

WestminsterNews

the newsletter of the City of Westminster Guide Lecturers Association | Issue 13 | Autumn 2010 | Editor: John Finn
www.westminsterguides.org.uk

Three key issues for our future

I would like to return to the three key issues I have written about in the past.

First, the **Course**. As you will know the good news is that the City of Westminster Guiding Course is now underway at the University of Westminster. Last month, tutors Lucy McMurdo and Peter Darby kindly invited Julie Chandler and myself to meet the class of 28 students. We were there to promote the Association and encourage the class to join us, for the time being as paying guests, for future events, starting with our Christmas Party at the 'Adam & Eve' pub on 4 December. Please plan to be at the Christmas party yourself and give the new Course members a special welcome.

Communication continues to be a learning process for the Association. I am delighted that Guy Rowston has agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee as 'Web Editor'. Our November committee meeting was devoted to a review of 'Future Strategy' and 'Succession Planning' led by our own professional facilitator, Caroline Dunmore. One of the key issues was how to develop our website with links to other key websites. In the meantime we have our excellent 'Updates' and 'Westminster News', with this latter publication going to an audience beyond our own immediate Association membership.

An update on **Continuing Professional Development** is featured in this edition and I would like to congratulate Barbara Hargeaves and Caroline Dunmore on rolling out the initial series of 'walkshops'. The fact that a third of our membership participated in this programme is a measure of their success and how they have met a need within the membership. I, for one, found them an excellent way of developing my own knowledge of Westminster which, as you soon realise, is a huge and diverse borough, with so much to take in.

A recent Association highlight for me was October's very successful 'Local Waterfront London' Day, with free walks on put on by London's four specialised local Guiding associations namely Westminster, the City of London, Clerkenwell & Islington and Greenwich. We had over 130 walkers for our 'Tyburn to the Thames' walk. I would like to congratulate all those who were involved and especially Chris Everett, who sat on the joint Association Committee which planned the day and who also devised our walk. The event gained good publicity for our Association including a wonderful feature article in 'West End Extra' by John Finn.

Please put our upcoming events in your diary and feel free to give the Committee feedback on what is 'our Association'.

Richard Reddaway, Chair CWGLA



CITY OF
WESTMINSTER
GUIDE LECTURERS
ASSOCIATION

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 13 November 10.30am-4pm
WESTMINSTER ARCHIVES OPEN DAY:
SOUTH WESTMINSTER

Enjoy a day of behind the scenes tours, talks, demonstrations and treasures of the Archives. For more info and booking, Day includes talks by David Evans on 'The Lost Cinemas of Victoria', and Alan MacDougall on 'The history of Pimlico and Belgravia'. For information and booking, contact archives@westminster.gov.uk or 020 7641 5180
Westminster Archive Centre, 10 St Ann Street, London SW1P 2DE.

Thursday 18 November, 6.15 for 6.30pm
WESTMINSTER HEROES AT THE
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

This is an opportunity to practise your gallery-guiding technique and to learn about national figures that your fellow guides are particularly interested in. We will enjoy a tour of the National Portrait Gallery, taking turns to tell each other about our favourite heroes. This event is free of charge and guests are welcome. For more information about participation, see page 12.

Monday 22 November 6.00pm
VISIT TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY IN
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Talk followed by a tour of the building. The visit will last approximately 1 hour. Places are limited but guests are welcome, so contact joanna_moncrieff@yahoo.com to reserve your place.

Association Meeting
Wednesday
24 November 6.30pm
FIELDS OF VILLAS: THE MAKING OF ST
JOHN'S WOOD

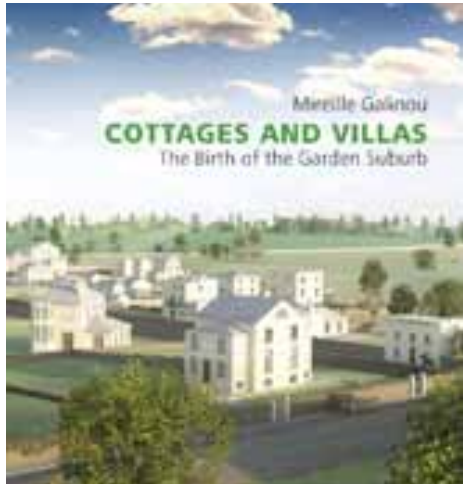
Mireille Galinou, former curator of art at the

continued on next page

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

continued from front page

Museum of London, is the author of *Cottages and Villas*, a detailed book on the history of St John's Wood which has been commissioned by the Eyre Estate. The volume draws lavishly on the previously unknown riches of the



Estate archive and was published by Yale University Press in October.

The Eyre Estate papers will soon be deposited at the City of Westminster Archives.

Westminster Archive Centre, 10 St Ann Street, London SW1P 2DE. Members free, visitors £2

Saturday 4 December 5.30pm

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tickets 12.50 a head

Cheques payable to CWGLA, posted to Fiona Tweedie at 7 Pasfield Court, 6A Cleaver Street London SE11 4DY.

2011

Saturday 1 January 12noon-3pm

LONDON'S NEW YEAR'S DAY PARADE

Silver 25th Anniversary, with floats from London boroughs and international guests. Starts from Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly, then via Trafalgar Square and Whitehall to finish at Parliament Square. City of Westminster always put on a good show, often featuring our Hon President Cllr Robert Davis in disguise.

Coming along in the new year . . .

Dr Ruth Richardson on 'Professional' Bodysnatchers, Simon Marsh on 'Defending London During the Civil War' and Dr Caroline Dunmore on 'Learned Societies'

Dates and times to follow

Saturday 4 December 5.30pm

Christmas Party

Meet up with your Association colleagues for a drink, buffet, raffle and our annual Quiz at the Adam & Eve, 81 Petty France, SW1H 9EX. Partners are welcome. Please book with Fiona Tweedie tweedie8@btinternet.com by 19 November.

Tickets £12.50 a head, and cheques are to be made payable to CWGLA and posted to Fiona at 7 Pasfield Court, 6A Cleaver Street London SE11 4DY.

**HISTORY OF
PADDINGTON
PEOPLE & HISTORY TALKS**

NOVOTEL LONDON PADDINGTON
3 KINGDOM STREET
(OFF SHELDON SQUARE)
W2 6BD

VARIOUS MONDAYS AT 12.30PM,
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2010

PREBOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
EMAIL WALKS@INPADDINGTON.COM

Lighting up Westminster's 'bleak or destitute place'

JANE DUFFIELD recounts the history of Westminster's 'concealed labyrinths' which once housed some of the most desperately poor of London's population

The term 'slum' is said by some to derive from the Irish phrase '*S'lom é* meaning 'it is a bleak or destitute place'. Its use to describe desperate living conditions became increasingly popular after Cardinal Wiseman was widely quoted in the press using the expression to describe the area in Westminster known as Devil's Acre.

In 1850, Cardinal Wiseman, who had become the first Archbishop of Westminster since King Henry VIII's falling out with the church in Rome around 300 years earlier, wrote of Devil's Acre "Close under the Abbey of Westminster there lie concealed labyrinths of lanes and courts, and alleys and slums, nests of ignorance, vice, depravity, and crime, as well as of squalor, wretchedness, and disease; whose atmosphere is typhus, whose ventilation is cholera; in which swarms of huge and almost countless population, nominally at least, Catholic; haunts of filth, which no sewage committee can reach – dark corners, which no lighting board can brighten."

Where 'lighting boards' seemed defeated, the Catholic Church was not deterred. By the middle of the nineteenth century, 'The Society of St Vincent de Paul', originally founded in 1833 to work amongst the poor in Paris, was turning its attention towards Westminster's dark corners. Spearheaded by Fr George Ignatius Spencer (Winston Churchill's great uncle and the great-great-great uncle of Diana, Princess of Wales) the St Vincent de Paul Society established an affordable 'penny' newspaper and care homes for destitute boys, and just as secular authorities were driving Victoria Street through the area in a bid to sanitise it, the Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul (who had nursed alongside Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War) set up the St Vincent de Paul School in Carlisle Place. The school's foundation was celebrated with a Mass led by Cardinal Wiseman in its little attic room above a rat infested laundry.

St Vincent de Paul's School has since moved from Carlisle Place to Morpeth Terrace, right beside Westminster Cathedral, the mother church of the Catholic community which was built on funds raised in memory of Cardinal Wiseman. Nowadays the most commonly occurring first languages amongst the pupils are Spanish, Italian and

Tagalog, the national language of the Philippines, and listed in the class registers are some very illustrious addresses indeed.

Further towards Westminster Abbey and even deeper into Cardinal Wiseman's 'concealed labyrinths' stood a tavern frequented by thieves and ruffians. This 'One Tun Pub' in Perkins Rents (just a street away from the Westminster Archives Centre) is commemorated by a plaque in St Ann's Lane (off Old Pye Street) which celebrates the part the 'One Tun' played in Anglicans' efforts to bring light to Westminster's 'bleak or destitute place' through the Ragged School Movement.

THE IDEA OF RAGGED SCHOOLS began in Portsmouth in 1818 when a cobbler called John Pounds took to teaching poor children free of charge. Initially ragged schools were set



Illustration above is by Gustave Doré (1872) and shows the small, multi-occupancy houses fronting onto Old Pye Street during the time that slum clearance of the area was underway. The Palace of Westminster is in the background.

up in any building that could be found; in stables or under arches or in taverns such as the 'One Tun Pub' in Perkins Rents. This Ragged School Movement, championed by the indefatigable social reformer, the Earl of Shaftesbury, quickly gained momentum and within five years of its official establishment in 1844, there were 82 ragged schools operating in London. Over the following quarter century this number rose to around 200 schools catering for over 30,000 pupils.

Although some of the teachers in the Ragged Schools were paid, the vast majority were volunteers, with each teacher responsible for around one hundred children. Reports in Educational Journals from the mid nineteenth century suggest that taking on a class

in a Ragged School was challenging in the extreme. A teacher in 1850 tells us that whilst 'in mere schooling' her pupils were not 'behindhand' (one of her 'high achievers' ran a profitable side-line writing begging letters for his neighbours) in 'decency of behaviour or in discipline of any kind, they are totally unparalleled'. She laments the fact that when she tried to compose the class by leading a hymn, the assembled children followed a 'blackguard boy' who'd set up in opposition with a rendition of 'Oh, Susannah, don't you cry for me.'

As well as the Earl of Shaftesbury, Quintin Hogg, the

founder of the London Polytechnic Institute, was also a prominent figure in the Ragged School Movement. Quintin Hogg, celebrated by a Blue Plaque in Cavendish Square and in a statue facing the Langham Hotel in Langham Place, had acquired the wondrously frivolous nickname 'Piggy' during his own school days at Eton. As a young man, Piggy Hogg had allowed some premises he owned to be used as a 'ragged school'. The female teacher working there begged Piggy to allow her to continue to teach in the evenings to cater for older boys. Piggy Hogg agreed on the condition that good order prevailed.

PIGGY HAD MEANT TO BE PRESENT on the first evening, but a cold kept him in bed, and 'good order' did anything but prevail to the tune of near destruction of the property and a brawl with the local police. Piggy hurried to the scene and called out to the boys to 'stop it'. To his astonishment the boys did calm down which convinced Piggy that he had such a way with disaffected youths that thereafter he threw himself in to the Ragged School Movement, not only teaching but in a very 'hands on' way, rolling up his sleeves to help scrub and shave those boys too indescribably filthy to be tolerated indoors.

As a series of Factory Acts between the 1830s and 1860s limited the hours children could work in paid employment, the number of children forced to fend for themselves on the streets increased, and the efforts of the Ragged School

Movement to ease their plight intensified. They organised penny dinners and penny banks, clothing clubs and blanket-lending societies, drum and fife bands and choral classes and provided employment in their Rag Collecting or Sewer Cleaning Brigades or in one of several Shoe Black Brigades, each with its own natty uniform. (Westminster's was red.)

In Perkins Rents where the One Tun Ragged School operated it was also recognised that adolescent boys had a relentless tendency to grow into adults, and in Perkins Rents barrows were built that could be hired and eventually bought by members of a Barrow Club to allow a lucky few to embark on a long term trade as hawkers.

In this 'Perkins Rents' was pretty much a lone beacon in coming to the aid of Westminster's vast army of costermongers who were generally not regarded as respectable or reliable enough to qualify as 'the deserving poor' for whom the new sanitary dwellings were being constructed by Improved Model Dwellings Societies such as the Peabody Donation Fund.

Since the days of Cardinal Wiseman his bleak or destitute place close under the Abbey of Westminster has come a long way. The pin pricks of light shining out from seedy public houses and attic rooms above rat-infested laundries burned brighter and brighter until, by the end of the nineteenth century, free state education had become available to every child in London, and by hook or by Cardinal's crook, School Board Visitors were on hand to make sure they took advantage of it.

A morning in the Linnean Society Library

Working full time during the day plus working as a guide too means I have little spare time. I must have temporarily forgotten this when I booked myself onto a half-day volunteering slot for Open City Weekend in September.

Although I accessed the website on the day volunteer places became available, there were few sites left and only a handful in Westminster. I plumped for The Linnean Society, one of the Courtyard Societies which surround the courtyard of Burlington House.

My knowledge of the Society was minimal but it was a good time slot – 10am to 1pm – and central too. I had walked past the Society before and had heard of Carl Linnaeus, the Swedish naturalist, but that was the sum of my knowledge.

I was stationed in the 'double cube' library which turned out to be not a double cube at all as it seemed the architects had made a mistake. The back wall lined up with Burlington House but the front wall didn't. Each succeeding window recess along the front wall was

increasingly smaller.

In 2007, to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the birth of Linnaeus, the library had been refurbished so was still looking amazing. Sunlight poured through the decorated strengthened glass in the roof which had been replaced to the original design, the original having been destroyed in the Second World War.

The room was dominated by two oil paintings: one of James Edward Smith, the founder and first President of the Society, and the other of Sir Joseph Banks, explorer and naturalist, and between them, highlighted by sunlight, was a bust of Carl Linnaeus whose collection, sold by his widow to pay for their daughter's dowry, was the basis for the Society's formation.

I was volunteering with three people (Lynda the librarian, David a former President and Alan a Fellow) who were very knowledgeable about the Society and it was a pleasure to volunteer with them. In between the constant stream of visitors I had many interesting conversations with them, the only down-

side being the backache you get from standing around for three hours.

When my time was up I was offered a cheese scone and a cup of tea and, most importantly, a chance to sit down. Whilst eating I gazed outside the window onto the courtyard below. On the wall next to me I noticed a chart entitled 'Window to the Stars' which listed a number of famous people who had been spotted outside the window; names as diverse as Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and The Queen! I was told later that only people who weren't members of the Society were eligible for the list so if you spotted David Attenborough or John Craven they weren't counted.

Feeling enriched by my morning's volunteering, I continued on my way. I only managed two more buildings as had other plans for the afternoon but went on a fascinating tour around the King's Fund in Cavendish Square and was amazed to discover a convent tucked away down a mews, yards from John Lewis, that I never knew existed.

It was definitely worth sparing the time. **JOANNA MONCRIEFF**

A CHAPEL ROYAL OF FRANCE - IN ST MARYLEBONE?

DAVID EVANS makes a 'discovery' to the north of Oxford Street

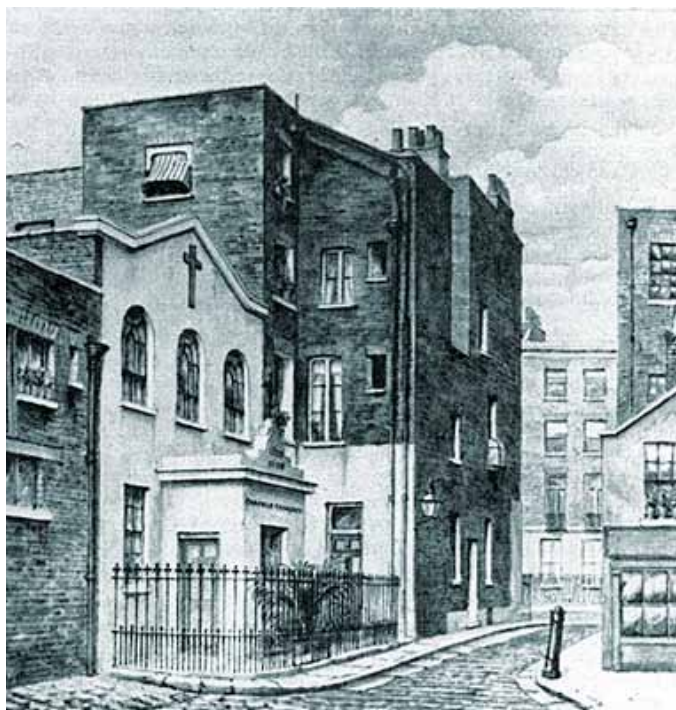
In 1815, the newly-restored King Louis XVIII issued letters patent granting the small church of *Nôtre Dame de l'Annonciation* on Little King Street – later Carton Street – in St Marylebone, the status of a French Chapel Royal. Why had he granted this honour to a small chapel nestling among fairly nondescript buildings in a narrow London side street just north of Portman Square thus putting it on a par with the Chapels Royal in the palaces of Fontainebleau and the Tuileries not to mention the magnificent chapel in Versailles created by Jules-Hardouin Mansart and Robert de Cotte?

The answer lies in the French Revolutionary era of the 1790s when following the abolition of the monarchy, Britain was flooded with French exiles – not all of them aristocrats – or *émigrés* as they were called.

Large numbers of French refugees settled in the Parish of St Marylebone, north of Oxford Street, with the late French king's brother, the Count of Artois, later King Charles X, living, for a time, on Baker Street. Roman Catholic churches were few and far between before the era of Catholic Emancipation and so many of the *émigrés* were forced to use those in embassies or even the makeshift arrangements organised in various houses. Prominent among the exiled clergy was the Bishop of St Pol-de-Léon, Jean-François de la Marche and it was he who attracted funds, obtained a lease from the Portman Estate and started the building of the chapel which on 15th March, 1799 was consecrated and dedicated to Our Lady of the Annunciation by another clerical exile, Jean de Boisgelin, Archbishop of Aix-en-Provence.

François Emmanuel Bourret was appointed the first *directeur* of the chapel which very quickly became central to the lives of those exiled in London. Prominent among these were the Count of Provence, later King Louis XVIII, the Count of Artois, later King Charles X and the Duke of Orléans, later King Louis-Philippe. In fact, both Provence and Artois were married to Princesses of Savoy, in the chapel, close to the pulpit with its intricately carved tester crowned, appropriately for them, by a gilded fleur-de-lys.

In 1814, with the restoration of the monarchy, the



The French Chapel Royal, a drawing from 1890. The building, now demolished, stood behind today's 112 George Street, W1.

majority of *émigrés* followed Louis XVIII back to France but, as mentioned at the beginning of this article, the chapel in St Marylebone was not forgotten for it by naming the foundation a Chapel Royal and providing enough funds to cover its day-to-day running.

Even Joseph Bonaparte worshipped there during his short London stay in the 1830s and his nephew, Napoléon III and his wife, attended mass at the chapel, occasionally, in the 1840s before their reign and in the 1870s when in exile from France. However, with the final fall of the Bourbon monarchy, in 1848, the royal income ceased although King Louis-Philippe, again in exile

in London, maintained his link with the chapel which now depended on donations from him and the few French families still associated with what was now a private chapel open to the public.

In addition, it soon faced major competition from the new church of *Nôtre Dame de France* which opened in Soho – now the centre of French life in London – in 1865. Fortunately, thanks to the intervention of Cardinal Manning, Archbishop of Westminster, funds were raised for the maintenance of the chapel which was rededicated to St Louis of France in the same year.

The chapel's centenary was celebrated in May 1899 with mass and a sermon preached by Canon de Beauvoir of Rouen but by the early years of the twentieth century the chapel was, once again, in economic difficulties and it finally closed after morning service on 12 February, 1911.

Over the following years, the building was used for various purposes – a day nursery, a furniture repository and, befitting its status as a former place of worship, a synagogue from 1947 until 1957. In 1969 the ex-chapel was demolished and now even Carton Street has been replaced by a car park and buildings of that era but, although there were other French chapels in London – on Fitzroy Square and in Somers Town for example – none of them, unlike the Chapel of Our Lady of the Annunciation, later of St Louis, in St Marylebone had the great honour and distinction of being raised to the status of a Chapel Royal of France.

Artists in Westminster

Sarah Ciacci delivered a talk on 'Artists in Westminster' in the form of a walk, finishing at the National Portrait Gallery and National Gallery, where subjects and artists mentioned could be viewed.

We started at the Banqueting House during the reign of the Stuarts with Charles I commissioning Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) to paint the ceiling. He was over on a nine month diplomatic visit so it was painted abroad and shipped back and is the only large scale work painted by Rubens which is still in the room for which it was painted. The art-loving king managed to attract Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641) over to London where he lived in Blackfriars just outside the rule of the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers (1502) in the City. He became principle painter to the Royal Household. We examined one of his paintings Equestrian Portrait of Charles I and the meaning behind many of the symbolic depictions. This continental style was very popular as shown with Hans Holbein the Younger's (? 1460/5-1534) painting of 'The Ambassadors' a century earlier, with its' famous shape of a memento mori, when observed correctly.

We then meet our first English artist and Elizabeth I favourite court painter, Nicholas Hilliard (? 1547-1619) who was famous for his miniature portraits (also trained as a goldsmith). Towards the end of the Queen's life, Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger (1561-1635/6) painted the intriguing Ditchley portrait.

In Maiden Lane we met the son of a barber, Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851), a smart man with money. He was also very clever in ensuring that his memory lived on by keeping his best work, buying back some pieces, and then bequeathing it all to the nation. He considered 'Dido building Carthage', or the 'Rise of the Carthaginian Empire' his masterpiece, suggesting that he was to be buried in it, but in the end bequeathing it to the National Gallery



Holbein's 'The Ambassadors' (1533) in the National Gallery

with certain conditions on where it was to be hung (which is honoured today).

Hubert Gravelot (1699-1773) the engraver, who had a young apprentice called Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788), lived in Southampton Street. But it is the north-east corner of Covent Garden Piazza that reads like a Who's Who of the art world from Sir Peter Lely (1618-1680) court painter to Charles II, particularly remembered for his flattering portraits but not necessarily

John Middleton, the colourman who lived in St Martin's Lane, and the other trades needed to supply the artists such as frame makers, auctioneers, not forgetting Old Slaughters Coffee House for dinner and discussions. We finished with St Martin's Lane Academy, Peter's Court, which led to the establishment of the Royal Academy. The talk left me with a real sense of an artist living, working and walking the streets of Westminster. **FIONA TWEEDIE**

like the sitter! It was then occupied by Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723), Court painter to four sovereigns, he was the first to start an academy in Great Queen Street. Then we have Sir James Thornhill (1675-1734) moving in and starting an academy behind the house where he was joined by William Hogarth (1697-1764).

The daily life of the artists was brought alive with the mention of



Turner's 'Dido Building Carthage' or 'The Rise of the Carthaginian Empire' (1815), now in the National Gallery

Dr Hilda Kean, Dean of Ruskin College, Oxford, director of the MA in Public History, took us in a very different direction with her talk, 'Traces of the past lives of animals in modern London'. KATHRYN PREVEZER gives an account of a thought-provoking evening.

Not just for Christmas . . .

Hilda Kean's talk on the presence of animals in London's past opened our eyes to how animals have been treated, depicted and remembered over the centuries. She is the author of several books and many articles on public history and, in particular, animals in history.

Dr Kean pointed out how little attention has been given to animals and their place in London's past even though they have played a huge part in the city's development. For hundreds of years large numbers of animals were a constant presence in London both for providing meat to eat and the fact that horses were one of the only methods of transport till the 19th century. London was not just a space for humans to live in, but for animals as well. They contributed to the establishment of the metropolis.

There were huge numbers of animals in London and widespread bad treatment of them led to the setting up of animal welfare organisations. There is still evidence today of buildings for animals. For example, off Brick Lane there are stables which were used by the breweries. There is a former horse hospital at the back of the Russell Hotel, which still shows the ramps up to the first floor. The green cab shelters led to better horse management as, whilst the cab drivers rested and were kept away from alcohol, the horses were tied up outside and could drink from the troughs.

Large areas of London were crowded with animals – in Bermondsey there were the tanneries, where parts of the animals and their products were used in the tanning process, from animal skins to dog faeces (known as 'pure')! At Smithfield the animals were slaughtered for meat, having been led through the London streets to the City. As London developed, these things became incompatible with City life.

In the 19th century people would go and look at the animals in London Zoo and in 1881 the first pet cemetery in the western world opened in Hyde Park. Animals were commemorated as individuals, people could mourn them and their value as pets was acknowledged. It was a secular graveyard.

Also in the 19th century famous people were depicted with their pets: Lord Byron with his dog 'Boatswain', for example, as a statue on Park Lane near Hyde Park Corner.

In the 20th Century generic animal memorials were

used to commemorate people who were good to animals. There was a memorial bird bath in Cheyne Walk (1933) to Margaret Dawson, a campaigner for animal rights and an anti-vivisectionist. Only a bit of it remains today. In St John's Wood churchyard there is a memorial to Alice DeCoulis, another anti-cruelty campaigner, and in the gardens of St

John's Lodge in Regent's Park is a statue to remember Gertrude Colemore and her husband who were both active in the animal defence world

The Kilburn RSPCA on Kilburn Park Road has a frieze which depicts a range of animals used in war like the pigeons and mice which were used to take messages in the trenches. It reminds us of the numbers of animals that were treated and the huge numbers that died. It still functions as the RSPCA today.



IN THE 20TH CENTURY depictions of animals have also been used to commemorate famous people. For example 'Hodge', Samuel Johnson's cat in Gough Square who is sitting on the famous dictionary with a couple of oyster shells (1997). In a way it seems to humanise Samuel Johnson. This is

also the case in Chiswick where there is a statue of William Hogarth and his dog 'Trump' (2001, photo above). Originally the dog was not included but adding him makes Hogarth seem more of a person.

Dr Kean discussed the 'Animals in War' memorial on Park Lane which is the biggest animal memorial in London. It cost £1.4m, and is made of Portland stone. It was unveiled in 2004. It was criticised for detracting from human suffering and for the 'Disneyfication of warfare' but it had huge public support. It is not in a conventional spot, like Whitehall, or in a park but in a very public space.

Dr Kean feels that animal representation is a good thing. It reminds us of the presence of animals in the city and how they have been a part of daily life for hundreds of years. When we visit places we should look at them from a different viewpoint and think of the animals who were there in the past.

Dr Kean is working on a new book which considers the huge number of animals killed by their owners in the first few days of September 1939 at the start of WW2. She believes that number to be about 400,000.

Jewels in the Crown Estate

JULIE CHANDLER reports on the Association's visit to the Crown Estate's offices in the West End

How much does each citizen pay towards the institution of the monarchy?

A question that most of us remember from our Westminster Guiding course, and the answer in my year was 62p.

Well, for those sceptics who may still think that's too much to pay, one of the things that I learnt during our October visit to the Crown Estates office was that, in reality, the monarchy doesn't actually cost us a penny. Although the tax payer trumps up £52m per year for the civil list, the monarchy pays £226m per year to the Treasury – the profit from the Crown Estates.

This 'deal' goes back to George III when the crown agreed to give all profit from its land ownership to the Treasury in return for an annual civil list payment. Like many monarchs before and since, George III was land rich and cash poor, so needed the money.

The crown owns a lot of property, but not the income from it, and Crown Estates is the body that was created to manage that property. Today crown property falls into four categories. 'Urban', which includes residential, retail, office space and industrial properties. 'Rural', which covers land /

forestry, farms, parkland and quarries (29, if you're interested). 'Marine', which covers the seabed (imagine owning the seabed!), the foreshore, fish farms and wind farms – recently in the news for a new deal that Crown Estates has struck, wind farms are big business and very profitable. And the final category, 'Other' which covers all those miscellaneous properties such as castles and racecourses!

Our visit to Crown Estates was interesting and varied, starting with a reception at their offices just off Regent Street with refreshments on the roof terrace, then a talk on the portfolio featuring the Regent Street area and finally a walk around some of their Regent Street properties.

THE LANDS THAT MAKE UP

modern day Regent Street were acquired by Henry VIII and Crown Estates holds the deed with his signature on it. Some 500 years on, after many periods of rise and fall, the Regent Street portfolio is on the 'up' again and nearing the end of a major redevelopment, which has seen new flagship stores open.

Apple opened its first flagship store in Europe here and we visited as part

of our tour, going up to the roof terrace and looking down on, what must be, the best view of Regent Street as it sweeps from All Souls Church down to Piccadilly Circus.

We also visited the Grade II listed premises of Habitat and admired the art deco interior of the cinema that was once housed here. If you go to the back of the store, amid the sofas and soft furnishings, you can still see the original Wurlitzer organ*.

We finished our tour in (probably) the most unusual place Westminster Guides have ever been – Crown Estates' 'microvac' food composting scheme in their Swallow Street recycling centre! Currently servicing 11 restaurants and four offices in Regent Street, this innovative scheme diverted 90 per cent of the restaurant food waste from landfill in 2009/10.

The monarchy have taken composting to a whole new level – well, it beats my bin of kitchen scraps hands down!

* *The New Gallery cinema* – read more about it in David Evans' article on 'the Lost Cinemas of Regent Street', Westminster News, no 5 Summer 2008



Joanna Moncrieff got up a team of (mostly) Westminster Guides for the Londonist Quiz held at the Royal Institution in Albemarle Street, W1 last month - and they won, beating a team of Blue Badge guides, too! Left to right, Mike Murphy, Chris Everett, non-guides Nigel Parker and Rona Tregoweth, then Joanna and Mahrie Coyle. The team won a selection of London themed prizes.

Play a part in the future of the past.

Westminster City Archives is keen to increase awareness of and promote access to its extensive collections.

We invite those with an interest in the local area and its heritage to join the Friends of the Archives.

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- an invitation to special functions
- an opportunity to be involved in projects
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Joint membership (two individuals at the same address):

£22.00 per annum

Contact archives@westminster.gov.uk for application form

Ditton Court, West Sussex, once
Alderson and Maud Horne's
country house

In his article in the Summer 2010 edition of *Westminster News* RICHARD REDDAWAY wrote about his great grand-uncle, the actor manager Alderson Horne and his links with the Westminster Theatre. Here he tells of Alderson's wife, Maud, who was a Westminster councillor from 1925-49



PUBLIC SERVICE

Maud Horne continued a tradition begun by her brother-in-law, my great-grandfather, Sir William Edgar Horne. William Edgar had been Mayor of Westminster in 1923/4 (see *Westminster News*, Autumn 2009). He was one of the original councillors from 1900, being the first chair of the Rating & Valuation Committee, and after stepping down as mayor he was elected an alderman continuing until his death in 1941 – a service of 40 plus years. I regret that his portrait remains hidden in the council's archive – an issue I plan to take up with the council at some future date.

Maud had studied singing and dancing and her chief interests, according to her obituary in *The Times* were music and travel. She played the cello and for many years was a member of the Bach and Philharmonic Choirs. She married Alderson in 1887, aged 23, and was to have a son David, another successful actor and playwright-who was to appear on a number of occasions at the Westminster Theatre.

Maud was elected for St James's ward in 1925, when living at 15 Buckingham Gate (outside which is a blue plaque to 'Wilfred Scawen-Blunt 1840-1922 Diplomat, Poet, Traveller and Founder of Crabbett Park Arabian Stud'). Her interest in social issues was apparent from the start of her political career. She was to serve on a wide range of committees from Baths & Wash Houses to Housing and Public Health, as well as a number of special charity committees. She represented the council at conferences on maternal mortality and smoke abatement. Ironically, it seems to have been the London smog of 1952 that encouraged my parents to send me to Oundle School in Northamptonshire rather than to Westminster School, following in the steps of William Edgar and Alderson Horne.

In November 1940 Maud was invited by the Mayor, Councillor Leonard Eaton Smith, a bachelor, to be his Mayoress. As Maud's *Times* obituary stated, 'though over 70 years of age, she carried out her duties during the bombing raids'. The Mayor was less fortunate. Eaton Smith had been an active ARP Warden in Belgravia and whilst he gave up

these duties when Mayor he was to be killed by enemy action whilst visiting public shelters on 11 May 1941. At City Hall on 11 December 1941, a presentation was made to Maud in recognition of her services as Mayoress, and she received a bracelet identity disc bearing her name and the date.

It seems Maud's health was now beginning to deteriorate as at a Council meeting on 18 December 1947 a motion was passed regretting 'to hear Councillor Alderson Horne had slipped and hurt herself during a visit to the Council's Depot at Monck Street to see the use of apparatus for mass radiography in connection with the detection of tuberculosis'. She spent a few days in hospital. Her interest in radiography reflected that of her brother-in-law, William Edgar who had been a Governor of Westminster Hospital for 57 years. When one of its surgeons returned, full of enthusiasm, from visiting radium treatment centres in France and Belgium it was a cheque from William Edgar for £1,000 that enabled the Hospital's radium fund to be started.

IN A LETTER written on 26 November 1949, Maud was to resign as councillor for St Margaret's ward. She was now 84 and illness had led her to take leave of absence in 1948, prompting her resignation. A council motion was passed, 'that the Council do place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City by Mrs Alderson Horne since 1925, and that the town clerk be instructed to communicate the terms of this resolution to her.'

Maud died on 18 January 1952 and on the death of Alderson in 1953 the family home in the country, Ditton Place in West Sussex, was to be sold to the London County Council to become a special needs boarding school. Given Maud's interest in child and social welfare I believe that this would have pleased her. Subsequently it was to be converted into luxury flats. It was here at this grand neo-Wren mansion, completed in 1904, that Alderson and Maud entertained their stage, screen and musical friends as they played on the cricket pitch laid out in front of the house for the Ditton Place Cricket Team.

All aboard for the Wellington

FIONA LUKAS was one of the Association's party to climb aboard the only HQS in the world, most of it in the City of Westminster

The report of our visit to HQS *Wellington* is a tale of two parts. We were shown around by the clerk of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners (HCMM) and by the chief executive of the Wellington Trust. Both of whom were the delightfully twinkly Commodore Angus Menzies RN.

As the ship was being painted a few areas were out of bounds, we couldn't have a *Titanic* moment on the prow, but we had a thorough and fascinating tour of the offices, Livery Hall and collections of the Master Mariners.

So why HQS? Well as far as they know, she is the only Head Quarters Ship in the world. HQ of both the HCMM and The Wellington Trust; a charity concerned with the preservation and upkeep of *Wellington*, and the history and traditions of the Royal Navy. *Wellington* is a Grimsby class sloop. Built in 1934, she served in the Royal Navy. Firstly patrolling New Zealand and then on convoy duties during the war.

The HCMM was founded in 1926 (accepted as a City Livery Company in 1932) and always wanted a ship for their

hall. Postwar it was a pragmatic decision as well a good concept. So in 1946 the HCMM bought *Wellington* out of her retirement at Chatham to serve as their livery hall. She has been a fixture of the Thames ever since.

Technically she is in Westminster, which could have been problematic. City livery halls are supposed to be in the City (except for the Gunmakers, banished to the Commercial Road because they were noisy and kept blowing things up). After much argument it was agreed that although *Wellington* is in Westminster, her anchor is in the City of London, and that is good enough.

The stories behind the treasures of livery companies are often illuminating. The HCMM's collection of model ships allowed our guide to give us an overview of 300 years of merchant shipping, from tea clippers to tramp ships, fuelled by sail, steam and oil.

No tale was more stirring than that of *SS Ohio*, the tanker that survived an incredible onslaught to limp into Malta in 1942, part of the convoy that provided vital relief. HCMM have the ship's bell. Each year the Governor of Malta asks for it to be given to their museum. Each year the Master replies that the HCMM is very proud to have it in their collection, thank you very much.

ONE TREASURE THAT we weren't shown is the Master's badge and collar. Made of 24 carat gold, it features 7 diamonds (representing lighthouses), 124 rubies and is valued at £1.25m.

Something more difficult to put a value on is their position on the Thames. Not only does their fantastic view extend in both directions round the bend of the river, but they are also surrounded by either salt or fresh water depending which way the tide is flowing. Each time fresh water passes by it washes off the salty creatures that might try to live on the hull, and the salt water washes off the freshwater creatures, cutting

back on maintenance.

They are open at various times during the year, and available for weddings, meetings and events. We had a delightful and informative trip that I can highly recommend.

When we retired to the wardroom for refreshments we were supplied with tea, coffee and biscuits. Commodore Menzies had a word with the steward and enjoyed a glass of wine. No-one batted an eyelid, perhaps because we were only surprised that he wasn't drinking rum.



Commodore Menzies in the wheelhouse of the HQS *Wellington*, permanently moored alongside the Embankment, eternally heading for Waterloo Bridge.

Saturday 16 October was the first coordinated event across four London Boroughs by their specialist guiding Associations; Clerkenwell and Islington, City of London, Greenwich and of course, us here in the City of Westminster. CHRIS EVERETT looks back at a successful venture

'Take me to the river!'

The idea behind a Local London Guide Day was to raise the profile of specialist local guides by running a series of free taster walks. Under the grander cross-London theme of Waterfront London, we devised a walk along the route of the Tyburn River. The walks were to run hourly from the Willow Walk pub in Wilton Road to Vauxhall Bridge. Wetherspoon's had kindly allowed us a couple of tables as an HQ.

We were able to run nine walks on the day with roughly 15 people on each walk. We had good support from CWGLA guides on the day, some coordinating, some taking walks and others helped before, during and after with publicity, admin and moral support!

Feedback from the walkers was very positive and we noted a number of walkers who had been, or were planning to go, on two, three and even all four of the walks across London. The idea was obviously attractive. The challenge is to encourage these walkers to return to Westminster for future walks, prepared to pay for our services.

The weather held up all day apart from a sharp downpour around lunchtime which became a great test for John Finn who had to summon all his knowledge about Vauxhall Bridge Road to divert his sheltering group through an extended stop until the clouds had passed. As guides, we plan for around five minutes per stop and not the length of unexpected showers, but actually we are more like scouts and have to 'be prepared'.

Mike Murphy was similarly challenged with a procession from Westminster Cathedral cutting across his path in Francis Street, just two minutes after motorcycle police escorting the same procession had held up the traffic for my party to cross – divine intervention?!



The walks also happily coincided with Westminster Council's relaunch of Tachbrook St Market. The jazz band and wafts of a whole host of hot food dishes were certainly tempting as our route meandered through Warwick Way and down to Lillington Gardens.

THE STORY OF the Tyburn, Kings Scholars Pond Sewer and the Tachbrook continued as our parties were escorted on through to Pimlico station, around the Tachbrook Estate, down Aylesford Street and then to Pimlico Gardens.

We emerged on the riverwalk at Crown Reach to a finale at Vauxhall Bridge with views across to the proposed developments around St Georges Wharf and spy stories at MI6.

Satisfied customers bade us farewell as they set off maybe for another walk while we headed back to the Willow Tree to regale Caroline Dunmore, our coordinator on the day, with our experiences and our ideas for next years event!

After speaking to the other associations, it appears they too had successful day and we can be confident we have achieved another milestone for the CWGLA. We clearly impressed our walkers with our brand of professionally presented specialist knowledge.

Along with welcome pre-walk publicity, ranging from leaflets and posters, a half page spread in the *West End Extra*, websites and specialist London blogs, the event was a credit to everyone who played their part. So in my best 'Young Mr Grace' voice, 'You've all done very well!'

• **The West End Extra article can be seen online at www.westendextra.com/news/2010/oct/event-free-guided-walk-pimlico-saturday-16-october-ancient-tyburn-lost-river-london**



Julie Chandler gets set to lead her party 'downriver' on Local London Guides Day

Last year the CWGLA initiated the Walkshops Programme to extend and support guides' professional skills. Here CAROLINE DUNMORE, who with Barbara Hargreaves, jointly organises the programme reports on progress and outlines ideas for the future.

Developing skills to enhance the experience

What does it take to be a good tour guide? Accurate knowledge, yes. A desire to communicate that knowledge, of course. The basic skills of walk design and group management and so on, it goes without saying. All Westminster Guides have this combination of knowledge, skills and attitude when they qualify. But what does it take to move up a gear and become a really excellent tour guide? That is what continuing professional development (CPD) is all about.

The knowledge and skills we tour guides acquire during our training are a perfect example of a 'use it or lose it' achievement. We absorb a huge database of facts and figures while on the training course but it is so easy to forget material unless we continue to make new connections and refresh our point of view. And we all know that it requires a significant level of confidence to take charge of a group and speak to walkers in an informative and entertaining way for an hour or two. This all takes practice.

Some Westminster Guides are in a position to apply their guiding knowledge and skills 'on the street' on a frequent basis, but this is not true for everyone. And, given that tour guiding is a quintessentially solitary activity – that is to say, it's just you and your group and you are very rarely observed by a fellow guide – how can we best ensure that we are maintaining standards of excellence and not slipping into bad habits?

Since the Association's inception, Westminster Guides have been provided with a lively programme of talks and visits. We have been privileged to listen to a wide range of expert speakers and have enjoyed many fascinating visits to places not generally seen by the public. This programme of

events has been a wonderful way of keeping our knowledge of our patch topped up. But what about our skills? In 2009 the Association's Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to introduce an additional strand to our events programme, namely a series of activities designed to help us develop our skills as well as our knowledge. The Committee is now pleased to report that fully one-third of our membership has engaged in these new skills-based activities during the 2009-10 period.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE so far is to offer monthly 'walkshops' (our portmanteau-word for 'walk workshop'). This involves a group of guides going out together on a walk and each delivering one or two stops to the others, depending on numbers.

No one takes a tutorial role. The emphasis, rather, is on the group members supporting each other and learning from observing each other,

Westminster Heroes at the National Portrait Gallery

Thursday 18 November and on Friday 10 December, 6.15 for 6.30pm. We will meet at the National Portrait Gallery to practise our gallery-guiding techniques and learn about a selection of national figures. Participants can nominate the portrait(s) they wish to talk about and bring guests if they wish. These events will be free to participating guides, and guests will be invited to make a small donation to the Association. Look out for details in the Westminster Update or e-mail caroline.dunmore@btinternet.com for more information.

and then sharing observations and learning points at the end of the walk. This allows guides of varying levels of experience to share a useful and enjoyable developmental activity: the more experienced guides tend to come for the opportunity to gain new knowledge and the less experienced guides tend to come for the opportunity to practise delivering commentary.

I, and my colleague Barbara Hargreaves, have so far designed a total of eight new walks for the programme. Some of the workshops have explored the central parts of Westminster in detail, while others have covered less familiar parts of our patch, such as Pimlico and St John's Wood. We ran ten workshops during 2009-10, eight at the weekend and two on weekday evenings. The workshops are supported by extensive support materials, and we are considering the possibility of making our portfolio of walk designs and resources available to Westminster Guides on a basis separate from workshop participation.

We are currently putting together the CPD programme for 2010-11. We will continue to offer workshops, as these have proved so popular. We will also be introducing new types of activity, which will enable Westminster Guides to develop their skills in additional ways. One thing in the pipeline is a series of 'walk design workshops', which will provide the opportunity for a group of guides to undertake individual research on a given theme and then come together and collaborate on the design of an original themed walk.

We will be kicking off the 2010-11 CPD programme with two weekday evening events: on Thursday 18 November and on Friday 10 December at the National Portrait Gallery practising our gallery-guiding techniques. See panel on this page.

With activities offered on weekday evenings as well as at weekends, we aim to increase the participation level even above what we have achieved so far. We are confident that these skills-based activities, which are proving to be a vibrant complement to our rich programme of talks and visits, will enhance the excellence of the guided tours that Westminster Guides offer to Londoners and visitors to London.

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

Myra Morgan

Membership
Secretary

What do you do all day?

As well as my
tourist guiding and
researching new

walks, I work as a
freelance external
verifier for an exam
board.

Why did you become a guide?

Guiding is a great
way to share my
enthusiasm
for this marvellous
city.

What's your favourite Westminster spot?

The streets behind
Dean's Yard.

What's top of your 'must visit next' list?



I am rather hoping
that CWGLA would
manage a visit to
Henry VIII's wine
cellars.

Who would you like to show around Westminster?

Wouldn't it be

wonderful to
show Nell Gwynn
how Westminster has
changed and to hear
some of her stories!

What's your favourite London meal?

Impossible to choose!

If you could only have one book

on London, what would it be?

It would have to be the
London Encyclopedia
as it covers so much.

What's your advice to a would- be guide?

Show your
enthusiasm - it's
catching.

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Membership Benefits

The following venues have kindly allowed free entry for Members on production of their valid Membership Cards:

- Banqueting House
- Benjamin Franklin House
- Cabinet War Rooms
- Courtauld Gallery
- Handel House Museum
- Household Cavalry Museum
- London Transport Museum
- Tate Britain
- The National Gallery's special exhibitions

Full details of the conditions of entry will be sent out separately and we hope to add to this list in the near future.

Please be aware that our relationship with the above galleries and museums is new, and there could be a few teething troubles. If you experience any difficulty in obtaining free entry, please be considerate, and refer the problem to the Membership Secretary first.

Website listing

All members are entitled to have their name, contact details, guiding interests and a short message posted onto our searchable 'Contact a guide' page. Contact the web editor for details.

Guides' insurance:

- Third party bodily injury &/or damage to third party property as a result of your negligence whilst carrying out your business up to a limit of £5 million. You will however be responsible for the first £250 of any claim for third party property damage.
- The insurance applies only whilst you are guiding, whether or not for a fee, or taking part in Association activities. Coverage applies anywhere in the United Kingdom.
- The insurance does not apply whilst a member is employed by any other organisation, as that organisation should be providing insurance.