
CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

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



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THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS

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

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

Sub-Committees on planning, 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.

Visit us on Facebook

Forthcoming Events

Open Gardens Day, Sunday 3 June

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 18 February, 3pm, Recent
Archaeological Projects in Peckham.**
Goose Green Centre, St John's
Church, East Dulwich Road SE22
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: A tricky tactical puzzle at the Sutton vs Camberwell match – how to get a bowl through to the jack (see page 4) Photo: Marie Staunton

How can we increase our membership? Any suggestions?

Welcome to another packed issue of the *Camberwell Quarterly*.

I was saddened to hear the news of the death of Jeremy Bennett. Jeremy was a true “Man of Camberwell.” A long-time member of the Society, a member of the Executive Committee and most recently our President, Jeremy did so much for Camberwell in particular and south London in general. Jeremy was a remarkable man and it was a privilege to know him and to work with him. You will find an Obituary and Appreciation written by Nicholas Roskill and Jim Tanner on pages 14 and 15. Our thoughts at this time are with his wife Tine and his family.

Membership of the Camberwell Society hovers at just over the 600 mark. It has been around this level



for a number of years. It would obviously be good if we could increase the membership, and we are looking at ways we can do this. If you have any suggestions, then please do let me know. We want to be able to attract people who move in to Camberwell, so please mention the Society to any incomers in your area!

We would also like to increase the number of local businesses who advertise in the *Quarterly* – it is a great way of getting your business in front of Camberwell locals, so do please contact our editor, Margaret Powley-Baker, for more details if you are interested.

I never cease to be amazed at discovering “hidden” Camberwell. A walk or a bike ride along back streets is always fascinating, and our article about Temple Bowling Club, which is hidden off Denmark Hill, makes for good reading. If there are other examples of Camberwell’s hidden gems, then do let us know and we can feature them in forthcoming issues of the *Quarterly*.

Nick Holt

nick.holt.camberwell.soc@gmail.com

Once again the Crooked Well provided the venue for the Society’s Christmas Party. This year, in addition to the popular raffle there was a mince pie competition. St Giles’ vicar Father Nick George was nominated as the impartial judge and after much sampling declared local architect Liz Borowiecki the winner (the recipe, however, was Delia Smith’s).

Chair Nick Holt thanked all the local traders and members who donated raffle prizes as well as Hector, Jen and all the staff of the Crooked Well.

Prizes included: Bourbon cherries and mandarins from Hill Bakery; poinsettia and room scent from Pesh; two tickets for Jazz live and a bottle of wine; Christmas table arrangement from local florist Alice McCabe; tour of Dulwich College archives; voucher from the Bike Project for a refurbished bike; bike accessories from Edwardes; Minalina Butterfly print, eight prints of Southwark and Camberwell from Charles and Veronica Hunt; and Snappy Snaps frames.

There were also vouchers for meals for two at the Grove House pub, the Pigeonhole, the Phoenix and the Crooked Well.

Nick handed over a cheque for

The Society celebrates Christmas

£1,319 to our Charity of the Year, St Giles Trust. They support people who have made bad decisions – joined a gang, ended up in prison – often clouded by underlying issues such as substance misuse and mental health. St Giles helps with the basics – somewhere to live and a job. Maria McNicol for the Trust shared the story of one 30-year-old man who, after years of being homeless and jobless, had just won a job at Costa in King’s. She thanked the Society for supporting her colleagues and volunteers who “can’t imagine being in this world without wanting to make it better for someone”. A very Christmas sentiment.

MS



Above: Father Nick George and Liz Borowiecki: Below: Some of the party guests

Photos: Saskia Mair



Temple Bowls – a hidden treasure



Temple Bowls clubhouse, hidden behind the neat Victorian villas of Sunset Road

Temple Bowls has been part of Camberwell life since 1881.

Its clubhouse features in two TV ads, but few locals know of its existence. Member Nick Farr, who was a cabbie for over 20 years, is Camberwell born and bred, yet he had no idea of its whereabouts. It is hidden behind the neat Edwardian villas of Sunset Road at number 1a. You go down an alley leading to an undistinguished concrete back porch; then past the lace curtains to the hall with bookcases of free books, widening out into a snooker room, a large bar leading onto a veranda, six bowling greens and a croquet lawn. The retro exterior of the club house

was featured in the recent Barclaycard “Start Today” TV ad and the Flexiseq ad featuring the former QPR manager Harry Redknapp as England Bowls Manager. Watch it on *youtube*, it’s a hoot:

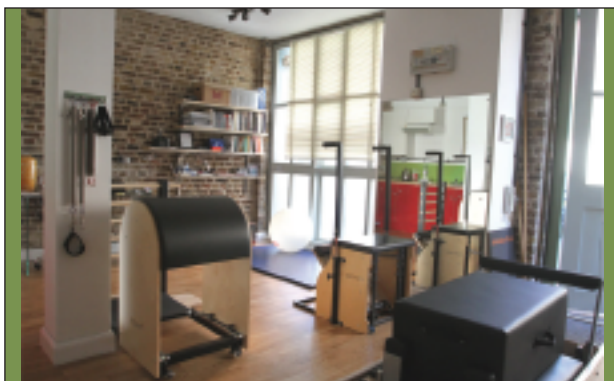
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmBHAIP4nwM>.

Upstairs is a large indoor bowling green with a cosy bar and leather wingback chairs.

The club wears its history lightly. It offers a mix of bowls, snooker, darts, karaoke, band rehearsals and social club. Its members range in age from 18 to 90. At 10am on a Monday the day starts gently with regular players having a game and a cup of

tea. On a Thursday at 1pm the ladies-only session starts for the afternoon and on a Tuesday or Friday night at 6 pm or 7pm the club league plays. Matches with other clubs are often held on a Sunday while members play snooker or watch football in the bar. The social club operates every day from 11am or so when the bar opens. The distinctive hall and greens are much in demand for music rehearsals, weddings and parties.

On the walls, among photos of past bowling triumphs and league boards, is a placard setting out the origins of the club. It was founded in 1881. In Camberwell history, that is



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just after Mary Datchelor school opened in Grove Lane and five years before Camberwell Baths and South London Gallery were built. The name comes from its founder, Mr WG Temple, the licensee of the Golden Lion pub, which was next to the Camberwell Palace of Varieties on the site of what is now Butterfly Walk. Together with other local business people he set up the club at 29½ Warner Road, now part of the Lewis Trust Buildings behind the Co-op (previously the Golden Dome cinema). In 1913 it moved to Rutland Court and in 1931 to the premises of the Sunset Lawn Tennis Club where the present pavilion was built in 1933. The club badge refers to the long local history of the sport: it is composed of the shields of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Duchy of Cornwall; both had a presence in Lambeth.

Bowls is an ancient sport, believed to have been invented by the Egyptians, who used both clay and leather bowls. Its long history in the UK can be traced back to a bowling green in Southampton in 1299. The principle of the game is to roll a

wooden bowl to strike, or at least get close to, a white ball, called the jack. The ball is weighted, a principle introduced in 1522 by the Duke of Suffolk. His bowl split in two after striking other bowls so he took a knob off a stairway bannister post for a replacement. The flat side of the knob caused it to roll with a bias and he was able to reach the jack by curving his bowl around the others on the green.

Bowls UK has 2,500 member clubs who are divided into leagues. Temple Bowls is one of the oldest clubs in the South London League - the Dulwich Constitutional Club was founded in 1886, Sutton in 1928 and the Lewisham Francis Drake Bowls Club some 70 years ago, named from the tale of Drake insisting on finishing his game of bowls despite the sighting of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Bowls continues to be popular. "It is a good physical and mental workout," says Bernard, 84, an actor, former assistant director of the Kings Head Theatre, sometime local teacher and longstanding member. "You walk a lot and working out your tactics,



Bar and social club managers, Janice and Steve, were men's and women's champions respectively

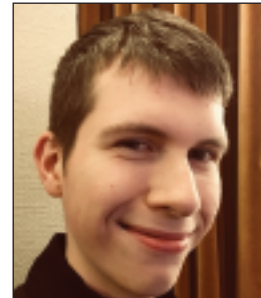
the weight, the curve you need to get to the jack." Frankie, 18, finds bowling a relaxation from studying for A levels at the Charter School. "It is peaceful. After a rough day at school it is somewhere to get your mind in place. It helps me think through ideas for the play I am writing." Janice, a member of the Ladies team, is more competitive: "It is quite a vicious game really.

Continued on next page

At the Sutton vs Camberwell match: (left) a tricky moment, and (right) measuring whose ball is nearest the jack



Temple Bowls *continued from previous page*



Club members (left to right): actor Bernard and cabbie Nick, Pat and Frankie

The aim is to knock other people's bowls out of the way." Team Member Pat agrees. "It's addictive really, and enjoyable – except when you lose."

Watching a bowls match can be mesmerising. On a dank winter Sunday afternoon, the upstairs indoor green is warm and the handful of spectators very quiet as the match between Sutton and Temple Bowls reaches its climax. The concentration is palpable as Steve from Temple stands on the yellow mat, preparing to launch his bowl. Team mate John stands at the other end, examines the arrangement of earlier bowls around the jack and calls out, "You can come through here to the left, Steve." Steve launches a curve ball that glides smoothly through the outer balls to come close to the jack. "Good

weight," Paul from Sutton calls out generously. John, his colleague from Sutton, walks round the new arrangement of balls. "It is up to you, Paul, but through here might do it." Paul's bowl overshoots and his frustration is palpable. "Some days... this game..." Paul and Steve walk up to the jack end and they all watch as Paul measures which bowl is nearest. Temple wins, the spectators relax and murmur their comments and congratulations. The tone is polite and hospitable, with Temple buying drinks for the visitors, but competitive.

Wooden plaques on the walls commemorate winners of previous leagues. Photos from the 1980s show teams competing in bowls whites; women wear pleated skirts and

Panama hats. Nowadays the dress code is more casual: white polo shirts bearing the club's logo and grey trousers. Bar and social club managers, Janice and Steve, were men's and women's champions respectively. The club has only 40 bowling members, but over 100 social club members. Mark, a regular, says, "It is friendly here. There is a good atmosphere. You can have a laugh and a joke. "Temple Bowls is now open to new social or bowling members and offers free lessons at its open days. According to Janice, the club survives despite its hidden location because of its combination of "atmosphere, cheap drinks and some serious bowling."

Marie Staunton

Considering a move in 2018?

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Emike Umolu, Google Reviews.

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Roy Brooks

Firm closes after more than a hundred years in Camberwell

The name J Hunnex & Son may be familiar to you as the firm has been advertising in the Quarterly for many years and its story was told in an article in 1993. Now, as some of you may know, it has closed down after 104 years of operation in Camberwell.

*We invited **Sheila Leonard**, the granddaughter of its founder, to write a short piece about the firm.*

The business was started in Parkhouse Street by my grandfather, Johnathon Hunnex, in 1913. He started by buying No 35 Parkhouse Street and ended up with Nos 35, 37 and 39. As time moved on the gardens at the back of these houses became the warehouse, although No 35 Parkhouse Street always maintained a beautiful garden.

Johnathan started in Kennington as a teenager selling coal from a donkey and cart, then kindling, which he made from old boxes. The boxes seemed too good to chop up so he found a market for selling the boxes and the rest is history. He had nine children, seven daughters and



Above: *The beginnings: selling coal and kindling from a donkey cart*

Below: *Graham Hunnex removes the "Highwayman" weather vane, a landmark of the factory*

two sons. His eldest son John and eldest daughter Emily helped him run the business. The next three children were daughters then came his second son Fredrick, my father, who also worked in the business.

My Brother Graham and I worked in the business from the early 1970s until July 2017 when we closed.

In the early years tea chests were the only boxes used for moving house and nobody expected anything else. We collected the tea chests from Lyons, Tetley and Brooke Bond, renovated them and sold them on. There weren't many removal companies that we hadn't dealt with over the years. However, times change and buying and selling houses became a business venture for many people and much more sophisticated packaging materials and cardboard cartons were required. We were able to continue in business and move with the times (even if not very quickly!) and the business was still very successful when we closed the gates on July 28, 2017, mainly because Graham and I had reached retirement age.

Graham's son Martyn, who worked with us for ten years, has secured a job with another packaging company. Many customers did not believe we were closing, even when the warehouse was empty!



Over the years we have had a few famous customers: David Linley, Lorraine Chase, Larry Lamb, Joanna Lumley, actors from *Grange Hill*, *The Brittas Empire*, and *What's my Line*, Landscape (an 80s pop group) and the late Andy Holmes, a rowing gold medallist whose team mate was Steve Redgrave.

Joshua Thelwell

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Anna's Green Carpet Challenge

If you commission a piece of fine jewellery from Camberwell artisan Anna Loucah you are investing in an ethical lifestyle as much as an item of luxury.

In fact, you might take the time as she heats and bends and files and shapes her intricate, award-winning designs to hear her story that began in the Poldark mine sites of Cornwall, was encouraged in the crowded buzz of India and triumphed in the glitz of Hollywood.

Anna represents and promotes the ethical side of the fashion and jewellery industry, sourcing everything she uses, from gold and silver to gemstones, diamonds and even packaging from business and miners who treat their workers and the environment with decency.

She has won numerous awards for her work and made the most expensive item of Fairtrade product ever sold, a ring and earring suite worn by Livia Firth, wife of actor Colin, when he won the Best Actor Oscar in 2011.

But her beginnings were rather more humble, living in a pub by the sea outside St Ives where the kids ran free, an idyllic childhood exploring the wild landscape of Cornwall, abandoned "Poldark" mine sites and engine houses and skimming over sand dunes on home-made sleds.

"I always loved scratching around the old mines sites, coming home with bits and pieces; rose quartz, granite, volcanic glass, things like that. I never knew what they



Anna Loucah in her workshop

were but I loved the look of them. I kept them in a box by the window. I was always making things, that's the sense of Cornwall."

College in Falmouth and then university at Liverpool followed where she began exploring making jewellery for the first time and spent her summer holidays living in a caravan and making jewelled headdresses for beach-goers, Cornwall's answer to Bo Derek.

After graduating she travelled extensively, including spending a year in India where, in the city of Jaipur, she met the owner of a jewellery store and fell into conversation. The jewellery was made upstairs where men, and only men, sat crossed legged on the floor and worked.

"He asked me if I wanted to come back next day and try it. I ended up staying there working like an intern for several months. I love the culture of things like jewellery and textiles so the experience was wonderful," she said.

Back in the UK she first opened a studio in St Ives and then Brighton where, as she immersed herself into the industry, began hearing stories about mining practices in Africa, something she'd never thought about. She began to use recycled gold and gems as a personal response to some of the horror stories, but opportunity was around the corner.

The Fairtrade Foundation, which most people might associate with supermarket products like coffee and chocolate, was expanding its work and established a gold and silver mark in 2011 and 2013, just as Anna was becoming interested.

She was also involved in the ethical fashion industry including the organisation Fashion Revolution, started after the Rana Plaza disaster in Bangladesh which killed almost 1,200 factory workers.



A Fairtrade ruby ring by Anna



The Firths at the Golden Globes where Livia wore Anna's jewellery

It was through these connections that she met Italian film maker and fashion designer Livia Firth who commissioned her to create three suites of Fairtrade and recycled gold jewellery for her to wear during the awards season, including the Golden Globes, the Cannes Film Festival and the Oscars when her husband won the Best Actor award for his role as King George VI in the movie *The King's Speech*.

Livia called it her Green Carpet Challenge and for it, Anna created the world's first jewellery to be hallmarked as Fairtrade Fairmined Ecological. The gold was sourced from Bolivia, the 35 carats of aquamarines from eastern Zambia and diamonds from the Lihobong Women Miners Co-operative in Lesotho. The pearls were farmed.

Livia described Anna's skills as "incredible": "She has made me see jewellery in a whole new light," she said. The three sets were later auctioned off, raising £80,000 for Oxfam.

Since then Anna has helped establish a new organisation, Fair Luxury, which runs campaigns and seminars and had a recent exhibition at the Goldsmith Centre.

Her move to London in 2013 seemed inevitable, given her work as an activist. With a studio in Waterloo, Camberwell became home; a village in a big city where our rich artistic history and diverse population makes her feel at home.

"I live opposite the Green so I've seen the transformation since I've been here. It has a mix for everybody. There're some nice places to eat, you can pay £4 for a coffee or £1 for a coffee. It has its own style. Everyone seems to get on so well."

Fairtrade is here to stay, she insists, and it doesn't mean compromising on quality: "I have chosen to use only Fairtrade metals in my work. It is luxury after all, but you get to know where it comes from and, as a creator, I get to shake the hand of the miner who dug it out of the ground. It's a strong bond, a life style and not just a business model."

Robert Wainwright

A new lease of life for 58A?

Are we to get a new restaurant at the corner of Camberwell Grove and Camberwell Church Street? Jake Farey and Daniel Ryan would like to lease the basement and ground floor of 58A Camberwell Grove and turn it into a "vibrant and contemporary restaurant".

Their original application for a late licence to sell alcohol until 3am was received with dismay by local residents who recall some 15 years of misery when these premises were home first to the Cube and then to the Couture Bar.

Farey and Ryan were made aware by councillors, the Camberwell Society and local residents that another club would not be welcome. The application was revised and they have been granted a late licence until

1.30am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and 11pm on the other nights.

Farey and Ryan, who are investing £750,000 in this venture, have issued assurances it will be food-led rather than alcohol-led and that food will be served on both floors.

Ambigu, as it will be called, will be serving "food traditions from Latin America as well as incorporating South East Asian and European flavours."

One of the conditions laid down by the Council is that the premises will host quarterly residents' meetings for at least the first 12 months.

At the time of going to press we had not heard whether or not this enterprise was going ahead.

Can you do this?

The Executive Committee is looking for a someone to replace Ricardo Folgado to take on traffic related issues in Camberwell. We are very sorry to lose Ricardo but what with a busy job involving international travel and a young family he feels he can't devote as much time to the Society as he would like.

If you are interested in local traffic matters and would like to take on this role, please contact Nick Holt at nick.holt.camberwell.soc@gmail.com

An electronic CQ?

We are thinking about producing the *Camberwell Quarterly* electronically. This would save substantially on distribution costs. There would still be hard copies for those who prefer them.

If you are interested in receiving the *Quarterly* electronically please contact the editor at mpowleybaker@gmail.com

Bridge to reopen

Camberwell Grove Bridge is to Creopen sometime in 2018. As before it will be restricted to cycles, cars and vans: HGVs will not be allowed.

Some 1,888 people responded to the Consultation and a decisive 73 per cent voted to have it reopened.

No date has been given for the reopening of the Bridge, but it is thought that repairs, which will cost the Council around £17,000, could begin in February or March.

The Consultation also showed that there was a need for a wider study to be carried out into the road network of surrounding streets.

There is also talk of a cycle Quiet Way to run down the Grove.

Green Green

Camberwell Green was awarded the Green Flag for 2017. The award is due to the hard work of the Council parks team, the Friends of Camberwell Green and the SE5 Forum.

To advertise in the *Quarterly*, please contact the editor on tel: 020 7701 4417 or email: mpowleybaker@gmail.com

Italy comes to Burgess Park

Naples has come to Burgess Park in the form of the new Neapolitan menu at the café. The coffee was the first item to change when family business, A Fuorvito and sons, took over in November. “Italians, we know coffee is important so we have our own roast – a mix of Brazilian and Papua New Guinea right now,” says manager Gessica. Chef Salvatore suggests that regulars try the home made specials – pasta of the day Spaghetti bolognese, beef burger with chorizo, (£7.50 each) or fresh cheeses – mozzarella or burrata as a starter.

We have come for a traditional British fry up – not cheap at £6.75 but good enough value with avocado and mustard, cherry tomatoes, marinated aubergine, peppers and beans. Our “vegetarian” substitutes the bacon with beans and any combination of the traditional elements of the British breakfast is happily provided. And there is wonderful cheesecake lemony, light with a good firm texture.

Further changes are planned – once the family understand the clientele they will close for a few weeks in January to refurbish and introduce new menu items. The Fuorvitos started as ice cream vendors and would like to bring Italian ice cream to the park, longer opening hours in the summer and



Breakfast fry up (vegetarian provided)

vans selling wood fired pizza to the family recipe brought over by father Antonio when he arrived in south London some 40 years ago. Son Gianni was born in south London and now has seven cafés including a fast paced pizza shop at Twickenham Rugby Ground.

In contrast the Burgess Park café customers are more leisurely, mainly families and dog walkers who fill the outside tables next to the play park in the summer. Inside others enjoy a quiet read of the papers overlooking the formal English garden at the front of Chumleigh Gardens. This unique group of buildings was constructed in 1821 as “The Friendly Female

Asylum for Aged Persons who have seen better days”. The Female Friendly Society itself was started in 1802 according to the Burgess Park website, “by and for women”, operating “by love, kindness, and absence of humbug”. It gave small grants to “poor, aged women of good character”. In 1821, the charity built its first “asylum” here. There’s a copy of the dedication on a plaque on the central block. The almshouses offered modest bedsits to 20 residents, many in their 90s, affectionately dubbed “the old objects”.

The almshouses were damaged in World War 2 and fell into disrepair but Friendly Almshouses still provides accommodation for women of limited means at their almshouses in Stockwell Park Road. For several years the West block was home to Sunday services with energetic preachers and enthusiastic singing. The present plan is to use the building to temporarily house the Cuming Museum, which was burnt out of its Walworth Road premises. The relatively unfrequented Mediterranean, Oriental and Afro-Caribbean Gardens constructed in 1995 to reflect the areas diversity will then be admired by more visitors. As will London sculptor Heather Burrell’s gate marking a community/police partnership on hate crime which leads to the Heart Garden tended by those recovering from heart disease.

Marie Staunton



Sit in or out, depending on the weather



Are we downhearted?

Cathy Brooks-Baker describes what it was like for Camberwell and district after war broke out in 1914.

Populist sentiment has been instinctively tribal, quite often nationalistic. In the late summer of 1914 pride and joy in uniting for a cause swept through the kingdom, no less in Camberwell, Peckham and Dulwich. Unanimously, the people of Great Britain, together with their overseas allies, rose against “the cruel and murderous attack of the Prussian oppressor and pirate (Kaiser Wilhelm 11), and for the honour and glory of our great Empire”. Love and loyalty for King and country was the spirit of the age.

Are you one of Kitchener’s Own?

Throughout July 1914 British politicians wrestled with the implications of events in Europe until Germany’s intentions to attack France by demanding passage for its armies through neutral Belgium made war almost inevitable. Britain, compared with the other nations, had a relatively small professional army of 248,000 or so regulars, many dispersed across the Empire. There were ex-soldiers liable to recall and 268,000 part-time Territorials. Horatio Lord Kitchener was appointed Secretary of State for War and launched a massive recruitment drive.

With the advent of newsreel, Camberwell Palace converted from a music hall to a cinema. New cinemas created more seating than existed in the New Grand Hall, opened in 1912. All venues provided essential information about recruitment and mobilization as well as short films of the Western Front.

Dance halls became meeting places from where the razzmatazz of service parades began, such as that of the Camberwell Gun Brigade in 1915. Posters plastered every wall and street front. While newspapers

such as the *South London Observer* did not publish photographs, civilians and soldiers often had pocket cameras with which they recorded events at home and the army’s progress to the Front. Soldiers’ personal cameras were to be banned the following spring about the time that conscription was introduced. The General Staff needed to control every aspect of intelligence. Universal optimism had to be created, encouraged, and spurred on by the music of the military bands, the lure of a well-made uniform and of collective camaraderie.

“The lads in their hundreds”

In a speech at a rally at the Hippodrome in October 1914 the local MP, Colonel Frederick Hall of the 156th Brigade, Royal Artillery (known as Camberwell’s Own) appealed to patriotism and youthful idealism by reminding the crowd that the centenary of the victorious Battle of Waterloo was imminent; another belligerent threat from the Continent must be seen off.

To some, it seemed that to enlist would be an adventure, a trip to the Continent, to others an escape from unemployment.

Consider the local butcher, Mr William Knowlden, a firm patriot: he is volunteered for training at the headquarters of one of the several local battalions, the First Surrey

Rifles in Flodden Road, known to us now as the Territorial Army Centre. “On Thursday 6th August, the first day of recruiting at Camberwell Town Hall, 44 men enlisted, the next day there were 77, by the Saturday 104. By the middle of August the number of men enlisting had risen to 260 a day and by the end of the month the number had reached 1,000 a day in Camberwell alone.” These men were volunteers for enlistment because it was not until March 1916 that conscription was introduced.

One hundred thousand young men joined up at the Camberwell Town Hall in the first two years of the conflict. Not all of these soldiers were local. Many recruits came from elsewhere in Surrey. The First Surrey’s recruiting area of south London had been incorporated into the new “County of London” since 1889, and so it became the 21st Battalion, The London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles) (Territorial Force) forming part of the Sixth London Brigade. The training of such a Brigade took place on Salisbury Plain before mobilization. One young gunner, Captain Hill, took to his training with great enthusiasm for a form of recreation known as “knees bending with arms rising”. Early in the war there was not the shortage of rifles that developed later.

Continued on next page



Right: *Women sorting newly arrived mail for despatch to the various censorship departments*

Courtesy of Imperial War Museum

Are we downhearted?

Continued from previous page

On embarkation at Southampton in March 1915 the various brigades joined with the Divisions forming the Expeditionary Force in Flanders.

The same William Knowlden of the First Surrey Rifles was among thousands landed at Le Havre. Would he return, unharmed, to his loved ones, or would he be listed as having died of his wounds, or killed in action or missing? He would eventually be recorded in his Regimental Roll of Honour as having being wounded in battle with numerous other locals, such as Frederick Thorne of Vauxhall and Leonard Walters of Camberwell. The latter was to die from his wounds at sea returning from Egypt in 1917.

By the end of the war of those commissioned into one local regiment, the First Surrey Rifles, more than 1,100 non-commissioned officers and riflemen had died and nearly 200 officers killed. Some did not return, either accounted for as dead or missing in action, and posthumously decorated. The wounded survivors were shipped back to Southwark Infirmary (now Dulwich Hospital), the luckier ones to the new Red Cross Hospital that boasted an x-ray machine and operating table. The less fortunate lay attended by volunteer nurses in field hospitals such as that in Myatts Fields.

The death toll for the entire British Expeditionary Force had risen alarmingly by the early months of 1915 after the promise of the men's return for Christmas lay in shreds.

Life on the home front

An absence of breadwinners brought hardship. The families of those for whom enlistment had provided an alternative to unemployment (the average pay of a private was seven shillings and sixpence per week), were forced to apply for relief where they might; local appeals were made to raise funds to help them. Rallies organised by the largest charity, The Prince of Wales Fund, did raise millions but a lion's share was for the war effort itself, parcels for the



The importance of nutrition and cooking was important

Courtesy of Imperial War Museum

troops, money for munitions manufacture and supplies for the Front.

Handouts of coal were initiated for the aged poor as prices rose and the five shillings a week for those over 70 was insufficient as distress and infectious diseases increased among old and the young, increasing pressure on the Red Cross.

Strangers in our midst

There was some sympathy and a welcome of sorts for the Belgian refugees whose country had been arbitrarily invaded. Numbers swelled after the fall of Brussels on 20 August 1914. Refugees were lodged at Dulwich Baths before, hopefully, being adopted into homes or civilian and volunteer units. Although aliens had to be registered, leniency was extended to those perceived as being victims of German "beastliness" an expression popularised by the officer corps. The uneasy rivalry between the ruling cousins of the two countries, George V and the Kaiser influenced both their nations.

There was of course, fear, like an unmentioned premonition of facing the death of loved ones. Reality dawned as Christmas 1914 approached with no sign of

demobilization only more bad news from France and Flanders. After some terrible battles – the retreat from Mons; the battle of the Marne; the first battle of Ypres – there was a realisation that the nation's call to arms must broaden, despite the hope and the promise.

As war persisted and intensified, so there grew a suspicion of "foreigners". People were distrustful even of those they knew, neighbours and shopkeepers. One German butcher in Dulwich was arrested as a spy in Thurlow Park Road and released finally when his employer vouched for him. In Albany Road a large plate glass window of a delicatessen owned by George Melscheimer was shattered by bricks, his business destroyed, this despite his having pinned a notice saying he had taken the oath of allegiance to Britain in 1909. Such an attack could have been by someone infused with the prevailing hatred of Germans or by an illiterate drunk, unfit for service and destitute.

A significant name change was made by the music master at James Allen's Girls School – Gustav Von Holst became the plain Holst, revered for *The Planets*. A fear of being perceived as "one of the enemy" was later (1917) to prompt the Royal Family to change from Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the House of Windsor.

Local opposition

Conscientious objectors (COs) included many Quakers and trade unionists that formed an East Dulwich branch of the No Conscription Fellowship. COs were treated harshly, as in the case of Percy Horton, an artist from Dulwich, sentenced to two years' hard labour. The confinement he suffered for the entire war was more unforgiving than any meted out to criminals. Those among the poor and destitute unfairly perceived to be part of the criminal classes were often coerced by gangsters.

Draft dodgers joined the black market. A gangster called McDonald, an associate of Mad Mossy of the Elephant and Castle gang, brought in contaminated meat from Argentina.

Such criminals encouraged the xenophobia and hatred of the German shopkeepers, encouraged riots, for example in Deptford, and engineered attacks on shops.

The protection money extracted replaced what might have previously been earned from boxing bouts, and the racing wars. (Income from boxing and horse racing had declined as fighters and jockeys volunteered, and every horse was pressed into service.) Then there were the remnants of the Sabini gang whose victims included black immigrants, an early generation of Caribbeans, who had thrived happily before the war in their cohesive community and even had their own popular jazz clubs.

Women (and children) go to work

Imagine a young mother of two or three children, perhaps the very Mrs Walters whose husband has left for Salisbury Plain. She attends a Nine-mile Parade of the 156th Brigade through the borough. Her boy drags his feet through the crowd demanding instead that they play roller hockey at the Lava Rink near Denmark Hill station, only to be disappointed. Already this large iron building is being hastily converted to a military depot. Within a few months, Mrs Walters and her boys and girls will be volunteering to take the train to Kent potato picking or to bundle up hay for the thousands of those horses at the Front.

Royal telegrams expressing sympathy

Let us imagine the war for Edna Coles of Camberwell Green,

competent and fairly prosperous. Her husband is Major LH Coles, an officer of the Camberwell Reserves who will shortly be sent to the Front. One of their sons has died in the Boer war, another is a decorated military chaplain, and the third enlists in the Middlesex Regiment and dies in October after the battle of the Marne. The fourth is a Naval officer.

Assuming her experience to mirror that of women of similar background, while constantly dealing with untold grief and worry, her activities might have included these: at first she volunteers to drive an ambulance but then because the family own a car she offers instead to drive a "Travelling Kitchen", a scheme subsidised by the Women's Ambulance Reserve and sponsored by the London Country Council. The idea is to give demonstrations about nutrition and cooking during what would prove to be a prolonged period of shortages. There is a kit costing £10 for the The Portable Kitchen. It includes basic utensils and equipment for the demonstrations. "Saving contrivances" of fuel include the fireless cooker, and the "hot-water jacket". In Walworth Public Library the mayor welcomes the kitchen. A group with as many as 160 housekeepers which might include soldiers' wives attends such a gathering.

Not all men were in the army. Mrs Coles' uncle is too old to be called up so is soon to become the borough treasurer. Several local committees supervised the organising of the civilian population, including civil defence; public works; air raid shelters; warnings of Zeppelin raids

and gas attacks; even pub opening hours. Henceforward there was to be a constant stream of alterations to peacetime rules and regulations.

The gung-ho spirit of the summer had to give way to thriftiness and going without. Queues became the norm outside bakeries on Denmark Hill and hardware shops in Peckham. In her regular column in the *Camberwell and Peckham Times* Miss Lyle of "La Belle Sauvage", rather than giving new dress patterns, advised how old dresses and coats could be altered or cut down. The clothing industry concentrated on making uniforms. There was humour too. A contemporary joke printed in the *Observer*:

*Nell: she has a motor-car tongue
Belle: what do yer mean?*

*Nell: oh she's always running
other people down.*

The death toll of the enlisted overseas mounted. The soldiers of Southwark suffered no less than those recruited from any other area. As families at home learnt of the horrors of life and death on the Continent, few complained and enormous sympathy for the terrible hardship of the men in the trenches reinforced a determination to do everything possible to maintain morale and win the war at whatever the cost.

Cathy Brooks-Baker

Below: The clothing industry concentrated on making uniforms so the population was encouraged to "make do and mend"

Courtesy of Imperial War Museum



A modest man who made an outstanding contribution

There can be few members of the Camberwell Society who did not at some point encounter Jeremy Bennett who died on 20 October in King's College Hospital following a fairly routine heart operation at the age of 77.

Jeremy was a modest but extremely intelligent and effective person who made an outstanding contribution through some 30 years of wholly voluntary work, both locally in Camberwell and Southwark and more nationally in the UK. Jeremy had been the victim of a non-malignant brain tumour for a number of years and was devotedly cared for by his wife Tine during this time: he was a shadow of his former self but continued gallantly to live as normal a life as was possible.

Jeremy was chairman of the Camberwell Society for seven years and then its president, responsible in person for some of our most important local initiatives. He had a very strong social conscience and was appalled by the amount of derelict housing and property in central Camberwell at a period when housing was in short supply, much of it of poor quality. He was inspired to promote in 1980 a survey of derelict property in the area. The very professional survey by the Society established that some 60% of this property was owned by Southwark Council! The publication of the survey and its successors entitled "Public Property: Public Waste" led eventually, as one would expect, to



Jeremy Bennett

great improvements, helped, I think, by the far better and indeed friendly working relationships developed between the Society and Council members.

Jeremy's initiatives included the saving of Denmark Hill station from demolition: a feature within the station was the future well-known Phoenix & Firkin public house. He was the leader in the rebuilding scheme for housing on the Mary Datchelor school site, with the permanent establishment of the now thriving Butterfly Tennis Club in the school tennis courts. This was against the efforts of developers who sought to have the former tennis courts used for additional housing.

In the course of this scheme a colleague recalls Jeremy's "passion, fortitude, sheer energy and the manner in which he galvanised local support". The redevelopment of Artichoke Mews was again one of

Jeremy's achievements.

Outside central Camberwell, Jeremy was responsible for setting up and developing the Groundwork environmental organisations in the south London region. Originally the Southwark Environment Trust, this became Groundwork Southwark and eventually Groundwork London with Jeremy as chairman. The local Groundwork projects included the regeneration of Burgess Park and Surrey Square. Groundwork is now a top UK national environmental charity.

Jeremy was an expert at handling meetings: even when these were troublesome, he was able through his mixture of tact, diplomacy and good humour to reach mutually acceptable solutions, even among parties formerly in disagreement. A colleague once described Jeremy as the "perfect embodiment of community-led regeneration, and that for many years he had been an exemplary proponent of everything this means, long before it became an established notion in policy terms at either the local or national level".

It is remarkable that Jeremy had any time to spare after all his voluntary work but professionally he was a most successful TV film producer, for many years with the BBC and then with his own independent company, 3BM TV Ltd. The many famous films produced by the latter included *Monty – in love and War*, a four-part series *Churchill*, *Hiroshima* and *The Cuban Missile Crisis* for which he received an Emmy award.

Jeremy received a Civic Award from Southwark Council as Citizen of the Year in 2003 and there was a Civic Association Award on behalf of Groundwork Southwark in 2008. However, it remains a mystery why this so gifted individual never received any wider public recognition for his superb voluntary work.

Jeremy will be a great loss to us all, but especially, of course, to his loving wife of 54 years, Tine, their three children and five grandchildren.



Jeremy (centre) welcomes the Duke of Gloucester on the opening day of the Phoenix & Firkin in June 1984 in the fully restored station booking hall

Nicholas Roskill

A lovely man, determined yet good humoured in all he did

I first met Jeremy some years before our mutual involvement in the early days of the fledgling Camberwell Society. As a recent graduate of Cambridge University he was in his first job, I think, working for the British Council. He was looking after a visiting party of Soviet architects, showing them the sights of London, and had heard that the Architectural Press had a private Victorian pub of its own, *The Bride of Denmark*, in the basement of its offices in Queen Anne's Gate, St James's. When he telephoned to inquire he was put through to me. I was then on the editorial staff of *The Architect's Journal*. Arrangements were made to entertain Jeremy's party of Soviet architects in The Bride. Needless to say what started as a rather solemn gathering ended as an evening of riotous camaraderie.

Some years later he rang me up one Friday afternoon. Would I carry out a survey of a house in Camberwell that he and Tine were interested in buying? The problem was that another buyer, a well-known architect who I happened to know, was also keen on the property and had arranged to have it surveyed immediately after the weekend. Jeremy asked, as a favour, if I would do a survey and report over the

weekend so that he could put in a bid first thing Monday. My wife Shirley is also an architect. So she and I did a survey and I wrote a report over the weekend. On Monday, armed with the survey report, he made his offer which was accepted. He and Tine became the owners of 30 Grove Lane and thus our neighbours. I learned

With a bottle of Scotch to fortify us, we planned each issue of the Newsletter

from him that the architect who was thwarted was furious, saying that the action of his surveyor, whose name was never revealed, was highly unprofessional.

Jeremy became actively involved in Camberwell Society affairs from about the mid-1970s, a few years after Shirley, who was a founding member, and I. He succeeded me as chairman in 1979 when I took over the editorship of the Society's *Newsletter* as it was then called, from its founding editor, Stephen Marks. I asked Jeremy and another BBC

journalist and Society member, Dick Oliver, to join me to form an editorial board. I remember our having meetings in Jeremy's first floor study to plan each issue. Because, at the time, he had a predilection for cigars, the study inevitably became the smoke-filled room where, with a bottle of Scotch to fortify us, we planned each issue of the *Newsletter*.

In time Jeremy also succeeded me as president of the Camberwell Society and over the years worked tirelessly on its campaigns. But he also leaves a legacy of achievements in the wider field of the community and the environment, and in his distinguished career as a BBC producer and subsequently through his own independent production company. He loved Tine and his family and always found time for them. In fact his wife of 54 years and their family of talented sons were, I think, always at the centre of his extremely busy life.

Jeremy was a lovely man, always at once determined yet good humoured in everything he tackled. I have treasured memories of our friendship and like all those who knew him well, shall miss him very much.

Jim Tanner

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Roy Brooks

Working to preserve a truly special building

During 2017, regular *CQ* readers have enjoyed the excellent series of articles by Donald Mason about the old St Giles' Church, which was destroyed by fire in 1841. Immediately after, a competition to choose the architect to produce a fitting new church for Camberwell was won by the firm of Scott and Moffat. And so, St Giles' became the first major Gothic building by Sir George Gilbert Scott, best known as architect of the former Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station and the Albert Memorial. Indeed, the Scott dynasty have in different ways left their mark on the local area: George junior, his son, designed the main buildings of Dulwich College, and Giles, his grandson, masterminded the William Booth College on Champion Park.

Before embarking on his career as a cathedral organist and composer, Samuel Wesley was organist for several years in the old church. After the fire, he returned to design the present organ of 1844 and played it at the opening recital. The stained glass masterpiece which is the east window was designed for the new church by John Ruskin, a resident of Camberwell, and his friend Edmund Oldfield. The rich colours are based on the medieval glass of Chartres Cathedral and other French cathedrals which Ruskin visited in 1844 especially to get ideas for St Giles'.

The church has a peal of ten

bells, which can be heard across Camberwell some evenings, and for weddings and other significant events. The bells were cast in 1844 at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, and the largest weighs 1,220 kilograms. Because of these highly significant architectural and artistic features, St Giles' has a Grade 2* listing, and so is recognised nationally as a building of great importance, not least because it is very beautiful.

Never out of sight

Today, no matter where you are in Camberwell, you are never more than a few steps out of sight of the steeple of St Giles'. I have been lucky enough to step out on the roof, from which there is a magnificent view of central London; a reminder that our community sits in the middle of one of the world's greatest cities.

As well as sitting at the physical and spiritual heart of Camberwell, the church also plays a significant role in the secular life of SE5, in particular through community involvement in music and the arts. Many local residents will have been to one of the silent film nights or the now famed organochoir evenings (if you haven't, I can strongly recommend both). The crypt has, since 1995, also hosted one of London's finest jazz clubs.

Yet, despite the building's solid outward appearance, a considerable amount of work has been required over the years to preserve it in its

current state. Vital restoration work has taken place to the roof to keep the church watertight, as well as to some of the external masonry. And there is much more to do. The Friends of St Giles' is a registered charity, which raises money for the repair and maintenance of the building by supporting and hosting regular events at the church.

One of the Friends' successes in 2017 has been the restoration of the church garden, which for the first time featured in the annual Camberwell Society's Open Gardens Day in June. With the church celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2018, the Friends have now set themselves the ambition of restoring the church clock, which has been broken for a number of years. We will also be looking to repair the floodlighting for the building, and have supported the application of funding for a new piano for the Camberwell Community Choir. In addition, over the coming years we will be supporting the church's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to refurbish the Wesley organ, which is in urgent need of major restoration work if it is to be heard by future generations.

Join the Friends

Membership of the Friends is not reserved for regular churchgoers. Maybe you were married or baptised in the church. Perhaps you used to attend, but have now moved away. Whether you go to church regularly or not at all, simply loving the building and wanting it to be preserved and enhanced is the only qualification to joining. For their £25 annual membership, Friends receive regular newsletters, invitations to Friends events, and advance notice of events taking place at the church. We would also love for more people to get involved in our work. If you are interested in joining, and helping to preserve this truly special building, please email office@camberwellparish.org.uk.

Robert Cope



St Giles' Church

A threat hangs over a landmark green space in Camberwell

Following Tracey Beresford's letter (CQ 191) drawing attention to the reduction of green space and tree felling at Elmington Green to make way for high density housing, readers may be interested to learn of the threat now hanging over a landmark green space in Camberwell.

If Southwark's proposed erection of three five-storey blocks right on the corner of Champion Hill and Dog Kennel Hill goes ahead, the small green which is nonetheless a key element in the open and green landscape of this crossroads at the summit of Grove Lane, plus the wooded area of mature yew, limes and maples along Champion Hill and around Seavington House, are all due for destruction.

As Tracey Beresford very rightly states, the Camberwell community sorely needs both council housing and green space but there must be an alternative to thoughtlessly simply sacrificing one for the other.

The three planned blocks are being pushed up to the perimeters of this site partly as a result of the further, private, five-storey development (already granted planning) immediately adjacent to the south – the two developments will have only the barest channel between them – each will effectively blight the other.

This sunny south-facing slope of Dog Kennel Hill is a potentially magnificent site. Surely imaginative and cohesive town-planning here could enhance south Camberwell, with integrated, rather than socially divisive, housing set amongst trees and green such as gave Camberwell Green its name and its charm? A group of local residents believe it's possible.

(www.championhill.org.uk)

Jenifer Milner

We welcome your comments and views.

Please email the editor at mpowleybaker@gmail.com or post to 4 Datchelor Place, London SE5 7AP



The small green pictured above will be lost, as will a wooded area of mature trees comprising yew, limes and maples (top)

An opportunity to improve road safety

Southwark Council should take the opportunity presented to improve safety and quality of life in the residential streets of our borough.

Road safety is adversely affected by traffic cutting through residential areas. I am thankfully not aware of any accidents occurring in the roads around Camberwell Grove due to the bridge closure. But there is clear use of these roads for cutting through, saving time on the trip to the shops.

Residents of the streets surrounding Camberwell Grove have

seen their safety and quality of life adversely affected by the bridge closure, and understandably they argued for it to re-open.

But, surely better is to address the issue and restrict or prevent traffic cutting through these areas. There is no reason why traffic cannot use the main roads.

Keeping the bridge closed and restricting rat runs in adjacent residential areas would have improved safety and quality of life for all.

Tony and Christine Coleman

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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 (either Lambeth or Southwark) that we object, support or have no objection to an application where we have decided to comment.

Owing to the limited space available in the *Quarterly*, we are only able to print a selection of the applications on which the Society has commented.

At the time of going to press comments were not available on our website

www.camberwellsociety.org.uk

We hope to rectify this situation in the near future.

Flat 1, 12 Baldwin Crescent, SE5

Demolition of existing garages at rear of property and the construction of a new two-bedroom dwelling with garden and one garage.

The Society objects to this application. While the layout of the new house is satisfactory in its way, it does not take adequate account

of its context.

The house and garden plan extends across almost the whole of the gap between 12 Baldwin Crescent and 9 County Grove on basement and ground floor levels, thereby using up most of the garden space belonging to 12 Baldwin Crescent, and with its own garden space taking the form of a courtyard within high walls

It would be less intrusive for the neighbourhood and more convenient for the future residents if the house was planned on a smaller footprint with two floors above ground level alongside the three-storey windowless flank wall of 9 County Grove, and with its garden alongside the residual garden at 12 Baldwin Crescent.

OBJECTION

Land to the rear of 44 Grove Lane, SE5

Alterations to the existing single storey buildings to facilitate the change of use from ancillary residential accommodation to a separate dwelling on land rear of 44 Grove Lane with access via Kerfield Place.

The proposal is admirably circumspect in its impact on the surrounding buildings on Kerfield Place, fitting seamlessly into the existing street elevation, with an economical footprint and specific acknowledgement of the existing pointed gables adjacent, and also the change in street level. The internal planning is also exemplary.

There are two areas of concern: if the building is to be a separate dwelling, there is no garden attached and the blank wall facing the rear of 42 Grove Lane is uncompromising.

However, it should be possible to rectify these points satisfactorily.

30 Ivanhoe Road SE5

Construction of a second and third floor extension rear extension.

This is a mid-terrace property. To raise the rear extension one more storey, and the roof at the rear, would seem to overshadow the adjoining property at 26 Malfort Road. The extensions to No 28 Ivanhoe Road are sited directly on the south side of No 26. No 32 Ivanhoe Road, being to the south of No 28, would not be as overshadowed.

The drawings take no account of adjoining properties and simply show No 30 in isolation (other than on the block plan).

As the effect on the adjoining property is not clear, but likely to be detrimental, the Society objects to this application.

OBJECTION

60 Southwell Road, SE5

Erection of an additional storey to provide third floor.

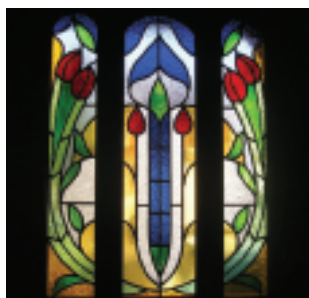
A well-conceived extension to the existing property. Due to its set back location, the proposal does not impinge on the street or the adjoining listed villas 56/58. The Society supports this application.

19 Urlwin Street, SE5

Replacement of the existing pitched roof form with a mansard-style roof, including raising of rear parapet.

This is a mid-terrace property and the only one, it seems that has a pitched roof with front dormer rather than a full mansard, which each of the others in this terrace have. As this would unify the terrace, there is no objection.

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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.

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Contact the Editor, Margaret Powley-Baker

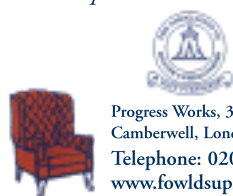
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