STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

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KITE DAY IS BACK!
(Photo Mark Bery)

STREATHAM SOCIETY EVENTS for LAMBETH HERITAGE FESTIVAL, STREATHAM FESTIVAL and BLACK HISTORY MONTH *(See p.2)*

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church, Streatham High Rd/Tooting Bec Gardens.

Non-members are welcome but are requested to donate £1 towards expenses.

Please check our website for any changes made.

5 Sept **The Measures' Brothers and their Orchid Collections**
Talk by Tracey Gregory *Lambeth Heritage Festival*

20 Sept **Robert Marnock** An additional talk by Brent Ellis, author of 'Victorian Gardens', with the *Garden Trust* to celebrate the gardener at Park Hill *Lambeth Heritage Festival*

3 Oct **Francis Barber** Talk by Layla Davis of Dr Johnson House *Black History Month*

7 Nov **Crime and Craft, Masonic Involvement - good or bad**
Talk by Mike Neville

5 Dec MEMBERS ONLY **Christmas Celebration** with talk by Andy Thomas
Christmas: A Festive History MEMBERS ONLY

EVENTS

Sept 1-30 **Lambeth Heritage Festival** including Streatham Society events:

2 Sept Sat **Lambeth History Fair** *from 11am* West Norwood Library

Sept 4 Mon 1.30pm **St Leonard's Church Tour** John W Brown. Eventbrite booking essential (see our website) *Lambeth Heritage Festival*

Sept 9 Sat 11am-5pm **Woodfield Pavilion Heritage Day** *Lambeth Heritage Festival*

Sep 14 Thur **Conyers Road Pump Station** *Thames Water Open House London* - Booking essential, *see Open House publicity*

Sept 24 Sun 2 & 3 pm **Tours of Sir Henry Tate's Grounds at Park Hill**
Guides: 2pm Robert Doyle and 3pm John W Brown
Streatham Common North, near Leigham Court Road Junction
Note: There are no on-site toilets or parking
Lambeth Heritage Festival Booking Eventbrite in August

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. Articles and photographs may be reproduced only with the editor's permission.

The Rookery Market

Among all the regular events in Streatham the Rookery Market is always a pleasure to visit. Organised by SCCoop, it is held on the third Saturday of the month (February-November) 10am-3pm. This raises money to help support the Rookery Gardens. It has a variety of high quality food and craft stalls.

What could be more pleasurable than a walk on Streatham Common and the Rookery then wander round the stalls, sit and enjoy the view followed by lunch or an ice-cream at the Rookery café?

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STREATHAM ROUND AND ABOUT

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT WINDFALL HOUSING

"Windfall" housing is a big issue for planning and people in Streatham. Like apples fallen to the ground, these are pockets of land becoming available for housing, though not designated for growth in Lambeth's Local Plan. What we are seeing in common with all London Boroughs is houses on largish plots being knocked down replaced by multiple units. Of course, this is by no means new and over time Streatham has always changed with older buildings redeveloped and new ones in their place.

But the big question is whether in the race to create more housing, cramming in new housing units fits in or over burdens an area. The risk is we have ugly and incongruous buildings appearing and some cases a loss of heritage. Two inappropriate developments in Streatham are featured here.

Demolition of a Victorian Cottage

Sunnyhill Road - the original Victorian cottage and two planned houses

Worst of the bunch is 124 Sunnyhill Road where a Victorian cottage just a few yards outside the conservation area is awaiting approval to be demolished, replaced by two non-descript houses with grey uVPC doors, which could be anywhere in south London. We have a detailed history of this cottage SUNNYHILL ROAD No 124.pdf Built in the late 1860s and lived in by John Chittenden, a gardener - whose grandson Frederick became first Director of the RHS Gardens at Wisley.

Unfortunately, it just lies outside the conservation area though has immense heritage and architectural value to the Sunnyhill conservation area. The application talks boldly about regenerating an "unmodernized and dilapidated property on an under-utilised site" and create high quality much needed family housing – though of course inevitably not affordable housing. Sadly, there has been no consideration how the building could be retained thus preserving the character of the area.

Family house to be knocked down.

Meanwhile down the road in leafy Abbotswood Road plans have shocked residents where a 1950s landmark house on the corner of Abbotswood and Hoadly Roads is to be bulldozed and replaced by fourteen units – two five-bedroom houses and eleven flats squeezed into a small plot. The previous 1930s house on this site was bombed in the war so this plot must be rather unlucky! The pre application planning advice from Lambeth insisted on more housing required for the site than was intended by the developer. A few neighbouring houses were leafletted about these plans with a two-week period to give feedback to the developer in the rush to get an application in and the bulldozers onto the site.

Abbotswood Road - original house and a computer image of the planned new development

This local outrage has triggered nearly a hundred local residents to protest, and the number is growing. Many are still angry that the council approved last year a large house in neighbouring Hoadly Road to be replaced by five large,

detached houses. Residents' concerns on this new application are about the overbearing nature of the scale of the new buildings being proposed and the resulting damage to residential amenity. There's also a loss of trees with the house owner already having felled trees and several more at risk. Further serious questions have been raised about the green and carbon ramifications of knocking down a perfectly habitable building.

Lambeth's green thinking so far doesn't seem to embrace the carbon implications of buildings being demolished and we don't see any figures reported on the scale demolitions or where buildings have been renovated. St Leonard's ward councillors as always are in a Catch 22 position – they want to object to represent their constituents, but also look over their shoulder to toe the council line on housing growth.

But the big question which Lambeth planners remain silent on is where should housing development occur and what type. Figures show that housing targets are being met yet there is a push for squeezing more housing without an explanation apart from the fact it's in the Local Plan. Yet the complaint is that a lot of this housing *isn't* affordable and in the Abbotswood Road case not near shops and amenities and public transport is poor. We need more evidence and a much better conversation about the number and type of homes required locally.

If you're affected by such developments and want to object, then you quickly need to get on the gruelling treadmill to fight the proposals against strong developers and anonymous planners who don't make it easy for the public to contribute. Neighbours frequently see an application in their area which has been subject to "pre planning advice" from Lambeth - that is paid for advice on the application and whether it meets the rules and will be supported. So, it's understandable that for many the final decision seems a fait accompli. Also, those affected by such schemes are concerned that some applicants continue to submit applications until they get the desired outcome. But the big worry is that approvals do seem to set a planning precedent making it harder to reject the next development application that comes along.

MOCK GARAGES: A NEW STREATHAM TREND?

This month's award for the best bit of Lambeth Planning advice is for a side extension at 243 Bedford Hill located in the Streatham Park and Garrads Road conservation area. A previous application had been refused as it "would detract from the host building, being detrimental to the streetscape and failing to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area". But Lambeth's conservation officer in commenting on this application helpfully advised, "… if there is to be a single storey projection to the side of the house, this should be treated (visually) as a garage. In order to maintain the symmetry of the original house and in order to appear as a secondary structure that is ancillary to the house, the front elevation should have false garage door, that matches those to the neighbouring houses, with small windows at high level".

So, no surprise a new application comes in from the owners for a "mock garage" extension - even though the owner already has a garage at the rear of their house. One wonders whether the conservation officer has considered the symbolism of this or read Lambeth's Climate Change Policy to reduce the number of cars on the road!

Thankfully planners did see sense in the end following objections from the Streatham Society and have just refused the application.

Bedford Hill - original house and drawings of the side "garage"

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT ON PLANNING

Over the past year the Streatham Society has been looking at how it can play an active role in planning. It now is consulted by Lambeth on significant planning applications particularly those in conservation areas and has submitted numerous objections against poor developments or those that harm Streatham's heritage such as Woodgate Towers. It is also looking at the state of Streatham High Road.

But as a small organisation you're up against developers and navigating your way through the complex planning system and knowing how to make the right case. So, if you're interested in planning and helping preserve Streatham's heritage, have planning or regeneration experience or community action then it would be great to hear from you.

Please contact streathamsociety.planning@gmail.com

Tim Whitaker, Trustee Streatham Society

STREATHAM COMMON KITE DAY

We had a great day at Streatham Common's Kite Day on Sunday 14th May. It was a warm day with little wind but there were some spectacular displays nevertheless. Thanks to the Friends of Streatham Common and all of the local community groups and volunteers who made the day such a success!

It was lovely meeting the many who visited our stall. Streatham Common & Vale Labour Councillors Adilypour, Rutland and Shah were pleased to be joined by the Mayor of Lambeth Sarbaz Barznji for one of the best local events in Streatham.

Our secretary Mark Bery and John W Brown supervised our stall. Photographs below show Mark *(left)* and John *(right)* with Cllr. Sarbaz Barznji, Lambeth Mayor and Streatham resident, and Cllr. Danial Adilypour.

MB/JH

CHESS ON THE COMMON

On Saturday 20th May 12-3pm in lovely weather, SCCoop (Streatham Common Co-op) in conjunction with the Streatham & Brixton Chess Club hosted games and tuition on the new chess tables opposite the Rookery café.

Photos show play at the tables and two happy boys who have enjoyed a game on the giant chess set.

JH

SOME STREATHAM FESTIVAL EVENTS

On the first weekend in July I enjoyed several Festival events. On Saturday I started at the Streatham Green Market and Food Festival *(left)*.

In the evening at St Leonard's Church was the excellent Streatham Choral's 'Songs of the Fleet'. With over 100 enthusiastic performers of a high standard, their concerts always attract a large audience and never disappoint.

On Sunday I listened to the Band in the Rookery *(left)*.

Finally I visited the lovely Streatham Common Community Garden, a special place: The summer openings are Wednesdays and Sundays 11-3 when plants and produce are on sale. Volunteers, visitors and donations are always most welcome. Recently installed new paths and seating areas *(below)* offer increased peace and tranquillity for all.

JH

WINDRUSH CELEBRATION

Member **Keith Southam** kindly submitted background information and his photographs taken on Windrush Day, June 22nd, held in Windrush Square, Brixton.

The occasion was part of Lambeth Council's celebrations to mark the 75th Anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush; and to celebrate, commemorate and highlight the huge contribution to British life made by the Windrush Generation and their descendants.

Windrush Square commemorates the arrival of the MV Empire Windrush which docked at Tilbury from Jamaica on June 22nd 1948. It carried 492 migrants and symbolises for many the beginnings of modern British multicultural society.

Many arrivals spent their first month in rented lodgings in the deep shelter underneath Clapham South Tube station before settling in Brixton, the location of the nearest labour exchange.

Keith's photos show *(above)* the original Pathé News black + white photo of the arrivals and *(below)* the bow and stern of the 2-dimensional model with the word Windrush in black on a blue background. A moulded fake wave was added which squirted water!

Thank you, Keith; contributions are always welcome.

MORE STREET LIBRARIES

Our local history publications have been donated to more community street libraries including those shown.

Particularly attractive and well-maintained is Lou's Little Library in Pathfield Road *(left, above)*. The accompanying plaque reads: 'Take a book - Give a book. In memory of Louise Thulin Simonsen (1977-2019). Passionate reader, activist, humanitarian, loving mum, and wife who gave back so much.'

Local History books on Balham, Streatham and Tooting were dropped off in Moyser Rd, Furzedown, and Laitwood Rd, Tooting *(below)*.

MB/JH

THE PROPER BLOKES CLUB

The Proper Blokes Club is a community project for men's mental health. The main aim is to break the stigma of men's mental health and start talking about it.

Exercise is a proven way to help people with any sort of mental health issues by making you feel good about yourself. Walking is free, so makes a great way to start and gets you out in fresh air.

The Streatham branch (seen above in the Rookery) meets on Mondays at 7pm outside Streatham Station for a stroll around Streatham Common and back to the station. Just contact the leader to say you are attending.

Website and contact: theproperblokesclub@gmail.com or call 07397 501110

WANDSWORTH ARTS FESTIVAL

This was held on Saturday 8th July and hosted by the Wandle Industrial Museum, Lower Green West, Mitcham. It advertised art & crafts, music & dance, poetry, environment and nature stalls. It was a delightful event - the rain held off for most of the time - much enjoyed by visitors.

For me the highlights were catching up with the Merton Historical Society on their stall after visiting the museum and chatting to the energetic volunteers of both.

Merton Historical Society

Rosemary Turner and David Luff on the Merton Historical Society's stall

This was founded in 1951 as the Merton & Morden Historical Society. It is concerned with the history of the London Borough of Merton. It undertakes research and publishes books and booklets on the history of Merton, Mitcham and Morden, ranging from academic studies to recollections by local residents. Their monthly talks are also wide-ranging and they welcome members of all levels of interest. Meetings are held in St James's Church Hall in Martin Way.

Members receive a quarterly bulletin advertising all meetings and events. See www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk or email mhs@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk or write to the membership secretary at 27 Burley Close SW16 4QQ.

Their local history workshops provide an opportunity for members to share current interests and research, to exchange ideas and seek help and advice. All are welcome at these Friday afternoon workshops whether to contribute, to ask questions or just to listen! Workshops are held at the Wandle Industrial Museum.

Did you know fashion doll Sindy *(left)* started life in Merton?

Wandle Industrial Museum

The museum was founded in 1983 by local people concerned to preserve, restore, and interpret the River Wandle and its industrial heritage. Based in the Vestry Hall Annexe it opened to the public in June 1991. Displays include: Textile (Calico) Industry, Model of the Morris Works, Snuff, Merton Priory, Lavender, History of Brewing, Mills, Surrey Iron Railway, Wandle Art & Literature. New exhibitions are opened every year.

This small museum is an absolute delight to visit. The displays are excellent, reflecting the enormous amount of time volunteers have spent working here.

My photos *(right)* don't do it justice. Check for opening times.

JH

AND FINALLY…

King Charles 111 Coronation Knitted model by Valerie MacMillan of Green Lane and Streatham Society banner flying on Kite Day

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

WALMSLEY STANLEY CE (1831-1907)

Walmsley Stanley (my Great Grandfather), his wife Helena (1842 -1906) and their daughter Geraldine (1878-1888) are buried *(left)* in West Norwood cemetery, plot 22 grave 22138, by the Doulton path – as I have just discovered thanks to the very generous help of the FoWNC and the Streatham Society.

Walmsley, with his family, lived in Streatham for more than 30 years, at The Knowle (85, later 297) Leigham Court Road *(below)* – a house that subsequently made the news following the notorious 'champagne death pact' of the Coates family in 1921. The house was later demolished.

Before settling in Streatham, Walmsley had had an adventurous and very successful life as a civil engineer, playing a key role in the heyday of building railways in the nineteenth century.

Walmsley was born in Walton-on-the-Hill, Lancashire, and spent all his early life in that part of the country, first in Walton-on-the-Hill and later in Bootle-cum-Linacre - living with his parents Walmsley (1793-1860) and Isabella (1797-1869) and his 5 sisters. As an adult, he embarked on a career as a civil engineer.

An early major job in the late 1850s was working on the development of the Elizabeth dock at Maryport in Cumbria. Maryport first started to expand as a port in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, as ship building and the coal trade flourished. The port continued to expand, gaining its own Customs House and in 1857 work started on the new, Elizabeth, Dock. An extensive diary that Walmsley wrote throughout 1858 details the work that he undertook.

The dock was not fully completed until after Walmsley had left, but fed by many neighbouring coal mines, it became the busiest coal port in Britain. Walmsley's father was also a Civil Engineer who was involved in the construction of the Leeds-Liverpool canal and his son would have learnt a lot and gained his love of engineering from him.

In 1859, Walmsley was admitted to membership of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Interestingly, his address in the Institute of Civil Engineers records is given as 'The Knowle, Leigham Court Road, Streatham', but whether he owned or rented this property throughout the 1859-1907 period or rented it at different times is not known. It would have been a very large house for an unmarried young man in 1859, but perhaps he planned for it to be his future family home.

Walmsley married Helena Ainsworth in 1861 in West Derby, Lancashire, and the same year the young couple set sail for Mauritius, a long and tortuous journey, especially in the days before the opening of the Suez Canal.

In Mauritius, Walmsley was appointed Chief Engineer responsible for building the first railway on the island – the 50 kilometre North line and the 56 kilometre Midland line – a major railway project which transformed the country's transport and export of sugar cane and other agricultural products. The first sod of the railway was ceremonially dug by the Governor of Mauritius, William Stephenson, with Walmsley in attendance, and we still have the silver (plated) spade *(right)*, engraved with Stevenson's and Walmsley's names, that was used for this event.

Sadly, the Mauritius railways were dismantled in the 1960's, thought to be made redundant by the growth of road transport. But ideas have moved on and the considerable benefits of rail are now, again, appreciated - so a new railway system is being developed in Mauritius along much of the same framework laid down by Walmsley.

The couple lived in Rosalie in the North of Mauritius *(right)* and led a busy social life. A menu for an Agricultural Company of Mauritius dinner has survived, showing the many courses that they dined and wined on! Walmsley was also involved with the collection of Dodo bones, some of which were uncovered in the swampy Mare aux Songes region during the excavations for the railway. He toyed with the idea of searching in another marshy area and with setting up a company to deal

with the finds – but he eventually donated his final collection of ~10 bones to what is now in the World Museum Liverpool. While on Mauritius, their first two children, Edith (my grandmother, 1862-1945) and Charles (1865-1946), were born.

After ~5 years they returned to England. By this time the Suez canal was open, so their journey home with two small children would have been a little simpler, though still far from easy. Back in England, a second son - yet another Walmsley - was born (1867-1950).

Walmsley and Helena Stanley

However, they were soon on the move again, travelling to Sweden in 1869 *, where Walmsley was again Chief Engineer, this time in charge of building the first railway in the forested Örebro region in central Sweden – 98 kilometres of railway with 16 stations between Frövi - Lindesberg – Ludvika. This would ultimately transform the region's iron ore industry, whose exports in this remote region had previously relied upon horse drawn carts in the summer and sledges in the winter. Although the track and sleepers were produced locally, all the engines and carriages had to be transported from England since at the time England was leading the world in railway engineering.

From the summer of 1870, the family lived close by the engineering work in a beautiful manor house at Dalkarlschytten *(below)*, joined later by the engineers who came out from England to help with the work. In contrast to Mauritius, the opening of the railway in Sweden was very informal; even so, when the first train was due to leave the station at Lindesberg, the station master was very upset when someone in the crowd blew a whistle and the train departed before he had had a chance to blow his own official railway whistle! Walmsley is still renowned in the Lindes-

berg area for his engineering expertise as well as his efficiency and forceful character – delivering the project on budget and on time! He was regarded as a man of action – apparently some thought perhaps too much of a man of action as he could be quite brusque when trying to get things done!

During their years in Sweden, two more children were born: Oskar (1872) who sadly only lived for 12 days, and Hartley (1874-1938).

The family returned to England in 1875/1876, living in the Knowle, Streatham, until Walmsley's death in 1907. Their last child, their daughter Geraldine *(right)*, was born in 1878, but tragically died of Diphtheria at the age of 10. The death certificate says that Walmsley was present at her death and I'm sure Helena was there too. There is a poignant Christmas card that survives from that time in which Walmsley's personal message to his wife says, "To a good wife with a husband's best love for a Happy Christmas and a happier New Year free from all sorrow and sickness". Geraldine was therefore the first to be buried in the grave in West Norwood Cemetery. It must have been terribly sad time.

Following his return to England, it is likely that Walmsley worked as a consulting engineer for the Boiler Insurance and Steam Power company, working with Michael Longridge. Walmsley knew both Michael and his father, James, well. James had surveyed and written the original report concerning the layout of a railway system in Mauritius, which was adopted by the Government in 1860. He then became the Chief agent for the Company Brassey, Wythes and Co which was commissioned to build the railway in Mauritius – and in this role would be very familiar to Walmsley.

Michael himself had later worked with Walmsley on the Swedish project, superintending the design and construction of permanent-way, bridges and rolling stock for the Swedish railway. In 1875, Michael left Sweden to join his uncle in England as chief mechanical engineer at the Boiler Insurance and Steam Power company, which later changed its name to the Vulcan Boiler and General Insurance Company. Walmsley was a close friend of Michael's, and Michael was subsequently one of the Executors for Walmsley's will together with Walmsley's sons Charles and Walmsley.

All three of Walmsley and Helena's sons eventually embarked on professional careers in medicine (Charles), the church (Walmsley) and the law (Hartley). They all married, but none had children. Edith, their only surviving daughter, also married. Her wedding to Sidney Buchanan Smith took place on 11 July 1893, in Streatham. Sidney was a solicitor from Salisbury, who later became the city Coroner. The wedding was a big local event, as described in the local newspaper, for which a draft survives:

"Marriage of Miss Stanley of Streatham

A wedding in which a great deal of interest was manifested took place at S Peter's, Streatham, on Tuesday afternoon. The bride was Edith Helena Dalrymple, only daughter of Mr Walmsley Stanley, C.E., of The Knowle, Streatham, and the bridegroom Mr Sidney Buchanan Smith, of Salisbury. A large number of spectators assembled at the church.

The Rev. H. Baron Dickinson (vicar) assisted by the Rev. J. J. Stockley (curate) officiated, the service being fully choral…

….A reception was held at "The Knowle" from 8 to 5 at which over a hundred guests assembled. A large marquee was erected on the lawn for the accommodation of the guests. Some very pretty dressers were worn by the ladies. The presents were laid in an ante room for inspection, and were greatly admired, some of them being very rare."

Edith and Sidney went on to have two children – my Aunt Mary (1894-1937) and my father Douglas Buchanan Smith (1896-1962). Douglas studied at Imperial College London and became a mechanical engineer, gaining associate membership of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (AMIMechE) in 1930 - so the Stanley engineering genes were passed down the generations. Indeed I am proud to say that my 16-year-old grandson is planning to be an engineer!

Walmsley's wife, Helena, died in 1906; thus by the time of his death in 1907 only his son Hartley was still living at home with him. The family then either sold, or ended the lease for, The Knowle. Possibly for probate or more likely for

The Knowle, Streatham

the family's personal memories, a book of photographs was produced in 1907, showing all the living rooms and bedrooms of The Knowle – typically for the time, crowded with furniture and with the walls hung with many paintings.

This photograph album, together with many other memorabilia, was carefully preserved by Edith, who painstakingly labelled many of the items for posterity. Although there were family jokes about her being a 'pack rat', without her foresight and passion for family collectibles, we would know much less about Walmsley and his engineering successes, and their importance in the industrial and economic development of the countries that he worked in.

Despite the fact that I now work in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation, so am very much aware of the role that the industrial revolution played in creating our current climate crisis, industry has also brought many benefits and can be part of the solution, while railways themselves have always been and still are a huge asset and a great force for good. Walmsley is definitely my hero. He was a great Victorian entrepreneur.

* I am very grateful to Gören Karlsson of Lindesberg for generously sharing his knowledge of Walmsley's activities in Sweden.

Mary Ritter

Note: After a career as a research scientist (I am Professor Emeritus and previous Pro Rector for International Affairs at Imperial College London), I was appointed CEO (2010-2014) of the EU's EIT Climate-KIC - Europe's largest public-private partnership addressing climate change - guiding it from inception to a pan-European cross-sectorial innovation community of several 100s of partners from academia, business and regional/city government, working to innovate for net zero-carbon prosperity and climate resilience.

I am now the KIC's International Ambassador looking to deploy European innovation beyond the borders of Europe, connecting with key climate innovation ecosystems globally for accelerating and scaling impact. I am an elected Fellow of several learned societies and was awarded an OBE in the 2014 New Year Honours for services to scientific research and innovation. On reflection, I suspect I owe this career path to the 1/8th of my genes that I inherited from Walmsley - leading me to focus on innovation and international collaboration!

Professor Mary Ritter International Ambassador and Former CEO, EIT Climate-KIC Emeritus Professor, Imperial College London

'MY OLD CHINA'

To those of us of a certain age the expression 'My Old China' is a cockney rhyming slang phrase referring to 'My Old China Plate' - mate or a long-standing friend, but for the purpose of this article it means exactly what it says - my collection of old china. Specifically, pieces of Streatham crested china I have collected over the years.

I cannot now recall how I started the collection, but suspect my first piece was given to me as a gift by Marion and Graham Gower many years ago in the late decades of the 20th century. Their kind gifts over the years formed the backbone of my collection which was originally proudly displayed on my mantelpiece, but as the collection grew it was removed to a display cabinet in my bedroom, and when this proved too small additional pieces were stored elsewhere in the house.

Over the years my interest broadened to include crested ware for places other than Streatham, such as Balham, Brixton, Tooting, Mitcham, Crystal Palace and even Western Australia in whose service I was employed for 25 years. Other items were picked up as I found them includ-

ing pieces featuring the crest of the Duke of Bedford, who was once Lord of the Manor of Streatham and Tooting Bec, and even St. Leonard's-on-Sea in Sussex, as our ancient parish church is named after the saint.

A wide variety of pieces of crested china bearing the name Streatham were produced in the early 1900s. Although Streatham, as a town, has never had its own coat of arms the crested china producers overcame this problem by featuring the coat of arms of the Borough of Wandsworth, which was formed in 1900 and comprised the ancient parishes of Clapham, Putney, Streatham, Tooting and Wandsworth. Hence, numerous items of crested china features the Wandsworth Arms, beneath which the manufactures placed the name of each of the five parishes so that they could be sold in each town throughout the Borough.

In the early decades of the 20th century crested china featuring the coat of arms or crest of towns and cities in the UK were produced in large numbers by numerous manufacturers. Normally measuring just a few inches in height the items were simply made in various shapes and designs. Vast quantities of such items were cheaply manufactured and were popular at sea-side towns and tourist spots where they would be purchased by visitors and tourists as a memento of their visit.

The Herald's College granted Wandsworth their coat of arms on 6th July 1901. Hence all items of crested china featuring this must have been produced after this date. Most of these items date from the Edwardian and inter-war years when they were sold quite cheaply through local newsagents and confectioners and were bought as small gifts and presents, or by collectors who were keen to amass a collection of the different types of pieces available featuring their town's crest.

The Wandsworth coat of arms was designed to incorporate various features pertaining to the area covered by the Borough. The wavy line crossing the shield represents the water to be found in the River Wandle and Thames. The top of the shield which has alternate blue and gold squares represents the Arms of William de Warrene, who was created the First Earl of Surrey by William Rufus. The drops of tears featured on these squares symbolise the tears of the Huguenots who settled in large numbers in Wandsworth in 1685. The five stars on the lower half of the shield stand for the five parishes from which Wandsworth was formed. The border surrounding the shield pays homage to the City of London. Atop of the helmet sits an ancient ship with a Dragon at the prow, which records a notable expedition by sea which is credited with having sailed up the Thames as far as Putney. This was the Wendels, a tribe of sea raiders from Europe who are believed to have given their name to the area - Wendlesworth, which later became Wandsworth. The five oars and shields again represent the Boroughs five ancient parishes. Below the arms is the Borough Motto "We Serve".

A number of manufacturers produced crested china and normally their names were stamped or printed on the base of the piece. The heyday of production was between 1890 and 1914 when the craze for collecting crested china was at its zenith.

The first, and most famous producer was William Henry Goss whose factory in Stoke-on-Trent was in operation between 1858 and 1944. Such was their domination of the industry that many items of crested china are referred to as Goss ware although manufactured by other firms.

It was William's son, Adolphus, who hit on the idea of placing the coat of arms of a town on a small piece of white porcelain modelled on an ancient Greek, Roman or British design of an urn, vase or similar such historic shape which was synonymous with the area where the piece was sold. By the time of the First World War Goss produced over 2,500 various designs bearing around 8,000 different coats of arms which it sold through some 1,600 outlets throughout the UK.

Other potters seeing the success that Goss had entered the market between 1880 and 1940, although many of these produced novelty shapes in contrast to Goss's concentration on classical and historic shapes.

Crested ware is therefore available in a huge variety of designs as diverse as lanterns, suitcases and miniature cheese dishes. In the First World War popular items included models of the newly introduced tank or battleships.

Animals provide popular shapes for crested ware with dogs, swans, rabbits, and tortoises finding their way into my collection. Probably the most unusual shape I have proudly displaying the Wandsworth Coat of Arms with the word Streatham beneath is a sea-side bathing hut! The fact that Streatham is 50 miles from the coast seems to have been overlooked by the manufacturer.

Unlike Goss, whose items were of high-quality porcelain, many of their competitors produced cheaper pottery items which were to be found in end of the pier shops, bazaars and village stores. Among the major manufacturers were Arcadian (owned by J A Robinson who took over the Goss works in 1930), Carlton, Coronet, Florentine, Gladstone, Grafton, Shelley and Willow Art.

Crested china can still be picked up quite cheaply at car boot sales or in charity shops. Alas, none of the pieces I have seen in local outlets come from Streatham and are mainly souvenirs from south coast sea-side towns, no doubt purchased over a hundred years ago by day-trippers and holiday makers from Streatham. I remember once seeing in a local charity shop three identical dogs with different crests on their backs and was sorely tempted to make a purchase as I am one of triplets and have a collection of three pigs, three blind mice and other triplet items, but that is another story for another time.

John W Brown

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

RECENT MEETINGS

The Life and Times of Canon Carver

This illustrated and recorded talk was given by the current Master, Dr Joe Spence, and Dr Nick Black of Dulwich College.

Alfred Carver (1826-1909) was a former master of Dulwich College from 1858-1883. He was also a resident of Streatham. His home 'Lynnhurst', is the site of Benhurst Court, at the junction of Leigham Court Road with Streatham Common North. He married Eliza Peek at St Leonard's Church

The fascinating talk covered Carver as an education innovator, the man himself and his family in South London of his time.

This was a Wandsworth Heritage Festival talk which this year had the theme of 'Educating Wandsworth' (Streatham was then in Wandsworth). It attracted an appreciative audience of c.65, several being visitors from Wandsworth.

Annual General Meeting

At our AGM on Tuesday July 4th, we elected and welcomed two new charity trustees: Freda Graham and Emma Fleming. Both impressive CVs offered their experience and commitment to community organisations.

Trustees (l-r): Dan Fieller, Tim Whitaker, Freda Graham, Mark Bery, Judy Harris, Shea Richardson, Nick Cattermole, Robert Doyle, Russell Henman (Emma Fleming was also elected)

AGM reports were emailed to members on June 29th. Please contact our secretary Mark Bery if copies are needed *(contacts back page)*.

The History of Streatham in a Dozen Objects

At 7.30pm, following the AGM, John W Brown's talk attracted an audience of c.75. John gave a fascinating description of 12 objects selected from *Streatham Museum in Print* by John W Brown, Colin Crocker & Andrew Haddon (Local History Publications £6 + p&p) available from our website or from John. An impressive display of artefacts by Colin Crocker added to the evening.

EVENTS

Tours of Sir Henry Tate's Gardens at Park Hill

On Sunday 28 May we had glorious weather for our two Wandsworth Heritage Festival tours of Park Hill, Streatham.

Thanks to our tour guides Robert Doyle and John Brown and also Freda Graham who looked after a very busty book stall.

Bookings for our September tours will start in August*(see p.2)* .

(Below) The folly - a mock medieval castle tower and gateway built c.1874 for first owner J. Leaf

MB

GOLDEN ENVELOPES

Some of you received your last newsletter in a gold envelope - almost all of you did so with this issue. What is the explanation?

Is it to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla? Is it to celebrate the Streatham Society's 50th (golden) anniversary next year (1974-2024)? Is it close to the yellow of our banner and tablecloth? Well, no, I admit to an serious error on my part.

I received our Spring *News* from Printinc in good time for me to pack it over the Coronation bank holiday weekend, then post or distribute to ourefficient hand-deliverer team (MB, Richard Fowler, JH) in order that members should receive it within a week. Then - disaster - I had forgotten to order a box of envelopes from our printer. I usually order a box of 500 which covers two issues (plus some recycles). With shop closures and bank holidays what was the answer?

I searched the shops and found Poundland was the solution - packs of 20 gold good quality self-seal envelopes for £1! Our white address labels looked very distinctive. Assuming this bargain wouldn't last I visited three shops and bought up their stock - probably enough to take us into our 'golden' year. Sorted!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership 2023: By July 1st 2023 we had welcomed over 40 new members, making a total of 322 wo have paid to date. Thank you!

Since our last issue we welcome 8 new members: Vivien & Martin Cook, Ruth Findlay, Philip Scarry, Carolyn Saunders, Davide Tori, Bernadette Griffin, Jennifer Roberti and Christine Townsend. Four of these joined on Kite Day.

Subscriptions: Individual £10; Household £15; Life membership (single or named couple) £180. These can be paid by bank transfer (BACS), standing order, cheque payable to the Streatham Society, or cash at meetings.

Please see our website for details or contact me, the Membership Secretary. To confirm payment and activate registration details, identify the amount (subscription, donation or publication) and email these to me.

Gift Aid declaration: Tax payers: Boost your subscription and any donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1. A form can be sent to you on application or is available on our website to email or post to our secretary *(Contact back page)*.

Payment problems: A few of our renewals this year have not informed me of payment for registration, some have paid twice, some have not named a household member, some have been unsure as to whether they have paid (and I misread two names - sorry!). Apart from in-person cash payments I email acknowledgement to all members. Please check your bank statement if you are unsure or email me. Keep me happy!

Judy Harris, Membership Secretary

PUBLICATIONS NEWS

Trails Downloads

Our 12 Streatham Heritage Trail booklets are now available to download for free (with an option to pay a voluntary donation to the Streatham Society, (a registered charity).

https://www.streathamsociety.org.uk/heritage-trails.html for all the titles.

MB

APPEAL FOR A PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

Following my publications stock article in our last issue, I now advertise for someone to take over from me as publications officer. I have already detailed how our trustees have considerably streamlined our system and redistributed the large number of stored publications from my loft. This modernising process will be completed this year.

Job description

I supply all orders via our website application form, or by post, and as required for our monthly meetings and events. Our website illustrates and details about 55 available titles.

On receiving an order form I confirm the cost, including p&p. On receipt or confirmation of payment by BACS or cheque I usually post the order the following day. On average there are about three orders for two books each month.

For our meetings I supply publications from a list of our more recent stock. Ordered by the bookstall organiser, these are stored at St Leonard's Church. For events there is a guide list for the stall holder to order. I price the stock ordered.

Over the last 20 years I have organised the system to suit me but this can be changed as needed. To avoid post office queuing I pre-stamp and post double-wrapped orders into the wide-mouthed letter-boxes which are usually found on the High Road outside past or present post offices. I buy a variety of stamps in bulk and claim from our treasurer.

Thanks to members Jill Dudman and Jill Smith I have enough C4 recycled envelopes to last a few years. I have letter-scales and two small three-shelf bookcases for storage which I am happy to donate to my successor.

Bookstall organiser

We also need a bookstall organiser and more volunteer helpers. At present this is being undertaken by one or two volunteers when available.

Please contact our secretary Mark Bery or me if you are interested or need further clarification.

Judy Harris

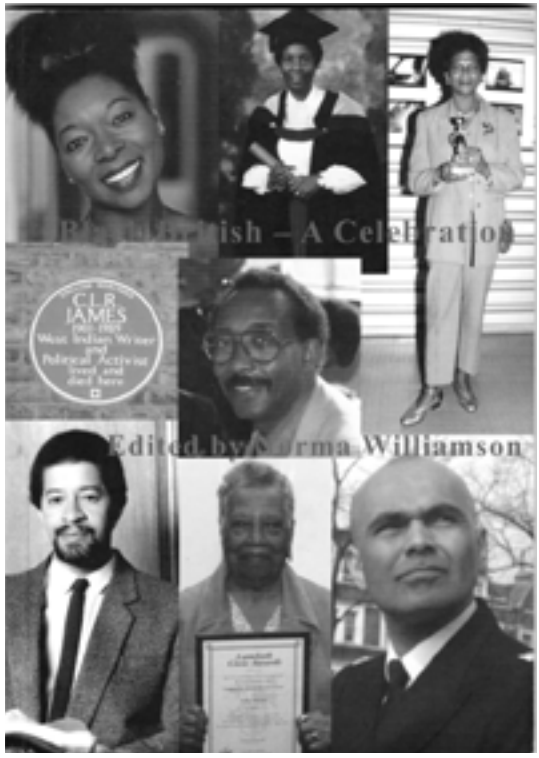
EILEEN O. WALKIN MBE 1931-2023

We are sad to report the death of Eileen Walkin, a veteran member of both the Brixton and Streatham Societies. For many years she was one of Lambeth's most active community volunteers.

Born in Barbados in September 1931, Eileen came to Britain in 1965 to study law and then worked in the Civil Service.

She described her contribution, as a person of black Afro-Caribbean origin, to life and culture in today's Britain as varied and integrated.

She is one of the local people whose brief biographies appear in the Brixton Society's book *Black British – A Celebration* (*right).* Eileen is pictured top centre at her graduation.



The book, published in 2007, commemorated the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. It celebrates the enormous contribution to our national and local life made by black British people.

An introduction by The Right Honourable Keith Hill (then MP for Streatham and still a Streatham Society member), includes a delightful photograph of a laughing Keith and Eileen. Also included is a short biography of Mary Seacole by the late Daphne Marchant, prominent Streatham Society trustee and twice Mayor of Lambeth.

In her contribution Eileen described a comfortable traditional Christian family background and the full support given by her parents when she decided to move to England to study. She described her first visit to Streatham and her first permanent address, 10 Conyers Road, where she lived for some 40 years. While at university she met her husband Newton, a lecturer who also worked with the British Civil Service. Both deeply religious and supportive of each other, their marriage has been devoted to the Christian Church and her voluntary and community work. Following retirement Newton became a Christian writer with two published books.

Eileen regularly attended meetings and events of the Brixton and Streatham Societies. Both in Lambeth and later in Croydon her activities in many voluntary organisations fill several pages in the book, including being a founder and volunteer at Streatham's Spires' Centre.

I first met Eileen at Brixton Society events. Her infectious smile and personality lit up all occasions. She joined the Streatham Society in 2017 and, travelling from her new home in Croydon, attended almost all our meetings. Although she regularly used the internet to email, she always included a hand-written note with her membership subscription.

After the Covid restrictions she returned to our meetings in St Leonard's Church and to the Brixton Society's stall at last year's Lambeth Show in Brockwell Park. Then aged 90 and looking rather frail she was as cheerful, welcoming and as elegantly dressed as ever.

After one Society meeting last year, she emailed me in distress to ask for a member's contact as she had left her shopping under her seat the previous evening. I had no contact for her but she had already contacted the Rector, Canon Anna Norman-Walker at St Leonard's who found her bag. Eileen travelled by bus to the church and was delighted to be met and given a blessing by Revd Anna.

Subsequently she sent me a note and, as usual, this included a Bible reference: Psalm 118.24. The following Monday I had arranged to meet John Brown at St Leonard's midday church watch. When I arrived Revd. Anna and John were in conversation so I asked both about the reference. Anna rapidly started searching the Psalms on her smartphone, John leafed quickly through his old St James's Bible. John won the race - just. Unfortunately I didn't see Eileen again to report this - she would have loved it!

The verse? "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

JH

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

London's South Bank *by Mireille Galinou* *£38 incl UK p&p*
584 pages, profusely illustrated *Your London Publishing.*

In May I was delighted to attend this book launch in the beautiful Garry Weston Library at Southwark Cathedral. Speakers were Mireille, Caroline Barron and Graham Morrison.

I first met Mireille, a former Museum of London curator, when she was preparing *The Streatham Sketchbook* with artist Jiro Osuga, a Streatham-based artist. An impressive book launch and exhibition of Jiro's paintings followed on the first floor of the Horse and Groom pub on Streatham High Road.

The following publicises three of Mireille's local publications.

'What if the South Bank, which already holds London's centre of gravity, also held the city's soul? *London's South Bank* explores this theme by concentrating on the modern period – from 1600 to the present day. First it examines the social and topographical fabric by taking snapshots of the area under review at different historical periods – 1600, 1770, 1845, and now. This gazetteer, accompanied by reconstructions, maps and historical images, is a work of reference which underpins the book's investigation. The book also reveals that each of the four South Bank neighbourhoods under scrutiny have surprisingly different characters – Vauxhall and Lambeth; Waterloo; Borough and Bankside; Southwark and Bermondsey. Finally, the last chapter maps out possible answers to the quest announced in the Prologue.'

The Streatham Sketchbook *by Jiro Osuga and Mireille Galinou £17.99*

'Did you know the Tate Gallery started in Streatham? Did you know the largest theatre outside the West End is in Streatham? Did you know one of this country's best loved architects built his largest house in Streatham? And that one of London's most dedicated painters lives and works in Streatham right now? Answers to these questions and many more in *The Streatham Sketchbook*.

'Jiro Osuga is a mature artist represented in London and New York by the Flowers Gallery. His work is in the Museum of London collection and he has regularly exhibited with Flowers since 1999, acquiring a reputation for putting on truly original shows. His most ambitious to date was a life-size installation of a café, aptly named 'Café Jiro', which displayed careful observation of a real life setting while populating the café with historic or imaginary characters – mixing past and present in ways that were both provocative and charming; the whole coated with disarming humour.

See www.planetjiro.com'

The Dulwich Notebook *by Mireille Galinou £17.99*

'*P*ublished in 2015, this book focuses on one of South London's hidden gems, the home of the first purpose-built art gallery in the world, of famous schools and of an unprecedented number of open spaces.

'Local historians have written a great deal about Dulwich and the Dulwich Society has investigated many aspects of this fascinating London village. However, Your London Publishing has produced a colourful and informative volume about Dulwich as it is now – both heritage neighbourhood and lively modern suburb.'

SPECIAL OFFER: *The Dulwich Notebook + The Streatham Sketchbook + London's South Bank £60*. Three books from Your London Publishing at a reduced price which includes p&p. See: https://yourlondonpublishing.co.uk/books/

Mireille's three books will on sale, including the special offer, at the Streatham Society's **Woodfield Pavilion Heritage Day** on Saturday 9th September 11am -5pm which is part of the Lambeth Heritage Festival.

We are delighted to report that Mireille will be giving her talk **London's South Bank** at the Streatham Society meeting in St Leonard's Church on January 2nd at 7.30pm.. She is an accomplished and interesting speaker and I can thoroughly recommend her talk.

Her books will be on sale at the meeting.

JH

The book launch:

Guests have arrived at the Garry Weston Library in Southwark Cathedral
(Photo © Eva Rupprecht)

Jiro Osuga getting the books ready
(Photo © Anne Coudrain)

Mireille appreciating Graham Morrison's speech
(Photo © Peter Marshall)

Mireille Galinou, author, with her son Chris
(Photo © Torla Evans)

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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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