The Society held its very successful 114th AGM on 7 July, in the luxurious premises of Mansion House, the Lord Mayor's official home in the heart of the City. Despite the complications of advance booking, security and disabled parking, all went smoothly, thanks to the careful preparations by our secretary Mike Wicksteed, and the helpfulness of the administrative and catering staff. 285 members and 40 guests were able to wander with their cups of tea through the spacious reception rooms, before we were made welcome in the Egyptian Hall by the Lord Mayor, Fiona Woolf, who had so kindly made this event possible. Following the business of the meeting, a screen was available for the Secretary to demonstrate the latest developments to the Society's website, where one is now able to access back numbers of the Newsletter. Further improvements to the website are in progress, so keep an eye on tospoc.org: Mike Wicksteed will welcome comments and suggestions. Officers and Council elected at the AGM are listed on the back cover of the Newsletter. (Please note the Newsletter editor's new email.)

We were fortunate to hear a lively and most enlightening talk on Mansion House by Sally Jeffery, author of the definitive work on the subject, all the more impressive because she spoke without notes (having found she had left them behind). The history of the building is complex. The interiors need some explaining because, confusingly, one now enters through a modest side door in the basement before arriving upstairs in the central space where we had our tea. This was formerly an open central courtyard (oddly, at first floor level), which linked the entrance range, with its now unused grand portico, to the Vitruvius-inspired Egyptian Hall at the back of the building. It was amazing to sit in the Egyptian Hall gazing up at the coffered barrel vault built by the younger George Dance in 1795 and realise that in his father's scheme, begun in 1739, this colossal hall was originally crowned by an even taller clerestorey.

Discussion at the AGM raised the issue of whether the Newsletter should be published more frequently, or changed in other ways. After consideration, your Council has decided to retain twice yearly publication but agreed that when necessary the Newsletter could occasionally be extended by some extra pages (even though the extra weight would mean higher postage costs). We will also be investigating alternative types of paper, and the possibility of using colour.

Our recent annual publications
Our latest publication The Singularities of London, 1578, an exceptional account of sixteenth-century London by a Frenchman, has been well received, with a favourable review in the Newsletter of Archives for London – see p.19. All fully paid-up members who have kept us up-to-date with changes of address should by now have received their copy. Report any non-receipts to the Treasurer.
We are delighted to report that our 2013 publication, *The A to Z of Charles II’s London 1682*, was shortlisted for the annual award for an Outstanding Work of Reference by the Information Services Group of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals). The decision announced at the event on 8 October was that it was ‘Highly Commended’, the winner being the Thames & Hudson publication, *The Library: a world history*, by James W. P. Campbell and Will Pryce.

**Data Protection Act**

As long-standing members of the Society will know, each volume of the London Topographical Record contains a list of members and their addresses. If you do not wish your name and/or address to appear in the next volume which is the Society publication for 2015, please inform the Membership Secretary before 1 January 2015.

**Subscriptions**

Subscriptions (£20 for UK addresses, £30 elsewhere) are due 1 January 2015. Most members pay by standing order (and get a discount for doing so) and need take no action unless they have changed their bank account in 2014. Others should make their payment to the Treasurer by cheque, by card through the website or direct to our bank account whose details can be had from the Treasurer. He can also supply standing order forms to those members wishing to start paying this way, but such completed forms must reach your bank before Christmas.

**Topographical interests can seriously prolong your life**

One of the perks of delivering society publications is that you get to know the membership better. I learnt this year that we have at least one centenarian member, Miss Alison Kelly, of whom I have fond memories when she taught me about London History and Architecture at evening classes at The City Lit in the 1970s. Her major work was *Mrs Coade’s Stone* (1990), about the stone which embellishes much of the Bedford Estate and forms the lion sculpture on the east end of Westminster Bridge. Another member who narrowly missed reaching his century (he died earlier this year) was Jack Whitehead whose books on the development of Marylebone and Paddington, Camden Railway Lands and Muswell Hill will be in many of your libraries. (He taught at a secondary school in Paddington and the books developed from projects he set his pupils.) He put his good visual sense and a delight in drawing to excellent use in all his books, so amply illustrated with line drawings. My weekend cycle rides in leafy Surrey are enlivened by the occasional visit to our Vice-President Dr Elspeth Veale who I am sure will not mind me passing on the information that she is pushing 99. She is busy on her laptop editing her latest local history book but has to get *The Times* crossword finished each day before coffee-time.

— Roger Cline

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**Circumspece**

Where and what is this building? Answer on p.11.

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**Exhibitions and Events**

The City of London Heritage Gallery opened to the public on 12 September. The new gallery, located within Guildhall Art Gallery, is curated by London Metropolitan Archives, and will showcase treasures held by the City of London Corporation. The first exhibition, which runs until 29 January, includes the City’s copy of Magna Carta, significant medieval statutes and charters, portraits of City Aldermen and – topically – some documents relating to the First World War. There is an accompanying book: *London 1000 Years: Treasures of the Collections of the City of London*, edited by David Pearson; Scala Publishers, 2011. ISBN 978 1 85759 699 1;160pp. £29.95.

The winter exhibition of the Museum of London is *Sherlock Holmes, the man who never lived and will never die* (17 October –12 April). For further details, also of many associated events, see museumoflondon.org.uk A new acquisition for the museum now on display is the great cauldron, symbol of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, designed by Thomas Heatherwick.

The current exhibition at Tate Britain: *Late Turner, painting set free* (to 30 November) includes two memorably atmospheric London scenes: *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons*, painted in 1835, the year after the fire; (lent by the Philadelphia Museum of Art), and the Tate’s own *Thames above Waterloo Bridge* (1835–40). The latter shows Turner fascinated by the steam from the new-fangled river steamers just visible beyond the old wherries in the foreground.

*Terror and Wonder, the Gothic Imagination*, at the British Library (3 October – 20 January). Gothic
landes, ihr.library@sas.ac.uk.

research skills. Contact Kate Wilcox and Jordan

2015: an open history fair, with clinics on practical

Senate House, University of London, 20 January

to prisoner of war camps. For further details see

in the most unlikely circumstances, from trenches

January) exploring how gardens have been created

Gardens and War (to 5

example of a sparsely furnished original interior is

children, with the old almshouse accommodation

broadened its scope to appeal to families and

local furniture industry. As this declined it

1914 to provide inspiration for those involved in the

and Crafts movement was opened as a museum in

almshouses in 1714, was sold to the LCC in 1911

history of the museum. The building began as

and digital stories, and inside, Geffrye 100, a brief

of the series of exhibitions presented by Historic Royal Palaces (to 30 November) to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Hanoverian accession (for more, see hrpm.uk).

The Geffrye Museum, Shoreditch is celebrating

its centenary with two free exhibitions: a garden
display (to 4 January) with sculpture, audio trail
and digital stories, and inside, Geffrye 100, a brief
history of the museum. The building began as

The Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road has

a special exhibition, Gardens and War (to 5

January) exploring how gardens have been created

in the most unlikely circumstances, from trenches
to prisoner of war camps. For further details see

gardenmuseum.org.uk.

History Libraries and Research Open Day at

Senate House, University of London, 20 January

2015: an open history fair, with clinics on practical

research skills. Contact Kate Wilcox and Jordan

Landes, ihr.library@sas.ac.uk.

Miscellanea

St Paul’s Cathedral

A recent addition to online research material is the

collection of Wren office drawings at St Paul’s
cathedral, with an excellent introduction by Gordon

Higgott. It is part of an impressively thorough and

well organised documentation of the building and its

treasures which can be found at stpauls.co.uk/
cathedral-history. This also includes, among much

else, an illustrated record of objects, including no

less than 598 monuments and memorials, which

can be searched for under name or artist.

Saving Smithfield

We are reminded, in our new publication The

Singularities of London, of the changing role of

Smithfield in the history of the City; in the sixteenth

century it was known not only for the annual

Bartholomew Fair and the weekly horsemarket, but

as a place of execution of criminals and religious

martyrs. The wholesale food markets developed
during the nineteenth century and the covered meat

market still continues, but for the last ten years the

future of the disused general market buildings of

West Smithfield, built 1879-99, has been in the

balance (see Newsletter 77). There is now hope for

their survival, as in July the Secretary of State, Eric

Pickles, announced that he had rejected the proposed
development which would have destroyed 75% of

their fabric. SAVE Britain’s Heritage campaigned for

an alternative regeneration scheme, reusing and

adapting what has been described as ‘one of the

grandest processions of market buildings in Europe’,

and this was found by the Secretary of State to be

‘possible, viable and deliverable’. This is not only a

great triumph for SAVE (for more on their campaign

see savebritainsheritage.org) but also an important

landmark in securing protection for unlisted

buildings in a conservation area. West Smithfield,

strategically placed on the edge of City, close to the

busy areas of Clerkenwell, Hatton Garden and

Holborn Circus, may be able to adapt for today while

retaining its distinctive historic character.

Sir Thomas Gresham:

Tudor, Trader, Shipper, Spy

Professor Michael Mainelli and Dr Valerie Shrimplin,

from Gresham College, who are working on a project

for a new biography of Sir Thomas Gresham, introduce this key character in the history of the

City.

Good Tales Drive Out Bad

Sir Thomas Gresham (1519-79) is one of the most

over-looked sixteenth-century merchants and

financiers. Gresham served four Tudor monarchs,

managed to keep his head, and all the while made

money. His Will of 1575 established his most

enduring legacy, Gresham College:

I Will and Dispose that one Moiety... shall be

unto the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens

of London... and the other to the Mercers... for

the sustenation, maintenance and Finding

Four persons, from Tyme to Tyme to be

chosen, nominated and appointed.... And their

successors to read the Lectures of Divinity,

Astronomy, Musick and Geometry... and

distribute to... Three Persons... and their

successors from Time to Time, to be chosen

and appointed meeete to reade the Lectures of

dlaw, Physick and Rhetorick, within myne now

dwelling House in Bishopsgate Street...

Sir Thomas made London a great international

financial centre by importing from Antwerp the idea
of a 'bourse' or 'exchange' for intangible items such as ship voyages and insurance. He installed the first English shopping mall or bazaar as the first floor in the Royal Exchange. From a base within St Martin's Goldsmiths he experimented with fractional reserve gold stores, cornering markets, and insider trading. His Will challenged the 'Oxbridge' oligopoly in higher education.

But there is no thorough biography. J. W. Burgon published the largest work, *The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Gresham* in 1839, and F. R. Salter a shorter work in 1925. Sir Thomas is a tough subject for biographers used to focusing on monarchs, their families and their wars. He traded in several lands and worked in several languages. The purposes behind many commercial dealings are not self-evident from the paperwork, even when fragments exist. To some he was austere, to others manipulative, to others ruthless. How did he really make his fortune? How rich was he in modern terms? Was his support for 'new learning' in his Will a commitment that education should be available to merchants, tradesmen, and navigators, rather than gentlemen scholars, or a throw-away bequest? The Trustees of Gresham College are working on a modern biography, hopefully to be published on the quincentenary of his birth in 2019.

To those outside the City, he is remembered for 'Gresham's Law'. Colloquially expressed as 'bad money drives out good', the law was attributed to Gresham in 1858 by Scottish economist Henry Dunning Macleod. But Gresham's Law was not his; it was noted much earlier by Aristophanes, the medieval philosopher Oresme, and Copernicus. In fact, the Law is the reverse, 'good money drives out bad'. If someone offers a debased coin or a real coin, people take the real coin unless some monarch insists on the debased currency. The Nobel economist Robert Mundell rephrased Gresham's Law more properly as 'cheap money drives out dear money only if they must be exchanged for the same price'.

**Gresham’s imprint on the City**

Gresham left many marks on the topography of the City. The grasshopper, his family badge, can be spotted around the City, as weathervanes at the top of his major commercial contribution, the Royal Exchange, and in many crests, seals, and stained glass windows. A large grasshopper hangs at 68 Lombard Street, site of St Martin's Goldsmiths. His major philanthropic contribution, Gresham College, thrives four centuries on at Barnard's Inn Hall by Holborn. Its former location on Basinghall Street still exists, on the corner with Gresham Street itself, a street before the Guildhall commemorating the family. His grave is prominent in one corner of St Helen’s Bishopsgate. At least two statues of Sir Thomas stand in the City, one in a north-facing alcove of the Royal Exchange, the other on Holborn Viaduct. A portrait by Holbein in Mercers Hall, where Gresham was Master Mercer three times, is possibly the first full length painting of a commoner in Britain.

**The grasshopper**

According to family legend, the founder of the family, Roger de Gresham, was abandoned as a baby in long grass in North Norfolk in the thirteenth-century. A woman's attention was drawn to the foundling by a grasshopper, hence the family badge. While a beautiful story, it is more likely that the grasshopper is simply a heraldic rebus on the name Gresham, with *gres* being a Middle English form of grass (Old English *grœs*), and 'gressop' a grasshopper. James Gresham from the Norfolk village of Holt became a London legal agent working for Sir William Paston, a prominent judge. The grasshopper emblem first appears in correspondence from London to the Pastons in Norfolk in the mid-1400s.

**Gresham’s career in the Low Countries**

Thomas Gresham was a cockney, born within the sound of Bow Bells on Cheapside, around 1519. He attended St Paul's School and Gonville College (later to become Gonville and Caius), Cambridge. In 1543 the Mercers’ Company admitted the 24-year-old Gresham as a liveryman dealing in cloth.
In the same year he went to Antwerp to make his fortune. Antwerp was then a very cosmopolitan city, with a population approaching 100,000, double London or Rome. The growth of the cloth trade between London and Antwerp was the single most important factor in the City’s expansion. Just 25 merchants accounted for half of London’s cloth exports, and the two biggest exporters were the brothers John Gresham and Richard Gresham, Thomas’s father. On his own account and on that of his father and uncle, Thomas carried on business as a merchant and acted in various matters as an agent for King Henry VIII. He was clearly a ‘merchant adventurer’ with a network of agents, though the sobriquets ‘arms-dealer’ or ‘gun-runner’ might apply too. He procured armaments and munitions for defence of the realm, particularly against Spain (as Philip of Spain attempted to regain a foothold on the grounds of his marriage to Mary Tudor) and France (supportive of the claim of Mary Queen of Scots to the English throne). There are tales of bullion concealed in bales of pepper or armour. Interestingly, one of Sir Thomas’s ships from 1570 was re-discovered in the Thames in 2003 with cannons inscribed with grasshoppers and marked ‘TG’.

In 1544, Thomas Gresham married Anne Read (née Ferneley), the widow of William Read, a London merchant, who already had two sons. The Gresham’s son, Richard, was born about 1544–5. In spite of his London marriage, Thomas Gresham still continued to reside principally in the Low Countries. Later, in 1559 he bought a large mansion on 43 Lange Nieuwstraat, as well as a Flemish country mansion.

Monarchs, such as Emperor Charles V and his son Philip II, and big trading firms, such as the Fuggers, raised funds on the Antwerp Bourse. The extravagancies of Henry VIII and mismanagement of trade by the king’s merchant in the Low Countries, Sir William Dansell, financially embarrassed the English monarchy. By late 1551, Edward VI appointed Thomas as Royal Agent in Antwerp. A clever and shrewd dealer, Gresham’s advice was to manage actively the value of the pound sterling by buying low and selling high on the bourse of Antwerp. This proved so successful that in a few years King Edward VI discharged most of his debts. On the accession of Queen Mary in 1553 Gresham fell from favour, perhaps due to his Protestant leanings, and was relieved of office. Alderman William Dauntsey replaced him, but Dauntsey quickly proved unsuccessful at finance and Gresham was reinstated. Instructions in 1558 under Mary Tudor said, ‘Gresham shall with all diligence repair to Antwerp... for the speedy receipt to our use of 100,000 pound bargained for by [a German banker] and for the borrowing to our use of 100,000 pound more... at such favourable interest as he may obtain’. Not only were his services retained throughout Mary’s reign (1553–1558), but besides his salary of twenty shillings per diem he received grants of church lands to the yearly value of 200 pounds.

High Finance
By Elizabeth’s accession in 1558, Gresham was a royal favourite. He may not have invented Gresham’s Law, but Thomas understood it well, explaining to Elizabeth that because her father and brother, Henry VIII and Edward VI, had replaced 40% of the silver in shilling coins with base metal, ‘all your fyne gold was conveyed out of this your realm.’ William Cecil put Gresham in charge of recoining. To his, Elizabeth, and Cecil’s credit, within a year (1560–61) debased money was withdrawn, melted, and replaced, with a profit to the Crown estimated at £500,000. The restoration of the coinage improved commerce and positioned London nicely to profit from increasing turmoil on the Continent.

And it wasn’t just money and trade. Gresham acted temporarily as ambassador at the court of Margaret of Parma, for which he received his knighthood in 1559. He passed intelligence to William Cecil (Lord Burghley, Secretary of State for Elizabeth) – such as King Philip's plans to ally with the French King at one stage. Throughout the 1550s and 60s Sir Thomas continued to acquire significant properties in several counties. Outside London his various properties extended well beyond his Norfolk origins to include estates such as Mayfield House, Sussex, and Osterley Park and Boston Manor in Middlesex. He built his City mansion in Bishopsgate around 1563 on the site now occupied by Tower 42. The unsettled times preceding the Dutch Revolt compelled him to leave Antwerp for good in 1567. Elizabeth then found Gresham useful in other ways, including acting as jailer to Lady Mary Grey (sister of Lady Jane Grey) for three years.
merchants together regularly to deal in intangible products such as voyages. Incorporated into the design, at ground and first floor levels, were 150 small shops, called The Pawn, London’s first shopping centre. After a visit hosted by Sir Thomas, Elizabeth designated the Exchange ‘Royal’.

**Living Legacy: Gresham College**

Sir Thomas Gresham died suddenly of apoplexy on 21 November 1579. His son Richard, his only legitimate child, had died in 1564 at the age of 19 from ‘a fever’, and his illegitimate daughter also predeceased him, as did his sister. Gresham’s wife contested his Will in favour of her own sons for 17 years. After she died in 1597, College lectures began in the Bishopsgate mansion. The first professor of geometry was Henry Brigg, populariser of the logarithm. Other notables include Edmund Gunter, with his ‘Gunter’s Chain’ for surveying, John Greaves, setting up observation posts in the Middle East in 1638 to observe the Moon’s eclipse, and John Bull, widely regarded as one of the founders of the modern keyboard repertory.

An intellectual high point followed a lecture by the Professor of Astronomy, Christopher Wren, on 28 November 1660. Thirteen men formed a ‘College for the Promoting of Physico-Mathematicall Experimentall Learning’. A Royal Charter of 1663 named it ‘The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge’. Many Gresham notables played a part in the Royal Society, perhaps none more so than Robert Hooke, a Gresham professor from 1664 to 1703, and Curator of the Royal Society from 1661 to 1703.

In 1710 the Royal Society acquired its own home, two houses in Crane Court, off the Strand. Gresham College fell into disrepair. In 1767 an Act of Parliament required the City Corporation and the Mercers to sell the ground to the Crown. After a peripatetic period of lecturing, a purpose-built Gresham College opened in 1842. Following a second period of wandering during the 1980s the College was re-established at Barnard’s Inn Hall in 1991. This Tudor Open University today hosts over 130 physical events per year, distributes extensive recordings under a Creative Commons licence, and provides millions of people with lecture transcripts and recordings via the internet.

Perhaps nothing exemplifies Gresham’s legacy as well as Samuel Pepys frequently writing about shopping in the Royal Exchange and attending College lectures. “To Gresham College, where Mr. Hooke read a second very curious lecture about the late Comet” [1 March 1664]. After the Great Fire – “The Exchange a sad sight, nothing standing there, of all the statues or pillars, but Sir Thomas’s picture in the corner” [5 September 1666]. Today, people can continue to enjoy Gresham’s legacies, listening to one of the professors ‘sufficiently learned to reade the lectures’ reinterpreting the ‘new learning’ in Barnard’s Inn Hall, and then strolling through the modern shops which now occupy the Royal Exchange.

**About the Authors**

Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli is Emeritus Professor of Gresham College, Trustee of Gresham College, and Executive Chairman of Z/Yen Group. His third book, *The Price of Fish: A New Approach to Wicked Economics and Better Decisions*, co-written with Ian Harris, is based on his Gresham College lecture series from 2005 to 2009 and won the 2012 Independent Publisher Book Awards Finance, Investment & Economics Gold Prize.

Dr Valerie Shrimplin is Academic Registrar of Gresham College.

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**Emery Walker’s ‘Mercers Chappel’**

Charlotte Dew is making some exciting discoveries in her work on the Mercers’ Company Collections, about which we hope to hear more in future. Here she shares an intriguing puzzle posed by two prints.

Whilst working on a comprehensive catalogue of the works on paper in the Mercers’ Company Collection over the past year, two insignificant seeming prints, depicting the entrance to Mercers’ Hall or ‘Chapel’, have raised questions about the circumstances of their production, and provide amusement in their prudish Victorian sensibility.

The prints, from the same plate, reinterpret a 1680s engraving. The original shows the Mercers’ carved stone frontage, on Cheapside, designed by Edward Jarman, topped by a Madonna and cherubs, sandwiched closely between shops leased by the Mercers’ Company. The stone façade depicted now frames the entrance to Swanage Town Hall, Dorset, following the remodelling of the Mercers’ Hall in the late 1870s. The detailed representation of goods, proprietors and customers in the shops, hint at the bustle of trade the street would have seen following its rebuilding after the Great Fire.

Of the later reinterpretation, one impression is inscribed ‘Emery Walker’ – advocate of the private
press – placing it in the later decades of the nineteenth century. The other is not inscribed, but the paper bears the distinctive primrose watermark, combined with the letters ‘W’ and ‘M’, of the linen paper produced for William Morris’s Kelmscott Press, by Joseph Batchelor & Son Ltd of Little Chart, Kent. The Kelmscott Press was founded by Morris in 1891, inspired by and with the support of Walker as adviser, and was publishing until 1888, two years after Morris’s death.

The work signed by Walker credits the source from which it has been copied: ‘a Prospect of London and Westminster by Robt. Morden and Phil. Lea’; a map of London first published by Morden and Lea in 1682, with a banner illustrating key London landmarks, including ‘Westminster Abbey’, ‘Banqueting Hall’ and ‘Mercers Chappel’ [British Library, Shelfmark: Maps Crace Port. 2.64, Item number: 74].

There are few differences between the original and later version, save the removal of two half shops, one on each end of the block, and the modesty with which the Mercer Maiden is redrawn, or it could be said censored. The many ways in which the Mercer Maiden has been represented over the years have seen the proportion of her bosom enlarged and reduced, but unusually Walker has seen fit to cover her breasts entirely. In drawing the carving of her above the entrance, and four sculpted versions above the first floor windows of each shop, her modesty is entirely preserved; only the Madonna is shown with bosom revealed.

Research to date has failed to reveal any further examples of the Walker print. We do not know why he chose to reinterpret the view. As a well-known post fire building it would certainly be reflective of his interest in the City and period as a standalone work, but could also have been part of a project – realised or not. In terms of the version on Kelmscott paper – is it simply an example of Walker using up a scrap of Morris’s stock? It has the appearance of a test, as it does not include the inscription. Or did Morris borrow one of Walker’s plates? Was Morris learning from Walker? Or testing the Kelmscott Press paper, when first in production? The lengths to which Morris laboured over the quality and finish of the paper ordered from Little Chart are outlined in Barry Watson’s essay ‘William Morris and Paper’.

We have no record of how the pair of prints came to be in the Mercers’ Company Collection, so for now they remain a curious example of Victorian attitudes to nudity.

– Charlotte Dew, Assistant Curator, The Mercers’ Company


Hope for Forgotten London

Topographical interests can embrace not only how London has been depicted in the past, but how it might look in the future. LTS member David Crawford, a contributor to the October 1973 special issue of the Architectural Review on SLOAP, and author of British Building Firsts, writes about the opportunities in London for imaginative uses of wasted spaces.

SLOAP [space left over after planning] is as much of a challenge now as when the late Leslie Ginsburg coined the term in his role as founder head, from 1957, of the Birmingham School of Planning. Then used to castigate the amount of unusable land in 1960s and 1970s conventional urban housing layouts, its message inspired a lively spectrum of ingenious solutions for a rather wider range of opportunities in the 2013 Forgotten Spaces ideas competition.

Run by the RIBA London Region and the Greater London Authority Regeneration Team, this attracted nearly 150 teams of architects, planners, designers and landscapists, who responded with imaginative concepts for the creative reuse of unloved structures and parcels of land lying abandoned across the capital. One of the problems with such competitions, of course, is that – all too often – the ideas they generate stay just that. Some of these entries have already gained forward momentum as well as fleeting acclaim. Second prizewinner Studio Pink’s Aquadocks, for example, took as its challenge the stark ‘undercroft’ of the Silvertown Way Flyover in Newham’s Royal Docks regeneration zone – the earliest built in England

For the site, owned by the Greater London Authority and put forward by Newham Borough Council, the team proposed a public swimming pool and spa. This would lie within a few minutes’ walk of the Siemens Crystal permanent sustainable cities exhibition and the northern terminus of the Emirates Airline Cable Car system, both designed
by Wilkinson Eyre; and the waterfront of the Royal
Victoria Dock. This hosted the Great London Swim
until it failed a 2013 water quality test, and
Aquadocks aimed to restore the connection on a
smaller scale. Newham Council has been
sufficiently impressed to meet the team, and invite
them to develop the concept and seek financial
backing. Studio Pink are now in discussions with
leisure and health club operators.

Other suggestions for the site, which proved very
popular with competitors, included third
prizewinners Chris Allen, Marcus Andren and
Michael Gyi’s planned microbrewery and bowling
venue; Landlayers Design’s urban climbing centre
and natural play area; and Gary Nash and Barry
Walsh’s exhibition of historic posters mounted on
the flyover’s structural concrete columns.

Another London Borough to put forward a
regeneration area site was Croydon, which is
concerned about the disjointed public realm of its
Valley Park retail and leisure complex on the A23.
The design brief highlighted the problem of the
spaces between the metal retail, distribution and
industrial sheds and wanted to see whether there
was ‘scope to override this traffic-dominated, fence-
ridden hinterland with a genuine attempt at place
making’. Colour Urban Design’s Shed ZED proposal
takes full advantage of the recent deculverting of
the River Wandle, which flows through the site, to
transform the shedland by greening its swathes of
macadam. (Apart from being unsightly, senior
landscape architect Amanda Redman stresses that
these ‘contribute to urban heat gain and prevent
water following its natural course, putting pressure
on traditional drainage systems’). The council has
congratulated the firm on reimagining the gaps
between the buildings in a way that has
’successfully articulated’ an approach that could
improve the landscape of this part of Croydon.

Meanwhile, the exercise – while ‘steeped in
relevance to Croydon’ – has stimulated Redman to
start her own research into the environmental
surrounding retail parks, in London and elsewhere.
She wants to champion an overhaul of ‘big boxes’
to see whether ‘they can ever contribute anything
in terms of townscape and urban design’.

The overall competition winner was 4orm’s
Fleeting Memories plan to deculvert the Fleet River
in St Pancras’ Gardens and make it the centrepiece
of a more attractive public open space and part of a
green route for walkers and cyclists. (Google – who
plan to move their entire operation into a new HQ
in the King’s Cross regeneration zone by 2017 –
have, unfortunately, not yet proved amenable to
sponsorship – though a current pause while they
rework their building designs with architects
Allford Hall Monaghan Morris may still offer an
opportunity.)

One commendation went to proposals by OMMX
for reclaiming the decommissioned high-level
platforms of the Grade II-listed BT tower and
cladding them in curtain walling to create a new
civic space. (Plans to reopen the rotating restaurant
in time for the 2012 London Olympics were quietly
dropped.) Another went to Patrick Judd and Ash
Bonham, working for architects BDP. They planned
to give the Boord Street gasholder on the
Greenwich peninsula a new role as a cultural and
community centre for future communities growing
in the hinterland of the O2 arena.

Railway relics featured in three short-listed
entries. Charlotte Tamplin, Charlotte Marshall and
Kate Stevens suggested creating an underground
public swimming pool within the tunnels of the
disused Grade II-listed Aldwych station, which have
featured in film and TV productions ranging from
The Krays in 1990 to Mr Selfridge in 2013 and
Sherlock in 2014.

Claire Moody envisaged a Museum of Memories
on the site of the former London Necropolis Railway
terminus near Waterloo Station. Gunton Works’
Royal Pavilion scheme saw a new leisure destination,
commemorating the Royal Pavilion pub
that once stood nearby, rising on the plinth of a
disused platform of the former North Woolwich
station in Newham, with a new riverside terrace.
The next edition of Forgotten Spaces is scheduled for 2015. If it generates as wide and imaginative a slew of ideas as 2013’s, it will make yet another worthwhile contribution to the continuing challenge of SLOAP.

— David Crawford

1. The term arose during a ‘crit’ (critical review of students’ work) on housing layouts, when Ginsburg pointed to a layout full of unusable pieces of open space and said, off-the-cuff: ‘Look at all this space left over after planning’, writing SLOAP across the drawings with a thick pencil.

\[ \text{G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G} \]

\[ \text{Changing London: around King’s Cross} \]

King’s Cross Square was completed this year. Gone is the undistinguished covered hall which masked the two powerful brick arches of Lewis Cubitt’s station frontage. In its place are sleek stripes of paving, an anonymous bronze sculpture and some stark stone benches below a group of trees, all in the tough uncluttered manner typical of Stanton Williams, winner of the competition for landscaping the square. A considerable improvement – though regretfully, a view of the lower arches is still interrupted – by a new narrow porch which provides a covered route to a glass box housing the escalators to the Underground.

Walk through the magnificent curving Western Concourse to its exit on the north, and there is much more to see. This is an area of continuing change, but considerable efforts are being made to make the temporary aspects visually interesting. The Victorian German gymnasium, under conversion to a restaurant, is wrapped in a vast hoarding, carrying a striking black and white temporary art work (790 square metres) by the Barcelona-born Gregory Saavedra. Its spirited medley depicting youthful city life is ironic contrast to damp empty paving and scattered umbrellas on an October morning.

Behind, the famous working class tenements, beloved by film producers, have been reduced to a single block embedded in a much larger new building (part of a new empire owned by Google). The slightly contrived atmospheric approach is down a narrow cul-de-sac – worth exploring to appreciate the handsome repainted ironwork.

Curving round to the north the new pedestrian ‘Boulevard’ is still defined by hoardings but now fringed by an avenue of real plane trees. Looking back as one approaches the canal, the St Pancras clock tower rises romantically above their leafy crowns (will this vista disappear as the trees grow?). Across the canal we are again in a rigorously hard geometric world, with a performance of regimented little fountains in front of the huge Granary building now occupied by University of the Arts London. It may seem bleak on a wet day, but the lighting at night is spectacular. The austere landscaping is again, unmistakably, by Stanton Williams, who are also busy building a ‘canalside pavilion’ nearby (another restaurant) in support of the use of this large area as a lively outdoor space. Should you be enticed by the numerous advertisements drawing attention to the ‘House of Illustration’ at 2 Granary Square, which opened in July, be warned that this interesting-sounding gallery is closed on Mondays. This is a pioneer in the area – there is much more to come, as one realises as one looks at the still derelict buildings of the goods yard to the west of the Granary. Watch this space!
The Heritage of London Trust

Discovering the variety of London's architecture, both new and old, is one of the delights of exploring the lesser known parts of the capital. But how do hard-pressed owners of worthwhile historic buildings cope when funds are needed for repairs or alterations?

The Heritage of London Trust was set up in 1980 to provide a source of funding for London buildings in need of conservation help. HOLT operates on a very modest level in comparison with such giants as the Heritage Lottery Fund, but its provision of ‘seed funding’ – generally a few thousand pounds – can make an enormous difference to organisations struggling to gain credibility for their fundraising efforts and can be used as matched funding to encourage other donors. HOLT works closely with English Heritage in selecting worthwhile causes and ensuring that conservation work is carried out to appropriate standards. The grants are often specifically directed toward individually costed items in a larger repair programme, ensuring that real progress is made, and that important features, which might otherwise be omitted on cost grounds, are not forgotten. The many small improvements do much to help to maintain the rich diversity and detail of London's architectural heritage, as just a few recent examples can demonstrate.

HOLT ranges widely over the suburbs, where lesser known buildings make distinctive contributions to their neighbourhoods but where local groups struggle to find support. Recent grants for secular buildings include Hoxton Hall Hackney, which was built as a Music Hall in 1863, later became a temperance mission and is now a community arts centre undergoing major refurbishment. HOLT contributed to the restoration of the sunburner lighting. Recently HOLT made a grant to the Friends of the Crystal Palace Subway to restore the entrance gate and railings of the subway surviving from the Upper Station of 1856. The subway is notable for its striking decorative brickwork and it is hoped to open it as an events space.

Many places of worship in use – of all styles and dates – benefit. HOLT also helps with the London ‘Ride and Stride’ fundraising campaign for faith buildings which takes place each autumn. Several church clocks have been refurbished as a result of HOLT grants, among those at Sir John Soane’s St John at Bethnal Green and Sir Gilbert Scott’s Christ Church at Turnham Green. Victorian churches are focal points in many suburbs, but their congregations often cannot afford to repair the details that give them character. At St Thomas the Apostle, Islington, HOLT grants helped with stone gable crosses and stained glass repairs, at St Mary with St James, Kilburn, with restoration of the west window carved angels, at St Peter, Ealing, with repair of the unusual stone arches on the roof and at Putney Community Church, with repair of the windows. More recent buildings can also qualify. An interesting case was Greenside School in Hammersmith, a post-war building by Erno Goldfinger, where a decorative mural by the artist and urban designer Gordon Cullen had been covered up, and was restored with the help of a HOLT grant.

HOLT has a sister organisation, HOLT Operations (HOLTOPS), the regenerational arm of the charity which takes on individual abandoned buildings and gives them new life, a tough assignment but one which has had some spectacular successes. The Concrete House, 549 Lordship Lane, Southwark, of 1873, is a remarkable example of an experimental concrete construction which had been allowed to fall into serious disrepair by an owner who wished to demolish it. With the help of the London Borough of Southwark, HOLTOPS took over; it has been restored and converted to five shared-ownership flats and this year won a conservation award. Another HOLTOPS rescue enterprise has been the once splendid St George’s Garrison Church at Woolwich, left a ruin after the war. The erection of a new tensile roof to protect the mosaics surviving at the east end is shortly to be completed.

Diana Beattie, the indefatigable director of HOLT, retires this year after over 30 years of involvement in the organisation. Here she expresses her passionate belief in the need to conserve London's architectural heritage.

"Untold millions of people come to London to live, work or as visitors and there is an overwhelming
range of things to see and to do but it all takes place within our built environment and that is changing amazingly fast – aided and abetted by the relaxation of the planning regime. Parts of London are almost unrecognisable to anybody who has been away for even a few years. But we must not let this hectic rate of construction and destruction obliterate our history. London has been for centuries and remains today a hub for world trade, technological innovation, financial conjuring and artistic endeavour but the physical record of all this is not just in our famous and iconic tourist attractions – there’s more to London than Tower Bridge and Buckingham Palace! London is a huge collection of local communities and ancient villages – all over the 33 boroughs there are buildings and monuments which reflect local history as well as London’s contribution to the world. Let’s make sure they can survive."

HOLT raises funds from a variety of organisations and individuals including subscriptions from its supporters, for whom it provides an interesting programme of lectures and visits. For more information on becoming a Friend of the Heritage of London Trust visit www.heritageoflondon.com or contact Heritage of London Trust, 34 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH or telephone: 020 7730 9472.

Circumspice: Forty Hall (see p.3)

London’s green belt includes everything from the grotty to the sublime. The grotty may be green belt for strategic reasons; the sublime needs no justification, only vigilance and tender care. Enfield’s Forty Hall estate, with its four-square Jacobean mansion and tree-lined vista down to the Turkey Brook, lies closer to sublime than grotty; though until recently the house itself was in a desperate condition and kept open to the public only by the efforts of local volunteers and the Enfield Society. Now, thanks to campaigning by the society, a change of heart by Enfield Council, and a whopping £2m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the house is almost as it was when Nicholas Rainton, City of London haberdasher and soon-to-be lord mayor, welcomed his first guests there in 1632. “Almost as it was” because the rooms need more furniture and the disconcertingly new main staircase (replacing a C19 one which replaced the original and making room for a lift) looks a little too much like pastiche. But all in all Sir Nicholas (as he became) would surely be pleased with the restoration. The more so since the hall’s historic landscape is currently getting a Lottery makeover, with workers in hard hats and large earth-moving machines at work in fenced off areas. This HLF-funded project will recreate the garden mound which gave long views over Rainton’s grounds and adjacent countryside. It will also provide a new footbridge over the Turkey Brook and thus open up access to the nearby Georgian mansion, Myddelton House and its grounds. Also across the bridge are the remains of Elsyng, a C15 palace where Henry VIII was a frequent visitor and where archaeologists are again at work. After all that, a quick trot back up the lime avenue to Forty Hall’s tables-turned-café, where they do an acceptable Americano and scrumptious-looking home-made cakes.

– Tony Aldous

Book Request

A member is seeking a copy of T. F. Ordish’s Notes on Visscher and his views of London, London Topographical Society General Report and Handbook... 1896 pp 19-22. If you have one available please contact Peter.ross@cityofLondon.org.uk

Guildhall Library hosts London history lectures throughout the year; for more information and to book your place visit the website www.ghlevents.eventbrite.co.uk
Reviews


It is always good for our sense of well-being to catch up on the latest modes of expression in higher academic thought. We can now enjoy ‘actor-network theory’ (already just ‘ANT’ to initiates), reified distinctions between ‘space’ and ‘place’ in the urban landscape, and the charming notion of the inanimate features of the environment – streets, buildings, presses, paper – as ‘actants’ if not ‘actors’ in the history. Even so, I suspect we should be grateful to Professor Raven for sparing us what he calls the “wilder excesses of ‘thing theory’” – but then I am not altogether sure that I knew that ‘thing theory’ was, well – a ‘thing’.

This is to be unduly flippant: James Raven has long since proved himself one of the best, most innovative and most interesting historians of the book trade. The current work, based on his invigorating Panizzi Lectures given in 2010, builds further on that reputation. This is a history and a topography of the London book trade built on the most solid of foundations. As the author remarks, in words which should be etched on the bathroom-mirror of every historian: “The starting point, before application of theoretical or imaginative perspectives, is substantial empirical research.”

The research in this case derives in large part from Professor Raven’s fascinating ‘Mapping the Print Culture of Eighteenth-Century London’ project, a painstaking trawl of surviving archival records intended to establish and map the realities of the book trade and to rebuild a whole infrastructure of London history. The story commences with an illuminating survey of what records there are and what they can tell us. Just as important (and rather less obvious) are the caveats on what they can’t tell us and how they can deceive and confuse.

The net has been cast wide and the work assiduous. With the extensive use of maps and the evidence of land-tax records, whole areas of bookselling London are brought back to life, with telling detail of street frontages, building heights, depths, and rental values. Booksellers, publishers and printers are summoned before us, their businesses examined in accurate contexts of time and space, with the occasional illuminating flash of personal history. The chief colonies of the trade and their inherent memories are examined in turn – St Paul’s Churchyard and Paternoster Row, the ‘knowing and conversible men’ of Little Britain, the more commercial style of the bookshops clustered in and around the Royal Exchange, the growing importance of Fleet Street to the west and the eighteenth-century Scottish invasion of the trade.

This dense, detailed and forensic examination of a recaptured past is a stimulating vision of what is achievable. Barring a tinge of disappointment that no place is found in the Fleet Street section for the great John Senex, my only real complaint is that it left me wanting more, much more – and I suppose more is increasingly possible. Already now online resources can reveal, for example, which they could not in 2010, that the partwork publisher Alexander Hogg of Paternoster Row, much mentioned in the text and ostensibly active until 1819, was in fact buried at St Faith early in 1809, while the engraver Sutton Nicholls of the Weavers’ Company (unindexed but mentioned in passing on p.52 as active in 1731), was buried at St Dunstan in the East in 1729.

This is a major contribution to our understanding of the realities and possibilities of the historic London book-trade. Anyone with an interest in the subject will have to acquire it. It is a pity then that the design of a book devoted to book-trade history should so completely ignore the book-trade’s traditional courtesies to its readers. It is exceedingly poorly designed: the printed line too broad for ready comprehension; the paper shines and glares by the light of a reading-lamp and it is also far too heavy for the book easily to be handled or posted; and the binding unpleasant. The only proper place for footnotes in a scholarly text is at the foot of the page and there is little point in numbering illustrations in a sequence not then followed through the text. And, while on the illustrations – interesting and well-chosen as they are, the research maps excellent – it is perhaps worth pointing out that the dust-jacket watercolour of Paternoster Row attributed (in text, caption and on jacket) to Thomas Colman Dibdin, and ascribed a date of 1851, is patently nothing of the sort. It is actually the 1854 watercolour by Thomas Hosmer Shepherd from the Crace Collection in the British Museum (the signature is a clue). Similarly, the map of the environs of London by John Rocque (Map 1.1) is surely not the map of central London by Rocque alluded to in the text – and there are further issues with further captions. This is a fine piece of work, but poorly served in production.

– Laurence Worms


John Clark’s extensive research has explored not
only the history and archaeology of Saxon and medieval London (subjects to which he switched because there were too many Romanists) but the myths and legends of London, displaying a fascination with the arcane which he shares with John Stow. The range of this Festschrift appropriately reflects the breadth of his interests. Essays are divided into three sections: Archaeology and Infrastructure, Death and Devotion, and Arts and Crafts. Only a few can be singled out here to indicate the variety. In part 1, essays which may intrigue London topographers are Harvey Sheldon’s ‘Roman London, early myths and modern realities’, and Derek Renn, ‘The other towers of London’ which maps no less than 22 medieval towers of various kinds other than churches. Dave Sankey explains the discovery and display of the evidence for the medieval chapter house of St Paul’s, now outlined in the garden south of the present cathedral. Nick Holder, ‘Mapping medieval and early modern London: the use of cartographic, documentary and archaeological evidence’ considers the challenges and opportunities offered by modern technology. Part 2 ranges from the intriguing legend of St Erkenwald and the righteous heathen (Jeremy Harte) to the health of London monasteries deduced from bone analysis (Rebecca Redfern and Jelena Bekvalek); among objects and their contexts, ‘Here be monsters: fabled beasts from London’ by Martin Henig, considers the famous Viking tombstone in the broader picture of classical and medieval depictions of strange creatures.

Among the ‘arts and crafts’ of section 3, the essay not to be missed is the intriguingly titled ‘From Whirlecole to the world on wheels: episodes in the early history of London Transport’, by Julian Munby. He traces the extensive documentary evidence for the elaborately decorated ‘cars’ and litters used in the great medieval processions. Among them was the ‘whirlecole’ (one described in 1377 was covered in velvet and pearls); its exact character is alas unclear. These showpieces were superseded by the coach, first introduced to England in the 1550s and rapidly adopted by the aristocracy. This transport revolution had many consequences for London topography: by 1621 there were nine coachmakers in St Sepulchre’s parish, and the planning of new suburbs was dictated by the need to accommodate coaches as well as people.

The book is published in the A4 format now customary for archaeological publications, which gives scope for good illustrations, but the contents deserve better than the unsatisfactory floppy cover.

– Bridget Cherry

**Shakespeare’s London Theatreland: Archaeology, history and drama**


Eva Griffith has written a well-researched and thoughtful book. First, in the Introduction and initial chapter (59pp) she establishes that the Red Bull Playhouse grew up in part of an inn yard of a public house, the Red Bull, which stood in St John’s Street, leading into the heart of the City and along which cattle were driven to market and to slaughter in Smithfield. Next, she sets out the complicated ownership of the land. Finally, from Chapter 2 onwards, she deals with the Company, the Queen’s Servants, the plays which they performed and the influence of the Queen and her circle of friends. That queen was Anna of Denmark, James I’s wife, who had been brought up in much greater freedom of thought and action than that allowed by the Scottish and English courts into which she had married and against which she rebelled.

Queen Anna’s circle of friends consisted chiefly of ladies whose independent views coincided with her own and which found their expression in the plays performed. For example, in Thomas Heywood’s *Rape of Lucrece*, the heroine argues with Tarquin with a firmness and cogency that seem of the twenty-first century rather than the seventeenth.

This is a book for historians of the theatre rather than those whose interests lie in London’s topography but, for the right person, it is a book well worth reading.

Julian Bowsher’s *Shakespeare’s London Theatreland* is the complete opposite of Dr Griffith’s book. Whereas she devotes a whole volume to a single theatre, he covers the administrative, social and economic life of the capital, the development of the theatre and the playing companies, the City inns, and the playhouses. He lists 13 of these, seven theatres and six animal-baiting arenas. He goes on to consider the staging of a play and the players themselves. The volume ends triumphantly with eight walks provided with maps. There are notes, a bibliography and information about reconstructions in Canada and other countries. Altogether it is a book which anyone interested in Shakespeare, the theatre or English literature needs to own.

This is not to decry Dr Griffith’s volume. The two books have completely different objectives. Whereas the former aims to give a complete account of the Red Bull and its place in society, Dr Bowsher takes his readers by the hand and marches them briskly in and out of the streets of London, pointing energetically to right and left along the way. Both approaches are needed and, if one proves more successful than the other, we should look at the respective prices and realise the economics of publishing.

– Ann Saunders
Proceedings of the Fifth Symposium on Shipbuilding on the Thames edited by Chris Ellmers, Docklands History Group, 2013, 162 pages, 75 illustrations. £20 plus postage (£5 for 1 to 3 copies UK only. Other postage on application).

The Thames Valley has had over 2,000 years of association with shipbuilding, ship repairs and ship-breaking. Since 2000 five Symposia have covered recent research on all aspects of the industry. The volume under review, edited by Chris Ellmers, founder-director of the Museum of London Docklands, was the first to be organised by the Docklands History Group.

The very well-attended Fifth Symposium covered a wide range of topics. Gustav Milne of University College and Project Director of the Thames Discovery Programme (TDP) will be known to many. The TDP is a community-based long-term monitoring project that looks at sites as they become exposed by erosion. His paper reminds us that at the end of its life a ship still contained valuable items that could be re-cycled either into new ships or perhaps to create foreshore slipways. Captain Rodney Brown’s paper covers the long-lasting conflict between the City-based Worshipful Company of Shipwrights and the Company of Shipwrights, of Redrith. The paper by Chris Ellmers on the London dockyard of Gordon and Company in Deptford, uncovers in great detail a ‘lost London shipyard’ and is a reminder of the importance of ‘very entrepreneurial London business families’ and of the continuing need to record today’s rapidly changing London for the benefit of future historians.

Dr Pieter van der Merwe, on the staff of the National Maritime Museum, offers a tour de force looking at Thames shipyards through the work of artists; the first in-depth coverage of this important aspect. The paper includes 15 informative, striking or otherwise unusual images; very usefully, further images are available on the BBC/Public Catalogue Foundation ‘Your Paintings’ site. The paper by Richard Perks, who has 40 years’ experience on Thames sailing barges, reflects his detailed knowledge of these barges and their builders, and their importance to London’s economy when road transport was slow and unreliable. He also introduces us to sprit-riggs, gaff rigs, swim-heads and budget sterns. Tables reveal that 539 barges were built between 1753 and 1807 on the Thames, Medway, Swale, and in East Essex and Suffolk, numbers that may be increased by further research. Professor Andrew Lambert’s presentation on John Scott Russell (1808-1882) and the construction of HMS Warrior is a timely reminder of the contributions to scientific shipbuilding of a neglecte[d] engineer who was engaged in the advanced design processes needed to build the first ironclad warship, launched in 1861. Mary Mills’ research discovers that two big sailing ships were being built in the 1870s at Maudslay, Sons and Field’s Greenwich shipyard, close to the site of the Cutty Sark, even though Greenwich was never an important shipbuilding area. Henry Maudslay (1771-1831), after time at Joseph Bramah’s Soho workshops, established his own company in Lambeth in 1810, and moved to Greenwich in the 1860s. Her paper explores many aspects of this period but particularly striking was that many of the sites were owned by the Blackheath-based charity Morden College, which had taken a decision to develop the area for industry in the late 1830s. How many other London estate owners followed similar ideas? The final paper by James Wisdom is an interesting attempt to explore the social and economic impact of the closure of Thornycroft’s Yard, Chiswick, in 1909. Testing the truth of ‘two scraps of oral history evidence’ revealed them as ‘myths but perhaps suffused with truth’, and similar stories can undoubtedly be discovered all over London linking social and industrial history.

– Derek Morris


A great opportunity has been lost. London hospitals present a lake of unfathomable depth whose ripples extend to medical, social and architectural history. Think of the pioneering doctors who established the reputation of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, the high-minded philanthropists and benefactors who founded the Royal Marsden and the buildings James Gibbs designed for St Bartholomew’s. There is enough printed material and untapped archives to warrant an encyclopaedia on London hospitals but here we have yet another ‘pictorial history’: a few paragraphs of text accompanied by an illustration and an inadequate caption, at best. The Royal Marsden, London’s famous cancer hospital, is given three lines. The Royal Brompton, Britain’s leading cardiothoracic hospital, has three cursory references. Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children deserves more than 16 words. The authors include hospitals for the mentally ill at Epsom, Ilford and Coulsdon but neglect Bethlem Royal Hospital, the oldest psychiatric hospital in the world, formerly in central London, now at Beckenham (Bethlem is listed in the index with a reference to page 1 but there is no page 1). Unbelievable. So is the date cited for Henry VIII’s dissolution of the monasteries, 1546.

– Penelope Hunting


This Amberley book has solid pages of text with the illustrations, small-scale and all monochrome, collected in 22 central pages and over 20 pages of
notes and a bibliography. The author was a library officer at Ealing in West London (childhood home of this reviewer and long-time home of our former Chairman) where the borough surveyor in the 1890s Charles Jones improved the dust incinerator by dealing with the pollution from its chimney.

The book tells you all you might want to know about dealing with rubbish and probably far more than that – the only subject I missed was the effect of waste disposal units in kitchen sinks which were fashionable in the 1960s. Sorting recycled rubbish is nothing new – dust heaps with their surrounding pickers (usually female) were a feature of Dickens's London. Local authorities found that one year they could sell the rubbish they collected and the next year they would have to pay to have it taken away due to the economic swings. Burning rubbish to generate electricity was a good theoretical idea, but in practice the calorific value of the rubbish often required the addition of expensive coal to achieve efficiency. All the developments are covered, from strikes of local authority dustmen leading to privatisation, to recycling and landfill tax (not indexed – a minor quibble). If you have any interest in what happens after your black or green bag is slung out, then this should make a satisfying read.

– Roger Cline


The copious illustrations comprise images similar to those we have seen in publications such as Charles Graves's *London Transport Carried On* of 1947 and its later edition *London Transport at War* of 1978, but the current book has its uses in listing all the serious World War II incidents and those with civilian fatalities and giving details of the deep level shelter locations with plentiful photographs of their surface buildings. There are extensive pages of text and one chapter describes the pre-war plans for shelters including those more adventurous ones which were not built, very similar to the underground car parks which have been built since, and another chapter covers the building of the floodgates for closing off the stretches of tunnel below the Thames.

A useful book and cheaper per page than the volumes in the 'Through Time' series.

– Roger Cline


This book needs a health warning. Readers will be familiar with the variable quality of Amberley publications – some are very worthwhile, but this is not. It is not a reprint of Mee's original *King's England* volume of 1937, but a bowdlerised and abbreviated version, without any explanations of what is omitted and no reference to Ann Saunders's revised editions of 1972 and 1975. In theory it covers the old LCC area, although with only 12 of the old boroughs which were included in Mee's original volume (among those omitted are Stepney, Poplar, Hackney, Hammersmith...). Mee's flowery patriotic introductory paragraphs have been cut, which is not surprising – but so has much other detail, making nonsense of parts of the text. A few murky illustrations are claimed to be the original photographs, but they are far inferior to the inset of evocative sepias views in the original edition; the level of editorial incompetence is demonstrated by a view of the interior of St Bartholomew the Great opposite text referring to the 'dull-looking church of St Bartholomew' in Gray's Inn Road. There is no index, and nothing to indicate to the novice that a vast number of buildings mentioned (such as the dull St Bartholomew) no longer exist. (Dull' is a not untypical example of Mee's rather uninspired vocabulary.)

All this is a pity, because Arthur Mee (1875-1943) is a character of considerable interest, well worth an introductory explanatory essay. Mee was a self-made journalist from a Baptist background, who worked for the Harmsworth Press, a keen royalist and patriot, and a supporter of the Temperance movement. Older readers may recall his *Children's Encyclopedia* (begun 1908), and perhaps with less fondness his *Children's Newspaper* (1919-65) which continued after his death, worthy but excruciatingly boring in its latter years. These were sidelines to his major achievement, the county by county volumes of the *King's England*, with their individual mix of topographical description, historical anecdote and somewhat sentimental personal appreciation. His lively account of the appearance of the pre-war City is a fascinating period piece and well worth reading. But don't buy this book. Look for a second-hand copy of the original.

– Bridget Cherry


The majority of these photographs were taken in the mid-1950s when Allan Hailstone was still a teenager. They show London's streets with a proliferation of people going about their daily business. Each picture has a caption which mostly describes the whereabouts of the buildings and what they were for. Some pictures are not as sharp as they could be, while others show the darker side of London with sites that attracted the neon lights of the advertisers. What the book gives is a nostalgic look at times gone by for the older generation who remember the city with much less traffic than now.

– Denise Silvester-Carr


The cover illustration shows a view of 1858, with market women outside a dingy lodging house in Carrier Street, St Giles. This study set out with the deliberate aim of investigating whether archaeological reality tallies with the reputation of St Giles as the notorious slum familiar from written sources. The findings are set in context by a lucid 'historical perspective' of London slums by David R. Green. Within the standard A4 shaped excavation report presented in the usual numbered paragraphs there is much to interest the non-archaeologist.

The microscopic investigation of a small area to the north of St Giles High Street was possible after the demolition of the post-war St Giles's Court. Evidence of plants, seeds and food confirmed the evidence of early maps that this was a once rural area built up from the sixteenth century, with gardens and yards behind the houses. Documentary evidence of ownership by the Dyot estate show these spaces became increasingly congested, with much casual rebuilding during the eighteenth century. But a general pattern of poverty, though supported by some of the finds, is contradicted by the greater variety of pottery (datable to before c.1810) found in a cesspit associated with the Kirkman family, owners of a brewery built in the yard of the Eagle and Child in 1787, suggesting that at this time the comfortably off were living here as well as the poor. The brewery survived the bankruptcy of the Kirkmans in 1815, but in the 1820s was replaced by tenements called Clark's buildings, where excavations revealed cellars, with fireplaces, but lit only by light wells, typical of the poor quality housing of the time. The sparse finds from the period of the 1820s-50 seem to confirm that this was the nadir; from the 1850s, with the introduction of better sewerage, conditions improved, although the effect of clearances for New Oxford Street, just to the north, created further problems in an already overcrowded area. The story deduced from documents and maps remains broadly accurate, but the fragmentary archaeological evidence has been teased out to add intriguing detail and intricacy.

– Bridget Cherry


This is Hayes in Middlesex; the book follows the usual format of the Through Time series and, being written by a local historian, gives adequate information in the photographic captions. The photographs are arranged under different categories of building types but the changes that have occurred between the sepia views of the old village with a population of around 2000 and modern times are so great that there are few views containing buildings which are recognisable ‘through time’. The modern views are in colour but one cannot say that any of the modern architecture is inspired. The ecclesiologists will find the first chapter on the various places of worship of interest for the variety of styles; for those readers with only a vague knowledge of the local scene, the final chapter on the industries which were serviced by the railway and canal is interesting, covering gramophone records, chocolate, and of course Fairey Aviation. There was an X-Chair factory in Silverdale Road and a picture shows a display of furniture from 1934, which probably gives the basis for my parents’ picnic table which I still possess which our family has always called ‘the Silverdale’.

– Roger Cline


This attractive book in a bold square format follows Edmund Bird’s two previous records of Lambeth architecture of the earlier twentieth century. In this one he is joined by the Lambeth archivist Fiona Price. The well-researched record is supported by numerous older views as well as excellent new photos. As in the previous volumes the historical introduction is followed by chapters on different building types, with a final section on lost buildings. Lambeth
could be described as an epicentre of the new post-war Britain. The Festival of 1951 focused national attention on its revitalised riverside, and extensive war damage coupled with pre-war slum clearance plans encouraged radical reconstruction of housing throughout the borough, the need increasing as Lambeth became a destination for Commonwealth immigrants.

Eighty pages of the book are devoted to housing; half of these new homes were constructed by the borough, half by the LCC, at first on pre-war lines but increasingly in forms displaying the 'gentle' modernism (the word in Elain Harwood's foreword) of those early post-war years. The surprise is the absence of uniformity, the result of the employment of numerous outside architects (their backgrounds are usefully given) as neither Lambeth nor the LCC has sufficient in-house staff to cope with the workload. Balconies, for example, which were a standard feature in the council flats of the new welfare state, were treated in a host of different ways, enlivening the exteriors as well as providing an amenity for the tenants. The photos show that many of these buildings have worn well. Much of the housing at this time was still of the five storey walk-up variety; tower blocks of modest height (up to 12 storeys) begin to appear in the mid 50s, the most radical being the LCC's Corbusian Loughborough estate, but for the full story of high rise we must wait for the next volume. The inclusion of occasional photos of lost earlier buildings, sometimes, but by no means always, war damaged, demonstrate the ruthlessness of the rebuilding programme. It would have been interesting to have had a few maps to demonstrate how the new layouts were imposed on the old street patterns.

Shorter sections include commercial buildings, schools, entertainment and public buildings; new uses and demolitions demonstrate various social trends. The modest Lambeth Bathhouse of 1955, which replaced the bombed Victorian baths, is now a medical centre, the plain curtain-walled offices of which replaced the bombed Victorian baths, is now an amenity for the tenants. The photos show that many of these buildings have worn well. Much of the housing at this time was still of the five storey walk-up variety; tower blocks of modest height (up to 12 storeys) begin to appear in the mid 50s, the most radical being the LCC's Corbusian Loughborough estate, but for the full story of high rise we must wait for the next volume. The inclusion of occasional photos of lost earlier buildings, sometimes, but by no means always, war damaged, demonstrate the ruthlessness of the rebuilding programme. It would have been interesting to have had a few maps to demonstrate how the new layouts were imposed on the old street patterns.

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Amidst the rectangularity of most of the subjects a few exceptions stand out: the swelling curves of the magnificent Stockwell bus garage of 1951-4 (needed when trams were abandoned), and the striking concrete vaulting of St James, Clapham, by N. F. Cachemaille Day – (who may indeed have had an ‘extraordinary name and great talent’, but his first name was Nugent, not Nungent).

A map shows 133 numbered sites scattered over the modern borough, including the parts of Clapham and Streatham which were in Wandsworth until 1965. Explorers will need an A-Z map, and it is a pity that the numbers do not appear in the text, but there is a good index. A most rewarding book, of interest not just to those concerned with Lambeth but to anyone curious about the architecture and social history of this period.

– Bridget Cherry

A Hamlet in Hendon. The Archaeology and History of Church End, from Excavations at Church Terrace, 1973–74 by HADAS Finds Group. xi + 216 pp., 147 figs, 21 tables.


These books have landed, almost simultaneously, on my desk; each is concerned with a small, very specific, plot of land over a long period.

A Hamlet in Hendon is the outcome of the work of Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) from its establishment in 1961. The Society’s founder was Themistocles Constantinides, and one of his objectives was to discover evidence for the Saxon origins of Hendon which at last began to emerge in 1973 on a site located next to the parish church, St Mary’s; the site is known as Church Terrace. Excavation work continued until 1973–74 and reports were published at intervals until 1986. A ‘finds processing course’ was set up in 2001 and is still running under the tuition of Jacqui Pearce; this book is the culmination of their findings. There are chapters covering documentary research, ceramics, Roman pottery, ceramic petrology, clay tobacco types, glass, geology, worked flint, faunal and human remains, and coins and metal finds. With photography, maps and graphics, as well as 17 other contributors (unless I have miscounted), the chief editors, Jacqui Pearce and Christopher Willey, deserve congratulations. This is an important book.

A History of Bassishaw Ward, c.1200–c.1600 was generously commissioned by Alderman Timothy Hailes, JP, and executed by Dr Christine Fox in three months. Histories of single City of London wards are rare, and this one should be valued. It covers the ward’s changing boundaries, its administration, its relationships with the City, its sole parish church, St Michael’s — a rarity in itself — and the inhabitants of the ward and parish. Fluctuations in population are noted and an analysis of wills by craft or trade is given. The interdependency of the Crown and City is discussed, and finally there are biographies for the leading families and individuals. To have achieved so much in so short a time takes my breath away.

It would be a happy addition to London’s already bulging bibliography if other Aldermen would be so generous, allowing, perhaps, more time to youthful historians.

– Ann Saunders

This recent publication by the Hornsey Historical Society is devoted to the small cluster of roads at the foot of Muswell Hill, one of the many developments carried out in Hornsey by the Collins family. W. J. Collins bought the Rookfield estate in 1898 (then consisting of Rookfield House and a few other buildings; 23 acres in all). The new housing took shape principally between 1906 and 1934 and its character owed much to his two sons, Herbert, an architect, and William B. Collins, a skilled designer (as is shown by the drawing on the front cover), although never officially registered as an architect. The two brothers were fired by the Arts and Crafts aesthetics then finding expression in Hampstead Garden Suburb and in the Town Planning Act of 1909. They pleaded – unsuccessfully – with the strait-laced borough council to relax the byelaws which insisted on party walls disrupting the roof lines of terrace houses. Frustrated by their failure to carry out their designs, Herbert departed to Southampton, but William remained, and despite the byelaws, succeeded in creating delightful groups of red brick houses given appealing variety by different plans, forms, gables, and roofs. (Prominent front gables helped to conceal the compulsory party walls.) David Frith, for many years closely involved with protecting the estate from unsympathetic development, not only tells the story of the Rookfield estate’s creation and preservation, but explores the history of the area in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the help of contemporary maps, and provides a sympathetic account of the Collins family. Excellent illustrations add to the value of this attractive book.

~ Bridget Cherry

Brockwell Park’s Clock Tower

Here is another conservation story about the details that matter; a cheering example of local initiative. ‘Little Ben’ in Brockwell Park, Lambeth, was given by the local Member of Parliament Charles Edward Tritton, to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897. It is a smaller version of the clock outside Victoria Station, made by the well-known firm of Gillett & Johnson. An attractive booklet, Celebrating the restoration of Brockwell Park’s clock tower 2014, tells its story and lists the several hundred local individuals and organisations who raised £20,000 to restore the clock to working order, coinciding with Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee and with major work on the park landscape.

Exploring your neighbourhood

It is difficult to catch up with the publications by local organisations which provide new insights into what is special in their home patch. Here are two examples, from opposite sides of the river, of guides to areas of greater London which have hitherto been little researched. The well-illustrated revised edition of the Herne Hill Heritage Trail covers the attractively hilly area of south Lambeth. Once scattered with rural villas, it now has a pleasing variety of Victorian housing and local amenities...
Les Singularitez de Londres

We are pleased to able to include a review by Peter Jackson of this year’s publication, reproduced with permission from AFL Newsletter 28 © Archives for London.

On the day the Tour de France came to London, it was most appropriate that this year’s LTS volume was entitled The Singularities of London, or to be more accurate Les Singularitez de Londres, as the original text, reproduced in the volume, was in French. The book was written by one L. Grenade about whom nothing seems to be known, not even his first name, or indeed if the author was a man, although that would be most likely, as the book was first published in 1578. That was a full 20 years before John Stow’s better-known survey. However, Stow had printed his ‘Summary of English Chronicles’ in 1565, and, according to the editors of the present text, Grenade had consulted some of these. Grenade was probably a protestant, and writes favourably of English bonnes Loix et coustumes (good laws and customs): was he persecuted abroad for his faith?

The introduction to the book mentions that a family bearing surname Granado, with several variants, is documented in London in 1539: the name may refer to an origin in Spain, in Granada, a strictly Catholic country at that time (this is not long after the Inquisition and expulsion of the Jews), whence the family went to Antwerp. Antwerp was in the early 1530s tolerant of Protestantism, but it was suppressed under Charles V, so the family moved again, to England. The family is traced in detail through several generations on the edge of royal service as spies, horseman and soldiers. Grenade’s book itself has an interesting history, as the copy from which this edition was prepared is in the Vatican Library, where it was part of the library of Queen Christina of Sweden: she died in Rome in 1689, after abdicating in 1654 and converting to Catholicism.

The LTS edition has an extensive introduction, followed by an illustrated, annotated translation (the illustrations not from the original volume, but from books on London contemporary with it), then notes (which run to 46 pages). Finally comes the original French text, which itself is interesting as, being sixteenth century French, it shows differences from the modern French most of us will have learnt as school. The introduction points out that the word Singularitez means ‘particular or noteworthy’ things, not oddities or singularities as the French word might suggest.

Grenade’s introduction repeats the well-known myth that London was founded by Brutus. Grenade says in 1188 BC, when it was given the name New Troy: it was renamed Ludunum after King Lud in 68BC. He describes a view from Highgate in which he includes some items which would not have been visible from there, leading the editors to surmise that he augmented a visit with information gleaned from a map. The following chapters of the book, more factually accurate, describe first the suburbs outside the walls, working clockwise from Ludgate to Southwark, then four major streets across the centre. The final two chapters describe the election of the Lord Mayor, and the laws of the city. Of the latter he writes they are “so well ordered than nothing better is possible”. So sycophant that one wonders what he wanted.

The notes to the translation are very informative, not only pointing out Grenade’s errors, but providing much information about London at the time, almost as it were en passant.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2015 are at the same rates as for 2013: £20 for UK addresses and £30 for those abroad. If you do not have a standing order set up, then you will need to pay by the due date of 1 January. A cheque to the Treasurer is preferred, but you can pay through the website if you wish. Payment by cheque for up to five years in advance will be accepted as a hedge against inflation.

The deadline for contributions to the next Newsletter is 7 April 2015.

Suggestions of books for review should be sent to the Newsletter Editor; contact details are on the back page.
The officers of the London Topographical Society

Chairman
Mrs Penelope Hunting PhD FSA
40 Smith Street, London SW3 4EP
Tel: 020 7352 8057

Hon. Treasurer
Roger Cline MA LLB FSA
Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9SH
Tel: 020 7388 9889
E-mail: roger.cline13@gmail.com

Hon. Editor
Mrs Ann Saunders MBE PhD FSA
3 Meadway Gate
London NW11 7LA
Tel. 020 8455 2171

Hon. Secretary
Mike Wicksteed
103 Harestone Valley Road
Caterham, Surrey CR3 6HR
Tel. 01883 337813
E-mail: mike.wicksteed@btinternet.com

Publications Secretary
Simon Morris MA PhD
7 Barnsbury Terrace
London N1 1JH
E-mail: santiagodecompostela@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor
Bridget Cherry OBE FSA
Bitterley House
Bitterley
Nr Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 3HJ
Tel. 01584 890 905
E-mail: bridgetcherry58@gmail.com

Membership Secretary
Dr John Bowman
17 Park Road
London W7 1EN
Tel. 020 8840 4116
E-mail: j.h.bowman@btinternet.com

Council members: Peter Barber; Ralph Hyde; Robin Michaelson; Sheila O’Connell; Professor Michael Port; Peter Ross; Denise Silvester-Carr; David Webb; Rosemary Weinstein; Laurence Worms.

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Registered charity no. 271590
The Society’s web site address is: www.topsoc.org

ISSN 1369-7986
The Newsletter is published by the London Topographical Society twice a year, in May and November, and issued by the Newsletter Editor: Bridget Cherry, Bitterley House, Bitterley, near Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 3HJ.

Produced and printed by The Ludo Press Ltd, London SW17 0BA.
Tel. 020 8879 1881 www.ludo.co.uk