



# STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 226 Autumn 2016

---



**The Dyce Fountain Restored** (*See p.3*)  
(*Photos Marion Gower*)

---

## STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

---

### **MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

(See p.33)

**Monday 5th December**

### **RECENT LOCAL HISTORY**

**DISCOVERIES** Various speakers

**Monday 2nd January**

### **THE MURDER AT THE PRIORY?**

**Charles Bravo's death in April 1876**

Talk, Helen Long

**Monday 16th January**

### **HERALDRY IN STREATHAM AND SOUTH LONDON**

Talk, Christopher Mann

**Monday 6th February**

### **THE CRYSTAL PALACE**

**DINOSAURS - Their history  
and conservation**

Talk, Professor Joe Cain

**Monday 20th February**

### **150 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY - The South London Press**

Talk, Hannah Walker

**Monday 6th March**

### **SECRET UNDERGROUND LONDON - Closed tube stations, bunkers and catacombs**

Talk, Nick Catford

**Monday 20th March**

*Meetings are at The Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road SW16 2PJ,  
unless otherwise stated. Visitors welcome, but £1 contribution requested.*

---

## CONTENTS

---

### **Streatham News** p 3

Dyce Fountain; Heritage Month

### **Round and About** p 6

Birds of Prey; Love Board; Sid's

Plaque; Cather Stone; Bus Art;

Members' Corner; Cinderella Stamps;

A Good Idea?

### **Local History Matters** p 17

Henry Smith; No.1 Drewstead Rd;

Henry Tate Tour; A £10 Pom;

Walter Hunt;

### **Streatham Society Reports** p 31

### **New Publications** p 34

River Effra

### **More Dates For Your Diary** p 35

### **Society Contacts** p 36

*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 with the editor's permission.*

---

## **STREATHAM NEWS**

---

### **THE DYCE FOUNTAIN IS RESTORED**



The Dyce fountain on Streatham Green was unveiled after its restoration on Thursday 28th July. An adjacent plaque gives the history of the fountain:

‘The Dyce Fountain was designed by William Dyce R.A. (1806-1864), who was a resident of Streatham and, as Churchwarden at St. Leonard’s Church from 1862 to 1864, designed its chancel. Dyce is remembered as one of the leading British artist-designers of his day and a pioneer of the pre-Raphaelite movement. His work can be seen in the Houses of Parliament and at Osborne House, Queen Victoria’s residence on the isle of Wight. The fountain is in the Gothic Revival style and is built of alternating bands of Portland stone and red sandstone, with mouldings in Portland stone and a marble basin. It was erected by public subscription in 1862 at a cost of £250 and dedicated in tribute to Dyce. It first stood at the junction of Mitcham Lane and Streatham High Road, but was moved to its present site in 1933 as a result of a road widening scheme.

Substantial repairs to the fountain were undertaken in 2015, which were made possible by financial and other support from Historic England, the Friends of Streatham Green, the Streatham Society and the London Borough of Lambeth. This restoration is dedicated to the memory of Brian John Bloice (1939-2015), a longstanding member of the Streatham Society and a passionate campaigner for the preservation and celebration of Streatham's rich heritage.'

The restored monument was unveiled by the Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr Saleha Jaffer, who is also councillor for the ward of St Leonard's, and Judy Harris, Brian Bloice's partner. Refreshments followed in the Manor Arms public house.

**JH**

## **LAMBETH HERITAGE MONTH - September 2016**



*Members of Lambeth Archives Staff and Lambeth Local History Forum at the Opening Event at Lambeth Palace on Thursday 1st September*

*(Photos Alan J Robertson)*

Lambeth's fourth Heritage Festival hosted an impressive 60+ events. Evolving from the popular Archives Day, which ran for several years, the Festival is organised by Lambeth Archives and the increasing number of members of the Lambeth Local History Forum. It opens up the history of Lambeth's people and places to local people and preserves our heritage.

Lambeth has a wealth of organisations, contributing hours of expertise. The Festival programme publicises their varied heritage events in September, encouraging more visitors. Judging from the increased attendance at those I visited, the total number of participants must be impressive. This is an important community event; long may it continue.

In addition to our Heritage programme, the Streatham Society again made a donation towards the opening event in the magnificent surroundings of the Lambeth Palace Library, which these photographs record.

Tribute was paid to our late chairman, Brian Bloice, who made an opening speech at last year's event, shortly before his death. **JH**

*Streatham Society  
Committee members  
Shea Richardson,  
Daphne Marchant and  
Janis Benson.  
Member Eileen  
Walkin looks at the  
display (right).*



---

## ROUND AND ABOUT

---

### BIRDS OF PREY



*Peter Newmark and Friend*  
(Photo Friends of Streatham Common)

The Friends of Streatham Common organised the wonderful display of Birds of Prey on the Common on Sunday 31st July. Randal, from Countrywide Falconry, gave a talk about the training and use of birds of prey and the audience was treated to flying demonstrations featuring a Harris hawk, a barn owl and a young eagle owl. Audience participation was part of the package with adult and child volunteers pulling on the leather falconers gauntlet and allowing the birds to take off from and land on their gloved arm. The birds are impressively big and come with sharp beaks and talons so some courage was required on the part of those who stepped up.

Randal talked the audience through the steps involved in training and handling a bird including the following:

Birds are removed from their mothers at around 14 weeks old. If they are taken earlier, they will ‘imprint’ on their keeper, meaning that they treat the keeper as their mother. While that process has long been used for comic effect in cartoons, it results in very noisy birds who call out incessantly and are very unwelcome neighbours.

They are typically removed at night so as to minimise stress to both the young bird and its parent. Flying birds wear leather straps, jesses, and we were shown the need for a swap of kit when a bird is being flown as the jesses they wear when they are tethered would very easily tangle in tree branches, trapping and injuring the bird.

Food is used as the reward for a bird obeying its handler and Randal advised that the handler must never break the trust the bird has that there will always be food for it if it obeys a command. The bird will learn very quickly not to bother to

return to the handler if the handler ever fails to supply the food reward. The Countrywide hawks patrol key sites and events in central London and Randal told a tale of a heartstopping moment of watching one of his birds travel off down Whitehall away from him on the top of a lorry. He did eventually deign to fly back.

As well as the birds used in the flying display, five other birds were displayed on the common including a Little Owl, and a Falcon, all of whom appeared very happy to receive the attention of the many visitors. Many thanks to all who were involved in this event.

**Yvonne Gurney**

## **LOVE BOARD**



Visitors to the Rookery on Streatham Common across the summer will surely have noticed the colourful and eye catching Love Board put together by a community group to get out the message that Streatham Stands Together in the wake of the outcome of the EU referendum. The Board consists of messages and pictures contributed by visitors, on colourful card and paper provided by the organisers and sends a strong message that Streatham does not wish to be divided.

The Streatham constituency was reported, during the 2011 Election, to be the most ethnically diverse constituency in the country and it delivered in the referendum the highest 'Remain' vote of any in the country, at 79.6% of votes cast.



(Photos JH)

The breakdown available shows that in some wards, the Remain vote exceeded 80% and no ward returned a vote less than 73% in favour of Remain.

The warm messages on view at the Love Board support that vote and certainly, whatever any individual view on the outcome of the referendum may be, a demonstration of a wish to deter negative or racist behaviour in such a diverse community can only be a good thing. There is no doubt that our political scene is in some turmoil after the vote and that a level of disruption and uncertainty will continue for some time and it is important that all sides behave respectfully. In this, Streatham and its Love Wall have sent out a strong signal of welcome and tolerance.

YG

## SID'S PLAQUE UNVEILING

On Saturday 24th September a Blue Plaque commemorating Sidney Lewis was unveiled at 934 Garratt Lane, Tooting Broadway. Afterwards, at St Mary's Church, Wimbledon Road was the launch of the Heritage Lottery funded Summerstown182 Project with an exhibition of WW1 memorabilia and guided walk round the Summerstown area. Some 500 people attended, including the Mayor of Wandsworth, councillors, Sid's family, military representatives, residents from the Royal Hospital Chelsea and members of the British Legion.

The Summerstown82 community history project started as a survey into locating the home addresses in this small area of the large number of men killed in WW1. Geoff Simmons gave us a talk on the Tooting War Memorial in November 2015 and the dedication of this energetic group.

Sidney Lewis, is acknowledged as the youngest soldier known to have served in the British Army in WW1. One hundred years ago he was thirteen and involved in the fighting at the Battle of the Somme. When she became aware of this, his mother sent the military authorities his birth certificate and he was sent home to Tooting. Sid's son Colin unveiled the plaque.

This was an impressive and well-organised event, involving young people and visitors came from Belgium, France and Ireland. There was a large gathering from the local community who, hopefully will continue to participate and be interested in this great local First World War commemoration project.

**JH**



*(Photos MG)*

## LT. GEOFFREY CATHER V.C

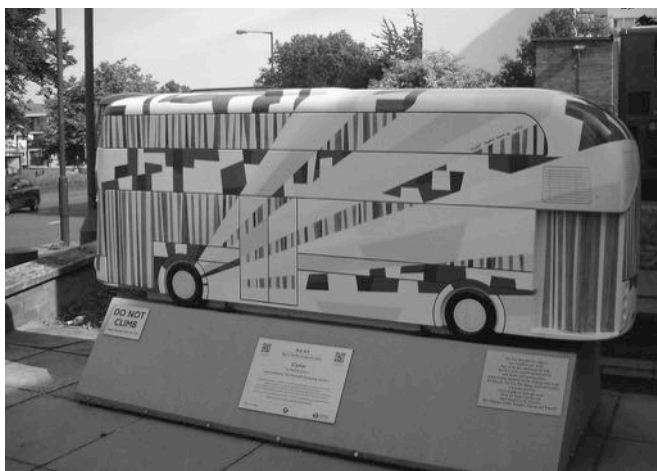


We are delighted to report that the Cather memorial stone (*see last issue*) has finally been laid in its permanent position in front of the war memorial opposite Streatham Common. Marion Gower placed a paper poppy and a cornflower from the Somme celebrations under the stone.



(Photos MG)

## BUS ART - Crystal by Sophie Green



This cheerful Routemaster bus Sculpture, part of the 2014 Year of the Bus Sculpture Trail, is situated outside Brixton Bus Garage on Streatham Hill. I have only recently looked at it in detail. Children and I love it. If you haven't already, go and look and read what it's about.

JH

## MEMBERS' CORNER

### Missing Pets

Thank you for another great SS news (*last issue 225*). I do see your point about endless and long lasting posters, but as one who has put some up in recent times (about 18 months ago) may I offer the view that you are perhaps a little harsh on those who are dealing with the loss of a pet?

My experience of putting up a few posters (which, in my defence were very local, tied on with string so no paint damage and not around for too long) was immensely heart-warming. We did not get our kitten back, though there were some sightings reported to me. However, I also had a number of calls from people just to express sympathy/concern and to say they were keeping a look out for us and some calls came months later with possible sightings, long after my posters were gone, which suggests people either took posters or a note of the telephone number. I was very touched that so many made an effort and it all really reinforced my sense of there being many many helpful and community minded people about. The happy ending for us was that a lady got in touch to say she had a lost cat who she thought was probably not ours (he wasn't) but in need of a home and he is with us now for more than a year.

Perhaps the way to tackle the damage to paint etc is to think about how to get the message out about how to distribute/mount the appeals for lost animals. Thick packing tape on painted surfaces is awful, I agree. My faith in human nature on this issue is such that I really believe people would do the right thing if they appreciated what that was.

Anyway- keep up the good work with the Society and thanks for all you do.

**Yvonne Gurney**

### More points from Issue 225

One Guinea = £1 and 1 shilling = £1.05 pence. Therefore 4 Guineas = £4.20 not £4.40 as stated on page 20. (*Sorry, my fault! JH*)

**Ron Smail**

### *Editor's Response:*

I was delighted to receive these emails. Please continue sending comments, additional information, articles and photos for publication (letters or emails).

Regarding posters, I was impressed that the Love Streatham display (*See p.7*) was well-organised, presumably was mounted with permission, and all traces were removed in September as some of the messages deteriorated. Regarding lost pets, the large number of posters secured by parcel tape about one dog, posted in November 2015, are mainly still there - slowly disintegrating.

Ron Smail (*above*) sent other comments which I have passed on to the contributor concerned.

**THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SLIPPERS AND A BALL  
- BUT IT HAS TO DO WITH CINDERELLA**



## Anne's Stamp Book

I am not a stamp collector but I keep stamps that I find interesting visually, have a noteworthy date, depict a person I admire or a location which is interesting politically, such as Check Point Charlie, the Berlin Wall crossing between East and West Berlin during the Cold War. Recently I found an old postcard which I was about to throw out until I noticed that it was of Palmyra with a Syrian stamp on it depicting Hafez al-Assad, the current presi-

dent's father. That is of particular significance now since much of the ancient Semitic city has been destroyed by Isis.

When I received an email about a Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), University of the Third Age (U3A), Shared Learning Project (SLP) to design and create Cinderella stamps, I was intrigued. Would we be depicting Cinderella? Of course that is not what this very special area of stamp collecting is about.

Our group was initiated into the world of Cinderella stamps by the RPSL, through a presentation at the British Library of their collection, and Jean-Pierre Frossard's very diverse collection of unusual stamps. Two artists, Nicholas Phillips and Nathan Cohen, for whom the stamp is both a motif and a format, showed their work and encouraged us to be creative in how we interpreted the stamp. A Cinderella stamp can be almost any size (within reason) and any shape (within reason) and on any subject, from cars, hotels, films, anniversaries, tea, football. The one thing it cannot be is a postage stamp. In order to reflect the diversity of interests in Norwood U3A, I decided that my stamp should take the form of a little book depicting that diversity - a book that you can have fun making up yourself using the instructions printed along the margins of the sheets of stamps.

## But why a book?

I grew up in a large family of five boys after my sister, who was much older, had left for university. While my brothers went off to play cowboys and indians I had to stay behind and help my mother with the house work, only to be let loose when all the cleaning was finished. Every chance I got, therefore, I escaped be-

fore my mother could find something else for me to do. Mostly I headed for my headmaster's house or to Donan's, a great story-telling house in the next village. It wasn't that our house didn't have books. We did, but they were neatly stacked, the good ones out of reach. In the headmaster's house they tumbled out of every cupboard, trunk and box, fodder for his young son John to tear apart. Apart from content, that was what fascinated me. I was intrigued by how books were put together in sections, stitched and bound. In later life I spent some time in a publishing house where part of my job was to plan the impositions for a monthly magazine in the days before perfect binding became affordable, a link that went right back to my childhood.

I was (and largely still am) almost totally illiterate mathematically (if that is the correct word to use) but I soon learned that I had to shin up if I was to make a fist of doing magazine impositions, most of which rely on multiples of eight. So when I started to think about the Norwood U3A Cinderella stamp, I made a list of all of the group's activities. When I started counting and ended up with 16, the decision about what my stamp should be was made for me. It would be in the form of a book. Our brief was to produce a 'universal' U3A stamp between us to represent the movement or to create individual stamps of the activities we each were interested in. While I chose to represent all 16 activities, others opted for one or two.

There were representatives from seven U3A regions in the group including me: Epsom and Ewell, Islington, North London, Norwood, Portsdown, Richmond-upon-Thames, South East London. Some of the group were also members of the RPSL which was a great help. Our project leader was Robert Mott of Epsom and Ewell and our facilitator at the RPSL was the curator Mark Copley. We met every two weeks at the RPSL headquarters in Devonshire Place, Marylebone, a treasure trove for the philatelist. The project started in March 2016, our aim was to make a presentation of the finished stamps in May. Robert, the project leader, found a printer in Germany who could print adhesive stamps at a reasonable cost. Our challenge then was to create finished artwork that the printer could work from. I had originally thought that I would do a drawing to represent each activity until I realised how long it would take. I opted then to do everything digitally using ClipArt graphics. I installed new InDesign software on my computer and learnt how to use it (probably incorrectly) as I went along. The artwork was sent online to Germany and within three weeks our finished stamps arrived back at the RPLS. The big question for me was: would my little book of stamps work if I followed my own instructions? And yes it did. What a relief.

The finished stamps went on display at the RPSL in July and featured in the first world Cinderella Stamp Congress hosted by the RPSL from 16 - 18 September.

For our presentation I mocked up portrait photographs of each participant as stamps which were stuck onto envelopes with our names and districts on them. With the agreement of the group I designed a cancellation stamp and had it made at the Rubber Stamp Company in Belfast so that our portrait stamps are



*The Cinderella Stamps Group:  
Frank, Paul, Barry, Barbara, Carol, Anne, Robert*

now displayed, cancelled by a stamp bearing the U3A which looks very similar to a Post Office cancellation stamp. I am very grateful to Norwood U3A for providing the extra funding so that the rubber stamp could be made. Our envelopes were exhibited alongside the stamps we created for each region. Using photographs taken throughout the process Mark

Copley had six foot roll out banners made telling the story of the U3A, RPSL, Shared Learning Project which formed part of the display during the World Congress. These banners are available to travel to various U3A functions.

On 21 September I made a PowerPoint presentation to Norwood U3A so that at long last they could see what I had been up to on their behalf. One snag was that I knew my branch as West Norwood but only after the stamps were already printed did I find out that the name of our region had been changed from West Norwood to Norwood.

Once my book of stamps had been printed I used the imagery, redesigned, to create a new poster for U3A Norwood.

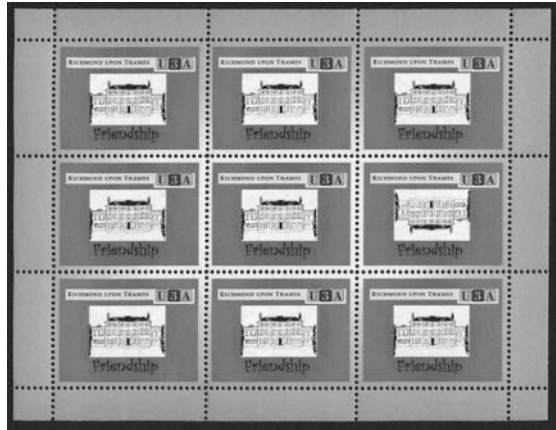
If there is ever any value to the U3A stamps this error might well add to the value of ours. Paul Leonard, from Richmond-upon-Thames U3A, cleverly included a stamp with an inverted image on his sheet (*pictured*), in a nod to the American 'Inverted Jenny' stamp of 1918 in which an JN-4 plane appears upside down - the most famous error in America philately. The estimated value of that stamp because of the error is \$971,000.

Cinderella stamps have been around for almost as long as postage stamps and have been created for advertising, promotion, and political propaganda. Stamps were the first form of mass communication and the Cinderella in its own subliminal way is a largely uncharted historical record. I became so intrigued by this whole area of visual, social and political history that I am considering doing Ph.D on it.

The word ‘Cinderella’ has, by analogy, come to mean one whose attributes were unrecognized, or one who unexpectedly achieves recognition or success after a period of obscurity and neglect - a bit like the University of the Third Age which was founded in France in 1973 and now has branches throughout the world.

If any members of the society are collectors of or are knowledgeable about Cinderellas I would love to hear from you. My email is: [info@annedaveyorr.com](mailto:info@annedaveyorr.com). To find out more about the University of the Third Age please contact Bev Wight of the Norwood branch on 020 8715 0642.

**Anne Davey Orr**



*Paul's page with inverted image*

## IS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA?

In the interests of research for this article, I recently spent some time over two months sitting around Streatham Green. I chose this site to illustrate my title because it is a small area and, following a consultation c.2004, it has been renovated. My point is the doubtful and expensive methods used for such projects.

The then Consultants' Report illustrated a lovely semi-rural scene of children playing happily on the grass by a café with striped parasols outside. I cannot believe that anyone responsible had sat and observed the Green or used common sense. It is surrounded by noisy traffic on the most polluted section of the High Road and used mainly by pedestrians and large numbers of pigeons and rats. The ground must have a high concentration of pigeon and rat droppings. Children and their carers rightly prefer Streatham Common or other venues.

A most misused phrase today is 'informed opinion'. It seems that, increasingly since the advent of the internet, it is easy for a polished argument and an articulate speaker to influence public opinion, irrespective of any background knowledge, experience or history. First comes The Good Idea, tweeted on-line to gather the 'Likes'. Then A Consultant produces A Report. Then what happens? It seems no thought is given to the questions: Has it been done before, if so, why did it fail? Can these problems be solved? How is it going to be financed and maintained? Have similar local initiatives been explored? Does popular opinion ignore opposing views?

This isn't to say that all planning must be safe and reasonable, but common sense, local experience, finance and market forces are very important. Ignoring these is why so many initiatives fail and so many people are disillusioned.

I use Streatham Green regularly as a cut through between bus stops and I enjoyed the Food Festival last year (not a suitable site for regular all-weather events). Since 2005 the slope has been evened out and improved by the widening and resurfacing of the paths. The Green is a welcome central space. Its aspect displays the Dyce Fountain to advantage and the surrounding buildings are an attractive backdrop. Not so good was the planting of litter catching bushes rather than one or two trees (but these have been trimmed back near the ground which solves much of the problem). The new Babbington Piazza outside the Manor Arms provides comfortable seating by the bus stop. Whether its location and use will justify the outlay, I doubt, but it does enhance the area. A big asset has been the formation of the Friends of Streatham Green.

One Friday in June at 11.15 a.m. I cleaned the pigeon droppings off the newly installed Dyce Fountain plaque, cleaned an even messier single seat and sat. The seat was cold and uncomfortable, presumably designed to deter gatherings of supposedly undesirable groups. I checked the area. There was no litter and the waste bins had been recently emptied. Within a few minutes of arriving, some hundred pigeons surrounded me. Bird telegraph was at work as, within five minutes, large carrier bags of stale bread were emptied for them.

Over two months, during the day, I witnessed a few people scattering bread and bird seed. The bread must have come from local food outlets; there was too much for domestic left-overs. I also sat by the bus stop. There were many cigarette ends, empty beer cans and remnants of take-aways. It seems this is the new (more comfortable) seating area, but at least it is easier to collect the litter. I watched the whole area being carefully swept each morning. A steady stream of pedestrians cut across the Green but the lack of seating deterred all but a few from staying. Most 'regulars' have moved to seating elsewhere.

I see no point in proposing anything different – as long as litter is cleared and



any anti-social behaviour dealt with. Hopefully, the proposed adjacent flats, if windows overlook the Green, should be a deterrent - and it would be a Good Idea to have protective low metal fencing surrounding the Dyce Fountain. **JH**

## LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

### HENRY SMITH, A PEDLAR, A DOG AND THE RECTOR OF STREATHAM

As is the trend with loans, so with Streatham's ancient parish non-ecclesiastical charities in as much as most of them have now been consolidated into one big Charity called the Thrale Alms-house and Relief in Need Charity.

By changes approved by the Charity Commissioners, or their predecessors, in 1915, 1929, 1954 and 1989 twelve separate charitable bequests to the inhabitants of the parish of Streatham, dating from the will of John Croft in 1584, are now administered by a single board of trustees.

Among these is the bequest made by Henry Smith, who died on 3rd January 1627. In his will he bequeathed: '£4 per annum issuing out of the rents and profits of his Manor of Longney in Gloucestershire and the sum of £3 per annum issuing out of the rents and profits of his Manors of Kemsing and Heddington in Kent to be applied to clothing the poor' of Streatham. The sum Streatham received each year varied according to the profits of these estates although the grant made to our parish today is now levied from the charity's general fund.

The parish archives contain numerous mentions of the charity and in days past cloth and clothing were purchased from Streatham's well known draper, George Pratt, on behalf of the charity. Normally the clothing was distributed at the behest of the Rector of Streatham to persons he considered in greatest need. However, by 1900, the Streatham Board of Guardians invited names to be submitted to them of worthy parishioners from which they selected those who would benefit from Smith's bequest.

With the introduction of state pensions, and later the welfare state, the money is no longer spent on clothing the poor but on relieving general hardship. A scheme operates at St. Leonard's Church where pensioners are able to claim travelling expenses for attending church, hospital appointments, or visiting distant friends



*Pedlar William St Leonard's Rector*

Memorandum.  
 From: George Pratt.  
 Sailor, Cutter & Juvenile Outfitter.  
 Camden House, Streatham, S.W.  
 To: The Local Board of Guardians  
 re: Smith's Charity  
 I beg for perambulation of all wool mutton cloth  
 (nearly same as had in previous years) for price  
 per yard being 1/3 (thirty four pence) —  
 Yours sincerely  
 George Pratt.

*Henry Smith: George Pratt's Bill  
 for Charity Clothing*

has benefited from Smith's largess for almost 400 years.

Because Henry bequeathed money to many parishes in Surrey, his charity's origins have become confused with a legendary folk figure called 'Dog Smith'. The story goes that Dog Smith wandered around the villages of Surrey dressed as a beggar accompanied by his dog; those parishes which treated him well were remembered in his will and those that treated him badly, such as Mitcham, were excluded from his benevolence.

By the early eighteenth century the myth of 'Dog Smith', or 'Beggars Smith', had taken root around the life of Henry Smith, the Wandsworth philanthropist. The antiquarian, William Bray, dated the story of Dog Smith to a century earlier than the life of Henry Smith, suggesting that it arose from a confusion with the 'Lambeth Pedlar' who, in 1505, was said to have left an acre of land known as Pedlar's Acre, just by Westminster Bridge where County Hall now stands, to the parish of Lambeth in exchange for leave to bury his dog in the churchyard. The Pedlar's image and that of his dog is preserved in a stained glass window in Lambeth Church.

Sadly this story may also be without foundation as in 1913 a trustee of the Pedlar's Charity claimed the story was 'rubbish' and that the land was bequeathed to Lambeth parish in 1400 by 'Sir William le Pedlar, the Rector of Streatham'.

Whatever the truth of these stories of vagrant benefactors, the legend of Dog Smith continues to attach itself to the life of Henry Smith. However, a recent book published by the Henry Smith Charity called *Henry Smith His Life and Legacy* reveals the truth behind Smith's life and the difficulties he had in establishing his charity without a dog or a period of begging involved! Indeed Henry

and family, or other similar such journeys, which cannot be undertaken using their freedom passes or where, because of disability, a mini-cab is a more suitable means of transport than trains or buses.

Today Smith's Charity has grown to become one of the largest in the country and in 2013 over £27 million was handed out in grants. Although Streatham received a very tiny portion of this, nonetheless the parish

was a very wealthy Silversmith and a Citizen and Alderman of London.

But what then of Pedlar's Acre in Lambeth, said by a trustee of the charity to have been left to Lambeth Parish around 1400 by Sir William le Pedlar, the Rector of Streatham? Sadly, to date none of the Rectors of Streatham have been knighted although the previous Rector, Jeffrey Wilcox, did receive the MBE for his services to the local community, and Lord Wriothesley Russell, brother of the Duke of Bedford, Lord of the Manor of Streatham, was Rector in 1830-35.

However, an examination of the Rectors' board at the back of St. Leonard's Church reveals that in 1330 'William Pedelere de Bretford' was appointed Rector of Streatham by the Abbot of Bec. Could this have been the Sir William le Pedlar referred to by the trustee?

Little is known about William Pedelere other than in 1340 a disagreement between him and the Abbot of Bec led to a lawsuit in which the Abbot recovered a house and 60 acres of land of which he claimed the Rector had unlawfully dispossessed him.

What happened afterwards to William, the Rector of Streatham, is unknown as the registers for 1345-1366 are missing. We do not know if he died, or moved on to other things. However, we do know that prior to 1357 John Whiteman had succeeded William as Rector of Streatham.

Although the truth behind Henry Smith's charity has now been revealed in the new book, the origins of the gift of Pedlar's Acre to Lambeth Parish and the claim that it was the bequest of the Rector of Streatham remains a mystery.

Perhaps, after losing the lawsuit, William Pedelere de Bretford was cast out of Streatham Rectory by the Abbot of Bec and left to wander the Surrey highways as a beggar and pedlar with only a dog for company. Although the Abbot reclaimed control over 60 acres of land, William may still have owned an acre of boggy land on the southern banks of the Thames which then was of little value which he bequeathed to Lambeth parish in return for a grave for him and his dog. Sadly we shall never know as the truth is now lost in the antiquity of time.

**John W Brown**

## **A SMALL EDWARDIAN CURIOSITY IN STREATHAM HILL**

Standing opposite Streatham Hill Station, in Drewstead Road, between the back of the shop at 2 Streatham High Road and the handsome terrace of houses on the southern side of Drewstead Road, stands a small two storey detached building recently used as a Western Union money office and cheque cashing service.

Formerly known as Leigham Court Road West, Drewstead Road is named after Beriah Drew, Lord of the Manor of Leigham who opened up Leigham Court Road in the mid-1830s. Beriah was a wealthy Bermondsey solicitor who purchased 260 acres of the manor from the executors of Lord Thurlow, the Lord



*Stonehill Mansions on the High Road adjacent to Drewstead Road*



*No 1 Drewstead Road*

Chancellor. In 1878 he died at the age of 90 and was buried in St. Leonard's churchyard where his grave can still be seen today.

At the time of Beriah's death, a large Victorian house called Stonehills and a smaller dwelling known as Rose Cottage occupied the site on which Stonehill Mansions stands today.

At the rear of the house was a large garden at the bottom of which was an extensive water feature stretching the entire width of the property and separating it from a paddock beyond.

Stonehills had previously been known as The Elms and was built around 1834 for Richard Thornton Parkin who lived here with his wife Rebecca and four servants to cater for their every need. Richard was born in 1797 and was a man of independent means.

In 1849 William Cosier, a hop merchant, moved into the house but his residence was to be brief as he had vacated the property by the mid 1850s after which John Newbald, a retired grocer, took over the house where he was to remain until

c1893. Sadly, in his later life, John was severely deaf so the increasing railway traffic at the neighbouring Streatham Hill railway station did little to disturb the peace and tranquillity of his garden as he could not hear the noise of the passing trains!

Fred Arnold was to be the last occupant of the Elms, taking up residence in 1896. It was he who changed the name of the house to Stonehills, after which the present -day building is named.

In 1905 the property was acquired by Frederick Meech, a builder, and Frank Goodall, an estate agent, who pulled down the old house and the neighbouring Rose Cottage, and in their place erected Stonehill Mansions. At the rear, in the large garden and the adjoining paddock, they laid out part of Drewstead Road.

I suspect the small, detached building which now forms 1 Drewstead Road was erected at this time as an estate office from which the shops, flats and houses being built on the site were offered for sale/rent by Meech and Goodall.

This business was subsequently transferred to 4 Streatham High Road by Frank Goodall when the newly built Stonehill Mansions was finished and brought into use. Stonehill Mansions epitomises the confidence with which Streatham greeted the 20th century as the town continued to transform itself from a small rural village into a burgeoning suburb of south London.

With the construction of Stonehill Mansions and Drewstead Road' Meech and Goodall were cashing in on this growth and providing residences of quality for the affluent middle classes then moving into the area.

## The Balance Sheet of Washing Day.

### HOME WASHING.

Monday drudgery.

Soap.

Soda.

Fuel.

The "Help's" wages & Insurance  
—when she comes.

Steam and damp.

Doctor's bills.

Premature old age.



### OUR LAUNDRY SERVICE.

Phone—

The vanman calls punctually and regularly.

Quality work—by employing skilled workers at fair wages.

Pure materials and soft water.

Fifty-two days added to your life every year.

The linen lasts longer with us.

SEND IT TO THE LAUNDRY, and be sure of Best Work by trying—

## The South Western Sanitary Laundry LTD

1 DREWSTEAD RD., STREATHAM, S.W.

Phone: Streatham 1186

Works: 20 Boundaries Road, Balham, S.W.12.

Phone: Battersea 1129

## **"THE MAN I KILLED"**

said his wife, in court,  
"Made me do my own  
washing." "He richly  
deserved it." Dis-  
missed without a stain—  
was the verdict of the  
jury. Husbands, before  
it is too late, arrange  
for our van man to call.

**THE**  
**South Western Sanitary**  
**Laundry, Ltd.,**

1, Drewstead Rd., Streatham Hill

Phone - - - - Streatham 1186

Frank Goodall originally lived at 3 Drewstead Road where he is listed in the 1910 Streatham Directory. The first Directory entry I have found concerning No 1 occurs in 1912 when the building is occupied by Arthur G Morrice ARIBA, the District Surveyor for Streatham East (subsequently East Wandsworth) and was also used as a receiving office for the South Western Sanitary Laundry. This dual occupancy continued up to the time of the Second World War.

The laundry had its works at 20 Boundaries Road in Balham and would receive laundry at Drewstead Road which would be transported to Balham for washing and then would be delivered to the homes from which it originated or could be collected from their Drewstead Road office.

The firm prided itself on the quality of its service promoting the business as a 'high-class' laundry 'unexcelled for fine colour' work and being specialists in washing fine lace and silk.

It also performed art dyeing and dry cleaning work using 'modern methods'.

During the Second World War the Streatham Comforts Fund had a depot here where stock was stored and parcels packed for the troops.

By the 1960s R C Chapman was running an estate agents from the building called Holliday and Stanger which had been established in 1892.

In 2005 a change of use for the property was approved by Lambeth Council since when it was used as a cheque cashing office until recently. The building is currently vacant awaiting conversion into a cafe.

1 Drewstead Road is one of Streatham's unusual buildings. Few know of its existence, despite thousands of people passing within yards of it as they use Streatham Hill Station. Next time you are in the area take a short detour down Drewstead Road to admire this curious Edwardian building.

**JWB**

## HENRY TATE GARDENS TOURS



Once again our tours of Henry Tate Gardens (Park Hill) in September were a great success with a record number of people attending and being conducted around the grounds by our expert guides Graham Gower and John Brown.

The event was one of the Society's contributions to the Lambeth Heritage Festival and the resulting publicity we received by being featured in the official programme was partly responsible for the excellent turn out on the day. Our thanks also go to those who helped run our bookstall that afternoon and greeted the visitors, all of which ensured the success of the occasion.

Among those participating in the tours was Martin Sharpe, a talented Streatham photographer. Some of you may remember his stall at the Streatham Common Kite Day earlier this year when he had a number of his photographs on display



*Park Hill House and the Grotto  
(Photos Martin Sharpe)*



which were available to buy as pictures or as greetings cards. The various images of Streatham Common which adorned his stall were outstanding.

Martin took a number of photographs as he toured the grounds at Park Hill and very kindly sent some copies to me. These were magnificent pictures, and in

particular those of the ancient castle folly were most evocative; conjuring up perfectly the eerie gothic atmosphere which this old relic imparts.

I would encourage readers to visit Martin's website at [www.martinsharpe.com](http://www.martinsharpe.com) to see the variety of his work and the range of greetings cards available from him. Alternately you can write to him for details at 6 Minehead Road, Streatham, London SW16 2AW.

**JWB**



*Immanuel Church from Streatham Common*

## **RETURN OF A £10 POM**

A recent visitor to Streatham from Australia was John Newman who was on holiday visiting places associated with his youth over 65 years ago.

As a young boy in the 1940s and early 1950s he was a member of St. Leonard's Church cub pack and also attended St. Leonard's school in Mitcham Lane until his family became '£10 Poms' and migrated to Australia.

During the war his father was an auxiliary fireman based at the fire station in Mitcham Lane and at the AFS depot at the then Agnes Parr Home in Garrads Road which survives today as part of the Fishers Close development.

The Streatham Society had previously assisted John in researching his father's service in the war and during his visit to Streatham he inspected the new building at the school and shared memories of his time there with the Deputy Head, Tony Pizzoferro. We then arranged a brief tour of the church and surrounding area for John and showed him where his father was based during the war.

John brought a wonderful collection of old photographs and documents relating to his time in the cubs and at the school which he kindly allowed us to copy for our archives.

**JWB**

## **WALTER HUNT - AN AMAZING STREATHAM CHIMNEY SWEEP**

During Abigail Turner's fascinating talk to the Streatham Society in July on the St. John Ambulance, she showed copies of the membership records for the Streatham Brigade in the early 1900s. Among the names detailed, one leapt off the screen to me as a former Streatham resident whose life has fascinated me since I first read about him in my early researches into the local history of the area over 35 years ago.

The man was Walter Hunt, a humble chimney sweep living in Eardley Road. At first glance he is a man of simple trade and stature and an unlikely character worthy of much interest. But his life is one deserving closer examination and his contribution to the local history of Streatham is a significant one.

Despite his modest origins he was self educated, an avid reader and accumulator of knowledge and, whilst sweeping chimneys during the day he spent the evenings writing and lecturing at adult institutes and was well-known for his activities with the Streatham Adult School.

Walter was born in an old wooden house near Mitcham Cricket Green in 1857 and attended the local village school. He had a taste for adventure, and at 15 joined the Royal Navy and spent several years on survey work in the South Seas. There he came in contact with cannibals. Impressed by their splendid physique and high moral principles, he later began to deplore the sad effect of civilisation on them. Thus began his lifetime interest in anthropology.

## Chimney Sweep Lecturer.



Mr. Walter Hunt, a Streatham sweep, who is about to give a series of lectures on Sociology.

*Mr Walter Hunt, a Streatham sweep, who is about to give a series of lectures on Sociology*

This led to him eventually writing a book called *Are Britons a Declining Race?* which was published in 1904. It provoked a good deal of controversy at the time, being an indictment of civilisation as exhibited in Britain and in those lands where its influence had been felt. The book pulled no punches and explored the effects of alcoholism and other causes of physical degeneracy and moral decline introduced by Britain to native peoples.

After 12 years in the Navy Walter became a London fireman serving under the famous Captain Shaw. Later, when working as a mechanic, he went to Balliol College for a month at the instance of the WEA, and the following year to Christ Church. As a result of papers written there he was elected a Fellow of the Anthropological Institute.

In 1890 Walter moved to Streatham where he was to reside for the rest of his life. It was here that he purchased a sweeps' business and would often be seen in the neighbourhood carrying his chimney brushes on his shoulder as he went about his trade.

It was not until he was 42 that Walter learned to cycle, which was to become one of his great joys in life. He toured the British Isles, winning numerous trophies for speed and distance. At the age of 50 he won a 50-mile race on the Brighton Road against scores of younger men. But that was nothing compared with his later achievements. At 71 he cycled from Edinburgh to London in three days, and at 76 he did the 106 miles journey to Brighton and back. At 80 he cycled round the British Isles. He was often seen cycling along Streatham streets, a venerable figure, with his full beard and bushy eyebrows.

Walter was also a marksman of some note and one evening scored six bulls at 100 yards on the Wimbledon Rifle Range. He was also famous at Bisley where

he scored a bull with his first trial shot at 200 yards.

During the 1914-18 war Walter returned to the Navy as a petty officer in the Anti-Aircraft Corps. Later he became a lift attendant by day and a lecturer on social hygiene and anthropology by night.

Whilst living in Streatham, Walter maintained his links with Mitcham and became the oldest member of the Mitcham Civic Society.

He also played an active roll in Streatham affairs and was a prominent member of the Streatham Conference from its formation in 1901.

He was also a member of the Streatham Antiquarian and Natural History Society, the forerunner of the Streatham Society, and gave talks on his reminiscences of the town at the time of his boyhood and the local history of the area.

In 1944, when aged 86, he recorded his memories of Streatham in the 1860s for the Society. A copy of his 47 handwritten foolscap page manuscript called *Surrey Village of Streatham Eighty Years Ago and Later* is preserved in the Society's papers held at Lambeth Archives.

This document provides a fascinating insight into the old village of Streatham in the middle of the 19th century and makes a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the local history of the area at that time.

This is particularly so in respect of Walter's recollections of south and lower Streatham, and of Streatham Lodge, a large house in which the Coulthurst family lived, members of which were partners in Coutts Bank. \*

Sadly pages 1 to 7, and 15 to 19, are missing from the manuscript. However, Chapter 1 (pages 1 to 8) of the work exists in typescript but most of Chapter 3 is now totally lost. One of the assistants at Streatham Library very kindly offered

# ARE WE A DECLINING RACE? AN OLD SAILOR'S VERDICT. BY WALTER HUNT.

## THE OBJECT:

*To set forth the true  
cause of the physical  
unfitness which now  
prevails.*

1/- Post free 1/1½

To be had of

THE AUTHOR,  
60, EARDLEY ROAD,  
STREATHAM, S.W.

*Walter Hunt's Book Advertisement*



*Walter Hunt*

to type out the manuscript for the Society in her spare time, and while she was doing the parts now missing, her home was wrecked by a V1 flying bomb and the typewriter, and the missing pages, were destroyed and lost in the wreckage.

Mr Hunt did promise to try to re-write the missing chapter, but before the Society could arrange for him to do so he was seized by the illness which resulted in his death on the 8th of January 1946, in his 89th year. He was buried in Streatham Cemetery leaving two sons and six daughters mourning the loss of their father.

Walter was a close friend of William Kent of Clapham, who was a well-known authority on London and its history, who, in his book *London Worthies*, included a full biography of Walter, recounting his life and his many achievements.

In Walter Hunt we have a man of his time; self-taught with an enquiring mind. He was a published author, a proficient debater, an inspiring lecturer, a popular raconteur and his recollections of Mitcham and Streatham at the time of his youth have made a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the local history of these areas.

In addition he was a keen cyclist, a noted marksman, and now, thanks to Abigail's lecture, we know that he also played an active part in the formation and operation of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Streatham in the opening decade of the 20th century.

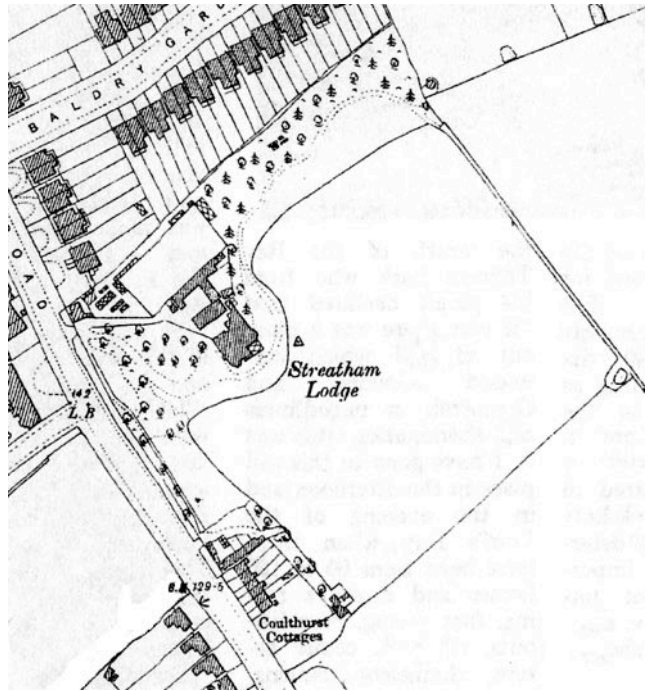
\*Among Walter's writings on the local history of Streatham is the following item concerning 'Squire' Coulthurst and Streatham Lodge in Lower Streatham which was published in the Streatham News in October 1930.

The Village Squire of Old Streatham  
by WALTER HUNT

STREATHAM has now a residential population of tens of thousands, and to the present generation it would seem absurd to speak of its village squire. Yet, within the memory of living man, Streatham was a small village, and Squire Coulthurst occupied Streatham Lodge, which stood on extensive grounds facing Streatham High-road, where several new roads now exist.

The entrance to Heybridge Avenue from the High-road occupies the spot where the lodge gates and cottage but recently stood. During the sixties of last century Squire Coulthurst, was a well-known figure, and used to take interest in village affairs.

Streatham Lodge was an old mansion, typical of mediaeval times, when everything necessary for the upkeep of the establishment was produced on the premises. Local tradesmen used to complain that the Lodge was of no great benefit to them, as not only was everything required by the squire provided within the enclosure, but even estate employees who occupied the row of cottages still standing facing the High Road between Heybridge Avenue and Green Lane, received a good many things from the house, which otherwise might have been purchased from them.



*Streatham Lodge Map 1898*

Out-houses at the back of the house included, beside stables and coach house, a laundry, where all the estate washing was done, a bake house where bread was baked, and be it also remarked, a brewery, where good wholesome beer, such as could not be purchased to day, was brewed for the Supply of the household, and to regale any parishioners whose duty took them to the kitchen door on some errand or other. That was an errand worth running, for after wishing the cheery old couple who lived in the cottage at the Lodge gates a very "Good morning", one passed the well, by which stood a quince tree, and should it be autumn, the smell from the ripening quinces was a reminder of something more substantial which might follow.

On delivering the message or goods or whatever else the errand might be, should the housekeeper be about, she would be almost sure to ask the anticipated question, "Should you like a glass of beer?". The answer was, of course, usually in the affirmative, and one was directed to the butler's pantry, where he and the footman might be busy furbishing up the silver. The old copper flagon, well polished, stood on the familiar shelf by the window, beside which stood two horn beakers, one of which would be filled from the flagon with sparkling

brown ale. "Piece of bread and cheese?" asked the butler, a question which was seldom answered in the negative, and a lunch of fine home-made bread and piece of Cheddar or Cheshire cheese would be provided. These, washed down with a draught of home-brewed beer, were things not to be despised, and one might travel many miles to-day without being able to find such wholesome fare.

To-day we are surrounded with luxuries such as were undreamt of back in the sixties, yet it is possible that we are incapable of enjoying them as we did that simple wholesome fare of days gone by. The home-baked bread was never dry and tasteless even when several days old. While the ordinary Cheddar or Cheshire cheese, the cheeses in common use at that time, might be kept till the "jumpers" began to take possession, and would still be tasty, not like the modern imported stuff, which goes mouldy in a few days. And as for the beer, brewed from pure malt and hops, it was an innocent beverage, which few of the present generation have ever tasted.

And what about the quinces? Possibly the gardener may give you one as you go out; if so, there is nothing nicer to flavour an apple-pie than a piece of quince, a fruit which is seldom seen at the ordinary fruiterer's to-day.

*The Streatham News - October 1930*

**JWB**

## CHILDREN'S LOCAL HISTORY



*Children's Activity Group at the Summerstown 182  
Launch Event in St Mary's Church (see p.9)*

It is very encouraging to have noticed at several recent community events, that interesting local history groups have been arranged for children. In my primary school teaching days, local history struggled to survive.

Now an impressive variety of activities, both in and out of school, is offered. However, as most teachers are unfamiliar with their work area, local knowledge is often provided by volunteers. My days for contributing to these are long over, so I am delighted

to hear and to publicise any of these groups and projects. Articles and photos are welcome. Congratulations to all concerned.

**JH**

## STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

---

### COMMITTEE REPORT

#### Items discussed at recent committee meetings:

- Reports from Friends of Streatham Common and SCCoop meetings, particularly regarding the funding returns from events held on the common
- London Parks & Gardens Bronze Award to the White Garden
- Good attendance and sales on Henry Tate Garden tours
- Poor book stall attendance and sales at Lambeth Archives Open Day
- Almost £300 from books sales paid in; via book stall or on-line orders
- 120 planning applications received for Streatham for comment; mainly loft conversions and extensions. Objection to 23 Hoadley Road demolition
- Society to donate to Mayor's two charities

### MEMBERSHIP 2016

Membership for 2016 is c.280 with an impressive c.£670 donated with subscriptions and from visitors at meetings. 2017 membership is due on January 1st but payment is accepted from November 21st. Again this must be by cheque, payable to The Streatham Society, or cash as I cannot manage additional methods. New cards accompany this News for those who have already paid. We welcome new members Anne Davey Orr, Barbara McGilloway, Simon Hemsley and Mireille Galinou. We hope they enjoy their membership. **JH**

### EVENTS REPORTS

#### MEETINGS

#### The Origins of St John Ambulance and its introduction in South London

Abigail Turner gave a presentation on July 18th. She detailed the establishment of St John Ambulance in the 19thC, in the context of the 900 year history of the Order of St John. She then focused on the establishment of some South London Divisions, including the Balham and Streatham Nursing Division, established in 1905. Abigail is the Curator and Volunteer Coordinator at the Museum of the Order of St John, and has worked with the Museum's collections since January 2013. (*See article p.25.*)

#### Ephemera, Collectables & Antiques

The display on our regular members' evening, on August 1st, included a milk churn, a stereoscope and stereograms, antlers and collections of local history

postcards, sports' programmes, knitting patterns, certificates and bookmarks. The contributors each spoke for about five minutes and additional information came from the audience. As usual the variety and knowledge was impressive.

### **Brixton Buildings and People**

On September 5th, Alan Piper gave a review of buildings in and around Brixton and people who lived in them. A popular local speaker, Alan is a Chartered Architect, a lifelong resident of Brixton, and Secretary of the Brixton Society. He has been researching Brixton history since the early 1970s and is the author of the *History of Brixton*, first published in 1996. This talk was part of the Lambeth Heritage Festival and attracted a large audience of about 70.

### **From Lake to Lido**

Our second Heritage Festival talk attracted a similar number on September 19th. As part of the Tooting Common Heritage Project, Janet Smith, chair of the Tooting History Group and a member of the South London Swimming Club, told us the story of Tooting Bec Lido and the Club, both dating back to 1906. The Heritage Lottery funded Project has an impressive programme. Janet distributed information leaflets and contact details: email [history@slsc.org.uk](mailto:history@slsc.org.uk)

### **From Hats to Hops**

On October 3rd Stephen Humphrey gave us a history of the industries of Southwark, Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, with special attention to cargo-handling on the Thames, shipbuilding, leather manufacture, food-processing, the hop trade, engineering and hatting, chiefly in the 19th and 20th centuries. Another well-known speaker and author, Stephen is a general historian, who has long studied and written about Southwark in particular, and who also studies archives in general, church buildings internationally and the Greek and Roman Classical world..

### **Performing Right Society for Music - Its history and role today**

On October 17th Andy Ellis , Senior Manager, Education & Outreach, told us that PRS for Music has been at the heart of the music industry for over 100 years. He described what it is, what it does, how, why and for whom - and what the next 100 years hold for the society and for UK music. Recently Chuka Umunna, our M.P., has become an ambassador for the charity PRS for Music Foundation, which funds new music and talent development across all genres.

### **Lambeth Heritage Festival**

In addition to the meetings reported above, we took our bookstall to Archives Open Day on September 3rd. The following day we hosted two tours of Henry Tate Gardens. We attracted our highest numbers yet, about 70, and took a record amount from our small bookstall. We give these tours twice a year; the next will probably be the first Sunday in May 2017. (*See article p.23.*)

**JH**

## **THE BRAIN OF LAMBETH**

The Lambethans' Society held their annual Brain of Lambeth Quiz on Thursday 22 September. With the Town Hall still being out of action during refurbishment, and the Lambeth Council office used last year having proved unsuitable, the Lambethans' Society decided to hold this year's event at their regular monthly meeting venue, the Vida Walsh Centre near Windrush Square in Brixton.

As usual, a number of Streatham Society members turned out for this pub quiz style event, Andrew Christos, Jill Dudman, Liz Furness, Russell Henman, and Daphne and Richard Marchant; teams are permitted a maximum of four people, so we subdivided into two teams. It was pleasing to see more new people present than in previous years, and five teams in total took part in the rounds of questions on such topics as art, music, science, nature, sport, history, famous people, Lambeth, etc.

The Streatham Society Ladies' team ended as the winner, receiving a £10 prize which we decided to donate to our Society. Thanks should go to John Moore and Alan Piper for all the work they put into organising the quiz, and providing refreshments. Congratulations to all.

**Jill Dudman**

## **MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our members' Christmas Party takes place on December 5th. Please do not bring non-members, such as partners and guests. (The Household subscription usually covers two people.) This event is run by and for members who attend at least a few meetings and space does not allow us to accommodate more. Please don't arrive before 7.20 pm, unless you are a helper, as we need to set out the room first. Refreshments will start by 8pm; entertainment will start about 8.30, then more refreshments. Please chat and laugh where appropriate.

The evening will follow its usual format. We ask members to bring food contributions: sweet or savoury finger food which isn't messy as we cannot provide cutlery; not too much - a small plate full will be fine. Sandwiches are always popular, but please check with Janis Benson so we don't have to throw much surplus away. Sorry, no biscuits, unless they are posh ones, as no one eats them. Drinks are also welcome, but not those that need diluting. Any surplus bottles or cartons might be put in the raffle.

We'll provide paper plates and cups etc. Please collect any containers you wish to keep as we clear up. There will be the usual large raffle with at least twice the number of prizes as usual. Good quality contributions to this are welcome.

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO YOU ALL**  
**Thank you for your past support - long may it continue**

---

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

---

### RIVER EFFRA - SOUTH LONDON'S SECRET SPINE John Newman



Jon Newman is a writer and archivist at Lambeth Archives. He brings his wealth of knowledge to this excellent, very readable book.

The Effra vanished underground 150 years back, leaving just a few legends and a nagging fascination. This willow-fringed haunt of eels and herons had been transformed by unregulated suburban development from a small river into a large sewer until finally it was covered over. Yet it still flows below South London and, just occasionally, it still floods.

This book tells its story from geology through social, environmental and engineering history to its enduring presence today. Richly illustrated with historic images, contemporary photographs and maps, it includes a detailed itinerary for anyone still wishing to follow its ghost. It

also includes extensive footnotes referencing original sources.

Jon's talk about the Effra is well worth attending (*see dates p.35*). After dispelling some of the many myths and stories surrounding the Effra, he shows illustrations from his book including a fascinating series of images showing where the river flows beneath our feet today.

*'A terrific book, scholarly but relaxed, beautifully written and absorbing.... Essential reading for all South Londoners'* -Andrew Saint, The Survey of London.

Published by Signal Books Ltd., this paperback book is on sale at Lambeth Archives. It costs £9.99 but is offered at an introductory price at some of Jon's publicity events.

## MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

- Sun 4**      **FoBP Winter Fair**      **11am - 3pm**  
 Brockwell Hall      *Friends of Brockwell Park*
- Sat 10**      **Prehistory of South-West London**      Jon Cotton      **2.30pm**  
 Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood.      *Merton Historical Society*
- Tues 13**      **Brian Bloice Memorial Lecture** following AGM.      **7.30pm**  
 Dr Chris Constable, President. 106 The Cut SE1, almost opposite  
 the Old Vic.      *Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society*
- Sun 18**      **Streatham Common Christmas Fair.**  
 Local crafts and food stalls. Details SCCoop website.

### JANUARY

- Tues 10**      **The River Effra**      Jon Newman      **7.30pm**  
 (See *New Publications p.34*)      *SLAS*, as above.
- Thur 19th**      **The River Effra**      Jon Newman      **7.30pm**  
 Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill.      *Norwood Society*

### FEBRUARY

- Sat 11**      **Thames Road Bridges**      **2.30pm**  
 Richard Fitch      *Merton Historical Society*, as above.
- Tues 14**      **Railway Architecture in our town centre - Restoring the  
 abandoned interiors of Peckham Rye Station**      **7.30pm**  
 Benedict O'Looney      *SLAS*, as above.

### MARCH

- Tues 14**      **Excavations at 25 London Bridge Street 2008-2012 -  
 An important Roman site close to London Bridge**      **7.30pm**  
 Tony Mackinder (MOLA)      *SLAS*, as above

### Other Local Organisations

If you would like to publicise your group, please supply me with details. In addition to the Norwood Branch of the **U3A** (University of the Third Age (*see p.12*), I have been given an attractive programme of summer events organised by the **Freedom Club**, based at St Leonard's Church, Streatham. As the name suggests, this is provided for those who have a Freedom Pass. Details can be obtained from Vin on 020 8769 6514 or Nicky at nicolahpepper@gmail.com

---

## SOCIETY CONTACTS

---

*Chair*  
Shared

*Joint Vice-Chairs*  
**Daphne Marchant**  
**Shea Richardson**

*Secretary*  
**Shea Richardson**  
7 Barrow Road  
Streatham SW16 5PE  
shea.richardson@homecall.co.uk

*Treasurer*  
**Keith Searle**  
213 Green Lane  
Norbury SW16 3LZ

*Membership, Newsletter Editor  
and Publications Orders*  
**Judy Harris**  
125 Thornlaw Road  
West Norwood SE27 0SQ  
jharris.streathamsociety@gmail.com

*Other Committee Members*  
**Barbara Beer**      **Janis Benson**  
**Mike Bowtle**      **Robert Doyle**  
**Russell Henman**   **Pauline Hewitt**

*Talks Programming Team*  
**Mike Bowtle**      **Jill Dudman**  
**Russell Henman**   **Doreen Mackie**  
**Daphne Marchant**  
bowtlemichael@gmail.com

*Local History Team*  
**John Brown** (Publications)  
**Mike Bowtle**      **Graham Gower**  
**Judy Harris**      **Daphne Marchant**

*Local and Family History*  
**John Brown**  
316 Green Lane  
Streatham, London SW16 3AS

*Planning Enquiries*  
**John Brown** and **Graham Gower**  
Address as above

*Webmaster*  
**Peter Main**

*Society Website*  
**streathamsociety.org.uk**

*Society e-mail for general enquiries*  
**info@streathamsociety.org.uk**

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

**Copy date for next issue: 5th January 2017**

**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**