
CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

No.164 Spring 2010

£1 (FREE TO MEMBERS)

www.camberwellsociety.org.uk



The Tiger makes a comeback – p8

Voice from the past – p10

YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD IS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Have your say at the AGM
on 13 May. See details
below and the Chair's
report opposite.

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, Maria Pia Masella (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

13 May, 7pm	Annual General Meeting	Institute of Psychiatry, 16 De Crespigny Park, SE5
23 May, 2pm-6pm	Open Gardens Day	Tickets from 34 Grove Lane on the day

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 For meetings, events and updates on Burgess Park improvements, www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk
Email: mail@friendsofburgesspark.org.uk

Butterfly Tennis Club Forthcoming events: Open Day 11am, 24 April; Club Social 8pm, 20 May at Grand Union on Camberwell Grove. www.butterflytennis.com

Camberwell Gardens Guild Membership enquiries to: Pat Farrugia, 17 Kirkwood Road SE15 3XT.

Carnegie Library, Friends of See the Friends' tray in the Library or 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. AGM 18 April, 3pm, followed by slide show *Discover the origin of names in SE15 south of the railway line* (John Beasley), at Goose Green Centre, St John's Church, East Dulwich Road, SE22
www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Ruskin Park, Friends of Doug Gillies 020 7703 5018.
friendsofruskinpark@googlemail.com

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).

Report from the chairwoman

I hope, when you read this letter, that the frost-bitten buds of Camberwell's crocuses and camellias will at last be open and it will be spring.

Society events for your diaries

The AGM will be on 13 May (after the local, and possibly national elections) at the Institute of Psychiatry at 7pm. We will have speakers on development in Camberwell and the street scene, including Councillor Lewis Robinson with an update on Camberwell Baths, a speaker from the design team working on Burgess Park, a speaker on other developments and possibly a speaker from TfL (who have some questions to answer about why they cut down the trees on Denmark Hill, near the Green due to 'salt poisoning' when they still had green leaves on their branches). We hope you will come with all your enthusiasm and difficult questions. This is also your chance to change who we are. Please do send in nominations for whoever you think would be good officers for the Society next year.

Open Garden's Day will be on 23 May, as many gardeners have told us that June is too late for their best blooms. So please do all contact me now with offers of your early blooming gardens and, nearer the time, with cakes and spare hands. Email campaspe@campaspe.co.uk

The Christmas Party will be on Monday 13 December. Please don't contact me about this yet or I shall panic. Luckily Adam Woodward has kindly volunteered to help organise our events.

On the subject of volunteers, we would very much like one of you to



Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob

help us set up and monitor/keep up to date a Facebook page for the Society, so we can reach out to more members, in a new way.

News

The URC Working Party has done great work in putting together cogent objections to the proposed development at the corner of Love Walk and Grove Lane. The planning application was refused by the Council and has now gone on Appeal to the Inspector. This will be conducted on paper; there will be no oral hearing.

After much prompting, the Council did succeed in getting the railings (which were erected some years ago without permission) removed from the roof of 39 Grove Lane. (See page 7.)

We have written to the Chief Executive of the Maudsley about the disgraceful state of its derelict buildings in Windsor Walk, copying in the leader of the Council and the

conservation officer. We have also asked for the intervention of our MP, Harriet Harman. So far we have not had a reply from the Maudsley or Ms Harman but we understand that the Council is considering taking action to compel the owners to do something about these buildings.

Islay Charman, Honorary Secretary of the Society from 1982-1986 and its Chair from 1986-1989, died just after Christmas. The Camberwell Society organised a donation in her memory, to be paid to a charity for the promotion of scientific education, a charity she supported. Islay was the head of science at Mary Datchelor School as well as its Deputy Head. Those who remember her will recall that she was a tireless worker for both the Society and for the Camberwell Abbeyfield Society, which she also chaired.


Applications for Cleaner Greener Safer money have gone to the Council. The Camberwell Baths Campaign has asked for money to improve the public realm at both the north and south entrances to the Baths. The Camberwell Society joined with the Friends of Burgess Park and others in asking for money to remove the derelict remains of the William IV pub from inside Burgess Park.

Thanks

Many thanks to the South London Gallery for inviting all our members to a special private view with wine and an opportunity to throw away art of their choice at the exhibition the Art Bin, by Michael Landy.

Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob
campaspe@campaspe.co.uk

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Camberwell history features on e-bay

The picture (right) is taken from an old postcard showing Mary Datchelor School in Grove Lane. The school was founded in 1800s by the Clothworkers' Company and was pulled down in 1926 to make way for the Curtis Green building, currently being turned into apartments by St George.

Illustrated are the lower school buildings at Mary Datchelor School, circa 1900. This building appears in the surviving plans held by The Clothworkers' Company, who were benefactors to the school. The Clothworkers' have kindly allowed us to include a copy of these plans. It does not appear that their archive contained a picture of this lower school building until this postcard came to light.

A 1870 plan shows a curved walled front enclosure. This was lost when Grove Lane was widened in the early 1900s and the railings seen on the postcard were then constructed. The plan of the house follows the typical arrangement but with a square bay with rounded corners to the rear, which is also a feature of 46 Grove Lane, and the Gothic glazing bars are also at 62 to 70 (only even numbers) Camberwell Grove. A box surround in front of the dormer window is a rather curious and probably Victorian alteration.

The school used this existing building for a number of years, but the house was demolished to make way for the 1926 purpose-built Curtis Green school building.

A postcard with this picture was auctioned on e-bay last year and was bought by a lady in Dulwich for £41.75. Several new prints from the postcard have subsequently been offered for sale on e-bay.

Peter Cooke

Plan by courtesy of
The Clothworkers' Company



R K NEWS

10 Camberwell Church Street, London SE5 8QU / Phone 020 7703 2784

Prop: Mr S. & Mrs J. Nathan

**NEWSAGENTS, NATIONAL LOTTERY, TRAVEL CARDS, GREETINGS CARDS,
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Society comments on recent planning applications

The Society looks at all planning applications within the SE5 area and occasionally at other applications which are significant to our area of interest. We advise the relevant planning authority (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.

5 Camberwell Church Street

Change of use of ground and basement floors to hot food takeaway (Use Class A5), installation of new shopfront and rear extract duct.

The Society objects to this application on grounds that this area of Camberwell does not need yet another takeaway.

1-6 Camberwell Green and 307-311 Camberwell New Road SE5

Demolition of existing buildings on site, and redevelopment to provide a mixed use premises with a maximum height of eight storeys (28.8m AOD), with set backs at first and fifth to seventh floors, providing 129 residential units (51 one-bed, 46 two-bed, 29 three-bed, three four-bed) and 1,619.46sqm of flexible commercial uses within Use Classes A1, A2, A3, B1, D1 or D2 at ground floor. Associated areas for cycle storage (158 spaces), disabled parking bays (two spaces) and amenity space.

The Society welcomes the redevelopment of this important site on Camberwell Green. The Society is also appreciative of the efforts that the developers, their architects and planning consultants have made to engage with the Society and other local interest groups and key stakeholders.

While the Society is also in favour of a mixed use development for the site, it feels that there are aspects of the proposals where improvements can and should be



307-311 Camberwell New Road

Photo: Tom Leighton

made, and for this reason the Society objects to this application. The main reasons are:

- Camberwell Passage is potentially an attractive pedestrian street linking the Green with Camberwell New Road, as the Design and Access Statement recognises. However, the large size of the commercial spaces proposed and the limited width of the passage would not encourage the type of small-scale users, for example, independent shops and cafés, that would generate this type of street life. Smaller-scale units with individual frontages to create interest, and some outdoor space for seating, planting etc would be more likely to make the vision a reality, as would relocating the bicycle stores so that they did not interrupt the street frontage. There are some safety aspects to be considered if cyclists and pedestrians are sharing the same space that is Camberwell Passage.

- Poor internal design in relation to the internal planning of the flats. Some rearrangement of the flat layouts, with less corridor space and more living space, and an acknowledgement that the kitchen is an integral part of domestic life, would be an improvement. The studio accommodation appears to be unacceptably small.

- The scale of the Camberwell Green elevation overpowers the original Georgian/early Victorian parade of shops, and would be improved if the mansard roof was reduced by one storey and the angle

of slope of the mansard was less steep. The massing of the building generally would be improved if the central block in the Camberwell Passage elevation were to be further reduced in height by a storey.

Camberwell Orchard, Deynsford Road and Camberwell Green, SE5

Refurbishment and redesign of area comprising new hard and soft landscaping, new benches, bins and other furniture. Installation of children's play equipment, with play tower, swings and music chimes, facilitated by the removal of four ash trees, three cherry trees, a hazel tree and a fig tree.

The Society objects to this application on the ground that it is difficult to see why another play area is necessary for Camberwell Green. While there is no objection to the raised walkway which would improve pedestrian access to Camberwell Green, the removal of a number of mature trees (other than any trees which are diseased) is unwelcome and unnecessary.

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A personal account of growing up in south east London

The Way It Was Then

By Eileen White

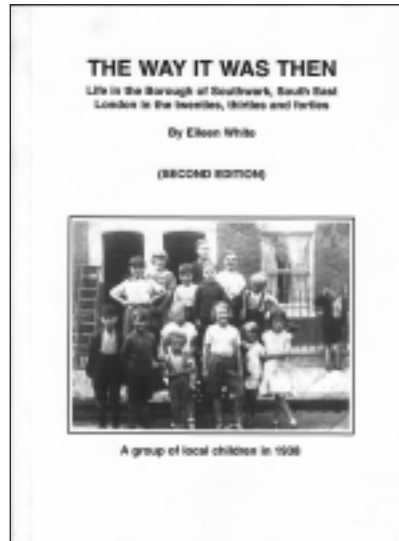
£4.95 incl p&p

I loved this book! It is an entertaining and informative account of growing up in Southwark in the years before and during the second world war.

The author lived in a house off the Walworth Road. 'Our home,' she writes, 'was extremely comfortable by the standards of the 1920s and 1930s, but it would be considered the height of deprivation today. Every room had a fireplace but only the kitchen was kept warm. On Sundays the fire was lit in the front room, which being empty and unused all the week was as cold as a tomb by Sunday and didn't warm up until it was time for us to go to bed. Bedroom fires were only lit if we were ill.'

There was an outside lavatory and the house had no bathroom for the first eight years of Eileen's life. An important event for the family was in 1936 when the house was wired for electricity.

She describes every-day happenings on the street, such as the lamplighter who wobbled along on his bike from lamp post to lamp post



to light the gas lamps every evening, the shop on every corner, usually a dairy, which always seemed to be run by a Welshman, how doors were left open and theft was rare. Milk was delivered every day and fridges were unheard of.

Wash-days were a nightmare by today's standards. Hot water came from a cast iron copper and 'Mum had to stand in the garden, up to her elbows in a large galvanised iron bath tub with a rubbing board, a scrubbing brush and a bar of Sunlight soap, her hands scarlet and swollen.'

If you couldn't do the wash at home there was the local laundry underneath the railway arches where, for a few coppers, you got a large sink, as much hot water as you liked and somewhere to boil. For drying there were large hot horses that pulled out of the wall. The great rivalry over certain horses which were always hotter than the others often got a little heated and some colourful language and raised voices ensued.

School life for small children sounded grim. At Eileen's first school everything was taught by rote, the children had to learn facts by heart and woe betide those with poor memories. No questions were asked – understanding did not come into it. Learning the three Rs was the 'be all and end all' of education for the masses, she says.

Then came the second world war, along with air-raid shelters, evacuations and the Blitz. Eileen writes: 'Londoners rose to the occasion. There was never in my memory such camaraderie, kindness, friendliness and for want of a better adjective – togetherness.'

Anderson shelters were delivered to houses with gardens. 'We were to spend a lot of nights in the Anderson shelter, emerging at dawn to the sound of the All Clear and to fall into our beds for a few hours before rising for work or school. Toilet facilities were a bucket! The street shelters had bunk beds and nothing else. No toilet facilities and one would see families toddling into them at dusk loaded with blankets and carrying chamber pots.

'It never fails to amaze me now how we went about our lives. We really didn't feel afraid. I can't think why!'

This book is a fascinating read and will be especially appreciated by 'oldies' or anyone interested in social history.

Edith Wilson

Details and prices of the Camberwell Society's selection of cards, notelets and postcards for sale are shown on the Society's website

www.camberwellsociety.org.uk

Order forms may be downloaded and forwarded with cheques to the Treasurer at 78 Camberwell Grove SE5 8RF



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A book you can dip into time and time again

Peckham and Nunhead Through Time

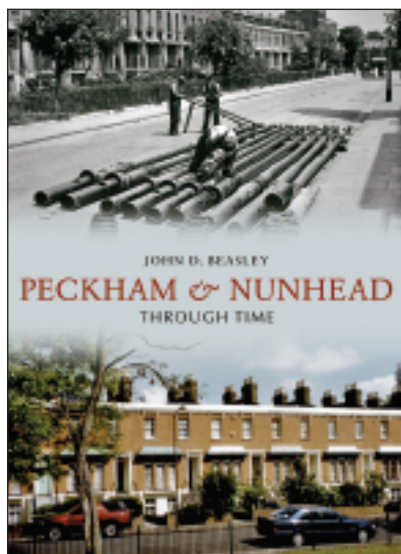
By John D Beasley
Amberley Publishing plc
£12.99

I was delighted to be asked to review this book as I spent my childhood in Nunhead, having moved from Herne Hill in 1953 at the age of seven, and then lived in Peckham in the latter part of the 1980s and early 1990s.

The book is very easy on the eye. The layout with a photo top and bottom of each page and the text in between is aesthetically pleasing and gives ample opportunity to compare past and present. The photos reflect the changes, not only in the environment, but also in details such as clothing and vehicles. They have been well chosen.

Memories leaped out of the pages, especially the Health Centre in St Mary's Road, where my mother learned to swim aged 40 and received her one mile certificate, the Samuel Jones Factory which was our landmark when returning home, and the Tower Cinema where I saw my first ever film – *The Wizard of Oz*.

This is a book that you can dip into time and time again and drink



in the historical past of Southwark. I was encouraged to read of the successes which the Peckham Society have had with their efforts

to save certain buildings and relevant sites, and would be pleased to see a piazza created in front of the Peckham Rye station, thereby restoring some of its former glory. Peckham and Nunhead have changed considerably but it is good to see that the area has retained its many green spaces.

I have been inspired by John Beasley's suggestion in the introduction and when the weather warms up, I shall get out my bicycle and pursue the trail from Old Kent Road using the pictures at the top of the 90 pages.

A book to be well recommended for anyone interested in our history, and a gift for those who *think* they are not.

Sue Thomas

LATE NEWS – 39 Grove Lane SE5: Roof Railings

Following the refusal in April 2009 by the Community Council of a retrospective Planning application for railings on the roof of 39 Grove Lane, no appeal was lodged and an Enforcement Notice was served by the Council towards the end of 2009. The owner removed the railings at the beginning of February 2010. The crisp skyline of the building on this important corner site is now restored.

Julia Roskill

Camberwell's finest address...

"If you haven't already seen inside the new development at the bottom of Camberwell Grove, perhaps you should make the time to take a look. These homes are a 21st Century achievement in building houses just like those of the 'Regency' and 'Georgiana' periods – but better!

Externally they appear as if they could have been in 'The Grove' since the start. Internally they use space in a way that 'wows you', and absolutely no expense has been spared.

Flooring is Panamanian oak and custom designed kitchens are with granite composite worktops; integrated appliances include wine coolers and coffee machines – only the top names, of course!

The open plan kitchen and dining space is designed to accommodate families or guests. In the larger houses the master bedroom suite occupies the entire first floor.*



I have been looking at houses for more years than I care to count, (and certainly more than I would want to see in print), and I am not sure I have seen elegant living space finished to such a high standard. If any of you has entertained the idea of 'moving-on', why not let me escort you through a totally new experience?"



Colin Lowman,
Roy Brooks



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Price correct at time of going to press. * Not all houses have this dimension or facility.

The Tiger makes a comeback

The Silver Buckle pub, once a familiar landmark at 18-19 Camberwell Green, closed in 2009. It was taken over by Antic who planned to re-open it as The Oberon. But when the renovations started it became clear that the building would have to undergo more extensive refurbishment than originally planned.

After stripping off the fascia the signage for a previous incarnation of the pub was revealed, and although the tiling was in poor condition in places, the words 'The Tiger' and 'Saloon & Lounge' were clearly visible. Fortunately, Antic appreciated this link with the past and decided to clean up the tiling, fit new windows and to reinstate The Tiger name.

There was a 'Royal Visit' to Camberwell in July 1909 when King Edward VII came to lay a foundation stone for King's College Hospital which was relocated from Portugal Street near Lincoln's Inn Fields. (The hospital had originally been founded there by Royal Charter in 1829.) A photograph taken on that day shows the Camberwell Green festooned with bunting behind which The Tiger appears. This



The Silver Buckle pub, a local landmark for many years, has changed hands

picture is in the Local History Library and shows a frontage which was probably constructed with the mid-19th century building.

In 1909 the Tiger was trading under the name A Jackson & Company. The frontage that has just been reinstated by Antic was therefore part of a post 1909 refurbishment, but I would think that it was probably constructed before the First World War. The glazed earthenware tiles, with a deep rich

hue, was an opulent yet very practical material.

The pub reopened in February this year and it is good to see the old name of The Tiger back in use again. I think that the owners are to be congratulated on restoring the façade.

Antic runs about a dozen London pubs including the East Dulwich Tavern in Lordship Lane and the Dogstar in Brixton. According to its website Antic aims to create a proper pub with a good range of real ales along with the usual lagers, some interesting wines and some great, well priced home-made food. It will show the football, give you a good Sunday lunch and be a nice place to meet.

In her book *The Story of Camberwell*, Mary Boast says: 'The pleasant country inns around the Green have proved the longest lasting attractions of Camberwell. Rebuilt, they have become the pubs of today. A Father Redcap and also a Mother Redcap, next door, are marked on the map of 1739. There was an inn called the Artichoke in Camberwell Church Street as early as 1744. The Joiners Arms, Denmark Hill, goes back over 200 years and so did The Tiger, later renamed the Silver Buckle. Between them were the Golden Lion and The Cock, which were demolished to make way for the shopping centre [Butterfly Walk]. These pubs are



Camberwell Green celebrates the visit of King Edward VII in 1909

Photo by courtesy of the Local History Library



shown on this map from the mid-19th century.

Behind The Tiger was Tiger's Yard. This was always a very poor area. Even in 1930 there was only one water tap in the Tiger's Yard.

Back in 1867 *The British Medical Journal* stated: 'With regard to water-closets and cesspools, though a vast amount of work had been carried out, much remained to be done. In Grove Cottages [now Chamberlain Cottages near the lower end of Camberwell Grove] there was but one closet to seven houses. In another part of the same row there were three closets to fifteen houses. In Tiger's Yard four closets to fifteen houses, two of these closets being so situated that persons inside could be seen from the main road.'

Booths Survey in 1899 says: 'Tiger Yard still exists, and, with the exception of the house at the west end, is dark blue on the map. This house is occupied by a chimney sweep, an old man who "has enough to live on" and is the plutocrat of the yard. His house front is strangely and wonderfully decorated with oyster and other shells, and before the house, encroaching I imagine on public land, he has made little grottoes. It is all very barbarous and very effective, and the house might with propriety be honoured with a touch of pink. The old man is very proud of his handiwork.' Note: The reference to 'dark blue on the map' implies this area was 'Very poor, casual. Chronic want.'

John Kiddle



Left and above: The original signage that led to the restoration of The Tiger



Renovations underway as The Tiger is restored to its former glory



Tiger Yard as it was in 1934. Even in the 1930s it had only one water tap.
Photo by courtesy of the Local History Library

A voice from the past

A little bit of history from Stephen Marks, CQ's first editor

My family (Tordis, myself, and two children, Edward and Dorothy) lived at 50 Grove Lane from 1965 to 1978. We bought the house in December 1963 and did a lot to it, including a great deal of my own work, moving in in summer 1965. At that time there was no local society, but, according to Newsletter No 1, the predecessor of the Camberwell Society was formed in 1966. The Society itself was formed in 1970.

I joined the Committee in 1970 (but had been involved before then), and was active in several directions, including planning (as an architect) and publication work, including the reprint of *Blanch's Ye Parish of Camberwell*, a set of views and a facsimile of Dewhurst's map of 1842.

Although we left Camberwell in 1978, we have kept in touch, remaining members, and still receive *Camberwell Quarterly*. It is always of interest, and I noted this time news of the proposed redevelopment of the United Reformed Church, only a stone's throw from where we lived. In fact, I watched with distress the demolition of the three Georgian houses which had formed the top end of Queen's Row. At the time I made some measured drawings of those houses, which I have passed on to Julia Roskill in case they help with the present proposals.

CQ's beginnings

I read also William Knights' obituary in CQ 163 with great interest. I had not realised that he had looked after the Society's finances for so long, as well as of course his many other



activities, really after my time. Among these is the reference to helping to get the Society's *Camberwell Quarterly* started.

Camberwell Quarterly is now a smart colourful production, but it was in fact not a new enterprise but the continuation of the Society's existing Newsletter, with the

numbering running on. I was responsible for its editing and production for the first 40 numbers, from July 1970 to January 1978, an extremely interesting and indeed demanding task (as of course it remains). In fact, the opening article of my last Newsletter, No 40, gives a good account.

The first Newsletters

The first 11 Newsletters were typed on those horrible Gestetner stencils, for printing at Cambridge House in Camberwell Road, with messy correction fluid for the inevitable typos. After that I used an IBM Typesetter with golf-ball founts.

Those Newsletters remain a fascinating record of constant activity by the Society in many fields. Dramas did not stop, of course, in 1978, but I would like to mention some of the events and contents in my time. Illustration was always with line drawings or diagrams: I did not try to venture into the realms of photography which now embellish the journal.

Campaigns

Historic buildings formed an important part of our work: the very first campaign was to save Addington Square which was to be cleared for the new Burgess Park, then called North Camberwell Open Space, part of the LCC's strategic plans for remedying the dire lack of open space in inner south London (NL 2). This was successful and designated a Conservation Area very soon after (NL 5). We put forward proposals, which were accepted, to extend the Camberwell Conservation Area (NL 15).

The new statutory list issued in

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1972 was printed with a piece on the protection of listed buildings (NL 14), suggestions made for listing of road-threatened houses in Camberwell New Road (NL 19), largely accepted. We were much concerned for the future of derelict St George's Church (NL 20).

Substantial new developments exercised us greatly: Lettsom Estate (NL 3, 7, 27); 33-39 De Crespigny Park (NL 4, 8) (where the scheme was radically revised after we made a model to demonstrate the intolerable impact it would have had on Love Walk houses); Camberwell Grove Development Area, with a CPO and public inquiry (NL 5, 6); the EPIC site (NL 15); above all, the Selborne area redevelopment (frequently between NL 15 and 38), with Council demolitions stopped by injunctions in the High Court, discussion of rehabilitation versus redevelopment, our own published detailed survey of the residents, with a special yellow-covered issue to record the worst outrages of the Council (NL 29).

Other major issues covered included: the motorway though Peckham and Camberwell, part of the Greater London Development Plan (only defeated with a change of political party); Burgess Park, with history and comparative plans

(NL 28, 39), and the infilling of the Surrey Canal (NL 6); threatened Mary Datchelor School (NL 33, 37, 39).

A series of illustrated studies was issued as supplements with some later issues: early map of Peckham and Camberwell (NL 20); 'Gradual Renewal in North Peckham' (NL 34); 'Trees in Towns' (NL 36); 'The De Crespigny Family

in Camberwell' (NL 38); 'Fighting Blight' (NL 40). The last number included a full Index (NL 40).

As you see, these were stirring times for a newly formed society to face, not to mention the hostility which we encountered in some quarters that believed that all we were trying to do was to protect the value of our houses (NL 35).

Memorial service for Islay Charman

Some of you will already know that Islay Charman died just after Christmas. She was Honorary Secretary of the Camberwell Society from 1982-86 and Chair from 1986-89. Islay was a strong supporter of the Society and did a great deal for us. In her professional life she was Deputy Head at the former Mary Datchelor School and lived in Camberwell for many years. An appreciation will follow in the July edition of *CQ*.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday 5 June at the Church of St Olave, Hart Street, EC3 at 2.30pm.

All those who remember Islay will be welcome.



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BUTTERFLY TENNIS CLUB

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Host homes and volunteering opportunities needed

Do you have a spare room a pair of 18-25 year old volunteers could share for two to ten weeks between May and August? Or perhaps your organisation could use a pair of cross-cultural volunteers for ten weeks or a team of 24 multi-cultural volunteers for one-off days.

Global Xchange is a six-month international youth volunteering programme run in partnership by the British Council and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). For three months this summer a team of 24 volunteers drawn from Yemen, Egypt, Morocco, Netherlands, Bosnia and the UK will be living in Southwark and volunteering in the community. They will have spent the previous three months living and volunteering in Egypt.

Georgina Richards, the UK supervisor for the programme, is making preparations for the team, in particular finding volunteering placements and host homes for them while they are in Southwark. If you are interested in being involved with the programme in any way, please contact Georgina, on 07785 741395 or email georgina.richards@vso.org.uk

For more information on Global Xchange please see www.globalxchange.org.uk



Global Xchange
Young people arrive in the community

SHARKEYA (EGYPT) - SOUTHWARK (UK)
Yemen, Netherlands, Morocco, Bosnia, UK and Egypt
May - August 2010

HOST HOMES AND VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS ARE NEEDED...

Global Xchange is an international 6 month youth volunteering programme run in partnership between the British Council and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). A team of 24 volunteers from 6 different countries (Yemen, Netherlands, Morocco, Bosnia, UK and Egypt) aged between 18-24 years are coming to Southwark this summer (May - August 2010) to live in local homes and volunteer on local community projects. They will have spent the previous 3 months in a community in Egypt.

Do you have a spare room a pair of 18-25 year olds could share the day or night or both between 2 May and 31 August (May-August 2010)?

Benefits include:

- An unforgettable intercultural learning experience from the comfort of your own home
- £100 per week per pair of volunteers to cover your costs
- Enthusiastic volunteers who have undergone rigorous training and selection
- 2 programme supervisors on hand for support wherever necessary

Would your organisation like a cross cultural pair of volunteers for 10 weeks this summer or a team of 24 multi-cultural volunteers for one off days of volunteering activity?

Benefits include:

- Help from enthusiastic and global minded young people who have undergone rigorous selection and training (CBSE checked)
- 2 programme supervisors on hand for support wherever necessary
- The chance to kick start new projects
- Capacity building, skill sharing, networking and future recruitment opportunities

For more information please contact:
Georgina Richards (UK programme supervisor)
georgina.richards@vso.org.uk | 07 785 741395
www.globalxchange.org.uk

The changing face of Camberwell

Stephen Bourne discovers a 'lost' Camberwell treasure on London's South Bank.

At the Mediatheque it is possible to watch over one thousand films and TV programmes from the British Film Institute's National Archive. Admission is free. A recent acquisition is a fascinating 30-minute documentary called *The Changing Face of Camberwell* which has been included in the *Beautiful South* selection.

Filmed in colour in the spring/summer of 1963, this travelogue of Camberwell is well worth seeing. Many familiar places are featured, including St Giles's Church, Camberwell Grove, and the William Booth Memorial College. From Camberwell Green there is a wonderful shot of Wren Road and the now demolished Congregational Church.

For me, the film became very personal (and emotional) with shots of my old primary school and the council flats where I grew up in the 1960s and 1970s: Oliver Goldsmith

on Peckham Road was followed by a 'tour' of the 'new' housing estate next door, Sceaux Gardens (it opened in 1959). Most poignant was the sequence filmed on my old estate in a flat in Lakanal as an example of the exciting new post-war accommodation. This was the high-rise that experienced the fire in 2009 which ended in tragedy.

Other schools highlighted are Wilsons Grammar, Mary Datchelor and Peckham Girls, and there are shots of several places and buildings of historical interest that have sadly disappeared. These include the Surrey Canal (now Burgess Park), Samuel Jones factory (which had that marvellous Camberwell Butterfly outside), and the Rosemary Branch public house on the junction of Southampton Way and Commercial Way.

Mediatheque, BFI Southbank, South Bank SE1 8XT (situated under Waterloo Bridge). Open Tuesday 13.00-20.00, Wednesday to Sunday 11.00-20.00 and Bank Holiday Mondays. Drop in or book in advance on 020 7928 3535.

What happened to the old school?

Iwould like to appeal to any Society members who may know anything about The Avenue Secondary Modern School in John Ruskin Street.

I now live in Essex and would like to know what happened to my old school. Any information would be welcome – a photo would be

nice! I have been told that the school has been knocked down. Can anyone confirm this?

My phone number is 01375 643228. My address is 168 Lyndhurst Road, Corringham, Essex SS17 7SW.

Brian Horne

CONTRIBUTE TO THE QUARTERLY!

Articles, letters, photographs and other contributions are always welcome.

Contact the Editor, Margaret Powley-Baker, on 020 7701 4417 or via email to mpowleybaker@hotmail.com

Hail and farewell – shopping changes in Camberwell

You have to be an optimist to argue that Camberwell offers high-quality shopping opportunities: indeed its shopping standards, with certain clear exceptions, are generally very poor and contrast with the now excellent shopping available on Lordship Lane in East Dulwich. Lordship Lane now boasts both a real proper fishmonger and a butcher, rare on the modern retail scene.

One of the reasons for this is that there is quite generous parking available in East Dulwich, whereas in Camberwell it hardly exists and is largely limited to the Butterfly Walk carpark. This has now changed to a Pay and Display basis which may help with shopping generally as it presumably discourages all-day parking by commuters.

Morrisons

We are lucky to have some attractive and highly effective newcomers. Morrisons, I have to say is an enormous improvement on its predecessor, Somerfield, which still operates a store on Denmark Hill.

Morrisons has its roots in Yorkshire and has a deservedly high reputation as one of the four leading supermarket groups in the country. It was no surprise that the Butterfly Walk carpark was full to overflowing on the opening day.

The store itself carries the usual Morrisons wide range of high quality produce with an excellent fish counter. Its staff are helpful and evidently well motivated, with a pride in their store. I personally find it easier to track down what I need in Morrisons rather than the long chase at Sainsbury's on Dog Kennel Hill with its over 30 separate aisles! I was recently impressed to find a corner of Morrisons with a delicious selection of deserts, including the profiteroles of which we are very fond.

Cowling & Wilcox

Almost next to Morrisons on a big site in Orpheus Street is the newcomer Cowling & Wilcox, which claims to be the 'Largest Art Shop South of the River'. This quite

substantial group now includes art shops in Soho and Shoreditch and was founded in 1960 near the old Billingsgate Market by Leonard Cowling and Bernard Wilcox to supply commercial art and graphic studios. The business has now expanded with the addition of digital supplies and quality designer stationery and has a strong interest in presentation books and portfolios.

Of course the site is usefully close to the Camberwell College of Art and any day you are likely to find a number of students looking to buy artists' accessories such as brushes, paint, pencils, easels or canvases. C&W is well stocked with inkjet inks and copying paper and has the sensible idea that if you need a product that is not in stock you can identify this on a list in the shop.

Notable drop-outs include Woolworths, Duraty Digital and Kennedy's, famous for its sausages.

99p Stores

No sooner had Woolworths closed than it opened up again a week or two later under the aegis of the 99p Stores which already operated in Butterfly Walk. The new and energetic 99p Store owners carry on with very much the same sort of business as Woolworths – a big range of every sort of household product and foods, all at 99p, even for the same articles Woolworths used to sell for 3p or 6p.

Clearly there are bargains, for instance torch batteries in packs of four at 99p which are probably made in China but do seem to work and greatly undercut the normal prices. It is surprising that Woolworths

could not adapt to new retail conditions.

Duraty

Duraty is a sad case. The shop was run for many years by the Bristow brothers who knew the electrical business like the back of their hands and could cheerfully supply everything electrical from light bulbs and fuses to refrigerators, washing machines and so on, with excellent service and home delivery. They were nearly always able to advise on problems in their field or could find someone with the necessary competence. The Bristows retired and the new owners had neither the specialist knowledge nor the financial acumen needed and the writing was soon, quite literally, on the wall.

Christine, whom many of you will remember on the staff at Duraty's, has relocated to Lynnes Electrical at 246 Walworth Road, which covers much of the same ground as Duraty. Also, but somewhat out of the way, is Edmundsons Electrical, at 83 Lomond Grove which supplies a wide range of electrical equipment and household appliances.

Kennedy's

Kennedy's, like so many shops of its kind, had a long-standing reputation but inevitably could not, in the end withstand the supermarket colossi.

Fortunately we still have with us long established retailers like Pesh Flowers. But more about these later.

Nicholas Roskill

PLEASE WRITE TO US!

We welcome your news and views.
Please send your letters to the Editor,
4 Datchelor Place, London SE5 7AP or email
mpowleybaker@hotmail.com

Art Bin, art liberation

In February Society members were invited by the South London Gallery to a private viewing of Art Bin. Maria Pia Masella was at the opening and here is her report.

A glass container as big as a swimming pool with dark wrought-iron bones; behind a scaffolding with stairs leading to a sort of platform from where ART was thrown away: this was Art Bin, the latest project by the young British artist, Michael Landy, shown at the South London Gallery earlier this year.

The installation required audience participation. Everyone was welcome to propose their own art for the Bin and Michael Landy eventually chose what was worth being destroyed, leaving the public speculating about his judging criteria.

In its mechanisms, the installation seemed to mimic the principles of a mass production factory; it ran non-stop, and based on repetition, it destroyed a plethora of objects in all sorts of media without making distinction between them. On the other hand, Art Bin also referred to more human dilemmas: sacrifice, death, redemption. Humans are employed to carry the works to the



platform for their ultimate sacrifice. A symbolic journey to death was accomplished by the objects from the ground to the top of the scaffolding and then again to the ground. Finally, each work worth the ascent became part of 'a monument to creative failure', according to Landy's own words.

Did this mean that in order to be chucked in the Bin, the art offered by the public had to be the result of a failure, to be redeemed through the glorious visibility of its final journey? A huge heavy canvas reached the end quickly and noisily and often broke into bits and pieces, whereas a folder

of paper prints dispersed its sheets gently and danced before resting on the ground. Paradoxically, were the intrinsic, distinctive, personal value of art objects, their weight, their measurements, their colour and sound, at stake in a project which seemed to deny the value of art and of objects?

Landy investigates the relationship between people and objects in questioning issues about value whether artistic, financial or sentimental. One of his earlier works, *Breakdown*, 2001 was an installation which again made use of a factory element, a plastic tapis-roulant, where the artist put systematically all his worldly belongings, from his car to his ID for a period of 15 days. Eventually everything was destroyed and went to landfill: he was left with nothing. Yet it was 'a celebration to life' the artist said to his interviewer, Laurence Sillars, at Tate Liverpool, last October. An act of self-liberation from the defining layers that objects impose on the self.

One can only hope that Art Bin, an idea that escalates from the self to society and from objects in general to objects with artistic value, will initiate a process of art purification.

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Looking forward to spring

*Oh to be in England
Now that April's here . . .*

So Robert Browning famously wrote, in his poem *Home Thoughts from Abroad*.

Browning was born in 1812 in Camberwell. When not attending school in Peckham, he wandered the

orchards, leafy groves, paths and hedge-lined tracks of Camberwell, to Dulwich, often visiting the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Here his feelings for poetry evolved.

In the next *Quarterly* we will be looking more closely at the poet born in Rainbow Cottage, Cottage Green.

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mpowleybaker@hotmail.com



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13 MAY 2010

The Annual General Meeting of the Camberwell Society will be held at 7pm on Thursday 13 May 2010 at the Institute of Psychiatry, 16 De Crespigny Park, SE5.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Previous minutes and matters arising
3. Chairwoman's Report for the year 2009-2010
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee

All officers of the Society and members of the Executive Committee retire annually in accordance with the Constitution of the Society and are eligible for re-election. Nominations are required for the Officers and Committee. Any paid-up member may, together with a seconder (also a paid-up member), make nominations. These must be sent to the Secretary, Maria Pia Masella, Flat 47, 2D Camberwell Grove, SE5 8FB, to arrive at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

6. Any other business

Maria Pia Masella, Secretary

CAMBERWELL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

President: Jeremy Bennett
30 Grove Lane, SE5 8ST 7703 9971

Chairwoman: Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob
34 Grove Lane, SE5 8ST 7701 1678

Vice-Chairman: Nick Holt
204 Camberwell Grove, SE5 8RJ 7501 9941

Secretary: Maria Pia Masella
Flat 47, 2D Camberwell Grove,
SE5 8FB 0794 355 206

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50 Champion Hill, SE5 8BS 7924 9379

Treasurer: Kim Blackwell
78 Camberwell Grove, SE5 8RF 7703 9170

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Traffic & Transport

Tim Gaymer 7737 1059

Barbara Pattinson 7274 8045
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Margaret Powley-Baker 7701 4417
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OTHER CONTACTS

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localhistory@camberwellsociety.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP:
Annual membership costs £15 (household)
£8 (individual) or £3 (concessionary)
Membership form available online:
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PLANNING:
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