

THE TERRIER



THE FRIENDS OF HACKNEY ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

No. 11

Summer 1988

NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE MONEY!

Last issue we reported that the Grecian playbills, which we have been working to secure since last autumn, were on their way to the Department, secured for us because the balance of the £5,000 we needed, over the amount put up by numerous Friends and by the Victoria and Albert Museum, had been lent by Mr Kinn. We can now report that, as a result of further generous donations, by Mr R. Wheatley Hubbard and Mr F. C. Oliver, we have been able to repay our debt.

Indeed, we have a little in hand, and might be asked - as was General William Booth, when in 1882 (the full story is told in a series of press cuttings held at the Department) he raised money to buy the Eagle Tavern to establish there a headquarters for the Salvation Army - "Now that you have collected all this money.....what do you intend to do with it?" The answer, in our case, is conservation and microfilming. The Department wants to start conservation, in particular, at an early date, so the appeals fund will not, in good theatrical tradition, be closing yet awhile.

Eventually, reproductions of some of the playbills will go on show at the Eagle itself, where, I hope, we may in future hold some of the Friends' meetings.

Again - it cannot be said too often - enormous thanks to everyone who helped with the appeal, financially and otherwise: it was a magnificent effort. And our special thanks to Len Deadfield, host at the Eagle, for his excellent hospitality when we welcomed the posters back to Hackney.

Further thoughts on the association of the Eagle with the song "Pop goes the weasel", have been brought to light by Jean Wait, who has turned up evidence of the genesis of the song in Jean Harrowven's book "The origins of rhymes, songs and sayings" (1977). This tells us that the version we all know today was an adaptation of a song originally written by Charles Sloman in the 1830's, "and sung by him in such places of ill repute as the Cyder Cellars and the Coal Hole"; the adaptation,



AND NOW THAT YOU HAVE COLLECTED ALL THIS MONEY, MR. BOOTH, WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH IT?

A cartoon from the cuttings collection on the Grecian at H.A.D.

referring to the Eagle and the City Road, was first performed - at the Grecian Theatre - in James Robinson Planché's revue "The Haymarket Spring Meeting".

The original went -

"Something new starts every day,
Pop goes the Weasel,
Fashion ever changes sway,
Pop goes the weasel..."

The refrain, it is said, "was a saying at the time".

Mysteriouser and mysteriouser.

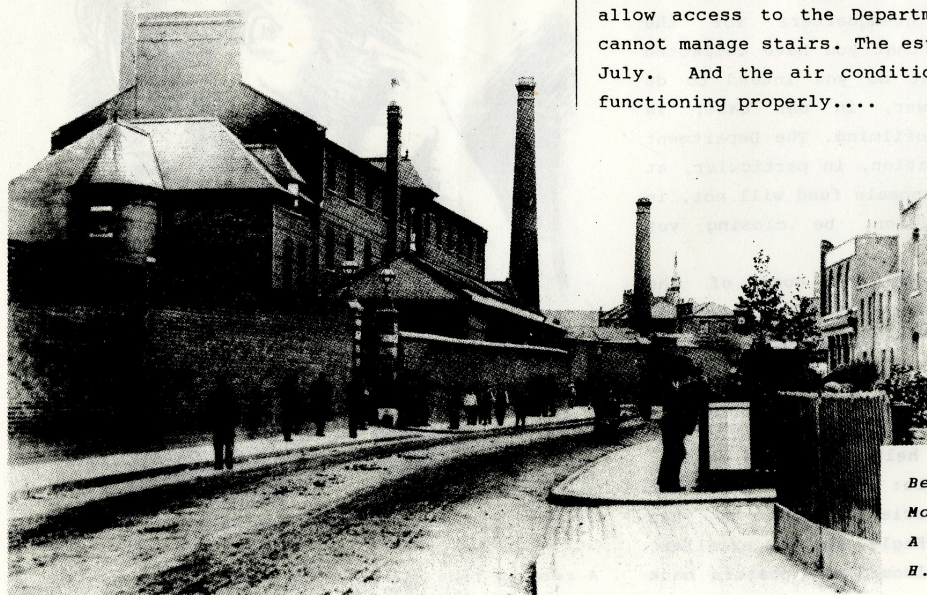
The Terrier

You will see that this quarter's Terrier is a bumper 12-page number. This was made possible by an extra-rich set of contributions and by the fact that our printing costs are less than they used to be. But it will not be possible to produce a 12-page issue every time.

Meetings Programme

Now an apology. For reasons beyond our control, our planned outing to Bury St Edmunds has had to be deferred until next year: regrets to the many who expressed interest in the trip, and we will aim for a summer date in 1989. Otherwise, the meetings programme, as you will see from the final page, is now developed well into next year. We hope you will find it interesting - if not, suggestions are always welcome.

Isobel Watson
Chair



*Bergers factory in
Morning Lane, 1906.
A new postcard from
H.A.D. (U2)*

NEWS FROM HACKNEY ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

We have taken in another major business archive - the records of the Berger group of paint manufacturers. The business was founded in 1766 by Lewis Steigenberger, who had changed his name to Berger on coming to this country from his native Germany. In 1780 he moved his factory to a site in Homerton beside the Hackney Brook, which from then on often flowed with amazing colours as it took away the effluent.

* * * * *

By a happy coincidence, a view of Bergers factory in Morning Lane is one of the new postcards we have published. There are two new sets, each containing eight cards in an envelope. One envelope shows the Alexandra Rowing Club beside the Lea at the Jolly Anglers in 1885; the other pictures the Stoke Newington Cycling Club outside the Swan at Clapton Common in 1886. However, not all the cards in the sets are of sporting groups! As with our earlier sets they include a mixture of views and subjects from all over the Borough, with dates ranging from 1870 to 1945. The sets cost £1 each, plus 20p for postage and packing.

* * * * *

Unfortunately not all our news is good. Work has only just started on the ramp and door to allow access to the Department for those who cannot manage stairs. The estimated date is now July. And the air conditioning is still not functioning properly....

Jean Wait

SAVING THE HACKNEY LOG BOAT

The Hackney log boat was accidentally discovered in Springfield Park some eight months ago. Within days, archaeologists from the Museum of London had it in safe storage and had worked out that it was just about 1000 years old. They even knew that it had been abandoned in fresh running water! Archaeologists found the boat fascinating, boat experts began to measure and replicate it, and even the curator of the Museum in Docklands was interested in displaying it. As usual, however, there was just one snag - money. Kate Starling, a conservator at the Museum of London, estimated that full conservation would cost £8-10,000, and no-one could readily come up with that sort of sum.

At this point I decided to try a special fund-raising appeal for the boat. After all, it was found on council land, belonged to the council therefore, and would make a beautiful and interesting exhibit at Hackney Museum. It would also help to fill the large gaps in our collection marked "medieval and earlier" and "water transport". The Museum of London kindly agreed to continue caring for the boat, watering it almost every day to prevent it drying out and giving it storage space in their covered car park. Meanwhile, my letter-writing began.

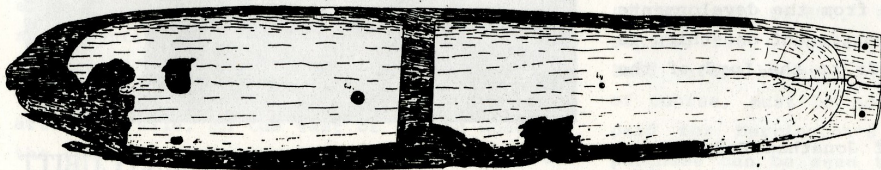
I have to admit to being surprised how readily potential supporters took this 11-foot-long piece of ancient waterlogged oak to their hearts. Perhaps it was my tongue-in-cheek description of it being "Hackney's Mary Rose"! More seriously, many people recognised the importance and rarity of the boat, both in regional and even national terms, and also the possibility, for the first time, of using new conservation techniques which would allow the boat to go on permanent open display. Certainly, one of the first organisations to offer financial support was the Science Museum.

They pledged a grant of £5,000 or 50% of the total costs, whichever was the smaller, precisely because of the importance of a well-conserved boat of this kind. This money was soon followed by £1,000 from each of three firms with Hackney connections - James Latham plc, the Kentish Property Group and Marks and Spencer plc. We also contacted eight charitable trusts, of which the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, gave £1,000 almost immediately and the Pilgrim Trust have since donated £2,000. Five of the trusts thought our project was outside their terms of reference, but the Wates Foundation are still considering it at their next meeting.

As soon as the first £9,000 had been pledged, and where possible was safe in a deposit account, I was able to go ahead and finalise the conservation, with the help again of Kate Starling. Only four labs in the country can do this sort of work, as the boat has to stay in a heated tank for three years. The National Maritime Museum immediately ruled themselves out of the running, as their labs were fully booked until at least 1990. Two other organisations could not meet the conditions laid down by the Science Museum, but fortunately the Yorkshire Archaeological Trust were both willing and able to do the work. They have therefore been awarded the contract and we expect the boat to travel up to York some time in June.

In May we held a small reception at the Museum to thank the 20 or 30 people who have been active in helping to save the boat. For the future, we hope to be involved with the launch of a modern replica on the Lea, jointly with the Marine Archaeology Survey Group. I hope to find the time to put up a small display in the Museum this summer on progress to date, and then most of my energies will go on making sure that we have all the necessary resources to pay for full conservation and an exciting display by the summer of 1991!

Christine Johnstone
Museum Curator
Hackney Museum



THOMAS CUBITT AND ALBION ROAD

This article is an extract from Thomas Cubitt: Master Builder (Macmillan, 1971) and is reproduced by kind permission of the author, Hermione Hobhouse.

A short way across the fields from Highbury lay the village of Stoke Newington, containing, as the local historian pointed out proudly, "one church and two dissenting meeting houses....300 houses, seven or eight families of Jews, seven or eight of Quakers, and many other Dissenters". Most of these 300 houses were grouped along Church Street and Paradise Row (modern Church Street), and more than a third had been built in the last forty years.

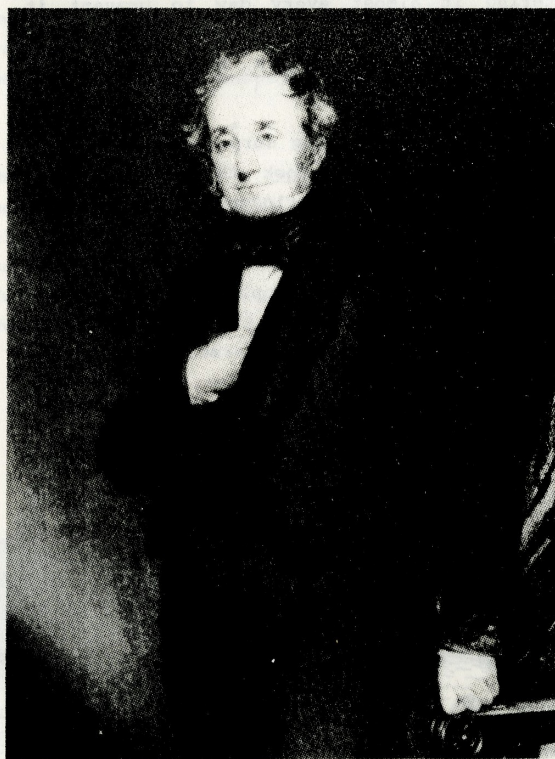
Stoke Newington was so ready for development that in 1814 an Act of Parliament was obtained to facilitate this. As in so many parts of Middlesex, tenure was still manorial in origin, customary tenants of the manor having a copyhold title for lives which usually had to be renewed by a fine on death or alienation. Though in some ways this was a stronger title than a ninety-year lease on one of the great urban estates, since another life could usually be inserted into the lease on payment of the appropriate fine, it could be a hazardous and uncertain tenure. This meant that few builders were prepared to lay out money in building houses, when they could only give an uncertain lease, about which buyers might well hesitate. Even more jaundiced would be the attitude of a mortgagee to copyhold title. In many cases, enfranchisement of the copyhold tenure, and the elevation of the title to freehold was not within the powers of the Lord of the Manor, and recourse had to be had to a private Act of Parliament.

These problems were not peculiar to Stoke Newington, but here the situation was complicated by the fact that the manor was a Prebend of St Pauls and it was leased to the Eade family. A further disadvantage was that leases could only be demised for three years. However, the Act was duly obtained, with the proviso that the profits from the developments should accrue in the proportion of one-third to the Prebend and two-thirds to the Lord of the Manor.

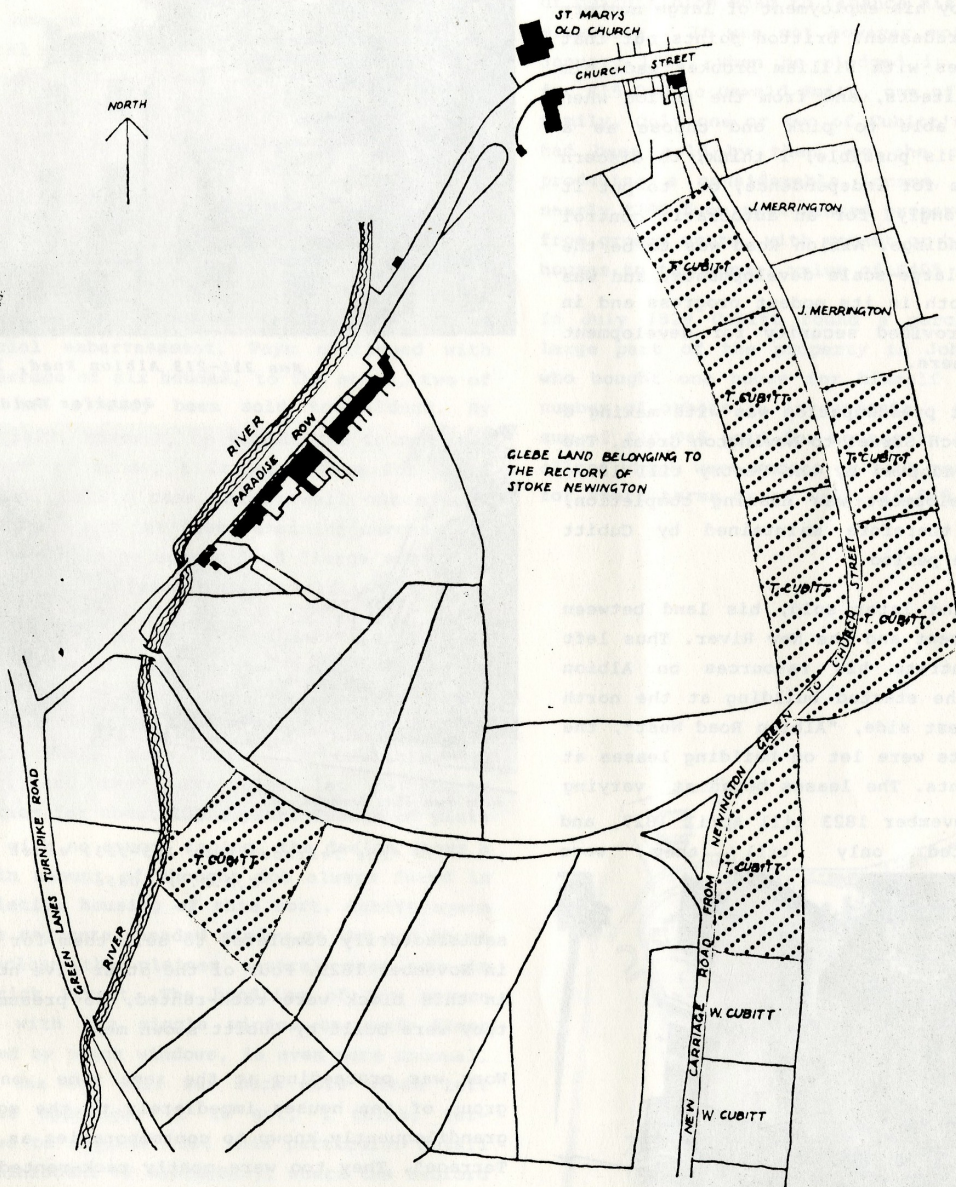
In 1814, on the death of Jonathan Eade, James William Freshfield had bought the early

eighteenth century mansion, and he may have pointed out the "capabilities" of Stoke Newington to Cubitt, and the way in which its natural development had been retarded. As the Act put it: "the principal part of the ground...was not built upon, and therefore, and on account of its eligible situation, and vicinity to London, was capable of considerable improvements". In 1821, the largest farm in the parish was put up for public auction. It was some sixty acres lying between Newington Green, then "a square of respectable houses, chiefly inhabited by gentlemen and merchants", and Stoke Newington Church Street, traversed only by a footpath between Newington Green and the Church.

The farm was sold off as building plots. A crude road plan was staked out connecting the Green with Church Street and Paradise Row and the land was divided up into one- and two-acre plots, each with road frontage. The auction was held at the Three Crowns public house on 31 May 1821, and at it Cubitt bought seven lots, a total of twelve acres (see the map opposite).



THOMAS CUBITT



He was admitted as a tenant at a Court Baron held on 10 September 1821, and enfranchised his holding for a total of £577 4s on 20 November 1821. The land to the north of his three lots on the east of Albion Road had been bought by a local surveyor John Merrington, who enfranchised it in September 1821 for £150, and subsequently sold it to Cubitt for £1,050 in May 1822. Two more plots were bought by William Cubitt during the summer of 1821 apparently after the sale, on the east of Albion Road to the south of Thomas Cubitt's lots probably to provide a road through to Newington Green.

Other big builders bought land at the sale, including such important North London developers as Samuel Rhodes of Islington, but none quite on the scale of Cubitt. It is difficult to deduce the sum paid but assuming it to be between one-seventh and one-tenth of the fine, it must have been between about £4,000 and £5,800, a considerable sum of capital for a working builder to lock up in land before he even began to build. To this, of course, must be added the £1,050 which he paid for Merrington's two acres. From this purchase can be seen the way in which he was moving towards independence as a builder and

"undertaker" by his employment of large numbers of building tradesmen. Britton points out that his experiences with William Brookes made him chary of architects, and from the period when he had been able to pick and choose as a developer, it is possible, I think, to discern his preference for independence, or, to put it even more strongly, for an autocratic control of his surroundings. Albion Road was to be the first of his large-scale developments, and was successful, both in its modest progress and in the way it provided security for development capital elsewhere.

Cubitt's first preoccupation was with making a road from Church Street to Newington Green. The road was not adopted by the Vestry till 1837, when the development was nearing completion, and it was therefore maintained by Cubitt throughout the period.

Cubitt let, and later sold, his land between Clissold Crescent and the New River. Thus left free to concentrate his resources on Albion Road itself, he started building at the north end. On the west side, "Albion Road West", the first four lots were let on building leases at low ground rents. The leases began at varying dates from November 1823 till April 1827, and Cubitt waited only till they were



No 211 Albion Road, 1988.

Jennifer Golden

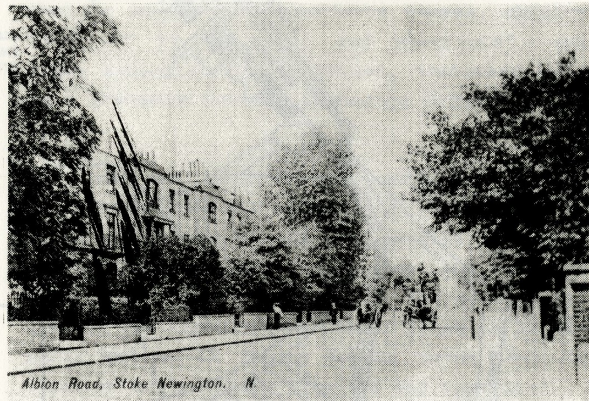


Nos 236-256 Albion Road, 1988. Jennifer Golden.



Nos 211-213 Albion Road, 1988.

Jennifer Golden.



"The Terrace" (Nos 195-213) about 1905.

H.A.D. P 10856

satisfactorily completed to sell them for £560 in November 1829. Four of the other five houses in this block were rack-rented, so presumably they were built by Cubitt's own men.

Work was proceeding at the same time on the group of ten houses immediately to the south, grandiloquently known to contemporaries as "The Terrace". They too were mostly rack-rented for rather larger rents of between £45 and £70, and the earliest lease here dates from December 1825, though the last houses were not let or sold till June 1829. These were larger houses than those immediately adjoining Church Street, either because Cubitt had now more confidence or possibly because they occupied more agreeable sites, backing as they did onto the open Glebe Land. They sold for about £1,000 freehold, and were desirable residences for business men and solicitors.

Stimulated by Cubitt's success, a small builder called John Payn signed a building agreement for a large plot, on part of which he erected a semi-detached villa called Clarence Cottages (Nos 191-193) of considerable charm, with round

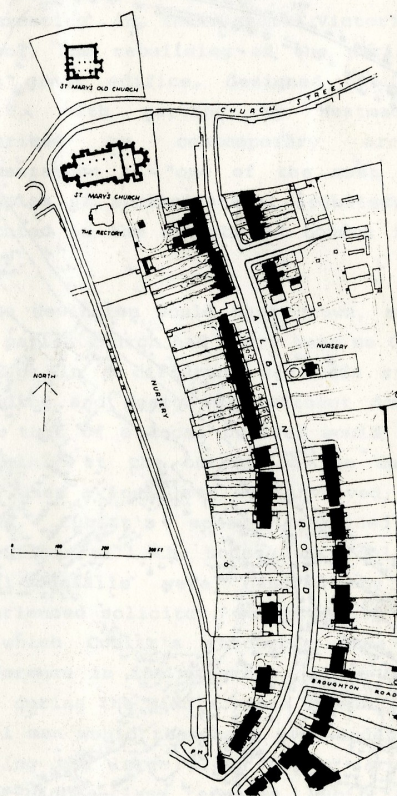
attic windows in a mansard roof. This was completed by March 1827, and sold with two other houses to a purchaser called Walduck for a total of £3,068. Under the terms of the agreement, £768 of this went to Cubitt, partly in consideration of the freehold, and £2,300 to Payn. In order to "serve Mr Walduck", as his clerk put it, and to accommodate Payn, Cubitt accepted a mortgage on the property for £1,000 in lieu of part of Payn's purchase money. He had backed Payn to the extent of rather more than this sum, most probably by supplying him with materials. Undeterred by this slight financial embarrassment, Payn continued with the terrace of six houses, to the south, two of which had already been sold to Walduck. By April 1829, however, he was unable to continue for lack of funds, a frequent fate for small builders. Cubitt came fairly well out of it, for he accepted the four remaining carcasses in settlement of the unspecified "large sum" owed by Payn, and finished them himself.

Less pretentious, but rather more satisfactory than "Clarence Terrace", was the smaller terrace of six houses on the east of Albion Road (Nos 238-246) immediately south of Church Street. These were built by Cubitt's own labour, and they were also let on yearly tenancies for about £35 a year. Though of plain brick with no stucco facing, the design shows a certain amount of thought not always found in speculative housing of this sort. Cubitt again used a segmental-headed window on the end house to enclose the plainer central ones, as in Frederick Street. The handling of the return wall, with its single window on each floor flanked by blank windows, is even more unusual, since the end wall was much more often left without openings. It is not, I think, far-fetched to suggest that this particular detail is reminiscent of Bloomsbury, where the Bedford Office insisted on careful and expensive detailing of the return walls of a terrace.

By 1829 the pace of development was slowing down, presumably because by then the market for houses in Stoke Newington was temporarily satisfied, and also because of the general economic climate. This is borne out by Payn's failure and certainly Cubitt started on no new blocks after about 1826 when Albion Road East was begun. This may have been due to his preoccupation with larger ventures elsewhere, but had there been a demand for houses in Albion Road, he would have found local men ready to take building leases.

By May 1826, he was already thinking in terms of using Albion Road to finance his development elsewhere. It was not however mortgaged till January 1829, when he pledged it as security for £15,000 to Oswald Smith, one of the banking family. Only one or two of Cubitt's own houses had been sold by then, so the property was producing a considerable income, said to be nearly £700 from rack-rented property, and £288 from ground rents, with vacant or half finished houses to the annual value of £405 in addition.

In July 1829 Cubitt found a purchaser for a large part of the property in John Bumstead, who bought one house for himself and a large number of others as investments. Of the total sum of £10,045 paid for houses in Albion Road, all of which were vacant or rack rented, mostly for short terms or at will, £6,550 was paid to



Albion Road as developed, in 1872

Oswald Smith. The rest of the money was retained by Cubitt, so presumably Smith felt that the rest of the mortgage money, some £8,500, was adequately secured, although so much of the property had been sold.

The large sale to Bumstead was followed by others, one to a sitting tenant at about the same time, and one more in 1831 to Thomas Soley, who paid £1,550 for the end house of Payn's terrace and a large piece of land to the south.

Bumstead was clearly satisfied with his new property for in 1832 he bought out Walduck, who had not been doing very well, for only then was Cubitt's mortgage of £1,000 paid off. In the same month he bought the three remaining unsold Payn houses from Cubitt, possibly still in an unfinished condition, for he only paid £700 or £800 for them. Clarence Terrace was the last purchase made by Bumstead, who died a few years later, but George Outram Woolley of Kensington,

a friend and probably a business partner of Bumstead, bought several houses from Cubitt over the next seven years.

After 1833 the demand for houses in Stoke Newington picked up, and in that year Cubitt completed and sold most of the seven carcasses in South Place, built on the ground opposite the triangular junction of Albion Road and Clissold Crescent, and which had been standing half-finished since 1829.

The east side of Albion Road was never completely covered with houses in Cubitt's lifetime. A large part was let as garden ground in small lots soon after the sale. By 1836 one of the market gardeners, John Milne, was in sufficiently good way of business to take all the vacant ground immediately south of the two terraces comprising Albion Road East, and the ground behind the terraces.



With reviving demand came a demand for a larger type of house. The northern part of Albion Road was completed with detached or semi-detached houses of a villa type. Those that Cubitt built himself seem either to have been sold outright at between £1,000 and £1,400, or let at substantial rents of £70 to £100, with possibly a premium as well, for a short lease of seven to twenty-one years, and then sold as an investment shortly afterwards. Cubitt never found another investor on the scale of John Bumstead, but Woolley bought a number of houses, and four houses were sold to John Pearson in 1839. Robert Woodcock took land for three houses in York Place as the southern end of Albion Road East was known, and on it he built the rather urban group of three houses, with a stuccoed ground floor, which seem to have strayed from central London.

By 1839, building on most of the sites was under way or completed, and the few that remained were taken consecutively by a small but competent builder called John Adams. In July 1839, he took the two remaining plots on the west side, on the southern corner opposite the Albion public house. On these he erected two stuccoed villas facing Albion Road, which were planned with a "chaise-house" each behind. Financing himself by borrowing from Cubitt, within a year Adams had sold his two houses and repaid the loan. He then built two houses opposite on the same terms, and again had them completed and leased within a twelvemonth, this time imitating Cubitt by letting them first and then selling them subject to a twenty-one year lease.

It was John Adams who bought the last group of houses to be put up on Thomas Cubitt's ground in Stoke Newington, Nos 8-13 South Place (Nos 108-118), a well-built, adequately detailed terrace whose stock brick with stucco door surrounds has worn considerably better than the more pretentious stucco facades of the larger houses.

Cubitt's interest in Stoke Newington had virtually ceased by the time it was developed. In 1841 he paid off the last of the mortgage money, and by 1848 held only an acre of the original fifteen, and of this a large part was garden ground let on a long lease. Even in 1837 his stake was small, as his lawyer, James Hopgood, pointed out to a resident who wished to have the church footpath stopped up behind

the houses on the west side. It was hoped that the vestry would do this after they had taken over the maintenance of Albion Road itself, and Hopgood was handling the matter on the part of a Mr Ball, who felt that the existence of the footpath damaged the value and convenience of his property. "I have done all that I can in my professional capacity", he wrote to Miss Ball, urging her to canvass public opinion. "The matter is very *important* to Mr Ball - it is quite *unimportant* to Mr Cubitt..."

"Important, unimportant", as the King said in *Alice in Wonderland* - Albion Road had had its brief moment of significance in Cubitt's career. It was financially important to him, providing security as it did for one of the largest single advances to him at a very critical moment, and its steady progress must have been a considerable comfort to him when he surveyed some of his other undertakings. His influence on the development of Stoke Newington was in its turn important. In twenty years he had added over seventy houses to the parish, creating a select residential area which retained its cachet until 1914. It was a period of growth for the parish as a whole, culminating in that great Victorian status symbol, the rebuilding of the parish church. This great edifice, designed by G. Gilbert Scott, with carving by Westmacott, was described by contemporary architectural commentators as "one of the most favourable examples of ecclesiastical architecture to be executed in the suburbs of London in our own time".

Stoke Newington would have grown, and rebuilt its parish church had there been no Cubitt, but perhaps in a different way. His standard of building and design was without doubt higher than that of a local builder would have been, certainly at the outset of the development. Even when a local man was involved, like John Adams, Cubitt's money sustained building operations till the houses were sold, and the legal details were handled by his own experienced solicitor. But probably the moment at which Cubitt's resources made the most difference to the progress of the development was during the middle years of slack demand: a small man would then have gone under, possibly selling the large plots to be carved up for lower-middle-class terraces. Cubitt could hang on and then complete the road with substantial villas, providing citizens of standing for Scott's large church.

Hermione Hobhouse

THE BOOKIES' TURNING

Whenever I recall this road I have to check its name. It was, and is still, Florfield Road: but in the 1930s we called it "the bookies' turning".

Two pieces of background information are necessary. The first is that my father sold horse-fodder in East London, and throughout my schooldays I helped him in my spare time. The fodder was greenstuff - chiefly lucerne and tares - grown in fields on the outskirts. It was cut very early in the morning and sold the same day, at 3d a bundle.

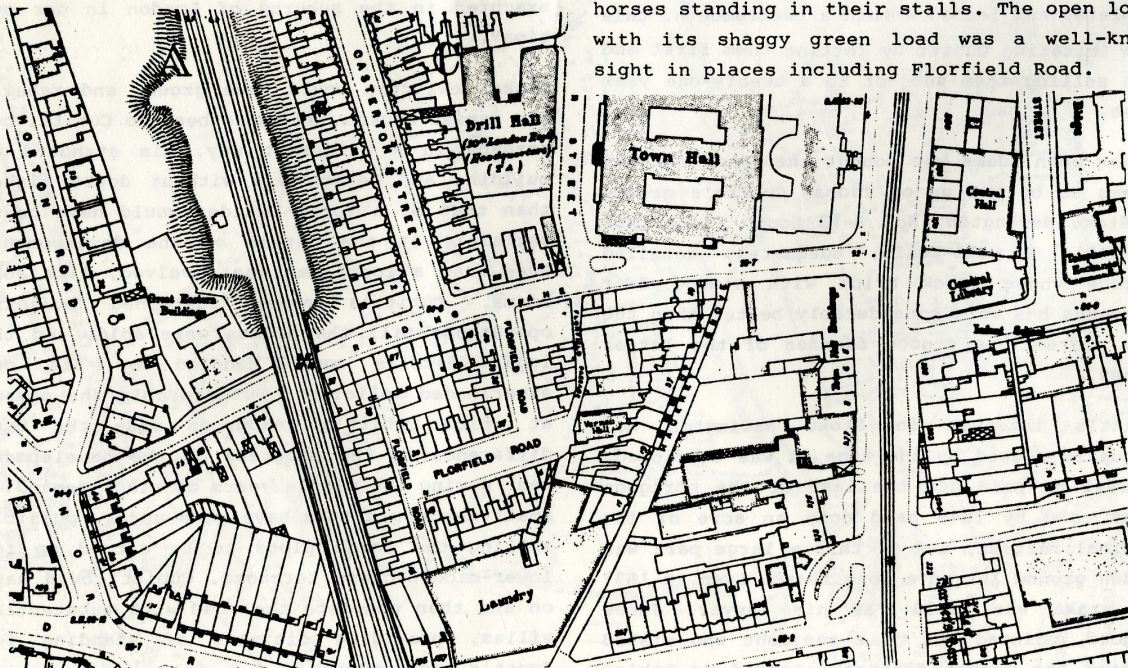
The other matter to be explained is that street betting was illegal until an Act of Parliament in 1960 allowed betting shops to be set up. It was sought out and punished heavily; nevertheless it was widespread. The offence was "passing betting slips" and the men who did this in the streets and took the risk for the bookmakers were known as "bookies' runners". Frequently newsagents and men with paper-stands were bookmakers or runners - obviously a convenient arrangement, with the racing details to hand.

A considerable amount of police time was spent pursuing these lawbreakers. (Many people commented that, while the working man's sixpence-each-way was a heinous crime, the well-off could legally run accounts with

bookmakers and have flutters on the Stock Exchange; as ever, it was the poor what got the blame.) Policemen went disguised as window-cleaners, hawkers, etc. A school friend whose father was an officer in East London said to me one day "My dad's dressed up as a postman this week to try and catch some men who are betting in the street".

The runners and backers were alert to these strategies. They looked for secluded spots where unfamiliar figures could be seen coming. In their delightful book of London excursions, *Talking of Dick Whittington*, Hesketh Pearson and Hugh Kingsmill described a walk along the grassy avenue of the sewer-top near Plaistow and observing a group of men who "seemed not to relish being looked at".

My father's round was from Leyton to Aldgate via Stratford, Bow, Poplar, Limehouse, Whitechapel, and back through Bethnal Green, Hackney and Clapton. Anybody with a horse, a pony or a donkey was his customer: coalmen, bakers, undertakers, carriers, and innumerable street-market traders and mobile vendors - in Whitechapel, up to the war in 1939, a herd of cows which were taken across Commercial Road for milking every afternoon. There were stables and yards in the back turnings everywhere. My knowledge of East End byways became extensive and I still notice many buildings where I remember horses standing in their stalls. The open lorry with its shaggy green load was a well-known sight in places including Florfield Road.



The 1938 Ordnance Survey map showing Florfield Road and the new Town Hall. The road on the right, with the tramlines, is Mare Street.

Florfield Road was almost ideal for illicit betting. Although the houses are now replaced by industrial buildings, its shape can still be seen. Off Reading Lane, it was a kind of double cul-de-sac: a short L joined to a short T and backed against the railway line. The houses were terraces with their front doors opening on to the pavement.

My father's customers hereabouts included Spenner's the bakers and the Cooks who had a sawdust-carting business by the railway arches; and in Florfield Road itself were Harry Bloom the coal merchant's house and yard. Like the grey-bearded man who went round with blocks of salt on a cart, we were known there and no notice was taken of us. Business went on in our presence.

At the height of the day two or three dozen men would be on doorsteps at the railway end of the turning. The doors were all half-open, and there was an obvious air of confidentiality about the transactions taking place - heads close together, writings-down, and covert hand-to-hand exchanges.

An older man, one of the residents, sat on a chair outside a door. It was common for men to sit out like that when homes were crowded and

gardens non-existent. He was the look-out man, ostensibly reading a newspaper and smoking. The runners kept eyes on him. If any unknown person came into the turning, he gave his signal - possibly folding the paper, or putting out his cigarette.

In seconds the street was clear. The men dived into the houses like rabbits vanishing into burrows, and the doors were shut behind them. If it appeared a definite "raid", they might go through the back yards and bunk along the railway embankment. Usually, however, there was a wait until the newcomer had gone or his visit was seen to be harmless; then the doors reopened and business was resumed.

Without doubt the householders were paid for their services and for acting as lookouts. Florfield Road had a general shop which was noticeably brighter and better stocked than most back-street shops in the thirties. The Betting and Gaming Act had the effect of transforming seedy lawbreakers into respectable business men, and what took place in our "bookies' turning" is now a curious piece of social history.

Robert Barltrop

THE LONDON ARCHIVE USERS' FORUM

The London Archive Users Forum (LAUF) has been established by a group consisting both of users of archives and professional archivists to represent the interests of users of record offices, public and private, in the London area. Other services have their own consumer groups; now that archives services are under particular threat from local government cuts, record offices need theirs.

The Forum was inaugurated on 23rd March at a meeting at the Institute of Historical Research, and already has more than sixty members, both personal and institutional, representing archive depositories as well as special interest groups, and individuals with a wide range of interests, both academic, family and local historians. A programme of talks and visits is being planned, and there will be a newsletter keeping users (and anyone interested in London archives) in touch with developments in the field.

As well as campaigning for the retention and improvement of London archives services, the organisation will organise educational

opportunities for anyone interested in improving their skills in the use of archives, and provide a forum for the exchange of views between users and archivists.

Membership is open to all, and anyone with the interests of London archives at heart is welcome, whether or not they live in the London area. The annual subscription is £5 for individuals (£3 for each additional member at the same address) and £10 for organisations (who will receive additional copies of the newsletter).

To join, please write, enclosing the appropriate subscription, to the Membership Secretary, Dr Patricia Croot, Victoria County History, 34 Tavistock Square, London WC1. Cheques should be made payable to the London Archive Users' Forum. If a receipt is required, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Users would be welcome to indicate the nature of their research interests, and organisations the number of members they represent.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This list includes meetings of three other local history societies as well as The Friends of Hackney Archives. The Camden History Society (CHS) meet at different places within their borough. The East London History Society (ELHS) meet at Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, at 7.30 p.m. The Walthamstow Historical Society (WHS) meet at the Town Hall, Walthamstow, on Thursdays. **The Friends of Hackney Archives (FHA) meet at the Rosemary Branch tavern, Shepperton Road, N1.**

1988

- Sun 24 July** SHOREDITCH LOCAL HISTORY WALK (with visit to St Leonard's church),
2.30 pm led by Jean Wait. Meet outside the Geffrye Museum. (FHA)
- Thu 15 Sept THE FOREST OF ESSEX W. H. Liddell
7.45 pm Walthamstow Town Hall (WHS)
- Wed 28 Sept THE WESLEYS AND EAST LONDON Alfred French
7.30 pm Queen Mary College (ELHS)
- Thu 29 Sept GEORGE SCHARF Peter Jackson
7.30 pm Highgate Literary & Scientific Institute (CHS)
- Mon 17 Oct THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY Kate Arnold Foster
7.30 pm Paragon Hill School, New End, NW3 (CHS)
- Thu 20 Oct** SOURCES FOR LONDON'S WORKING CLASS HISTORY BETWEEN THE WARS Jerry White, author
7.30 pm of "The worst street in North London". Rosemary Branch (FHA)
- Thu 27 Oct ESSEX WITCHCRAFT IN HISTORY & FOLKLORE Eric Maple
7.45 pm Walthamstow Town Hall (WHS)
- Wed 16 Nov LONDON MAPS Alan Godfrey
7.30 pm Place to be announced (CHS)
- Thu 24 Nov** SCIENCE-BASED INDUSTRIES AT HACKNEY WICK David Leaback
7.30 pm Rosemary Branch (FHA)
- Wed 7 Dec MILE END IN THE 1750'S Derek Morris
7.30 pm Queen Mary College (ELHS)

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- Thu 23 Feb** JEWS AND POLITICS IN HACKNEY Elaine Smith
7.30 pm Place to be announced. (FHA)
- Thu 16 Mar** (TITLE TO BE SETTLED) John Gorman
7.30 pm Place to be announced. (FHA)
- Wed 12 April** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by: THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM Neil Burton (of English
7.30 pm Heritage). Place to be announced. (FHA)
- Tue 16 May** Stanley Tongue Memorial Lecture: HACKNEY AND THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY Tim Baker
7.30 pm (Editor of the V.C.H. for Middlesex). Place to be announced. (FHA/ELHS)

STOP PRESS:

An autumn visit to THE GERMAN HOSPITAL, FASSETT SQUARE E8 (the subject of current redevelopment proposals) is in course of arrangement. Ring the Department (241 2886) for further details.

The building which will open next year as THE RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM (46-8 Copperfield Road, Bow, E3) will have OPEN DAYS this summer as follows: Saturdays 2nd and 30th July and 27th August; Sundays 17th July, 14th August, 11th September. Call in between 10 and 4 and see the exhibitions - there will be a different theme each time.

Newham Libraries are mounting an exhibition of "HOPPING DOWN IN KENT": catch it at West Ham Town Hall, Stratford Broadway E15 between 5th September and 1st October; for opening times (and other venues) ring 519 6346.