
CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY
No.159 Winter 2008/9 £1 (FREE TO MEMBERS)

www.camberwellsociety.org.uk



Vote for the Green – p11

The old Mary Datchelor School – p8

Champion Hill and the Manor of Dulwich – p12

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Auditor wanted

Very many thanks to Mr D R B Steel who has kindly audited our accounts from 1994 to date. He has given his expertise freely, for the benefit of the charity. If any of you are suitably qualified and willing to take on the mantle, please get in touch.

Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob

THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AND 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 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.

GAZETTE OF 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 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. E-mail: *southwarkfoe@btopenworld.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. 'Recent Archaeology', Dr Christopher Constable, Goose Green Centre, St John's Church, 22 February.

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: Camberwell Green: cast your vote to make it better. See page 11

Report from the chairwoman

The twist of tinsel at the top of the street lamps at the Green has been suggesting Christmas since early November but by the time this reaches you we will have had our Christmas party at the Dark Horse, twinkling trees will have come and gone from windows and we will all be at the thank you letters end of the process. Many thanks therefore to everyone who came to the party and supplied raffle prizes.

But the person I have to thank most this year is Jane Benham who has been our energetic Membership Secretary for more than two years and has greatly increased our membership with her efforts, from 529 in March 2006 to 637 in 2008. She has delivered old copies of *CQ* to whole streets and put leaflets in



Jane Benham: our thanks

local shops and, crucially, she has sat, together with Bill Knights, for hours on the gate at Open Gardens Days, signing up an average of 30 new members a session. She has also been an invaluable member of the executive committee. Jane is now concentrating her efforts on her various choirs. We will miss her greatly and welcome an approach from anyone interested in even part of her old job.

In respect of projects I can report that the redevelopment at the Stationmaster's House is still due to happen. The start date is dependent on Network Rail which has agreed to reinstate the roof at the same time as it repairs the pub roof, which was stripped of lead last year by thieves. To do this it needs possession of the line – stopping the trains – to put up



Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob

scaffolding. It has already applied for possession but it can take several months to be granted. We hope for good news early in the New Year. Repainting the bridge over Camberwell New Road has proved to be such an expensive task (over £200,000) that it seems unlikely that we will be able to obtain a grant for this, especially as it is considered non-essential work.

Planters have appeared on railings at the Green in response to our application for funds to soften that area, but they have not been placed where we asked, at the Denmark Hill junction. Many have been placed on the railings of the Green itself. Although they are still cheerful, this is perhaps the least needy spot for greening. Accordingly

we have now applied for money from the Mayor's tree planting scheme for some trees to be planted in the apron of road at the Denmark Hill/ Camberwell Church Street junction, outside the Silver Buckle and Mozarella e Pomodoro. Many thanks to Oliver Stutter, the tree officer at the Council, for helping us with this.

The Camberwell Baths Campaign has kept our pool at the top of the agenda with excellent representations at the Overview and Scrutiny committee this autumn. The Council is now committed to finding extra funding from central government and matching it to refurbish the pool and provide free swimming for under 16s and over 60s. (See the article on page 10 by Councillor Lewis Robinson).

The Planning Sub-committee continues to engage with big and small projects around Camberwell. The Maudsley is consulting us, and other stakeholders, about its plans to redesign its campus, and so is the Salvation Army. The Planning Sub-committee has the biggest workload of any of our committees and would welcome a volunteer to help with the administration of its cases. Do get in touch with Nick Holt if you might be interested.

And a very Happy New Year to you all!

Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob

Subscription reminder

Subscriptions to the Camberwell Society fall due on 1 January each year. Many of you pay by Standing Order, so the money comes to us automatically. But could we please remind the rest of you – assuming you would like to continue as members – to send your cheque to:

**The Camberwell Society
7 De Crespigny Park
London
SE5 8AB**

Rates are unchanged at £15 for a household, £8 for single membership and £3 concessions.

Planning Applications

The Society looks at all planning applications within the SE5 area and occasionally at other applications which are of significance 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.

Camberwell Grove: Mary Datchelor School Development

The erection of six conservatories on plots 30-35.

The Society objects to this planning application because the erection of these conservatories would be contrary to Southwark Council's own Residential Design Standards Supplementary Planning Document, adopted September 2008.

This application has now been withdrawn.

181 Denmark Hill SE5

Alterations and conversion of existing two storey Victorian property to provide four three-bedroom houses and the erection of four new three-bedroom houses to the rear on lower ground and ground floor levels with eight off-street car



181 Denmark Hill

parking spaces, amenity space and landscaping. Demolition of a two storey former coach house to form new vehicular and pedestrian access to the rear.

The Society supports this application which promises to provide additional good quality accommodation for the area. House layouts and scale are reasonable, with amenity space behind. The modern house elevations are slightly uninspired and the solar panels perched on the roofs have an insubstantial look, but on the whole this is a reasonable use for the existing building and site.

Denmark Road SE5

Change of use of existing basement, ground floor retail unit and upper level flat into two self-contained flats

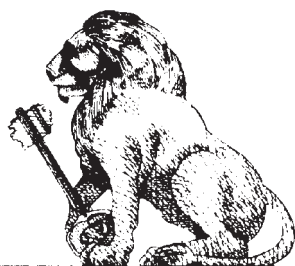
(one two-bedroom and one three-bedroom) with the erection of a single storey side/rear extension and a loft conversion incorporating two rear dormer windows and installation of two front rooflights, and alterations to front elevation comprising replacement of shopfront with domestic windows and door, installation of window to the front elevation at basement level and creation of front lightwell with railings.

The Society has noted this application.

39 Grove Lane SE5

Conversion of a 'home office' to provide a one-bedroom self-contained flat including elevational alterations and provision of walled front garden.

The Society supports the Council's objections to this planning application. The application was refused by Southwark Council on 30 April 2008 on the grounds that it would 'represent an incongruous and inappropriate feature harmful to the amenities of the general public, residential amenities of future occupiers and detrimental to the appearance of the Conservation Area'. The Camberwell Society's original objection in this case did not refer to the proposed enclosure of a significant part of the passageway between Camberwell



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The proposed 'walled front garden' cuts deep into the passageway

Grove and Grove Lane because we did not know of this proposal. It seems to have been added as an amendment to the application in 2007 and we were not aware of it. However, having now seen the amended plan the Society objects to it on the grounds that:

1. The design creates an inappropriate feature and would be detrimental to the appearance of the Conservation Area for two reasons:

- The existing passageway is an established feature of the Conservation Area. It has existed for over 70 years and its boundaries and appearance have not changed since the Conservation Area was designated. It is approximately 3.8 metres wide all along it and it affords clear views and access between Camberwell Grove and Grove Lane. It is an intrinsic part of the open leafy feel of the area.
- The proposed 'front garden' would not be at the front of Camberwell Hall, but at the side of the property where a small live/work unit is to be located. It is in a very awkward shape, far deeper than would be useful to the proposed unit, and far too overlooked. It would create a large unsightly obstruction cutting deep into the passageway (reducing the passing area to 1.7m in width for 6.7metres of the passageway). The design and layout are inappropriate for the location. It would make the

passageway feel suddenly cramped and squeezed, and abruptly sliced into. Hence, the proposal would be 'detrimental to the appearance of the Conservation Area' as stated in Southwark Council's reasons for refusing the application.

2. The proposal involves a loss of amenity to the general public. As stated above, the proposed enclosure significantly encroaches on the passageway between Camberwell Grove and Grove Lane, a passage whose layout and use have been so long established that the Camberwell Society asked, on 23 April 2008, that the right of way be recorded on Council maps under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Evidence was submitted to the Council on that application evidencing this use for over 30 years. There are photographs which show its appearance. The proposed enclosure compromises this long established right of way.

Hence, the proposal would be 'harmful to the amenities of the general public' as stated in Southwark Council's reasons for refusing the application.

Land to rear of 31, 32 and 33 Grove Park SE5

Permission is sought to construct a five-bedroom single family dwelling house occupying basement/lower ground, ground and first floor level, with associated waste storage, two off-street car parking spaces and cycle storage. The development will require the removal of several trees and shrubs (with retention of principal trees), with replacement planting, landscaping and the installation of a green roof.

The Society welcomes this application for the quality of the design and believes that the house

will enhance the street by its presence. The Society notes, however, that plans relevant to this application are not currently available for inspection on the Planning pages of the Southwark Council's website. The Society strongly supports the inclusion of plans on the website to enable all interested parties to make informed comments on planning applications.

Late submission

14-16 Denmark Hill

The Society commented as follows: We understand that the consultation period for this application has formally closed, but we would be grateful if you would take this comment from The Camberwell Society into account. The Society would like to object to this application on the grounds of the presence of the protruding sign, which we feel only adds to the current overcrowding of both the shop and street signage on and around Camberwell Green. In addition, we would like to express a general view that illuminated shop signage of the type being proposed in this application is out of character with a conservation area, and we would welcome any steps taken by the Council to restrict such signage.



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Camberwell's critical friend: serving the community

When I was a pupil at the Archbishop Michael Ramsey school in Camberwell in the 1970s, our local police stations had reputations for being among the toughest in South London. If we saw a policeman, we didn't ask him the time, we just ran for it!

Times have changed. In 1992 I put aside my mistrust of the boys and girls in blue, and accepted an invitation from them to join a local police/community forum in Camberwell. It was called the Faraday Sector Working Group and we met at Camberwell Police Station. Since that time I have been working voluntarily on behalf of the Southwark community as an 'independent adviser' to our local police.

In the early days, I concentrated on building trust with local officers and gradually I found, with like-minded members of the Camberwell community, a willingness on the part of our police officers to talk about our concerns. The findings of the influential Scarman Report led to the introduction of many measures to improve trust and understanding between the police and the communities they serve. Sector Working Groups was one of the outcomes of the Report.

However, my 'community' approach differed to the confrontational one directed at the police that I had observed at some other public meetings. I have always taken a friendly approach, and treated officers with respect, but I do not shy away from making criticisms of any police practices or decisions I



Stephen Bourne (centre) is pictured with PC Brian Corner and Stefano Maraia

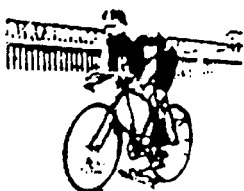
consider bad for our community. For example, in recent years I have been extremely critical of the axing of the popular and much-needed Elder Care Project, and the closure of our police stations, especially the one in Camberwell. There is no point working with the police as an adviser if you just sit there, smile, pass the custard creams, and say nothing! I have sometimes been described by the police as one of their 'critical friends' and I am happy with that.

As a result of the bridge-building work I had already accomplished with Southwark Police, in 1999 I was invited by our first Borough Commander, Superintendent Trevor Pearman, to become a member of the Critical Incident Panel. Together with other representatives from our wider Southwark community, we have been working together for almost a decade as independent advisers on a number of high-profile cases, most notably the murder of the Peckham schoolboy Damilola Taylor.

In 2003, for my work as a 'critical friend' to the police, I received a Metropolitan Police Volunteer award.

I am glad I have remained committed to this work because I have found a new role as the co-chair of my local Safer Neighbourhood Community Panel. In 2005 Safer Neighbourhood Teams were introduced and placed in our communities to work closely with local people. The teams include one sergeant, two police constables and several police community support officers. It has proved to be an important initiative but it can only work if people are willing to work in partnership with the teams. The Camberwell Green Safer Neighbourhood Team was one of the first to be launched in Southwark, and I have been working in partnership with them since they were introduced, mainly through the Community Panel which includes representatives from various communities in the Camberwell

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Christmas Party 2008

Green area. In 2007 I was elected by the panel to co-chair meetings with the sergeant. It was not a position that I wanted, but I realised that the partnership work could only progress if a community representative took some responsibility for the leadership of the Panel.

I have seen many examples of police and community partnership working at its best, particularly during the murder investigation of Damilola Taylor. However, though the police get it right some of the time, they can still get it wrong some of the time.

I believe they can get it right more often when the community is working in partnership with them. It is not easy. It is unpaid, time-consuming, sometimes difficult and challenging, but ultimately enriching and rewarding work.

I will continue to serve my community and be a 'critical friend' to the police as long as I am asked to, and as long as I can make a difference.

Stephen Bourne

Camberwell is covered by three Safer Neighbourhood Teams:

- Camberwell Green
(020 8649 3587/07843 065912);
- Brunswick Park
(020 8721 2448/07920 233910);
- South Camberwell
(020 8721 2448/07920 233911).

For further information go to
www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

The Camberwell Society would like to thank the local traders and individuals listed below who so generously donated prizes for the Christmas Party raffle. The party, which was held at the Dark Horse on 9 December, was an enjoyable and successful evening. The Society raised over £319 for charity.

Local traders' contributions

Camberwell Superstore, Camberwell Church Street

Bottle of wine

Cambria Restaurant, Kemerton Road

Dinner for two

Crusons, Camberwell Church Street

Three pineapples

Duraty, Denmark Hill

New kettle

Flying Fish, Camberwell Church Street

Two takeaways

House Café, Camberwell Church Street

Coffee and cake for two

Pasha Hotel, Camberwell Road

Five Turkish baths/body rubs

7 Star Cleaners, Camberwell Church Street

£15 dry cleaning

The Vineyard, Camberwell Grove

Meal for two with bottle of wine.

Personal contributions

Valerie Balleny

Jane Benham

Jeremy Bennett

Trevor Dannatt

Conrad Dehn QC

Tim Gaymer

Nick Holt

Anna Lawrence

Joanna Macpherson

Monica O'Brien

Barbara Pattinson

Nicholas Roskill

Bill Taylor

Bottle of wine

Chocolate tree

Bottle of Champagne

A copy of his book

Bottle of Champagne

Half bottle of port

Bottle of wine

Scented candle

Photo frame and framed print

Bottle of wine

Books

Bottle of wine

Tickets for Hairspray

We have mislaid the name of the generous person who donated a picture in a small box. Please get in touch so that we may thank you properly.



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The days when school for girls was regarded with suspicion



The following account of school life in 1887 first appeared in the Datchelor School Magazine of March 1937, when the school was celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. It was repeated in the Datchelor Old Girls' Newsletter in 2005.

In the Autumn Term of 1887 I mounted the big front steps to the big front door and entered the Datchelor School as a pupil in the Fourth Class, Lower School as it was called then, and wasn't I just proud to be at the School? Be it noted also that was the very last time I went to school through the big front door!

My very young parents were warned by their elders that they were taking a very serious step in sending me to such a school. Higher Education for Women in general, even in the 1880s, was looked upon as a trifle superfluous, to say the least. Of what possible use could it be to a girl certain to get married?

It might (dreadful thought) even seriously interfere with her chances of marriage! How could a girl

possibly find time to make shirts and knit socks for her father and brothers when her evenings were entirely taken up with homework? She might even prefer chemistry to cooking. Indeed she must perforce, because of all these advanced ideas, make the very worst of wives, so said those who were content with the 'Academy for Ladies and Young Gentlemen – Music and the use of the globes!'

I wore a pink embroidered cambric frock with a pink satin ribbon waistbelt and a new pink satin bow in my hair, which was very long, the side pieces gathered back and plaited down the middle, the plait secured by the aforesaid new satin bow; and I wore a thick, straight fringe which was supposed to hide my high – and, of course, intellectual – brow. Still girls did not aim at looking intellectual then.

Thick, black, ribbed, woollen stockings, black French kid shoes with white stitching and a white straw Gainsborough-shaped hat, rimmed copiously with white satin ribbon bows, and white gloves

completed my ensemble. There were no school uniforms then. We used to hear vaguely that they were worn in Germany and Russia – but we were free to wear our best bib and tucker, so to speak, at school.

In the winter I wore a long tweed cloak called an 'Inverness', of the Sherlock Holmes variety, rather draughty about the wrists and elbows, but 'pride feels no pain', said my elders, so I obediently tried to apply this axiom of not feeling to my cold arms also.

I belonged to the era of children being 'seen and not heard', of not speaking till I was spoken to: indeed, there seemed then to be a proverb to meet any and every occasion – all very subduing, and intended in time to turn one into a 'perfect lady'.

We never lounged against furniture or walls, stood with arms akimbo or sat with knees crossed. We sat and stood up straight, shoulder blades well in, the rap of a grown-up thimble would often remind us if they were not.

What we called 'School Decorations' were introduced in 1887. We all subscribed sixpence each and furnished the schoolroom window-sills inside with terra-cotta and art pots filled with ferns and palms. I secretly believe some of those pots are still in existence! One or two classrooms boasted corner brackets, embroidered fronts worked by the girls, and on these were placed very special terra-cotta pots painted by the art students in that particular form.

My class – Miss Morse's – wrote an essay on 'School Decorations', and to her intense amusement we all to a girl opened with the strikingly original phrase: 'I think the School Decorations are very nice.' Thirty minds with but a single thought!

Our drill was a thrilling event, with a real, live Army Sergeant in a scarlet military tunic giving orders in a – it is said somewhat subdued as necessary to the occasion – military voice. We did a good deal of marching under his direction, and he really taught us to walk well.

Later on came Swedish Drill with much more varied exercises, but as yet with no dumb-bells, clubs or hoops.

We learnt dancing in one big class round the dining-hall, schottische, waltz, polka, lancers and quadrilles, and very jolly it all was.

To get to school I was allowed a penny ride from Queen's Road Peckham, to then Vestry Hall (now Town Hall) in a tramcar pulled by two eager mules, whose traces were so low that they quite often got their feet over them and pulled the car off the rails on the granite setts, with a shattering, rending noise that made our teeth chatter.

The passengers then got off while the driver and conductor pushed the car back again on the rails, and we all got back again! This car was lit up at night by just two very dim colza-oil lamps placed overhead at the two ends, shining red outside, but so subdued inside as to be of little use for reading or even seeing one's way about.

The tramcars left off running altogether in very snowy weather, and we had then to walk all the way home.

Camberwell and Denmark Hill were really quite beautiful and countrified in the 1880s, and Datchelor girls lived in beautiful big houses in the Grove and Grove Lane



An artist's impression of how the old Mary Datchelor school building will look once the development is completed

and along Peckham Road, Coldharbour Lane and on Denmark Hill or Herne Hill. It is difficult to realise that Dog Kennel Hill was a narrow country lane for many years afterwards, bordered with hawthorn hedges, and that Champion Hill and Green Lane were almost too lonely – and most certainly too dark – to venture in after day had gone.

There were no games until tennis was introduced with one hard court, in 1889, but didn't we just enjoy the swings and giant stride! Ten minutes for a roll and butter and

cup of cocoa and 20 minutes on a swing was my lunch-time from 1887 to 1890!

Piano practice and homework filled my evenings entirely during those years, and I always enjoyed both tremendously. There certainly were no 'talkies', no radio, no motor-cars, no weekends, no fast electric trains to tempt and whisk one out into the country. It certainly must have been much easier to concentrate than it is now!

Winifred Sykes

St George reports that the Camberwell Grove development is now 40% complete. The first completions are expected in spring/summer.

Work on the Ruskin House shop apartment in the old school building is well underway and is due to open early in 2009. The cleaning works of the external façade and the roofing of the old school building are now almost complete.

The entire substructure works for the row of 12 new townhouses are complete and work on the basement level has commenced.

The frame of Creighton House (the coachhouse) is now complete and brickwork is due to begin.

The frame for the affordable housing block has been completed, 80% of the windows are installed and the internal fit-out has started.

The windows of the three townhouses adjacent to the old school building have been installed and work on the lead roof is due to commence.

When the development is completed, it will provide 90 properties, including apartments and townhouses.

Apartment interiors will include custom-designed kitchens with stone or composite worktops, specialist lighting, underfloor heating and pre-wiring for an audio sound system. As well as gas fires, integrated coffee machines and wine coolers, some of the townhouses will also feature walled courtyard gardens, conservatories and private individual garage spaces below the properties.

The Butterfly Tennis Club reopened in June 2008 with a new upgraded all-weather playing surface provided by St George.

For further information contact the Camberwell Grove marketing suite on 020 7708 5829, email camberwellgrovesales@stgeorgesl.com or visit www.camberwell-grove.com.

Baths campaign: swimming provision will be retained

You will be pleased to hear that in October the Council's Executive agreed with my 'in principle' recommendation that we should pursue a refurbishment of the Leisure Centre that included retaining swimming provision. This reflected the overwhelming views of all those who had contacted me.

The next step is to identify further potential funding to achieve this aspiration. Earlier in the year we had short-listed proposals which sought to close the funding gap by developing residential accommodation at the back of the Leisure Centre to raise the additional funds required.

However, further independent research by the Freshfield Foundation over the summer has identified that due to the serious deterioration in the current economic climate, and further works being identified at the pool, even these proposals could leave a shortfall of up to £4million. I have been advised that to begin a procurement process

with this kind of shortfall would run a serious risk of failure, leaving the Council incurring procurement costs of up to £500,000 and not taking us any further forward.

Fortunately, after looking unsuccessfully for the past couple of years for additional funds to refurbish the pool, a serious opportunity has now presented itself through the government's Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Fund. I have been advised that it would not be unreasonable for us to apply for £1.5million from this fund, which together with the £1.5million allocated from the Council, would go a long way to covering the financial shortfall.

I have instructed officers to make an application to this fund for Camberwell, which they have already submitted, and we are awaiting the 'green light' to work up a fully detailed application.

The final decision on whether we receive a grant from this fund will be given fairly promptly, on

31 March 2009, and if we are successful, we could move immediately to formally procure a development partner. The government grant could only be spent on the refurbishment of the pool.

Although this will be a competitive application process, I believe that we have made an excellent case for a grant for Camberwell Leisure Centre, particularly in view of the exceptionally high usage by local schools which relates directly to the government's Free Swimming programme, and the fact that the Council can bring match funding to the table. I cannot think of a more appropriate 'Olympic legacy' than the refurbishment of a swimming pool in one of the most deprived areas of South London.

I will be personally working on this application as a priority over the next few months and making the case for Camberwell to the government as strongly as possible. I have already met with Kate Hoey MP, the London Mayor's Commissioner for Sport, who has given her support, and Harriet Harman, your local MP has written to the responsible Minister, Gerry Sutcliffe MP. The Amateur Swimming Association in London has also indicated it would prioritise our application. I hope that all elected representatives in Southwark, regardless of their political colours, will actively lend their support.

I can give a commitment that while I hold this portfolio, which I hope to do until the May 2010 local elections, the existing facilities at Camberwell are secure and that I will be working to put together a package which meets the community aspirations to secure the long-term future of the pool – even if it is a future successor in my post that gets the credit!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further queries.

*Cllr Lewis Robinson
Executive Member for Culture,
Leisure & Sport
lewis.robinson@southwark.gov.uk*

Frank Barnes

The summer issue of the *Quarterly* included a letter from Frank Barnes, a resident of Domett Close, Cleave Hall Estate, Champion Hill, outlining a brief history of this very pleasant estate.

Frank, who was nearly 90, sadly died in August. He and his wife Mary, who died about five years ago, were one of the first residents to move in to the then newly built estate and Frank lived there for 55 years.

Frank with his wife was a founder member of the Copleston Centre Church, an ecumenical project in Copleston Road from

1979, and almost single handed maintained the building from then on, saving the church a great deal of money in day-to-day repairs.

Frank, who was born in East Dulwich, was a choir boy at St Barnabas and a life-long supporter of Dulwich Hamlet. He was in the Rifle Brigade during the war and after the war worked at the Ministry of Defence as a vehicle inspector.

Frank was devoted to his church and community and was very active, always cheerful and very, very kind. Nothing was too much trouble for him. He will be very much missed.

Veronica Ward

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Your Green vote is needed



Improve this view of Camberwell Green by casting your vote

You have until Friday, 30 January 2009 to cast your vote for the regeneration of Camberwell Green if you haven't already done so.

Mayor Boris Johnson has launched a scheme called 'Help a London Park' which aims to regenerate 10 open spaces and Londoners are being given the chance to vote on which ones deserve a £400,000 grant to make them cleaner, greener, safer and more enjoyable. The two shortlisted for Southwark are Camberwell Green and Dickens Square and

residents of the borough have been invited to vote for one of them. You can vote by text message, postal vote or by logging on to www.london.gov.uk/parksvote

Improvements suggested by the Council are:

- improved entrances
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Francis Jevons

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The case of Champion Hill and the Manor of Dulwich

From early times ditches have been dug and hedges planted to mark the boundaries between parishes, manors or estates. At intervals these boundaries were perambulated, by parish officers or manorial juries, to make sure that they had not been damaged or encroached upon. Sometimes posts or stones were set up, as a visible record of where precisely the boundaries ran.

Unsurprisingly, not many boundary hedges or ditches survive in suburban London. But boundary posts or stones, though not (to judge from large-scale Ordnance maps) as numerous as they were a hundred years ago, can still be found. The Champion Hill area has no less than four manorial boundary stones and two parish boundary posts (see the sketch map). Why were they erected in those particular places?

Surviving manorial and estate records for Dulwich – the College was lord of the manor and virtually sole landowner – show that trouble over boundaries was not uncommon in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In 1787, for instance, the College cast up a bank and ditch to prevent cattle from straying between Dulwich Common and the neighbouring part of Norwood. Ten years later it was decided to set up stones to mark the boundary between Dulwich Woods and the manor of Lewisham on Sydenham Hill, in order to safeguard an already existing bank and ditch from being damaged by gravel extraction on Sydenham Common.

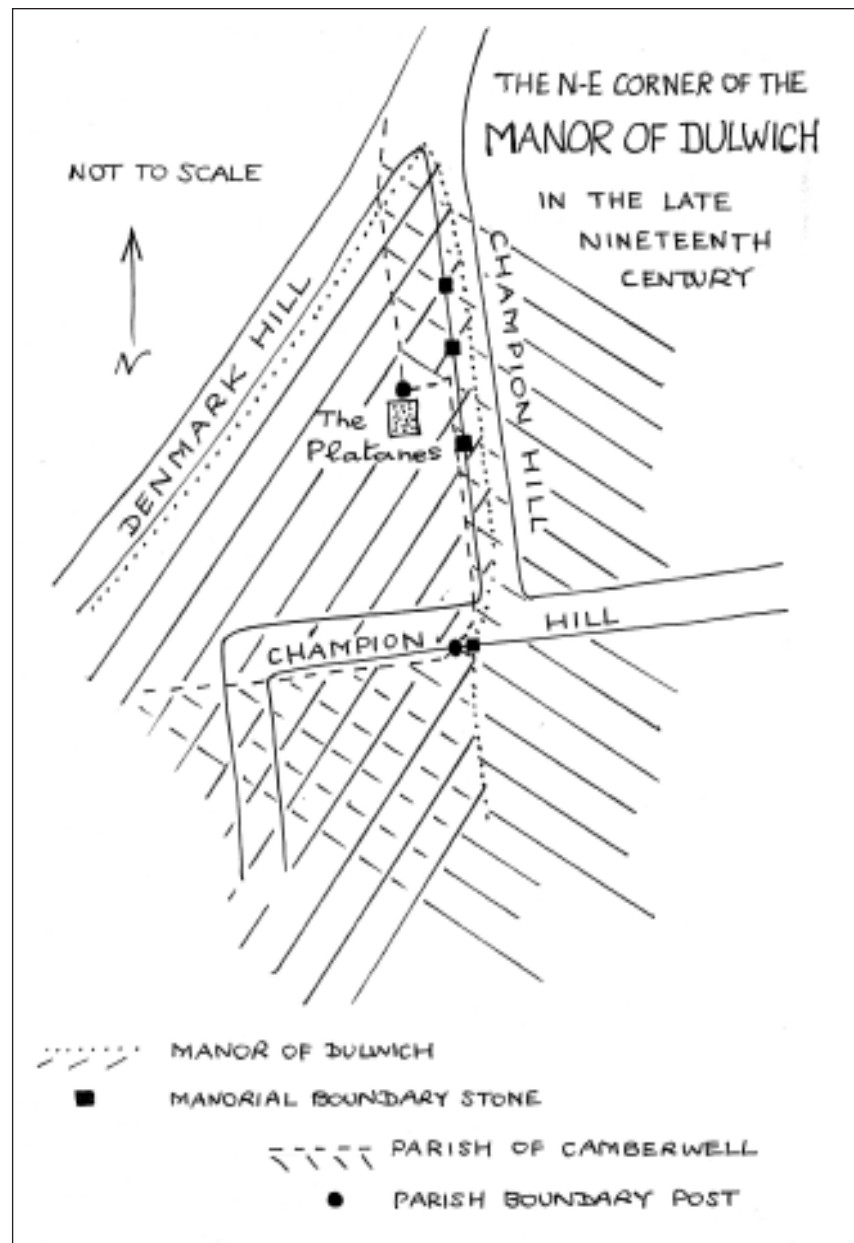
Boundaries that ran along highways could also be troublesome. In 1792 the manor of Friern encroached on that of Dulwich by

erecting boundary stones on the west side of Lordship Lane, whereas the boundary in fact ran down the middle of the road. And this brings us to the Champion Hill case, because three years earlier 'Mr Crispigny' had perpetrated a somewhat similar encroachment. In constructing a new road, the northern arm of Champion Hill, he had 'converted the Ditch, which is part of the North boundary of the College estate, to the Road'. In other words, the physical evidence of the boundary had disappeared, just as it had, perhaps many centuries before, in Lordship Lane.

Nothing was done about this for several years: the 1790s were not an

energetic period in the management of the College estates. But following the appointment of a new warden in 1805 a spirit of improvement manifested itself. Acts of Parliament were obtained to enclose the common, and to encourage housing development by enabling the College to grant longer leases. As part of this activity the whole lordship was surveyed, and one of the areas on which attention was concentrated was Champion Hill. This was a long way from the common, but it was certainly an area suitable in due course for high-quality middle-class houses.

On 1 March 1806 the governing body of the College (but not,



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interestingly, the manorial court) ordered its surveyor to ‘cause... boundary stones to be placed on the land of the college adjoining the Champion Hill Road, to denote the quantity of ground laid into the road, which is part of and belongs to the College, and that on each stone be specified the number of feet which the College property extends eastward from such stones’.

The stones were duly set up, with the required measurements in feet – and even inches. Nor were they forgotten later. Three of the four surviving stones were re-cut twice, in 1846 and as late as 1923. The fourth was re-cut in 1846 and again in 1883, when it was re-sited in a pillar forming part of the front garden wall of The Platanes, a large house erected the previous year.

The Platanes was also on the front line, so to speak, of the Camberwell parish boundary, which in this area diverged from that of the Dulwich manor and estate. North of the house the parish boundary turned westward for a few yards, passing between the house and its stables, and then turned at right angles to run northward again (see the sketch map). Thus, although the whole of the property was leased from the College, the house itself lay not in Camberwell parish, like most of the Dulwich estate, but in Lambeth. In 1870 the Camberwell authorities erected a handsome iron boundary post, incorporating a little image of St Giles with his hind, at the point of the dog-leg at the north-west corner of the house. This is not publicly accessible today, but another iron post, put up by the parish four years later, can still be seen next to one of the manorial stones (here the two boundaries did coincide) on the south side of Champion Hill.

During the 1870s, a time of unprecedented suburban expansion in this part of London, it was as important for the local authority to be clear about its boundaries as it was for the private owner. It is not surprising, therefore, that at this date Camberwell parish was still beating its bounds. According to the *South London Press* the ceremony involved



In 1870 the Camberwell authorities erected a handsome iron boundary post, incorporating a little image of St Giles with his hind, at the point of the dog-leg at the north-west corner of The Platanes

pausing at strategic points in the perambulation to ‘bump’ members of the inspecting party. From this indignity, a survival from a less genteel age, even the ‘sacred person of the vestry clerk’ (Mr Marsden) was not exempt.

Richard Olney

I am grateful to the Governors of Dulwich College for permission to consult and quote from material in their custody, and to King's College London for permission to photograph the 1870 boundary post. I am also indebted for much help to Mrs C M Lucy, Keeper of the College Archives, and, as always, to Stephen Humphrey and his colleagues at Southwark Local History Library.

Sources:

Dulwich College Archives, surveyors' reports 1785-1804 (Vols LXV-LXVII), private sittings of the governing body 1805-29 (Vol LVI), papers relating to enclosure, etc (Box XXIV) and maps of the lordship 1806-1906; Southwark Local History Library, Dulwich manorial presentments 1782-1840 (A 498 1 1/2); *South London Press* 1 June 1878; Brian Green, *Dulwich: a history*, 2002, p45.

Camberwell Library Reading Group

I wonder how widely known it is that there is a thriving reading group at Camberwell Library? We meet on the second Tuesday of every month from 7pm to 8.30pm in the downstairs room at the Library. Some members rarely miss a meeting, while others come when they can, perhaps three or four times a year; current average attendance at a meeting is about 10 to 15.

Members of the group nominate the books they think would be enjoyed by the rest of us. Membership is varied (both men and women covering a range of ages and backgrounds) which leads to an interesting selection of books and one of my personal reasons for belonging to the group is that I find myself reading – and enjoying – books that I might otherwise never have thought to pick up.

Sufficient copies of the chosen book are obtained by the Library and are available at least a month before it is discussed. Discussions (which take place over a glass of wine) are lively, accessible and wide-ranging:

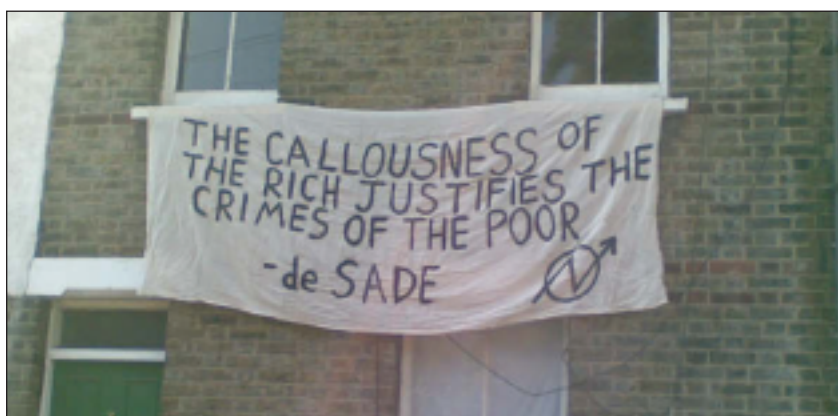
the author's style, the characters, the plot, the background, issues that might be raised in the book and often the relevance it has to our own lives or experiences.

Recent books that we have read include *Three Men in a Boat* by Jerome K Jerome, *Family Matters* by Rohinton Mistry, *On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan, *If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things* by Jon McGregor, *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald and *The Dirty South* by Alex Wheatle. We also have visits from local authors.

Each year, we celebrate the Orange Prize for Fiction at a party with reading groups from other libraries in Southwark. We also celebrate Christmas with a group dinner in a Camberwell restaurant. New members are always welcome and if you have any questions about the group, I am sure that the Library staff will be happy to answer them.

Doreen Hutchings
Member of Camberwell
Library Group

Not at all your regular type of squatter



I thought that I would share one of my summer holiday snaps with you. As you may know, the pressure to get planning permission to build dwellings in Stories Mews resulted in planning blight and squatters occupying 3 Canning Cross and several of the adjoining properties after the initial planning application failed. The refusal was overturned on appeal and so in due course we can expect some mediocre terraced houses to be crammed onto the site.

The squatters were evicted in July – they were an arty bunch, not your regular type of squatter. They left the banner shown in the photograph on leaving the property. A high standard of protest I thought!

Matthew Read

Write to the Quarterly

We welcome your views.
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Do you know?

A councillor has asked me about the history of the wooded area in D'Eynsford Road between Camberwell Green and the Magistrates' Court. Is anyone able to provide me with information?

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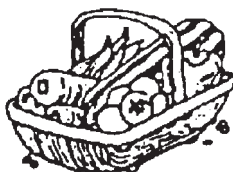
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