

Yates mural revealed

The residents of Bevin Court will be justifiably proud of the restored mural in the entrance hall by Peter Yates. It had suffered from years of neglect and the kindly yet heavy-handed touching-up by local authority painters and decorators. Heavy-handed their patching-up may have been but it was probably their care an attention that avoided the mural being painted over and the curved location being turned into a convenient broom cupboard.

The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. No better small project could there be. Along with research work to establish exactly what Peter Yates had intended as well as the exact colours and paint types that he used the Lottery grant included an excellent community and outreach programme so that local people and especially residents of Bevin Court could understand better the meaning and function of the mural when Yates collaborated with the architect, Berthold Lubetkin in 1950. Events included a an entertaining talk by Elain Harwood about Britain's Post-war architecture, Tim Cordell's film *Utopia London*, an inspiring talk by John Allan about Berthold



Lubetkin and a great tea-party at Bevin Court for the official unveiling.

See the full story of the restoration of the mural and hear sound clips of residents talking about their love of Bevin Court. <https://bevincourt.wordpress.com/category/history/famous-people/peter-yates/winged-bulls-day-and-night/>

Guided walk through the Amwell area

On **Saturday 10 September**, long-standing Society member, David Sulkin, will guide a walk around the Amwell triangle. The elements that make up our splendid Conservation area will be highlighted and given context and explained. David will also point out some little known, hidden delights of the area. **The walk will begin outside Browning's Garage, Great Percy Street at 16.30 and will last about 90 minutes.** This means that people who join the walk will be able to get refreshments at the Society's Late Summer Party that will follow.

Late Summer Party

On **Saturday 10 September** the Society will hold its annual **Late Summer Party in St Helena Garden** just between Lloyd Baker Street and Fernsbury Street. For many years now, the Society has looked after this little sunken garden. The party will begin at **18.00** and last until about **20.00**. The Society will supply wine and soft drinks. Please bring food to share. In recent years the food brought to share has been delicious and bountiful...so we hope that that will be the case this year. The party is a great way to get to know friends and neighbours.

Smithfield walk with Alec Forshaw

Join Alec Forshaw for a walk around Smithfield, one of London's most historic and fascinating districts. Originally a 'smooth field' just outside the old city walls, Smithfield became famous for its meat market, still operating today, Bartholomew Fair and many other long-established institutions such as St Bartholomew's Hospital, the Charterhouse and St John's Gate. Much of the medieval street plan survives together with a wealth of historic buildings. Alec was Conservation Officer at LBI and has worked on the Smithfield area for over 40 years, preserving its past, encouraging its regeneration and planning for its, now exciting, future.

Meet outside Farringdon Station, Cowcross Street at 11.00 on Saturday 25 September. The walk will last about 120 minutes - in time for lunch.

A hidden treasure

Many members will know the new Unison headquarters in the Euston Road that grew out of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women. It's a good example of well-designed urban architecture combining, as it does, with the remains of the old hospital building.

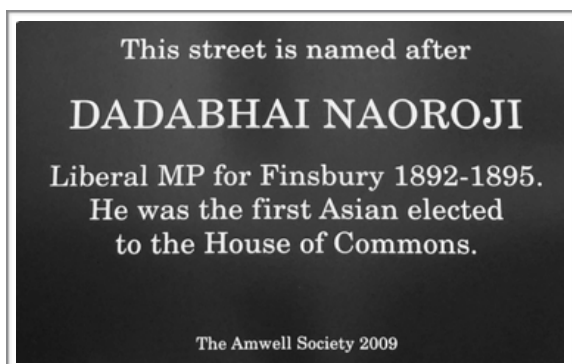


However few people know that if you go into the new foyer, introduce yourself to the security staff you will be directed to the EGA Gallery on the ground floor. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was the first woman doctor to qualify in the UK. Her predecessor, Elizabeth Blackwell, had to go to the US to study and take the Hippocratic oath. The radical edge of EGA's work was that her hospital was the first for women to be treated by women. EGA's female relations were interior designers so every aspect of the hospital had a calming, elegant touch. Soft furnishings by Morris, fresh flowers [by day] and notably circular wards so that the feeling was communal rather than medical or surgical. The nursing staff could also easily keep an eye on all patients.

The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Gallery is located at the **UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Road, NW1 2AY**, between Euston Station and the British Library. It is open to the public between **09:00 and 18:00 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 09:00 to 16:00 on the third Saturday of each month**. Entrance is free. Guided tours of the exhibition may be provided by arrangement.

Plaqueratti

Continuing the mapping of plaques to notable people in the Amwell area and on the periphery, here is a plaque put up by the Society in 2009 near the Amwell Street Practice in Naoroji Street, off Margery Street.



If any members have proposals for plaques highlighting memorable people who lived in the Amwell area, let us know. The residents in Marchmont Street have had a great success with their plaque campaign in recent years.

Charles Rowan House

Here's a summer photo of the north entrance to Charles Rowan House showing a glimpse of the action that residents have taken to turn the old courtyard into a tranquil, mature community garden. If you haven't seen the improvements you're welcome to walk through on your way from Margery Street to Wilmington Square or visa versa. The work began with archaeological investigations identifying the location of the original Merlin's Cave.



Early warning. AGM 2017

The Society's committee has yet to settle on a date for the next AGM but it will probably be in early May. However committee *has* decided that the talk at the AGM will be about the



Russian Revolution in 1917 and the role that Clerkenwell and especially the Amwell area played in it. Clerkenwell has a long history of radicalism and dissent. Communist factions lodged in the Amwell area. The most notable lodger was Vladimir Ilyich Lenin who lived in Holford Square, now the site of Bevin Court, and at 16 Percy Circus. The AGM speaker has yet to be confirmed but as well as the AGM we hope to arrange a visit to the Marx Memorial Library at Clerkenwell Green the library's archive and to see the small office where Lenin edited the early editions of *ИСКРА* - The Spark - in 1903.

Stone on the move

The Society's memorial stone to our founders, Carol Goddard, Irvine Gray and Norman King is to be moved from its current obscured place in St Helena Garden to a nearby wall where it can be cleaned and will be more clearly on display. Come to the Late Summer Party to see the stone in its new position

A message from our chairman

New River Head update

Towards the end of last year, I reported that the Planning Inspector had definitively rejected an application for residential development on the remaining undeveloped part of the New River Head site - the part containing the historic Engine House, Windmill Base and ancillary buildings [photo from 1910 below].

Since then, the Amwell Society has been working with a number of heritage and conservation bodies to put up a scheme for a visitor centre on the site, which will celebrate the role of the New River and New River Head in providing clean water to London for over 400 years.

We have identified a 19th century building of 170m² on the site that could serve a range of heritage, educational and community purposes. Constructive discussions have taken place in recent months with the site owners, Turnhold [Islington] Ltd and with Thames Water and London Borough of Islington. Although there are still many hurdles to be cleared, there is now a distinct possibility that our long-held ambitions for the site may indeed become a reality.

I would be keen to hear from Amwell Society members who are interested in helping with this project - in particular, from anyone who has had experience of running or working in a small museum or visitor attraction. Please contact me on paul@thornton-associates.co.uk or 'phone 07831 743185.

The South Stores which we hope will become the New River Head Visitor Centre



Open House 2016. Go to a new place

Open House [OH] was started in 1992 as a small, not-for-profit organisation to promote public awareness and appreciation of the capital's building design and architecture. The intention was to open up London's splendid, yet closed, buildings to people who had never seen them before. It was also a way of encouraging people to become more aware of the exteriors and interiors around them. Any city is a mass of buildings but the one thing we usually don't learn about at school is the fabric of a place, such as the structure, framework or composition. The urban fabric of London has a strong impact on us on an everyday day.

Over the past 20 years. Public spaces, including landscape architecture, are now recognised as essential parts of a city. An example is the reinstatement of the square in front of King's Cross Station as well as the new matching square in front of the Granary building on the old railway lands.

The main role of OH is advocacy. It aims to change perceptions, break down barriers and inspire people to contribute to high-quality places for current and future generations.



This year's Open House weekend is to be on **Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September**. Go to www.openhouselondon.org.uk 'Phone 020 7383 2131 for all the information you need about where to go and what to see. If you haven't got a well-worn pair of walking shoes, buy them in the summer sales.

The OH concept has become so successful it has spread to thirty cities. New York, Dublin, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Helsinki, Melbourne, Galway, Barcelona, Slovenia, Chicago, Rome, Lisbon, Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Thessaloniki, Limerick, Buenos Aires, Gdansk-Sopot-Gdynia, Athens, Vienna, Vilnius, Monterrey, Cork, Belfast, Prague, Porto, with Madrid, Milan, Venice and Oslo joining soon.

The Amwell Society - Campaigning on behalf of the locality for 44 years

www.amwell.org.uk

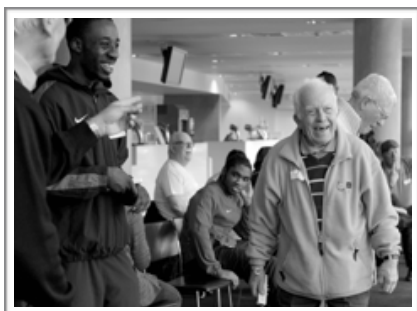
Islington Giving – *Tackling poverty and inequality*

The Amwell area is the natural focus for the Amwell Society yet it is also an integral part of the London Borough of Islington that stretches from the edge of the City of London in the south to Finsbury Park in the north. Islington Giving [IG] grew out of the work of the ancient City charity, the Cripplegate Foundation and was launched in 2010. IG has funded more than fifty large and small community groups and voluntary organisations throughout LBI. The vision, energy and hard work of these groups has brought opportunities to thousands of Islington residents.

Islington Giving is a consortium of funders, businesses, residents and voluntary organisations, working together to tackle poverty and inequality in Islington. Collectively, their goal is to make Islington a place where everyone – regardless of circumstance, has the opportunity and means to live a fulfilled life. The key focus of Islington Giving in harnessing resources to address poverty and inequality by:

- Investing in young people
- Supporting families
- Reaching isolated people

But why Islington? Many think of Islington as a rich, vibrant borough in the middle of London, with fabulous shops and restaurants. The reality is different. Islington is one of the poorest and most unequal places in England.



- 1 in 5 people in Islington live in poverty
- LBI is ranked in the bottom 10% of deprived areas in England
- LBI has one of the highest levels of child deprivation. 38% of our children live in poverty
- We have one of the highest levels – fifth in England – of older people suffering deprivation

The impact of poverty reaches into every aspect of life. If you are poor in Islington you are more likely to suffer from serious physical and mental health problems.

Islington Giving uses the deep local knowledge of funders, partners and residents in recognition that everyone can make a difference. Similarly, because Islington Giving focuses its support on Islington residents, no matter how young or old, it strongly believes that impact can be better made when everyone works together.

As well as the organisations that form the Islington Giving Board – The Breadsticks Foundation, City Bridge Trust, Cripplegate Foundation, Macquarie Group, The Morris Charitable Trust and Richard Cloudesley's Charity – Islington residents offer their support both by becoming Friends of Islington Giving, and by volunteering with the many funded projects.

Endorsed by LBI and The Corporation of London, Islington Giving works closely with businesses, who together form Businesses for Islington Giving - the BIG Alliance. Made up of 13 City businesses, the Alliance has encouraged over 2,500 volunteers to give their time and skills to Islington in a number of ways, including Islington's first borough-wide school mentoring programme.

Amwell Society members are invited to see the impact of Islington Giving work first hand. Contact IG to book your place on an Inside Islington Tour - tours that are held regularly to give direct insight to the wonderful work that IG does. Taking part in a bespoke tour will give you the the experience to understand better why IG is making such a difference to the lives of people in Islington. Contact Lynn Butteriss – lynn.butteriss@islingtongiving.org.uk or ring 020 7288 6941.

