

JOINT SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY (KCL/ LSE)

Newsletter No 31 (2009)

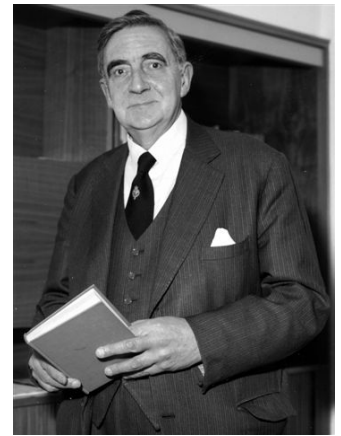
EDITORIAL:

At the JSS AGM on Saturday 8 June 2008 on the KCL Alumni Weekend, the following officials stated that they would like to be relieved of their positions.

Chairman; **Peter Hollander**
Secretary and Treasurer; **Dr John Martin**
And Excursions Co-ordinator; **Arthur Spencer**

We thank them for all the work that they have put into the Society in the past.

After discussion the following volunteered
Jo Crocker to deliver the JSS Newsletter and
Valerie Beynon to become Excursions Co-ordinator



Prof Wise @ 90

There has been discussion amongst some members that **Professor Wooldridge** should have a memorial of some kind. KCL Geography department have suggested that there could be an annual memorial lecture and that in the future there might be a studentship in his name.

We look forward to any views you have and to seeing you at the 2009 AGM or on of the JSS events. We would also like to hear from you if you are able to lead a walk or a meeting of JSS

Members should send subs to; and other communications to

Dr J Martin	Jo Crocker
4 Tuffnells Way	31 Greystoke Avenue
Harpenden	Pinner
AL5 3HH	HA5 5SN
	Email: johnc@crocker0.demon.co.uk

JSS AGM 2009 will be held (as part of the KCL Alumni Weekend)
Sunday 14 June 2009 at 12.30 pm
Somerset Room at King's (Strand Campus)

JSS Events programme 2009

The following excursion programme has been confirmed for 2009. Unfortunately the Forest of Dean weekend has been postponed until next year owing to Derek's recent illness but we are very grateful to Graham Stevens for reviving the Jurassic Coast visit, moving further west to centre on Weymouth.

Hope you agree the programme looks good as usual and we hope to see you on as many visits as possible.

Saturday 9th May **Tour of Central Cambridge**

The tour will proceed from the eccentrically-sited railway station – partly by walking and partly on an open-top bus - to examine the origins of the first settlement and then some of the modern development which makes Cambridge such an interesting and unique small city. There will be a break for lunch, close to some iconic college buildings, new retail malls and an innovative ‘guided busway’ scheme which is scheduled to open in May 2009. Finish by 4 p.m

All-day open-top bus ticket (with unlimited rides) - £10 (£7 concession if there are 20 participants). Please do not try to book these in advance since the price depends on how many board the bus together for the first time. Rex Walford will negotiate this when we know the numbers.

Leader - Dr Rex Walford, (ex Joint School graduate) who as many of you know is a past President of the Geographical Association, former Head of the University of Cambridge Department of Education and very well known in geography education.

Meet - 11 am outside the main entrance of the Railway Station

For this visit only please let Jo Crocker know on johnc@crocker0.demon.co.uk or Tel. 020 8863 2038 by **Monday 4th May** if you are joining this walk.

Sunday 14th June London - St Pancras and the Regent’s Canal

The annual geographers walk, part of the KCL Alumni weekend, We shall walk from Brunswick Square to St Pancras Station, the British Library, Old St Pancras Church and Camley Street Natural Park, then join the Regent’s Canal towpath, going via Camden Lock and Primrose Hill, ending in the Queen Mary’s Garden in Regent’s Park. (Approx. two to two and a half hours)

Leaders - Valerie Beynon and Jo Crocker.

Meet - 1.30pm from King’s, after lunch and the JSS AGM or at **2pm at Russell Square Underground Station**

If possible please come for lunch, available at King’s from 12.00, (cost £8) and the JSS AGM at 12.30pm.

If you require lunch you need to order and pay in advance to Cally Brown at King’s Alumni and Development Office, James Clerk-Maxwell Building, 55 Waterloo Rd, London SE1 8WA. Tel. 020 7848 3053 or email cally.brown@kcl.ac.uk

If you are not coming to King’s and have not booked the walk through the King’s Alumni Weekend programme please contact Valerie Beynon. (details below).

Saturday 8th August Thames New Reservoir Site

Water resources in the Dorchester (Oxon) area with a visit to Farmoor and the site of proposed Upper Thames reservoir; intake/outfall at Culham.

Leader - Dr Christine McCulloch (Tel. 01865 407770 (h) or 017941006141(m) or christine.mcculloch@geog.ox.ac.uk) who led an interesting excursion in the Didcot/Dorchester on Thames area some years ago.

Meet - 11am at Didcot Station

Please let Christine know if you are joining this walk.

September 11th to 13th Weekend visit to Dorset and the Jurassic Coast

Based at Weymouth - in the centre of the Jurassic Coast. There is a range of accommodation and can be easily reached by train. Walks will take place on Saturday and Sunday.

The itinerary will include: Portland Bill, Chesil Bank and Abbotsbury, the Olympic Sailing venue and Portland Harbour

Leader - Graham Stevens, LSE (B.Sc Econ 1962), Chairman of the Dorset branch of the Ramblers' Association. For further information contact Graham on Tel. 01935 817531 or mail@verandahbooks.co.uk

If there are any general queries about the programme please do not hesitate to contact **Valerie Beynon** at valerie.beynon@reynoldston.com or telephone on 01792 391025.

Programme 2010

If you have an idea for a walk next year Valerie would be delighted to hear from you.

LECTURES in 2009

KCL; Department of Geography;

Annual Cities Group Lecture

Professor Susan S Fainstein (Harvard University) will give a talk entitled 'Urban Redevelopment: New York London and Amsterdam'

Thursday 14 May 2009

17.30 – 19.00

Edmond J Safra Lecture Theatre, Strand Campus

All welcome

Environment Politics and Development Group Annual Lecture

Professor James Scott will give the lecture entitled 'Rethinking State and Subaltern power'

Wednesday 10 June 2009

17.30 – 19.00

Edmond J Safra Lecture Theatre, Strand Campus

All Welcome

Contact; **Katie Glastonbury** email: Katie.Glastonbury@kcl.ac.uk

Latest newsletter, visit

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/geography/events/newsletters.html>

REUNION in 2009

Geography 1976 –79

June 2009 Venue TBC

Contact **Judith Cave**, Email: Judith_cave@btinternet.com

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS:

KCL

Professor John Thornes, 1940-2008

Professor John Thornes, Department of Geography, died on 17 July 2008.

One of the most eminent physical geographers of his generation, Professor Thornes had a long history with King's, having completed his PhD at the College in 1966

His research publications included 11 major books and more than 130 journal papers and book chapters covering areas from field observation and monitoring to theoretical studies and computer modelling.

Professor Thornes returned to the College in 1992 as Head of the Department of Geography – a position he held until 1997 – and was pivotal in the growth and development of the Department.

Among numerous other achievements, he supervised more than 25 PhDs, many of whom are still carrying out related research at universities throughout the world.

His research standing has been recognised in numerous honours and awards.

Dr Bruce Malamud has been elected President of the National Sciences Division of the European Geosciences Union

Dr Mike Raco gave a lecture at the KCL Alumni Weekend in June 2008 on The Impact of the Olympic Games on London. He discussed the social and economical effects of the Olympic Games and the regeneration of East London which is home to some of the poorest and neglected areas in the capital. He questioned the regeneration and the impact on business and employment opportunities

The recent 2008 Research Assessment Exercise confirms the place of Geography at KCL as among the very best internationally ‘with 70% of our research rated as ‘internationally excellent’ or ‘world-leading’. Geography at King’s shares the third highest weighted average of some 49 departments ranked by the Geography and Environment Studies Unit of the Assessment Panel’

On Saturday 7 June 2008 the Geography Department held **Open House** during the KCL Alumni Weekend. Alumni had chance to see the new Geography Department on the top floor and to meet current students and academics

LSE

Wise @ 90

Friday, 29 September 2008 saw a gathering of colleagues and former students of **Professor Michael Wise**. The net had been cast wide and there was a strong presence of past and present LSE academic and administrative staff, wives and widows of former LSE staff, representatives from King’s and Michael Wise’s son and daughter. We all came together – students of the Joint School (including many JSS members), and others from the LSE, and elsewhere to celebrate the 90 years of life of Professor Michael Wise and his personal influence on our subsequent lives and on geography itself.

Over 400 were present for the initial reception hosted by the Department of Geography and the Environment, and many stayed for the formal dinner which followed.

Speeches of congratulation were made by Prof. Peter Odell, Dr Ted Yates, Prof Luis Rodriguez- Pose, Prof Judith Rees, Prof David Jones and (at the dinner) Prof Ron Johnston, from New Zealand.

All recalled various aspects of MJW’s outstanding career as geographer, organiser, friend, Reference was made to his roles and influence outside the department extending from the British Association for the Advancement of Science, to his Presidency of the RGS, IBG and Geographical Association to his international role as President of the IGU, and to his management roles within LSE as its Pro-Director - and Father Christmas to the LSE staff party!

At both functions, Michael Wise spoke in his still strong and mellifluous voice. He recalled and even read from his first essay about geography, and his extensive research in his home area, then known as the Black Country. He touched briefly on his military career during which he was awarded the MC; of how he joined LSE after an invitation from the late Prof R O Buchanan, and his tribulations in trying to negotiate his salary! He reminded us of the many changes that had taken place over the years in geographical studies, and the growth that has taken place within the LSE Department since the termination of the Joint School of Geography in the 1990s to which he was personally committed for many years.

The occasion gave opportunities for renewing long-lost contacts, recalling happy memories of field excursions and weeks, and learning sadly of those no longer alive.

Among visitors noted were perhaps the oldest, Prof W R (Bill) Mead (LSE 1939) and a number from overseas including Dr C. Ian Jackson, (LSE 1953-6, and later member of the LSE Department of Geography) and now in Montreal. With thoughts of Dorian Grey, we left hoping that we will all be around to celebrate Wise@100.

NEWS from ALUMNI

REUNIONS in 2008

50 year Geography Reunion – class of 1958

In 2007 the Alumni Association held a reception for the '57 & '58 graduates in the Middle Temple I suppose this was fair since in 1998 there was a '40 years since graduation' event for the same group of former graduates. At the Middle Temple event many mementos of the graduate years were displayed - Eddie Farrow sat beneath his 'rogues gallery portrait! However, we Geography graduates felt then that we should still celebrate our actual 50th anniversary in the proper year and were planning to meet up at Pauline (Brown) Williams' house on June 7th.



When we received the Alumni Weekend programme, we discovered that the Geography Dept was providing a lecture and was opening its doors in its new situation in the Strand building on the Saturday, so we changed our plans and arranged a table at the Principal's Lunch instead. There were 9 of us, 6 students and 3 spouses. Tony Wiberly and Eddie Farrow and their wives had joined me at the previous year's celebration; on this occasion we were joined by Jennifer (Stening) Sikuade, Pauline (Brown) Williams, Janet (Firth) Jenkins and her husband, Tony's wife and my husband. During the course of the lunch, I persuaded the 'official' photographer to take a group picture of us. In due course we went to the lecture (held in the 'new' Oodantje theatre on the ground floor). Its topic was the effect of the Olympics on the East End. It is now so strange to remember how things seemed before the economy went into crisis. Afterwards we repaired to the Geography Dept. where we were shown round its new rooms in the Strand building. We were most impressed by the new site - in our day it was in the east building, and has since moved twice before achieving its present importance in the Strand building.

Organised by **Inga (Dunwoody) Feaver**

25 year Geography Reunion – class of 1983

On Saturday 7 June 2008 as part of the KCL Alumni Weekend geographers gathered for drinks in the River Room of the newly renovated South Range of Strand Campus followed by dinner off campus - organised by **John Vinuesa**

Fifty Years On ; Reunion of First meeting – class of 1961

Organised by **Valerie Beynon**

On the first weekend in October 2008 nine geographers plus spouses and friends gathered at Reynoldston in Gower to celebrate their first meeting exactly fifty years ago in the Joint School.

Brian Slack had come the furthest from Montreal in Canada, Jean Braithwaite (Tamblin) had come from Dundee, Hilary Clough- Smith from Yorkshire, Dot Roxby (Blackburn) from Cheshire, Norman Vaughton from Nottingham, Yvonne Ray (Gale) with Mike Ray (1960) from East Sussex, Joy Dresback (Rogers) from Surrey and David Wright from Somerset.

In spite of stereotypical West Wales weather on the Saturday a walk along the cliffs at Rhossili was possible and the rain stopped long enough to see Worms Head, if not Tenby. Sunday was a much better day for a walk along Oxwich beach, then a sighting of six counties from the top of Cefn Bryn. The day ended in the re-developed docks area of Swansea and a visit to the new Waterfront Museum. In between there was appropriate celebration, much talking and looking at photographs taken on field trips, including a familiar view of Prof Wooldridge, smoking a pipe on the first Easter field week at Warminster. The overwhelming feeling was that although we had all travelled in very different directions during the intervening years we still enjoyed and valued each other's company and friendship. It was a memorable weekend!

NEWS FROM INDIVIDUAL ALUMNI (in alphabetical order of origin!)

Bryan Roberts (LSE 1956)

I graduated in 1956, and after National Service went into Post Office management, where I stayed boringly, but without being at all bored myself, until retirement at 60. I am very friendly with Sheila Molyneux and Dingle Smith, and with Peter Humphrey, and am still in touch with Lynn Free and others of our year, and have attended one LSE and 2 Kings' reunions.

We travel a lot, and I am still a School Governor and the Chairman of a modest sized charity.

Vivien Cook, LSE (1961)

Leader of Excursion to Brookwood Cemetery in 2005

Reported October 2008:

I attended a lecture on the recent history of Brookwood. Apparently the man who bought Brookwood and tried to tidy it up has since died. His children are in disagreement about its future. The lady speaking to us, who lives near the cemetery, said that one of the family is accused of attempting to kill a sibling!!!! Brookwood Cemetery carries on being an interesting place it would seem!

Rev Peter Ballantyne: (KCL 1968)

I have now been in Milton Keynes for 6 years and think the place is great. I can cycle into the shopping precinct (2.5 miles) without meeting a car, or there are lovely walks down the Grand Union Canal. I am half time in an ecumenical parish based in a medieval church (Great Linford) and old village street surrounded by new housing; the other half is teaching

and training prospective authorised ministers. NB Following report, is too long and requires editing to reduce to say 1 page:

REPORTS FROM EXCURSIONS 2008

Sunday 8 June 2008: KCL Alumni Weekend 2008

Hidden surprises in the City

Leader : Valerie Beynon

The King's Alumni Weekend walk attracted more than sixty people who spent a sunny morning finding hidden surprises in the City of London. These were located in some of the two hundred areas of open spaces - each of geographic and historic interest and providing oases of calm and fresh air in the packed heart of London. The tradition of green spaces can be traced back to the gardens of the City's many Livery Companies and Inns of Court but the majority of gardens came into being as a result of three key historical events which permanently changed the geography of the City. The Great Fire of 1666, destroyed four fifths of the old, unplanned medieval City and the Blitz wrecked havoc - the raid in December 1940 alone destroyed eight Wren Churches, six Livery Companies and most of the Guildhall. The third factor was the Burial Act of 1855 when burials ceased in the City and burial yards became available for public use.

The walk started near St Paul's with a look at Temple Bar, beautifully restored and finally returned to the City in 2004, having been removed in 1878, when Fleet St was widened. Paternoster Square and St Paul's Churchyard nearby had fine statues, an Elizabeth Frink in the former and one of John Wesley in the latter, which also had some very interesting trees.

The next stop was to the north at Postman's Park, formerly the churchyard of three churches, but named after its popularity as a lunchtime garden for workers in the nearby GPO building. Apart from the 'handkerchief' tree it is renowned for the famous memorial designed and built in 1900 by GF Watts, Victorian painter and philanthropist, to commemorate heroism by 'everyday men and women', with some very touching thoughts and descriptions.

From Gresham St we reached Noble St, passing the church of St Anne and St Agnes which like many City churches had medieval foundations, then was rebuilt by Wren, gutted in the war and again rebuilt. Nearby was the Noble St wild flower garden at the foot of the remains of the Roman fort and the Wall, rebuilt many times since the Roman line. Walking south along Wood St we passed the HQ of the City police and St Alban's Tower and then via Gresham St to the Guildhall, centre of government of the City for more than eight hundred years. Standing in the Yard on the black circular band marking the outline of the original Roman amphitheatre, we heard about the Guildhall, the Library, the Art Gallery (well worth a visit) and St Lawrence Jewry Church.

Turning north we reached Aldermanbury where the Wren church had been bombed but the stones sold and re-erected in Fulton, Missouri as a memorial to Churchill. Shakespeare's bust reminded us that he had lived in this area and nearby was a marble memorial to his two friends Heminge and Condell who had been responsible for editing the 'First Folio'. The next stop was the garden of the Barber Surgeons' Livery Company near London Wall. With a large membership of doctors and others linked to medicine (including many King's alumni) it was not surprising that it had a notable herb garden with notices explaining the significance of herbs in treating illness.

The last area to be explored was Smithfield. The greatest surprise was that of the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, the oldest surviving parish church in London which managed to escape the Blitz. The unusual flint and stone exterior hides an amazing

cathedral-like Norman Choir and one bay of the Nave - all that remains of an enormous cruciform church of an Augustinian Priory founded, with the hospital nearby in 1123 by Rahere. The St Bartholomew-the-less Church, in the present day hospital complex, has been used as a hospital church since 1184, repaired and then rebuilt in the C19. When Henry VIII gave away the priory at Dissolution, Barts Hospital was re-founded and his statue graces the gatehouse. Bart's Great Hall

is worth a visit not least to see a large Hogarth mural, showing his 'take' on C18 medicine.

West Smithfield was a meeting place and used for jousting, tournaments and public executions, which included that of Wat Tyler and William Wallace, commemorated nearby. Since 1868 the London Meat Market on the other side has been housed in a handsome building, on what had been once the site of a vast cattle market.

From Smithfield we returned rather hurriedly to King's via the Old Bailey, across Faringdon St to Fetter Lane and a view of King's Maughan Library, formerly the Public Record Office, which had housed all the state papers from 1100 to 1998 and had been called the 'strong box of Europe'. The garden, originally part of Clifford's Inn has been redesigned as a 'contemplative garden' and has already won a prestigious award.

So many surprises and this was only in one part of the City.

Valerie Beynon

If anyone wishes to have a copy of the walk, with more details of directions and street names etc please contact Valerie Beynon on valerie.beynon@reynoldston.com or telephone 01792 391025

Saturday 9 August 2008

St. Albans: From the Romans to the 21st Century

Leader: Jo Crocker

The day dawned fine and sunny but the sky soon clouded over and it turned wet later in the day. It must have been very disappointing for the leader, Jo Crocker and her husband John who had reconnoitred the routes the previous weekend with the aid of a local guide, as only one other person turned up to take part in the walk round St Albans. Other members had probably been put off by the forecast of atrocious weather. In fact, it did not really rain and we did not put on our waterproof clothing until after lunch, Even then the rains as only light. St Albans is founded on proto-Thames sand and gravel beds. Walking up Victoria Street from the station to the City Centre and in the city Centre we saw many timber framed buildings, some of them with later brick or pargetted fronts. The side streets off Victoria Street follow the line of streams down to River Ver. The market in the centre of the city has two parts – the south end deals in common products, vegetables clothes, etc. whereas the north end is the posh area. We then walked to the Abbey. The earliest part, including the tower is built of materials recycled from the former Roman buildings. The larger and later part is in the Perpendicular style with the front Victorian, paid for by a wealthy benefactor. A most enjoyable lunch was had in the Abbey cafeteria.

After lunch we walked to Verulamium Park, the site of the Roman Town and saw the remains of the town wall and entrance gate. The preserved hypocaust and mosaic floor was visited. Individual floor patterns were made off site and assembled in situ – one pattern was laid at 45 degrees to the rest. The tour ended with a visit to the Verulamium Museum showing aspects of Roman life and death. This was most fascinating and well presented. Children were entertained by a Roman soldier and Centurion and had to behave themselves.

A most interesting day!

R Bristow

Saturday 18 October 2008

Amersham: An exploration of Old Amersham and the Misbourne Valley in the Chilterns: Our thanks to guest leader **David Atkinson**, Director of Sixth Form Dr Challoner's Grammar School.

Not for the first time, a number of apologies were received due to the reduction in rail services caused by maintenance programmes! A fine day was however ahead as we walked from the Station via the Martyrs' Monument down to the Old Town for lunch, then via the Shardeloes Estate, across the outfield of David's beloved cricket ground! ending upstream at Great Missenden.

Situated in the heart of Betjeman's Metroland, the administrative area of Amersham comprises the Old town in the valley and the new, 'On the Hill'. Little Chalfont nearer London is also included. The area of North Buckinghamshire is also traditionally an area of non-conformist religion: Jordans with its famous Quaker Meeting Place, and Heronsgate (of Freefolk) are nearby. Amersham On the Hill is the site of a memorial to the Amersham Martyrs burned at the stake in 1521. From here there are extensive views over the Misbourne Valley to Shardeloes high on the flank of the west side and a landscape of sloping ploughed fields of clay-with-flints and chalk soils sown with winter wheat, and the valley floor pasture. Many areas of woodland still exist and cap the hill crests.

The two parts of the town are very distinct.

The Old Town traces back to a Roman settlement and its Domesday name of Elmodesham. The manor of Shardeloes, (the house is on the western side of the valley) dominated the valley for 400 years until the mid-20th century. The Tyrwhitt Drake family ensured that lines of communication – rail and later road - were confined to the eastern flank rather than the valley floor. The grounds and the park, including the outstanding views of hills, woods and copses across the Misbourne valley, were laid out by landscape architect Humphrey Repton in 1793, utilising elements of the earlier landscaped grounds.

Today, the Old Town's High Street's many inns manifest its importance as a coach staging point. The original Grammar School building, in use by the school until the early 20th century bears a plaque 1624. (Challoners now has separate grammar schools for boys (in Amersham and for girls in Little Chalfont).

The Old town is discontinuous with the new, On the Hill where the station was located away from Shardeloes. The Metropolitan Railway brought the railway in 1892 and its Estates Company coined the term Metro-land in the 1920's with its promise of fine houses and 'healthy bracing air and a train service unequalled for frequency and rapidity ... to and from the City without change of carriage.' Of the former Metropolitan beyond Amersham, Betjeman remarked, "In those wet fields the railway didn't pay/The Metro stops at Amersham today", and "Grass triumphs. And I must say I'm rather glad".

The head of the Misbourne valley is to the NW rising on the dip slope of the Chilterns. It flows to the SE, as a typical misfit Chiltern stream, into the larger Colne and on to the Thames. En route, it passes through Great Missenden and Old Amersham. Its flow has been considerably reduced by over-use by water authorities. In Great Missenden the flow from the lake downstream of what was the former Abbey was dry, waiting winter rain to transform it into a winterbourne. Great Missenden's attractive High Street is lined with half-timbered and Georgian style buildings.

Arthur Spencer

The following photo was extracted from the Amersham website

: <http://www.amersham.org.uk/shardeloes.htm>



Shardeloes is a listed building of special architectural and historic interest, set in 50 acres of grounds and gardens overlooking a lake and the valley of the Misbourne.