The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

The park that visitors see newly opened for the London 2012 Olympic Games, with state-of-the-art stadia and sports buildings, was created and built upon land that once had a distinctive industrial appearance and character. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this was the heart of London's industry, although now it has all but vanished. The infrastructure of the waterways, the industrial buildings in the Fish Island Conservation Area, the Three Mills tide mills, Abbey Mills pumping station and other buildings and structures around the site survive and bear testimony to the industrial past; others have been entirely lost. As the world comes to visit a new London landscape created on top of the old, we celebrate both moments in history.



Spare clutches, JJ Autos, 2007 JJ Autos traded in car parts on Carpenters Road before relocating to South Woodford.



Ahmet Refik, glass bender, John Bowden Ltd, 2006 Ahmet stokes the fire of a kiln that is over 200 years old.



Olympic map below – as first seen in Heritage Today, March 2012.





Two silk-screen printers, Capital Print and Display, 2007 Capital Print operated from Marshgate Lane and printed large-format prints and posters for hoardings.



Storage tanks, Samuel Banner & Co Ltd, 2007 Samuel Banner & Co (est. 1860) supplies solvents and chemicals, and patented Turpentine ('white spirit') in 1885. Part of the Banner Chemicals Group, the company has relocated to Middlesborough.



Victorian moulds for bending glass, John Bowden Ltd, 2006 Some of the moulds date back to the 1820s and would have required 20 men to lift them.



Factory floor and view of kiln, John Bowden Ltd, 2006 Established in 1 800, the former John Bowden Ltd factory was situated on the edge of the Olympic site. Some kilns reach 650°C, depending on the desired curve of the glass.



Shalom and Eva packaging bagels, Mr Bagels Ltd, 2006 Long-life bagels were packed and sealed from this food factory. Nearby was UK Snacks which supplied Asian savoury products.

All photographs © Marion Davies and Debra Rapp



Folding Machine, MR Printers, 2007 This small printing company produced leaflets for local Indian and Bangladeshi restaurants and has relocated to Barking.



9. Bryant and May Match Factory

Abbey Mills pumping station
Bromley-by-Bow Station

10. Three Mills



Peter McManus (Fig 1) by a stator from a high-voltage electric motor, and Habti Hehari (Fig 2) at a milling machine, Dowding and Mills, 2007 Dowding and Mills is the largest industrial engineering and electronics support provider in the UK. Sulzer Turbo Services acquired the company in 2010. On the site for over 40 years, this branch still operates from just outside the Olympic Park in White Post Lane.



During the galvanizing process, steel is immersed into hydrochloric acid tanks and hot molten zinc at 450°C.



'London Cure' smoked salmon hanging in the kiln of H Forman & Son, 2006 H Forman & Son, established in the East End over a century ago, is the last of the original London smoked salmon smokeries. Run by the great-grandson of the founder, this family business and restaurant has relocated to Fish Island opposite the Olympic Park at Old Ford locks.



De-boning meat prior to mincing, Harringay Meat Traders Ltd, 2006 Harringay Meat Traders are wholesale butchers and doner kebab manufacturers. The company has relocated to Dagenham, Essex.

