

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Number 62
May 2006

Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2006

Tuesday, 4th July 2006

The one hundred and sixth Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society will be held on Tuesday, 4th July 2006, at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1. Refreshments will be served from about 5.30pm and the meeting will start at 6.30pm.

Friends House is across the road from Euston Station and is also very close to Euston and Euston Square underground stations. Members should come to the main entrance on Euston Road. There is disabled access at the east side of the building.

The annual publication will be distributed to members at the meeting. Those who cannot attend will be sent theirs by post, probably in mid-September.

As usual, members may bring guests to the AGM. Refreshments will be provided by Friends House, so this year we shall not need contributions from members who have kindly brought them in the past.

Please write to the Hon. Secretary if you would like to nominate anyone as an officer of the Society or as a member of Council, or if you wish to raise any matter under item 6 of the agenda.

AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of the 105th Annual General Meeting
- 2 Annual Report of the Council for 2005
- 3 Accounts for 2005
- 4 Hon. Editor's report
- 5 Election of officers and members of Council
- 6 Proposals by members
- 7 Any other business *

Items 1-3 are all published in this newsletter.

– Patrick Frazer, Hon. Secretary

106th Annual Report of the Council of the London Topographical Society for 2005

The publication for 2005 was *The London County Council Bomb Damage Maps 1939-1945*, with an introduction by Dr Robin Woolven. Members were able to collect their copies at the annual general meeting; other members received theirs later in the year.

This lavish book was probably the largest and most expensive single-year publication in the Society's history. Unfortunately it was overshadowed by the London bombings on the day after publication, and good coverage in the *Evening Standard* appeared only briefly before being removed to make way for breaking news.

The Society made a small financial surplus in 2005, thanks to a substantial provision in 2004 against the exceptional printing costs of the bomb damage maps. Profits from selling past publications are now being assessed at one half of gross sales, rather than one third, resulting in a higher figure for 2005. A reduction in stocks of publications increased liquid resources at the year's end to nearly £150,000.

The annual general meeting was held on 6th July at the Dutch Church in Austin Friars and was followed by a talk from Robin Woolven about the annual publication. A full report on the meeting, which included the Society's 125th anniversary party, appeared in the November newsletter.

A total of fifty-two new members joined the Society during the year, well down on the exceptional number in 2004 and significantly below the five-year average of sixty-one. Nevertheless, there was a net increase of thirty-four, giving an end of year total of 1,064 paid-up members and three honorary members.

The newsletter was published in May and November. Articles included *Conundrums*

Council meetings were held in January, April and September to discuss the Society's publication programme, membership, finances and general administration.

The Building of the Lowndes Estate, Knightsbridge

by Jennifer Moss

The history of the Lowndes estate in Knightsbridge starts with a purchase of two fields by William Lowndes in 1692. Lowndes (1652-1724) was an interesting man. His origins, at Winslow in Buckinghamshire, were quite modest, and he rose to be Secretary to the Treasury under William III, Queen Anne and George I, a position from which he derived considerable wealth. He and Samuel Pepys were England's first great civil servants. He began the development of the budget process for supplying the Crown and Government with funds. He was fond of saying that "ways and means" must be found of raising the necessary monies. This is the origin of the Committee of Ways and Means sitting as it does to this day in the House of Commons when it discusses the Budget.

At this period the chief way to invest money was to purchase land. In the course of Lowndes's life he bought a total of over 3,000 acres for an outlay approaching £65,000, perhaps £7 or £8 million today. Almost all the land he bought was in Buckinghamshire but he also bought some ninety acres in Romney Marsh and a small amount of land in London in two areas.

This account is concerned with the larger of these London purchases, made when he was a Chief Clerk at the Treasury, three years before he became Secretary.

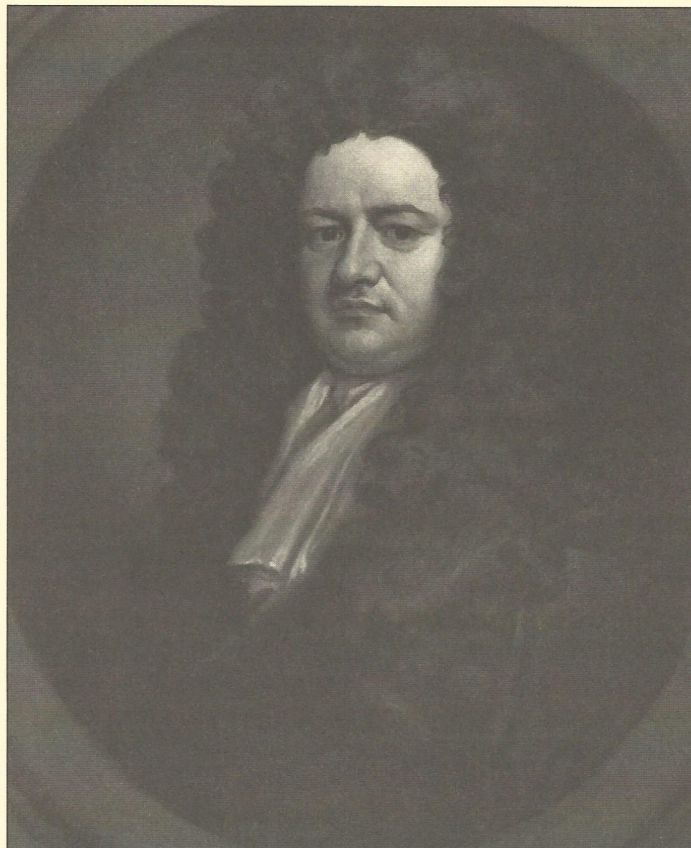
The two fields near Knightsbridge, in the parish of Chelsea, were known as Great and Little Spittlefields. That to the north, of nine and a half acres, lay to the west of the Westbourne Brook, and that to the south, of eight and a half acres, lay to the east. The two were connected by a narrow neck of land, now part of Lowndes Street. The stream crossed the neck near the bend in Lowndes Street today and was not covered until 1842.

In 1670 the land had been bought for £300 by Henry Swindel who then proceeded to build a fine house on it and several gardens, known as Spring Gardens. By 1692 this was occupied by Henry's son William.

On 16th January 1692 the two fields were bought by William Lowndes for £500. He evidently felt he had overpaid but did this knowingly. "I gave these large summes chiefly to have the Tenant right for benefit of my posterity." He then obtained a ninety-nine year lease from the Crown on 17th March, the rent being 13s 4d for each of the two fields. The rent was to be paid to the Exchequer at Michaelmas. By the terms of the lease, he was permitted to build as many houses as he thought fit.

William went on to have an extensive family; he married four times and fathered nineteen children. He left the Knightsbridge land to Charles, the eldest surviving son of the Chesham branch of the family, and it descended to Charles's son William.

Then in 1807 this William put the Lowndes



William Lowndes
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UK Government Art Collection

estates in the hands of trustees, following the near-bankruptcy of his spendthrift eldest son. It was in the time of the spendthrift's son (also William, as all the Lowndes's eldest sons were named) that the Knightsbridge land was developed.

The two Lowndes fields were sandwiched between the Cadogan estate, already built over, and the Grosvenor estate's Five Fields, so it made good sense for Lowndes to work with the more powerful neighbour, whose land was then being developed by Thomas Cubitt (1788-1855), known as the "Master builder".

There had been a tea-garden at what is now the Knightsbridge end of Lowndes Square. In 1818 a builder, George Warren, took the premises and converted them to workshops. Cubitt took these over and used them himself until the sewer problem was solved, making development of the northern field possible.

Cubitt's office effectively controlled the development of the Lowndes estate. The trustees had confidence in him and allowed him to decide the detailed layout. They determined the width of the frontages, and so the numbers of houses, but left the elevations to Cubitt's good taste. The street names are clearly identifiable – Lowndes, Chesham, William, Harriet (William's mother), Charles (Charles Street has now been renamed Seville Street) and Lyall for Charles Lyall, one of the Lowndes trustees.

The first agreement between the Lowndes trustees and Thomas Cubitt was signed in February 1826, and envisaged ground rents rising

progressively to reach £2,000 per annum after twelve years. In the same year Parliament passed the Grosvenor Place and District Improvement Act, nominating thirty-six trustees to be responsible for road maintenance, street lighting, rubbish collection etc., to be financed by a property rate. William Lowndes, two of the Lowndes trustees and their surveyor Henry Rhodes were among the trustees.

The severe depression of the 1830s delayed development. By the end of that decade most of the smaller houses on the west side of Chesham Place had been built and taken by respectable, rather than affluent, lessees at £2,500-£3,000 each. The south side was grander, and today there are embassies at the Belgrave Square end. Lord John Russell took the house on the corner of Chesham Place and Lowndes Place, and the Russian ambassador joined Nos 31 and 32 Chesham Place to form Chesham House, finished in 1852.

Development in Lowndes Street and Chesham Street did not really get under way until 1838-39. Some of the smaller houses in Chesham Street have nice cast iron railings to the continuous run of balconies at first floor level. Lyall Street was one of the last streets where house-building started, in 1838, and some of the houses there are also rather grand. A blue plaque marks Cubitt's occupation of No 3.

As to Lowndes Square itself, development was not possible while the Westbourne Brook, which had

now become the Ranelagh Sewer, remained uncovered. It carried the sewage from the new housing areas north of Hyde Park down to the Thames. There were long wrangles between Cubitt and the Commission of Sewers who were obstructive and refused to bear a fair proportion of the cost. The matter was finally settled in December 1828 and the new, realigned ten-foot covered sewer was completed behind the east side of the Square in 1831. Development started that side, in groups of three or five houses, from 1837 onwards, many of which have now been redeveloped. The houses were served by those in William Mews behind. The west side followed in 1844-46. The houses that remain there show that the design was straightforward and unexceptional. The short block on the south side has a noticeably different design, and was an independent speculation by Thomas Cubitt's younger brother Lewis. The block at the north end was built from August 1838 (but demolished in 1969 to make way for a hotel tower).

Cubitt went on to build Albert Gate, north of Knightsbridge, to link the Lowndes estate to Hyde Park. Two very large houses were built, on either side of the road above the culverted Ranelagh Sewer where it left Hyde Park. One of these is now the French Embassy.

Most of the area was strictly residential, although there were a few shops in Pont Street, William



The bend in Lowndes Street today

Street and other little streets connecting to Knightsbridge and Sloane Street. The Lowndes Arms, a public house, was an early commercial building completed in 1829 and applications were later made for a Post Office and a fire station.

Lighting was a continuing problem. At one point residents of Chesham Place complained that the lights were insufficient "to enable Persons to distinguish the numbers on Doors and on dark nights carriages ...are in danger of running into each other". Lord Arthur Lennox requested that the light in front of his house be lit nightly, now that he had taken up residence at 10 Chesham Place.

A warm relationship developed between Thomas Cubitt and William Lowndes, as this letter, from 1840, shows:

"My Dear Sir, I am constantly under fresh obligations to you and though I so often have occasion to give you fresh thanks I do indeed fully feel your great kindness in attending to my wants. If I had not your powerfull [sic] and never failing aid the Lowndes Estate could not have had the value upon it that I have so hard and anxiously struggled to bring forward.

With respect to the War I fear our people at the helm are like many I have to deal with and not fitted for the emergency. I am much pleased to learn that you think things look more Pacific today.

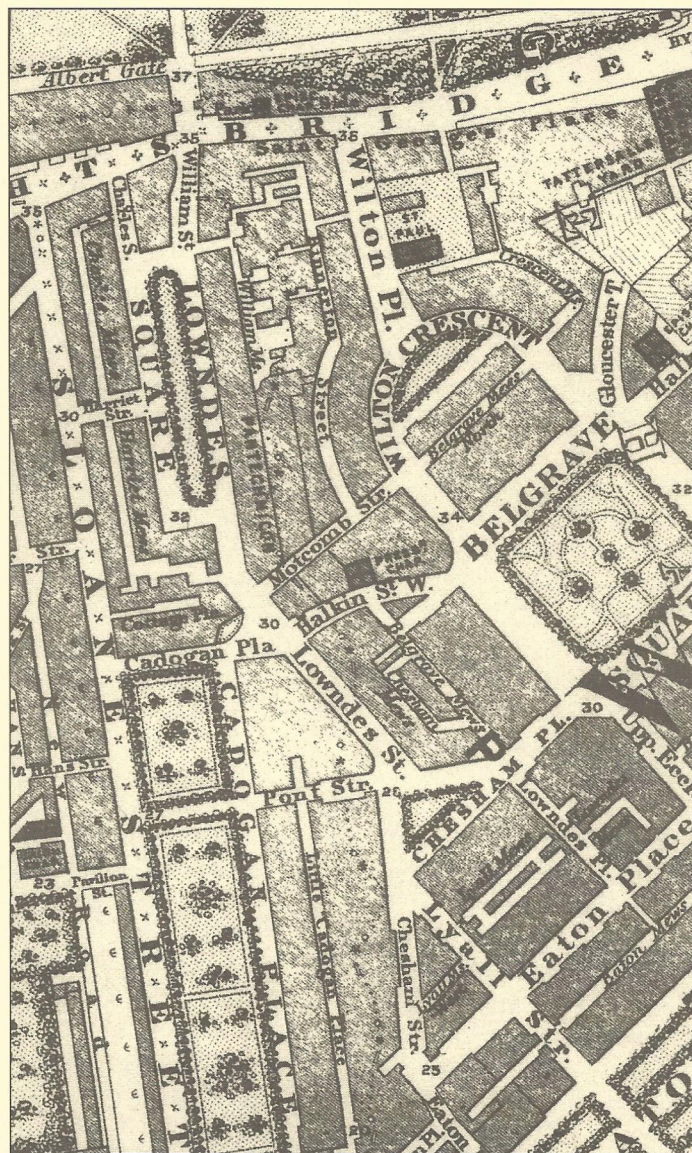
That you will soon get better and long remain well is the most sincere wish of, dear Sir, your much obliged and faithful Servt Thos Cubitt."

Cubitt's creation of the select residential suburb of Belgravia was a public relations triumph, as he was able to attract the rich and influential, and the Lowndes estate shared in the reflected glory of Belgrave Square.

Later in the nineteenth century, redevelopment started with the replacement of the block at the corner of Knightsbridge and Sloane Street by Harvey Nichols, an early department store.

By the end of the nineteenth century ground rents on the Lowndes estate in Knightsbridge generated a significant amount of income for the Lowndes family. At Christmas 1899 the then William Lowndes received £1,441 13s 0d net, after paying commission of £66 16s 8d. The majority of ground rents were of £10 or £15, for a year or half a year, but Harvey Nichols paid £946.

In the inter-war years the Lowndes family was badly affected by the agricultural depression, and most of their estates were progressively sold. The last of the Knightsbridge estate rents were sold to Capital and Counties property company in the 1960s.



An extract of Stanford's 1862 Library Map showing the Lowndes estate and surrounding area

Acknowledgements

The details of the building of the Estate are based on Hermione Hobhouse's *Thomas Cubitt, Master Builder*, Macmillan, 1971, without which this article would have been impossible.

The information on the Lowndes family is based on the extensive Lowndes archive at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, Aylesbury. This includes the letter quoted from Thomas Cubitt. (D/LO/6/15/28)

The portrait of William Lowndes is reproduced by kind permission © Queen's Printer and Controller of HMSO, 2006. UK Government Art Collection.

The map is taken from the 1980 copy of Stanford's *1862 Library Map of London and Its Suburbs*, published by Harry Margery, Lympne Castle, Kent in association with the Guildhall Library, London.



The Tower Liberty of Marine or Well Close Square

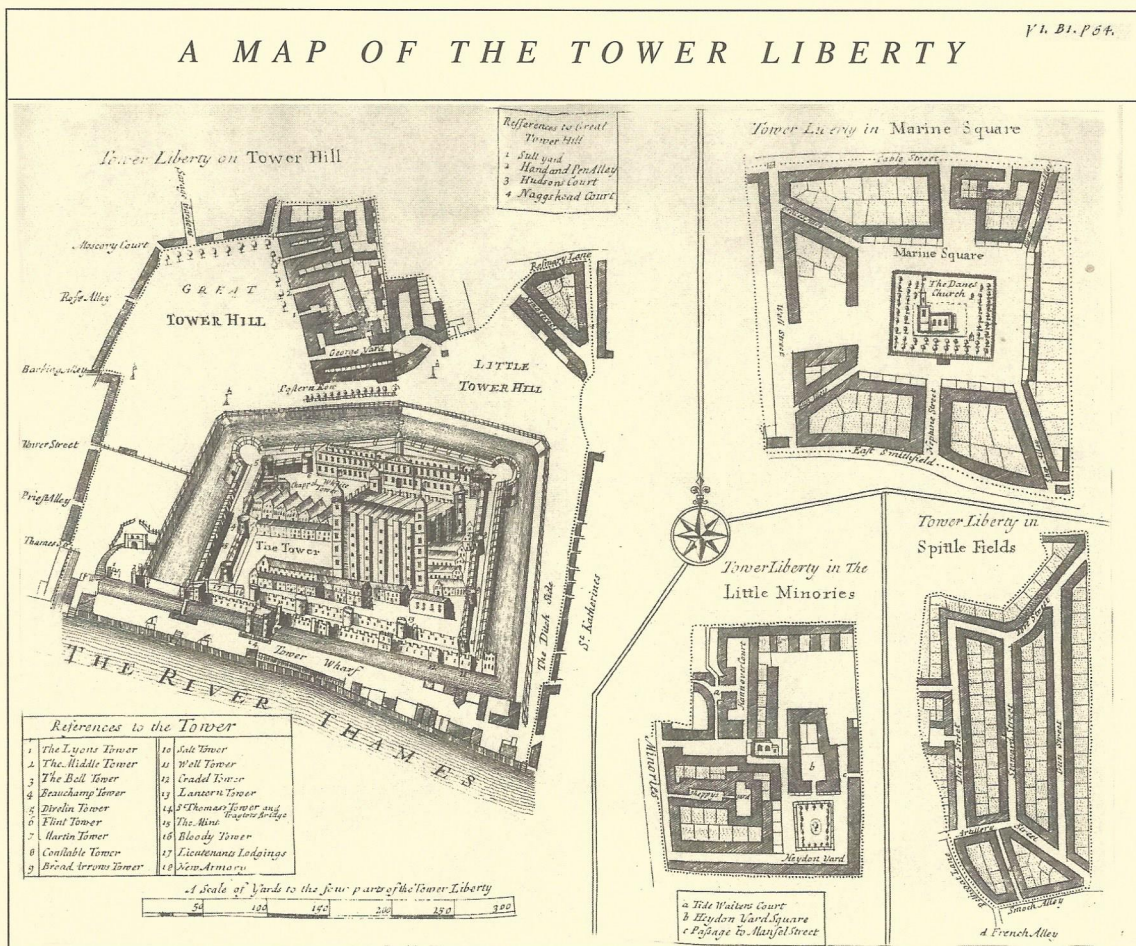
by Sarah Barter Bailey

The importance of the Tower of London as a centre for the supply and storage of the nation's arms and armour has been very well documented. Less often discussed has been the existence of the market on Tower Hill for guns for the merchant service and its related site, the "gun field", where these guns were proved. The earliest attempts by the government of Elizabeth I to control the market in, more specially, iron guns date from the 1570s. In 1578 an order of the Privy Council laid down that all iron gun founders were to deliver all their production to Tower Hill, into the control of the Lieutenant of the Tower, rather than to Tower Wharf as an earlier regulation had ordered [SP 12/45 p. 23]. These rules were reissued on average every ten years making it quite clear that they were not universally obeyed, but each reissue became more and more detailed, with rules as to the proof of the guns and the control of their sale and use.

By 1608 the regulations still referred to Tower Hill as the location of the market and spoke of "One place... such as the Mr. of his Maties. Ordinance shall appointe" as the place of proof. The 1619 regulations, however, were more specific. The market place was to be "kept at the farthest Tower Hill London commonlye called East Smiythfeild" and proof was to take place in "Ratcliffe fields as hereto-

fore hath bene accustomed" [SP 12/23/237/ fo.119-120v.]. Landing and shipping of iron ordnance was to be from Tower Wharf alone and the Lieutenant of the Tower was to facilitate this operation as necessary.

An official "prover of iron ordnance for the subject" – Thomas Nicholls in 1625, William Franklin from 1627 – appears in the Ordnance Office Debenture Books as being paid for carrying guns from Tower Hill to the fields to be proved and then carrying them back to the Wharf. The Office paid him for proving iron guns for government service, but he was still known as the "proofmaster for the subject" so presumably he served as the general prover of iron guns. One assumes that the "subjects", either purchasers or, more probably, the iron gun founders, paid for their own proofs. In 1636 and 1637 William Franklin received payments for proving iron guns for the official service. In July 1636 he was to be paid for "Carrying in of Earth & making upp the Butts in Gunnfield for the proving of ten long demi Culverings of Iron wth 34 and 35 c. wth a peece, wch were twice proved for his Mats service" and for "ffor field duties & for altering the Butts and for making them upp again for one demi Canon, w^{ch}. Was Carryed into Gunnfield for his Mats. Service...". In May 1637 he is described as being paid for "Carrying in of Earth and y^e Labourers making upp of the Butts in Gunn ffield for the proving of iiij^e demi Culverings of Iron wt. 34 c. 3 qrs and 34 c. 2 qrs. a peece and viij demj culvering drakes of Iron wt. 17 c. 3 qrs. And 17 c. 2



Plan of the Tower Liberties c. 1720

qrs a peece w^{ch} were twice proved and appointed for the Providence and the Expedition designed for Salley." [WO49/70].

These two entries make it clear that the butts were made up afresh each time they were used, rather than being permanent structures, but the general phrase "the fields" used in the earlier versions of the regulations has been replaced by "Gun field" implying a more regular use.

It has not so far been possible to identify a precise location for the "Gunfield" on surviving maps, but a suggestion can be made. If one assumes that the "Ratcliffe fields" of 1689 are the same area as "Gun field" of the 1630s and 1640s and that the road called East Smithfield, which now runs into Ratcliffe Highway, ran into it in the seventeenth century, it is possible to pinpoint a likely area and a possible site, which did in fact have a connection with the Tower and the Ordnance Office. This is the area which came to be known as Well Close Square or Marine Square. Well Close was a liberty of the Tower, a fact for which no satisfactory explanation has been found. In the early years of the seventeenth century the area would have been undeveloped and part of Ratcliff hamlet, but regular use by the Ordnance Office for proving guns, as well as the establishment of a saltpetre bank in the area, might well have given the Office "jurisdiction over", or even part ownership of, the area. The square was not developed until the 1670s and 1680s [Lipman, 1978] and was sold off when the Artillery Ground was sold off in 1682, but it is possibly significant that the earliest detailed map of the area, that in the Strype edition of Stow of 1720, shows the street leading out of the south-west corner of the square in the direction of the Tower as being named "Gun Alley".

In passing it is curious that no edition of Stow's Survey of London seems to mention the market for guns on Tower Hill, which must have been active during the period when it was compiled and thrice updated.

This discussion was originally published as part of an article "Early attempts to control the export of cast iron guns and the market on Tower Hill", J Ordnance Society 15 (2004).

Notes

V.D. Lipman. The Jurisdiction of the Tower authorities outside the walls [in] *The Tower of London, its buildings and Institutions*, London, 1978.

John Stow:

The Survey of London. London 1598 ed. A.M., H.D "and others". London 1613.

A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster ed. John Strype. London 1720.

A Token of the London Baker whose Oven sparked the Great Fire by R. H. Thompson

As is well known, the Great Fire of London in 1666 broke out in Pudding Lane, at the house of the King's baker. Akerman in 1849 commented: "We have never met with a Token of this tradesman, whose name was Faryner."¹ Nothing published in the next century and a half altered this judgement, but a long sought-for token can now be identified. Recent examination of a token once in the Norweb Collection and today in the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum can now be attributed to Thomas Farriner – with help from the London Topographical Society.

In the analysis of place-names on seventeenth-century tokens one was faced with the reading "REDRIF(FE) LANE" on the tokens numbered 256-7 in Williamson's Surrey chapter under ROTHERHITHE.² Given that *Redriff* was the usual pronunciation of Rotherhithe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, this seemed a reasonable attribution.³ Therefore the Norweb specimens of these tokens were published in Part V at numbers 5034-5, even though the actual name Redriff Lane could not be found earlier than a street-naming Order of 8th August 1873.⁴ Its locality was Rotherhithe Street, and it was assumed that the seventeenth-century "Redriff Lane" was an old name for (part of?) Rotherhithe Street. The Norweb tokens were, though, separated from Rotherhithe under the heading ROTHERHITHE STREET (Rotherhithe parish).⁵

Subsequent work on the City of London has included a search for token-issuers in the City Chamberlain's "Posting Book", where receipts of money were recorded for the staking out of foundations in the burned-out ruins of the City. Being in roughly alphabetical order, it resembles a street directory.⁶ On page sixty of the publication is the heading PUDDING LANE ALIAS REDERIFFE LANE, a totally unexpected occurrence of this latter name, which has no heading or reference in Harben's standard dictionary. His entry for Pudding Lane, Eastcheap, does mention the occurrence of Retherhethe Lane alias Podding Lane in 1552, and Raderiff Lane alias Pudding Lane in 1571, but nothing to suggest that a name like Rederiffe Lane was used thereafter. Stow in 1603 referred to Pudding Lane as "Rother lane, of olde time so called", but nothing closer in spelling or more recent. Ekwall simply stated that Pudding Lane "has been alternatively known as Rother Lane and the like", without dated examples.⁷ One would not have been aware of a seventeenth-century Rederiffe Lane without publication of the Posting Book by the London Topographical Society.

Thomas Farener (1615/16?-1670), who has an entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

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under another spelling of Farriner, was apprenticed in March 1629 to the London baker Thomas Dodson, becoming a member of the Bakers' Company on 30th March 1637. By 1649 he and his wife Hannah Mathewes were living in the parish of St Margaret, New Fish Street, already perhaps in the house on the east side of Pudding Lane, ten doors from Thames Street, which in 1666 contained five hearths and one oven. Early in the morning of Sunday 2nd September 1666 the baker and his family were awakened by smoke, and hurried over the rooftops to safety. Their maid, too timid to follow, was burned to death, as were half a dozen others in the City, while more than four-fifths of the buildings of London were destroyed.⁸

Farriner insisted that he had not been negligent, and the placing of a plaque in Pudding Lane by the Worshipful Company of Bakers supports the official conclusion that the fire was an accident. Although a stock of fuel had been placed near (or even in) the oven, a flash fire across flour dust now seems a possibility.

The ODNB considers it uncertain whether the baker returned to the Pudding Lane area after rebuilding. However, Thomas Farriner did pay for a foundation to be staked out in Pudding Lane on 20th January 1668[-9],⁹ and his token dated 1668 also suggests that he intended to return to what evidently he preferred to call "Redriffe Lane" and that he had no other trading address. Remarkably, the presence of an initial H for his wife appears to indicate that, three years after Hannah's death, and in a house which had to be rebuilt and presumably re-furnished, Thomas considered their household to be continuing. The site was covered with bricks and rubbish when the Keeper of the White Lion Gaol had it pointed out by Robert Hubert (c.1640-1666), who claimed to have fired the house, and so was hanged at Tyburn.¹⁰

The newly-attributed token has been catalogued already, but a reference at least can be made in Pudding Lane, where many have looked in vain for

tokens of the King's Bake-house. The existence of a token issued by the very baker on whose premises the Great Fire began has not been suspected hitherto.

A fuller version of this article first appeared in Spink Numismatic Circular Vol.113 (no.5), Oct. 2005, pp.315-16.

Notes:

1. J. Y. Akerman, *Tradesmen's Tokens current in London...* (London, 1849), p. 162.

2. G. C. Williamson, *Trade Tokens issued in the Seventeenth Century* (London, 1889-91), p. 1149.

3. English Place-Name Society, *The Place-Names of Surrey*, by J. E. B. Gover [et al.] (Cambridge, 1934), p. 29.

4. London County Council, *Names of Streets and Places in the Administrative County of London*, 4th edn. (London, 1955), p. 626.

5. SCBI 46: *The Norweb... Tokens... Part V...*, by R. H. Thompson and M. J. Dickinson (London, 1996).

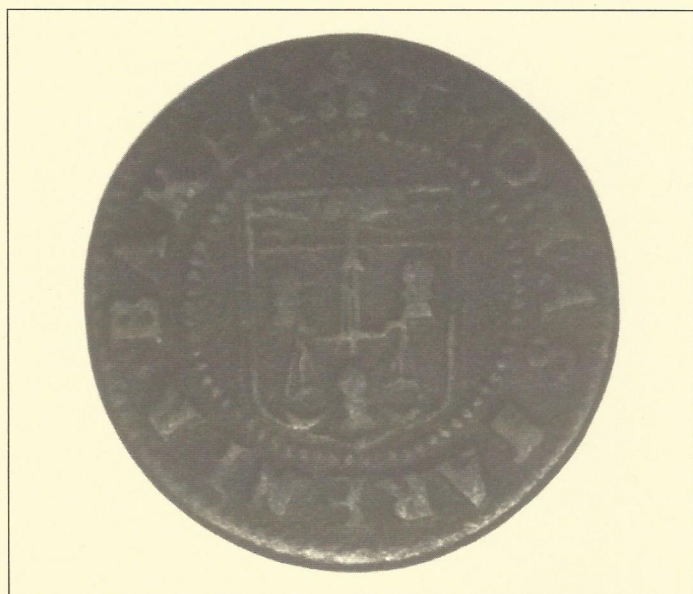
6. Peter Mills and John Oliver, *The Survey of Building Sites in the City of London after the Great Fire of 1666* (London, 1962-7), i. 2-84.

7. H. A. Harben, *A Dictionary of London* (London, 1918), pp. 488-9; John Stow, *A Survey of London, reprinted from the text of 1603* (Oxford, 1971), i. 206, 210-11; Eilert Ekwall, *Street-names of the City of London* (Oxford, 1954), p. 103.

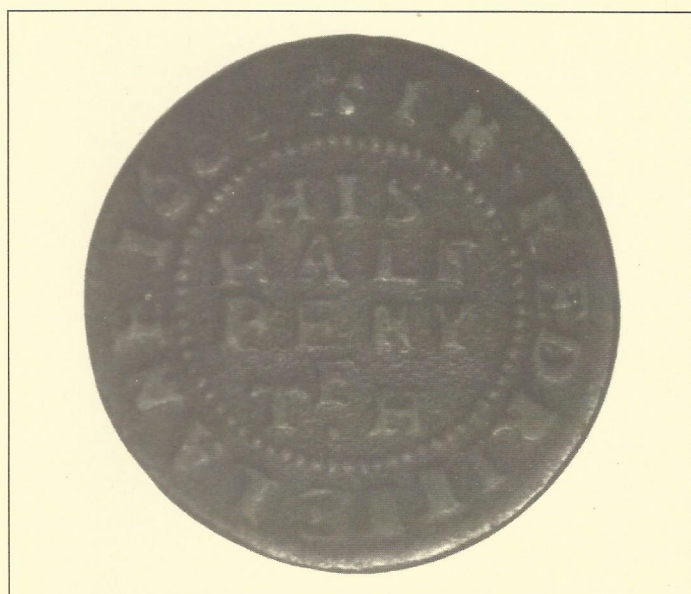
8. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004) s.v. Farriner, Thomas (1615/16?-1670), baker; PROB 11/334, f. 362, proved 23 December 1670.

9. Mills and Oliver (as ref. 6), i. 61.

10. Walter George Bell, *The Great Fire of London* (London, 1994), pp. 193-4. See also Samuel Pepys, *The Diary*, ed. Robert Latham and William Matthews (London, 1970-83), vii. 268, viii. 81-2, x. 138-40.



Obv. ·THOMAS-FARENER-BAKER around the Bakers' arms



Rev. ·IN-REDRIFFE-LANE-1668 around HIS | HALF | PENY | F | TH. BW Surrey 257

News

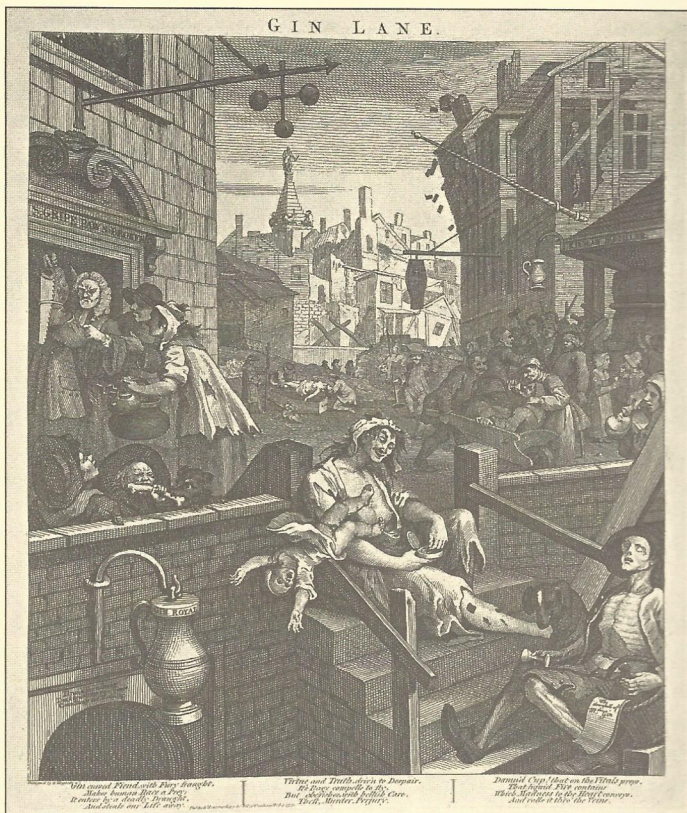
Dr Johnson's London

There will be an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Dr Johnson on Friday 12 May when Sue Weir, a Blue Badge Guide, leads a troupe of walkers from the Sir John Soane Museum to other places with Johnsonian associations. A curator-led tour around Lincoln's Inn Fields will be followed by a visit to the Hunterian Museum, a stroll through the Inns of Court and the squares and alleys of eighteenth-century London. The two-hour walk, which starts at 11am, will end at Dr Johnson's House in Gough Square. The cost, which includes all entrance charges, is £8 or £5 for concessions. Places are limited and booking is essential. Telephone 020 7869 6560 or e-mail museums@rcseng.ac.uk

Satirical London

In his introduction to Mark Bills's *The Art of Satire*, the book that accompanies the hugely entertaining exhibition at the Museum of London, Ian Hislop notes that prints of London sometimes adorned chamber pots. "There is a pleasing symmetry," he writes, "in knowing that those artists 'who take the piss' had it, literally, given back to them." *Private Eye*, which Hislop edits, is the modern equivalent of a long succession of publications that continue to prick egos and lampoon the absurdities and stupidities of the London scene.

Mark Bills, the curator of the Satirical London exhibition, has assembled some 350 cartoons, many of them original drawings, from the museum's large collection, and he shows how many of the prints were made by including etched and engraved plates

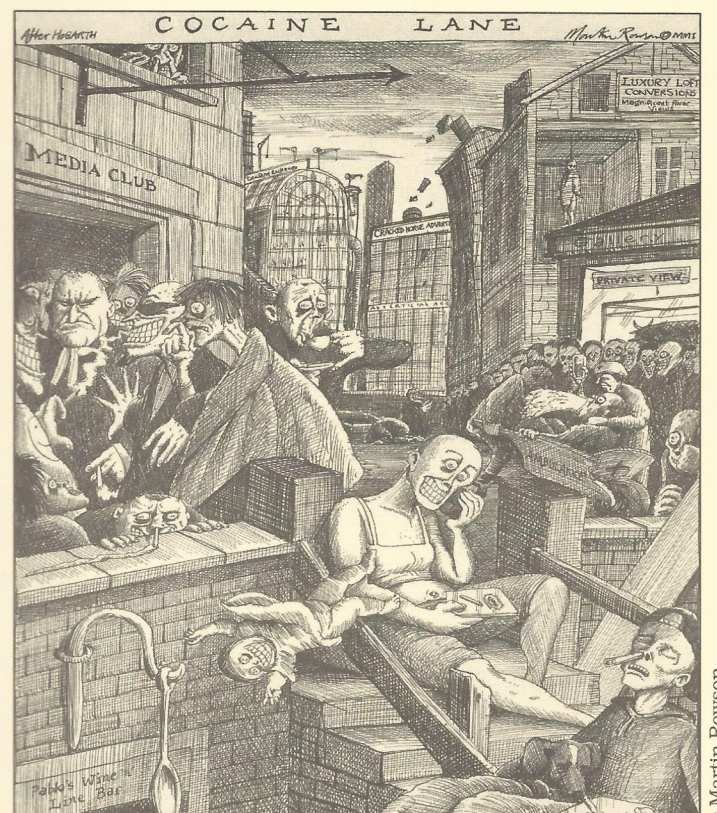


Hogarth's Gin Lane from Beer Street and Gin Lane, 1750

and a printing press. A recreation of Mrs Humphrey's Print Shop in St James's Street is one inspired way of breaking up wall after wall of pictures. The bow-fronted shop that Hannah Humphrey (c.1745-1818) moved to from Old Bond Street was immortalised by Gillray and Bills has been able to gather together the original caricatures shown in the window, all by Gillray, of course, who was published by Mrs Humphrey.

The exhibition spans 300 years, from Hogarth through Gillray, Rowlandson and the Cruikshank brothers to H.M. Bateman and into modern times with cartoons from artists who draw for such papers as the *Guardian*, *Independent* and *Sunday Times*. Martin Rowson has great fun sending up a "Private View at the White Cube" in Hoxton with a fierce crocodile-faced Sir Nicholas Serota lording it over revelling guests. In his "Oxford Street" a bishop sells the *Big Issue* and he also finds fun at the Chelsea Flower Show. Patrick Blower's 1996 "London in the New Millennium" is hilarious: it merits a full ten-minute inspection. His West End is packed with minute detail: numerous houses bear tiny blue plaques announcing "Salman Rushdie lived here" – the dates continually changing – and a pub with the face of Richard Branson declares itself to be "an ale and hash" house.

Besides memorable cartoons such as Bateman's "The Man who Asked for a Second Helping at a City Company Dinner" and George Cruikshank's illustrations of the Regency swells Tom and Jerry on sprees in Pierce Egan's *Life in London* (1821), there are three-dimensional objects – grotesque Toby jugs, snuff boxes and the Spitting Image latex heads of Margaret Thatcher and the Queen Mother. Even the seating in the exhibition has been covered



Martin Rowson's Cocaine Lane (after Hogarth), 2001

in cloth featuring bottoms – taken from a Gillray drawing. You will probably need more than one visit – it is free – to take in the amusing details in these original watercolours, drawings and prints in this fun-filled exhibition. It is at the Museum of London until 3rd September.

The Cartoon Museum

Still on the subject of satire the new Cartoon Museum is also destined to keep you chuckling. Just a stone's throw from the British Museum, it is housed in an old dairy with an excellent shop that leads to two good sized rooms at street level, one of which rises to the roof with a gallery looking down onto the larger room. The 250 cartoons displayed illustrate some of the highlights of British cartoon and comic art and as the works are changed regularly the chances of seeing the same cartoons in six months' time is slim. Certain areas have themed displays – Mars in Your Eyes from 21 April to 30 June featuring explorations of Mars seen through the eyes of cartoonists.

The museum's own collection runs to more than 1,200 cartoons by every caricaturist of note from 1700 to the present day. Nor does it have to rely on its own resources: it is able to borrow from the huge collection held at the Centre for Cartoons and Caricature at the University of Kent in Canterbury. Over 7,000 cartoons by Carl Giles who drew for Express Newspapers from 1943 to 1995 are kept here, and it was good to encounter a cut-out of Granny Giles lurking ominously at the entrance to the Calman Gallery, a room that features work by many of Calman's contemporaries, among them Michael Ffolkes and Nicholas Garland whose most recent contribution was drawn only a few weeks ago.

A timeline traces the evolution of the cartoon art-form in this country, and in sections dealing with the Golden Age 1770-1830 are examples by Gillray, Robert Dighton, "Paul Pry" (William Heath) and others. An area devoted to comic art was evoking nostalgic memories for one visitor when I was there. He was telling his girlfriend how David Law's Dennis the Menace in *The Beano* and Frank Hampson's Dan Dare for the *Eagle* had enlivened his childhood.

The museum has good research facilities – its library holds 3,000 books, including a complete run of *Punch*, and there is a room where children and adults may attend cartooning, caricature and animation classes. Although this is a small museum and has only been open since February, it is proving extremely popular, attracting more than a hundred visitors a day and some 400 on Saturdays.

The Cartoon Museum is at 35 Little Russell Street, WC1. Tel: 020 7580 8155. Open Tues-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm. Admission £2.50; £1.50 concessions; students and under-18s free.

Benjamin Franklin House

Benjamin Franklin, the polymath architect of the United States of America and a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, spent many years in

London. As a young man he had worked in a print shop and had modest lodgings in Jermyn Street. When he returned thirty years later, in 1757, to mediate in the growing friction between England and the colonies he found "genteel lodgings" at 36 Craven Street. Here in a narrow terraced house he lived for more than fifteen years, establishing what was, in effect, the first American embassy in London. It is the only surviving house that Franklin lived in on either side of the Atlantic.

In January, on the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth, the five-storey redbrick house by the side of Charing Cross station opened to the public. In a campaign spearheaded by the late Earl of Bessborough's Philadelphia-born wife Mary, and with support from President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the Friends of Benjamin Franklin House were able to acquire the derelict house from British Rail in 1990. A subsequent grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled it to be restored and opened. Most of the wood panelling, the central staircase where Franklin exercised, the window shutters and fireplaces remain intact. But as the house has no furnishings visitors are taken through the rooms on a forty-five minute audio-visual tour. After a short film in the basement, an actress impersonating Mrs Polly Hewson, the daughter of Franklin's landlady Margaret Stevenson, leads a maximum of twelve visitors through the kitchen to the ground floor front parlour and upstairs to the rooms where the representative of the Pennsylvania Assembly entertained William Pitt, Joseph Priestley and Thomas Paine. In each room the story of Franklin's inventions and achievements is projected onto the walls and Mrs Hewson adds personal details garnered from memoirs and from the correspondence she had with Franklin after he returned to the States in 1775.

It is not the ideal way to visit this interesting early eighteenth-century house, though the films provide a glimpse into the personal as well as the private life of one of America's greatest leaders. It was noticeable that the eight people on my tour were all Americans, and most of an age when a couple of benches in each room would have been appreciated.

Benjamin Franklin House, 36 Craven Street, WC2 is open Wed-Sun 9.45am-5pm (daily June-Sept). Admission: £8 or £5 concessions. Maximum twelve people per tour. Tel: 020 7839 2006. Tickets must be obtained from the box office at the New Players Theatre (underneath the Arches between Villiers and Craven streets) where the tours start.

Lost London

A small selection from a remarkable collection of watercolours by a little known Victorian artist is to be seen in the print room at Guildhall Library until 10th June. John Crowther, born in Pudsey in Yorkshire in 1837, is known to have lived in Chelsea, Southwark and at the end of the century in Kennington Park. In the first year that he exhib-

ited at the Royal Academy, in 1876, he received a commission from Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, a leading barrister and a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, to paint endangered London buildings. It took Crowther fifteen years and the result is a series of 400 paintings of buildings that were scheduled for demolition or likely to vanish. He painted Wren churches that were pulled down in the 1880s and 1890s, and captured the rich interiors of many livery halls, notably several that were bombed during the Second World War, among them the Ironmongers' and the Mercers'.

The collection was given to the City Corporation in 1961 by Sir Charles's grandson, Sir Edward Chadwyck-Healey, the chairman of Charrington & Co, the brewers. This is a collection that demands a far bigger audience than Guildhall Library's print room can accommodate and it would be nice to think that the adjacent Art Gallery or the Barbican Centre could be persuaded to mount a larger, more comprehensive exhibition of Crowther's lost London.

Floating London

The artist Peter Spens has been spending long hours on the top of some of London's tallest buildings. The result is a series of paintings – bird's eye views – of the streets and buildings below. He was high up in the IPC Tower when the Tate Modern was being transformed and from the Shell Tower he was able to capture the London Eye under construction in 1999 and three years later the Hungerford pedestrian bridge. As well as the views east, south and west from the tenth floor of the former Shellmex building on the Strand, there are a number of night views. The forty paintings and drawings of the river and the city are on show in Guildhall Art Gallery until 4th June.

Brand Images

London has some very strange museums, one of the newest being the Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising. Within it lies the origins of our consumer society. Everyday items – from cars to telephones to holidays – are all wrapped up in packaging and advertising that we take for granted. The Robert Opie Collection is displayed in a time tunnel in which you can trace social tastes and tempos, the whims of style and fashion and the advent of aviation and the jazz age. In 10,000 items the evolution of graphic design can be followed: everything from Kellogg's Corn Flakes packages to washing powders to advertisements for all manner of goods is here.

The Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising is located at 2 Colville Mews, Lonsdale Road, Notting Hill, London W11 2AR.

Information: 020 7908 0880 or
email info@museumofbrands.com or
www.museumofbrands.com

Open Tues-Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 11am-4pm.
Admission: £5.80, children £2, concessions £3.50.
Family £14.

Book Reviews

The 1542 Inventory of Whitehall Palace: The Palace and its Keeper.

Transcribed and edited by Maria Hayward. 2 vols. ISBN 0-954 7916-0-6. Illuminata Publishers for the Society of Antiquaries, 2004. Vol. I – Commentary, Vol. II – The Transcripts. £125.00.

In 1998, this Society published a Plan of Whitehall Palace in 1670, with a substantial introduction by Simon Thurley. We learnt who the Officers of State were and where they were placed, but we could not see inside the rooms. Now, with these two amazing volumes, transcribed and edited by LTS member Maria Hayward, we move back 128 years and get a little nearer visualising the interior of the Palace.

Henry VIII was an obsessive acquirer of objects of all sorts. He was also determined to keep control of all that he owned. Towards the end of his life he ordered Sir Anthony Denny, Keeper of the Palace, to make a full Inventory of all that was within the walls of Whitehall. The list is amazing, in its length, its particularity and in its clarity. For this, we must praise Sir Anthony and his trusty secretary, Nicholas Bristow. There are 4,149 entries, many of multiple objects; Bristow has signed each page.

Dr Hayward gives a detailed analysis of the administration of the Palace which, though it needs to be read with careful attention, is fascinating. Then, in the Introduction and with the transcription, she turns to the individual objects. The King clearly loved maps and paintings, and Maria traces the history of one of them now in the National Gallery – Holbein's portrait of the teenage Duchess of Milan, whom Henry sought as his fourth wife. She turned him down decisively (Vol. I, pp. 2-6), but he kept the painting in his own room to the day of his death – had he been genuinely touched by her bright face, engaging though at the same time demure? The recital of his possessions runs on through the entire second volume, 310 pages of elegant printing – gold and silver plate, bedsteads, tables, cushions, small terracotta sculptures, guns, what sounds very much like a couch with an adjustable back (Vol. II, p. 166), musical instruments, glasses for drinking and looking, nine close stools (Vol. II, p. 255) covered in fringed and embroidered velvet, and provided, necessarily, with removable pewter bowls, and quantities of lengths of all sorts of textiles, described minutely and mouth-wateringly. The reader turns from page to page in amazement, overwhelmed by the King's profusion of possessions. One can only wonder at Bristow's industry in listing it all – and at Maria's application in making the transcript.

This is not a pair of volumes which we are all going to rush out to buy, but it is something of which we all need to be aware. We should applaud both those in the mid-sixteenth century who compiled the Inventory, and all those who today have laboured with equal zeal to make it available to

readers in the world at large. The persistence shown in each century is amazing and we can only congratulate both teams, however many centuries separate them.

– Ann Saunders

Researching London's Houses

By Colin Thom. 2005. Historical Publications. ISBN 1-905286-00-7, 192 pages. 124 illustrations. £13.95.

This book will become a permanent resource on the shelves of local historians, genealogists and all those devoted to the past of the capital. It is the work of Colin Thom, senior researcher to the Survey of London, and deals with the evolution and provision of housing in London for ordinary people. Neither the accommodation which the pitifully poor could find nor the mansions of the aristocracy and wealthier citizens are its concerns; it concentrates on the kind of dwelling in which the middle classes of all degrees made their homes from the late seventeenth century onwards.

The introduction gives an overview of the development of London's houses since medieval times – their methods of construction and planning, their style and their appearance – and goes on to consider, chapter by chapter, the main documentary sources for tracing their history and that of their inhabitants – title deeds, estate records, rates and taxes, censuses, records of fire insurance, probate and death duties. It ends with three case histories, one for a small Georgian terrace house, another for its Victorian counterpart, and the third for an inter-war suburban dwelling which needed a garage.

The roll call of acknowledgements shows how widely the author has trawled for information, and emphasises the level of scholarly co-operation throughout the archive repositories and libraries of the metropolis. The enchanting watercolour used for the cover, painted in 1940 by S.B. Matthey and provided by Greenwich Heritage Centre from its collection, shows a view across the Thames from Shooters Hill; its delicacy gives an ethereal charm to the suburban houses with their long front gardens and gates open in welcome.

– Ann Saunders

Greater London History Sources

Volume 2. Middlesex – Part I.

Series editors: Richard Knight, Kathleen Shawcross. Guildhall Library Publications in association with the Greater London Archives Network. 2005. 235 pages; six black and white photographs and two maps. ISBN 0-900422-52-1. £11.95.

This is an invaluable guide for researchers to the printed and visual materials, archives and manuscripts held in public-funded local record offices and local studies collections. Volume 2 covers the boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Ealing, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon and Hounslow. The addresses, telephone numbers, e-

mail and website details of all the archives and local studies centres are listed together with useful practical information about transport links, parking and opening hours. Information is also given about the catalogues and indexes, published research guides and services that are available. Then come descriptions of each borough's holdings: printed materials, visual and audio-visual materials and collections of museum objects. The final sections describe the holdings of archives and manuscripts. Where non-London archives are held, these, too, are described. There is an excellent index, cross-referenced so that if you are looking for the Daniel and Nicoll Charities records from 1728-1960 in Hendon, they are to be found not only under C for Charities but also in D and N.

House Building and Builders in Wandsworth c.1850-1915

By Keith Bailey. Wandsworth Historical Society, Wandsworth Paper 13. 2005. ISBN 0 905121 14 7. 40 pages. 9 illustrations. Available from Hilary Sims, 112 Putney Bridge Road, London SW18 1NJ. £2.50 + 60p. postage

The importance of the District Surveyors' Returns in elucidating the history of London's housing has recently been brought to the fore, particularly in Colin Thom's *Researching London's Houses* (review above). One consequence of the great Metropolitan Building Act of 1845 – the requirement of builders to report their operations to the district surveyor, and his obligation to maintain detailed reports on building works in his area – has provided us with a research tool of fundamental importance, available at London Metropolitan Archives (though unfortunately the returns for 1853-70 were destroyed). Mr Bailey and his colleagues have been studying the returns relating to Wandsworth London Borough ("longer than we care to remember") and, supplemented by the records of the local Board of Works (including plans submitted by builders or architects), sales particulars and some private archives, they have compiled this valuable study.

The pattern of house-building in Wandsworth is examined, Battersea leading the way in the 1870s, followed by Putney, Wandsworth parish and Balham a decade later, and Tooting Graveney rushing to catch up around the turn of the century. By 1914, only Roehampton had substantial tracts "still occupied only by great houses and their grounds", though undeveloped patches lay all over the modern borough. Bailey then analyses and lists the builders themselves, the extent and period of their individual operations. This bears out very strongly the established picture of great numbers of firms, operating for brief periods on a small scale, together with a few large firms of a more enduring character, such as Alfred Heaver (1841-1901), responsible for 740 houses between 1867 and 1902. Thus of the 3,057 builders who erected 60,746 houses there in 1856-1915, only 3.9 per cent were responsible for 39.4 per cent of the dwellings.

This study shows admirably how a small team of local historians may produce work of significant interest in a larger picture.

– M.H. Port

A History of Highams Park & Hale End

By M.L. Dunhill. 2005. Phillimore & Co. Ltd. ISBN 1 86077 333 8. 168 pages Black & white photographs & maps. £15.99.

This is a well produced local history which tackles a little known part of the present borough of Waltham Forest, lying between Chingford and Woodford. The rural hamlet of Hale End was transformed after the railway arrived in the 1870s, and in the early twentieth century became the suburb of Highams Park. The name came from the (still extant) mansion called Highams, which was owned from 1849 by the Warners, developers of many of the surrounding roads. But the book has little about upper class life or the economics of development, for it focuses on skilfully presented anecdotes of life in the emergent suburb, gleaned from oral history. There are intriguing details about the origins of the new suburban settlers – predictably they included many from London's East End, but also a sizeable Welsh community with its own church. Reminiscences are grouped under headings such as schools, shopping centre and leisure activities. What gives this book special interest is the chapter on the Xylonite “factory in a garden”, which made Highams Park distinctive among other suburbs of this period. The factory made items from celluloid, including ping pong balls (of which they were the sole manufacturer). Until 1963 it was run by the Merriam family, and attracted much local loyalty for its benevolent management and the amenities provided for its workforce. It is instructive to read of the human impact of such an enterprise, so difficult to glean from bare industrial statistics.

– Bridget Cherry

The Making of Modern Twickenham

By J.M. Lee. 2005. Historical Publications. ISBN 1-905286-08-2. 168 pages. 64 illustrations. £11.95.

This book is a detailed history of Twickenham's development during the twentieth century, largely focused on the way in which local council decisions affected property and transport in the centre of the town. It makes an interesting case study in modern local government.

Among the council's chief concerns – unfortunately never resolved – was the traffic bottle-neck at the heart of the town. Another was the succession of redundant grand houses which came onto the market in the 1920s and 1930s. A surprisingly large number of them were bought by the council, in order to add to the town's open spaces after demolishing the buildings.

John Lee also documents Twickenham's rather unsuccessful attempt to establish its own identity. Its inhabitants tend to ignore their local facilities,

crossing the river to Richmond for shopping, restaurants, cinemas and other entertainment.

The book is clearly based on a very substantial amount of original research, with extensive footnotes and a comprehensive index. The general reader may find it rather difficult to see the wood for the trees, however, as it is densely packed with detailed information about properties and politicians, builders and developers. For a book so concerned with individual roads and buildings it is a pity that the maps are often reproduced on too small a scale to be much use.

One final thought: although the author talked to several of the protagonists, the book gives the impression of being compiled almost entirely from council minutes and local newspaper reports. It might have been livelier if individuals had talked about their successes, failures and secrets. As it stands, twentieth-century Twickenham would appear to have been disappointingly, and implausibly, free of corruption and scandal.

The Westminster & Pimlico Book

By Richard Tames. 2005. Historical Publications. ISBN 1-905286-04 X. 136 pages. 207 black and white illustrations. £14.50.

The industrious Richard Tames has applied himself to Westminster and Pimlico – alphabetically from Abbey Orchard Street to the Woolstaple. Given his productivity, and the importance of this area, Westminster and Pimlico could easily have made two books in the Historical Publications mode. That way we might have gained in depth and substance.

It was in 1993 that Isobel Watson gave us *Westminster and Pimlico Past* (also Historical Publications). With her flowing narrative on the bookshelf alongside the recent Pevsner, *London 6: Westminster* (2003), which of course includes Pimlico, and *The London Encyclopaedia* (1993) what does *The Westminster & Pimlico Book* offer over and above those stalwarts? Biography – the author appears to be developing a penchant for biography. Fair enough, the Grosvenor family, Thomas Cubitt, three generations of Cundy surveyors, Sir Charles Barry and Sir James Pennethorne were central to the history and development of the area – indeed the Duke of Westminster still is. Entries on Samuel Pepys, John Wilkes and Baroness Burdett-Coutts can likewise be justified, but pieces on Olaudah Equiano (whose chilblains were treated at St George's Hospital), Percy Armytage (London's first professional party-organiser), the incoherent Dr William Parker and Laura Ashley (whose tea-towels were produced in Pimlico), seem bizarre.

– Penelope Hunting

The Ealing Book

By Peter Hounsell. 2005. Historical Publications. ISBN 1-905286-03-1. 128 pages. 181 illustrations. £14.50.

Having exhausted the run of hardback titles in the Location Past series with themed chapters, Historical Publications is now producing card covered titles with alphabetical encyclopaedia-style entries of a few hundred words each. *The Ealing Book*, covering the pre-1965 borough, contains a wide range of photographs, an average 1.5 to a page, emanating mainly from the local library and the author, with a reproduction of the local portion of Rocque and a plan of Pitshanger Park. There is an index which is essential to obtain full information on subjects incidental to the alphabetical entries: there is no index entry under terrorism but the index entry under bomb led to the alphabetical article entitled "Ealing Bomb" (it exploded outside a central pub just before 9/11).

The author claims forty-five years' association with Ealing and the Cline family can claim even longer, my grandfather following others with Indian-associated careers to find a home in one of the huge semi-detached villas near the Common. The many varied entries enabled me to refresh family memories of this prosperous (Queen of the Suburbs) and rapidly changing borough – the description of many of the buildings I knew as a child ending with their dates of demolition. Personalities, buildings and institutions are all covered. Recommended.

– Roger Cline

Streets of the City

By Judy Pulley. 2006. Capital History. ISBN 185414 294 1. 96 pages. 87 illustrations. £16.95.

Judy Pulley's intention has been to recreate the "past" of the twenty-six main thoroughfares in the City of London from earliest times to the Second World War, though she ventures briefly into modern times when necessary to tell us, for instance, that Gamage's store on Holborn closed in 1972 and that Temple Bar is back in the City. As a blue badge guide as well as a City guide, she is ably qualified to recall the buildings, events and personalities that have left their mark. She does so in a readable and knowledgeable text that, quite properly, veers into the narrow alleys and passages that lead off the main highways. In Fleet Street, for example, she takes a detour to the river to recall Henry VIII's Bridewell Palace as probably the place where he and Catherine of Aragon met for the last time before their divorce. She also records that it was here in 1553, in its last year as a grand residence before becoming a prison and later a home for destitute children, that Hans Holbein painted the intriguing "The Ambassadors" that hangs today in the National Gallery.

The book, well illustrated with engravings and old photographs, is full of fascinating asides such as

the fact that the first bomb of the Second World War fell in Fore Street where, a year later, in a wasteland of wild flowers and vegetation the Home Guard trained in the ruins.

– Denise Silvester-Carr

Sporting London: A Race Through Time

By Richard Tames. 2005. Historical Publications. ISBN 1-905286-06-6. 192 pages. 142 illustrations. £17.95.

So fast off the mark in commemorating the awarding of the 2012 Olympic Games to London that jumping the gun might be suspected, this is the latest of the swelling band of Richard Tames books on London. It offers a lively, entertaining and well-illustrated account – sport by sport and topic by topic – of London's rich and quirky sporting history. We are given much out of the way information not just on London as the birthplace of so much sporting activity, but also as the great codifying and law-making centre of international sport. As the author points out, in one of many examples, snooker may have come from India, but its rules were formalised in Fleet Street.

We visit Lord's, the Oval, Tattersall's, Twickenham, Wembley, the White City, Wimbledon and all the other places virtually synonymous with their sports. And we are given some rather more unexpected sights – a stag-hunt in the Euston Road, the Royal Toxophilite Society in Bayswater, skittles in Clerkenwell, a putting green on the top of Adelaide House, the German Gymnasium at St Pancras, the velodrome at Herne Hill, and even a race between a penny-farthing and a horse in Islington.

While (from the topographical point of view) one might have wished for rather more on the impact of sport on the built environment, architecture and infrastructure, and the interaction between sport and urban landscape, that is clearly not what the book is about. It is a book for Londoners who enjoy their sport – in all its professional and amateur manifestations – and as such it succeeds very well.

– Laurence Worms

The Art of Satire: London in Caricature

By Mark Bills. 2006. Philip Wilson Publishers. ISBN 0 85667 627 6, 228 pages. 243 illustrations. £19.95.

This book accompanies the enjoyable exhibition at the Museum of London (p9), but it is not a catalogue. Indeed only a selection of the caricatures in the exhibition are reproduced here. Mark Bills has selected numerous other satirical drawings to illustrate his general survey of how English caricature and the print trade developed in London between 1700 and 1900, though a brief chapter at the end mentions the multi-faceted expansion of visual satire in the twentieth century.

The satire that developed in London in the eighteenth century owed a debt to Leonardo da Vinci

whose drawings of grotesque heads in the Earl of Arundel's collection were transcribed by Wenceslaus Hollar. The prints that Hollar made after them were to influence many later artists like William Hogarth and particularly Thomas Rowlandson in late eighteenth century.

Rowlandson and his contemporary James Gillray were both prolific and, as Bills points out, very different. Gillray was predominantly a political artist whose outrageous and imaginative work, both symbolically and allegorically, served his arguments. Rowlandson was closer to a fine-art tradition. He had won prizes at the Royal Academy Schools and his drawings, free from written commentary, are filled with human comedy. His collaboration with his publisher friend Rudolph Ackermann resulted in many series of prints, including the *Street Cries of London* and *The Microcosm of London*.

At the end of this excellent survey of the print trade in London is a map of topographical interest since it pinpoints the whereabouts of the major satirical print sellers in London prior to 1750 and up to 1830.

– Denise Silvester-Carr

London: A Historical Companion

By Kenneth Panton. 2005. Tempus Publishing Ltd. ISBN 0 7524 3434 9. 472 pages. 93 illustrations. £20.

After a brief introduction the main part of Kenneth Panton's book is an encyclopaedia or, as he prefers, a dictionary. The format is similar but not as comprehensive as *The Encyclopaedia of London*. Additionally, it contains accounts of events such as the Gordon Riots and the Kings Cross fire as well as a number of biographies of men who have made important contributions to London – and a few like the Kray twins who have been a scourge. The selection of what and who is included is somewhat arbitrary – the long since abandoned Museum of the Moving Image rates an entry which, at least, says it has closed but no Museum in Docklands. As it was first published in the USA and subsequently has been updated, it is odd to find that a number of errors have never been corrected. Take, for example, the George Inn in the yard of the same name in Borough High Street. Panton places it in a few hundred yards away in Tooley Street, all the more surprising as he taught London's history at London Guildhall University for twenty-five years. The updating is also spasmodic – seemingly Panton does not know that the Dolmetsch collection of musical instruments and the Suffolk collection of portraits (now at Kenwood) left Ranger's House years ago and while Carlyle's House has an entry there is nothing for other National Trust houses such as Fenton House, Red House or Sutton House. The lack of an index is frustrating.

The London Monster: Terror on the Streets in 1790

By Jan Bondeson. 2005. Tempus Publishing Ltd. ISBN 0 7524 3327 X. 287 pages. 34 illustrations. £12.99.

If you're a crime enthusiast suffering from an excess of Ripperana churned out on an almost weekly basis, then try Bondeson's riveting account of another series of unsolved crimes a century earlier. Bondeson, known for his publications on freaks, medical hysterics and human oddities, has unearthed a wonderful collection of grotesques in late Georgian London, centring on a bizarre series of attacks on women by a serial groper who may or may not have been one Rhynewick Williams. The sordid details of the case gave rise to a blizzard of bawdy pamphlets and cartoons and Bondeson makes good use of these in his no-holds barred account, even including a complete list of the names of all the ladies who claimed to have been assaulted, and their actual injuries.

Bondeson adds a chapter on similar attacks in later times, mostly in continental Europe characterised under the title of "Monster". Williams, whether guilty or not, was lucky to get merely a short prison sentence, which suggests that the court regarded much of the so-called evidence as hysteria. The entire unlikely story has the overtones of a bad television soap opera – read it and weep.

– David Webb

Decadent London

By Antony Clayton. 2005. Historical Publications. ISBN 1-905286-07-04. 200 pages. 101 illustrations. £18.95.

In case you are worried by 200 pages of decadence, be not dismayed! This well researched book could easily be titled "Unconventional London". There is plenty of scandal but also plenty of the emerging new wave of painting, literature and architecture which are now acceptable and even fashionable. The expert in one of the many fields covered may find minor errors inevitable in such a wide range of subjects but for a good survey of artistic life in London towards the end of the Victorian era this is an informative and entertaining book with interesting information such as the fact that Trust House Forte emanated from the trust set up to buy the premises of licensees bankrupted by the drop in alcohol consumption following the worries about the Boer War. The topographic interest is served in the extensive index.

– Roger Cline

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New membership enquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Patrick Frazer. Correspondence about existing membership including renewal payments, requests for standing orders and gift-aid forms and the non-receipt of publications (after September) also any change of address, should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, Roger Cline. The Honorary Editor, Ann Saunders, deals with proposals for new publications.

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LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2005

| Income | 2005 £ | 2004 £ | Expenditure | 2005 £ | 2004 £ |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Subscriptions paid by members | 19,936.00 | 18,906.00 | Members' subscription publications | | |
| Subscriptions from earlier years | 40.00 | 20.00 | Cost of Printing | 11,066.63 | 4,458.67 |
| Income Tax from Covenants/Gift Aid | 4,651.32 | 10,859.10 | Cost of Distribution | 4,123.86 | 1,096.84 |
| Total subscription income | 24,627.32 | 29,785.10 | Provision for next year's publication | 20,000.00 | 25,000.00 |
| Profit from sales of Publications | 10,168.14 | 7,380.52 | Total cost of members' publications | 30,190.49 | 30,555.51 |
| Interest received | 5,281.77 | 3,981.13 | Newsletters | 2,429.50 | 2,632.84 |
| Grant Scouloudi Foundation | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | AGM | 2,018.34 | 902.75 |
| Sundry donations | 397.70 | 192.61 | Administration | 160.00 | 641.00 |
| Total Income for the year | 41,474.93 | 42,339.36 | Publications Storage and Service | 1,370.25 | 1,466.18 |
| | | | Total Administration Costs | 5,978.18 | 5,643.33 |
| | | | Total expenditure for the year | 36,168.67 | 36,198.84 |
| | | | Surplus/(Deficit) for the year | 306.26 | 6,140.52 |

BALANCE SHEET 31 December 2005

| Assets | 2005 £ | 2004 £ | Liabilities | 2005 £ | 2004 £ |
|--|------------|------------|---|------------|------------|
| Money in bank & National Savings | 152,301.90 | 139,661.51 | Overseas members' postage | 100.00 | 185.00 |
| Advance payment | 38.00 | - | Subscriptions paid in advance | 3,488.00 | 4,620.00 |
| Value of Society's stock of publications | | | Unexpected provision for 2005 publication | 20,000.00 | 16,579.00 |
| Stock at end of previous year | 18,277.14 | 12,895.69 | Total Liabilities | 21,384.00 | 4,196.00 |
| Additions to stock | - | 142.50 | Net Worth of the Society | 136,860.91 | 136,554.65 |
| Less Value of publications sold | -10,168.14 | -14,761.00 | | | |
| Revaluation | - | 20,000.00 | Change in net worth | | |
| Value of stock at year end | 8,109.01 | 18,277.14 | Previous year's net worth | 136,554.65 | 110,414.13 |
| Total assets | 160,448.91 | 157,938.65 | Surplus for the year | 306.26 | 6,141.52 |
| | | | Revaluation of stock | | 20,000.00 |
| | | | End of year net worth | 136,860.91 | 136,554.65 |

These accounts are being submitted to the Auditor and I hope to present them with the Auditor's certificate at the AGM.