

WASL 2124

Extract from
'The River Lea'
1571 - 1767

K. Fairclough
re Joseph Nickalls

Les Tucker

From: Richard Thomas [thrifthouse@ntlworld.com]**Sent:** 23 November 2009 10:29**To:** Leslie Tucker**Subject:** Nickalls

Extract from Chapter 17 of Fairclough - ^{K.} 'The River Lea' Unpublished AD Thesis
1571-1767

There is no evidence of serious dissension to the principle of canalisation or of any prolonged argument over the details of the plan. The proprietors of lands mills and weirs along the river did hold their own meetings at Searles Coffee House or the Devil Tavern, and they did retain the services of Joseph Nickalls to provide expert engineering advice, but they did not oppose the proposals, and Nickalls himself had experience in river canalisation schemes and thought that canalisation of the Lea would benefit the mills. ⁴⁰

40. *In 1760 Nickalls won a prize offered by the Society of Arts for a design for tide mills, soon afterwards he rebuilt Waltham Abbey Powder Mills. In 1762 he built a water pumping engine to Smeaton's design at West Ham Waterworks, having already worked as an assistant to Smeaton in 1760 on another river improvement scheme, before being dismissed by Smeaton. In December 1766, he surveyed the Abbey Mills estate at West Ham, and in 1768 built an engine for London Bridge Waterworks*

For the record!

Richard

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