
CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

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



Fun and foolery – p4

A Maudsley morning – p8
Open Gardens Day – p11

| | |
|--|----|
| Chair's letter | 3 |
| Fun and foolery | 4 |
| Nape and Mono reviewed | 7 |
| A Maudsley morning..... | 8 |
| Open Gardens Day | 11 |
| South London Cares | 12 |
| Old St Giles: the church that burned down | 13 |
| Letters | 16 |
| Planning comments..... | 18 |
| Directory | 19 |

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 Event

Historic Walk, 10 September
Details to be advised

Visit us on Facebook

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 7703 7491
tandra.brunswickpark@yahoo.co.uk

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

Carnegie Library, Friends of

foclchair@gmail.com or
foclmembers@gmail.com (for
membership queries)

Concerts in St Giles' Church

Camberwell Church Street
www.music@stgiles.com

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 13 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

St Giles, Friends of

16 Sears Street, SE5 7JL
robertcope@hotmail.co

Wells Way Triangle Residents Association

Andrew Osborne
WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com



Cover Story

In June the annual Camberwell Arts Festival kicked-off with an Arts Party on the Green. There was something for everyone. (It bore no resemblance to the debauchery on Camberwell Green that took place in days gone by – see page 4). This year's Festival theme, "Try Your Luck", encouraged visitors to try the workshops, walks, open studios, screenings, exhibitions and talks which took place across Camberwell over nine days.

Photo: Eisha Shama-Cowan Photography

Promoting the interests of Camberwell as a whole

Welcome to the summer edition of the *Quarterly*. Once again there is plenty to interest, inform and entertain you in this issue, whatever your interest in Camberwell. The restaurant, bar and coffee shop scene continues to be vibrant, and we have reviews of two newcomers, Nape and Mono. We also have articles on aspects of Camberwell's fascinating history, as well as pictures from Open Gardens Day, which I am pleased to say was a great success.

The letter in the last *Camberwell Quarterly* about the abrupt closure of the bridge on Camberwell Grove has also attracted responses, which we are happy to publish in this issue. The closure of the bridge, and the resulting impact on traffic flows, is a subject that clearly is of major interest to our membership. Inevitably views differ, often depending on where in



Nick Holt

Camberwell you live. It was also a topic of lively discussion at our recent Annual General Meeting.

Let me be clear on a couple of points. First, the views of the writers of letters which appear in the *Quarterly* are the views of the writers alone. Publication in the *Quarterly* is not an endorsement (or otherwise) by

the Camberwell Society of those views. Secondly, the Camberwell Society is a society that exists to promote the interests of Camberwell as a whole. As such, it may well be impossible for the Society to hold a view on topics such as this, in which case we will have to "sit elegantly on the fence" (as one member once said to me). It is however our intention to hold an open meeting as a part of the overall consultation process, where members will be able to hear from Southwark Council about whatever plans for the bridge they may have, and debate the alternatives. We will also invite representatives of other interested parties to attend and speak at the meeting. We will let you have details when we know more.

Enjoy the Summer.

Nick Holt

nick.holt.camberwell.soc@gmail.com

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Fun and foolery

Luke G Williams (who won second prize in the Mary Boast History Competition) examines the colourful and controversial history of Camberwell Fair ...

The modern re-imagining of Camberwell Fair in August 2015 on Camberwell Green was almost universally welcomed by the local community – an event teeming with musical invention and characterised by a family-friendly atmosphere, the majority of the 3,500 people who attended were probably unaware that the Fair represented the reincarnation of an event which first took place in 1279 and recurred annually in various locations throughout Camberwell until its “suppression” in the mid-1850s.

Originally a three-week rural event, which is thought to have first been held in the grounds of St Giles Church, some sources credit Camberwell Fair’s origin to the reign of King John, when it was said that the monarch killed a stag in Peckham and, by way of celebration, “granted an annual fair of three weeks continuance”, a declaration which was eagerly taken up as a

“The event soon degenerated into a borderline Bacchanalian spectacle”

commercial opportunity by local traders in Camberwell and Peckham.

By the beginning of the 19th century, Camberwell Fair was an established annual event which took place each year from 19-21 August on “the Green” which was actually an area of “open waste” ground with “not a blade of grass upon it”. The Fair offered a panoply of food and other merchandise stalls, as well as colourful attractions and events. Among the most famed and recurring acts at the Fair were “Saunders’ troop

of Equestrians, Richardson and Scouton’s theatrical companies ... [and] the fiddlers of Harding’s famous band.”

A popular song of the early 19th century summed up the appeal of the Fair thus:

*“You must run, you must go, if you’re fond of fun and foolery,
All the world and cousins are sure to be there,
Never stop – quickly hop – a pin for foolish schoolery!
Such a centre for attraction is Camberwell Fair.”*

For a wonderfully vivid description of what the Fair was like, we can turn to an account written by FO Wood, which appeared in *Hood’s Magazine and Comic Miscellany*. “I soon reached Camberwell gate,” Wood wrote of his approach to the Fair. “About a mile from the scene of action ... the roadside, even at this distance from the fair, was lined with stalls – where oysters, ‘wilks’, ‘trotters’, pickled salmon, fried plaice, and halfpenny toys were offered for sale with eager vociferation.”

On arriving at Camberwell Green, Wood then described the sounds that greeted him: “Gods and men! What a hubbub! The crash of gongs – the clash of cymbals – the brazen braying of trombones – the throbbing of drums – the bellow of speaking trumpets – the shouts and uproar of the multitude – the grating discord of conflicting bands – altogether formed a hideous charivari. ‘Free competition in all its glory!’ thought I.”

The original intention had been that Camberwell Fair would provide an opportunity for local traders to sell their wares and for sedate and uplifting forms of public entertainment. However, as Wood’s description and other contemporary eyewitness accounts suggest the event soon degenerated into a borderline Bacchanalian spectacle characterised by “terror and unbounded licentiousness during the whole night”, with rowdy pursuits and activities centred around

gambling and drinking intruding on the more wholesome entertainments on offer.

As a consequence, the Fair soon began to attract much moral disapproval – indeed, throughout the first half of the 19th century, in particular, Camberwell Fair was a source of controversy, provoking delight, consternation and condemnation in fairly equal measure.

The moral panic surrounding the Fair can arguably be traced to the events of the French Revolution, a seismic social and political upheaval

“Rumours that a rattlesnake has escaped... spreading terror”

which can be said to have accentuated the fears of the middle and upper classes that revolution might also be fermented in England, a fear which was often expressed in unease about any massed gatherings of working-class folk, who were the most enthusiastic patrons of the Fair. Puritanical disapproval of drinking, gambling and general “merry-making” also, undoubtedly, played a part in the Fair’s “morality” or otherwise becoming a source of public debate.

A letter by a resident, who styled themselves “Walworth”, which was published in *The London Daily News* in 1851, offered an apt summary of the objections frequently voiced against the Fair by many Camberwell residents, while also giving a further flavour of what the event was like:

“Our quiet roads are blocked up with colossal vans. The strong woman who lifts a bucket of water “by the hair of her head” is in the way of our home-returning omnibus; a tired gipsy deposits a weighing machine upon my door-step; horrible pictures of deadly battles, all of which have been exhibited before the Queen, frighten our children; rumours that the rattlesnake has escaped from

one perambulating menagerie spreads terror throughout our suburban areas; while a report that a bear has decapitated his keeper serves as a subject for the graphic muse of a low-toned patterer.”

Although this letter writer insisted that “it is not because Camberwell Fair is a plebeian institution that I object to it”, there was certainly a discernible element of class snobbery in his statement that during the Fair “our servants are in a wild condition of excitement, and invent excuses the most ingenious for going out”, as well as in his description of the “hordes of men and boys from the lowest lodging houses” who frequented the Fair with their “coarse square jaw[s] ... receding forehead[s] and unquiet eye[s].” In summation, “Walworth” argued, the Fair afforded “to the lowest of the populace an opportunity of congregating in a quiet neighbourhood for a wild and brutal orgy [sic.]”.

Another pastime which attracted much moral opprobrium in the 19th century was the most popular sport of the era – bare-knuckle boxing.

Interestingly, the worlds of ‘pugilism’ and Camberwell Fair intersected in dramatic circumstances in August 1802, with the Fair briefly becoming the centre of the sporting universe as two of the most famous sportsmen in England clashed in Camberwell.

The most accomplished boxer in the country at this time was James “Jem” Belcher. The Bristol-born stylist had been crowned Champion of England at the tender age of 19 and was renowned not only for his pugilistic skill, but also for his fashionable accoutrements, such as his characteristic coloured neckerchief.

Belcher’s rivalry with Joe Burke, a butcher with an imposing build, had electrified the sporting scene for the year preceding the Camberwell Fair of 1802. Belcher and Burke had already fought twice; on both occasions Belcher’s superior “science” had won the day, however Burke remained convinced that he was capable of dethroning the champion.

Both men were present at



James (Jem) Belcher



Joe Burke

Camberwell Fair on 19 August 1802, in circumstances that allowed their rivalry to once again become inflamed. After his arrival at the Fair, the voluble Burke was soon surrounded by a gaggle of admirers who he entertained by explaining “the manner he would serve it out to Belcher” and how he would “beat him to a jelly” the next time they met.

Such verbal bravado was typical of Burke’s swaggering persona, although it was also fuelled, as one observer wryly stated, by the fact he was “a little pot valiant”, having ingested a large amount of alcohol, in common with many of those present at the Fair.

At the very moment Burke was describing how he would dethrone Belcher, fate would have it that the champion himself arrived at Camberwell Green, in a horse-drawn coach, accompanied by his patron

Fletcher Reid, a wealthy Scottish landowner who was the leading boxing promoter of the day.

Belcher was soon told about Burke’s boasts and the *Evening Mail* newspaper described what happened next:

“The Bristol hero [Belcher] immediately stepped out of the coach, and asked Burke if what he had heard was true? Burke replied it was, and offered to accompany him to a room where he would box him for pure love [as opposed to a financial stake].

The two men agreed to decamp to the Golden Lion pub, located at 23 Denmark Hill and one of the hubs of local activity and revelry during Camberwell Fair season. However, finding a group of women in the pub, the gentlemanly Belcher “immediately intreated [sic.] Burke not to alarm them” and suggested the duo instead retire to the nearby bowling green to settle their differences.

The drunken Burke initially refused to be dissuaded from fighting in the pub, only relenting once Belcher “stripped off his coat to prepare for battle” by backing down and arguing he was too drunk to fight. However, within minutes, Burke had regained his courage and changed his mind yet again, issuing a challenge to Belcher from the turf of the bowling green. Belcher duly stripped for battle and, once the men set-to, the champion threw Burke to the floor with ease before smashing him in the face with a blow that “caused the blood to instantly gush out”.

At this point, with excited on-lookers from the Fair thronged all around the two pugilists, Burke once again cited the fact he had drunk “too much liquor” and the men agreed to meet the following day at Baker’s Fields near Bayswater to renew their rivalry. Even when sober, Burke was no match for the champion, falling to the ground in an “inanimate state” after suffering a savage 13-round beating.

The inflammation of the Belcher-Burke battle at Camberwell Fair was

Continued on next page

Fun and foolery continued from previous page



Camberwell Fair, by Parkhurst, is part of the Southwark Art Collection.

described in exhaustive detail in newspapers up and down the country, adding to the perception that the event was a magnet for n'er-do-wells and renegades. By 1804, the Fair's notoriety was such that the authorities were attempting to keep a closer rein on it. For example, the *Morning Post* newspaper reported that at the Fair that summer "neither riot nor merriment prevailed so much as is usual", aided by the fact that local "Peace Officers" ensured all booths were closed each night by 11.30pm.

A similar crackdown was also in evidence during the 1808 fair, with the *Kentish Gazette* observing that the "scene of annual diversion" at Camberwell Fair had commenced "without its ancient traditions" of "noise and bustle", pointing out that this was at the "earnest request" of "certain inhabitants residing near the Green, who have long considered the fair a nuisance".

By the 1840s though, the Fair had once again degenerated into chaos and disorder, and coherent and unified local opposition to its continuance had taken root. In 1841, Douglas Allport labelled Camberwell Fair a "fearful nuisance" and an "abomination", noting that although the Peckham Fair had been successfully suppressed by magistrates in 1827, "Camberwell Fair survived the decision, and is still suffered to bring discredit on a neighbourhood in all other respects so favoured and eligible".

Local opposition was

spearheaded by the Reverend JG Storie, who wrote to the local Lords of the Manor in 1840, enclosing a petition from local residents to halt the Fair. "We, the undersigned," Storie declared, "... beg leave to represent you that the annual fair, held under your authority is productive of the greatest possible evil in a moral as well as every other point of view."

In the face of such persistent campaigning, the final Camberwell Fair on "the Green" was held in August 1855. Several months later, the Lords of the Manor, Sir William Bowyer and Sir Thomas Dyer, appeared in court after summons were issued against them for "holding Camberwell Fair without legal authority". Bowyer and Dyer's lawyers maintained that their clients were "anxious that the fair should be suppressed" and the judge duly declared that the Fair was "illegal" and ordered that the "necessary notices" be put up announcing its suppression. Soon after, Bowyer and Dyer accepted an offer of around £1,000 made by residents to pass the lease on "the Green" to the local parish.

Those who had long campaigned against the Fair were overjoyed; with the Fair now successfully banished, local historian William Harnett Blanch delighted in the fact that "vice, folly, and buffoonery" had been defeated and that Camberwell would no longer be "encumbered" by "hordes of nomadic thieves ... coarse men and lewd women". Furthermore,

the local subscription effort to buy the lease was so successful that enough money was raised not only to buy the land but also to landscape "the Green" into a new local park, which opened in 1859.

Despite its banishment from "the Green", sporadic attempts to revive Camberwell Fair did occur on several alternative sites in the succeeding years. The most successful was in 1860, when residents of Camberwell New Road were "aroused from their slumbers" by "continuous hammering" and discovered that during the night "upwards of 200 tents" had been "established in an extensive field at the rear of Camberwell Chapel, and abutting on the Brunswick Road".

Several local inhabitants complained vociferously to the police in an attempt to immediately suppress this upstart fair, only to be informed that the booths could not be removed without giving the owners seven days' notice, to the delight of "hundreds of the lovers of such sights" who descended upon the event and declared that "a triumph had been gained by the revival of Camberwell Fair, which it was thought was for ever extinct".

The following year, efforts were once again made to revive the Fair, this time in a private field in Brixton, which caused "extraordinary and riotous proceedings", when more than 50 police constables were drafted in after the owner of the field, one Mr Radcliffe, "sought the aid of the police", who blocked revellers from entering.

By the 1870s though, the Fair had died out for good, and had been relegated to a mere footnote in history. When a puzzled reader wrote to *The Era* newspaper to enquire what had happened to the Fair they were informed, baldly and without ceremony, that "Camberwell Fair was abolished ten years ago."

It would not be until the 21st century that Camberwell Fair returned – in the guise of a family-friendly event the nature of which would have seemed utterly alien to those who flocked to "the Green" during the Fair's rowdy and ramshackle heyday.

Nape and Mono: two new places to meet your friends

Marie Staunton reports on recent arrivals.

Camberwell foodies have lucked out again with a cured meat bar opening in part of the old library on Church Street. Nape is owned by Cannon & Cannon whose stall at Borough Market proves that British charcuterie stands up to the finest Italian ham or Spanish chorizo.

The concept is simple – wine, artisan beers and small plates of superbly cured meat. Arrive early to bag one of the benches at the back or you will have to perch on a high stool.

Nape is the English version of Italy's coppa, and the version sold here is from Cornwall, ham from the neck of the pigs net marbled with fat with a deep nutty flavour. The cured mutton is gamey and served with pickled walnuts, or there is duck sausage, smoked pork belly and brawn made in Hackney – great charcuterie for unabashed carnivores.

Vegetarians are well served with Cornish blue cheese and pickled fennel toasties on sourdough from Bread Ahead.

There is a wide range of wine in bottles and six on tap, a selection



Enjoy delicious charcuterie and fine wine at Nape

influenced by the monthly wine tastings. A couple of local wine merchants bring in a selection of wines and customers vote for which ones will be served on tap the following month. For May a Spanish Mercia, a Tempranillo and a French Malbec, called Vin de Soif and in white an Italian Sauvignon Blanc, English Bacchus and a Rose at between £4.50 and £5.50 per glass.

Manager Mark, who learnt the

trade in New Zealand, also champions local breweries with two beers from Orbit on the Walworth Road as well as London beers Portiza, Fourpure and Beavertown on the pumps. Nape holds tastings of local gin featuring Peckham distillery Littlebird and of Amoro (the south London version of vermouth) from the Asterley Brothers of Forest Hill. They devised Amoro by combining the traditional mixes of their Sicilian in-laws with recipes from Culpeper's "London Dispensatory", a 17th century catalogue of London's tonics and liqueurs.

Staff are from the floating population of artists and actors who keep Camberwell Church Street's restaurant row going. So there is always interesting conversation to be had about the latest creative project that their job in Nape is subsidising. Recently Nape has started to open at noon on Saturday and Sundays, useful for a quick tippie en route from Camberwell Market.

Perfect place to meet friends for a catch up and a glass of wine or two. Open 5pm to 11pm Monday to Friday, 12pm to 11pm Saturday and noon to 10pm Sunday.

The turntable plays the Temptations, the coffee machine grinds and steams over murmured conversation in Mono's balsawood and white interior. This, Camberwell's first vinyl café, reflects the twin passions of founders Alberto and Andreas – vinyl records and single source coffee. As a 12-year old in Italy Alberto started collecting records of Southern soul, blues, jazz and funk from Memphis based Stax Records. Thirty years later he moved to London to work as a fashion photographer, DJ'ing in the evenings, largely Motown and Northern Soul. Since opening Mono in February he has been playing his collection all day long and selling LPs to local connoisseurs.

As the Temptations, in five part harmony, urge us to "Put Your Trust in me Baby" Alberto explains that Andreas travelled widely in Africa

and returned with a love of Rwandan coffee, which Mono sources from Union Coffee. Barrista Jack, a music composer, serves pastries, granola, sandwiches and interesting lunches – homemade hot dishes such as four cheese gnocchi, gluten-free veggie pie, and salads served fresh at 12.30 every day.

Locals will remember Mono's address, 51 Denmark Hill, as the building that a 168 bus ploughed into one Friday night in 2011. Luckily there were no fatalities but it took days to extricate the bus – and the repaired brickwork is clearly visible. Alberto and Andreas live nearby but spent a year looking for premises before they settled on Camberwell "because we like the vibe and the community. We wanted to find a place that was not too commercial and here we have art students, families and guys coming in to

work on their Apple Macs".

Chilled café with great acoustics and light, garden, good for meeting friends or working. Open 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am to 6pm Saturday.



At Mono Alberto offers good music, coffee, food and vinyls

A Maudsley morning

It is 7am. On Denmark Hill traffic is flowing fast past the Maudsley where Robert is opening the hospital canteen. This communal dining room, which has been at the heart of the institution since it opened during the First World War, is famous in medical history as the place where the “cheese reaction” was discovered. In 1962 psychiatrist Barry Blackwell overheard residents at the next table talking about an inpatient on anti-depressants who had just suffered a stroke. He checked hospital menus for the previous night and found she had eaten a cheese quiche. That led to the discovery that tyramine in cheese can cause a severe reaction to certain medications. This is just one of many breakthroughs in this psychiatric hospital’s 102-year history.

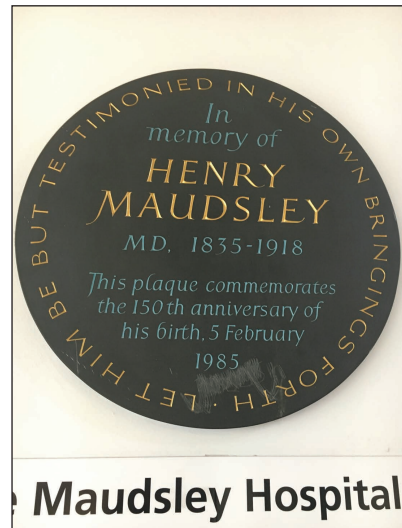
The canteen is now a Costa concession, all lime green walls and white tables, but still a place to mix, meet and overhear interesting stuff. Robert tunes the radio to a station from his native Poland and smiles at his first customers, five cleaners. Their bright purple coveralls stand out in the canteen because no one else wears a uniform. The “men in white coats image” is long gone and it is impossible to tell whether the groups taking a break in the canteen are porters, patients, nurses or psychiatrists.

More staff arrive for the 7.30 morning shift, many by train, like Robert who comes from East Ham and Pauline, who oversees bedlins for the hospital’s 250 beds, from Beckenham. Complaints about the overcrowding on Denmark Hill Station are frequent. Joseph, the nurse in charge of the Place of Safety Unit (a 4-bed rapid assessment service for patients brought in by the ambulance service or the police), avoids the crush by driving in from Croydon. His colleague Hannah just has to walk across the road from her Camberwell flat.

By 8am the porter’s day shift and some administrators have arrived. Gill, a porter, comes by bus from Catford; Richard, communications manager, by train from Victoria. The Maudsley houses the Trust’s senior

management team, HR and communications for the whole of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, including the Bethlem Hospital in Beckenham and local mental health clinics throughout Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

At 8am an emergency ambulance escorted by a police car speeds into



the secluded internal courtyard of the Place of Safety Centre. Joseph, Hannah and the duty Registrar Tanya come out and shepherd a very disturbed woman* in her mid-20s through the bright yellow door. Tanya and the nurses have 72 hours to decide whether the woman is suffering from a mental illness and needs to be admitted to hospital, to protect herself or others, or whether she can be discharged with community support. The three police escorts report that she was found in the street confused, suffering from delusions, hearing voices and frightened. While Tanya is briefed by the paramedic who checked the patient’s physical health during the ambulance journey the police get in touch with the woman’s family. Nurse Hannah practices “de-escalation”: calming down the patient by offering her a chair, crouching down to eye level, introducing herself, carefully explaining to her where she is and what is going to happen next and giving her a cup of tea. Joseph oversees admissions and has a lot of paperwork to complete. The legal

power for hospitals to compulsorily detain is set down in law and the process is strict.

At 9am the registrar for the Place of Safety, Dr Tom Dewhurst, winds his way through the now congested traffic on his bike from Peckham and takes over from Tanya. The pioneering four bed Place of Safety ward opened in November last year after alarming stories of an increasing number of people in mental health crises being held in police cells in Lambeth and Southwark.

Tom is proud of its modern, welcoming approach – purpose built rooms with showers, TV and lounge and a separate section with bean bags and iPads for teenagers and children. It is a far cry from the closed wards portrayed in films such as *One flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. The team is highly motivated, describing their job as “balancing the protection of the patient and the public and their treatment”.

What attracts staff to the Maudsley? Hannah says, “I came here because I wanted to be challenged. People arrive in a state of crisis and we can have a huge impact.” For Joseph, “It is different every day. You never know what is going to happen next.” Tom talks about the “privilege of being in a trusted position where people can tell you their problems, people who others don’t talk to”. The Maudsley draws its staff from all over the world – Joseph was born in Uganda, fellow nurse James in Nigeria, Marie is a Geordie and Hannah comes from London. Tom explains why the Maudsley is the top training hospital for psychiatrists, not just in London but world-wide. “We are better placed than Harvard because we are in Camberwell, an area of huge diversity in a densely populated, stressful city. There are pockets of deep poverty, high levels of drug and alcohol abuse, of HIV and one of the highest concentrations of mental illness in Europe. So staff here get a wider range of experience and are attracted by the Maudsley’s international reputation. For instance, it produces prescription guidelines

used by psychiatrists across the world.”

The opportunities for seeing such a diversity of patients is perhaps why the Maudsley has had such a large group of world-leading psychiatrists. Professor Sir Simon Wessely, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, set up the first clinics for chronic fatigue syndrome and did ground-breaking work on Gulf War Syndrome. Michael Rutter, the UK’s first professor of Child Psychiatry, helped establish the genetic basis of autism and carried out definitive research into the effects on children of a lack of stable family life – it showed that subsequent exposure to a loving and stimulating environment allowed many of these children to catch up intellectually. Despite the terrible privation and deprivation which many of the children in his studies endured, poor mental health and poor intellectual functioning were not inevitable. The Maudsley is linked to the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, Kings College, London next door and registrars such as Tanya do a day a week training at the Ortus Centre on Grove Lane with access to experts such as Professor Sir Robin Murray, a world authority on schizophrenia and the link between cannabis and psychosis. The Ortus Centre has its own café open to the public where trainees and eminent psychiatrists mingle with Lyndhurst parents having a coffee after the school drop off.

At 8.30am local Camberwell volunteer Keith arrives en route for a breakfast meeting across Denmark Hill at Marina House. This 60-year-old retired planning officer is part of a ground breaking research project to identify whether befriending can reduce Accident and Emergency admissions for recovering alcoholics and addicts. Once a week the volunteers and clients involved in the scheme meet with Maudsley staff for breakfast, to socialise, to learn, to discuss. After a day’s training and a police check, volunteers such as Keith are allocated someone who has been through detox and rehabilitation. They meet for a cup of tea, go on



Porters Gill and Richard begin their day

outings and generally befriend usually meeting weekly. The fascination for Keith is the life stories and experience of the clients, some sad, some dramatic. What he and other volunteers give is “patience and listening”. In return they get the satisfaction of “paying back for having a good life” and the chance to do something different. There are hundreds of volunteers at the Maudsley helping with everything from befriending to art exhibitions.

By 9am outpatients start arriving, some for cognitive behaviour therapy sessions, others for services such as the mother and baby clinics for ante-natal and post-natal depression. Veterans are also treated here for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Soldiers were the very first patients admitted when the hospital opened during the First World War. At the beginning of the 20th century, the leading psychiatrist of the day, Henry Maudsley, donated £30,000 (about £2.5m in today’s money) towards a new mental hospital that would treat early and acute cases, have in-patient beds, an out-patient clinic, as well as teaching and research. He criticised the massive asylums promoted by the 1890 Lunacy Act which reduced psychiatrists to little more than custodians of the “bizarre and unruly”. In 1909, he outlined his vision for a “mental

hospital” with freedom for doctors and patients:

A complaint often bitterly made by persons who have been discharged recovered from asylums is of ... the degrading humiliation of being ordered about ... in daily routine like so many sheep, without the least regard for personal feeling. Such a system of routine is no doubt unavoidable in a large asylum crowded with patients in all stages of disease”.

So Maudsley proposed a “small hospital filled with a constant succession of patients”, who would get individual attention which would promote stimulating debate between physicians and students and “sharpen observation, suggest inquiries, keep fresh the interest, prevent routine of thought, feeling and treatment”.

With neuropathologist Frederick Mott, he persuaded London County Council to match his gift. The building was ready in 1915, but was requisitioned by the War Office for shell shocked veterans. It opened to the public in 1923, staffed by a matron, six sisters, 19 staff nurses, 23 probationers and 12 male nurses. Now some 1,000 staff work on the site, half medical and half support.

Nowadays, the hospital works through many centres throughout

Continued on next page

A Maudsley morning *Continued from previous page*

Southwark. Most psychiatric care is home-based, but acute cases are admitted at Denmark Hill. As Maudsley envisaged, there is a constant succession of patients.

Gill, a porter, says “there is always something here to keep you interested.” She breaks off from dealing with a recalcitrant post machine to respond to a call for help from a ward. Her message to assist with an agitated patient goes straight to the personal radios carried by the emergency response team of five which includes a doctor. All staff, including cleaners and porters, are trained in life support and de-escalation of situations with patients.

In her dozen years working at the Maudsley, Gill has learnt that the best method of dealing with disturbed people is “just to talk to them, calmly”. The porters sitting on the reception desk are the face of the hospital, the first contact for agitated women and men who walk through the imposing portland stone entrance looking for help. “I have spent two hours just talking to someone who walked through the door in a bad state,” says Gill, with satisfaction.

By 10am Tom with the team at the Place of Safety Unit is doing a ward round. The other patients in the unit include a 30-year-old man with psychosis admitted at 6pm the previous day and a man with a mental health problem who arrived at 3.30am. The clock is ticking: patients can only be compulsorily detained in a place of safety for 72 hours. This will be reduced to 24 hours this year.

Meanwhile, the general business of the hospital is in full swing: board meetings are being prepared, financial

forecasts revised, nursing and medical plans approved, HR issues sorted. At 11am the Communications Team of four hold their weekly meeting. This week the team is discussing a recent outreach session at Camberwell

The “men in white coats image” is long gone and it is impossible to tell whether the groups in the canteen are porters, patients, nurses or psychiatrists

Library. The hospital’s early intervention psychosis service ran a “helper” and “helped” session at the library. A psychiatric nurse sat next to an empty chair and any member of the public was welcome to sit beside her and exchange views – perhaps she picks up tips on running and he gets advice on stress. The coverage had been good and the project director, Dr Charlie Howard, is delighted: “It’s a straightforward concept that enables people who wouldn’t normally talk to each other to come together, break down barriers and demonstrate that we all have something to offer other people.”

The team also discuss the next art exhibition in the Long Gallery, a corridor in the Maudsley with

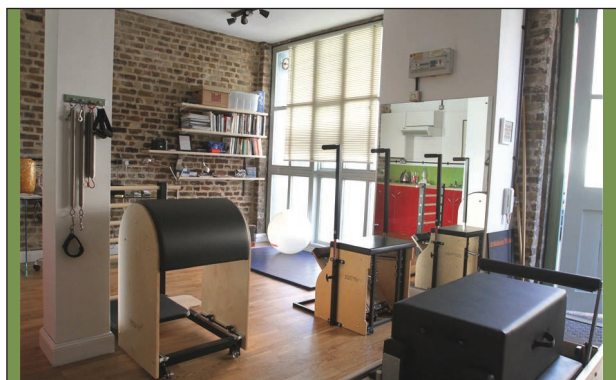
exceptional light quality which is open to the public. Many fine artists have come to the Maudsley. The Canadian William Kurelek read about the Maudsley in a Montreal library 1952, worked as a lumberjack to raise the fare to come to England, wandered into the hospital in 1952 and got treatment for his schizophrenia. During treatment, he supported himself by labouring for London Transport, taking up the old tram rails. They bought his first painting which launched his artistic career. Art is also used in therapy and was recently explored by a joint workshop in the Tate Modern, organised by a Maudsley volunteer.

Communications manager Richard says that during his 16 years in the job public attitudes to mental health have changed dramatically. “There is much more understanding in the media of mental health issues and the work of the Maudsley,” he says. And judging by the number of local volunteers, there is increasing support in Camberwell too. Henry Maudsley would be pleased.

Marie Staunton

To volunteer alongside people working in South London and Maudsley Trust (SLAM) contact Isobel.Mdudu@slam.nhs.uk tel 020 3228 3978. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least three hours per week for nine months so SLAM can create meaningful and lasting roles that utilise volunteers’ skills, experience and passion..

**Some patient information has been changed to protect the identity of the individuals.*

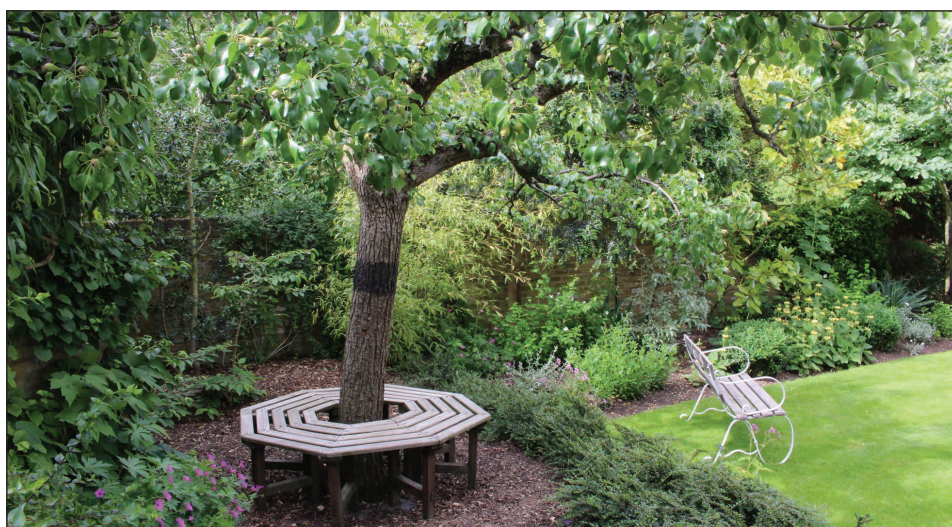
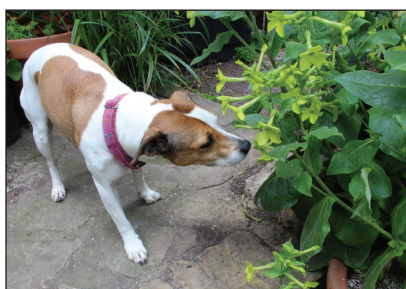
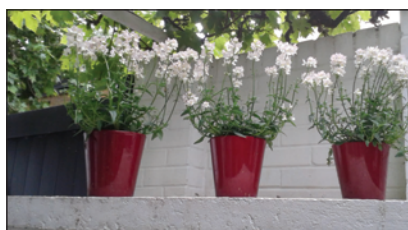
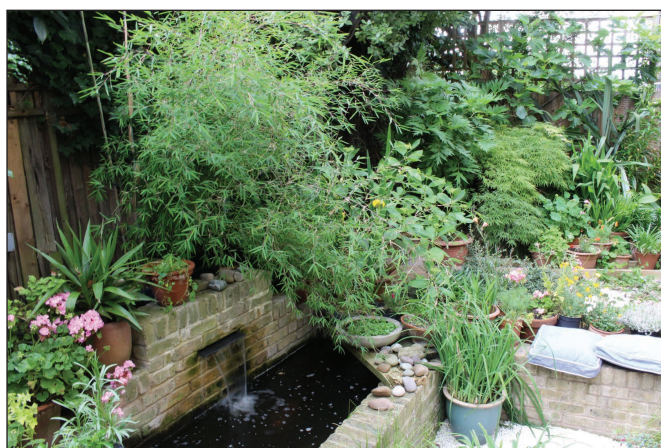
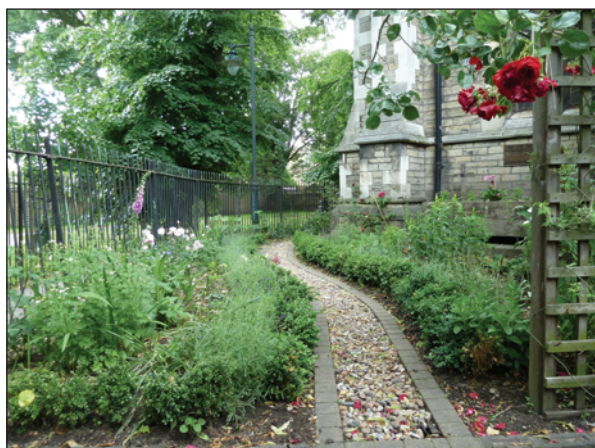


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Camberwell beauty: a pictorial of the day by Saskia Mair



South London cares

Across London growing numbers of lonely older men face a future alone and without proper support. In Camberwell a new “Beer and Board” games club is being set up to help. According to Guys & St Thomas research shows that loneliness can increase the risk of premature death by up to 30%. Older men are less likely to seek help, particularly around mental health issues. So in Southwark, men aged 55-65 are a high risk group with few services targeted at them.

Janet Morrison, CEO of charity Independent Age says: “Men and women experience social isolation and loneliness in different ways. In general, men rely more heavily on their partner to remain socially connected. When their partner dies, often a man’s social life shrinks.”

South London Cares is a local charity reaching out to older men and women in Southwark and Lambeth. This year they visited betting shops, community events and local charities to identify and encourage isolated older men to attend the new Beer and Board games afternoons at the Tiger Pub at the Green. Men like David who started going to the Beer and Board games monthly socials run by South London Cares at Old Red Lion in Kennington last year, says:



Emma and Cora

“I usually spend my days all by myself so I can’t tell you what it means to have discovered that nights like this are still possible at my age!”

South London Cares describes itself as a “community network of young professionals in their 20s and 30s and older neighbours aged over 65 hanging out with and helping one another in a rapidly changing city: to reduce loneliness and isolation, improve connections, resilience, skills and confidence, and to bridge the gaps across generational and social divides”.

Rosa at South London Cares explains that many people over 65 have lived in south London much of their lives. “They have deep roots but no longer local connections, as

neighbours and family may have moved or died. Young professionals moving into the area have hundreds of connections but few roots.”

The charity links some 900 volunteers with over 300 older people through 25 social events per month. These include script reading sessions at Camberwell library, pub quizzes, pamper sessions, art workshops, film matinees and a choir.

The charity’s Love Your Neighbour scheme has helped link some 70 housebound locals with volunteers, who have a chat, cup of tea, advise on using new technology or bond over a shared interest. Emma, aged 32, from East Dulwich visits Cora aged 82 who lives 10 minutes away. Cora, who was born in Jamaica, moved to England in the 1960s and says: “London is a different place and our priorities as people now have changed. You’d know your neighbours and keep your doors open to them, and you can’t do that now. There’s not as much respect for older people as there used to be. But there are still lots of honourable, pleasant and respectful young people!”

South London Cares can be contacted on 020 7118 0404, through their website <https://southlondon-cares.org.uk/contact>, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Marie Staunton

“It’s the people not the properties that make life interesting”

Roy Brooks, 1969



Roy Brooks

roybrooks.co.uk
post@roybrooks.co.uk
020 8299 3021

Old St Giles: the church that burned down

The longer one lives with the present-day church of St Giles, the more solid and comforting a part of one's environment it becomes. It is thus not surprising that about the only thing most people know about its predecessor is that it burned down in 1841.

One difficulty perhaps is in the extant pictures of old St Giles, of which it has been correctly if somewhat gloomily written, "There are a number of prints of the former St Giles, but no two views are quite the same". There is no single image of it to live in the public imagination. Indeed it is possible to look at two different images and find it hard to believe that they represent the same building. One reason for all the variation, not unexpectedly, is that in many ways it wasn't the same building. During the 18th and early 19th centuries it was repeatedly enlarged and "beautified". Later commentators have been unenthusiastic about all this "beautification",

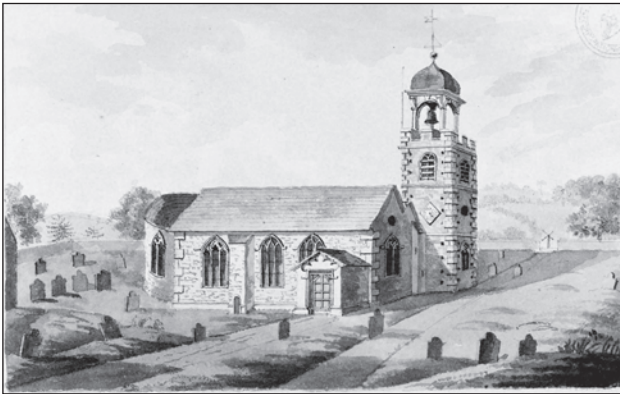


Figure 2. *Old St Giles, view from the NW, late 1720s (London Metropolitan Archives, City of London)*

seeing rather the progressive spoiling of what had been a coherent and pleasing structure.

By and large the texts agree that the old church reached a basic form in the 16th century, and this lasted well into the 18th, but that the 16th century building retained little of the earliest stone structure, that of the 12th century. The ground plan as it had become by the 16th century is shown in *Figure 1*.

The nave and the N and S aisles each had a gabled (double-pitched) roof, so another of the difficulties in interpreting old pictures of the church is that none shows all three roofs and most show only one.

It is nonetheless possible to trace the development of the old St Giles building through the available images, with the help of extant archives and the works of those earlier commentators. In doing this I have not tried to select the most charming pictures, nor those that are best executed, rather those which are most effective in showing the changes that were made.

The earliest image of the church, as far as I have been able to discover, is shown in *Figure 2*. It depicts the building, or at least the north aisle and tower, more or less as we can imagine them to have been in the 16th century, and still surrounded by fields in the early 18th, except that the cupola, of wood and lead, was added in 1718 in order to house a bell for the clock.

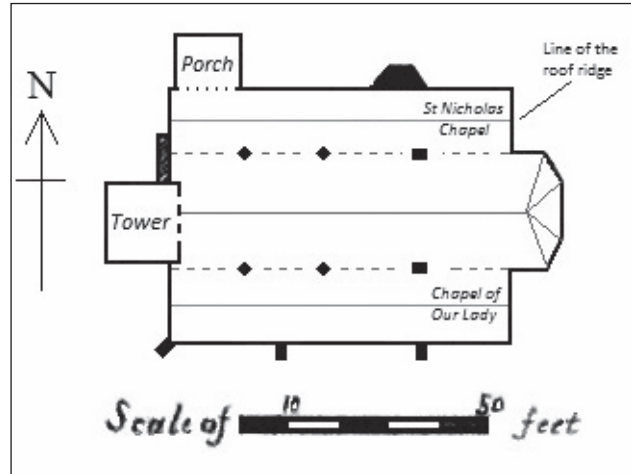


Figure 1. *Groundplan of the old church from the 16th century until 1786*

The churchyard, with scattered gravestones, is surrounded by a wall which at first glance seems to lie in the distance. This impression doesn't survive enlargement of the image, or careful consideration of the perspective: in fact the wall is shown to surround a small churchyard. The path down beside the tower ends in what can be identified as a horse stile.

The artist evidently had some difficulty with the apse, which looks as though it may be intended to be semi-circular, rather than semi-octagonal as in all later pictures, and as shown in *Figure 1*.

One author believed that the representation actually was of a semi-circular apse, taking such a shape to be a survival from the Norman structure; but since any such major project as rebuilding the apse would have left a

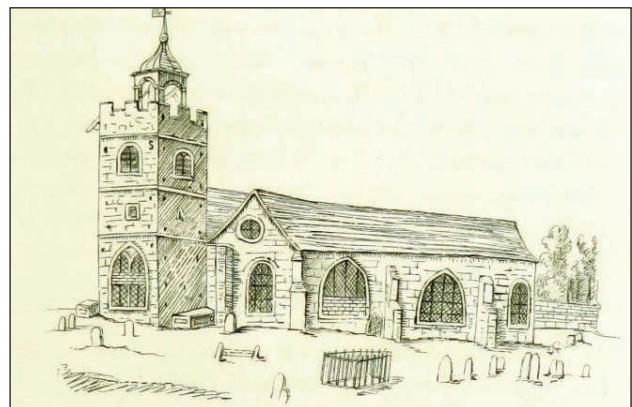


Figure 3. *Old church from the SW, 1730s (© British Library Board 10358.h.4)*

record in the Vestry minutes and churchwardens' accounts, and no such record is found, it is safer to suppose that the artist's evident difficulty with the apse is consistent with what he was trying to depict having in fact been semi-octagonal.

Despite the question of the apse, the picture gives the impression that it is an attempt at an accurate portrayal of the scene, including the hills in the background.

Continued on next page

The church that burned down *continued from previous page*

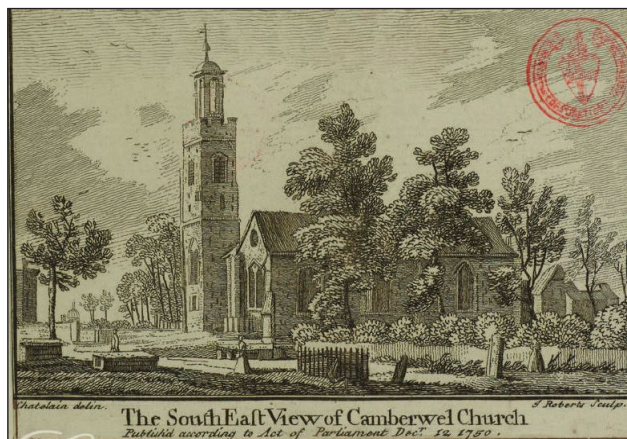


Figure 4. Old church from the SW, 1750 (London Metropolitan Archives, City of London)

The small roundish window at the west end of the north aisle was installed, or at least ordered, in 1725, so the earliest date for the picture is 1725 or a bit after. A latest date is suggested by the absence of the tomb surrounded by railings that is prominent in *Figure 3*, and should have been visible in *Figure 2*, if it had been there. The tomb belonged to one Thomas Bourne, who died in 1729, and appears in many later images, and exists to this day. It is thus reasonable to conclude that *Figure 2* shows the church before 1729.

In *Figure 3* we see the church from the other side a few years later, and glimpse the roof of the nave beyond that of the south aisle. It can't be very much later because, as in *Figure 2*, there are no trees inside the churchyard. This in contrast to *Figures 4* and *5*, securely dated to 1750, which show mature trees. Even if they had been saplings deemed not worthy of inclusion in the earlier sketches, they would surely have needed 20 years or so to reach the size shown in the 1750 images. There are other points, in addition to the Bourne tomb, that suggest that the *Figure 3* building is later than that shown in *Figure 2*: the west window of the tower has a horizontal division, apparently of brick; and there is an S-shaped anchor plate at the top of the same wall. It is also worth noting the (crudely drawn) windows of the south aisle, which have lost their stone mullions. Of course we don't know what the windows of the north aisle looked like at the same time, but it is the case that the image in *Figure 2* seems to be the only one in existence that shows aisle windows in what was apparently their 16th century state.

Figures 4 and *5* form a pair, both being by the artist, Jean Baptiste Claude Chatelain, and the engraver, James Roberts.

Figure 4 presents the same view as in *Figure 3*, and shows the church in much the same state. ("South East" in the original caption is a mistake.) But the trees have grown, and there is now a fence and hedge at the eastern boundary of the land added by Johanna Cock's gift, with the Bourne tomb well inside it. On the right we can see the buildings of Wilson's Grammar School, and on the left a charming glimpse of St Paul's.

In *Figure 5* (where again there is mistake in the

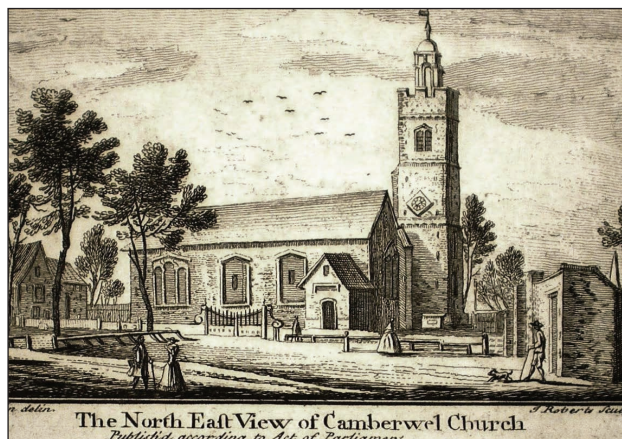


Figure 5. Old church from the NW, 1750 (courtesy Southwark Local History Library)

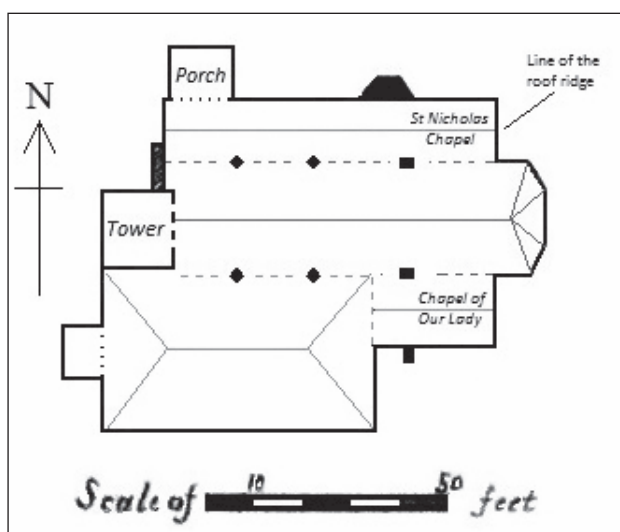


Figure 6. Groundplan of the old church from about 1786 to 1825

original caption) not much has changed since the 1720s. The windows of the north aisle have lost their mullions, there is a smart gateway with curlicues, and the trees have grown. The school buildings are seen on the left.

After several projects in the 18th century to increase the accommodation in the church by building galleries, it was decided in 1786 to extend outwards, by knocking down much of the south wall of the south aisle, and then widening it and extending it to the line of the west wall of the tower.

This created the ground plan shown in *Figure 6*. The new space accommodated enlarged galleries, and provided a new entrance to the west. The final building cost was £841.6s.

The extension had plain pointed-arch windows without mullions, surmounted by a clerestory in which they were semi-circular. It is shown in the rather romantic *Figure 7*. The trees are the same, but the fence and hedge have been replaced by a wall, which presumably extended round the corner out of sight in front of the trees. The shed on the right is in the neighbouring school property.

In 1797 fears were expressed that the tower was unsafe. We have seen that it had already been tied with



Figure 7. Old church from the SW 1787-1798 (courtesy Southwark Local History Library)

anchor plates from east to west in the 1730s, and Figure 5 shows similar tying in the north-south dimension. The Vestry was moved to action, and between 1797 and 1798 the top of the tower was rebuilt. This included replacing the earlier housing for the bell serving the clock with a more slender and ornate wooden gothic structure. The accounts suggest that this was to do the same job as its predecessor but it seems that the actual bell housing was set lower down, more or less impossible to see from ground level.

In the following few years there is no record of major building decisions being taken, but judging from the accounts there was nonetheless an ongoing programme. All the windows, including those in the 1786 extension were refashioned into a uniform style with plain gothic arches and mullions which, on the basis of the tradesmen's bills, must have been made of wood; and the outside walls were stuccoed and painted. By the end of 1801, including refurbishing the tower, the Vestry had spent more than £1,300, much more, that is, than the cost of the 1786 extension. A year or two later an awning, or covered way, was built to join the north porch to the churchyard gate. Figure 8 shows the results of all this work. The remade windows are most clearly seen in the tower, which now has three crenellations instead of two. The 1786 extension can be seen in the distance and the grammar school building, again, on the left. The awning, which one might imagine to have been rather a pleasant feature, only lasted about 20 years.

The money recently spent had done nothing to increase the accommodation, which had been insufficient for some years. In the 1790s the Vestry had rejected both enlargement of the existing and building a new church, and rejected both expedients again in 1816. Finally, in 1821, it was agreed to build a new church, St George's, on what became Wells Way, and in 1824, after JG Storie's arrival as vicar, to a further extension of the old building. This entailed knocking down the old chapel of Our Lady and replacing it with a new building of twice or so the area, with its roof at right angles to that of the nave. The resulting ground plan is shown in Figure 9.

This was the end of enlargement, but not of



Figure 8. Old Church from the NW, early 1800s (courtesy Southwark Local History Library)

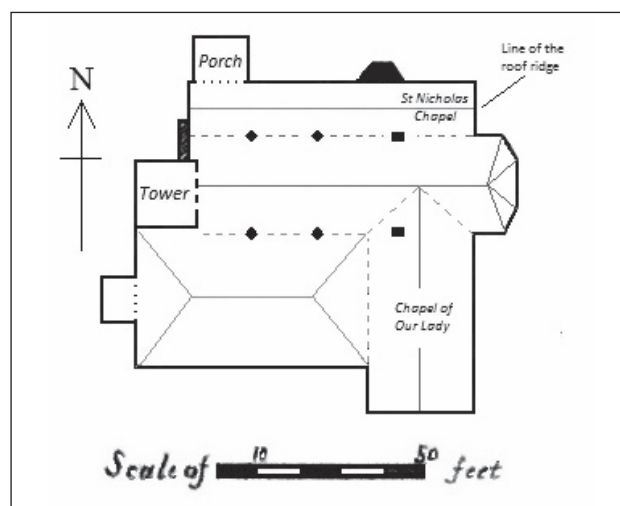


Figure 9. Ground plan of the old church, 1825-1841

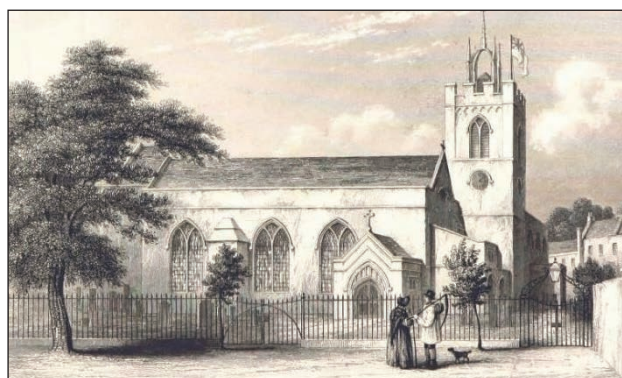


Figure 10. Old church from the north, 1830s (© British Library Board 10358.h.4)

beautification. Perhaps early in the 1830s the venerable semi-octagonal apse was made square, and the north porch was redone in an old gothic style to match the redone old gothic windows, as seen in Figure 10.

And that is the church that burned down.

Donald Mason

A fully referenced version of this article will be found at www.cdmason.org.uk/Camberwell

Displaced traffic has created some dangerous pinch points

We welcome your letters

Please email them to
the Editor at:
mpowleybaker@gmail.com

or by post to:
4 Datchelor Place
London SE5 7AP

We are writing in response to the proposal outlined in Glynn Jones' letter, in the *Camberwell Quarterly* No 192, that the top part of Camberwell Grove should remain permanently closed. This is an old issue first raised, to our knowledge, in the 1980s. At that time there were a number of people on the Camberwell Society Committee with a background in public service who took the view that the challenge was to calm traffic on Camberwell Grove without displacing traffic on to surrounding smaller roads and that this required a solution that worked for the community as a whole. The Society arranged a series of inclusive meetings inviting the Peckham Society and residents of surrounding roads and councillors and officers. Measures to reduce the speed of traffic in the areas affected in SE5 and SE15 were agreed and implemented.

It will be evident to anyone who knows the area that the closure of Camberwell Grove has displaced traffic onto surrounding roads and that there are a number of dangerous pinch points. Grove Park, Grove Hill Road and residential roads leading down to Bellenden Road are all affected. So too are McNeil Road, Lyndhurst Grove, Lyndhurst Way and off shoots. There has been a noticeable increase in rat running through these roads and past adjacent shops, schools and nurseries. As an aside, many of the houses in these

streets are built close to the pavements/roads so the noise and impact of traffic is much greater than in upper Camberwell Grove where most of the houses have deep front gardens.

The issue was raised again in about 2002/3 when the Council was again lobbied for closure. We do not know whether the Camberwell Society consulted widely across the piece at that time and involved "any one who lives, works or is interested in Camberwell"?

We are aware of a number of minor accidents at these pinch points. For example, a wall was demolished at the junction of Crofton Road and Lyndhurst Grove. We do not have the figures and since many of these accidents are relatively minor they will not have been reported to the police but we have witnessed personally angry altercations at the pinch points in McNeil Road,

Lyndhurst Grove, Malfort Road and Bellenden Road.

Given the extensive consultations that have been undertaken in the past in the area as a whole we are not sure what alternative strategies remain to be discussed? In any case any plan should propose the greatest good for the greatest number in the area as a whole.

On aesthetic grounds the system over the bridge in Camberwell Grove leaves a lot to be desired. Presumably a better design could be incorporated into the rebuilding works?

For the time being we are worried that some cyclists treat the whole of Camberwell Grove as a speedway and travel down hill at great speed ignoring (or berating) the pedestrians crossing Camberwell Grove below the bridge. We know that the Council is investigating this problem.

Nicola and John Moxham

A difference of opinion on the bridge

I have read with concern the letter from Glynn Jones (*CQ* No 192) proposing that the bridge on Camberwell Grove should remain permanently closed. Hopefully, his opinion would have been moderated on Friday if he had seen a coach struggling and backing around the right-angled corners of Grove Park with a trail of vans and cars behind it. This was an extreme example of the daily problems we have in Grove Park with greatly increased and often speeding traffic around our road which has four sharp and potentially dangerous corners.

Like it or like it not, Camberwell Grove is a straight, through route down to Camberwell which is certainly not the case for either Grove Park or McNeil Road/Lyndhurst Grove.

I am a long-term resident of Grove Park and know that the speed humps and the narrowing at the bridge have reduced and slowed the traffic in Camberwell Grove compared with 30 years ago. Everyone in London would like to live in a road closed to traffic but we

have to ask our planners to aim for traffic controls which maximise both safety and accessibility for the whole of the local community.

Once or twice, I have turned up Camberwell Grove in my car because I have forgotten that it is closed. This has resulted in a detour along McNeil Road, slow progress along the narrow and over-parked Lyndhurst Grove followed by the one-way system in Bellenden Road and eventually Chadwick Road. I expect the irritation of being diverted in this unintended and time-consuming way is a daily occurrence for drivers who are not familiar with the area and leads to impatience and greater danger on narrow roads.

I request that the Camberwell Society negotiates with Southwark Council and the rail companies to ensure that repair work is completed on the railway bridge and Camberwell Grove is opened as soon as possible. I know that local residents will also be working towards these aims.

Sally Lynes

Closure divides us

I strongly support the views of my neighbour Sally Lynes regarding Camberwell Grove.

Clearly there are issues that require resolving for the residents of Camberwell Grove, but displacing their issues on neighbouring roads is no solution at all.

I also feel strongly that the closure divides our Camberwell community and I strongly suspect it is having an adverse effect on the businesses at the bottom on Church Street (I have no actual evidence to support this). I do know that I routinely choose to head south now, rather than go round the diversion if I want to go to the shops.

Although I understand the letter by Glynn Jones was presented as one opinion, I don't think it was representative and I call on you to present a more balanced picture reflecting opinion from both Camberwell Grove residents and, importantly, all those impacted by the closure.

Claire Nelson

Tales of bygone Camberwell days

I enjoyed reading the article by John Turpin about W Melhuish Limited (CQ 190). It jogged my memory about things I heard from my family who have been in and around this area since the 1800s.

The large, old building at the junction of Lomond Grove and Elmington Road, now divided into units, was a fully functioning bakery well into the 1970s and one of the last things it did was bake and distribute Mr Kipling cakes. My Uncle Bill used to deliver the flour in a tanker on a regular basis. It was owned by Rank and I have a suspicion this could originally have been a Melhuish bakery.

It was said that Rank's policy was to buy up as much of the opposition as it could, then shut it down. It could do this easily because there was no obligation in the old days for redundancy pay or pensions. In the 1960s Rank acquired Hovis-McDougall and became Rank Hovis McDougall (RHM).

More historical memories on

page 10 mentioned the derelict pawnbrokers at 305 Camberwell Road. This was a branch of Harvey & Thompson's. You can still see the iron bracket from which the three pawnbroker bells were hung. That shop is now the Pensioners Centre.

Incidentally, in a TV interview years ago, the DJ David Jacobs (famous for *Juke Box Jury*) mentioned that his first job was in Harvey & Thompson's, in Camberwell.

Across the road, over Bullace Row, there was a long run of Victorian shops running right down to Bowyer Place. These shops were, I think, bombed out during the war: there are flats there now. On the corner was a big double-fronted shop selling banjos and other musical instruments. This shop was famous for running the popular banjo and mandolin clubs. My father and uncle used to play the banjo and were club members.

Bob Fowlds

Major award for Camberwell writer



Robert Wainwright, the Society's Secretary, has won a major award for sports writing. He won the category for the best biography of the year for his book, *The Maverick Mountaineer*, which was reviewed last year in the *Quarterly*, No 188.

In case you missed it, the book was about George Ingle Finch, who climbed higher than anyone else in

the first attempt to scale Mt Everest in 1922, for which he was awarded an Olympic gold medal. He was also a scientist who helped save London during the Blitz by teaching the brigades how to fight chemical fires and later helped to develop things like the piston engine. Another invention for which he was initially ridiculed turned into what we now know as the puffa jacket.

Robert nearly didn't turn up for the awards ceremony at Lords Cricket Ground: "I wasn't going to go and only got my black tie rented on the morning of the awards. I knew I was a finalist but didn't think it would win," he said.

The Cross Sports Book Awards is the major annual promotion for sports writing and publishing.

Robert also wrote the acclaimed *Sheila: The Australian Ingenue Who Bewitched British Society*.

Our library is named Library of the Year

Camberwell Library has won The Bookseller's Library of the Year award at the British Book Awards.

It was recognised for its achievement in lending twice as many books in 2016-17 as it did in its old premises on Camberwell Church Street. Its move to a new building enabled it to make a fresh start that included 27,000 brand new books.

It was also praised for using imaginative promotions, which included its "Choose a Book for Camberwell Library".

Waterstones was named Book Retailer of the Year and JK Rowling won The BA Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Book Trade.

The British Book Awards (aka the Nibbies) honours publishers, authors and bookshops, and replaces the British Book Industry Awards.

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 (Lambeth or Southwark) that we object, support or have no objection to an application. Owing to the limited space available in the *Quarterly*, we are only able to print a selection of the applications.

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. These are non-sustainable and will result in crude fenestration. We recommend timber or powdercoated aluminium.

79 Coldharbour Lane, SE5

Conversion of a single dwelling into three self-contained flats with the installation of a door to the side elevation and the provision of cycle storage and refuse and recycling facilities.

This is a third proposal, as the previous terms of layout and dwelling mix were not acceptable. It would seem from the way that the plans are drawn, that to access the garden, you would have to go via the adjoining property's garden. No boundary is drawn, and no other rear doors shown.

Some of the comments from the previous refusal would still seem to apply:

1. By virtue of its siting, design quality, and built-form, the proposal would result in a poorly detailed, cluttered appearance at the rear. It fails to respond to the positive aspects of its setting, and would materially harm the architectural integrity of the host building and its group.

2. The proposed development would provide a poor standard of

residential accommodation for prospective occupants. It would fail to meet the nationally described space standards, has a poor layout and would fail to provide outdoor amenity space of an adequate quality commensurate to the size of the overall development.

In simple terms, the applicant is trying to get too much out of quite a modest building. A conversion to two flats, rather than three would fit more comfortably within the existing fabric, albeit with a minor rear addition or roof dormer.

This application has poor layout, and poorly drawn plans and design.
OBJECTION

Farmers Road, SE5

Construction of an additional office floor to the existing light industrial studio buildings.

The Society supports this proposal as it improves the economic potential in a neglected corner of Camberwell with a dynamic contribution to the streetscape. The Society is concerned that as it is so near the Camberwell New Road, the whiteness might soon be grey, so it suggests a condition, or an assurance, that there will be a strategy for the aluminium cladding to stay clean, or be cleaned, to maintain the appearance.

9 Love Walk, SE5

Demolition of existing garage and the construction of two apartments on three levels as well as a coach house on the western side of the site.

This part of Love Walk is characterised by a group of detached villas, each set in its own grounds. Number 9 is a double fronted house with steps up to the front door, two storeys high plus a semi-basement and a hipped roof. It is set back from Love Walk and Grove Lane in line with the houses and flats adjacent, creating an open aspect at the

entrance to Love Walk.

This proposal disrupts the existing character of the street by creating an incongruous terrace incorporating a variety of building lines and numbers of storeys.

The styling of the buildings seems confused, with the first and second floors of the flats having Victorian style windows, in line with the windows of the existing house, but in other respects aspiring to a modern appearance, with flat roofs a glazed link connecting the flats with the original building.

The proposed garage/studio is to be built on the pavement edge of Love Walk, and the proposed flats on the pavement edge of Grove Lane, which is not in accordance with the established building lines in either street.

This application lacks respect for the existing house and the buildings in the surrounding area.

OBJECTION

Stories Mews, rear of 153 Grove Lane, SE5

Construction of a two-storey, two-bedroom dwelling to replace an existing garage/mews.

This design is a bold statement on a restricted site. The re-creation of the garage door as a perforated brick screen concealing the ground floor front room window is original, but the brick screen together with the tile hung first floor creates an extremely busy elevation.

The decision to set the house at an angle results in very daunting looking expanses of two-storey wall confronting the neighbours on either side, and some awkwardly shaped external spaces.

There is a site somewhere that would suit this design, but a more diffident, simpler approach is needed here.

OBJECTION

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