
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).

Planning, the environment, 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.

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

LOCAL SOCIETIES, VENUES AND EVENTS

We recommend checking details

Brunswick Park Neighbourhood Tenants and Residents Association

Patricia Ladly 020 7703 7491
tandra.brunswickpark@yahoo.co.uk

Burgess Park, Friends of www.friends-of-burgesspark.org.uk
friends-of-burgesspark@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



Cover: *Homemade muffins and good coffee await you at the Greenhouse Café (see page 16)*
Photo: Marie Staunton

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 17 February, 3pm, *Recent archaeological projects in Southwark*
Goose Green Centre
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:
stephanielodge1947@talktalk.net

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

Make your views known on plans for Camberwell

I hope the many of you who came on the History Walk found the past, present and indeed future of the Wells Triangle and its surroundings of interest. I certainly did and am grateful to Peter Cook and Tim Gaymer for their engaging expertise. The area has a fascinating history though many are concerned by the proposed piecemeal development, not least because of the lack of any viable transport links. We would like to introduce a spring History Walk as a foil to the long established autumn walk. Two suggestions have been made – something based around the medical richness of Camberwell – or a walk based around the air raids of the First and Second World Wars. Please pass on your views and suggestions.

We are keen that we as Camberwell residents, should write to our MPs about the concerning reduction in bus services – this is because TFL seem to have little interest in the many valid formal representations that have been made. If that approach is ineffectual this must be the next step. You are also asked to make views, positive or otherwise, known about Seavington



Nick Mair

House, Butterfly Walk, Valmar Trading Estate and the Champion Hill pedestrianisation. It will be the volume of your engagement that decides what Camberwell becomes rather than any lone efforts of the Camberwell Society!

More festively we hope to have seen many of you at the Crooked

Well to celebrate a Camberwell Christmas and with those thoughts I hope you will approve of the Committee's decision to make the Southside Rehabilitation Association (SRA), which has premises in Artichoke Place, the Camberwell Society Charity of the Year. This excellent charity provides employment and training for people with mental health problems.
<http://www.together-uk.org/south-wark-wellbeing-hub/the-directory/8414/southside-rehabilitation-association-association-sra-centre>.

Nick Mair

nicknmair.camberwellsoc@gmail.com

STOP PRESS

The current proposals for redeveloping Seavington House are to be scrapped, so it is back to the drawing board for the Council.

Camberwell Clip

Camberwell identity

Do you have 10 minutes to give your opinion on Camberwell? Local community group SE5 Forum is doing a survey. See <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RXSGJF5> or contact stauntonmarie@gmail.com for a hard copy.

SE5 Forum will then collate the responses, share the results and use them to develop an identity for Camberwell. Historically, Camberwell was a thriving centre for south east London but identities of neighbouring areas, Brixton, Peckham, East Dulwich are becoming stronger and residents and businesses are identifying with those areas. SE5 Forum would like a clearer identity to improve awareness and perceptions of Camberwell and increase spend and footfall.

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Searching for hidden weapons

Mark Webb, Chair of the Camberwell Green Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel, is scouring the car park behind Landor House on the Elmington Estate. With the tip of a stick he carefully moves aside baggies – small plastic zip lock bags used to package up grams of weed or spice – and points at a small blade. In other circumstances, a discarded lawnmower blade would not attract notice. But this is the block where four youths were stabbed last August, so every blade is removed and checked.

As he slips on blue plastic gloves and drops the blade into a plastic evidence jar, Camberwell Green PCSO Danny explains: “Teenagers on the estates are afraid of being attacked. So they get a blade, perhaps a knife from their mother’s drawer and stash it somewhere accessible but hidden. If there is trouble they run and get the knife.”

Regular weapon sweeps are carried out by the Southwark Joint Enforcement Team of police and



Mark Webb scours the carpark

community wardens assisted by local residents. Between them they have found a “Rambo” style knife in the bushes near Landor House and a large knife hidden on top of a high wall in the lobby. PCSO Danny uses

Regular weapon sweeps are carried out by police and community wardens assisted by local residents

a telescopic inspection mirror to check inside lift shafts and a probe to detect metal in bushes. This equipment was donated by the Camberwell Co-op, together with metal detectors and the powerful torches used to find weapons hidden in drains, gutters and lift shafts. The equipment is a boon, says PCSO Danny. “Seizing weapons disrupts criminal activity,” he says. “Checking for fingerprints and DNA helps detection of crimes.”

Flynn, only 17 years old, is accompanying Mark in scouring the car park. “We are showing the gangs that we are here,” Mark says, “taking back our streets.”

Weapons sweeps are held across SE5, but patterns of crime vary significantly. PC Mark Saunders from Champion Hill Ward says weed and drugs in lift shafts are not unusual; PC Adam Hall of St Giles reports that as gang members in his area have grown up and moved away, gang problems have reduced.

PCSO Danny has seen knife crime increase over his 13 years in Camberwell Green. In the first eight months of this year, King’s College Hospital referred 345 people aged between 11 and 25 who had been stabbed or injured to youth workers. According to Detective Superintendent Helen Lyons of the Met Police, 154 people were arrested for possession of a knife in



Checking a lift shaft

Southwark in the first six months of 2018. But the evidence shows that most people carrying a knife do not want to use it. “Young people feel that carrying a knife gives them protection, when in fact it makes them more vulnerable,” she said in a briefing for local residents held in Camberwell Library this summer. The meeting discussed the Camberwell murders of 17-year-old Rhyhiem Barton and his friend, 23-year-old Sidique Kamara.

Evidence shows that most people carrying a knife do not want to use it

These were two of five young people murdered in Camberwell between May and August this year. They are the subject of a Panorama documentary, *Murder on the Streets* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAMcMtuwEwo>). Both were members of the drill rap group Moscow 17 based in the Brandon and Crawford Estates. Their feud with Peckham-based Zone 2 group, which has members on the Elmington estate, is believed to have been behind the attacks.

Det Supt Helen Lyons emphasised that police tactics such as stop and search are not enough. “We need also to target the social causes of knife crime,” she said. “For young people with a lack of family and friends, joining a gang can be a real pull, providing support, kudos, esteem and finance.” Southwark young advisers, volunteers aged between 15 and 24, have been visiting hotspots. Det Supt Helen herself has been applying for funding from Southwark for youth engagement projects, referring people to safeguarding, writing to disruptive families, meeting with them and warning of the sanction of being evicted.

Sharon Carty, a mother from the Brandon estate, said that the estate had become more dangerous after the youth club, which had been a safe space for young people, closed down. She now goes down to open the street door for her son who is worried about being attacked when he enters the block.

The murders of five young people in Camberwell has led to statements of concern and pledges of action from the Home Secretary, the Met Police Commissioner, the Mayor of London and local MPs. But



The search team checks through the bushes for hidden weapons

Camberwell Green Police strength has reduced from nine to two officers in recent years, youth clubs have closed, the local Detective Superintendent spends her weekends writing funding applications for youth projects. Equipment for weapon sweeps is dependent on donations.

If you would like to help in weapon sweeps (always held in the

middle of the day), contact the Camberwell Green Safer Neighbourhood Team PCSO Danny and PC Charlotte Browning through www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/southwark/camberwell-green/?introducingyoursaferneighbourhoodsteam

Marie Staunton

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South London Gallery's new premises

The renovation of the South London Gallery's Fire Station building, a long-disused and almost derelict site on Peckham Road, was undertaken by 6a Architects, who also designed the expansion of the main Gallery in 2010. They have built a reputation for sensitive art gallery design, having worked on Raven Row and Sadie Coles HQ in central London and the new wing of the MK Gallery in Milton Keynes, which opens in 2019.

From the outset, the decision was taken by the Director of the South London Gallery and the architect not to scrub up the façade of the 19th century building. Its age has been respected, so the brickwork both outside and in remains the same time-stained brownish grey that it has been for decades.

The interior aesthetic relates closely to 6a's work on the Main Gallery. The passage to the rear of the building is now the entrance hall, its far end closed off with a full height glass wall, behind which is a pocket garden, a precursor to the garden terrace on the floor directly above. Even more than the Fox Garden over the road, I love the way 6a have incorporated soothing greenery into the gallery environment. It's in total contrast to the

sterility of most contemporary art spaces.

A new white-painted iron staircase, simple and utilitarian, rises from the entrance hall to the upper floors. The galleries on the first and second floors retain the domestic scale of the original rooms, but the SLG curators are skilled at making the best use of relatively small spaces. Another signature feature of 6a's design is their use of unvarnished wood floor boards, some of them original, rather than painted concrete or new wood blocks. The windows have been remade to the same design as the originals, and a panel of single glazing, which can be opened, has been applied neatly to the inside to improve insulation. The attic floor contains a studio for the SLG's artist-in-residence and a communal kitchen.

My admiration for 6a's attention to detail grew when I inspected the toilets on the first and second floors. (The disabled toilet is on the first floor but can be accessed via a lift.) These spacious loos have a lovely light green square tile on the floor and smaller stone-coloured ones on the half-tiled walls, each one offset from the adjacent rows by a centimetre – a typically subtle and understated effect.

Camberwell Clip

Mary Boast prize winners

The Mary Boast Local History Prize was won this year by Susan Crisp. In second place was Anthony Dickey.

Susan's entry is a report by The Friends of Burgess Park's local history project which tells the story of the last Zeppelin raid across London in October 1917 with a focus on the bomb which dropped in Camberwell.

We are given a timescale of the attack interspersed with quotes from an account later given by the commander of Zeppelin L45, Kapitänleutnant Waldemar Kölle. But it is the moving description of the destruction and suffering wrought by that one 300 kilogram bomb that sadly prepares one for the countless thousand other similar descriptions throughout Europe in two decades' time.

Anthony Dickey's article is as its title states, "A Walk Around Camberwell Green in the 1950s". Though much of the landscape is still recognizable, there are also significant changes: no cinema, no Camberwell Palais for "girly reviews", no factories, no milliners, no saddle-makers, no Woolworths, no purveyors of wet fish and game.

Juri Gabriel

Read Susan Crisp's article on page 11. Anthony Dickey's article will be published in a later edition of the Quarterly.



Entrance to the Bridget Riley gallery

The Archive Room on the ground floor is already a popular local resource. Besides a small display of original documents relating to the history of the Gallery and the Fire Station, there are four touchscreen monitors which give access to various topics, including a database of the otherwise inaccessible Historic and Contemporary SLG art collection. Another useful device is a large monitor showing a map of the surrounding area, with colour-coded markers indicating particular items: select your time period and then your subject, such as “Buildings” or “Social Histories”, then touch a marker on the map to bring up the item to which it refers. I could do without the other two screens in the room, particularly the noisy and obtrusive video artwork – although specially commissioned for the Archive Room, it would be better sited elsewhere.

The Fire Station is now a multi-purpose building and a great cultural resource for all ages. Please note, £150,000 is still needed to reach SLG’s target for the project.

Angela Weight

Below: Entrance with a view to the pocket garden

Below right: Brickwork both inside and in remains the same as it has for decades

Photos courtesy 6a Architects



Above: the attic studio



Changing history and future change

The Society has held a walk in the autumn of each year and every other year its theme has been Local History. In the past the walks were led by Stephen Humphrey, former local historian at Southwark Local History Library. Sadly, Stephen died shortly after the last walk he gave in 2016. The Society has continued this tradition.

On the 30th September the Camberwell Society's annual Local History Walk took place in north Camberwell under the title "Changing History and Future Change?"

The Society wanted to highlight that the north end of Camberwell could soon be changing a great deal and set this in the context of the change which happened in the past. As Mary Boast in her book *The Story of Camberwell* said: "In under two centuries a whole townscape had come and gone".

Fifty people joined the walk which was divided into two groups, one led by Tim Gaymer with Robert Potz, and the other led by Peter Cooke with Lynn Stephenson of the Wells Way Triangle Residents Association.

The walk started from Addington Square, off the Camberwell Road, where we were reminded that following the draining of the marshy land, which was once fertile and used

for agriculture and then for nurseries, the first houses at Addington Square were built. We heard how this was named, along with the terraces either side in the Camberwell Road, after a Prime Minister (1801-04), who had negotiated an unpopular treaty of Amiens and unfavourable peace with Napoleon in 1802. This, we thought, had some resonance with the politics of today.

In 1970 the Society was instrumental in preserving the square from demolition as the North Camberwell Open Space was formed. (See panel on page 10.)

We went to the site of the former canal head of the Grand Surrey Canal at Addington Wharf, near the main pathway into the park off the Camberwell Road. This connected to the Thames at Rotherhithe and had a branch off to Peckham. We heard how many materials for the building of Camberwell came via this canal, and that ash from fires in Camberwell sent out on the canal to Sittingbourne

in Kent for use in brick making returned as bricks for house building. We also heard how industry grew around the canal, including R White's, famous for making lemonade. This business was started by his wife selling ginger beer from a barrow in Camberwell.

We walked to the north side of the park and viewed the backs of Bethel Place, which faces the Camberwell Road. This originally comprised elegant houses, presumably for merchants connected with the canal trade, but which, in the early 1880s, became the promenade of shops. This had housing above for

"In 1970 the Society was instrumental in preserving the square from demolition as the North Camberwell Open Space was formed"

shopkeepers annexed from an alleyway at the rear, and mews houses in the former rear gardens. We then walked along Albany Road, where generations of the same families rented houses. These were demolished for the Aylesbury Estate in the 1960s. This estate housed 8,000 people in raised deck access, segregating pedestrians from cars:



One of the groups of walkers gather round to hear Tim



Walkers gather round to hear what Peter Cooke has to say.

the flats were given garages. *The Buildings of England Series on London South* described the estate: "... an exploration can be recommended only for those who enjoy being stunned by impersonal megalomania of the mid 20th century... and this means that to transverse the area one must ascend to the third-floor walkway." The estate never seems to have found favour, either as a place to live, although the flats had ample

daylighting and was considerably better than the back yards of the housing they replaced, or as a piece of modern architecture. Indeed, an article in 1970 described this as a "Future Slum". On the day Tony Blair became Prime Minister, he announced that the estate was being rebuilt. Now, from Burgess Park, we looked at the first phase at the western end where the estate had been rebuilt, the gap site of where the second phase is to built, and part of

the eastern end which is to be rebuilt. We walked across to the south side of the park to see the recent development by the Notting Hill Housing Trust of largely five-storey flats. We then walked back into the park and considered how the park had matured since it was described in the 1970s as barren and windswept, and noted the preparations for the new wildflower meadow.

Continued on next page



A computer generated image of the proposed development of Burgess Business Park

Changing history and future change *continued from previous page*

We then walked into Parkhouse Street, which is part of what was Burgess Business Park. One of the businesses there was Hunnex packaging, and where the Hunnex family lived. They had supported the Society by advertising in the *Quarterly* over many years. Their business has now closed, and there is a planning application to build flats for rent on the site. There is also an application for just under 500 flats on the larger site opposite, around a retained chimney. This, Lynn explained, would dramatically change the area and put added strain on the local bus routes. In contrast to the Aylesbury Estate of the 1960s, this development would have no provision for car parking, although there would be bicycle storage. The massing of the development was highlighted in the computer generated images prepared by Robert, a local resident. Members were urged to make representations to Southwark Council about these planning applications.

Nigel Haigh, long-time resident of Bermondsey and Camberwell, and former President of the Society, proposed that the early 19th century

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Extract from the Society's Newsletter No. 2

Must Addington Square be demolished?

The Society is very concerned about the future of the Square: at present it is proposed that the Square should be demolished and the land thrown into the North Camberwell Open Space. The Society feels very strongly, like many others, that it would be utterly wrong to allow this to happen. Even if there were no historic buildings issue the Society would consider that there is a higher priority in present housing over the future extension of the Open Space and that this priority justifies the retention of the houses in Addington Square; but south London and especially Southwark has already lost so much of its architectural heritage that it cannot afford to lose such an important piece of its townscape as the Square.

The Borough Council has proposed a Conservation Area comprising Addington Square and Addington Place but considers itself impotent to take the matter further since the creation of the Open Space which would destroy Addington Square is a Greater London Council responsibility.

terrace of houses in Wells Way be made into a Conservation Area. This terrace is next door to the former vicarage, which is a listed building and would enhance the approach to St George's Church from the south. This church is known as one of the Waterloo Churches as it was built for the then growing community around the canal to celebrate the peace following the long war with Napoleon. The church alone remains, now converted to flats after a fire, and is surrounded on three sides by Burgess Park. This would preserve this terrace from future development, and should require that the developer of the land opposite "preserve and enhance" their setting by building in an appropriate way.

Following the walk, I have asked

locals if they would support the idea of a Conservation Area, and 15 have said they would. The Society's planning subcommittee is considering what should be done for the best. Should the Society:

- Make a formal request to Southwark Council to make it a Conservation Area?
- Try to get the terrace of houses listed as of architectural and historical interest?
- Attempt to include many more houses in this area north of the Peckham Road/Camberwell Church Street into a larger Conservation Area(s)?

Please send your views to the *Quarterly*.

Peter Cooke

Camberwell Clip

How to get things moving

We thought you may be interested to know that following the brilliant historical walk on the 30th September through Burgess Park and north Camberwell I gave birth to a new Camberwellian – Joseph True. He was born at King's on 1st October at 14.40 hours at 40 plus three weeks. We love him. I like to think the walk through our beloved Camberwell was the kickstart or incentive that Joseph needed to make his appearance in the world.

Heba Ayoub

First World War Zeppelin Raid, October 1917

History can come to life when community research unearths new information and brings together people who have never met despite their shared close links to a historical event. The Friends of Burgess Park local history project tells the story of the last Zeppelin raid across London in October 1917 with a focus on the bomb which dropped in Camberwell.

Living history

The volunteer researchers unearthed details of all the people who died in the raid and several of the family members came along to the Zeppelin 1917 series of events in Burgess Park. Survivors of the bombing were able to see the exhibition, to meet with the relatives of neighbours who had been dispersed after the bombing. The news blackouts and stoicism had meant that they had not known the story of the raid until this exhibition as it was not something that the adults and children involved had talked about.

The launch event was attended by the sole remaining survivor of that raid, 102-year-old Mrs Greta Druce (née Boyce-Balls); when the raid took place Greta was almost two years old.

In the raid Greta sadly lost her brothers Sonny (aged five) and brother Eddie (aged three); her father Henry, mother Nellie, brother Leslie (aged four) and younger sister Joan survived. This proved to be the last ever Zeppelin bombing raid over London.

Greta went on to live a very full life and served in the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) during WW2, played the bugle and saw the liberation of Europe in 1945. Mrs Druce was accompanied by her younger brother Peter Boyce and her daughter the Revd Diane Druce. We were also joined by descendants of the Glass family, who also lost family members in the blast.

The whole family found the exhibition and walk very informative and moving. Many people involved in the war didn't like to dwell on the suffering and so details were often

The Mary Boast History Prize was awarded to Susan Crisp who wrote about the Zeppelin raid on Camberwell from a report by the Friends of Burgess Park's local history project

not discussed with family members in the aftermath.

The changing roles and activity of women in Southwark during the First World War was key to understanding Camberwell life in 1917. This was especially relevant because of the centenary of women's enfranchisement in 2018 is just before the end of the war. Our findings show that there were many Suffrage groups in Rotherhithe, Borough etc as well as women volunteers working with Belgian refugees arriving at Waterloo Station. Women's war work and need for entertainment and survival whilst their men were away at war or in other capacities drew attention to women's growing independence. Women of colour showed their presence with tiny fragments of reference but little detail has been uncovered. More needs to be done.

The Zeppelin Raid

On the night of 19/20 October 1917, London was hit by a Zeppelin raid. Zeppelin L45 dropped a 300kg bomb onto the corner of Albany Road and Calmington Road, killing 10 people and injuring 23. Northampton, Hendon, Piccadilly and Hither Green were also hit.

Zeppelin engines were almost inaudible, and on the night in question weather conditions made the airships and their exploding bombs even harder to hear – producing a terrifying “silent raid”. This was the last Zeppelin attack on London.

To add insult to injury, the raid wasn't even intended to target London. The 11 Zeppelins which left base on the morning of 19 October planned to attack the centre of England. The fleet included Zeppelin L45, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Waldemar Kölle, and carrying

enough fuel for 22 hours, plus a cargo of bombs.

The raiders crossed the North Sea and headed for a rendezvous to the east of Flamborough Head, but were driven off course by an unexpected north wind. Airships were susceptible to losing course, especially when flying high to avoid being spotted.

Flight of the L45 on the night of 19/20 October 1917

8.30pm

L45, aiming for Sheffield, comes in over the Yorkshire coast and avoids planes by climbing to 19,000 feet, causing temperatures to fall to minus 9°C. The engines struggled in these freezing conditions, and the crew also suffered from cold and altitude sickness. In addition, they were unsure of their location. Kölle wrote later of the confusion: Bearings could not be obtained. All the ships were calling. Well, the visibility seemed to be obscure everywhere.

10.50pm

L45 drifts over Northampton and drops its first bombs. One of the crew wrote later: We dropped a few bombs at some faint lights but Providence alone knew where they went.

11.25pm

L45 reaches London's north-west suburbs. After bombing Hendon, Cricklewood and Piccadilly, it pushes onwards, dropping a bomb on Camberwell before floating further south-east and offloading yet more deadly cargo on civilians in Hither Green.

12am

Continuing eastwards, the airship is attacked by an aeroplane from 39 Squadron RFC, but gets away. The pilot, 2nd Lieutenant TB Pritchard, lands in a field near Bexhill and later dies of his wounds.

8am, 20 October

Having crossed the Channel and now losing height, L45 comes under fire from the French.

Continued on next page

First World War Zeppelin Raid *continued from previous page*

10.45am

L45's attempts to escape to Switzerland fail. Kölle brings the ship down on the dry bed of the River Durance in southern France. The crew is interned in the prisoner of war camp at Sisteron, 127km north-east of Marseille.

Of the original fleet of 11 Zeppelins, seven eventually returned to German territory. Three others – besides L45 – were driven southwards and were either destroyed or surrendered.

The destruction

Meanwhile the bomb that hit Camberwell late on Friday 19 October 1917 killed people in two locations – 101 Albany Road and the cellar of the doctor's surgery at number 103.

That Friday evening, the fried fish shop at No 101 had closed at 10.30. Alice Glass was counting the money. She lived above the shop with her parents, Emma and James Glass, and six siblings.

Edward Walter Brame, a fish fryer, was clearing up. Widowed four years earlier, he had two of his three daughters with him: Ivy, who worked there, and her younger sister Ada (14). Young Stephen Skelton was also in the shop.

In the front parlour on the first floor the young people were having a party. Stephen Glass and a friend, Alfred Fowler, were home on leave from their naval patrol boat. One of the boys played the mandolin and the other the piano. Jessie Martin, a friend of Alice Glass, who also played the piano, had come round to join them.

The parents had gone to bed early, and Jesse and Emily were also in bed. Daughter Margery was at work in a Lyons Tea Shop on the Strand and did not return home until almost midnight.

Meanwhile, over the road grocer Henry Boyce Balls had heard a distant noise which worried him. He had five children with his young second wife, Nellie. He decided to take his family to shelter in the



In 1917 Germany developed a new Zeppelin capable of flying at 20,000 feet – beyond the range of Britain's defence systems

surgery cellar (No 103). Other Boyce family members, neighbours and a colleague of Dr Whitelaw came too. There were 18 people sheltering in the basement, with the children lying in a row in the centre – Sonny (Reginald) (five), Leslie (four), Eddie (three), Greta (nearly two) and baby Joan. The adults were sitting around the walls.

The bomb fell just after 11.30, with terrible impact. PC Wilcox said he heard a hissing noise which increased until the explosion. There was a terrible bang and blinding flash of light. The *South London Press* reported on 26 October:

The roofs of a number of houses were cleared of their slates as though they had been removed by a monster razor; rafters were hurled in all directions, and...furniture...hurled into the street below as if by a terrible upheaval of nature. Women and children ran screaming into the streets... The front of the fish shop had been blown into the main road. The group in the basement of No 103 had been there 10 minutes when the bomb fell. The house collapsed on top of them. Nellie Balls was injured in the back as she threw herself across her children to protect them from falling timber and masonry. Reginald and Edwin (Eddie) Balls were killed by a falling beam.

At 11.45 pm gas from a broken main ignited and the fire burned for nearly half an hour. Dr Whitelaw, who was taking shelter with the group in his basement, described what happened next in a letter to the

South London Press shortly afterwards.

"...Thanks to my wife's pluck," he wrote, 'we all got out safely except two children, who were killed by the falling debris'. He goes on to describe how, although all three exits were blocked by debris, his wife managed to crawl out through the coal chute:

Having had some experience in mining districts of falls in mines, I knew we must keep the air pure, and persuaded the people to sit still and not stir up the plaster, etc, by moving about until I established communication with the people outside. I was too stout to get through, but my wife, who is thin, grabbed a baby and crawled through to the chute. I followed, enlarging the opening, and was able to instruct the fireman where to break through. Undoubtedly she saved all our lives, as we men were too large to crawl through. Another doctor in the same thoroughfare who was in the cellar with us worked like a brick, extricating people from the debris, and others also did their bit. The injuries at the fish shop next door were catastrophic. There was no warning or cover. The four-storey house fell into its basement, crushing most of those inside. The bodies of Alfred Fowler, Stephen Glass and Jessie Martin were recovered from the cellar late on Saturday.

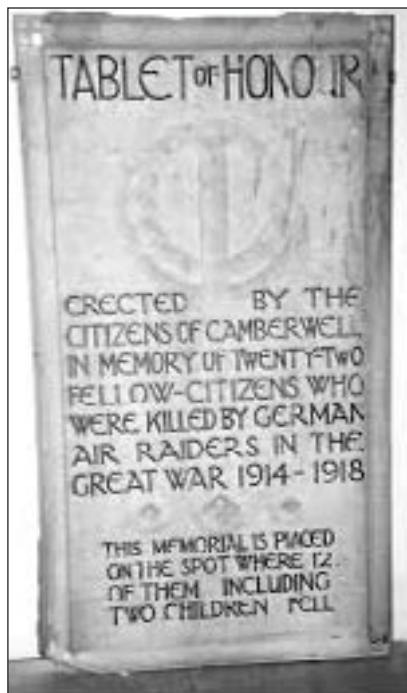
In the shop, Ivy Brame and Alice Glass were killed immediately, and Stephen Skelton died the next day of his injuries. A doctor had crawled

beneath the debris and given him morphine, and an unknown civilian remained with the boy all night.

The rescuers – soldiers, civilians, Red Cross and Salvation Army workers, police, doctors – toiled all through the night and well into the following day, when Council workmen came to clear up the debris.

Ada Brame was pinned beneath a beam across the legs, and in great agony she kept crying as the police and Royal Engineers worked their hardest to free her, “Daddy, I want to come out of here.” Her father had a head injury and could not help, and she could not be freed until eight o’clock next morning. Ada never recovered from the trauma of that night.

Those in the bedrooms fared little better. Mrs Glass was found dead on the pavement in front of the house, buried beneath a huge pile of wreckage. Mr Glass and the two little girls were found near each other after a foot was noticed at 4.10 a.m. Eventually Jesse and her father were extricated alive, but Emily Glass gave her last gasp as she was brought out.



The Borough of Camberwell, which at that time included Peckham and Dulwich, commemorated the event with this memorial stone

In addition to the 10 people killed, nine men, five women and 10 children were injured.

After the Raid

The Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, visited on Saturday morning, and the King and Queen the following day. An inquest took place on 25 October. Margery Glass had the painful duty of identifying the bodies of her mother, brother and her sister Alice. Jessie Martin’s sister identified her by some of her clothing and jewellery.

Many of the victims were buried on 26 October, when thousands of people lined the streets after a civic service in St Mark’s parish church.

Police heroes

Along with many brave local people helping the trapped and injured on the night of 19 October, three brave police officers were crucial in saving several lives – Inspector Frederick Wright, PC Robert Melton, and PC Jesse Christmas.

Hearing the bomb, and despite the threat of another explosion due to a gas leak, Inspector Frederick Wright, PC Jesse Christmas and PC Robert Melton, who was off duty at home just a few houses down from the blast, raced to the scene.

The brave Camberwell bobbies cut a hole in the floor and dropped down into the basement, where they managed to find two children in the smoke and chaos. Ignoring the threat of the building collapsing and the toxic gas fumes, they led the children and a group of shell-shocked adults to safety.

Inspector Wright collapsed, received medical care, went home, and then returned to his rescue efforts later on in the night.

An eye-witness spoke of “the great bravery” of the three police officers in a letter to a local paper that week. He said: “I can assert that their conduct was exemplary, deserving the highest possible praise and public gratitude.”

Inspector Frederick Wright was awarded the Albert Medal for his bravery, while the two police

constables were decorated with the King’s Police Medals.

In 1919 PC Robert Melton’s career was cut short when he was sacked for taking part in the police strike which attempted to improve the pay and conditions of police officers. He died in Southwark in 1934 at the age of 53.

The Salvation Army were also on the scene very early after the bomb hit. They assisted in the rescue efforts and alleviated the suffering with meals from their travelling kitchen. Prime Minister Lloyd George met and congratulated them on their efforts the following day. On Saturday afternoon they continued by salvaging furniture from the ruins. In the longer term, their public food kitchen a couple of streets away fed around 50 people made homeless in the raids.

Local historian Stephen Bourne has researched the three men and compiled this account. He is striving to have the men properly recognised locally.

Local history project

The project brought together the community of the people wrapped around park. There were a wide variety of participants who would not usually have the opportunity to work together creatively. Feedback shows that while people knew parts of the history of the war very rarely did they know the local Camberwell story or the wider impact of the great war on people’s lives.

Overall from our record of attendances at the exhibition and events about 600 people took part in some way. Many more will have seen the posters in the park and wider publicity which will itself have raised the profile of the unusual history of Burgess Park.

Inspired by the local enthusiasm and support for the local heritage project Southwark Council appointed artist Sally Hogarth to create a new installation to commemorate the centenary of the Zeppelin raid. This was installed in 2018.

Susan Crisp

Remembering the First World War

Up and down the country people gathered to commemorate the end of the First World War which ended on 11 November, 1918 and Camberwell was no exception. An Armistice concert was held in St Giles' Church, organised by the church's organist, Ashley Valentine.

Councillor Ian Wingfield opened the ceremony. He reminded his audience that, following peace, it was called "the war to end all wars." But that was not to be – the Second World War followed 20 years later.

He said that, for all the "crushing loss of young life", the war changed British society. For instance, the extension of voting rights to all working-class men and, more significantly, for women too, albeit those over the age of 30.

What was pre-First World War Camberwell like?

"Back then," said Ian, "Camberwell boasted some rather grand entertainment venues such as the Metropole theatre, now the site of Nandos; the Lava Roller Skating Rink, so-called because it was floored with a layer of cold lava from Mount Vesuvius, is now a communal garden. And the grandest of them all (now a branch of HSBC), the

2,000-seater Camberwell Palace of Varieties."

To remind everyone Ashley launched into action on the organ and the audience joined in, singing the old songs, which included "It's a long way to Tipperary", and "Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag".

To finish off the evening stories were told about ordinary Camberwellians who were caught up in the events of that war. Storytellers

included Peckham Ward Councillor Cleo Soanes; the 23rd Camberwell Scout Group; pupils from Lyndhurst School and Friends of Burgess Park who recalled the 1917 Zeppelin Raid. The last speaker was Stuart Fletcher who spoke movingly about the heroes of Dulwich Hamlet FC. He said that more than 100 men went to fight and more than 20 of them died – a huge loss.

SW

Camberwell Clip

Bob Fowlds retires

We are very sorry to learn that AV Fowlds has ceased trading and that Bob Fowlds, its head, has retired after some 50 years working for the family firm in Addison Square. The firm, which has been in its present-day premises for more than 100 years, opened its first factory in 1870 in East Street, making cane and balloon back chairs.

Bob took over the family firm in 1969, specialising in restoration, recovering domestic upholstery, contract work and sets for TV and films. You might have seen his dramatic and enormous sofas on Daybreak and Good Morning Britain. Over the years the staff has shrunk from a dozen to two, Bob himself and Larry, in his 80s.

Bob said he kept going "mostly because of the satisfaction that comes from making something with your hands. You work on a wreck of a chair and make it into something beautiful. It is a pleasure to do and mentally very satisfying."

Fowlds Café will continue to serve its excellent fare.

We wish Bob well in his retirement.

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Two hundred years in Camberwell



The above picture shows the elegant interior of the chapel



On the left is the Grove Chapel, said be the oldest church building in Camberwell still in its original location

April 2019 marks the bicentenary of the construction of Grove Chapel (next to 98 Camberwell Grove), and the church members are planning a host of events throughout 2019 to commemorate this.

Grove Chapel is a Grade II listed building, and the Southwark Council website describes it as “an elegant chapel of 1819 with simple, classical elevations.” It also notes that a reason for listing the building is the “good survival of original features such as the three main entrances, three-sided gallery supported by decorated iron colonettes, mid-Victorian pews, east window with neo-classical decoration, and carved wood pulpit.” It is Georgian in style and complements the other Georgian buildings on Camberwell Grove. I admit that I am biased, but I do agree that it is a lovely, yet simple, building. We also understand that it is the oldest church building in

Camberwell still in its original location. As members, we feel privileged to be able to meet regularly in such a fine building, and we are thankful to God that the church remains active even after 200 years.

There are so many interesting historical features and anecdotes which I could recount here. The church was constructed to designs by David R Roper, and the building is labelled as a “Congregational Chapel” on Edward Stanford’s “London and its Suburbs” map of 1862. At that time Camberwell was at the southern extremities of London. The church came about after a group of Christians heard the Rev Joseph Irons preach at Camden Chapel, on the north side of Peckham Road. While many of that congregation wanted Rev Irons to be the permanent minister of Camden Chapel, the trustees of the Chapel were opposed to this. Some of Irons’

supporters therefore raised subscriptions to build a new chapel, and the plot in Camberwell Grove was secured.

There was opposition to the chapel being built, so much so that the landowner blocked Camberwell Grove to prevent building materials reaching the site. However, the builders had access to an alleyway from Grove Lane at what became the side of the Chapel, and the building was completed in just five months. Joseph Irons was duly installed as the first minister, where he continued until his death in 1852.

A local trader called Samuel Carter contributed around half the costs of the building work, and there is a plaque in the chapel building commemorating him. Another of the remaining plaques in the chapel commemorates Joseph Irons himself. He was a skilled carpenter, and it was he who built the pulpit in the chapel, which is still there to this day. Someone has wryly commented that this put him “six feet above contradiction!” Also, his remains and those of his first and second wives are six feet under that very pulpit!

Another strange fact is that the church still has an annual thanksgiving commemoration on the first weekend in November. Why November, when the construction of the building was finished in April? The reason is that the Rev Joseph Irons’ birthday was 5 November, 1785. He noted that it was a “happy providence” that he was born on the day that we remember how God preserved Parliament and the King from the Gunpowder Plot. Parliament and the King were saved.

Throughout 2019 we are planning a number of special events, and we do hope that you will find time to come and visit us, either at one of these events, or at any other time when the church building is open. We will be pleased to welcome you, and show you around this wonderful building, and tell you more about its fascinating history.

John Russell

Member of Grove Chapel since 1986
www.grovechapel.org

Greenhouse caters for carnivores, vegans and vegetarians

Every time Nico Palumbo caught the number 35 bus to work from outside Pasha's, he would look up at the hotel's glass terrace and think, "Someone should open a café there." After three years he quit his job as head chef in a City restaurant to open that café himself. Pasha is a Tardis of a place. Entering through the hotel (which gets mixed reviews) you come to the massage rooms (Swedish, deep tissue, recommended), then a hammam (traditional steam, with black soap and herbal tea, £40 for one and a half hours), a pool table and finally a Kazakh/Kyrgyzstan restaurant (think food for wide open steppes and high mountains – grilled meat, hearty stews, dumplings) which has traditional cushions, low tables and, occasionally, belly dancers. With so many facilities on offer it is easy to miss the café. It is up a narrow twisting staircase to your right just after the hotel reception. Up the brown carpet, turn left and enter a sunlit conservatory with tall green plants, hanging baskets and window boxes of busy lizzies. Patrons get a grandstand view of street drama on Camberwell Road. We witnessed a cyclist being stopped, arrested, hand-cuffed and carted off in a police van.



Nico believes in locally sourced food and a warm welcome

Nico's homemade muffins and good coffee attract Camberwell's café society – hipsters on MACS, friends on a lunch date and the odd business meeting. Nico learned to cook in his native Naples. He believes in locally sourced food and a warm welcome. The menu is limited

but includes light lunches (open sandwich of tuna, avocado, salad and tomatoes topped with crispy onions, £3.85) and caters for carnivores, vegans and vegetarians. The all-day brunch is popular, especially at weekends when for £6 a full breakfast is on offer that includes vegan specialities such as sweet potato cakes and edamame beans. Afternoon tea is served in a proper pot with a selection of treats from Peckham's Cinnamon Tree bakery – shortcake, orange and pecan cake and brownies which, despite being gluten free and vegan, taste deliciously decadent. A charming café, worth supporting.

Marie Staunton

Greenhouse Café, 158 Camberwell Road, SE5 OEE. Open 7am to 5pm seven days a week.

Tony Coleman

Camberwell Clip

Plans for upgrading Denmark Hill Station

Usage of Denmark Hill station has doubled over five years and Network Rail now lists it as nationwide priority station for upgrade due to the overcrowding and consequent safety concerns. The permanent solution planned is for a new entrance on Windsor Walk but this will take three to four years to implement. As a medium-term an extra ticket barrier and a temporary additional entrance on Champion Park are being evaluated. In the short term Thameslink (which operates the station) will be implementing a pedestrian one-way system to ease safety concerns. Those departing from the station will be asked to use the old footbridge, those arriving the newer one.

The new upgraded Thameslink timetable starts on 7 January.

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Outrage on the buses

Did Bob Blitz expect to face such outrage when he was dispatched by his employers, Transport for London (TfL), to explain proposed bus changes to November's Camberwell Community Council? Speaker after speaker accused TfL of neglecting Camberwell. Since Camberwell Station closed, TfL has rejected a Bakerloo line station here, a cross-river tram and many attempts to reopen the station.

TfL proposes stopping the 171 and 45 at the Elephant and Castle, rerouting the 40 to Clerkenwell Green and increasing the frequency of the 35 at rush hour. Councillors flanking Bob Blitz on the platform leaned forward to object forcefully, saying the changes would increase journey times to work and impact on poorest residents most. Locals in the audience expressed frustration, and some fury, at the reductions in services. Bob Blitz, composed, in a neat grey suit, listened but gave little away.

Inaccurate data

Councillor Williams protested that TfL was making a decision based on inaccurate data. The bus use figures had been compiled at a time of great travel disruption at the Elephant and Castle. TfL had ignored the number of new homes being built in Camberwell which would increase bus passengers by 15 to 30%. Would it reconsider? TfL is always able to review services in future, said Bob Blitz.

Locals put forward a whole series of objections. Cross-river services will be reduced with no direct service to Kings Cross. Changing at the Elephant will create longer journeys when journeys from Camberwell are already one of the slowest in London at 50-60 minutes to get into the centre. Equality was raised as women with child care costs, carers with buggies and people with disabilities will be most disadvantaged by longer journeys and the need to change buses. Locals depend on buses – Denmark Hill Station is overcrowded and two-thirds of households do not have a car (car ownership in Camberwell is the one of the lowest in the country and declining). Increasing hospital patients



coming to King's mean transport services should be increased not reduced.

Bob Blitz did not respond to the barrage of questions. So the Chair, Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, asked if the decision had already been taken and was the consultation irrelevant? He replied that officials will look at the consultation response very carefully. But TfL is not a democracy.

For details of Lambeth and Southwark transport plans see <http://www.se5forum.org.uk/se5-forum-objects-to-tfls-proposed-bus-changes-%E2%80%A2-have-your-say-on-transport-in-lambeth/>

Mental health help for children

The discussion on health in Camberwell was much more of a dialogue but the tone was sombre. Speakers from the South London and Maudsley (SLAM), Southwark Pensioners and the Clinical Commissioning Group all identified failure to join up health care services and the lack of mental health help for children as major problems for Camberwell.

Malcolm Alexander, Chair of the Patients Forum of the London Ambulance Service, explained that

when the Maudsley Mental Health emergency reception closed King's was given £6.5m to take over the function. Yet on 4 October he had taken a patient in a mental health crisis to King's, only to find no mental health reception, a lack of expertise or facilities – the discussion on the patient being sectioned took place in a corridor. "The place you do not want to be in a mental health crisis is King's A&E," he said. When the patient was transferred to the Maudsley King's failed to pass over her list of medication. The Chair of the Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Jonty Heversedge, believed mental health expertise should be available at King's A&E and agreed to look into the provision. Challenged by Tom Hardy from Southwark Pensioners to reopen an emergency 24-hour walk-in Sanctuary service at the Maudsley, Roger Plafford, Chair of SLAM, said it was looking at setting up a mental health café in the community.

Highly rated research

Plafford said that research by SLAM, the largest and most highly rated research body in mental health in the world, found that separating mental and physical health was largely unhelpful. Dealing with the increase in reported mental health problems in children (a doubling of self harm cases over the last two years for example) needed a community response, starting early, in schools. Seventy five per cent of people with mental health problems show signs before the age of 19 and 50% before 15. Prevention is important, he said, for example going into primary schools and working with pupils to increase resilience and resist bullying.

Council Leader Peter John said that now only 23% of young people who need mental health services receive them. The government's new target of 35% was welcome but much too low. The November Southwark Health and Well Being board was working out how Southwark can be in the vanguard of improving mental health services for all young people.

Marie Staunton

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.

The last three months have been very quiet and at the time of going to press we only have one comment.

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

Parkhouse Street, SE5: Burgess Business Park

Demolition of the existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide 499 residential units, up to 3,725sqm (GIA) of Class B1

commercial floorspace, up to 128 sqm (GIA) of Class D2 leisure floorspace and up to 551sqm of Class A1-A3 floorspace within 13 blocks of between two to 12 storeys, with car and cycle parking and associated hard and soft landscaping.

This application had the potential for creating a vibrant Camberwell hub with shops, offices workshops, cafes and dwellings, a proper village with a commercial centre and space for residential, leisure and social activities.

Disappointingly this application has put maximising floor space ahead of every other consideration and the result is an array of over scale buildings with random spaces between them which have no clear community function. The potential view through to Burgess Park, which had been within the gift of the development has been rudely blocked

off by buildings.

The existing two-storey houses in Wells Way are dwarfed by the proposed four to six storey buildings opposite them and the five 14-storey block around the edges of the through routes would give the spaces between them the character of ravines, as in New York, not an appropriate civic typology for this part of Camberwell.

The Camberwell Society objects to this application on the grounds of over development and failure to pay adequate attention to the civic realm.
NOT APPROVED

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.

The Christmas Party



Nick Mair (left) gets on with the formalities, which he is determined to keep short. To make sure, Camilla Mair, just out of the picture, keeps a check with a stopwatch

Some 60 people attended the Christmas Party at the Crooked Well. The event raised £591.34 which as usual goes to the Society's Charity of the Year which this year is the Southside Rehabilitation Association (SRA).

Many of the guests brought delicious food and the drinks flowed:

a very jolly time! Also in abundance was a fabulous collection of raffle prizes, some 50 in all, donated by our very generous local traders. These included a box of oranges, a physiotherapy session and a £50 dinner voucher. There were more than 50 prizes in all, far too many to list here.

Nick Mair, Chair of the Society, presented a cheque for £1,735.00 to KatyVaughan who represented last year's chosen charity, the St Giles Trust.

Our thanks to the raffle donors (traders and members) and to Hector and Jen and all the staff at the Crooked Well.

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