature of large houses, but in earlier time they served a practical purpose, they were stocked with fish, to provide food.

A strategically placed grotto or ruin was usually to be found in the park. And rather than the long straight avenue, the approach to the house would be through woodland, with a glimpse of the house as you crossed the lake or turned out of a copse, the road coming to the house from one side. We are so used to seeing this layout in large English houses that we don't think about it, at least not until you see the alternative.

Another feature of his larger estates is a ring of woodland around the periphery, through which a woodland ride was laid out. Like lakes, woodland had served a practical purpose, small woods, especially oak, being where you released your pigs to feed on acorns. If the woods were larger, you hunted in them. And the wood from the trees has multiple uses, larger pieces for wood-working and furniture, brush wood as fuel, etc.

The **BALH meeting** took place in the church of **St Andrew Holborn**: there has been a church on this site since at least 959. St Augustine, who brought Christianity to England, was prior of St Andrew in Rome, and the name is thought to have been chosen in his honour. Although the mediaeval church escaped the fire of 1666, 20 years later it was found to be ruinous and was rebuilt by Wren. Wren retained the tower, but refaced it, the rest is his work: the church was damaged during WW2 but has been restored much as Wren would have known it.

### Rosebery Avenue visit

The Survey of London has started running a series of walks around London in collaboration with the Institute of Historical Research, (IHR, which also has a wonderful library based at Senate House). The first walk was held in June, exploring the built environment and urban history of the Clerkenwell area.

The organisers' write-up for the event said 'the older areas of South and East Clerkenwell are centred around Clerkenwell Green and Clerkenwell Close. The Survey's research here traces the story of this tightly knit, multi-layered area and relates the social, political and economic transitions, from its medieval monastic origins to its recent emergence as a location for the architecture and design professions, and loft living. In Northern Clerkenwell and Pentonville we find the more spaciouly planned streets north, from Exmouth Market and Rosebery Avenue. The story here is dominated by Georgian house-building, including the now largely vanished Georgian suburb of Pentonville and the elegant villas of the Lloyd Baker and New River Company estates around Amwell Street'.

Maps of the area show that the area occupied by the Metropolitan Water Board (MWB) HQ had previously been a number of lakes fed by the New River: when Rosebery Avenue was constructed (it was opened by Lord Rosebery in 1890), it cut through the area, bisecting some of the existing roads, resulting in the odd road layout that we have today.

The MWB building was completed around 1920, but it incorporates a much older room, the Oak Room, from a building called the Water House which stood on the site from 1613. The Oak Room is a little later than the house, being the work of John Green, c.1693. The tour included a visit to this room, which I thought the highlight. A full history of the room, with good pictures of the interior, can be found in the Survey of London volumes referenced below. The carving had been attributed to Grinling Gibbons, but being in oak rather than Gibbons' favoured lime-wood, current opinion favours the carver Jonathan Maine. (In passing I was reminded of the Adam room now situated on the 11th floor of the Lloyds building, of which LMA volunteers had a viewing several years ago.)

Other historical aspects of this part of London include local spas and the Sadler's Wells Theatre. This was named after Richard Saddler, who discovered a spring here and built a music house to attract a clientele to listen and take the water. The present building dates from a 1990s rebuild. This area also houses recent examples of public housing, such as Lubetkin's Modernist masterpieces, the Finsbury Health Centre and Spa Green Estate.

The survey of London volumes covering Clerkenwell are available online and can be accessed at: <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/research/survey-of-london/clerkenwell>. The walk was good for the level of historical information that a guide from the IHR was able to bring to it, and it is to be hoped that more will be arranged. This one suffered from a few teething problems (I missed the end of it as the duration substantially overran that advertised) and is not clear when or where any further walks will take place, nor whether attendance is limited to IHR friends.

### Clerkenwell

The name 'Clerkenwell' derives from one specific place in the area, whose history was described (in a leaflet published by Islington Council) like this:

The Clerks' Well, or 'fons clericorum', derives its name from the parish clerks of London who performed plays based on holy scripture nearby the well. These plays would probably have been performed on moveable, two storey platforms or 'pageants'. For a major performance there may have been a number of platforms, and the players would move from one to another as the action required. It is known that the Skinners' Well was close to the Clerks' Well and Stow, in his 'Survey of London' (1603), writes that on St Bartholomew's Day, 1390, the parish clerks of London played at Skinner's Well in the presence of King Richard II and his queen.

The name Clerkenwell is simply an old form of Clerks' Well, using the old English plural form in -en (which both modern English and German retain in plurals like woman/women, Frau/Frauen, although it is much more common in German than in modern English; it must date back to the two languages' common Germanic root).

If you have an interest in this part of London, there is a substantial history of the area written by William Pink: the first edition was published in 1865, but so comprehensive is it that copies are still being printed (it can be obtained via the British Library).

Visitors to LMA will have seen the name Bowling Green Lane on the road that runs to the south of the building. This road was at one time on the edge of the built-up area of London, with at least two bowling greens on the north side towards Spa Fields.

In the 12th century Jordan de Briset, a Breton knight, donated land around the Clerks' Well for the foundation of the Augustinian Nunnery of St Mary. It was in the area that today is bounded by Clerkenwell Green, Bowling Green Lane, Farringdon Lane and St James's Walk. The nunnery's wealth was derived in part from considerable dowries of land given by the fathers of the women who entered the nunnery. Water from the Clerks' Well flowed through a retaining wall of the nunnery into an enclosure for public use. The nunnery survived until the Dissolution of Monasteries (1536-40) and most of its buildings were demolished by 1600. Parts of the nunnery were incorporated in the Duke of Newcastle's house in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which was then replaced by a terrace of six houses in 1793. The cloisters of the nunnery also survived into the 18<sup>th</sup> century and parts can still be seen in the public open space beside St James's Church. St Mary's Church survived the Dissolution and became the parish church for Clerkenwell. In 1788, in a ruinous condition, it was demolished and replaced with the present Church of St James.

In 1673, James, Earl of Northampton, donated the well for the use of the poor of the parish of Clerkenwell. It was immediately leased to a brewer, John Crosse, who enclosed its source at the old nunnery wall, providing a fountain for public use. John Strype, writing in 1720, referred to tasting this water and finding it, "excellent clear, sweet, and well tasted." In 1800, the pump, including a commemorative plaque to the parish clerks and their sacred performances, was brought forward to pavement level of 16 Farringdon Lane.

### Apothecaries' Hall

Tucked away down a side road, Blackfriars Lane, south of St Paul's, is the hall of the [Worshipful Society of Apothecaries](#). Passing through a rather unassuming doorway into a courtyard, you find the entrance to the hall proper is on the far side.

As readers will know, the livery companies of London have a ranking that reflects their date of creation, at least for the higher numbered companies. The apothecaries are numbered 57, reflecting their creation as a separate company in 1617. Their hall fell within the area devastated by the fire of 1666, but they were quick to rebuild, being completed in 1672, and their hall is said to be the oldest now extant. The building's Great Hall, Court Room and Parlour are still as re-built between 1668 and 1670. The superb wooden staircase also dates from this period.

The history of the trade is interesting in itself: being an apothecary is an age-old craft, the herbalists in monastic communities knew a great deal about the medicinal properties of the plants they grew. In the secular world it is documented that Pepperers had a guild from at least 1180 (when they incurred a fine). In 1373 the name changed to Grocers, reflecting the fact that they imported goods in 'gross' for resale in smaller quantities. The side of the business that dealt with medicinal goods was overseen by the Physicians when they were formed in 1511, but it seems there was friction as some apothecaries attempted to operate as physicians, using their knowledge to diagnose and prescribe, rather than just prepare medicines.

The friction between the apothecaries and physicians continued to at least 1704, when the matter went to the House of Lords. The apothecaries stayed in London during the plague year 1665, when the physicians largely decamped: this may have been because the physicians had the more prosperous patients who could afford to move, whilst the poorer elements of society had nowhere to go, so had to stay in London. Either way, the apothecaries' customers were grateful for the fact that they stayed, and they were popular.

The modern basis was set by the Apothecaries Act of 1815 by which the company acquired the right to grant a licence to practise medicine to those who passed its examinations, which alongside anatomy and physiology, include botany: a practical period of attendance in a hospital was also required. One of the earliest to qualify under these rules was the poet John Keats, who 'walked the wards' at Guys Hospital and passed his exams in July 1816. Although he took some interest in his work as an apothecary he did not practise much; poetry was his abiding love, for which he is best remembered today!

Another well-known apothecary was Elizabeth Garret Anderson: as a woman she was refused admission to medical school, but the Apothecaries were by charter bound to examine all candidates, regardless of sex, and she became the first lady licentiate in 1865.

If you explore Blackfriars Lane, just south of the apothecaries is Playhouse Yard: this had been the site of a Dominican friary. Dominicans wore black, so the whole area was that of the Black-friars. After the dissolution a playhouse was built here, and Shakespeare, when in London would have known this area.

### Microfilm

An article of the web site [www.atlasobscura](http://www.atlasobscura) caught my attention. If you have ever cursed those rolls of film and the time it takes to find the page you want, it reveals whom you should curse. It attributes the development of microfilm to one John Benjamin Dancer, whose father owned an optical goods firm, and in 1839 combined his family's trade with the daguerreotype process of photography. He figured out a way to shrink pictures of large objects by a ratio of 160 to 1—and as a result, created the first piece of microfilm. Sadly for him, one René Dagron put a patent on it in 1859.

One of the earliest uses of the technique was during the Franco-Prussian War, a period that necessitated the transfer of information from outside Paris back in. Carrier pigeons were in wide use, but there is only so much information that you can put on a sheet of paper light enough for a carrier pigeon to carry, and so Dagron promoted the use of this then-novel technique. Dagron would create tiny microfilmed photographs of documents, then put them inside tiny tubes attached to the carrier pigeon's wing. Since the images were visible with the use of a magic lantern, this allowed for the discreet distribution of messages to and from the battlefield.

The strategy nearly failed, however, when Dagron and his team were nearly caught attempting to leave Paris by balloon. Their balloons were shot out of the sky, and his team was almost captured by Prussian forces, with their equipment lost in the scuffle. Eventually, though, they made it to the city of Tours, where a chemist, Charles Barreswil, had already attempted to send tiny photographs with the carrier pigeons. There, Dagron was able to make tiny prints that were so small (11mm by 6mm) that a single carrier pigeon could carry up to 20 sheets, a massive upgrade from Barreswil's technique.

Dagron's technique was successful—more than 150,000 tiny sheets of microfilm were brought into Paris using it—but the Prussians soon caught on and tried to take the birds down. The Times, in an 1870 report, explained exactly how:

"It is said that the pigeon post is gone off, with sheets of photographed messages reduced to an invisible size, and which in Paris are to be magnified, written out, and transmitted to their addresses. They are limited to private affairs, politics and news of military operations being strictly excluded. But the Prussians, it is said, with their usual diabolical cunning and ingenuity, have set hawks and falcons flying round Paris to strike down the feathered messengers that bear under their wings healing for anxious souls."

More than three decades later, libraries began to catch on, thanks to information scientist Paul Otlet and his colleague Robert Goldschmidt, who in 1906 published a paper *Sur Une Forme Nouvelle Du Livre: Le Livre Microphotographique*: it did not immediately set the microfiche world ablaze, even after a demo of the technique at the American Library Institute's annual meeting in 1913.

But by the 1930s, publications such as The New York Times and libraries such as those at Harvard University began using the format as a way to preserve old newspapers. Quickly, the technology became common in libraries everywhere.

## Theoretical History

Applying network theory to medieval records suggests that historical events are governed by “laws of history,” just as nature is bound by the laws of physics. One of the features of network science is that the similar networks can be found underlying different phenomena. It shows they have deep similarities that are far from obvious at first glance. Good examples include the spread of disease, the size of forest fires, and even the distribution of earthquake magnitudes: all follow a similar pattern.

Now the same is happening in the social sciences. Social scientists model societies, to study the way ideas, gossip, fashions, and so on flow through society—and even to study how this influences opinion.

To do this they have also applied these ideas to the study of history. People have formed networks that have played a profound role in the way events have unfolded. Historians have recently begun to reconstruct these networks using historical sources such as correspondence and contemporary records. The work has uncovered previously unknown patterns in the way history unfolds. These discoveries are revealing the first laws of history.

Johannes Preiser-Kapeller from the Austrian Academy of Science has focused on medieval conflicts, and particularly those relating to the Byzantine Empire in the 14th century, concentrated around Constantinople, and a link between European and Asian trade networks. This was a period of significant conflict because of changing political forces, the plague, and climate change .

He has reconstructed the political networks that existed at the time using surviving correspondence and other historical records. In these networks, each influential individual is a node, and links are drawn between those who share significant relationships. To count, these links have to be recorded in correspondence with phrases such as My noble aunt or My imperial cousin. He also records how these change over time.

Using standard algorithms to study various measures of network structure, Preiser-Kapeller found clusters within the network, identified the most important actors in a network, and examined how individuals clustered around others who were similar in some way.

How these measures change over time turns out to have an important link to the major events that unfolded later. For example, the fragmentation of the political network created the conditions for a civil war that permanently weakened the Byzantine Empire. It ultimately collapsed in 1453.

These changes followed some interesting patterns. “The distribution of frequencies of the number of conflict ties activated in a year tends to follow a power law,” he says. Exactly the same power-law patterns emerge when complexity scientists study the size distribution of wars, epidemics, and religions.

Is it the same elsewhere in history. “On average across five polities, a change of ruler in one year increased the probability for another change in the following year threefold”. So the closer you are to an upheaval, the more likely there is to be another one soon. Or in other words, upheavals tend to cluster together.

## Gold in the Thames

A handful of tiny fragments of beautifully worked Tudor gold, enough to be called a small hoard, has been found in a stretch of the Thames foreshore over a period of years by eight different metal detectorists. A picture can be seen on the Guardian's [website](#).

The pieces all date from the early 16th century, and the style of the tiny pieces is so similar that they are believed all to come from one well-decorated garment, possibly a hat snatched off a passenger's head by a gust of wind at a time when the main river crossings were the myriad ferry boats.

The pieces, including metal tips for laces, beads and studs, originally had a practical purpose as garment fasteners but by the early 16th century were being worn in gold as high-status ornaments, making costly fabrics such as velvet and furs even more ostentatious. They can be seen on portraits from that time.

Some of the Thames pieces are inlaid with enamel or little pieces of coloured glass. Despite the fact there is not enough gold in them to fill an egg cup, the pieces are legally treasure that must be declared to finds officers such as Kate Sumnall, who is based at the Museum of [London](#). She also records less valuable finds voluntarily reported under the portable antiquities scheme, and so has a good working relationship with the licensed mudlarks who scour the Thames shore between tides.

Kate Sumnall said they were an important find as a huge amount of skill had been invested in the intricate pieces. “These artefacts have been reported to me one at a time over the last couple of years. Individually they are all wonderful finds but as a group they are even more important. To find them from just one area suggests a lost ornate hat or other item of clothing. The fabric has not survived and all that remains are these gold decorative elements that hint at the fashion of the time.”

Once the pieces have been through a treasure inquest and valued, the museum hopes to acquire them all, still glittering after their centuries in the mud.

## Southwark Records

A long-established firm of estate agents was recently sold: Southwark Archives were involved in salvaging records during the handover period, and were happy to take any other material the new owners didn't want – but they apparently felt that leaving it on the pavement was an acceptable alternative. They were spotted, from a bus by Adam Smith, who wrote in his blog.

‘From a bus I spied people rifling through some boxes on the street. I hot-footed it back to take a look for myself. What I found astonished me. There were hundreds of plans, documents, blueprints and maps; an old bank safe held invoices from 1885; a map of a 1911 housing estate and rolled out a beautifully coloured plan for a Victorian orphanage. As quickly as I could manage I sorted the documents from the refuse. I had only come out for a walk, not to perform a professional salvage and archive operation so I worked with grubby hands and only managed to take two folders and a half-dozen plans with me. Fortunately I tweeted my find which ignited London's social history network and I believe all the documents have now been salvaged. They have been deposited with Southwark Archives’

### Tower of London

The Friends of the IHR arranged a visit to two buildings in the Tower of London that are not normally open. These were the block called the Queens Buildings, and the Byward Tower.

The Queens Buildings originally had a river frontage, but progressive narrowing and deepening of the river means this is no longer so. It has a tower on the London side, built slightly into an angle of the walls, so with an unusual vault that had clearly exercised the ingenuity of the mason. It is said that Thomas More was held in the lowest room of the tower, a statement not confirmed by any records, except for an anecdotal reference to Archbishop John Fisher, who occupied the rooms above and claimed to have heard him. (That More was held somewhere in the Tower is not disputed, we just do not know where.) This part of the building is much older than the rest of the Queen's house, which is dated by documentary evidence to 1540, a date confirmed by dendrochronology of the construction timbers, which yielded a date of 1538—39.

The Queen's House is one of the few timber-frame buildings of its age to survive the Great Fire of London of 1666; it was spared because of its protected spot inside the Tower's stone walls. It is currently the house used by the Resident Governor of the Tower of London, who is Lord Dannatt. Access to the rooms we visited was through his personal front door, but if he was at home, he kept out of sight; a pile of newly-delivered post on the stairs was witness to the occupation of the house.

The council chamber, now on the second floor, was originally the Great Hall, a double height room: here Guy Fawkes was interrogated after his attempt on Parliament: a little later, in 1607, an intermediate floor was inserted, so the room we see today is not what he saw, rather it is the upper half.

The roundel, bottom left, in the plaque on the wall lists the names of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators. 24 persons are listed in all but only the names of Guy Fawkes and Robert Catesby were ones I recognised. The other inscriptions are mainly in praise of the king and his officials.



The Byward Tower is at the S.W. corner of the tower site, originally over the main entrance from the London

side, it still houses the portcullis (or one of them, there may originally have been two): it is still occasionally lowered and raised, but its age means that this is infrequent. However, the great gem of this tower is the wall painting. The style of the painting suggests that it was painted in the 1390s, but nobody knows who painted it or why it is there. It is the only surviving medieval painted interior at the castle, and was 're-discovered' during restoration work on the room some five years ago, and its style analysed to date it.

The painting now shows four figures, two either side of the central chimney breast. The scene was originally a crucifixion, but the insertion of the fire place some time after it was painted has destroyed the Christ figure, leaving just the supporting figures who are Virgin Mary and St John the Evangelist in mourning closer to Christ, flanked by St John the Baptist, and the Archangel St Michael. The last is the best preserved image, impressive with enormous wings: the angel is looking towards the viewer's right, out of the picture: was there another now-lost painting on the wall opposite the window, showing something he was looking at? The figure of St John the Baptist is shown holding a church in his hand, and there is a representation of the lamb of god too.

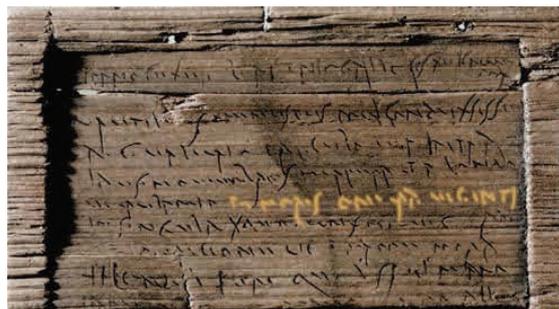
There are images of the Byward Tower online at [www.culture24.org.uk/art/painting-and-drawing/art315743](http://www.culture24.org.uk/art/painting-and-drawing/art315743).

### Roman London

A collection of 405 Roman relics, including the first hand-written document known from Britain, has been found during archaeological exploration of a site near the Walbrook river, a development for Bloomberg.

Romans all over the Empire used waxed writing tablets like paper, for note-taking and accounts, for correspondence and for legal documents. Previously only 19 legible tablets were known from London. 80 of the new finds have been deciphered, providing an insight into the first decades of Roman rule in Britain.

In the words of the people who worked, in Roman London, the tablets reveal the workings of the new city. One tablet features the earliest ever reference to London, preceding Tacitus' citing of London in his Annals by 50 years. The tablets became buried in the mud of the Walbrook, preserved by the oxygen-free mud environment: the central recess was originally filled with beeswax, which has not survived. What was written can only be read if the writer pressed hard enough to scratch the wood below. Since the frames were in some cases reused, the wood becomes a palimpsest, requiring great skill to disentangle several layers of Latin. The tablet illustrated is dated to 61AD, the phrase that has been picked out *Penoris Onera Viginti* : 20 loads of foodstuffs.



## Maps Plans and Landscapes

The IHR organised a one-day summer school under the above title. I thought the most interesting talk was the opening key-note lecture given by Prof Roger Kain of the SAS, under the title *Tithe Surveys of the mid-Nineteenth Century as a source for Local and Regional History*. This rather lengthy title at least needs no further comment about the topic addressed.

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 gave rise to what may be the most detailed survey of England since that of 1086. This was a period of cadastral surveys of property — and in case, like me, you have not met this term before, it refers to survey that records boundaries of land-holdings, so that who owns or occupies each piece of land is noted, often along with the boundaries of ownership. It was not alone, similar surveys were undertaken in both the USA and France at about this time. It removed the last remaining rights of tithe. Tithe had a long history dating back to mediaeval times, when those who farmed the land were expected to give a tenth of their produce, both crops and livestock, to support the local clergy. It was paid locally from farmer to priest, according to 'the custom of the manor', and was subject to considerable variation, especially when paid in kind, not money.

The act required the production of three pieces of documentation, which included a map, with a list of land owners and occupiers and a list of tithes. Three copies of the map were produced, one for the parish, one for the diocesan registrar and one for the commissioners: the last have now gone to the National Archives, and the first is often now to be found in county record offices. The period from 1757 to 1830 had seen a number of private acts of parliament which had commuted the local tithe to cash payment, so for these areas there is no documentation, they were not covered by the act.

Some areas, such as Harmondsworth, (not far from the airport!) were very productive and large tithe barns survive where the produce was stored. This barn still stands, it is now owned by [English Heritage](#).

The period immediately prior to this act was the time of the Swing Riots: one of the claims made by the leaders was that commutation would ease the burden by switching tithe payments from produce to cash, leaving the producers free to sell their most lucrative produce at the local market; it probably did not work, but the disturbances created may have been one of the causes for government deciding to act.

The amount due for the cash payment showed an early form of index linking, since it was based on the price of a basket of wheat, barley and oats calculated on a septennial basis and applied uniformly to the whole country: if that price went up, so did the tithe, and in years of plenty it went down.

After the act was passed an enormous bureaucracy was created, although it was very efficient. There were some 14,821 tithe districts – parishes in the south, townships in the north – to be surveyed. But, the results are extremely useful for those researching nineteenth century local history, and can be of interest to family historians. The cash payments under the act were stopped in 1936, with a 60-year period for their closure, so that last 'tithe' payment was made in 1996.

A second talk drew the attendees' attention to the 'Layers of London' project. Funded through the National Lottery, the project will attempt to create a website and a mobile 'app', which will "allow the public to interact with many different 'layers' of London's history from the Romans to the present day. These include historic maps, images of buildings, films as well as information about people who have lived and worked in London over the centuries. It will make extensive use of school programmes in the London boroughs which will allow individuals and groups to create and upload new content, including photos, film clips, personal memories, and audio recordings." (quote from the web site). The project will start in Barking and Dagenham. Go to [www.history.ac.uk/sites/history.ac.uk/files/layers\\_of\\_london\\_press\\_release\\_final.pdf](http://www.history.ac.uk/sites/history.ac.uk/files/layers_of_london_press_release_final.pdf) for a fuller press release.

A handout listed a number of web sites containing digitised maps: I will not list them all, some were for Florence or Bruges. For London I particularly liked [rumsey.geogarage.com/maps/g0890184.html](http://rumsey.geogarage.com/maps/g0890184.html) which shows a map of London from 1843 overlaid on an aerial view of the present, so that some of the changes can be easily seen. A similar facility is available in the maps from the National Library of Scotland [maps.nls.uk/geo/explore](http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore), which do include London. The famous Agas map can be viewed at [mapoflondon.uvic.ca/map.htm](http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/map.htm). The New York library has put a large number of maps online: [maps.nypl.org](http://maps.nypl.org) (but beware when using the search facility that 'London' may bring up maps printed in London, but not of London). The *Vision of Britain Through Time* site at [www.visionofbritain.org.uk/data](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/data) has maps of the whole country, London included of course: many may be downloaded for private use. [www.mapwarper.net](http://www.mapwarper.net) is another overlay site that will overlay a selected map on a modern map of London. There are some catches (documented) in this one. A London tube map of 1935 was overlaid on a part of New York!

The final talk of the day was by Dr Helen Winton from Historic England. She spoke about aerial mapping, which has two uses: one is the preparation of modern maps by aerial surveying, and the other is the detection of hidden land features. The trouble is that for the first it is best to take pictures at or around midday, when the sun shines as near to vertically as it ever does in the UK, to eliminate excessive shadow, whilst hidden land features are best shown up by the low straking light of dawn and dusk. We have all seen pictures showing ridge and furrow (there is a good one [here](#) on Flickr, the URL is so long I leave it as a link), and other buried features may be shown up in the same way. They may also be shown up by the variation in soil quality, giving rise to variation in colour of growing crops or grass—on good well-watered soil grass will be a lush dark green colour, whilst on lesser or drier soils it will be paler. These patterns are revealed by aerial photography: outlines or buildings, notably stone ones (say Roman) often show, the site of posts of wooden buildings of which nothing else remains may be detected, and so on.

The day also included a technical talk about georeferencing : I understood sufficiently little of this that I am not going to try to summarise it: Google it if you want to know more!

### St Patrick Soho Square — a chance encounter

Wandering through London I came to Soho Square, and out of curiosity went in to the church of St Patrick on the corner of Sutton Row.

It is a Catholic church, and was founded in 1792, only a year after the lifting of the passing of the Roman Catholic Relief Act. AfL members will not need to be reminded that after the break from Rome under Henry VIII, together with the other acts under Elizabeth I, Catholics were legally recusants, and subject to penalties for practising their faith. Fortunately we have not lost the music of Thomas Tallis and William Byrd, devout Catholics: not only were they able to survive, they were jointly granted a licence to print music under Elizabeth, so perhaps their musical abilities outweighed their recusancy.

The acts prohibiting Catholicism were slowly relaxed, starting during the Commonwealth (which also saw the rise of the Quakers), but full emancipation was not achieved until 1828.

The church is built on the site of Carlisle House, the London residence of the Earl of Carlisle, who built it c.1690, at the time when London was expanding out towards today's Oxford Street. It then came into the hands of Theresa Cornelys, an opera singer born in Italy: she used the house for masquerades and concerts on a lavish scale, so much so that she died a bankrupt in the Fleet. The site was acquired following the work of Father O'Leary, whose fund-raising enabled the site to be bought and the church constructed. His Irish roots no doubt account for the dedication to St Patrick!

With that history it was a focus for the Irish, but was also much used by the immigrant Italian community. Soho has at time been a poor community, and the work of the church in reaching out to the poor is celebrated in its history

On 19 November 1940 the church was damaged by a bomb which fell through the roof, but failed to explode, leaving the church damaged but repairable: a plaque inside the church records the incident.

The entry to the church is in the tower which dominates the square (below right) Inside is a peaceful space which gives a welcome pause from the hubbub of London outside (picture below left).



### Brunel Museum

There is a small museum in Rotherhithe devoted to Brunel and his tunnel. To be quite honest, I don't think the museum has a great deal to offer that cannot be found on the web or in one of the many books on the Brunels (father and son) that a good library can find for you. However, the history that the site tells is interesting, and there is a website, [www.brunel-museum.org.uk/](http://www.brunel-museum.org.uk/).

So who were they? The father was Marc Isambard Brunel, born in France in 1769. He supported the royalist side in the revolution 1789, and as a result fell into disfavour. He escaped to Le Havre, where he boarded a ship bound for New York. He returned to England ten years later, to help improve the manufacture of pulley blocks for the navy (sailing ships required miles of rope for control of the sails, run through numerous pulleys). Here he married Sophia Kingdom, whom he had first met before he left France. Their third child was named Isambard Kingdom Brunel (taking one name from each parent), and he too became an engineer. Although I.K. is possibly better known, some regard his father as the greater engineer.

To get to the museum I used the 'Overground' line from Highbury to Clapham Junction: this line passes through Wapping and then under the Thames to Rotherhithe. In making this journey you are using the first tunnel in the world to have been dug as a tunnel, rather than the 'cut-and-cover' technique which was prevalent, even in the 1860s when the first underground line from Paddington to Farringdon was cut. This is why the oldest lines on the tube network largely follow roads, and are usually close to the surface: you cannot cut and cover under buildings, nor is it easy to go deep.

The tunnel was started in 1805, possibly with the idea of helping to move cargoes unloaded on one side of the Thames to the other. The bad condition tunnelling through sand under the river meant that the scheme was abandoned by 1808. In 1825 work started at Rotherhithe with the sinking of the access shaft (you can gain entry to the top of it as part of the museum), and then digging the horizontal parts using a tunnelling shield. (There is good detail of this at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc\\_Isambard\\_Brunel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Isambard_Brunel), if you want the low-down). The Brunel tunnel was dug by hand with spades, but a similar idea was used in the 21st century to dig the cross-rail tunnel, although of course mechanised. Brunel's project was fraught with difficulties: in 1827, and again in 1828, water burst through the top of the tunnel from the Thames, and Brunel, who was underground at the time, escaped, but only just. The tunnel was not completed until 1843, and even then the only access was down a spiral which horses could not manage, so the tunnel served for pedestrian crossings only.

The two running tunnels were cut in a single operation and as the tunnel was lined, a central partition was inserted, and this came to house shops. They did not thrive, and by the late 1850s it is recounted that some of them were taken over as premises for ladies 'of easy virtue' to entertain their clients. The noise of these encounters was not liked by those who rented the adjacent ones, and the tunnel fell into disrepute.

The tunnel was first used for trains in 1869. It was, in various guises, the East London section of the tube for 100 years from 1906, then closing for upgrade for today.

## AfL Seminar — London Plotted

Dorian Gerhold has been busy recently: he gave the seminar in June (having previously spoken at a cartography seminar), and was then at the 2016 meeting of the London Topographical Society (LTS) for the launch of his book *London Plotted*, the book which was the basis for his talk to AfL.

The book is one of the most substantial that LTS has produced, 278 A4 pages of text, with a further 40 pages of notes and index. Well worth your LTS subscription.

Dorian has looked at as many plans and drawings of London buildings as he can find, in the period 1450 to 1720, from which he has selected 200 for reproduction and description. These are drawings of individual buildings or single streets, not maps of whole parishes. The text accompanying each image puts it into context, with notes about the place, in many cases amplified by other pictures of the area and its surroundings. There is information about those who drew the plans and constructed the buildings, and in some cases notes about the early residents. Early surveying techniques are outlined in the introduction, too. Early maps are often diagrammatic, it seems to have taken time for the idea of a consistent scale to take root. Early maps and plans were often pictorial, with the buildings depicted along the streets they occupied. It has been suggested that it was the fire of 1666, when there were no buildings, that triggered the making of non-pictorial plans, but the book clearly shows such plans were being drawn well that time.

He starts in 1450 with the famous plan of the water supply to the Charterhouse, the Carthusian Monastery which lay just a few minutes walk from today's Barbican tube station. The precise date of drawing is not known, but the book brings forward cogent arguments for it being drawn between 1442 and 1457. This is linked to a later plan of 1511, showing the windmill in St, John Street. The Charterhouse area occurs again near the end of the book, with the plan showing six 21-ft wide houses that were built c.1705 on the south side of Charterhouse Square. They replaced 3 former houses. One can see from the plans how narrow the houses are, each floor having room for one room and the stairs. It says something about the social history that three houses became six: who would occupy such tall narrow structures? — but the plan does show a good size garden at the rear.

The last plan is for a proposed development at 6-10 Frith Street (near Soho Square) in 1718. This is unusual in including a picture of the proposed elevation. The plan shows that the three northern houses (6-8) are narrower than the other two, being a similar width to the Charterhouse development, whilst the two other houses are wider with a much grander stairway. The drawing of the façade shows how this distinction is blurred, with nos. 8 and 9 (different plans) sharing entrance steps with, between the front doors, a small window that admits light to the stairway of no. 9.

There is scope for using the information in this book to start a study of social and environmental history of London, not to mention the fascination of the plans and drawings themselves, many of which are fascinating to study almost as works of art.

## Clarence House

Sandwiched between The Mall and Pall Mall is St James's, with the park of the same name on the south. Here, in what was then a water-meadow, a leper hospital dedicated to St James the Less was founded, and it is from this hospital that the park took its name; the hospital was in existence by 1205, and Stow claims it to be pre-conquest, so its foundation is not known. In 1532 Henry VIII acquired the site for hunting deer, and built a palace there. The area was improved under James I, when it was drained and a road constructed, roughly where the Mall is today: Charles II made further changes, redesigning the park with avenues of trees and lawns. He opened the park to the public, and here he mingled with his subjects.

Clarence House takes its name from William IV, who lived here as Duke of Clarence before becoming king, and continued to live here during his reign (1830-37) rather than moving in to nearby Buckingham Palace. The existing house was rebuilt around 1826 to designs by John Nash; his designs do not survive, but he was supposed to be simply adapting an existing building: he claimed that the old building was inadequate for the intended use, and his work ran over budget (plus *ça change!*). Other children of George III were also provided with houses in this area, one of which was the neighbouring Lancaster House, which was built by Fredrick Augustus, better known as the 'Grand Old' Duke of York. And all this activity was taking place around the time that the former Buckingham House was being converted to a Palace, so the area saw plenty of building work. As Clarence House is separated from Lancaster House by the quite narrow Stable House Yard, it makes the rooms on the west front of the ground floor of Clarence House a little gloomy: those with a south aspect onto the park are much lighter, and the main entrance is now on this façade. The entrance had been from Stable House Yard, into the room that is now called the Library. Rather than the heavily-bound tomes about travels in Italy during the eighteenth century that often abound in libraries of stately houses, it was refreshing to see the novels of Dick Francis on the shelves.

The house has been occupied by various members of the Royal Family since the time of William IV, and has undergone a number of changes. It was the residence of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother from her assumption of that title in 1952 until her death in 2002, and is now the London residence of Prince Charles, who has kept numerous mementoes and items belonging to his grandmother in place. He also uses rooms at the rear of the house for the many charitable concerns with which he involves himself. In the main corridor hangs a banner showing a bow and a lion, a 'canting' reference to her maiden name of Bowes-Lyon.

Dotted around the walls of the house are sketches by John Piper of Windsor Castle and its environs: these were commissioned during the war as a visual record, lest there should be damage to the castle from bombing. Happily, it was not at all damaged.

Clarence House is open only during August, so if this report of a visit has whetted your appetite, sorry, you will have to wait until next year.



### AfL seminars and events – for your diary

- 6 October *Tales from the Town Boy Ledger – discipline, ditch-leaping and death in 19<sup>th</sup> Century London*, with Elizabeth Wells, Archivist at Westminster School
- 3 November *Rambert Archives*, a talk by the archivist Arike Oke followed by a tour of the building. Note that due to the LMA annual closure with will be held a the Rambert Archives
- 1 December (I have just been notified that our planned speaker has had to pull out and Sarah Radford, who plans them, is frantically seeking replacement). **This will follow the AfL AGM.**
- 12 January *Digital archiving at the Kennel Club*, with Heidi Hudson, Kennel Club Picture Librarian
- Longer term, we hope to run the following seminars next year: however, check nearer the time
- 6 April *London Fog*, with Dr Christine Corton
- 1 June *Digital Panopticon*, with Dr Bob Shoemaker
- 6 July *Researches on my father's war-time history*, with Dr Gordon Jackson

On 14 October at London Metropolitan Archives AfL will be holding a full day event *Evolution from the Embers* on the twin themes of how Londoners responded to the Great Fire and the Blitz. Subjects and speakers will be: Dr Vanessa Harding, Professor of London History, Birkbeck, University of London on *The strength and treasure of the nation: London on the eve of the Great Fire*

Stephen Porter, Charterhouse archivist on *London's Great Fire and its Aftermath*

Dr Felicity Henderson Lecturer in Archives and Material Culture, University of Exeter on *Robert Hooke, his diary and the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire*

Laurence Ward, Head of Digital Services at London Metropolitan Archives on *The London County Council bomb damage maps*

Darren Bryant on *The London Blitz 1940-1945: an examination into diversity of experience across localities of London*

Peter Larkham, Professor of Planning at Birmingham City University on *The replanning of London after the Second World War: plans and sources*

Lunch is not included; tea and coffee will be available and guided tours of LMA's exhibition: *London's Baking! Bakers, Cakes, Bread and Puddings from 1666 to the present day* will operate during the lunch period. AfL chairman Anne Barrett will open and close the day. Events will start at 10am. Please note this is a Friday, not AfL's usual Thursday.

#### Editor's notes—(1) Brexit

If you are interested in what was said by various parties, pro and con, in the run-up to the EU referendum last June, UCLA has made an archive of many web sites, in some cases including multiple versions. Visit <https://archive-it.org/collections/7397> to see more.

#### (2) Accessions relating to London

If you are expecting the regular list of accessions to repositories and relating to London that has for several years appeared in the September issue, it will appear. It is supplied to the editor by the National Archives, who have advised that they are changing their schedule for its production. It will appear as soon as a copy is to hand.

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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