

CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

The magazine of the Camberwell Society
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www.camberwellsociety.org.uk



Hope springs for a new station in Camberwell – p4

Murder most foul, murder most local– p8

Change and transformation with Camberwell Arts – p15

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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, the public realm, 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

Historic Walk – 25 September

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).

LOCAL SOCIETIES, VENUES AND EVENTS

We recommend checking details

Brunswick Park Neighbourhood Tenants and Residents Association

Patricia Ladly
020 7703 7491

Burgess Park, Friends of

www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk
friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com

Butterfly Tennis Club

www.butterflytennis.com

Camberwell Arts

Promoting the arts in Camberwell, and Camberwell in the Arts
camberwellartsfestival@gmail.com
www.camberwellarts.org.uk

Camberwell Gardens Guild

Membership enquiries to:
Pat Farrugia, 17 Kirkwood Road,
SE15 3XT

Concerts in St Giles' Church

Camberwell Church Street
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

Dulwich Picture Gallery

College Road, SE21 7AD
020 8693 5254.
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

Lambethans' Society

See Brixton Society website
www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

Maudsley Learning

ORTUS learning and events centre,
82-96 Grove Lane, SE5 8SN
www.maudsleylearning.com

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 8613 6757
Sunday 14 August, 2pm, *Peckham Walk*. Meet at Peckham Rye Station
www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Ruskin Park, Friends of

Doug Gillies 020 7703 5018

SE5 Forum

SE5Forum.org.uk
comms@SE5forum.org.uk

South London Gallery

65 Peckham Road SE5. Open:
Tuesday to Sunday – 12pm-6pm,
closed on Monday
www.southlondongallery.org

Southwark Friends of the Earth

Stephanie & Jim Lodge
020 7701 3331. Emails:
foesouthwark@gmail.com
southwark.foe.newsletter@gmail.com

Wells Way Triangle Residents Association

Andrew Osborne
WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com



Cover: Camberwell Arts Trustee
Helena Copsey displays her wares at
Made in Camberwell (see p15)
Photo: Tom Leighton

We need members from all walks of Camberwell life



Nick Holt

I write this in the middle of what is the busy “social season” for the Camberwell Society, with our AGM just gone and Open Gardens Day just around the corner, although when you read this edition of the *Quarterly* the pictures of some of the lovely gardens will be included.

I’d first like to thank those members who attended the AGM and also encourage those of you who haven’t attended an AGM to try and do so in future years. After all, it is your Society and it is a chance to appoint the Executive Committee, hear more about what has been going on, and perhaps have your say about what you would like to see done in Camberwell. You might also feel like getting involved, which, I can tell you, would be great. As I have said on many occasions, the Society relies on the time and goodwill of a relatively small bunch of people, and I am perfectly happy to admit that we do not have a monopoly on good ideas, quite the contrary. If there is something on your mind, then let me know, or better still suggest what needs to be done and how you can help!

Jeremy Benett

On that front I would just like to acknowledge the tremendous help and influence of Jeremy Bennett, who has stepped down this year as our President. The title of President sounds rather grand, but Jeremy has been anything but grand, getting involved in so many things such as the Station Masters house at Denmark Hill Station, the Mary Datchelor redevelopment (which really has stood the test of time) and Mary Boast Walk. So thank you,

Jeremy, for all you have done for us.

What I am now going to do is set out the key points of my Report to the membership from the AGM.

Denmark Hill Station

I have written on many occasions about Denmark Hill Station. Anyone who, like me, is a rush-hour user of the station will know that the problem of overcrowding is getting worse. The station is a victim of its own success, as the Overground now attracts passengers from Herne Hill and Dulwich. The presence of King’s College Hospital and the Maudsley also means that Denmark Hill is unique in that during the rush hour almost as many passengers are leaving the station as are entering it. One ticket machine, two barriers each way and a narrow bridge and stairs are just not enough.

As well as the station facilities, I realise that there are related problems further down the line, so that any delay in one train quickly knocks on to delays in others, and the inevitable platform alteration. Denmark Hill station can be a potentially dangerous place when a Victoria train is moved at short notice on to a Thameslink platform.

Joined Forces

We have therefore joined forces with representatives of the Herne Hill and Dulwich societies to tackle the problem, to push for fundamental design improvements to the station – an extra exit on Windsor Walk, more ticket machines – as well as see if some minor changes – for example to where the trains stop on the platforms – can’t be made with some resulting improvements.

Govia Thameslink Railways, the station operator, has now met with us, and it would appear also shares our views, so I am hopeful that we will have something concrete to report in the near future.

Membership Fees

Annual membership charges for the Camberwell Society were last increased in 2000, 16 years ago. Since then we have increased both the size and the frequency of this

magazine. The *Quarterly* now has 20 pages – a real tribute to our editor, Margaret Powley-Baker and her team, not least Marie Staunton. Liz Cook has also been active in drumming up business members and business advertising.

All our officers and committee members are volunteers, we raise money for our nominated charity or charities each year, and as such our operating costs are low. However in recent years, operating costs (which are largely the costs of producing and distributing the *Quarterly*) have gradually crept up, particularly the costs of posting the *Quarterly*. We have made significant savings in prior years by buying stamps in advance of any price rise, but that stock of stamps will soon disappear. Our costs therefore exceed the fees charged, particularly to single members and concessions.

Electronic *Quarterly*

We also want to make it easier for new members to join the Society online, as well as being able to provide an electronic version of the *Quarterly* for those members who are happy to receive it in this form.

I believe that the basic principle of a society such as ours is that annual membership fees should cover our operating costs, and that we should make sure that we are not constantly reviewing the fees. I have therefore asked a small sub-committee of exec members to review our membership charges with a view to implementing any increases with effect from January 2017.

Spread the word

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Society. Do please spread the word to newcomers to Camberwell – membership hovers around the 600 level and it would be great if we could lift this to nearer 1,000. To do that we need to attract new members from all walks of Camberwell life and anything you can do to help with this would be greatly appreciated.

Nick Holt

nick.holt.camberwellsoc@gmail.com

Hope springs for a new station in Camberwell

This year started badly for campaigners hoping to extend the Tube to Camberwell.

Transport for London announced that if the Bakerloo Line is extended at all, it would take the alternative route – down the Old Kent Road towards Lewisham. But the gloom started to lift when we were told that re-opening the old Camberwell railway station on Camberwell Station Road was a possibility.

One cold Saturday in April a group of locals met outside The Bear pub on Camberwell New Road to discuss the prospect. Barbara Pattinson of SE5 Forum gave the reasons for reopening the Victorian station which closed in 1916:

- North Camberwell residents are poorly served by public transport;
- Denmark Hill Station is overcrowded – passenger journeys increased by almost two million over three years (from 3.7 million in 2011/12 to 5.6 million in 2014/15);
- Reopening would be relatively cheap because the track is still in place, as is the street level building.

Could the station be back in service by December 2017 when new train timetables start?

When Jeremy of Southwark Living Streets, the local branch of the Pedestrians Association, suggested a walk down Camberwell Station Road and out of the wind, the shivering group agreed with alacrity. Local estate agent Bob, Liz from the Camberwell Society and Myatts Fields residents Sophie and Andrew followed Barbara and Jeremy past the motor repair businesses under the railway arches. Each is fronted by a phalanx of cars, many lacking number plates, glass and tyres as they await repair, propping up a group of mechanics taking a leisurely smoke break.

The station stood right at the end. Its yellow London brick is now painted white but is well maintained. The arches are blocked up, but it is in noticeably the same style as the back entrance of Elephant and Castle Station, which was built at the same time (see picture, right).

Camberwell station opened in 1862, just six months before the now

defunct station on Walworth Road, which was named Camberwell Gate. Camberwell was renamed Camberwell New Road after seven months, but in 1908 its name reverted to Camberwell. It was part of the LCDR Metropolitan extensions (see http://www.disusedstations.org.uk/c/camberwell_new_road/). At first it was very busy, but business was badly hit by the introduction of electric trams, which took away passengers and briefly caught the public's imagination (inspiration comes on the "wind swept platform of an electric tram," wrote Virginia Woolf). Income from fares from Camberwell station plummeted from £3,000 in 1905 to just £900 in 1912 and £700 in 1914. One by one trains ceased to call at Camberwell, and the

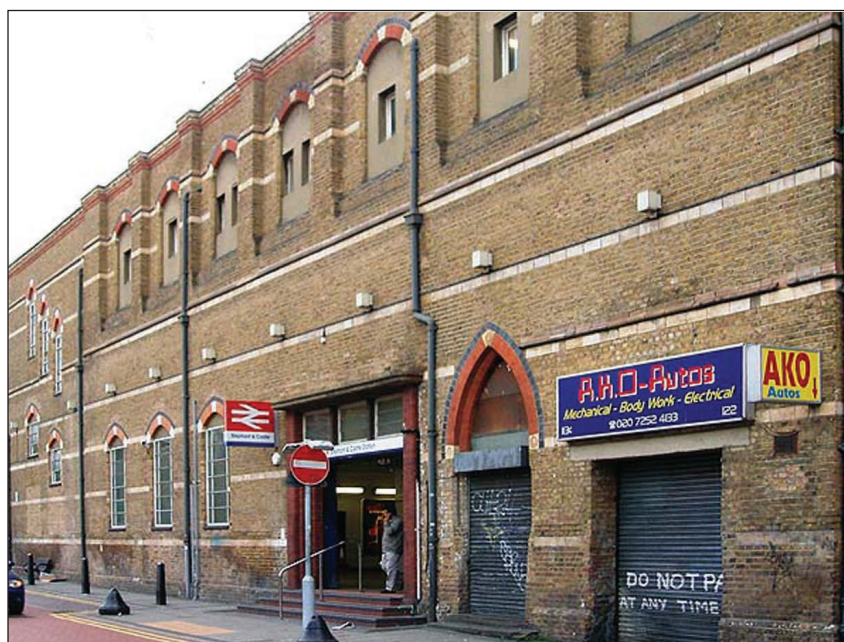
station closed "temporarily" on 3 April 1916, but never reopened. Yet the track to Elephant and Castle remains in use and the station could be revived on the route from Denmark Hill to the Elephant or from Loughborough Junction south to Sutton.

Opposite the station are two well attended churches, Destiny International Christian Assembly and the lively Kingdom Church. The latter was fined in March after neighbours complained about its 3am healing service. On appeal the fine was quashed through what its Bishop called "the Hand of God".

On one side of the churches is a new development with ground floor shops, well placed for travellers' needs; on the other lies the bus



A truncated Camberwell Station (above) was originally built in the same style as Elephant and Castle Station (below)





A goods train is seen on the crossover at the north end of Camberwell's island platform in February 1957. The top of the stairwell is on the right.

Photo: RC Riley



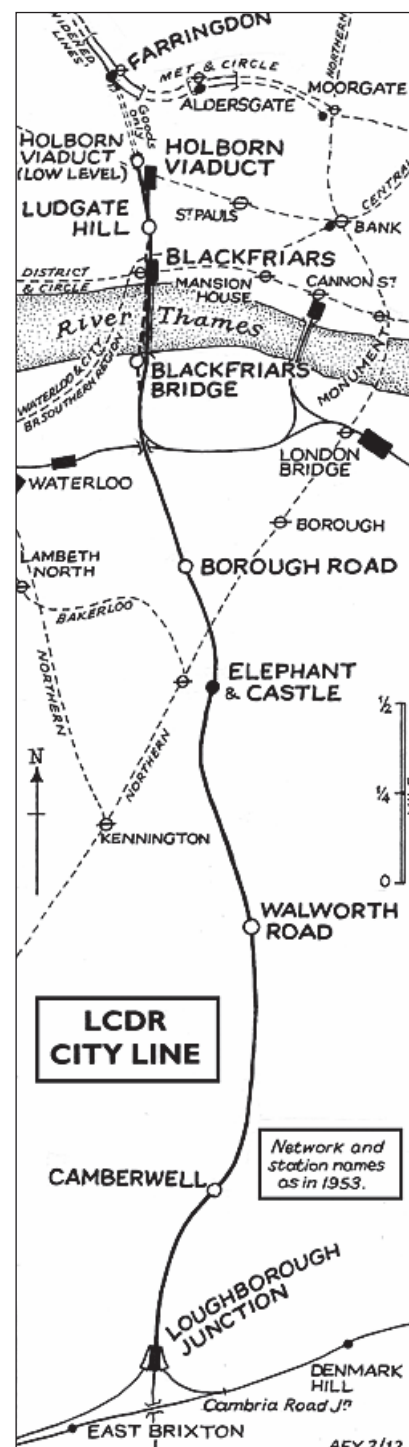
Part of the remaining north end of the island platform in February 2014.

Photo: Nick Catford

station. A safe pedestrian passage across the western end of the bus yard could provide access for the increasing number of patients and staff to King's College Hospital and the Maudsley. According to King's latest plan, capacity increased by 68 per cent during 2013/14 and it is experiencing a surge of cases – particularly in elderly and acutely unwell patients who need extended lengths of stay. New medical services such as the world-class foetal health centre are attracting even more patients. Reopening Camberwell station would increase access and relieve pressure on Denmark Hill.

By this time April winds had sent one member hurrying home for a winter coat and the group decided to shelter in The Bear. It serves some 30 craft beers in large rooms which still have the scale of the old gin palace it once was. In the warmth the group

started getting imaginative – how could this jumble of cars and buddleia-sprouting railway arches be transformed? Station Road is signalled as a key potential regeneration area in Southwark Council's plans. Its handsome terraces, well-designed new-builds and interesting mix of businesses, art workshops and churches has the potential to become a green and pleasant enclave. Perhaps there could be a green link from Myatt's Fields to Camberwell Green, a safe pedestrian route to King's, and widened pavements for pupils walking to Sacred Heart, one of our most successful schools, around the corner in Camberwell New Road. More trees, shops, a bakery, better lighting would all help; after all, if Queens Road, Peckham Rye and Herne Hill station approaches can be transformed, why not Camberwell?



Such dreams can be created in a pub with good beer.

Southwark Living Streets will now write up a proposal, and the Camberwell Society is already lobbying politicians, TfL and train companies. Perhaps Camberwell will prove to be better off with its consolation prize than with the distant promise of a Tube stop that would not have opened for decades.

Marie Staunton

Accessible library offers something for everyone

I was excited to visit the new Camberwell Library, having been unable to get to the children's section of the old library with my son, Sam, who is six, physically disabled and uses a wheelchair. Sam loves books and getting out the house, and can't always access or enjoy activities that other six-year-olds would, so the library seemed like a potentially fun thing for Sam to do.

And what an easy, straightforward thing to do! We can walk to the library from our house (as long as we are feeling energetic for the walk back up the hill), though if we want to drive there are disabled parking spaces right next to the building. The ground floor is totally flat with wide doorways and plenty of places to sit. The children's section is a little tricky to navigate with his wheelchair if it is busy, particularly when we visited during a Baby and Toddler session with lots of buggies parked next to the shelves, but there's space in the rest of the library if this happens.

Southwark Council has bought new books for the library so there is a brilliant range. Sam still likes picture books, but will also happily listen to a novel with no illustrations, and there are plenty of both. Children can borrow up to 15 books



A happy customer in the children's section of Camberwell Library

at a time so the best stories can accompany us home.

The building is entirely wheelchair accessible, and care has been taken to include wheelchair users in the mural around the children's area.

What is particularly lovely about the new building for us is the range of appeal. We have three kids and it's difficult to find activities that both Sam and Eli (age four) will enjoy at the same time that Stella (baby) can also tag along to. The library is it – there's something for all of them, and all of them are welcome. Indeed, I see at least one novel each time we visit that I would really like to have the time to read.

This is brilliant, not only for our family but for the community as a whole. The building is busy with people reading, working and using computers, representing all of the residents of Southwark. There is a

busy schedule of classes, schools and community groups using the building. In a time when there seems to be little money for anything not deemed essential, this is a timely reminder that investing in libraries (and the staff to support them) is valuable.

When I visited on a sunny day in early May, the large windows that surround the building made it feel almost permeable, with lots of light and people reading in the window seats. As I waited in the main space, petals were falling from the trees between the library and the Magistrates' Court and it was a surprisingly romantic scene!

Not only is the library an excellent addition to Camberwell in its own right, both culturally and in terms of community, it has also managed to improve its surroundings. What had been a windswept open space in front of the court is now smaller but more sheltered, with trees and benches, and is all the better for it.

The new library is doing what all buildings and services like it should – it is an excellent, fun resource for *all* children, which includes children like Sam. It is a place to be pleased about and proud of.

Jessica Moxham Lynch

(See: www.storieswithsam.com)

Back home in Camberwell



Wallace Jaffray has just come home to roost. It's possible you've crossed paths if you've moved into or around SE5, Wallace worked and lived in the area for 18-years solid. A sales position in Blackheath had Wallace's attention for the past 2-years, but we've recently lured him back onto home turf. If you need property advice, whatever it is, Wallace is certainly your man. Call him now for a straight-talking valuation.

East Dulwich 020 8299 3021
Nunhead 020 3206 3063
roybrooks.co.uk

Roy Brooks

Memories are made of this

Members attending the AGM were welcomed and asked for their memories of Camberwell by “The Camberwell Beauty”, aka Joanna McCormick, who dressed up as the beautiful butterfly for the occasion. Here are some of them.

Safe Streets Cruson’s, said that when they first opened the shop they never had to lock their door.

Perseverance The Georgian redevelopment at the bottom of Grove Lane, thanks to Nicholas Roskill who worked tirelessly for 45 years to get permission to rejuvenate it. He also removes graffiti in Camberwell. He once said that if he removes it three times it doesn’t come back.

Coincidence My first memory of Camberwell is when I stepped off the bus and realised that I was outside the Psychology Department, a place I might have ended up working in. It is slap bang opposite the place where I actually do work.

Crazy Characters One evening one of my children said to me, “Mummy, why is that man hitting a tennis ball against the wall with a violin?” I looked out of the window and saw him. He was wearing a balaclava, jodphurs, braces and no shirt.

Fun Times Getting trollied in the Angels & Gypsies with a friend who is no longer with us; doing a course at Pesh Flowers with my daughter; and working in Seymour Brothers, chopping vegetables.

My Manor During the London riots, on a beautiful summer evening, I was having a beer in The Hermit’s Cave. A police car pulled up at the lights,

with three stern-faced officers inside. Four gay guys standing outside the pub took one look at them and suddenly burst into song, a rendition of a Frank Sinatra song, “*You’re just too good to be true, can’t take my eyes off you, you’d be like heaven to touch, I wanna hold you so much. At long last love has arrived, and I thank God I’m alive, you’re just too good to be true, can’t take my eyes off you. Pardon the way that I stare, there’s nothing else to compare ... I LOVE YOU BABY, AND IF IT’S QUITE ALRIGHT I NEED YOU BABY, TO WARM A LONELY NIGHT...*” The tension was broken, and everyone was all smiles. That’s when I realised that Camberwell was my hood.

Good Read Buying the Camberwell Quarterly, years and years ago!

Changes Happy memories of Camberwell ... someone sent me the map of the old Walworth station and its environs. None of those streets remain the same today.

Happiness I love Camberwell, and I’m very glad we moved here.

Interesting fact On a walking tour of Camberwell I learnt that Napoleon’s brother and his wife lived on Camberwell Grove. I had no idea!

Two People There are two people I love to see in Camberwell. One’s a man on a bike and his entire bike helmet is covered with red lights, all over; it’s a work of art! He cycles on the pavement. The other is a tall, willowy, older gentleman who always wears a Superman outfit, hat, T-shirt and belt.

Love Love brought me to Camberwell. I didn’t know Camberwell existed until I met Tom.

Tom and I got married in St. Giles’ Church, and a month later his mum discovered his grandmother’s wedding certificate. She’d been married in the same church, and we’d had no idea! Also, I was told that my great grandmother was a seamstress who lived in Camberwell.

Green Space We lived for 21 years on Ruskin Park. Waking up in central London and looking out on an oasis of green calm was wonderful. There are so many of those lovely green, tranquil spaces around here and we should protect them.

Good Work I work at the Maudsley and I’m really glad to be part of an organisation that supports mental health.

Heartwarming History I love that Grace’s Road and Dagmar and Wilson Roads were named after children. Those roads were all spec built, not architect designed – someone bought the land and got a builder to come and build on it – and the roads were named after the children of the builders.

Rich Cultural Mix When the Windrush came in the 1950s, we officials from the British Government were sent out to the West Indies to persuade the young men to come and work and to fill the posts of young workers in England – bus drivers and so on.

Spiderman and Parkour I remember seeing a man like Spiderman, who climbed up the wall and was hanging off, just like Spiderman! And sometimes he juggled balls off the walls in Camberwell. The freerunners come to Camberwell sometimes to practice their art of Parkour, usually in the middle of the night.

R K NEWS

10 Camberwell Church Street, London SE5 8QU
Telephone: 020 7703 2784
Proprietor: Mr S. & Mrs J. Nathan

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Murder most foul, murder most local

In February 1837, a labourer working on the Coldharbour Lane made a gruesome discovery: in a ditch he found a sack, and in that sack were two human legs.

This was the final clue in a grisly treasure hunt that had begun in December 1836 when a bricklayer found a woman's torso under a paving slab on the Edgware Road. The head had been retrieved from a canal at Stepney, pronounced a match with the torso, and placed in spirits to preserve it. In March, the head was at long last identified as belonging to Hannah Brown, a washerwoman.

The "Edgware Road Murder", as it became known, took place at the dawn of detective policing, but officers of the Metropolitan Police followed several pieces of evidence that led a clear path to James Greenacre, a cabinet-maker from Camberwell. Hannah Brown had been due to marry Greenacre on Christmas Day, but had disappeared on Christmas Eve.

When officers arrived to arrest Greenacre, they found a woman sitting up in his bed: his lover, Sarah Gale. They noticed that she was trying to hide some jewelry – two gold rings and a pair of earrings – so she too was arrested and taken to the police cells with her four-year-old son.

Amid great public excitement and wildly inaccurate reporting, the case proceeded to trial. Although both maintained their innocence, both were found guilty: Greenacre of Hannah Brown's murder, Gale of aiding and abetting him. During the hearings in the magistrates' court and at the Old Bailey, Sarah Gale remained silent and motionless. She gave only a short statement, read by her barrister, saying that she had not been in Camberwell at the time of the murder, and that she knew nothing of it afterwards.

That was what really interested me when I first read into the case: why, when faced with the death sentence and accused of helping to conceal the most heinous crime, did Sarah Gale fail to fully defend herself? She had, after all, not only her own life to consider, but that of



The defendants James Greenacre, a cabinet maker from Camberwell, and his lover Sarah Gale went on trial for the murder of Hannah Brown

her son, George.

Several years after I first read about it, Sarah Gale's story has become a novel – *The Unseeing*. The book begins with Sarah's conviction and with the appointment of the lawyer who will investigate her petition for mercy. Much of the novel is set in Newgate, where Sarah Gale was imprisoned, but key scenes take place in Camberwell, and it was fascinating to research the history of the area in which I live.

In the early 19th century, Camberwell was a small village surrounded by fields. It was populated mainly by upper middle class families who considered the area healthier and more pleasant than the City, and who commuted to London by horse and carriage when necessary. However, there were also poorer areas, notably the slums off Bowyer Lane in Walworth. James Greenacre lived nearby with Sarah Gale, on Windmill Street (now Wyndham Road). It was here that Hannah Brown was killed. After the murder, the landlord gave guided tours of the house, which proved so popular that the police had to be brought in to stop visitors removing relics of the crime – tables, chairs, even the door.

Other, less bloody, entertainments feature in *The Unseeing*. Sarah mentions that James takes little George to Walworth Zoo, which was a 15-acre park at Surrey Gardens (now Pasley Park), housing

elephants, rhinoceroses, leopards and the first giraffes ever seen in England. Sarah meets James at Camberwell Fair, an annual celebration in August on Camberwell Green featuring acrobats, musicians, puppet shows and freak shows.

The key celebration never took place, however. Greenacre and Hannah Brown were to have married on Christmas Day at St Giles' Church on Camberwell Church Street. (This was not the church that stands today, but the old church which was burnt down in 1841). They were then to have had their wedding breakfast at



There was great public excitement and wildly inaccurate reporting



Inside Newgate Prison

The Angel public house on Coldharbour Lane.

As it was, Hannah Brown died the night before her wedding. She never got the chance to wear the wedding dress she had bought for the occasion, nor to walk down the aisle of St Giles. She had come closer, however, than Sarah Gale. For Sarah had lived with Greenacre in that house in Windmill Street as his wife – cooking and cleaning for him, sharing his bed – but without any marriage ceremony. Then, in the middle of December, when ice was on the ground, Greenacre had told her and her son to leave to make way for Hannah Brown. That must, surely, have riled her: it might, some said, have given her a motive for murder.

Anna Mazzola

The Unseeing, by Anna Mazzola and published by Tinder Press (Headline) is available from local bookshops and can be purchased on Amazon.

**Contribute to the
Quarterly!**

Contact details on page 19

Hard times for the feckless poor

Bob Reeves has sent in this update following Carole Mason's article on Thomas Kingsbury, the chimney sweep of Tiger Yard (CQ 188).

Chimney sweep Thomas Kingsbury and family could indeed be described as “plutocrats of the yard”; each of the censuses of 1881, 1891 and 1901 report Kingsburys living in Tiger Yard and all (the men) were chimney sweeps. Even in 1911, 53 year-old Joseph Kingsbury was still living nearby in Allendale Rd, pursuing the old family profession. Perhaps leaving Tiger Yard meant he had gone up in the world.

The significance of this is that no other family name appears in more than one of these censuses. Families moved in and out of these poor two room flats but the Kingsburys were a fixture.

The picture (below) was taken in 1933 as part of a campaign to show that there were still people in London without water in their homes. Although found in the archives of the Daily Herald, it doesn't seem to have been published at the time. One year later the newly elected Labour

council got on with pulling down Tiger Yard, condemned in 1921 as “unfit for human habitation”.

Many such poor communities in Camberwell, and across London were rather written off by the turn of the century Booth surveys as hopeless. Tiger Yard's dark blue coding in Booth's system indicated more than just “chronic want”; he suggested that these people were “incapable of better work”. Dark blue was as much a moral category as economic. The dominant thinking saw them as weak, feckless, authors of their fate.

But what the evidence from the census actually tells us is that the denizens of Tiger Yard were the working poor of Edwardian London: unskilled and semi-skilled building workers, painters and decorators, van drivers; women cleaning and washing.

Teenagers contributed to the family budget with girls going off each day to skivvy in one of the better off homes in Camberwell for three shillings a week plus dinner while boys were employed as “van boys” for a few shillings. These families were actually very resourceful at getting by in a harsh economic environment.



A resident collects water in Tiger Yard in 1933, when there were still people in London without water in their homes

Photo courtesy Daily Herald archives

Ideal antidote to stressful commuting

Blue Turtle Oasis

210 Coldharbour Lane
Loughborough Junction, SW9 8SA

Frustrated that your train from Loughborough Junction has been cancelled?

Pop downstairs, turn right under the railway bridge and there, at 210 Coldharbour Lane, is your antidote to stressful commuting – the Blue Turtle. The turtle-shaped window in the copper front door signals this is going to be out of the ordinary.

Step across another blue turtle on the threshold to a long thin room painted as a trompe d'oeil railway arch, coffee brewing, Leonard Cohen playing softly in the background. Chill.

By the door a pair of dogs wag tails in welcome, a French bulldog and schnauzer complete with owners. On the high stools four mums from St Saviour's school discuss reading ages of girls v boys, while two blonde toddlers colour in with quiet concentration. Behind them is a hipster, large beanie bent over his apple mac computer. And at the back, owner Adrian froths a carton of hazelnut milk into a cappuccino for the female dog walker. "Tastes like Nuttella," she nods approvingly.

Since leaving school two years ago Adrian has turned his love of coffee shops into a living, and his living into a vocation to create an oasis of calm. He spent a year creating the front door, sourcing the copper from boilers found in local scrap dealers, the walnut from local Whitten Timber and the handle is the leg of a vintage stool. By the time he and local carpenter Grzegorz finished, the door was so heavy that



The turtle-shaped window in the copper front door signals that this is going to be out of the ordinary

the neighbouring metal workshop had to forge special hinges. He is also particular about the coffee he sells – sourced from Dulwich roasters Volcano because "those guys are on point".

The morning commuter trade has been boosted by Network Rail's decision to turn Loughborough Station coffee shop into a ticket office. In the afternoon the self-employed bring their computers to work in a relaxed and friendly place.

Adrian is following a tradition of small independent and idiosyncratic businesses on this small site. You might remember GMB food ("a taste of Africa"), but probably not JW Clarke, the superior fried fish restaurant ("speciality stewed eels") which occupied the space in 1908.

So forget the trains and tuck into one of the home-made sandwiches or voluptuous lemon drizzle cake, the "baddest brownie" or the calibrated apple cake. And think about your transport options. Ten doors down, back under the bridge, is Harbour Cycles (200 Coldharbour Lane). When not delivering blankets and bikes to refugees in Calais, owners

Brenton and Mark will sell you an expertly reconditioned bicycle. Good as new, better value and more reliable than Thameslink.

Marie Staunton

Opening Hours

Monday: 07:30-20:00
Tuesday: 07:30-16:00
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Shared plates and punchy flavours

Queen's

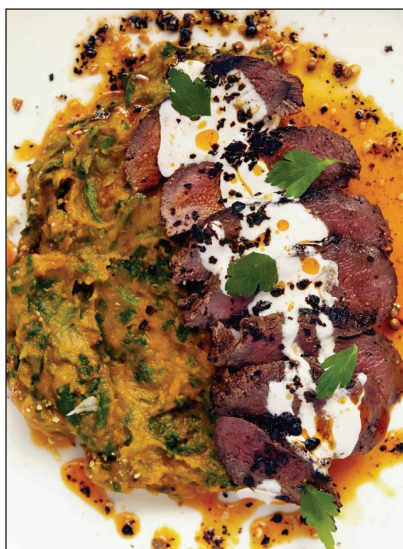
45 Camberwell Church Street,
London, SE5 8TR
email: info@queenscamberwell.co.uk

Michael Richardson has turned Queen's from a nail bar to a new type of Camberwell restaurant, serving sharing plates with unusual punchy flavours. As he juggled mending a leak in the new kitchen, hiring staff for extended opening hours and running a market stall, his Mum and head waitress Amanda filled in the back story.

Michael was a chef at Moro's, the Exmouth Market restaurant popular for unusual Spanish/North African dishes. He left to open a market stall selling foraged flatbread wraps: "He would arrive at Brockley market in Lewisham College car park looking like Russell Brand in a beanie, balancing the whole stall on a tricycle," says Toby, who runs Brockley wholefood market out of Lewisham car park. With his friend Ollie, Michael ran supper clubs and a catering company, until Ollie upped sticks for Australia. But Mike spotted the potential of Queen's Nail Bar, next door to the ever popular Caravaggio's, and opened Queen's restaurant.

Sadly "new" is off-putting for some Camberwellians. The website mentioned sharing dishes between tables, the Scot shuddered – that would mean *talking to strangers*, no way. The Student refused to walk past Theo's reliable pizzeria. The fools, they missed a treat.

The plates, which are shared with your companion, not the next table, are different – and delicious. Manti, Turkish dumplings, are small, silky, with a surprising pumpkin



filling. A simple carrot salad is rainbow coloured, spiced with cumin and soft cheese. And don't miss the charcoal grilled lamb with charred aubergine.

The setting is somewhat Shoreditch. A long narrow room as befits a nail bar. What at first looks like a teenager's hi-sleeper is a booth for six diners under shelves where



the plates are kept. On the other side under a wall painting of a man carrying a yacht are simple wooden tables and chairs, packed closely together (avoid the table by the door if you are averse to draughts).

And service is delightful. We get a warm welcome from Amanda – parent labour is free she tells us – and close attention from Paul the waiter. He is one of a troupe of resting actors and artists who staff Camberwell's restaurant row.

Try Queen's – a right royal treat.

Marie Staunton

Grand re-opening of the Green

Camberwell Green is reopening on Saturday, 16 July from 12pm to 5pm after extensive refurbishment.

We do not have all the details at the time of going to press, but festivities are expected to include live acts, a DJ, a bar and plenty of side activities as well as stalls.

Opening Hours

Lunch: Wed-Friday 12.00- 15.00

Evenings: 18.00-22.30

info@queenscamberwell.co.uk

It's not too late!

There is still time to submit an entry for the Mary Boast Local History Prize: the closing date is 31 August. The winners will be announced on 25 September at a reception at the Garden Flat, 97 Camberwell Grove, following the Local History Walk.

Mary Boast

Mary Boast was a historian and author of *The Story of Camberwell* and companion volumes on Dulwich, Borough and Bankside.

Her contribution and understanding of the history and heritage of Southwark was immense, perhaps starting with her work developing an exhibition on the Clink. She went on to write the series of books on the history of former villages that make up today's Southwark.

An amusing anecdote from her obituary in the *Quarterly* recalled her meeting "a wildly idealistic American named Sam Wannamaker who had a mad plan for rebuilding Shakspeare's Globe Theatre in Bankside."

Mary was the Local History Librarian at Newington library for many years and was awarded the Freedom of the Borough in 1994.

Joshua Thelwell

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THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY



The "Mary Boast" Local History Prize

The Camberwell Society is holding a competition for the Mary Boast History Prize. This seeks to encourage those with an interest in the past to take up the exciting work of 'making history' and by research to uncover new subjects of local interest or bring new insights to more familiar subjects. The prize commemorates the work of Camberwell's local historian Mary Boast (1921-2010).

Submissions

A minimum of 1,000 and a maximum of 3,000 words in length on a local history subject should be received by 31st August 2016. Awards will be presented after the Camberwell Society Local History Walk in September 2016.

Prizes

First prize £125 + Publication in the Camberwell Quarterly
Second prize £50 + Publication in the Camberwell Quarterly



Terms & Conditions & Entry
Forms can be downloaded
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The mystery woman of Sceaux Estate



The mystery woman of Sceaux Estate

In an enclosed courtyard of the Sceaux Estate, Deborah Elliott, a member of the Peckham Society, came across a beautiful stone statue of an almost life sized, draped woman whose hands were missing.

Although there was a plaque the inscription was unreadable. It seemed odd that the statue should be placed in this position, facing a brick wall, not even looking out onto the estate. Deborah was intrigued.

Her research revealed that it was an early 19th century statue of a woman with her right hand resting on a sword. Apparently it had been put in its present position when the housing estate was built in the 1960s. Deborah thought it had come originally from the Camberwell House Asylum.

Historian Stephen Humphreys was asked if he could shed more light on the mystery. He produced some photographs of Camberwell House gardens which showed similar sculptures.

But the brick plinth of the Sceaux Gardens statue did not match those in the Camberwell House gardens; it looked as if it had been made in the 1950s. So some more digging was necessary.

According to a conversation in 2001, Mrs Eveleigh, an octogenarian resident of the estate, had recalled that when she moved in she had recognised the statue as one she had seen on Camberwell Town Hall when she was a young girl.

It turns out that the Sceaux Estate statue is one of five figures made from Portland stone (sculptor unknown) and erected between 1872 and 1874. The mystery woman represents Justice and it crowned the pediment on the clock storey of the Camberwell Vestry Hall (later the Town Hall). The other statues depicted Law, Prudence, Science and Industry.

The figures remained there until 1934 when the Town Hall underwent major rebuilding works. Justice was repositioned on the estate sometime between 1957-1959.

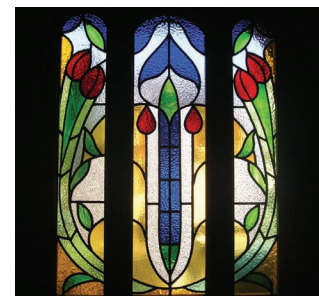
Stephen thought that the statue, and perhaps its sisters, must have been kept in a store between 1934 and the late 1950s. "There was," he said, "no mention of any statues in the Camberwell Council minutes of the late 1950s, though it may be that details were given in committee minutes. Unfortunately, they have been inaccessible since the closure of Newington Library, following the fire next door in the Walworth Town Hall."

But why is Justice facing a brick wall, unseen and uncared for? And what happened to the other four?



The four sisters were placed on the front of the Old Town Hall

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A London painter we don't see enough of

Howard Rogers is one of those artists you have probably never heard of unless you happen to be one of the many students he has taught over the years at art schools around the country, or you own one of the paintings or drawings that he has shown all too rarely during his professional career. He has lived in Camberwell for 30 years and drives every day to his studio in Deptford, a long, high space with skylights and no heating or running water – so not a space for the faint-hearted. (The Turkish café across the road allows him the use of their facilities for the price of a cup of coffee.)

Although there is no biography or CV on Rogers' website – remarkable in itself – under "Exhibitions" there is a list of places (but without exhibition titles or dates) from which one can deduce a few details, such as that, aged 27, he had his first show at the Museum of Modern Art Oxford just after a young Nicholas Serota had taken over as director, and that he studied at the British School in Rome on a four-month Abbey Scholarship. In conversation however, he talks fluently and openly about his background.

Rogers was born in Stepney to Russian and Polish Jewish parents who emigrated to England in 1917. "I got the culture but not the religion," he says of his upbringing. His parents were not artistic but they were supportive of their son's artistic ambitions. He attended Walthamstow Art School for his foundation year and then went to Manchester School of Art to do a DipAD (Diploma in Art & Design). A Londoner to his core, he was unhappy in the northern city and returned to London to do a Higher DipAD at Chelsea School of Art in 1969, where the late John Hoyland was in his last year as Head of Painting.

In the 1980s Rogers had a studio in Wapping, a huge 3,000 square foot space where he began to make very large drawings. His method has almost always been to work from memory, drawing on visual experiences and sometimes



White Nights: a 100 x 75 cm, oil on canvas



Missing your kissing: a 100 x 75 cm, oil on canvas

photographs, which he would use as a reference and then discard before making a painting. At one point he made sculpture and installations, and even watercolours "on the quiet", but he returned to oil painting at the end of the 1980s. He says that he does not deny the value of consistency, it's merely that he doesn't aim for it. "As you get older," he says, "it is 'bred in the bone' and has many ways of showing itself", not least, I would suggest, in the expressionism that runs through all his work, with its themes of sexuality and morbidity.

An Abbey Scholarship at the British School at Rome in 1998 gave him the opportunity to rethink his practice. He had a live/work space at

the school and while he did not do much work there, he absorbed the art and culture of the city and rediscovered the baroque, particularly the sculpture of Bernini, on whom he had written his undergraduate thesis. Afterwards his painting became figurative and deeply personal, and for years he did not exhibit his work. After what he describes as a "disastrous" show in Dordrecht, Holland, he realised that his work had become inaccessible to others; as a result he began to paint "straight" again – meaning perhaps that he recovered his equilibrium and found a more objective means of expressing himself. Currently his studio is full of paintings of flowers – dead or dying against vividly coloured backgrounds – and still lives of piles of books – "objects with memory" – and floppy beanie babies – "little human substitutes."

Later we meet up with two of Rogers' friends, both former colleagues of his who now occupy senior positions in London art schools. We go to White Cube Bermondsey to see "Tightrope Walk: Painted Images after Abstraction", curated by the American critic Barry Schwabsky. The three men wander around together, and I overhear them intently discussing each work. I recalled what Rogers had said earlier in his studio: "I like paintings that make me feel something." And we all agreed that this show did just that.

Angela Weight

We are sorry to announce the death of **Mary Rose Seldon** on 14 February. She was for many years Head of Music at Mary Datchelor Girls' School. A Service of Thanksgiving was held in Oxford on 11 March and a second Service took place in London on 18 June at the Church of St Olave in the City. When Mary Rose retired she became involved with the Society through her friend and long-term companion, Islay Charman, who became Secretary of Camberwell Society and later Chairman.

Change and transformation with Camberwell Arts

The 22nd Camberwell Arts festival kicked off on the 11 June with the hugely successful (if slightly soggy) “Made in Camberwell” arts market on Datchelor Place.

The theme of this year’s festival was Metamorphosis, reflecting the changes that Camberwell is currently experiencing and has experienced for many years.

Around 24 artists and designers took part in the market, and before the rain came around lunchtime, were doing a roaring trade with buyers snapping up tea towels, cards, art works and photographic prints from local artists. Musical entertainment came from the children of the Camberwell Choir School, and hats off to the local band Pangea, who kept the stallholders entertained when the rain came down.

All around Camberwell shop fronts were transformed by artists, with commissions from Camberwell Arts and funding from Southwark Council’s Highstreet Challenge. My favourites were Benji Jeffery’s beer taps at Stormbird and Caroline Clarke’s “Camberwell Memory Exchange” at Hunter’s Estate Agents.

The highlight of the festival was undoubtedly the opening night. Once again St Giles Church was transformed into Camberwell’s hottest music venue with ORGANOKE! A world first, karaoke with a church organ and live band! Organised (sorry!) by Ashley Valentine (St Giles’ Church organist) and Jordana Leighton (the producer of Camberwell Arts).

The evening was hosted by phenomenally funny Kit Green as his alter-ego Ida Barr, a faded Edwardian music hall star, with a penchant for mashing up music hall classics with hip-hop.

Imagine if you will 200 people, dancing in the aisles, standing on the pews and singing their hearts out to “YMCA”, Dolly Parton’s “9 to 5” and “Bohemian Rhapsody”, aided by the presence of a bar in the church selling locally produced Orbit Beers.

Even the local councillors got involved with a rendition of “Rockin’ All Over The World” but the biggest



Wheeling the trolley is Mya from Mya & Joe. On the left is Joanna McCormick dressed as the Camberwell Beauty

Photo: Tom Leighton



St Giles’ Church, Camberwell’s hottest music venue

Photo: Tom Leighton

round of applause went to Destiny, aged 10 and a member of the Church Choir, who stood up alone to belt out an amazing version of “Happy”, originally by Pharrell Williams.

A special mention to Ashley for literally pulling out all the stops on the organ. For the first time ever, it was almost impossible to hear the organ because of all the singing.

ORGANOKE will return! Look out for the Christmas concert.

As we go to press, over 100 artists are frantically getting ready for the final weekend of the festival with Open Studios. Since Open Studios started nearly two years ago, it has gone from strength to strength and there are now nine studio buildings taking part as well as more

individual artists in their homes. More and more people are visiting the studios and this can only be good for the creative industries and artists in Camberwell.

Apart from the amazing art and effort that artists put in, much of the credit for Open Studios, and Camberwell Arts in general has to go to Jordana Leighton. Because of her hard work and dedication to Camberwell especially, the festival has gone from something that was on its last legs, to a well-regarded local festival, with ever increasing attendance and recognition.

And I am not just saying that because she’s my wife!

Tom Leighton

Open Gardens Day

Scenes from gardens displayed this year

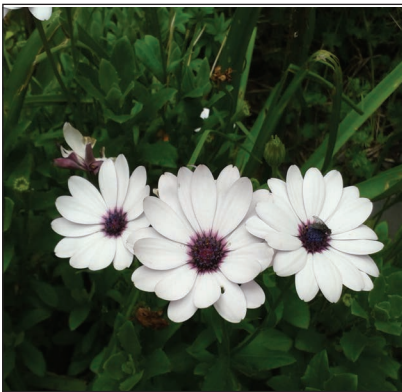


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Photos: Elaine Clarke



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The 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 that we object, support or have no objection to an application where we have decided to comment.

You can also see our comments on the Society's website at www.camberwellsociety.org.uk

Note: The Society objects on all counts to the proposal to use UPVC windows and doors.

17 Ada Road, SE5

Erection of rear ground floor extension; rear first floor extension; installation of replacement rear sash window at first floor level; and windows in front elevation.

The installation and repairs to the sash windows is fine as is the remodelling of the plan. These houses are small and there are just two bedrooms at first floor; the bathroom is on the ground floor as there is not room to re-divide the first floor rooms. The trouble is that the proposed two-storey rear extension (the upstairs being the proposed bathroom), is on the north side of the property and will prevent any chance of sunlight from the west getting to the adjoining property's rear bedroom window. While these are traditional properties the proposed extension is timber clad and we think it will look particularly alien to the property. The side return to/on the neighbouring properties either side will be timber clad. We believe that there is a building regulation fire safety implication with that.

The Society objects to overshadowing and appearance.

79A Camberwell Road, SE5

Erection of a mansard roof extension with front and rear dormer windows to provide one additional studio flat, incorporating two new side windows on the first and second floors.

This proposal is for a third floor studio flat which is two square metres smaller than the minimum proposed by the Southwark Residential Design Guidelines for studio flats in a

building with apparently four existing studio flats, each with an area of approximately half the minimum area for studio flats. No consideration has been given to the domestic lives of the occupants, or the prospect of them being able to escape safely from the building in case of fire.

The Society strongly objects to this application.

Kingdom Hall Rear, 197 Coldharbour Lane, SE5

Conversion of part of an existing place of worship to residential use (C3), Demolition of remainder and construction of new place of worship to the R/O Coldharbour Lane.

There is a fairly grim asbestos shed-like hall at the back and the rest of the site area is gravelled for parking accessed off Padfield Road. The new building fills much more of the site and there is no parking. It is a simple single storey building with shallow pitched roof to a central ridge not much higher to ridge than the present building and the same eaves height. The building will be closer to the backs of houses 2a-10 Cambria Road built in recent years with a 1.8 timber rear fence. The additional impact would be minimal and possibly an improved aspect compared to the present building and cars parked.

Plot corner of Cutcombe Road and Bavent Road and Adjacent to 55-56 Bavent Road, SE5

Erection of a two-storey dwelling house.

This would fit in well on the corner site. The house is designed to match the façade of the rest of the terrace but planned well internally to make a sensible three-bedroom house using the roof space. The site is on about a 70 degree angle with Cutcombe Road, so tapers to the back. The corner is the bins and bike store with sharp corner angle. This would be a much better feature on the corner if it were rounded or a number of angles. It would not affect the usable space and would enable the wall to Cutcombe Road to better follow the boundary.

The Society supports the

proposal with suggested amendment.

White Lodge, 67 Grove Lane, SE5

Removal of walls at ground floor; installation of side door at ground floor level; installation of two en-suite bathrooms; alteration to partition walls at first floor and ground floor level; re-wiring, re-plumbing, re-roofing and associated refurbishment works.

This is a thoughtful remodelling, making use of the existing walls and in places lining out within the original fabric to leave the original protected while forming bathrooms. There are extensive design and heritage reports by the agent, Form Architects and Engineers, with photographs of every part of the property.

It is proposed to remove the existing ground floor cloakroom to this family property: it seems strange not to retain a ground floor facility. This is a well thought through proposal to improve the accommodation layout.

17 Southwell Road, London, SE5

Demolition of front and rear existing extensions at basement and ground levels and the excavation of a basement rear extension with two rooflights and a basement level rear patio including external staircase involving the relocation of front entrance at basement level, together with a ground floor rear extension with Juliet balcony and a fenestration and alteration of a window on the rear inner elevation and at the front elevation basement level.

This sounds a lot but the reality is lowering the existing full basement to gain some height and excavating out down the garden to make further accommodation and sunken patios. It would be lost behind fences from the neighbours' aspect, although they would have to suffer the works, party wall matters etc. The present ground floor becomes bedrooms with the existing first floor and the living rooms move to this lower floor.

An expensive excavation project to achieve a four- or five-bedroom house with a variety of living spaces.

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