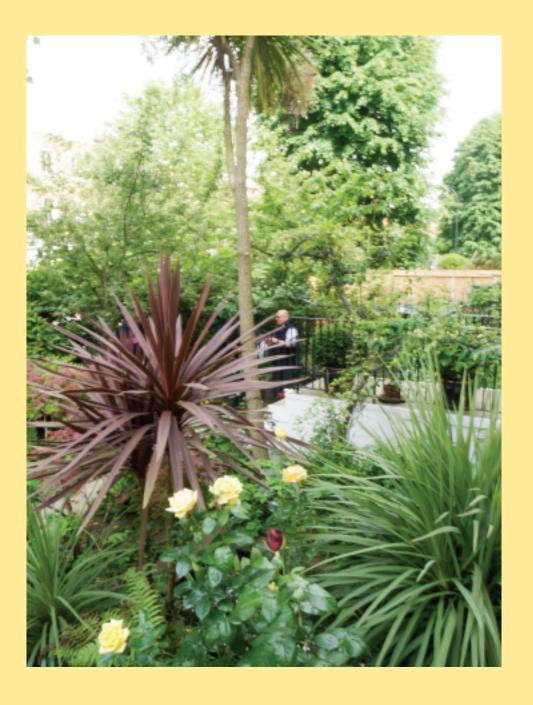
CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

The magazine of the Camberwell Society
No 181 Summer 2014 £1.50 (free to members)

www.camberwellsociety.org.uk



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THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, or is interested in Camberwell.

The Executive Committee is elected annually at the Society's AGM. Meetings of the Executive Committee are usually held on the first Thursday of the month – please contact the Secretary for details. Members are welcome to attend as observers with prior notice to the Secretary, Robert Wainwright (see inside back cover for contact details).

Sub-Committes on planning, the public realm, traffic and transport, publications and local history form an important part of the Society's work and all members are welcome to involve themselves in areas which interest them.

The views expressed in the Camberwell Quarterly are not necessarily those of the Society unless clearly stated as such. The Camberwell Society is a registered charity (No 264751).

LOCAL SOCIETIES, VENUES AND EVENTS We recommend checking details

Brunswick Park Neighbourhood Tenants and Residents Association Jason Mitchell 07985 548 544 tandra.brunswickpark@yahoo.co.uk

Burgess Park, Friends of

For meetings, events and updates on Burgess Park improvements www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk friendsofburgesspark@.gmail.com

Butterfly Tennis Club www.butterflytennis.com

Camberwell Gardens Guild

Membership enquiries to: Pat Farrugia, 17 Kirkwood Road, SE15 3XT

Carnegie Library, Friends of

See the Friends' tray in the Library or foclchair@googlemail.com

Concerts in St Giles' Church

Camberwell Church Street www.music@stgiles.com

Cuming Museum

Old Walworth Town Hall, 151 Walworth Road, SE17 1RY. 020 7525 2332 www.southwark.gov.uk/Discover-Southwark/Museums

Dulwich Picture Gallery

College Road, SE21 7AD 020 8693 5254. www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Herne Hill Society

Jeffrey Doorn 020 7274 7008 Membership: Herne Hill Society PO Box 27845, SE24 9XA www.hernehillsociety.org.uk

Lambethans' Society

See Brixton Society website www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

Minet Conservation Association 020 7737 8210 www.minet.fsnet.co.uk

Nunhead Cemetery

Linden Grove, SE15. Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC) 020 8693 6191 www.fonc.org.uk

Peckham Society

Peter Frost 020 8613 6757 Sunday 18 August, 2pm, *Peckham* and Burgess Park Walk. Meet at Peckham Rye Station www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Ruskin Park, Friends of Doug Gillies 020 7703 5018

SE5 Forum

SE5Forum.org.uk comms@SE5forum.org.uk

South London Gallery

65 Peckham Road SE5. Open: Tuesday to Sunday – 12pm-6pm, closed on Monday www.southlondongallery.org

Southwark Friends of the Earth

Stephanie & Jim Lodge 020 7701 3331. Emails: stephanielodge1947@talktalk.net southwarkfoe@btopenworld.com

Wells Way Triangle Residents Association

Andrew Osborne WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com



Cover: A first-time showing for this lovely garden at the Society's annual Open Gardens Day (see page 4) Photo: Marie Staunton

We continue our commitment to improving Camberwell

It has been a busy few weeks, what with the Annual General Meeting and Open Gardens Day, and then the Arts Festival. Open Gardens is featured in this issue of the *Quarterly* and the Arts Festival was covered in the Spring issue. I thought that it would be helpful for those members who could not attend the AGM (it was held at the new ORTUS building on Grove Lane, and we will be back there next year, I am pleased to say) if I were to summarise here the report I made to the members at the AGM.

The Society continues to be an active contributor to initiatives to improve Camberwell. These initiatives tend to fall naturally into one of two camps – traffic and transport and our built environment.

When it comes to traffic and transport, the issues seem to be the same; only perhaps they are now more sharply in focus.

We now have the London Overground, which has transformed travel to and from Camberwell. The only thing is that it has shown up Denmark Hill station, even after the improvements, as inadequate for the needs of the community. The Camberwell Society will be campaigning for another exit to the station and at least one more ticket machine.

The campaign for the tube to be extended to Camberwell has not been forgotten either. Now that the Council elections have taken place this will be cranking back into gear. There are, however, signs that a route down the Old Kent Road is preferred by TfL on economic grounds. To be fair to our elected councillors they are pushing for the Walworth Road/ Camberwell Green route, and we will do all we can to help them. It would also be good if we can get the Boris bikes to come to Camberwell Green.

On traffic, it seems to me that we are going to have to look carefully at



Nick Holt

how cars, bikes and pedestrians interact.

It is great to see two new cycle shops spring up on Camberwell Church Street, although I sometimes wonder about the cycle lanes on Camberwell New Road and the impact on other road traffic. It is tragic when cyclists die in accidents, as has happened in recent months in Camberwell and the Elephant. I don't think that the answer, as Southwark cyclists have suggested in relation to Camberwell Grove, is to put cyclists and pedestrians together on the pavement.

I also appreciate that this issue is a Camberwell-wide issue, and that what might be the answer for one particular road or area could simply move the problem elsewhere. But I do think that minor roads are precisely that – minor roads – and should not become cut throughs or rat runs for both cars and lorries.

Looking at the built environment, the Society aims to support initiatives promoting a better Camberwell. We are not against all development, just bad development. Nor, as has been suggested, are we simply a protection society for old buildings. Our planning sub-committee tries to look at all planning applications of interest, small or large. The only constraint on their ability to do so is the sheer number of applications (perhaps a

sign that the economy is picking up) and the free time that the members of that committee have to devote to them. The PSC is always looking for new members, and you do not need to be an architect to join, so if you do have an interest in the physical face of Camberwell, then come and join.

I read articles in the national press about the gentrification of Camberwell and Peckham – we have new restaurants and bars springing up, which I see as a good sign. We even have a Costa Coffee in the centre of Camberwell. We should not, however, forget our local retailers who we should continue to support if we can, as they are the lifeblood of the town centre.

The Camberwell Quarterly remains our flagship publication. It is a superb window on life in Camberwell, both past and present. We have not increased the price of the Quarterly for as long as I can remember, and so with effect from this issue we will be increasing the cover price to £1.50 – although the Quarterly will still be free to members. We also hope to be able to produce the Quarterly on a consistent basis with 20, as opposed to 16 pages.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank on your behalf all the members of the various committees, and all the other people who give up their time to help make the Camberwell Society function – websites do not get updated automatically, walks and Christmas parties do not get organised by themselves, local working parties don't just spring up and nor do gardens open as if by magic.

I am also pleased to say that we have one new face on the Executive Committee this year – Liz Cook. If anyone else would like to become more involved please let me know.

Nick Holt nick.holt.camberwell.soc@gmail.com

R K NEWS

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Grove Lane



Stories Mews

week after Chelsea
Camberwell held its own
show – Open Gardens Day
on 1 June. Fewer visitors this year
meant more time to get advice from
Camberwell gardeners. And to enjoy
the innovations – from guerrilla
gardens to chaos fountains and
bananas.

The new gardens were a real surprise – behind a privet hedge on the roaring Camberwell New Road is a stunning show of maples, yellow irises, red roses and ferns. Lots to learn from Matthew, the brains behind the joint front and back gardens of the three houses. He started with a lime tree, weeds and litter and defeated poor soil and bad conditions - dry shade alternating with baking heat – by planting the right plant in the right place. The Oregon grape (mahonia) is his hero plant. And yes, the only way to grow magnificent hostas is a daily slug patrol. Similar



Camberwell Grove



McNeil Road

dedication is being shown by the vicar of St Giles who has converted an unpromising side path into a lush shade garden and grabbed the one patch of sun to grow a vivid red rose against the grey church walls — "time, energy and persistence" is his prescription for successful gardening in SE5.

Lettsom Gardens allotments is the place to go for veg growing tips. Though not everyone can follow the food growing recipe of Connie, the Chair of the Secret Garden in Kimpton Road – first add 40 tons of horse manure... Down the road at Stanswood Community Garden, Kasia and Carlo show fruit growing to local children every Saturday, in a garden constructed entirely from recycled materials. And if you have a head for heights scale the loft ladder at 48 Grove Lane to see what can be grown in pots on top of a garage.

To find out what is easy to grow



Chaos wheel



Lettsom Gardens



Stories Road

in our acid soil go to the guerrilla gardens in Stories Mews and McNeil Road (http://storiesmewsguerillagarden.weebly.com/). Bears breeches, butterfly bushes and Mexican orange blossom have flourished in the decade since the weeds and old fridges were cleared. Local donations of plants are transforming some 30 yards by the railway line on McNeil Road where Canterbury bells have replaced the thorns and nettles. These informal plots are supported by Southwark's Cleaner, Greener,

Safer scheme and made possible by hard digging and free cuttings from lots of local gardeners. By the way, there is an interesting little fashion developing in Stories Road of planting spiky succulents on top of garden walls. An attractive burglar deterrent?

But if your taste is for the exotic, Glynn in Camberwell Grove will show you how to grow bananas – and control bamboo: "Clip it like a poodle. Be ruthless or it takes over," he says. And up the road Nick Mair teaches how to make chicken stock on his garden's solar oven and build one of those strangely hypnotic chaos fountains from a wheel and cans scavenged from a local skip (https://www.youtube.com/watch?y=b CprrtCVCTMI).

The importance of good design is shown by Camberwell's mature gardens. Over 40 years after it was built, the country garden in Champion Grove still has its sinuous shape. Traditional herbaceous borders in Grove Lane and Camberwell Grove need strong large lawns or terraces to show off the camellias, roses and lavender. Terracotta pots were planted to give instant colour in paved gardens and to house exotics in Camberwell Grove. How to give a small garden great character was demonstrated by Cuthill Walk with its stylish silver birch.

And Camberwell looked its best. The first day of summer was warm with soft light from a blue sky rippled with stratocumulus. A week's solid rain cleared leaving saturated colours - iceberg roses, yellow iris and magenta lychnis a vivid contrast to bright green foliage. Afternoon tea and homemade cakes in 34 Grove Lane and 204 Camberwell Grove – a necessary fortifier for a much more extensive route than usual. And last, but not least, Camberwell's little piece of paradise - the two Benhill Road cottage gardens, densely planted with paths winding through musk-scented old roses. Just as beautiful but infinitely more achievable than the fashionable plant catwalk of Chelsea.





Cacti burglar deterrent?



Bamboo "clipped like a poodle"



Tea and homemade cakes at 34 Grove Lane

Art shop with a passion for supporting local creative people

amberwell's art shop, Cowling & Wilcox, is light, ✓ bright and full of talent. Customers range from the established artists of Vanguard Court studios to the flat full of new RCA graduates who live above the Orpheus Street art shop. The dozen staff who keep the shop open seven days a week have a range of talents – painters, a silversmith, music buff, set designer and professional photographer. During Arts Week visitors to the shop could unleash their creativity by making a splash on a T-shirt. But let's start at the beginning.

Just as the 1960s started to swing, Leonard Cowley and Bernard Wilcox opened their first art shop in Soho. It was 1961. Leonard says: "Art schools were producing design graduates full of confidence and enthusiasm, ready to take on the world. Our specialist supplies attracted many young artists to the area where they found affordable rents and like-minded people. Letraset was developed by two young designers just three streets away. Selling at five shillings (25p) a sheet it was a huge money spinner for us, everyone wanted it and it

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angi@angidriver.co.uk www.angidriver.co.uk changed the way the commercial artist worked. Then we designed the first Artist Portfolio." Sadly, redevelopment has this year priced the shop out of Soho. But the Cowley family firm now has a thriving on-line business and shops in Islington, Canterbury, Shoreditch and Camberwell.

Why Camberwell? Shop manager Cyrille Charro explains: "Six years ago I was running Shoreditch and we could see that Camberwell was also on the up and up, well placed for our business in the triangle between the London College of Art, London College of Communications and Goldsmiths. And rents were reasonable. So we opened here." Professional photographer Cyrille, a native of Lyon who exhibits his portraits in a chic Place des Vosges gallery in Paris, finds that customers in Camberwell differ from those in Shoreditch. There it is mainly design studios and the fashion crowd, so big demand for French curves and non-bleeding paper for templates "Although we did have one guy who bought loads of spray paint every week. We wondered if he was Banksy."

In Camberwell customers are mostly fine artists buying pads, paints, canvas and stretchers, gesso for priming canvas, an increasing number of families and amateurs. About one third are students and every year there is a portfolio panic. "The photography, architecture and design students work on iPad. There is a sudden realisation that they cannot send in an iPad as coursework but need a three dimensional portfolio. Every April students rush in saying, 'Oh my God, I need a portfolio – for tomorrow.' We calm them down and sort them out."

His colleague Liz Cook, herself a former student at Camberwell Art College, sympathises. After 20 years hectically working in the arts for the Tate, Somerset House and National Theatre, Liz "retired" back to Camberwell to paint and draw. She says an increasing number of customers, like actress Fenella Woolgar (currently playing Mrs

Thatcher in *Handbagged* in the West End), come in because they want to start or get back to painting and drawing. Liz knows the lively and diverse Camberwell Arts scene well, from outsider artist David Mercer, mosaicist Steve Wright, watch designer Crispin Jones (you may have seen his Remember you will die watch) to Liz's favorite multimedia artist Ruth Dupre, winner of both the Bombay Sapphire prize for glasswork and the RA Summer Exhibition sculpture prize and leading light of the "depechist" movement producing works in six to eight minutes. Liz rejoices that Brady, one of the RCA graduates upstairs has a sellout show in Milan. She enjoys serving local creative businesses – like Camberwell Film Studios or Scena, the scenery workshop on Camberwell Road, and helping the Bureau of Silly Ideas in Coldharbour Lane to find exactly the right pigment for its Temple of Toast for Wandsworth Art Festival. "Really fun." But then lots of things would be fun with Liz around.

Her colleague Benn splits his time between Cowling & Wilcox and making sets, mostly for the gay night club Heaven (current theme the Queen's Birthday), so he can advise customers constructing their own party backdrops and fancy dresses. "We have just dressed a Camberwell Carrot," says Liz. "Chicken wire, orange paper and a green headdress. And yesterday a lovely six year old spent hours here very seriously sourcing materials for a castle: his dad was enjoying the project just as much. We have a volcano season when the schools are teaching volcanoes and families can buy a volcano set with a real explosion at the end."

Truth be told Nas, who runs the children's section, believes that most of the talent is in her department. She points proudly to the wall display of local school entries to the shop's Easter competition and the activity table she has set up to encourage children to colour in templates. A silversmith and jewelry designer, Nas advises that a good starter is the complete activity bag, and for the



Pictured from left to right are Cowling & Wilcox staff: Benn, Cyrille, Peter, Liz and Nas

youngest children is the Djecco big crayons. "Indestructible!" The best thing about Nas' job is "working with like-minded people and talking all day about what interests you". Colleague Peter agrees. "It's the passion for the products," he says. A music buff involved with country rock band The Way Home, he says Cowling &Wilcox customers care about their art just as music fans are passionate about their sound.

And the shop is passionate about its local mission according to Cyrille - to support local creative people and to be part of the change of Camberwell. Since the shop started six years ago he has seen the High Street improve with the emergence of coffee shops, cycle cafés and new independent businesses. The shop supports the Camberwell Society by giving members 10% off on showing their Camberwell Society card. They joined in Camberwell Arts Week by

encouraging locals to come in and release their own inner Jackson Pollock by making a splash on a T-shirt using a "Pollock brush".

Fun – "and less miserable than Pollock," says Cyrille. Was Pollock miserable? Oh yes, the staff say. With their fine arts degrees and piles of books on artists in the staff room, these people know what they are talking about.

Marie Staunton

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Gaumont comes home

There will be a free outdoor screening of rare Edwardian films on the site of the original Gaumont film studios in Camberwell on 30 August. This event is part funded by the Camberwell Society, the Southwark Community Council and the Dulwich Society.

The Gaumont film company had its studio near Dog Kennel Hill, SE5 from 1904 to 1912 where it produced more than 500 short films that went on to be shown around the world. Despite the significance of this early studio only 30 of these films survive and until now they have been hidden away in the BFI archive. For the first time a selection of them has been digitised and will be shown at a free public screening in Dog Kennel Hill Open Space on 30 August.

Gaumont studios were pioneers of British cinema at a time when the UK was exporting more films to America than they were sending to us. It was the first studio to experiment with sound and colour movies in these early years. Gaumont is best known as the originator of the chase scene, many of which were filmed in and around the streets of Camberwell in locations that are still recognisable today. By the 1930s Gaumont was the largest British studio and continued to dominate the



A scene from It's not my Parcel. Was this filmed in Camberwell? Find out at the screening on 30 August

UK film industry for the next two decades, working with such luminaries as Alfred Hitchcock, James Mason and Boris Karloff.

Bryony Dixon, curator of silent film at the BFI National Archive, says: "I love the early Gaumont comedies. They are joyful, unrestrained and irreverent but made with wit and the level of quality for which Gaumont was famous. It's thrilling to see them back in front of a British audience and in their original location."

Event organiser Jasia Warren says: "Discovering such an important piece of cinema history on my doorstep was a complete surprise. I look forward to sharing these unknown films and hope that others will enjoy this rare chance to travel back in time."

The evening will take place at 8.30pm on Dog Kennel Hill Open Space (next to Sainsbury's) and each film will be introduced with a guide to location-spotting – essential for eagle-eyed local residents. The programme includes titles such as *Adventures of a Roll of Lino* and *Timmy the Tin Pot Hero*. The films will be accompanied live by the doyen of silent film pianists, Neil Brand, known for his work with the BBC, the NFT and the Barbican.

Make this a date for your diary – and bring a picnic and something to sit on, advises Jasia.

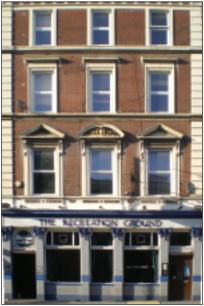


Catastrophe on Church Street – Part I

A two-part article by Donald Mason explains how Camberwell Church Street came to look as it does.

There is a town in Colorado called Central City. It was a gold rush town, which in 1874 was more or less completely destroyed by fire. The authorities ruled that the replacement buildings should be of brick or stone; and so was created a lovely new town, uniformly Victorian neo-classical, which still survives. Rather similarly, Napier in New Zealand was destroyed by an earthquake in 1931. The architectural style then fashionable was art deco, and Napier today is an extraordinarily well preserved art deco town. Thus disasters can produce effects that we enjoy long after the tragedy has passed.

The catastrophe on Church Street was less terrible and didn't, as far as I know, kill anyone. But it had a similar effect of bequeathing to us a very pleasant and stylistically homogeneous collection of buildings, covering the whole of the north side and part of



In 1882 the Stirling Castle (now the Camberwell Arms) was sold to James Watney for £4,890

the south side.

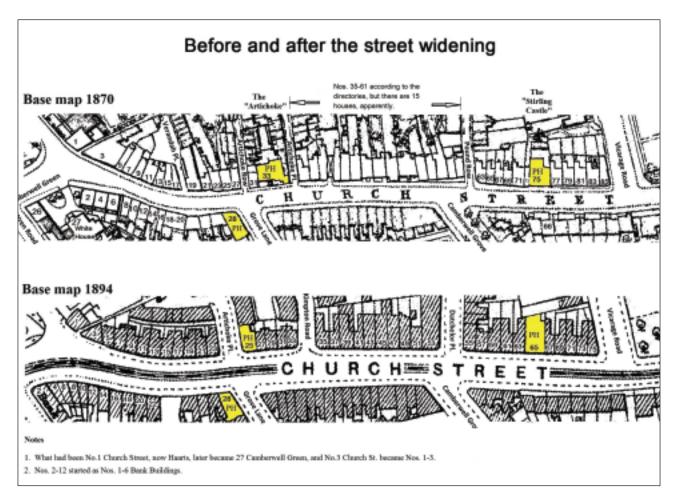
The agent of change was the Metropolitan Street Improvements Act of 1877, one of a series of Acts sponsored by the Metropolitan Board of Works that gave it powers of

compulsory purchase to enable it to widen the capital's streets. The Act included in its provisions: "The widening of Church Street, Camberwell, on its north side, commencing at the south-east corner of Camberwell Green and terminating forty yards or thereabouts to the west of Vicarage Road, all in the parish of St Giles, Camberwell, in the county of Surrey."

It is not hard to imagine that Church Street in the 1870s was as busy as it is now, but in places it was little more than 30ft wide, frontage to frontage, and it accommodated a tram line. The Board was advised by its Works Committee, in turn advised by a surveyor, an architect, an engineer and a solicitor. In the end it did considerably more than originally laid out in the Act.

In November 1879 the Committee had a letter from Mr Keene at No 66 on the south side, asking if he would be affected by the widening. The surveyor quickly advised that he

Continued on next page



Catastrophe on Church Street Continued from previous page



The first buildings to be erected on the north side were Nos 3-23, forming a fine curved terrace

wouldn't be, but the engineer paused. He pointed out that while the original scheme had been to create a width of 50ft, in front of Mr Keene's house it would only be 41ft, which would be squeezed up to 44ft if Mr Keene's steps, which extended over the public footpath, were pushed back. What he preferred was to extend the north-side widening to Vicarage Road and indeed beyond, which would entail purchasing more buildings, including the Stirling Castle public house. At the same time, evidently having the bit between his teeth, he proposed widening at the Camberwell Green end of the south side. In the absence of the plans, which unfortunately have not been preserved with the minutes, we cannot be sure where exactly he meant but the most likely



seems to be that it was a matter of purchasing No 2 and some of the garden of the White House in order to round off the corner.

Following further discussions and reports from the officials it was decided to go even further – to purchase the extra buildings on the north side, and some of the Vicarage garden, and also those on the south side from 2-20, as well as part of the garden of the White House. The Board agreed.

The Committee had already been negotiating the compulsory purchase of properties in the original scheme on the north side. There had to be valuations for freeholds, leaseholds and tenancies, sometimes all three on the same property. Usually, it seems, the Committee's valuations were accepted. Negotiations continued through 1880, but in December the architect reported on the extra cost implied by the enlarged scheme agreed in February, and a majority of the Committee didn't like it, so it was decided to abandon the south-side widening at the Camberwell Green end, though still to keep the extended north-side widening. But the decision only lasted a week. At the next meeting the solicitor advised that

matters had progressed so far that legally the Committee could not now draw back. Indeed it had to go further since it was at least arguable that it could not compulsorily purchase just a portion of the garden of the White House, it had to purchase the whole property, a proposal which the engineer had already favoured.

Demolition started in January 1881, and in April there remained only four unsettled cases on the north side. Thus in the spring and early summer the scene was of houses destroyed or half destroyed, and piles of rubble, as though indeed an earthquake had struck. By July the architect could report that the demolition materials had been sold and removed and the engineer could proceed with widening the road, at least as far as the Stirling Castle.

The residents were not pleased with the situation. In September the Camberwell Ratepayers' Protection Association wrote to the Camberwell Vestry urging quicker progress, this following many similar complaints, and the Vestry agreed to write to the Board. Complaints continued and the Vestry wrote again in February. It is notable that in the 1880 directory many of the addresses originally



Nos 25-33, including the Artichoke public house, formed a single terrace

planned for demolition on the north side are not recorded as being occupied, so the bad effect on business started well in advance of the work.

In October 1881, perhaps inspired by the wide open spaces created by the demolition, the engineer and the surveyor proposed a further enlargement of the widening scheme, to increase the width from 50ft to 60ft all the way along, which could be done at little extra expense and entailed only buying the milliner's shop on the corner of Wren Road, No 26 Camberwell Green, and this was agreed. The Vestry had evidently urged the same plan – when the Board's decision was received the Vestry attributed it to "the indefatigable exertions of the Chairman".

By the beginning of 1882 the Committee was ready to start thinking about rebuilding. In February the surveyor proposed a plan of building plots for the land so far cleared.

On the north side the effect of the plans would be:

- to abolish Verandah Place;
- to move Artichoke Row to the west, greatly to widen it and change its name to Artichoke Place;
- to resite the Artichoke public house to the corner of the new Artichoke Place;
- greatly to widen the old Artichoke Place so that it became a continuation of the existing Kimpton Road.

In March the solicitor submitted a draft tender document for the leases of the plots on the north side between (using the new street names) Artichoke Place and Vicarage Road, excluding the Stirling Castle site and the block which was to include the new Artichoke. The tender process moved quickly, but must have been disappointing in its outcome. Only the tender by R&H Pickersgill, of 6 West Street, Soho, for the block west of Artichoke Place, exceeded the architect's rental valuation. This was accepted. In addition, Mr C Bird of Park House, South Norwood, who had tendered for all of the plots, was to be invited to raise his tender for those to the east of Artichoke Place; and, failing that, a similar invitation in relation to the last four plots before Vicarage Road was to be made to Messrs Mansell Brothers of 84 Church Street (owners of the Camberwell and Peckham Times).

In the event neither Bird nor Mansell Brothers were willing to raise their offer, so the Committee finished up with only 12 plots let out of 32, and in June even those seemed threatened, when Pickersgill delayed (but only delayed) signing the final contract.

No further progress was made in letting during the next 12 months, and in July 1883 the remaining plots on the north side, and now also the plots on the south side near Camberwell Green, were put up for auction. Even this was not a great

success. The plots on the south side were all sold, but the north side remained a problem, nine of the 17 lots not finding a tenant. They were disposed of in ones and twos by private treaty, somewhat painfully, in a process that dragged on until at least October 1885.

The Committee did much better with the Stirling Castle, the lease of whose site was auctioned on 28 February 1882 and went to James Watney at a price, £4,890, more than 60% above the reserve. But what happened with the Artichoke is obscure. In May 1882 a Mr Lowther offered a rent of £150 for the land between Artichoke Place and Kimpton Road. The Committee decided that indeed the several plots should be sold as one, but also that that should be at auction. There does not appear to be a record of such an auction, and there was a reference to a "difficulty". In June 1883 the plot seems still to have been unlet, with the rent still at £150. Then in March 1884 plans for the buildings adjoining the pub were submitted by a Mr Wetherby.

Donald Mason's article continues in the next issue.

Photos: Donald Mason

There is a fully referenced version of this article at www.cdmason.org.uk/Camberwell

"Gourmandizing" Camberwell

team of artists going by the name of Gourmandizing has been creating a series of public murals inspired by recipes from southeast London residents. Murals have already been painted in Peckham, New Cross and Loughborogh Junction and attention is now turning to Camberwell, which has a rich creative history and is emerging as a foodie destination. The idea for the murals originated in 2013 at a local community workshop run by Changify.

To find a suitable recipe for Camberwell, the team visited Camberwell Farmers' Market to talk about the project and get ideas on how to get local people interested. They heard lots of stories about the area and received a host of local recipes, ranging from a standard East End fish pie through to a Columbian Neuvos Pericos.

The recipe finally chosen for the



Camberwell wall is steeped in history and comes from 81-year-old Ken Charles, otherwise known as Buncle, who has lived in Camberwell for more than 30 years. He has many tales about the area and the changes he's witnessed.

Ken has provided a wartime recipe for suet pudding that was passed down to him by his mother. It even involves a pillowcase!

Camberwell was bombed during the Second World War and many readers will be familiar with the memorial at the north end of the Green in memory of the wedding party killed while on its way from the Father Red Cap pub (now Planet Nollywood) to the air raid shelter on the site where the play area is now.

The team is now looking for a suitable Camberwell wall it can decorate with the recipe.

If you know of a wall that needs a bit of love, or have thoughts about the perfect spot for some public artwork we'd love to hear from you. We hope it's something the local community can get excited by and involved in too, so once we've found a site we'll be looking for local volunteers who'd like help us create and document the mural process.

You can get in touch with me at louise.j.armstrong@gmail.com or you can find our more about the project at: www.gourmandizinglondon.com or the video created about the Loughborough Junction mural.

Louise Armstrong

Transport proposals are welcomed

The Society recently responded to the Southeastern December 2014 timetable consultation. It welcomed the proposals in the timetable consultation to operate additional services between Dartford and Victoria via Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill at 30-minute intervals later into the evening.

Also welcomed was the proposal for the hourly off-peak Victoria–Gillingham–Dover services to stop at Denmark Hill to enhance connections into the London Overground and Thameslink routes.

Although the final decision about

the timetable rests with the Department for Transport we are hopeful that December could see the introduction of more services from Denmark Hill to Victoria.

As mentioned in the last *Quarterly*, the Society, along with other local stakeholders, has been in contact with Network Rail about the possibility of another entrance to Denmark Hill Station. Network Rail has informed us that it is looking into the feasibility of installing a second entrance.

Alex Blacknell

Can you help?

Whitten Timber has been on the old Peckham branch of the Grand Surrey Canal for nearly 100 years and has been given space in Peckham Platform to show its history. If you have any old photos of the canal before it was filled in, while it was being drained, or after it was filled in, please phone James Whitten on 020 7732 3804.





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All's well with Camberwell dining

The Camberwell Arms

65 Camberwell Church Street SE5 No bookings

Opening times: Monday, 5pm-11pm; Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-11pm; Friday and Satuday, 11am-late

he Scot was suspicious. He recognised nothing on the menu outside the Camberwell Arms. The Student was blocked up with a cold and HUNGRY. But the pub sign was a good omen – it said Camberwell Arms – All's Well.

So Mum marched in. It was her treat. Anyway the place has good credentials – recommended by the fabulously reliable Fay Maschler. Set up by the team behind Anchor & Hope in Waterloo, the Canton Arms in Stockwell and Franks – the trend setting summer restaurant on top of the Peckhamplex car park.

Past a couple eating the charcuterie at the bar - £12 for two - the ham is smoked on the roof. Yes on a roof near you. They looked happy.

The walls are a classy ox blood, the floor a beautifully restored pine and the tables standard second-hand shop. Mainly tables for eight – and the Scot is in no mood to chat to strangers.

But the welcome is lovely. Colin the bar manager is so cheerful and finds a cosy table for four. Under a shelf of home pickled carrots, pears and marmalade. Very Artisan.

Water and crusty bread appear immediately. Without asking. Why doesn't every restaurant do that? It settles people. Grumpy Scot and starving Student relax. Mum's relaxation helped no end by the rhubarb Prosecco. April in a glass. Wow. Rhubarb really is a fruit.

The kitchen is in the middle so you get to watch the two chefs. Not so great when the liquidiser gets going on the Student's hot pepper soup. Can't they fix silencers to these things?

But that soup clears out the Students sinuses fast. The Scot steals half her gruyere and sour dough cheese toastie. Sharp cheese, dripping toast. Tasty. For £7.50 this



A local pub that does really good food

starter is good value as a lunch in itself.

Mum commandeers the wine list – some 30 choices from £15 to £50.

Scot and Student opt for tap water. And Colin seems charmed by that choice. Isn't that nice? So it falls to Mum to test the organic Penedes Jane Ventura. It is straw yellow, fruity, great pairing with the special sea bass (caught yesterday apparently) with zough sauce and chick peas, £36 for two. Skin is crisp, fish moist and fresh. How do they do that? At home it is either soggy skin or dry flesh. And the zough is bright green with hints of cumin and cardamom - not as hot as zough can be - more a fresh complement for the fish. Little vine tomatoes and the chick peas are large and soft. Not small ones from the tin that we are used to. Suppose this is why we go to restaurants.

The Scot ordered sausages – bratwurst that he remembered from Germany. Oh dear. That was Koln. This is Camberwell. At Camberwell Arms you get a soft homemade sausage tasting of offal, not firm pork bratwurst. And English mustard, not zempf. The worst about the wurst (apologies) is that it was not served with a white roll but puy lentils and coleslaw. Student loved the lentils. The coleslaw was sharp and thinly sliced. However the Scot was



disappointed, his safe choice was not so safe.

By this time Student was replete and ready for her nap. The Scot had had enough fancy food. Mum and the wine list were very happy together. So we cannot tell you about the puds. Sorry.

Our verdict. To the Scot this is not a patch on the Lebanese Mix Grill. Student thinks the food is delish but a tad too pricy for her friends. (Though she might come for cocktails in the gem of an Edwardian bar upstairs, where she held her 18th.

Mum just *loves this place*! Did we mention the wine list? Comfy gastro pub.

Great place for a cosy chat or for a group of friends or family. Fay Maschler is always right.

Verdict. Go for interesting food, skilfully cooked. (Bill £69.40 for three main courses, one starter, cocktail, coke and wine.)

Marie Staunton

Time for a Camberwell conversation

It is high time for a Conversation about Camberwell, according to Barbara Pattinson, Chair of Camberwell's SE5 Forum.

Camberwell has the opportunity of the forthcoming revitalisation of the Green but is threatened with abolition and suffers from a lack of a clear shared vision by transport, council and community groups, she told a meeting of Camberwell Society's Executive Committee.

Threat - Abolition

Last year the Boundary Commission proposed the abolition of Camberwell, dividing it between two new constituencies, Bermondsey and Bankside and Dulwich and Peckham. Like the rest of its plans it was shelved but is likely to re-emerge in the next review in 2018. As John Martin of Valmar Road explained to the Commission, abolition of Camberwell would be wrong because "Camberwell appeared in the Doomsday Book (1086) and has been an established and well known area ever since. At its peak, before being merged into Southwark, Camberwell was an efficient metropolitan borough in its own right that incorporated both Dulwich and Peckham. Now Camberwell is widely known as a vibrant multicultural restaurant,



Barbara Pattinson mans the SE5 Forum stall at the farmers' market

shopping area and bus interchange centred on Camberwell Green park".

Opportunity - Regeneration

The £11 million regeneration programme for Camberwell Green is an opportunity to put Camberwell well and truly on the map and prevent its disappearance, says Barbara. A better town centre for pedestrians and traffic, improved pocket spaces, upgrade of the Green and a brand new library are all part of the plans.

Camberwell's café culture, its proliferation of artists and its restaurants are already a draw. You can dine on food from China to Cameroon via Colombia and places in between in Camberwell Church Street. There are some 20 cafes for brunch and Wi-Fi within a five-minute walk of the Green. Soon the South London Art Gallery will be joined by a new arts café and studios in the former Camberwell Town Hall. And some 200 local organisations are testament to a vibrant civil society. Barbara is keen to see "brand Camberwell" promoted in local media and world centres of excellence such as the Maudsley, the Institute of Psychiatry and King's adopting a Camberwell rather than a Denmark Hill identity.

Vision

But growth is stymied by lack of a clear coordinated vision. The "virtual" planning team for Camberwell has disappeared. On transport maps Camberwell is not marked as the major hub that it clearly is. Some of our treasures such as the South London Art Gallery are too often referred to as being in "Peckham".

Barbara says: "We need a shared vision and strategy to bring more businesses and jobs, to push the area up the priority list for resources.

"There is a lot we can do under new laws promoting community. We can register key properties as community assets through the High Street Challenge and push for business improvement district status to raise funds to pay for a neighbourhood or town centre manager. And our newly elected councillors need to show that they have a vision for Camberwell that community groups can support."

Barbara has lived in Camberwell for 50 years, brought up her children here, taught in local schools and worked with local community groups. A one-time Southwark Community activist of the year, she is convinced that change is possible with concerted effort.

If you have ideas about promoting Camberwell and/or think regular Camberwell conversations would be a good idea, contact Barbara at *barbara@se5forum.org.uk* or 020 7274 8045.

Marie Staunton

Noisy late night activities curbed

Following the revoking of the Club Couture's licence on 6 December (*CQ* 180, p6), the Society was represented at the Appeal which was heard on 2 May. The essence of the appellant's case was that the noise did not come from patrons of the club when they were leaving, but from people frequenting other establishments in Camberwell Church Street. Evidence was heard to the contrary, but in the end no decision was reached and the Appeal has been adjourned until 26 June, too late to report on in this issue.

There was a flurry of consternation among local residents shortly before the Appeal when it became known that the Kalabash Restaurant, operating from the same premises, had requested an extended licence. The Society was also represented at this Hearing which took place on 8 April.

The licence was granted after the Kalabash agreed to cut back its application for extended hours so that it is in line with those of other restaurants in the area and to remove both recorded and live music from the application. In addition, it was agreed that alcohol will only be served to people seated and taking a table meal and that service to tables will be by waiting staff only.

We were assured there is no connection, nor will there be, between Club Couture and Kalabash Restaurant management. They are separate businesses.

Concerns about community safety and traffic

nly determined chairing stopped April's Community Council meeting veering into a debate on Millwall's chances of relegation. Tom Rolt of Millwall's community scheme was reporting back on their Beat the Barriers Project with young people from the D'Eynsford Estate. The Lion's coaches are tackling barriers for young people, going to other areas and postcodes through friendly football match fixtures with other estates. Their briefings on stop and search, and the damaging effects of knife crime on victims and families have been well attended. "That ball is doing the talking" according to Tom, whose report was part of a session on community safety in Camberwell.

Over the past four years there have been 2,000 fewer cases of violent crime in the borough according to Jonathan Toy, head of Southwark Community Safety. But Camberwell now has fewer community wardens; there are six. Residents were concerned that they now have little time to be present on estates.

Teenagers from Camberwell youth council were concerned about their safety: poor lighting, dogs off the lead and theft of mobile phones on buses or on the street. Clare Haynes from Southwark police reported that all the local phone shops had now signed up to reporting stolen or locked phones, cyclist injuries were down and robberies were down 20% this year to date. Local residents raised concern about the use of tasers, most recently in Champion Hill. There were also complaints about people rooting through outside bins — but Haynes explained that each case the police had come across was just homeless people looking for food or goods "to make their life more bearable".

There have been 2,000 cases of domestic violence in Southwark over the past year and 300 in Camberwell Green. Southwark is funding SOLACE to provide help and support to victims, linking with specialist workers in King's A&E. It is also working with perpetrators who want to change their behaviour.

Traffic

The long-running Valmar Road parking dispute was finally resolved. Camberwell Business Network did not appear and their proposal for visitors' parking was thrown out. But a new traffic issue emerged. A deputation of Camberwell Grove residents said their residential road was now a "major rat run" in the heart of a conservation area. It is a walking route for large numbers of children going to two local primary schools and a day nursery. Traffic calming is ineffective and there are no safe crossing places. Council officers will review traffic on Camberwell Grove and report to the first Community Council meeting after the election which will be in July.

Marie Staunton





The Society comments on recent planning applications

The Society looks at all planning applications within the SE5 area and occasionally at other applications which are significant to our area of interest. We advise the relevant planning authority that we object, support or have no objection to an application where we have decided to comment.

Owing to the limited space we are only able to print a selection.

19 John Ruskin Street SE5

Change of use of ground floor from a retail unit (Class A1) to a studio flat (Class C3 – residential).

The Society objects to this proposal for a change of use.

The layout of the deep plan studio flat for three occupants is poor. The revised ground-floor façade has an inappropriate style of window and the scale of the front door is diminutive.

WITHDRAWN

49 Knatchbull Road SE5

Conversion of ground and basement floors of the former Prince of Wales public house to form four flats together with the provision of a dwelling house within the former vard area.

The Camberwell Society supports this proposal for a conversion to flats within the former Prince of Wales public house and construction of a dwelling house within the demesne. Above ground level, the original red brick building has been left unaltered, retaining its original chimney stacks, roof and dormer windows. The proposed dwelling house immediately adjacent within the former yard area is to a modern design which considers the rear and side outlook of its adjacent neighbours. Within the original building four flats are proposed, the smallest being a studio; three would have been more generous.

11A Wilson Road SE5

Erection of a two-storey rear extension to provide additional living accommodation.

The Society supports this proposal for a rear extension.

The projection at the rear is no more extensive than those existing at

the rear along this road. The new basement level projects marginally further to the rear than the raised ground floor and provides a small rear balcony at below boundary height. The full width design of the rear addition has greater symmetry than many others and the proposed ground floor windows work well with the existing building.

28A Wilson Road SE5

Erection of a part one-, part two-storey rear extension at lower ground floor and ground floor level to rear of flat to provide additional accommodation. The Camberwell Society supports this proposal.

In view of other rear extensions in the road it does not seem an unreasonable way to extend. For the privacy of the neighbour it might be better to have a flat roof light rather than a window in the wall.

The proposed design is a better use of space than the existing arrangement. It should not have undue impact on the surrounding area especially if the shower room window is removed.

GRANTED

16A Wyndham road and 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176 and 176A Camberwell Road SE5

Redevelopment of the site including demolition of existing buildings and erection of a residential-led mixed use scheme.

This large site comprising what was "the National" and its yard and surrounding buildings has been an eyesore for some years and the previously approved development was not taken forward. The current proposal provides many more – 82 as against 62 (and probably better) units (more dual, triple and quadruple aspects) and more amenity space together with a gallery, artists' accommodation and A1 units on Camberwell Road. The high rise blocks behind the main frontage are not overbearing and the set back frontage to Camberwell Road is in keeping with the shops to the north. There have clearly been reductions in height consequent upon pre-planning applications and the stepped

Wyndham Road frontage is now of an acceptable height. The balconies and glazed corners lighten the appearance of the residential unit façade and variation is provided by differing types of brick – though one hopes that the contrasts will be subtle and not too stark.

It is our view that this important site will be enhanced by the proposed development.

Potential Enforcement Issues

167 Camberwell Road SE5

(previous application 11/AP/4353)
Change of use of part of lower
ground floor from café (Class A3) to
office/professional services (Class
A2) use, and two-bedroom flat behind,
with new light well in between, and
rear extension at lower ground-floor
level. Rear extension at upper
ground-floor level and reconfiguration
of upper floors to create one further
two-bedroom flat and a one-bedroom
top maisonette, with new dormers to
front and rear roofs and alterations
to rear parapet.

We raised a breach of condition on this and received the following comment from the newly appointed case officer:

"Thank you for your recent communication in which you report a possible breach of planning control at the above address. From the contents of your letter I would describe the development you are reporting to be as follows:

Breach of condition: Installation of uPVC windows without planning permission."

2 Grove Lane SE5

Two advertisement hoardings on the north end of Grove Lane opposite No 2, with the words, "Parkhill Group." The Society would like to know if these advertisement hoardings were put up after granting planning permission. This is a conservation area and not a suitable place for an advertisement to be. The Society asks the Council to have the hoarding removed.

An enforcement officer has been allocated and is investigating.

In praise of Wren Road – a reminder of what we have

hanks to Donald Mason for his article (*CQ* No 179) "In Praise of Wren Road" for reminding us of what Camberwell possesses, yet we might too readily dismiss. He obviously has an eye to proportions when he looks at 13, and notes that something is not quite right, and he has an eye for good mannered streetscape.

He has surprised me in revealing that Lloyds Bank was extended by Edward Maufe, the architect of Guildford Cathedral. The former Bank building on the opposite side of road, however, he did not mention. Perhaps it was "too rich a fayre" for him? Whilst it has a shorter architectural order to the ground floor façade than is considered correct, this has allowed for some high quality carved brackets and leaf enrichment over the door. The view from across the Green also creates a rich assemble with a Scottish twist. as it has a turret at the end.

I hope Donald Mason will remind us of other things worthy of note; perhaps the carefully made Victorian features which survive amid the modern fascias of our shopping streets?

Peter Cooke

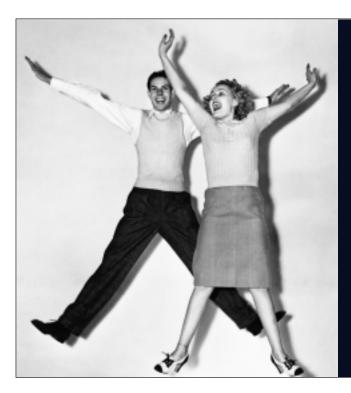


Above: Detailing on the former bank building Right: How it looks from the Green Photos: Peter Cooke

We welcome your letters

Please send them to the Editor, 4 Datchelor Place, SE5 7AP, or email them to mpowleybaker@gmail.com





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	2013	2012
Income		
Membership subscriptions	4,400	4,578
Donations	125	218
Sale of Cards, <i>Quarterly</i> etc	75	110
Sale of advertisements	1,140	1,248
Sundry receipts	80	168
Gardens day	470	515
Christmas party	1,287	1,049
Historic walk	90	870
Gift Aid	0	706
Bank interest	4	5
	7,670	8,684
Expenses		
Printing Quarterly	3,007	5,089
Quarterly expenses	28	1,746
Photocopying and printing	58	85
Charitable donations	1,212	1,488
Subscriptions	42	0
Meeting expenses	0	272
Christmas party expenses	537	251
Insurance	250	250
Gardens day expenses	230	0
General and administration	9	0
Rent	1,304	1,304
Computer	1,501	0
Computer	6,447	10,484
		10,101
(Deficit)/surplus of payments over receipts for year	1,224	1,800
Surplus brought forward	9,001	10,801
Surplus carried forward	$\frac{5,001}{10,224}$	9,001
Surprus carried for ward	10,224	<u> </u>
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013		
Current assets		
Cash at bank	1,154	25
Deposit account	8,981	8,976
Cash in hand	90	0
	10,224	9,001
Represented by		
Surplus of receipts over payments	10,224	9,001
1 1 1		

Approved by the executive committee on 3 April 2014

(Signed)

C M Blackwell FCA – Hon Treasurer 03-Apr-14

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

I have examined the Income and Expenditure accounts above. This charity derives a substantial proportion of its income from voluntary subscriptions which cannot be fully controlled until they are entered in the books and therefore cannot be wholly verified. Subject to this I confirm that the income and expenditure statement above has been drawn up correctly from the books and accounts.

(Signed)

S A Jeffries – Hon Independent Examiner

14-May-14

Chartered Accountant

Artists' Suppliers & Stationers Cowling & Wilcox p15	7703 1342	South London, including shops, services and property. www.southlondonguide.co.uk	
Chartered Accountants K A Jeffries & Company p19	8693 4145	Newsagent R K News p3	7703 2784
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Tel: 020 7703 9170
or see our website
www.camberwellsociety.org.uk
for an application form

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MEMBERSHIP:

Annual membership costs £15 (household) £8 (individual) or £3 (concessionary) Membership form available online: www.camberwellsociety.org.uk

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