

STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 204 Spring 2011



Celebrating the publication of 'Streatham and the Summer Game - A History of Cricket in Streatham 1731 - 2010 and the Streatham Cricket Club' (see page 25)

Photo JWB

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

DAY COACH TRIP (*see p.29*)

Saturday 4th June
(*booking form enclosed*)

STREATHAM NOW & THEN:

A step back into the past

John Brown *Local History Group*
Monday 6th June 8pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Review of the Society's year
Monday 20th June 8pm

PEOPLE & PLACES -

A look at Streatham's Heritage

Brian Bloice
Local History Group Festival Event
Monday 4th July 8pm

TOMORROW'S RAILWAYS

John Stewart
Monday 18th July 8pm

COLLECTABLES & ANTIQUES

Members' evening
Local History Group
Monday 1st August 8pm

SHAKESPEAREAN PLAYHOUSES OF LONDON

Julian Bowsher
Monday 5th September 8pm

MY VISION FOR STREATHAM

Chuka Umunna M.P.
Monday 19th September 8pm

SUMMER EVENTS *See p.30 - 31*

Heritage Walks leaflets available at meetings, local libraries, on-line
Festival Events see local publicity & website

All meetings at "Woodlawns" 16 Leigham Court Road SW16, unless otherwise stated

CONTENTS

Streatham News	p 3	Streatham Society Reports	p 21
Streatham Green BT Cabinets		Publications	p 25
Local History Matters	p 7	Streatham & the Summer Game	
The Streatham News; Guildersfield;		Members' Letters	p 28
Jane Russell; Hiram Maxim;		Brian's Picture Quiz	p 29
River Graveney; St Leonard's Bells;		Dates For your Diary	p 30
Hitherfield School; Memories of		Society Contacts	p 32
Streatham			

The Streatham Society welcomes articles of interest to our members, but the editor reserves the right to edit these. Opinions expressed may not be those of the Society. Please send or email to the editor. Articles may be reproduced only with her permission

STREATHAM NEWS & PLANNING MATTERS

ALL CHANGE AT STREATHAM GREEN

Brian Bloice

Once again Streatham Green has become the focus of attention of council officers and local community activists. It was last refurbished about 2004 but that work, although expensive, never seemed to have a long term future, due to the inadequacies of the council's maintenance programme and contractors. However it may be that this time the future of any new work on the Green may be more assured as it will be monitored by a recently formed body, The Friends of Streatham Green. Two meetings have taken place and it was encouraging to see the number of officers and community workers who were present at both meetings.

The Green was originally a small piece of common land associated with the far larger areas of the Tooting Commons. As such, it came into local authority ownership as a public open space in 1873 (the Metropolitan Board of Works). The Board was succeeded by the London County Council in 1889. In 1925, the London County Council undertook an exercise to 'download' management of its smallest open spaces to the relevant Metropolitan Boroughs. At that time, Streatham was part of the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth, which duly inherited responsibility for management of the Green. With the reorganization of London's local government in 1965, Streatham was transferred to the incoming London Borough of Lambeth (together with the management of the Green).

An air-raid shelter was built into the Green during World War II, an unavoidable emergency measure which nevertheless has had very long-term effects upon the soil and drainage of the site, even after the structure was 'broken out' and the surface smoothed off. The roots of the five trees along the Streatham High Road frontage of the Green were so inter-twined with the structure of the shelter (and they were in any case in a poor state), that they had to be felled during the reinstatement process. Five new trees were put in their place during a comprehensive high-profile redesign. This redesign was widely welcomed and in fact won the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association's 'London Spade' award in 2005. Sadly, the new layout eventually fell victim to a combination of vandalism and loss of focus. The 'broken' nature of the subsoil required sustained watering of the bushes in the scheme, especially in drought conditions, but this was not pursued; furthermore, the five new trees and the major central tree fell victim to attack from the training of fighting dogs and protective shields were not installed until the point when only two of the five frontage trees remained alive. The huge plane tree at the summit of the Green lost much of its rooting area during the process of re-grading of the Green and the construction of the upper retaining wall.

The following items were discussed at the two inaugural meetings of the Green and the following wish list has been created:

- The creation of a Facebook page for the Friends of Streatham Green
- The establishment of a website
- An investigation of blocking and paving Babington Road alongside the Manor Arms
- Erecting “Don’t Feed the Pigeons” signs
- The exploration of having a market on or near the Green
- It has been suggested that a florist stall should be set up alongside the new Coffee kiosk.
- Better management of groups using the green.

The two meetings were very lively and informative and it was very pleasing to see The Green has such a positive and energetic group of people trying to support it. Further meetings are planned and will be announced on the new website when established Any new faces are of course welcome, so please encourage your neighbours, friends and colleagues to join for interesting evening of Streatham Green discussions.

Since the meetings, the large plane tree, damaged by dogs, has been removed together with other smaller trees, so the refurbishment of the Green has started. However any future scheme will need to take into account factors of the gradient, poor sub-soil and general soil profile, water supply and vandalism.

BRITISH TELECOM RIDES ROUGHSHOD OVER PLANNERS AND AMENITY GROUPS

BJB



In early March a large number of planning applications, submitted by BT for the erection of Broadband cabinets (*left*), were received by the Society from Lambeth’s planning department for comment. On examination, many of these new large cabinets were to be placed in environmentally sensitive sites. This was the case particularly of those in the main conservation areas. The Society objected to these applications in the following terms:

“I have just received numerous planning applications for BT broadband phone cabinets scattered all over Streatham. Many of these are placed in prominent positions and completely negate our attempts to keep Streatham’s streets and pavements attractive and free of clutter. While accepting that we must keep up with modern communication facilities, must this be at the expense of losing the many street improvements that Lambeth Council and Transport for London have put in place in recent year?”

It soon became apparent that we were not alone in objecting to these new boxes as much support for our campaign was received and noted, both locally in London and nationally.

The Chair of the London Forum of Amenity Societies wrote: “I am sure most people would accept the need for reliable and fast internet connection. The issues are related to the size and positioning of broadband cabinets, the willingness of BT and others to implement the services in a sensitive way and the recent improvements in technology. The Cable Corporation was very responsive to community suggestions on siting of their cabinets and I hope other companies will be as cooperative, particularly in conservation areas. BT’s rivals have found ways of hiding the cabinets underground, raising them only when necessary, which is something that BT itself could consider.”

The National Civic Voice stated: “Civic Voice is campaigning to ensure broadband Britain is beautiful too. Two thirds of homes will be passed by super fast broadband by 2015 as part of a major investment programme in broadband infrastructure. This requires thousands of green boxes (or ‘street cabinets’) to be installed in streets across the country. Civic Voice is finding too many of these broadband boxes are being poorly located, inflexibly designed and made unnecessarily intrusive. The new broadband boxes stand 1.6 metres high and do not require planning consent. Even in Conservation Areas, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, local planning authorities need only be notified of proposals. A legal presumption that such infrastructure should be undergrounded in conservation areas is seemingly ignored on the grounds of questionable ‘technical difficulties’ and ‘huge cost’. Civic Voice believes the nation needs broadband but it does not have to be at the expense of the street environment. To ensure this Civic Voice is calling for:

- Earlier involvement of local communities in the location and design of broadband boxes across neighborhoods and not just individual sites
- Urban design criteria to be made central to the Government’s broadband delivery plans
- Extra planning safeguards to ensure street cabinets are well located and designed
- Adherence to the legal presumption for under grounding street cabinets in conservation areas

- Greater flexibility over the design and colour of street cabinets
- Guarantees the broadband boxes will be removed when technological change makes them redundant
- Broadband Delivery UK and BT Openreach and other broadband infrastructure providers to recognize in their missions that they have responsibilities to the millions of people whose local environment is affected as well as to broadband customers.”

Finally we received a statement from Lambeth Council on their planner’s views and the legal position as regards these Broadband boxes:

“The cabinets in question are a part of BT Openreach’s roll out of Super Fast Broadband internet. So far we have had approximately 51 applications (including the 20 in the Streatham area currently being assessed) for the installation of these cabinets across the borough, with more to come.

“The installation of the cabinets is covered by permitted development under rights conferred by Schedule 2, Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended). The installation of the cabinets outside of conservation areas is permitted development and Circular 9/95 asks for notice to be given to the council, however, there is no statutory requirement for this. To date we have been notified of approximately 82 pure Permitted Development proposals across the borough.

“In Conservation Areas, Prior Approval applications are required. For these applications, the council can only make a decision based on the siting and appearance of the cabinets. Further to this, a decision has to be received by the applicant within 56 days of receipt of the application otherwise it is automatically approved. Unlike planning applications ‘day 1’ is counted as the day the application is received by us. To date we have received approximately 51 Prior Approval applications across the borough.

“With regard to council policy, whilst these cabinets are larger than many of the existing cabinets found on the highways, the installations are part of the government’s Digital Britain project for ensuring that the country is at the leading edge of the global digital economy. Therefore, whilst the cabinets can be obtrusive in certain locations, the council is minded to approve the cabinets where they do not result in a negative impact on the surrounding area and where they do not result in unacceptable clutter. The impact on listed buildings is also assessed and locations that are as unobtrusive as possible are favoured. A preliminary look at the current applications in Streatham has shown that not all will be approved as their siting and/or appearance fails to comply with the above reasons.”

The Streatham Society will continue to monitor the situation.

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY STREATHAM NEWS

John W Brown



With just 24 hours to go to All Fools Day, the last edition of the descendant of Streatham's oldest local newspaper, the Streatham News, was re-named the Lambeth Post bringing to an end a run of the paper dedicated to providing Streatham residents with Streatham News for 120 years.

The first edition of the new Lambeth Post was published by the South London Press on 31st March, probably renamed to take advantage of the recent demise of Lambeth Council's free propaganda newspaper, Lambeth Life. Although the new paper will include news about Streatham, it will also feature items concerning the whole bor-

ough, resulting in less space available for purely Streatham-based material.

The first edition of the Streatham News was published on 18th July 1891 and continued under this masthead until the 1980s with its office in Gleneldon Road, Streatham (*right*), being closed on 3rd May 1985. Over the next 20 years the paper continued to be published as a 'free-sheet' under various names, appearing as the Streatham, Tooting and Brixton News in 1992, the Streatham Brixton and Clapham News in 1994, the Streatham Mercury in 1996 and the Streatham Post in 2001.

With the demise of the Streatham Post, the neighbourhood is left with only one local newspaper specifically dedicated to Streatham, the Streatham Guardian, although this also features news relating to West Norwood and Crystal Palace.

The South London Press, based at Streatham Hill, also continues to feature news about Streatham and is to be congratulated on their recent serialisation of Colin Hutton's book, "Streatham and the Summer Game", which is featured in their Friday edition.



IT PAYS TO ASK!

Marion Gower

Stephen Merritt from Cambridgeshire had been working for some time on his family tree and had been wondering about the Murleys who lived in Guildersfield, a large, early 19th century house in South Streatham. Towards the end of January this year, he contacted the Streatham Society in hopeful anticipation that someone may just have heard of the house, and therefore he emailed a query to the Society, asking if Guildersfield house was still standing, and if the Society had any information about it. The email was received by Brian Bloice, who with the help of John Brown usually responds to such enquiries. However, in this case they were aware that I was researching Guildersfield, and the enquiry was passed on to me.

By chance, Stephen Merritt, was on a trip to London at the beginning of February, so I invited him to visit me to look over the collection I have of photographs of the Murley family taken at Guildersfield between 1866 and 1871,



Mary Ann Murley on the garden steps at Guildersfield, Streatham. Dating to 1868

which I had obtained during the previous year. When I produced the first photograph to show him, which was of his great, great grandmother Mary Ann Murley (*left*), he was thrilled, hearing much about her but never knowing what she looked liked. After some moments of stunned silence, I showed him a further photo, a family group of the Murleys, about thirty of his family in all, posed in the rear of the garden at Guildersfield. The rest of the photographs followed and included the gardens of Guildersfield and two delightful interior images of a seated Mary Ann Murley, in rooms of lavish style, surrounded by the fashionable ornamentation of the time. After some three hours, during which we perused many more photographs and copious notes I have on Guildersfield house, Stephen left much the happier, knowing a lot more about his family history and with copies of the photographs.

But it did not end there. By chance, through the internet, I came across a person who was a descendant of the Hancock family who occupied Guildersfield house after the Murleys had left. This person, who lives in New Zealand, put me in contact with one of her relatives living in Australia, who has a suitcase of family memorabilia, which includes more photographs of Guildersfield. After a flurry of emails between myself and Australia, a batch of photographs arrived, via email, showing new views of Guildersfield, including an oil painting of the rear of the house, plus a view of the frontage, which has not been seen before.

This goes to show how much information there is out there, particularly when using internet sources when contact can be made with people who have their roots in places like Streatham, and who are prepared to exchange information. In this case, through the Streatham Society, two different families, a world apart, have found more about their family history and of the house in which their ancestors once lived, than otherwise. Moreover, the Society has gained photographs and biographical details of important families who lived in Guildersfield, one of the major houses of 19th century Streatham.

See also articles in Issues 201 and 202

MEAN MOODY AND MAGNIFICENT IN STREATHAM

JWB

What man of a certain age can think of the famous American film actress Jane Russell without conjuring up the image of her laying on straw bales, looking sultry and seductive, holding either a whip or a gun as featured on the poster for her best-known film 'The Outlaw'. The movie was promoted with the strap lines 'Mean, Moody and Magnificent' and 'Action! Thrills!! Sensations!!! Primitive Love!!!' No doubt few men viewing the film in Streatham cinemas in 1946 were disappointed with what they saw. Jane's ample acting skills were much enhanced by her natural assets and she did for brunettes what Marilyn Munroe achieved for blondes. Indeed they both stared together in 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes' to which Jane would often rejoin, "Maybe, but they marry brunettes!"



She herself married the American football star Bob Waterfield but the couple were unable to have children and expressed interest in adoption. When the couple came to England in 1951 this fact did not go unnoticed by Florence and Mi-

chael Kavanagh who lived in two rooms in Stockwell with their baby son, Tommy. Life was hard for the Kavanaghs and they decided that Tommy would have a better life as the adopted son of an American film star than he could ever hope to achieve in Stockwell. So it was that they visited Jane and Bob in their London Hotel and the adoption was arranged.



Jane with Tommy and (inset) Tommy today

The Kavanagh's tearful farewell to their son at London Airport led to questions being asked in Parliament and the couple were charged under the 1950 Adoption Act but were subsequently given a conditional discharge. For Tommy, his childhood in Malibu Beach was a glamorous world where he enjoyed the company of such 'aunts and uncles' as Marilyn Monroe, Cary Grant and Lloyd Bridges; a far cry from the mundane life to be experienced in South London in 1950s Britain. In that regard the Kavanaghs must have taken comfort in that they made the best choice for Tommy.

In 1955 the Kavanaghs moved to Streatham where they lived in a top floor council flat on the Sackville estate. It was here in 1959 that a chauffeur-driven limousine collected them and drove them to see Jane Russell in a West End apartment where she was staying during a visit to London. There they chatted about Tommy, after which the couple were driven back to Streatham with colour photographs of their son, who was then aged nine. It was not until 1968 that the Kavanaghs were to meet Tommy, when he and Jane made a visit to England following Jane's marriage to her second husband, the actor Roger Barrett.

Sadly, Tommy's life was not all Malibu Beach fun and frolics and in the mid-1990s he was reported to be living in a modest bungalow on the outskirts of Las Vegas, where he was unemployed and trying to recover from severe drink and drug addiction. For his mother, Florence, life was also to have a tragic turn. She split up with her husband Michael and in January 1980 her dead body was discovered under suspicious circumstances after a fire gutted her Streatham Hill flat at Thorold House in Forster Road.

Jane died on 28th February, aged 89, and her obituary appeared in all the newspapers, although none mentioned her links with Streatham, and referred to her adopted son as Tommy Waterfield, the name by which he is known today.

SIR HIRAM STEVENS MAXIM: His part in aviation pioneering **BJB**



Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim was an inventor born in the U.S. who emigrated to England and adopted British citizenship. He was the inventor of the Maxim Gun - the first portable, fully automatic machine gun. He patented the first silencing device for a firearm, and laid a claim to inventing the light bulb. He also experimented with powered flight. His 'Captive Flying Machine' amusement ride, designed to raise funds for his research while generating public interest in flight, was highly successful.

Maxim was born in Sangerville, Maine, in the USA on the 5th February 1840. He became an apprentice coachbuilder at the age of 14 and, ten years later, took up a job at the machine works of his uncle, Levi Stephens, at Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He married his first wife, (Louisa) Jane Budden, in 1867. Their children were: Hiram Percy, Florence, who married George Albert Cutter, and Adelaide, who married Eldon Joubert,

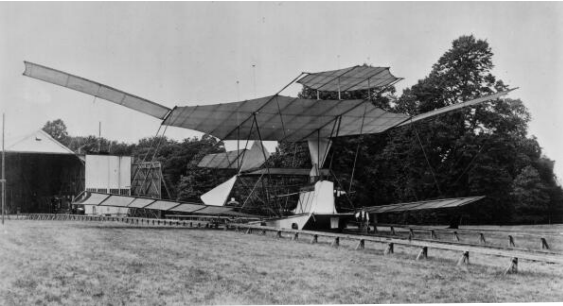
Later, Hiram was employed by the American Electric Light Company which had shares in a manufacturing company in England. It appears he came over to this country, in about 1881, to reorganise this firm and to be a representative at a Paris exhibition, then stayed, becoming a naturalized Briton in 1899. Between 1881 and 1894 he invented the Maxim Machine Gun, the first automatic gun adopted by the Army and Navy. Queen Victoria knighted Maxim in 1901 for his inventions, many of which had military applications.

The least known aspect of Maxim's life is the contribution he made to aviation. At the age of 16, while still in America, he became interested in the theory of flight. Over a good number of years, he experimented and wrote on many aspects of flying and the design of flying machines. Maxim in fact made two flying machines

In 1887 Maxim was approached by several gentlemen who asked if it was possible to make a flying machine. From about this time, particularly between 1889 and 1891, he devoted many hours fulfilling his ambition to fly, which culminated in work starting on a machine at Baldwyns Park, Bexleyheath, in 1891. He rented Baldwyns Park, formerly part of Bexley Mental Hospital, now a council estate, and built a huge hanger in which to conduct his flying experiments.

Maxim invested £20,000 in building a huge, 100-foot-wingspan, multi-winged machine. It was powered by two lightweight 180-horsepower steam engines supplied by a central boiler that he had designed for it. Maxim began flight tests in 1893 at Baldwyns Park. On the third try in 1894, the plane was powered up to forty miles per hour. Carrying three people, the flyer lifted from its base

guiding track to a height of 9 inches where the wheels engaged a restraining rail. Held by the restraining rail, the flyer moved under its own lift above the ground for 1000 feet, after which one of the axle-trees buckled. The buckling axle-tree meant that only three of the wheels were in touch with the restraining rail, resulting in an uneven load which broke the restraining rail (9" thick Georgia pine). The flyer broke free and, at a speed of 42mph, it flew under the power of one screw (the other having been damaged by the disintegrating restraining rail) for a further 15 seconds while Maxim shut off the engine.



This free-flight was at a height of three feet above the rail, for a length of 200 feet, before crashing. Thus the first powered flight of an airplane was not, as many suppose, that made by Ader in France in 1897, it was made in the large steam-powered machine designed and built by Sir Hiram

Maxim on 31st July 1894 (*above*) at Bexleyheath. Although repaired and demonstrated again in 1895, Hiram had lost his backers and also the loss of his test site, which had been taken over by the London County Council, so his interest in aviation pioneering declined for a while.

Maxim's last aviation venture was in 1910 when he built a petrol driven machine which was displayed at the Aero and Motorboat Exhibition at Olympia in that year. This machine was built in conjunction with the firm of Vickers, Son and Maxim at their Crayford works. It appears that this airplane never flew as, at about the time of the 1911 Olympia show, Hiram Maxim resigned from the company, and the plane was irretrievably damaged in taxiing trials. In 1911 he headed the newly formed Grahame-White, Blériot, and Maxim Company, founded with the two aviators and £200,000 of capital. He had hoped to produce military aircraft capable of scouting or dropping a 500 lb (230 kg) bomb, but his failing health and financial difficulties with his other enterprises restricted his ability to develop this enterprise before his death.

Once again his experimenting in flying declined, to be replaced by an interest in designing roundabout amusement rides for fairs and exhibitions. This he did to both fund his research into flight and to popularize the notion of flight. Maxim designed and built an amusement ride for the Earl's Court exhibition of 1904. The ride was based on a test rig he had devised for his research, and consisted of a large spinning frame from which cars hung captive. As the machine spun, the cars swung outward through the air, simulating flight. His company built several more rides of various sizes at the Crystal Palace and various seaside

resorts including Southport, New Brighton, and Blackpool, all of which opened in 1904

Although he expressed regrets about the whole project, the rides were held in high regard within the amusement industry and the Blackpool ride still operates to this day (*right*) as part of what is now the Pleasure Beach amusement park. Along with the same park's similarly historic River Caves, it is the oldest operating amusement ride in Europe.



These rides were also erected in his country of birth and they were covered by American patents (US Patent #804,147, 11/1905, Roundabout [Flying Machine] and US Patent #831,366, 09/1906, Roundabout [circle swing with tilting axis]). At least two rides were constructed in America at Willow Grove Park, Montgomery County, Pa, USA and at Dreamland, Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY, USA. The latter had huge rocket-like airships hung from a 150 foot high tower. As they circled it, centrifugal force extended their arc to a 150ft radius. It cost \$75,000 to construct.

Hiram Maxim in his later years continued to research and invent as he had done for the whole of his life. Amongst his inventions were: the common mousetrap, a pocket menthol inhaler and a larger 'Pipe of Peace', a steam inhaler using pine vapour, that he claimed could relieve asthma, tinnitus, hay fever and catarrh, a curling iron, an apparatus for demagnetizing watches, magno-electric machines, devices to prevent the rolling of ships, eyelet and riveting machines, aircraft artillery, an aerial torpedo gun, coffee substitutes, and various oil, steam, and gas engines. He was involved in several lengthy patent disputes with Thomas Edison over his claims to the light bulb. He also worked on the improvement of petrol engines and the means of producing petrol from raw kerosene, experiments which were carried out in the old Government sorting office at Herne Hill. Much of his work on inventions during his lifetime is covered in an excellent book 'The Chronic Inventor' by James E Hamilton, still available from Bexley Library Services..

Maxim was married a second time in 1881 to Sarah Haynes. He died on November 24th 1916 at Sandhurst Lodge, 382 Streatham High Road (site of the ice rink) and is buried in West Norwood Cemetery. In his will he left £33,000 to his widow and Maxim Joubert, the second name on his tombstone. Maxim Joubert is thought to be his grandson by one of his daughters of his first marriage.

The following are his entries in Kelly's Directories:

1. 1888: 377 Norwood Road, West Norwood
2. 1892: S Stoney House, Bexley Heath
3. 1896 to 1903: 18 Queens Gate Place, Kensington
4. 1905 to 1909: 379 Norwood Road, West Norwood
5. 1909 to 1912: Rycotes, Dulwich Common
6. 1913 to 1916: Sandhurst Lodge, 382 Streatham High Road

There are commercial addresses (possibly manufacturing)

- 1882 and 1884: 29 Bankside, Southwark
- 1885 to 1888: 57D Hatton Gardens
- 1892 to 1900 also at Erith and Crayford.

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE LAD

Mike Bowtle

When I was a little lad of primary school age, my grandfather, whom everyone knew as 'Pop', used to tell me about the 'old days'. He would often begin with, "When I was a little shaver - about your age....", which was when my Mum would say, "I've heard this one, I'll go and wash up - make a sandwich - cup of tea", or whatever other excuse she could come up with to escape. Like a lot of old men, Pop liked to talk about the past and often repeated himself. Like most children, I enjoyed listening to the same old stories. Consequently we got on well.

When I was growing up, we lived in Gleneldon Road and Pop visited us often. He was born in 1871 and he told me that when he was my age, the house we lived in didn't exist. In fact the whole road didn't exist. There were fields with a few houses dotted about on them. Imagine my surprise when, on joining the Streatham Society some 60 years later, there on one of the note cards is a painting, by Augustus Wyatt, of St Leonard's Church in 1879 (when Pop would have been 8 years old). Lo and behold - no Gleneldon Road - just the meadow that dear old Pop had described all those years before.

Other tales he liked to relate concerned the time he and Nanny worked for Sir Hiram Maxim. That would have been for a short period around 1900, if my memory serves me right. The Maxims lived in a big old house in West Norwood. I believe it was located where the present fire station is today - NOT the one in the High Street which is now the South London Theatre Centre. Pop did a bit of gardening and Nanny a bit of cleaning and cooking. Apparently, Sir Hiram allowed the top floor of the house to be used by a qualified doctor to come and lecture a group of medical students. To assist the lectures, they had a real human skeleton. Pop said he had been told that it was that of a man and that it had come from India. He believed a lot of the skeletons used as teaching aids, in those days, came from India. It was articulated with bits of wire and had a hook in the

skull so that it could be suspended from a sort of gibbet. It was a draughty old house and on windy days the skeleton would rattle and give Nanny the creeps, so Pop would go upstairs and lay it down.

Sir Hiram had several bad bouts of bronchitis, so he invented an atomiser to spray the medicine directly to the back of his throat. His doctor thought it was brilliant. This prompted Sir Hiram to send one to a doctor's organisation. I can't remember which one it was; it may have been the BMA or the Royal College of Surgeons or some other similar organisation. Anyway, they sent it back, saying words to the effect that they were surprised so eminent an inventor would waste his time on a quack device. However, the perfume industry apparently showed interest.

A few years after Pop and Nanny left his employ, Sir Hiram had a particularly bad bout of bronchitis and his doctor advised him to "Take the air on Streatham Common because the four winds meet there and it is particularly clean and healthy". So when he could, Sir Hiram and Lady Maxim would go up Knights Hill to Crown Point, turn right and go down to the common. They would go for a stroll to breathe in, deeply, the Streatham Common air. Just along from the common in the High Road, where Streatham ice rink now stands, there used to be a house called Sandhurst Lodge. When it came on the market the Maxims bought it and moved there to facilitate his walks round the common. Or so Pop believed.

THE GRAVENEY - A FORGOTTEN RIVER

Graham Gower

To the south-west of Streatham flows one of South London's better known rivers, the River Wandle. Taking as its source the ponds at Waddon, Beddington and Carshalton, the Wandle meanders through eleven miles of suburban London, leaving its imprint upon Mitcham, Morden and Merton as it flows towards the River Thames, where it finally empties into the river at Wandsworth.

The Wandle's only natural tributary is the river Graveney, which flows east-west across the southern most part of Streatham and forms the boundary with Croydon and, until 1965, London with Surrey. The source of the Graveney is open to question. Some authorities say it begins at South Norwood, but early map

evidence suggests the source being further south at Addiscombe, just north of the railway station. From this area, the river takes a roundabout course on its way towards Streatham. Dictated by the contours of the land, the Graveney passes through Woodside and Selhurst, and continues westward towards Thornton Heath, passing just west of the station before veering northwards to flow through Thornton Heath Recreation Ground by Melfort Road, Norbury. Here the river is named the Norbury Brook.

The Graveney moves on to enter the green expanse of Norbury Park, where a stretch of the river runs as a natural course, and not along a concrete channel, which has become the fate of this river for most of its route to the Thames. On leaving the park, the river continues westward to pass under Streatham High Road at Hermitage Bridge by Green Lane (*photo*). Along this stretch, the river was called the Hermitage Brook, named after a nearby hermitage. Continuing, the river runs between Sherwood Avenue and Woodmansterne Road, then crosses under Streatham Vale at Roe Bridge by Fallsbrook Road. Passing behind the houses of Southcroft Road, the Graveney leaves Streatham at Amen Corner and enters into Tooting Graveney (Upper Tooting).

The river now takes a short course southwards along Mitcham Road, and then swings west towards the direction of High Street, Colliers Wood, passing between Longley Road and the railway line to finally reach Wandle Meadow Nature Park, close to Lambeth Cemetery in Blackshaw Road. At the north end of



The River Graveney at south Streatham, marking the boundary between Streatham and Croydon, and London and Surrey until 1965. Note the signage, including the post WWII stencilled sign for Hermitage Green. This was the village green for the village of South Streatham, of which only a remnant survives.

Photo Graham Gower, taken 1972

the park, the Graveney can be seen emptying into the River Wandle, at a place once known as Bigrove Mead. The Graveney's journey from beginning to end is just seven miles.

For centuries, the River Graveney had no particular name. Commonly known as the 'sewer', the river acquired its modern name during the latter part of the 19th century, when local rivers and watercourses were incorporated into the suburban drainage system. The name Graveney was taken from the de Gravenel family who, during the 12th century, were Lords of the Manor of Tooting. As late as 1801, when the Croydon Canal Act was described, the Graveney was referred to as "a certain watercourse or stream" and by 1812 was being called the Addiscombe Brook. Strangely, it has never been known as the Streatham Brook.

Until suburban development, the River Graveney was a pronounced feature in Streatham's landscape; a fast, free-flowing stream cutting through the fields of South Streatham, with its flanking flood plain producing rich meadow and pasture land. Today we see only a shadow of this once lovely river, channelled as it is along a straightjacket of concrete embankments.

A "PEACE" PEAL PHOTOGRAPH?

John W Brown

As well as being a member of the Local History Group of the Streatham Society I am also the Archivist of our ancient parish church of St. Leonard. I was therefore delighted to see the magnificent photograph of the St. Leonard's Bell Ringers taken in 1938 in our last Newsletter (no. 203 Winter 2010/11).

Tragically, a fire completely gutted the church in May 1975 and many of the old church records, magazines etc were destroyed in the blaze. Fortunately the registers, vestry books and other ancient records, dating back to 1538, were in safe keeping at the London Metropolitan Archives, Lambeth Archives and the Wandsworth Local History Library and so survived the fire.

Be that as it may, the fine collection of ringing boards, commemorating the various peels rung in the belfry over the centuries, were consumed by the flames and some of these may have recorded the name of Charlie Button* and the other men featured in the photograph, but alas, now we shall probably never know.

However, the Bell Tower's Visitors' Book covering the years 1932-1963 miraculously survived the fire, having been taken home by a former Tower Captain. On his death the book was discovered and subsequently returned to St. Leonard's and is now in the safe keeping of the present Tower Captain, Tony Nunn. The book records that on 8th October 1938 a "Peace" Peal was attempted at St. Leonard's, comprising 5,040 changes known as Grandsire Triples. Sadly the peal failed after 3,000 changes but the event was still logged in the book. I would suspect it is highly likely that the photograph may have been taken on that occasion to commemorate the peal.

The names of the ringers for the peal are recorded in the book with the list headed by C.A Button on the treble. Then follows H Mance (Conductor) 2, E.L Miles 3, E.E Bish 4, Charles Pothecary 5, Thomas W Welbourne 6, James W Chapman 7, and L.G Franks 8.

Tony Nunn advises that in group photographs of ringers taken on formal occasions, such as the attempted “Peace Peal”, the men would have sat and stood in their ringing order so that sitting next to Charlie Button would have been ringer No. 2 - H Mance, and next to him ringer No. 3 - E.L Miles etc. He has sent the photograph to a gentleman ringer some 94 years young, who rang in the tower before the war in the hope that he may be able to identify some of the ringers in the picture and thus confirm the order in which they are positioned.

The “Peace” being commemorated by Charlie Button and his fellow bell-ringers was Chamberlain’s return to England from his meeting with Hitler in Munich. He arrived at Heston Aerodrome on September 30th 1938 and, waving the agreement in the air which he and Hitler had signed, declared, “Peace in our Time”. Ironically, the very next day Hitler’s troops marched into the Sudentenland.

That “peace” was short-lived and within a year the Second World War was under way. At the conclusion of hostilities, a special Victory peal was rung in St. Leonard’s bell tower - this time a 5,040 changes ring called Stedman Triples - and the ringers present on that occasion are listed, although Charlie Button is not among them. They were: W Bullock (treble), Thomas H Taffender (second), Thomas W Taffender (third), Charles Pothecary (fourth), James Chapman (fifth), Thomas W Melbourne (sixth), James Bullock (seventh) and Sidney Howard (tenor). The local newspaper records that this was probably the only full peal rung in London on Victory Day.

On Empire Day, 1947, St. Leonard’s Tower once again rang a full peal of 5,040 changes in 2 hours and fifty five minutes and the bell-ringers taking part on that occasion were W. Prockson (treble), S. Howard (second), J. W. Chapman (third), E. L. Miles (fourth), R. Change (fifth), W. J. Ellis conductor (sixth), C. Pothecary (seventh) and T. W. Welbourne (tenor).



Some of the men present for these two peals were among the younger ringers featured in the photograph.

***Correction**

The photograph of the St Leonard’s bell ringers 1938 shows Charlie Button, Peter Weston’s grandfather, seated front right, not as published in the last newsletter. Apologies - Ed.

HITHERFIELD ROAD SCHOOL

Brenda Hargreaves

I read John Hillier's article in the last newsletter with great interest. What struck me most was that, although he was at the school in the 50s and I was there in the 30s, we had many of the same teachers. I recall Miss Cooper, Mr. Beresford (a very nice man even if he did cut John Hillier's artistic career short!) and Miss Bond. Miss Bond was there when I started school in 1932. There was another teacher called Miss Partington. The latter was a tiny lady and Miss Bond was a large, bosomy lady and for some time I thought that the second line of the famous hymn was "all teachers great and small". The teacher I feared most was Miss Brugemeyer, a veritable Brunhilde of a lady, and the reason I feared her was that she took my least favourite subject, needlework. I was hopeless at it, and at knitting. In fact it took me two years to knit half a dish-cloth at which point it was taken away from me on the assumption, I suppose, that I would have left the school before I finished it.

I respected my teachers, even the one who frightened me, but there was one teacher who annoyed me and that was Mr. Jackson. In those days, of course, we had ink-wells and, when your writing was getting scratchy, you realised that the ink was running low, but, if you asked for more ink, Mr. Jackson would say, "Is your ink-well really empty? Could you hold it over your head?" Of course you couldn't so you had to scratch away. One day I decided to play him at his own game and, before he came into the room, I shook my ink-well over a piece of blotting-paper until the last drop was removed and, when he asked his usual question, I said, "Yes, Mr. Jackson", and did so. He never asked that question again! I believe he was at the school until shortly before I became a manager of the school (the equivalent if a governor now). I wonder if he would have remembered me. Probably!

The head teacher of the junior school in my day was a Mr. Spencer and it was he who gave me a hundred lines stating, "I must not ask boys to kiss me". Well, I was dared because I had said that I thought one particular boy was rather nice and, if you are dared, you have to go ahead, don't you? Many years later, when I was a manager (governor) of the school, I attended an anniversary event there and discovered that that same boy had visited the day before. I wonder if I would still have found him "rather nice" or worth a hundred lines. No, I won't tell you his name. You might know him.

Like Mr. Hillier, I attended Sunday School at the Hitherfield Road Baptist Church, next door to the school, before moving on to Brownies and Guides. I don't recall much of the Brownies, but the Guides met in St. Margaret's hall; so from Baptist to C of E.

It is interesting to note that our new MP Chuka Umunna went to the Hitherfield Road nursery school before moving on to Christ Church Primary. There

was no nursery school in my day. You started school at five. Until then you were at home with your mother. In those days mothers did not go out to work. It was World War II that changed that.

EARLY STREATHAM DAYS

Bert Barnhurst

‘Some Memories and Impressions’ (1950-2010) in the last issue of the newsletter, stirred a few memories with me, when I read of Mr Beresford, one of the teachers at Hitherfield Road school.

I moved to Mountearl Gardens 20 March 1941 after we had been bombed out from New Park Road, and I still have the receipt for the keys - five shillings!

For a term or two I went to Dunraven in Adare Walk, which at that time was a school for all ages; the juniors being in a separate block at the right hand end of the main school. I then went to Hitherfield Road Juniors, the entrance to which was just down the hill from the church. It was in the juniors that I met my first love - Miss Tanner. I thought that she was the nicest teacher I had ever met; I would have been about seven at the time.

The following September I moved up to the main school. It was here that I recall Mr Beresford being a science teacher. I further recall that he walked with a limp. As he was clearly of an age to be in the services, we assumed that he had been wounded, although this was never known. Other teachers of this period were: Mrs Hunt, the music teacher, (and I can still ‘sing’ Nymphs and Shepherds), Mr Bates, an elderly maths teacher, and I think that the head mistress was a Mrs Turner.

A railway line ran at the far end of the sports field, and it was usual for the boys to count the number of tanks and trucks being transported at the time of the build up for D-Day. Our other pastime, at the end of the war, was to go to a cake shop at the top of Leigham Vale to see what they had to offer. I remember that my partner in crime on these excursions was a boy called Wiggington, John I think, but it was over sixty years ago!

Two other events come to mind, the first was when my mother had to be called to the school because I refused to eat my lunch. The lunch was OK but the sago was just revolting, and so was I! The conversation went something like: “If that is what you call sago, I am not surprised that he would not eat it, and neither would I. Come on son, we are going home”. End of story!

The other time was when I put my hand through a glass panel in the doors to the school hall. I know; I should not have been running but I was at the wrong place in the line of boys when the door swung back on me and I instinctively put my hand up. I have a scar on my wrist to this day. It is just one of the memories of my time at Hitherfield Road.

Any more of these fascinating Streatham school memories? - Editor

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 37* Annual General Meeting of the Streatham Society will be held at 16 Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 at 8.00pm on Monday 20th June 2011 to transact the following business:

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

To be agreed and matters arising

2. Reports and Accounts

To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011, the report of the charity trustees and report of the independent examiner.

3. Appointment and Remuneration of Independent Examiner of Accounts

To appoint an independent examiner for the financial year to 31 March 2012 To authorise the charity trustees to set the level (if any) of the independent examiner's fees

4. Appointment of charity trustees

Nominations for the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and ten ordinary committee members must be received by **Monday 6th June 2011** (by the close of the Local History Group meeting). All committee members are trustees of the charity. (NB Details of how to make a nomination are available from the secretary.)

5. Members' resolutions

Details will be given once resolutions are received. Resolutions should be sent to the Secretary by **Monday 6th June 2011**.

6. Any other business

To deal with any relevant matters raised at the meeting.

By order of the Committee

Robert Doyle, Secretary, 11th April 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL & PLANNING MATTERS

Brian Bloice

Committee Report

Items discussed at recent committee meetings included:

- Wandsworth Heritage Panel: Brian Bloice and Graham Gower, agreed to assist with Wandsworth book stall at the Maze Local History event at the Guildhall Art Gallery.
- Inaugural Meeting of Friends of Streatham Library attended by Clare Moore and Brian Bloice. Meeting set up by library staff who failed to turn up.
- Meeting of Lambeth Forum Network

- Inaugural meeting of Friends of Streatham Green was well attended and much discussion took place in connection with a market on or near the Green. (*See report on p.3*).
- Letter of support for St Peters Church new Organ appeal sent
- Suggestion we give out to members a questionnaire on the running of the Society at the AGM
- Joint cricket event with Friends of Streatham Common to celebrate Colin Hutton's book and new cricket pitch on Common, Event will take place later in the year
- The Society has objected to the loss of the Park Ranger posts in the current round of cutbacks
- Libraries – threat and rumour about closures and reduction in opening hours
- Arrangements put in place for Society to sell books at the following events Kite Day 10th April; The Maze 16th April; Wandsworth Heritage Festival 28th May - 12th June and the Streatham Festival 2nd - 10th July
- New lecture programme and walks programme completed.

Planning Applications

(Weekly planning application list is no longer sent to amenity groups but individual site applications still being received.)

- 11a Streatham Common South (bought by near neighbours). Small extension to existing Bungalow. No action
- Houses on allotment site at 185 Glenister Park Road – withdrawn
- John Company public house application approved, to be replaced with a block of flats and shops

EVENTS REPORTS

BJB/JH

BEES AND BEEKEEPING

On January 17th, we were intrigued by the talk by Bob Jackman and a colleague from the Bromley Beekeepers' Association. We were introduced to the different parts of the beehive and it was explained how the Brood body, the Supers and the Queen Excluder are all essential for a healthy and productive hive. Bob explained why you should keep bees with the following reasons:

- Increased pollination of trees and plants – producing more food for the larder
- Help to protect honey bees and the environment
- With skill you can produce a surplus of honey for sale.

Bob advised anyone interested in bee-keeping to start by joining a local bee-keeping association and perhaps enrol on a beginners' course or find a local bee-keeper to act as your mentor. Many members that evening went home with Bob's local honey, which sold out in minutes during the break.

THE ELEPHANT ENTERTAINS

Richard Norman, of the Cinema Theatre Association, spoke to us on February 7th about entertainment in the district around the Elephant & Castle. By the early 1900s there were eleven entertainment venues in the vicinity and pubs, such as the Elephant & Castle, were redeveloped to be bigger and brighter. Cinemas, particularly the Trocadero, were the main entertainment venues. The Trocadero, by the New Kent Road railway bridge, was demolished in 1963. It had a 3,500 seat American-style auditorium with a classical pedimented entrance at each end of the New Kent Road façade. Prices ranged from 6d to 2s 4d, and it had a Saturday morning children's show. Apart from films, the Trocadero staged ballet, putting on 'Coppelia' in 1949. In 1960 'Rock Around the Clock' brought custom; then bingo was tried, but it died in 1963. A new 1,400 seat white concrete Odeon replaced it; this became a second Coronet in 1981, lasting to 1988.

THE WORK OF A STREATHAM COUNCILLOR

Julian Heather spoke, on February 21st, on the work of a local councillor. He explained how the present administration of Lambeth council is organised. There are 63 elected councillors representing 21 wards; the wards are distributed within the five town centres of Brixton, Norwood, Clapham, Streatham and North Lambeth (covering Kennington, Waterloo & Vauxhall). The Streatham wards are South Streatham, Streatham Hill, Streatham Wells and St Leonard's. Thus Streatham is represented on Lambeth Council by 12 councillors. At the last election, the 12 councillors were: three Labour and nine Lib-Dem. Like national government, Lambeth Council has a cabinet which tends to dictate policy and make major decisions. It should not be forgotten that the elected body is responsible for the large number of administrative staff arranged within a number of council departments, each headed by a director. Julian described many amusing and some serious episodes in his long political career and also the history of the evolution of local government and the possible changes that may take place in the future. Politics is very fickle and Julian is now 'resting', as he was not re-elected at the last election. The chair thanked Julian for his contribution to local politics and wished him the best for the future.

THE SOUTH BANK OF THE THAMES

In March we saw a presentation by Michael Gilbert on the history of the South Bank of the Thames. Michael took us on a journey, both in the past and in the present, using his excellent illustrations. Perhaps the highlight of his talk was the history of the Festival of Britain site. This was most opportune, because this year we are commemorating the 60th anniversary of this event which took place in 1951. In many ways this was the stimulus for the whole of the re-

generation of the South Bank and the change from an industrial area to that of one of leisure and tourism. The site, which had been badly hit by bombing in the 1939-1945 war, was previously occupied by such industries as lead shot manufactures and the major building of the Lion Brewery, which was topped by the statue of the Coade-stone lion now positioned at the southern end of Westminster Bridge. The Festival of Britain was conceived as 'A Tonic to the Nation' to replace the post-war blues with hope for the future. It also commemorated an earlier exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1851. The Festival had many iconic exhibition buildings, such as the Dome of Discovery and the Skylon, all designed by a new young generation of architects. The lasting legacy of the Festival was and still is the much used concert hall, the Festival Hall.

CROYDON'S CELEBRATED CRICKETERS

Roger Packham's presentation on 7th March started with the earliest known reference to cricket in Croydon (1707 v London) and a match in 1734 when the Croydon team regaled itself of a good dinner *gratis* and then failed to turn up for another match v. London! The early cricket grounds were at Duppas Hill, Lion Green (Coulsdon) and Addington. In Victorian times dozens of different teams emerged and there were well known grounds at Fair Field, Oakfield, Waddon, Addiscombe, Kenley, Cane Hill etc.

The earliest celebrated player was Tom Faulkner who played for the famous Addington team and was also a famous heavyweight boxer. Tom Lockyer was a favourite Croydonian who was perhaps the best wicket-keeper in the world in 1860 and could also bat and bowl to effect for Surrey. Tom went to America and Australia with the England teams of 1859 and 1863 and there is a green plaque to his memory at the Queen Victoria pub in the Mitcham Road. He also ran the Sheldon Arms, where he died in his early 40s.

The slides included a shot of the match at Norbury against the 1888 Australians, WG Grace at the Crystal Palace, Raman Subba Row and some lithographs of paintings by the Croydon historian JC Anderson. The talk finished with details of the Crawford family from Cane Hill Asylum, Coulsdon. The chaplain, from 1883 - 1919, was Rev J.C Crawford (a Kent player) but his three sons broke many cricketing records. VFS Crawford still holds the record for the longest hit in first class cricket (Sy v Glos at Bristol) and JN Crawford holds the record for the highest score by an Englishman abroad (354). He was also the youngest man to play for England in a Test.

MEMBERSHIP

Judy Harris

We welcome new members Peter Younghusband, Grace Wright and Lee Southwell. We hope they enjoy their membership. We also welcome back past members who have rejoined the Society.

PUBLICATIONS

A NEW STREATHAM SOCIETY PUBLICATION **John W Brown**
STREATHAM AND THE SUMMER GAME - A History of cricket in
Streatham 1731-2010 and the Streatham Cricket Club **by Colin Hutton**

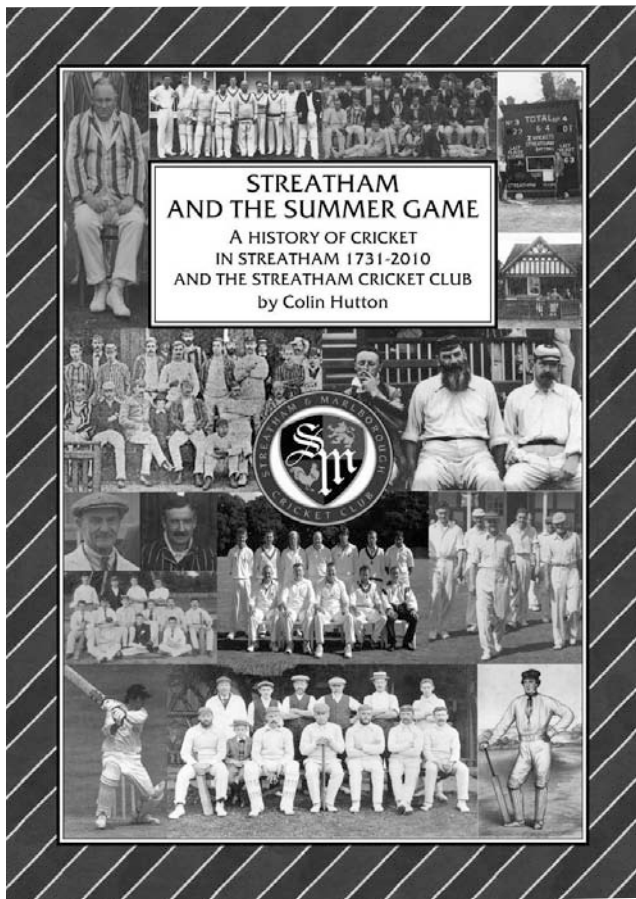
This is the most ambitious publishing project ever undertaken by the Streatham Society and the book, comprising 148 A4 size pages with over 230 illustrations, was launched at our March local history meeting. The evening had a strong cricketing theme with Roger Packham, President of the Bourne Society, giving us a fascinating talk on Croydon's Cricketing Celebrities. We also welcomed to the meeting Roger Price, a long-time member of the Streatham Cricket Club, now known as the Streatham and Marlborough CC, who provided valuable assistance to Colin in the preparation of his book. To celebrate the publication, a specially dedicated miniature cricket bat was presented to Colin, as well as a gift to Jo, his wife, for her support and encouragement for the project.



Colin and Jo Hutton (centre) with Roger Price (left) and Brian Bloice Photo JWB

Colin's book is a fitting tribute to his extensive research into the history of the sport in our suburb and the tenacity with which he has spent the past few years tracking down old photographs and information about cricket in Streatham.

Cricket has been a popular game in the town since at least 1731, when a local Streatham side challenged Clapham to a game on Streatham Common, with a



prize purse for the winner of 11 guineas (£11.55). George Williams, the licensee of the White Lion pub, captained the side and also provided refreshments at matches which were attended by his ‘flying squadron of Red Caps’.

On Monday 5th May 1806 the Streatham Cricket Club was formed at the Horse and Groom public House. Membership was originally restricted to forty players who each paid an annual subscription of five guineas (£5.25), thus ensuring that the exclusivity of the group would be limited to the gentry who could afford the membership fee. However, those poorer members of the parish

were still able to enjoy the game with a number of local teams being formed by the less affluent residents of the area.

In January 1807, a further meeting was held at the London Tavern to revise the rules of the Streatham Cricket Club and iron out some problems which occurred during its first season. It would seem that some of the players had been coming late to the crease so it was decided that those members attending the game after “Half-past Three o'clock by the President’s Watch, shall forfeit Half a Crown (12½p)”. Other members had adopted a colourful presence before the wicket, leading to the introduction of Rule 15 which states, “Any Gentleman playing in coloured Jackets, Breeches, or Pantaloons, shall be fined Half a Crown; Nankeen or White may be worn at pleasure”. To encourage each player to give of their best, the club decided that each member on the losing side should pay two shillings (10p) into the hands of the Secretary for every game lost. No mention is made as to what purpose the money accruing from fines should be

put but, needless to say, the preparation of the pitch and the refreshment of the players would have been considered worthy causes.

For almost eighty years the club played their home fixtures on Streatham Common, where their wicket was roped off to protect the surface of the pitch from the public. The club subsequently moved to their own ground which occupied a site now covered by Gracefield Gardens, named to commemorate the great cricketer W.G Grace, who played there on a number of occasion at the turn of the 20th century. After the First World war the club moved to a new ground it shared with the Streatham Rugby Football Club at the rear of 159 Brigstock Road in Thornton Heath, which today is the home ground of the Streatham and Croydon Rugby Club.

Over the past 40 years, Streatham CC merged with a number of local sides amalgamating with the Streatham Wanderers CC in 1973; the Old Hollingtonians CC in 1977 and lastly with the Marlborough (1870) CC in 2003, since when the club has been known as The Streatham and Marlborough Cricket Club with its home ground at Cox's Walk, Dulwich Common.

Many members of the Streatham Cricket Club have played for Surrey, including Kingsmill James Key who captained the Surrey County eleven from 1894-99. Another member of the Streatham Club, the great sportsman C B Fry, was so admired internationally that he was invited to become the King of Albania, an offer he politely declined. Streatham CC can also count a Prime Minister among its past players as John Major played a couple of games for the Streatham Colts in 1960.

Streatham and the Summer Game is profusely illustrated with over 230 old photographs and illustrations many of which show players in late Victorian and Edwardian Streatham. It costs £15, with a special discount price of £10 to Streatham Society members, plus £1.25 postage and packing, and is available from The Streatham Society, 125 Thornlaw Road, London SE27 0SQ. Cheques should be made payable to The Streatham Society.



*Streatham & Marlborough Cricket Club
Ladies' Team 2010*

MEMBERS' LETTERS AND E-MAILS

LONDON ICE HOCKEY TEAMS

Cheryl Pool

While browsing the internet this evening I typed my father's name into Google and found your newsletter and photo of Streatham Ice Hockey Team. My dad, who died in 1993, was Stanley Simon, always known as an Ice Hockey player as 'Maurice'. My mother said that a journalist gave him the name Maurice and it stuck, but his real name was Stanley so that is why he was always known as Stan! He was goalie for the British Olympic Ice Hockey team in the 1948 winter Olympics.

THE KING'S SPEECH

Brenda Hargreaves

Although it is not mentioned in the film, there is a passage in the book by Mark Logue, grandson of Lionel Logue, who did so much to help the late king, George VI, which refers to the occasion when the speech therapist was introduced to the king. Mark's preferred version is that he was introduced to the king by Evelyn Laye, who was a great favourite of His Majesty since she entranced him with her performance in 'The Shop Girl' in 1920 when he was Prince Albert.

It seems that the king was never completely cured as Logue was treating him in 1939 and in 1941 Winston Churchill requested that the BBC should remove some of his stutters from his broadcasts. This is according to the grand-daughter of the engineer who was assigned to the task; but, even if this is so, Lionel Logue had made a great improvement on the King's speech and it is good to know that the first Friend of the Streatham Society was the most likely person to have been instrumental in improving what has now become world famous as 'The King's Speech'.

Incidentally, Logue was a fairly local man as he lived on Sydenham Hill, the Dulwich side. I understand the Dulwich Society is celebrating this.

HILARY WEAGER

BH

We were sad to hear of the death, in January, of Hilary Weager, a gifted pianist and organist of the United Reformed Church, Streatham. Hilary also played occasionally for the British Home and, indeed, was once accompanist for the Streatham Society Players' production 'The Silver Screen'. Her funeral was on 28th January at Croydon Crematorium. She was 88.

COACH TRIP TO SUSSEX Saturday 4th June

Our coffee stop will be at the Wych Cross Rose & Garden Centre in the midst of the Ashdown Forest area. This unique centre specialises in roses and over 20,000, from 1,000 varieties, bloom in June; a spectacular sight. We then visit Charleston, a beautiful 17thC house in the depths of the countryside. In 1916 this became the home of artists Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant and their unconventional household; it was indeed the country retreat of the Bloomsbury Set. After a guided tour of the house and its treasures, there will be time for lunch (there is a small café and picnic area), to wander around the lovely garden and visit the gift shop. The final destination and tea stop is Bexhill where you can sample the seaside air and visit the refurbished De La Warr Pavilion and the local shops. Our trips are always popular, so please book early. A booking form, with further details, is enclosed for local members. Please contact Brian Bloice (see back page) if further information is required.

BRIAN'S PICTURE QUIZ - Do you know your Streatham?



The last photo (*right*) was the PB Cow factory, taken just prior to its renovation and conversion into Sainsbury's office block in 1989 (*top, right*); it was originally a silk mill, built in 1820. You don't need to walk far to find the new quiz location (*left*).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WANDSWORTH FESTIVAL (WF)
May 28th - June 12th See local press

STREATHAM FESTIVAL (SF)
July 2nd - 10th Top of the Common
Sat 2nd Festival Opening - Big Day Out
:Stalls, activities, entertainment, Streatham Society bookstall. See local publicity

SUMMER HERITAGE WALKS
Lambeth Local History Forum's walks led by the Streatham (S), Balham (Ba), Brixton (Br), Clapham (C), Lambethans (L), Herne Hill (H), Norwood (N), Peckham (P) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological (SLA) & Vauxhall (V) Societies. All start at 2.30pm unless otherwise indicated. Programme is available from meetings and local libraries..

.MAY

Sun 15th Crown Point to Thornton Heath (N) Meet opposite British Home, Crown Lane. *Pat Dennison*

Sun 29th Tooting Common (WF & S)
Meet St Leonard's Church. *Graham Gower*

JUNE

Sun 5th Historic Furzedown (WF & S)
Meet Furzedown Lodge, Tooting Bec Common, Furzedown Drive/Furzedown junction. *Helen Long*

Sun 5th 11am Vauxhall Classical, Rock & Reggae Music Trail (V). Meet Starbuck's, opposite Vauxhall Tube & Bus Stations. *Aly Mir* (also below)

Thur 9th 3pm Vauxhall: A Little History (V). Meet Starbuck's, Vauxhall Tube & Bus Station. *Penny Howard* (also below)

Thur 9th 6.30 West Side of Clapham Common (C & WF). Meet Clapham South tube Station. *Derrick Johnson & Annabel Allott*

Sun 12th Balham Park Rd (Ba)
Meet St Mary's Church, Balham High Rd
John Rattray

Sun 12th 2pm Brixton Murals in SW9 & SW2. Meet Stockwell Tube Station
Ruth Miller, London Mural Preservation Soc

Tues 14th 7pm Blackheath. (SLA) Meet Blackheath Station. *Richard Buchanan*

Thur 16th 6.30 Peckham Rye, Common & Park to One Tree Hill (P). Meet Clockhouse PH, end Barry Rd. *Peter Frost*

Sat 18th 2pm Elmers End Cemetery (N)
Meet Harrington Rd entrance, near tram stop. *John Hickman*

Sun 26th Bedford Hill & the Heaver Estate (Ba). Meet Balham High Rd/Ritherdon Rd. *John Rattray*

JULY

Sun 3rd Streatham Village (S & SF)
Meet St Leonard's Church. *John Brown*

Sat 9th Streatham Common, nature & heritage (S, FoSC & SF). Meet Rookery Café. *Graham Gower & Peter Newmark*

Sun 10th Balham Town Centre (Ba) Meet Bedford Hill/Hildreth St. *John Rattray*

Sun 10th Upper Norwood & a look at Spurgeon's College (L) Meet All Saints' Church, Beulah Hill.

Thur 13th 3pm Vauxhall: A Little History (V) (as June 9th) *Penny Howard & David Coke*

Sun 17th Two Victorian Estates on Streatham Hill east (S) Meet Crown & Sceptre PH. *Brian Bloice & Judy Harris*

Wed 20th 6.30 Historic Clapham (C)
Meet Clock Tower, Clapham Common tube Station. *Peter Jefferson Smith*

Sun 24th 1.30 Crystal Palace to Norwood Junction (N) Meet Crystal Palace Park Gates, top Anerley Hill. *Pat Dennison*

Sun 24th Herne Hill Heritage (HH)
Meet Herne Hill Station. *Robert Holden*

AUGUST

Sun 7th 11am Vauxhall Music Trail (V)
(as June 5th)

Sun 7th South Streatham (S)
Meet Norbury Station. *John Brown*

Sun 14th Peckham 2pm (P) Meet Peckham Rye Station. *Peter Frost*

Sun 14th Ferndale (Br) Meet Clapham North tube Station. *Alan Piper*

Wed 17th 6.30 Clapham Common South Side (C) Meet Clapham South tube Station. *Mary Coales*

Sun 21st Upper Tooting (Ba)
Meet Tooting Bec Station. *John Rattray*

Sun 21st Tulse Hill & Thurlow Park Road Area (N). Meet Tulse Hill Station main entrance. *Jill Dudman*

Sun 28th Streatham Byways (S)
Meet Streatham Station. *Graham Gower*

SEPTEMBER

Sun 11th Coldharbour Lane (Br) Meet Tate Library, Brixton. *Alan Piper*

Thur 15th 3pm Vauxhall: A Little History (V) (as above)

Sun 25th Hyde Farm (Ba) Meet Cavendish Rd/Emmanuel Rd. *John Rattray*

OCTOBER

Fri 7th Highlights of Vauxhall's Past (V)
Meet Starbuck's, opp Vauxhall Tube & Bus Stations. *Philippa Owen & David Coke*

Sun 9th West Norwood Triangle (N).
Meet St Luke's Church. *Jill Dudman*

Sun 9th 2pm Brockwell Park Autumn Walk (FoBP). Meet Clock tower

OTHER EVENTS

Sat 21st May Nunhead Cemetery Open 11 - 5pm Day (FONC)

Sat 11th/Sun 12th June Garden Squares Open Weekend

Sat 16th/Sun 17th Lambeth Country Show Brockwell Park

VALE ARTISTS AT THE ROOKERY

Open-air exhibition & sale:
BH Mon **30th May**; Sun **19th June**; Sun **24th July**; Sun **7th Aug**; BH Mon **29th Aug**; Sun **18th Sept**.

FRIENDS OF STREATHAM

COMMON Sat 9th June 3 - 6pm Band in the Rookery, music with John Brown & Friends. Free.

Sun 10th June 3pm Shakespeare in the Rookery: Much Ado About Nothing

NORWOOD SOCIETY LOCAL HISTORY MEETINGS Thursdays 8pm

Phoenix Centre, Westow Street, U Norwood

May 19th Brixton Markets *Alan Piper*

July 21st Streatham *John Brown*

Aug 18th Lighterage on the Thames
Alun & Barbara Thomas

RECITALS AT ST PETER'S CHURCH, Leigham Court Road. All 7.30pm

Free, with retiring collection:

Tues 21st June Berkeley Ensemble, works for horns & string quartet by Mozart & Beethoven.

Tues 21st June Bax trio, works for flute, viola & harp by Debussy & Bax.

Sun 3rd July Berkeley Ensemble, Schubert Octet (following Streatham Festival Evensong)

Tues 5th July Mosaic Ensemble, chamber music for mixed winds & strings

Sat 9th July Beckenham Concert Band & the Choir of St Peter's Church

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**The aim of the Streatham Society is to maintain and improve
the quality of life for all who live and work in Streatham
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