
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.

Forthcoming Events

AGM, Tuesday 15 May
Open Gardens Day, Sunday 3 June
Xmas Party, Monday 3 December

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 15 April, 3pm, *Peckham Society AGM* in the Goose Green Centre, 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
www.stgilescambewell.org

Wells Way Triangle Residents Association

Andrew Osborne
WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com



Cover: Viewing art in Burgess Park (see story on page 17)

Nick signs off after seven years in the chair

This is my last letter as Chair of the Camberwell Society. I have been Chair since 2011, and seven years of me is more than enough for anyone. I will therefore be stepping down at our annual general meeting (which will take place on Tuesday 15 May – the details appear on page 15). I am really pleased to tell you that my successor will be our current Vice-Chair, Nick (yes, another one) Mair, who I know will do a super job as your Chair. There will be more about Nick in a future issue.

As I have written on many occasions, the Camberwell Society is your society, and I would therefore encourage you to be active members. Our main aim is to try and contribute to making Camberwell a great place for all those who live or work here, and there is always so much more that can be done. We also raise money for good locally focused charities – this year it is St Giles Trust.

Sometimes it needs something to



Nick Holt

be angry about – usually a planning or local transport matter – and so if there is something that you feel strongly about, or would like to change, or you would simply like to feel a bit more involved with Camberwell, then do let me know.

In January we held a public meeting of the Executive Committee in the Grove pub on Camberwell Grove. The purpose was to give prospective members a feel for the issues that we deal with. It was a success and we will be holding

another open meeting later in the year – watch for details on our Facebook page and do come along if you can. There is no minimum time commitment if you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee, just a desire to do your bit in making Camberwell such a good place to be.

This issue of *CQ* highlights the sheer variety of things going on in Camberwell. We spend a morning with the Camberwell Green police team, profile two local authors in what will be the first of a series, as well as looking back at the saga of the railway bridge on Camberwell Grove. We also take a look at Art in Burgess Park.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your Chair, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support; it has been much appreciated.

Nick Holt

Nick.holt.camberwell.soc@gmail.com

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page 19.

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A morning with the Camberwell Green Police team

It is 6am on a dark winter morning. The streetlights are still lit as Richard Price, in blue jeans and grey hoodie, slips into the Safer Neighbourhood team office at 9 Wren Road. By 6.30, changed into uniform – blue trousers, white shirt with police number and rank insignia of sergeant comprising three white chevrons on the epaulettes, Velcro name badge on the front – he scrolls through his emails reading the borough briefing, duty officer and CID handovers information, and checks the overnight anti-social behaviour reports and crimes.

There have been 11 crimes reported in Camberwell over the past 24 hours: one burglary, one attempted burglary, three incidents of criminal damage, one robbery, three thefts of pedal bikes, one car broken into and one domestic assault. Between one and a dozen crimes are reported daily in the ward which covers the triangle between Southampton Way, John Ruskin Street and Coldharbour Lane. Almost 16,000 people live here. To find out what has been happening near you check <https://www.police.uk/metropolitan/E05000535/crime>

Recent trends are a rise in youth violence between gangs in Walworth and Peckham, mopeds being used for snatch thefts, reduction in anti-social behaviour on the Green, continued drug dealing in out of the way places, opportunistic burglary and theft. In 2016 Southwark recorded a 25 per cent reduction in violent crime and a 28 per cent reduction in gun crime since 2010.

Price plans the day. He has to make the best use of his Camberwell Green team, made up of two police constables and one community support officer. They have to patrol the area, investigate crimes and make “cocooning” visits. Because burglars tend to strike in the same place, victims of house break-ins are visited, their neighbours alerted and advised about prevention, with the aim of creating a safe cocoon round the area to prevent more break-ins. In addition, there are London-wide activities such as the anti-knife crime Operation Sceptre. Every week the team carries

out weapon sweeps in estates where there is gang activity to look for knives hidden in flower beds and behind drain pipes. It gives talks in schools to dissuade pupils from carrying weapons. Today, South Camberwell, one of the other teams that Price is responsible for, will carry out test purchases at local shops with Trading Standards officials to ensure knives and fireworks are not being sold unlawfully.

At 8am Police Constables Mark McKay and Charlotte Browning arrive. They too start their nine-hour shift by checking the Southwark overnight crime briefing. Both of them came to Camberwell through the Police Now scheme that recruits graduates to work in local policing as part of safer neighbourhood teams. History graduate McKay was recruited after working as a journalist for three years. He gives two reasons for joining the force: better prospects and the inspiration of a police detective uncle who led the police investigation into the 2001 Selby train disaster. Having completed his mandatory two years, McKay asked to stay on in Camberwell because the operations he had been involved in, such as closing a crack house and reducing anti-social behaviour around the Green, have had a visible impact.

Charlotte graduated from Cambridge in law intending to become a criminal barrister. But a placement with the Hertfordshire Police was a lot more fun than her

internship at the bar. So she started volunteering as a police officer for 16 hours a month in Islington, found she was good at working with people and, encouraged by her mentor, the female DCI who dealt with the London Bridge attack, joined the police. A mere five feet three inches tall, Charlotte, 24, is still very effective in quelling disturbances. In body camera footage from last bonfire night she can be seen calmly but firmly detaining suspected trouble makers. She says, “No one has ever said to me you cannot do this because women are less physically strong. In fact people are still less likely to hit a woman and we can be better at calming people down.” She carries the eight kilo police uniform lightly, but regrets that regulations no longer allow her to dye her hair flame red. For safety reasons her long hair must be tied securely in a bun.

Mark and Charlotte are analytical about the social context of crime. In Camberwell Green 67 per cent of residents are in the lowest 20 per cent income bracket. “People in most deprived areas are most likely to be the victims of property crime. The poorest 10 per cent of people are twice as likely to be victims of personal crime as the next 20 per cent. Crime is often opportunistic. Burglars usually live near these people, many of whom are out all day, working long hours. In more well-off areas, there are secondary guardians – gardeners, child carers, cleaners – so spontaneous crime is not so easy.”

At 10am Police Community Support Officer Danny Cloud arrives. Working family-friendly hours, ten to seven, he can drop off his children at school on the way to work. He clocks in on his computer, checks the crime briefing and plans his day. Tasks include a visit to flats involved in a neighbour dispute. With over a dozen years’ experience of policing in Camberwell Green, Danny is familiar with the parties and suspects that conflict has again flared up because one of them has stopped taking their medication. “A lot of neighbour disputes involve mental health issues. They start with noise, shouting that



Sergeant Richard Price

becomes too much for neighbours, people smoking weed and noisy visitors. If there is no solution the situation escalates and can lead to harassment. Often we need to make a referral to the mental health team and we have a good relationship with South London and Maudsley NHS Trust.”

Over his dozen years working in Camberwell Green, the intervention that gave Danny the most satisfaction started with a call from a relative who could not get a reply from a lady in Camberwell. Danny found her housebound with a broken toilet, no hot water, no working light bulbs, 18 inches of rubbish piled on the floor, phone broken and living on crisps, cheese and wine delivered by the local shop. He organised a plumber, cleaning, a phone and dropped in daily. That made a difference. His worst experience was some years ago during a disturbance at a local secondary school when he and the schools officer were surrounded by about a hundred school pupils shouting and throwing stones. “We radioed for help. The schools officer was down. I was the only one left standing when my sergeant came running round the corner like the cavalry, waving his baton.”

Over the past dozen years secondary schools in the area have much improved, although a “lack of respect” is often a problem, particularly among youths who cluster around MacDonald’s on Denmark Hill. Some young people carry weapons nowadays because the fear of gang violence is greater than their fear of the police. Criminal behaviour is exacerbated by shops selling cheap alcohol and drug dealers operating in concealed places. There have been welcome changes over the years. Burglary is much reduced, thanks to “cocooning”. Like the rest of the team, Danny welcomes the new “body worn cameras” introduced across the Met in 2017. “It’s like having a professional witness on the spot,” he says.

The most drastic change has been the reduction in police numbers. There was one sergeant, three PCs and four PCSOs when Danny started,



The Safer Neighbourhood team: (l-r) PC Mark McKay, Sergeant Richard Price, PCSO Danny Cloud and PC Charlotte Browning

now there are two PCs, one PCSO and part of a sergeant’s time. Sergeant Price, whom Danny calls the “skipper” (inspectors are called “guv’nor”) is not only responsible for three teams, but is often seconded to London-wide operations. Consequently the workload is higher, there is less time for patrolling, for prevention, for local police input into planning decisions and shifts are longer. Like the rest of the team, Danny is acutely aware of the cost of policing. A court order on anti-social behaviour costs the force some £15k to £20k.

Anti-social behaviour, often from street drinkers, has long been a problem around Camberwell Green. The workhouse in Havil Street moved to Gordon Road in the late 19th century and by the time of its closure in 1985, the “Camberwell Spike”, officially Camberwell Reception Centre, housed some 1,100 homeless men. There are still several hostels in the area. Until two years ago the police response was to regularly seize the drinkers and tell them not to do it again. In 2016, in response to regular complaints from local schools, businesses and residents, about some 15 loud street drinkers blocking pavements and using colourful language around Milkwell Yard (next to Paddy Power), the police team started removing their alcohol and issued a community protection order written

warning stating that their behaviour was unreasonable, persistent and having a bad effect on the community. The drinkers were given information about the service offered by Lifeline in Camberwell Road for people who wanted to stop drug and alcohol abuse. Then community protection notices were issued, and a court order obtained excluding the two ringleaders from the area. Some of the benches where the group congregated were removed from the Green and that particular group is no longer causing regular disturbances.

Throughout 2015 about seven per cent of all calls to police from the Samuel Lewis Trust, in Warner Road, were linked to a crack house on the estate. Neighbours reported regular disturbances, people coming to the flat at all hours, drug users outside the front door, petrol put through the letterbox. Southwark’s anti-social behaviour officer found that the tenant was a vulnerable woman who was being abused by dealers. A closure order was obtained that enables a crack house to be closed and the Housing Association to obtain possession of the property. The tenant moved out to a place of safety and a dozen police raided the flat, breaking the door down and arresting the dealers. It was PC Mark McKay’s first raid. He remembers being very nervous, hands struggling

Continued on next page

A morning with the Police *Continued from previous page*

to do up the zip of his fleece as the police approached the property. But the raid was successful and complaints ceased. Since then he has dealt with another crack house and obtained a criminal behaviour order to restrain dealers exploiting vulnerable tenants in supported housing.

Today, the Camberwell Green team is carrying out proactive policing in Camberwell Station Road. Here owners of a new block of flats have been complaining about the activities of local garages which spill out from under the railway arches onto the road. The flat-owners set up their own Facebook group and tweeted regularly – “illegal car of the day seen driving on our road”, sending pictures to their local MP, councillor and Camberwell Green police of “one of the many untaxed and uninsured cars on our road”. The police team walked around the area with Harriet Harman, MP for Camberwell and Peckham, did a survey of local residents and decided to support the Southwark parking enforcement team to take action against uninsured and untaxed cars left in the road. Over the past six months 100 cars have been towed away. Today, when the Southwark team and the police arrive, one man jumps out of an uninsured car he

seems to be working on and sprints away, and the garage owner denies all knowledge of the vehicle. By noon five cars have been towed away. This is a job that Southwark parking enforcement people say they would not feel safe doing without a police presence. The impact on the community is clear. In the residents’ survey in June, only 38 per cent said they felt very safe; by October this had increased to 91 per cent. In June only 60 per cent felt that the police did a good job to keep them informed; by October this had increased to 100 per cent. The number of residents who believed that the police understood the issues that they were facing also increased from 60 to 100 per cent. Over 91 per cent of residents were pleased that the police were dealing with the vehicles.

Impressive as this data is, perhaps the conflict between businesses and residents could have been foreseen before planners gave the go-ahead for new flats in a road dominated by garages. One consequence of the reduction in police staff is that local officers no longer get involved in advising on planning applications. Their local knowledge is not used; a more standard check is carried out centrally.

From this Camberwell morning it is clear that the police workload is impacted by societal issues – a lack of thoughtful planning, social problems of addiction, lack of support and facilities for young people in the area. At an autumn local community council meeting on policing and youth, this tension became clear as youth spoke out about the lack of facilities in the area, and said they often did not feel safe. But a cash-pressed local Council could not promise more facilities to keep young people off the street. Youth gave stop and search tactics as one of the reasons that most of them would not join the police force. Yet with knife crime increasing and stop and search Operation Winter Night across London resulting in the seizure of 300 knives, the Mayor of London has predicted that stop and search will be used more.

Yet Danny draws on his dozen years working the Camberwell Green patch to strike a note of optimism. “We have succeeded because Camberwell is a friendly place, we get a lot of community support from people who have been on ward safer neighbourhood panels for some years and have a good relationship with Southwark’s Community wardens.”

Marie Staunton



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Reasons of conscience

The First World War, as Cathy Brooks-Baker showed in *CQ* No 195, impacted on Camberwell in many ways. For men of fighting age there were two particular interfaces with the military machine. The first was the army recruiting office, located in the public baths in Artichoke Place.

The second was the Military Service Tribunal, which met in Camberwell town hall. This body adjudicated on claims for exemption. It consisted predominantly of magistrates and council members but included two splendidly named military men, Major-General Sir A Montgomery Moore and Colonel Sir Wodehouse B Richardson. Alongside and acting as an advocate for enlistment was a uniformed junior officer, the Military Representative. He joined in the questioning. He could, and often did, appeal against the tribunal's decision.

Tribunals are best known for their treatment of men who objected to bearing arms for reasons of conscience. These comprised only a small fraction of cases however. Much more common were applications on grounds of ill-health, of being the sole support for an aged relative, of running a small business, of doing work that was essential to the community or important for the

At Camberwell tribunal there were outbursts of hostility

war effort. Employers often submitted applications en bloc for groups of workers. Camberwell tribunal, covering the old borough – which included Peckham, Nunhead and Dulwich – was kept extremely busy.

Historian Cyril Pearce's national register of conscientious objectors, or COs – accessible via the Imperial War Museum website – shows that 142 men from the borough refused to serve on those grounds. Many were members of the No-Conscription Fellowship, or NCF, which had an active branch in East Dulwich, one of 31 in London. The driving force here was Arthur Creech Jones, a civil

service clerk aged 24 in 1916, who was also secretary of Camberwell Trades and Labour Council. He lived in Keston Road, Peckham.

As reported in the brief press coverage the motivation of objectors was mostly expressed in religious or ethical terms. For example, MW Field, a civil servant of Camberwell Grove, said he believed that all human life was sacred and that the taking of human life was contrary to

“Men were never intended to stick bayonets into one another's stomachs.”

Christian duty. Only very few cited a political objection. AD Chipperfield, a french polisher living in Carlton Grove, was one. He told the tribunal that as an International Socialist he was “doing his duty to the State and to humanity” by refusing to serve.

Tribunals acquired a bad reputation for the way they dealt with men like these.

Bertrand Russell, active in the NCF at national level, called it “a madness of persecution.” At Camberwell tribunal there were outbursts of hostility. What's interesting is that these outbursts were then criticised and countered by other tribunal members. Mr S Sayer declared on one occasion that members were biased, were continually muttering such remarks as “They ought to be shot, or ought to be hanged” and did not exhibit the judicial attitude required of them. One suspects the military men here, though the paper is discreet on the subject.

The tribunal could grant absolute exemption but it was usually conditional or temporary. If judged genuine the condition in the case of COs was that they undertake non-combatant service. Many declined this option because they held it contributed to the war effort. They, and those who were not offered the choice, were then arrested when they failed to report and handed over to a military escort; then court-martialled when they refused to obey orders;

then sentenced to hard labour.

In June 1916, after four months of conscription, the government sought to clear the prisons by having these men's cases reviewed. Those judged genuine were given the chance of transferring to work at various civilian labour camps. The great majority accepted.

A minority of a 1,000 to 1,500 “absolutists” refused the offer, determined to demonstrate maximum opposition to the war.

Jones was one of the 1,000 to 1,500 “absolutists” who, to demonstrate maximum opposition to the war, refused the offer. Arrested in September 1916, he faced four courts martial in all, each followed by hard labour, and stepped free only in April 1919. He went on to become colonial secretary in the Attlee government.

If one discards the 20 incomplete records in Cyril Pearce's register, one is left with a fair overview of the

“They ought to be shot, or ought to be hanged”

degrees of resistance shown by Camberwell men. Of the remaining 122 objectors, 27 served with the Non-Combatant Corps. Five served with the Friends' Ambulance Unit. Fifty-five laboured in the camps or performed other work of national importance.

Finally, 35 or one quarter of the total, were absolutists who outfaced the military with maximum defiance. He was not a soldier and never would be, declared Ernest Southern, a shop assistant, of Grosvenor Terrace. “Men were never intended to stick bayonets into one another's stomachs.”

John Taylor

To read more: a PDF of John Taylor's - *Against the Tide: War-resisters in south London 1914-16* – is available on the University of Hertfordshire's Everyday Lives in War website: <https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk>

Declared “one of the prettiest open spaces in south London”

The first known reference to the area we know as Brunswick Park can be found in the Domesday survey of 1087. At that time it was part of the 63 acres of meadowlands held by St Giles' Church known as the Glebe, which provided an income for the vicar. From the evidence of historical maps and records it seems to have remained largely unaltered until the middle of the 19th century, nearly 800 years later. A map dated 1842 shows that the area was still open fields. When change did come however, as a consequence of the Industrial Revolution, it was fast and dramatic in nature.

At the beginning of the 19th century Camberwell was a village in the County of Surrey, known for its rural tranquility and healing springs. Wealthy people had country estates here, and their names, such as Bowyer, de Crespigny and Lettsom are still familiar through local street names. The area was described as being very attractive, and Londoners would visit to escape the pollution and overcrowding of the conurbation.



The view in Brunswick Park, looking north

The growth of industry in 19th century London led to a massive increase in population, creating considerable pressure to extend its boundaries. The arrival in Camberwell of trains in 1862 and double decker trams in 1871 made commuting quick and affordable, enabling workers to live further away from their place of employment. This in turn triggered the rapid development of housing for the middle and working classes. Consequently the population of the parish of Camberwell (which comprised Camberwell, Peckham and Dulwich) grew from 7,059 in 1801 to 71,488 in 1861, and a staggering 235,344 in 1891.

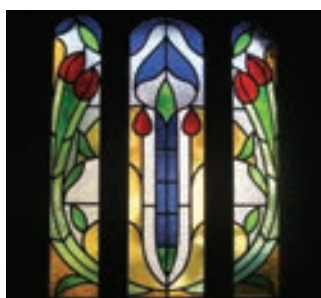
In 1847 a Mr WJ Hudson acquired part of the Glebe with a view to residential development. His plan for the site included a large private garden in the centre surrounded by large houses, no doubt inspired by the garden squares currently fashionable in north London. The area was named Brunswick Square, apparently to commemorate the daughter of the Duke of Brunswick, Princess Caroline. Although I've not been able to discover the source of this claim, or why Mr Hudson might have chosen to name the area in her honour, it's certainly an interesting story. The Prince of Wales, the future King George IV, married Caroline in 1795, apparently at the insistence of

his father. The marriage was notoriously unhappy, and the couple soon separated, following the birth of their only child. Caroline was very popular with the general public, in part because her husband was widely disliked and was considered to have treated her badly, but also because she became associated with the reform movement. The breakdown of the marriage was played out in the public arena, culminating in Queen Caroline being refused entry to Westminster Abbey on the occasion of the King's coronation in 1821. Caroline died three weeks later, claiming to have been poisoned.

Although Mr Hudson lost ownership of the land in 1863 at a hearing in the Chancery Court, subsequent developers and leaseholders broadly adhered to his original plans. In addition to housing, the Presbyterian chapel, in what is now Benhill Road, was built in 1868, and the former St Giles Hospital buildings which flank the eastern side of the park were built between 1899-1903. The site continued to be known as Brunswick Square, and the central area survived as a private garden for the residents of some of the houses built around its perimeter.

As the local population increased dramatically, the dearth of open space for leisure activities and exercise, especially in the poorer northern parts of the borough, became a matter of increasing concern. In

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1889 Camberwell was transferred administratively from the County of Surrey to the London County Council, in recognition of its transition from a village to a suburb of the metropolis. Then in 1900 Camberwell Parish, which had been run by the Vestry, was renamed the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell.

In 1893, the Vestry decided to pave the roads in Brunswick Square, and at the same time made an offer to purchase the private gardens in order to create a park open to the public. Some residents were in agreement but others were not. In 1901, following legislative changes, the recently created Borough Council bought Brunswick Park via a compulsory purchase order for the sum of £6,100. A further sum of £2,599 was subsequently spent on the provision of facilities and improvements to the layout. The park had previously been bisected by a road, and this was removed in order to create one larger space of approximately four acres.

Brunswick Park was officially opened to great fanfare on July 15 1907 by the Mayor of Camberwell, Councillor Lane Mitchell. A report in the *South London Press*, dated July 20, provided extensive coverage of the event. Ticket holders were invited to the opening ceremony, which took place on a special dais. The chairman, Councillor Markillie, donated a drinking fountain, and in his speech described the park as “one of the prettiest open spaces in south London.” The weather was said to be magnificent, and thousands of people turned up to celebrate the occasion. The Camberwell Military Band played a varied programme of music, and afterwards the Mayor received a large number of guests at the Town Hall, where refreshments were served.

The newly created park proved to be extremely popular, providing much needed open space for the local population. Numerous events were held there, including flower shows, donkey parades, and a fund raising and call for volunteers event in the First World War. According to the



Ordnance Survey maps show how the area used to be. The above map is dated 1871, and the one below 1894



Exploring Southwark website, there was even a boxing match held there between the local MP and a local vicar which, after three rounds, was declared a draw.

The delays and difficulties encountered in creating the park had, however, caused considerable resentment. Mr JR Tomkins, a former Mayor of Camberwell, compared the treatment of poorer south London districts to those in the West End. The latter had hundreds of acres of parks maintained at public expense,

whereas areas such as Camberwell had to fund them out of the local rates. He was also indignant that the London County Council (LCC) had contributed so little to the creation of Brunswick Park. The total cost of land purchase, the provision of facilities and improvements to the layout came to £8,699, a not inconsiderable sum at that time. The contribution by the London County Council is unclear. According to the

Continued on next page

“One of the prettiest open spaces in south London”

Continued from previous page

South London Press, this had amounted to only £818, whereas according to the London Parks and Gardens Trust website, the LCC had contributed £1,241 towards the cost of purchase. It may well be that both are correct, though I could find no evidence of the larger sum, but this would still only come to a total of £2,059, far short of the total cost. Mr Tomkins’ point that a heavy burden was borne by the local rates for both the creation and ongoing maintenance of the park would seem to have some justification.

Further work on the park was carried out in the 1930s, including the provision of a playground, two hard tennis courts and a gravel pitch, presumably for ball games. According to the press report, the public convenience was also enlarged, and given a red-tiled roof. The park was officially reopened by the Mayor, Councillor Clark, on 9 October, 1937. In addition, a new drinking fountain was donated by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain Association.

Between 1997 and 1999 the London Borough of Southwark undertook a renovation programme at a cost of £230,000. This was very comprehensive and included new lighting, planting, restructured pathways and edgings, new disabled access and refurbishment of the children's playground and the tennis courts. Coming right up to date, there has recently been a further expansion and upgrading of the children's play area, and plans are afoot to convert one of the redundant buildings into an arts space/cafe.

More than a century since it was opened, Brunswick Park remains as popular as ever with local residents. Notwithstanding the massive social and economic changes which have taken place, people in densely populated urban areas clearly still value the access to open space and the opportunity to get closer to nature which parks provide.



The drinking fountain donated by Councillor Markillie in 1907



Alison Kirby

The Mayor, Councillor Clark, officially opens the park on 9 October, 1937

The remarkable Gavin Stamp — 15 March 1948-30 December 2017

Gavin Stamp was described in the newspaper obituaries as “elegant and opinionated”, a great defender of our architectural heritage, a true scholar, man of conviction, an intellectual tour de force, a real gent, an inspirational campaigner: the tributes could fill the whole of this *CQ*.

Gavin was a relatively new Camberwell resident. He married Rosemary Hill, the Pugin biographer and fellow historian, in 2014, so his last years were spent almost in the shadow of our St Giles’, George Gilbert Scott’s marvellous Gothic Revival church. The Scotts were a particular interest to Gavin – he wrote his PhD on George Gilbert Scott junior, whose son, also Gilbert George, designed the telephone boxes.

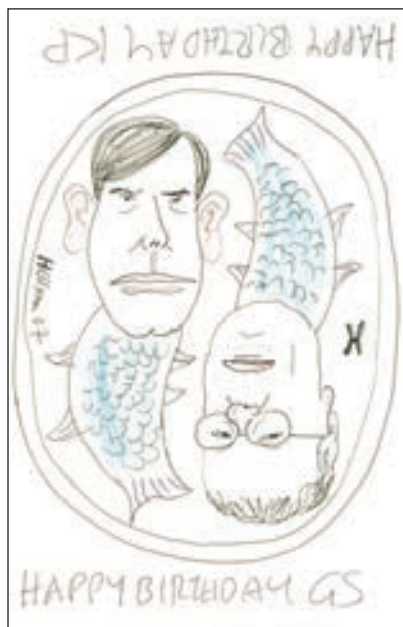
In the early 1980s he had lived with his first wife and their family very near to St Pancras station, the most famous of GG Scott’s creations. He wrote for the *Spectator* and it has been said that the age of denim never touched him; he favoured tweed jackets, scarves and polished shoes.

Born in Bromley, he won a scholarship to Dulwich College, then went on to Cambridge, where he took a degree in history, which included architectural history.

Private Eye’s Piloti

After Cambridge he returned to south London, often writing for the Architectural Press, which had offices conveniently over a pub in Queensgate, where he met other contributors including Osbert Lancaster, John Betjeman and Nikolaus Pevsner. He became close to Betjeman, who suggested that he take over his *Private Eye* column “Nooks and Corners of the New Barbarism”. So Gavin Stamp took the pseudonym of Piloti and relentlessly attacked the cupidity of developers, unthinking planning authorities and third-rate architects who have done so much to damage our built environment.

In his last column, published only a week before he died, he suggested that Britain needed some new architectural prizes such as the Attila the Hun award “for vandalism



A drawing of Gavin by Rosemary Hill

that never ceases” (2017 for Liverpool Council) and the Emperor Nero award “for fiddling while Rome burns” (for the House of Commons), though they have now agreed to move out while works are done, having at last understood that the magnificence of the Parliament building is the only thing that still gives “dignity and status to this collection of mediocrities”. Virginia Woolf merely commented that she could not visualize the often red-faced MPs rendered in the dignity of marble.

In 1990 he moved to Glasgow with his family, to a house built and once lived in by Alexander “Greek” Thomson in the mid 19th century. He lectured at the art school and was promoted to professor status. He championed Thomson and founded a society in his name with the remit of protecting Thomas’s architectural legacy. Unfortunately, the restoration of the Glasgow house became unaffordable, his marriage had failed, so he returned to London in 2003 to work as a writer, lecturer and campaigner through his writing for the appreciation of architects like Scott, Thomson and Lutyens and the colonial architecture of India.

In a less grand, but still worthwhile campaign, he was instrumental in saving many telephone boxes. The public was fond of them,

and didn’t want them replaced by a more modern design, but, as so often in these cases, it needed people with energy to prevent the uncaring, thoughtless and unnecessary destruction.

After having read the obituaries in the national press and the splendid eulogy written for Gavin’s funeral by Jonathan Meades, we may be cheered that there are more people than we think who care about the destruction of our architectural heritage. But without Gavin Stamp’s determination and drive it behoves all of us to do what we can to prevent bad decisions from being made, to write letters, to encourage friends.

Young architects today do not often draw, the ubiquitous computer makes that skill seem unnecessary, so it is harder to produce work which shows individuality, even if it were to be encouraged. Gavin Stamp could draw, as his heroes did, which probably was one reason for his developed “eye”. He was not against the new if it was honest, original and had quality (he was chair of the 20th Century Society).

Lack of education

Among the many reasons for the heedless desecration is the lack of education. It is hard for a young person to develop an aesthetic sense which is not linked to fashion. The new will be seen to be “better”, and interest in past glories both elitist and possibly pro-colonialist (neither to be encouraged!).

It was hard to get the 1926 William Curtis Green building in Grove Lane saved from the developers. Only the rule that it had to be proved that a replacement would be better designed saved it, and there were enough local residents willing to protest that it was a well designed and rather beautiful building.

If reading the above has sparked an interest in the remarkable Gavin Stamp (and why was there no mention in the honours list? Too left leaning, perhaps?) Google his name, read about him or, better still, his books.

GW

Meet a new novelist and an authority on black history

Camberwell's long tradition of hosting and inspiring writers continues as novelists, historians, poets, journalists and song writers choose to make their home here. CQ looks back at our literary history and **John Turpin** and **Marie Staunton** meet two contemporary Camberwell writers, one established, one new.

Camberwell's literary tradition

A blue plaque on the corner of Southampton Way and Coleman Road marks the boyhood home of one of Camberwell's most famous residents, the poet Robert Browning. Another literary giant, the critic John Ruskin, lived in a bucolic seven acres at 163 Denmark Hill till 1872. He left in disgust when the coming of the railway spoils his view. Camberwell has also inspired visiting writers. The 17th century diarist John Evelyn writes of walking from Deptford to visit "Sir Edmund Bowyer at his melancholic seate at Camerwell".

Charles Dickens, who lived in Southwark and dined regularly at the Fox on the Hill, had a sharp eye for the social divisions of Camberwell: "...anyone who could lay claim to an acquaintance with people of rank and title had a sure passport to the table of the Maldertons who lived at Oak Lodge, Camberwell," (*Great Expectations*), while poking fun at a group of "aspiring" local residents holding a ball in the Assembly Rooms – now Camberwell Hall in Grove Lane (in *Sketches by Boz*).

George Gissing in his *Year of the Jubilee*, published in 1894, chronicled the lives of the poor and of the rich in Camberwell. He described the condition of a penurious tenant: "Samuel Barmby lived with his father and two sisters in Coldharbour Lane. Their house was small, old and crumbling for lack of repair; the landlord, his ground-lease having but a year or two to run, looked on with equanimity whilst the building decayed"; contrasted with the prosperous property owners of De Crespigny Park: "A thoroughfare connecting Grove Lane, Camberwell, with Denmark Hill, presents a double row of similar dwellings; its clean breadth, with foliage of trees and shrubs in front gardens, makes it pleasant to the eye that finds pleasure



James Buckler

in suburban London. In point of respectability, it has claims only to be appreciated by the ambitious middle-class of Camberwell. Each house seems to remind its neighbour, with all the complacency expressible in buff brick, that in this locality lodgings are not to let."

Camberwell writers today

Camberwell is home to many established writers – journalists Jeremy Bowen, Zoe Williams and the late Peter Preston, Editor of the *Guardian*, song writer Florence Welch and poets and reviewers from the late Christopher Logue to Adam Newey of Hill Bakery. Every year some 60 would-be writers attend creative writing courses run by Camberwell-based Literary Kitchen. Founder Andrea Mason says, "They are a diverse range – from GPs, to sound artists, to students, to lawyers, to PR execs, to artists, to Chinese food importers, to cafe owners. And there is a very healthy range in short story competitions, journals, and live events which they can submit to."

Newcomer

John Turpin meets **James Buckler** whose successful debut novel *Last Stop Tokyo* was published last summer.

A former student of film and screen writing, Buckler's career as a film industry technician did not satisfy his interest in the creative start of the process – the story. His latent urge to be a writer began to flower, however, during a two-year break when he taught English as a foreign language in Tokyo.

He got to know the city in some depth, and recalls how he felt it was the perfect venue for a thriller story. Places, people and plots stayed in his mind, along with a key character: a newly arrived Englishman.

Fast forward (as they might say in the film business) to James and his wife Isabel's arrival in Talfourd Road – that Peckham/Camberwell hinterland – and an affection for the area, deepened by a move to Camberwell Grove some four years ago.

This roughly coincided with James' decision to take three years out from full-time work (he and Isabel both work for the BBC) and write the book that was now more clearly emerging. A second important decision was to find an agent, and James considers himself fortunate in his choice, being steered skilfully through the process of authorship and publishing.

An aspect of this was to agree to write a second book, the first giving leverage to the second, and James had reached a point where this challenge seemed attractive. Thus the period of working part-time in order to write has been extended.

James has studied Japanese literary traditions and tried to emulate in his first novel the bitter-sweet style often encountered. He also admits to two western influences, both in the thriller genre. One is *The Beach* by Alex Garland, which became a cult film; the other a film, *Breathless*, by eminent French maker Goddard.

Last Stop Tokyo has been well received in the book world, with a particularly gratifying review in *The Times* by Marcel Berlins. A German translation and a paperback edition will appear shortly.

James, who is 44, is clearly excited about the future as he

embarks on a research trip for the new book – to Greenland (enough said...).

The couple have been enjoying life in the Grove, discovering good food in Church Street and getting to know people through events like the Camberwell Society Christmas Party.

After James' Japanese-noir debut, we look forward to what may be a chilling follow-up from the Arctic Circle.

Established

As they become established, writers find there is a constant need to pitch new work and become their own publicists as **Stephen Bourne**, local author of over a dozen books, can attest. Stephen was born in Camberwell (St Giles Hospital) and raised in SE15 and SE5. There was no literary tradition in the Bourne family: his mother worked in a shoe shop in Rye Lane and his father was a pipe fitter. He grew up in Sceaux Gardens, a post-war estate, named after the prosperous Paris suburb. Stephen's memories of growing up there in the 1960s are "nothing but happy. It was one big adventure playground". Local children used the high rise blocks of flats to play games such as Knock Down Ginger. They would knock on people's doors and disappear before they were caught! For a wonderfully uncritical 1960s film about new developments such as Sceaux Gardens see *The Changing Face of Camberwell* (<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-changing-face-of-camberwell-1963-online>)

Stephen's older sister instilled a love of books in him through trips to the children's section in the basement of the library in Camberwell Church Street. But it was through bunking off to avoid the bullying culture of St Michael and All Angels Secondary Modern in Wyndham Road that Stephen found the stories that inspired him to become a writer. He visited older relatives in Fulham and listened to their stories. His adopted Aunt Esther, a black woman born in Fulham in 1912, inspired Stephen to research black British history. Esther became part of his family during the



Stephen Bourne

London Blitz when Stephen's great grandmother, a white working-class matriarch, "adopted" her. Esther told Stephen, "She was like a mother to me. She was an angel."

Bourne was fascinated by the story of influential local figures such as Jamaican-born Dr Harold Moody of Queens Road, Peckham who campaigned against race discrimination and founded the League of Coloured Peoples in 1931 (see Stephen's book *Dr. Harold Moody*, Southwark Council, 2008). Early in his career, to access Dr Moody's newsletters, Bourne braved the British Library, something he described as "terrifying for a working-class boy" while teaching himself how to research and write.

Writing did not pay enough to live on so he worked locally at various jobs including the DHSS in Peckham and Southwark's library service. But he kept writing, for *The Voice* newspaper and *Caribbean Times* and took a journalism course at the London College of Printing. His first book, *Aunt Esther's Story* (ECOHP, 1991), was a breakthrough in black history. It sold out its print run and Aunt Esther made the cover of the feminist magazine *Spare Rib*. A further 17 books have followed but Stephen says he has found it

impossible to get an agent and to convince publishers that there is a market for black British history. For example *Mother Country*, his book about black people living on the Home Front in Britain during World War II, took eight years of pitching before the History Press published it in 2010. Its success encouraged them to publish Stephen's most popular book *Black Poppies* on WW1 servicemen, for which he received the Southwark Arts Forum's Literature prize. Stephen says: "In my experience, literary agents and publishers are white and middle class and they have been difficult to convince that there is a market for black British history books. On more than one occasion they have declined my work saying that 'there is no market for your books because black people do not buy them'. So, for support, guidance and vetting contracts, I joined the Society of Authors and I have been very good at marketing my own work. I do this by giving talks about them, developing a website, and using social media, such as Facebook and twitter."

Getting published required persistence and Bourne is a disciplined writer. He has a routine. In addition to talks, when he is working on a book, afternoons are set aside for writing. From 1pm he writes, first outlining every chapter from the beginning, carefully checking sources. At 3pm he breaks off before another intense burst of writing until 5pm. He can average up to 1,000 words a day, with some revisions and polishing at about 8pm. The hard work has paid off. In 2017 Bourne was honoured with an Honorary Fellowship from London South Bank University for his contribution to diversity. "Not bad," he says, "for a lad who left school at 16 with no qualifications!"



Last Stop Tokyo is published by Doubleday 1 ISBN 0857524976. Stephen Bourne's next book, *War to Windrush: Black Women in Britain 1939-48* will be published by Jacaranda Books in June 2018 to coincide with the 70th anniversaries of Windrush and the birth of the NHS.

After the bridge campaign, what now?

The bridge was built in the second half of the 19th century and in about 2006 it closed when an inspection showed that it was too weak to carry modern heavy traffic; it was designed for horse drawn vehicles. After funding problems, it was repaired and reopened to carry alternate one-way traffic of up to 7.5 tonnes.

The bridge was closed again in 2016 when Network Rail found that it could not sustain motor traffic. In parallel Southwark Council and TfL were promoting Quietway 7 (QW7), a safe and quiet cycle route through the Grove. Camberwell Grove Traffic Campaign (CGTC), which had been pushing the Council to improve the Grove, saw an opportunity to use the situation to bring change. The Grove had over the years been transformed from a normal residential road to a major rat run, adversely affecting residents, pedestrians and cyclists. Traffic queuing at traffic lights at the bridge caused significant pollution and delays provoking road rage.

We wrote to all our councillors asking for the permanent closure of the bridge to motor traffic which would save money, make the road cleaner, safer and quieter for all. It was soon clear that there were other views! Some locals found car journeys to Sainsbury's longer and rat runners were inconvenienced; some roads had increased traffic, others less. Cyclists found their route much improved. All wrote in and the Council launched a Consultation on whether to reopen the bridge to single

lane traffic up to 3 tonnes which was all that could be afforded; they leafleted Camberwell Grove and 20 other roads – over an area stretching from Camberwell Grove to Bellenden Road. This biased sample meant that the result had to be to reopen the bridge. The surprise was that only 75% were in favour of reopening.

Our campaign had had a significant effect. We had great help from Southwark Living Streets and Southwark Cyclists as well as local people. We leafleted nearly every road which the Council had leafleted. Our message was that the whole area needed a rethink as Council policy seemed to be favouring the motorist at a time when other policies encouraged walking, cycling and the use of public transport.

We had a street party for Camberwell Grove and Grovelands Close residents. There was no doubt that not all Grove residents wanted the bridge kept closed but for this occasion we all enjoyed the get-together, the food and drink, music, children's play and face painting. It gave extra impetus to our campaign. Many brought food and drink, the cyclists ran a barbeque and surveyed opinions. A great occasion showing what Grove folk are really like.

The final stage of the "Consultation" was meetings of the two local Community Councils to receive the officers' recommendations to Ian Wingfield, who was to take the final decision. CGTC made a presentation to the Camberwell Community Council which

highlighted the many shortcomings of the Consultation. There was no mention of the two cycle routes which affect Grove traffic, QW7 and the Southwark Spine. No mention was made of traffic problems in the Grove; the only traffic mentioned was in other roads. Traffic flows were presented without any analysis; no data was given for the top of the Grove; the equipment could not differentiate between cars and cycles so what did the statistics mean? The Council heard that some roads had problems after the bridge closed but made no attempt to manage such traffic. We also argued that the real problem was not the Grove but rat running traffic in the whole area. The Council's options simply moved traffic from road to road.

As was to be expected given the bias of the Consultation the majority was for opening the bridge. However, at the end, Peter John, the leader of the Council intervened to say he understood our lack of confidence in the Council doing anything to control rat running. He, Ian Wingfield and Mark Williams are committed to seeking funding from TfL to study the area covered by the consultation to control non-local traffic.

There are solutions. The local network of Victorian streets can be made healthy and safe once again with modern traffic management as schemes in Walthamstow and Hackney have shown. Southwark should make people not cars its priority.

Christine and Rowland Sheard

Below: Camberwell residents enjoy a get-together at a street party organised as part of the campaign



Whatever became of...?

Where are they now?

Pat Edmond contacted *CQ* to ask: "Do you have a contact site for people looking for friends?"

We often get questions like this, so perhaps now is the time to start such a service.

Pat goes on to say: "I live in the beautiful county of Yorkshire. However, I was born and brought up in Warner Road, Camberwell and had many friends around there, including in the Prefabs along Myatt's Park. I was 19 when I moved to Yorkshire and I am now 75. I realise this was a long time ago, but I would be grateful for any help."

Where were they then?

Howard Spencer writes: "It is fairly well established that Eleanor Coade (of Coade stone fame) lived latterly

(and died) in Camberwell Grove.

"English Heritage shortlisted her for a blue plaque some time ago. A report done back in 1999 found a 'Harriot Coade' connected with Grove Place – now 35 Camberwell Grove – but could not connect Eleanor definitively with this or any other surviving London address.

"Is anyone aware of any subsequent work or a new source that may have emerged since that would connect Eleanor Coade with a surviving building in the Grove? If you are it would be great to be able to reopen this case."

Were they ever here?

Patrick Humphries would like to know: "I am writing a book about four authors who attended Dulwich College for the school's 400th

anniversary in 2019.

"There is an intriguing link between the school and Humphrey Bogart! His only Oscar, for *The African Queen*, was written by Old Alleynian CS Forester; one of his best-known roles was Philip Marlowe in *The Big Sleep*, written by another OA, Raymond Chandler. To complete the set, I am looking for a link between Dulwich and Casablanca.

"Can anyone confirm that the actor Claude Rains was born in Camberwell? If so, that links him to south east London and Forester.

If you can answer any of the these queries, please contact the editor at: mpowleybaker@gmail.com Tel 020 7701 4417; or write to 4 Datchelor Place SE5 7AP

PLEASE NOTE

Following the AGM refreshments will be served upstairs (there is a lift).

Joshua Thelwell

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15 MAY 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Camberwell Society will be held at 7.15pm on Tuesday 15 May 2018 at the Camberwell Green United Reformed Church in Love Walk, SE5

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Previous minutes and matters arising
3. Chair's Report for the year 2016-2017
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee

All officers of the Society and members of the Executive Committee retire annually in accordance with the Constitution of the Society and are eligible for re-election. Nominations are required for the Officers and Committee. Any paid-up member may, together with a seconder (also a paid-up member), make nominations. These must be sent to the Secretary, Robert Wainwright, 55 Grove Lane, SE5 8SP, to arrive at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

6. Any other business

Robert Wainwright, Secretary

All will be well in Camberwell this June

The Camberwell Arts Festival is the longest running visual arts festival in the UK, having run for the past 24 years. In 2018 the Camberwell Arts team is taking the Camberwell coat of arms motto of ALL'S WELL as its theme for the festival and putting Camberwell's origins as a spa centre stage with its current position as a crucible of scientific and artistic experimentation and collaboration.

With the ALL'S WELL theme in mind there will be a programme of health and wellbeing workshops in Camberwell Library's meeting room. With "taster" workshops run by local charities, businesses and individuals, we will offer mindfulness, mothers and babies yoga, pets for health, art therapy and many, many more.

Local artists, makers, designers and upcyclers will be showcasing their work in a weekend of Open Studios (16/17 June) and a day for the Made in Camberwell market (Saturday 23 June). Then the icing on the cake (pun intended) will be the "artist-inspired cake competition" alongside several arty activities when anyone can drop in and be creative, even if it's to "dress up your dog" for a parade. But that's not all...

There will be a full fringe programme of music, dance, poetry

This year's Camberwell Arts Festival is taking place from 16-24 June with the theme ALL'S WELL

and art exhibitions in local cafés, pubs and business, and we will see the return of the very successful Alley Gallery.

You will find the brochure in

libraries and local businesses from mid-May. Or visit the website www.camberwellarts.org.uk for the online version and most up-to-date information for the Camberwell Arts Festival.

We also welcome more volunteers to help us deliver this year's exciting Festival. Please apply to CamberwellArtsFestival@gmail.com

Debbie Allen



Children enjoy the creative workshop held on Camberwell Green last year

Your property matters, matter to us



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roybrooks.co.uk | 020 8299 3021

Roy Brooks

Making art accessible

Burgess Park is still undergoing a major refurbishment with many new projects taking shape. Among them is a burgeoning creative community. I spoke to two studios – Art in the Park and Arebyte – who are working to nurture and grow this network.

Art in the Park was founded in 1996 when the head of Southwark Parks' ranger service offered Kate Miller, an "improved shed and yard" next to the new "world garden" in the grounds of the listed Chumleigh almshouses. The park was still in an early phase of development and was not yet family friendly. Kate, a poet, environmental sculptor and arts educator, embraced the task of creating this multicultural community garden for the 60,000 locals, made up of play areas, gardens and potential for communal activities and projects.

"Our aim is to make art an accessible practice for as many as possible regardless of ability, age or ethnicity," says Florence Goodhand-Tait, one of Art in the Park's current artistic residents. "We start with our local community and aim for all our projects to reflect and represent the diverse communities in the local area. To quote William Morris, we 'do not want art for a few any more than education for a few or freedom for a few'."

The Art in the Park studios now house around seven artists, including Nam Tran's CerNAMics studio which runs weekly ceramics workshops for all ages. The studios

are a base for various art, environmental and heritage projects enriching the lives of inner-city Londoners through creativity and education. Last year saw the success of Zeppelin 1917 – a project marking the centenary of a local catastrophe, when a zeppelin landed on Calmington Road (now in the park area), killing ten people and destroying many buildings. In 2018 we will see the continuation of more projects open to everybody, such as The Green Elephant Drawing Club, Marking Places and The Story of Prince Lee Boo, in addition to the start of a new project – The Burgess Park Drawing Club.

Arebyte is a London-based organisation supporting the development of emerging contemporary artists working across art forms, including new media and performance art. Through a gallery space on White Post Lane in East London and affordable studio complex, Arebyte creates thriving environments for artists to expand on their practices, explore collaborative working and meet new audiences. Last year Arebyte opened up a new set of studios in Burgess Business Park. These studios are already filled with an exciting mix of emerging artists ranging from BA and MA arts graduates from many universities to people establishing local creative businesses, such as Folio Atelier, an independent bookbinder and box-maker.

Speaking to Inês Ferreira,

Arebyte Camberwell's Studio Manager, about how she is finding the new studios, she praises the balance and artistic well-being Burgess Park provides. "We are located in a quiet area which is great for making art, but we are also a stone's throw from south London's creative hub, with galleries, art schools, universities and cafés to hang out in and meet people. We feel that the community in our studios is benefiting from both of these aspects."

Emily Scaife, a recent Animation graduate from the Royal College of Art, says, "I love our studio here in Arebyte Camberwell. Having recently completed an MA in which I was free to experiment with materials and techniques, I needed a space which allowed this to continue. Also being welcomed and supported by other artists, both inside our studios and Camberwell's wider creative community, has been so exciting and interesting. I can't wait to meet more of our neighbours to fuel more creative energy."

While most of Arebyte's studios around London are temporary, Inês hopes that some can become more long term. "We hope that the community we are building here will bring value to a more permanent Burgess Park creative hub."

I look forward to seeing what artworks and public projects these studios will produce in 2018, and hope Camberwell residents will get involved and support local artists.

Anna Preston

Left: *Emily Scarfe discusses her animations with a visitor*; Right: *Holly Drewett takes a break in her studio*



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 where we object or support an application and also, where appropriate, when we have decided not to comment or object.

Owing to the limited space available in the *Quarterly*, we are only able to print a selection of these applications.

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.

118 Coldharbour Lane, SE5

Removal of existing BT telephone kiosk and installation of one InLink kiosk together with the display of an externally illuminated two digital screens as integral part of telephone kiosk.

The Society objects to this proposed kiosk (and other similar applications by the same company, InLinkUK) for the following reasons:

- There are a lot of phone boxes, and many could be removed, and do not need to be replaced with an advertising sign/kiosk: these are not needed, given that most people have a mobile phone.
- The real purpose of this proposed phone box (and other similar applications by the same company) is to display advertisements. Such advertisements distract motorists, spoil the look of the street (they certainly do nothing to enhance it), endanger pedestrians (especially the disabled), and serve little or no public benefit. There are already boarded up and redundant phone boxes (Mercury) in this location cluttering up the pavement.
- Each proposed kiosk/advertising sign creates lots more clutter on the pavement at exactly the time that policies are aiming to reduce clutter and to make the pedestrian environment far better.
- Creating clutter in this way is

contrary to Southwark Council's Kerbside Strategy (2017), the New Southwark Plan (2017) and the draft Mayor's Transport Strategy with its Healthy Streets agenda (2017).

OBJECTON

123 Grove Park London SE5

Change of use from Class D1 with an ancillary Class B1 office function to Class C3 for residential use, including conversion and part demolition of existing main house to enable the creation of five new residential units and the construction of four new residential units in the rear garden with nine off-street parking spaces, associated communal and private landscaped areas.

This is the latest in a series of applications which grapple with the question of how to reconcile the satisfactory architectural development of the site with the requirements of the Supplementary Planning Document for its development, issued by Southwark in 2007.

Some design issues have apparently been resolved over the years since 2010 when the first application was submitted. These are:

- the appropriate number of dwellings
- the protection of trees around the site boundaries
- the interpretation of the SPD requirement for the new building in the centre of the site.

The SPD describes this as “a single building of maximum two storeys (plus attic) not greater in scale (floorplan) than 123 Grove Park itself” which has been successfully interpreted as four three-storey houses grouped together and built into the slope of the site.

The remaining conundrum is the extension to the existing building which the SPD describes as “a single or two-storey extension attached to the main building”.

This application has extended the house to the east in the style of the original Victorian house, but smaller and less flamboyantly,

presumably to demonstrate subservience.

This approach has not been a success. The Planning Inspector who turned down the appeal on the 2016 application said: “The existing building appears as a complete composition and the extension would alter it significantly.

“In addition, the design of the extension has slavishly replicated the design of the original building including the gabled element which, while smaller, nevertheless competes with the main gable which is the focal point of the elevation.”

The SPD does not require the extension to be in the same style as the original building, but that it should “respect the context of the Conservation Area” and employ “high quality materials in construction”.

This seems to open the way for an extension which does not impinge itself unduly on the original building, and perhaps is a little separate from it, built in a modern idiom compatible with the character of the Conservation Area.

In the interests of the existing building and the potential for development of the site, we hope that a satisfactory development along these lines can be agreed between the Council and architect/developer.

Land to as the rear of No 85 Southampton Way, SE5 (aka 2 Cottage Green)

Conversion of the disused “warehouse” outbuilding located to the rear of No 85 Southampton Way and adjacent to No 2 Cottage Green to one dwelling house, involving: the construction of a three-storey extension; incorporating an external terrace space at second floor level; fenestration alterations to the front (northwest) and side (southwest) elevations; and allotting some of the rear garden of No 85 Southampton Way to the proposed dwelling/live work unit.

An imaginative use of geometry to create an eminently livable three-storey house from a tiny disused warehouse space.

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Home Refurbishment & Renovation
Joshua Thelwell p15
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Local Information
South London Guide. Website on all aspects of
South London, including shops, services and
property. www.southlondonguide.co.uk

Newsagents
R K News p3
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Artichoke Pilates Studio p3
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Stained Glass Windows p8
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To advertise in the *Quarterly* please
contact the editor, details opposite

The "Mary Boast" Local History Prize



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

Submissions

A minimum of 1,000 and a maximum of 3,000 words in length on a local history subject should be received by 31st August 2018. Awards will be presented after the Camberwell Society Local History Walk in September 2018.

The competition is open to those over 17 years of age.

Prizes

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

Terms and Conditions and Entry Forms can be obtained from
MaryBoastPrize@virginmedia.com



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localhistory@camberwellsociety.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP:
Annual membership costs £20 (household)
£15 (individual) or £10 (concessionary)
Membership form available online:
www.camberwellsociety.org.uk

PLANNING:
email: planning@camberwellsociety.org.uk

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