

Join us for The Canonbury Society's

**46th Annual General
Meeting**

**for an update on the past year and to
hear Simon Jones speaking on
'The Drama behind the Façade'**

7pm, Wednesday 24 May

upstairs at the Canonbury Tavern

Doors open from 6.45

THE DRAMA BEHIND THE FACADE

In the 1760s Canonbury was an open, rural area, the Tower and New River the only signs of any human presence. One hundred years later it was, in all but a few details, the area we know today.

Seeing the symmetry of the squares and the elegance of the buildings any visitor might think this was achieved through a genteel process of cooperation and well thought out planning. In fact, it was the product of an unseemly scramble between landowners, property developers and builders, all speculating on the attraction of a pleasant south-facing slope as a home for London's newly burgeoning middle class.

Deals struck with landowners (including nobles and dairymen) dictated when and where construction took place. Religious dissent prompted building, bankruptcies left squares incomplete and transport connections alternately enhanced and ruined parts of the area.

Now, of course, all of this lies behind the stucco in one of the most beautiful areas of London.

Clerkenwell and Islington Guide Simon Jones will be digging below the modern day serenity to show how all this happened.

