
CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY
No.168 Spring 2011 £1 (FREE TO MEMBERS)

www.camberwellsociety.org.uk



Bridging the gap between State and individual – p8

Stylish, practical and beautifully proportioned – p7

The Baths reopen – p13

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The Camberwell Society

Annual General Meeting

7-9pm, Thursday 12 May at
Camberwell College of Arts,
Wilson Road, SE5

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, Paola Totaro (see inside back cover for contact details).

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

Thursday 12 May, 7pm–9pm
Sunday 12 June, 2pm–6pm

Annual General Meeting
Open Gardens Day,

Camberwell College of Arts, Wilson Road, SE5
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 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@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. Sunday 17 April, 3.30pm, *Camberwell Through Time* (John Beasley), Goose Green Centre, St John's Church, East Dulwich Road
www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Ruskin Park, Friends of Doug Gillies 020 7703 5018

South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road SE5. Open: Tuesday to Sunday – 12pm–6pm, Monday – closed
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

We had possibly our most successful ever Christmas party in the large gallery at the SLG this December. There was wonderful food organised by Valerie Balleny, better, cheaper wine from Majestic, party quiz, tombola, raffle ... even a booby prize of a 10-foot orange polyester shark which has somehow ended up in my house ... Many thanks to Adam Woodward for making it all happen. St Giles Trust made a presentation and has received the proceeds of the party (£628) and Alex Mochnacz has written about the history of the organisation in this edition (see page 8).

By the time you get this our pool will be open! Hope to see you all there ...

We have lots of transport news for you. The Rail Utilisation Strategy has been published for London and the South East indicating that we will keep our Thameslink service from Denmark Hill to Blackfriars and four trains an hour to Victoria. There is also support for the Mayor's plan to bring the Bakerloo line south to Camberwell (this is also supported by the Council's new Transport plan as is an extension of the bike scheme). We are, however, still going to lose the direct link from Denmark Hill to London Bridge, about which we are protesting.

There is a new town centre scheme (funded with £200k from TfL), which will look at the roads, pavements, barriers etc at the junction of Camberwell Church St, Denmark Hill and Camberwell New Road. I have been told we will be sent details of this so anyone who would like to know more please do get in touch with us.

We have decided to affiliate



Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob

ourselves with HACAN (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise) as residents have pointed out that the noise problem has been getting worse and HACAN is now concentrating on a study in our area. Nigel Haigh will represent the Society.

There are, as ever, big plans afoot. The South London and Maudsley Trust is consulting on its plans to replace the ugly 1970s hexagonal training building (you can see it through the railings on Grove Lane) with a large building with green roofs, wifi cafe (open to all) and replanted garden. We have asked to be consulted on the details of the scheme as they emerge and we have stressed that it would be undesirable to replace the railings with too solid a structure as the pavement will feel very cramped there. The Council is continuing to consult on its plan to relocate the prefabricated building currently in Spa Road Bermondsey to the space in front of the Magistrates' Court so that this could replace the Camberwell Library. There will be questionnaires about

this which we will put on the website. Please get in touch if you have views on this. Also please get in touch if you would like to help us with the website!

The next events are our AGM on 12 May at 7pm. It will be held in Wilson Hall, where we used to go, because it is large and airy and now has a lift so it is properly accessible. Do please come and have your say on the issues of the day. Exciting speakers to be announced ...

Open Gardens Day will be 12 June. Do please get in touch with us if you are able to help with the organisation of this great event, and with offers of your gardens, cakes etc. All proceeds will go to St Giles Trust, a very worthy cause. Also, it is fun.

Lastly, it would be a great help if you could send an email to kimblackwell@hazlemsfenton.com so that we can get our database up to date. We only have correct emails for about 30% of you which is not good enough. We do promise not to bombard you with boring information.

Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob
campaspe@campaspe.co.uk

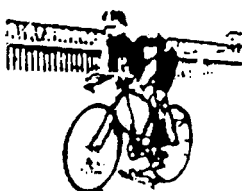
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Society comments on recent planning applications

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.

Burgess Park, Albany Road SE5

Alterations to Burgess Park including: alterations to the entrances and boundaries at Old Kent Road and Camberwell Road; general alterations to accessibility and footpaths; repair and enlargement of Burgess Park lake including habitat enhancements/alterations, conversion of an area of amenity grassland east of canal bridge to meadow; works in relation to biodiversity across the park; felling and planting of trees; installation of new street furniture; maintenance of a fitness circuit and provision of outdoor gym equipment; structure landscaping relating to the great lawn and the plateau adjacent to Albany Road; creation of a new play area; conversion of existing internal roads to parkland and reorganisation and reduction of car parking spaces within the park.

The Society is pleased to have been consulted about this project as it has been prepared and welcomes the plan to create a more rational set of paths and to open up vistas across the park so that the lake can be seen from further away. We are pleased too that the entrances to the park have been addressed and that the commitment is to use high quality, durable materials. We regret that a car park will be retained (albeit a smaller one) but we are pleased that so much effort and attention is being spent on this much loved but currently incoherently structured park.

119 Camberwell Grove SE5

The installation of a new front light well.

The Society objects to this application. Although ostensibly seeking permission as a Householder Application for the installation of a light well to the front of the property and other works, it would appear to the Society that what is contemplated is the creation of a House in Multiple Occupation (*sui generis*). If this is the case then this would be a Change of Use from the current use, and as such the Society is of the view that a full planning application should be submitted so that the proposed alterations and works can be fully and properly considered in the context of a proposed Change of Use.

The Society further objects to this application on the grounds that the application has been submitted after the works have already commenced on a property that, while not listed, is in the Camberwell Grove Conservation Area.

72 Daneville Road SE5

Construction of a two-storey residential building comprising two two-bedroom units with two off-street car parking spaces

The Society supports this modern infill as being a positive addition to the streetscape, but perhaps with some minor reservations on aspects of the design, namely the second bedroom in the ground floor flat looks too small and the proposed garage does not look wide enough for proper use.

16 Wyndham Road 166-176 Camberwell Road SE5

Construction of a residential mixed use development comprising: Phase 1 – part three-, part four- and part eight-storey building containing 765m² floorspace in office and artist studios (B1 use) and 523m² floorspace in retail (A1 use) in addition to five disabled car parking spaces and 90 cycle storage spaces at ground floor level, with a first-floor outdoor amenity space

and 52 residential units (comprising eight one-bed, 36 two-bed and eight three-bed units) on the upper levels.

Phase 2 – part four- and part five-storey building containing 297m² floorspace in retail (A1 use) at ground floor and 11 residential units (comprising three one-bed, four two-bed and four three-bed) units on the upper levels.

The Society objects to this application on the grounds of overall poor design. In particular the massing and scale of what is proposed would appear to be out of keeping with the surrounding area. Furthermore, the Society does not see how the proposed design at ground floor level, and in particular the loss of features and the period façade along the Camberwell Road side of the development, relates to the area as a whole.

Cystic Fibrosis Unit Appeal

King's College Hospital urgently needs to create a dedicated Cystic Fibrosis Unit for adult cystic fibrosis (CF) patients.

CF was once regarded as a children's disease, but new treatments and techniques have significantly improved the outlook so that the predicted survival age for a CF patient is now 39 years.

King's now has the opportunity to build a 10-bedded en suite purpose-designed unit with a treatment room and kitchen area. The Hospital Trust has committed £450,000 towards the development but the unit needs to raise a further £430,000.

If you would like to help, donations should be made payable to "King's College Hospital Charity: Adult CF Fund 20139" and be addressed to:

Nichola James, Adult Cystic Fibrosis Service, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Name and shame: no closed doors

I agree wholeheartedly with the letter from Rowland and Christine Sheard in the winter edition of *Camberwell Quarterly*, concerning the "name and shame" campaign. I have been a member of the Camberwell Society for 30 years and value it as an inclusive body promoting the interests of all who live in Camberwell, not one promoting exclusion. This initiative smacks of a well-meaning committee meeting behind closed doors and laying down arbitrary values agreeable to themselves, without the energy or initiative to offer help and support to those whom it would wish to influence.

If the Committee does have energy and initiative to spare, perhaps they would like to tackle Southwark Council about the endless, repeated, unannounced and on-going digging up of Champion Park/Grove Lane (south end) that has reached epidemic proportions, with disruption to bus stops and services, local parking and traffic flow.

J M Robinson

The chair replies

We are very sorry that some members are angry about the Planning Sub Committee's attempt to grapple with issues of maintenance and planning enforcement. This started as an initiative brought to us by a group of members which we sought to publicise. It was never intended to be exclusive or belittling. We were merely trying to raise consciousness of maintenance issues in our area, encouraging others to participate. If we have caused offence I apologise. There are no behind-closed-doors discussions. Members can always attend meetings of the executive committee on request. They can (and do) write to us and ask us to intervene on issues in which they take an interest.

We would welcome members' contributions on the traffic management issues also and we are always looking for energetic and enthusiastic people to broaden the effectiveness of the Society. Alex Blacknell is our transport person.

Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob

Trees are pruned for a practical purpose

With reference to the letter in the winter 2010/11 *Camberwell Quarterly* about the severe tree pruning in Camberwell Grove, I believe it has a very practical purpose. There have been incidences of subsidence in houses in the street which have been caused by the Council's trees, particularly the London planes. This has led to successful claims against the Council. To minimise the problem either the Council can remove the problem trees, which would no doubt cause a local uproar, or it can prune a large proportion of the lower branches, which results in the trees developing less extensive root systems and sucking up less water: these are the factors that cause subsidence.

I have noticed that when trees in Camberwell Grove have been removed because of death or destruction the Council has not replaced them with planes or limes, the two species that cause most damage and nuisance in the street.

Charles Arthur

New free school may open

CS member PJ and four others are planning to set up a bilingual German-English school in Southwark under the Government's free schools policy. It would be a state school funded directly by the Department of Education.

Free schools have more control over curriculum and teacher hiring than LEA-run schools, but like all state schools they must be non-selective and they must add to schools provision where it is needed.

"I see a bilingual education as really valuable for all children, whether there is any German in their background or not, and I think it's vital that the intake be thoroughly open and mixed," says PJ.

The group has already gained support – more than 80 children, but needs more to show that the school will run at full capacity. You can

read all about their plans on www.bilingualfreeschool.co.uk and you can pledge your support or volunteer there too.

"If you think this is a worthwhile idea," says PJ, "please tell your friends and networks about us too. Enthusiasm for this project has spread quickly, and if you pass it on, we'll have an even better chance of success."

Francis Jevons

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A robust response

I refer to the Chair's response to the Council, as published in the *Camberwell Quarterly* (No 167).

I totally agree, that the court plaza would be ruined by this prefab proposal. I also totally agree that the Council should invest any spare money in completing the Baths restoration, rather than this desperate-sounding idea.

With thanks for the Society's prompt and robust response

Grace Kobbe

**We welcome your letters.
Please write to the editor at
4 Datchelor Place, SE5 7AP
or email at
mpowleybaker@hotmail.com**

An update on Denmark Hill station, rail and bus services

The last few months have seen a flurry of activity regarding plans for the future of transport links in Camberwell.

The updating of Denmark Hill station is moving forward. A contractor has been appointed and it is anticipated that works will be completed by the summer of 2012. Network Rail has said that services during the construction period should be largely unaffected and that residents will be notified in advance of any likely disruption to the surrounding roads, together with contact details in the event of any complaints or concerns about the works.

Network Rail has also published a draft Route Utilisation Strategy for south east England (including London) setting out its plans for services in south east London over the next 20 years. The proposals for Camberwell are:

Thameslink Services

- Brighton services through the Elephant and Castle are to be re-routed via London Bridge upon completion of the Thameslink programme. This will result in a reduction of roughly 30% in Thameslink services from Denmark Hill
- Thameslink services from Loughborough Junction will terminate at Blackfriars
- Services from Denmark Hill will

continue on through Blackfriars on the core Thameslink route.

Victoria Services

- There are plans for four trains an hour from Denmark Hill to London Victoria
- Despite the efforts of the Save the South London Line Campaign the document assumes that this line will be withdrawn in 2012 with the introduction of the East London Line Extension Phase 2 (to be known as the New South London Line), with services to London Bridge, South Bermondsey and Battersea Park from Denmark Hill being withdrawn.

Bakerloo Line

It seems that extending the Bakerloo line is considered a significant long-term possibility, and that Network Rail considers it a possible partial solution to future capacity gaps on rail services in south east London. To quote:

“In addition the RUS is also mindful that TfL has a long-term aspiration for a southern extension to the London Underground Bakerloo Line, extending this route via Camberwell into south east London. Given the extra capacity such a scheme would create to the area concerned it is possible that this would reduce the capacity gap on National Rail lines. The RUS therefore supports further development of this scheme.”

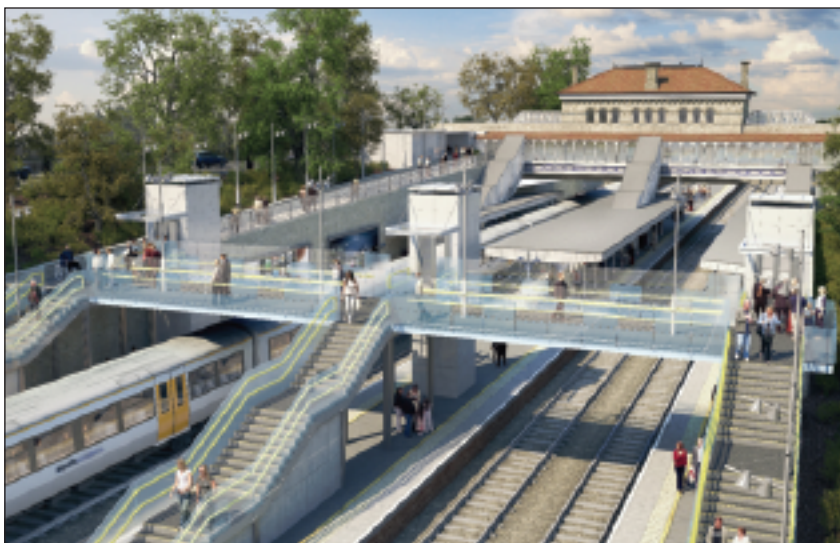
The Society has responded to the document welcoming the possibility of four trains an hour to Victoria and encouraging further work on investigating the possible Bakerloo Line Extension but expressing concern at the reduction in Thameslink services from Denmark Hill and Loughborough Junction and the withdrawal of the South London Line service.

Southwark Council has published a lengthy document setting out long-term goals and transport objectives for the borough for the next 20 years. The Transport Plan can be viewed in full at www.southwark.gov.uk. The Transport Plan specifically mentions the following aspirations for improving transport links for Camberwell:

- Improving the shopping centre of Camberwell by ensuring fast, convenient connections
- Supporting the mayor's goal of extending the Bakerloo Line
- Bringing the Barclays Cycle Hire Scheme to Camberwell
- The implementation of the Camberwell town centre scheme. Southwark Council states that: “To support the local economy this scheme will improve conditions for deliveries and servicing, while also increasing footfall through pavement widening, reviewed signal timings, and a reduction in street clutter and pedestrian railings. It is proposed to improve the interchange by reviewing bus service and stopping arrangements.”

Since the publication of the Transport Plan Southwark has received £200,000 from TfL for development of the scheme. While further funding will need to be secured for the full scheme to be implemented, Southwark Council is now progressing with the first phase of consultation and design.

The Society has responded to the Transport Plan expressing its support for the suggested improvements to Camberwell and urging the Council to proceed with the Camberwell town-centre scheme as a priority.



Compare this artist's impression of the proposed Denmark Hill station with the 1957 version on the cover of the previous Quarterly

Alex Blacknell

Stylish, practical and beautifully proportioned

*"Time's wheel runs back or stops;
potter and clay endure"
(Robert Browning)*

Near a primary school named after the art and social critic John Ruskin, lives and works the potter Suleyman Saba. Recently, Suleyman showed me around his ground-floor workshop created in 1997; here, fired pots wait expectantly for their smooth glazes and there, his electric kiln is gently firing (to 128 degrees C) new bowls, jars, vases, and jam pots with perfect lids. I interviewed him in a tiny gallery where his beautiful and harmonious stoneware ceramics are displayed alongside work by his jeweller partner, Michelle Fernandez.

Suley's great grandfather, an economic refugee, fled the Lebanon for Australia in the 1960s; his parents left Australia for London where his father continues a career as a concert pianist. Although Suleyman learnt piano and cello at school, "pottery was to discover him" at King's School Canterbury where he came under the primary influence of Geoffrey Whiting, famous for his high standards and his teapots! Knowledge of the potting traditions of Bernard Leach combined with inspiration sourced from the stoneware of South East Asia and Japan, propelled the young student into the ancient mysteries of ceramics. Suleyman began with moulding and firing the clay, acquiring the delicate skill of consistent repetition. I had wondered how he perfected a set of his fine coffee and saké cups.

Like learning scales on the piano, throwing the same shape repeatedly, gave him the assurance and skill to create a set of identical objects. How he achieves each duplication, a consistent match within every set of each style is with, what he terms, "muscle memory". The admirably sophisticated yet solid nature of his ceramic cups stems from close observation: the handles are dropped low on the vessel for one's hand to easily support the weight of the



Perfectly proportioned stoneware just asking to be filled with tempting things

liquid. Ergonomics combine with an overall style.

During a creatively intensive degree course at Camberwell (1989-91), his throwing of pots "was taken to a whole new level" by Stephen Parry, Colin Pearson and Takeshi Yasuda, among other artists. He remains in contact and says that the ceramics department will, unfortunately, have to close within two years, due to college cut backs.

Successfully qualified, Suleyman yet had questions about his craft. While taken on as an apprentice at a small-scale factory workshop in Stoke-on-Trent, he experienced the daily problems, trials and errors of his profession. He used this tie to successfully hone his skills as a thrower.

Applying every aspect of glazing has led him to particularise with that distinctive combination of celadon (bluish, originally Chinese) and iron-saturated glazes. His large vases are decorated with oilspotting on an iron-red background achieving a subtle "pontillistic" feel. A large spherical vase begs the question: might certain ceramics be *sculpture in miniature*?

Clearly seen in his "katakuchi" are the influences of Japanese pottery. Suleyman has plans to visit Japan to learn more. Other projects include setting up a workshop for the mass production of selected tableware, becoming part of a

necessary and vital resurgence in UK manufacturing. He will continue to add to his impressive list of exhibitions here and in Australia, a country whose ceramic tradition remains informative.

See how his white and chocolate cups anticipate the delicious taste of cappuccino; how the concentric ring dishes attract your eye as to a target; the perfectly proportioned set of bowls asking to be filled with tempting things to see, and eat.

As he explains, "motivations for being a potter stem from the idea of beauty through use, and the multi-sensual nature of hand-thrown ceramic with its direct appeal to sight, touch and taste."

It was delightful to meet Suleyman Saba, and to be able to touch the shapes and surfaces of his stoneware. It is judged to be, even by his peers, classic tableware and among the best being made in England today.

Cathy Brooks-Baker

Some forthcoming shows:

Until 10 April: *Exhibition at Galanthus Gallery, Hereford*

June and July: *Group show at Bevere Gallery, Worcestershire*

6-30 September: *Exhibition at Beaux Arts, Bath*

23-25 September: *"Ceramics in the City", Geffrye Museum, London*

Bridging the gap between State and individual

St Giles Trust has been chosen as the Society's Charity of the Year. Alex Mochnacz explains what it does and how it came into being.

As in the 19th century, so in the 21st, Camberwell has plenty of the problems and human tragedies of the inner city. St Giles Trust was founded in 1962 to meet those problems and improve the general quality of life. We have changed dramatically over the years but our belief in the power of people to change remains at our core.

The people we support have multiple problems such as homelessness, poverty, unemployment, mental or physical health problems, poor basic skills and addiction. People experiencing these issues frequently become caught up in the criminal justice system and our work has evolved over the years to help offenders resettle and rebuild their lives.

St Giles Trust began as the "Camberwell Samaritans" under the auspices of the vicar of St Giles church, Fr John Nicholls. Fr Nicholls was at that time also Chaplain of St Giles Hospital and had been "appalled by the number of patients admitted having attempted suicide." To address this, Fr Nicholls suggested "the formation of a Trust, in the Parish of St Giles, Camberwell ... for the purpose of assisting persons suffering in soul, mind or body ..."

The inaugural meeting held at St Giles vicarage on 2 February 1962 was attended by a diverse range of interested parties, organisations and individuals, from Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC; Andrew Cruickshank (the

original Dr Finlay) "representing the theatre"; Dr. Felix Post, an eminent Viennese psychiatrist; the boxer and local celebrity Freddie Mills; solicitors, bank managers, Rotarians, assorted health practitioners and the Chief Welfare Officer for the West Indies.

Significantly, the meeting identified that most cases taken up at the vicarage fell outside the remit of the State or crossed multiple departments of the Welfare State. This attribute – bridging the gaps between State institutions and individual – remains key to our work.

By 1963 money had been raised to fund a full-time psychiatric social worker (paid £1,080 per annum) and to train 16 part-time volunteers. The crypt of the church, cleared of coffins, was then reopened by the Queen Mother as one of the first day centres in London for single homeless people.

In the first nine months of operation, the day centre received 314 clients, of whom "... only 3% were potential suicides, 5% alcoholic, 3% homosexual and that most problems were social ones, including homelessness, financial and employment, many of the latter being unemployable through illness, or personality problems."

In addition to basics like food, showers, laundry and a few hours of safe warm haven from the streets, clients could receive housing advice and healthcare. Our services grew over the next two decades to include refugee workers, a training team, drugs and alcohol advice, a dentist, optician, chiropodist and a district nurse, alongside mental health support and legal advice. These

services became particularly needed after Care in the Community closed large psychiatric hospitals and homelessness in the capital exploded in the 1980s.

By this time, an average of 100 people a day visited the day centre, which was more than the staff or the old, damp, cramped, dingy crypt could accommodate. In the early 1990s plans were made to move to purpose-built facilities at Georgian House, just up the road. The new centre was opened in 1995 by Prince Charles and remains our headquarters. As well as housing advice, our work included help with training and employment support in a friendly, supportive environment specifically aimed at people who had multiple barriers to learning or accessing services.

Our work further evolved in the 1990s when we started a housing casework service in HMP Wandsworth to help stem the heavy flow of local prison leavers who presented to us in need of housing support. The early 21st century marked a shift in our focus away from working with homeless people towards helping offenders resettle and change their lives. This was brought about by duplication of services in the homelessness sector coupled with a strong link between homelessness and offending, compounded by an unmet level of need in this particular field.

Our aim is to create safer communities by turning lives around and preventing the children of offenders from becoming the next generation involved in the criminal justice system. The cornerstone of our work is putting offenders at the centre of the solution and believing



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The Queen Mother is pictured in 1963 at the reopening of the crypt as one of the first day centres in London for single homeless people

they have the power to change, given the right support.

We offer practical support around housing, training and help entering the workforce – all factors that reduce the likelihood of someone re-offending. We enable offenders who want to change become trained professionals, known as Peer Advisors, who provide support to others. Our most important local services are the open-access Brief Intervention Service (BIS), successor to the day centre, and the high-profile Southwark Offender Support (SOS) project, which helps young people escape gangs and crime. Recently BIS welcomed the support of actress Jenny Agutter who played a role in the refunding of this vital local service during a time of local authority spending cuts.

St Giles Trust also has a number

of “firsts” to its name. We were the first charity to take and train prisoners to become qualified caseworkers in prisons – the aforementioned Peer Advisors. In 2010 we launched the very first free phone advice line run by serving females for serving female prisoners. Following an independent evaluation of our resettlement work (which reduces re-offending by an additional 40% off the national average and delivers the taxpayer a £10 saving for every £1 invested in reduced criminal justice costs) we were the first recipient of a Social Impact Bond. This new funding model will provide private investors a return if St Giles reduces re-offending among prison-leavers from Peterborough over a 12 month period.

Our work has gained recognition and accolades, including two Charity Award wins, two Butler Trust wins,

two Justice Awards, *Third Sector* magazine’s Most Innovative Charity and inclusion in the *Sunday Times* Best 100 Companies to Work For in both 2009 and 2010. We are also honoured to be the Camberwell Society’s Charity of the Year for 2011.

We are now a mid-sized charity working in prisons across London, the south east, south west and East Anglia, with about half of our 120 paid staff and 40 volunteers working in Camberwell itself. We reach around 20,000 people a year.

Funding this work remains a continual challenge, as most of our voluntary funding comes from trusts and foundations and most of that is for specific projects. We are trying to increase the number of individuals who give regularly to St Giles and we simply do not have the resources available to larger charities. As we approach our 50th birthday in 2012, St Giles Trust remains a local charity but with national ambitions.

We would be very pleased to speak with anyone who knew Fr John Nicholls or who remembers St Giles Trust in the 1970s – please email alex.mochnacz@stgilestrust.org.uk

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Club Couture – the problems continue unabated

I last wrote about the Club Couture in 2006 when there had been an unsuccessful attempt by the Police in the course of a number of Hearings to have the licence revoked after a series of gun incidents at or outside this club. Since that time the problems, but luckily no shootings, have continued on and off. They became particularly bad during 2010 when residents in the new St George town houses nearby were seriously affected and lodged over 25 complaints with the Council and/or the Police between March and October last year.

In September 2010 the club made an application for a variation of its premises licence so that the terminal hours for the sale of alcohol could be extended from 23.00 hours until 00.30 (Monday to Wednesday), 01.30 (Thursday) and up to 02.30 (Friday and Saturday). The application was made partly on the argument that the sale of alcohol hours should be brought into line with the permitted operating hours.

There was a Hearing by the Licensing Sub-Committee in the Town Hall at 10am on 15 November to consider the application. The Hearing was relatively well attended (considering the day and the hour) by local residents, including a baby who, sitting with its mother in the front row, was impeccably behaved and an admirable example to the promoters of this club. There had been no less than 46 forceful and well expressed written objections, emphasising *inter alia* the noise, disgusting mess and dangerous disturbance imposed on local residents by the clientele of the club.

Councillor Ian Wingfield spoke strongly on behalf of residents, and I

made a presentation on behalf of the Camberwell Society, emphasising that the club lies within the new Saturation Policy area: as a result it was up to the applicants to show that any change in hours “would not add to existing problems.”

The decision made by the Licensing Sub-Committee was to refuse a change in the licensing hours except for a substantial extension, from 23.00 hours until 01.30 hours on Fridays and Saturdays. In addition, conditions were imposed firstly to install a computer-scan system for the identification of those entering the club and secondly to provide a limit of seven people allowed outside to smoke after 11.00pm. One wonders how the latter condition can in practice be monitored or made effective: it would seem that seven smokers are allowed to gather and to smoke outside but that a far larger number of non-smokers can create disturbance in the street at the same time without restriction!

The result was not what we hoped for but a concession to the applicant was not unexpected. The result at least shows that local residents and the Camberwell Society are able and prepared to continue to show their teeth in this highly unattractive situation, ongoing since 2002 or possibly earlier.

It was especially disappointing that the new Saturation Policy in this instance seemed to be of limited assistance. It was also astonishing that a letter from the Police stated that the premises had operated “successfully” since 2006 and that a letter from the Southwark Environmental Protection Team stated “this operation is unlikely to

give rise to public nuisance”.

I wrote to both these authorities last November asking for further explanation and have to date received no written reply from the Police. A reply from the Environmental Protection Team admitted that it was aware of the background but claimed that evidence was lacking for a more forceful and suitable approach. Meanwhile, on 29 January, there were hideous late night disturbances (which peaked at 6.30am), as a result of the Police apparently giving permission for a TEN (Temporary Entertainment Notice) that night.

In view of these very serious continuing problems, I cannot too strongly recommend that anyone who is disturbed by this club should take a careful note of the time, date and details. In addition, they should also contact the Council Noise Team (7525 5777) and/or the Southwark Police Licensing Section (PC Ian Clements on 7232 6155). These calls should be logged by the Police and Southwark and could greatly help as evidence in any future Hearings.

The club appealed against the decision of 15 November and this Appeal was heard in the Magistrates’ Court at Tower Bridge on 21 February. At the Hearing the judge was evidently annoyed at what appeared to be a bogus attempt to have the Hearing adjourned: no evidence was offered by the club, which withdrew its Appeal. Costs of £1,128 were awarded to Southwark Council.

It is hoped that resolute action will be taken to end this long saga before a tragedy unfolds.

Nicholas Roskill



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Helping children to fulfil their potential

In 2008 Theatre Peckham was chosen as the Society's Charity of the Year. Su Thomas reminds us that it is still playing a very important part in our community and still deserving of our support.

M grew up on a council estate in Peckham and became connected with a gang, not because he was a "bad boy" but because the youth in the gang were the little boys who in the past had played football in the "cage", chased each other and had imaginary battles during the holidays and on long summer evenings. M could have joined and become a gang member but he had a saving grace, a safe place to go; a small building tucked away behind Southwark Town Hall on the edge of two council estates on the very edge of Peckham and Camberwell. A small building but a massive heart. Theatre Peckham!

This amazing project was started by a woman with a large vision and an equally large heart. Teresa Early saw a need on the notorious North Peckham Estate and she went all out to meet that need. The project started life as New Peckham Varieties 25 years ago, and has grown into Theatre Peckham, a highly successful school of performing arts comprising over 400 children and youths ranging in age from babes in arms to actor apprentices enrolled in the school but also reaching over 400 children a week through schools and after-school clubs within the community, a total of over 800 children. Teresa Early has devoted much of her life to the project and together with a dedicated and committed team has achieved a school of excellence. When you see a performance advertised do not smile and think "local amateur dramatics group", buy a ticket and be surprised by the level of talent that these children and young people display, guided and supported by a sprinkling of professional actors.

Theatre Peckham also has a comprehensive education programme, going into schools a few times a week offering a range of workshops from drama to street



A scene from Three Summers On performed by BTEC Level 3 students

dance. The Pathways Project is a long-term speaking and listening programme which has been designed in correlation with the national curriculum. It has been running in schools for the last three years and it has been noted that it has a significant impact on children, including those with special educational needs and those with English as a second language. Experiencing the performing arts in the school setting is often enough to inspire children to join the project and is a very important part of the work that Theatre Peckham does in the community.

Theatre Peckham is also an accredited assessment and examination centre and has successfully delivered BTEC qualifications in Performing Arts for 14plus year olds. These qualifications are equivalent to GCSE and AS/A levels. They have a 100% pass rate and in 2010 80% of the students achieved distinctions.

However, amazing as this project is, it has not escaped the Government's cuts. £20,000 has already gone from this year's budget. Theatre Peckham has a current annual grant of £121,000 from the Arts Council of England and has just submitted an application for it to be extended to 2015. There is fierce

competition for this grant and some companies have had their funding cut. The fees charged for workshops are less than they actually cost and Theatre Peckham offers bursaries for those who have difficulty finding the fees.

In Southwark where young people are always in the news for the wrong reasons, where boys are killing each other and constantly looking to belong, it is madness to ignore the benefits of projects like Theatre Peckham that give children the opportunity to belong, to be involved, to be valued and above all to fulfil their potential.

Theatre Peckham urgently needs your support. Maybe you are not in a position to make a donation but you could buy a ticket and go to their performances, you can spread the word and encourage others to support them. For more information and to make donations go online to www.theatrepeckham.co.uk.

Despite the name, Theatre Peckham is situated within the SE5 postcode.

I will leave you with this comment from M. "Theatre Peckham has changed my life. It has helped me to get out of the gang culture and has opened up a lot of doors for me which will benefit me when I am older."

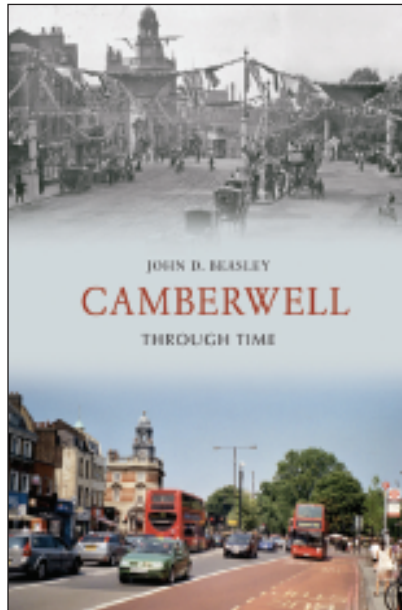
Take a look and see how Camberwell has changed . . .

Camberwell Through Time

By John D Beasley
Amberley Publishing
£14.99

Once again I have been inspired by John Beasley to look again at my surroundings and to wonder what the area looked like before. I lived in Peckham for the majority of my life but am now in Camberwell. As a child and young teenager, Camberwell was a place I passed through on the way to somewhere else. However, having lived here for the last 13 years, I have a different perspective on it now.

Camberwell Through Time is another in the series of local history and is similar in layout to *Peckham and Nunhead Through Time*, with photos of the past at the top of a page and photos of the present at the bottom. This gives a clear contrast. Some places are unrecognisable, such as the junction at Southampton Way and Commercial Way, where the



Rosemary Branch Tavern stood in the 19th century but it is now Stephen Lawrence House and other homes. Picton Street, where I live, was a row of little terraced houses and is now flats and maisonettes.

There are some buildings which have remained almost the same; the

Maudsley Hospital, Aged Pilgrims Asylum, Mary Datchelor School. The latter two buildings have been converted into modern flats while keeping the façade of the original building. I have to say that I much prefer this method of providing accommodation. It seems such a shame that so many little houses with gardens (even though small) were demolished to make way for the blocks of flats which were erected in much of Camberwell.

It is amazing to see how much things have changed, even since the 1950s. Gylcote Close, on the Denmark Hill Estate, although structurally the same, now has so many trees and mature hedges and also cars which were absent in the 1950 photo. All in all, this is another book which has given me much enjoyment and has once again whetted my appetite for local history. I wonder where the next one will take us!

Su Thomas

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Our Baths have reopened at last!

The refurbished Camberwell Baths opened again for business on 28 February. It was a joy to hear and see swimmers splashing about happily in such splendid surroundings.

The official opening by the Council was on 12 March, but an informal celebration was held on the opening afternoon, attended by local school children and made colourful with 50 blue balloons donated by the Camberwell Society. The Baths campaign also organised drinks at the Grand Union pub that evening for supporters.

We publish below a celebratory poem which tells the story of the fight for our Baths.



Photo: David Mackenzie

On the reopening of Camberwell's pool

*This is the day we've waited for, almost
since we first passed our cash though the windy
hole the receptionist blocked with her post.
Balled toes on cold floors. Frog floats on Sunday.*

*Harried by draughts we ran to the water
over the bulkhead waving our ticket
slipped into the blue that drew us under
churning bright bubbles and glad to be wet.*

*Above us the sun rained from high windows,
the intricate balcony made us fond
of do-gooder Victorian fellows
who'd wanted it grand and went far beyond*

*essentials. Beautiful pool so nearly lost!
The crumbling floor and roof, the council through
with patching up, too great the trouble and cost –
surely, they told us, Peckham's handy too.*

*We marched and wrote, called and stubbornly sat
till a newly ingenious council seized
the chance to save it – slowly brought it back
with grants, matched-funds, mysterious subsidies.*

*So once again we'll splash and paddle and glide,
fast lane porpoise, elegant dry-haired dame,
tadpole babies and teens by the side
thrilled by the water and light just the same.*

Clare Jacob

John Lee 1946-2010

"A talented and unusual man, no one could be in his company without feeling the better for it"

"A person most brilliantly alive who revolutionized the field of strabismus"

"Possessed of benevolence, humour and grace"

"Dynamic, charismatic and resembling a close relative of Father Christmas"

Memorable words spoken at John Lee's memorial held at St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch on 29 January this year – a memorial described as eclectic, brilliant, and of which he deserved every minute. John Lee had been recently elected president of the Royal College of Ophthalmology, and was the first president to be elected by the whole college, which pleased him very much.

The eldest of 11 children born to Irish teachers in Surrey, he was educated at St George's College, Weybridge (a scholarship) and went on to study medicine at University College, Oxford, where he met Arabella, and where his extra-curricular activities tended to compete rather too successfully with his studies. However, when he moved to Westminster Hospital, and in spite of the above activities (including writing a pantomime *Peter Pandemic*), he survived well enough to get his first job at the Oxford Eye Hospital. He did not actually want to work in ophthalmology, but it was



John Lee

the only job available, and he was the only one at the interview.

After the Oxford job, he went on to Moorfields and the Boscombe Palmer Clinic in Miami, Florida. In 1983 he became a university lecturer at Moorfields and at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology. At Moorfields he was appointed a Consultant Ophthalmologist, treating patients from all over the UK, and his Harley Street clinic was international.

A great communicator and inspiring teacher, he trained many of the leading strabismus surgeons in Europe and North America, and worked on improving the training for ophthalmologists in developing

countries. Highly regarded in the USA, and remembered as a bridge between the USA and Europe, he had encountered the use of Botulinum toxin therapy when he visited Alan Scott in San Francisco. In 1982 he brought several vials of the toxin home in his hand luggage, where, we are told, he kept it in the fridge with the beer. He was the first in the UK to use the technique of injecting Botulinum toxin for inoperable cases of strabismus.

A huge number of publications, and being president of various illustrious ophthalmic bodies did not prevent his personal life from being equally rich. Passionate about classical music (he and Arabella sometimes went to concerts three times a week), he was, nevertheless, not prescriptive, and was interested in most musical forms. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of science fiction and film, he loved his family, his Irish roots and fly fishing in Connemara, where he and Arabella had a house.

He had a great sense of humour, Goonish and Pythonesque, loved the ridiculous and, when on a visit to Australia, he was asked (as one is) if he had a criminal record, he replied, "does one still need one to get in?"

For those who remember Beachcomber, perhaps we should think of him as our Dr Strabismus (whom God preserve) not of Utrecht, but of Camberwell. He died unexpectedly and too young. Those who were his patients will remember his kindness, erudition, enthusiasm and lack of snobbery. His essence will remain in the memory of so very many, and his work will continue to benefit generations to come.

Christmas Party: corrections

I would like to correct an error in the thanks offered after the Christmas Party (CQ 167.14). While I did take two books to the gallery and put them on the raffle table, they were not my donation. The author, John Beasley, had very kindly donated two copies of his recently published book on Camberwell. The fact that it has only just been published and contains a wealth of photographs of old Camberwell, showing precisely what changes have taken place over the years, make it a very valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in Camberwell and hence an excellent lure for the raffle. Our warm thanks are due to him and not to me. (See book review on page 12.)

Jean Sackur

Also omitted from our list were two plants kindly donated by Cruson, Camberwell Church Street.

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CONTRIBUTE TO THE *QUARTERLY*!

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

Contact the Editor, Margaret Powley-Baker on 7701 4417: email mpowleybaker@hotmail.com



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13 MAY 2010

The Annual General Meeting of the Camberwell Society will be held at 7pm on Thursday 12 May 2011 at the Wilson Road Annexe of the Camberwell College of Arts, Wilson Road 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, Paola Totaro, 55 Grove Lane, SE5 8SP, to arrive at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

6. Any other business

Paola Totaro, Secretary

CAMBERWELL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

President: Jeremy Bennett
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Chairwoman: Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob
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Vice-Chairman: Nick Holt
204 Camberwell Grove, SE5 8RJ 7501 9941

Secretary: Paola Totaro
55 Grove Lane, SE5 8SP 07775 858765

Assistant Secretary: Robert Wainwright
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Treasurer: Kim Blackwell
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Membership form available online:
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PLANNING:
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The Camberwell Society is the recognised amenity society for those living, working or interested in Camberwell.

