

Suburb teacher goes to rural Kenya

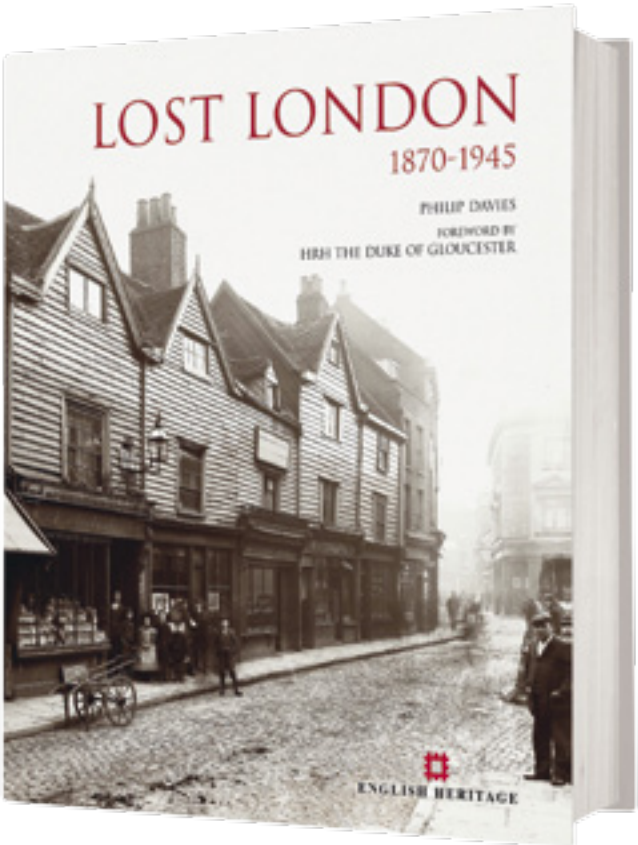


Ruth Beedle has lived in the Suburb for 60 years and has recently retired from teaching. She is aware that she has enjoyed a privileged life, starting with a happy and secure childhood on the Suburb and education at Henrietta Barnett School, and latterly she and her husband Mark have raised their family here. Ruth recently retired

as Head of PSHE at University College School where she taught for the past twenty years. Since its outset six years ago Ruth has also been a trustee of The Akili Trust (the word 'Akili' means knowledge in Swahili) and has been collecting books and organising local events to raise funds. The Akili Trust is a small charity working in rural

Kenya. It has established two community libraries and supports secondary education through bursaries. The purpose of the Trust is to establish a model that initiates and develops a culture of reading and provides improved access to education. Ruth visited the Trust's libraries in Kenya earlier in the year with two other Trustees. They had a full programme of meetings and training sessions in the rural villages with the librarians and other members of the Libraries' Management Committees. However the high point for Ruth was meeting the bursary students themselves along with their parents. To get direct feedback on the good progress already being made. She explains: It was a real challenge to create a less formal atmosphere with the students in order to hear from them, but banter about football typically broke the ice. It was very interesting talking to them about their schools and their studies and encouraging to see that, like their British peers, they have aspirations for further education, to make a difference and to make

life better in their communities. Lawrence, an 18-year-old bursary student, said "My dream is to become a doctor and I have put a lot of concentration in my studies." Fiki, aged 18, said that "through Akili I have been able to acquire encouragement and it is my sincere hope that I will be able to pursue my ambitions." In the week before Christmas we sent a shipment of books and computers, via Computeraid, and continue to actively seek donations to build on success so far. Our next fundraising event is a Classical Music Evening at Lauderdale House on Thursday 4 February at 7.30pm, £10. Box Office: mail@akilitrust.org or ring 07855 327 556. Violinists Thomas Gould and Litsa Tunnah, singers Siobhan Blake and Emily Phillips, singer and accompanist Oliver-John Ruthven and the Lederman String Quartet perform works which include pieces by Bach, Haydn and Mozart for voice and strings. For additional information about the Akili Trust and our fundraising activities please look at our website www.akilitrust.org.



Lost London 1870-1945

This is a beautiful, haunting and heartbreaking book. It reveals the architectural beauty that London has lost and acts as a clarion call to fight to save that which remains. Only Philip Davies – with his breadth of cultural knowledge and love for London – could have done this subject justice and given such a tragic tale a touch of poetry.

DAN CRUICKSHANK
Lost London 1870-1945 is a best-selling new book written by Philip Davies, a lifelong Suburb resident, who is the Planning & Development Director for London and South-East England at English Heritage. The book comprises a selection of 600 photographs from the former LCC archive, which has been held by English Heritage for the past 25 years. Most have never been published

before. Taken to provide a unique record of old neighbourhoods as they were being swept away, they provide a fascinating insight into the lost streets and buildings of London – opening windows on a vanished past; one which is both tantalisingly familiar, but also hauntingly remote. Spanning a period of 75 years, they depict a world in transition – from the coaching inns and horse-drawn city of the Victorian age through the 1920s and 1930s to the shocking devastation of the Second World War, including evocative pictures of Hampstead, Swiss Cottage and Regent's Park. Following outstanding reviews in the national press and on television, Philip has organised a new English Heritage exhibition at Kenwood House, which will run from 23 January - 5 April 2010. Admission is free.



A welcome stop in the Autumn sunshine for some of those taking part in another Autumn walk, this time raising money to replace St Jude's ninety nine year old central heating system!

Trust (trust) n. reliance on and confidence in the truth. Custody, charge or care. (Sp in Hampstead Garden Suburb – members elect four Trustees to the Trust Council in whom is vested legal powers to preserve the character and amenities of the Suburb.)

The Trust requests the pleasure of your company as a member

The Trust Council would like to see more Suburb residents represented as members. The sole requirement for membership is to have lived continuously on the Suburb for three years. Membership provides an opportunity to take part in the management of the Suburb. Many residents come to live here because it is a unique environment and support the aims of the Trust in trying to preserve the Suburb's character and amenities. All residents who believe that the job we are trying to do is worthwhile should be members of the Trust.



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862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB · 8455 1066 · mail@hgstrust.org · www.hgstrust.org