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# CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

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The magazine of the Camberwell Society  
No 184 Spring 2015 £1.50 (free to members)

[www.camberwellsociety.org.uk](http://www.camberwellsociety.org.uk)



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## THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS

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

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

Sub-Committees on planning, 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**  
*Annual General Meeting*  
Wednesday 20 May (see page 9)

*Open Gardens Day*  
Sunday 7 June

*Modern Architectural Walk*  
Sunday 6 September (see page 3)

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

## LOCAL SOCIETIES, VENUES AND EVENTS

We recommend checking details

**Brunswick Park Neighbourhood Tenants and Residents Association**  
Jason Mitchell 07985 548 544  
[tandra.brunswickpark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tandra.brunswickpark@yahoo.co.uk)

**Burgess Park, Friends of**  
For meetings, events and updates on Burgess Park improvements  
[www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk)  
[friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com)

**Butterfly Tennis Club**  
[www.butterflytennis.com](http://www.butterflytennis.com)

**Camberwell Arts**  
Promoting the arts in Camberwell, and Camberwell in the Arts  
[camberwellartsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:camberwellartsfestival@gmail.com)  
[www.camberwellarts.org.uk](http://www.camberwellarts.org.uk)

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

**Carnegie Library, Friends of**  
See the Friends' tray in the Library or  
[foclchair@googlemail.com](mailto:foclchair@googlemail.com)

**Concerts in St Giles' Church**  
Camberwell Church Street  
[www.music@stgiles.com](http://www.music@stgiles.com)

**Cuming Museum**  
Old Walworth Town Hall, 151 Walworth Road, SE17 1RY.  
020 7525 2332  
[www.southwark.gov.uk/Discover-Southwark/Museums](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/Discover-Southwark/Museums)

**Dulwich Picture Gallery**  
College Road, SE21 7AD  
020 8693 5254.  
[www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk](http://www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk)

**Herne Hill Society**  
Jeffrey Doorn 020 7274 7008  
Membership: Herne Hill Society  
PO Box 27845, SE24 9XA  
[www.hernehillsociety.org.uk](http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk)

**Lambethans' Society**  
See Brixton Society website  
[www.brixtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.brixtonsociety.org.uk)

**Maudsley Learning**  
ORTUS learning and events centre, 82-96 Grove Lane, SE5 8SN  
[www.maudsleylearning.com](http://www.maudsleylearning.com)

**Minet Conservation Association**  
020 7737 8210  
[www.minet.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.minet.fsnet.co.uk)

**Nunhead Cemetery**  
Linden Grove, SE15. Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)  
020 8693 6191  
[www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)

**Peckham Society**  
Peter Frost 020 8613 6757  
Wednesday 17 June, *Peckham Rye Park to One Tree Hill walk*. Meet at Clockhouse Public House, Barry Road/Peckham Rye  
[www.peckhamsociety.org.uk](http://www.peckhamsociety.org.uk)

**Ruskin Park, Friends of**  
Doug Gillies 020 7703 5018

**SE5 Forum**  
[SE5Forum.org.uk](http://SE5Forum.org.uk)  
[comms@SE5forum.org.uk](mailto:comms@SE5forum.org.uk)

**South London Gallery**  
65 Peckham Road SE5. Open: Tuesday to Sunday – 12pm-6pm, closed on Monday  
[www.southlondongallery.org](http://www.southlondongallery.org)

**Southwark Friends of the Earth**  
Stephanie & Jim Lodge  
020 7701 3331. Emails:  
[stephanielodge1947@talktalk.net](mailto:stephanielodge1947@talktalk.net)  
[southwarkfoe@btopenworld.com](mailto:southwarkfoe@btopenworld.com)

**Wells Way Triangle Residents Association**  
Andrew Osborne  
[WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com](mailto:WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com)



Cover: One of the 1922 buses serving Camberwell on display by the London Transport Museum (page 9)



## Regeneration is getting into gear

There is a hint of spring in the air as I write this, as days get slowly longer and the trees are in bud. This is to some extent mirrored across Camberwell as various regeneration initiatives, both public and private, are getting into gear. This issue of the *Quarterly* highlights some of these in more detail, looking at a long disused site on Grove Lane and also the Post Office on Denmark Hill. The new Camberwell Library is also taking up a prominent position on the corner of Camberwell Green, and will play its part in the overall revitalisation of the Green, where a planning application has now been submitted. It seems to me that both the public and the private have mutually supporting roles to play here, with public money providing the support in terms of infrastructure and private sector coming in with new shops, bars, restaurants and so on.



Nick Holt

We also take a look at the Society's two charities for 2015, both of which have a strong community garden theme; there is the Secret Garden on Kimpton Road and the Stanswood Gardens Project, tucked between Stanswood Gardens and Southampton Way. Both are fantastic examples of what can be done with otherwise redundant spaces, and they

are well worth a visit when the Society's Open Gardens Day takes place, which this year will be on Sunday, 7 June.

There is also some good news to report on the transport front, (page 9) with a vastly improved service on weekdays and at weekends from Denmark Hill to and from London Victoria. The queues at the ticket office and the ticket barriers remain a problem, however. When it comes to cycling, we seem to still be overlooked by the Boris bikes, although we are hoping that this may change. We will also continue to keep up the pressure on bringing the tube to Peckham and Camberwell.

Details of the Society's AGM appear on page 9 – I hope to see as many as possible of you there on the night.

Nick Holt

[nick.holt.camberwell.soc@gmail.com](mailto:nick.holt.camberwell.soc@gmail.com)

## Walk about modern Camberwell

On Sunday 6 September an architecture walk, led by Ian McInnes from the Twentieth Century Society, will cover the streets to the north and east of Camberwell Green. It will look at several of the post-war social

housing schemes constructed in the area after WW2, the 1950s school by James Stirling, Camberwell Town Hall and other more recent buildings. *Meet: 2:30 on Camberwell Green opposite the Camberwell Green Surgery. Finish same place.*

### Important dates

20 May, AGM (See page 9)

7 June, Open Gardens Day



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Roy Brooks

# The saga of 4A, 6 and 6A Grove Lane ends after 38 years

Readers of the *Quarterly* will know that I have been personally involved in seeking the redevelopment of these formerly derelict properties for very many years. Indeed, the first letter I wrote to Southwark Council, the then owners, was on 12 July 1988. My file on conclusion is now at least six inches thick! I have, of course, had much local support in all my efforts.

Those residents with long memories – and there may not be many of us now left – might remember the greengrocers called Elders who occupied these three premises until 1977: prior to its recent redevelopment the property has been derelict for nearly all of this 38 year time span. As background, in 1980 the Camberwell Society published its well-known blight survey, conducted by seven members of the Society: this established, through its highly professional research, that Southwark Council owned at least 59% of the derelict land and buildings in a two square kilometre area of central Camberwell. The findings were published under the heading “Public Property: Public Waste”, inspired by Jeremy Bennett, the then Chairman of the Camberwell

Society who has motivated so much else in Camberwell. The Newsletter three years later, in 1983, reported few improvements and concluded that councils such as Southwark “cannot manage properly the amount of property they have acquired over the years... they will not sell public property as a matter of principle”. A long open letter written by Jeremy on the waste and planning blight, headed “The Crunch Comes”, was published and sent to the Southwark Council Housing Committee in March 1984.

A few years later I became only too clearly aware that something needed urgently to be done, about both 4A, 6 and 6A Grove Lane and the derelict handsome Georgian building at 2-2A Grove Lane, which had been gutted by arson, while the former glazier’s shop, No 4, next door was also derelict. At this time it was possible, through the District Auditor, to challenge the accounts of a council which was not using its assets economically or efficiently. Faced with such a challenge, 2-2A Grove Lane was very quickly sold and redeveloped as Seymour Brothers, while Pearl Glazing at No 4 was eventually also sold and taken over by Seymour Brothers.

The District Auditor was most helpful in sorting out the thoroughly tangled affairs of 4A, 6 and 6A Grove Lane. The mismanagement of these properties proved to be such that the District Auditor promised me that this would never be allowed to happen again. I have explained the details in a large number of articles in the *Quarterly*.

Put very briefly, Southwark Council owned the property and entered into a joint agreement with a very small private development company called Wavercroft, who received a 125-year lease, on a peppercorn rent, whereby they would develop the site together with Southwark and share the profits. Wavercroft became insolvent and was placed in liquidation: the owner sadly died in a yachting accident during the Fastnet race. It took a long drawn out Court case with an Appeal to establish that the lease could be extinguished and Southwark Council as freeholder could sell the property.

The property was purchased at auction in 2009 by Sutherland Partners, a local developer, and plans were put forward. The proposals were, hardly surprisingly, widely and warmly welcomed and accepted with

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a few suggestions for detail. The time scale was thought to be about three years and it has proved possible, with talented and imaginative architects Matt White and Elizabeth Owens, to develop the awkward site almost within the ambitious time scale and with remarkably little disturbance to residents. All congratulations are due to Sutherland Partners and we hope that the development proves both a commercial success as well as a major architectural one.

Meanwhile, Southwark Council must be pleased that rates will at last be payable on this property. Matt White is also, as it happens, the architect for the residential part of the development of the United Reformed Church further up Grove Lane and it is expected that this will, when finished, also be a high quality architectural achievement.

The north end of Grove Lane

*Transformed from a 1998 eyesore (right) to a fine example of 2015 redevelopment (below)*

will be immeasurably improved by this development. A baker, Adam Newey, who specialises in sourdough bread, has taken over the ground floor premises of 4A, 6 and 6A, along with a delicatessen. There remains, however, much tidying up to be done at the north end of Grove

Lane. For instance, the unsightly refuse bins. And surely the unauthorised wooden roof extension opposite and the rubbish on the roofs, are fire hazards?

*Nicholas Roskill*





## Fork out for the gardens

*The Secret Garden and Stanswood Garden Project are the Society's Charities of the Year. CQ finds out how they help Camberwell flourish.*

Carlo Guarna was shocked to discover that his children's friends thought that eggs and tomatoes were manufactured in factories. Carlo and his wife Kasia grew up miles apart in Italy and in Poland but both spent much of their childhood working on their parents' allotments, producing enough food to feed the family. Now settled in Camberwell they wanted to teach those skills to their own children. Having no garden of their own they volunteered with the Secret Garden.

The Secret Garden was created from a strip of waste land between the D'Eynsford estate and Camberwell Church Street. The Council, concerned that it was used as a passage for thieves, a site for drug dealers and a dump for used bottles and cans, offered the plot to tenants of the ground floor flats. There were no takers. So a group of some 15 local residents started work in March 2009, chopping down nettles, pulling up the weeds and preparing the soil. In 2010 they won £25,000 from the Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund at Southwark Council to completely redevelop the site and plant hundreds of new bushes, flowers and vegetables. Even on the windy February Sunday when CQ visited,

the garden was lively with primroses in the wild garden, herbs in the middle floral section and a greenhouse in the vegetable plot where a group gathered to learn to grow mushrooms by Fabrice from Myatt's Fields.

The Secret Garden runs on 15 to 20 volunteers who organise the summer barbecue and get together for Halloween, Women's Day and Christmas. Flowers, veg and friendships have flourished. The social capital built up through the garden developed into a core group of residents forming the D'Eynsford Estate Tenant Management Organisation (TMO). From June this year the TMO will take over the services provided by Southwark up to now, such as cleaning, repairs, rent collection. Local photographer Tom Leighton, a founder member of the Secret Garden, is now the link between the TMO and the garden group. "It was through the garden everyone got to know each other. The ethos of the garden and the TMO is the same; get everyone involved, don't wait for someone else to provide, just get on and do it," he said. The Garden's key limitation now is a lack of skill among the volunteers and they are keen to hire a few hours of a community gardener's time to train them up.

Carlo and Kasia have skills aplenty but left D'Eynsford for a new flat in Stanswood gardens off Southampton Way. Carlo says his



*Daffodils bloom in the Secret Garden*

first question when they arrived was – where are the gardens? The estate was laid out with the odd tree, some patches of grass and a few shrubs, now overgrown. So Carlo started guerrilla gardening sowing sunflower seeds and annuals. With a grant of £1,800 they started to turn a patch of grass which had been used for hiding drugs, drink, lobbing missiles during the London riots and other nefarious purposes, into a garden.

They used their gardening and professional skills (Kasia trained as an architect and Carlo as a chef) to design, build and plant a triangular plot opposite Tesco's at the front of the estate. They toured local building sites asking for spare sand, scaffolding boards and building materials, collected seeds and created a flower garden, pond, greenhouse, vegetable and fruit beds. All so pretty and professional that Stanswood Garden project won a Royal Horticultural Society award.

Last spring Carlos and Kasia started a 12-week course teaching 10 children including their son Eyrc (six), and daughter Laura (nine) where tomatoes and veg really came from. Carlo remembers picking a green tomato off a bush and giving it to two boys – they started throwing it like a ball and he had to explain,

*Children learn about bugs*





## The Huguenots of Camberwell – Part II

*Part II of Milo Warby's history of the Huguenots who settled in Camberwell*

Even civilian Huguenots were drawn into England's wider war effort. For family and friends, Isaac Minet had been at the centre of a system of mutual assistance vital in ensuring their safe exit from France in the 1680s and 1690s. During the war, he performed a similar role by becoming the contact of many French and English prisoners desperate to return home and avoid unwarranted punishment from their captors.

It is not surprising that those involved in trade appear frequently as partners of the English state during its European wars. Success as a merchant required the forging and exploitation of a wide range of commercial and social contacts, opening up channels of communication and influence. Unlike the de Crespigny soldiers, the Minet family could rely on no state-funded pension. Their household primarily depended upon communal bonds of trust emanating from the family outwards. As Huguenots, these were likely to be stronger and spread

further than those of other merchants, connected by blood, religion and history to those with whom they dealt.

The contribution of foreigners to England's trade is much more easily quantifiable than the value of their military assistance. By 1695, the total export of this group to Near Europe made up nearly a third of England's domestic total, amounting to more than £300,000. A substantial minority of foreign traders thus came to dominate a whole sector of English commerce. Between 1686 and 1722, Isaac Minet went from running a London chemist to trading gold watches, horses and silk from his Dover headquarters.

On 10 April 1745 the Kentish Post lamented the passing of *"Mr Isaac Minet for many years an eminent merchant, in which profession he was universally known and esteemed not only by persons in trade but by those of the first rank in most parts of the world."*

Possessed of "excellent judgement" the paper wrote that "few men have gone thro the world more usefully." Yet credit and esteem had to be amassed over decades of business endeavour and

self-improvement. Isaac had begun this process 71 years beforehand, on an exchange in Dover, learning English and honing his understanding of his future profession. Therefore, primed in the native language and with established local links, Isaac was much better prepared for life in England than most refugees seeking work. Ignorance of English and inability to demonstrate that they had served a legitimate apprenticeship were the most serious barriers to Huguenot material improvement.

But the French Protestant merchants had two major advantages in comparison to their native competitors. Firstly, as a close-knit religious group, they had a high degree of internal coherence beneficial to the establishment of close business networks. Families from Calais are present both in Isaac Minet's persecution narrative and in his and his son's account books for the 1720s. Secondly, the diaspora provided Huguenots with pan-European contacts, in many cases complementing those already attached to their family while in

*Continued on next page*

## Fork out for the gardens *continued*

"No, that is a tomato like you have in salad." Over the course of spring and summer 2014 the children learnt basic botany, grew seeds, planted them out, and built bug hotels under the shade of a gazebo. By the end of the course the pictures they drew of gardens had moved from stick flowers and trees to designs accommodating bugs, bird and pond life. This year Stanswood Garden project will be running a course for adults, turning a path through muddy grass into an apothecary garden and installing benches with the support of property services company Keepmoat, all backed by the expertise that Kasia is developing through studying with the Royal Horticultural Society.

Hands-on learning matters in a

society where surveys show that one in six of our primary school children are unaware that vegetables come from farms, one in 10 secondary school pupils think tomatoes grow underground and one third that cheese comes from plants. Turning neglected pockets of land into community gardens is happening more and more in our area. It can be seen in our parks; Burgess' Food Project, Be Urban in Kennington, Myatts Fields Greenhouse Project which employs community gardener Fabrice, Ruskin's community garden; in our estates such as D'Eynsford and Stanswood; in allotments such as Lettsom Gardens and in the work of guerrilla gardeners. And taken altogether these gardeners are

changing our Camberwell. Carlo says: "We would love to see Camberwell flourish with flowers in odd forgotten spaces. Community gardening brings out the spirit of people, gives them hope, happiness, beauty."

*Marie Staunton*

*See for yourself – the Secret Garden welcomes visitors on Fridays from 3pm to 5pm and Sundays from 11am to 2pm. Carlo and Kasia are at Stanswood Garden Project most of the weekend and are very happy to give free gardening advice.*

# The Hugueots of Camberwell *Continued from previous page*

France. Isaac's ledger books record business deals with Calais, Dublin and Ostend as well as dispersed family members in Berlin and Rotterdam.

Success was not guaranteed, eluding even those practised in trade and possessed of good connections. Isaac's nephew Thomas was described as "a muddling, puddling, smuggling merchant... always under difficulties and prosecutions for smuggling." The largest sum dispensed in Thomas's will of 1750 was ten pounds. Isaac had bequeathed double this to him six years earlier, and gave equal amounts to his servants and the poor.

Naturalisation was the crucial first interaction between merchant and state, one that removed the disability of alien custom rates and conferred a range of legal, economic and political rights. But the 1704 Act that made Isaac a naturalised Englishman had stated that the petitioners were "all soldiers, Protestant and willing to serve in the Queen's Forces at home or abroad." His name went through a series of removals and additions, suggesting that merchants could use wealth, collective endeavour and influence to get the same treatment as loyal soldiers. The foreign merchant's process of integration into the English state, and success within it,

was one that drew on his capital and his professional network, rather than his length and quality of service.

The life of Isaac's son William provides an insight into the interweaving of professionalism, family and Huguenot identity. Three of Isaac's six sons were sent abroad at a young age to develop their skills and William, aged 17, apprenticed for almost a year-and-a-half in Dieppe. The sending of sons overseas to learn languages and manage accounts was a long-established tradition within the merchant community. Growing up bilingual would have given William a head start.

Even while writing and conducting business in Dutch, William's English-Huguenot identity was not forgotten. An image of Queen Anne adorned his notebook and he carried both an English Common Prayer Book and a French Psalm-book. William's profession gave him the opportunity to speak and write French on a daily basis. Congratulating the Duke of Newcastle on his return to favour in 1765, he positively referred to himself as the "son of a French refugee."

Quite the opposite was his brother John, who became the rector of Eythorne in Kent in 1722 in a

move largely financed by his father. This seems to indicate that, for many Huguenots, the possession of a distinct religion was becoming less important. Indeed, as the first generation of migrants died out, a second were drawn away from the French Dover community and towards London. By 1731, Isaac's church, to which he remained faithful, contained only five of its original members.

At this point, the London de Crespignys were taking advantage of new opportunities in the law: Claude in the South Sea Company, Philip in the Admiralty Court. Europe-wide conflict and domestic xenophobic tension had given way to a more pacific state of affairs for refugee families. As has been seen, the formerly "alien" Huguenots became gentlemen in places like Camberwell and Wandsworth, forming clubs and laying bets with their neighbours.

How did they achieve this transformation? William Minet claimed his father's greatest achievement was that he was "serviceable to mankind in general." Those Huguenots who were able to prove themselves of service to the English state and society were best positioned to open up its rewards for their families in the future.

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20th April	26th October
1st June	15th December

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## No 12 bus that took Camberwellians to the West End in 1922

As part of the “2014 Year of the Bus”, London Transport Museum and Transport for London brought together a collection of buses to Regent Street on Saturday, 22 June. This was to celebrate the vital role that the bus has played in the last 150 years in providing people with access to employment, services and social opportunities of London. The 1922 bus shown here ran on the No 12 route, bringing those living in Camberwell to the West End.

Buses of various ages from horse drawn to the new “Boris” buses were brought from the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden and the Museum’s depot in Acton, west London, including others that ran on the No 12 route.



*This 1922 bus is part of London Transport Museum's collection at its Acton depot which holds open weekends twice a year, usually April and September*

*Peter Cooke*



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 MAY 2015

**The Annual General Meeting of the Camberwell Society will be held at 7.15pm on Wednesday 20 May 2015 at the Ortus Learning and Events Centre, 82-96 Grove Lane SE5**

#### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Previous minutes and matters arising
3. Chair's Report for the year 2012-2013
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, Robert Wainwright, 55 Grove Lane, SE5 8SP, to arrive at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

6. Any other business

*Robert Wainwright, Secretary*

## Improved train services from Denmark Hill

The Society, along with other local stakeholders, submitted a response to last year's timetable consultation by Southeastern Trains. We are very pleased that concerns about the recent decrease in direct services to Victoria from Denmark Hill have been addressed in the new timetable.

Since January the following services are running from Denmark Hill to Victoria:

- Three trains an hour to Victoria at off peak times
- up to six trains an hour to Victoria during morning peak times
- at least three trains an hour from Victoria to Denmark Hill, with the last train leaving Victoria at nine minutes past midnight (including Saturdays)
- hourly services on Sundays (last train from Victoria leaves at 11.45pm).

There are also increased services from Denmark Hill to Bromley South with one train an hour carrying on to Dover Priory.

*Alex Blacknell*

## Please be seated

*At Fowlds in Addington Square you can have your cake and seat it <sup>[1]</sup>*

**B**ob Fowlds of A V Fowlds & Sons of Addington Square has installed an artisan coffee shop in front of his upholsterer's workshop, which also houses Susan Ward Booth's gilding studio on the top floor.

In 2014 Bob was struggling with the recession when he was approached by local residents Jack and Hanne to convert the front of the shop into a café, in the hope of bringing more custom to all three businesses. The café opened last spring and there is now a steady trail of customers. It starts at 7.30am with cyclists and dog walkers, then commuters grabbing a coffee on the way to the bus stop, followed by parents looking for a chat after the school drop off. Staff from Cambridge House and local businesses arrive for lunch – warming winter stew for £6, toasties £4, homemade cakes and treats including,

of course, Camberwell Carrot Cake. In the evening locals come for a glass of wine or Orbit beer, brewed just across Camberwell Road under the arches in Fielding Street.

Hanne, the cook, enjoys “being creative with home-made food based on local produce”. Jack sees Fowlds riding the wave of new café bars, staying open late, filling the gap left by the decline in traditional pubs. An events organiser, he enjoys “creating experiences”, such as the monthly supper club “Fowlds Feast” he has started here. It is held in the workshop, among the much loved tools, the yellowing receipts pinned to the walls and rolls of fabric propped against the old button press.

Bob Fowlds enjoys the bustle that the café has brought back to the premises. Fifty years ago when he started as an apprentice in the family firm, it employed a dozen people. Now the staff has shrunk to two: Bob himself, who is 68, and Larry, who is 80. They work a six-hour day. They

do it partly because they cannot afford to retire, but mostly because of the satisfaction that comes, as Bob says, “from making something with your hands. You work on a wreck of a chair and make it into something beautiful. It is a pleasure to do and mentally very satisfying.”

The area used to be “full of people making things,” says Bob. “When my granddad Albert Fowlds moved the business from Wansey Street to this corner of Addington Square in 1926 there were still barrels here because the premises had been a coopers. Chap at No 2 made ties for Harrods, there was a floor tile company in the square and workshops employing two, three or four people all down Walworth Rd. In fact the entire area was full of small workshops, where you could find people making absolutely everything imaginable.”

The firm survived because of its ability to adapt. During the First World War men went to fight, leaving

### Fowlds – the history of a family firm

**1849:** James Albert Fowlds born. Mother a cane chair maker. Father a cheesemonger.

**1870:** Opens first factory in East Street, making cane and balloon back chairs. Soon an additional factory opened in Inville Road making Victorian easy chairs and nine-piece early English suites – a chaise longue, sofa, gents easy chair, ladies chair (no arms to allow movement for knitting) for six pounds 15 shillings.

**1889:** Listed in the Post Office directory as James Albert Fowlds – Chair and sofa maker. Seven of James Fowlds 14 children work in the factory.

**1894:** Opens first retail shop, Hatcham Furnishing Co, at 700 Old Kent Road.

**1900:** Opens second shop, Hand-in-Hand Furnishing Co, at 122 Old Kent Road.

**1902:** Opens third shop, Excelsior Furnishing Co, at 333 Garratt Lane, Earlsfield.

**1914:** At the outbreak of the First World War the younger Fowlds joined the army, navy and nursing corps. The shops closed.

**1915:** James Albert died of pneumonia after being caught in a heavy shower of rain on the open upper deck of a London bus.

**1915:** James Albert's son Albert Victor returned from serving in the Royal Hussars in the war and rented a

shop in Rodney Road, Walworth, and factory premises in Wansey Street selling the newly fashionable three-piece suites with matching covers. His three sons Ernest, Jim and Albert, joined the business with their sister Helen who became the secretary, established the firm as A V Fowlds and Sons and moved to the present-day premises in Addington Square, Camberwell. The firm upholstered mass-produced frames.

**1926:** General strike. Albert bought machinery and started manufacturing his own frames and supplying them to others.

**1939:** Second World War. The Fowlds brothers and employees were called up.

**1946:** Albert Fowlds was discharged from the Royal Tank Regiment, returned to the factory and won a licence to make six suites of Utility Furniture per week.

**1969:** Albert Fowlds died and his son Albert became the “gov'nor”. When he retired Bob Fowlds took over. He specialises in restoration, recovering domestic upholstery, contract work and sets for TV and films.

**1994:** Susan Ward Booth, a gilder, started her business in the workshop restoring largely English, Italian and French furniture from the 18th Century and Regency periods – the renaissance era for gilding in Europe.

**2014:** In the spring Fowlds Café opened and in the autumn Fowlds Café got a licence and started the monthly Fowlds Feast.



families behind who could not keep up payments on their furniture. Albert's brother Bill had the job of repossession. Customers would pretend they were out or get rid of him by emptying a chamber pot on his head. Bob tells one of his many stories: "Bill would carry a half hundredweight of coal on the cart, knock on the door shouting out, 'Coalman!' When it was opened he dropped the sack of coal on the threshold, propping the door open while he removed the unpaid item – telling the householder that the goods would be returned on payment of the account. It was a rotten job. He had no enthusiasm for it."

Bob is a fund of historically interesting memories. For instance, there used to be a toll gate on Camberwell Road, just opposite the Red Lion pub. Albert Fowlds was keen to avoid paying the toll. He would take furniture frames by horse and cart to the Gateway and unload them on the pavement. Then the cart went through the back streets and picked the stuff up on the other side, avoiding payment.

In 1926, during the General Strike, Jim Fowlds, one of Albert's sons working in the business (see Box on page 10), was walking back over London Bridge with some furniture frames in a hand cart when they were tipped into the water by strikers. So Albert changed tack and started manufacturing and supplying frames. His brother Bill drove the delivery cart. He was fond of a drink and Bob describes the regular sight of Bill emerging from the pub "half past sozzled", falling asleep and letting the horse take him back to Addington Square. When there was a lull of customers in London, Bill would load up with frames and drive up the country until he had sold them all. The proportion of profits that were paid to pubs on the way home was often a point of argument between the brothers. But the family stuck together; the whole clan embarking on a week's trip to the Chilterns every year to source chair legs that were made by skilled turners from local beech in the woods around Saffron Walden.



*Hanne, Jack and Bob pictured outside, while Susan looks down from above*

Ernest, Albert and Jim were called up in the Second World War. Fowlds survived by re-employing retirees. When fire bombs blew the roof off the yard, these elderly staff replaced it with a tarpaulin and carried on. They got a lot of satisfaction from renovating beds, tables and chairs from bombed-out Camberwell homes. After the war, Albert Fowlds won a government licence to make six suites of the new Utility Furniture a week. On this he built a business eventually supplying 40 shops in the South East with upholstered furniture.

By the 1960s, when Bob Fowlds joined his father Albert's business, this trade had started to die out. Cheaper competitors replaced

traditional hardwood timber with chipboard, hardboard, thin struts of deal or even cardboard. Adapting once again, Bob now specialises in restoration, recovering domestic upholstery, contract work and sets for TV and films. Recovering and restoration is about two thirds of the price of a good quality sofa (c. £1,200) or chair (c.£500). You might have seen his dramatic and enormous sofas on *Daybreak* and *Good Morning Britain*.

In 1994 Susan Ward Booth installed her gilding workshop on the first floor. All her furniture is special. She uses traditional gilding

*continued on next page*

## Please be seated

*continued from previous page*

techniques, building up layers of gesso (a priming solution made from chalk and a glue from animal skin) on the wooden surface. A clay solution called a bole is applied in several layers to the gesso. The gold leaf is cut into small pieces on a chamois leather cushion using a gilding knife. It is picked up and laid down with a gilding tip – a small brush made of squirrel hair. Patience, training and an artist's eye are essential. Susan is currently working on mirrors, which can cost a couple of hundred pounds or more to regild. "A worn, tired overmantel comes in,

perhaps splashed with paint or with a box of bits that have fallen off. Putting it back together and not over restoring is a puzzle, a challenge and very satisfying."

There is something of the artist too in Bob's approach to furniture restoration – an understanding of shape, structure, skills of an engineer, carpenter and tailor. Not everyone has the aptitude. "I trained up a banker once. The City drove him nuts. He had no talent for upholstery but found he was a great French polisher."

Some things do not change. Fowlds is still a place where craft is valued – nowadays not furniture

making but the talent for cooking, or brewing or restoration. It has always adapted to the times – from making Edwardian nine-piece suites to utility furniture to the chair for the *Big Brother* house. The café is yet another adjustment to accommodate the increasingly residential nature of the neighbourhood. In summer there are few pleasanter pastimes in Camberwell than to sit outside Fowlds café looking over Burgess Park, surrounded by people making things. As they have done here for centuries.

**Marie Staunton**

[1] Thanks to World of Interiors for the pun

**Fowlds Café Opening hours Monday to Wednesday 7.30am to 5pm, Thursday 7.30am to 10.30pm, Friday 7.30am to 11pm, Saturday from 8.30am to 5pm, Sunday 9.30am to 4pm.**

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## Rising to the top

The south London art scene has grown considerably in the last 10 years and the South London Gallery (SLG) has established itself as the pre-eminant art gallery in this part of London

What attracted Margot Heller to the Director's post in 2001 was not just the Gallery's burgeoning reputation (she had made a point of seeing most of its exhibitions even while working in Southampton) but also the unique quality of its large, high space.

Rather than seeing its location as a problem, she lists its advantages: proximity to two major art schools, Camberwell and Goldsmith's; the fact that it backs onto a large housing estate; several primary and secondary schools within easy walking distance; and the multiculturalism of the local population.

### Inspiring

She felt it was an inspiring area for artists and had great potential to develop audiences for the Gallery's programme of contemporary art across the board. But it was also clear that the organisation needed to move forward into a new phase of development if it was to maintain the progress of the past decade.

As Margot explained, at that time Southwark Council was the sole Trustee of the SLG, a situation that was causing concern at the Charities Commission. A sum of money had already been earmarked to examine options for the future management of the organisation.

"The challenge was for it not to be seen as an opportunity for the Council to wash its hands of the Gallery financially, because there was the collection to be looked after, the building and also running costs to be covered, so it was important not to look at becoming independent as a way of separating from the Council altogether.

"We appointed a steering committee that included local representatives, councillors from the three main parties, local artists and some outside figures from the art world, including Sandy Nairne, who chaired the committee. This group of



*Margot Heller, Director of the SLG*

very committed people worked with me on the analysis and to have an outside group of people lobbying for the Gallery was very advantageous. And in fact there was a very happy ending to the story, because we did become independent in 2004, but we maintained and increased the support of the Council.

"There have been small cuts to the Gallery's grant over the years, but the Council has remained true to supporting the Gallery, having seen the degree to which our audiences have grown, the benefits locally and the very substantial investment that their contribution has generated from other sources."

The first priority was to get the Gallery onto a stable financial footing because the discrepancy between its ambitious programme and its income was not sustainable. Furthermore, disabled access legislation had just come into force and money was required to comply with it.

Margot's other priority was to develop a strong education programme. There had been education work at the Gallery before but it was relatively limited in scope because there was no dedicated space for it. So she turned an office into an education room: it was very small but it meant that half a class could be in the education room while the other half was in the exhibition space. She also changed the opening hours so that the Gallery was closed until 11.00 am. Thus schools could have

the run of the place until opening time, without disturbing other visitors who may have made a long journey to get there.

A significant advantage of the SLG is that artists like the space and want to show there. Being on the geographical periphery of the London art scene gives Margot a certain licence to take risks with the art exhibition programme but initially there was little or no funding for exhibitions. Money had to be raised on a case-by-case basis. Now regular funding from the Arts Council, together with the support of Bloomberg and a number of private individuals, has enabled her to show that if the Gallery is well supported, it can deliver high quality exhibitions and events to a wide range of audience groups.

As well as a larger, dedicated education space, visitor surveys confirmed that people wanted a café, adding a further requirement to future expansion. The house next door had been purchased by the Council several years earlier with the intention of converting it to gallery use when funds became available. Developing the house, then semi-derelict, was on the table from the beginning, but the re-scheduling of Lottery funding, among other reasons, meant that there was no immediate possibility of raising the money for such a large project.

### Fundraising

Eventually a fundraising campaign for the redevelopment of the house, gallery and adjoining land began in 2006. Completed in 2010, the redevelopment by 6A Architects created the attractive spaces that we have today, including Clore Studio where education, talks and performance events take place, two small galleries on the first floor of the house and an artist's flat for residencies, as well as the Fox Garden and the No 67 café, which is already a Camberwell institution. Plans are afoot for an exciting new garden in the open space behind the original building. This is all under

*Continued on next page*

# Rising to the top

*Continued from previous page*

wraps for the time being, but when finished it will be a fantastic resource for the public and will enhance the special character of the Gallery.

The SLG is a charity and the Director answers to a Board of Trustees who meet quarterly. The Board is chaired by Matthew Slotover, one of the founders of *Frieze* magazine and the Frieze art fair. It includes three Southwark councillors and eight other people mainly chosen for their expertise and influence but who also have a strong commitment to the Gallery and its core purpose. Two or three sub-committees deal with specialist areas such as development.

The SLG employs about 25 people, some of whom are part-time. Margot has a Deputy Director who is in charge of the day to day running of the organisation – finance, human resources, the shop, etcetera. Given the number of programmes that the Gallery runs on top of five exhibitions a year in the main space – residences, education (which employs six people), talks, films, performances and off-site projects – I asked Margot

whether it was hard to juggle the demands of running an organisation while continuing to have a creative role as a curator.

“It’s at the core of what I do,” she said. “I don’t do this job because I want to be a manager.” She went on, “I think that is the advantage of the scale of the operation. Although it has grown, the core purpose of showing contemporary art is ever present... the programming of shows in the main space is something that I very much take the lead on, but that is not to say that it’s to the exclusion of input from colleagues. Curating is a great pleasure for me, and then I am more or less involved in aspects of other exhibitions.

“We have a fantastic programme manager, Simon Parris, who works brilliantly with artists to make sure the shows are fully realised. Anna Gritz curates the performance and film programme and both she and Simon have curated shows at the Gallery. Basically, I want it to be a very open and collaborative structure.”

Would she say then that she is the Artistic Director? “Yes, definitely.” But she admits that her role is challenging; as the organisation has grown, particularly in the last year, it is inevitable that she cannot be involved in everything.

## Mixed economy

We talked about fundraising – an inescapable part of every Director’s job nowadays. The SLG has a Development Manager with whom Margot works closely on what she called a “mixed economy”. Fifty per cent or less of the Gallery’s income comes from Southwark and the Arts Council, the rest they have to fundraise for from trusts and foundations, individuals, patrons and corporate sponsors. Other income comes from gallery hire, the café and bookshop.

“You have to understand what the sponsor wants and match that with what you are delivering.”

For example, they worked with Ernst & Young on a two-year schools programme, run by Sarah Coffils, who is now the SLG’s Head of Education. Ernst & Young were

interested in volunteering opportunities for their staff, and in links with their own education programme and their art collection. However, she admits that getting corporate sponsorship is difficult: finding sponsorship for an exhibition at the SLG is a very different proposition from getting it for an exhibition in the centre of London with opportunities for entertaining and brand recognition. Likewise, paid advertising, whether on the Tube, buses or in art magazines, is out of the question. On occasions when they have advertised, it has been because an artist has had commercial representation and their gallery has been willing to pay for it.

Margot Heller is one of a number of women directors in London – Tate Britain, Whitechapel Art Gallery, the Serpentine, Camden Arts Centre, the Government Art Collection – are all led by eminent women. As they all go to the same art fairs, biennials and to Documenta, I wondered to what extent they cooperate, if at all, and do they ever have to negotiate over who shows which artist?

## Good relations

“It’s very interesting you say that,” she says, “because actually there are very good relations between directors of institutions... You say that we all have different audiences, but there is of course overlap. The fact that we are all looking at contemporary visual art, we’re all looking at some points nationally, at others and internationally, means that occasionally there will be a coincidence of interest in a particular artist, but it tends to come out when you make the invitation to the artist if they’ve got a commitment to another gallery. And surprisingly it rarely happens.”

Margot Heller is one of a brilliant generation of women curators who have risen to the top of their profession in the capital – not to mention others working in Britain’s major cities. It can only be a matter of time before some of the men have to move over.

*Angela Weight*

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## Transformation of a long standing eyesore

Camberwell's Post Office was tatty, grimy and so neglected it did not even merit a street number. Now it is covered in bright, witty graphics. The team who transformed 25 Denmark Hill from eyesore to eye candy are an eclectic mix of an urban design entrepreneur chef cum artist, sign painter and apprentice.

The project was the brainchild of Priya Prakash who secured a grant for the work from the Post Office Community Enterprise Fund. She was Creative Director at Nokia before founding "smart city" company Design4 Change.

The work was carried out by Gourmandizing led by Matthew McGuinness from Manhattan, a former conceptual designer for Benetton, founder of a Brooklyn artists collective, a recycler who converted waste oil from Chelsea restaurants to bio fuel and soap. He came to London to realise a bucket list dream to train as a chef. Gourmandizing brings together his interest in the urban environment and the changing nature of what it is to cook British now – with pop-up dinners across south east London and painting recipes on neglected buildings.

The Post Office graphics were painted by Matthew with Gourmandizing's sign painter Chris MacKenzie Grey, apprentice Maksim Richards and assistant Clara Bacon. Matthew explains that they used the vernacular of urban shop signage; "unplanned flat fix signs, folkish stroked window splashes on a chippy, pub menus adorning A boards and the neon glow of barber shop windows".

The product is different but the Gourmandizing team has a lot in common with the local community gardeners profiled in this issue. Matthew says: "Just as people manage allotments, cultivate small gardens on their rooftops and nurse herbs on windowsills in the city, I want to participate in the urban visual landscape." Together they are all making Camberwell better looking, cared for and much more fun.



*A clean and functional new look for Camberwell Green Post Office*



*Putting the finishing touches to the outside of the Post Office*



**Marie Staunton**

*And finally, the outside of the Post Office completely rejuvenated*

# Non-stop playing to raise funds for organ restoration

An attempt to break the world record for the longest marathon church organ playing is to take place from 25-27 June to raise funds for badly needed restoration of this historic organ.

The organ was built by J C Bishop & Son when the church was rebuilt following its destruction by fire in 1841. The famous organist and composer S S Wesley, who was the organist at St Giles for a period before the fire, returned to design the organ and played it for the consecration of the new church in 1844.

An apocryphal story tells of Wesley getting carried away and playing a very long-winded organ voluntary at the end of the service, preventing the congregation from enjoying tea on the Georgian vicarage lawn. The Bishop of Winchester was said to have paid the organ blowers to stop pumping the bellows of the instrument, much to Wesley's ire but the congregation's relief!

Throughout its lifetime, the organ has remained relatively untouched; restorations in the 1890s and 1960s have not significantly altered the original sound scheme. The organ also retains its original "tracker" action – meaning that each key and pedal is mechanically linked to valves and pipes. The original 1844 leather bellows are still airtight.



However, electrical adaptations from the 1960s are beyond repair. Pollution over 170 years is slowly eroding some of the pipes and water ingress has damaged some of the soundboards. The organ is well overdue for a major restoration.

However, as the organ is still very much in its original state, it might be easier to obtain substantial grants towards repair which could cost in the region of £500,000.

In order to obtain grants it will be necessary to show that the organ is available for use in the local community. To an extent, this is already the case but the church hopes to increase and/or explore: Open days/tours; Educational/school visits; Concerts – especially showing silent films with organ accompaniment; Practices and rehearsals; Potential music therapy sessions, for example with King's and Maudsley Hospitals.

But grants can only deliver part of the funding.

Ashley Valentine, the Music Director and Organist at St Giles, felt that an event was needed for

maximum publicity for the organ restoration appeal. This has evolved into an attempt to beat the "longest marathon church organ playing" world record that currently stands at 40 hours 36 minutes and was set in Toronto, Canada in 2011.

Ashley will require help with this as the requirements imposed are very strict. Some of the rules require that:

- there is a maximum of five minutes rest per hour
- there is a maximum 30-second break between each piece
- every piece has to be published and played to a reasonable standard
- two experienced time keepers are required
- two independent stewards, one a member of the Royal College of Organists or a university lecturer, the other from an audit/professional services firm or solicitor
- the attempt must be filmed.

In addition, a strong support team will be needed.

We are looking for people with links to the media, music or legal or professional services in Camberwell to help, we also need people who could help with manning the doors, making tea, etcetera.

To contact Ashley please email [mail@musicatstgiles.com](mailto:mail@musicatstgiles.com) or visit [www.musicatstgiles.com](http://www.musicatstgiles.com)

*Victoria Arthur and Ashley Valentine*

## This was Camberwell then...

Roy Brooks

The collage features a historical newspaper clipping from the 'SUNDAY TIMES' dated July 1st 1964. The headline reads 'COMING UP CAMBERWELL...' and the text describes a 'LOVE WALK' by four young architects who have built a larger erection and must sell it for only £9,450 freehold. A red arrow points from this text to a modern Roy Brooks website on a tablet. The website shows property listings for Camberwell, including 'Champion Hill, Camberwell, Surrey' and 'Camberwell Grove, Camberwell, Surrey'.

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[roybrooks.co.uk](http://roybrooks.co.uk)

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# Health (we're living longer), and 20,000 new homes (eventually)

Repeated and unending plaudits for the Camberwell Green Surgery (in the old bank at the Green) had to be halted during the most recent Camberwell Community Council meeting – a spontaneous outburst to counter recent politically motivated attacks on the health service and complementary to an excellent and detailed presentation on the overall state of Camberwell's health. A mixed bag was revealed – good news on MMR protection, at 95% and better mortality than the demographics of the area would suggest. But not so good was the rate of alcohol related violence which is dropping much more slowly than other crime and disorder indicators and a worrying increase in new HIV cases.

Dr Sian Howell of the new Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (made up of the 44 GP practices in the borough) set out that the London Borough of Southwark now has the lead on most public health issues, and was focusing on action around prevention and outreach to improve overall health in the borough. These are driven by the "Marmot Review" principles around enabling children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives, fair employment, a healthy standard of living for all, creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities, and strengthening the role and impact of ill-health prevention.

Southwark has an "Early Action Commission" to work on priorities here, including introducing free gym and swimming provision, healthier school meals, promoting early years breast feeding, and discouraging sugary drinks, among other measures.

Most exciting was the plan to invest £2m in making sure that people can get to see a GP when they need to. This involves a new back-up

service available 8am to 8pm seven days a week to provide appointments if anyone's local surgery can't see them when they urgently need one. It has already started in some areas, and if it covers your surgery you will be automatically re-directed to the service if you call out of hours. People who are not registered with a local GP can also use the service. One aim of this is, of course, to reduce pressure on A&E at King's.

## Ambitious programme

The Council's ambitious programme to build 11,000 new homes in the borough (50% of them by 2018) also featured strongly in the meeting. This includes 7,000 social rented homes at literally affordable (low) rents, not at the Government's confusingly named "affordable rent" level (ie high and near market level); and was part of an overall projection that over 20,000 new homes of all kinds will be provided in the borough by 2043 (not long!). This programme is closely linked to public health, planning, and public services provision planning, and not being developed in isolation from the overall impact on the quality of life in local neighbourhoods.

The principles were set out on one of the dense and completely unreadable text packed slides (which seems like a tradition for this meeting, where a powerpoint skills course should be a mandatory requirement before anyone is allowed to present, and handouts made compulsory so the audience can take the material away). Nevertheless, the principles were clearly presented orally, also including housing quality (ideas on the website below), resident empowerment, and the Council "being more than a landlord" – by which was meant also providing debt advice, tenancy "sustainment" (advice on other problems) and help on issues like moving to a smaller home for

empty nesters. This can all be found on <http://southwark.gov.uk/housingstrategy>.

One very important aspect of this strategy where Camberwell Society members can assist is identifying potential "infill" sites in the area – bits of empty land, disused buildings like old laundries or garages, or even spaces above existing buildings where building extensions were possible – so that the borough can preserve its green spaces and build on disused eyesore land. There is also an ambitious scheme to license private landlords, since private tenants now made up over a quarter of the borough population. The aim is to "crack down on rogue landlords" who provide low quality, high cost, insecure tenure housing to an increasing number of people seeking to fill new jobs in the capital.

*J A Provan*

## Joshua Thelwell

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## The Society comments on planning applications

The Society looks at all planning applications within the SE5 area and advises the relevant planning authority that we object, support or have no objection to an application where we have decided to comment.

Owing to the limited space we are only able to print a selection of the Society's comments.

You can also see our comments on the Society's website at [www.camberwellsociety.org.uk](http://www.camberwellsociety.org.uk)

### **Camberwell Green Park, SE5**

*Improvement works, including re-surfacing and altered routes to existing footpaths; re-location of play area; erection of recycling facility and associated enclosure; new railings to match existing; new safety bollards; additional park furniture including benches, additional seating areas and picnic benches, lampposts and litter bins; erection of entrance sign wall; soft landscaping, including planting new trees and removal of three existing trees; and restoring existing features.*

We welcome the upgrading of Camberwell Green, and the provision of improved connectivity across and to it, given the number of new residential and commercial developments in progress nearby, and in particular the relocation of the library.

We support an additional crossing to the west, but have concerns that the adjacent bus stand will obscure the opportunity to view the park and impact on vision at the crossing. We recognise this may be outside the Council's control, but would welcome improved planting to mitigate the impact, particularly on the air quality to the relocated playground.

We believe that the diagonal route from this new entrance to the library should be strengthened and possibly widened to acknowledge this important pedestrian link, with more activities adjacent. Extending the paving across the road to the NE corner of the park with pedestrian priority linking the park to the library/magistrates square would be

highly beneficial. Further activities in addition to the table tennis tables should be considered to ensure the park is as actively used every day, such as a chess area. The location of the table tennis tables so near the new entrance is of concern.

We welcome the creation of an open area to allow more events to be staged. We believe that the pallet of materials should be kept to a minimum and be of high quality and preferably use natural stone/bricks etcetera.

### **73 Grove Lane, SE5**

*Erection of single-storey rear and side infill extensions; installation of a light-box on the main roof; installation of Juliette balcony and window to rear elevation; installation of one velux window to front elevation; restoration of existing facade and roof; installation of double-glazed windows to replace existing.*

This is a wide ranging extension and refurbishment project, but it has been designed with great delicacy and care has been taken to make sure that it does not impose itself on its neighbours.

### **83 Grove Lane, SE5**

*Alterations and renovation of existing coach house, including replacing plastic roof with imitation lead roof, fitting new windows, and installing a shower room.*

This application shows a good way of maintaining this old Coach House while creating accommodation within. Provided careful consideration is given to the design of the roof lights and the access door though the Coach House front doors then it will have a positive effect on the area. No objection.

### **159 Grove Lane, SE5**

*Erection of side roof extension to hipped roof with a rear facing dormer window; including a light tunnel and three roof lights; conversion of rear shed with a new roof.*

The Society objects to the proposed second floor bathroom extension on the grounds that it upsets the symmetry that at present exists

between the semi-detached roofs of 159 and 161, and creates a dormer roof which is very domineering in relation to the original house. The proposed dormer window to the rear is also out of scale with the size and shape of the other window openings at the rear of the house. We have no objection to the proposed alterations at ground and first floor levels and the ground floor extension.

### **1A Ivanhoe Road, SE5**

*Erection of a two storey side extension to dwelling house adjacent to Copleston Passage.*

The proposal is great improvement on the proposal previously withdrawn. The present proposal has come about through discussion with the planning officer and complements the existing property in a modern but subservient form.

The proposal abuts Coplestone Passage with a tall two-and-half storey high blank flank wall. From the Design and Access Statement it would seem that windows had been proposed to relieve this large wall, but taking account of overlooking, these have been omitted.

This wall will have an overbearing effect on Copleston Passage which is at present a narrow and intimidating right of way. The high wall will make public use of this passage more daunting than it is already. The passage is a useful shortcut from Grove Hill Road and this end of Ivanhoe Road to Copleston Road for Choumert Road to and from Peckham.

If a condition could be imposed to improve the lighting and security of the passage we would raise no objection to the proposals.

### **21D Vicarage Grove, SE5**

*Erection of a mansard roof extension to rear and front elevations,*

The proposal adds an additional storey to the top (second floor) flat. This would be the only such mansard addition to this long side of Vicarage Grove which is a uniform terrace of London valley roofs behind front straight parapets and rear butterfly parapets. On this basis we object to this addition.



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### Local Information

South London Guide. Website on all aspects of South London, including shops, services and property. [www.southlondonguide.co.uk](http://www.southlondonguide.co.uk)

### Newsagents

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Margaret Powley-Baker 7701 4417  
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Nicholas Roskill 7703 4736  
Licensing

### OTHER CONTACTS

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email:  
[localhistory@camberwellsociety.org.uk](mailto:localhistory@camberwellsociety.org.uk)

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

PLANNING:  
email: [planning@camberwellsociety.org.uk](mailto:planning@camberwellsociety.org.uk)

The Camberwell Society is the recognised amenity society for those living, working or interested in Camberwell.