

THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer, July 2016

No.222, Quarterly issue,
Distributed free to members.

Registered with the London Forum of Amenity
Societies, Registered Charity No.1058103,
Website: www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

Our next appearance: **Weekend 16 & 17 July** **Lambeth Country Show**

12 noon to 7-30, Brockwell Park, SE24
Look out for our stall in the usual area – if you
enter by the Herne Hill gate, we are to the right
of the path up to Brockwell Hall, probably in
the second row back, towards the Village
Markets area.

Saturday 3rd September: **Open Day at** **Lambeth Archives**

10 am to 5 pm at the Minet Library,
Knatchbull Road, SE5, with more displays and
stalls in Longfield Hall across the road and
talks and refreshments in the Michael Church
alongside.

Helpers wanted

By now we have organised volunteers to staff
our stall through the Country Show weekend,
but we are still seeking offers of help at the
Archives Open Day and for the monthly Market
Walks where we run a stall from 12 to 2-30 pm
on Saturday in Brixton Station Road.
If you can spare some time to help on our stall,
please call Bill Linskey on (020) 7274 3835 or
e-mail to wjdcl@globalnet.co.uk



Brixton Society postcard reprint BX23

Friday 16 September, 6 pm to 8 pm, **Visit to Brixton Fire Station:**

Following the article in our previous newsletter,
we have arranged a tour of the present station
in **Gresham Road**, corner of Brixton Station
Road. Children welcome if accompanied. Free
but booking essential, via
www.brixtonfirestationtour.eventbrite.co.uk

Thursday 8th September: **Lost Buildings of Brixton**

7 pm at the Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Road SW2
Gone but not forgotten – changing views of
Brixton over the past century, assisted by an
antique Magic Lantern and modern data
projector. Part of Lambeth Heritage Festival –
collect a programme of events from us at the
Lambeth Country Show.

Forthcoming Summer Walks...

Sunday 10th July: **Brixton South**

Meet 2-30 pm outside Brixton Tate Library for
a circular route including nearer parts of Rush
Common, Brixton Water Lane, Poets Corner
and the 1870s Stuart-Bruce Estate.

Sunday 14th August: **East Brixton**

A closer look at the eastern and northern
fringes of the Town Centre. Meet at 2-30 pm
outside Lambeth Volunteer Centre at corner of
Popes Road and Brixton Station Road (facing
Pop Brixton).

Diary of Events, Summer & Autumn 2016

Society Meetings

The Executive Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month to plan activities and agree our responses to current issues. Meetings are usually 7 pm at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road, SW2. The **August** meeting will be at SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road SW9 (opposite Angell Town Estate) due to redecoration of our usual venue.

- 14 July
- 11 August
- 13 October
- 10 November

Market Walks

Our guided walks round the market area continue on the second **Saturday** of every month, at £3 including the illustrated booklet of the route. Tickets are best booked via marketwalks@brixtonsociety.org.uk. Walks start from Brixton Station Road at **2-30 pm** and take about 80 minutes.

Editorial Notice:

Space permitting, we try to feature local events and publish reminiscences or enquiries in our newsletter. We welcome news and comments from all who are interested in the Brixton area, so opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the Brixton Society. All material should be sent to the Secretary, Alan Piper, 82 Mayall Road, SE24 0PJ, or by e-mail to APiperBrix@aol.com

Links with Other Groups

Please check directly with the organisers if any queries over times or admission.

Sunday 7th August – Guests and Invaders

Explore the plant life of **Ruskin Park** with Roy Vickery – meet at 2-30 pm by the bandstand.
South London Botanical Institute

Thursday 18 August – Bygone Streatham

Talk by John Brown, 8 pm at the Phoenix Centre, Westow Street, SE19.
South London Local History Group

Monday 5th September – Brixton Buildings and People

A review of buildings in and around Brixton and those who lived in them, by Alan Piper. 8 pm at Woodlawns, Streatham Darby & Joan Club, 16 Leigham Court Rd., SW16
The Streatham Society

Wednesday 14 Sept. – Buildings by Kate Mackintosh

Architect Kate Mackintosh will talk about her 2 housing schemes in South London: Dawson's Heights for Southwark and 269 Leigham Court Road for Lambeth (recently listed). 7-30 pm for 7-45 start, Herne Hill United Church Hall, c/o Redpost Hill and Herne Hill, SE24.
Herne Hill Society

Thursday 15 September – Lambeth Riverside

Illustrated talk by Alan Piper, 8 pm at the Phoenix Centre, Westow Street, SE19.
South London Local History Group



Riverside looking south (NLA model, LR Sp14-01.jpg)

Thursday 22 September – Brain of Lambeth Quiz

We follow a “pub quiz” format for teams of 4, with rounds of questions on general knowledge topics including Lambeth and London. Note change of venue while the Town Hall is being renovated. Doors open at 7-15 for a **7-30 pm** start, at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road SW2, facing onto Windrush Square in Brixton Town Centre.

If you are thinking of entering a team, whether on behalf of your society, group, or as a family, it helps our planning if you can tell our quizmaster in advance – call John Moore on (020) 8677 6490 or ideally by e-mail to moore309@hotmail.com
Lambethans Society

Sunday 9th October – Use of our wild plants

A botanical walk led by Roy Vickery – meet at **2 pm** by the clock tower in the centre of the park.
Friends of Brockwell Park

Libraries still drifting

There has been little change since our last report – no concessions made by the Council but their own plans are slipping behind schedule, while running costs are mounting from 24-hour security at the closed Minet and Carnegie libraries. The only local councillor to speak out against the “Gymtrification” plans, Rachel Heywood, remains suspended from the Labour group. For overall campaign news, see <http://defendthe10-lambeth.org.uk>

Minet Library & Archives

The Friends of Minet are trying to keep alive the idea of the library as a community hub. A reading group and gardening sessions continue every fortnight. See also www.minet.org.uk

Meanwhile, consultants were finally appointed to research future options for the Archives, which continue to operate in the building for the time being. The Friends have persuaded Council Leader Lib Peck to delay granting a lease to GLL until after September, so that the consultants’ report can inform any decisions.

Carnegie Library

A brief exhibition of the proposals was held in mid-June, but apart from carving out gym facilities in the basement, the layout for the rest of the building was vague and no further forward than 6 months ago. This reflects that GLL now do not expect building works to start until “early 2017”, which was the re-opening date previously announced. Planning and Listed Building applications are still awaited.

Again the Friends are keen to maintain momentum in the community. The Carnegie Library Association has been formed as a Community Interest Company in partnership with other former user groups. See also: www.friendsofcarnegielibrary.org.uk

Brixton Tate Library

Closures elsewhere are already putting more pressure on this surviving library, particularly for study space.

The Friends are exploring ideas for an Art Interactions or Fun Palace event for October.

Current Exhibitions in the Library

Until 17 July: Defend the Ten: photos from the last 6 months of the Save Our Libraries campaign, by Vivienne Lewis.

Until 29 July: Creative Brixton: works in canvas, print, oils and pastel by 4 local artists, Wendy Sullivan, Marilyn Rogers, Rita Keegan and the late Teri Bullen.

Windrush Square

Some new litter bins and planters have been added this year. Planters are also being added inside the library railings, in partnership with the Friends of the Library, with a lavender proposed at the corner in memory of Norma Williamson, late Brixton Society Treasurer. The Brixton BID is negotiating with Lambeth to re-open the toilets, particularly to cope with demand from evening visitors to the Town Centre.

Discussions are continuing among various stakeholders about the siting and design of the proposed African/ Caribbean war memorial. This now seems likely to be placed against the end wall of the Rushcroft Road flats, rather than at the corner of Saltoun Road as previously suggested.

Windmill Gardens

Architects Squire & Partners have produced 4 initial options for a new education building to serve parties visiting the windmill.

The next public openings of the Windmill are lined up for weekends **9 & 10 July, 13 & 14 August** and **17 & 18 September**. Sunday 14 August will also be **Art in the Park**. Further event details at www.brixtonwindmill.org.uk

Brixton Recreation Centre

A new Users Forum has been established at the Rec., involving a range of interest groups as well as BRUG (the main user group) and GLL, who manage the centre.

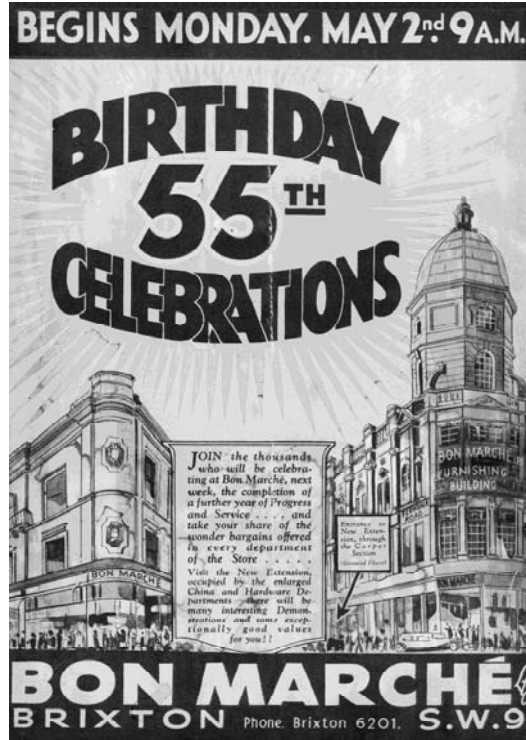
Councillor Jack Hopkins, as Cabinet member for Leisure & Regeneration, has agreed to resume regular consultation meetings with BRUG. The first meeting was due in July, to look at how £6 million of capital funds from Lambeth will be spent between now and 2022.

Brixton Shopping 1932

HISTORY

In 1877, just fifteen years after the opening of the Brixton railway station, which began the process of changing the area from rural Surrey to inner-city London, Bon Marché opened as Britain's first purpose-built department store. In 1905 an extension was opened on the other side of Ferndale Road (currently undergoing restoration).

In 1932, it celebrated its 55th anniversary with this special catalogue. It gives an interesting insight into some of the fashions and styles (and prices!) of the inter-war period.



A NOTE ON CURRENCY

Before "Decimal Day" on 15th February 1971, the pound (£) was divided into 20 shillings (s) and the shilling was divided into 12 pence (d).

Decimal currency included a ½p coin until 1984. Therefore, common coins for which there was an exact decimal equivalent were:

Sixpence	6d	=	2½p
Shilling	1/-	=	5p
Two shillings	2/-	=	10p
Half-crown	2/6	=	12½p

The guinea was one pound one shilling (£1 1s. 0d.) or £1.05 in decimal currency.

The buying power of £1 in 1932 is equivalent to about £63 at today's prices.

Gown Depts.—Second Floor.



One of many styles available at this price. Delightful Two-piece in all Silk Chiffons and Georgettes, all lined throughout. Full length sleeveless gowns with coatees, in attractive new season's colourings.

All at
59/11

Double silk Georgette Gown for day wear. Featuring the two-colour cowl neck, new sleeves. The godet skirt is finished pleated hem. All new shades and Black with contrast cowl. Hips, 40, 42, 44 ins.

Price **63/-**



Just what every fashionable Brixton woman needs.

Get those racy hairdos (left) – shame to plonk a hat on them.

Clearly no compunction about wearing animal fur. But it's not just fur – it actually looks like a fox draped round her – ugh!



Brixton Shopping 1932



Men's Navy Blazers
Men's Navy Blue Blazers. Well cut and tailored, made with three outside pockets, taped seams and lined sleeves. Single or double breasted. All sizes.
Celebration Price 12/9

All Wool Tweeds
Men's Tweed Two-Piece Plus-four Suits. In all the newest check designs, Fawn and Brown tones.
Celebration Price 27/6

Men's Flannel Trousers in light, medium or dark Grey. Guaranteed for hard wear. All sizes.
Celebration Price 9/11

How long can it be before the check suit (left) is again the fashionable thing to be seen wearing in Pop Brixton?

And just what every smart schoolboy needs (right) – up to the age of 14!



Boys' Dept. — Ground Floor.

"Extra Knicker" Suits
Boys' 4-piece School Suits, 2 pairs of Knickers with double seats (sewn inside) for extra hard wear. Grey and Brown Herring-bone Tweeds. All sizes for boys 5 to 14 years.
Celebration Price, (4 piece) Suit 14/9

Boys' Grey or Navy Flannel Suits for School or Holidays. Double breasted style, with 2 pairs of double seated Knickers. All sizes.
Celebration Price Suit 10/9

"20 Gns. GECOPHONE"
ALL-ELECTRIC RECEIVERS
£6 . 19 . 6

(Including Royalties.)
New and unused Three Valve "Gecophone." All-electric receivers. Made by the General Electric Co., and are self-contained: no aerial, earth or external connections necessary (except, of course, to Electric plug point). Osram Valves (Screened Grid, Detector and Pentode) usual "Gecophone" quality components. Beautiful Mahogany Cabinet, built-in balanced armature Loudspeaker. Tested and guaranteed by makers for 12 months. Many foreign, in addition to British Programmes easily received. Suitable for 200-250 volts. A.C. mains.



Delivered for First of 12 Monthly Payments of 12/4

"This is the BBC Home Service and this is the news with Alvar Lidell reading it. Ellsworth Vines of the United States of America has won the men's championship at Wimbledon" heard on a radio costing the equivalent of about £440!



ALL BRITISH RUBBER - ROLLER WRINGER **25/-**

The New "Marbon" all British Rubber-roller Wringer. Special features are the all-metal frame and covered gears. Rollers guaranteed 5 years, size 16 inches. Unequalled value. Strong Iron Frame Stand with wooden shelf for bath.
Celebration Price 6/6

Every home needs a mangle.

The Brixton Society

Understanding the Past, Looking to the Future

Registered Charity No.1058103, Registered with the London Forum of Amenity Societies

Website: www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

Annual Report 2016

AIMS & ORGANISATION

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT:

The Society is a registered charity and an unincorporated association. The society's constitution was last revised at the 2013 AGM, to better reflect current practice.

The Executive Committee has met 9 times since the last AGM, consisting of Bill Linskey (Chair), Annick Alet, Doye Akinlade, John Cunningham, Barbara Davies, Rosemary Honey, Diana Linskey, Vivienne Lewis, Alan Piper, Marilyn Rogers, Eileen Walkin, David Warner and Nicholas Weedon.



*Brixton Recreation Centre, where we recently supported listing proposals.
(Vivienne Lewis, REC 8005040.jpg)*

AIMS & AFFILIATIONS:

We aim to encourage awareness and understanding of our surroundings, and to give local people a say in Brixton's future. Our area extends well beyond the Town Centre to include Myatt's Fields, much of Stockwell, and out as far as the South Circular Road.

The Society is registered with the London Forum of Amenity Societies, the British Association for Local History, Archives for London and Lambeth Voluntary Action Council.

PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES

PLANNING & REGENERATION:

We share oversight of a growing volume of local planning applications amongst our "virtual" planning sub-committee. We also suggest buildings for protection through listing, conservation areas or Lambeth's Local List. We comment on planning policy proposals as they arise. We remain involved with Brixton's Townscape Heritage Initiative.

To monitor London-wide and national policies, we continue to work with the London Forum of Amenity Societies.

NETWORKING:

We are in touch with a wide range of community groups. We support the Friends of Tate Library and the Friends of Windrush Square, which operate as sub-committees of the Society.

We have participated in the Brixton Neighbourhood Forum, Brockwell Park Community Partners (the Management Advisory Committee), Lambeth Local History Forum, Friends of Lambeth Libraries, and Lambeth Parks Forum. We also try to respond to frequent e-mail enquiries from students, media and family historians.

EVENTS:

We put on displays or stalls at the Lambeth Country Show and Lambeth Archives Open Day last year, and the Windrush Square Community Day in April. We like to appear at other local events but subject to early notice and availability of volunteers.

In addition to our summer guided walks for the Lambeth Local History Forum, we have sustained a series of monthly Brixton Market walks on the second Saturday of each month.

During the Lambeth Heritage Festival In September, our local history evening was also an opportunity to mark the 40th anniversary of the Society's formation.

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Annual Report 2016



*Celebratory cake from Sponge & Cream
(C933-S15-01.jpg)*

PUBLICATIONS:

The website continues to develop, becoming a vital channel for wider sales of our publications. More are being developed, but always contingent on funding and members' spare time for research.

We launched a booklet on Brixton's MPs, written by Simon Adams, but there was also a surge in sales of our River Effra booklet, linked to Lambeth Heritage Festival events, requiring a reprint to meet demand.

We distribute some 300 copies of our Newsletter quarterly, including issues to key groups and local councillors.



*Brixton History at Herne Hill Books
(CDW15-09.jpg)*

RESOURCES

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership runs from July to July, reflecting that most members renew at the Lambeth Country Show. There were 144 paid-up members at the start of June and

another 5 in arrears, a small improvement on a year earlier when the list received an overdue pruning.

Subscriptions were last revised at the 2010 AGM. This year's AGM asked the Executive Committee to review the rate for unwaged members to ensure it still fully covers costs.

Over two thirds of our Newsletters go out via a network of 14 volunteers, with a useful saving in postage. Other support "in kind" from individual members includes staffing stalls, reporting back from a variety of meetings, and other tasks which all help maintain the Society's level of activity.

FINANCE:

The annual accounts cover the year ended 31 March 2015. Definitive figures for the previous year are shown alongside.

Our special thanks go to David Warner for taking on the role of Treasurer last year following the sad loss of Norma Williamson. Income and expenditure are detailed overleaf. Opening and closing funds were as follows:

	2015/16	2014/15
Opening balance:	£3877.98	£3890.39
Surplus/deficit:	£ 543.06	£ -12.41
Closing balance:	£4421.04	£3877.98

Represented by:

Co-op Bank	£2466.80	£1775.87
PayPal a/c	£ 138.00	£ 287.01
Deposit a/c	£1816.24	£1815.10
Total:	£4421.04	£3877.98

ADP, updated 2.7.16



*Windrush Square Community Day
(Annick Alet, 134127.jpg)*

	2015/2016	2014/2015
Income		
Grant	£0.00	£750.00
Members' Subscriptions	£999.00	£1,119.00
Sale of Publications, etc	£1,854.90	£1,762.67
Donations	£345.73	£185.58
Postage	£100.05	£113.38
Bank Interest	£1.19	£2.34
Miscellaneous	£0.00	£30.01
Open Square deposit refund		£250.00
Sub-Total	£3,300.87	£4,212.98
Refunds	-£8.00	-£1.70
Discounts	-£89.14	-£120.70
Ebay/Paypal fees	-£70.16	-£63.76
Net Receipts	£3,133.57	£4,026.82

Payments

Friends of Tate Library		£750.00
Photocopying	£2.10	
Newsletter Prod	£315.00	£543.00
Postage	£260.19	£355.47
Stationery	£19.95	£32.64
Publications - purchase	£64.00	£58.20
Publications - printing	£740.65	£415.00
Posters/Leaflets/Banner	£7.39	£544.33
Insurance Cost	£291.15	£65.00
Subscriptions	£91.00	£20.00
Cost of Meetings	£350.00	£542.50
Miscellaneous	£9.00	£143.30
Equipment/Stall	£0.00	£42.65
Events	£210.00	£250.00
Catering/Refreshments	£149.70	£190.20
Website hosting	£80.38	£86.94
Friends of Windrush Square		
Total Payments	£2,590.51	£4,039.23
Surplus/deficit	£543.06	-£12.41

Statement by External Examiner

I have reviewed the cash book and the totals of receipts and payments stated above are in accordance therewith and correspond to the balances shown in the society's bank statements.

Natalie Sargent FCCA - Examiner

Sargent
1 JUNE 2016

Street Naming

We are often asked if the process of naming new streets or blocks has changed much since Victorian times.

Only a few years ago. Lambeth reviewed its process for approving new street or block names, so now the Society is informed of the addresses proposed by developers. This gives us the chance to discourage unsuitable titles and even suggest alternatives. Of course the emergency services and the Post Office take a close interest, trying to avoid confusion with any similar names in the neighbourhood. Some proposals fail on this basis, so we are less likely to get variations on a theme, like Stockwell Road/ Park/ Close/ Green/ Avenue/ Gardens/ Terrace etc.

For the many streets created in the last half of the 19th century, the developers most often chose family connections or the areas in which they grew up as the sources for new road names. Even in modern times this still happens occasionally— the sponsor of the Evelyn Grace Academy named it after his mother. Over the past century, local authorities have preferred to commemorate former councillors or officials, distinguished or otherwise, with only higher-profile buildings being named after any familiar figure, and then too rarely with a local connection.

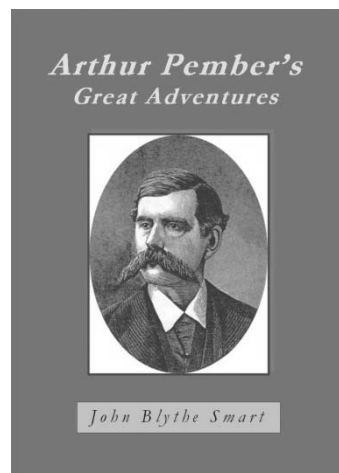
Marketing has been a big factor since the late 1800s, so a desire for more up-market addresses led to the rebuilt section of Watery Lane becoming Dulwich Road and the western half of Acre Lane became Clapham Park Road. The recent rebranding of what was Holland Town, later Myatt's Fields North, as Oval Quarter is far from a new approach.

Developers are often receptive to local historical connections. Many of them now commission Lambeth Archives to research suitable names from among previous buildings, streets or businesses in or around the new development. This is easier in some parts of the borough than others – there have been so many housing blocks inserted within Tulse Hill in the past 80 years that genuine local connections are virtually exhausted.

We are always concerned that any such re-use of old place-names is appropriate to the location, and does not lay false trails to confuse future researchers into local history.

Recent Donations

We do not actively seek old archive material because we lack suitable storage space, but sometimes we get offers we cannot resist. Recent contributions were photos of the official opening of the Brixton Industrial Estate in 1924, and old title deeds for some houses in Talma Road, SW2.



Local Adventurer

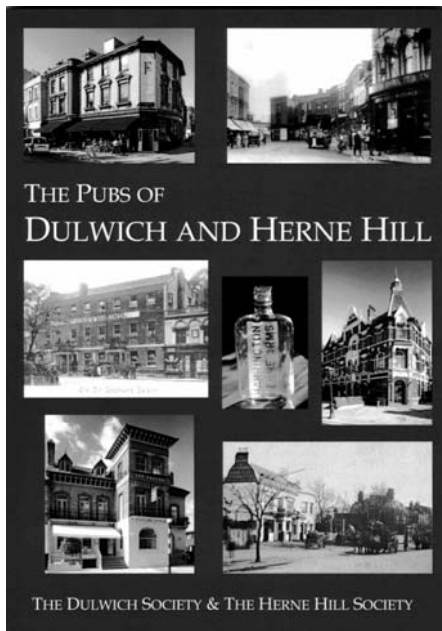
Way back in 2008, we highlighted a book on a colourful character who started life in our area. Arthur Pember was born at 4 New Park Road, Brixton Hill in 1835. He later lived at Langlands in the Clapham Park area while attending the Brixton Grammar School at Brixton Oval.

An adventurous youth was followed by work as an undercover journalist in the USA with the New York Press. He led the way in establishing the game of soccer in the 1860s and is remembered as the first President of the Football Association.

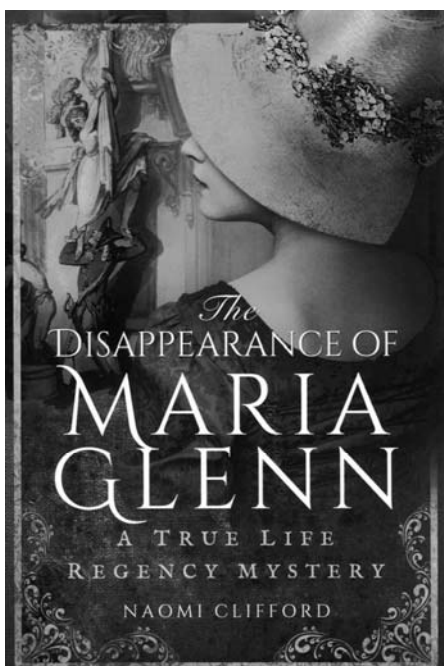
Arthur Pember's Great Adventure is now available via Amazon Kindle, or the book can still be ordered at £11.99 through Waterstones (320 pages with 4 8-page picture inserts)

Or in case of difficulty, order from the writer/ publisher, John Blythe Smart at 8 St. Saviour's Road, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight PO39 0EZ, jb.smart@tiscali.co.uk

Book Reviews



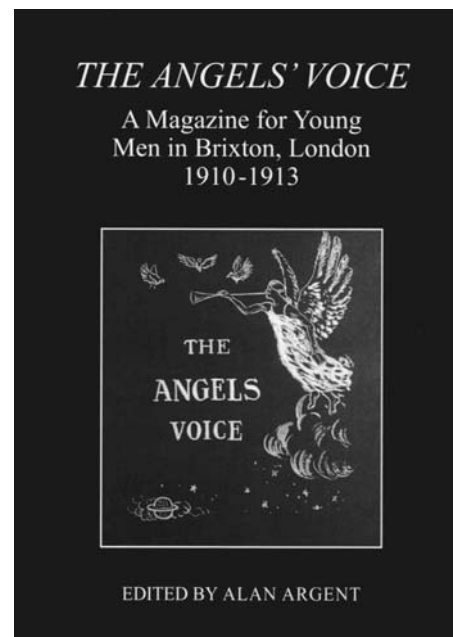
The editor of *The Angels' Voice*, Alan Argent, is minister of Trinity Congregational Church, Brixton. The book consists of edited extracts from a magazine of the same name for members of that church's young men's bible class in the years just preceding the First World War. It gives a window into one set of local – perhaps not entirely typical – lives, about to be torn apart by war. Clearly coming from a particular perspective, some of the writing on, for example, socialism, may well surprise. Published by the prestigious London Records Society, it is unfortunately not cheap. www.londonrecordsociety.org.uk/publications/



Now here's a question: where is Brixton? This is not as daft as it sounds because, although we all know where the centre is, its borders are not well defined and perceptions of them change over time and depending on from where you are looking. Other settlement names have the same problem and so this excellent, well-illustrated book on the pubs of Dulwich and Herne Hill contains a number of entries on pubs we might consider Brixtonian.

These include The Hootananny (formerly the George Canning) on Effra Road; The George (burnt out in 1981) on Railton Road; a clutch around Loughborough Junction including The Green Man, now Lambeth's "Skills Zone"; and others in, or near to (according to taste) Brixton.

Full of fascinating local history which will be of interest to everyone – even non-drinkers!
www.hernehillsociety.org.uk



The author of *The Disappearance of Maria Glenn*, Naomi Clifford may well be better known to readers as Naomi Klein who wrote the superb *These Were Our Sons, Stories from Stockwell War Memorial*.

Her latest book is indeed a Regency mystery: elopement, abduction, what really happened on 26 September 1817? A novel might well tie up all the loose ends and give you all the answers, but this is real life, leaving you to draw your own conclusions. This would make a great film.
www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/The-Disappearance-of-Maria-Glenn/p/11911

Home Improvement Issues

Changing Times

Over the past 40 years, the Society has sought to retain older buildings in our area. Yet there are always challenges in adapting them to modern needs while maintaining the original character. We are usually sympathetic to adaptations, but some proposals are just too clumsy or intrude on the neighbours. We will air more of these issues in future newsletters.

Permitted Development:

To avoid planning departments being overwhelmed with numerous proposals for minor domestic alterations, certain types of work are classed as Permitted Development (PD), not requiring a planning application. The trend over the past decade has been to extend the scope of PD, including allowing more changes of use in business premises.

Although several types of alteration and extension can be made to a single-family house, once a property has been converted into flats, planning permission is required for almost all external changes. This affects more of our larger houses, even if they are not within a Conservation Area.

Front Garden Parking

Residents' interest in garden parking surges whenever there is talk of extending parking controls, or higher charges for parking permits within existing zones.

Householders (but not owners of flats) are allowed to pave over their front gardens or replace a driveway, provided that the surface is permeable, so that water can drain through, or runs off to a lawn or planted border to drain naturally.

Hard paving of more than 5 square metres needs planning permission, unless it is at the side or rear of the house.

Planning permission is needed to form any new access across the footpath with a dropped kerb. This ought to include strengthening to protect any buried utility services.

Permission is not required for new fences or walls up to 1m high along the front boundary, or up to 2m high on other boundaries.

Conservation Areas:

Within a Conservation Area, some of the PD rights are not available, or are more restricted. In particular, planning permission is needed for demolishing any existing fences, gate piers or garden walls to suit a new parking layout. Permission is required to fell or lop any tree, but there is no control over adding or removing hedges.

Some Conservation Areas also have "Article 4" directions, which require planning applications to be made for relatively minor works like window replacements, or even external painting, in order to maintain a consistent appearance.

Residents could seek an Article 4 Direction for their Conservation Area if there was enough local support, but need to be clear about which activities to control, or else a blanket direction can be too restrictive.

Design Guidance:

We were recently asked about garden parking in the Loughborough Park CA, which was set up in 1981 and then extended in 1987 at the suggestion of the Brixton Society. On-street parking is unrestricted in most of this CA.

As it happens, Lambeth Conservation & Urban Design Team is gradually producing more detailed appraisals for all Conservation Areas in the borough. We recently commented on drafts for Trinity Gardens, Stockwell Green, Vassall and the Minet Estate CAs.

When drafts appear for other Brixton CAs, they will give opportunities to add local design guidance or restrictions to address current problems, rather than those of 35 years ago. However, the number of CAs and other demands on planning staff mean that it could be some time before Loughborough Park reaches the top of their pending tray.

More generally, last year Lambeth updated its supplementary planning guidance (SPD) on Building Alterations and Extensions. Together with the Lambeth Local Plan policies, this is used to assess any planning applications of this type, but is ineffective if permission is not needed anyway.

Alan Piper.

Brixton Design Trail

17-25 September as part of the London Design Festival

Building upon last year's experience, local creatives, businesses and groups have come together to offer a mix of events and installations to raise Brixton's profile and promote local talent.

For the emerging programme, see www.brixtondesigntrail.com



Thursday 28 July, 7 pm

7 pm at the Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Road SW2

Light refreshments provided.

This is the Annual General Meeting, so the main agenda items will be:

- **Annual Report and Accounts** for the year ended 31 March.
- **Election of the Forum Executive:** Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and up to 3 others.
- **Forum priorities** for the year ahead. What issues should we take up? Who should we invite to speak at future meetings?
- **Information Exchange:** a chance for local groups to update us or announce coming events.

Streetscape Ideas

The Brixton Business Improvement District has commissioned a design guide for the Town Centre's streets, markets and open spaces, from which individual projects will be taken forward as resources are found.

The aim is to establish priorities and basic concepts in readiness for any upturn or windfall. The launch of the final version of the guide was still being planned as we closed for press.

Brixton Waterworks to go

Since completion of the London Ring Main several years ago, we have been expecting Thames Water to sell off the Waterworks site on Brixton Hill. Roca Investments have been in pre-application discussions with Lambeth Planning and draft proposals were due to be unveiled after this newsletter went to the printers. Their timing is also unfortunate with "Brexit" already sowing the seeds of recession, so sales of new housing could be sticky for the next couple of years. We will try to post more news on our website, or come and ask us at the Lambeth Country Show.

Sporting Lives

There was much media attention given to the death of boxer **Muhammed Ali** last month, but his influence as an inspiration and role model for young black people in this country was largely overlooked. After one of his visits to Brixton in the 1970s, this led to the setting up of the Muhammed Ali Sports Development Association (MASDA) to encourage and support grass-roots sports in the community. This was assisted by the Commission for Racial Equality and Tulse Hill School, and flourished in the late 1970s and 80s, until the school closed in 1990.

Sadly, another recent death was that of **Colin Marriott**, cricket enthusiast and founder of Lambeth Youth Social Aid and Development Association (LYSADA). Through LYSADA, he was instrumental in reviving the Dexter Adventure Playground in Railton Road after the demise of Courtney Laws and his Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association (BNCA) which first opened the playground in a static water tank left over from the Second World War. LYSADA also helped keep team sports alive in Lambeth schools, in the face of pressure from the National Curriculum. Colin's funeral took place on 21st June.

Such aspects of local community activity are all too easily forgotten, but we would welcome further reminiscences or details to flesh out the stories for the benefit and enlightening of those who come after.