
CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY
No.158 Autumn £1 (FREE TO MEMBERS)

www.camberwellsociety.org.uk



Parks and Open Spaces – p8/9

Camberwell Baths Campaign – p6

Licensing Saturation Policy – p10

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If you want the Council to retain the swimming pool (see pages 3, 6 and 15), please write **urgently** (in time for the 20 October meeting) to:

Councillor Lewis Robinson
Executive Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure
Southwark Town Hall
Peckham Road
London SE5 8UB

or email him at
lewis.robinson@southwark.gov.uk

THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, or is interested in Camberwell. Contact Jane Benham for details (see inside back cover).

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 dates. Members are welcome to attend as observers with prior notice to the Secretary, Ann Dannatt (see inside back cover).

Sub-Committees on planning, parks and open spaces, 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.

Forthcoming events:

9 December	Camberwell Society's Christmas Party
Time and venue	To be advised

GAZETTE OF LOCAL SOCIETIES, VENUES AND EVENTS

We recommend checking details

Brunswick Park Neighbourhood Tenants and Residents

Association Nina Swann 020 7252 6713

tandra.brunswickpark@yahoo.co.uk

Burgess Park, Friends of Monthly meeting. Membership is

free. Contact Steve Hedger. Email stevehedger@iftsl.co.uk

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 email: foclchair@googlemail.com

Cuming Museum, Old Walworth Town Hall, 151 Walworth

Road, SE17 1RY. 020 7525 2332

www.southwark.gov.uk/DiscoverSouthwark/Museums

Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road, SE21 7AD

020 8693 5254

www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Friends of the Earth Southwark Tim Atkinson 020 7358 9905

Email southwarkfoe@bopenworld.com

Herne Hill Society Jeffrey Doorn 020 7274 7008

Membership: Herne Hill Society, PO Box 27845, SE24 9XA

www.hernehillsociety.org.uk

Jazzlive Live jazz music every Friday night at St Giles' Church Crypt, Camberwell Church Street, SE5. Admission £6, concessions £3. Cheap food and bar. Contact Les Alden 020 8693 5207. See www.jazzlive.co.uk for latest listings

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 8693 4001.

www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Ruskin Park, Friends of Mary Kidd 020 7274 4756

South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road SE5

Open: Saturday 3-9pm, Sunday 4-9pm

www.southlondongallery.org

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).

Cover: A colourful roof garden in Camberwell. See page p11 (Photo: Henry Elwell)

From the chairwoman



Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob

As the leaves fall, suggesting to a doubting public that summer must have been and gone, new projects are hatched in Camberwell.

The Camberwell Society plans to apply for a Community Spaces Grant to repaint the railway bridge which has been rusting and peeling over Camberwell New Road for at least 20 years. This was, you may remember, a project Jeremy Bennett raised when he accepted the presidency. He also raised it with the Council transport team at our AGM and the idea received enthusiastic support from all those present. As both the Council and Network Rail cannot find the money, this seems our most plausible option for the moment.

The Transport Group met in July with fresh recruits, and a representative from King's College Hospital. It seems that the disabled access lifts at Denmark Hill Station are unlikely to be ready before 2010.

The Society has been conducting a survey of shops on Camberwell Church Street (many thanks to Tania Brisby, whose idea this was) and we are now teaming up with the SE5 Forum, tenants' and residents' groups and the Council to discuss ways of improving the shop frontages in central Camberwell and also to improve the disgraceful state of some key shops (such as the Post Office).

The Council has launched a new 'Project Bank', a call for fresh ideas for projects in Camberwell, and we will collate a list of suggestions for

this. Do please send ideas to me. Don't hope for any instant results though as it seems that the only funding for these will come, for the moment anyway, from s.106 money (the rather small amount of money which developers have to pay the Council to reflect the extra cost to them of new developments).

The Council has also prepared a funding bid to the Mayor's Parks Fund for Burgess Park and we hope it will succeed. We invited those responsible for maintenance of our parks to our July meeting (see pages 8 and 9) and it was clear that there was a lack of horticultural skill in our parks, partly because of a sense that there wasn't much garden to garden. Perhaps with a bigger investment in infrastructure, the park might obtain more critical mass, as Dulwich Park has done.

The Council also announced (at the Camberwell Community Council meeting on 8 September) that the executive would be taking a decision in principle as to what would happen at Camberwell Baths this October. (see page 6) The three bidders made presentations at the meeting.

The first was from a Fusion consortium, which relied heavily on its recent refurbishment of Brockwell Lido. It proposes to build 64 units on the second-class pool and car park to fund the full refurbishment of the pool, together with a new gym which would cross-subsidize the maintenance of the pool.

Sekula Ash Architects presented its plan which involved building lower rise 'pod houses' inside the second-class pool structure, retaining its joists but removing the roof, and subsidising the running of the pool with revenue from Russian/Turkish steam baths of the highest luxury in the basement. There would also be a mews of houses built on the existing car park and a small gym/community space.

The third bid was from the English National Opera (ENA) who is keen to take over the building for rehearsal space and administrative use. ENA would convert the swimming pool into a dance studio (by putting a floor on top of the pool

area) and would also propose building on the second-class pool area. There was talk of providing a space to be used for whatever the community needs, but it was clear that this could not include a swimming pool. ENA talked about outreach programmes for children and adults but agreed frankly that if we wanted a pool we couldn't have these. If the Council decides to accept this option it will have to go through a best-value procedure. If it decides to redevelop the baths, retaining the pool, it will go out to a competitive tender.

If you want the Council to retain the pool please write urgently to Councillor Lewis Robinson, Executive Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure, Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road or email him at lewis.robinson@southwark.gov.uk

In response to an anonymous member's letter, and also to other members' expressions of interest in the issue of who owns what in the Windsor Walk/De Crespigny area, I have obtained clarification and a map from the Secretary of the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College. His explanation of the landholdings, and his map, are set out below. I hope this helps.

Do keep in touch with us and put the date of our Christmas Party, 9 December, into your diaries.

Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob

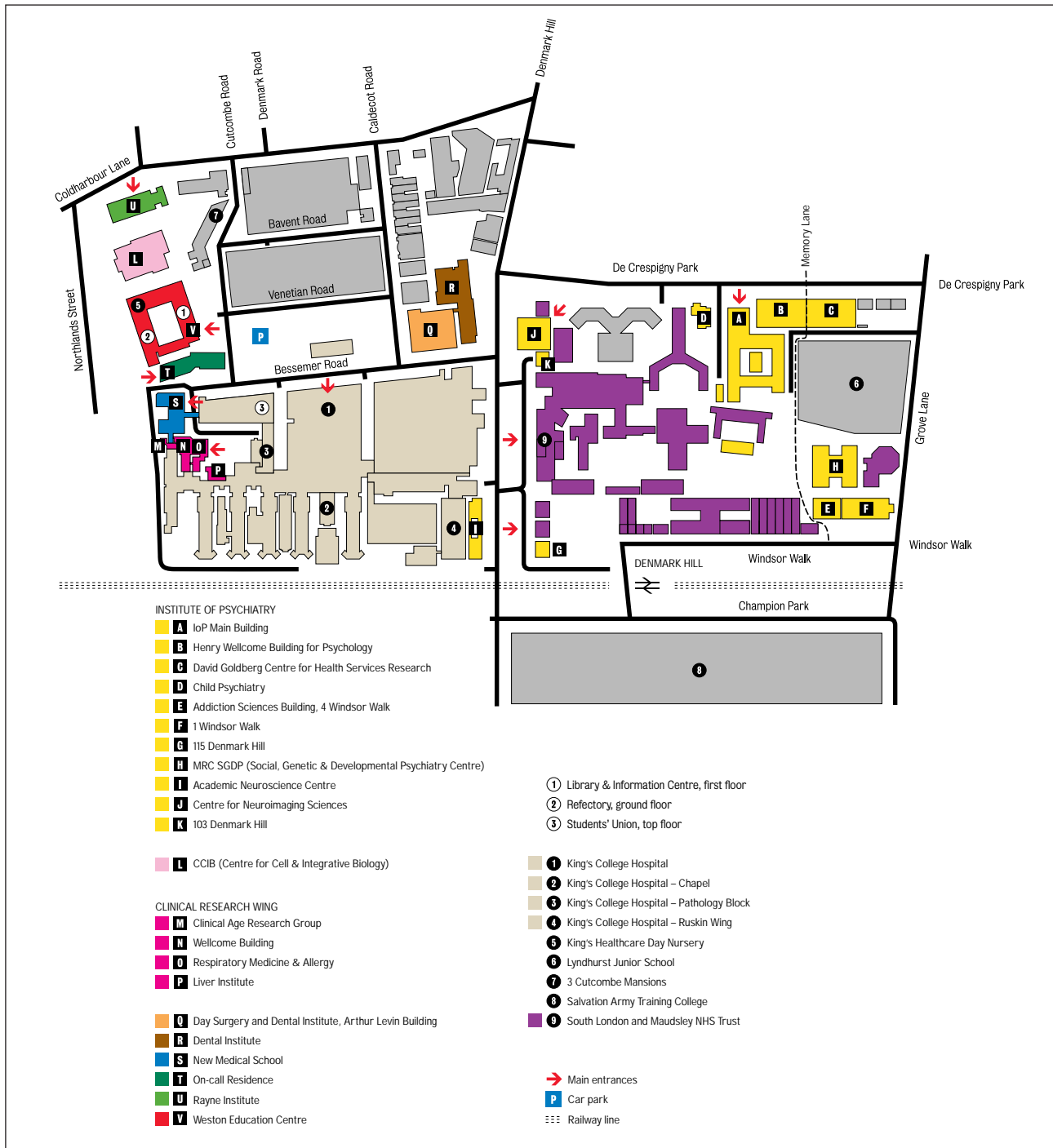
Who owns what

Four bodies own land and/or buildings shown in the map on the next page. King's College London is the university. The parts of King's College London based in Camberwell are the Institute of Psychiatry, large parts of the School of Medicine and the Dental Institute. The college also has a student residence on Champion Hill.

The college is mainly a leaseholder of either land or buildings in Camberwell. It has few freehold buildings.

The NHS is represented by two separate trusts: King's College

Continued on next page



Hospital and South London & Maudsley. Each owns buildings and land in the Denmark Hill area.

These trusts are linked with major charitable funds with similar names to the NHS hospitals they are connected with. Some of their funds are held as land or property on either side of Denmark Hill. These funds predate the creation of the NHS. They are managed separately from the NHS but support many good works for patient benefit and some research activity. As charities, they

have to manage their assets for greatest return, which they then disperse in accordance with charitable purposes. This is why they have put some of their properties on the market recently.

South London & Maudsley Trust owns the freehold for No 5 and Douglas Bennett House (Nos 12-16).

South London & Maudsley Charity is currently selling Nos 6-11 and owns the land for Nos 1-4.

The Institute of Psychiatry, part

of King's College London, leases/owns buildings Nos 1-4 (and is interested in buying Nos 6-11).

Harris Birth Right Trust has just purchased Nos 16-20 (it is uncertain whether this is freehold or leasehold).

Our ambition to acquire and develop Nos 6-11 Windsor Walk has been thwarted by the local conservation officer's intervention.

*Lawrence Benson
Secretary of the Institute of
Psychiatry, King's College, London*

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 (either Lambeth or Southwark) that we object, support or have no objection to an application where we have decided to comment.

Owing to the limited space available in the *Quarterly*, we are only able to print a selection of the applications on which the Society has commented.

21 Calais Street London SE5

Conversion of existing single dwelling to provide three self-contained flats (one three-bedroom, two two-bedroom) including demolition of existing conservatory and utility room and excavation and enlargement of existing basement with the formation of side and front lightwells, together with the erection of a rear dormer and one rear and two front rooflights and installation of a rear window at ground floor level.

The society objects to this application as the proposal will result in very poor access to the basement flat and compromise the internal planning of the flat above. The Society could support a proposal with a smaller basement excavation.

186 Camberwell New Road SE5

External and internal alterations and refurbishment including removal and alterations to internal walls, replacement of a rear window with French doors, replacement of all internal doors, formation of new decking to garden and associated

landscaping and installation of new garden lights at flat A.

This is a practical improvement to the circulation within the property.

42 Halsmere Road London SE5

Infilling of existing patio to create a second bedroom.

The society objects to this application as the insertion of a bedroom to the patio will deprive the living room/kitchen of natural light.

17 Northlands Street London SE5

Conversion of existing dwelling into three self-contained flats (one one-bedroom, one two-bedroom and one three-bedroom units) involving the erection of a ground floor single storey rear extension and loft conversion with the installation of a dormer window and provision of cycle parking and refuse storage.

The society objects to this application as the proposal will result in the largest unit, a three-bedroom family flat, having no access to outside space.

121-123 Southampton Way SE5

Demolition of former Bricklayers Arms Public House and the erection of a four-storey building comprising eight flats with associated amenity space to the rear and landscaping.

The Society objects to this application on the grounds of poor internal design. In particular:

1. The only flats with direct access to the communal garden are the two two-bedroom flats on the ground floor, with garden access being through the bedrooms rather than the living room, which does not appear to be the most convenient arrangement.
2. The five flats which have three or four bedrooms are all above ground floor level with no direct

garden access, thereby making them unsuitable for family use.

Although the massing and elevations appear reasonable, the site is located at the busiest junction on Southampton Way with neighbours whose ground floor street frontages are occupied by public houses, takeaway food outlets and shops. The proposal to locate residential accommodation on the ground floor street frontage will form a break in the continuity of the commercial users, and will create flats that lack privacy.

The Society also questions whether eight bicycle spaces are enough for development housing up to 45 people.

St Giles Road SE5 (Wilfred Sheldon Centre, St Giles Hospital)

Demolition of the existing building and the erection of a building of four storeys above basement accommodating 25 residential units (six one-bedroom, 17 two-bedroom and two three-bedroom flats), 20 car parking spaces at basement level, 28 cycle parking spaces, and refuse storage, and works to the existing boundary wall and gate. These works may affect the setting of listed buildings.

This is an important site in the area. The Society objects to this application on the grounds of poor design and excessive mass, which does not respect the fine three-storey Edwardian administration building adjacent. The Society has no objection to the redevelopment of the existing undistinguished 1960s healthcare building with a well-designed building of more appropriate scale and contextual sensitivity. The modification to the existing grade 2 listed boundary walls and gates is acceptable.



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Planning our Leisure Centre's future

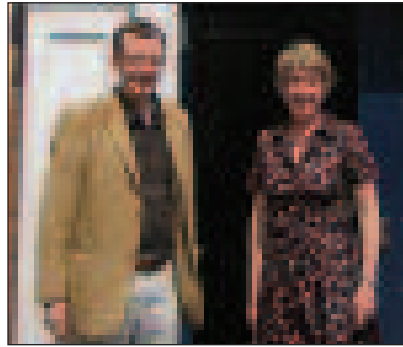
Before I took over as the Executive Member responsible for our Leisure Centre provision in May, I had closely followed this issue over the past two years and reached one clear conclusion: to quote Chris Owen, Chair of the Baths Campaign, *'I am not going to let the Council kick this ball into the long grass'*.

I have every intention of making a decision on the future of the Leisure Centre, and I have placed this on the Council's Forward Plan to be considered by the Executive in October this year. Readers may agree or disagree over the final decision, but one will be made, which in my view, is better than perpetual uncertainty, rumour and political point scoring.

In February 2008, the Council advertised for submissions for creative and sustainable solutions to ensure the long-term viability of Camberwell Leisure Centre, emphasising the retention of the pool if possible. The aim was to seek potential partners who had good ideas, but more importantly, the resources to realise those ideas. The Council only has £1.5 million allocated to the Leisure Centre, and a full-scale refurbishment would be in the region of £5-6million.

Seven submissions were made, and these were assessed by officers from property, planning, leisure and regeneration and scored against a matrix of criteria. There were three clear front runners: Ash Sukula architects, Fusion Leisure, and the English National Ballet.

All three proposals involve property development on the back of the Leisure Centre site to raise funds



Councillor Lewis Robinson and Helen Owen at the Leisure Centre

to refurbish the building, and the English National Ballet does not propose to retain the pool. Further details are available from www.southwark.gov.uk under Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 14 July papers and minutes.

Earlier in the year, a contact in the local community resulted in an approach from the Freshfield Foundation, a charitable trust set up in 1964 with a well-established record of philanthropic work throughout the country promoting community cohesion. The Foundation was interested in our wish to maximise the community benefit that could be achieved from the redevelopment of the Leisure Centre. It also has professional expertise around the development of a swimming pool in Formby. I was interested in the Foundation assisting by funding an objective 'stress test' of the potential community benefit and financial viability of each of the short-listed bids, and it was agreed they would undertake this work in June 2008.

Since then they have completed a comprehensive consultation with local stakeholders about the

submissions, including representatives from the Camberwell Society, the Baths campaign, SE5 Forum, residents associations and schools, and engaged leisure professionals to study the state of the building and the finances of the proposals.

On 8 September representatives of the three submissions were invited to a public meeting in St Giles Parish Church Hall to give a presentation and take questions on their proposals. (See Chairwoman's report on page 3.)

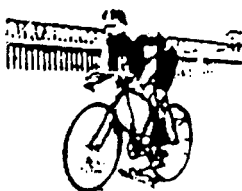
The Executive meeting on 20 October will be taking an 'in principle' decision on the future development of the Leisure Centre, and depending on the nature of the recommendations and the decision, legal procurement processes then follow. My three guiding principles are clear; the proposal should be financially viable, achieve best value, and reflect and provide clear community aspirations and benefits.

My post is sometimes seen as one of the lesser important roles by politicians, often described as 'Minister for Fun'. I beg to differ: I took on this post so that I can run services that local communities are passionate about – local libraries, leisure centres and sports provision. As a Camberwell resident I have seen and understand the feelings about the Leisure Centre and I am working for a viable future. Feel free to email me, or collar me on the way home from the Town Hall!

Councillor Lewis Robinson, Executive Member, Culture, Leisure & Sports
lewis.robinson@southwark.gov.uk

(See STOP PRESS, page 15)

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Take a short course and learn something new

We often see the students coming and going around the Camberwell College of Arts; sometimes we see the results of their studies outside on the pavement, usually around late spring/early summer, and occasionally we go inside to use the hall (for example, the Camberwell Society's AGM), but how many of us have actually gone in as students?

I decided to take advantage of my retired status to try out a couple of the College's short courses. The first was Introduction to Drawing and the second, and more recent, was Silver Jewellery. In both cases the prospectus was reassuring – no previous experience was required. Just as well – at school, I gave up art (or possibly it gave me up) at age 14 and subsequent experiments had been limited to trying to sketch the water jug or teacups in exceptionally boring meetings. And when it came to the Silver Jewellery course, I'd never dabbled in any form of metalwork ever before.

I took the Introduction to Drawing course nearly two years ago, over one week in July. We were a mixed bunch: most of us were doing it just for amusement, but others wanted it as a basis for a change of career, maybe into some form of design. Our instructor, Colin Hillier, was endlessly patient. He did assume we knew some rules of perspective, but generally guided us gently through portraying various shapes and textures on paper, concentrating particularly on capturing light and shade, using charcoal, then chalk and charcoal, and finally pen and ink. We progressed from solid and opaque objects to glass bottles and then to plant material, and from tentative outlines in pencil, often erased several times, to bolder pen and ink strokes which, if wrong, simply had to be accommodated. Our disparate band managed to produce quite different styles of pictures, some very stark and others more impressionistic. And, most important, we all learnt something and we all had fun.

The Silver Jewellery course ran



Jane's stylish brooch

this spring for 10 weeks on Wednesday evenings. I faced this with considerable trepidation – I had at least known beforehand how to hold a pencil for drawing, but where did one start for silver jewellery? Well, our teacher, Isabelle Tasseff-Elenkoff, began by giving us a handout with the theory, then giving us a whistle-stop tour of the various pieces of equipment, including, of course, all the safety requirements. Then, without further ado, she set us to making simple band rings, which would incorporate the basic techniques of measuring, cutting, annealing, bending, soldering and polishing. She also told us each to bring five or six designs the next week, when she would tell us the materials we needed.

My designs were not ambitious: from those I'd prepared I chose a brooch and a pair of cufflinks. The brooch involved three pieces of thick wire bent into different shapes, then soldered together. I wanted a textured surface and thought I'd have to achieve this through hammering the surface. In fact, when heating the wire in order to bend it, I managed to melt the surface (a technique called reticulation) and got a much nicer texture quite by accident. However, to my surprise (and, I suspect, Isabelle's, though she was too kind to say so) I did manage to solder the pin in place without melting it.

The cuff links were a simple oval shape (achieved by gluing a template onto the silver and cutting round it), with a surface patterned by beating with a round-headed hammer. Again the main challenge was attaching the fastening. This time, although the clips were attached without being melted, one was at a

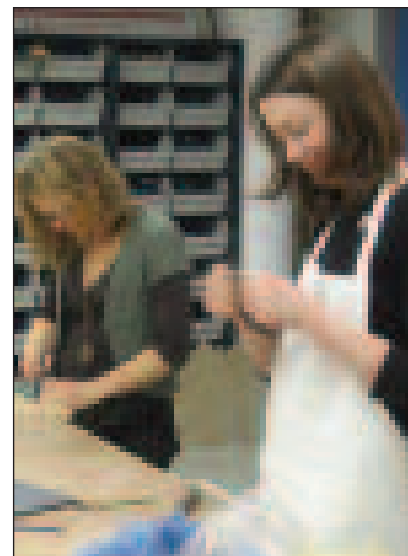
very strange angle. Isabelle advised re-melting the solder, then using tweezers to straighten the clip. The result was far from perfect – but the cuff links were wearable, proved by the fact that my husband actually wore them the next day.

Other students were more ambitious in their designs. One made a little bird pendant, which involved making a mould out of cuttlefish and pouring molten silver into it. Another pressed lace on to a piece of silver so that the pattern was reproduced, and yet another cut out some intricate and elegant leaf shapes which she soldered to a plain band bracelet.

Will I ever use my new-found skills again? In the case of the jewellery, I think it unlikely (unless I do the course again). Although I thoroughly enjoyed it – even the moments of extreme tension when soldering – I don't think I could justify the outlay necessary on equipment to do it myself at home. As for the drawing, again I enjoyed the course. I confess I haven't taken it further yet – but I have bought paper and charcoal, so perhaps some day soon. . .

But don't take my word for it – why not try it for yourself? You can find details of the short courses on the website, or you can ring the short courses office for a prospectus (see page 15 for the address).

Jane Benham



Budding silversmiths at work

Lack of proper maintenance spoils Camberwell's parks

Two senior managers from the Council, Des Waters (Head of Public Realm) and Henry Thompson (Operation manager of Parks), attended the June meeting of the Executive Committee. They had been invited because the Parks and Open Spaces sub-committee was at its wits end about how to improve the maintenance of Camberwell's parks.

There are a number of parks in Camberwell besides Camberwell Green and Burgess Park and we wanted to discuss how the contractor, Quadron, could be made to maintain them all to the standard laid down in the contract signed with Southwark.

Only four years ago members of the sub-committee had been asked to comment on the contract's Schedule of Works and in their opinion it had provided for excellent maintenance of the parks and open spaces. It implied supervision by horticulturally trained staff to ensure appropriate work to maintain and improve the parks.

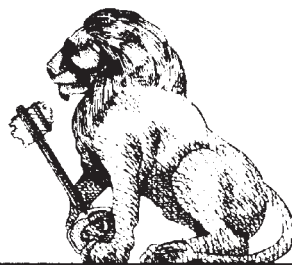
The results have been startlingly different from the picture presented in the contract. Camberwell parks are neglected to a degree that is lamentable and obvious. The grass is cut, badly, by operators who do a quick, sloppy job with machines whose blades seem to need



This corner of Burgess Park, which has entrances on two busy roads, looks unwelcoming and neglected

sharpening. (We understand that grass-cutting in Burgess Park has been subcontracted.) Vehicles are driven across the grass instead of along the paths, creating ruts and unsightly patches. Weeds are taking over shrubberies, overgrown bushes are not pruned, self-sown trees are growing larger every year and plants that die are not replaced. A general air of neglect pervades Camberwell's parks.

Quadron had no trained staff to deliver results when it took over the contract. Since 2007 13 members of its staff have had training to NVQ2 level. Unfortunately, only three of these (and one is a tractor driver), work in the area which includes Camberwell's parks. An apprenticeship scheme is in place and there are three trained head gardeners, but efforts have been concentrated on Dulwich, Peckham



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Rye and Southwark Parks so Camberwell has not benefited.

The Parks and Open Spaces sub-committee has done what it could to obtain adequate maintenance of the parks. It has written many letters, walked round the worst patches with the contracts officer and even mounted a full-scale inspection with Mr Thompson and Quadron's contracts manager. After this we were assured of multiple improvements but all that actually happened was that a fence was made to stop vehicles driving across one area (they now go round it), a few roses were planted on Camberwell Green and a few self-sown trees uprooted in Brunswick park (at the cost of part of a shrubbery). Since then the lack of proper maintenance continues to downgrade Camberwell's parks and open spaces. The air of neglect in the parks encourages crime and discourages families from using them.

The question we wished to ask Southwark was this: why is Southwark apparently unable to ensure that Quadron keeps to the terms of the contract *in Camberwell*? Quadron is being paid for services which it is not delivering: this is a waste of public money as well as a failure to honour a contract. We understand Quadron has been fined for some of its failures, but this has clearly not been enough to ensure that Camberwell's residents have the same amenities as the rest of Southwark.

Mr Waters' response was that, judged as a whole, Quadron's performance had been satisfactory. Southwark had obtained three Green Flag awards. (It was pointed out that none of the awards had been for



One of Brunswick Park's neglected areas that could do with some attention

parks in Camberwell, which was conceded). Moreover, he said Burgess Park did not have enough gardens to warrant the employment of a gardener. However, there are gardens in Brunswick Park, Lucas Gardens and Camberwell Green and horticulture is as necessary a qualification for looking after a park's trees and grass as it is for maintaining flower-beds.



The further argument, that there is no money for improvements to our parks, in particular Burgess Park, addressed questions that had not been asked. We were not asking for more money to be spent (although that would be very welcome) but merely that the money *already* spent on Quadron should result in a higher

standard of maintenance than was currently being accepted as good enough for Camberwell.

We were grateful that the two officers came to talk to us, but we were less than satisfied with what was said. The actions promised stopped short of an expressed determination to make Quadron fulfil its contract to look after our green spaces and did not seem likely to get more work done in them. We shall continue to press for more value for money for Camberwell from Quadron.

*Jean Sackur
Chair, Parks and Open Spaces
sub-committee*

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It is time for a saturation policy in Camberwell

For nearly two years I have been campaigning, with support from the Camberwell Society, for the introduction of a saturation policy for licensing in Camberwell.

There has been widespread dismay in the UK following the introduction of 24-hour drinking under the Licensing Act 2003. For instance, a very detailed and authoritative survey by the Local Government Association (LGA) shows the additional strain from alcoholism on councils, police, hospitals and other local services.

The Chairman of the LGA is quoted as saying: 'The new drink laws have made no impact whatsoever on reducing the alcohol-related violence that blights town centres and turns them into no-go areas on a Friday and Saturday night. The vast majority [of authorities] have reported no change at all, with violent incidents just being shifted later into the evening. Town Halls have been landed with an accumulated bill of £100million for the new laws and have been left with little option but to pass the cost on to the council taxpayer.'

Under the 2003 Act Southwark Council, as the local licensing authority, has the ability to adopt a special policy in any part of its area where evidence shows that the total effect of licensed premises on local issues is so great that a special (ie saturation) policy is necessary. As a result of such a policy no further licences would be granted to 'similar premises' unless the applicant could show, if so required, that the licensing of his premises would not add to the problems already identified.

This involves a new and

important distinction. Under normal licensing applications the applicant has an entitlement to the licence (subject to appropriate conditions) in the absence of objections or representations by residents, police and so on.

In the case of a saturation policy a 'rebuttable presumption' is created whereby there is a subtle change: instead of the normal conditional entitlement, the applicant may need to demonstrate that the grant will not add to the existing problems.

However, this only applies if there are representations. In the absence of these, a licence would be granted on a normal basis. The policy is intended to maintain the status quo and does not enable the authority to withdraw or cut back licences already issued, impose quotas which would prevent a licence being considered on its own merits, or set limits on the hours of future licences. All of this seems common sense and should not interfere with the granting of licences to premises such as new restaurants which required sensible licensing hours nor should it affect existing and well-managed establishments.

Southwark has been considering the introduction of saturation policies since 2006 but there has been considerable delay in putting forward detailed proposals. In particular, the Licensing Department has waited a long time for statistical analysis of figures for alcohol-related violence and disturbance.

It seemed to me that a useful and reliable source of such information could be King's College Hospital (KCH), whose A&E Department is in the front line for such local

problems, particularly at night. When I wrote to KCH in October 2007, it was not able to analyse accurately the data for alcohol-related admissions but spoke of an 'anecdotal' increase in alcohol-related attendances. It also noted that it had been successful in becoming a pilot hospital site for a project examining alcohol abuse, part of this project being the identification of all attendances so related. KCH offered to share the information with us but has recently said that it did not receive the support needed to carry out the relevant auditing and so cannot help as anticipated. I am attempting, so far without success, to contact St Thomas' and St George's Hospitals to which KCH have referred me.

A meeting of the Southwark licensing sub-committee was held on 13 May to consider a recommendation to the Council of introducing a saturation policy in Camberwell, Peckham and Shad Thames. The Camberwell area, as defined, contains 76 licensed premises – a heavy concentration which should not surprise anyone. There was quite a high response to a local questionnaire on the proposals for Camberwell. Interestingly, there were 16 responses from individuals who already held licences, 12 of which were in favour, and 18 responses from residents, all in favour. I emphasised that I thought this would be a useful extra instrument for the sub-committee in controlling the alcohol problems and there was no reason for it in any way to interfere adversely in the conduct of normal and properly managed licensed businesses. The sub-committee voted unanimously

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to recommend to the Council the introduction of a saturation policy in the areas concerned.

So it was a considerable disappointment to learn that the Council, far from approving the recommendation of its own licensing sub-committee, decided on 9 July to refer the discussion back on the grounds that updated statistics showed a significant decrease in Violence Against the Person (VAP) and calls to the police concerning disorder and rowdiness. Obviously, one can accept that, if it could be shown that the policy had been introduced on faulty premises, this could give rise to a range of

awkward appeals of various types.

However, I have limited faith in the local statistics which have been tabled, whereas there may be less doubt about the national findings for alcohol abuse which appear to be differently based and more general. The figures tabled for VAP in Camberwell seem a very small sample in statistical terms, 201 cases over three years, with the comment that 'police data does not reliably record when violence has occurred as a result of or in conjunction with alcohol consumption. It is impossible to accurately assess alcohol-related violence in Southwark'. Moreover,

VAP covers a range of crimes from murder to harassment! Calls about disturbances form a larger sample but clearly can fluctuate very widely.

I have asked to see the more up-to-date statistics and we shall need to review these carefully. On any common-sense basis a saturation policy for Camberwell is surely justifiable. Such a policy might have led to the timely closure of the former Cube Bar (67 incidents, including shootings, in 2005-06) and of the Aristocrat Bar, with the death of a young man in a shooting outside in 2006.

Nicholas Roskill

Take 57 varieties . . .

This colourful roof garden at 4 Grove Lane is the creation of Henry Elwell, who told us it came about through the generosity of Becky Seymour, owner of the property. Explaining the garden's beginnings, Henry says: 'I made a garden outside my kitchen and bathroom windows soon after I moved here. This brought pleasure to most people but not to the managing agents, who threatened to take action against me for being in breach of my lease. Becky came to the rescue and offered her roof, so the garden was moved to where it is now.

'I totted up the variety of plants that live on the roof adjoining my living room and there are now 57, a magic number for Mr Heinz. In this case it is pure chance and slightly less than it once was. The dreaded vine weevil that arrived by Trojan horse in the form of a choisya has taken at least five of the rarest pelargoniums and ipomoea cairica. Passiflora alata either succumbed to the same pest or to the cold.'



A glimpse of part of Henry Elwell's colourful roof garden

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Camberwell is almost a graffiti-free zone

Nicholas Roskill began his anti-graffiti campaign 12 years ago, during which time he has personally put his hand to clearing it up.

At the time of writing central Camberwell looks a more or less graffiti-free zone, although there have been outbreaks from time to time.

In August 2007 there was extensive graffiti vandalism by a gang using the tag 'Time SE5'. We were in touch with the police about this and learnt from them that schoolchildren had been found practising tags in their school books. I understand that this can help in the identification of culprits!

More recently there has been a large number of 'high-level' graffiti by taggers whose climbing capabilities might qualify them for a career in mountaineering. These have appeared extensively in Orpheus

Street and Denmark Hill and the police have been monitoring this.

The Southwark Council Environment and Housing team has continued to remove graffiti with undiminished vigour and has removed high-level graffiti which often requires cranes or 'cherry-pickers' to provide the access needed. This involves substantial costs and it can be difficult to deploy this sort of equipment along main roads.

The leader of the Council team is Chris White who is most helpful. He can be contacted on 020 7525 2462, mobile 07958 475 089 or chriswhite@southwark.gov.uk

Greater powers given to the police to stop and search for graffiti materials, and the ban on the sale of spray paints to minors, may have helped reduce juvenile graffiti but there is still a massive problem at railway stations and along railway

lines, which are outside my remit. I was disappointed to read in the press this year that a gang of vandals who caused £100,000 of damage to railways escaped prison sentences, while a graffiti artist who commemorated his girlfriend by spraying 'I love Emma' in tags 12 feet long across London's rail network was deprived of her company for two years (less remission).

I must thank the many people who have given me support, sometimes contributing towards the costs of the paint or chemicals I use. It is a source of satisfaction that a relatively graffiti-free Camberwell compares favourably, and rather surprisingly, with many European cities such as Florence which are plastered in graffiti that no one seems to take steps to remove.

Nicholas Roskill

A LITTLE PIECE OF LIVING LOCAL HISTORY!

Home-owning residents of Camberwell will at some point in their lives have come into contact with at least one estate agent - and Camberwell's more 'mature' residents will be familiar with Roy Brooks. Some may even have met the infamous character himself who wrote the most flamboyant and well-read property descriptions of all time: honest, down-to-earth, funny and utterly outrageous.

Roy Brooks ran his company, with his 'right-hand men': Colin Lowman and Tony Halstead. For 30 years, the three 'musketeers' toured London listing the properties of the rich and famous and the 'ordinary' - and sold them. Sadly Roy Brooks died suddenly in 1969. At this point Colin and Tony bought Roy Brooks from his Estate.

In 1989, Tony suggested to Colin that they 'cash in their chips'. A buyer came forward. Their wives set out their slippers. They put them on. However, Colin never felt comfortable in his. Born to the world of estate agency and feeling bereft, he happily joined an established Camberwell firm, and was back in the business within 6 months. For a further 15 years, Colin

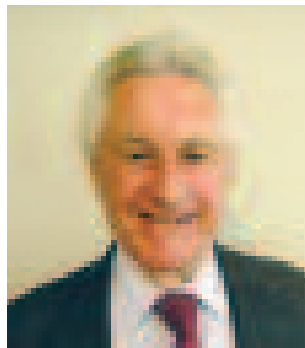
COLIN COMES HOME

continued to work for local firms selling Camberwell homes and then last month.....

Colin went 'full circle' and re-joined the firm he set out with.

The mature residents of Southwark will be delighted to discover that if they call Roy Brooks today, they can get the same old-fashioned service. His experience is vast. He has valued and shown the houses of half the residents of south-east London to half the population of London, sometimes three times over! He has found properties for their children and their children's children. Colin has put together no less than 6,000 home sales in his 55 years in the business, and his enthusiasm is unstoppable.

When Colin 'came home', he confided that the two most important things in the world to him were 'my wife, and Roy Brooks' - in that order! He is very important to us. If you value local knowledge and experience, he could be very important to you!



Looking ahead

9 October

Organ Recital by Peter Wright, organist at Southwark Cathedral, to include two arias sung by Clare Cozens.

St Giles' Church, 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm with complimentary glass of wine)

Tickets £12.50 at the door or £10.00 in advance from Victoria Arthur, 62 Camberwell Grove SE5 8RF. Please make cheques payable to 'The Friends of St Giles' Church'.

All proceeds towards restoration of St Giles' Church

Email: victoria.arthur@tiscali.co.uk

8 November

Lambeth Archives Open Day

Lambeth Archives at Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road SE5.

See a collection of local people's stories and experiences over the last hundred years and find out how to trace your family history.

Open 10am-5pm

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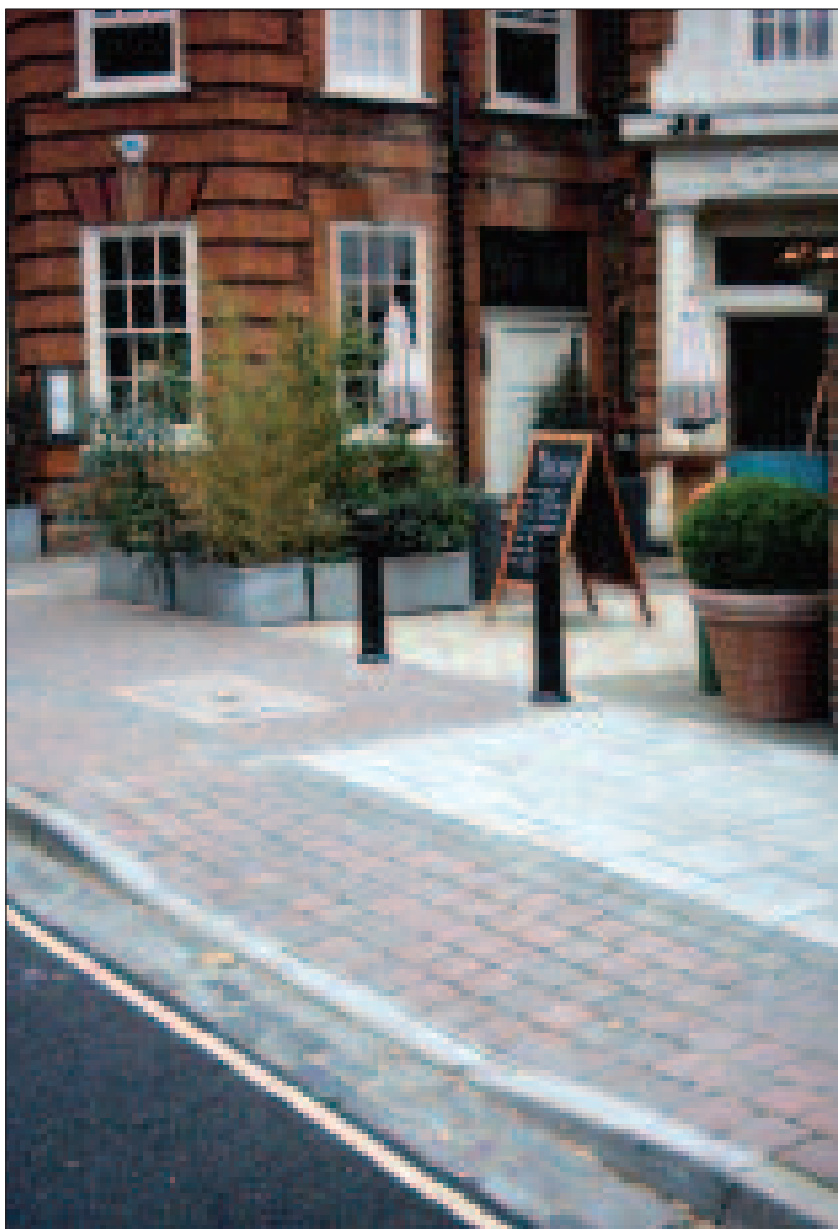
Do things like this happen in your school? What happens when everyone – even the mums and dads – want to see their favourite take the stage? Finding out could be a lot of fun!

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www.theatrepeckham.co.uk

Tickets £7 (adults) £4.50 (under 16s)

Bollards make it cleaner, greener, safer



Camberwell Grove now has two new bollards thanks to the Camberwell Society. Use of this passageway from Grove Lane as a car park for Wooster & Stock (CQ157, pages 10-11) led some drivers, illegally and dangerously, to cut through to Camberwell Grove using a dropped kerb intended solely for pedestrians. The bollards were installed by Southwark Council following the Society's successful bid for Cleaner Greener Safer funding

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Good words, works and achievements

Trevor Dannatt works and words

By Roger Stonehouse

Publisher: Black Dog Publishing

£27.00

Camberwell must have a higher concentration of architects per square mile than almost anywhere else in the country. Trevor Dannatt is one of the most illustrious and yet I suspect he is largely unknown outside his peer group and other devotees of Modern Architecture in England. This book *Trevor Dannatt works and words* demonstrates why he deserves a much wider recognition.

As an architect who is still practicing well into his eighties, his working life has spanned the whole post-war period, which in itself is a remarkable achievement. At the start of his career he was chosen to work as one of a very talented group of architects at the LCC under Leslie Martin to design the Festival Hall during that period of post-war austerity. The resulting 'People's Palace' is now rightly regarded as one of London's finest and most popular public buildings.

Since then Trevor Dannatt has worked in private practice but still found time to contribute significantly to the discourse on the direction of architecture through his writings, a collection of which is included in the book. As if this wasn't enough, he has also edited magazines, designed



exhibitions, taught students as a professor of architecture and has amassed a wonderful collection of 20th century art. The book illustrates how he befriended and derived inspiration for his own work from such artists as Patrick Herron.

For those people who have become drawn to modern architecture through the current crop of super stars such as Foster, Rogers and Zaha, I hope you will now be interested enough to explore the work of the previous generation, people like Leslie Martin, Peter Moro, Colin St John Wilson and Trevor Dannatt who changed Modernism from its European pre-war roots into a distinctly English style. Dannatt's own work generally uses a limited palette of natural materials such as brick and timber (and even concrete used in a sculptural way) and often pitched roofs of zinc or lead, all of which he manipulates to make his buildings warm and friendly and often poetic.

Sir John Tusa in the Foreword describes Dannatt's work as 'humane and at home with the places where his buildings sit and with the people who use them.' On the cover of the book is a house in Cambridge, largely clad in timber, which even though it was designed in the late 1950s is still influencing architects today.

The book illustrates his many buildings all over the UK and abroad, ranging from small domestic projects (look for the lovely section on hearths and inglenook fireplaces), to large complex projects in Saudi Arabia. However, there is a significant amount of work for the South Londoner to discover near to home: the Friends' meeting house, Congregational Church and a private house in Blackheath, local authority and old peoples homes in Clapham, school buildings in Eltham, Streatham, Lewisham and Barnes, and the Maritime Campus at the University of Greenwich. These will give the visitor a sense of his 'calm, ordered, quiet and sensitive' designs. I can't help feeling that he must feel slightly out of place in today's world of architecture which he has described as a 'me too era of freaks, icons, blobs and overt technological expression'. Presumably, the Peckham Library is not top of his list of favourite buildings.

Richard Barton

Dr Harold Moody

By Stephen Bourne

Publisher: Southwark Council

Copies from Southwark Local

History Library (free to young people through schools)

This is an excellent book that focuses on the development of the black community in the 1900s and outlines the struggles they encountered. It tells the story of Dr Harold Moody (1882-1947) who came from Jamaica in 1904 to live in the 'Mother Country' and study medicine at King's College.

The book is easy to understand and doesn't have too many dates to

remember. It shows also that black people could be educated and well learned, sometimes even more so than a white person.

Dr Moody was one of the founders of the League of Coloured People. Following its formation he became a very influential power who even managed to make the BBC apologise for racial comments by one of its presenters.

I would say Dr Moody, unlike his counterparts Dr Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X, is a great song that was never sung. (And if it was, it was just not loud enough.)

His efforts and work were, however, greatly appreciated and

thousands of people attended his funeral at the Camberwell Green Congregational Church [now demolished] in Wren Road. His work is still recognised today and an English Heritage Blue Plaque marks his former home.

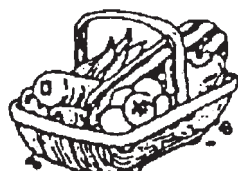
Dr Moody was part of the effort, if not a greater part, that led to the illegalisation of racism in Britain. This is a great achievement that many still appreciate and enjoy today.

This is a great book that tells a story of a great man and the struggles of a black minority. Young people will enjoy reading this book.

Wayne

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Chris Owen, chair of the Camberwell Baths Campaign, has written to Cllr Robinson strongly stating the case for retention of the baths (see pages 2, 3 and 6) and reminding him of the 4,500 signatories and the march supported by 400 local people. Add your support by writing to Cllr Robinson.

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