

# HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



December 2016

No. 149

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## Programme

Talks are on the second Wednesday in the month at 8.00 p.m. at the Union Church Community Centre at the corner of Ferme Park Road and Weston Park

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>N.B. there will be no December talk</b>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Hornsey in World War 1 - Nick Allaway
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Hornsey Church Tower: Past, Present & Future - Peter Sanders & Janet Owen
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tottenham's Forgotten Houses - Val Crosby

## Outings and events

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner at Muswell Hill Golf Club
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Eastbury Manor, Barking
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Wightman Road Mosque

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## Chairman's Report December 2016

On 10<sup>th</sup> September officers and members of the society joined Ken Gay's family, the Mayor of Haringey, Cllr Stephen Mann, and friends and admirers of Ken, on the occasion of the cutting of a ribbon around the new bench on the corner of Muswell Hill Road and Grand Avenue. The bench celebrates the lives of both Ken and his wife Theresa. Warm speeches were delivered in Ken's honour.



Keith Fawkes, Mayor Mann & assistant; David Frith; Oonagh Gay  
Thanks to Ian Christie <https://twitter.com/ianchris> for the photo

An account of the excellent Open House Weekend appears elsewhere in this Newsletter but I would like to take the opportunity here of thanking everyone who contributed towards the success of this annual event.

Normally Friends of Hornsey Church Tower would have taken part in this weekend event. Sadly they were unable to do so as vital electrical work needs to be carried out and Church authorities ordered closure of the building. This has now precluded any activity at the Tower. As a result, a decision has to be made regarding the Tower's future as more extensive repair work to the fabric is required also. This culminated in a meeting of interested parties in the community at The Great Northern Railway Tavern in mid-October. Every speaker endorsed the importance of preserving this iconic building for the use of the community but the work will have to be paid for and ideas forthcoming as to raising the money. Every community representative was asked to attend a further meeting in January with ideas for fund-raising and the Tower's future use. If you are not already a member of The Friends of Hornsey Church Tower, I urge you to join and lend you support to the preservation of the oldest building, by many hundreds of years, in Hornsey.

At the time of writing one of the long-standing officers of the society, Hugh Garnsworthy, our Treasurer, is convalescing after a bout of ill-health. Both Hugh and Ruth, his wife, have been stalwart supporters of the work of the society for many years. We wish him well in his recovery and hope to see both of them back amongst us in due course.

The society has benefitted from the generosity of the late Rosemary Watson who has left £3,000 to us in her will. There is a long list of improvements which we wish to make to various aspects of the running of the society. I will keep you up to date with the use of this bequest.

Since the endorsement of the new structure at the AGM in July some people have come forward to help but two important positions are still to be filled - IT Manager and Archivist. We are very fortunate that Peter Sanders has joined the Committee as Facilities Manager. Also Sandra Clark (new *Bulletin* editor) and Eleri Rowlands (new Membership Secretary) are doing sterling work as essential parts of the team but not as Trustees. We still need people to come forward to continue the society's work without having to take on an executive position.

Finally, in the last Newsletter Rachael MacDonald set out details of our Christmas Dinner. Please book for this very enjoyable evening, held at Muswell Hill Golf Club, which provides a great ambience and excellent food. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Keith Fawkes* Chairman

## Secretariat Report

Dear Members,

To keep you up to date with some of the things the Society is doing and what you can do for it, I shall put a brief note into each Newsletter in future!

We are still busy sorting out the Old Schoolhouse, working out how to get rid of some of the clutter accumulated over the years, so we can comfortably add new acquisitions to our Archive and Publications and be more efficient in our dealing with the public. Peter Sanders, our new OSH Manager, is working on a number of improvements to our base.

Two specific organisational projects are in hand - one to reorganise the office both in terms of space and accessibility and to have a place for private meetings with our members and other visitors. The other is to sort out our computer system and use of IT to catch up with the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We really need help in this - see my appeal below for volunteers to join the management committee and its teams.

Sheila Wheeler has been a welcome and efficient addition to our Committee meetings, having taken over from me as Minutes Secretary. All power to her elbow - it's no easy job!

As you know, those of us who run the Society are all volunteers and we constantly need more people to assist us. Have a look at the appeals below and consider if you'd like to become an active volunteer:

- At present Hugh Garnsworthy, our long-term Treasurer, is out of action because of illness. We wish him a speedy recovery, but his absence reinforces our need for someone to be our **Assistant Treasurer**. It's not a Committee post. Anyone out there with relevant skills who would like to join the finance team? Get in touch with me.
- Many of us on the Committee are not hugely skilled in IT matters, but increasingly need to use it for the benefit of members. We have felt for a while that we are 'muddling along' and 'doing our best', but we desperately need an **IT Manager** to join the Committee to sort out systems, give advice, oversee the website and generally keep us more effective. This is an Officer post. I am sure there is someone out there who could do this? Let me hear from you.
- Our other Officer Vacancy is for an **Archives Coordinator**. Do you have an interest in working with our Archives Team to develop a knowledge of our Archive and perhaps, in due course, take over this post? The Archive Team is in the Old School House every Friday from 10.0 am to 2.0 pm and would love to hear from you.
- Last, but by no means least, we need to build up our **Mail-out Team**. This just involves a morning or afternoon roughly once a quarter to help stuff envelopes, stick on labels and stamps with a friendly group of others. Is this for you?

**PLEASE CONTACT ME** - [secretary@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hornseyhistorical.org.uk) or phone 020 8348 8429 on a Friday morning.

Best wishes, *Jennifer Bell* MBE Secretary

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### For clarity in the printed Newsletter

Website links and email addresses are in black. However they should activate if you have the emailed Newsletter.

e.g. [www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk](http://www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk) [newsletter@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

## Membership Report December 2016

We are delighted to welcome the following as new members:-

Mr Kevin Duffy N4

Mr Niall Ellingson N4

Mr Gordon Hutchinson N4

Mrs Julie King N10

Mr Stuart Ullathorne Guildford

Dr Tim Willis & Ms Olivia Ely N8

Mr Godfrey Lowen

We hope you will join us at our various events and ask that you make yourselves known so that we can make you welcome.

We are saddened to report the deaths of life members Mr Rodney W G Welch in May and Mr Brian Thomas Frear in July and also of Mrs Vivien Christine Snow of Llantwit Major in the summer and Ms Elsie Hawkins of North View Road in September. We send our condolences to their family and friends.

Mr Rodney W G Welch lived in various rented properties in Wightman Road before moving to Cuffley in 1979. He had a great interest in the theatres and cinemas in Hornsey and was encouraged to join the Society by the late Ken Gay. He died in May after a long stay in a care home in Potters Bar.

*Peter Walters*

*Dr Eleri Rowlands* Membership Secretary [membership@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:membership@hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

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### Publications Committee Report

Currently, committee members (see the last Newsletter for a list) are reviewing articles submitted to our new *Bulletin* editor, Sandra Clark, for inclusion in *Bulletin 58*. A copy will be posted to you in March 2017. As always with this award-winning publication it promises to be a very interesting edition. We were very pleased to accept an article on the musical life of German internees at Alexandra Palace during the First World War from a sixth former in one of our local secondary schools - the youngest author ever to submit a text for consideration! We do hope that this will spur on other young authors and demonstrate to all would-be writers that HHS publications offer the opportunity to see your work and name in print. Malcolm Stokes, with his considerable knowledge of local boundaries and the history of Highgate, continues writing *The Deer Park of the Bishops of London at Highgate* for publication in 2017.

*Janet Owen* Publications Manager [publications@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:publications@hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

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### Archive Report

All enquiries have been answered; as always, the majority are from people unconnected with the society. They are trying to find out about ancestors who came/lived in the area. We're not a family history society but we can help with identifying locations and trades and sometimes we have details of families.

Alan Nafzger has been working with James White, curator of the archives at Alexandra Palace, identifying material, particularly pictures, which HHS holds which are either better quality than the ones at the Palace, or ones which they do not have. These images are on <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/partner/alexandra-palace>. AP has paid for the conservation of some material as part of 'the deal' with Google Arts and Culture. *Also see Local History Tweets.*

For the last few weeks we have supported a member of Stroud Green CAAC in providing historical detail on locally listed buildings towards updating the Haringey Council locally listed buildings list.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November an enquiry was received from *The Real Greek*, a new restaurant at 244 The Broadway Muswell Hill, most recently a newsagent, then empty for many months. It has now opened as a Greek restaurant and the enquiry is:-

Hello, We are the new addition to Muswell Hill Broadway and we discovered original tiles on the walls when remaking the place into a restaurant. I am now trying to find out what this space use to be and where this tiles come from but I can't find any info. They are in very good shape. Please see the picture attached. I was told to check with you, just thought I would give it a try. Thank you very much for any info you may have. Eliane, Supervisor



As the naming and numbering of Muswell Hill was changed by the Royal Mail/Post Office it was not immediately clear from our Kelly's street directories which number in the Broadway it equated to. The Archive Team felt it might have originally been a London Co-operative Society (originally 4 Broadway). As I was planning to have lunch there I checked it out by counting how many buildings it was along from the Mossy Well.

Unfortunately Eliane, who emailed us, was not there. The tiles are on the left as you enter and would have been covered with shelving previously.

I checked shops against what was there in 1935 counting from The Mossy Well (the last address on Muswell Hill). On The Broadway, 244 is four shops along from The Mossy Well, so would likely to have been no.4 Broadway originally. This confirms this was London Co-operative Society shop - as we initially thought. (oh, and the food was very good too).

Archive Team members

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## Sales Report

As is my custom may I offer some suggestions for Christmas presents from our bookshelves. Our hardback books (*Ivy-Mantled Tower; Tottenham and Wood Green Past; Hornsey Past; Lost Rivers of London* etc.) would make fine presents for people interested in those areas and subjects. From our DVDs, David Evans' *Hornsey and the New River* and his *Wren's London Churches* are well worth considering.

Our OS map reproductions suitably framed would be well received as would a suitably framed selection of our postcards.

Our revamped selection of local walks will help to work off the effects of too much Christmas pudding etc!!

Come to the Old Schoolhouse and have a browse. I am sure you'll find something for your Christmas list. May I close by offering Seasonal Greetings to all.

Details of all our publications, DVDs, maps etc can be checked out in the Publications list on the HHS website <http://hornseyhistorical.org.uk/w/index.php/publications> and purchased at the Old Schoolhouse or ordered for sending by post with cheques payable to Hornsey Historical Society addressed to The Sales Manager, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL.

Albert Pinching Sales Manager

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## TALKS TO LOCAL GROUPS

Recently our Secretary, Jennifer Bell, has given three talks to older local people, two on the History of Hornsey and one on Hornsey in World War Two.

During the summer Jennifer was invited by Margaret Hill House in Middle Lane (where she had worked in the past recording residents' autobiographies) to introduce members of the group to a quick history of Hornsey from the 7<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. This she accepted with delight, particularly as it was an opportunity to renew old friendships! A few weeks later the Dementia Cafe, at Abyssinia Court, in Weston Park asked for a similar talk. On each occasion she led an informal talk and discussion, illustrated with many pictures, to an enthusiastic audience of about 8 to 10 people. She was ably assisted at the Dementia Cafe by Lesley Ramm and both talks were very well received!

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September Jennifer had invited a discussion group from Hornsey Parish Church to the Old School House to talk about Hornsey in the Second World War; again assisted by Lesley, and also Alan Nafzger, the visitors were shown extracts from David 'Tec Evans' DVD about his schoolboy memories of the War, they studied our Bomb Damage Map, looked at HHS's Bulletin 'Home Fires' and shared their own memories of war time - but most were only very small children at the time. Everyone was very involved in the discussion and said what a lot they had learned.

These talks have been most rewarding for everyone who participated!

## Open House Weekend Events

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September, Muswell Hill Walk

In line with tradition, the HHS conducted its annual walk for this event. In past years we have relied heavily on the expertise of David Frith, our Conservation Officer, and the organisational skills of Joy Nichol, Archivist, and her husband Glen. This year I led the walk with Ruth Hazeldine and Geoffrey Woolvett as marvellous supporters and marshals. Over forty visitors joined us, many from quite a distance away. We commenced at Muswell Hill library with a brief history of the area and an opportunity to view the murals of the medieval pilgrims painted by the Hornsey School of Art. We moved on to the Baptist Church in Dukes Avenue and were given an interesting talk by John Grant. After further exploration of The Broadway we had a brief look at the marvellous interior of the old Presbyterian Church, now a pub. We were lucky enough on our arrival at The Everyman Cinema (late Odeon) to meet the general manager who generously gave us an unexpected tour and a short talk on the new plans. This was a real *bonne bouche*. Further study of the architecture of both Edmondson and Collins in the Fortis Green area of Muswell Hill ended with a walk down Tetherdown and, as usual, a splendid end to the afternoon with a visit to North Bank Methodist Church and a talk by Gill Simpson, the administrator, supported by a PowerPoint presentation. We were refreshed by tea and homemade cakes at the end of what participants said was a very successful and enjoyable afternoon.

*Keith Fawkes*

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, OSH Open Day

As in former years, The Old Schoolhouse was open for visitors, focussing this time solely on the history of the building and the schooling which took place in it. A special feature this year was an oil painting of Hornsey Wood Tavern (in what was to become Finsbury Park) by Fred Cowley, a Kent HHS member, who painted it for the society in thanks for the information he had received over the years about his Cowley family in Crouch End. (*the painting can be seen in the OSH on display when we are open*)



I was supported on the day by Jennifer Bell, David Frith and Janet Owen, who put up the displays also, helped by my Thursday assistant Michael Procommenes. We received 49 adults and 12 children between 10.00am and 5.00pm - the Open House organisers having decided, when printing their booklet, to extend our hours from those they were given by me! We put out a selection of free information, self-guided tours of the building and specially prepared children's worksheets and a small selection of reproduction Victorian toys. We were kept busy answering questions on the history of Hornsey as well. Visitors were impressed by the high quality of HHS publications on display and comments in the visitors' book showed that they greatly appreciated the welcome they received and the wealth of knowledge shared with them by the helpers. As a bonus, we took £35.00 in sales and one visitor joined the society. A successful day all round.

*Albert Pinching*

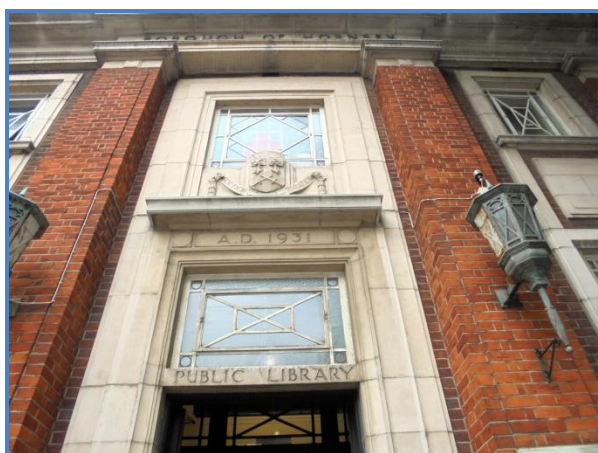
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## Conservation Report

### MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY SUBMISSION BY THE HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Muswell Hill Library is a splendid building erected in 1931. It is statutorily listed Grade II as a building of architectural or historic interest. It is well designed for its purpose in that it has spacious well-lit interior spaces that inculcate a feeling that is appropriate to a library. Its situation in relation to the Muswell Hill shopping centre could not be better in that it is easily approached from the shops without crossing a number of roads. It is also a building which is dearly loved by the residents of the area and, in spite of its drawbacks; it has been used by generations of children without serious problems. The front part of the land on which the library is situated was sold to the Hornsey UD in 1898 by J Edmondson, the developer of much of the Broadway and Queen's Avenue. This part of the site was originally used as a fire station. The remainder of the site was bought by the Hornsey Borough Council in 1930.

In answer to Question No. 29 in the FAQ document the Council states: "*The building has a covenant to be used (as) a library or other public non-trading purpose. We have been advised that the covenant applies to the council and not the land, and thus is enforceable against the council not the successors in title. As such, the covenant does not prohibit the sale of the building and its future development.*" This covenant applies to only part of the site and relates to the land acquired from United Dairies in 1930. The covenant states: "*The Purchasers hereby covenant with the Vendors that the property hereby conveyed shall not nor shall any part thereof at any time hereafter be used for any purpose other than that of a Branch Public Library or other public non-trading purpose.*" The significance of the covenant and the Council's interpretation of its implications are not matters we wish to comment on.



Front view of library



Showing Avenue Mews side view

The existing building does have two important drawbacks: the lack of complete disabled access and the inadequate toilet facilities. The Council's consultation documents detail a number of alternatives for ameliorating these problems. Of the proposals to improve the existing building the costs appear to be excessive and inflated by unexplained contingency items. One proposal that is not fully explored in the documents is a very small extension on the vacant land at the rear. The objection to access from the mews side is that the footpath adjacent to the library is of inadequate width. This could be overcome by widening the footpath on the library side and reducing the width on the other side. The restriction on the width of the footpath would also affect the development of the vacant site for residential or other purposes requiring public access.

The Council's conclusion is that the costs would not be justified and that the best alternative would be to replace the library in part of the ground floor of the new building that is now being built on the site of the old Green Man PH. The availability of this space arises because the proposals for the Green Man site as originally approved included a three storey space for a school for Cerebral Palsy sufferers. In the light of this need the Council approved a volume of building on this site which would probably not normally have been countenanced. The school has now found alternative accommodation and the space above ground floor level previously designed for the school is now subject to an application to build further flats. The Council appears already to have a lease on this part of the new building apparently in exchange for the Greenfields School in Coppetts Road after it was decided that the floors for the school were no longer required for their original social purpose.

Without seeing the details of the new building it is difficult to compare the accommodation with the existing. It is stated that the new space will be 25% larger than the existing. The character of the new accommodation cannot be judged but it is unlikely that the new floor space in a commercial building will have the spatial and lighting characteristics of the existing building. Also the site is less accessible for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic than the existing library.

In any event it is stated that the Council could not contemplate spending capital sums on improving the existing building so the alternative schemes for the existing building are irrelevant. The Council states that the only choices are to retain the existing building in its present form or to move the library to the Green Man site. In our view the preferred option is to retain the existing building in its present form. It should be remembered that the building is listed Grade II as a building of architectural or historic interest. The presumption therefore is that, if possible, the building should be retained. As a building of architectural quality it is worthy of preservation as a whole not simply as a meaningless shell to enclose a building used for a purpose entirely different from that for which the elevations were designed. Buildings are not listed solely for their external appearance and in this case the quality of the interior, with its mural, is as important as the exterior. Let us retain the existing building and hope that in future years it will eventually be possible by a modest expenditure to provide the facilities which are at present lacking.

*David Frith* Conservation Officer 10 August 2016

You may see the council information here <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/libraries/find-library/muswell-hill-library/muswell-hill-library-public-engagement>

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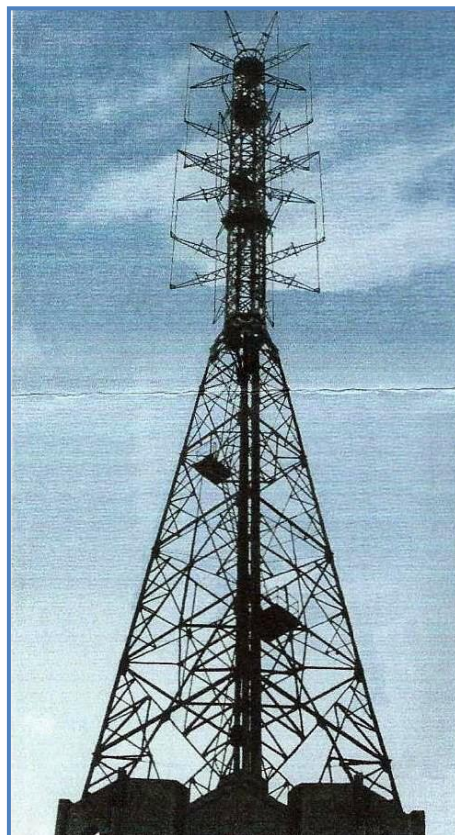
## Members Articles

### Eighty Years of the Television Mast at Alexandra Palace

10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death at Woodford Green, Essex, of a man forgotten to all but a few. I suspect that when I say his name, Charles Samuel Franklin CBE, I'll be greeted with - 'never heard of him!' Though his name may not mean anything to more than a handful of people in the whole of London, it is London where his work should be best known. Look at Alexandra Palace and you'll instantly recognise his work - the mast - for Franklin was one of the 'back room boys' who made the work of others possible. It is 80 years since the mast appeared on the skyline, making it possible for television to be received over a wide area. By a coincidence it can be seen from as far off as Woodford where Franklin died.

The mast was constructed very much like children once built things from Meccano; the design was lightweight, say only 30 tons. Assembled at EMI's works at Hayes, its sections were marked before it was dismantled and transported to Wood Green. There, Alexandra Palace's south-east tower had been rebuilt to encase its corners and girders in rubber and cork (I'm told) for a distance of 50 feet down. At the top of the 85 feet tall tower, attachment points on the four corner girders were used to hoist up the pieces in the appropriate order so that the whole mast could be reassembled as it had been at EMI, Hayes. It didn't take long to reassemble and the work was completed in six weeks. When finished, it rose 215 feet above the top of the tower which, with the height of the hill, put the mast's top 606 feet above mean sea level.

Known only to a few was that, although the mast was made of steel, the four sets of eight arms projecting horizontally every 45°, around the parallel octagonal upper section, were made of wood. Maybe due to that, the arms were removed in 1956 soon after the main BBC TV transmissions from Alexandra Palace ended. Those wooden arms had carried the antenna, ensuring the signals radiated equally over London, Middlesex and the edges of surrounding counties. In places, the signal reached far beyond the boundary of its intended coverage.



*The mast as it was prior to 1956*

The mast was finished by May 1936 and a single red obstruction light was placed on top to warn low flying aircraft, not that there were many around then. It would become what truly is now a familiar London landmark.

It wasn't in use for long before the Second World War put a temporary end to television broadcasts. However the transmitters, along with the entirely wooden TV mast at Highgate, were put to another use linked to the war - but that's another story.

During the post war years many people became directly familiar with the mast via the opening sequence of the nightly BBC TV News when the programme's title appeared to circle the mast.

When he designed the mast it's doubtful that Charles Franklin gave any thought to how long it would remain *in situ*, though he must have looked at its lifetime extending quite some time into the future if television was successful. Could he have foreseen that when, twenty years later when its intended use for television ceased, its usefulness was not at an end? It would go on to stand exposed to the worst of the weather, including the gales of 1987, and has survived for over half the time the building to which it is attached has existed.

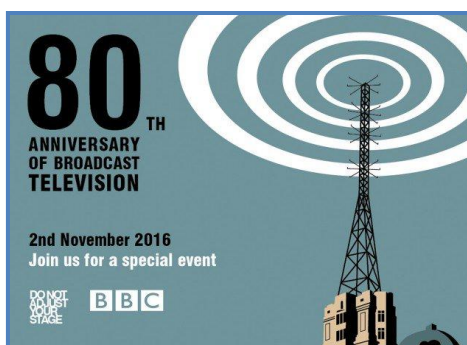
Sir Christopher Wren has St Paul's Cathedral as his memorial but who can put a name to the man responsible for this famous landmark? The mast at Alexandra Palace is Charles Franklin's lasting memorial.

**Bill Rust** (television is six months, almost to the day, older than he is)

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### BBC TV World First TV broadcast 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's first public broadcast of TV was celebrated by Alexandra Palace where the original BBC TV studios are located. *Editor*



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### London's Free Pleasure Palace

I recently came across this publication (something like the once-popular *Reader's Digest*), made up of odd snippets, including this on Alexandra Palace. Considering the vast amounts spent on this controversial edifice by our own council over the years, and the contributions now being sought from the public by the Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust, the finance details given in this American article more than a century ago are quite surprising:

**LONDON** has one of the most novel enterprises yet under-taken in England or any other country. A great Municipal Pleasure Palace has been thrown open to the public, and a Municipal Trust, composed of representatives of various branches of the London County Council are now showing what can be accomplished under municipal management in the way of providing healthy recreation and amusement for the people, as well as opportunities to study art, science and industry.

Other cities and towns in Great Britain are doing a similar work, but nothing like the grand scale on which Alexandra Palace is conducted. Battersea, for instance, has for months given concerts, at the expense of the town, in its Town Hall.

Not only is Alexandra Palace a place where the artistic tastes of the people are fostered by means of pictures, statuary, and the display of objects, both rare and curious, but there is also a round of healthful amusement. Theatrical performances are given by leading companies, music by noted military bands, organ recitals and pastoral plays, not to mention such incidentals as firework displays, balloon ascents and other items.

The acquisition of the Palace for municipal ownership was the result of the work of a councillor well known for his municipal activities. A total of nearly one million dollars was voted as purchase money by various County Councils, enough to purchase not only Alexandra Palace and the 160 acres of park around it, but also the adjoining Grove estate, hallowed by its association with Dr. Johnson and other literary men.

The first thing that strikes the visitor when he enters the western annex is Adrian Jones' splendid and imposing piece of work, "Rape of the Sabines." Then there is a fine collection of statuary in the palace — over 500 groups and figures. The art gallery is one of the permanent features of the Palace. There is room in the art galleries for thousands of canvases, and the appeal recently made for the loan of pictures has met with a most gratifying response. Facilities have been offered for the exhibition of pictures with a view to their sale, and with this end in view an art union on popular lines will be established.

In the first hall there is a general exhibition of science, art and industrial exhibits. Thus the trustees are trying to make the Municipal Palace educational as well as a place of amusement and recreation. For instance, they have just accepted a loan of 2,000 watches illustrating the entire history of horology. In the collection is a watch once owned by Oliver Cromwell. Some very fine specimens of pottery are shown, illustrative of the history of pottery in England. There is also a collection of historical costumes, geological specimens, exhibits from the textile trades, jewelry, laces and miscellaneous collections, loaned by the South Kensington Museum. The exhibits are changed from time to time, and every effort will be made to make this part of the Palace interesting and instructive. The Middlesex County Council voted \$250,000 toward the purchase of Alexandra Palace for the people, the Hornsey County Council \$185,000, Wood Green Council \$185,000, Islington County Council \$70,000, Tottenham \$40,000, Friern Barnet \$28,500 and Finchley \$15,000. The administrative plans of this Palace for the people have been entrusted to Mr. John Henderson, who has had a life-long experience in this work. The Municipal Palace of London is the most popular place in that great city. (*"The British Californian" 1902-3*)

I have not attempted to convert the currency nor hazard a guess at what the various amounts might be worth in today's money, but what a pity Haringey has to go it alone these days.

*Rachael Macdonald HHS Representative on the Alexandra Park and Palace Consultative Committee*

## Shaftesbury Hall

Situated in Herbert Road N11, Shaftesbury Hall was registered in 1885 and was an infants' school in the early 1900s. It was still used by the Baptists in the late 1930s, but was closed by 1954. At present it is not open for community use. It is owned by the Samaritans and Hornsey Housing Trust who want to redevelop the site and put up a block of three one-bed flats.

The hall is what is known as a "tin tabernacle"; large numbers of these were erected from the 1870s on, to provide places of worship and schools for rapidly growing communities at low cost. They were prefabricated and could be bought from builders' merchants; they could be put up, taken down or moved to another site quite easily. Basically they consisted of a timber frame, with external cladding of corrugated iron or galvanised zinc sheets. Within they were often lined with tongue and groove boarding.

There are not many of these left now; SOE were replaced quite early by permanent buildings as funds became available. The Victoria County History for Middlesex records that a tin tabernacle was opened in Mattison Road in 1891 and was replaced by a permanent church ten years later; also that Campsbourne Baptist Church began as an iron chapel in 1876. When a brick building was erected in 1907, along with two smaller halls, it was used for adult education and as a Scouts' HQ. There was also an iron Trinity Church on Hornsey High Street, which was demolished in 1975.

Currently, planning permission has been refused for the redevelopment of Shaftesbury Hall, but the Samaritans are appealing against that decision. Bowes Park Community Association have asked English Heritage to consider listing it - some tin tabernacles are already listed. The outcome of this request is not yet known. BPCA feel it would be a pity to lose this little piece of local history. Tin tabernacles do have their problems: they are vulnerable to corrosion, which causes water ingress and damage. However cladding can be replaced quite easily. If listed and repaired, this building could serve as a useful facility for the community, as well as a base for the Samaritans.

*Related to the above, I came across some recent news about Shaftesbury Hall - Editor*

It was interesting to note that after many years of neglect that has seen this Tin Church fall into great disrepair that there is now a Just Giving fundraising page set up by The Samaritans to raise £715,000 to save it. The hall was built in 1885 as a chapel for railway workers next to Bowes Park railway station. It also became the nucleus of Bounds Green Board School, with lessons held there in the 1880s. Plans submitted for the development of the site, have been strongly opposed by local residents.



See <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/North-London-Samaritans> for details.

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**Local News**

**Hornsey Gasholder no. 1**

This Victorian geodesic design gasholder, under threat of demolition for many years to accommodate the Heartlands Development between Mary Neuner Way/Western Road and Hornsey Park Road, was finally pulled down in early October. It will soon be followed by the second gasholder. A long campaign by many local groups and individuals was not enough to save these distinctive local landmarks.



*Only the gasholder on the left currently remains*

See <http://www.pmra.co.uk/2016/09/07/a-tragic-loss-of-unique-heritage-a-breach-of-trust-a-missed-opportunity-why-hornsey-holder-no-1-was-lost/> for more information

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Local history Tweets - you can access these if you have a Twitter account

James White (@thewhitejam) tweeted "Indebted to the lovely people @HornseyHistory allowing their archive to be included on @yourallypally @googlearts <https://t.co/UyWSspOQpn> " and "@HornseyHistory allows us to identify for first time the BBC Studios before their transformation from dining rooms <https://t.co/Kv9dtqavjb> ".

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### Layers of London: mapping the city's heritage

The Layers of London project will create a ground-breaking interactive online map through an extensive programme of public engagement and crowd-sourcing, resulting in a dynamic website allowing users to explore and engage with London's history. No comparable website exists. For more information please visit: <http://layersoflondon.blogs.sas.ac.uk/>

### Feedback on Newsletters

The Editor is always happy to receive constructive feedback on the Newsletter to help improve it for our Members. An email or private discussion are welcome.  
[newsletter@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

### Guidelines for contributors to the Newsletter

The articles in this Newsletter express the views of individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Society. Permission to reproduce any part of the Newsletter should first be obtained from the Editor. If you wish to send an item for the Newsletter it should be no more than 1000 words maximum and relevant to the history of Hornsey. *N.B. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions to the newsletter.*

Articles should be emailed to The Editor at [newsletter@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@hornseyhistorical.org.uk) in Microsoft Word format please. N.B. Scanned copies that are then emailed or hand written / typed hard copies may be sent to the Newsletter Editor, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, Hornsey N8 7EL. However as they require retyping to be usable longer articles or letters may not be used.

**To see the newsletter in colour** please request to receive it by email. Printed version is in black & white.

***The deadline for the March Newsletter is 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017***

Correspondence to Officers may be sent to Hornsey Historical Society, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, Hornsey N8 7EL or call 0208 8 348 8429. Messages will be picked up on Thursdays and Fridays. Website [www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk](http://www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

## Winter/Spring Outings 2016/17

Below are details of the society's next outings. Please read booking details carefully.

### **Tour of Eastbury Manor House: Wednesday 22 February**

Our visit on 22 February is to Eastbury Manor House, Barking. We shall be the only visitors there at a time when the house is closed to the public. Our guided tour at 2pm lasts 1 1/2 hours. The Buttery tearoom will also be staffed to serve us lunch, or just coffee or tea. I hope members will use the tearoom, as staff are being so helpful and like most historic buildings restoration is needed. I'll be sending a menu to those who book.

Eastbury Manor House is a Grade I listed Elizabethan building owned by the National Trust and run by Barking and Dagenham Council. It was built in the 1570s on land which was once part of the demesne of Barking Abbey after the dissolution and was probably the first brick built building in the area.

In the early 17th century the house was occupied by a Catholic family with close family connections to some of the principal conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, though a local legend that the Gunpowder Plot was conceived there has been discredited.

The house was allowed to become dilapidated, until by the late 19th century only the west wing was habitable. In 1918 the house was bought by the National Trust and was restored. In 1931 it was opened as the Museum of Barking.

The cost of this visit including private entry to the house and the guided tour is £10 (£7 only for National Trust members).

If you have any queries please email [events@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:events@hornseyhistorical.org.uk) or ring/text 07757 414363. Please ensure that you enclose your 'phone number and email address (or SAE if you have no email) for confirmation and final details. Make cheques payable to Hornsey Historical Society and send to: Rachael Macdonald, 13A Palmerston Road, Bowes Park N22 8QH.

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### **Visit to Wightman Road Mosque, Hornsey Wednesday 22 March**

We shall be visiting Haringey's first purpose-built mosque on Wednesday 22 March at approximately 2pm. Meeting details will be sent to those who book. We shall tour the mosque, home to the London Islamic Cultural Society, in Wightman Road and hear about Islam from members of the Mosque community. For those interested it will be possible to arrive earlier in order to enter the prayer hall and hear a recitation by the Imam.

It promises to be an interesting experience in a building which has been a local landmark for the last 17 years. There is no charge for this visit but booking is essential. Ring or text me on 07757 414363 or email on [events@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:events@hornseyhistorical.org.uk) to reserve a place. Rachael Macdonald

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### **The Society's Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 14 December**

Details of this year's Christmas Dinner at Muswell Hill Golf Club were given in the September newsletter. Many 'regulars' have booked but at the time of writing few more would be welcome, as would items for the raffle. If you wish to donate an item please drop it in to the Old Schoolhouse on Thursdays or Fridays 10am to 2pm or Saturdays 10.30am to 2.30pm, or ring me to arrange collection. You should also ring before booking to confirm last-minute places are available on 07757 414363. The bar is open from 7pm. Dinner is served at 8pm.

**Please make your booking as soon as possible**

**Rachael Macdonald *Events/Outings Manager***



## Theatre Trip

*IN OLDEN DAYS A GLIMPSE OF STOCKING  
WAS LOOKED ON AS SOMETHING SHOCKING -  
NOW HEAVEN KNOWS -*

### ANYTHING GOES !

Be prepared to be shocked - well, probably not, but certainly delighted with this year's show UPSTAIRS AT THE GATEHOUSE at 4.00 pm on Sunday January 22, 2017.

I have reserved 20 seats for us.

Tickets are £16 for youngsters and £14 for Concessions.

This is an all-singing, all dancing show with music by Cole Porter and the usual fabulous Upstairs at The Gatehouse production. If this date doesn't work for you but you want to see the show, or indeed any of the other splendid shows at this theatre call the Box Office on 8340 3488 or email: [events@ovationproductions.com](mailto:events@ovationproductions.com)

I will also arrange for our usual after-show supper at La Strada Restaurant. Please fill in the form below and send to me, Ruth Hazeldine, c/o The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, London N8 7EL with your cheque made out to HHS.

#### NOTE:

**I will collect your ticket(s) at the Box office on the day.** Climb up the stairs to meet me at the Box Office and I'll give you your ticket(s) there. Seats are not reserved so try to arrive about 30 mins before the show to grab a good seat! For any queries phone me on 8340 5446

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NAME .....

PHONE NO .....

PLEASE RESERVE .... seats at £16( ) .....seats at £14( )

Please reserve ..... places at La Strada (pay individually)

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**Notice of Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association talks** next spring on Thursdays at 8.00pm:

16<sup>th</sup> March: at Muswell Hill Flesh and Flour café, 162 Fortis Green Road, where the owner will talk about the food he sells.

13<sup>th</sup> April: a representative from the Haringey Council planning office will talk about planning applications at North Bank, Pages Lane.

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#### **Ally Pally Theatre fundraising request**

A request from Lisa Jones of the PR company working with Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT) who have launched a public fundraising campaign to support the restoration of its stunning Victorian Theatre, dating back to 1875, bringing it back to life for theatrical performances, cinema screenings, comedy and live music, and set to open its doors in 2018.

They are asking for support in raising the final £1m by sharing the link to the donation website:

[support.alexandrapalace.com](http://support.alexandrapalace.com)

They are really keen to engage the local community and offer them a stake in the building. This has always been, after all, "The People's Palace."

## STOP PRESS

### Hornsey Town Hall - What Future?

*Why are Haringey about to sell off a much loved building of national significance to a Hong Kong based property developer? David Winskill tells the sad story.*

For eighty years New Zealand architect Reg Uren's Art Deco masterpiece has dominated Crouch End, sitting in its own oasis of green a hundred yards from the bustle of the Broadway.

The weekend before Haringey's cabinet took the terrible decision to enter the contract phase of selling off Hornsey Town Hall (grade II\*) to a Hong Kong based, Cayman Island company, I showed a Tottenham councillor round the building. An older chap approached us and related how he had met his wife while dancing there sixty years ago and that it had the finest sprung dance floor in London.

Stories like these are not uncommon. Until Haringey closed the Assembly Hall in the 1980s it was used for choral concerts and pantomimes; the Kinks and Queen played there; the Hornsey Carnival Queen's Ball, school prize givings, bingo, wrestling matches, jumble sales, film shows were regular events - Hornsey Town Hall's role as a centre of the community earned a place in the hearts of thousands over four generations.

As we chatted, the latest generation was queuing with its mums and dads for an Oxfam fundraiser. During the day over 1 000 paid their entrance fee and were amazed at what they found inside.

Sadly, because Haringey had neglected it so badly, for a quarter of its life the building remained closed. Then, in 2014, along came three lads, collectively known as ANA. They cleaned gutters, made electrics safe, tidied the council chamber, cleaned decades of grime from windows and, working first with the Crouch End Festival, breathed life into the old girl.

Since then silent discos, roller skating, Bowie tribute concerts, comedy nights, drama, film, local history, a new art gallery and space for 74 creative businesses employing 130 people. An amazing arts centre has sort of crept up on us.

So why did the cabinet agree to sell to a property developer who wants to turn it into a "Boutique Hotel"?

In 1965 Haringey was born and inherited three town halls - Wood Green, Tottenham and Hornsey. Only one was needed and, in 2002, Hornsey was declared redundant. What to do with it? The saga had begun.

Following an amazing campaign by Crouch End for People, consultations showed that locals wanted it to remain in public ownership and used for community, education and performance.

In 2009, Cllr Charles Adje came up with the idea of the rear car park as dowry. Sell it for housing and use the ring-fenced proceeds for the restoration of what was now on the Historic England at Risk register. Set up a trust and establish an arts centre.

Almost immediately the financial crash hit (capital and liquidity dried up) and the Olympics arrived (Heritage Lottery Funds were starved as cash went to Stratford). The scheme stalled.

Mountview Theatre School came... tried to make it work ... and went. And still Haringey had a Town Hall too many. They asked property consultants to advise and they said "Sell it". "Quick".

A European wide procurement was launched and, this October, Far East Consortium was declared the preferred bidder. They will build 123 flats (at time of writing, only a miserable four will be affordable); turn the east and west wings into a "boutique" hotel; the small businesses will be evicted and the details of proposed arts centre remain vague.

The good news is that the building will get its much needed restoration and some sort of community access is guaranteed.

Haringey's watchdog, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (at the request of several Tottenham Councillors) looked at the lack of social housing. They reasoned that it is Haringey's land, someone is going to make tens of millions of pounds out of the development so why, as Catherine West MP has repeatedly asked, can't we find a way of getting more affordable/social units in the mix. Haringey's cabinet responded by saying they will discuss it with FEC but have no way to insist.

Was a sell off the only way to find a future for HTH? [www.HTHAS.org.uk](http://www.HTHAS.org.uk) don't think so and had been asking Haringey to pause the process and give Cllr Adje's scheme another chance.

Cabinet refused and so, with no published Haringey guarantees, future generations might be looking forward to regular community access and arts consisting of little more than listening to the piano player in the cocktail bar.

