

GLIAS

NEWSLETTER

296

June 2018

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GREATER LONDON INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY
www.glias.org.uk

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DIARY DATES

GLIAS WALKS

A series of guided walks looking at the industrial and social heritage of different areas of London. The walks are free and open to both members and non-members. All start at 2.30pm. To reserve places on any of the walks, please email walks@glias.org.uk. Anyone without email can apply by post to the secretary. There are a limited number of places available on each walk and booking is recommended but it may be possible to just turn up on the day. Check the GLIAS website (www.glias.org.uk) for further information.

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|-----------------|---|
| 2 June Sat | ALL CHANGE AT EUSTON, led by Mike and Kate Quinton. The Euston area is changing very quickly, because of work for HS2. This walk is now fully booked. |
| 7 July Sat | DEPTFORD, led by Peter Finch. Site of the Royal Dockyard, RN Victualling Yard, the world's first high-voltage power station, London's first railway station and four bridges over the Creek. |
| 4 August Sat | MILE END TO TOWER HILL, led by Martin Adams. Four breweries, two distilleries, the tale of a murderous brushmaker, and more. |
| 1 September Sat | RE-INVENTING OLD OAK PARK ROYAL, led by John Goodier. The OPDC is a major redevelopment in an area with about 120 years of industrial history. The walk will look at some of what is left of the old and will describe the new. |
| 6 October Sat | AROUND LONDON BRIDGE / BERMONDSEY, led by Pat Dennison. A personal view of the area. |

GLIAS EVENT

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|-------------|--|
| 9 June Sat | DENIS SMITH MEMORIAL SERVICE. Thaxted Parish Church, Essex. 2.30pm and afterwards at The Swan Hotel, Thaxted. Please let Lynda Smith know if you're coming via email: mlynda.smith@gmail.com |
| 26 June Tue | VISIT TO MORDEN COLLEGE, BLACKHEATH. See below |

GLIAS VISIT TO MORDEN COLLEGE, BLACKHEATH – TUESDAY 26 JUNE

Last year's visit was over-subscribed so I have been able to arrange a repeat.

The College was established by Sir John Morden, a member of both the Levant and East India Companies. He

founded his College to provide accommodation and support for 40 single Turkey merchants, who had fallen on hard times. The College was built between 1695 and 1700 in the style of Wren: 40 apartments and Chapel frame a quadrangle and are set in extensive grounds. The original buildings survive plus much later accommodation since the College now cares for 400 beneficiaries. The College owns large parts of Blackheath and Greenwich including much of the industrial Greenwich Peninsular. The College, hardly visible from the Heath, does not have public openings such as OpenHouse. Since I have given residents IA talks this is a special event for GLIAS.

We will meet at Blackheath Station at 1.15pm and then walk to the College taking in some local IA en route. There we will be greeted with a talk on the History of the Charity and a tour of the buildings and grounds. Tea and biscuits will be available. We will then be taken into the Muniments room where industrially related archives will be shown along with the College's 1751 fire pump.

To book a place(s) and receive fuller details send email to me: d.perrett647@btinternet.com before 21 June

OTHER EVENTS

- 3 June Sun KIRKALDY TESTING MUSEUM OPEN DAY. 11am to 5pm (last entry 4pm). 99 Southwark Street, SE1 0JF. Web: www.testingmuseum.org.uk/opening.html
- 3 June Sun GUIDED WATERSIDE WALK, BY THE IWA. Limehouse, Thames, & Docklands. Start: at 2.30pm, outside Westferry DLR station (by the Cycle Hire Point). £10 adults, £8 concessionary rate. No prior booking required. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk
- 4-8 June COUNTRY HOUSE COMFORT & CONVENIENCE – EAST YORKSHIRE. Details from Bill Barksfield, Managing Director, Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon OX11 9LN UK. Tel: 01235 352275 (9am - 5.30pm GMT) Email: bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk Web: www.heritageofindustry.co.uk
- 6 June Wed DP WORLD LONDON GATEWAY. A Docklands History Group talk by Matt Abbott Communications Manager. 5.30pm for 6pm, Museum of London Docklands, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4AL. New members and visitors are very welcome. A £2 donation is suggested from visitors. Web: www.docklandshistorygroup.org.uk
- 7 June Thur THE EAST END'S CANALS – LOCAL VOICES. A London Canal Museum talk by Carolyn Clark. 7.30pm. £4 (£3 discounts). 12/13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT. Tel: 020 7713 0836. Web: www.canalmuseum.org.uk
- 9-10 June OPEN GARDEN SQUARES WEEKEND. Web: www.opensquares.org
- 13 June Wed HEROES AND VILLAINS OF THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL. An Inland Waterways Association talk by Roger Cansdale. 7.45 for 8.00pm in the Primary Room at The United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP. Non-members welcome. Suggested donation £2
- 16 June Sat GUIDED TOWPATH WALK, BY THE IWA. Along the Regent's Canal: Little Venice to Camden. Start: at 10.45am, outside Warwick Avenue tube station. £10 adults, £8 concessionary rate. No prior booking required. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk
- 16-17 June KEMPTON GREAT ENGINES STEAMING WEEKEND. 10.30am-4pm. Adults £7, concessions £6, Children (to 16) free. Feltham Hill Road, Hanworth, Middlesex TW13 6XH. Web: www.kemptonsteam.org
- 17 June Sun GUIDED WATERSIDE WALK, BY THE IWA. Along the Grand Surrey Canal, to Royal Navy Victualling Yard, then Thames Path and Greenland Dock. Start: at 2.30pm, outside Surrey Quays Station (Overground). £10 adults, £8 concessionary rate. No prior booking required. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk
- 20 June Wed PECKHAM RYE PARK TO ONE TREE HILL. A Peckham Society walk. 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Meet at The Clock House, East Dulwich. Web: www.peckhamsociety.org.uk
- 23 June Sat ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS WALKING TOUR. Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey. Details of how to book: www.invitationtoview.co.uk/properties/royal-gunpowder-mills/

- 1 July Sun GUIDED TOWPATH WALK, BY THE IWA. Along the Regent's Canal: Islington to Mile End. Start: at 2.30pm, outside Angel tube station. £10 adults, £8 concessionary rate. No prior booking required. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk
- 4 July Wed THE THAMES FISHERIES. A Docklands History Group AGM and talk by Roger Williams. 5.30pm for 6pm, Museum of London Docklands, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4AL. New members and visitors are very welcome. A £2 donation is suggested from visitors. Web: www.docklandshistorygroup.org.uk
- 5 July Thur THE JEWEL IN THE POST-WAR CROWN: A RETROSPECTIVE FOR THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NHS. A Camden History Society talk by Kevin Brown. Members have free entry to all talks. Non-members are very welcome, £1 on the door. 7:30pm-9pm. Details from Local Studies Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PX. Tel: 020 7413 6342. Web: www.camdenhistorysociety.org
- 5 July Thur FREIGHT ON WATERWAYS. A London Canal Museum talk by John Pomfret. 7.30pm. £4 (£3 discounts). 12/13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT. Tel: 020 7713 0836. Web: www.canalmuseum.org.uk
- 8 July Sun BROCKLEY AND LADYWELL CEMETERIES ANNUAL OPEN DAY. 11am to 4.30pm
- 14 July Sat GUIDED TOWPATH WALK, BY THE IWA. Along the Regent's Canal: King's Cross – Granary Square – Camden. Start: at 10.45am, outside King's Cross tube station (taxi rank). £10 adults, £8 concessionary rate. No prior booking required. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk
- 15 July Sun GUIDED TOWPATH WALK, BY THE IWA. Along the Regent's Canal: Little Venice to Camden. Start: at 2.30pm, outside Warwick Avenue tube station. £10 adults, £8 concessionary rate. No prior booking required. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk
- 17 July Tue PICTURING FORGOTTEN LONDON. Talk at London Metropolitan Archives. 2-3.30pm. London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB. Details: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/picturing-forgotten-london-tickets-44556306111
- 21 July Sat ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS WALKING TOUR. Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey. Details of how to book: www.invitationtoview.co.uk/properties/royal-gunpowder-mills/
- 1 August Wed WALK: ACTORS, OARSMEN AND ARTISTS – HISTORIC HAMMERSMITH. A Docklands History Group walk led by Diane Burstein. Meet 6pm outside the main entrance of Hammersmith tube (District and Piccadilly Line) Hammersmith Broadway exit by the 'Etcetera' sculpture of three men. The tour finishes near to Stamford Brook station on the District Line (two stops from Hammersmith). Web: www.docklandshistorygroup.org.uk
- 2 August Thur GUIDED TOWPATH WALK TO CAMDEN TOWN. A London Canal Museum walk. 6.30pm. 12/13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT. Tel: 020 7713 0836. Web: www.canalmuseum.org.uk
- 4 August Sat GUIDED WATERSIDE WALK, BY THE IWA. The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park & Bow Back Rivers & Carpenters Road Lock. Start: at 10.45am, outside Stratford station (by 'Newham London' sign). £10 adults, £8 concession rate. No prior booking needed. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk
- 5 August Sun GUIDED TOWPATH WALK, BY THE IWA. Along the Regent's Canal: King's Cross – Granary Square – Camden. Start: at 2.30pm, outside King's Cross tube station (taxi rank). £10 adults, £8 concessionary rate. No prior booking required. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk
- 12 August Sun CENTRAL PECKHAM. A Peckham Society walk. 2pm - 4pm. Meet at Peckham Rye Station, London. Web: www.peckhamsociety.org.uk
- 18 August Sat ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS WALKING TOUR. Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey. Details of how to book: www.invitationtoview.co.uk/properties/royal-gunpowder-mills/

19 August Sun GUIDED TOWPATH WALK, BY THE IWA. Along the Grand Union Canal: Little Venice and Paddington Green. Start: at 2.30pm, outside Paddington station, Bakerloo line Praed Street exit. £10 adults, £8 concessionary rate. No prior booking required. Tel: 0203 612 9624. Web: www.waterways.org.uk

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

31 August – 4 September AIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Now open for registration. <https://industrial-archaeology.org/conferences/annual-conference/>

EXHIBITIONS

Until 1 November PICTURING FORGOTTEN LONDON. Exhibition at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB. Details: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/picturing-forgotten-london-tickets-44588279745

GLIAS is happy to publicise events by other societies that may be of interest to our members. If you are a not-for-profit organisation and would like us to list your event, please contact the newsletter editor via email at newsletter@glias.org.uk

NEWS AND NOTES

GLIAS AND THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

I apologise for yet another notice about GDPR but there were unfortunately inconsistencies in the note in the last Newsletter.

To coincide with the introduction of the GDPR we have posted a Privacy Notice onto the website to explain how we collect, store and handle your personal data. It can be found at www.glias.org.uk/gliasGDPR.html and a copy is attached at the end of this Newsletter.

GLIAS is committed to protecting the personal information which our members and supporters have provided, and to ensuring that it is only held and used for the purposes for which it was provided to us. We shall never provide personal information to other organisations for them to use for their own purposes. If you do not wish us to hold your data you can ask us to delete it from our records, although that will obviously compromise our ability to communicate with you.

We send occasional emails containing reminders and additional or urgent information relating to GLIAS and other IA events of interest to those members who have provided their email address. If you don't currently receive these emails but wish to do so please email a request to gdpr@glias.org.uk. If you do not wish to receive the emails, you can unsubscribe by clicking on the link at the bottom of an email.

If you want to find out more about the data we hold, why we do so and what we do with it please refer to the Privacy Notice. Alternatively, if you have any questions or want to get in touch with us about any of this, or if you want to ask us to delete your data, please email us at gdpr@glias.org.uk or send a letter to me at the address at the top of the Newsletter.

Tim Sidaway, GLIAS Secretary

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

In October last year the APPC-IH chaired by Nick Thomas-Symonds collected evidence on the challenges facing the industrial heritage sector. Nick, MP for Torfaen, a constituency that includes the Blaenavon World Heritage sites, is keenly interested in our Industrial Heritage.

There were three half-day sessions when evidence was given by 21 representatives of Industrial Heritage organisations from all parts of the UK who each gave prepared statements and answered questions put by the Chair. Unfortunately, I could not attend the last session when among others Sir Neil Cossons, Keith Falconer and Prof Marilyn Palmer, all past Presidents of the AIA, gave their evidence.

The Chair was though keen to gather information from the other attendees, who were usually few in number. Oddly as a Yorkshireman I made the point that nearly all the invited evidence had come from those associated

with the North with the exception of one about Chatham Dockyard and most were very parochial not looking at the wider picture. Evidence was mainly given by those professionally involved in the area. Few talks directly concerned volunteer organisations, where concern was expressed about falling numbers and their increasing age leading to loss of expertise. Personally, I was shocked to learn that our national tourist boards don't even publicise our industrial heritage abroad yet nine of our 24 World Heritage sites are industrial! I asked why bodies such as the Science Museum and Newcomen Society were not asked. After the sessions written evidence was accepted by others. I sent a long letter on behalf of GLIAS as to why London is different and should have been featured. GLIAS's views are featured on a number of entries in the report.

On 1 May APPG-IH launched its report at the House of Parliament, which I attended on behalf of GLIAS and Lindsay Collier from the Lea Valley Alliance was also present. The illustrated full report is some 42 pages. The summary recommendations are

1. Develop skills training in key aspects of Industrial Heritage.
2. Improve inclusivity of IH by improving community and industrial outreach and
3. Develop relationships with other Trusts and groups to establish a national strategy for conserving our IH in collaboration with the Government, to promote and drive through that strategy and regularly review it.

We need government and other national organisations to take notice of the report and take speedy action. To read the report follow the link from www.nickthomassymonds.uk/party-group-brings-industrial-heritage-report-parliamentarians/

David Perrett

EYCH2018 – CHIMNEYS

This year is the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) which includes themed months to encourage more people to discover and explore industrial heritage. In March the theme was energy, power and prime movers. London's Markfield Road beam engine was in steam for this. In May it was industrial chimneys and for June it is the urban environment, including services such as water supply and main drainage. In July and August it is the turn of travel and transport. October is the last themed month, highlighting the adaptive reuse of old industrial buildings.

What is meant by industrial chimneys are those built for furnaces and boilers. There are few factory chimneys left in London but power stations and cinema smokestacks are eligible.

One of the best surviving examples in London is the massive octagonal brick chimney, built by about 1843, for the Royal Navy's Steam Factory at Woolwich Dockyard. Intended to vent all the furnace flues in the yard, its design was based on the latest examples in the Industrial North. Originally 208 feet high it was later reduced in height to 180 feet, but it's still impressive. The names of the specialist chimney designer and its builder appear to have been lost. It was listed grade II in 1992. *Bob Carr*



- The May campaign in favour of factory chimneys is a great success – putting the focus on chimneys as landmarks and symbols of past industries. For the #Ode2Joy challenge on 9 May, the 'Serenade for a Chimney' event, 14 videos were sent in, from six countries.

There is now a poll opened to elect the most popular video. The winner will receive a free industrial heritage label with QR-code. The videos can be watched from the webpage www.industrialheritage.eu/EYCH2018/May/Serenade-for-a-Chimney and don't forget to cast your vote!

Adriaan Linters

NEW GALLERY AT LONDON MUSEUM OF WATER & STEAM

While there are many museums that tell the story of local water supplies and have working steam engines this new gallery at Kew is the first, that I know, to devote a gallery to the story of electric power.

Kew opened its new Electric House exhibit on 22 March. The gallery explains the introduction of electrical

pumping to the London region. It is based in part around a surviving Hathorn Davey & Co of Leeds, one of five installed at Kew in 1943-44. Other exhibits include a Reader steam generator set of c1907, a WH Allen vertical spindle pump of 1952 ex Hammersmith waterworks, some wonderful control panels dating to the 1930s and hopefully soon to be functioning again a Mercury Arc Rectifier.

I remember seeing the one that worked at Kempton P.S. but the demise of the need for DC power as well as health and safety concerns means that few survive. This one built by the Hewittic Electricity Co, Surrey came from the Sandersons Wallpaper Factory in Uxbridge.

This is an important new gallery but sadly too many of the steam engines are currently out of action. *David Perrett*

NEWS ON THE 'ROCKET'

I have finally some good news on our 'Rocket' (GLIAS Newsletter 295, p6).

Originally sited in what used to be Webster's Yard, it appears the property and contents were purchased by Quattro, so the 'Rocket' is now owned by Quattro. This appears to be a cement company and that site is part of the HS2 development at OPDC.

My source at OPDC tells me that she has spoken with Quattro and they have confirmed they have transferred the 'Rocket' to a farm they own for safekeeping while all the HS2 upheaval takes place. They will not return it until completion of HS2, currently scheduled for 2026. There are ongoing talks about its position on completion of HS2. I had been in touch with Gunnersbury Museum and they are interested to hear what has happened to it. Quattro are keen for it to be returned to the area of origin, also as that was the Acton Laundries' area at the end of the 19th century. They are also talking about 'some restoration' – the paintwork had almost completely worn away. There is no timescale for the restoration; I would imagine they would do that nearer to completion time so it is gleaming on its return.



Pic: Frank Trevis

I mentioned to my contact that we feel more confident it is less likely to 'disappear' now we have a paper trail on it and she said she has agreed to liaise with Quattro every 3-4 months to confirm all is still well. I feel that is a good sign – particularly when these companies seem to change staff fairly frequently without passing on vital information. *Sue Peach*

VICTORIA 1897 JUBILEE WALL PLAQUES

Re: the article by David Thomas (GLIAS Newsletter 292, p9) on Jubilee plaques. Here are some photographs of two plaques in Claydon, Buckinghamshire.



The one in sunlight is in the grounds of Claydon House which can be inspected closely as it is at eye level and hence easily photographed. The other photo is of an identical plaque on a terrace of cottages at Verney Junction

– former terminus of the Metropolitan Line, still in rural north Bucks. *Robert Excell*

SIGNAL BOXES

Another signal box (*GLIAS* Newsletter 294, p8) still in situ is Dudding Hill Junction, on the freight-only line between Cricklewood and Acton Wells Junction. The box is situated by the footbridge over the line in Gladstone Park, nearest bus routes 226 to the south and 232 to the north.

The line splits at the junction, the left-hand lines heading north on the Midland main line towards Luton and the right-hand tracks south towards London. Cricklewood bus garage is in the triangle between the two diverging lines and the A5 road. *Martin Weyell*

SAVE EAST GREENWICH GAS HOLDER

Greenwich Industrial History has created a petition to save East Greenwich Gas Holder from demolition:

www.change.org/p/royal-borough-of-greenwich-save-the-nationally-important-east-greenwich-gas-holder-from-demolition

CAN YOU HELP?

I volunteer with the Thames Discovery Programme, and record features in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. There is a structure (below left) which we see only at very low tide, which must have had some sort of industrial purpose.

Do any members recognise what it is? It has been suggested to us that it is the base of a hydraulic crane. Just inland there used to be a mill, you can see the chimney.

Margaret Sparks. Email: margaret.sparks@hotmail.com



• Here are two photographs (above centre, right) of a transformer structure in Wimbledon SW19, at the end of Sunnyside, a small road just southeast of The Ridgway.

Can members supply any information about the British Electric Transformer Co., Hayes, which according to Grace's Guide was registered in 1903? Who is now responsible for this relic which needs restoration? And what is or was its purpose in a fairly rural residential area?

Stewart J Wild. Email: stewartjwild@tiscali.co.uk

• I have two bronze medals awarded to my great grandfather, Mr C G Maple, but no mention of what exactly they were awarded for. They are both 40mm diameter and have the following on them:

1. first side has a traditional straw beehive surrounded by bees and a belt with the words 'Nothing without Industry' on it. The other side has 'awarded to C G Maple' and the words 'East London Industrial Exhibition' and in very small lettering 'Opened by H.R.H. the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne 4th May 1885'
2. the second medal has the wording 'Grove Mission Industrial Exhibition June 1885' on one side and on the other 'awarded to Mr C G Maple'



The family story is that he was a brass founder and was somehow involved in producing the brass frieze above the doors in the main entrance of Selfridges.

If any of our members have information relevant to these two medals I would be delighted to hear from them.

Malcolm D Osmundson MBE, Old Crossing, Station Road, South Leigh, Oxon, OX29 6XJ. Tel: 01993 774018. Mob: 07977 026766. Email: malcolmosmundson@btinternet.com

THE JOURNAL OF THE GREENWICH HISTORY SOCIETY

A bright new well-produced issue has recently appeared. This includes a substantial article on Robert Cocking (1776-1837) who descended by parachute from Green's balloon* over Greenwich. Cocking devised his own parachute, inverting what we now accept as the usual design. Model tests indicated that Cocking's inverted parachute was superior to previous designs but rather than try out a full scale version, he took the bold step of testing the parachute with himself as load. Tragically Cocking fell to his death. His body was put on display in the Tigers Head public house, where an Inquest was held, and there is quite a detailed account of this Inquest in the article. GLIAS member Dr Mary Mills contributes an article on The Advent of Gas Street Lighting in Greenwich in the 1820s. This is a difficult subject with only scarce and conflicting evidence and Newsletter readers will find this work of particular interest. At the back there is a pair of then and now photographs showing Crane Street SE10 in 1950, and now. R Moss & Sons, Rope and Canvas Merchants, derelict in 1950, is now the Trafalgar Rowing Centre.

All Greenwich History Society members receive a free copy of the Journal. Non-members can purchase a copy from the Warwick Leadlay Gallery, 1-2 Nelson Arcade, Greenwich Market, London SE10 9JB. Tel: 020 8858 0317. Email: info@warwickleadlay.com. *Bob Carr*

* Charles Green (1785-1870) – by 1852 he had made over 500 ascents and his balloon became a household name. Green introduced the use of coal gas for ballooning as a cheaper alternative to hydrogen.

ITEMS FOR DISPOSAL

I have a number of journals that need a new home!

- Industrial Archaeology News x 38 copies Summer 2002 to Autumn 2011
- Transactions of the Newcomen Society x 32 copies Vol 58 1986/87 to Vol 81 2011
- Newcomen Society Bulletin x 18 copies No.160 Dec 1994 to 182 April 2002
- The Flywheel (Journal of the Northern Mill Engine Society) x 8 copies Oct 2007 to April 2011
- The Tools & Trades History Society Newsletter x 108 copies No. 5 1984 to No. 113 2011
- The Tools & Trades History Society Journal x 15 copies Vol 1 1983 to Vol. 15 2008

All free to anyone who wants them! Collection/delivery to be arranged.

Malcolm D Osmundson MBE, Old Crossing, Station Road, South Leigh, Oxon, OX29 6XJ. Tel: 01993 774018. Mob: 07977 026766. Email: malcolmosmundson@btinternet.com

DARRELL SPURGEON

GLIAS is sorry to learn of the death of member Darrell Spurgeon on 8 May.

Darrell was well known in south-east London and contributed to the GLIAS Database from its early days.

Among his many activities he wrote a well-regarded series of 'Discover' books of interest to local historians.

Sincere condolences to his wife Arlette and son Mark.

CONSERVATION WATCH

In this new column we intend to show some of the work that GLIAS is doing in relation to redevelopment of sites of historic interest

• Former Caird and Rayner Premises, 777-783 Commercial Road. Case Number: 1450155

Historic England is undertaking an amendment to rationalise the List entries for 777 and 779-783 Commercial Road, Tower Hamlets, a multi-phase building complex listed in two parts, into a single entity (under List entry 1385372) to 'simplify and more clearly articulate the details and significance of the building, in order to inform and aid its future management'.

The first listing, which applies only to the former ships chandler's warehouse to the north-east, was made in 2000, and the second, which applies to the former manufacturing workshop and service range, was made in 2004, once access to the building and further research were available. The building is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register.

GLIAS is commenting on the review:

1) The Details should be extended to include specific mention of the Craning Gate in the balustrade of the engineering workshop (pictured right).

2) to 5) The List Entry contains various inaccuracies of identification and description that need to be corrected.

• 49-50 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED. Application Ref 2017/3511

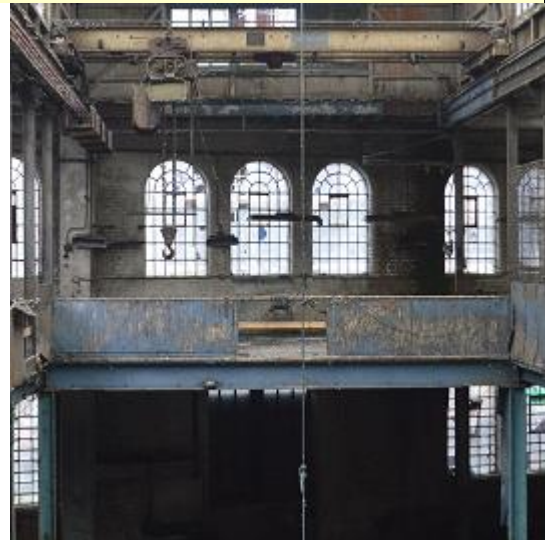
GLIAS continues to object to the intensive character of the proposed development within the conservation area, the loss of viable and distinctive studio space and the loss without recognition of the last remains of the historic Regent's Canal Iron Works.

The current application's Heritage Statement attempts to dismiss the evidence GLIAS presented back in 2013 on the origins and significance of the range of wrought-iron roof trusses that remains within No. 49 Eagle Wharf Road. GLIAS has done more research since then, culminating in an article published by Malcolm Tucker in the GLIAS Journal (London's Industrial Archaeology 15, 2017, pp.10-20) which validates GLIAS's claim that the roof trusses are the work of renowned ironmaster Henry Grissell, as a part of his works.

The research shows that the premises subsequently numbered No. 49 were surveyed by the Ordnance Survey in 1871 but depicted in greater detail on a lease plan of January 1871, when they were first acquired by the engineer Robert Legg from the insolvent Regent's Canal Iron Works Company Ltd. Henry Grissell had purchased the land in 1859 for an extension of his existing works, but it was shown not yet built upon on Stanford's map published in 1862, possibly surveyed slightly earlier. In 1862 Grissell set up a limited company, to raise more capital, but this company was brought to its knees by the great financial crash of 1866. It was not in a position to develop the premises thereafter, but unable to dispose of them until 1871. The building range containing the trusses is shown already on the 1871 lease plan, and must therefore have been built in the years between circa 1862 and 1866. Considering that Legg can have had little reason to replace the roof of this workshop, it follows that the trusses are also of c.1862-6. They are in the general style that Grissell used for now scarce workshop buildings in the naval dockyards, where he was a major contractor. Although relatively humble compared with some of Grissell's other work, they are particularly well detailed in the connections, so demonstrating the pride of their owner and builder and illustrating the character of this important former ironworks site. These trusses could be kept in place if the existing studios were allowed to continue.

If the Council decides to approve the development, then GLIAS asks not only that the iron roof be archaeologically recorded to a good standard but also that some of the roof trusses be retained as instructive ornamental features of the site, together with a cast-iron pillar also located on the site.

The developers of the adjacent No. 48 Eagle Wharf Road were seeking to retain some much later steel roof trusses, unconnected with Grissell, as a feature of that site. Salvaging Grissell's trusses from No. 49 for that purpose would be a much more valuable project. *Malcolm T Tucker*



BOOKS

• **'The Champagne Steeplejack, a gritty tale of want and obsession', a novel by Sheila Dibnah**

316 pages. Burton in Kendal: 2QT Limited (Publishing) 2014, £15.99. ISBN 978-1910077245. Available from Amazon

Although a novel, this paperback is loosely based on the lives of two celebrated Vicwardian steeplejacks. Fred Dibnah was not the only steeplejack to become famous, he had predecessors. In this story by Sheila Dibnah, Fred Dibnah's third wife, the hero, born into poverty, becomes rich and famous and is fêted by London society. Meeting celebrities such as Oscar Wilde, his ambition knows no bounds. However, his good fortune does not last. A fateful encounter with actress Lillie Langtry leads him into temptation and eventually to his downfall, and he plunges back down the social ladder.

This book should be of interest to readers with a taste for industrial archaeology. *Bob Carr*

• **'The History of London's Water Industry 1580-1820', by Leslie Tomory**

314 pages, 2017 John Hopkins University Press. About £32 (Amazon)

Occasionally when looking for something else you come across an unexpected source and in this case it was a new book written by a Canadian academic. Leslie Tomory is a research affiliate at McGill University in Canada. This is an exceptional detailed history focused in the main on the business, management and social aspects of the growth of water supply in London. That said, he does not forget the technical aspects and both the mechanical and civil engineering are covered in some detail. The growth of pumping systems at New River Head and problems of running the waterwheels under London Bridge are told in some detail. The author has studied in depth the records held here in the LMA and elsewhere and often presents the resultant data in tables and graphical forms. For the nearly two centuries, as his research makes very clear, the New River Company dominated the supply to the City of London with the London Bridge Waterworks falling well behind. The major customers of both companies were breweries! It was only with the growth of London, especially south of the river, that new companies were able to get a foothold. There is some coverage of how the London model transferred to other major cities both in England and abroad.

For anyone with an interest in London's water utilities this is an essential book. I wonder if the post-1820 period will be covered in another volume. *David Perrett*

P.S. I see that the author previously wrote a book published in 2012 called *The Progressive Enlightenment: The Origins of the Gaslight Industry 1780-1820* about which I know nothing and is currently not available.

• **'Rev. Henry Hunnings MA: The Biography of Rev. Henry Hunnings MA (Oxon)', by Alan Swain**

Paperback: 72 pages. Published by Quacks Books, December 2017. Available from Bruce Castle Museum

Biography of telephone pioneer Henry Hunnings (1842-1886) who was born in Tottenham. Hunnings invented the 'carbon-granule telephone transmitter' which he patented in the UK in 1878.

NEXT ISSUE

GLIAS welcomes articles for publication in the newsletter. These should be about 500 words or less. Images can accompany articles (although copyright may have to be considered).

Longer articles may be more suitable for the GLIAS Journal.

Please send any contributions for August's newsletter by 15 July.