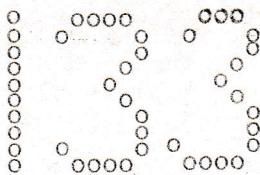


# GLIAS

## NEWSLETTER



GREATER LONDON INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

ISSN 0264-2395  
APRIL 1991

Hon. Secretary : Bill Firth, 49 Woodstock Avenue, London N. W. 11.

Hon. Newsletter Editor : Charlie Thurston, 1 Ely Gardens, Cranbrook, Ilford, Essex. IG1 3NQ.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

#### GLIAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY 27th APRIL

This will be held at the Architectural Association, 36 Bedford Square, London W.1. at 2.30 pm. Nominations for Officers and Committee Members (proposed and seconded and with the agreement of the nominee) should be sent to the Hon. Sec. as soon as possible.

Notice of any proposals (properly proposed and seconded) should also be sent to the Hon. Sec. as soon as possible.

BILL FIRTH

Would Members Please Note the Increased Subscription Rates for 1991-92 :

Reduced .....£5.00

Individual .....£7.00

Family .....£8.00

Affiliated Groups .....£10.00

### DIARY DATES

#### WHEN

#### WHAT

Apr. 2 BURIED IN THE METROPOLITAN CEMETERIES. A talk by Brian Bloice at Hawkestone Hall, Lambeth North end of Kennington Road at 7.30 pm. Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society (SLAS).

Apr. 8 GLIAS RECORDING GROUP MEETING. This meeting will not be at the Architectural Association. Please telephone Mary Mills (081-858 9482) for the new venue.

Apr. 10 NINETEENTH CENTURY IMPROVEMENTS ON THE RIVER TYNE. A lecture (following the Presidential address), by R. W. Rennison, in the main lecture theatre of the Science Museum, London S.W.7 2DD at 5.45 pm. Admission free. (Newcomen Society)

Apr. 10 BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY 'In Steam' Day - at the Science Museum. Further information from the Secretary, Tony Sale, tel : 071-938 8196.

Cont'd.

## DIARY DATES (Cont'd)

WHEN	WHAT
Apr. 15 Mon.	<u>IA VISITS AND LECTURES ON DOCKLANDS.</u> On Mondays at 2.00 pm. A new series begins at the Old Station Museum, Pier Road, North Woolwich, E.16. To book a place please send S.A.E. to Mr. Fred Osborne, 74 Stanton Road, Luton, Beds. LU4 0BJ, or just turn up.
Apr. 16 Tues.	<u>IA WALKING TOURS</u> - in Greater London on Tuesday evenings. This is the first of a new series. To book a place send S.A.E. to Miss M. Renshaw, Flat 8, Wyburn Court, Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6HX. Tel : 081-390-2998.
Apr. 17 Wed.	<u>THE OLD LADY OF THREADNEEDLE STREET : THE HISTORY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.</u> A talk by Mrs. E. A. Austin of the Bank of England at the 'Empress of Russia', St. John St, London E.C.1. at 8.00 pm. Non-members £1. Concessions 50p. (IAHS)
Apr. 17 Wed.	<u>SIR HENRY ROYCE.</u> A lecture, to be given by Mr. F. Shaw at the I.E.E., Savoy Place, London W.C.2 R OBL. at 5.30 pm. Refreshments at 5.00 pm.
Apr. 21 Sun.	<u>THE LONDON MARATHON FROM THE CUTTY SARK.</u> The ship opens from 8.15 am to 8.45 am. for Breakfast and a Grand-stand View. Tickets £6.00. From the Maritime Trust, 2 Greenwich Church Street, S.E.10. Tel : 081-858 2698.
Apr. 22 Mon.	<u>LORD'S CRICKET GROUND.</u> Tour and visit to the archives. Meet at the Grace gates, St. John's Wood Road, N.W.8. next to Lord's Tavern, at 2.00 pm. Charge £3.30. O.A.P's £2.00. Visit arranged by L.A.U.F. Tel : 081-3983661.
Apr. 23 Tues.	<u>MARCEL DESOUTTER, VISIONARY OF GATWICK.</u> A talk to be given by Denis Desoutter about his father, a pioneer airman at Hendon, at 8.00 pm. Refreshments at 7.30 pm. in the Desoutter Suite, Sterling Hotel, Gatwick North Terminal. Croydon Airport Society. Entrance free.
Apr. 23 Tues.	<u>LDDC TOURISM.</u> A talk by Barbara Stokes, Head of Tourism, at Surrey Quay's Area Office, (LDDC), Old Dockmaster's Office, opposite Rotherhithe Leisure Centre, Lower Road, S.E.16. Admission free. (LDDC)
Apr. 25 Thurs.	<u>IA WALKS AND TRAIN RIDES.</u> On Thursday evenings. An introductory meeting at City University, London EC1V OHE, at 6.30 pm. Tel : 071-253 4399, Ext. 3268 for further details.
Apr. 25 Thurs.	<u>COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY.</u> A talk, to be given by Adrian Johnstone on D.E.C. Computers, at the Science Museum, London S.W.7. at 5.30 pm.
Apr. 26 Fri.	<u>THE PRIORY OF LEWISHAM : THE LAND OF ST. PETER OF GHENT.</u> A talk, to be given by Jennifer Mills at 7.45 pm. at St. Augustine's Church, Baring Road, S.E.12. (Lewisham Local History Society)
Apr. 27 Sat.	<u>GLIAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1991.</u> See enclosed booking form. Please come and give your support.
Apr. 27/ 28.	<u>FESTIVAL OF MODEL TRAMWAYS.</u> At Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex. For details tel : 081-568 4757.
Apr. 28 Sun.	<u>BROOKLANDS MUSEUM VISIT.</u> At Weybridge, Surrey. At 2.00 pm. Tickets are £2.75 each, payable to the Croydon Airport Society. For tickets and further information please contact Dick Whittle, 1 The Potteries, Ditchling Common, Sussex, BN6 8SJ.
May 4 Sat.	<u>PHARMACY, - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.</u> An exhibition, open until June 9th, to celebrate 150 years of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. At Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, N.W.4. 4JR. Tel : 081-203 0130 for further details. Admission free.
May 8 Wed.	<u>COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY.</u> 'In Steam' Day at the Science Museum. Further information from the Secretary, Tony Sale, tel : 071-938 8196.
May 9 Thurs.	<u>ST. MATTHIAS' CHURCH, POPLAR.</u> A talk by Robert Baldwin. At 7.30 pm. at Queen Mary & Westfield College, Mile End Rd, E.1. (E. London Hist. Soc.)

Cont'd.

## DIARY DATES (Cont'd)

WHEN	WHAT
May 10 Fri.	<u>FORD MOTOR COMPANY, DAGENHAM</u> . A visit and factory tour from 1.15 pm to 3.45 pm. To reserve a place please send S.A.E. to the Editor, address on page 1.
May 13 Mon.	<u>GLIAS RECORDING GROUP WALK</u> . Led by Bill Firth, from Westbourne Park to Ladbroke Grove, to include canal sites, artisan housing and the first motor car factory in England. Meet at Westbourne Park underground station, 6.30 pm. (Canalside and railway pubs adjacent). Return from Ladbroke Grove.
May 15 Wed.	<u>CARING FOR LONDONERS SINCE 1862 : THE PEABODY TRUST</u> . A talk by Brian Delmar, Assistant Secretary, Peabody Trust. Talk to be held at the 'Empress of Russia', St. John St, London E.C.1. at 8.00 pm. Non-members £1. Concessions 50p. (IAHS)
May 11 Sat.	<u>UP AND DOWN THE BOW ROAD</u> . A walk led by Rosemary Taylor. Meet at Mile End Station at 2.00 pm. (East London History Society) NB. Date changed from May 18.
May 23 Thurs.	<u>MANCHESTER COMPUTERS</u> . A one day seminar. Chaired by Simon Lavington. Further details from the Computer Conservation Society, secretary Tony Sale; tel : 071-938 8196.
May 24 Fri.	<u>HISTORY OF S.E. LONDON POST</u> . A talk by Peter Bathe, at 7.45 pm. at Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Road, S.E.14. (Lewisham Local History Society)
May 27 Mon.	<u>HISTORIC FIRE ENGINE RALLY</u> . At Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex. Tel : 081-568 4757 for further details.
May 28 Tues.	<u>ATA FIELD VISITS</u> in the Bristol District, open to GLIAS members and families. (GLIAS is an affiliated society). Further information from David Alderton, 48 Quay Street, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 8EY. Tel : 0986 872343.
June 2 Sun.	<u>VISIT TO BEVIS MARKS SYNAGOGUE</u> . Bevis Marks, E.C.3. Arranged by East London History Society. For further information tel : 071-790 7071.
June 3 Mon.	<u>GLIAS RECORDING GROUP WALK</u> led by Bill Firth, to the Willesden Junction area including canal and railway industrial sites. Meet Willesden Junction station, Old Oak Lane entrance at 6.30 pm. (exact venue in next Newsletter)
June 4 Tues.	<u>IA WALKS AT MID-DAY</u> . Six shorter walks on summer Tuesdays in June and July, starting June 4th. For further information send S.A.E. to Miss M. Renshaw, Flat 8, Wyburn Court, Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6HX, or tel : 081-390 2998.
June 6 Thurs.	<u>IA WALKS AT MID-DAY</u> . Six shorter walks in Central and inner East London from 1.00 pm. For further details contact the City University, Centre for Continuing Education, London EC1V 0HB, or tel : 071-253 4399 Ext. 3268.
June 12 Wed.	<u>COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY</u> . 'In Steam' Day at the Science Museum. Further information from the secretary, Tony Sale, tel : 071-938 8196.
June 15 Sat.	<u>KEW BRIDGE STEAM MUSEUM TOWER</u> . Open day at Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex. Tel : 081-568 4757 for full details.
June 19 Wed.	<u>LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL TRAMWAYS</u> . A talk, to be given by Mr. E. R. Oakley of London Tramways History Group, at the A.G.M. of the Islington Archaeology and History Society, at the 'Empress of Russia', St. John St, E.C.1. at 8.00 pm. Non-members £1. Concessions 50p. (IAHS)
June 27 Thurs.	<u>COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY</u> . A talk on Emulators and a Report from the Software Working Party, from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm. at the Science Museum, London S.W.7.
June 28 Fri.	<u>BLACKHEATH PEOPLE AND THEIR BUILDINGS</u> . A talk by Neil Rhind, at Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Rd, S.E.14. at 7.45 pm. (Lewisham Local Hist. Soc.)
July 10 Wed.	<u>COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY</u> . 'In Steam' Day at the Science Museum, S.W.7. Further information from the secretary, Tony Sale, tel : 071-938 8196.

CROYDON WALKS

Discover the history of Croydon, every Sunday at 10.00 am. and 1.30 pm. Meet at the top of Crown Hill for a two-hour guided tour of Central Croydon.

Cost £3, concessions £2, up to two accompanied children free. Enquiries to : Miss A. L. Higham, 5 Sullivan Court, Ashburton Road, Croydon, CRO 6AQ. For details tel : 081-656 6469.

BILL FIRTH

ADVANCE NOTICE OF EVENTS

THE AIA CONFERENCE will be held in Dudley, West Midlands from 9th - 13th September, including the supplementary programme. GLIAS is an affiliated society. The basic Conference fee before August 9th is £84, but if you book before April 19th with a £15 deposit there is a six per cent discount of £5, making £79. Conference details from Janet Graham, Conference Secretary, 107 Haddenham Road, Leicester LE3 2BG, or tel : 0533 826395 (home), or 0533 522294 (work).

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PAPER HISTORIANS Annual Conference will be held from Friday September 27th to Sunday 29th September, at the Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, Cumbria. Papers will be presented on various aspects of Papermaking. The cost of the conference is £120 members, and £135 non-members, to include accommodation and entrance fees. For further information please contact Jenny Hudson, Secretary B.A.P.H., Wiggins Teape Research and Development Ltd, Butler's Court, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1RT, or tel : 0494 675652.

BRITAIN'S WORLD WAR II DEFENCES. A symposium will be held at Surrey University, on November 2nd 1991, by Surrey Industrial History Group. The cost will be £6 per person. For further information send S.A.E. to G. Knowles, S.I.H.G., 7 Squirrels Green, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT23 3LE, or tel : 0372 458396.

JOHNSON'S OF HENDON EXHIBITION on the famous firm of chemical and photographic manufacturers. To run from November 30th 1991 at Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4 4JR. Admission free. For details tel : 081-203 0130.

SILVERTOWN WAY AND SILVERTOWN BY-PASS

Billed as "A Road to the Empire", Silvertown Way was opened by the then Minister of Transport, Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha on Thursday 13th September 1934. Factory owners and traders in Silvertown had been pressing for improvements to the approach roads to the Royal Docks and Silvertown since 1902. The First World War delayed the first scheme and it was not until 1929 that the Dock Approaches (Improvement) Act was passed. The consulting engineers were Messrs Rendel, Palmer and Tritton. The main bottle necks of the area were the White Gates level crossing in Canning Town, the narrow swing bridge over the entrance to the Royal Victoria Dock and the Silvertown level crossing. There were four parts to the new road scheme, a new bridge to carry Barking Road over the River Lea (completed September 1933), the Silvertown Way viaduct across the dock entrance, the Silvertown By-pass (opened July 1935) and the building of 599 new dwellings near Prince Regent Lane to re-house those displaced by the works.

The building of the Lower Lea Crossing involves alteration to Silvertown Way north of Tidal Basin. In order to accommodate a new roundabout being constructed underneath the viaduct two double sections of viaduct are being replaced by beam bridges of steel imported from Belgium. The first (north) of these is being built alongside the viaduct and is due to be swung into position over a weekend in April when the road will be closed. New concrete piers have been inserted underneath the viaduct to take the new bridge. The second will be completed in July. Two slip roads are also being built to connect the roundabout with Silvertown Way. A section of the Tidal Basin spur, at its junction with Silvertown Way, has been replaced so that one of the slip roads can pass underneath. Work on the four span bridge over the Lea is well under way. Silvertown By-pass is closed and awaiting demolition.

It is said that Silvertown Way was Britain's first fly-over. Does any GLIAS member know differently? These roads are the subject of a study initiated by Howard Bloch, Local History Librarian at Newham, and being conducted jointly with the GLIAS Recording Group.

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TIM SMITHSTOP PRESS ! WOOLWICH ARSENAL EXHIBITION

This Exhibition is now on in Plumstead Museum in the library, and will continue for a couple of months.

NOTES FROM BOB CARRVISIT TO FULLER'S BREWERY, CHISWICK

The visit arranged for March 25th has proved very popular and is now fully booked. It is hoped to organise a second visit on Wednesday 11th December 1991 at 1.00 pm if demand is sufficient. If you sent a cheque but have not received a place for March 25th you have been placed on the list for the next visit and will receive notification when the second visit is confirmed. Please let me know at 127 Queen's Drive, London N4 2BB if you would prefer to withdraw from the list and have your cheque returned. There are still places on the second visit so send a cheque for £3 payable to R. Carr plus first class S.A.E. if you would like to take part. Booking for the second visit will be closed in July.

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BUILDINGS AND SITES AT RISK

English Heritage considers that large numbers of listed industrial buildings in the Greater London area are at risk simply from neglect. These are mostly listed grade two and are predominantly in the east of London, the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark having the most examples. Considerable sums of money are required just to secure the continued existence of this industrial archaeology. The magnificent Egyptianesque 'A' station control room, Battersea power station, is reported to be safely secure, at least for the time being.

At Crossness it is understood that good progress is being made but the Filter Beds, Green Lanes, Stoke Newington may not be retained in planned redevelopment. The contact for the Save the Reservoirs Campaign is Hilary Everett, 91 Lincoln Court, Bethune Road, N.16 (telephone 081-802 5944). 'Duck Day' was held on November 18th, at which two local MP's - Diane Abbott and Chris Smith - spoke during a wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of Sir Hugh Myddleton to the south of Islington Green. A march had been held along the course of the New River from the Castle pumping station, Green Lanes, with the marchers carrying ducks (I gather not live ones!)

In the February Newsletter of the Save the Reservoirs Campaign is an excerpt, (unearthed by Marianne Craig) from 'Jackdaw Cake', the autobiography of the travel writer Norman Lewis, who in the 1920s lived in Woodberry Down, N.4. near the Stoke Newington Reservoirs. Russian refugees from Stalinist terror, Kulaks, lived in the street and behaved much as they had in Kazan or Tashkent. Families of these refugees close by had installed English stoves in their house and converted them so they could sleep on top in Russian style in winter. The men slept fully dressed ready for an attack while the women slept naked, rolling themselves in bear skins. They drank pivo, home-made Russian beer laced with methylated spirit, smoked yellow cigarettes with Cyrillic lettering, and spent their money on fireworks. This entertaining story reaches a climax after the Russians had redecorated Mr. Lewis's flat - painting the floor red and covering the walls with tin foil and sticking blue stars and crescents over them. A celebratory party was held with two princes attending, during which the furniture was made into a raft, soaked in petrol, and set alight on the West Reservoir. The arrival of the fire brigade and police ended proceedings.

If this whets the appetite for more please contact Hilary Everett.

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CROYDON DEMOLITION

Despite plans to re-use the Croydon B power station main building (see GLIAS Newsletter 130 page 5) it was demolished at short notice before English Heritage had time to pay a visit, (see the 'Daily Telegraph', 2nd February 1991, page 17) and the site is to be used by IKEA. In late February only the chimneys and East wall of the power station remained, with considerable metal wreckage to the west. Further south at Croydon airport the hangar building to the south-west of the Control Tower was being demolished.

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NOTES FROM BOB CARR (Cont'd)LIMEHOUSE

A new entrance lock which will only admit fairly small craft has been installed at Regent's Canal Dock (confusingly now known as Limehouse Basin). To the north of the dock itself considerable works are in progress for the construction of the Limehouse Link. The work is reminiscent of the extension for the East London Railway beneath the Eastern Dock of the London Docks by Sir John Hawkshaw in the 1870s.

At the west end of Regent's Canal Dock the warehouse latterly used for the storage of tea has gone. The main Hough's site is completely flattened but the office building to the west is still standing though gutted. A few cottages once alongside the entrance to the Limehouse Cut remain, but nothing else here. Shoulder of Mutton Alley no longer has an alley-like appearance.

The single storey building on the riverside which was used by Hough's immediately to the east of the Dock entrance lock is still there. Hough's Wharf has received renovation and almost resembles New Concordia Wharf. To the west of the new entrance lock new housing development is in predictable Enid Blyton (i.e. Noddyland) style.

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NEW HOME FOR THE MUSICAL MUSEUM - CHURCH TO BE DEMOLISHED

Hounslow Council have granted outline planning permission for a hotel development on the former gasworks site at Brentford which will include purpose-built premises for the Musical Museum. At present the collection of automatic musical instruments gathered together by the late lamented Frank Holland MBE is housed in a disused church, St. George's, which will be demolished if the plans come to fruition. After 27 years it is felt the instruments should be housed in better conditions.

It is planned that the new museum will open in 1994 and meanwhile regular demonstrations will continue in the nearby church. This will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from April to October, from 2.00 to 5.00 pm. and on extra days in July and August. Further details can be obtained from The Musical Museum, 368 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0BD, telephone 081-560 8108.

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BOB CARR

HERITAGE CENTRE, HONEYWOOD, CARSHALTON

On 1st December 1990 the London Borough of Sutton opened its new Heritage Centre in Honeywood, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton.

Honeywood is a listed building set on the banks of Carshalton Ponds. A particular attraction is the billiard room with its original table and fittings of 1903. In this room an audio visual display about the history of Honeywood and Carshalton can be seen. The permanent exhibitions cover the history of the borough, from pre-history to mid-20th century in four themes: building, industry, daily life, and arts/entertainment. There is also a tea room.

BILL FIRTH

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BREWERY HISTORY SOCIETY

Members whose interest in breweries goes beyond their product may be interested in the Brewery History Society. The society was founded in 1972 and now has over 250 members. It has an archive with some 500 books and 1,000 photographs and publishes a (nominally) quarterly journal. The annual subscription is £6 - apply to Michael Jones, Secretary, 5 Blunts Hall Drive, Witham, Essex, CM8 1LZ.

A number of articles on brewers/breweries in or near London have appeared in the journal including: Royal Brewery, Brentford, London Brewers, Arthur Guinness, Benskins, Watford and Truman Hanbury Buxton. The society will be happy to supply photocopies to GLIAS members.

BILL FIRTH

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JUNE NEWSLETTER

Please note that items intended for inclusion in the June Newsletter should reach the Editor by May 8th if possible.

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AVELING AND POTTER STEAM ROLLER

A member, Mr. H. E. Crossley, has drawn our attention to an article in a local paper about a St. Pancras Aveling & Potter steam roller of 1921, which was taken out of service in 1950 and used as a plaything in a children's adventure playground at Cumberland Market until such things were considered dangerous in the 1960s, when it was buried under a pile of rubble. It was accidentally uncovered in 1989 and has been taken in hand by an enthusiast for renovation. Camden intend eventually to place the roller in their Heritage Museum and parade it on suitable occasions.

BILL FIRTH

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NOTES FROM MARY MILLS AND THE RECORDING GROUP

The Recording Group, and GLIAS members generally, were invited by the Newham Local History Department to see work done by them on Stratford Fruit and Vegetable Market, which is soon to close. The evening started with refreshments and a chance to look at a display area introducing the market, its background and work.

We then saw a video about the life of the market, produced by Steve Butcher. This is something that many more GLIAS members might like to see; copies of it are available. The video was followed by a talk by Jim Clayson, who gave a general historical background to London markets, placing Stratford in context. It was a very impressive contribution and several members expressed the hope that Jim would publish it.

Lyn Brooks of the Great Eastern Railway Society spoke about the railway in the setting up and work of the market. There is a dearth of photographic evidence on the early years - the Society is always grateful for material. Of great interest was his description of research on the timetabling of trains into the market which had helped to identify the sources of produce sold there. An architect member of the Society had studied the building.

Mark Woodward had been commissioned to photograph the market and he spoke briefly on his approach. We saw some of a very large collection of black and white prints which had been made. Jill Davies introduced a slide show which covered some of the areas from which the archive was being made up. They had, for instance, always tried to photograph all signs and posters, and they had tried to reflect the way that the work of the market was organised.

The final speaker was Stuart Adams on trade tokens and their use in the market. Stuart is currently writing a book about tokens and associated material in Essex and it was clear that the material he had brought to show us was only a tiny part of a vast collection of information. Work on the market is still continuing and it is hoped to record interviews with people who worked there; other recording of the site can continue until final closure.

Howard Bloch, the Local History Librarian, and his team cannot be praised enough for the work that has gone into this recording. They set out determined to get together a proper archive and GLIAS should be in the business of telling other local authorities what they have done and encouraging them to put time and effort into similar ventures. Such an exercise does not have to be expensive - organisation and intelligent use of resources are more important.

There is a pack of historical information on the market - Newham Library Service Local Studies Notes No. 61 - and this is available. They can also provide information about copies of the video, - and accept volunteers for further work. Please contact Howard Bloch, Local Studies Department, London Borough of Newham, Water Lane Library, Water Lane, Stratford, E15 4NJ. (Tel : 081-534 4545, ext. 25662).

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Readers of the Recording Group Reports will remember a query about the lamp posts in Tottenham Court Road. We have received a letter from Mr. W. T. McNair who writes : "I think it most unlikely that the standards were fabricated by Johnson & Phillips but I'm sure that the original electric lamps would be of their manufacture.

Cont'd.

RECORDING GROUP NOTES (Cont'd)

The lamp standards were probably cast in the Saracen Foundry of Walter MacFarlane & Co, Glasgow. Johnson and Phillips made electrical cables under their own name from about 1875 up to 1965 when they were taken over by Delta Enfield cables. The latest situation is that production has been switched to other factories and regrettably the Victoria Works in Charlton may be closed.<sup>1</sup> Mr MacNair also enclosed an extract from the 'Universal Electrical Directory' which illustrates arc lamps and lists manufacturers including Johnson and Phillips.

MARY MILLS

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BOOK REVIEWS

**'DOCKLANDS'.** ADT ARCHITECTURE GUIDE. By Stephanie Williams. Architecture Design and Technology Press. 1990. £12.95.

The opening sentence of this book reads : 'London's Docklands contains one of the worst collections of late 20th century building to be seen anywhere in the world' - but the author acknowledges that the area also contains some gems of modern architecture. The pocket-size guide would be of considerable use to the GLIAS member visiting Docklands whose interest lies mainly in the history of the area - older buildings are included in the guide - but who cannot avoid encountering the evidence of the 1980s and wonders what to make of some of the quirky modern products. It is stressed that this is a guide book for the many photographs and drawings are too small for anything but quick reference.

**'FREE FOR ALL'**. By Julian Watson and Wendy Gregory. Greenwich Libraries. 1989.

This large format booklet is intended as a 'Celebration of 100 years of the Woolwich Free Ferry'. This is worthwhile for the photographs especially for those for whom the ferry is part of their past. I must admit that I found some difficulty in sorting out the text dealing with the history of the ferries.

DON CLOW

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A POTTED BIOGRAPHY - JOSEPH BRAMAH 1794 - 1814

In 1770 the young Joseph Bramah came to London from Barnsley in Yorkshire, where he had served an apprenticeship as a joiner.

However his natural inventive talent was applied to the design of the water closet which, by a system of valves and traps, prevented leakage and stench. His design remained in use until the end of the 19th century. Bramah had a lasting interest in hydrostatics and his most important invention was the hydraulic press. In 1784 he invented a burglar-proof lock made by high quality precision engineering. A reward of 200 guineas was subsequently offered to the first person to pick this lock and it remained in a Piccadilly shop window for fifty years. Eventually an American took over fifty hours to accomplish this, in 1851, thirty seven years after Bramah had died. Assisted by his young blacksmith, Henry Maudslay, Bramah also invented the lathe slide rest. A man of wide inventive talent, he patented a method of extruding lead pipe, a wood planing machine, a beer pump, and a device for the automatic numbering of bank notes. But hydraulics was his passion, and he advocated the installation of high-pressure water mains in the streets, to be used for fire-fighting and the operation of hydraulic machinery.

West Norwood Cemetery, recently visited by GLIAS members, has a Bramah and Robinson 1837-8 coffin lift.

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EDITOR

INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

As outlined at last year's AGM the new venue for the Winter Lectures and increased costs for the AGM lecture hall have put pressure on the society's finances. After analysis of the 'unit cost' per member it became clear that if allowances were not made for the increased costs since subscription rates were last set, the society could not afford to support all its activities in any one year. The new subscription rates which have been set are shown on the front page of this Newsletter and also on the Membership Renewal enclosed..

DANNY HAYTON

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