

THE BRIXTON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer issue, July 2022

No.246, Quarterly issue,
Distributed free to members.

Registered with the London Forum of Amenity
Societies, Registered charity no. 1058103,
website: www.brixtonsociety.org.uk



Weekend 16 & 17 July

Lambeth Country Show

12 noon to 8 pm, Brockwell Park SE24

This popular event returns in its established format, and once again we will have a stall, so do come and say hello. We were still waiting for the site map and exact location of our stall when this edition was due to go off for printing, but for directions contact us nearer the date at info@brixtonsociety.org.uk Once again, the Show will be fenced-off, so please allow time to queue to get in – although last admission is at 7-30 pm, we will be closing down by then.

Our next Summer Walk...

Sunday 24 July:

Stockwell Green

Meet 2-30 pm outside Costcutter, on the corner of Stockwell Green and Lingham Street SW9 for a short walk led by Bill Linskey. Book at www.brixtonsociety.org.uk/events

See inside for more coming events...



Brisk business on our bookstall on Rush Common for the playground re-opening event, 2nd April. N.Weedon/DL/51980869945-7dfacb6c9f-c.jpg

Lambeth Heritage Festival

Once again the month of September will be filled with events linked to Lambeth's diverse heritage. This year there will be a printed brochure again, and we hope to have copies in time to give out on our stall at the Country Show. Meanwhile, here's a couple of local highlights...

Sunday 4th September:

Brixton's Blue Plaques

Repeated to meet demand, this walk links plaques – blue and otherwise – in Central Brixton. Meet at 2-30 pm at Brixton Tube Station but please remember to book via bill@linskey.org.uk

Thursday 8 September:

Olive Morris House – gone but not forgotten

6 pm at Brixton Tate Library, SW2 1JQ. This talk by Nicholas Weedon will look at the architecture, personalities, politics and records of its early destruction, as well as looking to its successor as the new home of Lambeth Archives. Book via <https://bit.ly/OMHouse>

Diary of Events – High Summer 2022

Committee Dates

Our Executive Committee meets monthly, on the second Thursday, to plan activities and agree our response to current issues. Meetings are now back at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road SW2, at 7 pm. If you want to join in or to raise a specific issue, please contact the Chair a week beforehand at chair@brixtonsociety.org.uk

- 14 July
- 11 August
- 13 October

Guided Walks

We are offering our **Market Walks** again on the second Saturday of each month – please book via our website, www.brixtonsociety.org.uk/events

In addition to our own guided walks, other groups within the Lambeth Local History Forum are also active. See the Walks leaflet or check the LLHF website at www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk

Editorial Notice

Space permitting, we try to feature local events, issues and reminiscences 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 info@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Events arranged by other groups

Please check directly with organisers for any queries over times or costs.

Brockwell Park Greenhouses events

Natural dyeing workshops are starting on Saturday **9 July**, while Fermentation workshops and a Friday morning gardening group are also getting underway – enquiries to admin@brockwellgreenhouses.org.uk

For the outdoor yoga sessions on Saturdays, please see <https://www.naturalconnecton.org.uk/yoga-for-all> *Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses*.

Brixton Windmill tours

The windmill is open for tours at least one weekend a month, between 1 pm and 5 pm. Advance booking is essential for full tours due to space restrictions and Covid precautions. The site is also hosting **Art in the Park** on Sunday 14 August. For latest details, see the website, www.brixtonwindmill.org *Friends of Windmill Gardens*

Women's Safety Event, Thursday 14 July

As part of their occasional series of training events, the Brixton BID have teamed up with the Safer Business Network to highlight how businesses can offer safer environments for customers and staff. Hosted by Brixton House Theatre, 9-30 am to

12-30, enquiries to admin@brixtonbid.co.uk *Brixton BID*.

The Brixton Blog and Bugle Art Show

Continues until **27 July**, in the Gallery at Brixton Tate Library, with works by 43 local artists. Opening times as for the main library. *Brixton Blog & Bugle/Lambeth Libraries*.

On the bandstand:

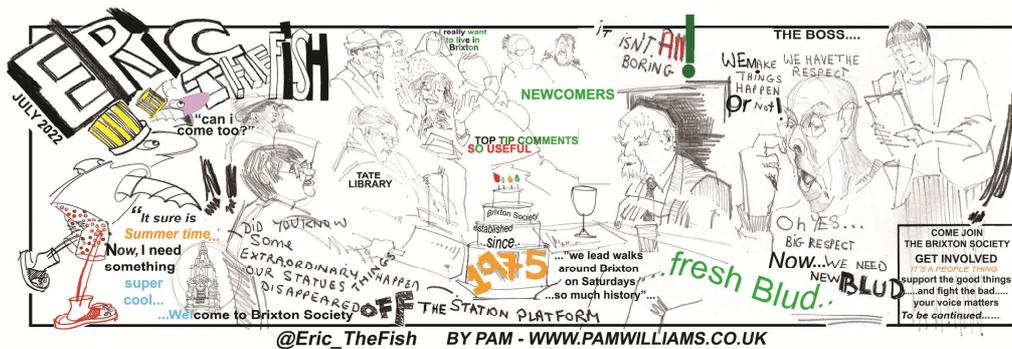
The **Brixton Chamber Orchestra** will be performing on the bandstand in Myatt's Fields Park from 4 pm on Friday **22 July**, admission free. Next up is an Inter-Generational **Black History Day** between 11 am and 4 pm on Sunday **31 July**. A family fun day to celebrate the African contribution to music and dance, organised by Happy Drums and Nadz. *Myatt's Fields Park Project*

West Norwood Cemetery Tours

Monthly guided tours take place on the first Sunday of each month. Tours last 90 to 120 minutes and start at 2-30 pm from the cemetery main gate on Norwood Road, SE27. Please book in advance via www.fownc.org/tickets/ *Friends of West Norwood Cemetery*.

Open House Festival

Traditionally a weekend when a variety of buildings open their doors, now it will run from **8 to 21 September** www.open-city.org.uk



In the public eye

We were honoured to be the subject of Pam William's *Eric the Fish* cartoon in the July issue of the *Brixton Bugle*. The occasion recorded was our Annual General Meeting, not usually newsworthy but we did take the important decision to set free the Friends of Windrush Square and the Friends of Brixton's Tate Library to develop separately.

While it's tempting to get involved in many aspects of Brixton's community life, we are limited by our original charitable objectives and being an "unincorporated" association. We have always preferred to see new groups form to meet specific needs.

Since January, Ros Griffiths has been convening a monthly engagement hub for Windrush Square, gradually building up contacts with stakeholder groups in the surrounding area. In the process, a framework for the new Friends group has been drafted, but there is still much to do, just as key people begin to depart on holiday, so an inaugural meeting is unlikely before late September. Some ideas have been aired already, including working with Brixton BID to plan pre-Christmas events on the Square.

The Library Friends have ideas too, and will be joining in the Heritage Festival in September. If you would like to contribute to either group, we will be happy to put you in touch. In both cases, the practical limitation has been having enough people to help organise things.

Business in Brixton

Having just mentioned the Brixton Business Improvement District above reminded me how volatile trading conditions are at present. We reported last time that the night-time economy had already recovered to pre-Covid levels, but daytime services and retail are struggling. In Brixton Station Road, there has been a drop in

footfall over the past few years, from even before Covid. Part of this must be due to the mismanaged renovation of the railway arches, several of which are still vacant. The hope now is that the **Revitalising the Rec** projects will soon begin to make a positive impact.

One initiative by the Brixton BID is a twinning link with Harlem in New York, so look out for local events in the week **3-6 August**. One of these will be the return of the **Black Culture Market** to the downstairs space at the Department Store, 248 Ferndale Road SW9 on Saturday and Sunday, 6 & 7 August. Open 11 am to 5 pm with a different mix of traders each day. Admission free but please register via their Eventbrite link. More details are at <https://www.blackculturemarket.co.uk>

The broader-based network of eateries east of Brixton Road have raised Brixton's standing, but too many have locked themselves into high rents. **Salon** in Market Row ceased trading last month, having started in 2012 and expanded in 2016. The nearby **Sarap** had already closed after a much shorter life. At least **3 Uncles** is surviving within Brixton Village after its launch early this year. Perhaps we should be encouraged that fresh openings still happen, including **Beetle Juice Cocktails** next door to 3 Uncles in March, with **Bottle & Rye** due to open this month as a Parisian-inspired bistro/ wine bar in Market Row.

Research enquiries

These usually end up on our local history pages if we cannot respond directly, but Connie Woollen is researching local views on Brexit and will be interviewing until at least September. Happy to forward details, or you can contact her directly at constance.woollen@kcl.ac.uk

Alan Piper.

Planning and Regeneration



View from the Town Hall entrance showing the Hondo Tower dominating the skyline.
CI/BTC-2020-02-01-IMG9396.jpg

The Big One

Hondo Blink First!

The biggest planning case for some years – in both its scale and the number of objections – has been the Hondo development in Popes Road, proposing a 20-storey tower which would dominate the Town Centre conservation area. After the scheme was narrowly approved by Lambeth Council back in November 2020, it was called in by the Mayor and then delayed by late modifications as the developers attempted to make it more palatable. However, they steadfastly refused to reduce the height of their “office” tower.

We were all set for a showdown hearing by the Mayor at the new City Hall in E16 on 10 June, but this was postponed only a few days prior at the developers’ request. This was to enable changes to respond to objections, notably from Historic England, and time for consultation on those changes. We have been co-ordinating our efforts with the Fight the Tower campaign, Historic England and the Victorian Society, but by the end of June, none of us had heard from the developers or their team. They may have realised that a more fundamental redesign is necessary to deal with all the failings of the original concept, in which case new plans may take some time.

A wiser approach would be to start afresh with a design that meets current needs and the local context, but Hondo may feel they have invested too much in consultants’ fees on the original concept. Strictly speaking however, the Mayor’s hearing is only postponed, so the whole issue could spring to life again at any time.

Things to come

We had expected by now some consultation by London Square about their proposals for the Pop Brixton site. It was announced back in February that Lambeth had selected them as their preferred partner. They had indicated they would retain International House to meet the employment and training requirements set by the Council, so we expect the Pop Brixton site to be predominantly residential uses.

Nearby, work is due to start this Autumn on creating workspace below the Brixton Recreation Centre, using disused space accessed from Beehive Place. On Brixton Station Road, some of the shopfronts are also due to be upgraded.

Lambeth is due to publish a new draft of its planning guidance on Building Design. Given their planners’ readiness to accept unsightly high-rise developments, we will be looking to see if more priority will be given to sustainability.

Railton LTN streetscape

As a follow-up to formalising the Railton Low-Traffic Neighbourhood, Lambeth has been consulting on repaving and planting designs for 3 locations:

Following recent work on Atlantic Road, the next ideas are for **Railton Road** between Herne Place and the 198 Gallery, though the designers forgot that this remains part of the 322 bus route, so if you take a rest on the public benches, you may get your feet run over!

Another site is **Shakespeare Road** below the railway bridge adjacent to Mayall Road but here better lighting is needed.

Also included is a short section of **St. Matthew’s Road** between the Tenants’ Hall and Trinity Congregational Church. Weaknesses in each case are that routes through for growing cycle traffic and cargo bikes are poorly defined, while paving materials change for no good reason. Proposals are open for comments until Sunday **17 July** at www.rtstreets.commonplace.is

Alan Piper.

Should Be Better Remembered

David Cox 1783-1859

This plaque is on 34 Foxley Road, SW9 6ES. Perhaps passers-by today looking at it ask themselves, “who he?” because he does not have the recognition of, say, Turner or Millais.

Cox was born in Birmingham in 1783, the son of a blacksmith, but fortunately he was not strong enough to follow in his father’s footsteps and became an artist instead. In fact, he became one of the leading watercolour landscape artists of his time, having been associated with the Birmingham School of landscape artists from early in his career.

He had two periods of living and working in London, 1804-1814 and 1827-1841 (which is the period commemorated by the blue plaque). Between, he lived in Hereford and after, returned to Birmingham, where he died in 1859.

The drawing below dates from his second London period being drawn in 1828. It is owned by Lambeth Archives.



A pencil drawing signed “D.C. At Brixton June 15/28”. A later annotation states “Cedar Lodge, Stockwell. Sketched in the garden of a house my mother lived in for a time. B.J.S.” Image courtesy of Lambeth Archives.



The building was renovated in 2017. Pity the opportunity was not taken to tidy up the cables away from the plaque; photo Bill Linskey

During his first stay in London, he worked for a brief time as a scene painter at Astley's Theatre in Westminster Bridge Road. He married his landlady’s daughter and, in 1809, they had son also called David, who also became an artist. From the same period, one of his works, a large watercolour *In Windsor Park*, is now in the V&A. Despite his artistic success, it appears he could not make a sufficient living from the sale of his work and also taught as a drawing-master, including at a military establishment in Farnham. (Before the camera, the ability to draw was important for military and naval officers.)

During his second stay in London, he undertook two trips to France to paint. Here he produced some of his best work, such as *Near the Pont d'Arcole, Paris* which is now in the Tate collection. Two of his works (*Kensington Palace* and *The Queen's Chapel, Marlborough Gate*) are in the Royal Collection. By the end of his London stay, he was regarded as one of the best watercolourists of his generation, but he decided to try working in oil.

On his return to Birmingham, he concentrated on working in oil but met little critical success. Only more recently has the scope of his work in oil been appreciated. He surely deserves to be as well-known as Turner or Constable. (References: *Dictionary of National Biography* Tate Britain & Wikipedia) Bill Linskey

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 2021-22

AIMS & ORGANISATION

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 as far as Stockwell Tube Station, out to Myatt's Fields Park, and up the Hill to the South Circular Road.

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

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT: The Society is a registered charity and an unincorporated association. The society's constitution was last revised at the 2013 AGM. This year's AGM agreed to change this to enable the Friends of Tate Library Brixton and the Friends of Windrush Square to set up as independent bodies, instead of being standing sub-committees of the Society.

Since the last AGM, most meetings of the Executive Committee have been held on-line via Zoom. Members were Bill Linskey (Chair), Doye Akinlade, Ashleigh Gill, Tracey Gregory, Diana Linskey, Vivienne Lewis, Douglas Pineiro, Alan Piper, Marilyn Rogers, Eileen Walkin, David Warner and Nicholas Weedon.



Stall on Rush Common, April 2022.

PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES

EVENTS: Live events have returned very gradually over the past year, starting with guided walks for limited numbers and eventually some indoor events in the Autumn of 2021.

We contributed a couple of on-line talks to the "Archives Unlocked" series organised by Lambeth Archives. Our monthly Brixton Market walks resumed in April this year, and live committee meetings will return to the Vida Walsh Centre from July. We ran stalls at Windmill Gardens in December and on Rush Common in April. We look forward to the return of the Lambeth Country Show in July.



The future of Council housing such as Cressingham Gardens is an ongoing concern. DL/IMG5004.jpg

PLANNING & REGENERATION:

We share oversight of a high volume of local planning applications amongst our "virtual" planning sub-committee, but try to bring the more prominent proposals to the Executive Committee for comment. Far and away the most prominent has been the Hondo development in Popes Road, where we have collaborated with other objectors including the Fight The Towers Campaign, the Victorian Society and Historic England.

Other contentious proposals have mostly been for insensitive advertising designs which intrude too much on conservation areas or the setting of listed buildings. We have also commented on several wider policy issues, including Lambeth's

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Climate Action Plan and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. In these areas, we have benefitted from information received from the London Forum, Lambeth Eco-Housing Group, the Centre for London and Global Action Plan.

NETWORKING: We keep in touch with a wide range of local groups including the Brixton Neighbourhood Forum, Brockwell Park Community Partners (the park's Management Advisory Committee), Lambeth Local History Forum, Friends of Lambeth Libraries, and Lambeth Parks Forum. We exchange newsletters with most nearby amenity societies.

We have continued to respond to e-mail enquiries from students, media and family historians.

PUBLICATIONS: "Loughborough Road Histories" appeared last summer, based on research by LEAF TRA and compiled by Tracey Gregory.

We continue to add material to our website, which also acts as a gateway to all our publications. (*An analysis of sales forms a footnote to the accounts on page 8.*) Our Newsletter is still distributed to members quarterly, and is also available digitally.

RESOURCES

FINANCE: The annual accounts are printed overleaf and cover the year ended 31 March 2022. In summary, income exceeded expenditure by £584, partly due to a contribution from LEAF to book production costs, but also helped by increased sales, more members, and limited meetings costs.

Subscriptions were last reviewed after the 2016 AGM, and were waived in 2019/20 to reflect our much-reduced "live" events.

MEMBERSHIP: The Society had 180 paid-up members at the end of May, of whom 20 joined since August 2021. Our involvement in high-profile planning cases like Popes Road has boosted support, but the next step is to involve our newer members more actively in running the Society and its events.

We are grateful for the "in kind" support we already receive from individual members including delivering most newsletters, staffing stalls, reporting back from a variety of meetings, and other tasks which all help maintain the Society's level of activity.

Since we are involved in a variety of activities – and often asked to join in with more – we are always happy to accept volunteers to help with any of them. It just depends on your aptitudes and availability. Contact us if you want to be more involved.

ADP, draft 8.6.22, expanded 30.6.22



Restoring the notice-board in Windrush Square. DL/IMG0307.jpg

How to contact us

If you have internet access, you can contact us at info@brixtonsociety.org.uk

For town planning issues, you can reach all our planning panel at

planning@brixtonsociety.org.uk

For local history enquiries, please use

history@brixtonsociety.org.uk

For membership matters, please use

membership@brixtonsociety.org.uk

Otherwise, write to the Secretary, Alan Piper, at 82 Mayall Road, SE24 0PJ or phone him on (020) 7207 0347 – answerphone available but there is no longer a fax facility.

The Brixton Society - Accounts for year ending 31 March 2022
Year to date - starting 1/4/21

| | 2021/2022 | 2020/2021 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Receipts | | |
| Friends of Windrush Square income | 0.00 | 99.13 |
| Members' Subscriptions | 1,157.90 | 647.00 |
| Sale of Publications, etc | 1,717.67 | 705.72 |
| Donations | 431.22 | 259.20 |
| Postage | 195.12 | 154.85 |
| Bank Interest | 2.01 | 25.45 |
| Miscellaneous (LEAF TRA money) | 1,172.00 | 0.00 |
| Nelly Roberts Plaques | 230.00 | 0.00 |
| Friends of Tate Library income | 200.00 | 1,899.13 |
| Sub-Total | 5,105.92 | 3,790.48 |
| Refunds | -45.14 | -44.20 |
| Discounts | -37.98 | 0.00 |
| Zettle/Ebay/Paypal fees | -79.55 | -79.63 |
| Receipts less discounts/refunds | <u>4,943.25</u> | <u>3,666.65</u> |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Expenditure | | |
| Friends of Tate Library | 542.40 | 1,538.88 |
| Nelly Roberts Plaques | 181.98 | |
| Friends of Windrush Square | 0.00 | 19.73 |
| Donations | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Newsletter Production | 364.45 | 260.15 |
| Postage | 257.21 | 199.61 |
| Stationery | 143.71 | 132.84 |
| Publications - purchase | 23.00 | 0.00 |
| Publications - printing | 1,672.00 | 0.00 |
| Posters/Leaflets/teatowels | 395.81 | 3.00 |
| Insurance Cost (general) | 75.00 | 75.00 |
| Subscriptions | 68.00 | 48.00 |
| Cost of Meetings | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| Website support | 130.00 | 130.00 |
| Equipment/Stall | 81.60 | 0.00 |
| Events | 55.00 | 51.50 |
| Catering/Refreshments | 74.45 | 0.00 |
| Website hosting | 194.34 | 202.74 |
| Tai Chi project | 0.00 | 735.00 |
| Total Payment | <u>4,358.95</u> | <u>3,396.45</u> |

SUPLUS **584.30** **270.20**

| Details of Publications Sold | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Town Trails | 27.00 | 33.00 |
| Memories | 24.95 | 79.84 |
| Windrush Square | 15.00 | 11.00 |
| Brixton - Story of a name | 9.00 | 13.00 |
| Effra - Lambeth's Underground River | 24.00 | 39.00 |
| Maps | 21.00 | 0.00 |
| Loughborough Road Stories | 549.50 | 0.00 |
| Postcards | 68.00 | 62.00 |
| History of Brixton | 189.81 | 249.75 |
| Brixton Boy WWII | 14.94 | 27.39 |
| Black British Celebration | 54.00 | 26.00 |
| Tea Towel | 609.00 | 0.00 |
| Synagogue | 32.37 | 39.84 |
| Market Walk Tickets | 0.00 | 45.00 |
| Market Walk Books | 52.00 | 44.00 |
| Brixton & Stockwell in The Mirror | 9.60 | 8.40 |
| Henry Tate book | 7.50 | 20.00 |
| Brixton MPs | 10.00 | 7.50 |
| | 1,717.67 | 705.72 |
| Less Discount | -37.98 | 0.00 |
| | <u>1,679.69</u> | <u>705.72</u> |

| | | |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| Balance Sheet | 2021/22 | 2020/21 |
| Opening | 7936.55 | 7666.35 |
| Surplus for year | 584.30 | 270.20 |
| Closing Balance | 8520.85 | 7936.55 |
| Represented By | | |
| Current A/C | 1304.24 | 573.13 |
| Deposit A/C | 7045.83 | 7043.82 |
| PayPal | 170.78 | 319.60 |
| | 8520.85 | 7936.55 |

Notes to the accounts: GLA Grant for Local Heros Banner project successfully completed. Income boosted this year by new publication funded by National Heritage Lottery Fund and the Society: Loughborough Road Histories. Also by sales of the teatowel to show the artwork of the Banner project. A return to events during the September Heritage month was very successful and membership subscriptions have returned to normal levels. A surplus of £584.30 leaves the Society in a very healthy position. Accounts prepared by Diana Linskey, Treasurer.

Diana Linskey
 30/4/22

Report of Independent examiner

I report on the accounts of the Brixton Society for the year ended 21/2022. My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements have not been met.

Name 
 Anthony Sullivan 22/5/22

When Brixton was all green fields...

For many years the Brixton Society has been a member of the British Association of Local History, which actively encourages local groups and enthusiasts to raise the standards of their research and publications. After all, too many “histories” written a century ago turn out to be compilations of tall stories published for entertainment rather than accuracy, and with their sources obscure.

The focus of the BALH annual history day last month was Medieval history, broadly 500 to 1500 in date. This may seem remote from urban Brixton, more a time of bad barons and insufferable saints, but their manors and minsters provide the skeleton which underlies our modern street pattern. Mark Forrest provided a review of how Medieval manors operated and how to interpret their records. There was much variation in practice from one to another, due to reliance on custom or oral tradition to run country estates when literacy was limited.

As with the recent Covid pandemic, the Black Death c.1349 accelerated changes in society. There was a shift from feudal service and rents paid in kind, to money rents and fixed leases. The earliest form was copyhold, widespread by 1500, typically lasting for the lives of 3 tenants and so-called because both landlord and tenant held a copy. A local example is Page's Fields, immediately south of Brockwell Park, held from Lambeth Manor. By the 1650s conventional leases were becoming more usual, and research becomes a little easier as by then most were written in English. Fortunately for us, the groundwork in manor records has already been done by the writers of the *Survey of London* volumes covering most of Lambeth some 70 years ago. There is great potential for some follow-up work, but nobody needs to start from scratch.

Although most manors eventually split into smaller estates, there is considerable continuity, recorded in old wills, title deeds and even private acts of parliament. For example, the manor that Brixton owned at Hatcham (SE14) in the 1060s is also recorded in an estate map

of 1619, and 150 years ago was developed by the Haberdashers, a City livery company which also supported Haberdashers Aske's School. Nearer to us, the Dulwich College Estate is in effect the old Dulwich manor continuing as an educational charity.

It's certainly possible to reconstruct the old field pattern for our area, from manor surveys, enclosure awards for the old commons, and the first large-scale Ordnance Survey maps when some parts were yet to be built on. Of special interest is Mylne's land use map of c.1802, to be found in Lambeth Archives, which identifies the use of each field in what are now London suburbs. Fields are variously shown as arable, meadow, pasture or market gardens.



An isolated country cottage on the east side of Brixton Road, approached by footbridge over the River Effra, c.1784. HP/pics/img007.jpg

To round off the day, Dr Janina Ramirez gave a preview of her new book *Femina*, which highlights the lives of several women who managed to make an impact in Medieval times despite male domination of church and state. Sometimes this was through indulgent kings willing to found a convent for a favourite daughter to run – likely a better deal than paying a large dowry to marry her off. In the case of Julian of Norwich, her patient husband was willing to subsidise her going on several pilgrimages, perhaps preferring some quiet at home. Some women, like Ethelflaed of Mercia and Hildegard of Bingen, defied convention and took an active part in state and church affairs respectively.

Alan Piper.

On Memorials

Nelly Roberts plaque latest

Progress is being made with putting up a plaque among the shops on Loughborough Road to commemorate Nelly Roberts, who served as orchid artist for the RHS for 50 years. Unveiling is expected to take place on Sunday 16 October, marking her 150th birthday. Tracey Gregory is planning a local walk to take in the site of Richard Measures' orchid greenhouses on County Grove behind his house on Flodden Road, and of course Myatt's Fields Park, which is on the site of Joseph Myatt's market gardens.

Incidentally, the park was created to the designs of Fanny Wilkinson, on behalf of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association. This pioneering woman landscape designer has recently been commemorated by an official EH blue plaque on her former home at 235 Shaftesbury Avenue.

Stockwell War Memorial

If you missed the recent exhibition at St. Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, it is now on display at **Tate South Lambeth Library** until the end of August, during normal library opening hours (closed Tuesdays and Sundays). The exhibition marks the centenary of the memorial being inaugurated in 1922.

A casualty from World War II

While most local memorials from the First World War list the names of the dead, that's rarer for the Second World War. At Stockwell the adjacent air raid shelter was repurposed as a generic memorial by some creative painting by the late Brian Barnes.

Nearly 80 years ago, on 8th December 1942, Mr R.Evans, of 33 Foxley Road SW9, received a letter from the Royal Navy at Devonport to advise that his son, Robert Paul Evans, had been posted as missing. In September 1945 the Admiralty confirmed that he had died on active service on 19 January 1943. As Able Seaman Evans, he had been taking part in one of several desperate attempts to sink the German battleship *Tirpitz*, then based in a Norwegian fjord. Their mission was based on the use of "human torpedoes" conveyed by trawler from Shetland, but the mission failed

and Evans was wounded and captured when the party attempted to escape over the border into Sweden.

In line with Hitler's directive of 18 October 1942 that commandos and saboteurs should be executed, the 21-year-old Evans was shot by SS prison guards in January 1943. His body was later recovered from a common grave and interred in a Commonwealth war grave at Oslo.

Glyn Evans (no relation) is researching a book on Operation Title, the failed mission against the *Tirpitz*. It's a long shot, given population changes over the past 80 years, but he would welcome contact from any surviving relatives. If you have any relevant knowledge, he can be found at evans19191@btinternet.com

Coincidentally, the *Empire Windrush*, which is now familiar for bringing the first settlers from the West Indies, had been a supply ship for the *Tirpitz* before being seized as a prize at the end of the war.

Brixton's Other Windmill

On occasional walks past Myatt's Fields Park, we have noticed a model windmill in the front gardens of houses near the north end of Knatchbull Road. Its origins were finally revealed in the *South London Press* on 17 June. Chef Henry Timmermans came to the UK from Holland soon after the First World War and bought the property, which has remained in the family for 98 years. Henry designed and made the garden features, including the windmill based on typical Dutch examples.

The garden is currently maintained by his grandson Michael "Ricky" Lee, who as a carpenter was able to renovate the windmill when it became dilapidated.

Station Statues to return

For some time we have been enquiring about the 3 bronze statues on the platforms of Brixton railway station. They should return after repairs, with a new one to be added by the original artist, Kevin Atherton. This will join an original from opposite the Rec which had been concealed by a storage compound.

Feel Good Festival on Camberwell Green

This is running each Saturday for 6 weeks until 30 July, from 10 am to 1 pm on the Green as part of the weekly market. A different mix of stalls on each date aims to promote health and wellbeing in the widest sense. Music is the theme on 16 July, and there should be time to pay a visit before coming to the Lambeth Country Show in the afternoon. Food is the theme on 23rd and then Exercise on 30th.

The Happy Return

Beyond Loughborough Junction, it's never clear which amenity group should be taking an interest – we cover anything this side of Kings College Hospital but the Camberwell Society can involve itself in anything with a SE5 postcode. In fact, the Herne Hill Society were first to report the re-opening in March of **The Cambria** public house, on the corner of Cambria Road and Kemerton Road, SE5.

Opened by 1880, this was a classic local pub, taking its name from the sailing yacht Cambria, the first British challenger for the Americas Cup in 1870. The Victorian building was refurbished by new owners Heineken and operators Prospect Pubs and Bars after 2 years boarded up. On-tap beers include small-batch beers from Brixton Brewery, while Fairtrade teas and coffees are also on offer, in support of a traditional pub menu. It's open every day and early reports suggest a healthy trade, despite a very difficult climate for the hospitality industry generally.

For offers and promotions see www.thecambrialondon.co.uk

Great British Garden Festival 2022

Our last chance to remind you about tickets for the Festival. Rather than one big event, it's a scheme offering discounts at a wide variety of festivals, country houses, gardens and garden centres around the country, from the Surrey Food Festival (30/31 July) to Tom's Hidden Garden in Falkirk. Worth considering if you are holidaying in another part of the country, or just taking days out in easy reach of London: www.greatbritishgardenfestival.org.uk

See more from David Cox

Further to the article on page 5, the Spring edition of the Dulwich Society's Journal has a little to add. Before Dulwich became a select suburb, it was dotted with down-at-heel country cottages. Pages 29-31 of the journal show three examples drawn by David Cox c.1810 when he was living in the area, and later used in his influential painting manuals.

Wandle Industrial Museum events

The museum is offering some walks along sections of the river, all starting at 2 pm and lasting about 2 hours. Free but donations welcome. More details at www.wandle.org

Saturday 16 July, Morden Hall Park to Merton Abbey Mills;
Sunday 21 August, Earlsfield to Merton Abbey Mills;
Thursday 22 September, Mitcham Tram Stop to Morden Hall Park.

Late notice, but the museum is hosting the **Wandle Art Festival** on 9/10 July weekend, 12 noon to 5 pm at Lower Green West, Mitcham.

They are also organising an afternoon of talks on the first 100 years of **Merton Priory** (founded 1114) on Saturday 23 July in the remains of the Chapter House. More on the website (as above) but book via Eventbrite.

The Secret Garden

The summer exhibition at the **Garden Museum** is based around the classic children's book *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, published in 1911. Pictures from several past editions will show changing styles of illustration, as well as a contemporary immersive artwork. The exhibition will also show Burnett's own gardening interests, such as her gardens at Great Maytham Hall in Kent.

The museum is based in the former St. Mary's Parish Church, alongside Lambeth Palace, SE1. Admission is £14 for adults, but during this show, there is free entry for kids. The show continues until **4th September**. More details on their website at www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

Notes and News

Central London Bus Review

Transport for London depends on fares to meet most of its costs, but during the Covid lockdowns, with many people working from home or isolating, fare income collapsed. Central Government has provided short-term financial support, but has insisted that savings are made by reducing services. This includes making a 4% reduction in bus mileage.

TfL is now consulting on withdrawing some bus routes and modifying others. The period for making comments has been extended to Sunday 7 August (originally 12 July). You can e-mail to haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk or respond to the on-line survey on the TfL website.

Proposals are grouped in 4 different sectors of London – north, south, east, west – which are each split into several neighbourhood groups. For Brixton, the major change will be that route 45 will be withdrawn. Instead, southbound route 59 will turn right to finish at Clapham Park rather than at Brixton bus garage (Telford Avenue).

Many routes will be cut short or diverted when they reach Central London. In the case of route 59, instead of terminating at Euston, it will turn off at Holborn to terminate at St. Paul's in the City. Other Brixton bus routes to be affected this way are the 3 and 133.

If you regularly travel further afield, you should check for changes along your whole journey. Other areas face greater impact, such as Southwark where routes 12 and 78 will disappear. The overall effect will be a greater need to change buses for longer journeys.

Alan Piper.



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Do you have views on local health services?

The past two years have put health services very much in the public eye, and there are channels to feed in your views about priorities and better ways to deliver services.

Lambeth Together is a partnership of NHS, Council and community organisations that is responsible for planning and managing most health and care services in the borough of Lambeth. From 1st July, Lambeth Together formally joins South East London Integrated Care System as one of 6 borough-based local care partnerships. More details of the SE London ICS are on their new website at <https://www.seldonics.org/>

Lambeth Together is currently seeking two new Patient and Public Voice members to ensure that local people are involved in high-level decisions about health and care. They particularly welcome people who are already linked into local networks, such as a tenants' association, a PTA or a patient group, that keeps them in touch with a range of other people. They would also like to involve people from ethnic communities, from LGBTQ+ interests or disabled people.

The roles are voluntary and the closing date for expressions of interest is **24 July**. In the meantime, there is an information session in the week starting 18 July, and a chance to observe the next Board meeting on 20 July. More information is on the website at <https://lambethtogether.net/publicvoice/>

If this sounds too demanding, but you still want to feed in comments or complaints about local health or care services, you can make use of **Lambeth Healthwatch** which is your health and social care champion. They listen to what people like about services and what could be improved. They share people's views with NHS leaders and other care providers to make change happen. Occasional surveys are conducted for specific services – recent examples included LGBTQ+ needs and making Lambeth more child-friendly. Enquiries to info@healthwatchlambeth.org.uk