

ISLINGTON *news*

The Journal of the Islington Society incorporating FOIL folio

A.G.M. must determine way forward for Society

After years of relative stability, in which the A.G.M. has been something of a formality preceding a guest speaker, this year members will be asked to attend a solely business meeting in order to consider the way forward for the Society.

Running on empty

For several years the Society has got by with existing personnel in post and without a fresh intake of officers. Donald Mitchell and Andrew Bosi have completed ten years in post (Donald switching from Secretary to Treasurer during that time) and it is proving difficult to replace them. Stan Westwood has offered to follow Donald's example and take on the Treasurer's role, but has ended up temporarily nursing both briefs. This is clearly unfair and in the long run unsustainable.

Recruiting new members

Key to the Committee's strategy in seeking to recruit new members has been the intention to establish a Society web-site but this has taken far longer than envisaged. The outgoing committee hopes to have some more positive news to report to the A.G.M. However, the delay may have reduced the scope for immediate recruitment to the Committee and the main officerships.

Continuing roles

The outgoing chair would be willing to fulfill a short term role as immediate past chair for the twelve months of the 50th anniversary year. What this would entail in terms of practical action would be agreed with a new chair and secretary/treasurer. Stan Westwood is willing to continue in one of these roles. There will also be a need to appoint an events organiser for the year, and at some stage a newsletter editor although in the short term this could be Andrew Bosi's contribution as Immediate Past Chair. However, there is a continuing need to respond to planning, transport, conservation and environmental issues of the day, and more importantly, to report to members on the actions taken on their behalf. Pressure of other commitments has led to this being neglected. Often it is difficult enough to put the comments together

in time for the consultation deadline.

Formal notice of AGM

The 49th Annual General Meeting of the Islington Society is to be held on Wednesday, December 16th, 2009 at The Town Hall, Islington, to consider the following business.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 48th AGM, held on October 8th, 2008. (see overleaf)
3. To receive a report from the outgoing Chair. (Members are asked to bring copies of this newsletter to the meeting).
4. To receive a financial statement for 2008 (reproduced on the back page of this newsletter).
5. To appoint the officers of the Society: chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, events organiser, newsletter editor.
6. To conduct any other relevant business.

We regret that this date clashes with a meeting of the Archeology & History Society in the same building. The number of dates in December on which a room was available in the Town Hall were limited and we did not wish to delay into the last week before Christmas. The Society meeting will commence promptly at 7.30 and we trust that members who wish to attend both meetings will feel able to do so.

Members who might be willing to allow their names to go forward for one of the vacant posts are encouraged to contact one of the current officers before the committee next meets on November 12th.

We of course hope to see as many of you as possible at the A.G.M.

Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2008 at the Town Hall, Upper Street, Islington.

The Chairman Andrew Bosi presided over a well attended meeting.

Committee Members Present: Andrew Bosi, Harley Sherlock, Mary Cosh, Frank Hopkins, Jenni Chan, Frances Balfour, Leo Chapman, Donald Mitchell, James Dunnett, Stan Westwood.

1: APOLOGIES Apologies were received from: Bob O'Dell, Alan Turner, Chris Ashby, David Gibson, Gill Hopkins and Fiona Weir.

2: MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S A.G.M. The minutes of the 47th A.G.M of 14th June 2007 were accepted and signed by the Chairman as being a correct report.

3: ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008 The Annual Report was circulated to all members and was adopted.

4: TREASURER'S REPORT The Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2007 is shown on the last page of the Annual Report 2007/08. It was agreed that a broad policy was needed as to the type of activities to which the Society could give financial support.

5: LEVEL OF SUBSCRIPTION The levels of subscription are to stay the same.

6: ELECTION OF OFFICERS A list of members standing for re-election to the Committee for 2008/09 was circulated and unanimously accepted. Bob O'Dell said he was standing down as Membership Secretary and will be replaced by Jenni Chan. Donald Mitchell is standing down as Treasurer as soon as a replacement can be found.

7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS Andrew Bosi said that the Constitution states that there must be an A.G.M each calendar year but does not stipulate when, so it is arranged to fit in with getting a suitable speaker. He mentioned a planned website for the Society and that the Newsletter would once again be issued three times per year. He also mentioned Harley Sherlock's new book 'A Teenager at War' and that the London Forum was holding their A.G.M on 15th October. Andrew Bosi and Harley Sherlock said they would write a letter in support of retaining the Finsbury Health Centre for the community. Leo Chapman added that it should be seen in the context of a group of important buildings.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded with an interesting talk by John Armitt who is the Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority, the body charged with building the venue, facilities and infrastructure for the 2012 Olympic Games. He talked of the possible impact on Islington which although not part of, is adjacent to the Olympic Boroughs.

He mentioned improved transport facilities for Islington via the North London line which is to be upgraded bringing benefits to those moving around London. The Olympic route network is to be published by the Dept. of transport which will lead to a lively question and answer session. He referred us to www.london2012.com for more information and updates on the 2012 Olympic Games. The talk was illustrated by a series of slides showing site clearance and general progress.

John Thorne discussed 'New Heights' which is 'An Islington Response to London 2012' issued by Islington Council. He spoke of the benefits that the Olympics could bring to Islington. For more information see john.thorne@islington.gov.uk

Uncertain future for voluntary sector

The Society finds itself at a cross roads and is not alone. The voluntary sector faces many challenges, from a shortage of funds to a shortage of personnel. Changing attitudes to voluntary roles, and increased regulation, are making these shortages more acute.

In the 1980s the Queen visited Moorfields Eye Hospital. The governors were under a three line whip to attend and London Borough of Islington was represented by its first citizen, the mayor.

Earlier this year, Michelle Obama visited Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School. The governors could not be told until after the event, nor was the mayor invited although the Council was represented by its then leader. There is no longer a chair of education, nor is the Council exactly an education authority since its responsibilities are blurred by those of Cambridge Education at Islington.

Leader of the Council has for some time been a more sought after post than Mayor but until relatively recently the Mayoralty has been held in high regard by the citizens of Islington. Although ex-mayors had a particularly disastrous time at the polls in 1994, this was more a reflection of the seats they were seeking to represent. Group leaders are more likely to court unpopularity, as witnessed more recently in 2006 when across Camden and Islington the three main parties all suffered in this regard.

Two significant changes though have occurred between 1994 and 2006. First, the Leader is no longer a volunteer subsidising the Council, but now rather well-paid. And second, the term Mayor has been subsumed by its use in the American sense. Most people now think of Boris or Ken rather than the ceremonial first citizens of the Borough or the Lord Mayor of London. One or two people even think the latter title belongs to Ken/Boris.

However, there are far worse instances of school governors being treated with disdain. At Canonbury School, governors were told that a matter was of such gravity it could not be disclosed to them and a head teacher was suspended in their name without them knowing why. The grounds were frankly rather flimsy, given the difficulty of coming back from suspension from such an important and sensitive post. Eventually, after receiving criticism on another point for an alleged failure to act - a point on which they had also been kept in the dark by Cambridge Education - the governors felt compelled to resign. Had further allegations not come to light, the original decision to

suspend the Head could well have been successfully challenged, possibly at personal cost to individual governors. Hardly likely to encourage participation in this statutorily required role.

Another governing body had the date of its meeting changed so that Cambridge Education could fulfill its contractual agreement to provide a clerk. Governors were told that it did not matter that many could not attend as a result; as long as there were enough for a quorum. I am afraid this sums up the attitude to school governors completely: as long as the boxes are ticked all is well, and if there are expendable governors to take the blame when anything goes wrong so much the better.

Now schools face the prospect of a blank cheque to pay for Criminal Records checks on all governors and volunteers, to be replaced in due course by more comprehensive Vetting - assuming people are still willing to volunteer. The whole scheme seems predicated on pandering to popular outcry as recorded in the tabloid press. Moreover, it will probably lead to complacency and further transgressions. Family members are exempt from screening, even though 90% of those harming children are estimated to be from the extended family. It is far from certain that the new system would have protected the Soham victims, whose fate led to these changes. They came into contact with their murderer not because of his job but because of the job of the person with whom he was living. Already a mutually arranged child minding service between two friends has fallen foul of the law. Those advising on its interpretation are producing conflicting or contradictory guidance.

This legislation extends to all activities involving children and young people, so that while we continue to be concerned that youngsters have little to occupy them as Youth Clubs close through lack of funds, there is every prospect they will now close through lack of volunteers.

Of course children need to be protected, but legislation has never been in short supply. Perhaps we should return to the sound-bite about tough on the causes of crime. It is a great pity that, for the master of rhetoric, it was never more than that. AB

Reeson's, 169 -171 & later 176, Upper Street.

Number five in our series on bygone shops in Islington

In the early 20th Century. Thomas Charles Reeson & Company took over an existing drapers shop which had started at 169, and had then expanded to 170 & 171, Upper Street as shown in the photo which was taken during the British Empire Shopping Festival between 13th & 20th March 1924.

For the Festival the upper floors were decorated with Union Jacks and the shop windows advertised that as well as dealing in Admiralty Serges they also sold Wool Reps, Gabardines, Poplins, Art Silks, Foulards, Eiderdowns, and Blankets with a note that 'Materials shown in this window made entirely by British Labour.'

Some years later (possibly at the outbreak of World War 2 in 1939) Reeson's dropped back to the two shops at 169 & 170 and then to the original

shop at 169. Clothes rationing, difficulty in obtaining stock and changes in fashion probably all played a part in the decline of this once major Islington shop. Shortly after the war in 1946 Reeson's moved to 176, Upper Street where it remained until the 1970's and was one of several Islington shops that held out against the introduction of decimal currency.

Today the original shop at 169 is the Pizza Hut, 170 is Tod's Grill & Bistro, and after a brief spell as the offices of the Islington Gazette a hairdressers named 171 is next door and 176 is La Piragua Latin American Restaurant. SW

[photograph by permission of Islington Local History Centre appears on page 5 opposite]



Almeida theatre

We also take the opportunity to look around the corner from Reesons.

The story of the Almeida building presents a striking example of changing social and cultural trends in Islington from early Victorian times until today.

Early History

The building opened in 1837 as the Islington Literary and Scientific Society, a forerunner of the public lending library system. Its facilities included a library and reading rooms, a laboratory, museum and a lecture hall seating 500. Over the years the building passed through different owners offering inter alia cock-fighting and wrestling matches, ballroom dancing and music hall, Salvation Army activities, an air-raid shelter and a warehouse. After some years of near dereliction a final transformation was to open in 1980 as the Almeida Theatre. English Heritage had previously designated the building as Grade II; the current modified building retains the listing. Its design shows the neo-Greek style of the late Georgian/early Victorian period with spare angular lines and a well proportioned façade.

Foundation of the Theatre

The building was converted during 1981 to produce an open stage space with good acoustics, a distinctive curved back wall, a flexible timber floor and seating for 325.

Refurbishment became possible in 2001 as the result of grants of £1.5 million by the Arts Council of England and of £5.8 million by the National Lottery. The work included the creation of the modern contemporary foyer and bar area for audiences.

Productions in the 1980s

Throughout the 1980s the Almeida Theatre hosted provincial theatre productions with an avant-garde flavour and also touring companies from the UK

and abroad. The Royal Shakespeare Company played its smaller-scale autumn London 1988 and 1989 seasons at the Almeida. Additionally the theatre had opened in 1980 with a festival of music, which flourishes as an annual summer International Festival of Contemporary Music, now known as the Almeida Opera Festival.

The Almeida in the 1990s

New joint artist directors, Ian McDiarmid and Jonathan Kent in 1990 took the brave decision to make the Almeida a producing theatre. They staged work by major playwrights, old and new, British and foreign which gained an artistic reputation and success for the Almeida, including plays by Harold Pinter - *Betrayal*, *No Man's Land*. *Play Time*, *Moonlight*. Many productions transferred to West End theatres - 14 between 1990 and 2002. Top-level performers such as Ralph Fiennes, Kevin Spacey and Juliette Binoche acted at the Almeida.

Today's Almeida

Michael Attenborough, appointed as Artistic Director in 2002, has maintained the Almeida's reputation for excellence. The theatre continues to produce a wide range of British and international drama with many of the world's best artists. The transfer to the West End of successful plays has again been an outstanding feature of the theatre. The Almeida won in 1993 the Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre.

The Almeida Summer Festival presented once again this summer its acclaimed programme of contemporary music and song.

Details of current productions on www.almeida.co.uk.

Brian & Nancy Pattenden

We have only recently been made aware of the death of our long standing members Brian and Nancy Pattenden. A tribute will be published in a future issue of the newsletter.

MLA to complete integration with creation of London team

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has announced that, following agreement with the Mayor of London's Office, it will complete its national transformation with the creation of a regional team for London to be operational from April 2010. Trustees of MLA London have agreed to support the changes and move to wind-up the last remaining regional MLA agency. The changes will enable MLA staff supporting the sector in London to focus on core functions of driving improvement, providing advice and brokerage, advocating on behalf of the sector and its users, and leveraging in additional funding, while enabling MLA to reduce further its overhead costs.

The changes have been agreed following an independent review of MLA's investment in the capital, which recognised the Mayor of London's statutory responsibility for culture and his power to appoint the chair of MLA London. The review also

recognised the successes of MLA London and its staff in developing the London Cultural Improvement Programme in partnership with the other cultural agencies, the London boroughs, Government Office for London, and Capital Ambition, as well as other innovative programmes on adult skills and economic impact, and its ability to draw in funding for the sector from key stakeholders including the London Development Agency. The new structure also proposes a London sub-group of MLA's Board to focus on the delivery of priorities for the Capital. Following its reorganisation last year, the MLA is already operating across the country in three other area teams covering the North, West and East, each headed by a Director of Engagement, supported by a Regional Manager and a small team of Area Engagement Advisors. For more information visit http://www.mla.gov.uk/news_and_views/press/releases/2009/MLA_London

New planning guidance on heritage

The long awaited new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on Planning for the Historic Environment has been published for consultation by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. This sets the ground rules for development plans and decisions on all planning applications and is a "must read" document for all civic societies. Even in its draft form the new statement will have an important influence on planning decisions.

The new PPS15 replaces the old Planning Policy Guidance notes 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and 16 (Archaeology and Planning). It is a much slimmer policy document and is accompanied by guidance from English Heritage which is also available in draft.

Draft PPS15 contains some important new directions in planning policy for heritage. It is particularly important for its emphasis on the value of heritage which isn't protected by designations such as listed buildings, conservation areas and National Parks. This "integrated approach" allows for a new emphasis on the importance of local heritage and sense of place with planning decisions to be determined on the basis of the "significance" of

the heritage in question, wherever it is located. The definition of heritage is broadly drawn and recognises that "Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide an emotional meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity".

The draft PPS also places great emphasis on the evidence available to judge significance of the historic environment and states that "Local authorities should ensure that they either maintain or have access to a historic environment record".

Importantly, the draft PPS takes a precautionary approach to development which might cause "material harm to or removal of significance in relation to a heritage asset" stating that local authorities should "not accept" this unless it is necessary to sustain the original use of the asset; or there is clear evidence that no viable use can be found in charitable or public ownership and it is impeding viable uses; or it can be demonstrated that there are wider social, economic or environmental benefits that will be provided by development. This amounts to a "presumption in favour of

conservation" that is greater the more significant the heritage asset.

The draft PPS also recognises the important role to be played by local communities and states that "Local planning authorities should particularly seek the views of the local community where the evidence suggests that the asset may have a historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic significance to the local community that may not be fully understood from records or statutory consultees alone." This provides strong support for civic societies wishing to raise issues that are important to the local community but which might not otherwise be addressed, especially where evidence of this community support can be provided (perhaps in the form of a local survey or petition).

There are a number of unanswered questions which will need to be addressed if the final PPS is to be effective. The new approach based on defining the significance of heritage assets wherever they are to be found will demand more skilled and expert local authority staff at a time when many local authorities are shedding Conservation Officers. Similarly, local authorities

have struggled for years to develop and maintain the historic environment records that will underpin the new approach. It is also unclear how the new PPS will integrate with transport and highway decisions which can be among the most damaging for heritage assets.

The Civic Society Initiative is liaising with other organisations in seeking to influence the final PPS and we would welcome feedback from civic societies on its perceived strengths and weaknesses. If we are to influence the final document then it would be particularly helpful to have examples or case studies which illustrate your concerns. We are also hoping to establish a small working group of civic society activists who are keen to help shape the final PPS. If you would like to join this virtual group (which will correspond by e-mail) or otherwise have comments then please e-mail Ian Harvey here

Details of the draft PPS15 Planning and the Historic Environment and the draft English Heritage practice guide can be downloaded from the government website.

21st Century High Streets - A new vision for our town centres

The British Retail Consortium - the trade association for the retail industry - has published a report 21st century high streets on the fate of the High Street which puts character and local heritage centre stage in the fight back against economic recession. This should provide helpful evidence in support of local civic society campaigns to manage and improve heritage features and open spaces at the heart of our towns and cities. One of the key principles supported by the BRC is "Town centres need good design, making the most of heritage features or natural surroundings to create a unique sense of place. Then they must be very well maintained."

The primary demand is to help create "a unique sense of place" and the report identifies the importance of:

Making best use of existing heritage and natural features

Diversity in the range of shops and goods on offer
Strong marketing and good communications, including support for loyalty schemes

The report also identifies the importance of an attractive public realm with spaces that encourage people to mingle, effective lighting and signage, distinctive use of materials and appropriate street furniture.

Recognising character in areas of change

English Heritage has published a new report on the importance of assessing the character and identity in those parts of the country which are likely to see widespread demolition and change. The housing market renewal areas have been highly controversial ways of addressing decay and dereliction partly through widespread demolition.

This report, produced jointly with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), draws on examples from around the country to demonstrate the benefits of undertaking a townscape and heritage appraisal at the very beginning of the planning process. This enables the most important elements which

contribute to the areas character to be recognised and built into the plans for the future. The report provides a useful tour of the issues and should be useful to civic societies seeking to encourage your local authority to think first about character in the

planning process. Copies of Character and identity: Townscape and heritage appraisals in housing market renewal areas can be downloaded from the CABE web-site.

British Museum plans rejected

Proposals for a modernist extension to the British Museum have been thrown out. Museum bosses wanted a five-storey building with three basement levels for a special exhibition gallery, conservation laboratories, offices and collection storage rooms.

The scheme, designed by Lord Rogers firm, was rejected by a majority of five votes to four at Camden Council's planning committee meeting. The rejection came despite the plans enjoying the support of English Heritage and being recommended for approval by Camden's own planning officers.

After a three-hour discussion and representations by experts on both sides, the committee decided the scheme was an

"overdevelopment" and that its benefit in terms of additional exhibition space would be outweighed by damage to parts of the original museum. The Camden Civic Society played a leading role in the campaign and the council's decision has delighted television presenter and conservation champion Griff Rhys Jones, who is president of the Camden Civic Society. Griff, said: "It is a huge relief. The proposed scheme would have harmed the great city that is London. We do not want to stand in the way of the museum expanding its exhibition spaces, but this design was too dominant. It would have overwhelmed the fantastic building and dwarfed it."

We are grateful to Dick Whetstone for this photograph of Maison Schmelz, featured in the last newsletter (bygone shop #4)



Transport News Round-up

New trains appear on the Overground

New trains have begun to appear on the London Overground, better known as the North London line. Interestingly, the first trains were used on the Stratford-Clapham Junction services rather than those to Richmond. Traditionally the Clapham Junction service has been very much the Cinderella. Only recently did it get regular through services in the peak periods, instead of having to change at Willesden Junction. The opening of Westfield shopping centre and of the new station at Shepherd's Bush means that these peak trains are now more heavily used than the Richmond services.

The new trains have greater capacity but this is in the form of standing space rather than seats. The seats are arranged in the adversarial style of the House of Commons (or indeed the Little Oratory) rather than back to or facing the direction of travel. This has caused a mixed reaction. People responding to the Vox Pop in the *Islington Gazette* were seemingly enchanted with new trains, but transport groups and those moved to writing to the correspondence columns have voiced serious misgivings. The requirement to stand does not last as long as it can on a bendy-bus, and the view out of the windows is nothing like as poor as that afforded by the Virgin Pendolino train, but the most scientific research was done by Connex prior to introducing its new commuter trains in 2002, and there was overwhelming support for the traditional layout, albeit with four seats across rather than five to facilitate standing passengers.

A more serious concern is how we cope with the sixteen week closure of the line from the beginning of 2010 until Easter.

KPMG reignites bendy debate

A report commissioned by Transport for London has given more fuel to all sides in the continuing debate about bendy-bus costs. The writer has not yet seen the full document, but from the extracts which have emerged it is pretty clear that, like most consultant reports, it states the obvious.

It cautions against further cuts to buses on Oxford Street, pointing out that there are few east-west routes suitable for buses and that severing routes will merely inconvenience passengers and

reduce bus occupancy. This inconvenience is not confined to fares, which Campaign for Better Transport would address by introducing a time-based ticket as in Tyne & Wear, but the need to queue twice instead of once which applies to Freedom Pass holders as well as fare paying passengers.

However, its main criticism is of TfL specifications for buses, which it says adds up to 40% to the cost of their operation. This applies to bendy-buses, with their three doors instead of two used outside London, and to rigid buses (two doors instead of one), with double-deckers presenting further problems (straight staircases limiting seats downstairs, windows that do not open at the front of the bus). Double-deckers handed down to operators outside the control of TfL have their second door removed and extra seating. The cost of adapting bendy-buses has so far prohibited their use outside London, although the condition they are in after five years hard slog around London streets may prohibit further use anyway.

The windows are not a problem in hand-me-down terms, but it is the lack of fresh air that has led to the specification for costly air conditioning which also attracts specific criticism from KPMG. Wind against the direction of travel penetrates a window to a far greater extent than a side-wind.

More buses on the road

The background to this continuing debate about bus costs is the continuing increase in subsidy as more buses come on to the road to meet a need seemingly undiminished by the recession. As well as the extra buses in peak periods on route 38, which should have a dramatic effect on frequency, more buses are coming to the 21 with effect from Saturday October 10th. In a late change to the 38 plans, some reduction in service is proposed for the Hackney-Clapton section of the route. This reduction is in comparison with the original plan, not the present provision, and presumably not all of the extra buses need to run over the full length of the route. From a parochial point of view, buses starting at Hackney Central should have more room to pick up intending passengers in Islington.

From the Society

CURRENT OFFICERS

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What we do

- we support conservation planning work to preserve the borough's historic fabric and individual buildings of distinction
- we campaign for a high standard of design in new buildings
- we encourage best practice through awards for good architecture in new or refurbished buildings
- we organise a varied programme of events including talks, walks and site visits
- we campaign for better public transport and for priority for people travelling on foot or by bike
- we produce publications that celebrate Islington's history and its social and cultural diversity
- we publish neighbourhood walking trails to foster exploration awareness and pride of place
- we build links between residents officials and councillors
- we publish a regular newsletter
- we send advisers to Council groups dealing with development, the environment and transport
- we are represented on the London Forum of Civic & Amenity Societies, which takes up cross-borough issues and is a member of the Civic Trust

Society publications

Twentieth Century Buildings in Islington, by Alec Forshaw, £14.99, ISBN 0-9541490-0-9

The Story of Day Flats in and around Islington, by Andrew Bosi, £5, ISBN 0-9541490-1-7

An architect in Islington, by Harley Sherlock, £14.99, ISBN 9-78-0-9541490-2-4

[all of the Society's publications are available from the Society at 35, Britannia Row, London, N.1 or from local bookshops]

Books from our President and Vice-Presidents

Suicide of the West, by Richard Koch & Chris Smith, £14.99 and available on Amazon, ISBN 0-8264 9023-9.

A History of Islington, by Mary Cosh, published by Historical Publications at £18.95, ISBN 0-948667-974

53 Cross Street - the biography of an historic house by Mary Cosh & Martin King, published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society

An architect in Islington, by Harley Sherlock, £14.99, ISBN 9-78-0-9541490-2-4

Future Society events

Annual Dinner 2010

2010 is our fiftieth anniversary and although this year's dinner will be a hard act to follow, we aim to try. We have decided to fix the date early to give everyone the chance to attend. The agreed date is **Tuesday March 23rd**. Please commend this to your diaries.

Annual General Meeting 2009

As announced on page one, the A.G. M. will be held at Islington Town Hall on Wednesday December 16th, 2009, commencing at 8 p.m.

Wednesday 18th November 2009 8.0 p.m: "**The Works of Richard Sickert**" by James Dunnett. Joint meeting with the Archaeological and History Society, Islington Town Hall.

Our monthly **Meet the Officers** events continue at the Marquess Tavern on the first Tuesday of each month, from 9 p.m.

Other Events in or around Islington:

Archaeology & History Society (meetings at 8.0 p.m. in Islington Town Hall)

Wednesday 21st October: "Protecting Islington's Heritage" by Cllr. Ruth Polling.

Wednesday 18th November: see above.

Wednesday 16th December 2009: "John Burns and the Town Planning Act 1909" by Professor Lister Hillman.

Advance notice that the March meeting of the Society will not be on the usual Wednesday, but the following Thursday night, March 18th 2010. Jeremy Corbyn will be speaking on the life of George Lansbury.

Islington Society members who are not members of Arch & Hist are welcome. There is an opportunity to make a small donation (£1 is suggested) at the bookstall.

Islington Museum, 245 St. John Street, EC1V
Open Monday-Tuesday, Thursday - Saturday 10.0 am - 5.0 pm

Until 20th October 2009: "Olympic Games. Passing the Baton: A century of the modern Olympics".

2nd - 7th November 2009: "A Dream Ago": Exhibition of Ceramics and Prints by Iraqi artist, Khulood Da'mi.

16th November 2009 - 13th February 2010: "A Fair Cop! Historic Crime and Punishment in Islington".

Thursday 29th October 2009 3.0 - 4.30 pm: Children's Event - Ghostly Halloween Party.

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art,
39a Canonbury Square.

30th September - 20th December 2009: "Terra Incognita - Italy's Ceramic Revival" exhibition.

Exhibitions open Wednesday to Saturday 11a.m. - 6 p.m. (8 p.m. Thursdays), Sunday 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N.1
Monday - Saturday 7.30 p.m, Saturday also 3.0 p.m.

3rd September - 17th October 2009: "Judgment Day" by Odon von Horvath.

22nd October - 5th December 2009: "Mrs. Klein" by

Nicholas Wright.

10th December 2009 - 6th February 2010: "Rope" by Patrick Hamilton

Little Angel Puppet Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, N1

Until 30th October 2009: "Cindermouse" puppet show for age 3+.

Heritage Link A.G.M., German Gymnasium, Pancras Road, N.W.1

Wednesday December 2nd. Guest speakers Ben Bradshaw, Don Foster, Ed Vasey.

Arsenal Football Club

Charity of Arsenal's 2009-2010 Season: Great Ormond Street Children's charity with £500,000 target

Premier League matches at Emirate Stadium:-

Saturday 17th October 3.0 pm: Arsenal v Birmingham City

Saturday 31st October 12.45 pm: Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur

Sunday 29th November 4.0 pm: Arsenal v Chelsea

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	2008		2007
£	£	£	£
Subscriptions Donations & Events of which annual dinner £1001	3,628		3,417
Interest receivable	418		434 75
		4,046	3,926
Printing & distribution costs	1,016		1,086
Meeting expenses of which Annual Dinner £937	1,193		1,058
Misc expenses incl VAT	3		114
Donations to other groups	20		20
Entertainment			475
Refunds incl returned membership(£8)	76		30
		<u>2,308</u>	<u>2,783</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus		1,738	0 1,143
BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008			
Cash at Bank incl Lloyds TSB and CAF Bank	11,196		9,458
Add: received in arrears	0		
		11,196	0 9,458
<u>Accumulated funds</u>			
Balance brought forward		9,458	8,321
Adjustment to prior year accounts			-6
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		1,738	1,143
Total		<u>11,196</u>	<u>9,458</u>

(Signed) Donald Mitchell, Hon. Treasurer