STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

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CELEBRATING THE NEW LAMBETH ARCHIVES
Three Streatham Society seniors at the opening event
Rt Hon. Keith Hill, former M.P. with trustees Shea Richardson (rt)
and Judy Harris *(Photo Mark Bery, see p.10)*

MEMBERSHIP 2024 - If you've received this issue as a printed copy without a reminder, you've paid. Thank you!

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

MEETINGS

Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church, Streatham High Rd/Tooting Bec Gardens. Booking is not required. Visitors are welcome but are requested to donate £1 towards expenses. Refreshments are available. Please check our website for any changes and additions.

4 June Two talks: **Healthy Ageing: what is it, where is it and can I have some?** by Professor Finbarr Martin.
Social and medical history revealed from post-mortems at St George's Hospital 1841-1946 by Dr Juulia Ahvensalmi

2 July 7.30 * MEMBERS ONLY* **The Streatham Society's 50th Birthday Party** Talk and party at the Belmont Bowling Club. Details later to members.

Sept 3 7.30 tbc

EVENTS

Sat 1 June 10am-4pm **Heritage Day at the Woodfield Pavilion**
A day of walks, talks and book sales at the pavilion on the edge of Tooting Bec Common. Donation *Lambeth Walks programme*

Fri 12 July 2pm **Secrets of Streatham Village - Hidden gems & untold stories**
90 minute walk by Lambeth Tour Guide Trudy Kuhn
Booking Eventbrite £12. Streatham Society members £6
Lambeth Walks programme

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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

FIRST SKYSCRAPER IN STREATHAM VALE

The Woodgate Drive Development - mysteriously missing its new tower

Well, it's finally happened; a fourteen-story tower is coming to Streatham Vale the stark centre piece of a massive 237 flat scheme on the Homebase site.

Lambeth's Planning Application Committee approved it voting 4 to 2 in favour, subject to the approval by the Mayor of London. This was despite stiff opposition from Danny Adilypour, local councillor (and ironically Deputy Leader of Lambeth Council in charge of planning), MP Bel Ribeiro-Addy and a vigorous campaign by residents with over 1000 signing a petition.

The Planning Applications Committee took just two- and three-quarter hours to conclude "on balance" looking at Lambeth's Local Plan "as a whole", that the benefits of 237 homes including a bit of affordable housing, trumped any legitimate concerns raised. Chair Joanne Simpson accepted the decision was tricky but observed that the desire of young people to get on the housing ladder mattered and so did those on council waiting lists who didn't have a voice at the committee.

Those objecting feel strongly that key problems with the scheme were not sufficiently addressed, and the officer's report written and presented in a way hell bent on getting elected members to grant permission. On the day there were hundreds of local people watching the committee online – the first ever Streatham Planning Gogglebox.

The Tower Block

Chief was the size of the tower and the other blocks in an area not designated as appropriate for tall buildings. Surprisingly in the meeting viewers never saw any computer-generated images of the biggest block. But those watching held hope that Lambeth's Plan not earmarking Streatham Vale for skyscraper blocks would hold sway. But the planning officer explanation was straight out of Humpty Dumpty himself in Alice in Wonderland – Lambeth's local plan is asked to identify areas of the Borough where tall buildings are appropriate "but that doesn't mean we have identified other areas as inappropriate". So, just to be clear the planning officer slowly explained Streatham Vale has "never been identified as inappropriate for tall buildings its just never been identified as appropriate". Resource constraints was the reason why Lambeth haven't looked at all sites for tall buildings right across the Borough.

But if sites do come forward with plans for high rise, then the rules are that they have to go through a strict test as to suitability. In this case the scheme was felt to integrate well with the locality of Streatham Vale and indeed make as the jargon says "a positive contribution to the public realm". The planner's argument seemed to be that an unsightly colossus of a building would look better than this brownfield site consisting of a car park and an ugly Homebase. And in any case the 14-storey skyscraper block was in a lighter palette brick colour so you might not notice it as it blends into the sky. Evidently a group of anonymous yet esteemed architects called the Council Design Review panel had pronounced on all this - so it had to be correct.

Views from Streatham Common

Next the committee considered whether views from Streatham Common might be affected by the huge block. Everyone in Streatham thinks that it was a protected view so worth protecting and indeed Lambeth Council's own publicity blub talks glowingly about the great views from the Common. But officers and councillors were definitely in "see no evil" mode here, and although yes, the tower could sort of be seen, of course it didn't detract from people enjoying the view as it was such a big horizon. The explanation was that "the distinct vertical element punctuating the horizon would help to reinforce and compliment the views horizontal composition" and the rest would be unchanged. Oh, and foliage might make a difference to the vision and also weather conditions. So, we now have to look out for the watercolourists in the Van Gogh tradition flocking to the common to paint this new improved vista. And a new Lambeth Council visitor display board needs to explain how you appreciate the view and train your eye to

block out the ugly tower that's suddenly emerged.

Other objector concerns centred on what was seen as the poor-quality design of the new scheme. Inevitably the developer's glossy brochure all looked very nice and exciting, but lurking in the plans was the fact that a number of the flats only had one window with some unable to be opened as they face the railway line. This apparently according to the Chair was a tad unfortunate but if you want to maximise density to "optimise capacity" as the planning jargon says, then you just have to put up with these defects.

Playgrounds in the sky

Playgrounds feature in the application as an asset but the one of them for 0–4-year-olds is over 27 metres up perched on top of a block as a caged rooftop playground, apparently against the London Plan rules, yet with great views nonetheless across Streatham Vale's low-rise housing if you avoid the pigeons. According to the developer it's on the block with affordable housing as residents of this sort of housing are more likely to have more children.

So, the site gets recommended for approval even though there are residual concerns whether a new GP surgery will end up there, increased parking stress in the area (no CPZ has been voted upon) and concerns about the increased pressure on Streatham Common station. In all not great advert for local democracy in action in planning. Objectors had produced their own drone footage of how the blocks would impact on adjoining properties and Streatham Vale, but this never was mentioned or saw the light of day in the meeting.

What this means for planning locally

Sadly, there are some big implications if you care about planning in Streatham. This is writing a new chapter in the history of Streatham Vale and betting is now on where the next high-rise site will be. Don't rely on the robust three-hundred-page Lambeth Plan, as like a Shakespeare text you can definitely come up with different interpretations of what the planning bard meant. And if you think your area is immune from big developments watch out! The local residents would have been broadly fine with what is known as "a gentler development" still producing more, housing but of course there are never options on the table and the developer had told them that it had to be this big to make economic sense.

Again the community are let down

But above all what the Woodgate saga demonstrate is that residents are massively disadvantaged when it comes to challenging big developers and the council as happens elsewhere. Many of the objections even at the committee were simply not answered as though they were desperate to skip through the three lots of two minutes objectors had to present to the committee, yet questions were asked of the applicant. Even the MP's words were disregarded.

Despite the rhetoric of "public involvement", officers hold sway in pushing for

housing growth and with very limited and poor scrutiny by local councillors on Planning Application Committees this makes for an unfortunate combination. Whether the optics of this are seen by Lambeth Planners and the Chair of the Planning Committee is a different matter.

IMPROVING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING

Given the issues around Woodgate Towers it was prescient that Streatham Society and Streatham Action had teamed up to develop a local planning forum for Streatham. The broad aim is to have a better debate about public involvement in planning and improve the very low trust that the planning system has not just in Streatham but elsewhere. At a launch event in March with the theme of "Trust in Planning", a panel of speakers debated how to increase trust. Danny Adilypour, local councillor for Streatham Vale and Deputy Leader, outlined the council's policies. Tim Whitaker from the Streatham Society laid out the case for the prosecution that residents get excluded in planning and where they try to get involved it's a hellish experience. National surveys reveal that on developments 7 per cent of the public trust local councils and only 2 per cent developers. Councillor Scott Ainslie on the Lambeth Council Planning Applications Committee explained the decision-making process plus Rob O'Sullivan, Lambeth's Assistant Director of Planning, gave an account of the formal process. Michael Ball, a seasoned campaigner from Waterloo Community Development Group, shared experience of challenging large-scale developments on the South Bank. And finally, Denean Rowe from London Planning Aid, an organisation set up to support people with free planning advice and how to get better involved with planning, spoke about what support is available.

The aim of a forum is to signpost people to better advice on planning and training but also interrogate the planning system in Streatham and promote greater more effective engagement and a better level of discussion about how Streatham needs to evolve.

We will be providing more updates soon. If you are interested, then please contact - streathamsociety.planning @gmail.com

QUICK PLANNING UPDATES

At the time of writing Streatham Hill Theatre faces great uncertainty. Having been bought by the Ruach Church back in July 2022 there were expectations they would move in but so far, no planning applications have been submitted for a change of use from its current usage as bingo hall. Sadly, the Grade 2 listed building, the last of the big theatres in Streatham, is boarded up apart from the slot machine lounge but inevitably without care is beginning to experience problems. The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre have an excellent site

Streatham Hill Theatre in its Prime

with vast information on the history of the building and their campaign to save it for community use. See http://streathamhilltheatre.org/about/publications

Building work will commence soon on a new building replacing Dorchester Parade including the iconic Dorchester café. Likewise, we can expect work to start on the new Travelodge hotel to be built on the site of the Hideaway. Less clear is what's happening to the site of the old police station on Streatham High Road and its neighbour the pub known as Pratts and Payne.

STREATHAM GREEN IS BEING SPRUCED UP - AGAIN

The Streatham eyesore sometimes known as Streatham Green is due for a major renovation. In Bid Streatham and Lambeth Council have secured a £200,000 government grant ironically from the Government's Levelling Up Fund. Interesting who Streatham is levelling up against!

The blurb states the money will be invested in "the creation of a more functional public space with improved lighting, an events space, opportu-

Streatham Green catering for the birds

nities for informal play for children, seating that supports positive behaviour, enhanced planting and greening and celebrates the Dyce fountain".

The announcement also boldly states that "Not only will this enhance the amenity of the space as an oasis for residents, but it will also reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour with drug dealing, street drinking and rough sleeping".

At the time of writing the Streatham Society is waiting to see the project plan for this major work and also what plans there are for engagement

with local people and notably the Streatham Society. Attempts at renovating this area go back a long way and the big and some would say intractable problem is coping with the anti-social behaviour rife here. And there's a need to learn from what's gone on before in attempts to regenerate it.

NEW COVENANT CHURCH, PENDENNIS ROAD

There's much debate about how to preserve churches in terms of heritage. Locally there is an application by the New Covenant Church in Pendennis Road to remove the historic pews in the church.

This is the previous Congregational church designed by Ernest George and Peto in Vernacular Revival style in 1876 and the opened-on the 6th June 1877. The Church became a Grade II listed building in November 1993 becoming a United Reform Church and then in 1997 the headquarters of the new Covenant Church.

Church in Pendennis Road

Its listing references the importance of the pews as a crucial part of the historic interior. The Church understandably want more flexibility for this venue and with some events are having to rent out other buildings. Lambeth Council have been quite clear in previous advice that it couldn't approve complete removal of the pews because of their historic legacy but might accept removing two thirds but with some improvements.

The application is for keeping one third of the pews (so twelve out of seventeen are being removed) and Lambeth Council will be considering this. It is an example of the trade offs existing between preserving heritage and modern day usage. Thankfully it is still being used as a church rather than being converted into flats.

Tim Whitaker, Trustee Streatham Society

LAMBETH ARCHIVES OPENING CEREMONY

Streatham Society Trustees Shea Richardson (Chair) and Mark Bery (Secretary)
and
Speeches in a research area (Photos JH/MB)

On Thursday 29 February 2024 I was delighted to be invited to the official opening of the new Lambeth Archives. It ran from 6.30pm - 8pm with speeches at 7pm.

Cllr Claire Holland, Leader of Lambeth Council and Cllr Donatus Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Leisure and Sports hosted the event.

Bill Linksey, LLHF Chair, also spoke. I much enjoyed meeting Lambeth Local History Forum members, several of whom I have not seen since before pandemic restrictions.

The evening was most efficiently organised by archivist Jon Newman and staff. Refreshments were served in the exhibition room with a display 'Lambeth Preserved: the museum that never was'.

The photographs of old Lambeth by photographer William Strudwick were the subject of a project in the 1980s by members of the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society (SLAS) *(see p.26)*.

The Archives in a new building at 16 Brixton Hill is a wonderful replacement for the old Archives in the Minet Library, gifted by William

Minet and opened in 1890. It is in central Brixton, just south of the Town Hall and new Civic Centre. It has a spacious ground floor research area and vast basement storage the length of the building between Hayter and Sudbourne Roads. An excellent commemorative booklet *Lambeth Archives 1890-2024* was distributed to guests.

Exhibitions can be viewed at opening times: Mon 1-8, Tues & Thurs 10-6, Sat 9-1 and 2-5. Check their website for more information. *(Photos Lambeth Archives)*

(Photo Lambeth Archives © Sam Mellish) **JH**

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL GREEN PLAQUE FOR DR NORMAN LEVINSON AND THE FURZEDOWN PROJECT

Dr Levinson joins Ruth Dixon to celebrate the Project's 25th Anniversary.

Dr Norman Levinson moved to London (42 Woodfield Ave) and took up a partnership at the Greyswood Surgery in the Furzedown area. He was an associate specialist in ear, nose and throat surgery in Croydon (BMJ Obituary December 2008).

He set-up the Furzedown Project, 93 Moyser Road, a charity looking after isolated and elderly people in the area. Today the charity is a thriving organisation which celebrates its 50th birthday in 2025

Volunteers step out of the fast lane

Dr Norman Levinson and Ron Waro. Photopress.

Two volunteer drivers at an activity centre for older citizens in Streatham are hanging up their car keys after years of transporting members around south London.

The Furzedown Project in Moyser Road will have to do without the driving services of Norman Levinson and Ron Waro since the pair were both forced to retire after turning 75.

Project manager Margaret Joyce said: "Norman was a doctor before he retired, and he originally helped to set up the project in 1976. He has been helping here ever since then".

Ron began driving for the project after he retired from working for London Transport 10 years ago. Dr Levinson was his GP and suggested he help out at the project when Ron told him he was looking for something useful to do in his retirement.

"Both men are extremely popular here and their services will be missed. They will still be staying to help us out in other activities however, and have been assisting one of our new drivers."

Anyone interested in driving for the Furzedown Project should contact Margaret Joyce on 020 8677 4283.

STREATHAM GUARDIAN 7TH JUNE 2001

A quiet man, Dr Levinson enjoyed golf, bridge, music and theatre. Dr Levinson was my GP when I first moved to Streatham in 1985 and I remember him as a quiet and compassionate man

On 21 May 2024 at 2pm there will be an unveiling of a Wandsworth green plaque on the Furzedown Project building to recognise Dr Levinson's outstanding contribution to the local community

Mark Bery

THE CALL OF THE WATER - TOOTING BEC LIDO *(Photo MB)*

On Saturday 27 January at 11am all were invited to listen to the Shades of Blue Choir saluting the re-opening of the lido. A large crowd gathered on a sunny day for this brilliant event *(below)*.

The renovated lido is again open to the public for all swimmers and visitors to enjoy sessions in beautiful surroundings. Check their website for opening details and events. Congratulations to all organisers and volunteers who have made this possible.

JH

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

WALLY GROVES, STREATHAM ARTIST

By January 1920, the United Kingdom was beginning to move beyond the horrors of World War 1 and the Spanish Flu. Most women had given up the jobs they successfully filled during the War to the men who had made it back. Those women returned to 'domestic duties' and 8.4 million of them aged 30 and over at last received the vote.

On 14th January 1920 at 59 Eastwood Street, Streatham, Edith Groves gave birth to her third child and first son, Walter (Wally) Alfred Groves, named after his father, Walter. This is the story of Wally's (my lovely Dad) Streatham from 1920 - 1986.

Edith and Walter had two daughters: Joyce (born 1911) and Marjorie (born 1913). Walter Senior volunteered in World War 1 shortly after the birth of Marjorie at 59 Eastwood Street. Like many young mothers, Edith was left to take care of the girls until the end of the War.

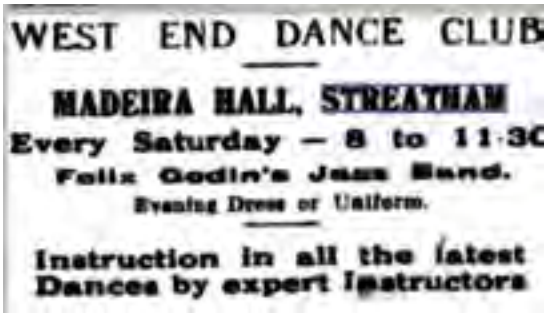
59 Eastwood Street

Houses in Eastwood Street were constructed between 1900 and 1929. Because no. 59 appears on the 1911 Census, but not on the 1901 Census, it was most likely built between 1901-1911. The original houses were split into lower and upper flats.

The Groves family are recorded on the 1921 Census: Walter (35), Edith (33), Joyce (9), Marjorie (7) and Walter Alfred (1) living in two rooms. Walter's occupation is listed as a general labourer at a motor garage, the District Car Co., Station Approach, Streatham.

Apart from the eventful arrival of Wally, the Streatham area witnessed many post-war changes. In March 1920, two airfields, created during World War 1 to serve aerial defences against German Zeppelin raids, were combined to create London's first international airport, Croydon Airport, also known simply as London Airport. This would serve as London's sole international airport until the post-World War 11 era.

It was not all just commercial progress. On the very date Wally was born, the *Croydon Times* advertised that the people of Streatham had the opportunity to dance every Saturday night to Felix Godin's Jazz Band at the Madeira Hall and even take dance lessons if necessary.


WEST END DANCE CLUB

MADEIRA HALL, STREATHAM

Every Saturday — 8 to 11·30

Felix Godin's Jazz Band.

Evening Dress or Uniform.

Instruction in all the latest Dances by expert Instructors

Croydon Times Wednesday 14 January, 1920

Wally was baptised at St. James' Church, Mitcham Lane, on 14th March 1920. In 1925 he was enrolled at Mitcham Lane School (now Penwortham Primary School) located on the corner of Welham Road and Penwortham Road. He did not get into too many scrapes, adored his Mum, obeyed his very strict Dad, and in 1927 his brother Derek was born.

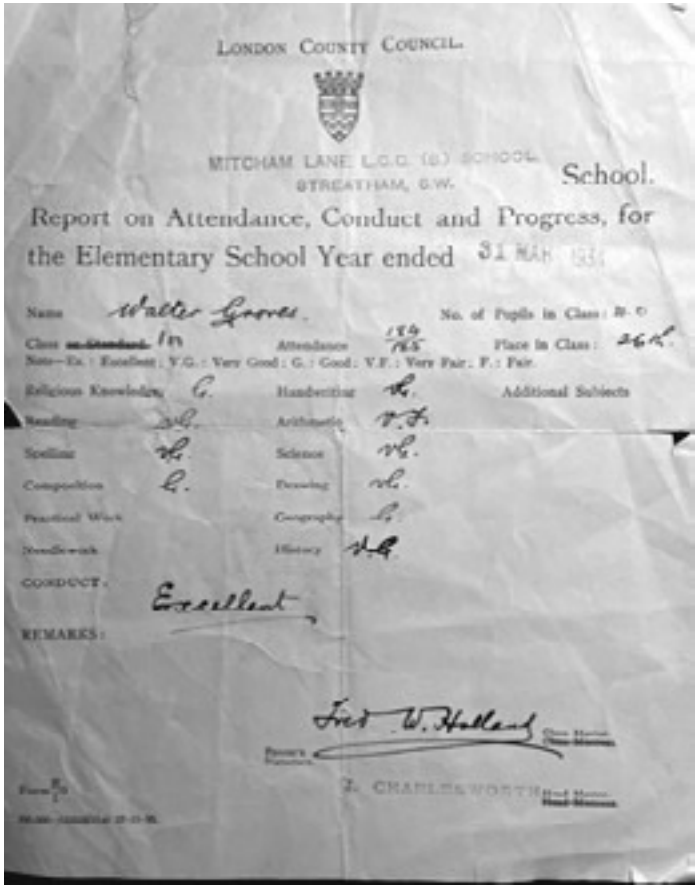
Like many working-class families in 1930s London, the Groves family took day trips to south coast resorts in place of longer holidays. One type of holiday postcard is the street scene or 'walking picture' snapped by a photographer as people strolled around a seaside resort.

These photographs were called 'walkies' in the trade. There are several of these candid shots of the Groves family mostly taken in Bognor Regis. Far from the casual beachwear of the past fifty or so years, it was a special occasion to go away, even for the day, and most people, including the Groves Family, dressed to respect that.

L-R: Derek, Edith, Marjorie, Walter Snr and Wally, Bognor Regis circa 1934

Wally left Mitcham Lane School in 1934 at the age of 14. His last report showed V.G. (Very Good) marks in

his-



LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

MITCHAM LANE L.C.C. (E.) SCHOOL,
STREATHAM, S.W. School.

Report on Attendance, Conduct and Progress, for the Elementary School Year ended 31 MAR 1934

Name Walter Groves. No. of Pupils in Class: 50

Class ~~Standard~~ 1B Attendance 184 / 185 Place in Class: 26th.

Note—Ex.: Excellent; V.G.: Very Good; G.: Good; V.F.: Very Fair; F.: Fair.

Religious Knowledge	G.	Handwriting	G.	Additional Subjects
Reading	G.	Arithmetic	V.F.	
Spelling	G.	Science	V.G.	
Composition	G.	Drawing	V.G.	
Practical Work		Geography	G.	
Needlework		History	V.G.	

CONDUCT: Excellent

REMARKS:

Fred W. Holland
Parent's Signature

J. CHARLESWORTH Head Master

Form E.10
1

31 March 1934, Report Card for Walter Groves

tory, writing, and spelling, but a V.F. (Very Fair) mark in arithmetic does not reflect his later ability to solve complex mental arithmetic problems.

Due to recent technological advantages, mental arithmetic is a skill rarely developed, but in the job Wally later held for most of his working life in the Post Office - it was essential.

Shortly after leaving school, Wally began training in technical drawing. In his spare time, he cycled and camped with a group of young men, including his good friend John Lanchbury, played football and tennis regularly, swam at Tooting Bec Lido in the summer and at Streatham Baths in the winter, and went to the pictures.

Wally was also a keen dancer and spent occasional evenings at the Locarno in

Streatham. The Locarno was opened in 1929 by the band leader Billy Cotton and became one of the most popular dance halls in south London. Wally's mum, Edith, used to enjoy sitting in the gallery during the Tea Dances held there.

c. 1934 Locarno dance hall, Streatham

Neither of them would be able to predict that forty years later not only would the Locarno still be going strong, but Wally's daughter, Sue, would also be dancing to a DJ spinning the likes of Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs and Desmond Dekker.

On the evening of 30th November 1936, Wally witnessed a historic event. A small fire which began after an explosion in the women's cloakroom of the Crystal Palace soon became a raging inferno.

Crystal Palace ablaze 1936

The 89 fire engines and 400 firefighters who attended were unable to quench the fire which spread quickly because of the high winds, the dry, old timber flooring, and the number of flammable materials in the building. Apparently, the glow was visible across eight counties. Wally had a perfect view as he "shinnied up a lamppost" and watched it all happen, despite a policeman's attempts to get him down.

On 3rd September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany and life changed in ways none of the residents of Streatham nor the rest of the country could imagine. Unlike World War 1 when, despite some airship and aircraft bombing, most of the fighting and loss was in Europe, the impact of World War 11 was felt both at home and overseas.

The 1939 England Register was taken on 29th September 1939. The information was used to produce identity cards and, once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the Register was also used to ad-

Wally circa 1942

minister conscription and the direction of labour, and to monitor and control the movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and mass evacuation.

The 1939 Register listed Edith, Walter, Wally, and Derek still living at 59 Eastwood Street. At that time Joyce and Marjorie were both married and living away from home, although Marjorie moved just round the corner to 5 Credenhill Street. Wally's occupation is recorded as being involved with submarine engineering.

By July 1940 Wally was serving in the Fleet Air Arm training as an Air Mechanic at HMS Pembroke, a Royal Naval shore base at Chatham. He served at several other shore bases including HMS Jackdaw in Crail, HMS Merlin in Fife, and HMS Landrail in Argyll and Bute. By this time Wally was assigned permanently to the 822nd Naval Air Squadron and between July 1942 and July 1943 sailed with HMS Furious, an aircraft carrier which was mostly used to ferry planes to places like Gibraltar. However, in November 1942 HMS Furious took part in *Operation Torch,* an allied invasion of North Africa. For the last two years of the war, Wally was stationed with the 822nd Naval Air Squadron in Kerala, India and Kalutara, Sri Lanka. When he was finally demobbed on 27th November 1946 Wally had reached the rank of acting Petty Officer Air Mechanic.

Wally never talked about his war service to his family except to comment that whenever he was on leave it irritated him that people always asked him when he had to go back. Apparently, his father, Walter Snr "never stopped going on" about his World War 1 service and Wally was determined not to do the same. He played down the six years the war took from his youth with comments like "It's what we all had to do".

After demob, Wally returned home to 59 Eastwood Street where his parents and younger brother Derek, now aged 19, were all still living. Derek had joined a badminton club where he made friends with a young woman called Doris Purdie who lived in Cowick Road, Tooting. After asking Doris if she knew of any young women who might be interested in going out with his big brother, a blind

date was arranged between Wally and Doris's sister, Peggy (aged 19).

On 16th August 1947 Wally and Peggy were married at All Saints' Church, Tooting. After their honeymoon, spent in the seaside village of Beer in Devon, Wally and Peggy went to live at 59 Eastwood Street with Walter Snr and Derek. Sadly, Edith had died a couple of months before the wedding, aged 59.

Wally and Peggy, Wedding Day 16th August 1947

Wally was very close to his mother and nursed her in the last months of her life. Having spent so much time away from home, and wanting to make up for that loss, it was a particularly big blow for Wally that his mother died so soon after his return home.

Using his demobilization grant Wally trained as a Dental Mechanic, but it was not steady work. When Peggy became pregnant in 1952, he joined the Post Office as a postman sorter, knowing that a civil service job would provide reliable employment, sick leave, and a pension. He worked for the Post Office until he retired, working his way up to being counter clerk and eventually a manager. At his retirement Wally was the manager of a large post office in Lavender Hill, Battersea. He cycled to work in all weathers.

Wally and Peggy lived at 59 Eastwood Street until early 1953 when they moved to 23 Tunley Road, Balham, a rental property, which they shared with Peggy's parents, Fred and Nell Purdie. In March 1953 their only child, Susan Ellen (Sue) was born.

In 1961 the Groves and Purdie family collaborated on the purchase of a house at 105 Nimrod Road, Streatham, where they lived for almost 15 years. Purchasing a house was a serious commitment. Like most working-class people in south London, Wally and Peggy had lived in rented accommodation all their lives and taking on a mortgage was a heavy responsibility for them.

Sue attended Penwortham Junior School formerly Mitcham Lane School where Wally had been a pupil. At the annual Penwortham School fete, Wally was the 'master' of the games.

He created many fundraising games built from pegboard and odd pieces of wood as well as discarded displays from a shoe shop. This included an elaborate three-

Sue outside 105 Nimrod Road 1963

dimensional head and shoulders of Cleopatra, which he attached at the top of a pegboard on a stand. The pegboard was meticulously filled with raffle tickets, some of which corresponded to winning prizes. 'Cleopatra' became so popular that 'she' was loaned out to other school fêtes and after Susan left Penwortham, Wally donated 'her' to the school for future use.

Wally was keen to make up for his lack of education and Penwortham Evening School provided the answer. He was not alone in his desire to make up for lost opportunities. The evening classes held at Penwortham throughout the 1960s were immensely popular.

Because of the six years during the war he spent working on plane engines, Wally started with motor mechanics, but soon decided that he wanted to broaden his education by learning German, followed by French. Finally, he felt that his early interest in technical drawing might be adapted to landscape painting and after taking several night courses this became his great hobby, and eventually a source of income.

Wally on the stairs at 76 Strathbrook 1982

Streatham in the 1960s was much like other London suburbs, reacting to 'Swinging London' with a little reserve.

The Groves/Purdie family mainly shopped locally in Moyser Road: the Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society on the corner of Nimrod Road and Moyser Road provided most of their grocery needs and on the other side was Bradbury's Chemist, a bakery with on-site baking, a newsagent, and on the corner of

The Rookery by Wally Groves circa 1982

Ribblesdale Road and Moyser Road a haberdashery. Beyond, on the corner of Pendle Road and Moyser Road there was a fish and chip shop run by a kind Cypriot family.

Through his 50s and 60s Wally continued to be an avid swimmer especially at Tooting Bec Lido and swam in all temperatures. He taught Sue to swim and fostered her life-long pleasure of swimming, also in sometimes undesirable temperatures,

In 1976, the Groves/Purdie family moved to 76 Strathbrook Road, just beyond the border of Streatham in Norbury. The proximity of Streatham Common and particularly the Rookery was a great pleasure for Wally and a handy venue for the sale of his paintings. He joined the Streatham Vale Artists who exhibited their works on the railings of the Rookery. Wally's landscapes sold well and regular visitors to the exhibitions requested his work. He was shrewd about his art, quickly understood what sold well and was known to replicate popular local scenes. After he and Peggy began annual visits to Sue who now lived in Ontario, Wally extended his catalogue to include scenes of Georgian Bay.

Peggy died in 1986 at the age of 59, and once again Wally lovingly nursed the most important woman in his life. After Peggy died, Wally sold 76 Strathbrook and moved briefly to Worthing where he replaced the time he had previously spent painting on lawn bowling.

Wally was a very accomplished bowler and won numerous tournaments. He spent four months every summer in Toronto with Sue and her family, and in 1990 when he was 70 years old emigrated to be close to them. He lived until his 86th year enjoying his two grandchildren, winning more bowling trophies, and occasionally painting a landscape requested by Sue. At his memorial, his family and friends sang his favourite song "When You're Smiling (The Whole World Smiles with You)".

Footnote

My dad was such a lovely man and I could have gone on and on about his personality - had to restrain myself. I'm sure you would have liked him. Everyone did. When he came to Canada shortly after my mum's death he made such an effort to build a new life.

He worshipped my mum, was devastated when she died and he was the best dad to me and Grandad (Dan Dan) to my now 35 and 32 year old kids. We all miss him (and of course my mum) very much. As you can see from the Strathbrook Road pic he had a big smile (and heart) and it was never far from his face. He would have loved that the Streatham Society knew about him but would have probably said "You did go on a bit, Sue".

As for me - not important but you asked - I came to Canada in 1974 when I was 21 for a lark. I at first stayed with my uncle Derek (mentioned in the piece) who emigrated with his wife (who also grew up in Eastwood Street or it may have been Credenhill) and their two children. I soon set up on my own and got work quickly. I never intended to stay in Canada. I was just there for fun but I had some good jobs that maybe at that time in London I wouldn't have got. After five years and still only 26 I decided to wrap up my commitments (a credit card that needed paying off, which Dad offered to pay for me) and go home.

It was then that I met my now husband of almost 43 years - ironically in a faux English pub in London, Ontario! The rest is as they say history. My husband is Toronto born and bred as are my kids but they are all very familiar with London and the south coast after very many visits.

I have visited England every year since 1974 and in the last year of my mum's life I came over every couple of months, sometimes for just a long weekend. Since my retirement i have visited at least twice a year. Doris, my mum's sister also mentioned in the piece, is now 94 and very dear to me. Canada has been very good to me but there is a part of me that is marked indelibly with England and especially with Streatham.

Sue Wright

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE BELMONT BOWLING CLUB

Belmont House

Just past Streatham Hill Station, along Streatham High Road, behind Tesco, is Broadlands Avenue. Hidden from public view, you will find the oasis that is Belmont Bowling Club. Here you can learn to play bowls (including the old fashioned etiquette of the game) and if you peek inside the gate and look across the picturesque green, you will hear shouts of "good line", "well played" and gentle applause. It's hard to believe that you are only a 100 yards from the A23 (Streatham High Road) with all the shops, restaurants and traffic jams. Instead, you feel like you are in the heart of the Surrey countryside, which is just where it all started!

"Russettings" was the original name of the house on the site of the bowling club. Built around 1829, it later became known as "Belmont House". After the death of Elizabeth Butterworth, Belmont House with its large gardens must have seemed ideal for a tennis and bowling club. Mr Arthur Walton (one of the founder members of the Bowling club) said "after having outgrown the accommodation at the old Woodfield club", the new site was leased.

At the beginning of the 19th century bowls was played in public houses and teams regularly visited other local teams for a game. (The Sun Inn is thought to be the oldest pub bowling green in London.) It is not known why the game moved from pubs to clubs but as early as 1879 bowling had taken place behind the Horse and Groom pub in Streatham High Road. Many of Belmont's founding members (known then as the Woodfield Bowling and Tennis Club) came from the Horse and Groom and the Crown and Sceptre in Streatham Hill, bringing with them the experience of the game and ability to organise local matches.

First Jack Thrown by Mrs Arthur Walton

"The Belmont Bowling and Tennis Club Co. Ltd" was registered on 25 February 1911. The gardens at the rear of the site were transformed into a bowling green, the Tennis club using the tennis courts already on site.

The official opening day of the club was 13 May 1911. Mrs Arthur Walton was asked to deliver the first jack, which is in the club archive. The club attracted many renowned bowlers, local dignitaries and businessmen to its membership, this included three Mayors of Wandsworth.

The Surrey County Bowling Association was formed that year. Their first formal meeting in April took place at The Falcon public house in Battersea. Mr Richard Lang-Sims (one of the founding members of the club) chaired the meeting and the club's honorary secretary played a role in forming the rules and constitution of the Surrey County Bowling Association. Of course the club became affiliated to the Association and took part in the first competitions.

Although the club was originally in Surrey, Streatham transitioned from a rural Surrey parish to a metropolitan suburb of London. In 1855 it became part of the borough of Wandsworth. But later in 1965 it became part of Lambeth.

WOODFIELD

BOWLING & TENNIS CLUB

HAS

OPENED THE SEASON

Gentlemen desirous of becoming Members of this old-established Club will receive all particulars by applying to the

Hon. Secretary,

Horse & Groom Hotel,

Streatham.

Poster Woodfield Bowling & Tennis Club

The year after the club opened in 1912 the first Surrey Competitions were held and Arthur F Warner put the club on the map by reaching the finals of the first Surrey singles Competition.

In 1913 after just two seasons, the club had the largest membership of any suburban club (around 220). In July one of the honours bestowed on the club was when it staged the finals of the England Bowling Association Competitions. Also in that year an Extraordinary General Meeting was held by the club to consider the legal notice to give up possession of the Belmont House. Newspaper cuttings in 1914 reported that Richard Lang-Sims had told

members that the club "would have to give up possession of the existing club house on 20 May". A wooden pavilion was then erected for the club's use, but demolished in 1960 when the current club house was built.

In 1928 the tennis club moved to new premises (although I haven't been able to locate where!) and in 1929 the Articles of the Company were altered and the club was renamed The Belmont (Streatham) Club Ltd.

The minute books in the club's archive, record that at the AGM on 11 May 1983 Mr Reid proposed, and was seconded by Mr Brenner, "That Ladies be allowed to play on the Green". After eloquent speeches, the vote was taken, and recorded as 36 against and 14 for. However, the club finally saw the inauguration of the Belmont Ladies Bowling Club in 1985, which immediately became affiliated to the Surrey Women's Bowling Association. Although Mrs Walton was the first person to step onto the green and throw the first official "jack" there is no question the ladies supported the club in many other ways until they were officially entitled to join.

From 1911 until the present day there are many members of Belmont Bowling club who reached the honours board (pop into the club sometime and take a look), but many more never attained such glory. But their commitment and support to the club and to bowling cannot be called into question. Many behind the scenes members have kept the club running and ensured its success by taking on the roles of treasurer, green keeper, barperson or simply made the tea and supported the club with great enthusiasm.

Belmont Bowling Club today

For more information contact Belmonthonsec@outlook.com

Freda Graham

Note: Our members' 50th Celebration event will be held at this lovely venue.

WILLIAM STRUDWICK, EARLY LAMBETH PHOTOGRAPHER

The Strudwick photographs on display at the new Lambeth Archives official opening have a wide Lambeth connection, including links to our area and Streatham Society members. The following articles describe Strudwick's work and the project initiated by the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society (SLAS). SLAS was formed in 1965 when many archaeological sites were under threat from developers. Its aim was to organise volunteer diggers to deal with material already excavated and take on new. Early members developed a life-long interest in archaeology. SLAS is a member of the LLHF.

SLAS members involved in the Strudwick project were: Jim Cox (AE tutor), Roy Edwards, Brian Bloice (AE tutor, later Streatham Society chairman), George Young (current SLAS and retired FoWNC treasurer, Streatham Society member), Richard Buchanan (current SLAS secretary) and Graham Dawson (current SLAS chairman). **JH**

WILLIAM STRUDWICK

As a single man now enjoying my 7th decade, I normally spend the 29th of February confined to my house as 2024, being a leap year, holds the now increasingly small possibility that I may be trapped into wedlock. However, I broke my life-time habit of hibernation on this date to attended the official opening of Lambeth Archives and came home greatly impressed by what I had seen, if not a little disappointed that no lady present took advantage of the opportunity to propose marriage to me.

I was particularly impressed to view the visitors room at the Archives on the walls of which was a wonderful collection of some of the photographs taken by William Strudwick, a talented and once little-known Victorian photographer, which were donated to Lambeth by Charles Woolley in 1913.

For many years Strudwick's pictures of Victorian London appeared in various books, mainly unattributed, and if credited at all, often to an "unknown photographer". However, this was to change in the early 1980s as a result of research undertaken by members of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society including Jim Cox, Roy Edwards, Brian Bloice, and George Young. Brian later became a member of the Streatham Society, eventually becoming Chairman.

George Young tells how, in 1979, SLAS was half way through their dig (1977-1981) at the Vauxhall Pottery site on the Albert Embankment, next to Vauxhall Bridge. As part of their research into the area they discovered the 1862 plan for the proposed embankment in a book on the shelves in the storekeeper's office. It plotted the route of the proposed Albert Embankment and the destruction of the village of Old Lambeth. The planned new road would destroy the Vauxhall pottery. The owner, Alfred Singer, decided to close the pottery in 1865. The real Albert Embankment was the retaining wall running from Westminster Bridge to

Lambeth Riverfront showing Doulton's Drainpipe Wharf, Lambeth Bridge (left) and Diamond Hall, the former home of the Bishop of Bedford (the dark building next to Doulton's,). (Lambeth Archives)

a couple of hundred metres from Vauxhall Bridge. The importance of this plan was that of the Vauxhall Pottery site of the circular Victorian bottle kilns.

The detailed plan of the properties showing their numbering was stored in the GLC Record Office and so was the accompanying book listing the numbers showing the land owners' names, addresses and the business using the properties. Armed with the plan and detailed maps SLAS members were able to pinpoint exactly where Strudwick set up his camera to take his pictures of the riverfront and were able to identify the buildings featured in them.

George recalls how at that time no one seemed to have heard of William Strudwick, or fully recognised the importance of the archive of photographs he produced. As a consequence of this neglect SLAS decided to research Strudwick's life and compile a list of his photographs which were held in various archives, museums and libraries, including the GLC Record Office and the library in the V&A Museum.

This research resulted in Jim Cox and Brian Bloice preparing detailed lectures on Strudwick and his photographs which formed a popular talk for their local history classes at the South Bank Evening Institute which later merged with Morley College. Brian attempted to build a picture of Strudwick's life to which George contributed. An article in the magazine of the London Topographical Society in the 1990s really opened this up.

I remember attending SLAS workshops at which Graham Gibberd used the techniques SLAS developed to identify the position of a photographer from the pictures they took which invariably proved to be correct by taking a modern photograph from the same spot and comparing the old and modern images by means of two slide projectors.

George wrote an excellent brief biography of Strudwick which was published by

Fore Street and Lambeth River Front

the Herne Hill Society in ther book *Herne Hill Personalities*, part of which is reproduced below:

'William Strudwick was born at 61 Edgware Road, Paddington, the son of John Duffell Strudwick (1789-1840), a cabinet maker. The first evidence of his interest in photography was pre-1860, when he published a booklet entitled *Art of Photographic Etching*, which later ran to three editions. Photographic etching is another term for 'wet-plate' photography. At the time of the 1861 census Strudwick was described as a photographic storekeeper, living with his mother at 2 Bolton Terrace. The site is now Ambergate Street, off Penton Place, Walworth.

'In the 1860s Strudwick started photographing London street scenes, especially recording buildings about to be demolished. His practice was to stop at a road junction, point his camera along each street and take a photograph. Invariably the people living there would come out to be included in the picture, making the photos all the more interesting.

At the end of the 19thC, he reminisced: "I gave a good deal of time to taking photographs in the streets of London... The picturesque character of some parts of London (there are not so many now) had long been present to my mind. I found a good number of subjects in old Lambeth between Westminster and Vauxhall... I made a large number of pictures... the negatives (12x10) of which I still have, but they have been little seen. In this work I was assisted very much by a large dark tent or house on wheels (a home-made one). It had a boarded floor, carried all the working plant, and was large enough for me to stand upright in, with ample elbow room... This tent was drawn by a man, and on arriving at a given point, I could have a plate ready in ten minutes."

'In 1867 his photographs taken prior to the construction of the Albert Embankment were sold to the Metropolitan Board of Works, the predecessor of the LCC; and in 1874 he was commissioned by them to photograph the pre-construction scenes of the Chelsea Embankment. In 1868-69 the Victoria & Albert Museum bought many of his prints, including those of the Lambeth riverside and views of Westminster and the City of London.

'In 1868, at the parish church of St Mary, Newington, Strudwick married Julia Batchelor, daughter of George Batchelor, proprietor of a chemist shop at 187 Newington Butts (then 24 High Street, Newington). The couple moved to 68 Thurlow Park Road SE21 (then 4 Albany Villas).

'In the 1860s and 1870s Strudwick produced some very skilful drawings and paintings which he exhibited and sold at various London galleries. At this time, he tended to describe himself as an artist or draughtsman rather than a photographer. He appears to have lost interest in outdoor photography by the 1880s; and the photographic studio he ran in Queen Victoria Street in 1882 was a financial failure. In 1891 he moved to a smaller house at 44 Kestrel Avenue SE24, taking in boarders to make ends meet. These were hard times for Strudwick. In 1902 he moved again to 193 Portland Road, South Norwood. His wife died in 1906 and he moved finally to Frant Road, Thornton Heath.

'The combination of chronic bronchitis and a heart attack contributed to his death on 18 July 1910 at the Croydon Workhouse Infirmary, followed by a pauper's funeral. After his death, Strudwick's collection of prints and negatives were deposited at Croydon Town Hall. In 1913, 79 negatives were acquired by Charles Woolley, who offered them, together with a collection of his own antiquarian prints and Lambeth pottery, to Lambeth Council for a proposed Lambeth Museum. This never materialised and the collection was stored at the Lambeth Archives in the Minet Library."

In 1895 Strudwick wrote an account 'Photography in the Sixties' which was published in *The Process Yearbook 1896* by Penrose & Co. George mentions this article in his biography and it detailed some of the problems associated with taking photographs in the 1860s and the dangers involved.

Strudwick writes: 'I was engaged at a large warehouse in Queen Victoria Street, City, and had to make a dark room of a cupboard under the stairs - it was a receptacle for waste paper and other odds and ends - there was none too much room, and I found it necessary to work in a kneeling position. I had just coated a 12x10 plate with collodion, when suddenly I was startled with a sheet of flame burning in front of my face, the vapour of the collodion had come too near the candle, and the whole plate was ablaze à la snapdragon. Fortunately, I kept hold of the plate, and with vigorous blowing I put out the flame. I felt a little hot myself also, and when I had cooled down a bit, I started a fresh plate.'

There is a nice collection of 38 Strudwick photographs in Jill Dudman's book *Lambeth, Kennington and Clapham* in the Britain in Old Photographs series

Brixton Windmill
Painting by Strudwick

published in 1996 by Sutton Publishing in association with Lambeth Archives. Jill has given talks on Strudwick and is Secretary of the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery, where Strudwick's mother and his wife's parents are buried.

Thanks to research undertaken at the London Metropolitan Archives by Tony Fletcher I have a collection of copies of some of Strudwick's photographs in my archive which Tony kindly gave me some years ago. I also have copies of some of the research undertaken by Brian Bloice and George Young.

Today, Strudwick's photographs often appear in picture books on Victorian London where, fortunately, William is now credited as being the photographer. I note the bicentenary of Strudwick's birth occurs in 2034, and dare I suggest that in the intervening ten years a book featuring all of his known photographs should be compiled to commemorate the event. There I have dared, but fear it is a task for a younger person to undertake than I. However, should any one be interested in such a project I would be delighted to provide whatever assistance I can to help draw attention to Strudwick's work and promote the marvellous archive of such wonderful images he has left us.

John W Brown

WILLIAM STRUDWICK – THE PROJECT

SLAS dug the Vauxhall Pottery 1977-1981. Roy Edwards was director, ably assisted by Richard Buchanan. The site next to Vauxhall Bridge is now occupied by the M16 building. The dig took place at weekends; the finds and tools were stored at a brick railway arch, off the Albert Embankment. Brian Bloice offered to take photos for Roy, but he and Richard were able photographers.

Brian had taken photos for Graham Dawson at Montague Close, adjacent to Southwark Cathedral. He needed another project. About 1978 Jim Cox teamed up with Brian to give regular Local History lectures at the South Bank Evening Institute. Brian started taking slides (thousands of them!), one for himself and one for Jim. At first they put together similar talks. Brian gave evening lectures and I think Jim gave day lectures. The South Bank Institute was merged into Morley College about 1982 or thereabout.

I worked at County Hall on the South Bank, adjacent to Westminster Bridge (now a leisure and hotel complex) and had access to the Members' and ILEA libraries and the records room in the basement. I occasionally visited the GLC Record Office. The Members' Library and GLC Record Office were merged into the London Metropolitan Archives after 1986 when the GLC was abolished.

In 1979, in the basement records room, I discovered a book about the works of the Metropolitan Board of Works, with a map of the proposed Albert Embankment, dated in the early 1860s. The map included a plan of the (Victorian) Vauxhall Pottery showing the number and position of all the kilns (at this time Roy was excavating the kilns). I photocopied the map and gave it to Roy.

The map also included the whole of Lambeth's riverside village. When Jim saw the map he was very interested and discussed it with Brian then later with Roy and me. He thought we could work out the exact locations of all the potteries in Lambeth. The names included Henry Doulton, James Stiff, Thomas Smith and Henry Millichamp. Roy tried to do some research but didn't have the time.

I went to the GLC Record Office and looked at the various plans of the Albert Embankment and the one important one came to light which plotted all the businesses to be purchased by the MBW (they were numbered) and the accompanying book stating the addresses and names of land oowners and occupying businesses. From these we could find the Lambeth Potteries.

Jim brought photocopies of the photos from Lambeth Archives, photos we now know as those by William Strudwick. He tried to locate the sites of the potteries at first, then later the locations of where the photos were taken. This eventually became a team project that included Brian, Roy and me. Each week Jim would come to the SLAS workshop and announce that he had another Strudwick photo on the map. The project took many months.

It was soon obvious that the project could result in a slide show. This involved copying the Strudwick collection at Lambeth Archives. We needed the copystand and lamp at SLAS, then at Westminster Bridge Road in the mezzanine room between ground and first floor.

Roy was far too busy to do it and Brian didn't drive. At that time I drove a VW Beetle (dark green, 1972-1983) so I collected the stand and lamp one Monday evening and, with Jim, had a day (Tuesday 26 August 1980) at Lambeth Archives. I took four slides of every Strudwick print (for Jim, Roy, Brian, and me). I also took monochrome photos (negatives).

From then on it was just Jim and Brian. Jim spent a Friday evening explaining each print to Brian. Eventually they both had lectures to give. In the next couple of years Brian tweaked the talk, enlarging the details and adding other information. After a couple of years he became extremely knowledgeable about Strudwick and his photos.

George Young

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

RECENT MEETINGS

Heritage without a House: Remembering Hester Piozzi's Streatham

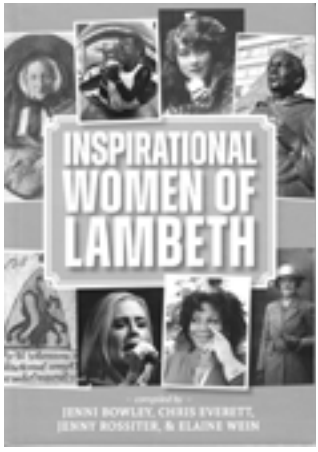
Dr Cassie Ulph spoke to an audience of over 70 on February 6th. She included Hester Thrale's experiences as hostess to the intellectual circle that gathered at her home around such luminaries as Dr Samual Johnson and the Burneys.

Also explored were her continuing relationship with Streatham Park after the death of Henry Thrale and her marriage to Italian musician Gabriel Piozzi, from the practicalities of maintaining the building, to the establishment of the second Streatham set, then how the social and intellectual life of Streatham Park lived on in her memory long after she finally left.

Included was an update and findings so far of the research project with Dr Fennely which is looking at evidence of the house that once graced the area and fronted Tooting Bec Common.

Inspirational Women of Lambeth

Chris Everett's talk on March 5th introduced this recent publication, featured in our last issue. Chris is one of four people who researched and compiled the book.



Despite yet more heavy rain 65 people were treated to this very professional presentation.

The book celebrates the achievements of women who lived, studied, worked or were buried in Lambeth. Chris brought copies to sell - all quickly sold out.

It is on sale at local bookshops including those at Herne Hill and Clapham.

Tracks to my Grandfather's Success - The life work and music of Johnny Douglas

On April 2nd Louise Camby told us about her grandfather, Johnny Douglas, former Streatham resident and acclaimed composer and conductor. He is probably best known for his score for the 1970 film *The Railway Children*. It was a wonderful talk. It was also lovely to meet Norma, her mother, who was married at St Leonard's Church in September 1966.

MB/JH

Louise Camby with her mother, Norma, preparing for her talk
(Photo MB)

EVENTS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help at events, including the Lambeth History Fair (Lambeth Heritage Festival) on Saturday 7th September which we will be hosting at St Leonard's Church. Please contact Mark Bery, our secretary, in advance if you are able to help. (*Contact details back page.)*

MEMBERSHIP 2024

New members: We welcome Robert Phillips, Sarah Cole & Keith Lewis, Sue Sharrock, Adam Stobbs & Clare Fullard, Nicky Catto, Susan Pettit, Eileen Turner, Jane Jarvis, Teresa Israel, Hazel Armstrong.

Subscription renewals for 2024: These should have been paid before March 31st 2024 to ensure the continued delivery of our newsletter and emails.

Subscriptions: Individual £10; Household £15 (two named adults); Life membership (single or named couple) £180. These can be paid by bank transfer (BACS), standing order, cheque or cash at meetings or posted to me. See our website or contact me for further details.

To confirm payment and activate registration, please include your name, method of payment, the amount and destination (subscription, donation or publication) and email confirmation to me. All payments are acknowledged by email.

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)*.

Judy Harris, Membership Secretary

GRAHAM GOWER 1942-2024

Marion & Graham Gower, October 2014

We regret to report the sad death of Graham Gower in March 2024.

Our last *Streatham Society News (255)* included Graham's final article on Streatham artists. It also celebrated his 45 years as a very active member of the Streatham Society.

A keen local historian since childhood, Graham later researched and published many books and articles on Streatham's fascinating past.

After he received the newsletter in mid-February he texted a short message of thanks. I replied it was well-deserved. Three weeks later he died. I hope, as an old friend and only two years younger, I will not be judged insensitive to remark "That's the way to go!" - doing what he loved best to the end.

The photograph of Graham and Marion above was taken almost ten years ago in October 2014 at a special occasion. Marion photographed all the guests for a presentation album.

We send our sympathy to Marion and their family. Graham will be greatly missed. **JH**

GRAHAM GOWER

I was very sad to hear that Graham had passed away. I have known Graham, Marion and their two boys, Matthew and Russell, for a good number of years. Graham was a very knowledgeable chap with a sense of humour. He once suggested that I might have collected the old milestone that was at the bottom of the Common in the 17th Century for the proposed Streatham Local History Museum collection. *(Colin has long been an avid collector of Streatham's memorabilia.)*

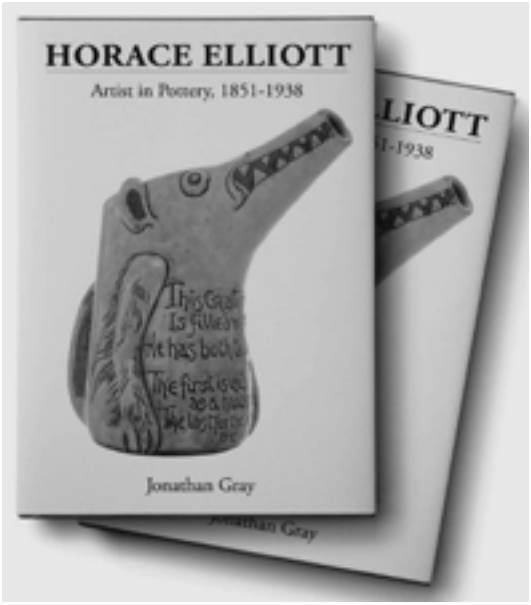
Graham was a great help to me in identifying bits of pottery that I had unearthed from time to time. But I feel his legacy will be the books that he wrote as they were very good and spelt out our history very clearly. I for one will miss him as I am sure many more people will.

Thank you, Graham. **Colin Crocker**

NEW PUBLICATIONS

HORACE ELLIOTT

Horace Elliott, a London-based designer, worked in ceramics, wood/bamboo and metal between 1880-1934.



He started selling ceramics near the British Museum in 1880, and opened his own retail premises in Bayswater/ Knightsbridge, moving to Chelsea (1898) and then Streatham (c1905), where he was based until 1934.

Horace exhibited widely, including three Arts & Crafts Exhibition Society events (1889, 1890 and 1893), the Imperial Institute, London and 'Araby', Dublin (both 1894).

Horace didn't own a factory – instead he worked with a dozen or so potters to make his wares – including various workshops at Ewenny, Denby (which also made his moulds), Brannam and four factories in Westerwald, Germany.

Elliott sold metal wares to Mrs. Beale of Standen, supplied redware Tobacco Jars to Alfred Dunhill for use in his St. James's shop and stoneware brush-pots to Lord Baden-Powell. Horace was a self-styled ecclesiastical potter, and spiritualist, and was guided by his guardian angel when making some designs. He registered 34 between 1886-1906.

This book brings together his life and work and establishes him as an important member of the British Arts & Crafts movement, certainly during the 1890s when he was at his creative height.

Hardback, 440 pages, over 480 illustrations. Launch price £40, £9 postage in UK.

Order online: www.horaceelliott.com

Jonathan Gray

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