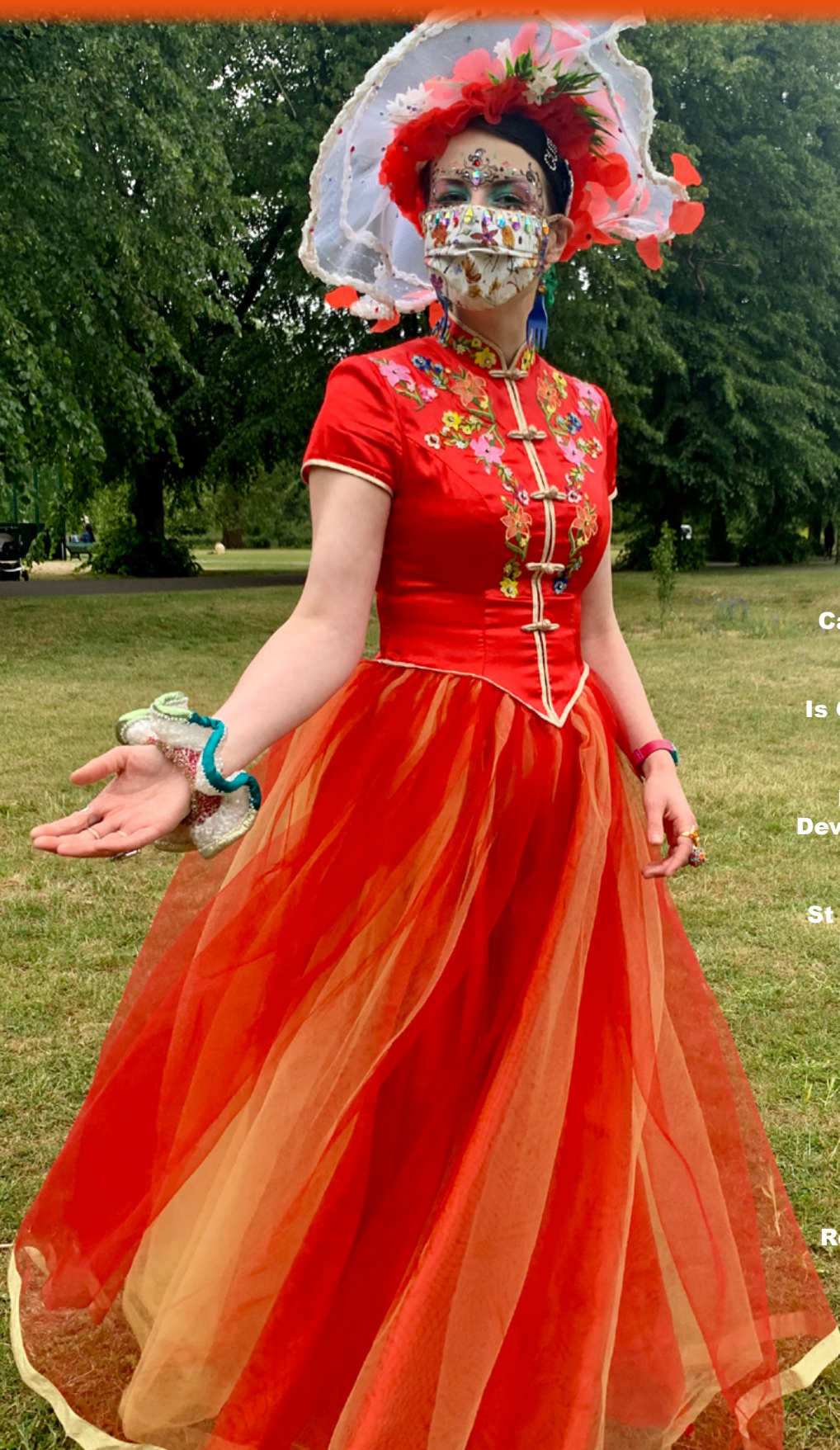


CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

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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

Brixton Society
www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

Burgess Park, Friends of
www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk
friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com

Butterfly Tennis Club
www.butterflytennis.com

Camberwell Arts
Promoting the arts in Camberwell and
Camberwell in the Arts
camberwellartsfestival@gmail.com
www.camberwellarts.org.uk

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

Carnegie Library, Friends of
foclchair@gmail.com or
foclmembers@gmail.com
(for membership queries)

Concerts in St Giles' Church
Camberwell Church Street
www.music@stgiles.com

Dulwich Picture Gallery
College Road SE21 7AD
020 8693 5254
www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Herne Hill Society
Jeffrey Doorn
020 7274 7008
Membership: Herne Hill Society
PO Box 27845
SE24 9XA
www.hernehillsociety.org.uk

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
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

St Giles, Friends of
16 Sears Street SE5 7JL
robertcope@hotmail.com
www.stgilescambewell.org

St Giles Churchyard, Friends of
StGilesChurchyardFriends@gmail.com

Wells Way Triangle Residents Association
Andrew Osborne
WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com



Cover photo: Liz Cook
Anna Kompiets opens Camberwell's
virtual open gardens day.

Make your own floral facemask at:
www.camberwellsociety.org.uk/rw_common/plugins/stacks/armadillo/media/FacemasksinMyattFieldsPark1.mp4

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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. Members are welcome to attend as observers with prior notice to the Secretary.

Planning, the environment, traffic and transport, publications and local history form an important part of the Society's work. Members are welcome to involve themselves in areas of interest.

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).

Camberwell transport: Changes in line

The budget is being finalised for the new entrance to Denmark Hill station in Windsor Walk – see article page 4. And it will have a sculpture of some considerable size. This commission (to the value of some £25,000) will have none of the anodyne soggy of much public art. The artist's brief, skilfully crafted by Camberwell Arts, called for something that, appropriately, 'would stop people in their tracks'. Like it or loathe whatever comes, you will not ignore it! Do donate as funds are still needed. King's, Govia Thameslink and Network Rail have done their part – can you help? www.crowdfunder.co.uk/2nd-plinth

You will be walking more – and if you have taken to bipedal locomotion then why not try Stephen Bourne's outstanding Black History walk on page six of this issue? Thanks to Jane Moxham for the excellent pictorial map. Having learnt about the work of community leader and popular local doctor, Harold Moody, you might want to sign the petition to erect a statue in his name at: www.change.org

Because we are now walking more

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Huge thanks to the supporters of the pop-up plant shop at Open Gardens Day – photo Liz Cook

now, we should thank those involved in caring for our parks. Park parties have their attraction, but less so their empties. Well done the Council employees and volunteers who clean yesterday's binges. How much poorer would be our lives if these urban green lungs were removed?

And if you believe in the value of parks then we hope you will have enjoyed the Virtual Open Gardens 'event' online. A huge thank you to members and friends who supported our pop-up plant shop and helped raise badly needed funds for the Benhill Road food bank. If you can help with donating plants next year please do contact Liz Cook. Who could have believed the richness of an online event? The videos, photos and text made for the closest thing to the 'real thing' especially is your cake and tea were of the usual Camberwell quality. You can still relive the event as you wait for next summer: www.camberwellsociety.org.uk/open-gardens

And if you liked the virtual open gardens you will certainly like the Camberwell Environment Instagram account – a visually stunning catalogue of Camberwell green crops. Depending on how you take your social media, Mr Zuckerberg's Facebook is not far behind.

And if you like the environment you will be keen to lend your voice and strongly counteract any move that Southwark Council might make by trying to develop on the Metropolitan Open Land. Surely this space is unique in London? Though

not a football supporter

I have thoroughly enjoyed all the matches I have watched there and am adamant that the club should go from

strength to strength. The current proposal, at the expense of MOL, is not the answer. It will be your multiple strong voices that will carry the day, if needed. I urge you to be ready if called upon.

And if E is for Environment then surely A-Z is for Camberwell Arts and their highly visual online delivery of the longest standing local Arts event in England. The online offering did as much as could be done to continue this tradition that is at the very heart of Camberwell.

C stands for Camberwell and sadly for both Covid and Coronavirus. The ongoing threat of the virus has led to the cancellation of Camberwell Fair. But we will all be celebrating on the Green again on Saturday 4th September 2021 – save that date! A special Covid donation of £1,000, plus the proceeds of virtual Open Gardens (£358.50) will be given to Central Southwark Community Hub, which runs the Benhill Road Food Bank and is featured on page 18 of this issue of CQ.



Nick Mair

Green light for second entrance to Denmark Hill

Construction of the new entrance to the station should begin in August. There had been a problem about the budget, but that seems to have been overcome. The final go-ahead is expected before the end of this month. If all goes to plan, expect the grand opening in April 2021.

Jim Sutherland of Studio Sutherland, who designed the Camberwell Identity branding, has kindly donated the time to look at tiling and decoration of the new entrance. He has drawn on the palette of colours that were selected for the identity project. These colours were based on the landscape of Camberwell. Unsurprisingly, when put together they evoke the landscape of Camberwell.

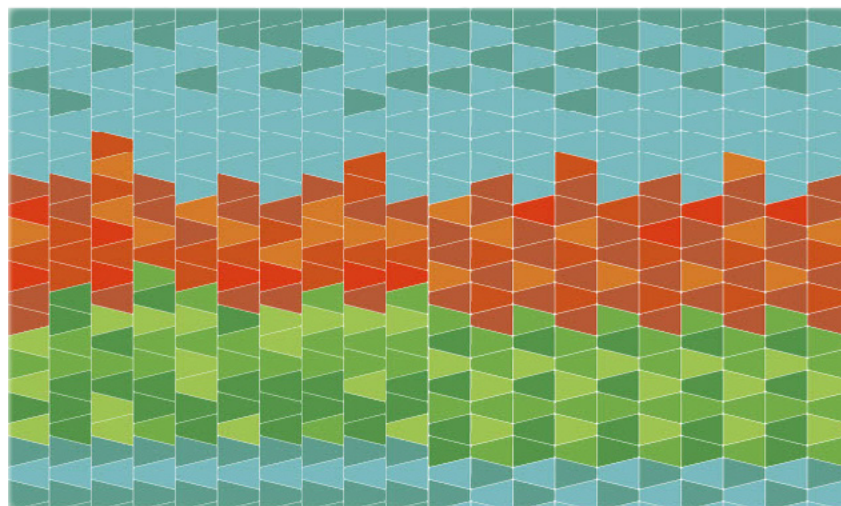
The picture above is of the panel that is proposed for a corner of the entrance hall that you will see when you arrive. There would be two panels, each two metres wide and the full height of the room.

The entrance hall also has three large windows that require safety reveal etching. The Camberwell 'C' is being proposed for one of the windows as shown *below right*. The other two windows will have something uplifting etched on them designed to raise the spirits of those going to the nearby hospitals.

Three days after asking for proposals for the artist's brief, we received our first one. There is no dearth of suggestions. The deadline was the 11th of July. By the beginning of August we expect to have shortlisted the proposals received and begin to interview for the final selection. An exciting time is in prospect.

Thank you to all those who responded to our endorsement exercise for the theme of Health and Wellbeing. We had 259 responses of which 91.5% had clicked "like". Over 150 left email addresses for follow up.

We are progressing well on funding. Many individuals and local organisations have given generously.



We are confident of reaching our initial target and may even achieve our stretch target of £35,000. That would allow us to add better finish and detail to the piece.

But we still need your help. A donation portal is open until mid-August at: crowdfunder.co.uk/2nd-plinth/

We are also very grateful to individuals who have contributed to a guarantor fund to help make sure the project happens. If you are interested in becoming a guarantor please contact me at: transport@camberwellsociety.org.uk

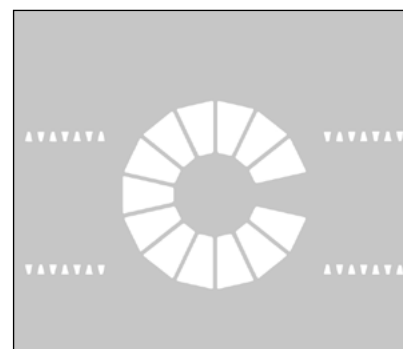
All donors and guarantors will have their names on a plaque on the plinth unless they opt for anonymity.

We are also still working on developing the garden at the old entrance. We have applied for a licence for the land from Network Rail and we hope to hear from them in September. In the meantime, Govia Thameslink is tendering works that will help us to create something of fascination. We are planning a place to display scientific curiosities, art installations and school competition winners on a rolling basis. We will know we have succeeded in making something stand out when we start to see people using it as a background for their selfies!

We want to make the station a destination in itself by encouraging people to make journeys to Camberwell who otherwise would not. Southwark Council has plans to



Sketch of plinth for the new sculpture



Illustrations Sutherland & Co

green up the walk from the station to the town centre. So, after posing for their Instagram shots, our new visitors can refresh themselves at one of Camberwell's bars and cafes and help our high street to prosper.

Tony Coleman

Steppin' Out: Camberwell's black music hall stars

Stephen Bourne remembers some of the trailblazing black stars of Camberwell's music halls.

Before the existence of radio, television and 'talkies' (movies with sound), the British public enjoyed seeing a variety of entertainers live on stage in music halls, and Camberwell had two of the most popular. Mary Boast described them in her book *The Story of Camberwell* (1996) as two of the grandest, purpose-built theatres that existed in many London suburbs in the 1890s. They almost faced each other across Denmark Hill. On the east side, on the corner of Denmark Hill and Orpheus Street, was the Camberwell Palace of Varieties. It opened in 1899 with seating for over 2,000 people. Some of the legendary music hall stars appeared there including Marie Lloyd, Harry Lauder, Nellie Wallace and Harry Tate. Said Mary Boast: "Only a small street named after the Orpheus, the musician of ancient Greek legend, marks the site of Camberwell's own music hall." Across the way was the famous Metropole, known as the Camberwell Empire from 1906 to 1916. It was situated on the corner of Denmark Hill and Coldharbour Lane. After it was demolished in the 1930s, it was replaced by a cinema.

Belle Davis was one of many black stars to become successful in music halls in the Edwardian era. She was an American expatriate, born in New Orleans, of European and African ancestry. The tall, beautifully dressed soprano spent most of her adult life in Britain. She stood out from other black or blackface singers/entertainers of the Edwardian era by performing songs that did not come from the minstrel show tradition. Belle sang graceful melodies and comic numbers. On stage she presented herself as a sophisticated, elegant woman of the world, not the stereotypical bandanna-wearing 'mammy'.

Belle first toured Britain in 1897-98 but, when she returned to the UK in 1901, she decided to make her

home here. In London in 1902 she became one of the first black women to have her voice recorded when she took to a microphone to sing 'The Honey-Suckle and the Bee', one of the most popular music hall songs of the day. She toured Britain extensively from 1901 to 1918 and appeared in music hall tours that took her all over the country. In London she topped the bill in many music halls including Brixton, Walham Green and Clapham. Belle made the first of several appearances at the Camberwell Palace of Varieties on 24 November 1902. She returned there many times.

London-born Cassie Walmer was another favourite of music hall audiences in the Edwardian era and, like Belle Davis, she continued working all through the First World War. Born in 1888, she began her stage career as a young child in the 1890s. Her father, George Walmer, was an established stage actor who, in the Victorian era, had played the slave Uncle Tom in numerous stage adaptations of Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. He was seen all over Britain in these productions but Cassie didn't get to know him well because he died in 1897, when she was just eight years old. Her mother encouraged Cassie to continue working and she developed her talents as a comedienne, eccentric dancer and singer. Surviving photographs of Cassie from the period show a glamorous young woman. Hundreds of newspaper reports of the First World War period mention Cassie's stage appearances and reveal that she was extremely popular with audiences all over the country. Reviews were always favourable. Some critics described her as 'The Popular Comedienne' or 'The Eccentric Contralto'. Her eccentric sand dance was considered innovative for its time.

Throughout the war, Cassie travelled from city to city. Her 1917 tour included a London engagement at the Camberwell Palace of



Cassie Walmer

Varieties. By the end of the 1920s she had retired from the world of entertainment. Cassie died in London in 1980 at the age of 92.

Gordon Stretton (1887-1982), who was born in Liverpool of Irish and Jamaican parents, was just nine years old when he joined the Eight Lancashire Lads, a clog-dancing troupe which toured music halls for many years. In Edwardian Britain he was also a member of a Jamaican choir that was popular with British concert audiences. After serving in the army in the First World War, Gordon resumed his career as a music hall entertainer. He devised a show called *Black and White Revusical Comedy* which opened at the Camberwell Empire on 22 May 1916. He lived at 18 Brixton Road, Lambeth. After 1918 Gordon became a pioneer of jazz music in Europe and made his home in Argentina.

Smith and Johnson (Augustus 'Gus' Smith and Connie Johnson) were a popular double-act who left America for Britain in 1895 and never went back. They married in Liverpool in 1902. They found plenty of work in music halls, and appeared

Steppin' Out – continued

in Camberwell's two theatres many times. They are claimed to be the first black artists to perform the 'cake-walk' in Britain. This was a popular dance craze of the Edwardian era. Their duets – with Augustus in white gloves on bass and Connie playing the piano – claimed encore after encore.

After Gus died in 1927, Connie kept on working and eventually she made a successful transition to character actress. In 1956, at the age of 80, she joined the distinguished English Stage Company at London's Royal Court. Brook Drive in Lambeth was her home from the 1930s until she died in 1970 at the age of 95.

In the latter part of her long career, Connie was an inspiration to younger

black actors and actresses in Britain. Pauline Henriques, who worked with Connie in the 1940s and 1950s, remembered her as "Wonderful. On stage she had this presence even though she was very small and very quiet. She had discipline and a subtle way of playing a role. I would say she was the first black professional in the theatre I ever met. She would always be on time for rehearsals, and never missed a cue."

Connie is buried in an unmarked grave in the Variety Artists' section of Streatham Park Cemetery. Pauline commented: "It doesn't surprise me that Connie is buried in an unmarked grave because she underplayed everything. She would be perfectly happy with that."



Smith and Johnson

BLACK HISTORY WALK

Sam King

George A. Roberts

Una Marson

Marianne-Jean Baptiste

Belle Davis

Dr. Harold Moody

St. Giles Church

John Boyega

Inspiring stories of some of Camberwell's finest

Local historian Stephen Bourne has researched and written a walk through Camberwell's black history. An hour's stroll takes you through 400 years from John Primero, buried in St Giles' Churchyard in 1607, to actor John Boyega who plays Finn in the Star Wars films. The map is illustrated by Jane Moxham. The Society, Camberwell Arts and SE5 Forum are asking Southwark Council to put a map of the walk, and other green walks on the Green with a paving stone trail so locals can walk and learn.

Download the walk here: www.camberwellsociety.org.uk/rw_common/plugins/stacks/armadillo/media/camberwellblackhistorywalk2020_2.docx

Covid is making GPs remote and anonymous

By the middle of March the virus was ripping through Camberwell. People knew that some form of lockdown was coming.

Many started stocking up with everything they imagined they might need: food, bottled water, alcohol, toilet rolls, face masks, hand sanitisers and medicines. Not just the medications they regularly took for chronic conditions, but pain-killers, inhalers, antibiotics. 'It was incredibly stressful,' says Dr Julia



Dr Julia Hodges

Hodges, a resident of Camberwell who is a GP at the Villa Street Medical Centre. 'People made

up stories to get antibiotics. It added immensely to our workload. That was a time when many of our GPs were sick with the disease.'

Then, suddenly, it ceased. People stayed at home. In the country as a whole, the King's Fund estimated, GP appointments fell by 30 per cent, about the same as the drop in A&E attendances. In Camberwell it was much greater, perhaps as much as 90 per cent. GP surgeries and hospitals became no-go areas: venture there, and you'll come back sick, people thought.

Of course, people who actually had symptoms of the virus were not supposed to go to their GPs. They were supposed to stay at home and, if they did not recover, to call 111. But there was a problem: it is not clear when someone who has been suffering from Covid-19 should go to hospital or even whether the symptoms have an altogether different cause. Remember, this was a time when there was no testing for people in the community.

So Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group, which is responsible for the 46 GP practices in the borough, asked GPs to form a couple of Covid clinics to meet the needs of these people. The Villa

Street Medical Centre formed one for people in the north of the borough and one was formed at the Lister Centre on Peckham Road for people in the south. The GP surgery that was located at the Lister had to move to another site.

The people who GPs thought were not managing at home were brought to these clinics in black cabs which were decontaminated after each journey. These were really triage clinics, to sort out the very sick from the not so sick and the just plain worried. Indeed, some people who came because they were finding it difficult to breathe were not suffering from Covid-19 at all, but were having a heart attack. The main purpose of these clinics was to reduce the number going to hospital. Now that Covid cases have fallen, these clinics have closed.

Now if you are not managing at home with Covid, you'd get a home visit from a GP or be examined remotely. The patient rings his GP to say he is breathless or whatever, or rings NHS 111 which in turn rings the GP; the GP sends a text to the patient with a link; by clicking on the link the patient or some member of his family can connect the patient on video with the GP.

Consultation by video has taken off in the past couple of months and is here to stay. A lot can be done remotely in this manner. The GP can, for example, see how fast patients are breathing. They can be examined climbing the stairs. The GP can get a better idea of the patients' mental state by seeing them speak. And they can upload pictures, for example of an affected area of skin, to help the GP diagnose the problem and prescribe a remedy. Of course, for this to work, the patient has to have smart phones or tablets and the skills to use them; also, to be able to speak English: remote three-way consultations with an interpreter do not work well.

The need to reduce face-to-face consultation to the barest minimum has led a rapid adoption of digital consultation. There is no GP surgery



Covid Art on Denmark Hill Post Office hoardings by Deanio and Tasnim Mahdy of Stay Strong Collective who create public murals to raise support for marginalised workers and communities in the UK. www.tasnimmahdy.com

in Camberwell into which you could walk, ask to see a doctor, hang around in the waiting room before seeing the doctor. Those days are gone, perhaps for ever. Even before the coming of the virus some practices, Camberwell Green Surgery, for example, had introduced telephone triage: you ring the surgery speak to the receptionist, the doctor calls back, resolves the problem or gives you an appointment to be seen. Now all appointments are made on the telephone or by email or online. All practices in Camberwell have installed an app called eConsult that enables you to consult the GP, or find out about your condition or refer yourself to other services if appropriate.

But for some conditions, face-to-face consultation is unavoidable, for example, conditions where the GP needs to manipulate the patient's body in order to reach a diagnosis. Some practices are seeing patients they have to see at their own surgeries, others, such as Camberwell Green Surgery, at another site.

Covid is making GPs remote and anonymous – continued

In either case, it is a very slow and cumbersome process, far removed from the human and friendly encounters of pre-Covid days.

Consider the case of J, a woman in her early 20s who lives in Camberwell. She got a rash in May and rang her GP who is based on Commercial Way, but is part of the Aylesbury Partnership which has seven other practices in Southwark. After a telephone consultation with her doctor, she was sent a text with a link to a site where she could upload pictures of the rash. The GP prescribed a cream after inspecting the pictures.

The cream did not work. She contacted her GP again, and the whole process was repeated. Another cream was prescribed. It didn't work either. The third time the GP (not the same one) decided J should be seen by a doctor. She was asked to attend a surgery in Bermondsey. At exactly the appointed time she was let into the building by a masked woman. She took J's temperature, then led her to a basin to wash her hands. J was already wearing a mask. There was no one else in the waiting room, but she was told to sit on a specific chair, which would be decontaminated later. Then she saw the doctor. She was in full PPE gear – scrubs and a visor. The doctor prescribed another medicine and referred J to a dermatologist at King's. 'Don't expect to be seen anytime soon,' the GP told J, 'but he might contact you by phone.'

From the beginning of June, patients began coming back to GPs. 'There is a shopping list of problems,' says Dr Hodges. But apart from old problems for which people put off seeing their GP, now there is something new: mental health. People are suffering from the effects of the lockdown and are extremely



Church Street in lockdown – collage Niki Borowiecki

anxious about getting the infection. 'It's absolutely overwhelming,' says Dr Hodges. Many people who had mental problems have gone over the edge, but there are also many who never had problems before. Pre-Covid, such people would have come to their GP, and talked, often presenting with physical symptoms, but actually suffering from stress, depression or anxiety. Now such talk is not possible and there is little GPs can offer.

Consider another Camberwell resident, R. She is 27. She lives in a flat with her 6-year old daughter who has autism. When she became aware of the virus about three months ago, she says she 'became very scared.' She locked herself in with her daughter and kept away from everyone. They did not go out for exercise, though they did get some fresh air because their flat has a balcony. She lost a lot of weight. Her daughter, she says, 'was climbing the walls.'

She has suffered from anxiety and panic attacks in the past and has a therapist, but she did not contact her during this lockdown. She has had several panic attacks. Now

that lockdown is being eased, she sometimes meets her sister in the park. Her mum brings her food and other essentials, but she remains anxious. 'I want to go out,' she says, 'but I am scared of getting ill. I am not going to send my daughter back to school till the virus is completely gone.'

Southwark Council has been in the forefront among local authorities in giving importance to mental health. Before Covid it opened Nest, a drop-in centre in Peckham where young people can get support for their mental health difficulties. There is also a Wellbeing Hub to help people find the right support. Unfortunately, all these services are now remote: telephone, email and on-line. What anxious and depressed people need is human contact. In early June Southwark with three other boroughs joined the Maudsley in a virtual Urgent Mental Health Prevention Summit (sic). Amongst other actions it resolved to track 'the levels of psychological distress in our communities as a result of Covid-19'. It is difficult to see these levels falling in the coming months.

Shekhar Das

Burgess Business Park development stopped by residents



The winning team at the enquiry

The Secretary of State's decision this April to dismiss the appeal by Peachtree Services to redevelop Burgess Business Park is a great victory for local residents.

It is the culmination of a long process going back to June 2017 when Peachtree, which owns the site, proposed its Camberwell Union plan and held its first public exhibition. Following a major revision in August and September 2018, the scheme went before Southwark's Planning Committee. Although planning officers recommended consent, the Planning Committee heeded residents' representations and refused the application. In March 2019, Peachtree appealed to Secretary of State and an inquiry was held in August. The application and objections to it were discussed in our last issue.

In order for the local communities' views to be heard at the inquiry, six community groups opposed to the application joined together to form The Local Group. They were Brunswick Park TRA, The Camberwell Society, Friends of Burgess Park, Vital Old Kent Road, Wells Way Triangle TRA and 35 Percent.

Taking part in the planning inquiry was a daunting task. At our first meeting, Jonathan Welch, the lawyer from Southwark Law Centre, told us that we had to raise at least £3,000 in the next month. Each organisation had different objections to the Camberwell Union proposal, but there was a consensus that the proposal should be rejected.

The group had some specialist knowledge, but it would have been impossible to keep up with both the substantive detail and procedure without legal support. This was provided to us by Southwark Law Centre. The help was freely available because Southwark

Law Centre receives charitable funding from United St Saviour's Charity.

Our fundraising effort was extremely successful. We raised £5,780 to pay our excellent barrister, Esther Drabkin-Reiter (of Francis Taylor Building) and specialist consultants to give evidence on transport, right to light, townscape and character. We would not have succeeded without local support. This came from people who objected to the original planning applications and a wide network of local community groups beyond the six named. Some came along to the inquiry to show community interest. I have written about my impression of the inquiry in: www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk/diving-into-the-details/.

The Inspector's Report that accompanied the Secretary of State's verdict stated that "rather than optimising the use of the land resources the scheme has sought to maximise it" resulting in poor quality development. You can see the Inspector's Report in full by clicking on: <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3225548>.

Whilst this planning application has been dismissed, the future development of the whole area remains uncertain. As discussed in our last issue, there are three other planning applications for sites on Parkhouse Street, with tall towers and high density. The overall approach to this area needs a complete re-think. Plans for more homes and jobs should enhance the character of an area that contains Burgess Park and St George's Church.

Lessons for objectors:

Objecting to planning applications, making representations to the planning committee and taking part in an inquiry was not easy. Winning the first round, when the planning application was refused, required community action. Planning officers rely on the developers' reports, which usually present a subjective assessment as objective fact. Sometimes they are plainly misleading. Our campaign encouraged objections before the report went to the planning committee, utilised local networks and built broad support, shared the workload of detailed comments and influenced local councillors. On the night our arguments focused on planning policy and facts.

There are general lessons. A campaign has three phases. First, try to influence the plan itself. Engage with developers and get local people and groups involved. Tell ward councillors your views and encourage others to contact them. Find out about the relevant planning policies, local strategic plan of the borough and the London Plan. Learn from other groups outside your area.

Second, if you still oppose the plan after it has been submitted, you need to subject it to forensic analysis. Look at the elements which are of most concern. The key document is the Design and Access Statement. There are all sorts of issues where objections are valid, such as light, density, affordability, impact on listed buildings.

Finally, mitigation: if the scheme does get permission to go ahead, what would make it more acceptable? Modifications to design might still be possible, the builders might agree to abide by certain codes of practice during the work, the developers might make a financial contribution to develop infrastructure in the surrounding area.

Friends of Burgess Park, with other local groups, have acquired collective knowledge about planning over the last few years with the support of Southwark Planning Network.

Susan Crisp

Tomb raiders do some gruesome paperwork in churchyard

How St Giles' churchyard was restored, described by Donald Mason and Elaine Clarke.¹

Elaine Clarke has recently found documents in the London Metropolitan Archives which give a fuller account of how St Giles' churchyard was transformed from a derelict and overgrown burial ground into a pleasant public park.

By the middle of the 19th century, the number and shallowness of burials in London's churchyards were of public concern, leading to the 1852 Burial Act. An Order in Council of 13 August 1855 forbade all burials in St Giles' churchyard after 1 March 1856.

The churchyard became untended. The obscure areas of Nunhead cemetery demonstrate the effect nature can have. An untended area quickly becomes an obstacle course of young trees, brambles, ivy, wild clematis and more.

St Giles' churchyard was not alone in reverting to wilderness. The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association (MPGA) was established in 1882 for "the protection, preservation, safeguarding and acquiring for permanent preservation for public use, of gardens, disused burial grounds, churchyards, open spaces, areas of land likely to be used for building purposes, etc..."

So St Giles' Vestry approached the MPGA in 1896, but nothing was decided. The Open Spaces Act 1906 gave local authorities powers to acquire disused burial grounds (and other spaces) to be made into parks. But the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell (which replaced the Vestry) was not moved to any immediate action.

Finally, and owing mainly to impetus from the vicar, Rev H.P. Lindsay, the process of conversion to a public park began in 1937, under the Open Spaces Act.

By the late 1930s, according to the

South London Press, its condition had "produced many outbursts from nearby residents, who complained bitterly of broken headstones, open tombs and the general air of decay."

Photographs from 1932 show the sort of state the burial ground was in. One looking west along Churchyard Passage (pretty well invisible) towards Camberwell Grove appears to show the low sides and left-hand end of an opened tomb. A slab leaning against the right-hand end could be a stairway going down – the larger family plots had vaults entered by staircases.



An open tomb
Southwark Local History Archive

The conversion process was triggered in June 1937 by a claim from the Parochial Church Council of St Giles' to the Borough for the repair of railings of on either side of the graveyard section of Churchyard Passage. This led to a high-powered site meeting between the vicar, the works committee chair, the town clerk, the borough engineer and surveyor. The project was discussed at the site meeting and approved at a full council meeting.

It entailed three main steps: agreement between the church and the Borough about what work was to be undertaken; conveyance of the land from the church to the Borough; and then a "Petition" from the Borough to the Diocese of Southwark permission to make the change and move the gravestones.



The churchyard in 1932
Southwark Local History Archive

The outcome then was that the legible gravestones would all be moved and placed "on the northern boundary" of the churchyard and against its east wall. The illegible stones would be used for paving footpaths. The ground would be levelled and turfed as necessary, with a fairly simple layout of paths. The proposed cost was £2,220. There was a particular condition, of which we don't know the origin, that the Bourne tomb, near the church and fenced then as now, was not to be disturbed.

Two requirements of the Open Spaces Act were that all legible gravestone inscriptions should be recorded; and that those records, along with the work that was proposed, should be advertised for public inspection and comment.

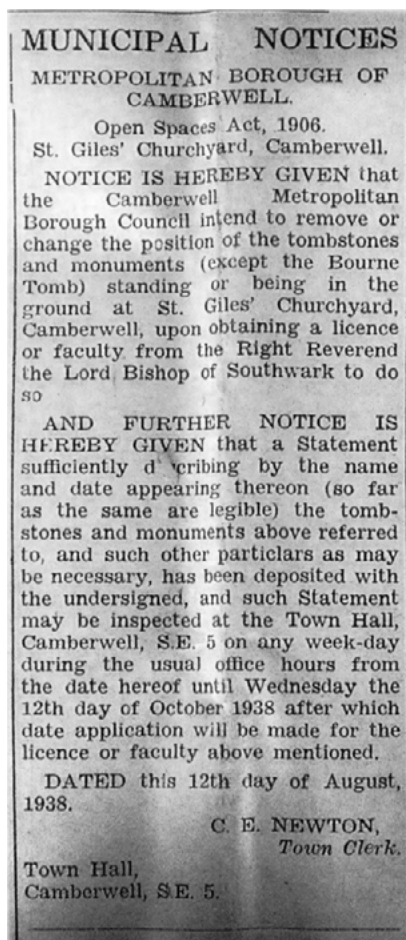
There are 481 entries in the list of gravestone inscriptions, some complete, some fragmentary – and many more probably illegible. Most of the inscriptions record multiple burials. No.171 is one of the more extreme examples, and may serve as an illustration of what prompted the 1852 Burial Act:

Elizabeth Harris, died November 27 1812, aged 58 years.

Also Sarah Goring, sister to Elizabeth Harris and late wife of George Forbes Goring of this Parish, Mason, died September 29 1815, aged 56 years.

Also Martha Goring, second wife of the above George Forbes Goring died May 30 1822 in her 53rd year.

¹ A few years ago Donald Mason contributed an article to the *Camberwell Quarterly* which sketched the history of St Giles' churchyard from early in the 18th century (CQ No.192, Spring 2017).



Also Mr. George Forbes Goring, husband of the above, died July 22 1827. Aged 65 years. George Goring, grandson of the above, died October 22 1847, aged 36 years.

Also Eleanor Goring, sister of the above George Forbes Goring, died February 3rd 1848, aged 67 years.

Also Mr. George Goring, son of the above George Forbes Goring, died March 6th 1851, aged 63 years.

Also Mrs. Sarah Ann Bothell, daughter of the above Mr. George Goring died August 28th 1851, aged 39 years.

The plans were duly advertised in the *South London Press* and in the *South London Observer, Camberwell and Peckham Times* on 12, 19 and 26 August 1938.

There is a record of only one response to the advertisements. Alfred C. Dance wrote on 20 September. He described himself as “the fifth grandson of the late Jane Dance”, who was “a great christian [sic]”. He did

not mind the removal of her stone but asked that it remain recumbent, and not be placed against a wall.

The present state of the churchyard shows that what was planned is very largely what was carried out. The gravestones are still to be seen on the north boundary. There are only a few against the east wall, and this may have been because of a minor change in the plan. The layout is as in the 1938 plan; the Bourne tomb remains where it was; and beside it lies recumbent Jane Dance’s stone.

The graves themselves were not disturbed, so we are walking above them as we walk in the churchyard, not just above the graves but above the brick vaults with their steps going down.

The question of trees remains unanswered. There must have been many in 1938, of differing ages. It is plausible that before work started a selection would have been made: those that seemed to fit in well with the planned layout to be kept, the remainder to be removed.

Unfortunately, the 1938 plan is of no help. We do not know what the black dots on it mean. There are far too many of them to be trees. But those on either side of the graveyard section of Churchyard Passage seem to correspond well to the current (and possibly then existing) avenue of limes. Further investigation of the trees remains work in progress.

On 23 December 1938, after all the stages had been completed, the diocese registrar sent the town clerk the Faculty – the document giving permission for the changes. This led to some pleasing bureaucratic spikiness. The Registrar incorporated his bill into the letter: Court Fees of 5 guineas and a further 1 guinea for the certified copy of the Faculty. But he added, “May I also suggest a further fee of 3 guineas, to cover the extra correspondence and perusal of the draft petition etc”.

The town clerk settled the bill in full immediately, but the extra amount may have irked him. On 21 January he wrote, “...the vicar’s solicitors have drawn my attention to the fact that in three places of page 2 of the faculty the vicar’s second Christian name is wrongly spelt...and at the foot of that page reference is made to “subsections (1) and (3) respectively of section 11” instead of to “subsections (1) and (4) respectively of section 11 ...”

But he was a little hasty. The Registrar was able to reply on the 23rd, doubtless with satisfaction, “I have duly corrected the slight errors you mention, but in returning the two documents herewith may I mention that in preparing them your petition was followed.”

Churchyards change, but professional needling stays the same.



The 1938 Plan (Copyright: Met Archive)

A passage through haunted times

Based on his own research, Eddie Brazil's book *Haunted Camberwell* relates many spooky instances of local paranormal activity.

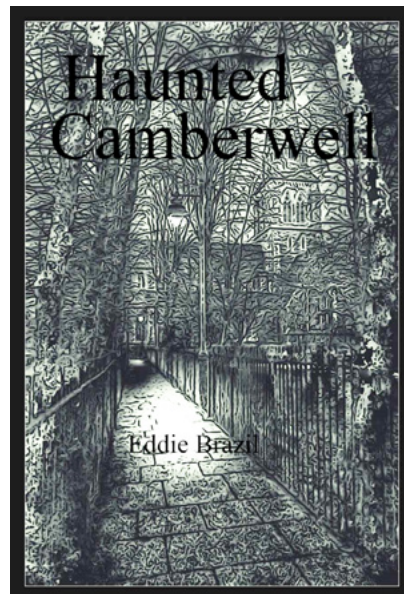
Churchyard Passage runs between Camberwell Grove and Camberwell Church Street through the graveyard of the church St Giles' Church. The church was constructed in 1844 on the site of a medieval building which had burned to the ground three years earlier. It is a suitably eerie location illuminated by sparsely positioned lamps and infrequently used after dark. Just the place one would expect to find ghosts, and ghosts there are.

During the 1930s it was believed that the phantom of an elderly priest haunted the passage. Thought to have been a former vicar, he would have used the route to return to the clergy house in Camberwell Grove, a building long since demolished. Following the initial sightings there was a period of several years when reports of the apparition ceased. However, in the winter of 1970 two people walking through the churchyard at night were shocked to encounter the apparition of the phantom vicar and were even more terrified when the ghost vanished in front of their eyes. Their account of

the incident was reported in the local press and, subsequently, others came forward to claim that they too had seen the spectre of the cleric.

Once again, following the 1970's sightings, there was a lull in reports of the ghostly priest. However, one night in July 1984, a young man returning home through the passage was a bit perturbed to find a figure in black walking some distance behind him. Mindful of late-night street crime he increased his speed yet, before he had reached the exit he heard footsteps behind him and getting closer. Expecting to be mugged he turned but was surprised to see that the passage was empty. He later reported that there was no way that anyone creating the footsteps could have got out of sight so quickly. Since then reports of the phantom vicar have once again ceased but it is entirely possible that in the years to come his spectre will be seen again.

But who or what is the ghost? In 1904, Rose Kelly, the daughter of an Edwardian vicar of St Giles', decided to marry the occultist, and black magician, Aleister Crowley as a protest against her father's chosen suitor. Crowley, who styled himself 'The Great Beast', was said to be evil



Haunted Camberwell, Eddie Brazil, Marsh Publications £7.50p available from: eddiebrazil755@yahoo.com

and the wickedest man in the world. During their five-year marriage he drove his wife to clinical insanity and had her committed to an asylum. She died in 1932. Does the ghost of Reverend Kelly walk in perpetual grief for his daughter's fate? Or could it be the tortured soul of Rose, eternally regretting her choice of husband?

Eddie Brazil



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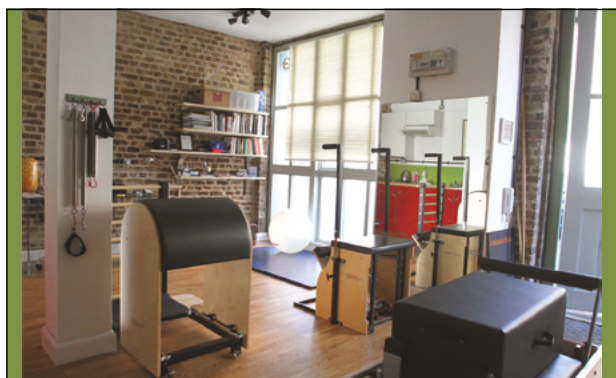
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Box in the attic tells a story

What led Bill Hoare from Camberwell to volunteer to fight in the Great War? His story was rediscovered in an attache case in his aunt's attic.

At 5:45am, on 13 November 1916, the men of the 10th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers (10/RWF) attacked the German trenches before the village of Serre in northern France. Conditions for an advance were abysmal. In the thick, wet fog the lines quickly lost their shape and the men lost touch with each other. So deep was the mud in ground which had been pounded by artillery since July, that those advancing frequently sank to the calf, if not to the knee, and had continually to pull themselves free. More, the Germans had learnt of the attack in advance, and in hard fighting they pushed the British soldiers back. By 8:30am it was clear that the assault had failed. Approximately 280 men from the 10/RWF were killed, wounded or missing. Among the wounded was a young private called William Hoare, known to his family as Bill. He had suffered gunshot wounds to his face and chest and he was evacuated to a Casualty Clearing Station.



Bill, the seventh child of eleven born to Charles and Eliza Hoare, had been born on 26 April 1894 in Beresford Street, now John Ruskin Street, in Camberwell. At that time, with its population of six million, London was the biggest and richest city the world had ever seen. In Camberwell, however, where about a quarter of a million Londoners lived, it would have felt far from



wealthy. In 1901, eleven members of Bill's family were living in one of the area's many six-roomed houses which were squashed between a railway line and the various factories. The youngest of whom, Lily, was aged just six months. Lily died when she was just two. In fact, three of Bill's brothers and sisters died while they were still children. This was far from unusual. In places like Camberwell in the 1890s, babies had a one in five chance of dying before their first birthday.

Many who lived in Camberwell worked in the gasworks at Kennington, in the tanneries at Bermondsey, or for one of the businesses alongside the canal. Working in the printing industry appears to have been something of a tradition in Bill's family and it is, therefore, no surprise that in July 1908, aged just fourteen, Bill started a seven-year apprenticeship with a printing firm near Chancery Lane in London. This apprenticeship, had Bill completed it, would have finished in July 1915. He never did. Shortly after Christmas 1914, five months after Britain had declared war on Germany, Bill, then twenty years old, walked into an army recruitment office at Holborn and enlisted in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Bill had no obvious Welsh connections, he simply joined the regiment recruiting closest to his place of work. Why did Bill join the army when he had just seven months of a seven-year apprenticeship to go? The answer is probably the same combination of both push and pull factors that drove

many young men like Bill to enlist: a longing for adventure, boredom with life at home, the chance to travel, the pay, patriotic fervour and peer-pressure.

Bill had been in France for almost a year when he was wounded. Unfortunately, during the afternoon of 13 November he slipped into unconsciousness and at 5:15pm he died. That evening, one of the nurses from the Casualty Clearing Station wrote to Eliza Hoare explaining that they had done all they could for her son and expressing her sympathy at Bill's death. Along with Bill's personal effects, this letter was placed into an attache case. The family were reluctant to discuss what had happened to Bill and the case remained hidden for decades. Certainly, no one from the family visited Bill's grave, and as Bill's service record was among those that were destroyed during the Blitz of 1940, it was hard to learn much of his story.

However, in 1980 Bill's sister, Queenie, died, and the case was discovered among her possessions. Since then, it has been possible to shed some light onto Bill's service history. This has, in turn, encouraged Bill's family to learn more about his war service and several members of the family have visited his grave. There is still a great deal of history which can be told through boxes which we find in attics.

Dr Ian Stone. His film about Bill at: <https://youtube/qwMDQNs9Dc>

Conrad Dehn: Skilled lawyer generous with his time for others

Conrad Dehn, vice-chairman and later president of The Camberwell Society 1996-2006, died, aged 93, on 26 April 2020. Marilyn, his wife of 40 years, died four weeks earlier.

The Dehns came to live at 38 Camberwell Grove in 1977 and together made a great contribution to life in Camberwell, especially their generous hospitality to friends and neighbours. During his tenure as president of the Society they opened their large garden for tea for those visiting Open Gardens Day, and later hosting supper to the garden owners.

Conrad was a successful QC who used his skills to help find outcomes to issues such as redeveloping Mary Datchelor School and keeping the tennis courts. Marilyn, his second wife, was active at St Giles' Church. A friend who knew her for 50 years says: "Marilyn was one of the warmest and most faithful friends I have known, adept as a mimic, fun, kind and living life with Conrad to the full." Conrad is remembered as "charming, urbane, extremely bright and at ease with himself." His keen intellect got him to quickly grasp the core of any issue and "could be combative and stimulating in discussion -- but never attacked the individual, only the argument."

Conrad remained in Fountain Court, his "happy set of Chambers" for more than 50 years. He took silk in 1968, becoming a bencher of Grays Inn and later its treasurer. At the height of his formidable powers Conrad was one of the most feared (by opponents) advocates at the Bar, known for his meticulous preparation and command of his brief and the courtroom.

His incredibly varied practice allowed him to appear in numerous landmark cases. Of many amusing stories I like this: "My most frightening moment arose out of the appearance of the judge, a law lord, who said with his face purple and hands shaking with rage 'you're threatening me Mr Dehn' – which in a way, on instructions, I was. I wondered what my responsibility would be if my advocacy gave him



apoplexy and killed him? Would it be manslaughter or professional misconduct? Fortunately, he survived and we still won."

Conrad was committed to public service, being a recorder and deputy High Court judge. He was a large benefactor to both the National Theatre and the National Gallery. He once stirred a south London auction house by creating a legal precedent. He wanted to buy the garden and garage next to number 38, when it was put up for auction. He demonstrated that one can legally submit sequential bids in separate envelopes, each one stating that it was the final bid unless exceeded. Thus he avoided having to pay a high price. The auctioneer had never come across this process before!

It was very sad that his final years were badly affected by dementia. Conrad and Marilyn are greatly missed, none more so than by Conrad's three children, Hugh, Guy and Kate

Nicholas Roskill

Selina Hamilton-Eger offers a personal recollection of her and her husband John's neighbour for many years.

I first really got to know Conrad

when I became chair of The Camberwell Society and he was, as we used to joke, my 'Vice'. It was at a time of great local unrest and much ill feeling due to problems with roads and rail, and Conrad gave unfailing support and guidance.

He also enlisted me and Hania Hardinge, my successor as Chairwoman, to his beloved Reform Club. He was always a great supporter of women and was influential in the Reform Club becoming one of the first London clubs to admit women members.

Unfailingly kind, he visited each of our daughters during their first term at university and took them out to lunch. Our elder daughter spent a week in his chambers, where she attended court and heard him, when trying a drug case, ask the immortal question "and what is ecstasy?" We stayed in his French house, and were pleased to do small house repairs. Later, when he was unwell, Marilyn managed to keep him in his familiar environment of home and Camberwell, with outings to the Reform. It must have been a considerable effort for her who was also unwell. Eventually they both needed a greater level of care. We miss them enormously.

Colin Lowman: more a gent than an agent

Client Rupert Maas and colleague Felicity Blair remember Colin Lowman.

The Silver Fox, as we knew him, slipped silkily through the leafy suburbs of Camberwell. He knew every door, every corner, and his canny eye missed nothing of note.

His little black book contained the names and numbers of every one of his customers going back generations, and he always seemed to know the ages of your children.

Every year or two he'd call up and say 'How are things?' Inevitably, in a market that seemed to rise for ever, house prices were discussed and before you knew it you'd moved again.

Most people I know locally are living happily in houses sold to them by Colin, that they didn't know they could afford at the time, or even wanted.

Likeable, engaging, subtle and alert, he was the precipice to many a landslide. I think there was a slump in house prices in Camberwell when he retired. He is missed.

Rupert Maas

Hilary Lowman has asked me to let Camberwell residents know that Colin, our long-serving estate agent, died peacefully on 21 May at the age of 88 because it was 'his time'.

Colin was a gentleman among estate agents. Over 64 years, he found and sold homes for some 6,000 home-movers, and for their children and latterly, their children's children. Many residents would see Colin walking past and call him in for a quick update on property values.

After leaving Kingston Grammar in 1950, he began his long career at the office of Roy Brooks, the candid



Colin Lowman's 80th birthday celebration at Belair House.

Left to right: Nicholas Roskill (Camberwell Society President), Ann Kenrick (Society Chair), Colin Lowman, Robin and Jo Simon.

and famous 'tell it like it really is' estate agent in Kensington. Brooks's ads in the *Observer* and *Sunday Times* were required and enjoyable reading every Sunday.

Colin recalled that agents' work was then very different. They never took photos and property details were run off on a duplicator, if at all, and house keys were just handed out to would-be buyers. "We always got them back," he said. If two buyers arrived on a Monday morning and made identical bids, "we just tossed a coin. We never thought about sealed bids."

Brooks called Colin Lowman and Tony Halstead his 'right-hand men' for 30 years until he died in 1969. Colin and Tony bought the firm and it was 'business as usual' for 20 years until Tony suggested they 'cash in their chips'.

Their wives set out their slippers. But Colin never felt comfortable in his. Missing the world of estate agency, he joined an established

Camberwell firm within six months and was back doing the business.

For a further 15 years, Colin continued to work for local firms selling Camberwell homes until, during the downturn of 2008, Colin went 'full circle' and re-joined Roy Brooks Estate Agency, based in East Dulwich. He only retired in 2016 at the age of 82 because he tired of the drive from his home in Cobham, Surrey.

Clients and buyers read like a list of household names, from former prime minister Clement Atlee, to an un-named Chancellor of the Exchequer, literary luminaries and stars of stage, film and television. Colin and Hilary had two children, Karen and Nicholas and grand-daughter Yara.

A private cremation was held on 5 June, and a celebration of his life will be held at 2.30pm on October 3rd at St Andrew's Church Cobham.

*Felicity Blair
Roy Brooks Estate Agents*

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The Society's comments on recent planning applications

The Society looks at all planning applications for SE5 and significant developments in adjacent post codes. Owing to limited space only a selection of the applications on which the Society has commented are printed here. For the full list see: www.camberwellsociety.org.uk/planning/



Mid 1950s when the tram tracks were being removed. The last trams ran in 1952. 113A Grove Lane "Jean's Café" to the right.



Existing boundary wall to Windsor Walk and location for proposed new station entrance

20/AP/0745: New railway station entrance at Windsor Walk

Ramp and step connection to existing access for all footbridges. Includes new canopies to eastern end of platforms 2, 3 and 4.

The new entrance building is designed to relieve congestion in the existing station entrance in Champion Park at busy times, and will help the 60 per cent of passengers who approach from the north.

The building is clad in folded aluminium with a mono-pitch roof and PV panels and will contain four pedestrian and two wheelchair-accessible gates. Set into the existing brick wall on Windsor Walk, the new brickwork will match the existing in colour and detail.

New canopies over platforms 2, 3 and 4 should encourage passengers to move down the platforms in bad

weather. Building and ramp designs match those on Champion Park, using the same simple forms and neat detailing to avoid competing with the Victorian gothic of the original station.

The Camberwell Society **supports the application**. (also see page 4)

20/AP/1194: 11 Flodden Road SE5 Change of Victorian family house to five flats.

Despite a lack of clarity about whether and which planning rules apply in this conservation area, The Camberwell Society has decided to support the respected Minet Conservation Society, and a number of immediate neighbours, in its opposition to this application.

We have also suggested Southwark Planning should make an early inspection to check the facts given in both the application and in comments.

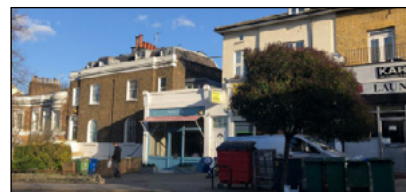
20/AP/0929: 113A Grove Lane SE5 8BG

Applicant wishes to raise the roof height by 1.45m with the construction of a ground floor rear extension of 1.6m and associated internal alterations. This proposal for an infill development between the listed 113 Grove Lane on top of the

side infill building to 115 Grove Lane would remove gaps between the properties.

These are an important part of the character of Grove Lane on this west side of the conservation area, rather than all appearing as one terrace. This proposal also severely compromises the adjoining pair of listed buildings 111/113 and even those of 115/117. The same would apply to 117A should its owners ever wish to extend. As the proposal will be detrimental to the integrity of the adjoining listed building and compromise the daylight received by adjoining 115 Grove Lane.

The Camberwell Society **objects to this proposal**.



Existing street view



Proposed street view

Retrial for Champion Hill

Southwark Council is to hold a 'retrial' for its highly controversial one-way-but-not-quite experiment on the south-north leg of Champion Hill, from and to Denmark Hill. It was closed to traffic from the east-west leg some 22 months ago in spite of protests by some 700 householders on the road, plus Champion Hill and Cleeve Hill estates, and Grove Lane residents who bear the additional traffic discomfort and pollution.

In a letter to protest leader Sandra Simpson, Southwark Council transport Cabinet member Cllr Richard Livingstone says: "We recognise that the Champion Hill trial still needs further time...before we can fully assess... whether this change should be made permanent." Other residents claim that: "for the trial to be a fair and accurate, it must return to the prevailing two-way traffic before the 'trial' was thrust upon us. The council should conduct proper research on traffic use."

Camberwell's black British heroes

Under Fire – Black Britain in Wartime 1939 – 1945

by Stephen Bourne

(The History Press, £12.99)

Stephen Bourne's latest book belies the notion that we don't have enough black British heroes to celebrate or enough resources to teach black British history in our schools.

This is a book you can dip in and out of. Learning about new people, learning more about well-known favourites like Camberwell's own Dr Harold Moody, a local GP and the leader of the Congregational Church in Wren Road, founder of the political League of Coloured Peoples. Five of his children served in the armed forces in WW2.

Then there were women like Una Marson who was the first to crack the glass ceiling of the BBC, becoming its first black woman programme maker and presenter. A woman who, on arriving in the UK in 1932, was given a home and a job by none other than Dr Harold Moody. Thereafter, in searching for alternative opportunities, she was offered some freelance work by a BBC producer and made history with her wartime radio series *Calling the West Indies*. As Una said, "I know too well that we would never allow it to be said of us that when the freedom of the world was at stake we stood aside."

I mentioned the Nigerian princess, Ademola, in a speech at a Southwark Council meeting highlighting her achievement as the first black nurse to train at Guys Hospital. Her father, a very important man,

chief of Northern Nigeria, no less, came to Britain in 1937 to attend the coronation of King George VI, the Queen's father. He brought his daughter along and then decided she should stay in the UK to train as a mid-wife. She went on to qualify as a state registered nurse and when war broke out she subsequently stayed to help the UK war effort.

Under Fire is extraordinarily hard to put down because of its attention to detail gathered through direct quotes, interviews and press cuttings, which Bourne has researched meticulously. The wonderful photographs bring these people to life. This is not fiction. This is real life. When I was growing up in Peckham and Camberwell, family members used to tell me of ancestors like this. My Uncle Olu used to tell me of his days in the UK from Sierra Leone working in Lyon's tea house whilst training as a lawyer but because of the negativity and people treating him as if he was the first person of colour they'd seen, it was easy to dismiss these reminiscences as fairy tales.

Now I know better and younger generations of all races need to know about the contributions and sacrifices that black people, in spite of racial discrimination, have made to the UK. In *Under Fire* we have local people like the late former Mayor of Southwark, Sam King, ex RAF, to whom I presented the Freedom of the Southwark shortly before he passed away in 2016.

However, despite the racial discrimination and tension, there was friendship between the races in wartime. I particularly like Bourne's

inclusion of the Canadian and Trinidadian bomber pilots sitting next to each other, having a belly laugh, deep in conversation. One can only wonder what they

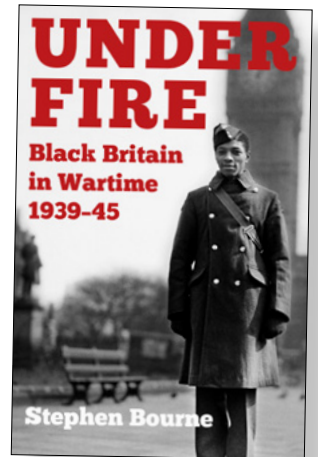
were saying to each other. Did they perhaps know that their lives were about to be cut short? Sergeant Gilkes, the Trinidadian pilot, was killed in action in August 1943.

I learnt about people I had never heard off such as the bandleader Ken 'Snakehips' Johnson who was killed in the London Blitz. I remember our very own Camberwell RAF hero, Mr Fairweather, who served in the war and returned to the UK on the Windrush. I recently had the privilege to meet up with him at the Golden Oldies day centre in Camberwell a few months ago.

Bourne also includes a photo he took of the African and Caribbean War Memorial in Windrush Square, Brixton. This is the first to honour African and Caribbean men and women who served our country.

Books such as *Under Fire* open the door to respecting and honouring the diversity in Britain's war effort and, for that alone, Bourne should be congratulated.

Cllr. Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE



PRELIMINARY SKETCH VIEW OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FROM THE SAME POSITION. THIS IS OF A SIMILAR HEIGHT TO THAT PROPOSED IN THE CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATION 19/AP/7617



Planning proposal of developers MJW

Butterfly Walk proposed development Local architect Peter Cooke, of Adam Architecture, noted that in the current proposal the access to the flat and the private balcony is combined. As this is contrary to Council policy, he has worked out how the access and balcony could be separated. The sketch is how this would appear from Denmark Hill, using features familiar to Camberwellians.

Running Camberwell's food bank

“We lost count of the number of people coming for help,” says Felicia Boshorin, CEO of Central Southwark Community Hub, recalling how it was back in February. “It was getting scary. Could we keep going? We did not know how we were going to manage. I worried about paying for food which was costing over £1,000 a week and face masks at £10 each from a local chemist.”

Then help arrived. A woman in her late 20s left two packs of disposable masks at the Hub's HQ in St Giles' Parish Hall, Benhill Road. Another donated packs of disposable gloves. Councillor Kieron Williams phoned with news of funding from Southwark, followed by a grant from the London Community Foundation.

The table outside the hall started mounting up with food donations. “I remember standing outside when a woman and her 12-year old son rushed past, asking when we closed. At 2pm, I said. In half an hour they were back, running with two shopping bags full of food.” Many locals rallied round. Vestry Road Mews held a relay marathon which raised over £3,000. By the end of May the Hub's volunteers had increased from 25 to 75. Referrals had tripled, from 305 households in February to 1,035 in May. The Hub now has funding to run the foodbank till July and to pay staff for the first time.

Covid has widened the Hub's clientele. Cleaners and caterers of Latin American heritage from the Elephant Shopping Centre, people on furlough who have not been paid, self-employed window cleaners and electricians, those who have lost jobs and are waiting for Universal Credit claims to be processed — all now receive weekly food parcels. Even young people, who are normally loth to be seen near a food bank, now

come. One 24-year old man arrived, looking haggard. “I never thought that I was going to lose my job or would ever use a food bank, but I have been on the phone to Universal Credit for 11 hours a day for the past three days and have no other option.”

Felicia was a Camberwell girl. After Vauxhall Manor School, she won an engineering scholarship at Kingston and a prized placement at Plessey. But one morning with a phalanx of men in white coats

Road. It runs food banks at each church and children's holiday clubs. During lockdown, the Hub has been providing lunch and dinner parcels and activity packs for these children who otherwise would go short of food when schools are closed.

In non-Covid times, referrals come from local schools, Mums Space at the Salvation Army and local agencies such as the St Giles' Trust and Citizens Advice Bureau. Clients are assessed, given a week's food

supply and helped to deal with any underlying issues — paying bedroom tax, debt, budgeting, refusal or delay of benefits. One recent beneficiary, a woman in her mid-30s, too ill to work, lost her benefits and had no food to take with her medication, leading to incontinence. The Hub provided food for nine months until, with the CAB's help, her benefits were restored.

As a charity, the Hub runs on volunteers, from an ex-Post Office catering manager recovering from losing all her money to church workers. A typical day will see someone cry, overwhelmed. Volunteers understand what clients are going through, help to sort out problems and encourage them to take one day at a time.

Felicia had her own tragedy during Covid. Her former husband, childhood sweetheart and father of her two children, died of coronavirus. “In a way, being so overwhelmed here, the work helped me through it,” she says.

What next for the Hub? “We need to recruit a volunteer administrator to keep us straight and get regular donations to keep us going,” she says.

Marie Staunton

The Camberwell Society has donated £1000 to the Central Southwark Community Hub. www.cschub.co.uk/



was enough. She fled. After a series of management jobs, from the Post Office to Head of Borough Services in Merton, she started a property business. When the 2007 recession hit, Felicia rethought her life and volunteered with her local church. This led to managing the Pecan food bank from 2011 until 2016. Then she set up the Hub with Father Nick of St Giles' Church, Mother Kate of St Paul's Church in Lorrimore Square, Pastor Mark at Calvary Temple, Pastor Oyekan of Foursquare Church on the Walworth Road and Pastor Atinuke Omisade of New Covenant Church in Old Kent

Quiet skies over Camberwell

From Bridget Bell Plane Hell Action

It has not gone unnoticed by many in Camberwell that, as a result of the Covid-19-imposed lockdown, there have been fewer planes and much reduced noise pollution throughout the area. Although Heathrow is still open for business, during the recent fine weather, the wind has blown predominantly from the east and planes have been arriving over Windsor. This has produced the noise levels that I remember pre-2016 before the overnight shock of an unconsulted change in the flight path, concentrating low-level, noisy, arrivals for 19 hours almost daily (as it can seem at times).

Steps supposed to minimise the impact of arriving flights have in fact meant incremental concentrations in SE London year on year since 2014, such that had the overall resulting change taken place in a single stage a consultation would have been required. In effect, the Civil Aviation Authority has enabled an airspace change to take place without a consultation.

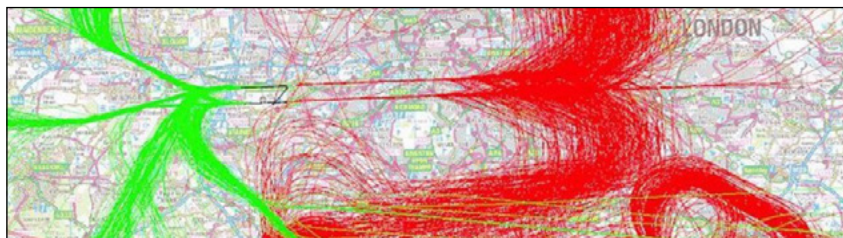
Camberwell is particularly affected by aircraft noise because it is under the flightpaths of both Heathrow and London City arrivals. London City has said that it is looking to change the 2016 concentration that caused an outcry. Pressure needs to be kept up to ensure they do.

We are asking our MPs to work

together to pressurise the Department for Transport to de-concentrate flightpaths, share across all communities the blight of noise and particulate emissions, and ensure that no one community should benefit to the disadvantage of another in airspace around airports and where planes fly at low altitude (below 7000 ft). Noise reduction should be paramount.

The current consultation on so-called 'modernisation' of airspace, predicated on an expansion that now seems unlikely, is based on a procedure called "Performance Based Navigation", which in layman's terms is satnav for planes and based on the notion of a few, concentrated, flight paths, rotated. We are certain that this is not the answer. Heathrow can give no indication of how many or where these paths will be nor how they will be rotated – apart from confirming that Camberwell will always hear noise, either overhead or in the intrusive vicinity.

Finally, it is not possible to know how the aviation industry will respond to the impact of Covid-19. Rather than return to 'business as usual' now is the opportunity to consider how to implement a fairer, healthier approach to the operation of Heathrow and London City airports. We are asking all those affected to write to their MP and Ward Councillors to support this, see our newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/9d05d00c8901/consultations-12263367>



Heathrow Flight Paths on Westerlies over SE London (Red)

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South London Guide. Website on all aspects of South London, including shops, services and property: www.southlondonguide.co.uk

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