

THE
ISLINGTON SOCIETY

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ISLINGTON SOCIETY

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other new infrastructure could be contemplated by such a deadline, has introduced a new sense of urgency in the East London Line Project, as the ELL Extension (ELLX) is now to be known. It is certainly true that as well as opening up orbital links around London, the new line would considerably improve access to the planned Olympic site near to Stratford.

The new line reconnects Highbury & Canonbury to Dalston Junction and the line towards Broad Street, with a short new section to Bishopsgate Goods Yard and on to Whitechapel. Stations at Haggerston and Hoxton, closed by war-time damage, will be reopened after more than sixty years.

That new short section has though been the source of more rancour involving English Heritage. Some time after the “final” authorisation in 1997, the project team decided it was necessary to demolish an unlisted viaduct next to the listed Braithwaite viaduct and to evict tenants of properties under the arches. EH were unhappy at the late notification once again, but after legal action by an individual failed to save the second viaduct, the project team report that EH are now satisfied that adequate measures are being taken to protect the listed viaduct. Demolition has begun; trains should be running in 2010. AB

John Huntley

Members will be saddened to learn of the death on August 7th of John Frederick Huntley, writer, film historian and archivist, at the age of 82.

John's film industry career began as a tea boy at Denham studios in the late 1930s. He served in the RAF from 1940, where he also staged lectures and film shows. After the war John returned to the film industry, becoming Head of the Regional Unit of the British Film Institute.

He wrote many books, including *Railways in the Cinema*, presented over 4,000 film shows and festivals and made many appearances on radio and television. To support these activities, John and his daughter Amanda set up Huntley Film Archives in 1985, initially with a bias towards transport subjects. The continuing demand for material provides a lasting and appropriate tribute.

Some of those film shows were to the Islington Society, most recently in May 2000 when his entertaining talk on Islington Film Studios was timed to coincide with the then imminent redevelopment of the Gainsborough Studios site across the canal in Hackney. The nineteenth century films he showed then were notable for the speed at which the action seemed to take place; John's enthusiasm for films was only matched by that of the horses as they hauled their trams down Holloway Road. AB

ISLINGTON *news*

The **Award winning** Journal of the Islington Society
incorporating FOIL Folio

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Suggestions for topics to be covered and articles to be considered may be sent to the Society at this address. Local organisations are asked to send notification of activities and events they would like to be listed.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society.

The Return of the Almeida

In May the Almeida Theatre re-opened after its two-year closure, with a splendid production of Ibsen's "The Lady from the Sea". Regular audiences have been overjoyed by its re-emergence in a very much improved building, *writes Alan Turner*

Since 1978 when the theatre opened it has won an international reputation and a loyal band of supporters who have come to regard the shabby and poorly serviced premises with affection. What has taken place during the period of darkness is a truly remarkable transformation. The architects, Burrell Foley Fischer, have achieved a high degree of improvement in the public spaces such as the bar and foyer. The character of the auditorium itself remains very much the same, but there have been a whole series of changes, including new seating, new lighting and sound equipment and a new ventilation system incorporating comfort cooling.

The most noticeable changes have been to the entrance foyer, the bar and the toilets (which many will recall as a couple of portaloos). These public spaces have been handled with great skill, given the limited space available, and what was once a draughty and rather damp yard between two buildings is now a light and pleasant space in which to gather before the performance. The ingenious design enables the foyer to serve a double purpose as an entrance for trucks delivering scenery. This explains the industrial nature of the concrete floor and the large glazed opening which can be slid away completely to allow access for delivery

vehicles. The concrete has been taken up some of the walls and a minor criticism is that the exposed surfaces are very uneven and discoloured. Where concrete is exposed, the formwork, the concrete mixes and the workmanship need to be carefully controlled, such as at the National Theatre. At the Almeida the effect is not great, but it is a small point, given the quality of the whole work.

Improvements to the non-public areas include new dressing rooms, a green room, offices, workshops and better storage space. Excavation below the stage gives greater head-room and flexibility, important in a situation where there are no wings or space behind the stage. The Almeida site is enclosed by other buildings and there is no space for lateral expansion which has forced the designers to make the most efficient use of every available square foot.

The theatre staff seem to be very pleased with the result but I have not been able to ask any of the actors for their opinion. (I would guess that they too will be appreciative.) All in all it is a very satisfactory project and to my mind this must represent a good client choosing good architects and working intelligently with them. These factors are usually present in any good building.



Islington is fortunate in having such an innovative theatre within its boundaries. The combination of the new artistic director, Michael Attenborough, and the refurbished premises will surely mean that the Almeida will go from strength to strength and consolidate its already substantial reputation.

*The Almeida in the evening
photo by Mark Foley*

The changing face of upper street

Stan Westwood. *the owner of Preposterous Presents reflects on the changes he has seen to shopping frontage in Upper Street.*

In the 1860's Upper Street Islington was considered a strong rival to Kensington High Street as a fashionable street for clothing shops and people would dress up to be seen window shopping in Upper Street on Sunday afternoons.

However by the end of the 19th century Upper Street had lost its fashionable reputation partly due to the road widening of 1886-1888 which involved substantial rebuilding especially on the east side which caused severe disruption to the existing shops.

The west side of Upper Street has always been considered to have the most passing trade and has been more sought after by traders. (You will never see a beggar on the east side.)

The reason for more passing trade on the west side is probably due to the less interrupted run of shops but could also be due to there being eight pubs between Highbury Corner and Islington Green on the west side compared to a mere two on the east side.

When I first moved to Upper Street in 1973 Dan Crawford had already established his famous Kings Head Theatre at No.116, but what is now the equally famous Almeida Theatre was still a derelict disused factory.

There were many useful shops serving everyday needs such as D.I.Y shops at No.120 and 283-284 and there was even a B.I.Y shop (brew it yourself) at Nos.135-136.

A visit to the pub usually meant either going to the Royal Mail at No.153, the Kings Head at No.115 or The Mitre at No.130, run by former boxer Jimmy Wheeler where the walls were covered with framed black and white

photographs of famous boxers in action, pubs whose interiors and names had not changed in living memory.

Throughout the 70's there were a few attempts at more adventurous shop uses such as the excellent Ablebest gift shop started up by Nick Morris at No.296 but generally Upper Street remained a street of established traders with a few accountants, solicitors and other professionals taking advantage of the lower rents on the east side and using a shop as an office, sometimes with a sideline such as photocopying to give the shop a retail usage. In 1978 I moved from offices above the Islington South & Finsbury Labour Party at No.295 to shop premises at No.262 and the neighbouring shops were very different to what they are today.

Ageing Mrs. Schmeltz was still running her ladies hairdressers at No.194/195 (now Gill Wing), Dan Davies menswear was at No.196 (now Sefton) and Cooksey & Sons the undertakers were at No.266. (now the Canonbury Artshop),

Opposite my shop was the Popular Book Centre at No.203, Smokes started by Pete Platt at No.204, the Friar Tuck fish and chip shop was at No.205 and Malcolm Hall menswear was at No.206.

During the 80's there was a big increase in the number of estate agents and fast food outlets. The arrival of the Business Design Centre in 1986 began to make a difference and by the mid 90's Upper Street had undergone dramatic changes partly due to extensive publicity surrounding the growing number of high profile residents.

Restaurant and coffee shop chains started moving in, causing an explosion in commercial property prices and rentals. This

was disastrous for small established leaseholders who were now being asked at rent reviews to equal rents being paid by their new A3 usage neighbours, often resulting in being asked for increases in excess of 100%.

More recently the opening of the new shopping centre at the Angel has pushed up Upper Street commercial property prices even further.

With the rapid growth in internet trading it may be inevitable that small specialist shops, being forced to pay the same rentals as restaurant and coffee shop chains, will be forced out of city High Street locations.

The return of fashionable clothing shops to Upper Street has begun and, judging by the large crowds of customers spilling out over the pavements from new bars and restaurants, it would seem that the area has turned full circle and after 140 years is once again the fashionable place to be seen.

However my most enduring memory will be of the run down Upper Street of the late 70's where I could just cross the road and see Ian Dury, Elvis Costello, The Damned, Madness, The Specials, Bad Manners and many more in the basement of John & Sue Eichler's legendary Hope & Anchor at No.207. SW



Find out more about this area from Jim Connell's excellent two-volume history of Upper Street
58pp. 210x296 ISBN 0-9518683-0-6
Available from Libraries and bookshops

What do we mean by higher densities?

Harley Sherlock argues in favour of compact communities planned at higher densities

Few people dispute the theory that higher density, mixed-use communities would reduce the need to travel. If food shops, primary schools, children's sport, doctors' surgeries, pubs etc were within walking distance, cars would be unnecessary for most local journeys; and, if the concentration of people made frequent public transport services possible, cars would also be less necessary for longer distances, such as the journey to work.

But whenever planners, councillors or developers suggest higher densities in a local context, they are, even now, often accused of "town-cramming" and of wanting to put people back into tower blocks. It seems that many of us still don't realise that the tower block housing of the 1960s and 1970s owed more to architectural fashion than to a wish to raise densities. In fact the tower block estates were usually built to no higher density than the four storey Georgian terraces of London, most of which now form much-loved conservation areas.

During the 1980s and most of the 1990s very little urban housing was built, but there are nevertheless some examples of high density, low rise housing (including the conservation of existing buildings) which suggest

possible ways of creating compact communities in the future. In Islington most of Claremont Square's Georgian houses were converted into two family maisonettes: the lower dwelling having the garden, and its own front door opening off the basement area, while the upper dwelling uses the original front door at ground-floor level, but is otherwise on the upper three floors, with the rear attic room removed to provide a roof terrace opening off the kitchen-cum-family room. The accommodation is more generous than that usually provided in modern housing, but the density achieved is 80 dwellings per hectare (32 per acre) or 360 habitable rooms per hectare (145 per acre). This is actually slightly in excess of the typical density achieved in the 1960s tower-block estates.

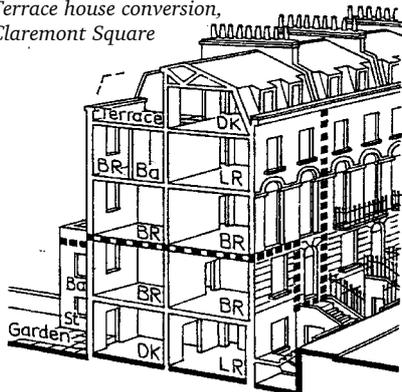
The idea of housing to a similarly high density, and with every dwelling having its own front door, was applied particularly successfully in the 1980s to new housing at White City. It consists of four storey terraces with family maisonettes on the lower floors, which have their own private gardens opening onto a large well-treed green in the centre of the estate. The development also relates very well to the streets surrounding it, unlike many council developments in the 1960s and 1970s which

tended to turn their backs on existing street patterns. Surface car parking is available only for visitors – with residents car parking provided under some of the terraces. (See illustrations)

Back in Islington, we have an excellent example of similar new high density housing at Old Royal Free Square in Liverpool Road, which is a combination of rehabilitation and new-build. It too consists of four storey terraces surrounding a green. But in this case the front doors are approached from the green whereas, at White City, they are approached from the surrounding roads, with the backs of the dwellings looking onto the green.

The object of these examples is to demonstrate that raising densities does not necessarily mean reducing standards, and that we can have our sustainable, close-knit communities and still live in the sort of housing that most people aspire to. What is the point of living in towns, as most of us do, if we can't have the necessities and pleasures of life close at hand? But, if we can make compact communities work and reduce our dependence on cars (even environmentally friendly ones), our urban streets could eventually become, once again, places where people meet and children play – rather than mere thoroughfares to somewhere else. HS

Terrace house conversion,
Claremont Square



Royal Free Square, Liverpool Road

New housing at White City



Balancing act required

Alison Carmichael of the *Highbury Community Association* reports on the impact of parking controls at *Highbury Barn*

Islington Parking Services (IPS) sparked a debate at Highbury Barn shopping parade, following its effective implementation of 'yellow line' parking controls earlier this year. The issue is not that shopkeepers want 'free for all' parking for their customers, nor that residents are critical of the council's policy for traffic reduction in Islington. It is simply that the enforcement of parking restrictions here is observably not the solution for either the safety of pedestrians and road users, or for the survival of these shops. Spending large sums of money on 'traffic calming and environmental improvements' may not be the answer either.

Local shopkeepers report that a high proportion of their trade (up to twenty percent) is with locals who occasionally shop by car, or with visitors driving from other boroughs. The loss of this significant amount of turnover is worrying for small shops faced with competition from larger stores. Usually, these customers stop at the Barn for a short time, up to fifteen minutes, before moving off to complete their

shopping elsewhere. Although this is undoubtedly unwelcome to planners trying to reduce traffic journeys, the shops naturally rely on this amount of custom, and fear losing it to the larger stores or centres providing car parks or parking bays. The very effective ticketing and clamping of these customers' cars also results in traffic moving dangerously fast through the cleared street.

The Highbury Community Association (HCA) is interested in the issues since two-thirds of the shopkeepers at the Barn are business members and many of the Association's 730 resident members value it as their local shopping centre. The road connects Islington with other boroughs. It is much used as a through route for all traffic, including buses, and as a local route for residents who cycle or drive, hence the need to keep the traffic flowing.

Previous to the parking ban implementation, some shoppers driving to the Barn stopped where they liked, frequently causing serious, temporary traffic jams with resulting pollution, frustration for road users, obstruction to delivery lorries and possible delay to emergency services. This is the well-reported problem Islington

Transport planners are addressing by enforcing the ban on parking. By solving one problem many locals believe they are creating others. However, the solution to the survival of the shops and the management of the through traffic may be simple.

When 'car-driving shoppers' park where one sided parking cannot cause congestion, at the Northern and Eastern side of the street, and at specific known points in the centre of the parade, the traffic is slowed, but not stopped, by the increased narrowing of the road. This happens throughout the day. Pedestrians are able to cross and re-cross the road easily and safely, at any point along the parade, to access all the shops. In addition to the pleasure of using independent, family run shops, this makes it possible to shop very quickly at Highbury Barn. Thus a shopping experience akin to the 'convenience' shopping offered by supermarkets and purpose built centres, but much more rewarding, is available close to people's homes. The speed with which one can shop here for a great variety of goods and services is undoubtedly a major plus for busy people.

Evidence that the shops are



School Opera

Continued from previous page

valued is that 1500 people signed a petition, started by a resident with the aim of saving the shops, which was presented to the council by Councillor Laura Willoughby in May. Her advice was that provision of short-term parking bays in the area will be considered during the current east Highbury CPZ consultation. The HCA shop-keeper members also want carefully located service bays, in order to stagger the sites chosen by the delivery lorries. Shop-keepers hope that they will be included in the consultation process.

If short-term parking bays and suitable service bays for the shops are provided, a solution to slow the traffic sufficiently, without the need for expensive crossings, traffic calming and the currently fashionable 'build-outs', is possible, which also allows free passage to through traffic. Recent events at Highbury Barn seem to demonstrate that a lack of balance in the way traffic management policies are implemented could cause a loss of sustainable shopping, which would eventually impact most severely on those who walk to their local shops. AC

Highbury Barn : shops and traffic



Kathleen Frenchman tells a story of Death and Seduction in Islington Schools.

Inner-city 10 year-olds sitting on the floor silent and enthralled by a performance of Lucia di Lammermoor seems an unlikely concept, but this has occurred in Islington four times during the summer term. What is more, the opera was sung in the original Italian.

The four performances were given at different Islington primary schools by the Pavilion Opera Educational Trust (POET) and were supported by a number of charitable trusts. The twelve singers in full costume were accompanied by a pianist who managed to make himself sound like a small orchestra. Each school hosted classes from two other local schools

The success of the event was due not only to the high quality of the production but also to the extensive preparatory work done in class. One example of this was the display of drawings and paintings covering the assembly hall walls of St Andrew's School, Barnsbury.

At the end of the afternoon the children had tea with the cast, asked for autographs and asked questions. The next step is class discussions and writing comments to the sponsoring charity.

The Pavilion Opera Educational Trust was set up in 1991: its aim is to stimulate interest and understanding of classical arts among children at an early age. It stages operas in state schools around the country, giving children aged ten the chance to see a live professional performance. KF

Library Art

Art was the name of the game at West Library this summer. A project in King's Cross was centred on drawing, painting, reading, and joining the library. The participants were children and young people from the Killick Street Estate and Crumbles Castle Adventure Playground. In the West Library, they explored the shelves in groups for images they could use in designing a poster.

This helped youngsters who were not regular users to find their way around the books, discover what they wanted and make use of the available stock. They also found they could use the PCs to access the internet and play computer games.

There were also art workshops on the Killick Street estate which used photographs to feature the striking architectural characteristics of Beresford Pite's Edwardian library building.

All the paintings and drawings that had been produced were exhibited in the library, including a final poster made of a collage of images. The launch of the exhibition was attended by young people and parents, youth and community workers, library staff and the Head of Islington's Library and Cultural Services, Rosemary Doyle.

A number of young people joined the library and have become regular users and plans have been made for co-operation between library staff and local youth and community workers, with a particular scheme for the library to support the education work of the Copenhagen Youth Project.

The project was led at the library by Islington artist, Janey Hagger. KF

At Newington Green

Bob O'Dell reports on our enjoyable and interesting first joint meeting with the Hackney Society

The success of six years of grassroots campaigning was the theme of the first joint meeting of the Islington Society and the Hackney Society. The September 23rd meeting took place on the Hackney side of Newington Green at the 1707 Unitarian Chapel, which itself was in the process of getting a fresh coat of paint and shiny red doors. That was just one sign of change on the Green.

Following introductions from Islington Society Chairman Andrew Bosi and Hackney Society Director Kevin Moore, and a brief introduction to the chapel from the minister, Cal Courtney, Nicky Southin spoke about the campaign of the Newington Green Action Group (NGAG). Seeing a gradual decline in what had been a more pleasant and safer neighbourhood, local residents formed the action group in 1997 to restore the neglected Green as a natural focus for popular use. By then the Green had become a roundabout surrounded by four lanes of traffic. Starting first with an audit tapping local memories and views, NGAG went on to analyse what needed to be done and the options.

Firstly, and at NGAG's request, the Islington Parks Department carried out minor works. NGAG also began meeting with planning,

conservation and community representatives, and subsequently produced sketch plans and models of possible traffic flows and landscaping redesigns. The ideas were taken up by Islington Council as a Special Project and a document, "Vision for Newington Green", was produced to direct, guide and co-ordinate. NGAG also obtained a Millennium Lottery Grant that enabled a survey on the practicalities and implications of the traffic proposals. There followed major public consultations.

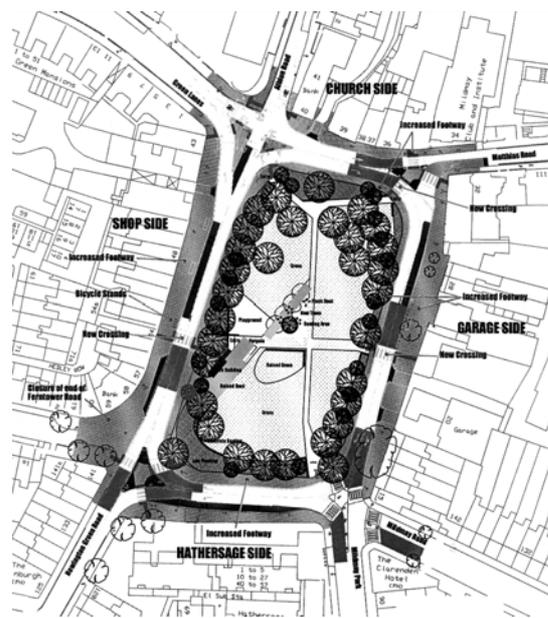
By early 2002 the Council's final recommendation was to retain the existing roundabout system, but to widen the pavements and reduce the traffic lanes from four to two, with new crossings and entrances to the Green. This meant compromises on the part of those who wanted an end to the roundabout, but clearly it was a move in the right direction.

Regeneration funds became available for building works on the Islington sides of the Green. The most notable consequence may be the restoration of the four houses of the 1658 brick terrace on the west side. Work is also proceeding at the former China Inland

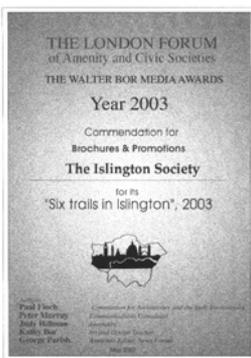
Mission headquarters to provide modern student housing.

Alas, such funds were not available to the properties on the Hackney side, as Cal Courtney pointed out speaking for the North Newington Green Society. Nonetheless, improvements have been made, along with the development of working relationships with NGAG and the two councils.

Dougal List from Islington's Planning Projects Team brought the story up to date, presenting the plans for landscaping, new crossings and wider footways. Works began in November for completion by May 2004. BO'D



*Newington Green Landscape Plan
From Islington's "Streets for People"*



The Society submitted its recent publications to the London Forum of Amenity Societies' annual Media Awards *and WON two awards!*

Our Spring 2003 Journal was the winner of the "Newsletter" category. The Six Walking Trails, which are available free of charge from the society (*see page 10*), received a commendation in the "Brochures and Promotions" category.

Marion Harvey's report on the awards is on Page 11

Islington's King's Cross Team

The last issue of *ISLINGTON news* had a couple of articles about developments at King's Cross. Here, we report on the Council's King's Cross Team initiatives.



Who are we?

The new King's Cross Team is dedicated to working for the physical, economic and social regeneration of communities in the area. These regeneration opportunities are related to the current large-scale developments at the King's Cross Station and St Pancras. We are based in the Islington Council Planning Division's Policy and Projects Service section. The team is funded by the Islington Strategic Partnership and has guaranteed funding until March 2004.

What do we do?

Our mission is to "Manage Change and Maximise the Benefits" that will come from the ongoing development and

planning opportunities in 'the new King's Cross'. It's part of a wider regeneration framework for the council through the emerging 'arc of regeneration' from King's Cross to Finsbury Park. The main project focus will be the unique new urban quarter 'King's Cross Central' that will be developed around the international travel hub of King's Cross St Pancras.

The King's Cross team will work with local communities to make sure that benefits arising from the King's Cross Central and other developments are maximised for local communities.

We intend to have close collaboration and consultation with anyone who wants to be involved. This will give us a better understanding of what is needed in the area and how the current and future developments can best contribute to positive changes in the area.

King's Cross is split in two by the borough boundary which runs down York Way and Kings Cross Road, so a 'joined up' approach to the regeneration of the area is needed. The councils have co-operated before, for instance in the King's Cross Partnership, and will continue to make the most of joint efforts. Camden organises a King's Cross Development Forum for local communities which provides a regular opportunity for anyone with an interest in King's Cross to have their say.

Neighbourhood Management

King's Cross has also seen the launch of the North King's Cross Neighbourhood Management project in Islington. This project aims to facilitate joined-up working with agencies and engage local residents and businesses in order to improve service delivery and reduce deprivation in the area.

The King's Cross team will seek to work closely with the neighbourhood management project to ensure that our work adds value and is complementary. You can contact the Neighbourhood Management project for more information.

carol.morgan@northkingscross.co.uk
Tel: 020 7527 8031



Visit the Website on:
www.islington.gov.uk/kingscrossteam

Who can get involved?

Anyone with an interest in the King's Cross area – residents, businesses, visitors, workers etc. You will be asked for your ideas on both how the consultation process could best suit local communities, as well as what benefits you want to see in the area. The full details of the consultation process are to be set out in a 'Community Engagement Statement'. The end product will be the Area Action Plans, which will cover each sub area.

How to get involved

The Team is keeping a consultation data base and anyone on it will be invited to the consultation events. A quarterly newsletter will be available on the website alongside consultation documents and the team's reports.

If you want to be involved, contact the King's Cross Team:

Lucy Shomali - Policy and Projects
Mark Hammill - Principal Planner
Susanna Strandell – Alan Mace
Assistant Planners (King's Cross)

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e-mail: kxteam@islington.gov.uk

Summer Evening Surprises

The prevailing view of declining church life took a bit of a knock on the Society's visit to five churches on 23 July. There were some other surprises too behind the often familiar facades, writes Bob O'Dell

We started at St Mary's Upper Street, whose parish boundaries once reached north as far as the Archway. The tower and steeple of the 1750s (as well as the 1903 porch) were all that remained after wartime bombing. Behind that now is a fine, light interior of the 1950s with tall, well proportioned windows and engraved glass screens.

Neighbouring Cross Street Baptist Church was also rebuilt after the war, but the surprise there was the nearly hidden church hall that still remains from 1856. Crossing Essex Road we came to St James' Church in Prebend Street. This was built in the 1870s by the Clothworkers' guild to replace a church in the City. Looking at the modern cross atop the spire and at the colours of the interior, it was hard to realise that this church was threatened with closure thirty years ago.

From there we went to the Polish Catholic Church in Devonia Road, which was probably the main surprise of the evening. The building dates from the 1850s-70s when it was the Swedenborgian national seminary. In 1930, when the seminary moved to

Woodford Green, the building became home to the Polish mission. The main feature is the stained glass of the windows, designed by a soldier/artist in the 1940s during the war and illustrating the Polish struggle for sovereignty. The walk ended at St John the Evangelist Church in Duncan Terrace. This was built in the 1840s and has the first bell cast for a Roman Catholic church after the Catholic Emancipation, as well as fine modern pipe organ.

But it wasn't just these building features and bits of history that impressed us. In all of the churches we heard about work being done with young people, with seniors, with homeless people, or being a home away from home. Work was underway or planned to make the buildings more accessible. Restoration work was being done; contemporary art was incorporated. Space has been made available for a fair trade café, for an Ethiopian Christian group, for support for people with mental health problems, for childcare, Buddhist meditation, dance lessons, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and for still more. Three of the churches – Baptist, Anglican & Catholic – have developed strong links to worship and go on pilgrimage together. All of the congregations are very much part of the fabric of the community and contributing to the life and well-being of Islington.

ISLINGTON MUSEUM - what next?

For some time the Museum Trust and the Friends of the Museum have been troubled about the doubt over the museum's whereabouts in years to come. The Council has indicated that it has other plans for its present home beside the Town Hall and would like the museum to move

to the former public hall on the ground floor of Finsbury Library. Most museum people thought the Finsbury accommodation and location were unacceptable.

A meeting of people interested in the museum called in June to discuss the situation was well attended, and a number of points

were clarified.

1. Whatever the Council's proposals for the Upper Street premises, they were not well advanced: planning permission had not been sought, nor had the Head of Conservation been consulted, both essential preliminaries. It therefore seems

THANK YOU! A big thank you to members who have responded to the earlier mailing about renewal of subscriptions. Your response has helpfully boosted the bank account, and the increased number of standing orders helps assure the Society's future work.

Thank you too for the corrections and changes in addresses, as well as the additions to the e-mail list. All of this information is, of course, solely for the use of the Islington Society; we do not make our members' details available to any other group, company or organisation.

Our next effort will be a drive to increase the number of members and the areas - location and interest - represented by the membership. If you know anybody who might want to join the Society, please pass the enclosed membership form on to them.

Awards to *THE ISLINGTON SOCIETY*

Marion Harvey, a former Chairman of the Society, reports on the Islington Society's success at the London Forum Media Awards

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies held its biennial competition to promote and encourage the high standard and rich variety of media productions - from the essential bread-and-butter newsletters to brochures, guides, books, videos and web sites - at The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street on 5 June with a strong Islington Society contingent in the audience.

The Forum has a membership of over 100 Societies covering the Greater London area with a head count of more than 100,000 volunteers concerned at grass roots, with protecting and improving their local environment. The Society was a founder member.

The Award was named after the late Walter Bor, founder President of the Forum and internationally renowned planner and architect. He would have been proud of the range and quality of the entries and the first to recognise the hours of struggle to impact on local indifference or lack of vision.

Paul Finch, deputy commissioner of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment - CABE - chaired the panel of assessors which included Walter's daughter Kathie Bor, an art teacher; Peter Murray communications consultant; Judy Hillman, Forum Vice-President, journalist and town planning advisor,

and George Parish the Forum's assistant editor.

Awards went to the Islington Society for its Newsletter, praised for the lively newsworthy content, the clear layout and inexpensive production - an exemplar; to the Chelsea Society for its splendid 75th Anniversary Issue of the Annual Report; to the Harrow Hill Trust for its informative brochure 'Harrow on the Hill'; to the Enfield Preservation Society for its book 'Treasures of Enfield' and to the Bedford Park Society for its listed building logbook, an innovative approach to recording and developing more regard for the quality of the conservation area itself.

A number of commendations were made under the five categories, including one to the Society for its excellent Islington Trails (*see below*).

At the event Peter Murray urged members to embrace the electronic age, develop good Society web-site, use e-mail with its time and cost-saving advantage (to those 50% with access). Kathie Bor stressed the appeal to young people by involving schools, which the Chelsea Society, with its first Local History Schools Competition, was doing.

The overall assessment was that the submissions represented a prodigious effort, all voluntarily and enthusiastically given, and a fantastic range of material showing a strong groundswell of interest across London in improving and safeguarding the environment and quality of life.

MH

ISLINGTON MUSEUM - what next? (continued from page 10)

likely that the museum could stay where it is for some time.

2. Very recently it has been learned that the basement of Finsbury Library might become available, offering much more space than the public hall and a separate very visible entrance at the front of the library.

3. While the Upper Street

location was preferred most people agreed if a move was necessary a very good showing could be made at Finsbury. The basement offered additional space for educational and other activities, and there is the advantage of being close to the London Metropolitan Archives, the Family Records Centre, and the Society of Genealogists.

Chairman Bruce Tattersall and co-ordinator Jim Lagden both thought the evening had been well spent in that it restored the enthusiasm of supporters and volunteers and dispelled the despondency of recent months. In fact morale is high enough for a new project to be under discussion. Watch this space *KF*



The Odeon Cinema opened as the Gaumont on 5th September 1938 with a sell-out concert, broadcast by the BBC. The foyer rose the full height of the building and a café terrace extended over the shops in Holloway Road. The 3,003 seat cinema was hit by a V1 rocket in 1944 and was reopened only in 1958

Six neighbourhood walking trails have been produced by the Society. Exploration, awareness, and pride of place are three of the purposes behind the trails. Each trail is printed on a handy, pocket-sized sheet with a map, a suggested route with annotation and with room to make your own variations. They are intended for residents, for people who work in Islington and or visitors.

Six Islington Neighbourhood Walking Trails

Angel to Essex Road : Archway to Whitehall Park : Highbury Corner to Finsbury Park
Canonbury to Newington Green : Tufnell Park to Nags Head : Finsbury Park to Crouch Hill
available FREE from Libraries and from the Islington Society

Coming Events

17 December 2003

Christmas Social
With Archaeology and History Society
6.00 *Islington Museum*

10 January 2004

Visit to Tottenham Garage
Tour of a working bus garage and talk by
Mark Yexley
9.30am *Tottenham Garage (tube to Seven Sisters)*
(buses 73, 476, 41, 279, 257, 341, 76)

4 March 2004

The famous Islington Society Annual Dinner
With the Mayor
7.30 (*Venue to be announced*)

17 March 2004

Kathleen Frenchman
Joint meeting with Archaeology and History Soc.
8.00 *Islington Museum*

Events Planned

Dates to be confirmed : Watch for announcements

April

The Annual General Meeting
With Dave Wetzel explaining Land Value Tax

June

The second Annual Church Crawl

July

The Perennial Bill Manley Pub Crawl

Other Events

Don't forget the regular, informal
"Meet the President" evenings at the Marquess Tavern
9 pm on the first Tuesday of every month;
6 January, 3 February, 2 March, 1 April, 5 May, 7 June, 5 July etc.

What do we offer Members?

The Islington Society

- supports conservation planning work to preserve the borough's historic fabric and individual buildings of distinction
- campaigns for a high standard of design in new buildings
- organises a varied programme of events including talks, walks and site visits
- campaigns for better public transport and for priority for people on foot, bike & public transport
- produces publications that celebrate Islington's architectural history and its social & cultural diversity
- publishes neighbourhood walking trails to encourage exploration, awareness and pride of place
- builds links between residents, officials and councillors
- publishes a newsletter three times a year

What else do we do?

The Islington Society

- sends representatives to advise the Council groups that deal with development, the environment and transport
- encourages best practice through awards for the best architecture in the borough in new or refurbished buildings
- is represented on the London Forum of Civic & Amenity Societies, which takes up cross-borough issues of concern, and which is a member of the Civic Trust

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