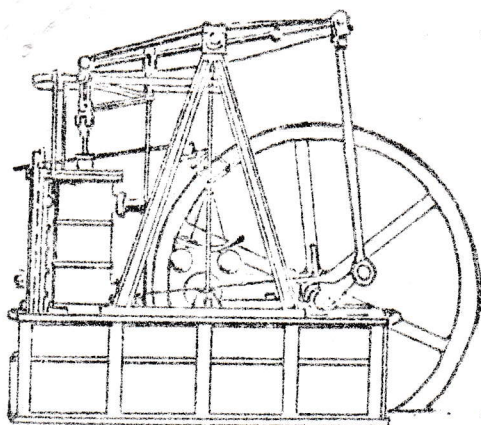




GLIAS NEWSLETTER

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GREATER LONDON

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1978

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 1978

W H E N	W H A T	ORGANIZER
Wed evening Oct 4 1978 17.30	Lecture: The Brush-Ljungstrom Generator by J. Wood of the Royal Scottish Museum at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2	I.E.E. 240 1871
Saturday Oct 7 1978 08.00	<u>GLIAS Coach Visit to Sheffield</u> There are still some places on this visit to the Elsecar Newcomen engine, Rockley Furnace, Wortley water powered forge, Abbeydale industrial hamlet at work. Coach departs Kings Cross and Hendon. Cost £4. Contact Dave immediately.	Dave Perrett 600 9000 ex 2194, or 852 4867
Wed evening Oct 11 1978 18.30	<u>GLIAS Lecture</u> Better Times to Come, the development of workers' housing by Dave Perrett. The first lecture in our new series at the City Poly, 31 Jewry Street, London EC3 Full details on enclosed leaflet.	
Tues evening Oct 24 1978 18.30	<u>GLIAS Visit</u> to the Post Office Underground Railway and Workshops at Mount Pleasant Sorting Office. A chance to see this relatively unknown underground railway at work. Party size limited so send SAE for a place to Dave.	Dave Perrett 62 Leyland Rd Lee Green, London SE 12
Sunday Oct 29 1978 11.00	<u>GLIAS Visit</u> to Low Hall Farm & Markfield Road Pumping Stations. Low Hall depot, a former sewage works, still houses two fine horizontal steam engines by Marshall Sons & Co., of 1896/7. At Markfield Road the restored 1886 beam engine by Wood Brothers, plus other equipment will be seen. Meet at Low Hall Farm Depot, Markhouse Avenue, Walthamstow, London E.17.	Dave Perrett
Thur evening Nov 9 1978 18.30	<u>GLIAS Lecture</u> Models for the Third World by Jean Gimpel, a GLIAS Member who is trying to transfer traditional technologies, such as water wheels, to under-developed countries. City Poly See leaflet.	
Saturday Nov 11 1978 11.30	Oral History Seminar. The Association for Industrial Archaeology is holding this meeting in Birmingham. Please write to Peter White for details.	Peter White Room 224, DOE Fortress House 23 Savile Row London W1X 2AA
Sat afternoon Nov 18 1978	LAMAS Local History Conference at the Museum of London	
Fri evening Nov 24 1978	Last, but not least: <u>GLIAS DINNER</u> at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster with guest speaker Dr. Margaret Weston, Director of the Science Museum - see enclosed booking form	

FROM OUR CROYDON CORRESPONDENT ...

First the bad news ... Cooper's Steam Boot Factory, 4 South End, Croydon Further to the note in Newsletter 56, the owners have now applied for listed building consent to demolish this fine mid-Victorian factory. GLIAS has supported local societies in opposing this and a decision is awaited. Now the good news ... The DOE refused in May to list the 1928 terminal building of Croydon Airport as recommended by the GLC Historic Buildings Div., GLIAS AGM passed a resolution deploring the DOE decision. Less than three months later, on the recommendation of Croydon Council, the DOE has reversed its decision and listed the building! Bob Learmonth, part author of the book on Croydon airport, is setting up a Croydon Airport Society.

The Purley Way (A23) from Thornton Heath, past the old Croydon Airport terminal building, to Purley, had what is thought to be the first major installation of sodium street lights in the country, put up about 1932 by Phillips Electrical. The lanterns were not fixed to posts as in more modern installations, but slung on cables between posts. Some lanterns had been replaced over the years, but the installation was substantially complete until mid-September, then after a number of the lanterns had fallen, the whole system was hastily taken down. Phone calls to the Science Museum and to the Museum of Street Lighting at Ware (see Newsletter No. 53) revealed that both knew of the installations historical interest and had plans to acquire items from it, but did not know of its sudden removal. As a result the Science Museum was able to acquire a lantern and a set of control gear while the Museum of Street Lighting has also been in touch with Croydon Council.

DEREK BAYLISS

SHORT, SAD, SNIPPIT ...

Sadly it has very recently been learnt that the small table steam engine belonging to the London Graving Dock Company and used to drive a lathe at the Royal Docks has been broken up.

BOB CARR

David M. Jones is running his course on Watermills & Windmills at the Downs Adult Education Centre, 17 the Downs, Wimbledon on Wednesdays 19.30-21.30 again this year, plus a general IA course at Surbiton Hill Centre, Hollyfield School, Surbiton Hill Road on Tuesdays at 19.15. Both courses have just started, but there may still be room if you call in at the next class.

PUBLICITY FOR OUR LECTURE SERIES ... If you can publicise our lectures anywhere additional programme sheets can be obtained from Glenn Drewett at the lectures or from Dave Perrett, 62 Leyland Road, Lee Green, London SE 12.

COGS, CRAFTS, CAST IRON ... The GLIAS 10th Anniversary Exhibition is now in its final planning stage. It is due to open at the Museum of London in mid-November and much detailed work, such as mounting the display, typing captions, etc., needs to be done. Elizabeth Wood is in charge of the design for GLIAS and anyone wishing to help, particularly during the day at the Museum, is asked to contact her at 20 Walpole Road, Twickenham or telephone 894 4154.

T.H.A.P. ... No your braces/suspenders have not given out on you, THAP stands for Tower Hamlets Arts Project and if you find yourself in the vicinity of Wapping stroll along to Watney Street and browse round THAP. The shop is run by Alan Gilby, an energetic young man with a strong sense of community spirit and a love of the past. The shops main interest is in books dealing with local life, mostly written by local people and range from 'The Cockney Song Book' to walks round Tower Hamlets.

PETER SKILTON

WAPPING FESTIVAL

I feel an apology is required for the general fiasco of this event. Although GLIAS were promised many things (e.g. the LHP station would be open) the local organizing committee did not inform me of the final details (or lack of them) until 00.30 h the day before. Thanks to Elizabeth Wood, Derek Holliday, Glenn Drewett and others, GLIAS put up an excellent show, but apologies to all members who went, particularly on the Saturday. (And, of course, it rained!)

DAVE PERRETT

FOR THE RECORD.....

John Backhouse, Pauline Flanagan, Bernard Ford, Peter Cousins, Jill Belcher, Bob & Pam Carr, Bet & John Parker, Lyn Holliday, John Phillips, Roy Allen, Joyce Remmett, Jim Barr just some of the GLIAS members who have helped in practical I.A. over the past year, often for the first time, on both site and research work. But now they are mostly tied up in putting together reports and following through investigations, so there is an urgent need for a transfusion of more 'new blood'. Newcomers are, of course, always welcome on site surveys and library sessions (the latter being the main activity in winter months). But why wait....please contact the Recording Group Secretary, David Thomas, 4, Heyford Avenue, SW6 (735 2132, home) if you would like to know more.

HELP! For various reasons David will be relinquishing/shedding some of his GLIAS activities as soon as possible; they can quite easily be spread between three or four members, so several volunteers are asked to contact him to do things such as

- * type letters - about 2 or 3 a week
- * liaise with other bodies and GLIAS members
- * collate site work
- * 'chair' Recording Group meetings about every 6 weeks.

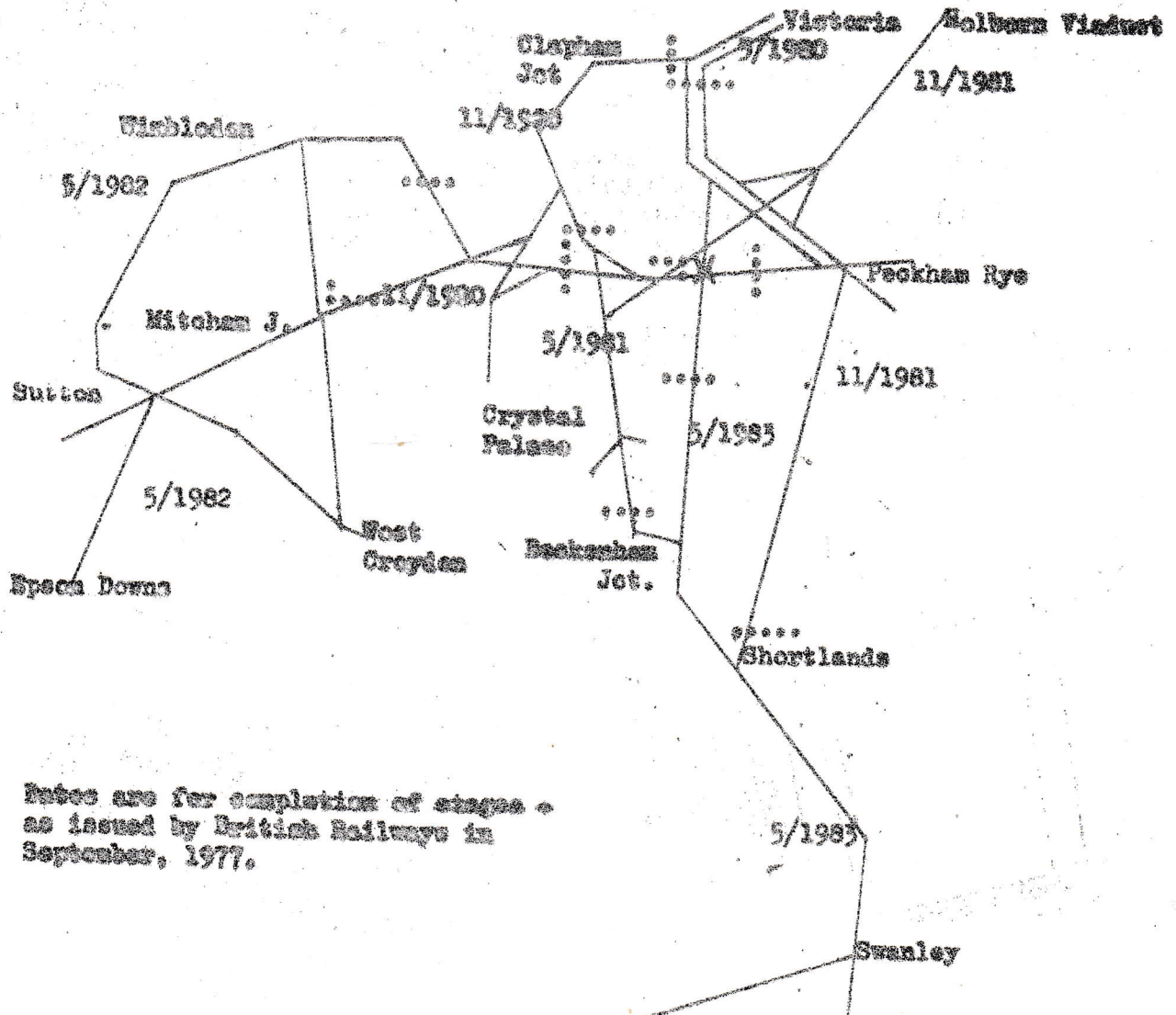
DOCKLANDS SURVEY

WE hope to do a feature next time, but members able to help contact Bob Carr, 37 Ainger Road, London NW3, who particularly wants assistance in researching dock plans.

DAILY

A MASSIVE resignalling scheme for lines into Victoria has already started, with closure of some signal boxes and replacement of semaphore signals by colour light signals. We need several members who can take black & white photographs of items likely to disappear; the diagram below indicates the routes involved. Please contact David.

AREA TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE NEW VICTORIA SIGNAL BOX.



GOING THROUGH THE MILL - SOME IMPRESSIONS OF TWO SITES VISITED ON RECORDING SESSIONS
ON FRIDAY, 18th AUGUST.

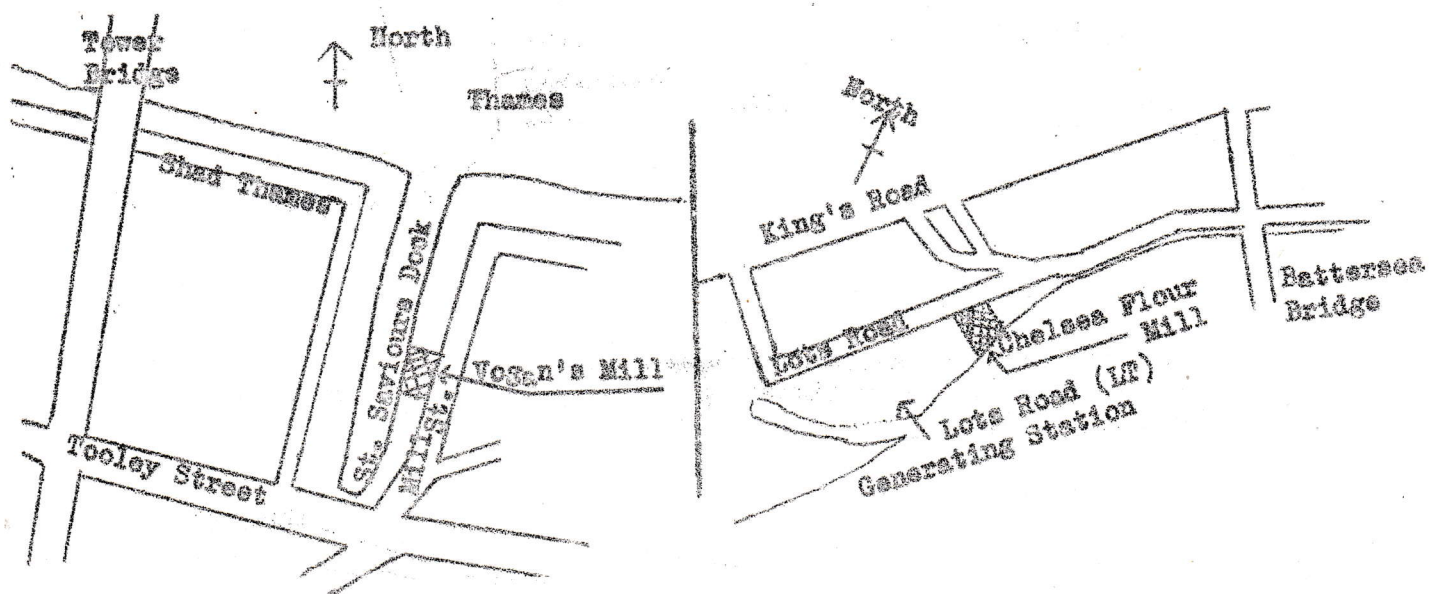
By John Parker.

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Preferring to visit food processing plants rather than his psychiatrist (see newsletter 57) your reporter joined David Thomas and half a dozen others outside Vogan's Mill, Bermondsey, on a sunny hot morning. Inside, it turned out to be as fascinating as a process plant always is, comprising a modern concrete silo, (quite a local land mark) grafted onto three old and separate warehouses. Each housed a complete plant, one producing split peas and pea flour, one pearl barley and one lentils and lentil flour. The aim in each case was to take in raw material, and prepare a product for the final user. One remembers: the attractive interiors, all timber, including the columns; the noise and vibration; the dust, and the equipment to deal with it; the conveyors, elevators and chutes, mostly made in house, moving materials that were little seen and never handled; the strong impression of "good housekeeping"; the small staff; the contrast of modern plant in old buildings; and, appropriately at the very end of our visit, the sudden beauty of a cascade of tiny, brightly polished, coral-coloured buttons - the finished lentils.

After what was very accurately described as "cafe nosh", we moved on to the Chelsea Flour Mills of Messrs. Spillers French. Here, though the silos and finished product bins were clearly purpose built, the structure housing the mill proper was late victorian, built (for what purpose?) for the London General Omnibus Co., as a handsome foundation stone proclaimed. We saw the process of semolina making (for the final grinding to flour was not running) from sucking wheat out of a coaster lying alongside, to the delivery points of the semolina bins. One recalls the many ingenious yet often simple devices the removed unwanted materials, animal, vegetable or mineral, from the wheat: the good housekeeping and other precautions needed to minimise the very real risk of dust explosions; the somewhat daunting experience of walking between the moving walls that were a double row of plansifters; the oddness of seeing white rain (part processed semolina) "falling" upwards through the sight glasses of numerous pneumatic elevators; and, even more than at Vogan's, one recalls a plant, 40 years old, that ran itself. It must have been cleaned, maintained, and, on occasion, adjusted, but the machines in most of the rooms were in full operation with nobody present at all, watched only by the monitoring instruments. Clearly, automation is not new.

We left, passing road tankers that remove the finished products, after a most interesting pair of visits. It is hoped that fuller and more objective reports will appear in due course.



STOP PRESS EVENTS

W H E N	W H A T	ORGANIZER
Wed evening Oct 11 1978 20.00	"The History of Street Lighting" Illustrated talk by Mr. Hubert J. Spink. Mornington Hall, Chingford Green, E4. 30p	Chingford Historical Society. Sec. 529 1534
Saturday 28/29 Oct 10.00 to 18.00	Thames Barge Sailing Club - Open Days Greenwich Pier	David and Elizabeth Wood.
Sat morning Nov 18 9.30 to 13.00	<u>GLIAS Research Session</u> Guildhall Library. (Ask for GLIAS Party)	David Thomas 735 2132

Sorry !

GLIAS apologise for the late mailing of this newsletter. Although the Secretary sent the material in good time to the printers, she did not allow for a delay of five days in the 1st Class Post !

Sorry again !!

We also apologise for the quality of the Recording Group page, due (we think) to a defective Stencil Cutting Machine.