STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly **No. 254 Autumn 2023**

STREATHAM PARK LIBRARY (detail)
Jiro Osuga, Streatham-based artist *(See talk p.2 & p.16)*
(Photo Mark Bery)

2024 SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS DUE January 1st *(See p.30)*
Members who had already paid by mid-October are shown on this issue's address label

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

MEETINGS in 2024

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church, Streatham High Rd/Tooting Bec Gardens. No booking is required.

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

All talks are illustrated. Refreshments are available.

Please check our website for any changes and additions.

2 Jan **London's South Bank - The History** Talk by author Mireille Galinou.

Mireille will introduce this excellent book which was publicised in our last issue. She is also the author of *The Dulwich Notebook* and *The Streatham Sketchbook*. These will be on sale at the meeting.
(See background article p.14-16)

6 Feb **Heritage without a House - Remembering Hester Piozzi's Streatham** Talk by Dr Cassie Ulph.

Included will be Hester Thrale's (later Piozzi) experiences as hostess to the intellectual circle that gathered at her home, including Dr Samuel Johnson. There will also be an update on the research project undertaken with Dr Katherine Fennelly into evidence of the house and gardens which once fronted Tooting Bec Common. *(Project report issue 249.)*

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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.

STREATHAM ROUND AND ABOUT

PLANNING MATTERS

PREVENTING SKYSCRAPERS IN STREATHAM

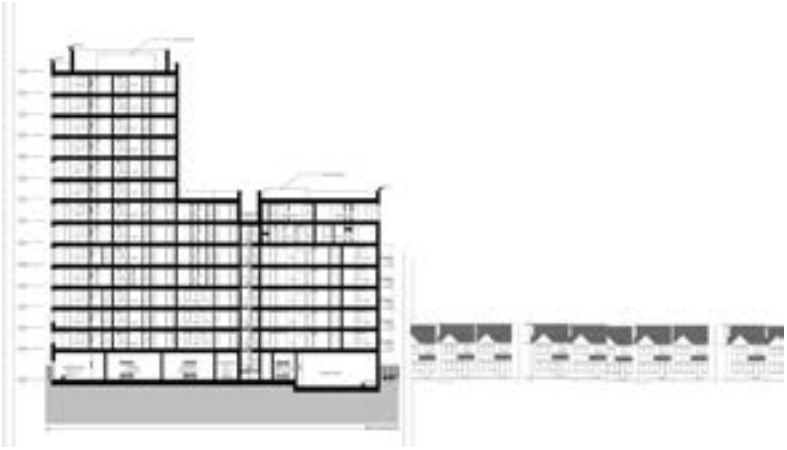
The view from Streatham Common with Woodgate Towers in place

Big planning news. Whyatt Builders have put in an application for a 12-storey block of offices and flats along Streatham High Road on the corner of Baldry Gardens. Mr George Grove the advocate for Whyatt states, "the High Road is quite dreary".

Don't panic though - this was back in 1962 and Streatham's "skyscraper plan" as it was called in the local press was finally dismissed the following year by the Minister of Housing and Local Government who said that there was too much office space, and more housing was required. This was a blow for the Streatham Chamber of Commerce who'd been campaigning for more office development in the district. A case of planning perhaps working on this occasion, else Streatham may have become like Croydon town centre.

But history repeats itself and we are still facing the spectre of Woodgate Towers, a massive development of 237 flats literally crammed in on the site of Homebase in Streatham Vale. The Streatham Society together with local protesters and residents met with Bell Ribeiro-Addy Streatham's MP in the summer to take her through the plans, but also see at first hand the effects on the local community.

The proposed fourteen storey development dominates this largely suburban area and dwarfs neighbouring streets affecting their light and privacy. The large tower destroys the special views from Streatham Common - a view that local people have always enjoyed for many years but is now being harmed. Many people un-



Woodgate Towers dwarfs neighbouring properties

derstandably would see this as a blot on the landscape if the development if permitted. Local people are asking why this development is even being considered when this area wasn't a site for development in Lambeth's Local Plan. The big risk is that if councillors give Woodgate Towers the approval nod, then it could rapidly lead to further high rise building in this area centred around Streatham Common station radically changing this part of Streatham.

The application will come before Lambeth's Planning Applications Committee at some point soon. Thankfully, there is an active group managing a campaign to prevent this development, but they need all the support they can get. https://nowoodgatetower.site/

THE CONTINUING TALE OF THE HORSE AND GROOM PUB

Exciting news about the iconic Horse and Groom Pub on Streatham High Road which has been boarded up now for three years since Covid and looking rather sorry for itself. Lambeth Council have approved in principle an application from ABM Streatham Ltd to build either 4 single dwellings or 6 flats at the rear of the pub in the rather disused and dilapidated car park at the rear of the pub.

This is different from most planning applications in that what has been approved is the principle of planning permission as suitable for residential development. More detailed plans will then be required to assess the more specific aspects of the scheme.

Meanwhile at the time of writing the pub is under offer from the Rhapsody Hospitality Group who operate six pubs across London including the Heidi in Balham and the Hannah in Clapham Junction. They propose to run the pub and are confident there is a market for their type of establishment in Streatham Hill.

For devotees of planning history, the Horse and Groom 'car park' has an interesting pedigree. Back in 1955 there were similar plans to build either 16 flats or six semi-detached houses behind the pub provoking intense local opposition. Local residents even planned to buy the land to prevent flats being built. The London County Council refused permission for the proposed houses and flats, but this went to appeal at a ministerial inquiry which did allow potential plans for three semi-detached or four detached houses, but not a four-storey block of sixteen flats.

A more prosperous looking Horse and Groom back in 1985 (above) and the derelict car park behind the Horse and Groom today - complete with ancient mini car

An application was then put in a couple of years later, but no houses were built. More recently in 2005 Lambeth Council turned down an application to have a traders market in the car park stating it would generate excessive levels of noise and disturbance to the amenities of neighbouring residences and increase traffic to the site.

Keeping the Horse and Groom (though note nothing has been said about retaining its name!) is good news when new figures show the number of pubs shutting their doors to customers for good soared by 50% in the latest quarter with 230 pubs being converted for other uses or demolished across England and Wales in the three months to June. This equates to more than two pubs a day vanishing from local communities in the first half of 2023.

Watch this space for more news!

Tim Whitaker, Trustee Streatham Society

CRUMBLING CONCRETE

For over at least 45 years successive governments and local authorities of all persuasions have ignored the timebomb of deteriorating public buildings – perhaps notably schools.

Following World War II, the country was bankrupt. The post-war 'baby-boom' of a large number of children born 1946-1960 resulted in an urgent number of school places being required as they reached school age. Additional schools were built as quickly and cheaply as possible – usually with a stated lifespan of about 25 years.

In 2002 the Streatham Society published my history *From Fenstanton House to Fenstanton School* (out of print). I researched this c.1988-1997. The then separate single storey Fenstanton Infant and two storey Junior Schools opened in 1952, at about the same time and design as the nearby Holy Trinity CofE Primary and Holmewood (now Nursery) Infant Schools, all on Upper Tulse Hill.

Fenstanton Junior School mid-1970s (front above, rear below) showing the 4H Fun Stall(!) outside my classroom - the original art room

In my history I recorded that these schools, built in post-war austerity, were designed to last only 25 years. By 1991 the junior classes in the main building were decanted into portacabins while re-roofing and major repairs to the exterior wall cladding took place.

I started teaching at Fenstanton Junior School in 1965. By then the school, built to house c.360 children, had more than 550 on roll. My first class (9-10 yr. olds) was situated in the former art room, shared with the art teacher. The following year we were situated in the dining hall, with no storage facilities. This was the main entrance to both schools, with the adjacent kitchen, and was noisy and draughty. In addition, the children had to sit on the dining tables for the second daily assembly while the chairs were taken into the hall. (Children did not sit on the floor.)

In January 1992 Lambeth Education inspected the Junior School. The draft report describing the school and its environment stated the following:

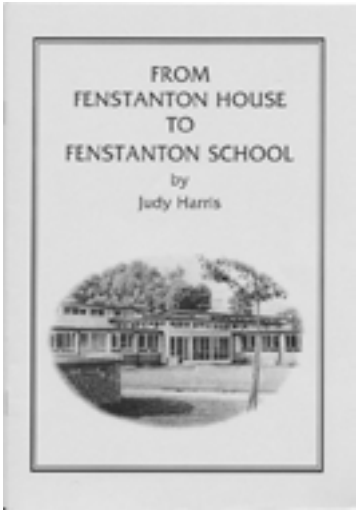
'The school has experienced a large number of difficulties, both with the building and with other aspects of the site. The major disruptions to the building have been mostly caused by the roof construction from concrete panels reinforced with steel rods and covered with asphalt. The internal ceiling is constructed from fibreboard panels. Some of the concrete panels have deteriorated, causing water collecting on the roof to penetrate the asphalt …

'One ceiling panel in an upstairs classroom fell down in March 1990, and the ceilings in the upstairs classrooms were battened to prevent further falls. In April 1991, another panel fell down in the hall during a P.E. lesson. All unsafe ceiling tiles were then removed completely. A series of ceiling tiles were replaced with plywood to prevent small pieces of concrete falling from damaged roof areas.

'A report was agreed under written urgency procedures in October 1991 … to replace the asphalt roof covering and replace a limited number of concrete panels. A number of temporary classrooms were delivered to the school in July 1991 … (work with) a start date of February 1992 and expected completion by 30th April 1992.

'From 4th September 1991 … classes have been accommodated in ten classrooms sited in the school playground, five of which are temporary. There is also a portable toilet block. The library and one other room are in use in the

Fenstanton Junior School 1991
Portacabins lifted over the school to the front playground



main building. Pupils are only allowed into the main building if supervised by a teacher. The library does not appear on the cleaning schedule.'

My time in a portacabin in the playground was not unpleasant although it was dark as the windows were too small, and footsteps resounded on the wooden floor – but we could move outside easily when the weather was good.

Streatham Wells Primary School in Palace Road opened in 1972 but by then both primary and secondary school numbers had fallen considerably. Fenstanton and other large schools were under-subscribed, resulting in considerable re-organisation.

Thus, either by good luck or good management, several short-term schools in Lambeth were demolished. The former Fenstanton Infants site now houses the rebuilt Fenstanton Primary School with City Heights Academy occupying the larger Junior site.

The nearby Tulse Hill Boys' Comprehensive School opened in 1956 to cater for 2,000 boys on 8 floors. By the late 1960s there were well over 2,500 boys on roll. Later under-subscribed, it was demolished in 1990. The school had wonderful facilities, but was too large, not 'comprehensive' and probably doomed to failure. The several local grammar schools still existed, together with smaller schools, several independent schools, and generous assisted places at nearby direct-grant and public schools. These were preferred by many parents.

Demolition of Tulse Hill School c.1990

The equally large Dick Sheppard Girls' Comprehensive on Tulse Hill opened in 1955 As rolls fell boys were admitted from the 1970s. It closed in 1994. Both school sites are now housing estates.

Judy Harris

LOCAL EVENTS

Autumn events in Streatham were too numerous to report here. All credit to the army of organisers and volunteers who organised these. There was something for everyone throughout September and October - many free.

September was the Lambeth Heritage Festival month and, among others, the Streatham Free Film Festival and the little big peace event.

October was Black History Month, with a packed programme. Lambeth Open artists and makers opened their doors on two weekends. The Streatham Festival ran from 13th-22nd when a large number of venues hosted events. The Streatham Strut, providing live acts and food offers, the StretArt Trail, the Tate Library Streatham Group Art Show, Paranormal Pumpkin Patch, and a wealth of classes and courses attracted enthusiastic followers.

The Streatham Society was involved in most events with an impressive programme. Because of our copy date, I have concentrated reports on September's main events which I much appreciated.

LAMBETH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

In addition to our two September meetings in St Leonard's Church the Streatham Society participated in the following:

LAMBETH LOCAL HISTORY FAIR Saturday 2nd *(Photos MB)*

This year's annual event was held in West Norwood Library & Picture House. It was an ideal central venue with good public transport and a variety of shops.

There was plenty of space, a large room for the talks, a café, a comfortable seating area, the library, children's and computer spaces - and, as the entrance publicity shows *(right)* a 4-screen cinema where you could watch local history, *Barbie* and other films.

Close to tours in West Norwood Cemetery, The Clockworks workshop and local walks - not to forget the Lambeth Horticultural Society's Autumn Flower and Produce Show in St Luke's Church - this was a brilliant day out.

This was the first event since the recent restrictions eased where so many local groups were represented. It was such a pleasure to meet up again with friends.

Photographs show our book-stall with the outside seating area in the background.

Top, Marion Gower and John Brown welcome Rt. Hon. Keith Hill, Streatham's former M.P. and long-term Streatham Society member. Keith has always supported our meetings and events.

Centre, Graham Gower with Marion and John. Graham has been a member of the Society for some 45 years and is the author of many of our publications.

Finally are your two senior trustees: Shea Richardson (Chair) *(right)* and Judy Harris (Newsletter editor, membership secretary and publications orders).

Both were war babies but with very different life experiences. Shea joined the Society in 1980; Judy joined the local history research group 40 years ago in 1983 then the Society in 1984.

After years of hiding ages the big 80 approached. This is when you say, "No, really? You don't look it; you are so active, alert and interesting!".

JH

HERITAGE DAY AT WOODFIELD PAVILION *(Photos MB)*

Another brilliant event was on Saturday 9th at the Woodfield. This lovely site adjacent to Tooting Bec Common is an ideal venue. Unfortunately it was a very hot day which deterred some visitors but those who coped with the heat were well entertained.

The Streatham Society bookstall shows (l-r) Janis Benson, Marion Gower and Freda Graham. Other books were also on sale.

History talks were on the history of Tooting Bec Lido by Janet Smith *(right)*, South London and the 19th Century Cycling boom, including a display, *(below)* by Paul Darby of the Balham Cycling Club; and the 'doodlebug' bombings over Streatham in WW2, by John W Brown.

Guided walks were on sport and recreation on the Tooting Commons with Robert Doyle and the battles for Tooting Common with Philip Bradley.

Delicious refreshments were on sale, provided by the Streatham W.I.

The Woodfield has an exciting programme of events which are well-worth joining - and there's plenty of shade behind the building and along the Common path.

Again, congratulations to all volunteers. **JH**

TOURS OF Sir HENRY TATE'S GROUNDS AT PARK HILL

The tours of the grounds of Henry Tate's mansion on Sunday 24th were a great end to our Lambeth Heritage Festival events for 2023.

Thanks to John Brown and Robert Doyle who led the tours, Daniel Fieller on the bookstall, and Francesca Murray for the introduction and information boards on Robert Marnock - the Victorian Gardener who was responsible for the gardens. Marnock is being celebrated in 2023 by the Gardens Trust.

Our photographs show the Society gazebo and book stall at the entrance, Dan Fieller who managed the stall, and Francesca Murray's Marnock display boards.

The weather was good as were sales and conversation. Our first 2024 tours will be advertised next Spring.

Thanks to the management for promoting and facilitating our twice yearly tours of their beautiful grounds.

These photographs show the grotto and folly (both Grade II listed). The artificial structures were built in Pulhamite stone c.1874 for J. Leaf, the owner of the new Park Hill House and grounds.

The grotto *(top)* is a sunken walkway lined with high rock structures and other artificial features, originally with a stream flowing through it fed from the lake.

A mock medieval castle gateway is flanked by a high castle tower. From the top *(centre)* are panoramic views over what was once the home farm and grazing land.

The view from the tower shows Bishop Thomas Grant School *(below)* which covers the site of the farm buildings. The farm land was originally bounded by Valley Road and Russell's footpath (latter mainly extant).

In 1923 some of the farmland was compulsorily purchased for the building of residential housing in Valley Road. In 1959 the remaining land was sold for building of the school.

Our book *Park Hill Streatham - Former home of Sir Henry Tate and the first Tate Gallery* gives a complete history (available from our website and book stall) - and the tours are a 'must'.

MB/JH

JIRO OSUGA, MIREILLE GALINOU - AND THE STREATHAM CONNECTION *(Photos MB)*

Also in September internationally acclaimed Streatham-based artist Jiro Osuga held a sale at his home. Every room on three floors displayed the variety and originality of his work. I was privileged to be invited to the sale - it was a delight. The highlight for me was the book case in one corner displaying the free-standing images of Streatham *(right)*.

Jiro's front garden welcoming board and a door-height painting inside

Jiro's display at the Lambeth Local History Fair 2017 (Photo JWB)

I first met Jiro at the launch of *The Streatham Sketchbook,* by Jiro Osuga and Mireille Galinou, at his home followed by his exhibition on the first floor of the Horse & Groom pub, Streatham. The exhibition, with his large paintings covering every wall, lasted several days.

At the Lambeth Local History Fair in 2017 held in St Leonard's Church, Jiro's display featured *The Streatham Sketchbook*, his images of Streatham, and publisher Your London Publishing.

Jiro was born in Tokyo, Japan. He eventually settled in London in 1980. He attended St Martin's School of Art in 1986, followed by Chelsea School of Art (B.A.) and the Royal College of Art (M.A). His first solo exhibition in 1999 was at Flowers Gallery, Santa Monica, California. Since 2001 he has regularly exhibited at Flowers Gallery (Flowers East), London.

Jiro lived at various addresses, his first in Streatham in 1987 being at Uplands Halls of Residence, Leigham Curt Road. Since 2003 he has lived in Woodbourne Avenue; participating in the annual Streatham Festival 2013 - 2016.

Mireille Galinou is an art and urban historian and an experienced author who worked for 20 years with the collection of paintings, prints and drawings at the Museum of London. In 1990 she organised a major exhibition on London Gardens at the Museum. Since 2000 she has worked freelance developing her interest in London's suburbs. She has contributed to, written and published at least ten books on similar themes.

Mireille set up Your London Publishing in 2015. She published *The Dulwich Notebook* (2015) and *The Streatham Sketchbook* (2017), both previously publicised in our newsletter. These will be on sale when Mireille speaks to the Streatham Society on January 2nd about her latest book *London's South Bank*.

I met Mireille when she was researching Streatham's history for her book. She had been advised at Lambeth archives to consult our local history expert John W Brown but as he did not have internet access she was rather reluctant to do so. She therefore was given my details as I had all the Society's publications in store. She visited me and looked at a selection of our publications.

I also advised contacting John - which she did. Only those who have visited John, discovered his wealth of local knowledge and studied in his garden shed will appreciate how pleased she was to have made contact!

In a final twist to the tale, I told my sister about Jiro's art; she knew of Flowers Gallery. In the 1970s she and my brother-in-law lived locally where they had a small pottery. One day they were asked by Angela Flowers to produce ten ash-trays bearing the legend "Angela Flowers does not smoke".

In those days smoking was not banned indoors and Angela hoped the ashtrays in her gallery would deter visitors from smoking. The beautiful ashtrays, inscribed in slipware, were duly delivered. Within two weeks they had all been stolen…!

Between 1772 and 1781 the Thrales commissioned the painter Sir Joshua Reynolds to produce portraits of some of the 'Streatham Worthies', the intellectual circle, including Dr Johnson, who regularly gathered at Streatham Park. Below is Jiro's version.

Come to our talk on February 6th which gives an update on the research into Streham Park and Hester Piozzi's Streatham to hear more. *(See p.2)*

The Library at Streatham Park - Jiro Osuga

JH

Jiro's Streatham - An Update

We are extremely grateful to local artist, Jiro Osuga of Woodbourne Avenue, for his recent very kind donation to our archives of a collection of magnificent art-works featuring various iconic buildings and monuments in Streatham.

Originally created to be featured in the book he and Mireille Galinou produced in 2017, *The Streatham Sketchbook*, the images feature a number of our town's major landmark structures which most people will instantly associate with Streatham and have become much loved and well-known sights in our town.

John W Brown

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

GUY FAWKES NIGHT IN STREATHAM IN DAYS PAST

"Remember, Remember, the 5th of November gunpowder, treason and plot. We see no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot!" For over 400 years the discovery of Guy Fawkes about to blow up the houses of Parliament in 1605 has been commemorated by the burning of his effigy and the letting off of fireworks.

In 1763 Robert Butcher, a local resident, complained to the Duke of Bedford, the Lord of the Manor of Streatham and Tooting Bec, that a local Ash tree had been burnt to the ground. The Duke's agent advised that this was in fact a large bough which had been set up by local children to form part of their Guy Fawkes night bonfire and was not a planted tree that had been subject to arson.

It was not only children that celebrated the 5th of November and the bellringers at our ancient parish church of St. Leonard would ring out the bells that night while bonfires blazed throughout the parish. In 1764 they were paid 6 shillings (30p) for celebrating the anniversary of "Gunpowder Treason".

The strength of popular feeling against the "Popeish" plot of Guy Fawkes and his comrades was still strongly felt in 1850 when an effigy of "a cardinal with a scarlet hat and robe mounted on a donkey" was paraded on Clapham Common that Guy Fawkes day before being committed to the flames.

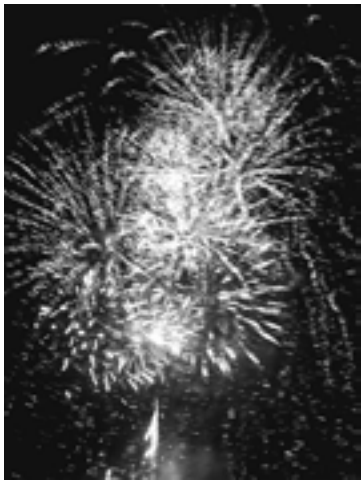
In the late 1800s Streatham Grammar School in Mitcham Lane was noted for the splendour of its firework night activities. In the days leading up to the event the boys would gather material for a huge bonfire that was built at one end of the school's playing field. A massive effigy of Guy Fawkes would be placed atop the pile and at precisely 6.30pm the fire would be lit to the roaring cheers of the boys and their friends. As the fire blazed away numerous fireworks would be lit including rockets, squibs, crackers and Catherine wheels each drawing fresh cheers from the boys. Large fire balloons were also set off into the night

Fireworks 1865

Fireworks display Mr Hepworth's House in Ellison Road 1954

sky to slowly float over Streatham. After around two hours of celebrations the boys would roast horse chestnuts in the ashes of the bonfire before making their way home through the Streatham streets full of the stale smoke of dying bonfires and the smell of spent gunpowder used in the fireworks which had set the Streatham night alive with excitement hours earlier.

Bonfire 2014



Fireworks display 2014

Today, the preponderance of each household having their own bonfire and fireworks in their back gardens, as was the case up to the 1970s, has given way to the large displays now organised by Lambeth Council. Although these displays are spectacular the intimacy of a family gathering, with children making their own "Guy" to commit to the flames, is no more. Also, eating a baked potato in its jacket fresh from the dying embers of the fire night bonfire is far superior to taking one out of the oven!

John W Brown

GREYHOUNDS AND RABBITS AT STREATHAM COMMON

The Rabbit Hole Public House, Grey hound Lane

The Rabbit Hole public house, at the top of Greyhound Lane, opposite Streatham Common, is one of the ancient taverns of Streatham, although the present building dates from 1930 and for centuries prior to its major renovation in 2017 it was known as The Greyhound.

At least four different pubs called the Greyhound have occupied the site over the past 300 years. Mention of an inn of this name first occurs in the parish accounts for 1726, when 10/- (50p) was paid for "passing a woman and child with the smallpox from the Greyhound".

One of the early pubs here was a long, low building, probably built in 1730 to replace a smaller tavern that originally occupied the site. This old inn was much frequented by gypsies who used to camp on wasteland at Lonesome, an isolated and remote part of the parish, which was located at the bottom of Streatham Vale, on the boundary with the parish of Mitcham.

An old resident recalled an occasion in the 1860s when he smoked a pipe at the pub with a party of about thirty gypsies. The leader of the group was described as a "venerable-looking old Romney who looked like the patriarch of a nomad tribe of the far East". He wore an embroidered gabardine coat from a pocket in which he produced a canvas bag containing a large quantity of silver and gold coins, some of which he handed to the landlord to cover the cost of the ale he and his companions had drunk.

It is thought that the Greyhound was the local tavern described in 1744 as a "public house which is the common rendezvous for all manner of wickedness". The pub was also a popular stop for parish officials and at a "visitation" here in 1769 the party enjoyed a sumptuous feast of beef, fowls, bacon and bread and butter, all washed down with wine, porter and beer, followed by tobacco all round.

During the time of the Napoleonic Wars the Streatham Militia gathered here for refreshment before and after drill and musket practice on Streatham Common.

In 1829 members of the party "beating of the bounds" of the parish frequented the Greyhound and refreshed themselves with 9 gallons of porter valued at 15/- (75p) and as much bread and cheese as they could eat for 11/8d (58p).

In October 1832 Mr and Mrs Walsh were returning from Croydon Fair when they were attacked near the pub by two ruffians. Mr Walsh fought them off until a second gig arrived when the men made off across the Common. The two assailants were described as "in the garb of sailors and had the appearance of those wandering vagabonds who infest the roads round London, soliciting charity for distressed tars unable to procure a ship; their only clothing was loose pantaloons and check shirts".

The partly relayed cobble-stoned roadway in front of the pub is a reminder of the days when the Greyhound was a well-known coaching inn on the Brighton road and for many years up to recent times it acted as a bus terminus for the 149 service to London.

The old pub was pulled down in 1871 when a large Victorian inn was erected on the site by Edwin Janes. He placed a large statue of a sitting greyhound over the main entrance of the pub which was a well-known local landmark for over 60 years.

The Greyhound public house - Drawing by Holland Tringham

The Greyhound pub 1860

The Greyhound was last rebuilt in 1930 for Charles Walter Hoye who landscaped the gardens at the rear of the inn to provide "Streatham's Finest Garden Rendezvous". Patrons were advised this "select rendezvous, which has a spacious car park, will appeal to all in search of refreshment under the most pleasant and approved conditions. For rest and refreshment, it is the traveller's Mecca".

A relic of the old pub survives in the form of the large lamp over the side door by the entrance to the garden.

Today, several paintings of local views adorn the external walls of the pub and the garage wall in the rear garden shows a view of Streatham Common in the 1890s with the Greyhound in the distance.

A fascinating account of the ancient inn that occupied the site in 1831 has recently come to light through the generosity of Janis Benson and Barbara Richardson, two Streatham Society members whose much appreciated gifts enabled me to recently acquire an ancient document containing detailed sales particulars of the pub when it was offered for auction by Mr Shuttleworth at the Auction Mart in Bartholomew Lane, opposite the Bank of England, on Wednesday May 11th 1831.

The Greyhound pub was the first of 84 lots offered for sale that day and on May 12th, and the description of the property paints a wonderful picture of what the old tavern was like at that time.

The description of the establishment, featuring the spellings of the day, is as follows:

PARTICULARS, &c.

FIRST DAYS SALE

Wednesday May 11, 1831:

Copyhold and Leasehold Estates, Streatham.

LOT 1.

A Leasehold Estate,

containing

An ESTABLISHED and WELL FREQUENTED INN, distinguished by the Sign of the GREYHOUND, most eligibly situated on Streatham Common, on the border of the High Turnpike Road, from London to Croydon.

The HOUSE Contains,

Seven Bed Chambers, a Club Room, with a moveable partition, a Parlour, Bar, Two Tap Rooms, Kitchen, Wash-house and Cellaring.

A Yard behind, with Three Stables for Fourteen Horses.

A Mangle Room.

Coach-house in front, capable of containing Four or more Carriages, and fitted with racks and mangers, as an occasional stable.

Two covered Skittle Grounds and a Garden.

ALSO

A COTTAGE, Containing Three Bed Rooms, a Parlour, a Front Shop, Wash-house, and Yard.

The Estate is held on Lease, for a term of which 34 1/2 Years were unexpired, at Lady-day, 1831, subject to a reserved rent of £50 Per Annum. The Lessee paying all Taxes including Land Tax, keeping the Premises in Repair, and Insuring them in the Names of the Lessors in the Sum of £1,500 at the least, and not to carry on any Trade on the Premises, except that of a Publican or Vintner.

The Premises are Under-let on Lease, and in the Tenancy of Mr. Michael Keatley, for a term of which 5 1/2 Years will be unexpired at Midsummer, 1831. The Tenant paying all Taxes, including Land Tax, Insurance and a Nett Rent of

ONE HUNDRED POUNDS PER ANNUM

And at the expiration of Mr. Keatley's Lease, the Cottage is subject to an agreement for a Lease to

Mr. Horwood, for a term of 13 1/2 years from Christmas, 1836, at the Rent. of £15 per Annum.

Michael Keatley was a long-term licensee of the Greyhound and took up residence there on 6th February 1822 and continued to occupy the premises until July 1850.

Greyhound Pub in the 1890s with horse buses standing outside

Greyhound pub - Painting by Patrick Nasmyth

We have a nice image of the pub at the time of the sale as it is featured in a painting of Streatham Common by Patrick Nasmyth made in 1827, which hangs in Sudeley Castle at Winchcombe in Gloucestershire and we are grateful to Lady Ascombe for giving us permission for part of the painting, showing the Greyhound, to be featured here.

The pub building is central on the view with the rear of the stables seen on the left and the cottage on the right, on the site now occupied by Greyhound Place.

Greyhound pub - Painting by John Quickenden

The pub was subsequently enlarged and photographed in 1860 from which image Holland Tringham drew the accompanying illustration of the pub from which John Quickenden produced the painting which now hangs on my living room wall.

JWB

STREATHAM POSTCARDS

The following postcards are two of the Frances Partridge collection which she donated to our archive.

The first card shows Streatham High Road by the Common c. 1912.The tower of Immanuel Church rises above the trees in this view showing that stretch of Streatham High Road running along the western edge of Streatham Common, near the lower pond. Of particular note is the row of Horse Chestnut trees lining the edge of the Common which at the tine this photograph was taken had still to reach their maturity. They were planted by the Metropolitan Board of Works after they acquired the manorial rights of Streatham Common in 1888 and formed a magnificent boundary to the common running along the High Road and Streatham Common North and South.

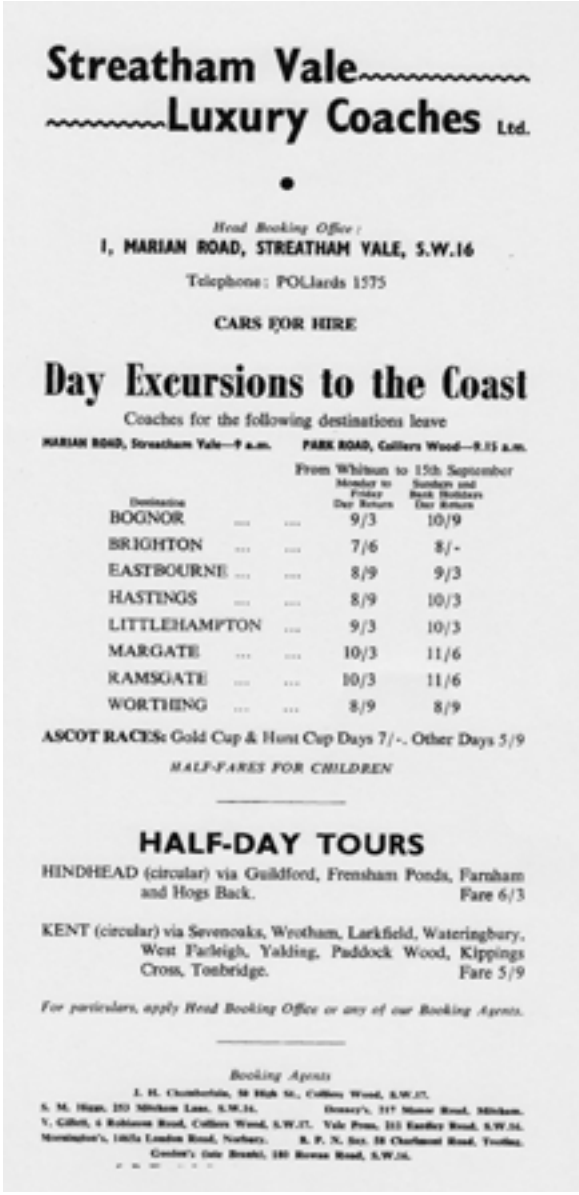
Today, well over a century and a quarter later, these trees are at the height of their splendour and their spring blossom is a joy to behold. On the right of this picture, on the eastern side of the High Road, can be seen part of the glass canopy which once provided a shaded walkway along the front of Bank Parade which faces the common. This was removed in 1939. Note also the tram travelling along the High Road having just past Immanuel Church.

Streatham Congregational Church was less than 10 years old when the second photograph was taken c.1909. This grade II listed building was erected in 1900 and was designed by James Cubitt FRIBA. Charles Derry, who was a partner in the famous Derry and Toms department store in London, laid the foundation stone on 16th May 1900. He lived at Woodlands, a large detached house facing Tooting Graveney Common which had formerly been the residence of the famous Victorian potter, Henry Doulton. The Congregational Church was dedicated on 11th June 1901. Another prominent retailer who was a member of the congregation here was Frank Bentall, who owned a large department store in Kingston, called Bentall's. He lived in a large house in North Drive, Streatham Park.

The church survives today as the United Reformed Church. North of the church in the card can be seen Streatham Conservatories, a garden business run by H.G Burrows, the site of which was subsequently occupied by the church hall which was demolished in September 2011 to make way for a Tesco supermarket.

JWB

THOSE WERE THE DAYS…!



Streatham Vale Luxury Coaches Ltd.

Head Booking Office:
1, MARIAN ROAD, STREATHAM VALE, S.W.16

Telephone: POLlards 1575

CARS FOR HIRE

Day Excursions to the Coast

Coaches for the following destinations leave

MARIAN ROAD, Streatham Vale—9 a.m. **PARK ROAD, Colliers Wood—9.15 a.m.**

From Whitsun to 15th September

Destination	Monday to Friday Day Return	Sundays and Bank Holidays Day Return
BOGNOR	9/3	10/9
BRIGHTON	7/6	8/-
EASTBOURNE	8/9	9/3
HASTINGS	8/9	10/3
LITTLEHAMPTON ...	9/3	10/3
MARGATE	10/3	11/6
RAMSGATE	10/3	11/6
WORTHING	8/9	8/9

ASCOT RACES: Gold Cup & Hunt Cup Days 7/-. Other Days 5/9

HALF-FARES FOR CHILDREN

HALF-DAY TOURS

HINDHEAD (circular) via Guildford, Frensham Ponds, Farnham and Hogs Back. Fare 6/3

KENT (circular) via Sevenoaks, Wrotham, Larkfield, Wateringbury, West Farleigh, Yalding, Paddock Wood, Kippings Cross, Tonbridge. Fare 5/9

For particulars, apply Head Booking Office or any of our Booking Agents.

Booking Agents

J. H. Chamberlain, 30 High St., Colliers Wood, S.W.19.
S. M. Hunt, 253 Mitcham Lane, S.W.16. Denney's, 317 Manor Road, Mitcham.
V. Gillett, 4 Robinson Road, Colliers Wood, S.W.17. Vale Press, 111 Eardley Road, S.W.16.
Mornington's, 106/a London Road, Norbury. R. F. N. Ltd. 38 Charlwood Road, Tooting.
Cowler's (late Brants), 180 Rowan Road, S.W.16.

This advertisement for Streatham Vale Coaches was sent by **Derek Buttivant** who contributed his research item in our *Streatham Society News* last Spring.

It was published in the June 1953 edition of *Vale Topics* which Derek found among papers inherited from his late parents.

It was obviously a special souvenir edition celebrating the late Queen's coronation, containing four photos and articles of the event seventy years ago

What is immediately striking are the number of local coach excursions which were available to all.

Second are the prices; today a 2nd class stamp costs 75p (15 shillings). Then two people could travel to the Ascot Races on Cup days for 7s return each!

To those of us who remember watching the Coronation in 1953 on a tiny black and white television screen the changes are incredible.

Thank you for the memory, Derek.

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

RECENT MEETINGS

The Measures Brothers, South London Orchid Growers and Collectors

Attracting a packed audience of 90, Tracey Gregory gave an illustrated talk at our September meeting on Tuesday 5th. This was also a Lambeth Heritage Festival event. Tracey (Local Historian and author, Loughborough Road Histories) spoke about the Measures brothers, orchid growers and collectors. We were delighted to welcome so many of the Measures family who had travelled from all over the UK to attend Tracey's talk and generously share their family pictures.

Robert Marnock - Giant of 19th Century Gardening

An extra second September meeting was held on Wednesday 20th in association with The Gardens Trust, and also a Lambeth Heritage Festival event. Dr Brent Elliott, author of *Victorian Gardens*, celebrated Robert Marnock, garden designer, who worked at Park Hill, Streatham, home of William Leaf and later Sir Henry Tate. Marnock designed private gardens, public parks and cemeteries. He also edited gardening magazines, ran two botanical gardens and organised flower shows. Brent, a former librarian at the Royal Agricultural Society, has been on the committee of English Heritage Historic Parks & Gardens for many years.

We had anticipated a large audience for the meeting. Unfortunately atrocious weather with torrential rain, flooded roads and pavements, a burst water main on Brixton Hill, diverted and slow-moving traffic seemed a disaster. By 7.15 few visitors had arrived; but within 30 minutes a stoical 40 people were present. The evening was well-worth their effort.

The following Sunday the sun shone and visitors were able to see an example of Marnock's work at on our tours of Henry Tate's garden at Park Hill *(See p.12)*.

The Life of Francis Barber

Our October talk, celebrating Black History Month, was given by Layla Davis *(above)*, former Assistant Curator at Dr Johnson House. An excellent presentation attracted a good audience of about 55.

Layla illustrated how Francis Barber relates to what we know about everyday lives of black people in London at that time. Francis Barber was the Jamaican slave who became Samuel Johnson's manservant and heir. He was part of the literary world in London - including Streatham Park.

In Streatham Francis Barber Close, off Valley Road, commemorates his name as does Francis Barber School in Tooting.

As our other talks, this was recorded on our YouTube channel for members to watch at leisure.

Our new library noticeboard

Visitors to Streatham's Tate Library will have seen the Society's noticeboard has moved. It is smaller than our former board but in a much better position as it now faces the entrance adjacent to the table and displays advertising other local events. Mark Bery's posters publicise our meetings well in advance.

MB/JH

PUBLICATIONS, BOOKSTALL AND STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Following my recent appeal for a new publications officer several members contacted me assuming I was giving up editorship of our quarterly *Streatham Society News*. This is not so as I enjoy producing it. Thank you for the compliments received. I hope to continue for as long as possible, depending on:

1. Continuing encouragement from our trustees to post it to members as a hard copy. This is expensive as opposed to a free online post but at 32-36 pages I think it is popular and there is more chance of it being read and kept rather than briefly skim-read on-line which I should regard as a waste of my time.

2. Contributions from others. I am happy to edit and contribute 'fillers' but I cannot do more. This is <u>your</u> magazine; please submit anything of interest to our members in a simple Word document, typed, or clearly handwritten. Illustrations and photos should be submitted as a jpeg image. Contributions are also welcome from non-members. Illustrations (not copyright-restricted) enhance considerably.

Items on today's Streatham and recent history are particularly welcome. I find short comments on Facebook and other social media so frustrating - leaving the reader wanting more.

3. Costs: When I took over editorship over 15 years ago, I calculated the newsletter cost the Society under £2,000 p.a. to produce and distribute. Subscriptions,

donations, our then monthly raffle, and refreshment profits easily covered that. Despite significantly increased costs - particularly postage which has more than doubled - we are still about that. How?

Almost all our previous large number of complementary exchanges and contacts are now limited and receive only an on-line pdf. I stopped the raffle but fortunately donations have continued, particularly with subscriptions. Happily main four volunteers, plus other helpers, deliver quarterly about 190 copies of the newsletter, leaving only c.80 to be posted. They deliver in a few days and save the Society about £540 in postage annually. This is incredible - thank you all!

Bookstall: At the time of going to print we have new bookstall volunteers but still need more and a bookstall organiser. Please contact our secretary Mark Bery or me if you are interested or need further clarification. **JH**

MEMBERSHIP January 1 - December 31 2024

Subscription renewals for 2024: These are now due and should be paid before March 31 2024 to ensure the continued delivery of our newsletter and emails.

Pre-payments: Those who have already paid for 2024 are shown on the envelope label containing this newsletter.

Subscriptions: Individual £10; Household £15; Life membership (single or named couple) £180. These can be paid by bank transfer (BACS), standing order, cheque or cash at meetings. Standing orders should be set up before 31st March of the relevant year. See our website or contact me for further details.

To confirm payment and activate registration d, remember to include your name, method of payment, identify the amount and destination (subscription, donation or publication) and EMAIL CONFIRMATION TO ME. All payments are acknowledged by email, or a note with the following newsletter, or in person.

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)*.

Membership 2023: By late October 2023 we had welcomed 58 new members, plus some renewals, making a total of 346 who have paid to date. Thank you!

New members: These join via our application form on our website, by post or at meetings; all by contacting the membership secretary *(contacts back page)*.

Since our last issue we welcome 19 new members: Karen Di Loren (household), Tony Price, B-J & Matthew Raben, David Wiseman, Ally Paton, Sarayu Shah, David Standfast (household), David Sutherland, Catherine Hoare (household), John Wagener & Emilia Prior, Louise Wiggins, Jonathan Leake & Rebecca Barnham, and Gail Golding.

Judy Harris, Membership Secretary

KEVIN KELLY 1942-2023

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Kevin Kelly, a long-standing member of the Society and a founder member of our Local History Group. Kevin was a congenial Irishman whose warm, friendly, and generous nature endeared him to all who had the good fortune of making his acquaintance.

He had an extensive and encyclopaedic knowledge of all types of sport, particularly athletics, and was not only an expert on local sporting events and personalities, but also on national and international competitions and competitors.

Such was the breadth and depth of his knowledge he advised the British Film Institute on the content of numerous sporting films in their collection made by Mitchell and Kenyon between 1901-07 which enabled the BFI to produce a DVD on 'Mitchell & Kenyon's Edwardian Sports' which was far more informative and detailed than it would otherwise have been without Kevin's contribution.

Kevin's life-long interest in athletics was not just academic, for as a young man he had an impressive record as a triple jumper, representing Ireland in the sport. He also coached thousands of schoolchildren at the London County Council's Sports Grounds in South London, before taking up the post of Athletics Development Officer with Wandsworth Borough Council in 1985, being responsible for the management of Battersea Park and Tooting Bec Athletics tracks.

Kevin was a keen and active member of Herne Hill Harriers, both on the track and in administration, and in 2002 he wrote the definitive history of the club *Herne Hill Harriers Into The Millennium 1889-2001*. This is a magnificent volume containing 638 pages and is considered to be one of the best researched and detailed club histories ever published.

Kevin joined the Herne Hill harriers in 1954, aged 12, initially as a high jumper and sprinter but in the late 1950s under the guidance of Maurice Flacke and later Tom McNab, discovered that with hard work he could make progress as a triple jumper. During the 1960s he won four Surrey county titles, two London Championships and the All-Ireland title in 1966. He continued competing regularly until 1983 when an injury sustained in his 25th consecutive Surrey championship finally ended his triple jump career.

As a relief from jumping Kevin tackled the Marathon determined to beat 3 hours and in the 1978 Polytechnic race managed 2:53:27. As his own active career declined, he took to coaching and among his most successful athletes were Jack Sam, Tony Collins, Garry Doerr and Chris Carden.

Kevin's administrative work for the Herne Hill Harriers started when he became a member of the club's committee and included spells as Track & Field Captain, Magazine Editor, Handicapper, and a seven-year term as Hon. General Secretary. He had to resign as club Secretary in 1985 when he took up his appointment with Wandsworth Borough Council.

In 1970 Kevin become one of the club's youngest-ever Presidents and the next year he organised a club trip to Denmark and Sweden to coincide with his honeymoon. In 1988 Kevin received the great honour of being appointed President for the club's 100th centenary year.

His love of athletics and local history combined in the publication of his last book, written in 2013, on *Robert Sadler and the Lost Copenhagen Running Grounds in Garrett Lane, Wandsworth*. This publication led to the unveiling of a community funded commemorative plaque on the site of the grounds organised by Geoff Simmons of the Summerstown 182 Group of local historians.

Kevin amassed a huge collection of sporting memorabilia and publications during his lifetime, believed to be one of the largest and most impressive archives of its type in private hands. He was always ready to share this information and help and assist fellow researchers whenever he could.

I, and many others who knew Kevin, count ourselves to have been so

richly blessed to be able to claim him as a friend; to have enjoyed his convivial company, his good humour and his warm fellowship. Our lives will be much poorer at his passing.

John W Brown

The photograph above shows sportsman Kevin with Olympic Gold Champion and Streatham resident Joe Deakin *(right)*.

Another of his many legacies, he was instrumental in getting an English Heritage blue plaque for Mussabini *(right)*.

Kevin's funeral took place at St Boniface Church, Mitcham Rd, Tooting, on Thursday 19th October at 12.30pm. Refreshments were provided afterwards at the Furzedown Brasserie in Mitcham Lane. The family extended an invitation to Society members to the funeral and reception.

In lieu of flowers and because local history was so much a part of Kevin's life the family nominated the Streatham Society as the charity to receive donations.

The funeral service and following reception were both packed. A recording of Kevin's funeral was made to watch on YouTube.

MB/JH

KEN GORDON - OBITUARY

Ken was born in 1949 in Milngavie Glasgow.

At school in Bearsden, he made friends with Ian who was to remain a lifelong friend and married Ken's sister. They would go cycling and playing darts together and when Ken left school to become a police cadet stayed in touch, eventually becoming each others 'Best Man'.

Ken moved down to London aged 19 to continue his career, joining the Met Police but managed to keep up with one of his favourite hobbies, gardening. He joined the RHS and visited their gardens as often as he could.

When Ken married Cheryl, he moved to the Streatham Vale area where he had an allotment for many years, starting in the 1990's.

Through this association, with others from the SVPOA *(Streatham Vale Property Occupiers' Association)* they entered Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton

Court Flower Show, exhibiting a Hanging Basket and matching Window Box display. In 2000 they were thrilled to win a silver medal at Hampton Court.

Ken entered the SVPOA shows most years and frequently came away with prizes and trophies, particularly for his flowers and pot plants.

At his daughter Jennifer's school fair he ran the plant stall for many years and had people coming back year upon year to ask advice on where and how to grow the plants he sold and how to keep them alive for more than a few weeks. He built up quite a fan club during this time.

He was interested in history of places and people and was a member, along with Cheryl and Jennifer, of the Streatham Society. He was interested in local history and enjoyed finding out more about the local area and also St Leonard's Church.

He had become a keen bird watcher (in Cheryl and Ken's very early days of birdwatching they spent a good hour identifying what turned out to be a pink plastic bag) and enjoyed his visits to Barnes, Rainham Marshes and Pulborough Brooks. Holidays to Devon, Norfolk, Madeira, Portugal, and visits home to Scotland gave more scope for birding.

Ken did not keep up with his cycling, having loved it as a young lad, but kept his love of it through watching and coaching from the sidelines, and watching the various Tours on television particularly the Tour de France. Indeed, when he was in St Raphael's Hospice while everyone else was watching Wimbledon Ken was enjoying the Tour de France.

Ken was a Churchwarden at St Leonard's, and member of their PCC for many years so there was never a doubt as to where his funeral would be held.

With over one hundred people there, so many lovely things were said about Ken from his former colleagues who mention his loyalty, dedication, tireless determination, and caring nature.

Friends said much the same and seemed to value his friendship. He was variously described as being helpful, supportive of others and a tower of strength in time of need.

In all the descriptions his kindness and sense of humour were always there even during his treatment and he was described by the nursing staff at hospital and hospice as being a gentleman. Ken treated them with respect and they loved him.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of donations to St Raphael's and the church music in Ken's memory and thank everyone who attended his funeral or have contacted us with such lovely messages.

Cheryl and Jennifer Gordon

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This newsletter is published by the Streatham Society
Printed by **Printinc.** Tel: 020 8255 2110 e-mail: info@printinc.uk.com

Final copy date for next issue: January 1st 2024

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

Registered Charity 283297