



# STREATTHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 234 Autumn 2018

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**WHY ARE THERE 35 PHONE BOOTHS ALONG THE HIGH ROAD?**

*(See p.12)*



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## STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

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### **THE COLLECTION OF SIR HENRY WELLCOME:**

**History of medicine artefacts**

Talk, Jack Mitchell

**Monday 7th January 8pm**

### **LONG-TERM TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS FOR STREATHAM**

**What may be possible in the view of Streatham Action**

Talk, Neil Salt

**Monday 21st January 8pm**

### **WANDSWORTH PRISON - A history**

Talk, Stuart McLaughlin

**Monday 4th February 8pm**

### **SOUTH LONDON IN FILM -**

**Silent and sound extracts, including the Opening of 'Woodlawns' in 1942**

Talk, Tony Fletcher

**Monday 18th February 8pm**

### **DEATH ON THE BRIGHTON ROAD - Places of execution in the 18th and 19th centuries**

Talk, Jon Newman

**Monday 4th March 8pm**

### **MAYHEM, MURDER, MUTINY AND MISERY - The Greely Arctic Expedition 1881-84**

Talk, Allen Brown

**Monday 18th March 8pm**

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

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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 with the editor's permission.*

## STREATHAM ROUND AND ABOUT

### STREATHAM'S NOBEL LAUREATE

It is timely to write about a Nobel Prize winner who lived in Streatham and died in August of this year.

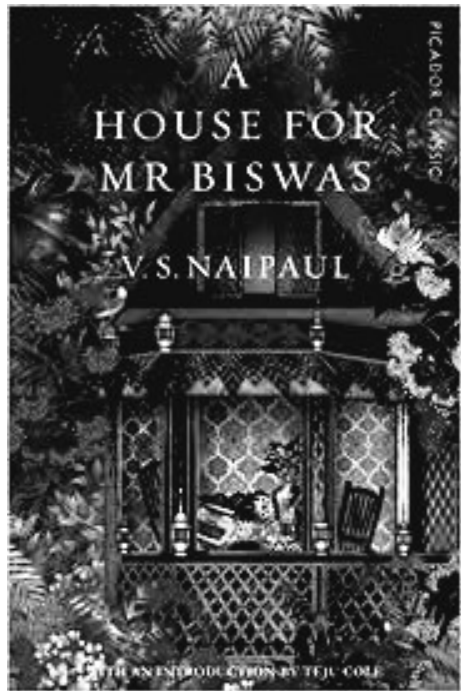
Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad 'Vidia' Naipaul, TC (born 17 August 1932, died 11 August 2018), a British writer of Indian descent and Nobel Laureate, who was born in Trinidad and lived in Streatham Hill when writing *A House for Mrs Biswas*, which won him the Nobel Prize for Literature



The Times Higher Education reported this comment from S Naipaul in Jan 2004 (*Finding Eden in the streets of Streatham Hill*):

“Often, out in the Streatham Hill streets, momentarily away from the book, shopping perhaps, I thought: If someone were to offer me a million pounds on condition that I leave the book unfinished, I would turn the money down. ... The two years spent on this novel in Streatham Hill remain the most consuming, the most fulfilled, the happiest years of my life. They were my Eden.”

In 1952, before visiting Spain, Naipaul met Patricia Ann Hale, his future wife, at a college play. With Hale's support, he began to recover (from depression) and gradually to write. She became a partner in planning his career. Her family was hostile to the relationship; his was unenthusiastic. In June 1953, Naipaul and Hale graduated from Oxford.



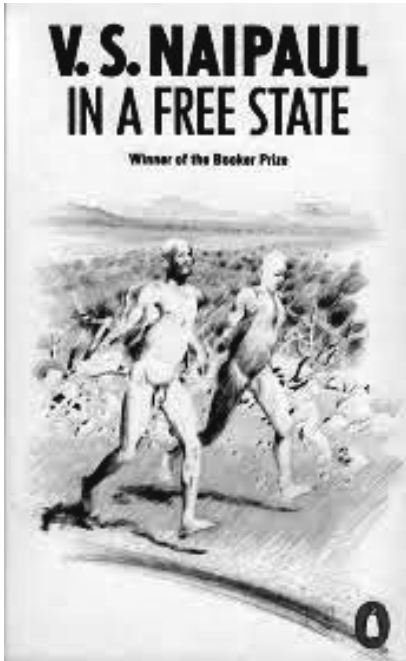


*Naipaul and Pat*



For two and half years Naipaul lodged in the upper rooms at 81a Wyatt Park Road from mid-1958 to the end of 1961. Most of his book *A House of Mrs Biswas* was written here and he also wrote his first travel book *The Middle Passage* while living in Streatham. Recalling his tenancy of the house he said it was a happy productive time for him and he has never stopped thinking kindly of the house and his landlady, Mrs Nurse, who lived in

Nuthurst Avenue. 81a was a furnished flat and he did his writing in the kitchen during the day in front of a window that overlooked the Streatham and Clapham High School for Girls in Wavertree Road. (Extracts from *John W Brown, Streatham Society.*)



His reputation was spreading. India's greatest living writer came to call. "A man I knew at the BBC Indian Service brought RK Narayan to see me one day." Naipaul was in the midst of *A House for Mr Biswas*. "I was living in Streatham Hill, and he brought this old man - not so old really - to see me. I was very moved by his modesty. I would have thought I should have been the one to go and see him. He was very shy, very charming." (Extracts from *the Guardian* 15 March 2008.)

Naipaul was also a Booker Prize winner: *In a Free State* (1971).

**Mark Bery**



## **REDEDICATION OF ST PETER'S CHURCH WAR MEMORIAL**



*(Photo Marion Gower)*

On Sunday 15th June members of the Streatham Society joined a large and friendly congregation at St. Peter's Church in Leigham Court Road for a service of rededication of the church war memorial by the Rt Revd Christopher Chessum, Bishop of Southwark.

The war memorial takes the form of a bronze figure of Christ on a teak cross standing on a hexagonal stone plinth which stands in front of the church on the corner of Leigham Court and Glennie Roads. It commemorates twenty-six local servicemen who died during the First World War. It was erected in 1921 at a cost of £213 3s 11d which was raised by subscription from members of the parish and families of the fallen.

In 2017 Historic England designated the memorial as a Grade II monument of historic and design interest stating that it was an 'eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this local community, and the sacrifice it has made in the First World War' and that it was 'a well-executed and imposing Calvary Cross'.

After almost a century, general wear, pollution and weathering had caused many of the names of the fallen to have been worn away; one of the faces containing names was completely illegible and other names were fading fast. The bronze figure of Christ also showed serious signs of corrosion with the build up of a bright bluish-green encrustation or patina which forms on brass by atmospheric oxidation. The teak cross remained in good condition although cleaning was needed to remove organic growth which had developed across the surface.



*St Peter's War Memorial  
- early photograph  
(Copy Kevin Kelly )*

To commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War, the church decided to undertake the work needed to bring the war memorial back to its original condition and an appeal was launched to raise the necessary funds needed to undertake the renovations. The Streatham Society was pleased to make a contribution towards this worthwhile project and our Chair, Shea Richardson, represented the Society at the rededication service.

In addition, Marion Gower undertook research to help identify surviving members of the families of those commemorated on the memorial and was successful in contacting Adrian Holdsworth who attended the rededication service. Captain Godfrey Holdsworth was one of the fallen listed on the War Memorial. Adrian's great-grandmother, Margaret Jane Eisenmann, was Captain Holdsworth's aunt. With the re-carving of the inscription on the base of the memorial the names of the fallen can now be clearly seen

St. Peter's extends its thanks and appreciation to all those who helped make the restoration possible including The War Memorials Trust, The Streatham Society and members of their congregation. The work was undertaken by Hall Construction Ltd. and their team of conservators and was overseen by Simon Launchbury, one of St. Peter's Churchwardens, who made the grant and faculty applications and launched the appeal.

**John W Brown and David Chapman**

## **REINSTALLATION AND DEDICATION OF A FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIAL**

To commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War St. Leonard's Church is to reinstall and rededicate its War Memorial (*below*). This large wooden monument lists the names of 113 men of the parish who lost their lives whilst serving in the armed forces between 1914-18.

Miraculously the tablet survived the fire that gutted the church in 1975 as at the time of the conflagration it had been temporarily placed in the crypt pending its re-erection in the church. For many years the memorial remained hidden beneath

the church until it was recently re-discovered. Since when it has been exhibited at the church's annual Remembrance Day Service.

The Rector of Streatham, the Revd Canon Anna Norman-Walker, said the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War provides an ideal time to re-erect the memorial in the church and the Parochial Church Council gave their unanimous approval for its reinstatement. "2018 gives St. Leonard's the perfect opportunity to reinstall the monument as a permanent reminder of the sacrifice made by the men of Streatham in one of the most horrendous conflicts of the 20th century."

The rededication service will to be held at 10.00am on Sunday November 11th.

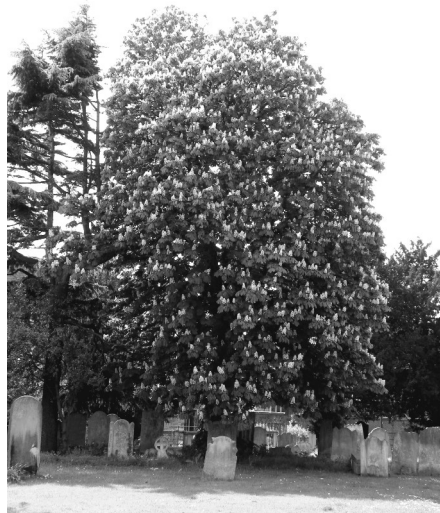
**JWB**



## DEATH OF A MUCH LOVED CENTENARIAN

Sadly we have to report the death of a much loved centenarian with the felling of the magnificent horse chestnut tree in St. Leonard's graveyard. For some years now this beautiful tree had been diseased and its condition caused concern. As well as serious fungal growth at its base the leaves exhibited evidence of the tree's gradual decay and this year its reawakening to the spring sunshine led to a very poor display of foliage and blossom.

As a consequence, on the recommendation of a tree surgeon, the tree was felled over two days in June. Although much missed by all who enjoy the peace, tranquillity and natural beauty of our ancient parish churchyard, its absence has allowed much more light into the graveyard.



The tree was over a hundred years old and was believed to be the largest horse chestnut tree in Streatham. In years past its display of 'candle' blossom was a splendid sight as the accompanying photograph taken some years ago shows.

**JWB**

## THE FRIENDS OF STREATHAM COMMON CELEBRATE 20 YEARS

### The start of it all

Being Secretary of the Streatham Society meant access to other initiatives and meeting persons with new ideas: if I achieved anything, it was by helping facilitate other people's plans. The Streatham Society had gained good status during the 1980s. We helped set up the Friends of Brockwell Park and the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery; we helped set up Streatham Against the Roads (which helped foil plans to put a new motorway across Streatham Common); we listed and helped protect buildings facing Streatham Common; and we ensured the London Loop walking guide included Norbury Park and the Common.

In 1996, when Lambeth Council decided to contract out the maintenance of Streatham Common and the Rookery, a Streatham Common Management Advisory Committee was set up to help monitor the performance of the contractors and to be proactive in the running of the areas. This committee proved us 'amateurs' rather out of our depth at the beginning of the Friends, two years later, when it had become evident that there was a need for local people to become active in running events on the Common and raising funds.

The first ever event organised by the Friends was March Wind Day, the forerunner to Kite Day. I knew of the aspirations of a local resident who wanted a pure kite event, but I suggested an event covering other aspects to make it more novel. Being a Japanophile and well aware of their concept of venerating Nature, I proposed an event where, as well as kites, there would be an artistic and scientific celebration of the wind with mobiles, wind-chimes, Aeolian harps, wind-blown seeds, etc. I failed to get sufficient support to sustain all these concepts, and the kites just had that "Wow!" factor to sustain it, anyway.

**John Cresswell**



*Kite Day 2018*

*Many of us remember the inspirational and peaceful wind mobiles and instruments hanging from the trees along the Southside path - a magical experience; but it would be lost among the enormous and excited crowds attracted to today's Kite Day.*

*A full history of the Friends' 20th is published in 'Common Knowledge' Issue 64. Ed.*

## STREATHAM COMMON EVENTS - 2018

### Kite Day

For the first time, the Streatham Society stall was not at Kite Day on Sunday September 2nd. The rearranged date (because of the water-logged and damaged common) clashed with Lambeth Heritage Festival's opening weekend activities and we were hosting our Henry Tate Gardens tours on Kite Day. Fortunately many of our tours' visitors were attracted to both events. Hopefully we'll be back next year.

### Scruffs Dog Show and Doggy Splash

Both the Dog Show, on Sunday 9th September, and Doggy Splash, on Sunday 7th October, had sunny weather and attracted many excited dogs and owners. The following photographs speak for themselves!

Again, there have been many events on the Common this year and tribute must be paid to the organisers, mostly volunteers, who manage them so well. Health & Safety arrangements and the large crowds attracted to these events mean it is hard work - and more volunteers are always needed.

Also thanks go to the sponsors, usually local organisations and businesses. Without them, there would be very few of these most enjoyable activities.

I only managed to visit and record a few events in Streatham, including the Streatham Festival, so I am grateful to Marion Gower and Colin Crocker for their photographs.

If anyone would like to send me photos and/or short accounts of any Streatham event they would be very welcome. I should particularly welcome photos of



*Kite Day 2018 (Photos MG)*



*Scruffs Fun Dog Show  
(Photo Colin Crocker)*



*At the Dog Show (photo CC)*

*A girl and her dog (left) wait patiently to run the egg and spoon race (which they won) while others discuss tactics. (Photo JH)*

children as I am unable to borrow a child for the purpose. So if you have a child in your family, how about a photograph at one of our play areas or children's events? These, of course, must be with permission unless they are posing for general photos for a specific reason, such as a display or winning a prize. This also applies to adults who may be horrified to appear accidentally in the *News* (no photos of me, please!).



*Doggies splashing!*  
(Photos JH)



## 120 YEARS OF TOOTING BEC COMMON CAFÉ

A special event was held on August 27th to celebrate the opening of the café on September 1st 1898. Before 1898 refreshments had been sold on foot and then by a local baker, John Barry, from a tent. After his tent was damaged by high winds he asked the LCC to replace it with a building.

The original refreshment house was built at a cost of just over £320. It was designed by in-house architect Thomas Blashill in a fashionable rustic Arts and Crafts style and built by John Garrett & Son of Balham. It housed a tea-room and kitchen, divided by a counter, and with an earth closet in the back yard for use of the licensee and his staff.

John Barry ran the café for three years at an annual rent of £25. He baked all bread and pastries. There was a first- and second-class menu seven days a week. Popular items each costing 1d (less than 0.5p) included tea, coffee, hot chocolate, lemonade and ginger beer. Biscuits, ham sandwiches and cakes cost at least twice as much.

Baker Albert Ruby outbid Barry in 1901 and, after the Tooting Bathing Lake (the Lido) opened in 1906, he persuaded the LCC to build him a second kiosk. After his death, his widow, Claudina, continued the licence until her death in 1932.

The café has been extended and refurbished several times since then, most recently in 2017 at a cost of around £200,000, but it retains its original Arts and Crafts appearance. Since 2005 it has been run by a small family business, San Remo Catering Ltd, specialising in park cafes. It continues to be open seven days a week, all year round. *(Information from event programme.)*



*The Opening Ceremony and the Cake  
(Photos MG)*



## IMAGES OF STREATHAM

### Pavement Clutter - Phone booths



At the last count (July), there were 35 phone booths along Streatham Hill and High Road; 15 of them between Streatham Hill Station and the Tate library. Most were filthy, graffiti-covered, apparently unused or unusable. One old-style red box had an ATM installed at

one side and the remains of an external phone at the other. The coin/card booths were particularly dirty; several now being used as advertising displays.

As most of the passers-by will have mobile phones and there are quieter pay-phones situated elsewhere (such as in Streatham Station Tesco), why so many? Why are obsolete or unused booths not removed? Planning permission has to be sought for new booths so why do these eyesores remain?

### Hide the Odeon?

Why have five trees been planted to obscure the Odeon, in addition to the existing large mature tree which hides about one third of the facade? There are also five recent plantings on the opposite pavement and another three on the central reservation between. Soon the cinema frontage will be hidden from view and the pavement space darkened. Judging by the surrounding sights and smells, it is already an area attracting antisocial behaviour and this can only make it worse. Do we really need a woodland glade in this congested part of the A23?

The Odeon, then the Astoria, opened on June 30th 1930, set at an angle to adjacent buildings with space to enhance the front aspect. It was designed by architect Edward A Stone who was responsible for many such iconic cinema designs in London. In 1939 it became the Odeon. Modifications to the interior, particularly with the introduction of multi-screens, have caused the loss of most of its original features, but the exterior, with its mixture of styles so fashionable in the inter-war years, remains.

No doubt in years to come there will be conflict between historic buildings and tree preservation groups - resulting from no overall planning.

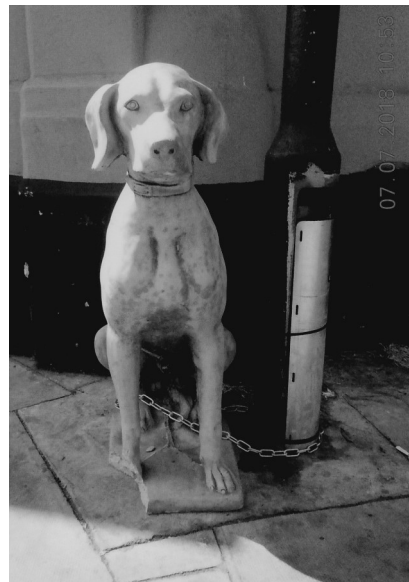
**JH**



*The Odeon - Trees in leaf September 2018 - How much will be visible next year?*



*Christ on the Cross behind a hedge  
with wheelie bins in Barcombe Avenue  
(Photos JH)*



*Where am I?  
(See p.14. Photos CC)*

## Keep-Fit Graffiti



I am not certain what the definition of graffiti is but suspect it is painting on a wall without the owner's permission. So in submitting this item of wall art in the newsletter's series on Streatham graffiti it may not technically qualify for inclusion.

However, it adorns the wall fronting onto the southern boundary of Streatham Green and as all the paintings featured have a keep-fit theme I suspect it was organised and executed by Crossfit Streatham, the gymnasium which occupies the building.

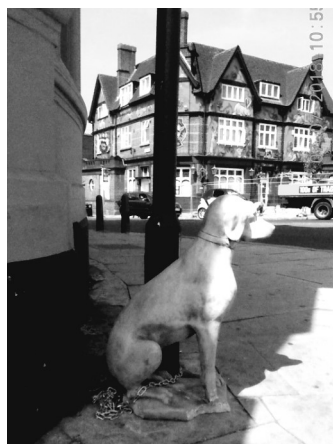
The wall features various men and women exercising with weights, skipping, climbing ropes and waving exercise balls about in the air. I get tired just looking at it! To date it has not been abused by 'taggers' and helps brighten up what was a dull and dreary boundary to the Green.

**JWB**

## More Images



*Dancing at Wellfield Street Party  
(Photos CC)*



*Outside The Mere Scribbler -  
mourning the loss of the Grey-  
hound pub to the Rabbits in the  
Hole?*

## The Streatham Festival 2018, 5th-14th October

The Festival, with a new October slot, displayed Streatham's vibrant arts scene. There was live music, drama, dance, comedy, workshops, art and poetry to enjoy at a wide range of venues all over Streatham.

The photo shows John Brown and his bookstall at the *(Re)discover Streatham* event in the Streatham Tate Library on the final Saturday. This showcased some of the many community-based projects and not-for-profit organisations available in our area.



I like the October slot - well away from the earlier Food Festival. The Streatham Strut and the Art23 displays from over 40 artists and poets in various venues, complemented by other events, worked well. I hope it proved a success.

## NOTES

### Lambeth in Bloom Award

Congratulations to the Streatham Common Community Garden which was joint winner with Brockwell Glasshouses of this award from Lambeth Council, presented at the Garden Museum on 18th October. It recognises the Community Garden as a thriving community space offering all the opportunity to grow, buy and eat fresh fruit and vegetables. Visitors are welcome to wander around this lovely garden during Wednesday and Sunday openings.

### White Lines - Clarification

In the Summer Newsletter, Andrew McKay states in his piece about Kerbside Car Parking and White Lines that having the Council paint a white line 'next to the kerb, across the whole length of the property frontage ... gives the householder exclusive access to that section of the kerbside' and thereby 'monopolise [s] a section of the public highway for all eternity'.

The Council's form of application for a white line marking provides authoritative clarification: 'We must emphasise to you that a White Line marking ... has no legal significance and is therefore not enforceable in law, however they are generally effective in preventing blocked entrances as they indicate access/egress is required from that property.'

**Frank Purdy**

### Correction

In our last issue, I mistakenly attributed artist Paul Moore's article in *News* issue 229 to Peter Moore. Apologies.

**JH**

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## LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

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### IDA LUPINO: FROM HER STREATHAM GARDEN THEATRE TO HOLLYWOOD STARDOM



*The Lupino Family Residence, 152 Leigham Court Road, Streatham  
- view from the rear garden in 1933*



*Stanley Lupino and his daughter Ida*



2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of a former resident of Streatham who rose to Hollywood stardom in the mid-20th century. Today her films can often be seen in the afternoon matinee spot on some of the myriad of television stations that grace the digital spectrum introducing her to a new generation of admirers. As an actress she was blessed with great beauty, considerable talent, and an unusual name - Ida Lupino.

She was born in 33 Ardbeg Road, Herne Hill, on 4 February 1918 and was a member of the famous Lupino theatrical family, whose stage traditions dated back to the 17th century. Her father was Stanley Lupino who was born in 1894

and was only six when he made his first appearance on the stage as a monkey in a pantomime at the Britannia Theatre in Hoxton. In 1910 he appeared as the cat in *Dick Whittington* at the Lyceum Theatre. By the age of 21 he was no longer playing animal parts and had established himself as a star pantomime performer. Later he had a successful stage partnership with Laddie Cliff. In the 1930s he appeared in 14 films, many of which he wrote himself.



At the height of his success in the 1930s he and his family moved to Streatham where they lived in a large house called Holmdene at 152 Leigham Court Road. The house was one of the largest in the area providing a luxurious and comfortable home for Stanley and his wife, Connie, and their two daughters, Ida and her sister Rita.



*Stanley Lupino and family at home 1932*

At the rear of the house was a massive garden where the family often relaxed and played croquet on the lawn. At the bottom of the garden Stanley built a small theatre in which members of the family would perform before their friends and relatives. It was in this theatre that Ida learned to sing, dance and act under the watchful eye of her father, mother and grandfather, George Hook Lupino Jr. At 13 Ida entered RADA, where GB Shaw cast her in *Heartbreak House*.

In 1933 her mother, Connie, took Ida with her when she went for an audition in London for the American director, Allan Dwan. Ironically Dwan rejected her mother for the part as she was too old and instead signed up 15-year-old Ida for the role in *Her First Affair*, which was the start of her successful film career.

Five other British movies rapidly followed and in August 1933, accompanied by her mother, Ida sailed to America, on contract with Paramount. Now with her hair cropped and died blonde she became a Hollywood beauty. Her first American film was made in 1934 and was aptly named *Search for Beauty*.



Ida with 3rd husband Howard Duff

She was just about to start work on her third Hollywood movie when tragically a bout of polio nearly ended her career. Recovered, she made eleven more films before leaving Paramount and shedding her dyed-blond image.

From 1939 she established herself in serious roles in major films, notably *The Light That Failed* with Ronald Colman, of which the New York Times said she 'suddenly burst forth as a great actress'. Now signed with Warner Brothers, she gave outstanding performances in *They Drive by Night* with George Raft and Humphrey Bogart, *The Sea Wolf* with Edward G Robinson and John Garfield, and *Ladies in Retirement*, ultimately marrying her co-star in the film, Louis Hayward.

Ida even appeared alongside Sherlock Holmes in the form of Basil Rathbone in the film *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* which was made by 20th Century Fox Studios in 1939. In 1941 she starred again with the great Hollywood actor Humphrey Bogart in *The High Sierra*, perhaps one of her best-known films which today, over 75 years later, is still regularly screened on television. In 1942 Ida received a major film honour when she won the New York Film Critics Award for her role in *The Hard Way*.

When America entered the Second World War Ida, her mother Connie and her sister Rita shared a house near the film studios and started a Victory Garden. Ida made war effort films, including *Hollywood Canteen*, about the club, of which she was a regular supporter, where servicemen met the stars.

Her marriage to actor Louis Hayward ended in 1945 after seven years. Three years later in 1948 she became an American citizen and married film writer and producer Collier Young, with whom she founded a production company. She wrote and co-produced *Not Wanted* in 1949, and took over from the director, Elmer Clifton, when he fell ill. She went on to write and direct seven further films with such challenging themes as unmarried mothers, rape and bigamy.

In an era when women were mainly seen as an adornment in front of the camera, Ida developed parallel careers. As well as being an actress and screen writer she also became an accomplished director and her astute casting gave several young actors their first break. Ida's other creative endeavours included writing short stories and children's books and composing music. She won a *Holiday* magazine award for artistic courage and the Foreign Press Association named her 'Woman of the Year'.



In 1951 she divorced Young (though they remained friends and collaborators) and married actor Howard Duff, with whom she had a daughter, Bridget, in 1952. Interrupting Ida's film career, the Duffs co-starred in a popular TV comedy series called *Mr Adams and Eve*.

Ida made many other TV appearances until the late 1970s and continued to appear in films throughout the decade, including starring with Steve McQueen in the 1972 film *Junior Bonner*. She made her last motion picture in 1978, the 60th film she had appeared in. Having won a Masquers award for excellence, an Emmy nomination and other honours, she received an Artistry in Cinema Award in 1979.

Today she is remembered mainly as an actress, referred to by The Times as 'one of the outstanding film actresses of her generation ... in her element playing tough tarts in hard-boiled yarns ... where her sultry good looks made her a perfect foil to actors such as Humphrey Bogart and George Raft'.

However, her achievement as a director easily equals, if not surpasses, her acting ability. At the close of her acting career she became a highly regarded and successful television director, directing numerous episodes of many popular television dramas of the day, including *The Fugitive*, *The Untouchables*, *The Virginian* and *Colombo*, filming episodes on a tight schedule and a challenging budget.

Her turbulent marriage to Howard Duff ended in 1984 and she then lived alone at her Los Angeles home. In later life her health gradually declined and, following a stroke, she died aged 81 on 3 August 1995. The most famous of the theatrical Lupinos, she epitomised what King Edward VII had once dubbed 'the royal family of greasepaint'.



**John W Brown & Tony Fletcher**

## WILL O' THE WISPS, TROUBADOURS, IMPS AND THE FOL-DE-ROLS - Part 2



*George Royle and his Fol-de-Rols*

We continue the story of George Royle and his Fol de Rols entertainment company where we left them in the Spring 2018 issue at the time of the outbreak of the First World War.

In 1914 George had moved to 48 Fernwood Avenue in Streatham but the onset of hostilities had brought to an end his seaside shows in the Floral Hall at Scarborough. Thanks to research undertaken by Christine Jones, we can piece together details of George's war-time service and gain confirmation that George Royle and Charles H M Bush were one and the same person.

It would appear that most of the army forms completed by or for him originally showed his name as George Royle, only for this entry to have subsequently been deleted and replaced with the name Charles Hector Bush. It seems the Army had no sympathy for his adopted stage name and as far as they were concerned he was plain Pte. Bush!

George joined the army on the 22nd January 1916 and was allocated to the Army Reserve. He was not mobilised until 12th October that year, when he was transferred to the Army Service Corps at Grove Park on 16th October. The army was unimpressed by his listed occupation as a 'theatrical proprietor' and he was allotted to the Motor Transport section on the understanding that he successfully completed training as a driver.

On 8th January 1917 he passed his driving test and qualified as a lorry driver, although it is unclear if he actually drove lorries as records show he was engaged on clerical duties in the months following the completion of his training. George spent the rest of the war in the south of England, and was promoted to acting Corporal on 13th July 1918.

It was in the last year of the war that his wife, Georgina, gave birth to their second son, Gerald Royle. Having signed up for the duration of the war, George

Royle, or L/Cpl. Charles Bush as the army insisted on calling him, was demobbed on 1st March 1919 and he returned home to his wife and sons at 48 Fernwood Avenue.

As post-war Britain slowly reverted to peace time normality, the seaside holiday industry recovered. Scarborough council contacted George and again invited his Fol-de-Rols troupe to perform at the Floral Hall for the summer season.

Mindful of the losses he incurred in 1914, George sought a partner to help share the financial risk of the undertaking. In this quest he was fortunate to be introduced to Greatrex, known as Rex, Newman, a former Air Force pilot who had previously run a touring concert party called The Gems. He was born in 1892 in Manchester and started writing sketches and lyrics around 1914.

The partnership worked well, with Rex concentrating on writing and looking after the box office while George produced, directed and appeared in the shows with the other members of the company. Keen to use fresh and topical material, Rex continually wrote new productions for the group which became a hallmark of their entertainments.

Once again the Fol-de-Rols company built up a reputation for their performances and in 1926 the White Rock Pavilion was opened in Hastings and George's company was chosen to launch the venue. Such was their success at this south coast holiday town, that they performed at the Pavilion every year up to 1939 when the outbreak of the Second



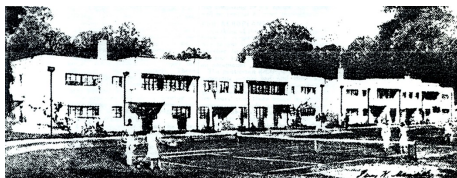
*Hastings - showing Fols' poster*

World War brought such entertainments to an end.

The Fol-de-Rols developed a successful formula for holiday audiences and several companies were formed and from the mid-1920s onwards they also undertook summer seasons at Eastbourne, Llandudno, Sandown and Westcliff.

Around 1929, George moved from his large house in Fernwood Avenue to 44 Prentis Road, between Streatham High Road and Tooting Bec Common. In 1932 a development of large, modern apartments was built close to Streatham Common, off Crown Lane, and George and his family took up residence there at 32 Crown Lane Gardens, where he was still living in 1934.

On Sunday June 24th 1934 tragedy was to hit George's family with the death of his 16-year-old son Gerald, who was killed in a flying accident at Scarborough. Gerald was Britain's youngest aviator, and was flying from an aerodrome near



*Crown Lane Gardens: Architect's drawing 1932 and today - the tennis courts replaced by a garden*



East Heslerton in a Gypsy Moth aircraft owned by the Scarborough Aero Club. He appears to have been practising aerobatics when he lost control of the plane which dived 800ft to crash into a field, probably killing him instantly. The aircraft immediately caught fire making any rescue impossible.

Gerald learnt to fly at the age of 13 and was a passionate aviator, described by his instructors as an exceptional pilot. He made his first solo flight when only 14 years of age. Following his death, the Air Ministry changed the regulations imposing a minimum age of 17 for solo flights. In February 1935 George and his wife opened a navigation room for use by the Reading Aero Club at Reading Aerodrome in memory of their son.

George Royle and his wife were made life members of the Reading Aero Club and donated £200 towards the cost of a Miles M2 Hawk aircraft for use by the club which was known as the Gerald Royle Memorial Aeroplane. It had the registration G-ADGR, the last two letters being assigned in remembrance of Gerald. This aircraft was subsequently owned by Julian Rowntree. Sadly, it had a tragic end when it crashed on 18th July 1937 on landing at Evere Airport in Brussels on a flight from a holiday the Rowntree's had in Frankfurt. Julian was injured in the crash but tragically his wife, Beatrice, was killed in the accident.

Following the loss of his son, George Royle retired from the Fol-de-Rols in 1935, leaving Rex to run the company.

During the Second World War George visited South Africa with ENSA. In 1948 he and his wife moved to New Zealand and lived with their son, Greig, a photographer, and his wife Joyce at 23 Boundary Road, Karori. George died there on 28th December 1957 aged 80, with his wife passing away five days later on 2nd January 1958.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Rex decided to continue Fol-de-Rols performances, and the company joined ENSA and entertained the troops in France, before the country was overrun by the Germans. The troupe then went on tour performing in the Middle East, Cyprus, Malta and Italy, before returning to France after the D Day landings in 1944. After the war Rex re-established the

Fol-de-Rols as seaside entertainers with summer seasons in Scarborough, Hastings, Eastbourne and Torquay and numerous appearances at other theatres in the winter months.

During the boom years for the seaside trade in the 1950s the company was reported to be 'the best and most popular of all the summer shows round the country. It had good comics, singers and dancers and the best scenery and costumes that money could buy'. Many top entertainers appeared with the troupe including comedians such as Arthur Askey, Richard Murdoch and Cyril Fletcher, as well as the famous pianist Semprini and the renowned organist Reg Dixon.

Following a successful production at St. Martin's Theatre in London's West End, Rex Newman toured the show which included a week at the Streatham Hill Theatre in May 1954. Billed as 'the famous song and laugh show', the cast included Jack Tripp, Jean Telfer and the well-known comedian and future television compere Leslie Crowther. The Fols revisited the Streatham Hill Theatre in May 1957, this time for a two week booking with a completely different programme performed in the second week.

Rex Newman retired in 1960 and sold the Fols to the well-known impresario Jack Hylton and Hugh Charles, who also mounted a show at St. Martin's Theatre in 1960. Hugh subsequently acquired Jack Hylton's interest in the company and it continued to perform at seaside venues under various managements up until 1977, by which time the format had become dated and the audiences preferred more modern forms of entertainment fronted by television personalities.

For around 70 years the Fol-de-Rols and their predecessors, the Will O' the Wisps, the Troubadours and the Imps, provided their unique brand of entertainment to seaside audiences around the country.

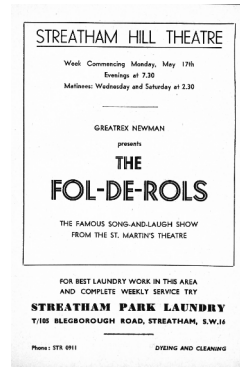
Thanks to Andrew's old postcard we now know that when not wearing his 'Johnny Walker' costume on stage, the company's founder, George Royle, spent the winter months at his various homes in Streatham planning the next season's shows.

However, the 'misunderstanding' concerning the blankets used by his company at their lodgings run by Miss Coussins at 98 Tennyson Avenue in Scarborough remains a mystery.

John W Brown, Andrew Hadden & Christine Jones



Streatham Hill Theatre  
Programme May 1954



## MITCHAM LANE MUSIC STORES



The photograph of the record sleeve forwarded by Philip Attwood is an interesting addition to our Streatham archive which sadly contains little relating to the Mitcham Lane Music Stores which occupied 73 Mitcham Lane from at least 1930 up until the time of the Second World War. Another sleeve for the business is held in Kevin Kelly's extensive collection of local record sleeves, a copy of which is reproduced herewith.

Although the effects of the depression continued to be felt into the 1930s Streatham was by then an affluent middle-class south London suburb. The many large late Victorian and Edwardian houses which were to be found in Mitcham Lane and the streets adjoining were occupied by comparatively well-to-do families for whom the gramophone, or record-player, as it became more widely known, was a popular entertainment.

The Mitcham Lane Music Stores would have benefited from these clients who no doubt not only purchased their records from the shop but also sheet music to be played on the many upright pianos which occupied most middle-class homes at that time. The business is listed in Streatham Directories from 1930 until 1938 when the last Streatham Directory was published. The 1940 Kelly's directory for London has no listing for the property so I assume it ceased trading c.1939, no doubt a casualty of the war-time economy.



*The Mitcham Lane Music Stores  
73 Mitcham Lane*

The shop started life in the 1880s as a residential house called Clovelly which appears to have been first occupied by a Mrs Reynolds who is listed as living there in 1887 and 1888. Henry Grosvenor was the next inhabitant (1891 & 1892) followed by Arthur P Caley (1894-1899). William Edward Cox moved into the house in 1900 and was the last resident, living there up to at least 1905, after which the ground floor of the house was converted into a shop c.1907 becoming a popular local chemist outlet run by Charles Breese, who also ran another chemist shop a little further up Mitcham Lane at no. 119.

He proudly claimed the stone step of his store, which had been worn away by countless thousands of customers visiting the premises, was the best advert he could have for his business! Sadly he died under tragic circumstances in 1924 and it is likely that some time thereafter the Mitcham Lane Music Stores set up business there.

Since 2014 the premises have been occupied by Beresford Estate Agents.

**JWB**

### **THE HOWLAND LECTURE - One of Streatham's ancient traditions**

Today, Streatham is a modern, bustling south London suburb and it is easy to forget that it was once a small country village in the heart of the Surrey countryside. The town's history dates back to at least Roman times, and over the ensuing centuries Streatham acquired many ancient traditions and customs, some of which have survived down to the present day.

One such is the Howland Lecture, or Sermon, which this year will be given at St. Leonard's Church, on St. Leonard's Day, Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

By the will of Elizabeth Howland, dated 12th October 1717, among other bequests was a sum of 'Forty shillings (£2) per Annum' which was to be 'yearly laid out for ever and paid for a Sermon to be preached in the Parish of Streatham on the 17th day of November in every year from and after my death by such persons as my said dear Daughter and her heirs shall nominate'.

Over the following 300 years the sermons have been given intermittently, the last being in 2015 when the Revd Canon Roger Royle spoke on 'Called or conned?'. Roger was a popular and well known vicar who broadcast regularly on the BBC.

This year, the sermon is to be given by Dave Tomlinson. Dave was a house church leader for many years and is now an Anglican priest. He founded the legendary Holy Joe's, a church in a pub in Clapham for church drop-outs. He is a best-selling author and a regular guest on Radio 2. His theme is: 'Black Sheep and Prodigals', an antidote to black and white religion.

The event is free of charge and followed by wine and nibbles.

**JWB**



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# STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

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## EVENTS REPORTS

### Meetings

#### **Morden Hall Park - A gentleman's country estate in suburbia**

Stephen Benton's talk on July 2nd was enjoyed by an audience of about 60, including 11 visitors. Stephen is a qualified City of London and Westminster Tour Guide and a Volunteer Guide at Morden Hall Park and Tate Modern.

He described his presentation as the story of Morden Hall Park - a green oasis in suburban London. There are features of a typical country estate, with a late 18th century house, a deer park and rose garden. But there is also a glimpse of the industrial history of the River Wandle, with two snuff mills. Whilst the Park's owners were wealthy, this was never an aristocratic estate and no-one famous lived there. Its survival is down to the generosity of the last owner, Gilliat Edward Hatfeild (*sic*). When he died in 1941, he gave the estate to the National Trust to ensure it would not be developed and could be enjoyed free of charge by future generations.

#### **Fair Shares for All - Rationing in the UK during and after WW2**

Over 50 people, including six visitors, were attracted to hear David Evans on July 16th. David is a registered City of London and City of Westminster Guide. His most interesting talk included a look at some aspects of rationing in other countries during the period.

Augmenting David's talk was a fascinating exhibition of ephemera relating to rationing in Streatham during the war, mounted by Colin Crocker from his vast collection of wartime memorabilia. This included a number of books produced by the Ministry of Food, containing recipes and ideas to help housewives make the most of their powdered eggs and spam to produce appetising and filling meals from the meagre rations that were available at that time.

It was also interesting to learn that long-time Streatham Society member Betty Searle had served in the Ministry of Food at their Colwyn Bay headquarters during the war. What a pity that Laurie Whiting could not be present to regale us with his many mouth-watering memories of eating 'snook' and whale-meat as a young boy in the early 1940s!

#### **Ephemera, Collectables and Antiques**

Our long-established Members' Evening on August 6th again attracted a wealth of exhibits for the enjoyment of 35 members, plus three visitors who also contributed. This event dates from many years ago when our Local History Group held monthly meetings which included displays of members' artefacts, collec-

tions and research. We thank all contributors for the variety of items which were brought and described at this popular meeting.

### **Artists' London - The role played by Streatham**

Mirielle Galinou gave our first talk for Lambeth Heritage Month to about 45 people on September 3rd. If you think early paintings of London by foreign artists were all painted from life and therefore a true representation ... think again! Mirielle gave a fascinating overview from there to Streatham - paintings which really were painted from life, but perhaps with some artistic licence.

Mireille is a former curator of Paintings, Prints and Drawings at the Museum of London. In 1996 she published *London in Paint, the Museum's Catalogue of Oil Paintings* (co-written with John Hates). In 2010 she won an award for *Cottages and Villas - the Birth of the Garden Suburb*. She set up 'Your London Publishing' in 2015. Her recent publication *The Streatham Sketchbook* (reviewed in *News issue 229 Summer 2017*) followed that of *The Dulwich Notebook*.

A special raffle, including two recent paintings by Streatham Vale artists John Ockenden and the late Dennis Masters, brought in over £50.

### **Lost Lambeth Architecture**

Our second Heritage Month meeting on September 17th welcomed Edmund Bird. He presented a study of the architectural treasures of Lambeth (with a particular focus on Streatham) that have been destroyed over the years, largely during the second World War and in the decades that followed in the 1950s, 60s and 70s when great swathes of our built heritage succumbed to the wreckers' ball for redevelopment.

Edmund is the author of a set of five volumes recording and assessing the architectural history of Lambeth throughout the Victorian era and the Twentieth Century. His books were on sale at this event, all proceeds going to Lambeth Libraries & Archives service. Edmund was Head of Conservation & Urban Design in Lambeth for many years before moving to the same role in Camden. He has been heritage advisor to a range of organisations under the Mayor of London since 2006 including the Greater London Authority and Transport for London.

### **Politics and Reality - Being Leader of the Opposition**

On October 1st Councillor Tim Briggs, who was Conservative Opposition Leader in 2017, told us of his experiences then accepted questions which led to a lively discussion.

### **Lambeth Heritage Month**

The Streatham Society provided four events for the packed Heritage programme: two talks (*above*), a stall at the History Fair and the Henry Tate Gardens tours.

Friday's launch event at the new Clapham Library and the following day's History Fair on Saturday September 1st at the Omnibus Centre were hosted by the

Clapham Society. Last year, at the first of this new format, these were hosted by the Streatham Society at St Leonard's Church. They were a resounding success and the Clapham Society certainly carried on the tradition.

Some of our committee attended the Festival's most enjoyable opening event. It was held on the basement floor of the library with the shelving and study rooms spiralling above us. The South Circular Chamber Orchestra (SCO) performed, interspersed by talks, including one on the new library by Christophe Egret. There was an excellent buffet and time to catch up with other groups.

The Local History Fair attracted a steady stream of visitors. We displayed about a third of our more recent stock - about 20 titles - and took a very respectable £150. This was very pleasing as we don't expect to sell much outside our area. We were very impressed by the new facilities at the Omnibus Centre (the old library) and particularly envious of the lecture theatre.

On Sunday September 2nd almost 100 visitors enjoyed two tours of Henry Tate Gardens. These were led by Graham Gower and John Brown. We sold £170-worth of publications and received £79 in donations at our bookstall. This hidden Streatham gem continues to attract and amaze visitors.

Unfortunately, this year the tours clashed with the rescheduled Kite Day. Our Henry Tate tours are planned as part of the Wandsworth Festival, on the last Sunday in May, and Lambeth Heritage Festival, on the first Sunday in September. Hopefully we'll be back on the traditional Kite Day spring date in 2019. We always enjoy this event when we meet many people and gain much publicity.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Subscriptions for 2019 now due**

Membership for 2018 remains steady at c.280. Attendance at meetings is high at an average of c.50; again several have been above comfortable capacity.

The 2019 subscription is due on January 1st but payment is accepted at meetings or by post from November 15th. This must be by cheque, payable to The Streatham Society, or cash, as I cannot manage additional methods; however BACS is available on request. The subscription remains at £10 (individual); £15 (household); £180 (life). Please give all household names with that payment.

Membership cards for those who have already paid for 2019 accompany this *News*. Final reminders will be sent out with the February *News* but it would be most helpful if payments were made before then. 2018 membership expires on March 31st 2019. Of course payment is accepted after this date, but back copies of the *News* may not be available. Membership cards will be given at meetings or sent with the *News* issue following your payment. Please enclose an s.a.e. with payment if you wish to have it before then.

We welcome new members Sue and Roger Wates, Shimi Hussein, Richard Fowler, Lorraine Stoker, Andrew Smith, Jan and Tomasz Potworowski. We hope they enjoy our events and publications.

### **Gift Aid**

Occasionally I am asked why I don't implement Gift Aid. The reason is that it seems a lot of work for an uncertain reward, especially as I have other Society commitments.

Several years ago, I circulated Gift Aid forms to all our members. The take-up was only about 20%; a significant number of our members were unwilling or didn't qualify. Annual checks and donations must be documented and I should therefore have to provide two sets of accounting. I also guess additional donations would shrink. This year an impressive £628 was given with subscriptions. Thus I find it far easier and probably more lucrative to encourage these and run the monthly raffle.

### **Long-term members**

Every year I receive notes and generous donations from some of our oldest members. These are usually people who grew up in Streatham and have fond memories of their early years. Some live far away, some still live here, but none can attend meetings so they rely on the *News* for contact. It is very humbling to be appreciated by these members who gain least from the Society.

One of these is Claude Pinney, of Highcliffe in Dorset, who was most apologetic for his late payment - because he had been in hospital for five months! He sent it with a generous donation. We wish him a speedy recovery.

I recently looked through our Membership Register 1974-1997. This meticulously handwritten record lists membership from the inauguration of the Society until digitalisation in 1997. The first recorded member is Mrs Jean Gaffin. She continued her subscription until last year - 43 years! Brenda Hargreaves, who contributed much to the Society, was the seventh member recorded.

If any of our older members wish to contribute their Streatham memories - however short - to the *News*, they would be most welcome.

### **Another Donation**

In addition to the donations mentioned above, we have recently received one from the Strathbrook Road residents. This was the amount left over from their 2017 street party. Thank you for thinking of us.

**Judy Harris**

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO YOU ALL**  
**Thank you for your support**

## CHRISTMAS MEETING - MEMBERS' EVENING

Our members' Christmas Party takes place on December 4th. Please do not bring non-members, such as partners and guests. (The Household subscription covers up to three people.) This event is run by and for members and space does not allow us to accommodate more. Please don't arrive before 7.20pm as we need to set out the room first. Refreshments will start by about 8pm; entertainment will start about 8.20, followed by second helpings.

We request members bring food contributions; sweet or savoury finger food which isn't messy as we cannot provide cutlery. Sandwiches and 'party nibbles' are very popular, so if generous members can provide these - wonderful! Sorry, no biscuits, apart from posh ones, as no one eats them. Drinks are also requested, but not those that need diluting. To allow our admirable tea team to join us, there will be no teas and coffees served that evening. Any surplus bottles or cartons may be put in the raffle.

We'll provide paper plates and cups etc. Please collect your containers before we clear up. There will be a large raffle with at least twice the usual number of prizes. Good quality contributions for this are welcome. As usual, please chat and laugh where appropriate!

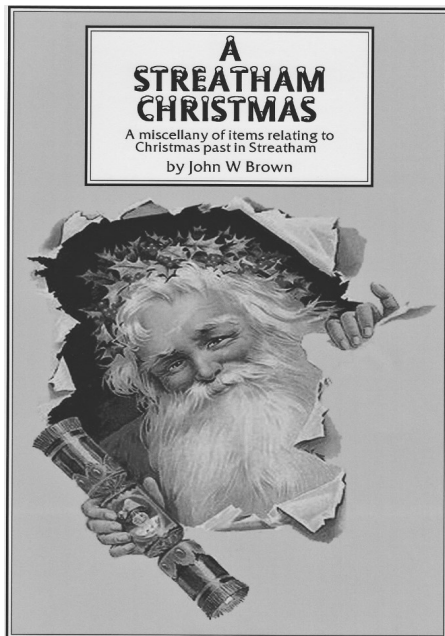
## CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

**A Streatham Christmas - A miscellany of items relating to Christmas past in Streatham** by John W Brown would make a wonderful Christmas present for Streatham residents past and present. It is on sale at meetings or by post. (*Price £6.30 incl. p&p*).

This, perhaps with John's newest publication, **Streatham Past & Present** (£11.40) or **Fascinating Streatham** (£7.40) would solve your present problems - and don't forget our attractive **notecard packs**; 5 prints of paintings of 19thC Streatham plus envelopes (£4.30).

*Please send a cheque, payable to the Streatham Society, and your delivery address to me, details back page.*

**JH**

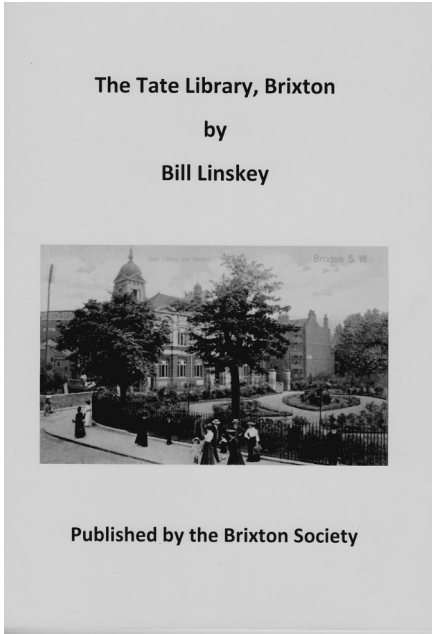


## NEW PUBLICATIONS

*The following books have recently been published by other local societies and are not available from the Streatham Society.*

### **THE TATE LIBRARY, BRIXTON - Bill Linskey**

*The Brixton Society      A5 30pp £2.50*



*Sir Henry Tate, Bart  
(1819-1899)*

This well-researched publication tells the story of how Brixton came to have the fine library that has been serving its population for more than a century. The first section is about Henry Tate: his life, work and philanthropy. The second focuses on how the library came about and introduces some of the other people involved such as the architect and the first librarian.

Originally a Liverpool grocer, from 1859 Tate made his fortune in sugar refining and the production of sugar cubes. In his later years he lived on his estate, Park Hill, Streatham (*extant*), where he established his extensive art collection and first art gallery. His collection was donated to the Tate Gallery.

Listed are Sir Henry Tate's enormous monetary donations to establishments mainly in Liverpool and London. Apart from the Tate Gallery, local Tate libraries were founded in South Lambeth, Brixton and Streatham.

**THE OLD FIRE STATION 1881-2018 A History - Helen Chadney, Jeanette Hoile, Bryon Fear, Stephen Oxford, Malcolm Woodman**

*The South London Theatre*

*120pp, profusely illustrated £10*



This most impressive history was commissioned by the South London Theatre Building Preservation Trust Ltd and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It was launched on Sunday 1st July at the South London Theatre Centre (adjacent to St Luke's Church, Norwood Road, West Norwood) on their Open Day celebrating the return of the theatre group after extensive renovations to the building (*photo below*).

The book's first chapter recounts the early life of the old West Norwood Fire Station





1881-1916 until it was replaced by a more modern station in Norwood Road, (since replaced by the new Fire Station on Knight's Hill).

Further chapters deal with the acquisition of the building by St Luke's Church 1917-1967 then the formation of the South London Theatre Centre in 1967. From its shabby surroundings, the dedication of its members and constant fund-raising have succeeded in preserving this wonderful building and the theatre centre for future generations.

The Open Day was well attended with tours, a café and a several events. The future programme promises a wide variety of activities. It is good to welcome the group back to West Norwood from their exile to the South Norwood Stanley Hall. Hopefully recent renewed interest in theatrical events will attract new members and deserved success.

### **CRYSTAL PALACE CONNECTIONS - Bob Flanagan**

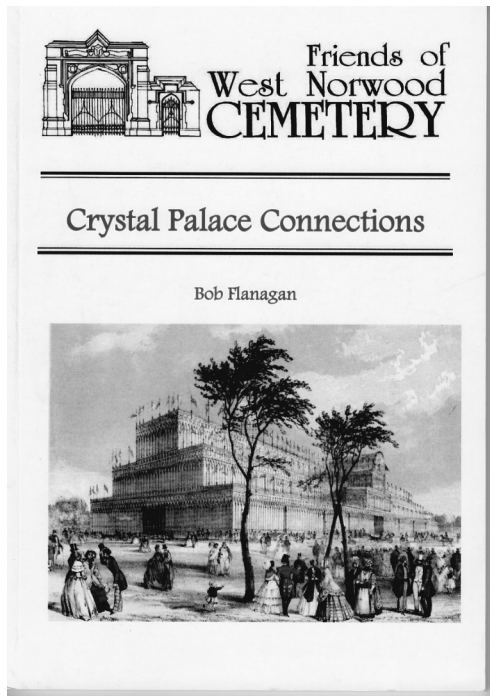
*The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery* A5 96pp colour illustrations £7

Another well-researched, copiously illustrated book from Bob Flanagan continues the Friends aim to document as fully as possible the burials and associated monuments within the cemetery.

The South London Metropolitan Cemetery, designed by Sir William Tite, was opened in what was then the hamlet of Lower Norwood in 1837. Since then some 250,000 interments have taken place in more than 40,000 individual graves.

This attractive publication is the latest in a series which can be used as self-contained guides within the cemetery. Sixty-eight significant people with a Crystal Palace connection have been documented with biographical detail and grave location. It can be argued West Norwood Cemetery has more tangible reminders of the Palace than anywhere.

Books can be ordered or are on sale at meetings and monthly tours. For details, see website [www.fownc.org](http://www.fownc.org)



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## MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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### NOVEMBER

**Wed 21 & Christmas willow wreath-making workshops**

**Sun 25** Using foliage, dried fruit and spices Indoor learning centre  
**12-2pm** Suggested donation £15 for one wreath Book place on website  
Streatham Community Garden, Rookery, Streatham Common

**Sat 24 Remembrance - Marking Armistice 100**

**7.30pm** Opus XV1 - Chamber Choir. To include Bach's *Jesu Meine Freude*  
and Taverner's *Song for Athens* £15/£12  
St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Rd, Streatham

**Sun 25 Barnet Symphony Orchestra play Paganini and Beethoven**

**7.30pm** St Leonard's Church, Tooting Bec Gardens/High Rd, Streatham

### DECEMBER

**Sat 1 Streatham Christmas Lights Switch On at 5pm**

**4 - 8pm** Carols, stalls and Santa  
Babington Plaza (by The Manor Arms)

**Sun 2 Saint Bartholomew's Orchestra Winter Concert**

**6.30pm** To include Rossini, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Elgar  
St Philip's Church, Beech Rd, Norbury

**Wed 5 Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree**

**7.30pm** Join the Friends of Streatham Common by the crib

**Sun 9 Rookery Christmas Fair and Market**

**11.30am** Over 40 stalls, carols, Santa, food, farmers' market £2 donation  
**-4.30pm** Streatham Common

**Tues 11 Presidential and Brian Bloice Memorial Lecture**

**7.30pm** 'More Non-secret Work' Chris Constable, following AGM  
106 The Cut SE1 (Housing Association Meeting Room,  
access via raised pavement almost opposite the Old Vic)  
*Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society*

**Sat 15 A Streatham Choral's Christmas Charity Concert**

**7.30pm** Including Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*,  
readings, wine and mince pies. £8/£6  
St Leonard's Church, as above

**Thur 20 A Christmas Celebration**

**8pm** St Peter's Church Choir with wind group Aeolus X  
Free, with closing collection in aid of Church and Choir funds  
St Peter's Church, as above

## **JANUARY**

**Tues 8**      **The Promised Land - Migration & Foreign Communities**  
**7.30pm**      **South of the Thames**      Len Reilly, archivist and historian  
*SLAS*, as above

**Thur 17**      **South London Suburbs - their development**  
**7.30pm**      Len Reilly, archivist and historian  
Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill SE19  
*The Norwood Society*

## **FEBRUARY**

**Thur 21**      **The History of Parks**  
**7.30pm**      Travis Elborough, author and reviewer, charts the history of the  
British park and talks about his book 'A Walk in the Park'  
*Norwood Society*, as above

## **MARCH**

**Thur 21**      **The Other Triangle - Fox Hill, Tudor Road & Belvedere Road**  
**7.30pm**      Alun Thomas digs into the history of the hills and past residents  
*Norwood Society*, as above

**Sun 31**      **Saint Bartholomew's Spring Concert**  
**7.30pm**      To include Mendelssohn, Mozart, Haydn  
St John's Church, Sylvan Rd, Upper Norwood



*Monthly Farmers' Market in the Rookery, Streatham Common  
- third Saturday (not December) 9.30am - 2.30pm*

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

**Registered Charity 283297**