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# CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

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The magazine of the Camberwell Society  
No 202 Winter 2019 £1.50 (free to members)

[www.camberwellsociety.org.uk](http://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.

### Forthcoming Society Events

Christmas party 7.30pm Monday 2 December at the Crooked Well, 16 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8SY : [www.camberwellsociety.org.uk/](http://www.camberwellsociety.org.uk/)

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](mailto:tandra.brunswickpark@yahoo.co.uk)

**Camberwell Gardens Guild**  
Membership enquiries to:  
Pat Farrugia  
17 Kirkwood Road, SE15 3XT

**Brixton Society**  
[www.brixtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.brixtonsociety.org.uk)

**Burgess Park, Friends of**  
[www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk)  
[friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com)

**Butterfly Tennis Club**  
[www.butterflytennis.com](http://www.butterflytennis.com)

**Camberwell Arts**  
Promoting the arts in Camberwell and Camberwell in the Arts  
[camberwellartsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:camberwellartsfestival@gmail.com)  
[www.camberwellarts.org.uk](http://www.camberwellarts.org.uk)

**Carnegie Library, Friends of**  
[foclchair@gmail.com](mailto:foclchair@gmail.com) or  
[foclmembers@gmail.com](mailto:foclmembers@gmail.com)  
(for membership queries)

**Concerts in St Giles' Church**  
Camberwell Church Street  
[www.music@stgiles.com](http://www.music@stgiles.com)

**Dulwich Picture Gallery**  
College Road, SE21 7AD  
020 8693 5254  
[www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk](http://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](http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk)

**Maudsley Learning**  
ORTUS learning and events centre,  
82-96 Grove Lane, SE5 8SN  
[www.maudsleylearning.com](http://www.maudsleylearning.com)

**Minet Conservation Association**  
020 7737 8210  
[www.minet.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.minet.fsnet.co.uk)

**Nunhead Cemetery**  
Linden Grove, SE15. Friends of  
Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)  
020 8693 6191  
[www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)

**Peckham Society**  
Peter Frost  
020 8613 6757  
[www.peckhamsociety.org.uk](http://www.peckhamsociety.org.uk)

**Ruskin Park, Friends of**  
Doug Gillies  
020 7703 5018

**SE5 Forum**  
[SE5Forum.org.uk](http://SE5Forum.org.uk)  
[comms@SE5forum.org.uk](mailto:comms@SE5forum.org.uk)

**South London Gallery**  
65 Peckham Road SE5  
Open:  
Tuesday to Sunday – 12pm-6pm,  
closed on Monday  
[www.southlondongallery.org](http://www.southlondongallery.org)

**St Giles, Friends of**  
16 Sears Street, SE5 7JL  
[robertcope@hotmail.co](mailto:robertcope@hotmail.co)  
[www.stgilescambewell.org](http://www.stgilescambewell.org)

**St Giles Churchyard, Friends of**  
[stgileschuchyardfriends@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschuchyardfriends@gmail.com)

**Wells Way Triangle Residents Association**  
Andrew Osborne  
[WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com](mailto:WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com)



Cover image: Kimbal Bumstead  
Photographer: Jerome Favre  
<https://www.peachphoto.org>

## Advent and Adventures

**M**erry Christmas – the Camberwell Society Christmas party is on Monday 2 December at the Crooked Well 7.30 start

Art galore at the Camberwell Arts Winter Market-Saturday 30th November

Rockin' Camberwell fair

Greendale Dulwich Hamlet – where do you stand?

Adorned streets with Christmas lights

Railway Station – £600,000 agreed for the detailed design of new Windsor Walk entrance at Denmark Hill

Easy Gym, LIDL, The Dutchie and Nandine – welcome

Travel Guide to Camberwell download version is imminent

Peter Cook's triumph at autumn history walk in Georgian houses

Banners in January to adorn the way to Camberwell – the bins are still there, and we look to the Council

**Nick Mair**  
[chair@camberwellsociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@camberwellsociety.org.uk)



Nick Mair

## Interested in helping with CQ?

All existing contributors as well as any writers, photographers, copy editors or proof readers who are interested in CQ are invited to a meeting over a glass of wine to plan the Spring Issue  
At: 7:30pm  
On: Monday 16th December  
At: 18 Grove Lane SE5 8ST

Contact: Marie Staunton  
Tel: 07831 539 630  
Email: [stauntonmarie@gmail.com](mailto:stauntonmarie@gmail.com)

## Dulwich Pot & Plant Garden

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We would like to pay tribute to  
Margaret Powley-Baker, who was a  
pleasure (and much fun) to work with.



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*Roy Brooks*



## All's Well



Home to thousands with many more employed, studying and visiting, Camberwell has much to offer. Yet, in recent years its identity has been eroded in subtle but additive ways. It lies between councils, shops have closed as well as Southwark's Town Hall which helped put it on the map and attract spending. It lacks an identifying tube and railway station.

Historically, Camberwell was a thriving centre for south east London. It was known for spring water wells famed for healing the sick, and is connected to St Giles, the hermit patron saint of disability, whose legend has given name to a local church and the Hermit's Cave pub. St Giles parish covered Dulwich and Peckham and became the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell. But as the identities of Brixton and Peckham have become stronger residents and businesses are choosing to identify with those areas.

Camberwell must not become a forgotten strip of land between more prominent and well-funded neighbourhoods. Our striking new mural under the railway bridge on Camberwell New Road was the beginning of trying to change this. And it is why the SE5 Forum formed the Camberwell Identity Group of volunteers from the Camberwell Society, Camberwell Arts, the local community and businesses with the purpose of bringing to life Camberwell's unique, vibrant identity and making everyone feel proud of Camberwell.

Our first steps were to develop a visual identity system to unite activities and then use it to create street banners.

An identity system is a set of elements that help convey positive aspects of a 'brand' – in this case Camberwell – in a uniform way. These elements are visual including choices of colours, logos and imagery, but can also include language, experience and location. To get those elements right we needed a clear understanding of what the brand means to people. With a place as complicated and diverse as Camberwell, this was going to be challenging

We gathered views widely, sending out a survey asking residents what they liked and disliked about area, what it meant to them, and what should be celebrated. Over 300 local people responded. We also met with local businesses, tenants' associations, youth groups and other organisations. During Camberwell Arts Festival, we opened a stall on the Green and invited visitors to create their own artworks representing Camberwell. We later went back to the Green to ask passers-by to vote on the positive Camberwell themes that most need promotion and to feedback on our plans.

Clear themes emerged. Over 80% or respondents rated Camberwell as 'good' or 'very good' to live in, with only around 4% considering it 'bad' or 'very bad'. They described Camberwell with words relating

to diversity, vibrancy, home, friendliness, creativity and greenery. The 'best things' about Camberwell broadly include its local café and restaurant scene, parks and green spaces, community and diversity. The 'worst things' include traffic/roads, poor shopping and litter / dirtiness. Some local icons and institutions were raised repeatedly – the butterfly, buses, the hospital, art gallery, swimming pool, architecture among others.

Working with a volunteer brand consultant, Richard Watkins, we categorised the findings into two perceptions of Camberwell: vibrant and energetic or practical and homely. The consultation informed a design brief for the visual identity and a series of street banners.

The brand should be flexible, for use by a wide range of organisations in many contexts. And have a strong basis in the local area, so the typeface is by local typographer Berthold Wolpe, colours are taken from the local environment. Despite our minimal



budget we received high-quality applications to our call for designers who we assessed against criteria such as their relevant experience and understanding of the local area. The chosen designer, Studio Sutherland, whose award-winning portfolio includes the rebrand of the Natural History Museum, had experience of developing identities for geographical locations and local understanding and connections.

Studio Sutherland experimented with a range of ideas, drawing on the survey responses and local history.

## All's Well

'Wells' feature in the area's name and in its history. The word has associations with positivity and good health, and suggests depth, nourishment, movement and the hub at the centre of community. Wells include a ring of bricks that come together to form a circular wall. The metaphor for our community seemed strong, with each brick potentially representing the many different but solid parts that come together to make a cohesive whole.

So the visual identity incorporated shaped bricks, with each brick offering the opportunity to symbolise an aspect of Camberwell.

The well concept has also formed the proposed logo. When a few bricks are removed from the well wall, the shape left forms the C of Camberwell. Brick imagery; icons and artwork of Camberwell; a palette of colours drawn from local greenery, architecture and skies; and the locally developed typography, form the basis of an identity system. The draft visuals were shared with visitors to

Camberwell Fair and attendees to the SE5 Forum AGM and the response so far has been hugely positive.

Our next step is to use the brand to produce lamp-post banners to guide visitors down from Denmark Hill station and the hospital to the businesses of Camberwell, and to celebrate the local themes identified in the survey and voted for by Camberwell Fair visitors. A generous response to the recent crowdfunding appeal made the banners possible. The banners can only go up when Christmas decorations come down in January.

Next, we will make brand materials available to local businesses, organisations and creative projects; produce a Travel Guide to Camberwell through residents eyes; a website; signposting and a mural outside the station; support a bid for branded planters, seek funding for an illustrated 'tourist' map; identify further opportunities for artwork and murals; and work with Network Rail on redevelopment of Denmark Hill.

Each activity does take some time and effort to get off the ground. We are truly grateful to everyone who has supported or been involved in activity so far.

For it to grow we need your input, ideas, queries and contributions.

Contact:  
Jess Bishop  
Chair Camberwell Identity Group  
jess.bishop@gmail.com

*Illustrations Studio Sutherland*

**Camberwell is ..**



*Jess Bishop holding an identity consultation on the green*





## Rewild



Green Dale Metropolitan Open Land

Soon after moving to Camberwell in the early 1970s, I ventured down a muddy footpath at the southern end of the then green and picturesque King's College sports ground. I was there to watch Dulwich Hamlet play.

The largely wooden stands, which had seen much better days, were a visible sign of a club fallen on hard times. In its heady pre-war days, it attracted crowds of more than 20,000. It was located roughly where Sainsbury's store space is now. That's when it fielded players who were regularly picked for the England amateur team. The legendary Edgar Kail also played several times for the full professional team, and a team-mate also achieved that distinction.

The club was saved by Sainsbury's obtaining planning permission, in the face of strong local opposition. As part of its s106 planning gain, the supermarket company built the club a new stadium. That coincided with my having Saturdays to myself, after working on Sunday papers, becoming a more regular supporter and buying a season ticket. My son Oliver grew from the highly successful youth eleven to centre-back for the first team. We recently bought shares in the club and for a short period I was chair of the Supporters Trust, as I fervently back the principle of a club owned by its

fans. Having many friends among supporters and officials, I hate being on the other side in this battle; a new stadium for the wider Hamlet community – destruction of a unique environmental area for we locals.

It began in 1994 when Southwark Council, which owns Green Dale, awarded Dulwich Hamlet a 22-year lease over all of the land. It had long been classed as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), protection equivalent to the Green Belt. But the club's interest was solely in the three 5-a-side AstroTurf pitches. It asked the council to erect a high metal fence around the five-plus acres of the rest to keep out we plebs, and let nature take over.

It is now a wonderful, tranquil semi-wild, green space, home to wildlife, rare birds and other protected species. It is unique in inner-London. It also qualifies as a SINC – site of important nature conservation. Since being opened to the public with all-weather paths laid, residents have claimed it again in growing numbers. Most happily indicate their support. Rewilding is becoming a popular concept across the country -- even in the Archers. But on Green Dale it has already happened. Now US developers Meadow Partners want to engage in De- or Un-wilding in the pursuit of \$100 million.

Residents are intent on keeping Green Dale green, while most of us want Dulwich Hamlet to continue to play on its existing pitch, where there is scope and space to expand. The return of five-a-side tournaments on new all-weather pitches could generate some £140,000 pa. They previously made between £3,000 and £4,000 a week before the AstroTurf was left to rack and ruin. It could do again when the 3G pitch is built, as required by its council lease. The team now has its own training ground on nearby school playing fields.

Green Dale and the football ground are the lungs of an otherwise high-density, polluted district of south London. It must be protected from

all undesirable uses, such as high-density housing for rich American buyers. For the new lease granted by Southwark for the club extends far beyond the previous Astro-turf area. It takes in another 950 sq metres, extending right up the north bank to the footpath, taking with it many mature trees. Some 2,500 metric tonnes of soil would have to be removed.

The wildlife habitat and whole character of Green Dale and the defining open and visible aspect MOL would be destroyed if Meadow's application is agreed. The FA insist on metal railing all around the pitch and walls up to 4.5 metres high on the upper slopes to prevent people watching games for free. While the planning application only seeks to build (stands, changing rooms, bar, etc) on one (eastern) side of the proposed pitch, leaflets handed out to fans promise much more. They will be provided with seven-step terracing on the other three sides of the ground. At 16 inches per step, they will rise to at least 9ft 6in high, with a wall to stop spectators falling off the back. And probably a roof on top. Such development would ruin any pretence that Green Dale is still MOL.

I hope readers of the Quarterly will write to or email Southwark Planning to object to this application.

The case number is 19/AP/1867.

Jonathan Hunt



Monty Python v Dulwich Hamlets March 1977. Photo Eddie Brazil from his book *Camberwell in Old Photographs*. Amberley Publishing

## Redevelop



Plan by Alan Camp architects

The application for planning to redevelop the Dulwich Hamlet Football Club site (19/AP/1867) has been submitted jointly by the DHFC and the developer, Meadow Residential. The proposals include a new stadium and pitch for the football club, with clubhouse, sports and leisure facilities and space for 4,000 spectators. The residential element includes a multi-use games area and six blocks of flats between 4 and 6 storeys high providing 224 dwellings, of which 83 will be affordable.

Dulwich Hamlet Football Club was founded in 1893 and moved to Champion Hill in 1912. It has competed continuously in the football leagues since then and is currently playing in the National League South. If planning permission is granted, Dulwich Hamlet will have a 125-year lease on the new site which will enable it to comply with Grade A National League Standards and secure its future as a football club. It will also be able to continue its community and charitable work including partnerships with local secondary schools, providing access to its grounds and coaching staff.

The development site consists of:

1. The site of the DHFC pitch and stadium, purchased from Kings College London in 2014 by Meadow Residential. The Club has a lease which expires May 2020, with agreed extensions thereafter.

2. The artificial pitch immediately to the west, together with strips of land to the north and south. This part of

the site is designated as Metropolitan Open Land. DHFC has a lease from Southwark Council. The artificial pitch has become dilapidated and its use has declined over the years.

The remainder of the area known as Green Dale Fields to the north and west of the site will be untouched by the development, except for planting to improve wildlife habitat in the area generally, and on the site of the old tennis courts.

The use of Metropolitan Open Land for leisure, recreation and sport as well as biodiverse landscapes is a Draft New London Plan policy. With MOL constraints in mind, the new stadium building will be constructed on the non MOL land and only the pitch and terraces for spectators will be on the MOL land. The pitch and terraces will be built below the existing ground level, so that the view from other parts of the MOL will be unobstructed. This should also reduce the impact of floodlighting on neighbouring houses and wildlife.

The pitch is to be surrounded by a 4.5m high openwork mesh fence and a 1.83m high canvas screen which will be raised only when matches are in progress, giving the pitch an open aspect for most of the time. New scrubland planting will be introduced alongside the mesh fencing to enhance the natural appearance of the site. The existing pitch and

stadium will remain in use until the new facilities are available, so there will be no interruption to the Club's football programme.

The residential element of the proposal consists of six blocks of flats, with 6 storey blocks nearest to Sainsbury's, stepping down to 4 storey blocks adjacent to the existing two storey houses to the south. The new blocks of flats are appropriate in scale for the area and will make a useful contribution to the supply of private and affordable housing. Each flat will have a private balcony and each block will have a semi private rooftop garden for the use of the residents, as well as sedum planting over the remainder of the roof. There will be public footpaths, landscape planting and children's' play areas around and between the blocks, and a continuous green link between St Francis Park in the east to the MOL playing fields and Green Dale Fields in the west.

By 11 October there had been 1,218 comments on the application recorded on Southwark's planning website, of which 883 were in favour and 330 were against. Those in favour are typically Dulwich Hamlet supporters who believe that the proposed development will give their club a secure future. They refer to the club in the warmest terms: "at the heart of the community" "family friendly" "open to all sexes, ages, ethnic backgrounds" "the rights of the individual are always embraced" Those against have mainly focussed on the damage they believe that the proposed development will do to the Metropolitan Open Land and the wildlife that it sustains. This concern does not seem to be justified by the application documents, which detail extensive works to protect and enhance the natural environment for both the MOL land and as a setting for the new flats.

In my opinion this is a well-designed and thought out project which is worthy of support.

Elizabeth Borowiecka



## Our Editor: Margaret you'll be very much missed



*Margaret Powley-Baker*

Margaret Powley-Baker was Editor of The Camberwell Quarterly over the last ten years. She died on 10 September 2019, aged 85.

She was born in 1934 in Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. Her family had lived in Southern Rhodesia for several generations, and she grew up with a love of wildlife and the outdoors, often accompanying her beloved father Alan (Redfern) on his safaris into the African bush.

Margaret loved telling the story about her grandfather Arthur and her father, who in 1935 whilst on a safari, shot a lion. They realised it was wounded and had to be put out of its misery. It took some time to track it down but when finally located, it surprised them with a sudden attack on Arthur, pinning him down. Alan saved his father's life by shooting the lion in the neck, but Arthur sustained serious injuries and it took two days' arduous driving before the two men reached civilisation and medical help.

Arthur vowed never to hunt a wild animal again. Instead he used his tracking skills to good use by taking images of animals at close quarters, becoming one of the country's leading wildlife photographers. He subsequently founded Rhodesia's Wildlife Preservation Society.

Such stories gave Margaret a deep love of all animals and she expressed a wish that anyone who knew her would contribute to an animal charity. The family chose The Aware

Trust, an animal conservation society based in Bulawayo, the town where she was born.

Margaret's young life was marred by tragedy when her father was killed in action during the Second World War. She was just nine years old and living in South Africa with her mother and younger brother at the time. After the war they moved back to Rhodesia.

Margaret married and had two sons, Wesley and Berni. However, she became increasingly disenchanted with the political and racial inequality of Southern Rhodesia. When the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) was declared in 1965, the family felt compelled to moved to the UK.

Married life was not easy, and in time Margaret broke free and established her independence, enjoying the freedom of her own studio flat in Chiswick. In 1990 she was able to join her son, Berni, his partner, Laura, and their son, Jake, in the home they had transformed from a wreck in Datchelor Place, Camberwell. With the help of Cllr Wingfield Datchelor Place is now a delightful, peaceful cul-de-sac. Margaret became a focal point for the family, and embraced her new home, immersing herself in Camberwell life.

Alongside her personal life, Margaret's journalistic career was impressive. Her first role in the UK as Press Secretary for the British Oxygen Company (BOC) led to a course in periodical journalism, following which she edited BOC group's staff newsletter. In 1983 she became Assistant Editor of Tempo, the staff newspaper for the Department of Employment. Her duties included briefing the press and producing a daily summary of newspaper news for ministers and senior officials.

In 1985 Margaret moved to Singapore and contributed her skills as a volunteer for the British Association of Singapore. This involved work on several committees

and editorship of its magazine for the ex-patriate community.

Returning to London in 1988, Margaret became editor of The Negotiator and The Interviewer, two bi-weekly trade magazines. The following year she moved to the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers (ISVA) as editor of The Valuer, a colour publication for property professionals. One of Margaret's key achievements was a complete re-design of The Valuer, a huge undertaking for which she had to learn new IT skills. Mary Kate O'Riley, who worked with Margaret at ISVA and developed a close friendship with her over several years, recounts how she gave her the opportunity to work on The Valuer and therefore a route into journalism. During the interview for the job, she was somewhat taken aback when Margaret asked if she minded about swearing in the office. Margaret explained that this happened a lot, especially when she was faced with the deadline of going to press! So, the Camberwell Society was extremely fortunate when, with all her editorial skills and experience, Margaret was willing to take over the editorship of The Camberwell Quarterly a decade ago. Founded in the 1970s it has now run to over 200 issues.

As Editor, Margaret was adept in attracting articles of high quality and interest from contributors. She always displayed consummate tact and discretion with authors when editing their submitted articles, and she maintained a firm control over the editorial process, even when faced with the inevitable deadline issues prior to publication.

Margaret was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Camberwell Society, where her wisdom and common sense were greatly valued. Producing the journal gave Margaret absolute pleasure and she made some truly great friends. She loved being part of Camberwell itself, from its gossip, to the Farmer's Market, to celebrating important events at Caravaggio's Italian restaurant. Wherever you walked everyone seemed to know her.



*Margaret Powley-Baker on her last trip to Zimbabwe*



*Margaret as a child*



*Margaret at home*

With her characteristic dignity and poise, whenever people greeted her, she would turn, greet them and smile. When she shopped at Morrisons she would go to Linda's checkout and they would chat about their day.

Visiting Margaret during her final weeks in hospital and then at home, she was always patient and accepting of her ill-health. She said time and again how wonderful her family were, looking after her so well. She felt very loved. She was bored by inactivity and keen to hear news... and gossip! Being in no pain, she told me that she wished to slip away peacefully after a complete life. Her wish was granted.

St. Giles Church was full on Tuesday 8 October for Margaret's funeral: a testimony to the widespread affection and respect in which she was held. She will be greatly missed.

*Nicholas Roskill*



Arts Market and Open Studios



Arts Market

Camberwell Arts invites you once again to their charming Winter Arts Market.

A celebration of the arts and crafts made in Camberwell and its neighbourhoods, the Winter Market will be open from **12pm to 5pm on Saturday 30th November**. A great chance to buy the work of local artisans and artists, get inspired by original, handmade, and affordable gifts for friends and family, while supporting the local community.

This year the Winter Market will be even bigger – in four different locations across Camberwell. Start by exploring Denmark Hill and meet the artists in The Joiners Arms pub, Butterfly Walk Arcade, and The Tiger; then move on to Camberwell Church Street and delight in the Church Street Hotel market.



Meeka Jewellery

This is an occasion to re-discover our local neighbourhood and neighbours. The four venues are a short walk and give an exciting change of environments to your shopping experience. Rainy day? Not to worry! All sites are weather protected so

you can keep dry. Still feeling a bit cold? Stop by the pubs where food and drinks will be served – and don't forget to try the mulled wine. The best creative international talents based in South London will participate, according to organisers Camberwell Arts, including designers, makers, artists, and upcyclers. They promise an exciting variety of colourful clothes and accessories, handmade ceramics, unique jewellery and houseware, as well as organic body products, original prints, fine art, and Zines. Visitors are encouraged to bring children along for some fun. And find the best gifts to impress loved ones this season!

The Winter Arts Market is organised by Camberwell Arts, promoting arts in Camberwell, and Camberwell through the arts to support the local artistic community and enrich Camberwell's sense of identity.

Camberwell Arts will also be selling a Camberwell colouring book. A Christmas gift for everyone who loves colour, creativity and contemporary art. From city scenes to local characters and our colourful history, every page features a unique artwork by a local artist. Together, it offers a collective celebration of Camberwell. The book costs £5 and all profits will go to supporting artists commissions for the 2020 Summer festival.

Francesca Gallo

See Facebook /camberwellartsfestival and Instagram @camberwellartsfestival



Kimbal Bumstead, Graces Mews



Marie Lenclos Whirled Studios  
photos Jerome Favre  
www.peachphoto.org

Arts Market and Open Studios

This season Camberwell Arts Open Studios will have over 100 artists opening their doors to the public. Over the first two weekends of December, locals will have the chance to explore the lesser-known corners of Camberwell, meet the artists in their studio spaces and buy one-of-a-kind artworks directly from them.

On Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December, delve into east Camberwell for Vanguard Court, Graces Mews, Joiners Arms studios and independent studios east of Denmark Hill.

On Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December, explore west Camberwell and visit Empress Mews, Warrior Studios, Clockwork Studios, Coldharbour Studios, Clubland Studios and Whirled Studios, plus independent studios west of Denmark Hill. Kelly Blaney from Camberwell Arts says, "Whether you are looking for ceramics, jewellery, fine art, paintings, prints, photography or just a nosey around some of the tucked away makers spaces, you'll be sure to find something to excite you".

Find the most up-to-date information on the Camberwell Arts Winter Open Studios at [www.camberwellarts.org.uk](http://www.camberwellarts.org.uk), Facebook /camberwellartsfestival and Instagram @camberwellartsfestival #CreativeCamberwell

Do you have a community event you want to tell the whole of Camberwell about?

Contact the Camberwell Quarterly Editorial Team

stauntonmarie@gmail.com



Benhill Road held its first street party on 10th August. The council closed the road, chairs and tables replaced cars. Neighbours shared food and drink, swapped plants and bric a bric, did face painting and got to know each other better. A What's App group is planning next year's party.

Alison Kirby



Over 7000 people came to the annual Camberwell Fair on the Green on Sunday 31st August. There were 40 stalls, music stages and games for children of all ages. Photo Greg de Wode

Tony Coleman



## Gun Crime is Rising



*The Krays had a shoot out with the Richardson gang in Addington Square in the 60s*

Gun crime in the UK is rising again, after a steep decline between 2010 and 2015. Hardly a surprise. The money made from the sales of illegal drugs allows the gangs to afford such weapons and it drives the need for them to possess them. As one gang uses firearms another will also – a mini-arms race. But where are the firearms coming from?

Twentieth century wars drove the demand for mass produced cheap firearms which still turn up in criminal circles today. During the Second World War General Motors in the US produced one million Liberator pistols in six months intended for use by insurgents in Europe. In the 1950s Yugoslavia produced sanitized firearms (weapons without origin i.e. no markings) which they could deny supplying to countries such as Egypt. In the 1960's major advances in steel fabrication and production took place, gun manufacture was now cheaper and faster than ever before.

Nowadays legally sold blank firing and replica guns are remanufactured and turned into lethal short-range weapons (which have been used in Southwark). Starting pistols and flare guns are converted into firearms. De-activated weapons can be re-activated with skill and the right tools.

Laser printers can produce receivers (the heart of a modern assault rifle or AR). In the USA eighty per cent finished receivers are sold legally for the buyers to, 'finish' the process at home, the result is 'Ghost Guns', exact copies of real AR platform weapons that are untraceable. During the 'Troubles' Loyalists produced sub-machine guns this way – all based on the Italian Beretta model 10, in 9mm.

Even without any access to machinery making a, 'Luty' is a simple process. Philip Luty who believed British gun control laws were "fascist", devoted his life to publicising blueprints for making firearms from easy to obtain materials such as sheet steel pipe nuts and bolts. He died of cancer in 2011 awaiting trial on firearms charges but his book and videos are still available.

A loop hole in the UK Firearms Act (1968 section 58 part 2) allows firearms of pre-1919 vintage possessed as a "curiosity or ornament" to be exempt from requiring a firearms certificate. In 2008, there were four deaths in the UK from antique firearms, but in 2016 there were ninety one. No import paperwork is required for firearms from the US pre-1899. So highly prized classic heavy handguns like the .44 calibre 'Russian' Smith & Wesson are exempt. The National

Ballistics Intelligence Service, which collates intelligence from police services estimates there are 322 guns in the hands of criminal gangs in England, Scotland and Wales.

In October this year a loaded pistol was recovered by a Camberwell officer, in Camberwell during a weapons sweep. Over the last six months several cases of gun smuggling have been reported in Southwark News. On 30 May 2019 a man from the Elephant and Castle was arrested for attempting to smuggle Heckler and Koch 9mm pistols and ammunition in his car boot. At the same time a Peckham man was named as 'the main orchestrator' in smuggling firearms into the UK through the channel tunnel. On 6th June the News reported a south London firearms gang had been jailed for 77 years. This was a big ammunition re-loading and processing operation, involving 1800 rounds of ammo and guns.

So, I feel that we have proof positive that people are bringing quality factory made weapons into the UK and we also have home grown firearm and ammunition making going on as well. Police forces outside London in West Yorkshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Cheshire are all reporting much higher levels of gun related incident's due to the so called, 'County Lines' drug trafficking with armed London or England based dealers travelling outside to do business.

Firearms offences in England & Wales have been slowly rising since 2015, starting to reverse a trend that had seen the number of offences halve from 10000 to 5000 over the previous five years. In Scotland firearms offences are down their lowest levels for forty years. The difference has been that in Scotland firearms offences have been a number one priority of the police for some years. That has not been the case in London, England and Wales

*Mark Webb Chair Camberwell Green Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel*

## Zeret Kitchen



*Zeret Kitchen, off the Walworth Road*

From chicken and chips to chickpea casserole the menu at 216 Camberwell Road has mapped the changing tastes of Camberwell over the past decade. When Tafe and her husband Berhanu took over Tony's café in 2002 it was one of many local greasy spoons. In between serving up a full English the family would sit down to their own vegan lunch. Intrigued, customers asked to try their delicious smelling stews. As traditional English cafes closed one by one in Camberwell Tafe's Ethiopian menu became increasingly popular. In 2010 Zeret Kitchen stopped serving all day breakfasts in favour of Ethiopian cuisine.

It is now regularly among Trip Advisors top fifty London restaurants (out of 19000). Weeknights and weekends a cosmopolitan crowd from across town is drawn to Camberwell by Tafe's cooking. Which is surprising as Tafe has never advertised and even the kindest reviews admit that the location of Zeret is "unprepossessing". The restaurant is named after Tafe's home Zeret, a rural village in the

highlands of Northern Ethiopia. She is a farmer's daughter, one of thirteen children. She learnt to cook from her mother who died when Tefe was thirteen, one of the reasons Tefe believes she became tough and resilient. She says "Being a young girl it was a given I would learn to cook. Feeding the family was the sole domain of women. A girl had to learn to cook before getting married and moving away. Learning the craft was not only a practical necessity but also a way of keeping a link to family traditions" Traditions that she has drawn on to develop an increasingly popular vegan cuisine and publish a cookbook (Zeret at Home £7 available from 216 Camberwell Road) written with local resident health psychologist Vicky Lawson.

Zeret is an observant, largely Christian community. Prohibited from eating meat during the many fasting periods prescribed by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church it has developed subtle spice and herb mixtures to make vegan food tastier. Although the cuisine tastes buttery it is low fat, the richness coming from a method of slowly steaming onions.

Food is eaten with fingers and served on injera the fermented flat bread which looks disconcertingly like tripe. Injera is a superfood made of the highly nutritious and gluten-free tef grain, which is unique to Ethiopia and imported twice a week to the UK. Tef contains a high proportion of fibre – reportedly more than any other grain on Earth – as well as being a complete protein and source of iron and calcium.

Before coming to the UK in 2000, Tafe specialised in growing herbs and spices in Ethiopia. She still mixes her own spices and does all the cooking, using fresh local produce. This makes for a very long day – from nine in the morning until midnight. So, what is Tafe's advice from her nearly two decades of experience to the new restaurateurs bringing cuisine from across the world to Camberwell?

"Every customer matters. Make sure each one is happy. Make your food fresh, never let standards slip and be prepared for hard work. And have a passion for what you do. Cooking is my passion"

*Marie Staunton*



# Electric Buses for Camberwell

All single deck buses entering the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) must be zero tailpipe emission, i.e. fully electric or hydrogen fuel cell powered. Go-Ahead trialled electric buses back in 2011 and are now rolling them out. Go Ahead run Camberwell Bus garage which is currently home to 18 electric buses with ten more on their way by Christmas and another batch in 2020. Double decker buses are not currently subject to the same requirement and Euro 6 grade diesel buses can be operated. Go Ahead are however starting to experiment with electric double decker buses with two arriving this year for trial out of Camberwell.



Go Ahead operate eleven routes from the site-12, 35,40, 42, 176, 185, 188, 360, 624, P5 and X68. Route 100 will be added in June. Route 360 is electric and route 100 will become electric from December. Route P5 will also become electric in 2020 when the fleet renewal vehicles are rolled out. Buses leave Camberwell garage from 4am and some may not return until 2:30am next morning. The garage is a busy place and stacking away the 218 buses each night requires careful planning to ensure that buses needed for the early routes can get out.

Each bus takes a full charge of 324k which gives it a range of over 200 miles, more than enough for the average run of 140 miles per day. There are nineteen charging points at the garage with more planned for the new buses. Each charger can deliver up to 80kW at 600V.

The electric drive trains, batteries and chargers are all from China where the technology is well developed with

over 2000 electric double decker buses already operating. The drive trains are built into bodies in the UK. Electric vehicles have rapid acceleration as they do not have to change gear, buses are limited to an acceleration of 1.2m/s<sup>2</sup> by TfL. This equates to 0-60mph in 23 seconds if sustained. Without these limits, their performance is such they have been affectionally nicknamed the “Chinese Ferraris” by the Go-Ahead team.

The ULEZ will be extended out to the South/North Circular in October 2021. Bus companies are awaiting clarity from TfL on whether any buses will be required to be electric in the outer ULEZ or whether Euro 6 grade emission diesel will be accepted. The Mayor of London has however decreed that by 2037 all London buses will be emission free. This will put financial pressures onto the bus companies as currently the running cost savings of an electric bus are not enough to recoup the extra capital cost within the five-year contract period that TfL offer when tendering routes. Go Ahead expect that TfL will revise the contract arrangements to be able to facilitate contracting routes to be electric without having to pay a premium.

Whilst we may have to wait until 2037 for all London buses passing Camberwell Green to be fully

electric, we will certainly be seeing more electric buses on the roads. So, give them a wave because they are helping our environment, but be careful – they are quiet too.

*Many thanks to Richard Harrington, Engineering Director of Go-Ahead London and to Ian Farrow, Workshop Manager at the Camberwell Garage for their time and patience.*

## Denmark Hill Second entrance

Network Rail have congratulated the Camberwell Society and other local groups for the engagement and support to create a second entrance to Denmark Hill station. They have confirmed that the Department for Transport have awarded the funds to complete the detailed design of the new second entrance. The proposed extra entrance will be on Windsor Walk west of the newer footbridge.

Currently, the new entrance is officially due to be open for use in December 2021, but Network Rail privately say they are determined to substantially accelerate this programme.

*Tony Coleman*



Actor Jenny Agutter, Ocki of the Blue Shop and dog Mole at launch of Denmark Hill station partnership. Photo March Schlossman

# The Houseowner



*Open House Tour*

The Camberwell Society has included an autumn history walk in the events calendar for several years now, and this year it was a walk with a difference which proved extremely popular. We were just one of the home owners who welcomed participants to come in and view the interior of their house, highlighting relevant architectural features, so giving detail and context to the for almost 200 years.

Local historian, Peter Cooke, was our subject matter expert, and put together a wonderful narrative on the evolution of the local architecture. Supported by members of the Camberwell Society Planning sub-committee, six groups were led through Grove Lane and Camberwell Grove, dipping in and out of the various properties along the way. As an owner of a Georgian property, it was a delight to meet people who like us are fascinated by its history and appreciate the beauty of the original features which have been preserved.

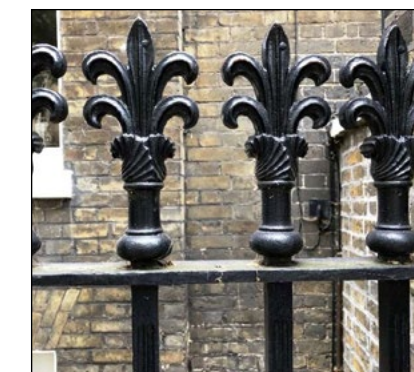
We enjoyed welcoming some 35 to 40 polite, interested and respectful visitors.

Overall more than 60 people joined the walk, making it the most successful and profitable to date, raising £376 for the Camberwell Society Charity of the Year. It was a great opportunity to not only learn about our local history and socialise with friends, but also meet and welcome newcomers to the area and to the Camberwell Society.

Having waved goodbye to our final group of visitors we joined everyone for drinks at the Vineyard in keeping with local tradition. A great day, and one I hope we will be repeating in future years.

*Liz Allen*

*Peter Cooke produced a 50-page illustrated guide to Camberwell Houses for the walk. We've included some pictures below.*



*34 Camberwell Grove – Front railings: Perhaps the only example of original largely cast iron railings to survive WWII in Camberwell Grove. They are reeded and their heads are stylised acanthus leaves.*



*45 Grove Lane – Camberwell Hall*



*Queens Row (34 Grove Lane) – Dining Room*



*34 Camberwell Grove Note the lettering “Grove Terrace” carved into the stone over the front door*

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## The Society's comments on recent planning applications

The Society looks at all planning applications within the SE5 area and occasionally at other applications which are significant to our area of interest. We advise the relevant planning authority (Lambeth or Southwark) that we object, support, or have no objection to an application when we have decided to comment. Owing to limited space we are only able to print a selection of the applications on which the Society has commented.

**Note** the Society objects to the proposal to use UPC windows and doors. These are unsustainable and will result in crude fenestration. We recommend timber or powder coated aluminium.

### 78-80 COLDHARBOUR LANE SE5

*Change of use of units 78 and 80 into one A3 use (Restaurant/Cafe) together with the erection of a single storey rear extension.*

This is a proposal to convert two empty shops into one unit. Both are vacant, one had traded successfully as a coffee shop/restaurant and the other was a laundrette. The proposal involves creating a new kitchen at ground floor level to the rear in part of the external yard area, utilising existing agreed locations for flue extract (at high level on a concealed flank wall).

Refuse is dealt with at the rear of the store. There is little visible apart from the new shop front ("Aluminium crittal style"), and the conversion will create a good-sized restaurant. This is opposite many of the research facilities at Kings, so should be viable.

The Camberwell Society supports this application and to create a Restaurant Cafe facility in this location. The size will assist viability and with the KCH recent expanded facilities opposite, there should be enough demand  
Conclusion: SUPPORT

### 65 GROVE HILL ROAD SE5

*19/AP/1812 65 Construction of a second storey extension and replacement of windows to front and rear of existing terrace.*

The proposed extension would change the Victorian house at 65 Grove Hill Road from being a replica of the house at 67 Grove Hill Road into a replica of the house at 63 Grove Hill Road. This seems reasonable as long as the materials and detailing are Victorian. The description of the proposed new windows as "sash type or similar look" casts this into doubt.

The Camberwell Society has no objection to this application as long as the new sash windows are timber and of traditional construction. This should be a condition of any permission granted.

### 10 GROVE LANE SE5

*19/AP/1814 Construction of rear extensions at ground, first and second floor levels (including balconies) to extend existing flats 1, 2 and 3. Construction of a mansard roof to create an additional floor for 1 x 1-bedroom flat.*

The drawings are inadequate to show the building in context (besides the site location plan).

The proposal is to extend the rear of the property (West) to the full depth of the site with large flank walls overshadowing the adjoining properties, of which no account is taken in the drawings, or any documentation. The plans and elevations of the property, drawn by a "structural design" firm are very basic. There are no sections, so surprising that the application has been validated.

The proposed balconies to the rear may give rise to overlooking of adjoining properties, but as these are close to the rear boundary, this will mainly be over the present carpark. In the future this carpark will become

the Daneville Road development as part of "Camberwell Lanes". This application is lacking in detail and seemingly overdevelopment of the site.

Conclusion: OBJECTION

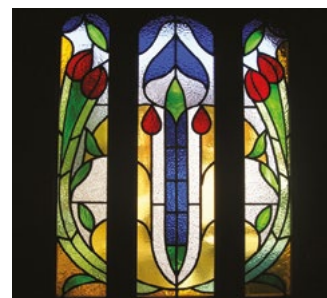
### HYDE HOUSING HAVIL STREET SE5

*19/AP/5457, 5487, 5493, 5498 Four applications covering Hyde Housing Flats to remove all existing windows to all elevations and to replace all windows with new UPVC double glazed windows to match existing styles and opening sizes. To replace all main entrance doors with new powder coated aluminium doors.*

The Camberwell Society objects to the proposal to replace timber windows with upvc. This is an unsustainable solution. The society would support the replacement of the windows with new timber windows of a higher thermal performance. The Society has no objection to the use of Powder coated aluminium to the doors.

Conclusion: OBJECTION

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## Camberwell's Remarkable Gentleman



On 11 September 2016 George A. Roberts was honoured with a Southwark Heritage Association Blue Plaque. It can be seen on the outside of his former home, the Lewis Trust Buildings, in Warner Road, Camberwell. He lived at this address from 1923 to 1970. George's plaque was the result of a popular public vote and the honour drew attention to a remarkable gentleman. What makes George special is that he was a Trinidadian adventurer who came to England long before the Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury in 1948. He was a black settler who successfully integrated into British society and made Camberwell his permanent home.

George Arthur Roberts was born in 1891 in Trinidad and Tobago. After working his passage to England, he signed up to the British Army in 1915. A photograph of George wearing his First World War uniform confirms that he was a Sergeant in the Middlesex Regiment. Standing at 6' 2", George earned a reputation as the 'Battalion Bomber' for throwing German bombs back over enemy lines. As a rifleman in the Middlesex Regiment he fought in the famous battles of Loos, the Somme and

in the Dardanelles. George was wounded at Loos and the Somme. In 1916 George was given special leave to return to Trinidad to recruit more volunteers. His speeches helped to recruit more than 250 men. George was passionate about the future of his fellow servicemen and, after the war, he campaigned for them. Active in the Royal British Legion from its beginnings until he died, George was the President and Founder Member of the Camberwell Branch.

In the early 1920s George led thousands of ex-servicemen, including many who had been wounded in battle and could no longer walk, in a march. They demanded improved rights and higher pensions. In 1960, when he gave a speech at the British Legion's conference, he recalled that the authorities would not allow the ex-servicemen to cross over Westminster Bridge to the Houses of Parliament. George said: "A scrimmage between our columns and the police began. Our banners were torn to pieces, and the poles broken, and when the police started using their batons we retaliated with our broken poles. The wounded and disabled, game to standing up to their principles, used their sticks and crutches. Yet in spite of this vicious official action against those who had served their country so well, a large proportion of personnel won through and crossed the bridge. So ended quite a historic civil battle."

After the war, George earned a living as an electrician, a trade he'd learnt in Trinidad. In 1931, with the Jamaican-born community activist Dr Harold Moody, who had settled in Peckham, George was a founder member of the League of Coloured

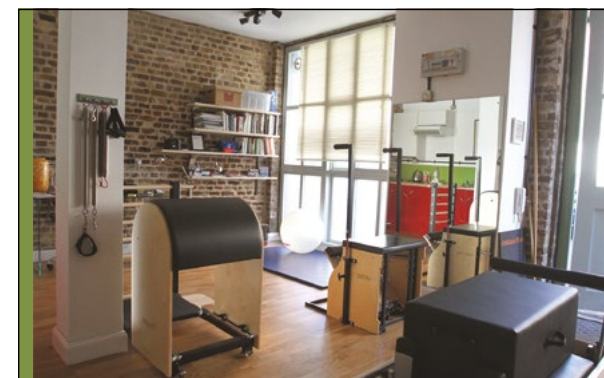
Peoples. This was one of the first organisations to represent and support Britain's black community. George remained an active member of the League until it disbanded a few years after Dr Moody's death in 1947.

In 1939, when the Second World War broke out, George was too old for combat but, in 1938, he had already begun training with the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS), which was known as the National Fire Service (NFS) from 1941. Throughout the London Blitz and the rest of the war, George served as a brave fire fighter, putting out fires and saving lives while the bombs fell and exploded. It is likely that George's First World War experience prepared him for this onslaught. His base was New Cross Fire Station and in 1943 he was made a section leader. In 1944 George was awarded the British Empire Medal which was presented to him by King George VI at Buckingham Palace. On 15 April 2018, a red plaque was unveiled in his honour by the London Fire Brigade on New Cross Fire Station.

George died in 1970 and the two plaques in Camberwell and New Cross honouring his service to this country will ensure he is not forgotten.

*Stephen Bourne*

*Camberwell author Stephen led the campaign for George A. Roberts's Southwark Heritage Blue Plaque. Stephen included a chapter about George in the 2nd revised edition of his book Black Poppies – Britain's Black Community and the Great War (The History Press, £12.99)*



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A Fatal Passion

Local author Sean O'Connor was the editor of The Archers responsible for the storyline culminating in Helen Archer stabbing her coercive husband, that kept 5 million listeners glued to their radios. In the course of his research he came across the Rattenbury case, which gripped the nation in 1935, and has since been the inspiration for numerous books and plays, including Sarah Waters' novel The Paying Guests, set in Camberwell and Walworth.

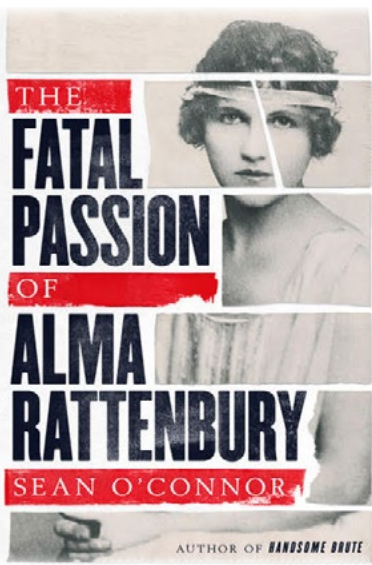
A classic example of how truth can be stranger than fiction, the trial of Alma Rattenbury and her teenage lover for the murder of her husband provides a riveting snapshot of the social and moral values of the time, and of the ways in which transgressions from them were dealt with.

Alma's family was highly musical and were probably drawn to south east London because of its pre-eminence in the London music hall scene. Her mother sang with the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company and other family members also pursued musical careers. It seems that they were also ambitious, and in 1890 they emigrated to Victoria, the capital of British

Columbia in western Canada.

Fans of local history will be fascinated by the description of life in Walworth in the late nineteenth century, where Alma Rattenbury's parents began their married life together. The population of London had grown exponentially, from under a million at the beginning of the century to 6,586,000 by its end, much of it due to immigration. Alma's maternal grandfather had come from Germany, and it was thought that a third of the population had been born abroad. Hardship was rife, and the social reformer Charles Booth estimated that Southwark was London's poorest borough, with 68% of the population living in poverty.

Alma was born two years later into what had become a prosperous family. She was groomed for a musical career, achieving considerable success at an early age until the Great War intervened and she eventually ended up in Bournemouth with her third husband, who was 25 years older. The murder took place at a time of immense social and political change, following on from the rapid industrialisation that had culminated in the First World War. Mr O'Connor provides a meticulous account of the events



surrounding the murder, and successfully locates them within that historical context.

This is a beautifully written book and I found it hard to put down. The fate of John Rattenbury, the six-year-old caught up in the tragic events, haunted me, and I was relieved to discover that he went on, by his own account, to live a long and happy life back in his native Canada.

Alison Kirby

*The Passion of Alma Rattenbury* by Sean O'Connor is published by Simon & Schuster £20

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

Editors Camberwell Quarterly  
Marie Stauton, Kirstie Lamont

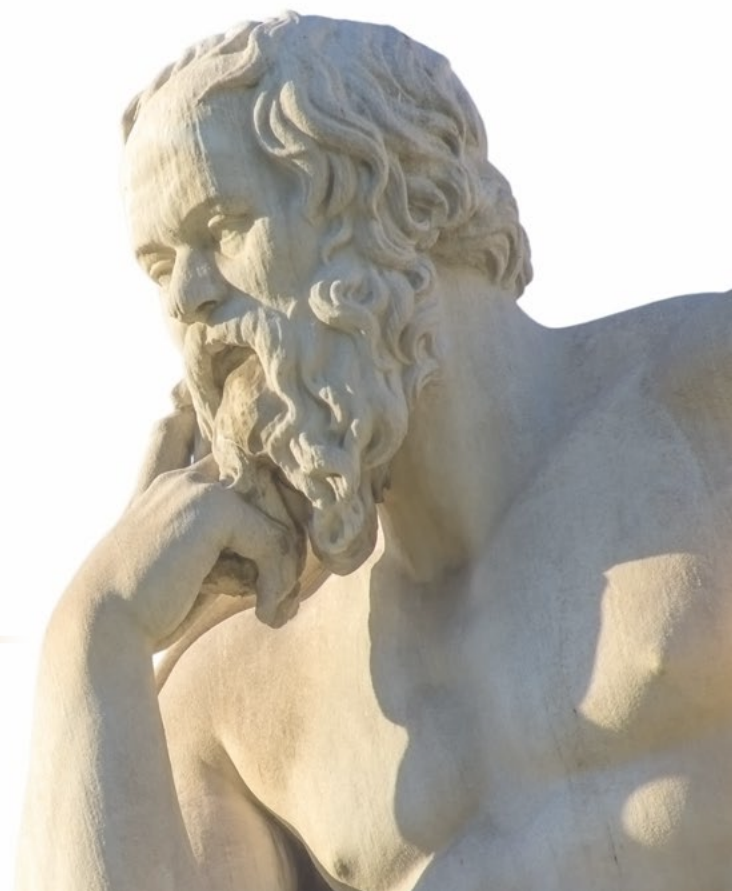


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