



STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 232 Spring 2018



Streatham Youth & Community Trust
GOOD NEIGHBOURS PARTY

Angie Farrar, CEO SYCT

David Glide, Sports Apprentice

Nicole Griffiths, Volunteer Youth Worker

(See p.8)

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

HENRY TATE GARDENS TOURS

Meet main gates, Streatham Common
Nth, close Leigham Court Rd

Buses 249, 417. No parking or toilets on
site. Strictly no photos of private hous-
es. Free, donations welcome; bookstall.

Sunday 27th May 2pm and 3pm

BYGONE STREATHAM

Talk, John Brown

Monday June 4th 8pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

& Review of the Society's Year

Monday 18th June 8pm

MORDEN HALL PARK:

A country estate in suburbia

Talk, Stephen Benton

Monday 2nd July 8pm

FAIR SHARES FOR ALL: Rationing in Britain during and after WWII

Talk, David Evans

Monday 16th July 8pm

EPHEMERA, COLLECTABLES & ANTIQUES: Members' evening

Bring and tell us about favourite items

Monday 6th August 8pm

ARTISTS' LONDON:

The rôle played by Streatham

Talk, Mireille Galinou

Monday 3rd September 8pm

Lambeth Heritage event

LOST LAMBETH ARCHITECTURE

Talk, Edmund Bird

Monday 17th September 8pm

Lambeth Heritage event

*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.
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STREATHAM ROUND AND ABOUT

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

At one time Streatham was labelled the entertainment centre of South London. To-day, the label might well say the supermarket centre of South London, as in recent months Streatham High Road has seen the opening of another bunch of food stores. It would seem that Streatham people are a hungry lot, enjoying the choice of food offered by the supermarket chains. No doubt these companies have done their homework and seen in Streatham a market for their wide ranging instore products. Food is evidently the driving force for this change in the Streatham shopping experience.

Years ago there was the complaint of too many shoe shops along the High Road - now there is one. Today we can observe the plethora of coffee shops that now sprinkle the High Road, adding that touch of continental living as you drink your coffee and consume a favourite pastry alfresco style. Maybe we could say there are too many coffee shops (perhaps even restaurants); although the High Road in the past has had its fair share of coffee shops, notably the stylish Zeeta, the Rumbling Tum coffee bar, the ever popular tea and coffee place - Joe Lyons, plus for the more sedate, Fullers Tea Rooms (better known for their cakes). Nevertheless, it's all good for the High Road economy and reflects much of the demographic changes seen in Streatham over recent years, and to the manner of modern living. More young people and a new up-market Streatham are bringing the High Road back to life.

So let's turn to the supermarkets. Some might feel there are too many along the High Road, more than enough of them to satisfy our shopping needs. Others no doubt welcome the choice and the convenience they offer. Perhaps we are spoilt by the choice, as one might observe on going down the High Road. Believe it or



Aldi & M&S Foodhall at Streatham Station



not you would pass fourteen of them, all familiar names and boldly advertising their presence to us.

To start with, at south Streatham you would see a Lidl store tucked to one side of the High Road by Hermitage Lane. Going north towards Streatham Common and keeping to the west side of the road you would come to a Sainsbury's Superstore, integrated into the Streatham Silk Mill building. Moving on you would soon come to, and not miss, the massive presence of a Tesco Extra store, part of a pleasing modern residential development.



M&S Foodhall at Streatham Hill

A stone's throw further on and cramped next to Streatham station is a newly built Marks and Spencer Food Hall with an Aldi store adjoining. Both replaced a previous Morrisons supermarket (two for one!). Progress up to St. Leonard's Church and towards the centre of the High Road you will pass Bartek, a supermarket servicing the local Polish community. Continuing along the High Road you will soon reach another Lidl, followed by an Iceland store with its new and improved frontage,

before you reach a Sainsbury's Local, just beyond Becmead Avenue.

The next supermarket you would meet on this side of the High Road is a Tesco Express store, located just before Streatham Hill Station. On the opposite side of the High Road can be seen the smart new Polish Mieszko supermarket. Back on the west side of the High Road and on the corner of Sternhold Avenue, immediately past the station is a Co-op Food Store, refurbished and giving competition to the recently opened Marks & Spencer Food Hall, sitting just yards away and part of the new London Square development. Look to the opposite side of the High Road again and you will note a further Sainsbury's Local close to Wyatt Park Road.

So there we have it; a recital of some fourteen supermarkets servicing the people of Streatham. More so, this does not include the smaller and equally important independent food stores. Many of these cater for the varied taste of a multicultural local community and those with a liking for particular foods and sit between the larger supermarkets. These retail businesses are under much pressure in the cost cutting war that afflicts the larger supermarkets. Along with these smaller food outlets, the coffee shops, cafés, restaurants and bakeries make the shopping and recreational experience of going down the High Road to shop more pleasurable than it has been for many years.

Yet, there is one fleeting thought about these supermarkets - will they all be there in five to ten years' time? Will we have more, or will the relentless competition of keeping prices down, growth in on-line shopping and social change see some of them fall by the wayside? Perhaps so, but you never know. Maybe new types of supermarkets will appear along our High Road and herald in a new retail experiences just as the country's first supermarket did in 1951. This happened to be at Streatham Hill with the Premier supermarket; soon followed by the first ever Waitrose supermarket to open, which occurred in Streatham in 1955. It would appear that Streatham has a predilection for supermarkets and their existence dotted along Streatham High Road can only bring competition in prices and service to the benefit of residents.



Bartek

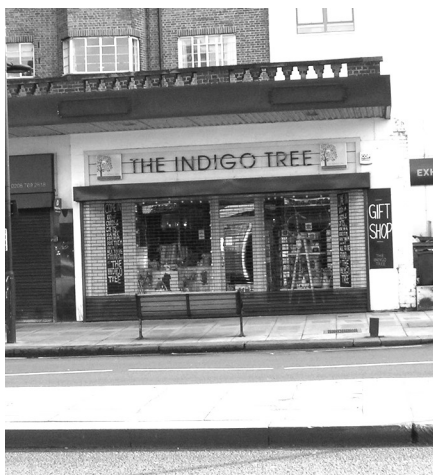
Graham Gower

LIFE AFTER PRATTS



Pratts closes - July 28th 1990 (opposite Tate library). Later demolished.

As any older Streatham resident will tell you, the End of Streatham Shopping came with the closure of Pratts (John Lewis). This reflected rapid changes in High Street shopping as out-of-town venues, then internet shopping encroached.



The Indigo Tree and the Funky Potters



For years afterwards Streatham suffered badly. The long shopping street, disadvantaged by its function as a main London artery, and dense population have long been a problem. Some shops looked shabby, many closed and shoppers went elsewhere.

However recent changes have seen smarter shop fronts and an increase in shops catering for the flat-dwelling incomers. Streatham is developing as the place to eat. The new venues are inviting. If they are not commercially viable they will close, but many are surviving. Lambeth has few eating centres: Crystal Palace and Brixton are popular but Streatham has the space for a large variety to attract more visitors.

Following Graham's item (*above*), I decided to list the shops in Streatham I have visited recently. I admit I live in West Norwood but I frequently walk via the interesting paths and streets which connect Leigham Court Road to all parts of Streatham.

In the last month, in addition to the library, I have visited Aldi, M&S Food hall, WHSmith and the adjacent Sainsbury's, Bartek (wonderful cheesecake) and The Indigo Tree (lovely cards and presents). I have had breakfast or coffee at Hood, Perfect Blend, Estate Agent, Funky Potters, Boyce da Roca, Blackbird Bakery and Brickwood!

From this list you will gather that one of my favourite pastimes is breakfasting out - about four times a week. Yes, I love smashed avocado with poached eggs and salmon on locally sourced sourdough bread with strong coffee, preferably Volcano (ground in Brixton)! I also breakfast in West Norwood, Tulse Hill, Herne Hill, Dulwich and Crystal Palace.

Why these relatively expensive venues? I like the food, the lack of frying smells and the atmosphere. I can sit undisturbed for at least an hour in comfort, reading a newspaper or watching and listening as the world goes by. I'm rather noise

averse so I avoid busy times, but the increasing tendency of people to speak loudly doesn't annoy as it would if I was trying to speak to a companion; I listen to some fascinating conversations! I usually sit in the window seat, so if you see a little old woman bent over a newspaper amidst the trendy set it's probably me. Please don't knock and wave!

Another draw is that I am with a younger generation, specifically the 30-50 yr olds. I retired 21 years ago; I do not miss work at all but I do miss the contact with people of all ages. Having no younger family and with interests which attract predominantly retired people, I feel I am out of touch with some two-thirds of the population. I mean no disrespect to all my lively and interesting friends but, when you reach your 70s, the problems of ageing gradually encroach and it can be difficult to keep positive.

Frequently out, I never do a 'big shop', preferring to shop on my way home from another activity and buying a maximum of two bagfuls. Therefore I shop near a bus stop, usually at Sainsbury's. Why? My local bus is the 417 which has a large Sainsbury's at either end of the route (Crystal Palace and Clapham Common) and three smaller stores in between.

However my favourite food shop is M&S - small portions, so no waste/stale/rotten food. Imagine my joy when, after a weekend brunch at Hood (first in at 10am), I can now spend a leisurely hour before crossing the road to shop at the Streatham Hill M&S, then cross back to the 417 to travel home!

To complete this article, I walked the length of the High Road from Brixton Bus Garage to Green Lane. There are over 100 restaurants, cafes and coffee shops - this does not include the many take-away food shops with little or no seating.

P.S. If you like a department store, I recommend Morley's in Brixton: four floors with a variety of merchandise: clothes, haberdashery, kitchenware etc, well-displayed, helpful assistants and plenty of space. Shop local! **JH**



Brickwood and Hood



STREATHAM YOUTH AND COMMUNITY TRUST

I was delighted to be invited to the SYCT Good Neighbours Party on Saturday 24 March 2-6pm at their John Corfield Centre in Conyers Road. I have long been a supporter of this charity, and Brian Bloice left it a substantial bequest. We both admired the way it is organised, has adapted to modern requirements and successfully raised funds to meet a variety of specific needs.

Sports and physical activities, four Youth Club sessions and a Breakfast Club take place at the John Corfield Centre. A disability Youth Club and Young Carers' Homework Club are held at the Wellfield Road Centre. After school, Saturday and school holiday Adventure Play sessions and a One O'clock Club are organised at The Hut, Streatham Vale Park. Room hire is also available. Donations and volunteers are always welcome.

The party (*below*), particularly directed at older people, included afternoon tea,



young people's demonstrations, including table tennis and Taekwondo, followed by bingo, walking football, live music and a raffle. I didn't know what to expect so was overwhelmed by the welcome and the food and drink offered. I hadn't time to stay long but was given permission to take photographs before I left. I shall certainly continue to support this excellent local venture. **JH**



Indi Godfrey-Strowbridge demonstrates Taekwondo

CYCLING ON THE PAVEMENT: THE WAY FORWARD?

In the Autumn 2017 edition of Streatham Society News in an article entitled 'Healthy Streets?' I described a correspondence in which I tried unsuccessfully to persuade Transport for London to reinstate the 'no cycling on pavements' notice which used to be fixed to the pedestrian guardrail in front of Streatham Hill Station. It occurs to me that the article did not consider the cyclists' point of view and that to redress the balance a further article might try to speculate on what a more cycle-friendly policy for riding on pavements might look like. I should, first, declare an interest, or the lack of it: I am not a cyclist - I sold my bike about 30 years ago because I thought cycling in London was too dangerous.

The general background to the problem of cycling on pavements seems to be that with the growth in the number of cyclists in the last decade or so there has been a recognition by both the authorities and by cyclists that cycling on the road can be dangerous and that two wheels and four wheels do not mix, and that as a result there is an increasing tendency for cyclists to ride on the pavement. The response of the authorities has been to make some efforts to accommodate cyclists by providing dedicated cycle lanes, safe routes and other similar measures but their efforts are often frustrated by the physical limitations of our streets and pavements. They do not seem to have taken any positive steps to come to terms with these limitations but have simply turned a blind eye to the enforcement of the existing legislation like the Highways Act 1835.

I would like to speculate that a more radical cycle-friendly attempt to accommodate cycling on pavements might take the following form:

There is a presumption that cyclists must cycle on the road where it is safe to do so but that, when cycling on the road is not safe, cycling on the pavement is permitted when not specifically excluded, subject to the pavement being at least 2 metres wide, a 5mph speed limit and the requirement that a cyclist must always give way to a pedestrian. The change of practice is to be accompanied by an on-going programme of education and enforcement.

To educate cyclists in the new rules of behaviour all cyclists over the age of 10 would be required to pass a cycling proficiency test and to wear a name badge showing details of the test. The rules would be enforced by the police and community wardens with violations punishable by a fine. Some simple unobtrusive signage would be required to indicate those pavements where cycling was specifically excluded; it might take the form of a large white letter L on the surface of the pavement in which the horizontal bar of the L indicated the point from which the exclusion began and an arrow on the top of the vertical bar indicated the direction in which it applied.

If the rules I have proposed were applied to Streatham High Road and Streatham Hill I think the judgement would be that cycling on their pavements was to be specifically excluded. Although cycling on the A23 trunk road is clearly not

safe, these pavements are usually busy with crowds of shoppers and commuters. The pavements are also quite narrow in places, most particularly in front of Streatham Hill Station. I presume that the variable width of the pavements makes the introduction of a cycle lane on the pavements impractical with the additional obstacle at present of the proliferation of the little-used bike stands.

The new rules I have proposed for cycling on the pavement may not be the final answer but I hope they provide a basis for discussion and suggest the general direction changes in the rules might take.

Andrew McKay

STREATHAM HILL STATION NO CYCLING SIGN

I read with much interest Andrew McKay's item published in the autumn 2017 edition of the Streatham Society News concerning the notice on the street railings outside Streatham Hill Station advising that cycling on the pavement was an offence.

I have over 150 old photographs of Streatham Hill Station in my archive and on going through them I discovered two old pictures; one showing the back of a notice attached to the railings and another, taken inside the station where on examination of the street view seen through the station's open door part of a blue information sign can be seen attached to the railings. The outside photograph was taken in November 2007 and the internal view in April 2008. The sign is not shown in a



picture I took of the station in May 2006 and neither does it appear in photographs I have taken since 2010.

The notice only forms a small part of the picture but using computer technology to enlarge the image I can make out the following possible wording on the visible left hand side of the sign:

It is ...

pedestrian ...

under ...

Highway ...

This could possibly suggest that Andrew is correct in his recollection of a notice outside Streatham Hill Station reminding cyclists not to ride on the pavement.

John W Brown



EDITOR'S COMMENT

Whatever the arguments about road safety in Streatham, two facts must not be overlooked. In an accident it doesn't signify whose fault it is as the pedestrian and cyclist are the most likely to suffer serious injury. It is pointless citing in comparison the straight roads in other countries with their wide cycle lanes populated by cyclists, young and old, travelling at varying speeds. Streatham, as with most of London, has comparatively narrow, winding roads with heavy traffic, including cyclists on powerful bikes, many of whom travel as quickly as possible and dislike slowing or swerving. Designated cycle lanes are ineffective if they are short, narrow and compete with pedestrians, buses, parked cars and delivery vans, especially if they soon lead to a bottleneck such as St Leonard's junction. Hence it is up to the most vulnerable, in their own interests, to be safety-aware, especially crossing the High Road.

Like Andrew (*above*), I gave up cycling some 15 years ago because I no longer felt safe. I usually cycled via back streets as they were quiet and pleasant. However the increasing number of cars parked along both sides of these roads meant there was frequently insufficient room for two-way traffic and me. I therefore used the main roads which, although less pleasant, allowed more space, especially red routes with minimal parking.

At about this time I went to a cycling proficiency session at Lambeth Show. A very fit and patronising young woman commented that I was obviously one of the 'pavement hugger' cyclists. I replied that I could thus easily dismount and walk on the pavement if necessary. She told me I should be much more confident and travel away from the pavement, at a certain distance from vehicles in front of me. Two weeks later, while following her instructions, I was knocked off my bike by a car which was edging out from a side road into a line of traffic. Neither the driver nor I noticed the other until the last minute; both of us were

very shaken. Fortunately I wasn't hurt.

At about that time I travelled up to Waterloo at about 8.30am for two weeks' jury service. The view from the upstairs front seat on the 68 bus going up the Walworth Road was frightening. Streams of cyclists, two or three abreast, travelling much quicker than other traffic, wove around vehicles, overtaking on both sides. If just one had braked suddenly, there would have been an awful collision.

Coincidentally, one of the cases I heard involved the death of a pedestrian, knocked over by a heavy vehicle at a busy central London junction. It was argued that the intelligent professional victim would not have crossed the road unsafely. When the CCTV was shown the victim and several other people were seen crossing against the pedestrian lights.

Before I sold my bike, I once tried cycling on the pavement along a relatively clear road. The paving stones were very uneven and pedestrians got in the way!

I recently watched traffic and pedestrians by the Odeon crossing in Streatham High Road. There are three pedestrian crossings in sight here. Not including people who crossed the road comparatively safely elsewhere, I was amazed at the impatient and dangerous way many pedestrians of all ages crossed. This bore out my opinion that it's surprising there aren't more accidents.

Streatham High Road is too narrow and congested to be safe for all. Adult cyclists should not be on the pavements - if they cannot use the road, better not to be cycling. Of course all possible improvements should be made (hurrah for the re-sited crossing at St Leonard's!), but pedestrians must also be traffic aware. It may be irritating to take extra care, walk a little further and wait patiently another minute or so, but isn't it worth it?

JH

FRIENDS OF STREATHAM HILL THEATRE UPDATE

We now have a simple website at <http://sht.qaz.me.uk> which has information about the Friends and how to join, links to our social media, to our newsletters and to theatre information and photos.

- The **film company** have decided not to use Streatham Hill Theatre for their Judy Garland film.
- I attended the launch of the **Theatres Trust 'At Risk' register** which featured the theatre as a 'new entry' at number 7. I was interviewed by ITV London News who led their item on the launch with coverage of the theatre. The event has helped our social media campaign too.
- I have met with our **MP Chuka Umunna** who agrees that Streatham should not lose this beautiful theatre. He wants to visit, along with Lambeth leader **Lib Peck**, but this may have to wait until after the local elections.
- I have also met with the **Lambeth Investment and Growth team** covering Streatham and they are supportive.

- We have the support of **local councillors, Streatham Society and Streatham Action**. And at the time of writing we have **149 Friends** on the mailing list, **311 followers on Twitter** and **254 on Facebook**. With Jim Dawton of Streatham Action we have spoken to a number of other contacts who have been able to help with advice.
- The Theatres Trust have given us advice on **funding**, and I have also contacted the **Heritage Lottery Fund** to enquire about funding for an initial feasibility study on whether and how the building can be revived.
- The **freeholders** of the theatre are Pollmount Ltd and I have spoken to one of their directors. They are currently going through a re-organisation which could lead to a different proprietor who has development plans. They do not think the building is viable as a large theatre.
- The freeholder has had several approaches by **developers** who want to buy the freehold, worth around **£3m**.
- The **head leaseholder** is still the successor of Mecca who took out the lease in 1962. I am trying to make contact with their agent.
- The **sub leaseholder** is Beacon Bingo (part of Praesepe plc.) who have leased from Mecca.
- Both leases are due to expire in **2028**. At the end of the leases, Beacon Bingo will be liable to pay (via Mecca) for any repairs needed to return the premises into the state they were when the lease started (known as ‘dilapidations’), unless the building is to be redeveloped.
- Praesepe have been speaking to a **number of potential new users** – their agent has said they have 3 or 4 active enquiries. I have told him of our interest.
- Development is currently restricted by the **Grade 2** listing and Lambeth planning policy but this could change if a developer can show that the building is no longer viable.

We could also apply to have the building listed as an **Asset of Community Value** which gives the community an opportunity to buy the building if the owner wishes to sell. There are requirements to meet but it is worth trying. The Granada cinema in Tooting was recently listed as an ACV by Wandsworth and we have had help from the group there.

David Harvey

LAMBETH MUSIC FESTIVAL 20-27 March 2018

Several local schools participated in the tenth annual Lambeth Music Festival at the Royal Festival Hall, presented by Lambeth Music Service. The festival has grown from a day of singing concerts to a week of performances representing the many facets of music making in Lambeth. Singing continues to remain at its heart. This year the festival opened in the main concert hall with a 1800-strong chorus of children.

I attended the Small Primary Choir Concert in the Clore Ballroom which was most enjoyable. Local choirs were from Crown Lane, Hitherfield and Sunnyhill Primary Schools. Other concerts featured Christchurch, Crown Lane, Granton, Holy Trinity, Immanuel & St Andrew, Julian's, Richard Atkins, St Andrew's, Streatham Wells and Woodmansterne Primary Schools. Secondary Schools included Bishop Thomas Grant and Dunraven.

Concerts were categorised as: infant and junior singing, junior orchestras and senior choirs, junior contemporary ensembles, senior orchestras, Lambeth sounds and small and large primary choirs. Choirs sang a lively mixture of traditional, world music, gospel and pop songs. All concerts were free - and all reflected the enthusiasm and ability of the participants.

Outside school the Lambeth Music Service, based at the Clapham Park Centre, provides evening and Saturday classes.

In the 1960s-80s Lambeth Schools' music flourished. It is pleasing to see that this tradition continues today.

BROWNIES and WI UNITE FOR MARCH

March4Women, marking the anniversary of the Representation of the People Act and ending of discrimination against women at the ballot box, was held on March 3rd, progressing from Parliament to Trafalgar Square. 100 banners were made to accompany the marchers and draw attention to the continuing drive for women's equality.

Two local groups made banners: Sixth Streatham Brownies and Streatham's Women's Institute. Angie Leach, who brought the groups together to create the art pieces, was a founder member of the WI with Ruth Garnett, one of the Streatham Society's tea team (*left*). Seventy years separated the youngest Brownie and Ruth!



Angie is now President of the WI and Brown Owl of Sixth Streatham Brownies, which she helped open in 2012. Both she and Ruth marched with the banners.

It is pleasing to see both groups thriving again in Streatham. Membership of the WI appeals to all ages once more. Both encourage girls and women to develop interests and experiences to achieve their potential.

For more information email 6thstreatham-brownies@gmail.com or streathamwomensinstitute@gmail.com

JH

JUST A SPLODGE OF PAINT?



Walking down Wellfield Walk to Valley Road in January, I noticed what I thought was another graffiti daub which too often blights this area. However on closer inspection I made out a rather charming silhouette of a toddler wrapped up against the winter cold, wearing a scarf and hat - painted at toddler level. I don't want to encourage graffiti but this is intriguing. Does anyone know anything about it? It's wearing away now but I hope some local children have enjoyed it as much as I have (so long as they don't add to it!).

IMAGES OF STREATHAM



In future issues I'd like to publish items and photos reflecting Streatham today. Subjects could include street furniture, businesses, leisure, new developments, ideas and comments (especially favourable ones). This popular fruit stall (*above*) on the corner of Woodbourne Avenue is a good starter. It has been there for some time, is attractively displayed and good value. Any offers? **JH**

Colin's Corner



Colin Crocker regularly takes photographs of Streatham events and has kindly offered these for publication. I'm sure our many members who are unable to attend local activities will appreciate them.

The first photo records the always popular Scruffs' Fun Dog Show, held on Sunday 17th September 2017 on Streatham Common.



The second shows the official opening of Streatham Common Children's Playground on 16th December.

The last shows Aldi's opening on 18th January 2018. Gold medallist Team GB hockey player Helen Richardson-Walsh is shown cutting the ribbon with children from St Andrew's Catholic Primary School. Tokens



handed out to the first 30 customers in the queue were exchanged for a free bag of Aldi's Super 6 fruit & veg. (I hope you got one, Colin!). Helen then went on to St Andrew's to give an assembly on healthy eating and the importance of cooking with vegetables.

As with previous stores on this site, there are parking bays under the main Aldi store.

It's good to publish these records of local events; too many photos today never leave computer storage. Anyone who would like to submit similar photos of interest, please email or send me copies to scan (*contact back page*).

JH

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

BALLS HORSE-BUS SERVICE: Streatham's First Public Transport

We recently received the following letter from Bookham, near Leatherhead:

'I can't tell you how amazed and delighted I was when, a few months ago, my cousin Robert Balls, who I hadn't seen for some years, came round with the booklet about the Balls Horse-bus service by Janet Weeks. Roger and his sister Caroline, my sister Christabel and myself are all grandchildren of Vernon Balls, one of the sons of George Balls, and obviously great-grandchildren of the said George and Louisa Balls. As children, we all knew a lot about the Balls family transport business and have quite a few photos, but not the detailed knowledge that Janet Weeks managed to find and put together.

I am enclosing a cutting from 1995 from our local *Dorking Advertiser* of George and Louisa's daughter's 21st on top of Box Hill, Dorking, Surrey. My sister and I recreated the picnic with as many 2nd and 3rd generation members of the family in 1995. In the original picture (*below*), taken in 1900, needless to say that the family were driven down to Box Hill in their best outfits, with all the picnic paraphernalia, in the Balls horse-drawn buses, one of which was driven by one of the elder sons.

Thanks again for the hard work in compiling the booklet.

Mrs Annabel Gardner (née Balls)





Box Hill coach 1900 picnic, driver Leonard Balls

Balls family relive history

When Hilda Balls celebrated her 21st birthday the family gathered in force at the top of Box Hill for a party. Sir Thomas and Lady Pink were there, as were Maud and Bessie Balls, youngsters Vernon and Clifford and grandpas, Will and George. The date was September 1900 and those late Victorians were never ones to waste a photo opportunity. Dressed in their finery they faced the camera to be forever captured for posterity and the delight of the Balls family.

Ninety-five years on, in September, their descendants will be re-enacting that scene when 35 of them gather at the same spot for a party and family photographs.

One of the descendants of the family, which has a long tradition of service in the veterinary profession, is Donald Balls, 78, a consultant veterinary surgeon from Knoll Road, Dorking. Donald said: "My daughters Christabel and Annabel are arranging the whole thing. Everyone thinks it's a marvellous idea and we hope to get as many of the descendants there as possible.

The occasion is timed to coincide with Hilda Balls' 21st birthday and everyone will be in their best bib and tucker. It should be a memorable day."

From the 'Dorking Advertiser' 1995

**INSCRIPTION ON THE HEADSTONE OF A BALLS FAMILY GRAVE
AT WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY**

THE FAMILY GRAVE OF
GEORGE & MATILDA BALLS
of Brixton Hill
and GEORGE & LOUISA BALLS
of Clapham Park

LEFT HAND SIDE

In Memory of
FREDERIC WILLIAM
infant son of
GEORGE & LOUISA BALLS
who died 26th AUGUST 1891
Aged 1 Month

Also of EDGAR DROUET
son of the above
who died 12th JUNE 1897
Aged 2 Years 6 Months

Also of GEORGE BALLS
Father of the above
who died 18th JULY 1922
Aged 78 Years

Also of LOUISA SOPHIA
wife of the above GEORGE BALLS
19th JUNE 1923
Aged 68 Years

Also of STANLEY GEORGE BALLS
elder son of GEORGE BALLS MRCVS
who died 16th FEBRUARY 1956
Aged 74 Years

RIGHT HAND SIDE

In Memory of
WILLIAM
the son of
GEORGE AND MATILDA BALLS
who died 17th DECEMBER 1859
Aged 2 Years 6 Months

In Loving Memory of
REBECCA MATILDA
the beloved wife of
GEORGE BALLS
who died 29th MARCH 1901
Come unto me all ye that are weary
and heavy laden and I will give you
rest Matt. XI 28

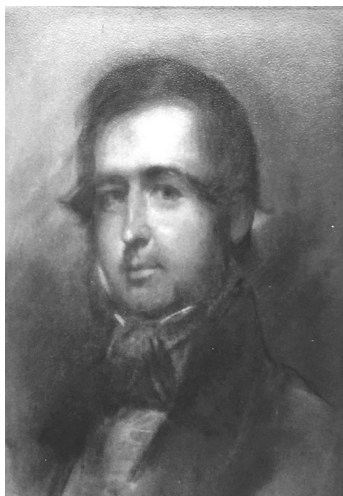
Also GEORGE BALLS FRCVS
husband of the above
who died 3rd FEB 1902
Aged 80 Years
GREATLY RESPECTED BY ALL

Also of RUPERT ARNOLD BALLS
Grandson of the above
who died 22nd SEPT 1955
Aged 70 Years
A GENTLE MAN

ON A SMALL SEPARATE STONE

In loving memory of
CHARLOTTE LETITIA BALLS
wife of
RUPERT ARNOLD BALLS
who died 24th OCT 1966
Aged 74 Years
REST IN PEACE

The Streatham Connection



Matthew Balls

Transport for the people of Streatham and the surrounding area was provided by the Balls family for at least 125 years. This service began with horse-drawn vehicles in the 19th century and progressed to automobiles in the 20th. The health of the many horses which gave them their livelihood was looked after by qualified veterinary surgeons in successive generations of the family.

Members of the family lived in Streatham, Brixton, Tulse Hill, Norwood, Clapham Park, Kennington and Dulwich. Their roots were in Norfolk. Matthew Balls, who was the founder of the dynasty in London was born in Lammas, Norfolk, in 1782. By 1814 he was living in Stockwell, working as a groom.

When the Crown & Sceptre public house opened on Streatham Hill in 1822 he and members of his family used the stables attached to the building as the headquarters of a job master and carrier business. Although many of the residents in the area had their own coaches, coachmen and grooms, others would hire a carriage when it was needed.

By 1832 Matthew Balls ran a fleet of green painted omnibuses making eight



George and Matilda Balls

journeys a day from Streatham to Oxford Street or Gracechurch Street along the same routes as the 159 and 133 buses today. Men working for the Balls family were housed in tied cottages in two lanes off the east side of Brixton Hill.

Matthew's sons, including George Balls and his son George Jnr, both veterinary surgeons, expanded the business into horse-drawn cabs. George and Matilda Balls lived for a time at 13 Paragon, later renumbered 30 Streatham Hill.

By 1915 Balls & Co. were hiring out horse-drawn transport as well as advertising motor cars. Balls Motor Garage traded from converted stables in Garden Lane, off Palace Road from the 1920s. SG Balls & Co. was still trading locally in the 1950s.

The full Balls' detailed history, with illustrations, is contained in Janet Weeks' excellent booklet.

JH

*'The Balls Horse-Bus Service
Streatham's First Public
Transport'
Available from the Streatham
Society
£3.20 incl. p&p*

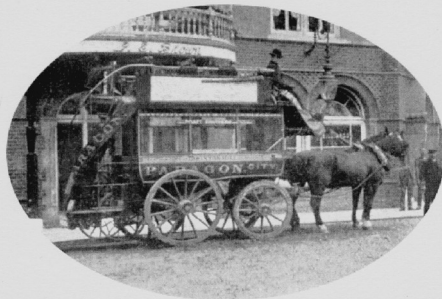


George Jr and Louisa Balls

Balls Horse-Bus Service

Streatham's First Public Transport

by
Janet Weeks



LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS
316 GREEN LANE, STREATHAM, LONDON SW16 3AS

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



Streatham Society member Andrew Hadden showed me an unusual postcard he had recently obtained which has led to an interesting discovery revealing an important role played by a former Streatham resident in the seaside entertainment industry.

The front of the card (left) shows a group of six men and four women

all dressed in early 19th century garb. The men look as if they have just stepped off the label of a Johnny Walker whisky bottle, resplendent in their top hats and tails, holding elegant, long, walking canes. The ladies are wearing 'Quality Street' bonnets and their dresses are richly embroidered and bedecked with lace. In the top right hand corner is the caption 'George Royle's Fol-de-Rols'.

However, it is on the back of the postcard that the mystery deepens. In a bold hand George Royle has started his message with the address 48 Fernwood Avenue, Streatham, and sends his greetings to Miss Coussins at 98 Tennyson Avenue, Scarborough. 'Dear Miss Coussins,' he writes, 'I would be glad to know if you found everything in order re. the blankets. I should hate any misunderstanding to remain. With kindest regards, George Royle.'



48 Fernwood Avenue

The card was posted on the 25th November but the year is unclear. However, a one penny George V stamp is stuck in the right hand corner of the card indicating it was sent after 1910 when he became King and the stamps were issued.

An examination of my Streatham directories reveals that a George Royle was resident at 48 Fernwood Avenue from 1914 onwards, when the house appears to have been first occupied by him, and here he is listed as living up to at least 1928. So who was George Royle, what was the Fol-de-Rols and why did they dress in such flamboyant clothes?

My attempts to discover details of George's early life were unsuccessful until detailed research undertaken by Christine Jones revealed that his real name was Charles Hector M Bush. He was born in 1877 in Liverpool, and was the son of Charles Henry William Bush and his wife Jane. He appears to have adopted the name George Royle for his stage performances and continued to use it for the rest of his life.

In the early 1900s George ran a number of sea-side entertainment troupes. One, called the 'Will O' the Wisps', had the ladies dressed in brightly coloured fairy skirts and the men attired in waist coats and donning gipsy-type scarf hats.

Later in Blackpool around 1905, his troupe were known as the Troubadours. They performed songs, comedy routines and sketches to amuse the holiday makers. Such holiday entertainers were normally known as Pierrots and would commonly be dressed as clowns wearing baggy white trousers and blouses with three or four large pompoms down the front of their tops and on their large white, pointed hats.

George's troupe were somewhat different in that they appear to have abandoned the clown clothing and were dressed as troubadours; the men wearing sombrero-type hats and flamboyant capes.

In 1907 George's entertainers moved to Whitby, on the Yorkshire coast, when they changed their name to the Imps, also sometimes known as the Merry Imps. Imps was an abbreviation of the word Imperials. The group slightly altered the traditional pierrot garb with the addition of pixie-like touches to the ruffs which were pointed with bells on the ends of the points. The men wore black stockings and white knee breeches



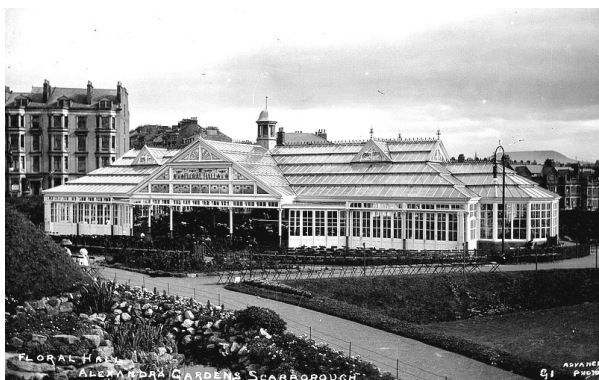
The Will O' the Wisps, Spa Theatre



George Royle's Troubadours



George Royle's Merry Imps



The Floral Hall, Scarborough



and the women large skirts. The name, no doubt, also indicated the 'impish' nature of the troupe in generating fun and frivolity among the Whitby holidaymakers.

The group may have forsaken their clown/pixie-type costumes on occasion as some contemporary pictures of the group show the male performers dressed in Navy-style whites and the ladies dressed somewhat like milk maids.

In fine weather they performed on the beach but when rain blew in from the sea they transferred their acts to the Waterloo Hall on Flowergate which was owned by Lindsey Edward.

In 1910 the Imps moved to Scarborough where they performed on the south sands and quickly established themselves as a popular and professional group of entertainers.

At that time Will Catlin's 'Favourite Pierrots' troupe had swept all competition before it in Scarborough. Such was the success of Will's company, that he had constructed a lavish pavilion known as Catlin's Arcadia on the foreshore which could accommodate

an audience of 3,000 people.

In a bid to match Catlin's success Scarborough Council opened the Floral Hall as a local entertainment centre in 1910. Unfortunately the concert party the council had booked to launch this venue folded in early August and so George was invited by the council to transfer his show from the beach to the Floral Hall to finish off the summer season there.

The Imps brought the season to a successful conclusion and the council invited them to appear the following year. George accepted this invitation but felt his performers needed a smarter and more flamboyant image in keeping with their new venue and so he created the 'Fol-de-Rols' company.

Ladies in the troupe wore bonnets and crinoline dresses and used parasols as props, and the gentleman donned velvet tail coats and beaver top hats in pastel shades and performed with long walking canes.

The Fols adopted the slogan, 'The show that any child can take its parents to!' Their novel costumes and more sophisticated entertainment set them apart from other sea-side performers and bestowed elegance and glamour to their productions which normal Pierrot groups lacked.

The Fol de Rols opening night at the Floral Hall was somewhat overshadowed by Catlin who arranged for a balloonist to ascend from the Arcadia advertising a free performance by his Pierrots. But none the less Royle's audience was appreciative of the entertainment the Fols provided and their 'star' performer, Dewey Gibson, a pleasing tenor, was a great hit with the crowd.

The ten performers which then comprised the Fol de Rols steadily built on their success. The show was changed twice a week to encourage holiday makers to return again and again to the Floral Hall to see new shows and the venture quickly established itself as a great success. The council were delighted with the reception the Fol-de-Rols received and booked them to appear for the following three seasons.

Price 2d. TELEPHONE: NO. 462.



□
LESSEE:
MR. GEO. ROYLE.
□
ACTING MANAGER
MR. GIDEON
TURNBULL.
□

FLORAL HALL,

ALEXANDRA GARDENS, NORTH SIDE,
SCARBOROUGH.

Mr. George Royle's
Popular Company

THE Fol-de-Rols

□
TWICE DAILY
at 3 and 8 p.m.
□

This Programme is subject to alteration.
□

Seats may be booked in advance (without extra fee) at the Floral Hall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., or by telephone 462 during those hours; also at Archibald Cameron & Co., 25, Huntriss Row (telephone 412); and the Esplanade Cafe, South Cliff (telephone 77).



Mr. GEORGE ROYLE.

W. A. SMITH & SON, LITH.



The Fol de Rols, like George's earlier troupes, the Imps, the Troubadours and the Will O' the Wisps were made up of solo performers who acted as ensemble. Royle was well known for looking after his troupe; making certain that their accommodation was comfortable, the food up to scratch and no doubt, as Andrew Hadden's postcard suggests, that the blankets were adequate.

The earliest reference to George residing in Streatham appears at around this time when he is listed in the 1911 census living in three rooms at 10 Hillside Road, Streatham Hill. Probably he was lodging here over the winter months before returning to Scarborough for the summer season.

By 1913 George felt secure enough to marry and on the 30th April he wed Georgina Jamieson at Chelsea Registry Office under his real name of

Charles H Bush. Later that year, on the 8th October in Chesterfield, Georgina gave birth to their first child, a son whom they called Greig Gorden Brereton Royle.

It was probably around this time he and his wife moved to 48 Fernwood Avenue, a newly built house in Streatham, close to Mitcham Lane and the heart of the town's main shopping area centred around Streatham Green and St. Leonard's Church. George first appears in local directories at this address in 1914 and on the 12th March that year, their son, Greig, was baptised at Streatham's ancient parish church of St. Leonard.

Despite the success of the troupe, the summer of 1914 was a bleak one for many sea-side towns with the threat of war hanging heavily over the country. The season was a disastrous one for George and like most sea-side performers that year he lost money on his summer shows at the Floral Hall.

With the onset of war there was little demand for holiday entertainers and George had no other option than to suspend performances of the Fol de Rols during the course of hostilities.

To be continued...

John W Brown, Andrew Hadden & Christine Jones

THE DEFENCE SUBSCRIPTION OF 1798

Yet once again Marion and Graham Gower have unearthed another fascinating relic of Streatham's past in the form of the rough notes, penned during a meeting at the parish workhouse on 12th February 1798, concerning the subscription raised to help counter the threat of an invasion by the French during the Napoleonic wars, as featured in the last issue of the Society's News.

Many years ago I went through the Streatham Militia papers deposited at Lambeth Archives, among which is a list made in 1798 of the sums collected from the various inhabitants of the town as a result of this meeting (Lambeth Archives Reference P/S/13/22A).

The most surprising entry in the list is that Thomas Mills gave £500, the largest donation by far. This was almost five times the amount donated by Lord Deerhurst of Coventry Hall, Streatham Common, who gave £105, with many of the richest inhabitants of the town donating £100 or £50.

A number of local publicans are detailed on the list with William

Kitchen, of the Horse and Groom, and Henry Southern, of the White Lion, both giving a guinea. (A guinea was £1 1s and is equivalent to £1.05 today). Thomas Street and William Street, whose family ran the village blacksmith forge opposite St. Leonard's Church at the junction of the High Road and Mitcham Lane, also both donated a guinea.

Even the pupils attending Hambly House School in Streatham participated in the subscription and the list shows that 'the young gentlemen of Mr Wilson's Acad-

A list of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Streatham who have contributed Voluntarily in defence of their Country, with their respective Subscriptions the 12 of Feb^y 1798

1	M ^r Ray of Russell for himself & Family	£s	0 ^s	31	10	-
2	M ^r Arch ^d L. Fry Esq ^r nephew to M ^r Ray	£s	0 ^s	10	10	-
3	M ^r Ray's servants	£s	0 ^s	1	1	-
4	William Wilkinson Esq ^r	£s	0 ^s	50	-	✓
5	William Browndall Esq ^r	£s	0 ^s	50	-	✓
6	Jacob Hadowley Esq ^r	£s	0 ^s	50	-	✓
7	John Parkinson Esq ^r	£s	0 ^s	100	-	✓
8	Thomas Ringley Esq ^r	£s	0 ^s	100	-	✓
9	Thomas Mills	£s	5	00	-	✓
10	John Kymmer	£s	0 ^s	50	-	✓
11	William Nunn	£s	0 ^s	100	-	✓
12	James Atkinson	£s	0 ^s	20	-	✓
13	Joseph Lucas	£s	0 ^s	50	-	✓
14	Thos. Brown	£s	0 ^s	50	-	✓
15	John Whitelock	£s	2	2	-	✓
16	M ^r Whitelock	£s	1	1	-	✓
17	Henry Thomas	£s	20	-	-	✓
18	Geo Wolff	£s	3	10	-	✓
19	Richard Brit	£s	2	1	-	✓
20	Lucia Wolff	£s	2	1	-	✓
					17.50	1A

*Subscription List of Voluntary Contributions
for the Defence of the Country 1798
(Lambeth Archives ref. P/S/13/9)*

emy' donated £3 11s 6d (£3.57½p). Mrs Ray, who ran a school for young ladies at Russell House, opposite St. Leonard's Church, gave £31 10s (£31.50) on behalf of herself and her family, with her nephew, Nicholas Fry, donating 10 guineas (£10.50). Mrs Ray's servants also contributed a guinea.

It is notable how many servants of the various wealthy inhabitants of the parish made donations. Normally the donation of their master or mistress is detailed, with the servants' contribution listed as the following entry. This was the case with the Rector of Streatham, The Revd. Richard Bullock DD, who gave £50 and his servants £1 1s.

I wonder just how 'voluntary' these donations were, with the head of the household probably 'encouraging' their servants to participate. From my knowledge of the residents of Streatham at the time, few of the poorer inhabitants of the town seem to have made a donation - if this had been so one would have anticipated donations of 3d, 6d or a shilling from the more impoverished residents.

Out of interest, I should mention that the list gives the names of 114 contributors and the 1797 Rate list details 208 rate payers, although some of the entries are additional payments made by a ratepayer for additional fields or property they had. Thomas Mills is rated for a property with a rateable value of just £10 compared to Lord Deerhurst rated at £49 and Mrs Ray at £60.

This was a mystery to me until I dug deeper. I suspect Mills's rateable property in Streatham was probably fields or land in Lower Streatham abutting the parish boundary with Croydon and that he was the Thomas Mills or his son, also called Thomas, who lived at Norwood Grove, just outside Streatham parish, next to the Rookery at the top of Streatham Common. Mills is described as a merchant and his occupancy of Norwood Grove would be more in keeping with a wealthy resident who would make such a large subscription to the fund. This would also explain why there are few references to him in the Streatham Parish records.

The subscription list shows the enthusiasm and fervour with which the inhabitants of Streatham responded to the subscription appeal and their determination to play a full and active part in defending Britain against the French. A total of £2,208 10s was raised from the inhabitants of Streatham which was a considerable sum of money at that time.

Other indications of the patriotism of Streatham are revealed in the Militia papers which show that as the Napoleonic wars progressed the townspeople were quick to respond to the needs of the day. Most notably this was by forming a local company of militia which was established in Streatham to act as a local defence force. A special military uniform was designed for the men to wear and they would exercise and drill on Streatham and Tooting Bec Commons.

Colin Crocker has discovered a number of musket balls (*right*) on Streatham Common which no doubt date from this period when the militia would undergo musket drill and target practice every week to improve their efficiency.

At the time memories must have also been fresh among the elder residents of the town, of the occasion in 1771 when King George III made his only recorded visit to Streatham, accompanied by two of his brothers, the Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland. He witnessed

secret cavalry manoeuvres centred in and around St. Leonard's Church.

These manoeuvres took place on the 25th May 1771, details of which were published in the Gentleman's Magazine as follows:

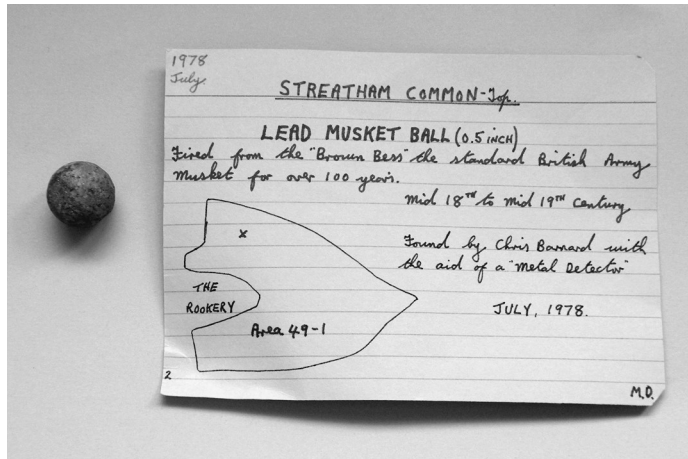
'About 5 o'clock in the morning, the inhabitants of Streatham were alarmed with the cry "The enemy is coming!" and on looking out of their windows perceived a party of horsemen posted in the church yard, and another party attacking them, which was soon after followed by a general engagement on the common.

'The fact was that the two regiments of light horse, commanded by the generals Elliott and Burgoyne, were out at that hour, and engaged in mock skirmishes till 12, through lanes and roads as far as Norwood.

'His Majesty, the Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland, and several General officers were present, and but very few besides, great precaution having been taken to prevent it from being generally known. Many of the inhabitants, and the labourers in the fields, were actually at a loss what to think of it as they heard the word enemy used and saw the fire of their carbines.'

The manoeuvres were obviously of great importance for King George III to attend them personally. Of the Generals involved in the skirmishes one was to gain fame, and the other shame, in their later careers.

General Elliott, afterwards Lord Heathfield, was a distinguished cavalry officer who raised the first regiment of light horse in 1759. He was the hero at the siege of Gibraltar, which he held against famine and bombardment from the French for three years from 1779 to 1782. General Burgoyne was the commander who surrendered the whole of his army to the American forces at Saratoga in 1777 during the American War of Independence.



JWB

ANOTHER STREATHAM HILL THEATRE CONNECTION

I was particularly interested in the recent Streatham Hill Theatre article and the accompanying story on Hugh Sewell Kingdon whose project the theatre, cinema and Locarno dance hall (*below*) was in his bold bid to make Streatham the West End of South London.

I lived in HS Kingdon's house at 66 Woodbourne Avenue for 30 years until last August when we moved to Dorset.

When we moved into Woodbourne Avenue I spotted something metallic in the crazy paving near to the garage. Prising it out of the crack it turned out to be a badly corroded small hour-glass shaped object that had sheared off at one end. Being a classic car enthusiast, I immediately recognised this as an over-centre catch for a reasonably expensive car with Lucas P100 headlamps.

Lo and behold I later discovered a pre-war Rolls-Royce parked outside the Locarno shown in several period photographs. Mr Kingdon's perhaps? And maybe the same one that broke a headlamp catch all those years ago?

Brian Palmer



*The Locarno in 2013, prior to its development as London Square.
(See recent photo on p.4)*

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Streatham Society will be held at The Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16 2PJ at 8.00pm on Monday 18th June 2018 to transact the following business:

- 1. Minutes of the previous meeting** - To be agreed and matters arising
- 2. Reports and Accounts** - To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Appointment and remuneration of independent examiner of accounts - To appoint an independent examiner for the financial year to 31st March 2018.

4. Appointment of charity trustees - Nominations for the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and ordinary committee members must be received by **Monday 4th June 2018**.

All committee members are Trustees of the charity.

Details of how to make a nomination are available from the Secretary.

5. Members' resolutions - Resolutions should be sent to the Secretary by **Monday 4th June 2018**.

6. Any other business - To deal with any relevant matters raised at the meeting.

Shea Richardson, Secretary, 14th May 2018

Following the AGM there will a review of the Society's year 2017-18

COMMITTEE REPORT

Items discussed at recent committee meetings

- End of financial year 2017/18 reports in preparation.
- Over 75% 2018 subscriptions and many donations received by mid-March.
- Society's 2018/19 events' programme & arrangements almost complete, including participation in the Wandsworth & Lambeth Heritage Festivals.
- Lambeth's Local History Walks in S London leaflet ready for circulation.
- Annual publications stock check and report submitted (see AGM report).
- Publications leaflet and website being revised to reflect stock availability and significantly increased postal charges over the last three years.
- Streatham library local history reference book case now organised.

EVENTS REPORTS

MEETINGS

Unfortunately two missed meetings and three Bank holidays curtailed our programme for the first five months of the year.

We received profuse apologies from Phil Emery, speaker on London's Waterway heritage conservation, booked for February 5th, who mixed up the date. He will give this talk in our next programme. Keith Hill's March 5th talk on Streatham at Westminster was cancelled because of the Streatham Hill water shortage (no toilets). This has also been rescheduled into our next programme.

Apologies to the twenty or so members who turned out for the latter meeting. Others knew of the problem as it was widely reported on the local TV news or they had heard via 'the grapevine'. Unfortunately some hundred of our members (plus visitors) attend our meetings throughout the year and we cannot contact all of them. We have had only one similar cancellation in memory and hours were spent phoning round about fifty people - and still several were missed.

I have members' phone numbers but, apart from regarding my effort as futile, I find great difficulty in fitting names to faces, so that doesn't help. I have some members' email addresses but we have no one to coordinate these contacts - which wouldn't reach many of our 'regulars' anyway. Thanks to the Tooting History Group who tweeted their members.

Life Saving 24 hours a Day: The Story of London's Air Ambulance

This interesting presentation, on January 15th, was given by Mark Davies, Director of Development.

London's Air Ambulance is a charity that delivers an advanced trauma team to critically injured people in London via helicopter. It was established in 1989 following a report from The Royal College of Surgeons which documented unnecessary deaths from trauma following delays in hospital treatment. The Society and members gave donations to the charity.

BioBlitzing the Wildlife of Streatham Common

On February 19th, Peter Newmark put the case for increasing the biodiversity of the wildlife of Streatham Common and the concept of BioBlitzing, a popular topic. Peter has been involved with the Friends of Streatham Common for more than a decade, taking a special interest in the natural history of the Common. In that time he led the Friends-funded project to create a Nature Trail and successfully pushed Lambeth Council to confer the status of Local Nature Reserve on part of the Common.

The John Gent Postcard Collection

On March 19th John Hickman and Carole Roberts gave a continuation of their talk begun in 2016. It covered early to mid-twentieth century topography and

social history of the borough of Croydon as shown by the John Gent Collection. John is the curator of this collection and President of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society. Carole is deputy curator . We eagerly await part three of this excellent presentation!

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members James Beazley, Kate & Duncan White, Diana Bell, Peter Day, Kath Shawcross (re-join, welcome back), Ken Gordon, Jon Pokroy and Rachel O'Neill. We hope they enjoy our events and publications.

Each year January-March, I receive notes accompanying subscriptions apologising for late payment because the reminder has been lost. It hasn't - you are the stars who remember without a prompt! In the November *News*, I remind everyone that subs are due in January. Reminders are sent out in February. This is to save me stuffing envelopes as at least a third of our members pay before this.

At the time of writing (March 30th) I have already received over 80% of subscriptions and more are arriving. I have also received with these subscriptions an amazing c.£550 in donations! As these are mainly from members who get the least from their membership, that is those who do not or cannot attend meetings, this is tremendously reassuring and we are very grateful.

Because of the time it would take, I can only thank individually those who donate £10+, for which I apologise. Please be reassured that every £1 is welcome. Also welcome are the notes and cards I receive in appreciation of our efforts. These range from a comment on the renewal form to letters. I love reading them all - especially on a wet cold winter day when my computer doesn't like what I'm wanting it to do!

If there is a reminder with this *News*, I await your subscription. This is the final *News* to be sent on your 2017 payment.

More Life Members!

In the last issue, I reported Dr Charles Mansfield's £180 life membership, paid shortly before his death at the age of almost 90. Since then I have received two more, no doubt inspired by Charles. Again, I am humbled by these gestures. I have not reported the names of these generous people as I'm unsure whether they would want me to. I hope, like Charles, they live to a ripe old age!

Rev'd Canon Jeffry Wilcox MBE

Former Rector of St Leonard's Church, Revd. Jeffry Wilcox, died on 11th February, aged 77. He had been 'under the weather' for some time but his sudden collapse was a great shock. He was Rector of Streatham 1982 - 2006. After retirement he and his wife, Claire, moved to Ludlow, Shropshire, but he continued his membership of the Streatham Society. He was made Honorary Canon of Southwark and awarded the MBE for his services to the local community. Our condolences go to his family.

Missing Subscription?

I've received a communication addressed to the Membership Secretary containing only a birthday card to Betty (not Betty Searle) from Peggy and Norman. This had been opened and repackaged by the post office. Of course, this may be an error by the sender; the enclosed names are not known to me. Perhaps someone has received a Society subscription instead of a birthday card? I banked the cheques currently received on 14th April. Thus if any late March payment is not recorded on your bank statement, I have not received it.

STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Grateful thanks to the extra contributions received for this issue. When I started to collate articles received from our regular contributors, Graham Gower and John Brown, I felt familiar panic growing as I contemplated all the blank pages. Fortunately several unexpected items and ideas appeared and saved the day.

I would very much welcome more; particularly 'fillers' (1-2 pages or less) and photographs. Anything concerning Streatham or its residents is welcome. A variety of items and illustrations add a great deal of interest. I cannot write much as well as edit and produce the News (and I run out of inspiration). Please email or post any contributions (preferably typed) to me (*see back page*).

Judy Harris

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EVENTS IN STREATHAM

These dates have been arranged but confirm details and more events at: www.instreatham.com or streathamcommon.org

June 20-24 Streatham Food Festival

June 30 Rookfest in the Rookery, Streatham Common

July 1 Birds of Prey flying display, Streatham Common **1 - 5pm**

July 7 Butterfly Walk, meet café **3pm**

July 8 A Winter's Tale - Shakespeare in the Rookery **3pm**

July 11 Tree Walk, meet café **7pm**

July 14-15 Love Streatham Family Fun Day, Streatham Common

July 15 Geology Walk, meet café **2pm**

July 21/22 Kisstory on the Common/One Nation Festival

Aug 8-12 Wind in the Willows, The Rookery

Sept 2 Kite Day, Streatham Common (rescheduled from May)

OTHER EVENTS

Local History Walks in South London

Walks are organised by members and associates of the Lambeth Local History Forum, which promotes an interest in the heritage of Lambeth.

Walks usually last 1½-2 hours and are free but donations are welcome.

Programme leaflets are available from Society meetings and local libraries.

Wandsworth Heritage Festival

Saturday 26 May - Sun 3 June

See the programme available at libraries or via website for details

JUNE

- Tues 12 The Common Story**, HLF Research Project **7.30pm**
 Talk, Philip Bradley & Janet Smith
 United Reformed Church, 2 Rookstone Rd, Tooting SW17
Tooting History Group
- Thur 21 Victorian Leisure & Pleasure** **7.30pm**
 Talk, Ian Bevan, Blue Badge guide & historian
 Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill SE19
Norwood Society
- Croydon Theatre** **8.00pm**
 Talk, Carole Roberts & John Hickman
 Phoenix Centre, adjacent Sainsbury's, Westow St SE19
South London Local History Group
- Wed 27 Japanese gardens, shrines, temples & countryside** **8.00pm**
in Autumn Talk, Jan Dick
 The Old Library Centre, Knight's Hill, West Norwood SE27
Lambeth Horticultural Society

JULY

- Tues 10 Dr Johnson and Hester Thrale of Streatham Park** **7.30pm**
 Talk, Cassie Ulph, Lincoln University
Tooting History Group, as above
- Thur 19 Subject to be confirmed** **8.00pm**
 Talk, Mike Guilfoyle *South London LHG*, as above
- Sat/Sun 21/22 LAMBETH COUNTRY SHOW**, Brockwell Park

AUGUST

- Sat 4 Summerstown182 Guided Walk** **2.00pm**
 WWI stories from the streets where they lived
 Meet St Mary's Church, Wimbledon Rd SW17
- Thur 16 More Bygone Streatham** **8.00pm**
 Talk, John Brown *South London LHG*, as above

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

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