

# LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Number 90  
May 2020



Composite photo of 4–24 Oxford Street in 2018. To the left, the former Lyons Oxford Corner House at Nos 14–24 (© Historic England Archive, DP232680) . An illustration from the new *Survey of London* volume on Oxford Street see p. 3

### Notes and News

The Coronavirus lockdown at time of writing has created some difficulties in compiling this *Newsletter*. We are grateful to all our contributors and to our printer for their persistence.

### AGM November 2020

Our AGM will be held on Monday, 30 November in the

Great Hall of King's College London. It was to have been on 8 July but Covid-19 sadly put paid to that. Please note this will be a 'Members Only' AGM due to the university's security constraints and the size of the Hall. Should you wish to attend, **please bring your copy of the AGM insert in this Newsletter with you** – entry will not be permitted without it.

Entry will start at 4.45pm through the Reception Area on the Strand and the AGM will start at 5.30pm. Other details can be found in the AGM insert.

### Contents

|  |     |  |      |
|--|-----|--|------|
| Notes and News, AGM 2020 .....             | p.1 | In Case of Fire, Break the Road              |      |
| Delivering the Annual Publication          |     | by Nigel Tattersfield .....                  | p.9  |
| by Simon Morris.....                       | p.2 | An Early Speculation in Lambeth by John Nash |      |
| Time on your hands?                        |     | by Andrew Saint.....                         | p.10 |
| Our new website by Mike Wicksteed.....     | p.3 | The Eye of London by Mireille Galinou .....  | p.12 |
| The Survey of London on Oxford Street      |     | Changing London: Wild Life in the City.....  | p.12 |
| by Amy Spencer .....                       | p.3 | Wandsworth's Ram re-rampant                  |      |
| Parliament Square by David Harrison.....   | p.5 | by David Crawford .....                      | p.13 |
| Hogarth's London by Sheila O'Connell ..... | p.8 | Lockdown in London .....                     | p.15 |
|  |     | Reviews .....                                | p.17 |

**Publication** - Should you wish to pick up the 2020 Publication, *London Parish Maps (1740-1900)*, ahead of the AGM, please contact Roger Cline (roger.cline13@gmail.com) after 15 July. Members who are willing to volunteer to distribute

the book after lockdown is over and before the AGM should inform the Hon. Publications Secretary, Simon Morris (santiagodecompostela@btinternet.com) with a copy to Roger Cline – see also below.

## Delivering the Annual Publication

The Society has some 1200 members, and the cost of packing and posting the annual publication can be considerable. The price we pay depends on the size and weight of the year's publications, but can range between £4 to £8 or even more. At the moment we have a number of dedicated volunteers who between them, deliver over 200 copies to members who live nearby, saving the Society roughly £1000 – a useful contribution to our finances.

I will be taking over responsibility for ensuring delivery of our annual publication starting in 2020, relieving our Treasurer Roger Cline, of a task he has handled so well for many years.

Looking through the membership list, you can spot districts with a cluster of members where we don't have a volunteer. Here is the list of places

### Berkshire

Reading 4

### Essex

Leigh on Sea 4

Saffron Walden 5

Woodford Green 9

### Kent

Bexley & Bexleyheath 4

Bickley, Bromley &

Beckenham 18 (*no need to do all*)

Heathfield 3

Orpington 4

Rye 4

Sevenoaks 3

Sidcup 5

### London Central

*There are so many members that you are welcome to do just the area closest, for instance, to your office.*

EC 46

WC 27

### London East

E1 8

E3 5

E4 4

E10 4

E11 5

E14 6

E17 9

E18 4

### London North

N10 3

N11 4

N12 4

N19 4

N21 3

### London North West

NW5 9

NW6 5

NW8 6

NW10 3

### London South East

SE1 9

SE3 10

SE4 3

SE5 7

SE10 7

SE11 7

SE13 5

SE15 3

SE16 7

SE21 7

SE22 8

SE23 3

SE24 9

SE26 5

SE27 4

### London South West

SW1 21 (*no need to do all*)

SW2 3

SW3 4

SW4 6

SW6 4

SW8 4

SW9 3

SW11 4

SW12 5

SW13 6

SW15 5

SW17 4

SW18 7

SW19 5

SW20 5

plus number of members. If you are interested, this entails (a) taking the volumes from the AGM – or I can deliver them to you if you are reasonably close to London; (b) taking them to the members, leaving them wrapped and in a safe place if they are out. If this appeals, please let me know and I will be very happy to chat it through. Places we don't name already have volunteers in place.



### London West

W1 11

W2 3

W4 6

W5 8

W6 6

W7 3

W10 5

W11 4

W12 5

W14 5

### Middesex

Barnet (inc. East & New) 9

Enfield 5

Hampton 3

Harrow (inc. S and W) 6

Pinner 4

Teddington 3

Twickenham 7

### Oxfordshire

Abingdon 3

### Surrey

East Molesey 3

Epsom & Ewell 5

Guildford 5

Kew 6

New Malden 3

Richmond 8

Woking 3

Worcester Park 3

### Sussex

Brighton & Hove 5

Chichester & Fishbourne 6

### Further afield

Bristol 3

Exeter 4

Simon Morris, [santiagodecompostela@btinternet.com](mailto:santiagodecompostela@btinternet.com)

## Time on your hands? How about a look at our new website?

Mike Wicksteed, our Hon. Secretary and Website Editor, provides some suggestions.

Thanks to the grim Covid-19 pandemic currently enveloping the country, I guess most of us have more disposable time than usual these days. For those of you who haven't looked at the website recently there's a surprise. All issues of our *Newsletter*, from the preliminary issue in February 1975, which for website purposes has been allocated the number 00; to the latest, are now available to read online [[londontopsoc.org/newsletters](http://londontopsoc.org/newsletters)].

Our thanks go to Society Member John Causer for his most generous allocation of time and expertise, who digitised the preliminary issue to No. 73. Ludo Press, our printer, has been digitising them since No 74. In addition we've added a drop-down content menu for each issue: just hover over the issue number and bingo!

Spanning 45 years, the *Newsletter* provides a fascinating insight into the development of the Society with articles covering a wide spectrum of topics about London, as well as a large number of book reviews.

You may also be interested in delving deep into our Society's past by opening the section containing the complete list our publications [[londontopsoc.org/library/complete-publication-list](http://londontopsoc.org/library/complete-publication-list)].

Our earliest digitised publication, No 3, the *Illustrated Topographical Record of London* published in 1898, was the first in a series of three volumes by J. P. Emslie, showing changes and demolitions in London over the period 1880-7. They're packed with lovely pen drawings of buildings and descriptions of buildings long gone. The three volumes were a precursor to the Society's *London Topographical Record*, the first volume of which was published in 1901 (No 11) which is also available to read on the website. Indeed all the early volumes of *The Record* up to Vol XII (No 49, 1920) can now be viewed. More will follow.

If I was to pick one publication of note it would be No 8, *Kensington Turnpike Trust Plans, 1811: Salway's plan of the road from Hyde Park Corner to Counter's Bridge*. Thirty sheets were published over the period 1899-1903, demonstrating exquisite draughtmanship, which depict the beginning of the two and a half mile turnpike road leading into London from Counter's Bridge, the westernmost point of today's Kensington High Street, to Hyde Park Corner. The entire publication can be viewed on the British Library's website through a link from No 8 on our webpage.

Another area of interest might be "Websites with a London Focus". This array of links to other websites is potentially interesting enough to keep you at the screen for hours [[londontopsoc.org/other-resources/related-institutions](http://londontopsoc.org/other-resources/related-institutions)].

We shall continue to develop the website to provide a useful and absorbing means to access the history of London to the benefit all Members, as well as researchers, students and the casual browser. One project on the horizon is to expand

the Maps section.

So, should you find yourself with that bit of spare time, do have a look. However, take care – you may be glued to your screen for longer than planned.

– Mike Wicksteed

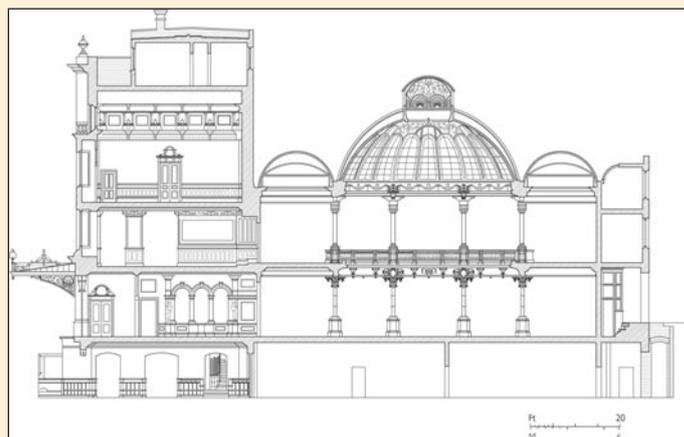


## The Survey of London on Oxford Street

Amy Spencer introduces the latest impressive publication by the Survey of London.

This spring marks the publication of the fifty-third volume in the *Survey of London's* main or parish series. In the Survey's 126-year history, *Oxford Street* is the first volume to focus on a single street. It may also be claimed as the first comprehensive modern monograph on the history of a British urban thoroughfare. The study follows on from the publication of *South-East Marylebone* in 2017, covering a large portion of the West End north of Oxford Street, or more specifically the area bounded by Marylebone Road at the north, Cleveland Street and Tottenham Court Road at the east, and Marylebone High Street at the west. Research is under way on a fourth volume, *South-West Marylebone*, covering the area immediately west as far as Edgware Road. This research on the West End is balanced by ongoing work towards two volumes on Whitechapel that are expected to be published in 2022.

At an early stage in planning the *Survey's* investigations in Marylebone, it was determined that it was not only pragmatic but appropriate to work towards a separate study of Oxford Street. As one of the longest continuous shopping streets in Europe, stretching for more than a mile in length, Oxford Street has a distinctive topography and character. The street is a vestige of the Roman road network, serving as part of an important suburban route extending westwards from the City. This major highway was known until the eighteenth century as Tyburn Road, a name derived from a brook that has long since been obscured by urban development. Oxford Street's former name still carries



Frascati's Restaurant, section c.1905, illustrated by Helen Jones.  
© Survey of London



Flying Horse pub, 6 Oxford Street. Interior detail in 2013, showing painting of Spring, photographed by Chris Redgrave. © Historic England Archive, DP183453

associations of the gallows that stood on the site of the present junction at Marble Arch from at least the twelfth century. In the eighteenth century the brook was culverted, the gallows were moved, and the thoroughfare was increasingly known as Oxford Street. This name had already been established for some time, reflecting the street's use as the main route to Oxford. While its emergence predated the start of bourgeois development on the Cavendish-Harley estate from the 1710s, its use and adoption conveniently helped to shake off the street's notoriety as the last route of condemned prisoners.

By examining the history of building development, transport networks and social, cultural and economic life along Oxford Street to the present day, the new volume offers insights into the street's enduring appeal as a centre for shopping. Through the new research it has been possible to pinpoint Oxford Street's transition into a major shopping destination to the 1770s. By this time, executions had ended at Tyburn and the road was resurfaced with granite blocks. Shopkeepers perceived the opportunity to establish shops, mostly connected with the drapery trades, within reach of the affluent residents of Mayfair and Marylebone. In the nineteenth century the concentration of small shops based in single houses gave way to shopping bazaars and, from the 1870s, department stores. The arrival of improved transport links, such as the opening of the Central Line at Oxford Circus Station in 1900, followed by the Bakerloo Line in 1906 and the Northern Line at Tottenham Court Road in 1907, widened Oxford Street's appeal to shoppers from the suburbs and further afield, securing its status as London's most continuously successful shopping street.

Notwithstanding the continuity of the Survey series, there is a long record of experiment and adaptive innovation. One of the complications of

the research on Oxford Street was that portions of the thoroughfare had already been covered lightly in volumes on St Anne's, Soho, St James's North and the Grosvenor estate (Volumes 31-34, 39 and 40). Aside from the reuse of a chapter on the Pantheon, the celebrated entertainment venue first built to designs by James Wyatt in 1769-72, the new volume presents entirely new work. *Oxford Street* is organised in a linear format, covering both sides of the street from Tottenham Court Road to Marble Arch. The twelfth chapter (of twenty-two) which is on Oxford Circus examines the complicated story of planning and acquiring ground for John Nash's circus of 1816-21, unsuccessful plans for a commemorative pillar at its centre, and the rebuilding of the four segments to designs by Henry Tanner junior between 1911 and 1923. The rest of the volume is devoted to the north and south sides of Oxford Street, with chapters covering discrete chunks between the cross-streets. The largest department stores that guzzled up entire blocks, such as Selfridges and John Lewis, are the foci of individual chapters. Despite the dominance of shops and stores, Oxford Street has also long been a hub for entertainment, including restaurants, music halls, theatres and cinemas. One of the most well-known establishments was Frascati's Restaurant, which operated in spacious and elaborate premises between 1892 and 1954.

*Oxford Street* contains more than 350 illustrations, including drawings and maps by Helen Jones, the Survey's architectural illustrator, and historic photographs. New photography has been carried out by Chris Redgrave of Historic England with financial support from the Portman Estate. The volume also contains photographs of the sights and atmosphere of Oxford Street, recorded by Lucy Millson-Watkins in 2015. The volume has been edited by Andrew Saint and produced in the Survey's current house style, designed by Catherine Bankhurst under the supervision of Emily Lees at the Paul Mellon Centre. The volume is now available from Yale Books for £75.



164-182 Oxford Street, former Waring & Gillow store, in 2019. © Historic England Archive

## Parliament Square

As plans are once again discussed for closing part of Parliament Square to motor traffic, David Harrison explores its history and transformation from an area full of shops and dwellings to the 'desert' created in the early nineteenth century and, finally, to plans to reduce motor domination since the 1990s.

Parliament Square is a paradox. It is surrounded by our most important institutions: the Houses of Parliament, the coronation church, Government offices and the Supreme Court and it contains some of our finest buildings, but it is also a symbol of the domination of the motor car. Over 50 years ago David Piper described it as "A desert island with ...a fringe of bronze colossal statesmen... Cross it if you can; it is likely to be difficult for Parliament Square is where the roundabout was initiated for the benefit of London motor traffic and the detriment of pedestrians."

### The Middle Ages to the eighteenth century

Looking out on the giant roundabout, it is hard to believe that in the Middle Ages and as late as 1700 it was full of streets and buildings (figs 1 and 2). If you had stood at the abbey's north porch in 1700, you would have seen in the foreground the cemetery and

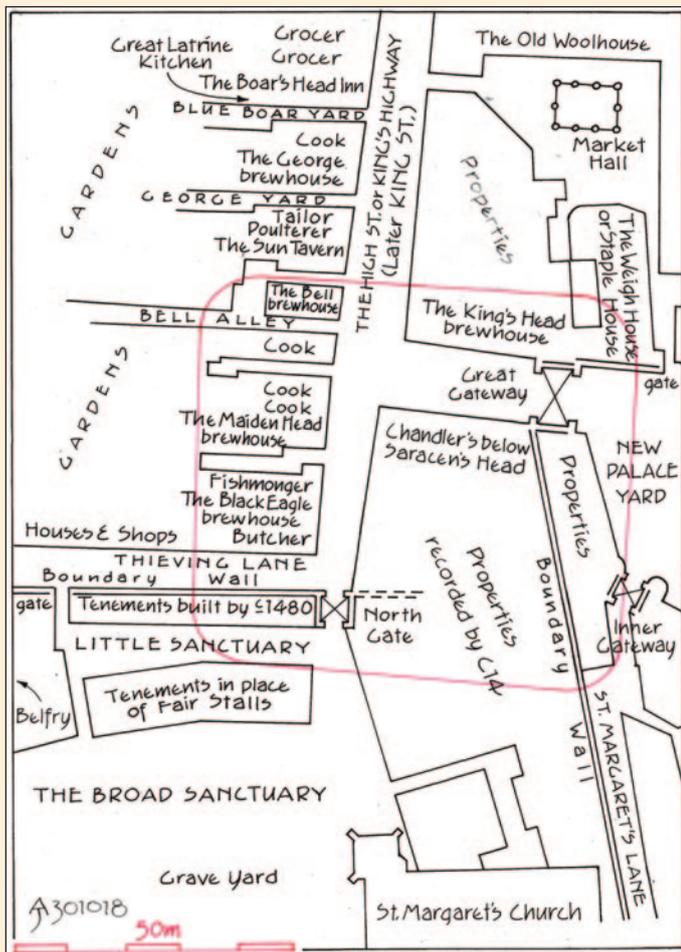


Fig 1. Plan of the area north of the Abbey in the sixteenth century. The pink line shows the outline of today's Parliament Square. Plan by Jill Atherton and David Harrison.

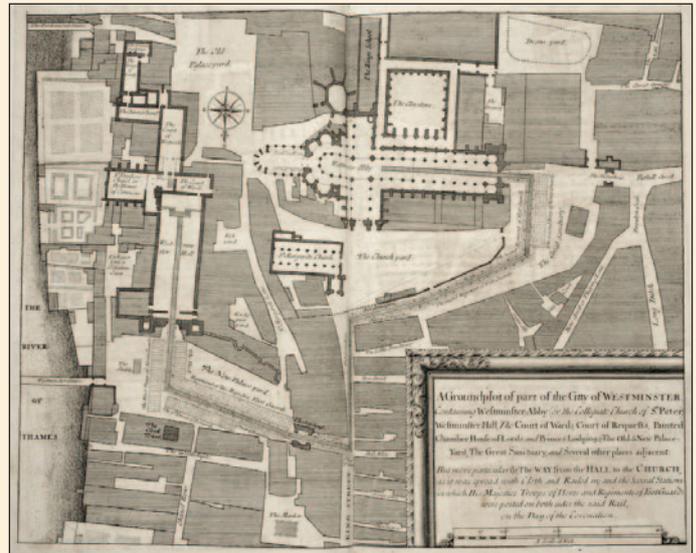


Fig 2. Plan of the coronation procession of James II, Trinity College, Cambridge

to the right St Margaret's church, as now. Beyond all was different. Looking ahead was the North Gate (near Peel's statue), the entrance to the abbey precincts; vestiges survived into the nineteenth century (fig 3). The most imposing building within the precincts was the belfry, built c. 1250, and detached from the main church as at Salisbury and Chichester. Although long demolished, its foundations were revealed before World War I, and some may remain under the Supreme Court. There were also smaller buildings, at first associated with the St Edward's Fair. Near the belfry was a row of houses known as the Long House, which by 1506



Fig 3. Abbey, North Gate by J.T. Smith, dated 1807, shows the view from King St towards the entrance to Thieving Ln, with the remains of the North Gate in the foreground. Society of Antiquaries

following the fair's decline, had become The Three Tuns tavern. In 1354-5, £20 was spent on 'making the house next to St Margaret's church' and a shop was erected by the gate.

King Street, the main street in Westminster, ran north from the abbey gate. The street, described as the Bond Street of the late Middle Ages, was lined with shops, houses, taverns and inns, which catered for the needs of courtiers, officials, lawyers and visitors to the abbey, palace and court. It has now disappeared, but its course can be traced roughly along the line of the path running north/south across the central island of Parliament Square; it then ran north parallel to Parliament Street.

Other streets ran west and east from King Street. The ominously named Thieving Lane, later renamed Bow Street, ran west from the abbey gate. On the east side was a passage (not too far from the present east/west paving across the Parliament Square island), later known as Union Street, to New Palace Yard which was larger than today. Here, a little to the south of the present statue of Churchill, stood the High Gate to the Yard, first recorded in the twelfth century and rebuilt in the later Middle Ages. Buildings huddled around, including the Saracen's Head Inn. In 1486-7, the inn was rebuilt with an upper hall and 'greater inner parlour' at the substantial cost of £230. In the south west corner of New Palace Yard was an inner gate which led into the then narrow St Margaret's Lane, hemmed in by buildings.

### From Green Desert to Giant Roundabout

The major medieval monuments began to disappear in the early eighteenth century, when the High Gate to New Palace Yard was demolished. The building of Westminster Bridge (opened 1750) and the laying out of new roads, including Parliament Street, Bridge Street and Great George Street, and the widening of Dirty Lane, which was renamed Abingdon Street. Many ancient properties and alleys were demolished, though new houses were built along the new roads; a few survive, including 11 Great George Street and 2 and 3 Parliament Street. Nevertheless, despite these changes, large parts of the area south of Great George Street were largely unaffected.

Then, in the years after 1800 the southern area was cleared. Several acts of parliament enabled the compulsory purchase and removal of properties and the laying out of new thoroughfares. The demolitions were intended to improve access to, and afford fine views of, the major buildings, increase security and provide space for 'public solemnities'. Detailed accounts survive of the purchase of the properties to be demolished. Most of the area was 'railed in, and turfed and planted'.



Fig 4. Westminster Abbey with new Improvements', 1811, ie showing the 'green desert' created following recent demolitions. NB. the scene shows the garden square connected with St Margaret's church - before Barry created a wide road between the two in the 1860s. Print in author's possession

This open space became known as the Garden Square, or St Margaret's Square; and then by its present epithet: Parliament Square. To the west was another garden. Not all contemporaries approved of the changes. In 1811, the Rev. Henry Hunter noted that "the whole of the buildings which obscured St Margaret's Church, between King Street and Palace Yard, have been removed, and also those in the Broad Sanctuary east and west of the new Sessions House. In 1808, or the following year, a further sweep was made, and with much that was old and dirty it is to be feared that many relics of antiquity perished." (fig 4)

The area began to be referred to as the Westminster Desert. The losses are made more poignant by Smith's and Capon's evocative images of the buildings on the eve of destruction (fig 3), and the transformation of the area can be seen by comparing Smith's image (fig 3) with that of 'Westminster Abbey with new Improvements', in 1811 (fig 4).

Mid-century brought further developments. In 1851 Victoria Street opened, smashed through the slums between Parliament and the proposed new Victoria Station. In the 1860s the houses on the south side of Bridge Street were demolished to widen the approach road to the bridge, opening up views of the Palace of Westminster. E. M. Barry was commissioned to carry out a number of works, and is commonly credited with the creation of Parliament Square in 1866-8, though this is something of an exaggeration. He enclosed New Palace Yard with railings. The First Commissioner of Works stressed that: "The railings must be sufficiently high and strong to exclude a mob on important occasions, but should not necessarily interrupt the view." In 1865 the Metropolitan District Railway received permission to build an underground line directly beneath the square, causing extensive surface disruption. It opened in 1868.

The biggest change was creating a wide road between St Margaret's and the garden (fig 5). This

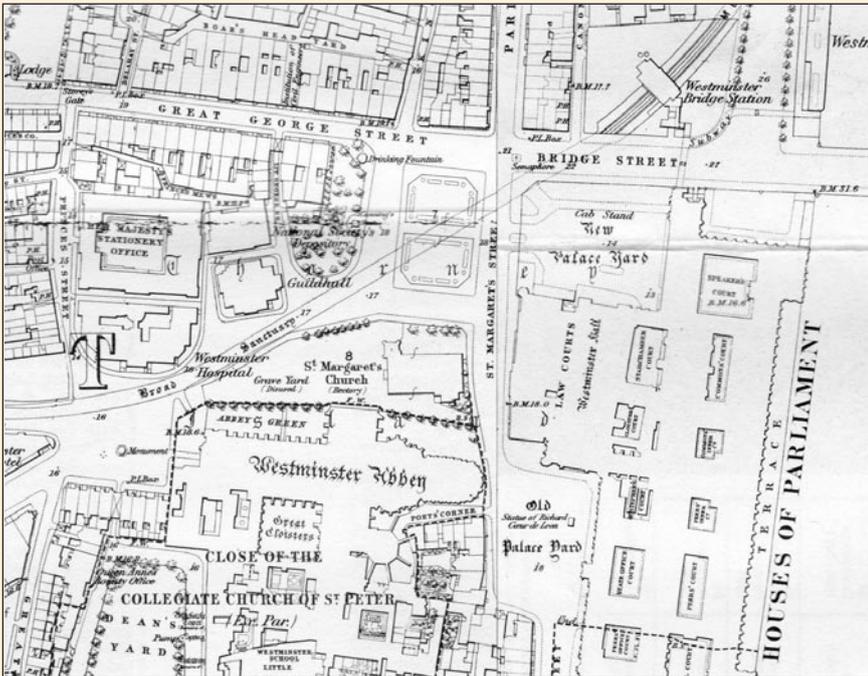


Fig 5. OS maps of 1869 (western part) and 1872 (eastern part). showing E. M. Barry's recent changes, notably the creation of a new road between the garden square and St Margaret's church to speed traffic flow. For the last 25 years there have many attempts to close this road. Barry also redesigned the now smaller garden square

was contemplated by Barry as early as 1861, stressing the inconvenience of carriages having "to pass along three sides of the square for want of the fourth being open". The new road would allow "convenient communication" to Victoria Street.

The now smaller garden square was also provided with new railings and separated by a central east/west footpath. It was to be "a place of honour for statues of public men". These were located on the north, east and south sides: Derby was unveiled in 1874, Palmerston and the final version of Peel in 1876 and finally Disraeli in 1883. The statue of George Canning had been moved to the area which bears his name in 1867.

There were more changes in the twentieth century. The remains of historic King Street (marked on the Victorian OS Maps, see fig 5) disappeared as a result of the erection of the Government Offices Great George Street 1899-1917. In 1926 the Square was turned into a roundabout or merry-go-round. After the Second World War it was decided to speed up further the flow of motor traffic and reduce pedestrian access. The Ministry of Transport wished to see a square with sides as long as possible to allow for the most extensive "weaving lengths for traffic on all four sides". The Metropolitan Police wanted to limit pedestrian access. Following the misnamed Parliament Square (Improvements) Act 1949, G. G. Wornum redesigned the square, extending it westwards and reducing the size of Canning Green (the name of the west garden area). He removed the east/west walkway, and created new pavements parallel to the west and north sides. The statues were moved to line the north/south route, roughly following the route of ancient King Street. Wornum himself regretted that the Square remained largely inaccessible.

In 1987, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey (including St Margaret's Church) were inscribed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Site, but Parliament Square was omitted. Despite being widely unloved, in 1996 the Square was included on the Register of Parks and Gardens because it was a "characteristically simple, restrained, open and elegant post-war remodelling of Parliament Square... to enhance the setting and views of major historic buildings, ...and to ease traffic flow".

### The search for improvement

Attitudes to traffic began to change. In 1996, the Government set up the World Squares for All Project, which included proposals for the partial pedestrianisation of Trafalgar Square (completed in 2003) and Parliament Square. Hawkins/Brown won the design contest for Parliament Square, proposing the pedestrianisation of the south side by the abbey, reversing

Barry's work of the 1860s. The design proposed the Square be paved with additional trees planted in the south east corner. Alas, the project was abandoned in July 2008 by the newly elected Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

Nevertheless, pressure to improve the bleak, polluted roundabout continued. In 2011 the Hansard Society published 'A Place for People: A New Vision for Parliament Square' which argued that with partial pedestrianisation the square could become a place for public engagement. In the run up to the 2016 Mayoral Election, Sadiq Khan announced: "It's a national disgrace that one of our most iconic squares is choked with traffic, with pavements so packed that... people are forced to walk in the road." The case was all the more powerful as Parliament itself was "to be rebuilt".

The argument for change was strengthened by the terrorist outrage of 2017 when Khalid Masood, killed four people with his car, injured many more and then fatally stabbed a police officer. Press reports said the road outside Parliament could be closed permanently. In September 2018, Mayor Khan, the then Westminster City Council leader, Nickie Aiken, and the Deputy Speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, (now the Speaker) issued a joint statement, noting: "Parliament Square is one of the most famous cityscapes on Earth... it is critical that we maintain safety and security... while ensuring that it remains accessible to everyone visiting the area." They were jointly committed to assessing options to improve the area, including the possibility of closing parts of the Square to general traffic. Ideally this will include both the south and east side of the Square, while allowing limited motor access to New Palace Yard. We must hope that the scheme will progress and funding be found for it once the current Covid 19 crisis is over.

– David Harrison

## Hogarth's London

Sheila O'Connell explores what we can learn about eighteenth century London from Hogarth's work.

Members will have been among visitors to the sold-out exhibition last winter at Sir John Soane's Museum: *Hogarth: Place and Progress*. All of Hogarth's famous 'progresses' were brought together and beautifully displayed with excellent lighting so that every detail could be observed. The organisers, led by David Bindman, emphasised what they described as the 'moral geography' of the subjects. Hogarth used London locations as one of many subtle means of enriching his narratives. Other historians have written about how the dress of his protagonists or the music they enjoy indicate their social status. The places in which they are shown add further silent information.

Hogarth was born near Smithfield. His father ran a coffee house at St John's Gate and in the 1720s his sisters ran a shop by Bart's hospital selling 'frocks' for Bluecoat boys. By that time the ambitious young artist was living at various addresses in Covent Garden and near Leicester Fields/Square where he was to establish himself in a large house after the success of *A Harlot's Progress* in 1732. A decade or so later he was able to take a country place in Chiswick near Lord Burlington's house. Wealthy subscribers to his prints came to Leicester Fields from Westminster, St James and the developing squares of Mayfair. His intimate knowledge of London's topography meant that he could use it as a shorthand.

The City is portrayed as a place where money rules. In *Marriage A La Mode* the grasping financier who marries off his daughter to a nobleman lives beside London Bridge – glimpsed through the window in the final scene where he removes a ring from her finger as she dies from suicide. In *Industry and Idleness* the smug Industrious

Apprentice celebrates his marriage to his master's daughter in Fish Street Hill, the base of the Monument seen in the background; he rises both in business and local politics, dining as Sheriff of London in Fishmongers' Hall and eventually, as Lord Mayor of London, processing in his coach past St Paul's.

While the City is concerned with making money the West End cares only about spending. The fortune inherited by the *Rake* is squandered in extravagant living. All this comes to a standstill at the top of St James's Street where, dressed to the nines for a royal reception, he is arrested for debt; his downward trajectory begins, and will end back in the City at Bedlam. Three early scenes in *Marriage A La Mode* are set in luxurious newly-built mansions in Mayfair or St James, but the self-indulgent young couple are not satisfied by the pleasures of fashion, art, music and card-playing; the lure of illicit sexual encounters takes them on their separate routes eastwards to a seedy physician, a brothel, and to disaster.

Hogarth's sympathies seem to lie in the bustling variety of streets around Covent Garden and Soho where he spent most of his life. The area appears in three of the *Times of Day* in 1738. In *Morning*, a prim churchgoing lady walks through Covent Garden past young men dallying with market girls and small boys distracted on their way to school; in *Noon*, smartly dressed Huguenots emerge from the French church in Soho ignoring the amorous Londoners outside the tavern opposite; Charing Cross, identified by the statue of Charles I, is shown in *Night* as a place of drunkenness, street-sleepers, brothels, and a barber-surgeon who offers to shave or bleed customers and to draw teeth.

While life within London had definite ups and downs, the edges of town offered no comfort. In *Evening* the dyer and his family who take a summer walk to Sadler's Wells have quarrelled and set off home dissatisfied. But things are much worse a dozen years later in *Gin Lane*. The tower of St George's Bloomsbury in the background locates the worst horrors of alcohol addiction in the adjacent slum of St Giles in the Fields, one of the poorest parts of town where only the pawnbroker prospers. The awful progress of the Idle Apprentice begins to the east of the City when he is caught dozing at his loom in Spitalfields; as he leaves London for a short-lived career at sea a mocking sailor points out the ominous gibbet on the Isle of Dogs. Tom Idle's end comes beyond the western edge of town at Tyburn with the hills of rural Hampstead and Highgate rising in the distance.

– Sheila O'Connell



Industry and Idleness, marriage at Fish Street Hill

Sir John Soane's Museum has published a well illustrated catalogue of the Exhibition: *Hogarth, Place and Progress*, 2019.



A view of drapers Waithman and Everington's shop at the corner of New Bridge and Fleet Streets, engraved by John Corbould, c.1803. The fire plug sign closest to the corner is marked '30 F'; another is marked '18 F'. Despite the unusually clear directions in feet, there is no sign of fire plug access in the adjacent pavement. © Trustees of the British Museum, Banks 80.198 D,2.2871

## In Case of Fire, Break the Road

Unlike the metal fire marks issued by insurance companies – Phoenix, Sun, Hand in Hand and others – during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and frequently found on the exterior first floor level of the buildings which they ostensibly covered, the painted rectangular sign FP occasionally found alongside has rarely excited comment.<sup>1</sup> Painted in an elegant serif face, black on white, accompanied by a number indicating feet, it was a crucially important tool in the fire fighter's armoury. Unlike the fire mark, little more than an advertising device as time wore on,<sup>2</sup> it indicated the distance to the nearest Fire Plug. With wooden water mains constructed from hollowed-out trunks of elm reaching most premises in London, these simple plugs, jammed into holes cut at irregular intervals into the topmost section of the trunks, could be knocked out to provide (in theory) immediate access to water for the buckets or leather hose intakes of the hand-powered pumps mounted on the fire engines.<sup>3</sup>

In reality, it was not that simple. Mains water possessed limited pressure and was not available all day, every day. In winter, despite the mains being buried underground, the water was frequently frozen. Freshwater eel and carp occasionally blocked the outlet.<sup>4</sup> (Plug maintenance was the responsibility of the churchwardens of the local parish, not the water companies, and they would rather wash their hands of it.)<sup>5</sup> Directions to the nearest plug were frequently weathered, indecipherable, or long forgotten as in the case of the 'dreadful' conflagration at Thomas Chippendale's workshop in St Martin's Lane. Here the firemen, having 'beaten off' the 'useless Part of the Mob' intent on looting, experienced 'difficulty in finding the Fire-Plugs in this Time of Confusion'.<sup>6</sup> Worst of all, as happened in a serious fire on Ludgate Hill seventy years later,

'it was found, that in Macadamizing the road, the paviours had ignorantly covered up the plug altogether'.<sup>7</sup> Alas, this happened all too frequently.

Despite their obvious deficiencies, fire plugs, criticised in 1866 as 'a disgrace to the mechanical invention of our age' and long replaced by hydrants in most major cities, continued to be employed in London. In 1871 the City Corporation took matters into their own hands and fitted hydrants at their own expense, leading the way for their adoption across the metropolis and signalling the long-overdue end of the fire plug.<sup>8</sup>

I am grateful to Len Reilly and Jon Newman of Lambeth Archives, for their help with this article.

– Nigel Tattersfield

### Notes

1. A fine example can be seen in John Collet's painting of 1770, *Scene in a London Street*; Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, accession number B1981.25.110.
2. G. V. Blackstone, *A History of the British Fire Service* (1957), p.68.
3. One of the few pictorial representations of a fire plug in use occurs in plate 1 of William Hogarth's political satire *The Times* of 1762; BM, Cc,1.172.
4. *Public Ledger & Daily Advertiser*, 19 January 1805; the supplier responsible was the New River Company.
5. *[London] Star*, 17 December 1824, reiterating the applicable clauses of the Building Act of 1774 and upbraiding the negligence of churchwardens.
6. *Leeds Intelligencer*, 15 April 1755. Premises on fire were famously vulnerable; see John Trusler, *The London Adviser and Guide* (1786), p.20, and the *[London] Globe*, 2 March 1818, where firemen attending a blaze in the Strand, 'running from plug to plug, and no water could be got', had no time to confront the thieves 'busily employed in plundering'.
7. *[London] Evening Mail*, 29 November 1824.
8. Blackstone, p.200.

## An early speculation in Lambeth by John Nash

Andrew Saint describes an unexpected discovery in south London.

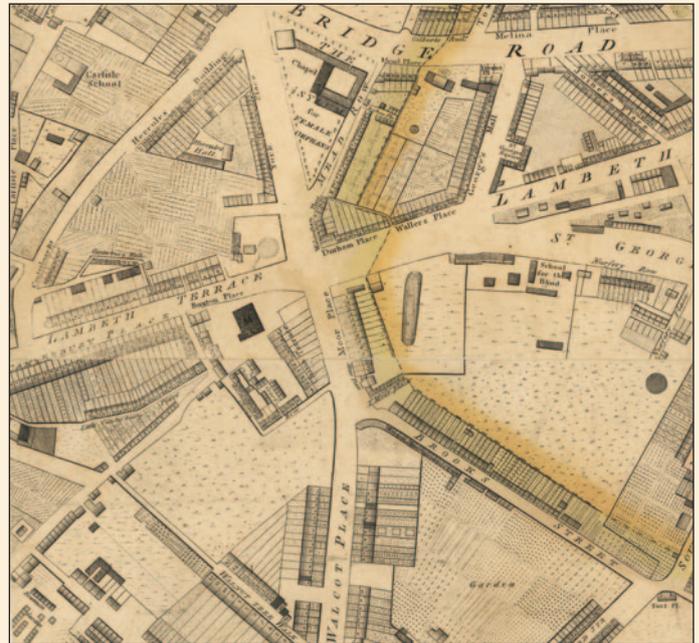
The story of John Nash's murky early years is fairly familiar by now. Not all the mysteries have been cleared up, but it's common ground that he began his long career in London and absconded to Wales, where he had relations, only after his bankruptcy in 1783. The cause of that bankruptcy was the failure of what has been taken to be his first work, the run of speculative houses which miraculously survive at the corner of Bloomsbury Square and Great Russell Street (1777–9).<sup>1</sup>

But a marginally earlier scheme, no longer with us, has been overlooked. That was in Lambeth, where Nash's father was a millwright and he himself was probably born in 1752. The family business has been located, not quite certainly, in Vine Street, Belvedere Road – a site in modern terms roughly that of the South Bank's Shell Centre. Nash's connection with South London did not cease with his father's death towards the end of the 1750s, for he was married at St Mary Newington in 1775, probably not long after he had left Sir Robert Taylor's office in Westminster. The birth of a son was registered in Lambeth a year later.<sup>2</sup>

The core of riparian Lambeth lay in the packed streets and alleys of old Lambeth village around Lambeth High Street south of the Palace, which by the 1770s were becoming as industrialised as the Belvedere Road area. To their east, ribbon development was starting to stretch along what are now Lambeth and Kennington Roads. It was at the junction between these two roads that what may well have been Nash's first venture was built.

Much of the land hereabouts was copyhold, held under the Manor of Lambeth in the name of the archbishops of Canterbury. Among the copyholders were the Ponton family, who held large property interests in Lambeth and the contiguous Nine Elms area of Battersea, where they were starch manufacturers and owned a tide mill.<sup>3</sup> The most energetic of this family was the second Daniel Ponton (d. 1777). In May of that year, shortly after his father's death, Daniel's son Thomas Ponton was admitted by the Manor of Lambeth to twenty separate copyholds that had been accumulated since the 1730s by his father and predecessors around and behind Lambeth High Street.

It is the record of this admission that offers the best information about Nash's speculation.<sup>4</sup> The entries include 'part of an acre known as Cock and Bottle Acre, upon which formerly stood five messuages but on which are built or building divers messuages or tenements and other erections by John Nash by virtue of a lease thereof with other land granted by Daniel Ponton at a yearly rent of 4d' – the latter having been admitted in 1735 under the will of his grandfather Daniel Ponton senior. A



**Fig 1. Corner of Lambeth Terrace and Walcot Place (now respectively Lambeth Road and Kennington Road) from the 1808 edition of Horwood's map. China Terrace is shown at the centre of the picture, with China Court and China Row behind to its west. The building marked M is the Lambeth Chapel. Courtesy of Lambeth Archives**

second entry refers to 'a customary messuage belonging to the Cock and Bottle heretofore in occupation of John Woodhouse with yards, gardens and appurtenances on which are now built or building messuages or tenements and other erections by John Nash by virtue of a lease thereof with other lands granted to him by Daniel Ponton and held by him at a rent of 8d per annum.' To this adjacent property Ponton had been admitted in February 1748 on the surrender of Jacob Duhamel. Exactly when the Nash development was started does not appear, but it must have been before Daniel Ponton's death in May 1777.

The Cock and Bottle is not hard to locate. It stood close to the south-west corner of Lambeth Road and Kennington Road, to give them their modern names, where the 1960s Lambeth Towers development now stands. The largest ten houses built on the site were known as China Terrace and were doubtless the part which interested Nash the most. Horwood and later maps show them facing eastwards at a slight angle on to Kennington Road, where they would have been among the earlier of the terraces built in ribbons all along that artery (the northern end of which was then known as Walcot Place) southwards as far as Kennington Common (*fig 1*).<sup>5</sup> Behind to the west were some smaller houses, marked on an enclosure map of 1806 as in China Row and what look like stables in China Court. The Cock and Bottle itself stood about halfway along China Row.<sup>6</sup>

A second document in the Lambeth Archives confirms the attribution of the China Terrace development to Nash. This is a printed and annotated set of sale particulars for an auction of leasehold properties, mostly in Lambeth, held on 29 December 1820. The annotations are in more

than one hand, but the first of these reads: 'Danl Ponton of Battersea (Largest Copyholder) demised by Licence of Ahbishop to Mr Nash a Noted Architect of Lambeth'.<sup>7</sup>

Most of the China Terrace, China Row and China Court buildings are itemised in these sale particulars, and there is also a reference to houses and shops in China Walk – the name eventually adopted for the later China Walk Estate built by the London County Council, partly on and partly to the south of the site. Most of the houses were stated to be held under leases from Daniel Ponton of which fourteen years were unexpired in 1820. In front of the China Terrace houses were 'lawns' shielding them from the dust and noise of Kennington Road and held under a different lease by Robert Hedges.

Like the Great Russell Street houses, it appears that Nash's China Terrace speculation ended in failure. The grounds for supposing so is a modern caption in Lambeth Archives attached to a photograph of the London County Council's China Walk Estate.<sup>8</sup> This states that 'China Walk takes its name from China Row and China Terrace, the latter an example of early and unsuccessful speculative housing built by the architect John Nash. The Terrace was sold unfinished to Mr Wood, a china trader of Bridge Street, Westminster. His only child became the wife of Alderman Goodbehere.' So someone knew about this development not long ago; the extra information in the caption appears to be correct, though where it came from has not come to light.

Samuel Goodbehere, otherwise Godbehere, was a successful silversmith who became a City alderman. He married Elizabeth Wood in 1790; her father was probably Henry Wood, who is listed in directories as a 'chinaman' sometimes in Poultry in the City, sometimes in Parliament Street, Westminster, which is near enough to Bridge Street. By 1802 the Goodbeheres were living in what was probably the largest house in Nash's development, 1 China Terrace at the north end. In 1816 Samuel Goodbehere acted as proxy to absent royalty in laying the foundation stone of the Royal Coburg Theatre, now the Old Vic. He died of apoplexy at his house in November 1818, to be followed by his wife in August 1820 and, five days later, their only son Horatio Goodbehere, aged 24. From Horatio's will and other information it seems that he was a young man-about-town with plenty of money, and that 1 China Terrace had been extended north-west at the back on to land his father had bought, which included the Lambeth Chapel (a Wesleyan chapel opened in 1808) and a short row of houses next to it called Buxton Place, both facing Lambeth Road.

The Goodbeheres had held on to the leases of the whole China Terrace development in succession to Wood the china trader, and it was because of



**Fig 2. Lambeth Baths at the corner of Kennington Road and Lambeth Road, soon after completion in 1897. A. Hessel Tiltman, architect. To the far left, some surviving houses at the south end of China Terrace. To the right, Lambeth Chapel in Lambeth Road. Bedford Lemere photograph in Lambeth Archives, SP 12/537/23**

Horatio's death that the auction of the leases took place later in 1820. Horatio's first cousin and executor, George Goodbehere, was then in possession of the end of the old lease on 1 China Terrace, which he bought for the large sum of 940 guineas on the promise of an extra 40-year term to be added by Thomas Ponton.<sup>9</sup> Next door at No. 2 the novelist Ann Radcliffe, best known for *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, also lived for some years after 1799 with her husband William.<sup>10</sup>

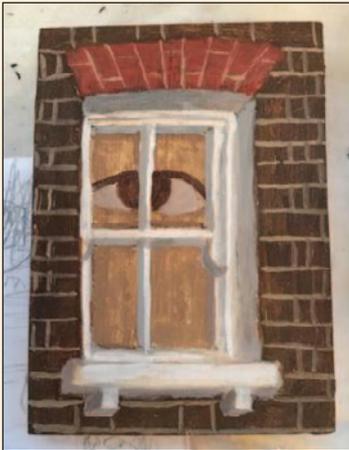
So these were reasonably good houses. We have unfortunately only a marginal record of what the buildings of China Terrace looked like. Most of them disappeared in the late 1890s in favour of municipal baths. But the baths spared the southernmost end of the terrace, which appears on the edge of a photograph of the baths looking like standard Georgian housing of its time (*fig. 2*);<sup>11</sup> these in their turn disappeared when the London County Council built its China Walk Estate in 1928–34. Lambeth Towers, designed by George Finch for Lambeth Council (1965–72), is the second rebuilding of the northern portion of the China Terrace site, following serious damage to the baths in a V2 attack. It is not an unworthy replacement.

– Andrew Saint

#### Notes

1. John Summerson, *The Life and Work of John Nash, Architect* (London, 1980), Chapter 1.
2. Summerson, *op. cit.*, pp. 1–2, 5–6.
3. See for instance *Survey of London*, vols 49 (2013), p. 330 and 50 (2013), pp. 61, 121.
4. Lambeth Archives, deed no. 17715.
5. *Survey of London*, vol. 23 (1951), pp. 128–36.
6. Lambeth Archives, enclosure map.
7. Lambeth Archives, deed no. 12905.
8. Lambeth Archives, LBL/DTP/UD/2/1/11/97.
9. See n. 7.
10. Rictor Norton, *Mistress of Udolpho: The Life of Ann Radcliffe*, 1999, p. 187.
11. Lambeth Borough Photographs 07461.

## 'The Eye of London'?



Can you solve this mystery for our member Mireille Galinou?

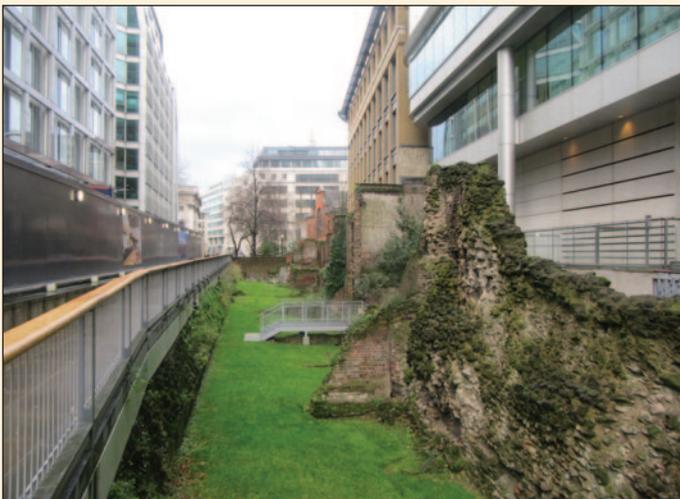
My query concerns the description of the Royal Exchange as 'the eye of London'. The phrase is quoted by Jean Imray in chapter III of *The Royal Exchange* (LTS 1997, ed. by Ann Saunders). The phrase is used alongside two other quotations, and the whole footnoted: Hughson, *History of London* (1800), Vol. II, p. 100. However I could find no mention of the 'eye of London', when I looked up this reference.

I have come across another reference to the 'eye of London' which attributed the quote to John Stow. Alas, I can no longer remember where this reference came from. But in any case I could find no trace of it in John Stow, including Strype's edition - I was hopeful with the latter because I found several instances of references to 'eyes' but none describing the Royal Exchange.

Can anyone help? It matters to me a great deal in the current research I have undertaken.

Please contact Mireille Galinou, [m.galinou@virgin.net](mailto:m.galinou@virgin.net)

The pictures come from a series of paintings the artist Jiro Osuga has done on the theme of eyes in London



Noble Street, looking north

## Changing London: wild life in the City

After World War II it was observed how rapidly the numerous bombsites were colonised by wild life. Gradually these sites diminished as many were built over, but others were turned into small gardens, a policy advocated energetically by Frederick Cleary (who is commemorated by the delightful Cleary Garden, Huggin Hill). There are now no less than 376 much appreciated open spaces within the City. One of the largest sites to remain open is a stretch along Noble Street, running north from the church of St Anne and St Agnes toward the Barbican. Here bombing had revealed a long stretch of the City wall, and an informative plaque reminds us of its significance, both as part of the defences of the Roman and medieval City, and later, in acting as a brake to the Great Fire of 1666. But it now has other interesting aspects. The sunken area below the road level has been sown as a wild flower meadow - including (the notice tells us), Mugwort, Nettle and Plantain, 'three of the nine sacred plants of the Anglo-Saxons'\*. And there are beehives, maintained by the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers, together with the Plaisterers, whose Hall of 1972 lies at the north end of the site. All this is part of a policy outlined in the City of London Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-20, whose many ambitions include improving green infrastructure, encouraging community engagement, and monitoring data. This includes records of rare birds such as the Black Redstart, which found nesting places in shattered bomb site walls, and the Peregrine Falcon, which discovered that the City's tall buildings could be safe haven. What will the policies be for 2020 onwards as climate change continues?

A little further north some surprising spontaneous wild life can be discovered in the apparently unpropitious setting of the exit ramp from the Barbican toward Fann Street: an isolated colony of bright green mosses growing on the concrete balustrade. Could their existence be accounted for by windblown seeds from the Barbican residents' wild life garden visible to the east at this point?

\*Mentioned in the *Lacunga*, a tenth century medical compilation.



Moss on a Barbican balustrade

## Wandsworth's Ram re-rampant

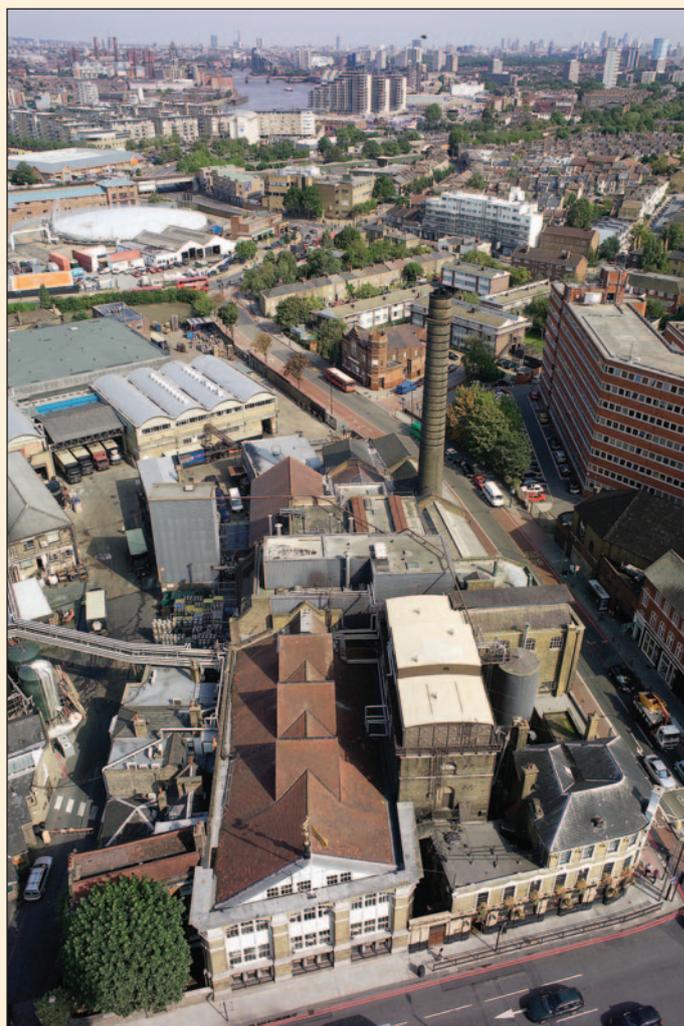
*David Crawford continues his investigation of changes to London's historic industrial sites.*

The October 2019 reopening of the Grade II-listed Ram Inn, formerly the Brewery Tap – “a handsome corner pub of 1883”, records Historic England – on Wandsworth High Street has ensured the continuity of a nearly five centuries-long history of ale making and drinking at the former Young's Brewery. The story began in the 1550s when local brewer Humphrey Langridge took the lease of an existing inn, The Ram. It could have ended when Young's closed down its operations in 2006 and moved in with Bedford-based Charles Wells. But the brewery core is preserved in the current Ram Quarter regeneration scheme; the buildings date from 1882-83, a rebuilding following the arrival of the first member of the Young family. This was overseen by Henry Stock, who went on to become architect to another former London brewer, Charrington. The company's last chairman, John Young, was a strong campaigner for real (cask) ale against the keg variety that emerged in the 1960s.

A visual essay on the old brewery by London photographer Steve Lyne, who captured it between February 2005 and January 2007, appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of the *Journal of the Brewery History Society* (issue no 124). He commented on “how self contained it all was; if some piece of machinery broke down then they had the staff to fix it... delivery trucks were maintained by full-time on-site mechanics and, if the boilers broke down, there was a team of engineers on hand to put things right”. Former brewery director Torquil Young has commended Lyne's “wonderful and atmospheric” work, which constitutes the only full documentation of the site before decommissioning.

What would have been a break in the continuity of ale production was avoided when master brewer John Hatch, who had worked for Young's since 1988, was retained as a health and safety advisor for the decommissioning. As a sideline, he set up and ran an (initially unofficial) nanobrewery, using materials scavenged from the site. At first, he used an old laboratory building. When this became due for demolition, developer Greenland created a purpose-built brewing area inside the stables – once home to the horses that pulled drays delivering Young's beers to pubs; a familiar South London sight during my schooldays in Wimbledon.

The largely residential-based regeneration, across Wandsworth High Street from the Southside Shopping Centre, is a major element in Wandsworth London Borough Council's town-centre remodelling. Masterplanners ERP gained consent with the support of both the then Government Communities Secretary and the Mayor of London. (The council's planning chair welcomed the opening up of a site that was “full of empty buildings and surrounded by brick walls and locked gates”).



**An aerial view of the Ram Brewery prior to its decommissioning. September 2006 photograph and copyright by Steve Lyne. [www.lyne.co.uk](http://www.lyne.co.uk) Tel: 020 8871 2519/07778 415 140. Prints of this image (Aerial 3) are for sale: medium size (29cm x 21cm) £125.00; large size (29cm x 35cm) £175.00**

At the heart of the scheme is a proudly surviving heritage complex, a Grade II/II\*-listed cluster of buildings that Historic England describes as “the main working range of an unusually complete urban brewery”, its elements “each representing architectural and industrial developments of the long-established successful brewery on this site”. Historic England has also drawn attention to the “remarkable survival of nineteenth-century machinery” key examples. A Wentworth & Sons beam engine remains to adorn a residential entrance lobby; other pieces of original equipment stud the site as landmarking features.

The completed 3.2ha development will eventually contain 713 homes (among them the Coopers' Lofts conversions of heritage space, winner of the Preservation and Conservation category in the Chartered Association of Building Engineers' 2019 Built Environment Awards) and over 9000m<sup>2</sup> of retail and leisure space. A museum of brewing history tells the stories of local brewing and of the Young dynasty.

Early on in the development process, the Ram Inn's survival became assured when, in 2016, Wandsworth became the first local planning authority in the country to introduce an Article 4



The central square links old and new. Source: Greenland

Direction, to prevent its most important pubs from being lost to redevelopment. Proposed conversions of any of these into, for example, mini-supermarkets now had to go through the normal planning process rather than automatically enjoying permitted development rights. The initiative, which emerged from a widely-opposed 2013 threat to turn the Wheatsheaf pub, in Tooting, into a supermarket, was enthusiastically welcomed by the Campaign for Real Ale as giving a “very clear message to potential developers”.

Throughout the negotiations on the overall scheme, the council also maintained a consistent policy of supporting the continuation of brewing on the site. To resume mainstream production, local independent Sambrooks plans an autumn 2020 move 2km downstream from its current site in Battersea.

## River and rail

Integral to the scheme is the opening up to the public of the northernmost stretch of the 17km-long River Wandle. This chalk stream never transported the brewery's raw materials or



Volunteers cleaning up the River Wandle. Image courtesy of The Wandle Trust

products, despite a 1665 Act of Parliament. This enabled the making of the River Itchen, in Southampton, fit for navigation, and the Act also enshrined similar powers for other rivers – including the Wandle and the Ravensbourne, which enters the Thames as Deptford Creek – that were never exercised. (An 1818 report noted the abandonment of a later proposal for a canal from the Thames at Wandsworth to Croydon.)

The unavailability of waterborne transport links with North Surrey was a factor in the building of the Surrey Iron Railway, a 'plateway' running on flat cast-iron tracks laid on stone sleepers which

opened in 1803. (The track was flanged to guide the wheels of the horse-drawn wagon that used it; subsequent lines flanged the wheels instead.)

The route ran south towards Croydon from a tide-locked loading/unloading basin off the Thames and alongside the brewery. (In 1994, the Wandsworth Society placed a commemorative plaque, mounted on sections of the original sleepers and set in the brewery wall. This recorded the 1846 demise of “the first public railway in England” as “the victim of the success of newer railways powered by steam.”) It was a tolled goods route, carrying loads ranging from dung to coal. Its founders included George Tritton, son of a Kentish brewer, who added the Ram to his holdings in 1763. When George died in 1831, the brewery was sold to a partnership that included the first member of the Young dynasty. (At one time, a short canal ran from the basin into the brewery to deliver supplies of coal and malt; both stretches of water were filled in and built over in the 1930s.)

Meanwhile the strongly-flowing Wandle, which had driven watermills since Anglo-Saxon times, was increasingly being harnessed to provide power for incoming industries, including printing and tanning. The waste from these contributed to the sewer-like condition attained by the river in the latter part of the twentieth century. (The Ram Brewery lay too close to the tidal Thames to benefit.)

Subsequent clean ups have restored the river to a healthy condition, which is maintained by the Wandle Trust with the aid of volunteers. In his Lost London series of on-line cameos, poet of London Victor Keegan comments: “The Wandle was lost but now it has been found, an inspiration for any other river thought to be beyond hope.”

Pending the resumption of bookable Ram Quarter tours, a virtual one produced by the developers is available at: [www.reevo360.com/uploads/property/lk0cx2jb8e27q16wwjfdsgyekg7659b1q7xhn6kl7p1uje6f5mex9y181ebvi9xi/](http://www.reevo360.com/uploads/property/lk0cx2jb8e27q16wwjfdsgyekg7659b1q7xhn6kl7p1uje6f5mex9y181ebvi9xi/)

The Wandle Industrial Museum's opening hours are available at [www.wandle.org](http://www.wandle.org)

– David Crawford

## Lockdown in London – some reactions

*This City now doth, like a garment, wear  
The beauty of the morning: silent, bare,  
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie  
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;  
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.*

From *Upon Westminster Bridge*  
by William Wordsworth

Early on in the Lockdown which began on 23 March, the BBC quoted Wordsworth's poem of 1802 as an apposite description of London in the present extraordinary time of the coronavirus. But the unaccustomed emptiness lasts the whole day, not just the early morning. Rosemary Weinstein describes Regent Street as 'completely deserted... reminiscent of grandpa's day'. The photo of Tottenham Court Road was taken by Sheila O'Connell in April, "the major roads do have a bit of traffic, but the side roads are blissfully quiet". Silence and clear air – in Wordsworth's time the pollution came from smoking chimneys, nowadays it is from traffic. Will the benefits be remembered and pursued when (and if?) we return to normality?



It is not only the streets which are empty. Here are two contrasting views of the stunning cherry blossom in Greenwich Park, taken in 2019 and in 2020, provided by Peter and Zsu Guillery. Nature blooms regardless of human appreciation, but at present has to be enjoyed at a distance.

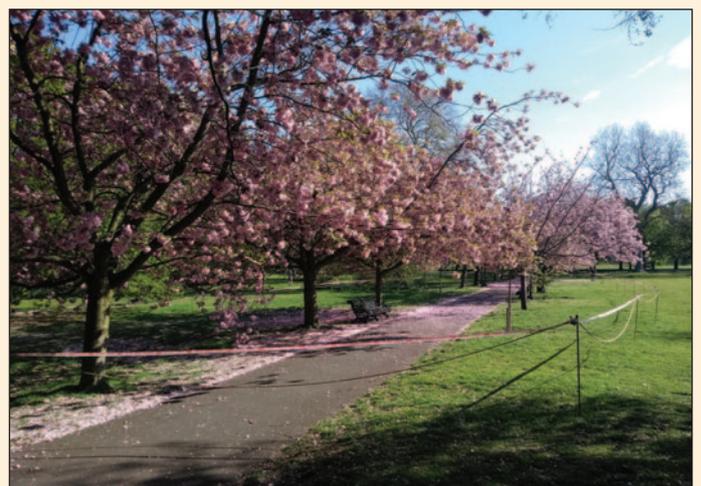
Cities have always been places of human interaction. It is not just everyday street bustle and informal leisure activities that have been disrupted, but the marking of the year by traditional events which have meaning for large numbers of people. Mike Wicksteed writes about Anzac Day, 25 April:

...Obviously, no Cenotaph parade or Westminster Abbey service... "My wife, Liz, and I stood outside for a couple of minutes silence at 7.00pm on the

24th in partnership with everyone else back home in New Zealand who at that time would have been out on their driveways as dawn rose. Earlier in the day, we'd erected a wee Anzac memorial in the front patch of garden and I (safely) broke bounds to drive down to St Luke's church in Whyteleafe to put poppy crosses and flags on the graves on the five NZ and three Aussie WW2 airmen buried there. They all died flying out of nearby RAF Kenley. It was the first time in over six weeks that I'd ventured outside Caterham and it felt very strange."



From the Japanese tradition of admiring springtime cherry blossom to commemoration of the armed forces of Australia and New Zealand, London is a city full of cosmopolitan, indeed global references. The stories of London's growth and change and the visual depiction of this development, continue to fascinate not only local those who live there but a much wider audience – as is apparent from the geographical spread of our readership (see p.2). Is the lockdown an intermission or the start of a new chapter? It will be for future historians to decide.



## Meanwhile

When (if?) you tire of exploring the LTS website there are many other on line resources to enjoy.

As well as browsing through The London Metropolitan Archives' *Collage* (for an introduction to this collection, see *Newsletter* 89) there is a wide collection of films to explore on the LMA's 'Mediatheque' on youtube. *City of London 1951* made for the Festival of Britain, records aspects of City Life, from Billingsgate porters to the pomp and ceremony of the Lord Mayor. Its slow, reflective pace contrasts with *The Changing Face of London*, 1960, which brims with confident enthusiasm for the new, full of cranes, wrecking balls and falling chimneys "as part of yesterday crumbles into dust" and "the door into the past is closing". Passers by look up: "London is going vertical". In 1960 tall buildings and visible steel and glass on exteriors were still regarded as revolutionary. This is a very informative film about the changes taking place at that time, which will stir the memories of our older members.

Several local history and archive collections are offering ZOOM talks on local history, see for example [Camden.gov.uk/local history-exhibitions](http://Camden.gov.uk/local-history-exhibitions) and events; for Lambeth see p.17. You can also browse in Camden's art collection: [camdenartcollection.tumblr.com](http://camdenartcollection.tumblr.com). This is a fascinating miscellany of works, either concerning the borough or by artists with Camden connections. The paintings include some interesting topographical studies ranging from traditional romantic views of Hampstead to atmospheric glimpses of industrial alleyways by the Polish/American artist Käthe Strenitz 1889-1974 (whose work can also be found in the collections of the Guildhall Art Gallery).

If you are interested in topographical views of London you can have a rewarding time hunting in the excellent website of ArtUK, which allows one to search by place, artist or subject matter. Illustrated here are just a few of the pictures which can be reproduced through Creative Commons, there are far more which are available to view on line. The Thames has always been a popular subject. Here are two examples from a fine collection owned by Chelsea Library.



Chelsea Landing Stage by Walter Greaves 1846-1930



The Old Swan and Swan Wharf by Edward A Atkins 1878-83

Other London subjects can be found in a surprising range of collections across the country and abroad.



A shipyard by the Thames, by John Cleveley the Elder 1712-1777.  
Glasgow Museum Resource Centre



A View of Lambeth, unknown artist (showing the construction of Westminster Bridge in the foreground?). Yale Center for British Art



Old Cottage Islington by James Taylor Eglington c.1812-1868.  
Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

## Zoom talks organised by Lambeth Archives

Anyone who wishes to attend needs to write to [archives@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lambeth.gov.uk) and they will send the zoom log in.

Thurs 30 April 18.45-19.30 **A walk around Water Lambeth.**

A virtual exploration of Lambeth's ancient village centre on the bank of the Thames. (Len Reilly).

Tues 5 May 13.15-14.00 **A Place of Public execution.**

The gallows at Kennington and other former execution sites in Lambeth. (Jon Newman).

Thurs 14 May 18.45-19.30 **Lambeth in Literature.**

How this part of South London has been represented by writers as diverse as William Blake, Charles Dickens, Jake Arnott and Alex Wheatle. (Jon Newman).

Tues 19 May 13.15-14.00 **Lambeth's history online.**

An introduction to some of the main online sources for researching Lambeth's history and how to access them. (Len Reilly).

Thurs 28 May 18.45-19.30 **A walk around Waterloo.**

A virtual walk around the Waterloo area. (Len Reilly).

.....

## Reviews

The latest **Hornsey Historical Society Bulletin** (no 61) maintains its traditional high quality with a variety of articles ranging from reminiscences to a detailed analysis of the development of a shopping street and an in depth exploration of the character of the houses and inhabitants of a late Victorian residential street. But Hornsey also has a pre-Victorian past, and our council member Peter Barber (also President of the HHS), has contributed a fascinating piece of detective work on the seventeenth staircase at Cromwell House Highgate: 'A trained band captain eke was he of famous London town: Romantic antiquarianism and early depictions of statues of soldiers at Cromwell House'. A study of the records of the carved newels of this spectacular showpiece throws light not just on the character of the original carvings, but on later attitudes to them. Built in 1638, the staircase was decorated with twelve military figures, members of the London trained bands (a civilian militia designed to protect the City of London). The house was built by a wealthy trained band leader, Richard Sprignell, and not for Henry Ireton, Cromwell's son-in-law, as was



later suggested, due to a mistaken reading of the coat of arms on the great chamber ceiling. The supposed connection with Cromwell led to much attention: the name of the house was first recorded in 1809, when the house was occupied by a prosperous Highgate merchant, George Ranking. Recently some lively drawings of the figures have been discovered, dating from before 1811, created 'in a spirit of romantic and uncritical antiquarianism'. They show the carvings before later damage, and include details of a lost figure. Interest continued: there was an article in the *Art Journal* in 1849, and in 1860 casts of the carved figures were made for the V&A, fortunately, for the figures now on the stairs are replicas of these casts, as several of the originals were stolen in the 1980s. With more knowledge available about the figures, it is hoped that the lost ones may yet come to light.

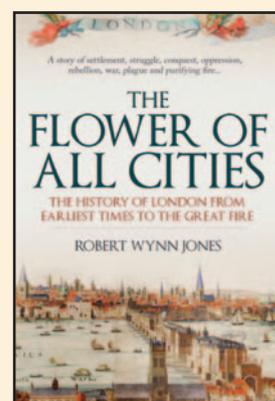
– Bridget Cherry

**A Short History of London: The Creation of a World Capital** by Simon Jenkins: Viking/Penguin

**The Flower of All Cities: The History of London from Earliest Times to the Great Fire**

by Robert Wynn Jones (Amberley)

In 2019 two general books on London were published, neither of them aimed particularly at London topographers, but both of interest. Simon Jenkins' *A Short History of London: The Creation of a World Capital* (Viking/Penguin) is written by a master journalist who has drawn our attention over the years to many aspects of London, including his *Companion Guide to Outer London* (1981). Dr Robert Wynn Jones has a more focussed enthusiasm. He wrote *The Flower of All Cities: The History of London from Earliest Times to the Great Fire* (Amberley) as a result of his pursuit of his ancestor, John West, who had lived near the Stocks Market at the time of the Great Fire of 1666. Dr Wynn Jones is also an archaeologist and a city guide.



These are two very different books: of the 339 pages of Jenkins' book, only 86 are devoted to the years from 43AD to 1688. On the other hand over 100 pages are concerned with the twentieth century alone, and it is the planning and re-planning of London in these years which really grips the author. By contrast all the 200 pages of Dr Wynn Jones' book are devoted to the city before 1666. Both books are well illustrated with unusual as well as familiar images and photographs, and both have decent indexes. Jenkins includes a five page time line of London's history, whereas Wynn Jones has four appendixes providing detailed

London walks for different periods. The different intended audiences of the two books are well indicated by the further reading and bibliographies: two pages in Jenkins' book and thirty pages in Wynn Jones'. In short Simon Jenkins' account of London is easy to read, replete with sweeping generalisations and provocative assertions. Wynn Jones, on the other hand, has written a book to be used, rather than read: it is full of lists, lengthy quotations from contemporary sources and a great deal of hard information.

In short, if you are anxious to get someone interested in the history of London, give them a copy of *A Short History of London*, but if the recipient is already an enthusiast for London then he or she will enjoy browsing through *The Flower of All Cities* to unearth unexpected insights into the pre-Fire.

**The l'Ansons, a Dynasty of London Architects and Surveyors** by Peter Jefferson Smith,

The Clapham Society 2019. 424pp, ISBN 978 1 83952 078 5 £20

This book offers an unusual way of appreciating the complexities of the changing fabric of nineteenth century London, through the study of three generations of l'Ansons, architects and surveyors whose separate identities have long confused historians and indexers. The author, the late Peter Jefferson-Smith, devoted many years of research to unravelling their story – the posthumous publication of this worthwhile book is due to the efforts of a team led by Alyson Wilson, Andrew Saint and Timothy Walker for the Clapham Society, the amenity society to which Jefferson Smith devoted so much of his time and energy.



One can see the appeal of the subject to anyone interested in Clapham – the l'Ansons' home from the 1840s-1860s. Clapham's Alexandra Hotel, whose solid mid Victorian frontage of 1863 appears proudly on the cover of the book was among Edward l'Anson junior's achievements. In the mid-later nineteenth century the l'Ansons had a sideline in building development, not always successful, and the story of how various streets of south London came into being will intrigue local historians. But this book is far more than local history, it ranges widely over many aspects of London development, and provides insights into the worlds of estate management, urban infrastructure and street improvements which underlay the creation of the extending metropolis.

Edward l'Anson sen. (1775-1853), son of a St Marylebone carpenter, had a career as a surveyor

working for large estates in south London and was engaged in much work for the Commissioners of Sewers, in areas gradually being transformed from the Surrey and Kent countryside into the fringes of urban London. An especially fascinating aspect is the light the book sheds on the complex work of surveyors in the earlier nineteenth century before the separate areas south of the Thames came under the unified control of the Metropolitan Board of Works in the 1850s.

This surveyor's son Edward l'Anson jun. (1811-1888) trained as an architect, and travelled widely on the continent in the 1830s. His architectural career flourished and he became known for his work on innovative office buildings in the fast changing City. In his later years, as President of the RIBA in 1886-7, he reached the heights of the new professional architectural establishment. It is regrettable that so little of his work survives to show his ingenious use of iron and glass to create well-lit offices; No. 65 Cornhill, with its elegant tiers of large arched windows, is almost the sole survivor in the City. Elsewhere he showed his ability in creating buildings appropriate for their sites, as at No. 13 Chelsea Embankment with its tall red brick façade in 'Queen Anne' style, and there were numerous functional commissions, for example at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

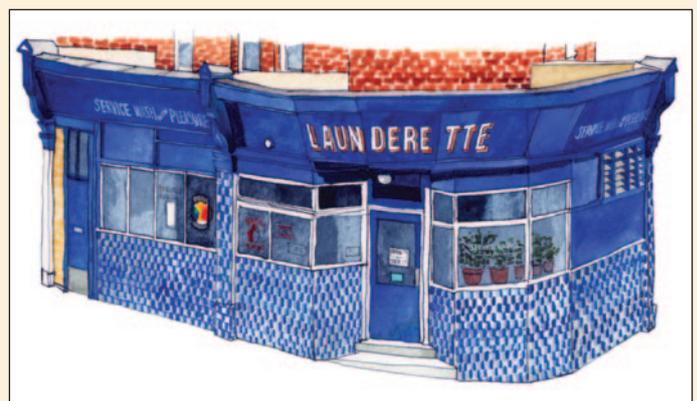
His son Edward Blakeway l'Anson (1843-1912) followed in his footsteps but with more modest success; he was involved with many of the minor municipal buildings that sprang up to serve the new late Victorian suburbs, and also acted as developer of suburban housing in Clapham and Streatham. By this time the family had moved out of London: a transition typical of the rising middle classes: first a base the City, then a family house in Clapham, and finally a country retreat in Grayshott, Surrey, where the eldest daughter of Edward Anson Junior came to reign as Lady of the Manor.

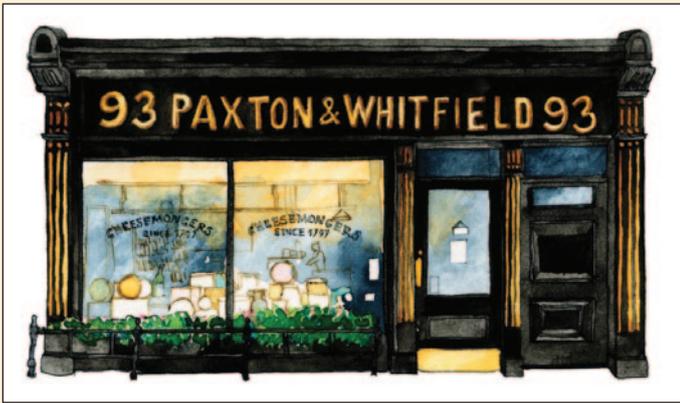
There is a very thorough gazetteer of the l'Ansons' work, and copious references – no excuse now for architectural historians and indexers to muddle the generations.

– Bridget Cherry

**Shopfronts of London** by Eleanor Crow.

Spitalfields Life Books/Batsford. ISBN 978 1 84994 562 2. £14.99





That a launderette with an ‘inventive’ shopfront can understatedly, but strikingly, embellish its secondary streetscape is one of the joys of Eleanor Crow’s delightful and witty visual celebration of the capital’s neighbourhood shops. Stroud Park’s offer – blue paint above blue tiling, white window frames – may be less colourful than many of her choices – certainly far less majestic than Paxton & Whitfield, the royal cheesemongers of St James’. But it retains something of its one-time street presence as the Ferme Park Post and Telegraph Office. (Underwear-proud local Sophie was so excited at the prospect of her first-ever launderette experience there that she used social media to check the opening hours. An apt setting for a true rite of passage.)

Close contenders in the beauty of blue league are Walthamstow glaziers Tenby and Penny, intriguingly highlighting a combination of triple glazing with stained glass. At Marble Arch cheesemonger Buchanans. Overall, blue vies with green for second place among the predominant colours in Crow’s 100-plus subjects – of which, alarmingly, only some 60% continue trading.

None of her greengrocers’ displays exhibit the legendary apostrophe – “it was almost a disappointment!” But she has noticed a trend among fishmonger’s.

What has driven her 10-year quest – from Woodford to Plumstead, from Chiswick to East Ham – is the conviction that “small shops... manifest the character of any community” – all the more worth preserving in a retail world ruled by the blandness of supermarkets and chain stores.

Two of her subjects – a greengrocers’ and a hardware retailer – are built at street level into the fabric of the City of London’s 1950s/1960s Golden Lane Estate, part of a long history of co-development.

Her book is especially welcome give that, as she points out, while cafés are well documented; other retailers lack such recognition. She has chosen her categories to cover goods and services that people go out for regularly. So, no hairdressers, estate agents, toy/model retailers or charity shops – though, she told *LTS Newsletter*, she “could think of many that would have made the grade”. But, in an era of out-of-town DIY emporia, there is a welcome gallery of traditional ironmongers.

LTS members would do well to use this book to encourage their local civic and amenity societies to record their own shopfront gems before these disappear. In its 2019 Local Shop Report, the Association of Convenience Stores reported a healthy 5780 of these outlets in the capital, competing with supermarkets and e-tailing, through the sheer range of their products – but that was pre-virus.

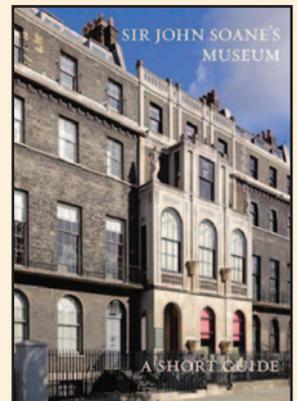
– David Crawford

**Fulham Palace and Gardens, A brief history** by Miranda Poliakoff. The Fulham Palace Trust, 2013.  
**Sir John Soane’s Museum**, a short guide, 2013.

It is pleasant to welcome, rather belatedly, two additions to guides to London buildings open to the public. Such books have to satisfy a number of demands: a succinct introduction for first time visitors, clear explanations of what can be seen on a tour, and an attractive presentation which will ensure the book is valued as a souvenir. Both these books succeed in these aims, packing much information into under 40 well illustrated pages. Fulham Palace is written by the curator, Miranda Poliakoff, and includes new information from recent archaeological digs and an up to date account of the recently refurbished gardens, as well as a room-by-room description of the palace showing how successive Bishops, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, altered the building to suit changing taste and requirements. In total contrast, Sir John Soane’s Museum in Lincolns Inn Fields is the creation of one man, the house and its contents bequeathed by Soane to the nation to be preserved as it was at the architect’s death in 1837.



The new guide is a descendant, updated and simplified, of Soane’s own description, the idiosyncratic interiors with their wealth of furnishings, pictures and objects highlighted by clear plans and outstandingly good illustrations.



The new guide is a descendant, updated and simplified, of Soane’s own description, the idiosyncratic interiors with their wealth of furnishings, pictures and objects highlighted by clear plans and outstandingly good illustrations.

– Bridget Cherry

**The Newsletter Editor welcomes suggestions from readers for items in the Newsletter.**  
**The deadline for contributions to the November Newsletter is 16 October 2020.**  
**For contact details see the back page.**

## 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 1,250 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](http://www.londontopsoc.org)

### **Patron**

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

### **Vice President**

Stephen Marks FSA

### **Chairman**

Mrs Penelope Hunting PhD FSA, 40 Smith Street, London SW3 4EP

### **Secretary**

Mike Wicksteed, 01883 337813 [mike.wicksteed@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.wicksteed@btinternet.com)

### **Treasurer**

Roger Cline MA LLB FSA, Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9SH  
020 7388 9889 [roger.cline13@gmail.com](mailto:roger.cline13@gmail.com)

### **Editor**

Sheila O'Connell FSA, 312 Russell Court, Woburn Place, London WC1H 0NG  
[sheilaoconnell312@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaoconnell312@gmail.com)

### **Publications Secretary**

Simon Morris MA PhD FSA, 7 Barnsbury Terrace, London N1 1JH  
[santiagodecompostela@btinternet.com](mailto:santiagodecompostela@btinternet.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Bridget Cherry OBE FSA, Bitterley House, Bitterley, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 3HJ  
01584 890905 [bridgetcherry58@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetcherry58@gmail.com)

### **Membership Secretary**

John Bowman, 17 Park Road, London W7 1EN  
020 8840 4116 [j.h.bowman@btinternet.com](mailto:j.h.bowman@btinternet.com)

### **Council members**

Peter Barber, Caroline Barron, Dorian Gerhold, Peter Guillery, Anne Ramon,  
Peter Ross, Geoffrey Tyack, Rosemary Weinstein, Laurence Worms

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. Enquiries about existing membership, including renewal payments, and enquiries after 1 September about non-receipt of publications for the year should be made to the Treasurer, Roger Cline, who can also supply standing order forms and gift-aid forms if you are unable to download them from the Membership page of the Website. 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.

### **ISSN 1369-7986**

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

Produced and printed by The Ludo Press Ltd, London SW17 0BA 020 8879 1881  
[www.ludo.co.uk](http://www.ludo.co.uk)

## Annual General Meeting 2020

It is hoped that the deferred AGM will be held on Monday 30 November at the Great Hall of King's College. Entry will be through the University's reception area in the **King's Building on the Strand immediately opposite St Mary Le Strand Church.**

Refreshments will be available in the Great Hall from 4.45 pm.

**Attendance Limitation:** Due to the University's security requirements, it will be a 'Members Only' event. **Members are requested to bring this document as proof of membership.**

**Disabled access.** Disabled members wishing to attend may bring their carer and should contact the Hon. Secretary, Mike Wicksteed (mike.wicksteed@btinternet.com).

**How to get there.** Underground: The nearest station, Temple, is served by the Circle and District lines. Buses: 6, 9, 11, 15, 87 & 91.

### King's College

The college was launched in 1828 at a public meeting chaired by the Duke of Wellington, and founded in 1828-9 by a group of eminent politicians, churchmen and others seeking a Church of England alternative to what later became University College London (UCL, founded in 1826), known as 'the godless college in Gower Street'. King's was granted a royal charter by King George IV on 14 August 1829. In 1836 the University of London was established with King's and UCL as its two founding colleges. Over the years King's has merged with several institutions: The United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals; Chelsea College; Queen Elizabeth College and the Institute of Psychiatry.

During the nineteenth century, King's professors played a major part in the development of science and in extending higher education to women and working men through evening classes. The College now welcomes staff and students of all faiths and beliefs and it is one of the top 25 universities in the world. It has more than 29,600 students (of whom nearly 11,700 are graduate students) from some 150 countries worldwide, and some 8,000 staff. King's has a particularly distinguished reputation in the humanities, law, the sciences (including a wide range of health areas such as psychiatry, medicine, nursing and dentistry) and social sciences including international affairs. It has played a major role in many of the advances that have shaped modern life, such as the discovery of the structure of DNA and research that led to the development of radio, television, mobile phones and radar.

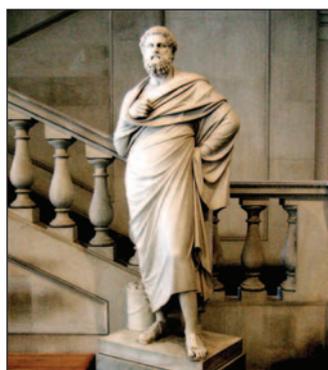
#### King's College buildings

The entrance through the New Building along the Strand (1966-71 by Troup & Steel) leads to a narrow site to the east of Somerset House, given to the college in 1828. The Old Building, 1828-31

was designed by Sir Robert Smirke, a 25 bay traditional classical composition, designed to complement the adjacent Somerset House courtyard (although the main view from the college is of the plain brick backs of the eastern Somerset House terrace).



In the old entrance hall, now the King's Building Foyer, two marble statues of Sappho and Sophocles, bequeathed in 1923. They symbolise the college motto, *Sancte et Sapienter* ('holiness and wisdom'). The grand staircases lead up to the chapel on the first floor. Ahead on the ground floor is the Great Hall.



Sophocles



Sappho

#### The Great Hall

The Great Hall is used for events such as the annual King's Fellows' Dinner and activities such as examinations, press conferences, presentations, receptions and banqueting. It has recently undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment, including restoration of the oak panelling, joinery and the King's College crest.



# Agenda

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

1. Minutes of the 119th meeting.
2. Annual Report of the Council for 2019.
3. Treasurer's Report: accounts for 2019.
4. Hon. Editor's Report.
5. Election of Council officers and members.
6. The Ann Saunders Memorial Essay
7. Proposals by members.
8. Any other business.

Items 1, 2 and 3 are in this *Newsletter* insert.

Following the AGM there will be two short presentations:

## **Minutes of the Society's 119th Annual General Meeting held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 2 July 2019 at St. Andrew Holborn**

Apologies: Bridget Cherry, David Elis-Williams, Simon Morris, Ian Price and Robin Woolven.

Penelope Hunting, Chairman of the Society, welcomed members to the 119th AGM which was attended by about 200 members with the church being full to capacity.

### **1. MINUTES OF THE 118th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The Minutes, as published in the May 2019 edition of the Society's *Newsletter*, were approved and signed. Proposed: William Wright. Seconded: Tom Reed.

### **2. 119th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2018.**

The Annual Report, as published in the Society's May 2019 edition of the *Newsletter*, was approved. Proposed: Derek Morris. Seconded: David Budworth.

### **3. ACCOUNTS FOR 2018.**

The Hon. Treasurer, Roger Cline, noted that the accounts, as published in the May 2019 edition of the *Newsletter*, had been approved by Hugh Cleaver, the Society's Independent Examiner. There were no questions from the floor. Proposed: Gerry Zierler. Seconded: Martha Carlin.

### **4. THE HON. EDITOR'S REPORT.**

The Hon. Editor, Sheila O'Connell, spoke about the Society's 2019 publication: *London Bridge and its Houses, c.1209-1761* by Dorian Gerhold.

She informed the meeting that the Society's 2020 publication was to be London Parish Maps (1740-1900) edited by Simon Morris and that the 2021 publication was to be Nicholas Barbon 1640-1698 by Frank Kelsall and Timothy Walker. As a result of the work involved with these two sizeable publications, publication of the 32nd volume of the London Topographical Record was now planned for 2022.

### **5. NOMINATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO COUNCIL**

Roger Cline proposed that Anne Ramon be elected to the Council. The motion was seconded by Mike Wicksteed and carried unanimously.

### **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.**

The Chairman announced that current members of Council were willing to stand again:

The following Council Members were re-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. Members: Peter Barber, Caroline Barron, Dorian Gerhold, Peter Guillery, Peter Ross, Andrew Thorp, Geoffrey Tyack, Rosemary Weinstein, and Laurence Worms. Proposed: David Hawgood. Seconded: Tim Tatton-Brown.

### **7. PROPOSALS BY MEMBERS.**

There were two proposals from the floor:

- a) Anne Tennant suggested that a bursary should be established in the late Ann Saunders' name.

b) Mary Bestavachvili noted that it was difficult for members attending the AGM to recognise Council Members and suggested that they wear some form of ID.

Following discussion, the Chairman agreed that the proposals would be considered by the Council.

### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

The Hon. Secretary, Mike Wicksteed, briefed the meeting on the launch of the Society's new website.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Following the formal part of the meeting, there were talks by Council Members Caroline Barron about St Andrew Holborn and by Dorian Gerhold on the research he undertook for this year's publication.

Penny Hunting thanked Caroline and Dorian for their talks and those present for their attendance.

After thanking Council Members for their work over the past year and those who had volunteered to distribute the 2019 publication, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.25pm.

## **120th Annual Report of the Council of the London Topographical Society for 2019**

Our 119th Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 2 July 2019 at St. Andrew Holborn. The church was full to capacity with some 200 members in attendance. Following the formal part of the meeting, there were talks by Council Members Caroline Barron about St Andrew Holborn and Dorian Gerhold on the research he undertook for this year's publication.

The Society's annual publication for 2019 was *London Bridge and its Houses, c.1209-1761* by Dorian Gerhold and edited by Sheila O'Connell.

Council meetings were held in January, April and September to discuss the Society's publications programme, membership, finances and general administration. A new Council Member, Anne Ramon, was elected to the Council at the 2019 AGM.

The Society's total income for 2019 was £35,844 while expenditure came to £32,427.

The Society made a single grant this year of £1,472 to the London Metropolitan Archives towards the conservation of London drawings by William Alistair MacDonald (1861-1948).

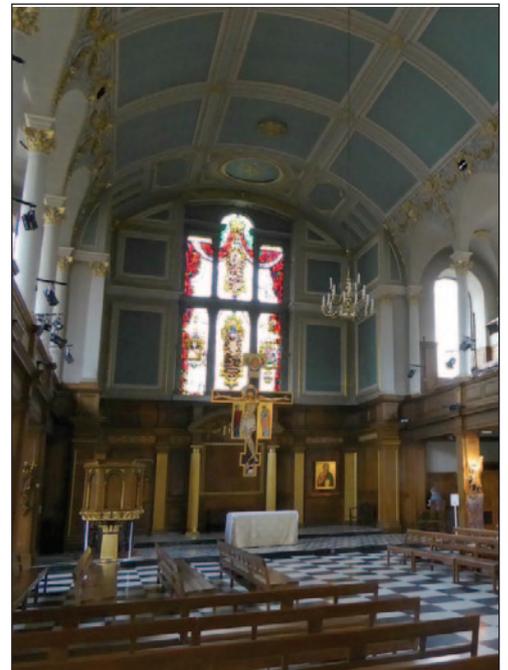
During the year 67 new members joined the Society: at the end of 2019 there were 1230 paid-up members and two honorary members.

The Society's new website ([www.londontopsoc.org](http://www.londontopsoc.org)) was launched in July; it cost £7934. In addition to providing a modern platform for the sale of the Society's publications and memberships applications, it offers access to a large and easily accessible educational resource touching on a wide range of subjects relating to the history of London. As an example, for the first time many of the Society's rare Victorian and Edwardian publications may now be read in a digitised format.

The Society's *Newsletter* was published in May (No. 88) and November (No. 89) with articles ranging widely over London past and present. No 88: *The London Dock Company and Wapping Street, 1800-1810* by Derek Morris provided revealing details about the character of Wapping before the creation of the London Docks. *Remembering Ruskin* by Laurence Marsh looked at the great Victorian's legacy with a particular reference to south London. And, in *Vinyl Revival*, David Crawford investigated how in 1907 the Gramophone Company (later EMI) developed a site between the railway and canal at Hayes in Middlesex and what has happened there since. No 89: Jeremy Smith from the London Metropolitan Archives explained the history and value of the Archive's database in *COLLAGE – The London Picture Archive*. Dorian Gerhold, in *Restoring the Palace of Westminster*, brought readers up to date on the practical problems of the restoration and the issues they raise. In his continuing exploration of the archives relating to the construction of the London Docks, *Sir John Soane and the Port of London, 1807-1812*, Derek Morris revealed the hitherto unacknowledged involvement of the architect Sir John Soane. Book reviews covered a variety of subjects including the history of Sion Row, Twickenham, Tower Bridge, the art of landscape architecture, London's District Railway, Saxon London and the City's waterfront.

A project was started to fully digitise the *Newsletter* for the website dating back to its first edition in February 1975. All editions of the *Newsletter* will be available to read online by Spring 2020.

– Mike Wicksteed, Hon. Secretary



# LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2019

| <b>Income</b>                         | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>Expenditure</b>                 | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                       | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |                                    | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Subscriptions paid by members         | 23,149      | 23,158      | Members' subscription publications |             |             |
| Subscriptions from earlier years      | -           | 20          | Cost of Production                 | 14,294      | 13,406      |
| Income Tax from Covenants/Gift Aid    | 4,189       | 3,660       | Cost of Distribution               | 2,018       | 1,697       |
| Total subscription income             | 27,338      | 26,838      | Total cost of publications         | 16,312      | 15,103      |
| Net profit from sales of Publications | 4,155       | 2,964       | Newsletter                         | 5,392       | 5,064       |
| Interest received                     | 1,324       | 1,179       | AGM                                | 1,188       | 1,461       |
| Grant: Scouloudi Foundation           | 1,250       | 1,250       | Website (rebuilt in 2019)          | 7,967       | 349         |
| Sundry donations                      | 1,714       | 254         | Administration                     | 96          | 64          |
| Royalties received                    | 63          | 90          | GDPR expense                       | -           | 524         |
| Total Income for the year             | 35,844      | 32,575      | Total Administration Costs         | 14,643      | 7,462       |
| Surplus                               | 3,417       | 2,010       | Grant to LMA                       | 1,472       | -           |
|                                       |             |             | Grant to HTT                       | -           | 8,000       |
|                                       |             |             | Total expenditure for the year     | 32,427      | 30,565      |

## BALANCE SHEET 31 December 2019

| <b>Assets</b>                    | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>Liabilities</b>            | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                  | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |                               | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Money in Bank & National Savings | 202,535     | 196,397     | Overseas members' postage     | 220         | 220         |
| Advance payments                 | 4,873       | 3,136       | Subscriptions paid in advance | 5,012       | 3,328       |
| Value of Publication Stock       |             |             | Creditor                      | 3,600       | 3,600       |
| Stock at end of previous year    | 7,336       | 9,488       | Total Liabilities             | 8,832       | 7,148       |
| Additions to stock               | 1,500       | 1,509       | Net Worth of the Society      | 203,138     | 199,721     |
| Less Value of publications sold  | 4,275       | 3,661       | Change in net worth           |             |             |
| Value of stock at year end       | 4,561       | 7,336       | Previous year's net worth     | 199,721     | 197,711     |
| Total assets                     | 211,970     | 206,869     | Surplus                       | 3,417       | 2,010       |
|                                  |             |             | End of year net worth         | 203,138     | 199,721     |

These accounts have been sent to 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.