

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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Marylebone seen from Centrepoint, with All Saints Margaret Street in the centre. Historic England Archives

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Obituary

Francis Henry Wollaston Sheppard

10 September 1921- 22 January 2018

Between 1954 and his retirement in 1983 Francis Sheppard produced no fewer than 16 volumes of *The Survey of London*, transforming what had been a sporadic and selective record of London's historic buildings, area by area, into a model of urban topographical writing, rich in content, authoritative, gracefully composed, beautifully illustrated, and still an unequalled resource for anyone interested in London's history and architecture. No city in the world can boast an equivalent to *The Survey of London* series, which is now well past its 50th volume. It owes its modern form and reputation to Sheppard, who may be fairly claimed to be London's greatest topographical writer since John Stow, the Elizabethan historian.

That Sheppard's name is not better known is due to his modesty. Disliking fuss, he was content to be a tiny cog in the municipal machine that was the London county council, later the Greater London council, so long as he was allowed to get on with the job, aided by a small team of loyal subordinates. Some mornings he would bound up the stairs of County Hall, not waiting for the lift, bolt like a rabbit into his office and nestle between a fan of papers, hardly emerging before the next draft chapter had been completed for the typist in his beetling longhand. On others he might be found head deep in some record office or private archive, making the pinpoint-accurate notes from which his texts were composed.

His first satisfactory job had been in the West Sussex county record office in Chichester, where he acquired a taste for archives and for the makeup of English townscape, which was as yet little explored. From 1949 to 1953 he was an assistant keeper at the London Museum, now the Museum of London, which moved into Kensington Palace during Sheppard's time there. Much later he wrote a history of the museum, *The Treasury of London's Past* (1991). For his doctorate he chose to study the voluminous parish records of

Marylebone. The result was published as *Local Government in St Marylebone 1688-1835*, published 1958. Inspired by the Edwardian scholarship of Sidney and Beatrice Webb, it is a most readable and lucid study of English local government.

In the 1950s interest in urban architecture and planning stopped short at the Victorian period. Sheppard was aware of the need to go further, and began to do so in his first volume of the reanimated Survey, on south Lambeth (1956). But the LCC's historic buildings division, with which he and his colleagues were linked in a sometimes uneasy relationship, was more concerned with the threat to Georgian buildings in the West End, which the researches of the Survey could help to defend. So the series concentrated its investigations during the 60s and 70s on St James's, Soho, Covent Garden and Mayfair. The impact of these volumes on conserving swathes of inner London was most notable in the case of Covent Garden, where the Survey's discoveries helped derail the GLC's own destructive plans for the area.

Later Sheppard turned his attention to Kensington, the area where he had been brought up. Under the influence of his friend H. J. Dyos, a pioneer of modern British urban history, the Survey started to treat areas of London in a holistic way, drawing urban development, architecture and social and economic history together. Northern Kensington, published in 1973, was the first volume to feature this fuller approach. Despite the demands of the Survey, Sheppard found time to publish in 1971 a first-rate history of the Victorian metropolis, *London 1808-1870: The Infernal Wen*, and after his retirement the broader *London: A History* (1998).

During all this time he lived not in London but in Henley-on-Thames, where he was very active in civic life, becoming the first secretary of the Henley Society, serving for ten years as a councillor, and for a year as mayor.

– Andrew Saint

A longer version of this obituary first appeared in the Guardian.

Important message to all members

The **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) which takes effect from 25 May 2018, seeks to bring a new set of 'digital rights' for EU citizens. One of the enhanced protections relates to an individual's right for their personal details not to be used by organisations without their express consent. You will therefore find a separate paper in this *Newsletter* which sets out the Society's data privacy policy, what data the Society holds on its members and how such data may be used, including the list of members which is contained in the 5-yearly London Topographical Record. If you agree to having your name and contact details listed in the Record, please complete the slip.

Obituary

Iain Bain

Iain Bain, whose death has recently been announced, was a Vice President of the London Topographical Society and for many years a Council Member. He was a distinguished expert on printing techniques and on the engravings of Thomas Bewick, and former Head of Publications at the Tate Gallery. There will be an obituary in the next LTS Record.

Obituary

Gavin Stamp 1948-2017

Gavin Stamp, who died aged 69 on 30 December 2017, was an architectural historian, lecturer, critic and campaigner whose interest in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries spanned a wide field, and whose energy was prodigious. He grew up in South London, which was also where he spent the last years of his life, and he had a profound knowledge not only of London's buildings but of how they were portrayed at different times, as was shown in his ground-breaking book, *The Changing Metropolis, earliest photographs of London 1839-79*, published in 1982, while *The Great Perspectivists*, also 1982, explored how buildings were depicted in the days before computer visualisations. *Victorian Buildings in London 1837-87*, an illustrated guide, written together with Colin Amery, 1980, provided a valuable introduction for readers keen to understand and explore the great nineteenth century landmarks of London.

Gavin's interest in older buildings was originally fired by his dislike of contemporary architecture, and also by a desire to champion the neglected – hence his Ph.D thesis on the little studied George Gilbert Scott Junior and the late Gothic Revival, and his campaign, when he was teaching in Scotland, to raise awareness of the merits of the Scots architect Alexander 'Greek' Thompson. Out of his research on the Scott family, an enthusiasm developed also for the next generation: Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, responsible not only for major works such as Liverpool Cathedral, but for the familiar red telephone boxes. Gavin led the campaign for their preservation, and celebrated them in *Telephone Boxes* (Chatto Curiosities, 1989). In addition to his books and articles his witty and hard-hitting comments as 'Piloti' in *Private Eye* drew attention to examples of architectural and planning mismanagement and neglect. From 1983-2007, as chairman of the Thirties Society, later the Twentieth Century Society, he was in the forefront of many conservation campaigns, in London and elsewhere, and as the merits of twentieth-century architecture became the subject for debate, he came to appreciate the plurality of twentieth-century architectural expression both in Britain and abroad, and the need also to recognise and defend the best buildings of the later twentieth century.

He inspired many not only through his writing but through the memorably energetic walks and tours which he led for the Victorian Society and the Twentieth Century Society both in Britain and abroad. His special enthusiasms also included railway architecture, power stations, Lutyens, and the cemeteries of the First World War; his eloquent short study of the great monument by Lutyens at Thiepval: *The Memorial of the Missing of the Somme* (Wonders of the World, Profile, 2006) was among his most memorable works.

– Bridget Cherry

Notes and News

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place at the Senate House, University of London on Monday 25 June. For details see the insert in this *Newsletter*.

Members attending the AGM will be able to collect two LTS publications this year, both devoted to panoramas: Greg Smith, *A 'Connoisseur's Panorama': Thomas Girtin's Eidometropolis and other London Views, c.1796-1802*, and Hubert Pragnell, Pat Hardy and Elaine Harwood, *The Stone Gallery Panorama: Lawrence Wright's view of the City of London from St Paul's Cathedral, c.1948-56*. And in addition, members will also be given a copy of the new Historic Towns Trust's *Atlas Map of Tudor London c.1520* which the Society has supported (see p.5).

Thanks to much help from our volunteer members, steered by Simon Morris, the **Parish Maps project** is progressing well, with publication planned for in 2019. This will be a comprehensive, thoroughly researched catalogue of over 400 maps of the civil parishes within the old LCC area (excluding the City of London) based on research by the late Ralph Hyde, which has been extensively updated. Work on St Marylebone and Southwark is complete; Islington, Tower Hamlets and Wandsworth are imminent, and the others should be ready by the end of July.

Our membership has dropped slightly and now stands at 1179. Members are reminded that unless their subscriptions are up to date they will not receive the *Newsletter* or qualify for the annual publications. They also need to fill in the form enclosed with this *Newsletter* to satisfy current Data Protection requirements.



Events and Exhibitions

Two unmissable opportunities to explore aspects of London, many not usually accessible:

London Open Squares weekend: 9-10 June For details see opensquares.org

London Open House weekend: 22-23 September For details see opensquares.org

London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton St, EC1R 0HB. Forgotten London: an exhibition of paintings, photographs, maps and film recreating past London. A demonstration of the range of material available to the topographer.

21 May-31 October Guildhall Library. The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers – A Celebration of the 450th anniversary of the granting of the Tylers and Bricklayers' Company's charter by Elizabeth I in 1568. Highlights include the Company's most famous son, the playwright Ben Jonson, and how the Company was instrumental in rebuilding the City of London after the Great Fire.

Out and About

Two memorable examples of public art provide a polemic on the state of the world today. The Fourth Plinth at Trafalgar Square is currently home to a monument defying the destruction in the Middle East. The powerful statue of Lamassu, the Assyrian winged bull, is a recreation of the sculpture created 700 BC which guarded the Nergal Gate to the ancient city of Nineveh. Its glistening surface is made from flattened date syrup tins, an important local product before the fighting. The work is by Michael Rakowitz and forms part of a project to recreate 7000 lost or destroyed archaeological artefacts from the Iraq museum. Meanwhile, at St Pancras Station, Tracey Emin's 20 metre long inscription in pink LED writing 'I want my time with you', reaches out in defiance of Brexit with a message of love to everyone arriving from Europe.



The Fourth Plinth, Trafalgar Square in 2018

The constant pattern of destruction and rebuilding in the City can provide unusual glimpses of hidden buildings. Here is a view of **St Mary Abchurch** from Cannon Street, seen beyond a building site promising improvements to Bank Station. This atmospheric Wren church is worth exploring, remarkable for its unique painted dome over the whole of the nave.

Those of you who are up date with modern technology may already have discovered a new way to access information about Londoners while you are out and about. As you pass selected public statues you can listen to stories about them on your phone. The range is wide. Those on offer include Thomas Coram at Coram's Fields, John



St Mary Abchurch seen from Cannon Street

Wilkes at Fetter Lane, and Dick Whittington's cat on Highgate Hill. For more details see talkingstatueslondon.co.uk And if you want some inspiration about what to look for beneath your feet, londonist.com has at time of writing a fascinating sequence of manhole covers with photos and text by Laurence Scales. Perhaps you have some tips on unusual sources of information on London – let us know.

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Circumspice

Who is this young man and where is he sitting?
Answer on p.14.



Changing London

Grosvenor Square is undergoing a major change with the departure of the American Embassy to Battersea. The monumental building of 1957-60 by Eero Saarinen filling the west side of the large square, with a diagonal grid plan boldly expressed by its chequered façade, is to be converted to a hotel by David Chipperfield for Qatari Investment Authority. Other sides of the square already have a scatter of hotels among luxury flats, mostly in earlier twentieth century buildings of an indifferent neo-Georgian character. Only No.4 remains from the 1720s development by Sir Richard Grosvenor, and only a little (for example the Italian Embassy on the east side) from the bolder Italianate favoured in the 1860s. But a new focus may be imminent. The square is no longer compromised by security measures for the Embassy, and changes are under discussion as management is returned from the Royal Parks to the Grosvenor estate. The existing rather unimpressive layout has its origins in a post-war Ministry of Works design after wartime disruptions were removed; the square was redesigned in honour of F. D. Roosevelt and opened to the public. The statue of Roosevelt was later joined by the Eagle Squadron memorial of the 1980s and some other later monuments near the Embassy.

As we are reminded by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan in an article in the latest *London Gardener* (2017), the square has a distinguished early design history. Unusually in the eighteenth century, it was from the first described as a 'garden', equally unusual was the oval form of its layout in 1729, with a gilded equestrian statue of George I in its centre. Longstaffe-Gowan suggests that the inspiration for this could have been the Campidoglio with the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, which the youthful Sir Richard Grosvenor would have seen on his grand tour when he visited Rome in 1705-6. Less comparable to Rome was the creation of a 'wilderness' of densely planted trees surrounding the statue, together with shrubs and hedging. The garden was walled, and intended only for the local residents. It is now a public space. Could its early history inspire an appropriate design for the twenty-first century?



Grosvenor Square looking west

A Map of Tudor London

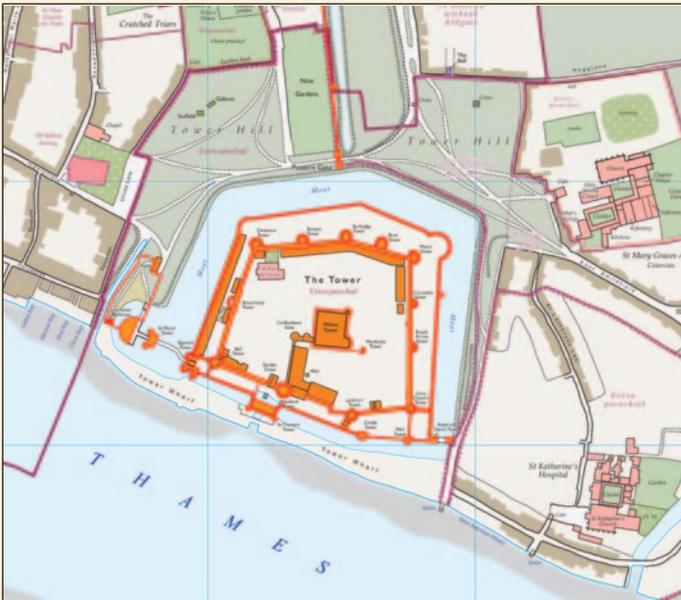
Professors Caroline Barron and Vanessa Harding, Trustees of the Historic Towns Trust, explain the map from which the illustrations on these pages are taken.

Members of the London Topographical Society will, this summer, receive an additional publication: a copy of the folding map of London c.1520 published by the Historic Towns Trust in their series of *Town and City Historical Maps*. The London map, compiled by Colonel Henry Johns and published in *The Historic Towns Atlas: The City of London from Prehistoric Times to c.1520* volume edited by Mary D. Lobel in 1989, was republished by Old House Books in 2008 as a single folded map in a neat paper pouch. The map proved very popular and was twice reprinted but when the rights reverted to the Historic Towns Trust, the Trustees decided that it would now be appropriate, after nearly 30 years, to revise the map before reprinting it once more. The HTA is a charity with only limited funds, and the cost of revising and reprinting the map was estimated to cost about £12,000. The LTS has made a generous contribution towards these costs and this has made the new edition possible. In return for this help, every LTS member will receive a copy of the revised map at the AGM in June.



Map of Tudor London: around London Bridge

The map has been transformed by Giles Darkes, the Cartographic Editor of the HTT. The map is larger, now to the scale of 1:2500, and has been extended to include, to the north, the house of the Knights of St John at Clerkenwell and the Hospital of St Mary at Bishopsgate, and to the south, the Bridgehead section of Southwark showing the Inn of the Bishop of Winchester and the Priory of St Mary Overy. Instead of three colours, there are now 16 so that it is possible to indicate different categories of structures, such as parish churches



Map of Tudor London: the Tower of London

or company halls. The precincts and buildings of many of the 30 or so religious houses in London have been revised in the light of recent archaeological work published by MOLA. The larger size has also made it possible to indicate the hundred or so parish boundaries and to include a map of the London wards on the reverse, where the Directory of buildings and streets has also been extensively revised. Until Colonel Henry Johns created the map of London in 1520, the only maps of medieval London were sketch maps. His pioneering work brought the medieval city into focus and now, with improved technology and further research (much of it published by the LTS), it has been possible to sharpen the focus once more. It is surely appropriate that a society dedicated to the topography of London has made this possible. The Trustees of the HTT are immensely grateful for this support and hope that all members of the LTS will derive as much pleasure from studying the map as those who have been working on it have had in compiling it. Please take a look at the HTT website to see what else we do (www.historictownsatlas.org.uk)

– Caroline Barron and Vanessa Harding



‘A Place in the Sun’: topography through insurance policies

*Isobel Watson has written several books and articles about London, including *Gentlemen in the Building Line* (1989), about *South Hackney*. She has been involved with the *Place in the Sun* project since its inception, from 2002, by the former *London Archive Users’ Forum*, and co-ordinated the volunteer effort until 2017. She has throughout learnt a great deal not only about the material lives*

of Londoners from rich to poor, but about the shape of London itself as well as its outlying villages. She tackled expanding the project nationwide, in the pre-1793 registers, with some trepidation, but found this just as fascinating in its own way, and a unique window on the industrial revolution.



Policy registers. Each register contains abstracts of an average of 1600 individual policies, in numerical but non-consecutive batches of 100

For the last 15 years, a group of volunteers has been creating an online index to a run of the insurance policy registers of the Sun Fire Office, a large number of which survive and are now at London Metropolitan Archives. Without a policy number these are however hard to use. This can be found via the index, which is unique in being, first, unselective, and second, fully searchable through the LMA’s online catalogue; an earlier tranche, no longer kept up to date, is also on the National Archives website. This article is intended to remind London readers of the ready availability of this growing resource, and to highlight some of its features.

The Sun Fire Office was founded in 1710, and LMA holds hundreds of registers, for policies insuring against fire damage, issued between then and the 1860s. The run of policies indexed online – more than 380,000, in over 220 registers – begins in 1782 and ends in 1842, and is being gradually added to at both ends of the series. London records were crucial to the development of the index. Though it was a London foundation, until 1793 the Sun’s main series of policy registers was countrywide; by that time its volume of business was so great that policies sold outside London began to be entered in a separate series of registers. So the project, founded by London researchers with the aid of a Heritage Lottery grant for a mere 30 registers, started with the early nineteenth century, when the focus was London; as earlier registers came to be included coverage became national. The pre-1793 registers have particular strengths in certain areas, notably

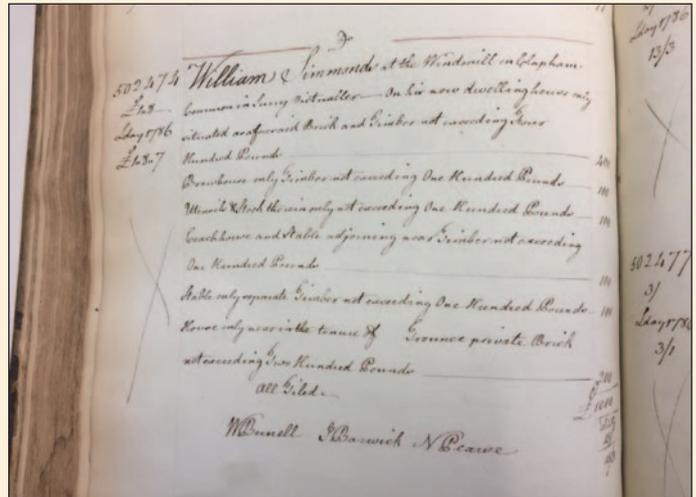
Scotland and the industrial north-west, Cornwall, and Plymouth as well as London: but entries can be found for places in most counties of Great Britain.

The index captures certain terms only; it is emphatically not a transcript. Its focus is naturally on indexable terms – the mantra is ‘People, places, businesses, occupations’. Thus it will give any address mentioned in a policy, and occupants if they are mentioned; but it won’t refer to chattels kept at the address (sailing vessels and specific works of art and literature are an exception, so long as they are identified by name). Once policies relating to (say) a person, place, partnership or profession are identified, recourse has to be had to the policy abstracts themselves to discover what was insured, where it was kept, and at what it was valued. This can reveal much about lifestyles as well as property: some people insured china and glass, some plate, others clothes, books, musical instruments or prints, some even jewels. Warren Hastings insured only his clothing, for the astonishing sum of £4,000; a neighbour in Wimpole Street insured hers for £500, the same value as was put on a house she owned in Kentish Town. The managerist Gilbert Pidcock, based at Exeter Change, insured the cage in which his rhinoceros was trundled about the country. With buildings, their construction materials will be mentioned, also any notable risks such as stoves; the policy may even indicate that a building was unfinished, which can help to establish its date (once it had a roof, a lease was usually obtainable, so the speculative builder had something to insure).

The range of individuals insured makes this possibly one of the most socially inclusive record sources available, certainly at the period before the national decennial census or civil registration.

There is royalty at one end, and at the other laundresses, hucksters and ‘higglers’ each insuring £50 worth of stock. There are householders in all the central areas and the early, eastern suburbs who exercised their trades at home; there were also a lot of ‘gentlemen’ resident in newer suburbs such as Walworth and Pentonville who may have exercised trades or professions elsewhere. The policy may suggest whether someone owned his house: if he insured it he is likely to have owned it, or more likely a long lease of it. If he insured its contents only, he may well have been there as tenant for a shorter term, and many insurances are by lodgers (‘at Mr Handy’s’) for their possessions. Some estates were insured more or less wholesale by their owners, others required leaseholders to insure; thus for example the registers provide a snapshot of named residents on Mary Bowes’ substantial estate at Shadwell (insured by her executors), and it has been possible to reconstruct the occupancy of about a third of the Moneyers’ estate at Hoxton from pre-1841 Sun policies alone.

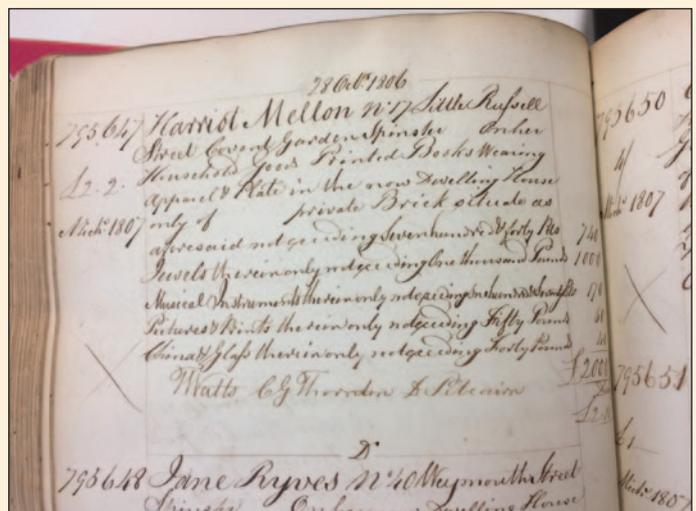
There are numbers of working women, both single and married; many worked at home. This is the inference from policies in which a husband may be



Windmill public house, Clapham Common. Licensed premises were amongst the commonest insurances, and victualler a trade frequently followed by policyholders. Different descriptions of the property in successive policies could enable changes in these premises to be tracked over time. (Document reference Ms 11937/327/502474)

described in the same sentence either by his trade or as ‘gentleman’, followed by ‘his wife a milliner’ (or laundress, or mantua maker). If the latter, an adjacent policy may describe him as a businessman (say a Chandler or a dealer in tea) though at a different address. Women can also be found exercising trades in building and metal work, as well as all sorts of retail.

There are policies for Mrs Fitzherbert’s lavishly-equipped houses; for Wellington at Apsley House; and for the farmhouse which became the site of Brighton Pavilion as well as the one which gave its name to Earls Court. Celebrity-hunters will find the Adam brothers, Jeremy Bentham, Joseph Grimaldi, Harriot Mellon, George Morland, Dr Parkinson, and many others, but the great joy of the registers is the insight they give into the daily lives of ordinary Londoners. Sometimes these can be traced throughout a career, as successive policies mirror the development of a business and various changes of address, sometimes ultimately the handing-over to an heir or the reconstitution of a partnership. The



Harriot Mellon, Little Russell Street. This policy illustrates a wider range of insured chattels than was common, as well as high values. Sun policy values however seem invariable to have totalled a multiple of £50. (Document reference Ms 11937/437/795647)

uses of the index are many: recently, for example, it has been used to corroborate other sources about the development of straw-hat making. There are sometimes manuscript amendments to policy details; these are not indexed, being undated, but they can prove useful once a policy has been identified (there is a separate series of registers recording policy endorsements).

Researchers sometimes note that the records of different insurers vary in their usefulness depending on their approach. For descriptions of property as detailed as conveyances, for example, the Hand in Hand records (also at LMA, which holds the country's premier collection of insurance records) are superior to the Sun, and, unlike the Sun, its rudimentary contemporary indexes survive. The Sun registers usually only give a property's address, though sometimes the presence of a neighbouring fire risk is recorded, and there can in these cases be information about an adjoining building and what went on in it. Detail about buildings is usually limited to construction materials, but this may enable alterations to be dated. Of course, street numbers or even names given in the registers may since have been changed, if the street survived into the mid-nineteenth century, and even then may take several forms. The Sun Fire Office was so London-centric that if a street is not given a named location, it can, almost without exception, be taken to have been in London.

Larger sites may be described in detail, at least before about 1800, when (rather like conveyances of about the same time) the practice of including a plan was generally adopted in preference to verbal



Forty Hall. Early policies are sometimes reflected in company fire marks made in lead. As these ceased to be issued in the early 1800s, they are rarely found on London buildings to which they relate. These, above the main entrance at Forty Hall in Enfield date from 1718, reflect the financial limits in force at that date, requiring the insured, Lord Hunsdon, to hold separate policies for the main building, its outbuildings and its contents

description. (Sadly there are very few surviving plans, bound in a separate volume.) Thus policies can reveal details of what was constructed at places for which there may not be equivalent detail elsewhere, such as large breweries or factories, the Eagle tavern in the City Road, or the curious art-and-music resort the Bermondsey Spa.

To search the index, bear in mind that it will spell a person or place as the register itself does: Rosoman Street, which skirts the LMA itself, has perhaps the largest number of variant spellings. If you are looking for Eleanor Betjemann, greengrocer, you may guess she is, at the very least, a near relative of Elinor Betjeman, tripe dealer, at the same address in an earlier register. Archaic names can be found for places as well as people, and sometimes different spellings even within the same policy abstract. If you are looking for Marylebone, Surrey Street, or a hairdresser, bear in mind that you might find it useful to search for Marybone, Surry Street, and hair dressers – though exceptionally, occupations are indexed by their modern spelling, as are counties (tailor not taylor; Surrey not Surry). Make use of wild cards where available, and if the results of a generalised search are too many, insurance records can be winnowed out from the rest by adding the term 'insured' into the search. Once you find them, LMA can for a charge supply a copy of the original register pages, or better still and without cost, bring you face to face with the register itself.



Fire mark 425573. This was not issued for the building on which it was photographed (113 Clifden Road E5), but for premises in Shropshire, about a century earlier than the building of Clifden Road

Further reading:

<https://search.lma.gov.uk>

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

P. G. Dixon, *The Sun Insurance Office 1710-1960* (OUP, 1960)

H. A. L. Cockerell and Edwin Green, *The British Insurance Business: a guide to its history and records* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1976)

London Metropolitan Archives leaflet no. 48, *Fire Insurance Records*, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/visitor-information/Documents/48-fire-insurance-records.pdf

Parishes, Wards, Precincts and Liberties – solving a topographical puzzle¹

Ian Doolittle has been researching the London property market at the time of the Great Fire. He has reported on his findings in this Newsletter from time to time and here brings us up to date with his recent work. His calendar of the next volume of the Fire Court decrees is nearly finalised.

London historians have long been frustrated by the City's internal divisions. The Square Mile was a patchwork of parishes and wards, whose boundaries rarely coincided. Add to this the subdivision of wards by precincts (only sometimes matching parishes) and the existence of a number of privileged liberties and you have a recipe for confusion as well as frustration. I have long been conscious of this but only recently have I had to confront the practical consequences.

Readers of the *Newsletter* may recall that I am investigating property ownership at the time of the Great Fire. In the next *Record* I try to answer the question 'Who owned the City of London in 1666?' For this purpose I need a total number of houses. The obvious starting point is the magnificent edition of the *London and Middlesex Hearth Tax*.² There are methodological challenges in interpreting the returns – not least the distinction between houses and households – but my main obstacle is a prosaic one. The 1666 returns are incomplete. The editors provide extracts from the 1662-3 Hearth Tax returns but acknowledge that, because the 1662-3 lists are by ward and the 1666 ones by parish, this 'patching' does not work very well.³

Was there a way of converting wards into parishes? Mapping is an answer – readers of LTS's A to Z maps will be aware of the parish boundaries wriggling their way through the wards – but I blanched at the thought of translating spaces into buildings! I needed a list of houses but the only ones I had come across were either by ward or by parish. I then remembered a later list of ward and parish houses by John Smart (which I had used for my thesis long ago). I checked and found that he did not just break down ward totals into precincts; he also 'traced' parish totals into those precincts. The result is an interlocking analysis, potentially just what I needed.

I knew that Smart was a clerk at Guildhall but I learnt from Professor Beattie that Smart first compiled his ward lists to support the new Watch regime in the mid-1730s.⁴ He revised and expanded his totals for what became *A Short Account of the Wards, Precincts, Parishes etc. in London* in 1742, but despite getting only what he described, caustically, as limited assistance from ward deputies and common councilmen Smart's figures seem reliable.⁵ Certainly they accord pretty well with other lists and their origin as a means of payment for a key reform is reassuring too.

The real problem was the gap between 1666 and 1742 (or at best 1735). I reflected however that I was not really relying on the *totals*. Smart is of chief value because he allows you to trace a parish total into the precinct(s) and vice versa. And in so far as totals are important it is their relation to one another that matters. Here I took comfort from what I currently believe to have been the *relative* stability of house numbers within the walls. Perhaps numbers fell somewhat after the Fire, as houses were redeveloped, but there was probably no significant imbalance between parishes/wards, at least in the central areas. The real changes after 1666 occurred outside the walls and there is certainly a need to recognise that the differences within parishes/wards which 'straddled' the walls may have widened.

I was however sufficiently encouraged to see if I could solve my problems. The results so far are encouraging. Two examples will indicate how Smart's figures can help. The returns for All Hallows London Wall for 1666 are missing. The editors provide extracts from 1662-3 for All Hallows precinct in Broad Street ward. The entries add up to 234.⁶ Smart confirms that most of the parish houses were indeed in that precinct; but he also lists (in a total of 273) 33 in Aldgate Ward (4th precinct), 21 in Bishopsgate Within (St Ethelburga precinct) and 20 in Lime Street (4th precinct). For Bishopsgate and Lime Street I need to look at those parts of the 1662-3 returns (which were not transcribed), but at least I know from Smart what kind of numbers to expect. For Aldgate I may have to find a substitute, since parts of that ward are missing from the 1662-3 records.⁷ I have identified all the 1660s assessments in the London Metropolitan Archives and I hope to be able to fill the gap and get to an overall total which is consistent with other sources for the parish.

The second example concerns the Liberty of St Martin le Grand. The editors skilfully established that one set of the 1666 totals relates to the parishes of St Anne Aldersgate, St John Zachary, St Leonard Foster and St Mary Staining *outside* the Liberty, while another relates to the Liberty itself. They were not however able to differentiate between the four parishes. Smart helps to untie this knot. He makes clear that only houses from St Anne and St Leonard were (partly) in the Liberty;⁸ and I can use his totals (54 and 114) to 'split' the 1666 total of 216,⁹ producing 69/147. Outside the Liberty the 1666 total is 263.¹⁰ I have allocated this to the four parishes according to the ratios represented by Smart's totals of 95, 93, 52 and 41. The result is 89, 87, 49 and 38. By this process I get to 158 for St Anne, 87 for St John, 196 for St Leonard and 38 for St Mary Staining. St Leonard is somewhat higher than in other (later) lists but other three totals are reassuringly similar.

Smart will not solve all such problems;¹¹ and care must be taken not to rely heavily on his figures outside the City (where he resorted to round numbers). He also made an obvious mistake with St Giles Cripplegate. I am ready to be told that there is an easier and/or more reliable approach;

but in the meantime I shall continue with what I rashly call my Smart work and present my findings in the next *Record*.

– Ian Doolittle

1. I am grateful to Vanessa Harding for her generous help.
2. Eds. Matthew Davies *et al.*, British Record Society, vols 129-30 (2014).
3. *Ibid.*, 28.
4. J.M. Beattie, *Policing and Punishment in London 1660-1750* (2001), 194-6. Beattie assumes Smart was a ward deputy by confusing him with John Snart.
5. There is a copy of the first version in the Guildhall Library: A.4.6 no. 40 (2). The later version in the Rawlinson collection in the Bodleian has a note that the work was never printed for sale: 4o. Rawl. 300.
6. *London and Middlesex Hearth Tax, 1641*(part)-46.
7. *Ibid.*, 287-91 (a painstaking reconstruction of the returns). There is no transcription after IRN 1733 (*ibid.*, 1813), the relevant place.
8. The editors say a small part of St John Zachary was covered too: *ibid.*, 270.
9. *Ibid.* 309.
10. *Ibid.* 304.
11. He does not provide what might be called a spatial (or mapping) answer, as J. M. B. Alexander appears to have concluded: 'The Economic and Social Structure of the City of London, c.1700' (London School of Economics, Ph.D thesis, 1989), 11.

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Preserving London's Film Heritage at the British Film Institute

Christopher Trowell, BFI Trusts and Foundations Coordinator reports on progress with the London on Film project.

In 2016 the London Topographical Society generously supported the BFI's London on Film project, a ground-breaking archival and preservation project digitising film material that captures the changes and hidden histories of the nation's capital. As well as supporting the project, London Topographical Society members also helped the BFI identify the locations for a number of films, including the 1983 public information film *Cyclist Turning Right*. Society member Graham Hewett observed that in the early 1980s the two visible bus route numbers could only be seen together in Haydons Road, Wimbledon. Thank you to all those members who contacted us.

The Britain on Film Project

This project was a strand of the BFI's wider Britain on Film programme, which has made archive material from across the UK available for free through BFI Player. Through this service we have received over five million views from across the UK and urban living is a key factor in the most popular

films, with the 1970s construction boom holding particular fascination. The most watched film in the project is currently the utopian *Milton Keynes: A Village City* ("The most exciting thing going on in Europe, if not the world") produced by London Television Service in 1973. Unearthing regional stories from across the UK is crucial to the project, but London holds a unique fascination for audiences and early filmmakers and London film material is frequently the most popular on our video on demand service.

Both the 1936 newsreel *The Battle of Cable Street* (part of the *Jewish Britain on Film* collection) and



The funeral of Emily Davison

documentary short *Changing Face of Camberwell* (1963) rank in the project's most-watched films. The most popular material supported by the Society includes the Pathé Frères newsreel of Emily Davison's Funeral. For this event in 1913, organised by the Women's Social and Political Union, 5,000 suffragettes marched through the streets which were lined with upwards of 50,000 people. The film provides views of Hart Street as it approaches Nicholas Hawksmoor's St George's church, and the short film captures the sadness and political potency of the occasion. Elsewhere in the collection audiences have found a perverse pleasure in *London as the 'City of Dreadful Night'* (Topical Budget 694-2) where an almost imperceptible Trafalgar Square is obscured by London smog.



Topical film poster

Future BFI London Film Projects

Although many early British film pioneers were not based in London (such as Mitchell and Kenyon in Blackburn and Bamforth & Co. Ltd in West Yorkshire), by 1910 it had become a significant centre of film production, rivalled only by Paris. Gaumont British Picture Corp. was founded here in 1898 (building Lime Grove Studios in 1915), followed by inventor Cecil Hepworth's Hepworth Studios a year later in Lambeth. In 1901 Will Barker launched Autoscope Studios at 50 Gray's Inn Road, and built the first studio on Ealing Green in 1904. Ealing Studios, formerly The Lodge, Ealing, would become the longest running production studio in Britain. London attracted skills, technology and a steady stream of newsworthy events for the new newsreel form. Barker even attempted to deliver a daily newsreel titled *London Day by Day* to compete with larger rivals, but ultimately found the weather too disruptive to a daily schedule.

In 2018/19 the BFI is working on restorations of multiple newsreels of the 1911 Sidney Street Siege. These films capture several perspectives on the 'Battle of Stepney', when two Latvian émigrés wanted for murder were involved in a gunfight with police. The various films anticipate the multitude of perspectives of the modern media landscape, and the siege at 100 Sidney Street is one of the first public events captured on film in this form.

Moving further back in cinematic history, the support of the London Topographical Society has also been directed to the preservation of a number of London films produced in the Victorian period; the earliest film material in existence. The majority of this material is actuality footage, unstaged films of 'real' activity produced between 1897 and 1901, but there are also examples of advertising, humour, trick films and travelogues. The breadth and diversity of this material indicates how rapidly Victorian culture grasped the radical possibilities of the medium, adopting the new form for entertainment, factual documentation and the blurred lines in between. Some of this material was printed on exceptionally large and clear film formats, double the size of the industrial standards that became commonplace, and much of the material focuses on the celebrations of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, with her carriage circuit around London captured from a number of different viewpoints.

London film material continues to captivate audiences and the London Topographical Society's support is allowing us to preserve these incredible documents of London history and make them available across the UK.

Thank you to Silent Film Curator Bryony Dixon, Film Conservation Manager Kieron Webb and Senior Archive Project Curator Mark Duguid for their work on these projects.

– Christopher Trowell

Lots Road awaits its reincarnation

David Crawford continues his exploration of the fate of London's industrial structures and explains the complicated history and debatable status of a prominent Thames-side landmark.

Sixteen years after its closure in 2002, Chelsea's Lots Road power station is at last nearing a start on its long-planned conversion into high-end apartments, shops and offices. It will be the 'heritage' component of the Hong Kong-based Cheung Kong Property Group's £1bn Chelsea Waterfront development, the new-build element of which is already rising next to it. Clearance of the station's interior is virtually complete.



A cross section of the proposed conversion, from a 2000 publication issued by the developer

The intervening years have been plagued with successive planning battles over the scheme as a whole, one contentious issue having been the height of its two new glass-clad residential towers, of 37 and 25 storeys, which was finally resolved at ministerial level.

The station opened in early 1905, and for many years supplied power for London's underground trains, trams and the Chiswick bus depot. Its location – on Chelsea Creek, off the Thames – reflected a long history of accommodating industries that relied on water both as one raw material and as a way of transporting others. (The earlier plant at Bankside (now the Tate Modern) and the later one at Battersea (hub of an apartment and retail complex) both owe their riverside sites to the same factors).

The new incarnation of Lots Road will deliver tiers of apartments on either side of an atrium running the whole length of the building, with a covered shopping street at ground level. It does not emerge at first sight as the likeliest of candidates for the



The stripped interior, its walls still lined with protective sheeting. An aerial photograph taken for contractors Tufcast

conversion into part of the now fashionable Chelsea riverside scene. The artist James McNeil Whistler objected to it from the outset on the grounds that it “destroyed a view of Chelsea Reach painted by Turner”. Its own aesthetic, too, was unusual.

Unlike other contemporary plants built to power transport in Britain, its architecture was markedly austere – with plain brick façades enclosing an internal steel frame and broken up by tall arched windows. (A description of these by one commentator as “cathedral-like” can be justified on the grounds of their scale, if nothing else.) Their prominent keystones and a row of clerestory windows, running along the top were among the few decorative features. The façades define the building. An article published in the *Graphic* for 1925 saw the structure as an “uncouth dragon... from which flows the power to move a city”. *The Buildings of England London 3: North West* rates it as “starkly functional”. An article in the 18 November 2015 edition of *The Beauty of Transport*, describes the result as “virtually proto-Modernist”.

Divided into a boiler house, running alongside Chelsea Creek, and a parallel turbine hall, alongside Lots Road, the plant was claimed at the time to be the largest power station ever built, with a footprint of 139m x 84m. Coal came by barge from a specially-constructed tidal basin in the creek, and by rail from the nearby West London Railway, itself now enjoying a new lease of life as part of the London Overground.

The design of the plant is ascribed to the US engineer James Russell Chapman, an employee of the then Underground Electric Railway of London Co. Ltd (UERL) founded by his compatriot, Charles Yerkes, who had played a central role in developing Chicago’s public transport.

The tall windows allowed the interior to be

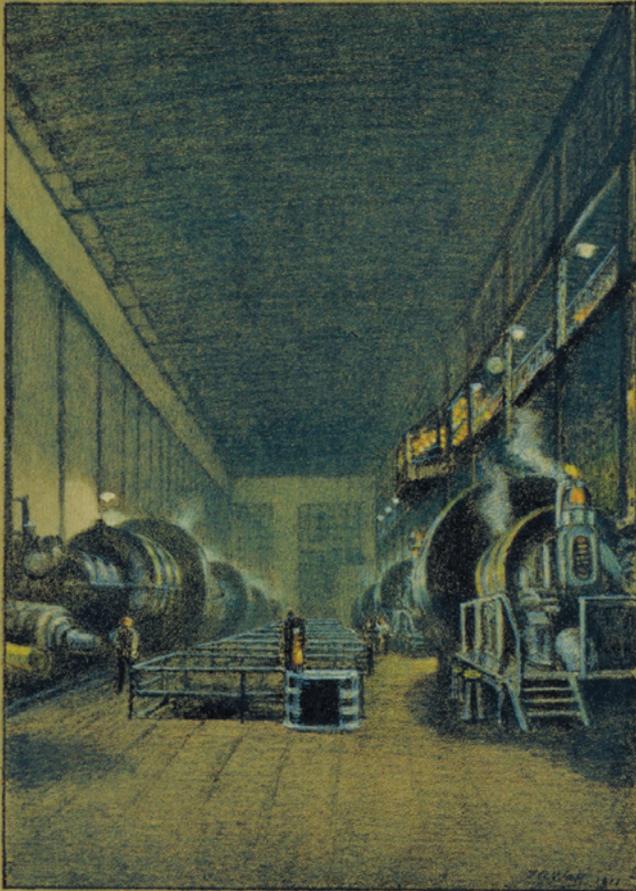
flooded with natural light. Apart from any beneficial effects on working conditions, they also presented the residents of houses on the opposite side of Lots Road with a more attractive vista than a towering plain brick wall. (The windows on the Chelsea Creek, boiler house, side have been bricked up.)

The station consumed 500 tonnes of coal a day to power its generators. (Oil later replaced coal, then came natural gas.) An item dated 20 September 2012 in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s *Library Time Machine* series of archival trawls by local studies librarian Dave Walker conjures up an image of operators attending to its needs “like priests attending to a captive deity in a temple”. It stopped regularly producing power in



The power station envisaged in its new setting by the developers

UNDERGROUND



**TURBINES,
LOTS ROAD, CHELSEA.**

**THE TURBINES SLEEP
LIKE TOPS, AND OUT
OF THEIR SLEEP
COMES THE STRENGTH
TO MOVE LONDON.**

A historic London Transport poster shows the turbine hall in operation (© TfL from the London Transport Museum collection)

1985, by which time it had earned the title of the longest continuously-operating power station in Europe, but was kept in reserve for a few more years. During the subsequent period, serious damage occurred to the roof and the internal structure.

The latter bore evidence of decades of modifications and upgrades – amounting, according to consulting engineers Buro Happold, to “a virtual east-to-west cross-section of historical steelwork

over the course of a century”. To replace this with a framework capable of carrying the load of the new storeys of apartments, the firm has designed a “building within a building”, using three-dimensional computer-aided design modelling. The tall façade windows will be an important source of natural lighting for funnelling into this. The eastern end – the first glimpse of the station building offered to anyone approaching from the Embankment – is currently a ruinous patchwork.

The long-term survival of the building was not guaranteed. It was never listed, despite being erroneously described as such in property press articles; nor, at the time of the initial planning consultation over the Chelsea Waterfront site as a whole, included in a conservation area (though it since has been). The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the planning authority for this section of the site, regarded it, however, as a landmark building of local historic and architectural interest, and informally consulted English Heritage (now Historic England). Planning consent for its conversion initially came in 2006, but was not immediately implemented. On 15 June 2010, the then chief executive of English Heritage, Dr Simon Thurley, wrote to a local amenity society: “The building, although not listed, is of significant interest for its industrial archaeology. Therefore, conditions were attached to the permission designed to safeguard that interest. English Heritage’s involvement has been to ensure that the conditions are satisfactorily discharged”. The agency made a site visit in 2013, confirming that it did not require to be further consulted but offering advice if required. It also issued an ‘informative’ recommending the retention of sufficient internal elements “so as to make the presentation of the history of the building clearer”.

At the start of the research for this article, it appeared that the building may, after all, have gained a formalised degree of historic status. A project description issued by Buro Happold stated that: “Although Lots Road is not a listed building, it has been issued with the first licence of its kind from English Heritage to allow development whilst preserving such a rich history.” Historic England have made it clear, however, that no such licence exists.

A major issue at the overall development planning stage, ultimately settled by ministerial intervention on appeal, was the height of the two residential towers. Architects and masterplanners Farrells describe these, somewhat overexcitedly, as being “elegantly poised like a dancing couple”. They will certainly overshadow the remaining two of the power station’s originally four boilerhouse chimneys. The tallest in Europe when built, these played, in the 1970s, an important part in the development of commercial radio, by acting as temporary supports for transmission antennae.

– David Crawford

- (Museum of London Archaeology Service, 2002)
3. J. Cox, *London's East End: Life and Traditions*, (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1994); J. Marriott, *Beyond the Tower: A History of East London*, (Yale University Press, 2011); D. Morris and K. Cozens, *Sailortown, 1600-1800*, (East London History Society, 2014)
 4. H. V. Bowen, *et al*, *The Worlds of the East India Company*, ed. (Woodridge Boydell, 2002); H. Bowen, *The business of empire: the East India Company and Imperial Britain, 1760-1833*, (Cambridge University Press, 2005); H. V. Bowen, *et al*, *Monsoon traders: the maritime world of the East India Company*, (Scala Publishers Ltd, 2011)
 5. A. Adams, and R. Woodman, *Light upon the Waters: The History of Trinity House, 1514-2014*, (The Corporation of Trinity House, 2013)

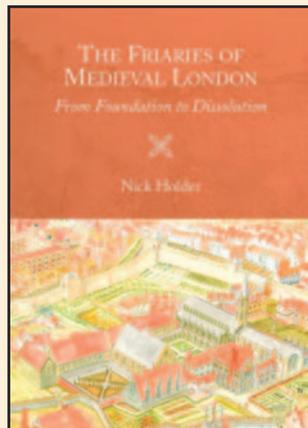
The Friaries of Medieval London: From

Foundation to Dissolution by Nick Holder, pp xvi + 363, 91 figures, 20 tables, index. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2017. £50.00.

ISBN 978 1 78327 224 2. Hardback

We are grateful to John Schofield for allowing us to include this review; a longer version appeared in the London Journal.

Nick Holder's book on the friaries of London, a product of his recent Ph.D thesis, is a marvel of hard-won synthesis, but is also an example of interrogation of the Museum of London's archaeological archive. Holder's purpose is to reconstruct the urban landscape of the nine medieval London friaries and to outline the experience of the friars and the visitors who used them. He brings together documentary and archaeological evidence, including six surviving fragments of friary architecture, two of which no longer exist. A total of 95 sites are reported. As present day knowledge accumulated, so some early archaeological discoveries could be reconsidered: the first house of the Black Friars at Holborn is now brought to light. The Austin Friars in Broad Street also emerge spectacularly from the earth.



Several features of the London friaries were grandiose, large-scale and assertive. The Black Friars reclaimed a large length of the Thames waterfront to extend and provide a suitable riverfront aspect to their precinct, the buildings of which were ranged up the hillside. So did the White Friars nearby, though this is not stressed. The Grey Friars built one of the largest churches in medieval Britain. Medieval London was a continual building-site and pattern book.

The most detailed topographical exploration is of the Black Friars, including their extension of the City wall itself. Here there have been 90 years of

recording projects (the new work, though far more detailed, seems to confirm the friary plan proposed by Alfred Clapham a century ago). Here Mark Samuel reconstructs the late thirteenth-century chapter house. A second house which has had almost the same amount excavated is the Austin Friars, where photographs of 1929 can be digitally manipulated to form an arcade arch in the great church. Samuel reconstructs the architecture of the contemporary cloister. Holder proposes that the surviving gatehouse of St Bartholomew's to Smithfield, though restored, may contain timbers from the short-lived occupancy of the former monastery by the Black Friars in the reign of Mary. He analyses spaces and routes within friaries, for the rich and famous and for the unknown multitude of servants; and draws links with existing Augustinian canons' houses as regards the planning of mendicant precincts.

Ian Betts brings together a large array of decorated floor tiles from the friary sites, including tiles made in Dieppe and the Low Countries; some designs are found at Eltham Palace. Bricks, roof tiles and building stones are briefly summarised. Christian Steer has dug up records of many monuments from the friaries (there were originally hundreds, including royalty), and reused brasses survive outside London, at Oxford and in Northamptonshire. The thirteenth-century provincial of the Grey Friars prior William was questioned about the lack of a surrounding wall at the London house, and replied sharply "I did not join the order to build walls." Readers who might have sympathy with this view will appreciate the chapter by Jens Röhrkasten on spiritual life and education at the friaries. This shows that the friaries were centres of scholarship and learning; were they London's medieval university? There were many cultural links with continental Europe.

Campaigns of building at London friaries were almost continuous from the 1220s to 1530; there was no stopping at the Black Death, though the styles of architecture did change over time. Holder identifies three general phases of development during the three centuries. Although all the London friaries were, like monastic houses, considerable topographical blockages in the City of London (they had to be walked round, not through), they seem to have woven themselves into the townscape and the lives of medieval Londoners and dignitaries from far afield. This is a splendid survey of religious complexes which formed a significant feature of the medieval city, and a sound basis for future archaeological and historical research on them.

– John Schofield

The Newsletter Editor welcomes suggestions from readers for items in the Newsletter.
The deadline for contributions to the November Newsletter is 16 October 2018.
For contact details see the back page.

Survey of London volume 51, South East Marylebone Part 1, pp.1-484; volume 52, South-East Marylebone Part 2, pp.489-913, edited by Philip Temple and Colin Thom, Yale University Press, 2017. ISBN 978 0 30022 197 8

On the front cover of this *Newsletter* is a view of Marylebone, focussing on All Saints Margaret Street, taken from Centrepoint. It admirably demonstrates the complexity of the area under review. These two weighty volumes are only the first fruits of the Survey's keenly awaited work on Marylebone, of which we have been given tantalising glimpses in the Survey's online blogs. Still to come are further volumes which will tell the stories of Oxford Street and the area around and west of Baker Street. The two volumes have to be read together – the introduction is in vol. 51, followed by the western streets from Marylebone High Street eastward; vol. 2 carries on the story from Portland Place to the borough boundary. The index to both volumes is in vol. 2; sensibly, however, the references for each chapter are at the end of each relevant volume.

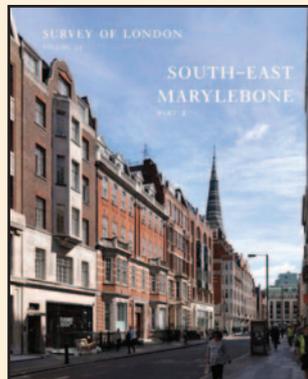
Unlike early Survey volumes which aimed to cover whole parishes, this is not a history of the old parish and borough but a forensic examination of a part of it, a slice of inner London now within the City of Westminster. The scope of what we have here, dating from the eighteenth century to the present day, is suggested by the contrasting frontispieces – in vol. 51 a view of 1791 of the Marylebone Manor house shortly before its demolition, in vol. 52 the proudly formal Portland Place as it appeared c.1831, epitomising the expansion of west end grandeur as entrepreneurial landlords developed the surrounding countryside with regular grids of streets. The maps in the end pockets take the story further. The first, c.1870, shows an area entirely built up, disturbed only by few patches of green and the snaking line of the ancient Marylebone Lane leading to the High Street. The second, c.2010, seems superficially similar – the regular street grids of the eighteenth century still dominate – but scrutinise the map further and one can spot the changes: fewer green patches, single buildings replacing rows of houses, and between the main streets subtle changes to the former mews areas which remain such a distinctive aspect of the original layout. Such details are all

given the careful scrutiny characteristic of the Survey's recent volumes.

The text is clearly written, accompanied by well integrated illustrations, which include a selection of plans and drawings and numerous fascinating older views (many from the British Museum's Crace collection, object of past LTS funding). Through them one can explore some of the interesting buildings which no longer exist: among them Soane's elegant chapel for Noel Desenfans, inspiration for the mausoleum at Dulwich picture gallery later built for the Desenfans collection; the mid-eighteenth century Foley House whose 'right to a view' dictated the width of Portland Place; the youthful James Wyatt's own house, Foley Place, which stood on the site of the BBC; nearby, the lavish Queens Hall of 1890 by T. E. Knightley made famous by Henry Wood's concerts, destroyed in 1941, and the Middlesex Hospital whose more recent demolition left a great gap in the centre of the area covered by vol. 2.

The defining role played by the great estates is explained in the historical introduction – successively Cavendish-Harley, Portland, and from 1901, Howard de Walden – with the smaller Berners estate to the east. The story is enlivened by character sketches of the chief players: owners, agents and architects. Character and personal taste had significant effects: Robert Adam's developments in Mansfield Street and Portland Place displayed 'speed, guile and resilience': the Adams brothers' financing was built recklessly on mortgages to their sisters and loans from their craftsmen. But by the early twentieth century the once smart terraces were down-at-heel. The Howard de Walden surveyor, Colonel Blount, attempted to maintain appearances; in opposition to more progressive architects he insisted on homely shutters for the 'bijou houses' tucked into the spaces behind the grander streets, and in an effort to retain the area's superior residential character, run-down Adam terraces in Portland Place were replaced by more desirable blocks of fashionable flats. But not entirely – the Survey's illustrations show how much elegant eighteenth-century interior detail still survives, while plans demonstrate the ingenious variety of house plans which existed behind apparently uniform frontages.

Clients could be unpredictable. In 1717 the Harleys had ambitious hopes for Cavendish Square as an aristocratic Tory stronghold, centred on a palace for the Duke of Chandos on the north side, but this foundered when Chandos lost much of his wealth, and the square was not completed until later in the century. The smaller enclave of Stratford Place dating from the 1770s was more successful in expressing Georgian hierarchy: a palace of stone for Lord Stratford (much altered but still extant) coherently flanked by brick and stucco terrace houses; a layout which may possibly owe something to the City Surveyor George Dance, as well as to the little known

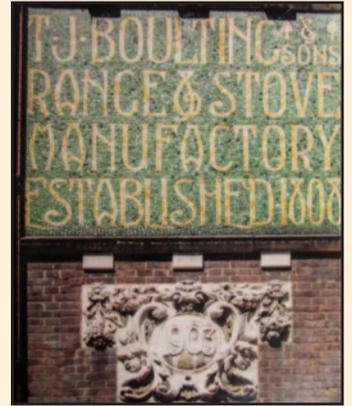


architect Edwin to whom payments were made. The Stratford Place terraces survived into the twentieth century, but exactly what remains now is not easy to work out; this chapter lacks the useful feature found in some of the chapters in the second volume: a summary gazetteer of existing buildings. But it does include fascinating lists of 'notable occupants': artists, politicians and diplomats and 'others'. The chapter-end lists are especially revealing on the medical character which developed around Harley Street: a list of 'eminent medical residents' for Cavendish Square south side, Wimpole Street and Devonshire Place have 'medical residents' (a total of 55), while Harley Street (within the chapter rather than at the end) lists over 70 'medical practitioners' in addition to those mentioned in the text. The less grand streets of volume 2 are quite different. West of Portland Place commerce and industry gained ground during the early twentieth century. Great Portland Street became the 'Motor Market of the World', while buildings associated with the garment trade appeared in Great Titchfield Street; this varied, less familiar mix is studied with equal attention. Further east housing was developed on the Berners estate in the eighteenth century. The terraces on and around Newman Street attracted a wide social range, popular especially with sculptors, artists and musicians, and with architect-developers including William Chambers. From this time almost nothing remains, but full attention is given to the striking interiors of the proud Berners Hotel (1905) and the progressive showrooms for Sandersons (1957-60) (now also a hotel), together with a lament that the latter's new owners fail to appreciate its collection of art works including the powerful Piper and Reyntiens stained glass.

The Survey is fun to quarry for its social and biographical detail, and the excellent introduction offers helpful guidelines. There are mini-histories of the many institutions and societies established in the area as well as of individuals. But no less rewarding are the scholarly architectural assessments. Twentieth century highlights include the headquarters of the BBC and the RIBA, older landmarks are several very different churches: the modest St Peter Vere Street by James Gibbs (with a reconstruction of the original interior instead of a depressing view of its present state), Nash's All Souls, and (a real tour de force) Butterfield's All Saints Margaret Street, where the colour photography of the details is especially rewarding. Colour also brings out the quality of some of the quirkiest late nineteenth-century buildings in the eastern streets, such as F. L. Pither's striking Radiant House, Mortimer Street, with its turquoise-blue faience panels, given the honour of a full page chapter-head position, while the bold green mosaic nameplate of the ironmongers Boulting & Sons in Riding House Street appears on the back cover of vol. 2.

One cannot do justice in a review to the depth

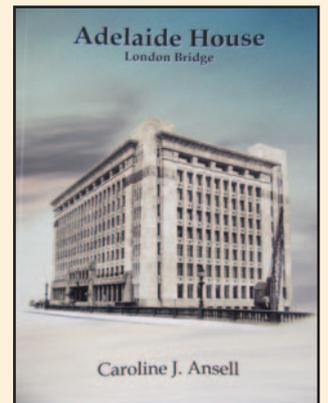
and diversity of these volumes, to their infectious enjoyment of discovery and to their enhancement of understanding of a complex area of London. They are worthy successors in the great tradition established by Francis Sheppard, whose obituary appears elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, and who himself laid the groundwork with his history of the parish of St Marylebone.



– Bridget Cherry

Adelaide House London Bridge by Caroline J. Ansell 2016. 101pp Published by the author, 24 Carinya Crescent, Karana Downs Queensland 4306 Australia; cjansell9@bigpond.com ISBN 978 0 98722 041 7

The details above might provoke the speculation that the name of Adelaide House, the severe blocky office building of 1924-5 by London Bridge, had some Australian connection. Not so, the present building took its name from its predecessor on the site, the Adelaide Hotel of 1835. This stood in Adelaide Place, named after the consort of William IV, created when London Bridge was rebuilt on a different alignment.



The hotel did not prosper and was converted to offices after 1856, occupied from 1878-1914 by Pearl Life Assurance Company. The story of the Australian connection then emerges. By 1920 the site had been acquired by Richard Tilden Smith (1865-1929), a wealthy entrepreneur and underwriter who had prospered in the West Australian goldrush. Tilden Smith employed Sir John Burnet, Tait and partners to build a prestigious eleven-floor building for his bank and offices, with an innovative steel-frame, influenced by the work of the American Louis Sullivan – the first such building in the City of London.

The most intriguing aspect of this modest publication is the detail about Tilden Smith – about whom the author has published an earlier study. His luxurious top-floor offices and spectacular private roof garden were reported in the press and are illustrated by contemporary photographs and views.

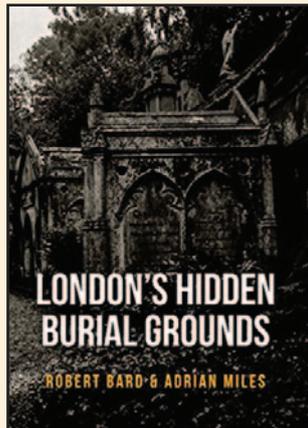
In the garden – two-thirds of an acre – with riverside pergola, flower-filled rockeries, fruit trees and beehives, the portly boss could combine work with exercise and recreation. The garden had a

telephone and an 18-hole putting course, and in 1927 was the site of the ceremonial 'stirring of the King's Empire Christmas pudding' (with ingredients designed to promote imperial trade). Tilden Smith died in 1929, the building was sold in 1954, an extra floor replaced the roof garden and in the late 1960s the setting was severely compromised by the rebuilding of London Bridge. Major internal alterations in the 1980s created a dealing room and modernised offices, and in 2005-7 extensive renovations took place. But listing prevented demolition; the external stone frontages with their severe sculptures by Sir William Reid Dick still form an impressive introduction to the City as one crosses London Bridge, a reminder that global enterprise is not a recent phenomenon.

– Bridget Cherry

London's Hidden Burial Grounds by Robert Bard and Adrian Miles, Amberley 2017 96pp. ISBN 978 1 44566 111 7. £14.95

Burial was originally the responsibility of individual parishes, but coping with the rapid expansion of London's population was beyond them, and there was a reluctance to acquire land outside the parish boundaries. During the eighteenth century the situation was complicated by the growth of separate burial grounds for dissenters and by privately managed grounds exploiting the need for ever more burial space. Only gradually was it accepted that land outside the built up area was the answer. This book explores the grim situation before this happened, and what some of the inner London burial places look like today, selecting around 40 London burial grounds for discussion.



The foundations on which the book rests are the well-known nineteenth-century descriptions, which are generously quoted: the shocking conditions revealed in the Chadwick report of 1842, the grisly accounts by G. A. Walker (1839-49), the convincingly graphic details in Dickens's novels, and the more detached, very thorough history of London burial grounds by I. M. Holmes of 1896, by which time the worst excesses had disappeared and many sites had been transformed into playgrounds.

There are plenty of ghoulish horror-stories about the common practice of moving bones about to make room for more burials. Generally the book is impressionistic rather than detailed and scholarly, and it is a pity that there are only a few maps. 'Atmospheric' is much used as a criterion for selection. But a bonus is that the descriptions of

the sites today are enhanced by reference to recent archaeological discoveries, and to the research by Vanessa Harding on burial practices, and there is a useful bibliography. One chapter brings together scattered evidence of sites used as 'plague pits and pest fields' – the excavations at Charterhouse, the Royal Mint and Spitalfields are well known, but others still await interpretation, such as the mass burials found at Broadgate. Parishes may have extended their churchyards to create plague pits, as is suggested in the case of St John Wapping, a tranquil photograph contrasting strikingly with past history.

The longest section, 'London's worst nineteenth-century burial grounds' includes some of the sites which were most shocking to the Victorian critics. It is fascinating to discover their tangled history. Today, St Martin in the Fields' burial ground at Drury Lane is marked by a mortuary chapel next to the present playground. Nothing now remains of the burial ground and workhouse of St James Piccadilly, squeezed between Marshall Street and Carnaby Street. The notorious 'green ground', which belonged to St Clement Danes and a private chapel is now covered by the LSE; at Spa Fields, Islington, there is a playground on the site of the scandalously managed overcrowded private burial ground which was in use from 1777-1853. There were many others whose history is obscure, such as Ewer Street, Southwark, partly destroyed for Charing Cross railway in 1861, but where 200 skeletons were found in 1987. The final chapter covers Jewish burial grounds in the east end, originally well planned, but where present conditions range from carefully cherished to crumbling neglect. This book is not only a stimulating introduction to the changing nature of burial places, but illuminates for the topographer many little-known layers of London history.

– Bridget Cherry



Miscellanea

The East End in Colour 1960-1980 by David Granick, 2018. Hoxton Mini Press, £16.95. 'London's East end in the warm hues of Kodachrome.' The book of an exhibition of Granick's photos, which are now in Tower Hamlets Archives. Atmospheric details of people and places shown just as all was on the verge of radical change. A worthy addition to the series of elegant photographic studies by this enterprising local publisher. Another much larger book of photos is **East London** by Charles Saumarez-Smith, Thames & Hudson. 2017, paperback, £18.91; unusual views, taken by the author, with well-informed captions, maps and good bibliography.

Recent *Newsletters* have highlighted a number of books on London south of the river. But research

also continues in other areas. The recent issues of the admirably varied and well produced **Bulletin of the Hornsey Historical Society** include further instalments of Nick Allaway's detailed account of **Hornsey in World War I**: No 58 has details of damage from a bombing raid in 1917 (not revealed in the contemporary press), and No 59 concludes the series with an account of local war memorials. Topographers will especially enjoy our council member Peter Barber's account of **'Highgate on maps to 1688'** (Bulletin 59). It includes the first fruits of his study of a newly discovered manuscript map at Hatfield House, datable to 1608, which is the earliest known to show Highgate in detail.

Moving to the western suburbs, a recent publication in Amberley Publishing's 'Time' series is **Ham & Petersham through time** by Paul Howard Lang; 96pp and 180 illustrations. ISBN 078 1 44567 330 1, £14.99. The pairs of photos, enlivened by interesting stories of past residents, are arranged as a walking tour. Older views of the twentieth century, many from the author's own collection, are contrasted with the scene today. Most of the grander houses have been little changed, although they are now attended by colourful arrays of parked cars. The changing social scene is revealed by the lesser buildings: shops and gardeners' cottages have disappeared, outbuildings have been converted to dwellings. Milking sheds at Petersham have returned to meadowland. Ham Common in 1912 had Elm trees and grazing cattle.

City of London, Unique Images from the archives of Historic England, introduced by Michael Foley, 2018, Amberley £14.99 ISBN 978 1 44567 732 3, is quite attractively produced, but

rather a wasted opportunity. The illustrations are interesting, and the market scenes are particularly lively, but the captions are brief and bland and it is frustrating that hardly any of the photos are given even approximate dates. Apart from a few cursory references to Wren, the text lacks any mention of the architects and sculptors of the works illustrated. There is no index or map.

A plea for volunteers from the Centre for Metropolitan History

Layers of London is a digital mapping platform where users can overlay historical maps over the contemporary map of London to see how the city has changed through time. Stories and memories on the website are crowd-sourced so we can get a diverse, representative and interesting range of histories about London pinned on the map to their exact locations today! These include oral histories, photographs, stories and memories and examples include; documenting the building developments and changes in Barking and Dagenham, documenting Conscientious Objectors in Haringey and recording prisoner of war stories in Newham and much more.

For further information contact:
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Bookshop Corner

If you are in the habit of frequenting familiar, long-established bookshops you may not have discovered the London Review Bookshop in Bury Street, just south of the British Museum, as it opened only in 2003. Linked to the *London Review of Books*, it not only sells books, but has evening events, a lively website (londonreviewbookshop.co.uk) and a café with excellent salads and cakes). The cosy size of the shop is deceptive – there is a basement as well. New books are enticingly displayed on the centre tables, others arranged clearly by type and subject (books on London are shelved on the right hand side).

The bookshop describes its ethos as 'intelligent without being pompous; engaged without being partisan' and undertakes to find not only the books you need but 'the ones you didn't know you needed'. The latter is only too true and I have often come away with something unexpected. Do not assume that the stock consists solely of earnest volumes on world affairs discussed in the *London Review of Books*

– they are there too and the staff are very helpful if you have forgotten the exact title. But the 20,000 plus books also include fiction new and old, biography, poetry, CDs of the spoken word, cookery, children's books, and much more, all with an eye for quality. And if you feel you should not indulge yourself, it is an excellent place to hunt for presents. Opening times are Mon-Sat 10.00-6.30; Sunday 12.00-6.00.



– Bridget Cherry

London Topographical Society

The London Topographical Society was founded in 1880 for the study and appreciation of London. It is a registered charity (No. 271590) with around 1,200 members. The Society remains true to the vision of its founders by making available maps, plans and views illustrating the history, growth and topographical development of London at all periods, and by publishing research in the London Topographical Record. Details of all publications can be found on the Society's website: www.londontopsoc.org

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All officers and council members serve in an honorary capacity.

New membership enquiries and changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary, John Bowman. Renewals of existing membership, including renewed payments, requests for standing orders and gift-aid forms should be sent to Andrew Thorp, 45 Stanton Road, London SW20 8RW (email: Andrew.Thorpe@ramboll.co.uk). Enquiries about non-receipt of publications should be addressed to the Treasurer, Roger Cline. Proposals for new publications should be passed to the Editor, Sheila O'Connell. Books for review and other material for the *Newsletter* should be sent to the Newsletter Editor, Bridget Cherry.

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Annual General Meeting 2018

The 118th Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society will be held at 5.30pm on Monday, 25 June in the Beveridge Hall of the Senate House of the University of London, Malet Street WC1E 7HU.

Attendees may enter the Senate House's main entrance on Malet Street to the west or the rear entrance from Russell Square to the east.

The Beveridge Hall is on the right-hand side of the ground floor as you enter the Senate House from Malet Street. Members may bring a guest.

Timings & Refreshments

For those who arrive early a café is available (on payment) on the ground floor. Admittance to the Beveridge Hall will be from 5pm when tea and cakes will be served and the annual publications may be picked up. The AGM will start at 5.30pm.

Disabled Access

Disabled access is available. Please contact the Hon. Secretary, Mike Wicksteed (mike.wicksteed@btinternet.com) if you need a disabled parking space.

How to get there

The easiest way to travel to the Senate House is by public transport.

Underground: Russell Square (Piccadilly Line) is the nearest tube station. Also Goodge Street (Northern Line)

Bus: 10 to Montague Street; 188 to Russell Square; 59, 68, 91, 168 to Southampton Row. There are many others in the vicinity.

History of the Senate House

In 1921, the government bought 11 acres (4.5 ha) of land in Bloomsbury from the Duke of Bedford to provide a new site for the University of London, whose headquarters were then based in Kensington.

However, many within the University were opposed to a move and, in 1926, the Duke bought back the land. The election of William Beveridge to the post of Vice-Chancellor of the University in June 1926 was highly significant as Beveridge supported a move to Bloomsbury. Beveridge persuaded the Rockefeller Foundation to donate £400,000 to the University and the original site was reacquired in 1927.

The grand design for the Senate House was the work of Charles Holden, who was appointed as architect in March 1931 from a short list which also included Giles Gilbert Scott, Percy Scott Worthington and Arnold Dunbar Smith. In making their choice, Beveridge and the Principal, Edwin Deller, were influenced by the success of Holden's recently completed 55 Broadway,

the headquarters for the London Electric Railway and then the tallest office building in London and which was later the headquarters for the London Underground.

Holden devised a layout with a long stone-faced spine with lower wings, extending the length of Malet Street. The dominant tower was requested in the brief, as a clear statement of the identity of the University on the Bloomsbury site. Senate House and formal rooms were at the south end facing the British Museum with Library reading rooms on the 4th floor. The concept of a spinal block drew on Holden's experience of hospital building, a speciality of his firm, Adams Holden & Pearson. The tower, built of load-bearing masonry, using Holden's favourite Portland stone above a granite base, is given dignity and character by its subtle stepped back profile. (As LCC regulations forbade inhabited use above the 10th floor its function was to take bookstacks.) Holden's attention to detail is seen also in the ornamental rainwater hoppers, and the ironwork balconies in the halls, reflecting his roots in the Arts and Crafts tradition. He would have liked some sculpture but the University was nervous of controversy and the plinth east of the tower remains empty. Tower and Senate House were completed in 1937. Already by then Holden's scheme had been modified, influenced by increasing costs and objection to the loss of the open space of Torrington Square (see fig. on p.iii). Instead, the square was conceived as a garden flanked by individual buildings: the School of Oriental and African Studies was begun in 1940, but others were built only gradually after the war and without Holden's input.



Senate House seen from the south end of Malet Street

Agenda

Following a welcome by our Chairman, Penny Hunting, the meeting will comprise:

1. Minutes of the 117th AGM.
2. Annual Report of the Council for 2017.
3. Treasurer's Report: Accounts for 2017.
4. Hon. Editor's Report.
5. Election of Council officers and members.
6. Proposals by Members.
7. Any other business.

Items 1, 2 and 3 can be found within the central insert to this *Newsletter*.

Following the AGM there will be two short presentations: Rosemary Ashton will talk about Victorian Bloomsbury and the widening of education, and a senior curator from the BFI will talk about the BFI's London Films digitisation project.



Minutes of the Society's 117th Annual General Meeting held at 5.40pm on Thursday, 6 July 2017 in the Octagon, Queen Mary University, Mile End Road

The meeting was attended by approximately 200 members. 64 members sent apologies.

Penelope Hunting, Chairman of the Society, welcomed members to the 117th AGM. She regretted that copies of 2017 publication had not been delivered to the meeting: the van driver had not been able to find the Octagon and was on his way home. **

1. MINUTES OF THE 116th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, as published in the Society's May 2017 *Newsletter*, were approved and signed. Proposed: Brian Relf; seconded: Anthony Ashby.

2. 116th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2016, as published in the Society's May 2017 *Newsletter*, was approved. Proposed: John Houghton; seconded: Ann Saunders.

3. ACCOUNTS FOR 2016. Roger Cline, the Hon. Treasurer, told the meeting that this was the 33rd set of accounts he had presented to the Society and that it was his intention to retire as Treasurer in the near future. LTS member Andrew Thorp had volunteered to take over the office and was standing for election to the Council this year. Roger noted that the accounts, as published in the May 2017 edition of the *Newsletter*, had been approved by Hugh Cleaver, the Society's Independent Examiner. He said that last year's £10,000 deficit had been planned in order to reduce the relatively large reserves held by the Society. Although the 2016 accounts showed no refund of tax from Gift Aid payments, the Society had in June 2017 received a refund of £13,000 for the period 2013-2016 mainly due to the assistance of Andrew Thorp. There were no questions from the floor. Proposed: Mary Nurse; seconded: Lester May.

4. HON. EDITOR'S REPORT. Sheila O'Connell, the Society's Hon. Editor, outlined the Society's publications in the pipeline through to 2020. For 2018 there will be two volumes reproducing panoramas of London – Thomas Girtin's of 1801/02 and Lawrence Wright's after the Blitz, as well as a new edition of the Map of Tudor London to be published jointly with the Historic Towns Trust. For 2019 there will be a catalogue of London Parish Maps, 1650-1900 and the London Topographical Record. The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the work of Simon Morris and his volunteer team who were working on the Parish Map project.

5. NOMINATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO COUNCIL. There were no nominations from the floor.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. The Chairman announced that most members of Council were willing to stand again, noting that Professor Michael Port was resigning from the Council whom she thanked for his many years of excellent service to the Society. One new member was proposed by the Council: Andrew Thorp.

The following **Council Members** were re-elected and elected unanimously: *Chairman*: Penelope Hunting; *Hon. Treasurer*: Roger Cline; *Hon. Editor*: Sheila O'Connell; *Hon. Secretary*: Mike Wicksteed; *Newsletter Editor*: Bridget Cherry; *Publications Secretary*: Simon Morris; and *Membership Secretary*: John Bowman. **Other Members**: Peter Barber, Dorian Gerhold, Peter Guillery, Robin Michaelson, Peter Ross, Andrew Thorp, Geoffrey Tyack, Rosemary Weinstein, and Laurence Worms. Proposed: Warren Grynberg; seconded: Anne Stacey.

The Chairman noted that there were three Vice-Presidents: Iain Bain, Stephen Marks and Ann Saunders. Ann was present at the meeting.

7. PROPOSALS BY MEMBERS. There was a unanimous vote of thanks from those present for the work of the Society's Council Officers and Members.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Simon Morris briefed the meeting on the Parish Map publication. The Chairman spoke of the improved *Newsletter* design and thanked the *Newsletter* Editor, Bridget Cherry, for her work with this. She also thanked the Council Members who had organised the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS. Following the formal part of the meeting there were talks by: 1) Alastair Owens, Professor of Historical Geography at the QM University, who spoke on the Octagon, the People's Palace, the College generally and the burial ground; and 2) Bernard Nurse, author of the Society's 2017 publication *London: Prints & Drawings before 1800*, who spoke about his work.

Penny Hunting thanked Alistair and Bernard for their talks and those present for their attendance, declaring the meeting closed at 6.25pm.

** Following the meeting, after being contacted by the Treasurer, the distributors of the annual publication admitted liability for the non-delivery of the publications and agreed to send out 300 copies at no cost to the Society.

– Chairman, 25 June 2018

118th Annual Report of the Council of the London Topographical Society for 2017

Our 117th Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 6 July 2017 in the Octagon, Queen Mary University, Mile End Road. It was well attended and after the formalities of the meeting there were short talks by Alastair Owens, Professor of Historical Geography at the QM University, who spoke on the Octagon, the People's Palace, the College generally and the burial ground; and Bernard Nurse, author of the Society's 2017 publication who spoke about his work.

Council meetings were held in January, April and September to discuss the Society's publications programme, membership, finances and general administration. The Society's annual publication for 2017, a joint venture with the Bodleian Library, was *London: Prints & Drawings before 1800* (LTS No. 179) by Society member Bernard Nurse. It contains more than one hundred images of the Greater London area before 1800 from maps, drawings, manuscripts, printed books and engravings, all from the Gough Collection at the Bodleian Library, providing a fascinating insight into life in Georgian London.

During 2017 a long serving Council Member, Michael Port, resigned and Caroline Barron and Andrew Thorp were elected to the Council at the AGM. Sadly, David Webb, a long-time member of the Society and Council Member, died in 2017.

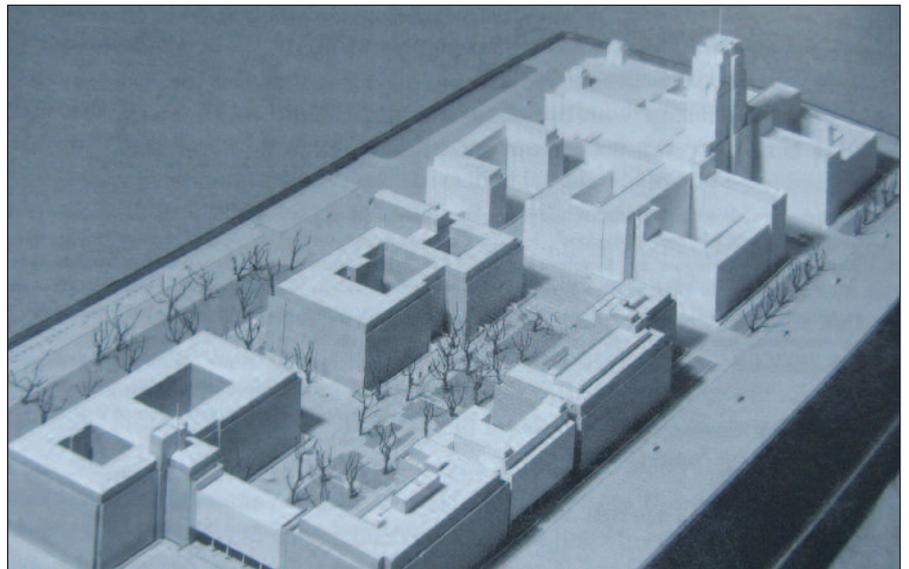
The Society's total income for 2017 was £50,986 while expenditure came to £33,851.

The Society made a single grant this year of £10,000 to the British Film Institute (BFI), the third of three annual grants, for digitisation and cataloguing of 15-20 short historical films about London which the BFI will produce, in conjunction with the LTS, as a DVD in 2019.

During the year 49 new members joined the Society: at the end of 2016 there were 1240 paid-up members and four honorary members.

Our *Newsletter* was published in May (No. 84) and November (No. 85) with front cover pictures of old views as attractive tasters for our major publications, and with articles ranging over London past and present. *Purchasing properties in East London in the early nineteenth century: the London Dock Company in the 1800s*, by Derek Morris, and *Copyhold tenure in the manor of Stepney*, by Mark Ballard, provided documentary evidence for the development of London's East End; Dorian Gerhold's *Radical Politics in the 1640s, locating the Whalebone*, threw light on a corner of the City of London. Jeremy Smith and Caroline de Stefani wrote about the famous Visscher Panorama at the London Metropolitan Archives (to whose conservation the LTS contributed).

Discovering the Lawrence Wright Panorama of London, by Hubert Pragnell, prepared us for one of our 2018 publications. David Crawford's *A railway through eight millennia of London*, surveyed the contribution of archaeology, and his article *A new theatre in the round, a transformation at the Brunel Museum*, brought us up to date with a striking recent innovation; other novelties were noted in the feature 'Changing London'. Among the book reviews burial grounds and London south of the river proved popular themes; 'Bookshop corner' featured bookshops in Chelsea and Bloomsbury.



Model of Holdens' 'balanced scheme', 1937

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2017

Income	2017	2016	Expenditure	2017	2016
	£	£		£	£
Subscriptions paid by members	23,229	22,810	Members' subscription publications		
Subscriptions from earlier years	60	20	Cost of Printing	14,857	17,605
Income Tax from Covenants/Gift Aid	15,863	–	Cost of Distribution	1,730	2,896
Total subscription income	39,152	22,830	Total cost of publications	16,587	20,501
Net profit from sales of Publications	3,078	3,634	Newsletter	4,842	4,774
Interest received	703	937	AGM	1,770	2,367
Grant: Scouloudi Foundation	1,250	1,250	Website	460	455
Bequest: Denise Silvester-Carr	5,000	–	Administration	192	163
Sundry donations	255	95	Total Administration Costs	7,264	7,759
Royalties received	1,554	1,152	Grant to British Film Inst. (2015-17)	10,000	10,000
Total Income for the year	50,992	29,899	Total expenditure for the year	33,851	40,017
Surplus (Deficit in 2016)	17,141	10,118			

BALANCE SHEET 31 December 2017

Assets	2017	2016	Liabilities	2017	2016
	£	£		£	£
Money in Bank & National Savings	190,176	167,702	Overseas members' postage	150	217
Advance payments	5,147	4,886	Subscriptions paid in advance	3,360	4,520
Value of Publication Stock			Creditor	3,600	–
Stock at end of previous year	12,720	12,936	Total Liabilities	7,100	4,737
Additions to stock	480	3,250	Net Worth of the Society	197,711	180,570
Less Value of publications sold	3,712	3,466	Change in net worth		
Value of stock at year end	9,488	12,720	Previous year's net worth	180,570	190,688
Total assets	204,811	185,307	Surplus (Deficit in 2016)	17,141	10,118
			End of year net worth	197,711	180,570

These accounts are with our Independent Examiner. If approved by him they will be presented at the AGM.
If you have any questions please address them to the Treasurer in advance of the meeting.