



The Amwell Society campaigns to protect and promote the area and its architectural heritage and to encourage a sense of community.

The Society serves Pentonville Road, Penton Rise, King's Cross Road, Farringdon Road Rosebery Avenue and St. John Street and all the streets within the area.

The Society is open to all residents.

For information about becoming a member, telephone 020 7837 0988.

Chairman – Gerard Sproston  
Secretary – Elizabeth Thornton  
Treasurer – Jane Wainwright  
Newsletter editor – David Sulkin

## AMWELL SOCIETY LATE SUMMER PARTY SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 6 – 8PM.

**D**on't forget the Amwell Society's Late Summer Party. We have held this party for several consecutive years and it is very popular. It's a chance for members to meet each other informally and wave goodbye to summer. Members of all ages are welcome as are children. The Society will supply glasses of wine and soft drinks. Members are invited to bring something to eat and share.

The party is always held in St. Helena Garden which the Society looks after with the kind help of Barbara Holliman, Delia and Darian Mitchell and other members. The Garden is at the junction of Lloyd Baker Street and Lloyd Square with a footpath linking it to Fernsbury Street. If the weather is wet we shall hold the party in the Margery Street Tenants' Hall, which you can reach by walking down Margery Street almost to the bottom and on the right you'll find your way to the Tenants' Hall.

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### REMINDER ...GREAT AMWELL

**A**t the AGM it was suggested that we organise a trip to Great Amwell in Hertfordshire to visit our sister Amwell Society. In the early days trips out were a regular feature of the activities that were arranged by Carole Goddard, who with Norman King and Irving Gray conceived the idea of the Society. We think it would be best to have it on a Saturday next April. We are in touch with David Hardy, Chairman of the other Amwell Society who has suggested a walk & a visit to the local pub, the George IV. Francois Smit is looking investigating a Community bus. It would be very helpful to know who, in principal, would like to go to Great Amwell. So, if you would like to see the source of the New River, meet new friends in Great Amwell e-mail David Sulkin on [david@dauidsulkin.co.uk](mailto:david@dauidsulkin.co.uk) and just say "Yes to the Great Amwell trip" and we'll compile a list of those who's like to come. We'll be in touch later with members who don't have e-mail.

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### AUTUMN MUESLI RECIPE

**H**ere is a really delicious quick recipe for muesli by the creator of this nourishing dish, M.O. Bircher-Benner. It appeared in English for the first time in 1934. For one.

2-3 small Cox's apples	1 tablespoon chopped walnuts
1 level tablespoonful rolled oats	1 tablespoon single cream
Juice of half a lemon	

Soak the oats in a bowl overnight in three tablespoons of water. Grate the apples – including peel and core. Mix the soaked oats, the lemon juice and the cream. Stir into the grated apples to prevent them losing their whiteness. Sprinkle the walnuts on the mixture. Eat.

September 2009.

## ST MARK'S CHURCH MYDDELTON SQUARE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

**O**n 11<sup>th</sup> July a meeting with representatives from across the community was held at St. Mark's Myddelton Square to consider its internal remodeling. Gerry Sproston, Chairman of the Amwell Society, took part in the day and David Sulkin also attended on behalf of Clerkenwell Parochial School. St. Mark's is partnered with Our Most Holy Redeemer, Exmouth Market. Father Paul Bagott is Vicar of both churches.

The consultation process will progress slowly to collect views and opinions from all who would like to contribute.

Members may know that the church was hit by an incendiary bomb in World War II. A replacement roof was quickly erected to protect the church but the interior – still displaying signs of war damage to this day – was not repaired. St. Mark's is at the heart of what Christopher Hussey described as "the most important Georgian townscape outside Bath". The proposal is to maintain the church as a working place of worship but also to build in facilities to enhance community use. Some suggestions include a nursery with access to the children's playground in the Square and additional facilities for Clerkenwell Parochial School for performances and school ceremonies. St. Marks is already well-known as a meditation centre which, it is hoped, will also be continued.

More news as the project develops.

## CHRISTOPHER ELRINGTON

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Christopher Elrington who was the first chairman of the Amwell Society. Christopher died at home on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, aged 79. Christopher was a thoughtful and exceptionally generous man. He provided advice and guidance on both professional and local issues. Most recently Christopher helped finish, with discreet and wise advice, the third edition of *A Village in London*, the front cover of which has a lovely watercolour by Christopher's wife, Jean.

Here is an extract from Christopher's obituary which appeared in The Times on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

*“Professor Elrington's spent his working life in the service of the Victoria County History (VCH) and was its general editor for 17 years at a time that was a golden age of secure funding, productivity, purposeful scholarship and collegiality.*

*In 1954 Elrington was recruited to the VCH as an assistant to Ralph Pugh. Pugh's training in how to undertake local history at the highest level was excellent. Alongside editing volumes and preparing them for publication, Elrington worked mainly on the history of Birmingham and also wrote up an account of the Wiltshire parish of Woodford as a model for new ways of presenting local history in the VCH.*

*Work on the VCH started in Gloucestershire in 1960. Jean Elrington took a job as architect to the rural district council. Over the next eight years he and his assistant editors produced two volumes containing the histories of more than 50 places. Among them the account of Tewkesbury stands out as a substantial study of a market town that became the model for others elsewhere in the country. All his Gloucestershire work was based on impeccable research, written in clear, incisive prose and produced quickly.*

*In 1968 Elrington returned to London. As Pugh moved towards retirement, it was Elrington who drove the progress of the VCH, strengthening its intellectual foundations, and he continued to do so when he succeeded as general editor in 1977. Already as deputy editor he had taken on much of the work of reading and editing the typescripts that came in from what by the 1980s was a team of more than 30 professional historians spread across a dozen counties.*

*Elrington worked extremely hard, set high standards in research, editing and production, and was painstaking and generous in training junior staff and looking after their welfare. Among his senior colleagues, many of whom had been with the VCH as long as he had or longer, he was very much a first among equals. As well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of a complex scholarly project, Elrington, with his deputy editor, steered the VCH from typewriters, carbon copies and hot-metal typesetting to laptops and digital files e-mailed to the typesetter.*

*In London the Elringtons settled in an early 19th-century house in Finsbury. Jean continued to work as an architect, and many colleagues and friends enjoyed their convivial hospitality and sometimes startling varieties of home-made wine. The admiration and affection that Elrington inspired among VCH workers was marked at his retirement in 1994 with a book systematically treating the history of county history in England, to which as many as 35 VCH staff and former staff contributed, with others.*

*Elrington himself marked his retirement by a strenuous and meticulously planned “Hike for History” in 1996, three long sweeps of sponsored walking (1,100 miles in all, and conducted at a cracking pace) that passed through every one of the 39 historic English counties and garnered publicity for the VCH in local and national media. Sponsorship money went into the County History Trust, which he set up as an independent charity to support the work of the VCH and complement the University of London's Victoria History Trust.*



*After 1994 he edited the Gloucestershire final concords, spent much time editing and indexing other texts for the Wiltshire and Gloucestershire record societies, and was on the council of the Marc Fitch Fund. He played squash into his sixties, giving younger opponents a hard time, and went skiing into his seventies.*

*Elrington was a kind and patient man, always willing to give his time to others. Skilled and successful as the leader of a great historical enterprise, he had the ability to leave everyone he came into contact with feeling that they were important to him.*

Christopher – looking a little serious - and Jane Wainwright at the Late Summer Party in 2007.

**Copies of *A Village in London* are still available at £3.00 each. All profit goes to the Society.  
Ask at the Amwell Book Company or Unpackaged in Amwell Street.**