



STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 244 Spring 2021



Daphne Marchant BEM 1925 - 2021

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

**ALL ‘LIVE’ SOCIETY MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Our Zoom programme of talks continue - all at 7.30pm:

- Mon May 24 **The Wandle in the Industrial Revolution** by John Phillips
Mon June 21 **History of the Order of the Knights Templar** by Oliver Lewis
Mon July 19 **London ‘Rus in Urbe’ - Bringing the Countryside to the City**
By Barbara Wright

Zoom talks are administered via Eventbrite and, if the speaker agrees, are recorded and published on our YouTube channel. Follow us on both Eventbrite and YouTube to receive notifications. Links are available from our website <https://www.streathamsociety.org.uk>. Please get in touch with Mark Bery if you have difficulty (Contacts back page).

In-person events: These may be ticketed via Eventbrite to control numbers.

- Sun May 30 **Guided Tours of the grounds of Henry Tate’s House**
2pm & 3pm by Robert Doyle and John Brown. Booking required.
Sun June 6 **A Stroll around Furzedown looking at the houses**
 of the famous and infamous residents by Helen Long

Lambeth Archives are running a series of Zoom talks held on Thursdays at 7pm

WANDSWORTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL May 29 - June 13 (p.27 & website)

CONTENTS

Streatham Round and About	p.3	Streatham Society Reports	p.28
Daphne Marchant BEM; Green Woman Crossing.		Betty Searle’s 100th birthday; Streatham plaques project	
Local History Matters	p.11	Publications	p.35
Streatham Antiquarians; Wartime Streatham; Graffiti; Horace Elliott; Streatham Common 1924		Society Contacts	p.36

*The Streatham Society welcomes articles of interest to our members, but the editor reserves the right to edit these. Opinions expressed may not be those of the Society.
Articles and photographs may be reproduced only with the editor’s permission.*

STREATHAM ROUND AND ABOUT

DAPHNE KATHLEEN MARCHANT BEM

Lambeth Liberal Democrats Media Statement 7th February 2021



Daphne Marchant BEM with her ward colleagues Alex Davies and Judy Best

It is with great sadness that Lambeth Liberal Democrats have learned former Mayor of Lambeth, and Liberal Democrat Councillor for 20 years, Daphne Kathleen Marchant BEM, passed away in her sleep on Wednesday afternoon, 3rd February.

Daphne was elected as a councillor for Streatham Wells in 1994 and served until 2014. During that period, she was twice chosen as Mayor of Lambeth, a role in which she took immense pride and dedicated herself in the interests of both young and old in the Borough.

In addition to her Council duties, she was Chair of the Norwood School governing body, a leading light in the Streatham Society, in Woodlawns (Darby and Joan) centre, the Outings for Older South Londoners, and the Myrrh Education Centre.

Daphne was proud to be awarded the BEM in 2013.



Her most recent council colleagues in Streatham Wells, former councillors Judy Best and Alex Davies said in a joint statement:

“Daphne was an extraordinary force in Lambeth politics. Her work for the wider community continued through all her time on the Council and afterwards. She was also an immensely committed liberal, in her words, attitudes and deeds. She had a keen eye for injustice and fought hard for what she believed in throughout her long life. She contributed so much to Streatham, to Lambeth, and to the Liberal Democrats. We loved and will miss her very much.”

A Lifetime of Service to Streatham

Daphne Hayes-Mojon was born in Hendon. Her mother (Hayes) was from the Republic of Ireland, her father (Mojon) was Swiss. She became a clerical assistant in the tele-communications department of the Post Office. She ended her 30-year career as acting chief executive officer. During most of this time she lived with her parents in Stanthorpe Road, Streatham. After her father died she took early retirement to care for her mother.

She met Richard Marchant in 1972 at the Streatham Social Club held at St Margaret's Church, Cricklade Avenue. Richard moved to Stanthorpe Road in 1982. Following the then planned local extension of the M23, they moved to Bromley in 1986, moving back to their home facing Streatham Common in 1991. Daphne had missed the extensive life in Streatham and Lambeth. Both resumed their long Lambeth and Streatham based activities.

In addition to all her other activities, she was a literacy and numeracy tutor at the Myrrh Adult Education Centre in Brixton Hill, and served as chairwoman of governors at The Norwood School, Crown Dale.

In 2003 Daphne and Richard surprised all by marrying while on holiday in Cumbria. For years they had rented holiday cottages there, along with Pepe, their African Grey parrot. Pepe, bought by Daphne from a pet shop in Norbury in 1957, lived for 51 years.

Daphne joined the Streatham Liberal Association in the 1950s, but did not campaign for election to Lambeth council until 1982. In 1994 she joined Julian Heather when the Liberal Party took seats in the Streatham Wells ward. She held the ward by convincing margins at four further elections and was very proud to serve the borough twice as Mayor of Lambeth with Richard as consort.

Thanks to Judy Best and Alex Davies for granting permission to use their tributes to Daphne, also published in the South London Press.

JH

Daphne and the Streatham Society



*Streatham Society daffodil bulb planting on Streatham Green c.1980
Daphne and Richard (centre)
with chairman Lawrence Hatchwell (with spade) and members
Brenda Hargreaves (left), Dorothy Rockett, Jean Hines, Colin Crocker,
unknown man and John Cresswell (right)*

The Streatham Society was formed in 1974 at a time when it was considered insensitive planning was destroying our heritage. Whilst not against change, it was felt some retention of local identity provided a legacy for future generations, appreciation of which makes us all care.

Daphne Hayes-Mojon joined the Society in May 1975; Richard Marchant in July 1975. Both quickly became involved in all the Society's activities and joined the executive committee. Daphne was always interested in all local events, local history, planning and acting. She remained Vice-Chair until her recent illness.

I first met Daphne when I joined the Society's Local History Group in September 1983. She was kind and welcoming. I joined the Society and later the executive committee. I admired her devotion to Streatham and was amazed by her energy, which continued well into her 80s. Although a staunch Liberal, she considered all opinions, was objective, offered impartial advice and was scrupulously fair; if she suggested an action she always carried it out.



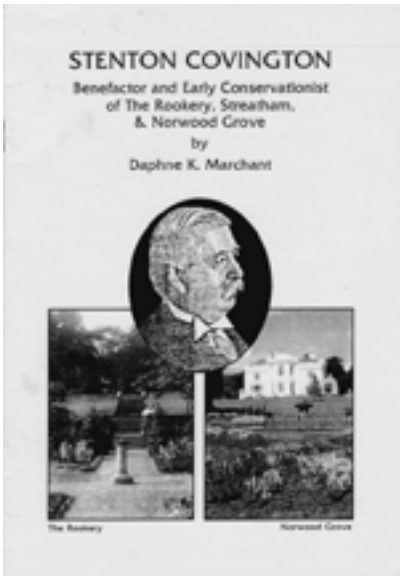
*The Streatham Society Players in 'Shades of Streatham Hill Theatre' 1988
Daphne is seated left; Richard was also part of the company.
Brenda Hargreaves (left) wrote and directed all productions
(Photo from 'So Far, So Good - The Story of the Streatham Society Players'
by Brenda Hargreaves (2005) - out of print.)*

In July 1983 Daphne met Sister Rose, the nun in charge of the then St Michael's Convent. It was agreed the Streatham Society could conduct tours of the house (Park Hill) and grounds and make a photographic record for our archive. Over the next 16 years numerous guided tours of the estate were conducted by Daphne. The groups were warmly welcomed by Sister Rose and her colleagues then provided with afternoon tea in one of Sir Henry Tate's original art galleries.

Although Daphne very much appreciated the importance of the Tate connection, she emphasised the work carried out by the nuns for young people with learning difficulties, resident at the complex. She continued to support the charity and welcomed visitors on behalf of the council to learn about the teaching methods used in literacy, numeracy and handicraft classes.

In the late 1990s financial and other constraints led to the removal of the Order from Park Hill and its sale. A condition of this was that the grounds could be open to the public twice a year, under careful supervision. Daphne and others from the Streatham Society continued this.

In 2004 *Park Hill, Streatham* was published with chapters by Daphne on St Michael's Convent and the original owner, William Leaf, with whose family she had contact.



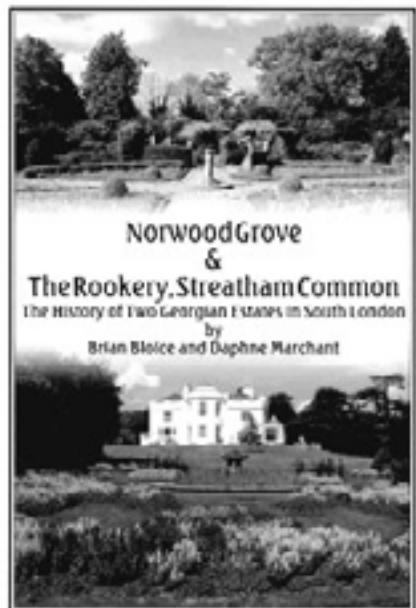
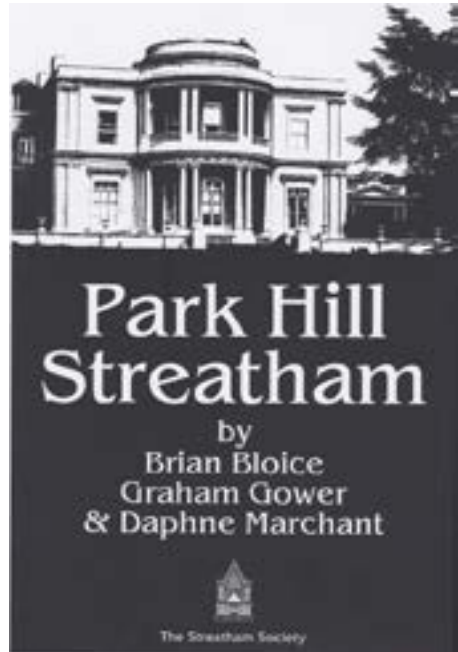
*Park Hill, Streatham (2004)
by Brian Bloice, Graham Gower
and Daphne Marchant
(to be reprinted in June)*

*Stenton Covington (2007)
by Daphne Marchant
(out of print)*

*Norwood Grove & The Rookery,
Streatham (2012)
by Brian Bloice and Daphne
Marchant
(See our website or contacts list to order)*

Daphne's research *Stenton Covington, benefactor and early conservationist of the Rookery, Streatham, & Norwood Grove* was published in 2007 followed by *Norwood Grove and the Rookery, Streatham Common* written with Brian Bloice (on sale from the Society (£6.80 incl. p&p).

Park Hill will be reprinted in June.





*Daphne Hayes-Mojon
Deputy Mayor of Lambeth 1995
Water Pumping Station Open Day
Conyers Road, Streatham*



*Cllr Daphne Marchant
opening the Woodlawns Centre
October 2010
(Streatham Society photos JWB)*

The years c.1980 - 2008 were a particularly active time for the Streatham Society's historians who provided a wealth of events, talks and guided walks. Daphne was very much an active participant. We shall miss her.

In Loving Memory

Daphne's funeral was held at Honor Oak. En route, the hearse stopped briefly outside Woodlawns then Lambeth Town Hall, where the flag flew at half-mast.

Because of Covid restrictions, numbers were very much restricted but a Zoom presentation of the service was broadcast. The Streatham Society was represented by Trustees Shea Richardson and Robert Doyle.

Fr Steffan from St Peter's Church, Streatham, welcomed mourners. A reading was given by Peter Truesdale, former leader of the Lambeth Liberal Democrats. The moving eulogy was delivered by former Councillor Judy Best. A poem was read by former councillor Alex Davies.

A page of photographs of Daphne's councillor and mayoral years was included in the Order of Service.

It is intended to arrange a fitting memorial when restrictions are lifted.

JH



Order of Service for Daphne Marchant BEM

NEW 'GREEN WOMAN' CROSSING FOR STREATHAM



Streatham's Green Woman
Photo MB

According to the 'Brixton Blog' (BB) Transport for London (TfL) announced on International Women's Day (8th March) that they had installed a new 'green woman' traffic light signal in more than 20 places, including Streatham, near the junction with Woodbourne Avenue (*left*).

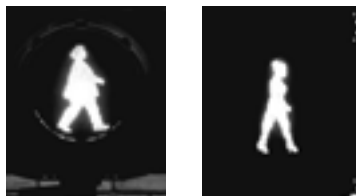
BB says that: "TfL 'veer away from the common, narrow representation of women'. Also that the symbols: 'depict a diverse range of women and challenge the common image of a woman in a dress to signify gender'. The reimagined symbols also 'serve as a reminder of the huge contribution women make to all aspects of society, including the transport network, and improve the visibility of women on London's streets.'"

The signals were produced free of charge by Siemens Mobility which installed them with TfL partners, Telent and Cubic.

TfL said the designs have been created in line with the safety features of the green man figure, ensuring pedestrians relying on the green symbol to cross the road can still recognise the cue indicating it is safe to do so.

Felicity Lockett, TfL's Asset Operations Performance Manager said: "We are excited to have created a set of new diverse green woman pedestrian crossings to mark International Women's Day. It is important we commemorate the hard work, contributions and success of women across London every day and even more so on International Women's Day. We hope that by increasing the visibility of women with these symbols in public and shared spaces, Londoners will be reminded of the huge contribution of women."

TfL said it is 'supporting women's progression into senior management roles by reviewing and improving the internal and external recruitment processes in place - including the use of anonymised software to eliminate unconscious bias - and focusing on career development opportunities'.



Other Green Woman designs

Additionally, BB report that there are also new green women signals at Brixton Road outside the Underground station, Clapham High Street (by Stonhouse Street) and Tooting High Street (by Covert Road).

Russell Henman

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

ONE SOCIETY AFTER ANOTHER



*Streatham Antiquarian and Natural History Society
Outing to Farnham Castle 14th May 1931*

Perhaps some of us may have wondered or speculated about the long term future of the Streatham Society. In these disrupted times many local organisations and groups have struggled to survive, have been beleaguered by the closure of halls and meeting places, restrained by restrictive socialising and assailed by dropping revenues. These are just some of the problems which face amenity societies and those with an enthusiasm for enjoying and partaking in a cultural pursuit. But it's not as bad as it seems. Computer and digital technology has thwarted the potential inaction of many local societies who have been innovative in continuing to function in the face of the Covid pandemic.

No doubt most local amenity societies will survive these enforced circumstances and continue, albeit with probable changes, to further progress their organisations. However, it will not be the first time that local societies of all types have

weathered similar conditions. Take for example our predecessor, the old Streatham Antiquarian and Natural History Society.

This society came into being during the early 1930s and was the forerunner to the Streatham Society. Formed by those with an interest in Streatham's past and heritage and those with a passion for the natural environments, this new local society held their first meeting in 1933. Their meetings were held quarterly and on a Monday evening. Their membership ran into hundreds and, like the present day Streatham Society, presented a varied programme of events such as walks, visits, lectures and exhibitions, as well as publishing various books and pamphlets.

Much of the work of this antiquarian society is still valid today, and has been the bedrock from which many present day researchers into Streatham's past have launched their studies. Among their most important contribution to local knowledge was the collecting of contemporary ephemera and the observation and the recording of Streatham's flora and fauna, which was undertaken by a society subcommittee. Just as important were the many local photographs they took and the many old photographs and memories they collected during their active years of the 1930s.

With the advent of the Second World War the Society suspended its activities in December 1939. However, the spirit of the Streatham Antiquarian Society was to continue throughout war, adjusting to all the wartime restrictions and disruptions. This did not deter the Antiquarian Society from holding meetings, such as the popular Howland Lecture at St. Leonard's Church Hall in November 1943.

Enthusiasm for this society continued during the years of post-war austerity but unfortunately during the 1950s interest started to wane, and at a January meeting in 1957 the Streatham Antiquarian and Natural History Society was wound up, although the goodwill of the society was to be continued by a number of people. This goodwill and activity continued until it petered out in 1965.

As a young teenager during the 1950s and being keen on history, I became a junior member of the Streatham Antiquarian Society, and well remember attending a local history talk at Streatham Library around the late 1950s, as well as attending a number of other meetings which included a local history element. Perhaps on reflection, I may be the only person left who was a member of the old Streatham Antiquarian Society and of the present day Streatham Society.

It was a fair achievement that the Streatham Antiquarian Society survived for some thirty years or more, particularly during those trying years of war when facing challenges not so dissimilar to those experienced by the Streatham Society today with the ambivalence of Covid. As for our society, it will survive no doubt, albeit with changes relevant to the times, bolstered by a membership; a membership that has over the years supported and maintained the most successful local amenity group in Streatham. Furthermore, we must not forget the pio-

neering work our predecessor the Streatham Antiquarian and Natural History Society, who all those years ago did much to encourage a sense of identity for those who lived or worked in Streatham – a philosophy which we continue to follow today.

Note. The substantial records of the Streatham Antiquarian and Natural History Society have been deposited in Lambeth Archive Department and are available for consultation.

Graham Gower

DEAR STREATHAM,

Of the many people that touch our lives, there are always those who have a place in that special corner of our memory that we cherish. One such person in mine is Cyril the coalman. Cyril was a personable young man, who loved to chat and make us laugh, and who regularly delivered coal to our house. In those days we lived upstairs in a large semi-detached house, and Cyril had to hump the heavy sacks on his back, up a staircase that had a sharp bend at the bottom, and another at the top. He never seemed to mind doing this, and always had a cheery word and a cheeky grin.



*Delivering coal in the 1940s
(It's not Cyril)*

Cyril was a tall, slim young man, whose bright blue eyes shone out from his coal - smeared face, from under his coal-dust covered cap. They were kind eyes, and Cyril was a kind man.

One day, after he had tipped the coal into the coal box in the kitchen, Cyril reached inside his thick, coal encrusted jacket and drew out something wrapped in paper, which he held cupped in his outstretched hand. I watched in wonder as he carefully peeled back the paper to reveal a beautiful, yellow pear; then bending down towards me, he smiled and said, "It's for you". I had never seen such a large pear, or, was it just large to me, being so small? Biting into that sweet, lush pear, so juicy that the juice ran down my arm as I ate it, was such a treat, an almost magical moment. In all my life, I don't think I have ever enjoyed a pear quite so much as the one I had that summers' day.

Phone : Streatham 0940 Depots and Offices— Streatham, Streatham Common, and Norbury Railway Stations	H. HAZELL Coal Merchant 370 HIGH ROAD Streatham, S.W.	ANTHRACITE COAL Specially prepared and of the finest quality for continuous burning stoves, always in stock HOUSE & KITCHEN COAL of the finest quality
--	--	--

Advertisement 1943

Cyril used to sit at the kitchen table and have a cup of tea with my mother; he once told her that she made the best tea in the neighbourhood. I think my mother felt quite flattered by his remark, but it was true, she did make a good cup of tea. It was well known in the family that - Rose made the 'best tea'. Cyril went on to say, that he always refused offers of tea from other local people, as he knew he would get a good cup of tea from my mother.

Then there was that sunny day, when I was about five years old, I had just left home to return to school after dinner, when the Air-Raid siren sounded. I had only gone a little way down the street, when I heard the sound of wheels crunching on the stone gravel on the road. I turned to look, and saw the coal lorry, with no sound of the engine, just rolling down the hill. Suddenly it stopped, and the cab door was flung open, and Cyril jumped out; he ran over to me, scooped me up in his arms, and ran with me back to my house. Opening the door, my mother was relieved to see that I was alright. Cyril asked if we had a shelter in the garden. The answer was no, however there was one in the garden next door, so with me still in his arms, he rushed my mother down the side entrance of our house, and across the garden. Being in poor condition, the fencing between the gardens had several loose panels, which enabled Cyril to push a couple of them to one side. He ushered Mum to go through, but she didn't want to, as she felt it was trespassing, but he managed to persuade her and we clambered through.

It was an Anderson shelter, which is a dug-out type, that is sunk down into the ground and covered with a mound of earth. The wooden door was partly broken, and jammed, and had to be forced open. Stepping into the gloomy interior, we had the shock of finding that the concrete floor was flooded with water, which seeped into our shoes.

There were two hessian covered bunks, which were damp, but we sat on them anyway.

The shelter was dark and unpleasant, and filled with a dank, musty smell; our

feet were soaking wet, and my mother wanted to leave, but the heavy menacing drone of the approaching ‘doodlebugs’ kept us inside.

The awful, thrumming noise grew louder and louder, as the bombs drew nearer and nearer, until it felt as if they were on top of our heads. The vibrations were deafening and sickening and went right through you. The terrible noise was everywhere, surrounding us completely, and my poor mother was so frightened. The raid seemed to go on forever, until at last, in the silence that followed the passing of the bombs, we eventually heard the welcome wail of the ‘All clear’. So thankful were we to be able to scramble out of that shelter at long last, out into the fresh air and sunlight.

Cyril told my mother that she should always go into the shelter whenever there was a raid, but we never went in there again. I don’t think the old lady who lived next door, knew that we had been in there, and she certainly never used it herself.

A lifetime ago now, these memories are of another world, and often seem unreal, but I sometimes think of dear Cyril, and wonder what happened to him.

Yvonne Watkins



*WWII Anderson Shelter
discovered in the Sunnyhill Road railway sidings in 2012*



*A demonstration air raid shelter in Croydon 1938
(above)*



20+C+M+B+20 - NOT ALL GRAFFITI IS BAD NEWS



Graffiti is generally perceived to be a blight on our modern townscape and is a scourge which sadly affects parts of Streatham.

I read with some concern that due to current financial difficulties Croydon Council will no longer remove graffiti in public places unless it indicates a specific hate crime and no doubt as a consequence other types of graffiti will soon proliferate in the borough as the greatest deterrent to such activity, the prompt removal of tags and markings by the council, will no longer take place.

Much anti-social graffiti has a depressing impact on the environment, suggesting the area is run-down and uncared for, and its non-removal encourages other taggers to compete on nearby sites to gain prominence for their work.

Graffiti has been with us since the dawn of civilisation, with examples found dating back to at least Roman times. Those of us of a certain age will no doubt remember the “Wot no Watneys” graffiti which sprung up on bomb site hoardings at the end of the Second World War and the ubiquitous scrawlings advising that “Kilroy was here”.

But not all graffiti is necessarily a bad thing. In days past, tramps and vagrants used to mark the gate posts of houses with a special code indicating to other travellers on the road the level of generosity of the inhabitant of the house or warning them that an aggressive dog was likely to be set on them should they dare to enter the property.

It was therefore with some interest that I noticed last year that someone had chalked up a coded message on the stonework by the side of the entrance door to St. Leonard’s Church which read 20+C+M+B+20.

Knowing that the Rector’s dog was only capable of licking you to death and of the church’s support for rough sleepers through its support for the Streatham churches Nightshelter project and the Spires Centre, I wondered what the combination of numbers, letters and crosses could mean.

I was enlightened by Hayley, the curate at St. Leonard’s, who advised that this was in fact “Holy graffiti” and formed an ancient Christian tradition, still much prevalent in eastern and central Europe, bestowing on the building a Christmas blessing.



Such markings not only adorn church buildings in Eastern Europe but are also to be found on the doors and entrances to houses. No doubt, with many Eastern Europeans now living in Streatham, this centuries old custom has now been introduced to our suburb.

I have subsequently discovered that the markings have several meanings, the most popular of which is that it celebrates the Epiphany, the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus in his manger in Bethlehem. The numbers indicate the year and the letters C M B represent the first names of the wise men, Casper, Melchior and Balthasar who brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. Four Christian crosses separate the numbers and initials. By “chalking the door” in this way a Christian blessing is placed on the property and indicates that the building is a place where Jesus lives.

The initials C M B are also said to represent the three words of the ancient Latin Christian request “Christus mansionem benedicat” - “May Christ bless this house”.

Normally, such chalked markings rarely survive much beyond the season of Epiphany and are washed away by the January rains. However, the blessing chalked on St. Leonard’s Church is sheltered in the recess of the arched door surround and has survived and is still clearly visible. Look out for it when next you visit the church or walk through the churchyard.

John W Brown

IMPRESSION OF A SUNDAY EVENING ON STREATHAM COMMON IN 1924

It has been satisfying to know that the old postcard views of Streatham published in our newsletter, and on our Facebook, Twitter and blog space on the internet, have been much appreciated and so favourably commented on.

These came from the collection of Streatham Society member, Frances Partridge, who recently sent me a further three postcard views to add to our archive.

One of these shows a large gathering on Streatham Common in 1924 and was painted by Charles de Lacy, a local artist. The picture has caused a lot of interest over the years as no one knew the reason for the gathering or could remember such an event on the common.



Painting of Streatham Common 1924 by Charles de Lacy



Westwell Road in the early 1900s



*The Illustrated London News 1899
Cover painting by Charles de Lacy*

by W. H. G. Kingston (London, Griffith Ferran Browne & Co., 1897), *The Pirate of the Caribbees* by Harry Collingwood (London, Griffith Ferran Browne, 1898), *Billows and Bergs* by W. Charles Metcalfe (London, Frederick Warne,

Mr Charles John de Lacy lived at no. 32 Westwell Road and was a noted local artist and illustrator with work regularly appearing in such well known publications as *The Illustrated London News*.

He was born in Sunderland, Durham, in 1856, the son of Robert de Lacy, a professor of music, and Eliza. Charles and his younger sister, Rosamond, spent their early childhood in the Bishop Wearmouth area of Sunderland before the family moved to Lambeth in the 1860s.

At the time of his marriage to Alice Harriet Hill in 1880, de Lacy was living at 68 Flaxman Road, Lambeth. They had two daughters, Constance Rosamond de Lacy (b. 1881) and Irene Valerie Cristoforo de Lacy (b. 1901).

By the 1890s, Charles had established himself as a painter and illustrator of some note signing his works Chas. J. de Lacy. He mainly specialised in maritime subjects and some of his illustrations of ships and sailing vessels appeared on the cover of *The Illustrated London News*.

He also became a well-known book illustrator with work appearing in such titles as *By Sartal Sands; or The Thutalls of Ballaskyr* by Edward N. Hoare (London, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1897) and *Drink* by Emile Zola (London, Greening & Co., 1907).

Other popular titles illustrated by de Lacy include *The Three Midshipmen*



The Last Fight of the Revenge



The Carmania

1902), *A Book About Ships* by Arthur O. Cooke (London, Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1914), *The Royal Navy: An ABC for Little Britons* (London, Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1915), *Our Wonderful Navy* by John S. Margerison (London, Cassell & Co., 1919) and *Ships That Saved the Empire* by Charles R. Gibson (London & Glasgow, Collins, 1919).

Charles de Lacy first appears as residing in Westwell Road in the 1899 Streatham Directory, although it is likely that he moved there in the previous year as on 17th June 1898 he is reported as having been knocked down by a speeding cyclist when crossing Streatham High Road, opposite Streatham Common. He was knocked into the centre of the road and had his clothes torn and damaged. Although not seriously injured by the accident de Lacy was badly shaken by the event.

It is interesting to note that Holland Tringham, another illustrator with *The Illustrated London News*, is shown as living at no. 22 Westwell Road in 1898 and it may be that they both knew each other. However, Holland Tringham led an in-temperate life and it is unlikely they were close friends.

Charles de Lacy was a regular correspondent to the local newspaper, *The Streatham News*, and on 10th September 1902 wrote to the editor in support of an earlier correspondent denouncing the Socialists who had been active in Streatham.

This was a theme he pursued in future correspondence to the paper and on 7th January 1911 he wrote again warning readers not to deceive themselves and that "Anarchism - this London horror is the crux of the creed of Socialism".

Local Directories show Charles de Lacy was still living at 32 Westwell Road in 1925 but by 1930 he has disappeared from the local listings having died in Epsom in 1929, aged 73.

The only local example of his work I have discovered to date is the painting featured on the postcard sent to me by Frances Partridge which is published by

Lambeth Archives based on the original painting in their collection. (The card inaccurately refers to him as de Lacey, with an “e”, although other archive references correctly spell his name as de Lacy).

Having researched the painting a number of years ago I can confirm it is entitled “Impression of Sunday Evening on Streatham Common” and is dated July 6th 1924. It depicts a local church crusade held on Streatham Common on 4th July 1924. This commenced with a “Procession of Witness” by members of local churches, both Church of England and Non-Conformist, which comprised between two and three thousand people.

The procession was held in the evening and started from St. Leonard’s Church, the ancient parish church of Streatham, and paraded down the High Road to the Common. De Lacy appears to have captured the gathering assembling on the Common in his painting.

Once the crowd had gathered around a platform constructed specifically for the event, a service was conducted with most of the local ministers participating. Members of local church choirs were present, and the silver band of the Balham Salvation Army accompanied the hymn singing.

The crowd was addressed by the Bishop of Woolwich, representing the established church, and by Revd John Wright of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Streatham, on behalf of the free churches. The event concluded with the singing of “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and the Bishop blessing the gathering. The crowd then dispersed. As shown in the painting, the evening was overcast but it did not rain.

Should you wish to obtain a copy of this postcard I understand copies are still available from Lambeth Archives Department, Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY. Tel: 020 7926 6076 Email: archives@lambeth.gov.uk Website: www.lambethlandmark.com

JWB

CORN CHANDLERS

Further to Yvonne Watkins ‘Dear Streatham’ article in the Winter 2020/21 Society magazine. I actually worked at the Corn Chandlers after school and all day Saturday which was called King Bros in the early sixties until it closed. I used to cycle from my home in Norbury. When they closed the Streatham shop the only shop left open was the shop in Norbury which was the last of the chain to go.

When I was working on Saturday the manager would send me to the tea rooms to get his lunch and tea. When we were clearing out the building leading to the closure, we had to dispose of a massive chick incubator, which I might add was never used while I worked there. We also sold all different kinds of dog biscuits in massive bins and a lots of packets of Indian food such as curry powder etc.

Peter Day

HORACE ELLIOTT - STREATHAM POTTERY DESIGNER

It was wonderful to discover from the last issue of the *Streatham Society News* that our town can lay claim to such a gifted and talented pottery designer as Horace Elliott who operated from 69a Streatham Hill from c.1905-1934.



Nos. 69 - 71 Streatham Hill



Jonathan Gray is to be congratulated on his extensive research into Elliott's life and works and he has kindly offered to give a presentation on him to the Society when his book is published in about a years' time.

Elliott's shop was situated on the slight bend in Streatham Hill and although I must have several hundred old postcard views of this part of the road the shop is either obscured by the bend in the road or only glimpsed in the far distance at a scale which does not make it possible to see details of the premises.

However, I have been successful in finding two old Edwardian postcards which do feature the shop and have sent copies to John for his book. Sadly, both pictures are not particularly brilliant as the shop forms a very small part of a 6-inch by 4-inch postcard. In one view the shop is partly obscured by a lamp post but in the other the shop's fascia tiles and the words Horace Elliott separated by the Fleur de Lys can be seen. In addition, a number of large pots can be seen standing proudly on a shelf beneath the sign.

Streatham can claim a number of connections with celebrated potters, the most famous of which is probably Henry Doulton, who lived at Woodlands, a large mansion in Furzedown Road, facing Tooting Graveney Common.

It is marvellous to be able to add another name to this list and to be able to claim Horace Elliott as one of our town's accomplished artists.

JWB

MORE STREATHAM POSTCARDS from the Frances Partridge collection

Streatham High Road looking north from The White Lion towards Streatham Library c.1905



This is a lovely old view of Streatham at a time when it was slowly being transformed from a small Surrey town into a bustling southern suburb of London. The White Lion public house on the left of this view was erected in 1895 by E Purchase and William Perham who took over the licence of the establishment in 1891. Its size and elaborate design exhibit the confidence the late Victorians had in the future of the town which at that time was becoming a popular residential locality for the aspiring middle classes of the day. In the distance can be seen the newly built Streatham Library, which was opened here on 17th April 1891. The two parades of shops with accommodation above on the right formed part of the mid-Victorian development of Streatham. These buildings were subsequently demolished when this section of the High Road was redeveloped with modern shops with flats above in the opening decades of the 20th century when the town had become a fashionable local shopping centre.

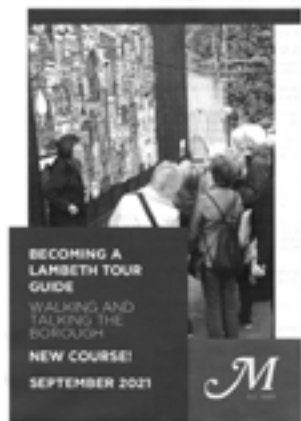
Streatham Hill looking north from Streatham Hill Station c.1905



This old postcard shows the impressive buildings erected along the eastern side of Streatham Hill in the early 1890s. These properties were laid out on the western boundary of the Leigham Court Estate which had been acquired in 1889 by the Artisans' Labourers' and General Dwelling Company for £96,000. Over the next 37 years the company developed the 66-acre estate with housing for rent mainly by the middle classes of the day with few labourers and artisans being able to afford the rents charged for the properties here. The estate was known locally as the ABCD estate, after the initial letters of the roads running through the estate from Streatham Hill; Amesbury, Barcombe, Cricklade and Downton Avenues which were all places associated with directors of the company. Note the small single storey shops on the right which were erected on the bridge over the railway line which could not accommodate larger properties due to their weight.

JWB

SHARE THE DELIGHTS OF SOUTH LONDON BY BECOMING A LAMBETH GUIDE



For the first time ever, South London will have its own professional guiding course, and you can train to become a Lambeth Tour Guide. Morley College, in association with five qualified London Guides will be launching a year-long part-time course in September 2021 to train those interested in the history, geography, politics, architecture and people of the Borough to become Guides.

Lambeth is a unique and diverse borough, being the home of many different communities. Where else in London can you buy home-made “natas” (Portuguese custard tarts) and further along the road an authentic Caribbean curry? Lambeth, of course. This three-mile wide and seven-mile-long slither of land stretching from the River

Thames in the north to Streatham in the south has much to offer those who are curious about London’s most diverse borough.

The course will be divided into practical and knowledge-based sessions both out on the streets and in the classroom. From the beginning of the course the Saturday sessions will be out on the streets, looking at the buildings, open spaces and local institutions - their histories and current usage. In the Thursday evening classroom sessions, for learning purposes, the borough will be divided up into areas - such as The South Bank, Brixton, Tulse Hill and Vauxhall - and into themes including politics, the arts, architecture and education. There will be plenty of opportunities for students to explore and indulge in a special interest they might have, be that chocolate, Latin American dance venues or a new monastic order at Lambeth Palace!

No previous experience or formal qualifications are needed to apply for the course. All you need is a curious mind, good walking shoes and a desire to share your knowledge of Lambeth with others. It is also a wonderful opportunity to learn a new skill, meet a wide range of people from different backgrounds and make new friends. On a recent London Guiding course, there were people who, at a previous time, had been taxi drivers, accountants, police officers, teachers, actors, nurses, lawyers, home-makers and carpenters ...

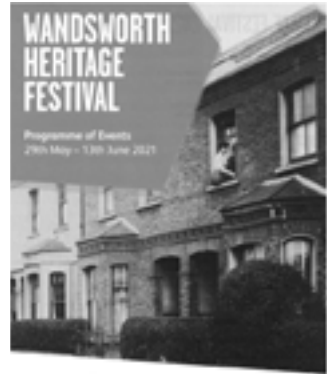
The course commitment is for Thursday evenings and alternate Saturday mornings during term time, plus additional time for home study and completion of assignments. It will be money and time well spent.

Course applications will be available from May on the Morley College website, www.morley.ac.uk but in the meantime you can register your interest in the course today by sending an email to: humanities.enquiries@morleycollege.ac.uk

WANDSWORTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL 29th May - 13th June

The Streatham Society has again contributed events to the Wandsworth Heritage Festival programme which is now available on our website, with hard copies at some live venues and local libraries.

Over twenty walks, tours and talks are scheduled. Because of Covid restrictions, this year events are either online or outdoors. Most need to be booked in advance online. The walks meeting point is omitted from the programme so that organisers do not end up with too many attendees. This should be given on booking.



An impressive list of participating groups include: the Battersea Society, Black Heroes Foundation, Clapham Society, Friends of Battersea Park, Friends of Wandsworth Common, London Undercurrents, Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability, South London Botanical Institute, Streatham Society, Summerstown182, Tooting History Group, and Wandsworth Industrial Museum. There are also other individual contributors.

Online children's activities are advertised and pre-recorded talks provided by Wandsworth Libraries and Heritage Service, Wandsworth Prison Museum and Wandle Industrial Museum.

Congratulations to all those people who have made this interesting programme possible under the present difficult circumstances. Hopefully next year we shall be back to 'normal' when those who cannot book online will be able to participate in the wide variety of annual events which contribute so much to the interest and well-being of our local community.

REPORT SAYS REGENERATING STREATHAM HILL THEATRE CAN KICKSTART LOCAL HIGH STREET REVIVAL!

An independent study, published on April 20th for The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre, says that restoring the dormant historic building as a centre for arts and culture "could play a major role in leading the post-Covid high-street recovery, developing the 15-minute neighbourhood, increasing localised co-working opportunities and ultimately making a significant economic contribution to the regeneration of this part of London".

The Viability Study and Economic Impact Assessment was carried out by a team led by renowned arts consultancy FEI, and supported by the Mayor of London, Lambeth Council, the Theatres Trust and over 400 crowdfunded donations from the local community. For the full report, see The Friends' website.

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

A 'first' for the Streatham Society - many congratulations Betty!

BETTY EILEEN SEARLE CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY



*Betty Searle celebrating her
100th birthday
with her telegram
from the Queen*

Betty was born on 21st February 1921 at 6 Upper Tulse Hill, SW2. Her parents were Ethel and Arthur Thorne. Betty had two brothers, Leslie and Dennis, and the family lived with her mother's parents, Edgar Greening and Emma, and her uncle Stan and aunt Phyllis, Ethel's brother and sister. The house was a former farm house which is no longer standing. It had stone floors downstairs, a scullery and gas lighting.

Betty attended two schools nearby, both of which were private: Surrey College and Sandhurst. She recalls that the teachers were very Victorian and applied firm discipline. Her parents encouraged her to have piano lessons with a cousin who was a qualified music teacher. She also attended ballet classes.

Betty had a happy childhood at '6 Upper', as she refers to it, and lived there for 20 years until her mother and father bought a property on Brixton Hill where they established a coach company called Thornes Coaches. Betty went up to the



Betty, age 16

*Betty and Eric Searle on their
wedding day May 3rd 1941
Holy Trinity Church, Tulse Hill*



West End to work after completing secretarial training at the Brixton Day Continuation School, after which she worked at Davis and Walter, Estate Agents, and Samuel Soden, Furriers. She was happy in her work. During the war she did work of 'national importance' at the Ministry of Works opposite Lambeth Palace and later went to Colwyn Bay in Wales where she joined the Ministry of Food. She also worked as a tram conductor in London.

She met her future husband, Eric, at Streatham Ice Rink. Eric was born and brought up in Clapham. Betty married him on 3rd May 1941 at Holy Trinity Church, Tulse Hill. After the wedding, they lived at 148 Brixton Hill. She had her first child, David, in 1946 and gave up work. Her other children were Keith (b.1951) and Diana (b.1954).

The family continued to live at Brixton Hill until 1955 when they moved to Norbury where she has lived ever since. When the children were in their teens, Betty decided to get a job and worked for Nestlé's in Croydon in the Quality Control section, the PE Consulting Group in Victoria and later at the National Coal Board (NCB). After a short time at the NCB, her talents were spotted by the Head of Purchasing and Supplies, a larger than life figure called Carl Gerlach, who appointed her his PA. She stayed there for 10 happy years.

At the age of 58 she retired, principally to follow a 'Looking at London' course led by Betty Lastic who opened her eyes to London history which proved to be



Betty's birthday cards

an enduring passion. She took classes in cookery, pewter work and lampshade making which gave her an opportunity to develop her practical talents. Much later, Betty attended a lecture on local history given by Brian Bloice which she thought was fascinating, and it was this that inspired her to join the Streatham Society. She much enjoyed attending Streatham Society meetings and made a number of very good friends.

Betty was a very practical housewife and took it upon herself to decorate the house from top to bottom, including putting up ceiling tiles which is no mean feat. Her cooking skills came

into play in the kitchen. The family remember wonderful roasts and delicious homemade puddings. She has always enjoyed entertaining and hosted many social gatherings at home with family and friends.

Another interest has been travel. She has made visits to Europe, South Africa, America and Canada. A few years ago she went to Berlin with Keith and Diana. This was her final trip abroad. Her last UK holiday was in Norfolk three years ago but she now feels unable to go away. However, she loves her garden and home and spends a lot of time thinking creatively about how to improve them. She has also much enjoyed word games such as scrabble and doing crosswords.

In 1989 she had a life changing operation when a kidney was removed due to cancer. The operation resulted in damage to her sciatic nerve and a subsequent dropped foot condition. Ever since, she has had walking difficulties and is registered as disabled. Sadly, she lost her beloved Eric in 1991, the year of their Golden Wedding, and Keith became her carer. She has three granddaughters, Caroline, Helena and Fleur, and one grandson, Max. Her great grandchildren are James, Alexander, Elizabeth and Hugo.

There is much in Betty's long life that could be included in this account had space permitted. Betty has weathered all kinds of health setbacks and has lost so many dear ones, but she has overcome adversity and still embraces life with great fortitude. Her 100th birthday was marked by a card from the Queen and numerous birthday greetings from her loving family and friends.

Keith Searle

BETTY'S FAMILY ALBUM



Betty and her son Keith



Betty with her daughter Diane and grandchildren Fleur and Max



Betty's son David, wife Linda and their daughters Caroline (left) and Helena



Betty's great-grandchildren with their parents (left - right)

Alexander, Will, Helena, Hugo

Elizabeth, James, Oliver, Caroline

STREATHAM PLAQUES

There are few commemorative plaques in Streatham given the relatively large number of individuals of distinction who are connected to the area.

The Streatham Society has previously placed commemorative plaques in a few locations including Tommy Trinder in Wellfield Road, “Birdie” Bowers in Pathfield and Pinfold Roads, Dr Johnson at the Furzedown Pub (previously the Samuel Johnson) and at the location of the Thrale’s Streatham residence, “Streatham Park” in Colson Way. There is also an English Heritage Blue Plaque for Arnold Bax in Pendennis Road.

The Society’s Executive has agreed we should start a new programme to place plaques in the area to commemorate our notable former residents and use crowd-funding appeals to fund the cost of each plaque.

An English Heritage Blue plaque is the most prestigious commemorative plaque. However, criteria are strict and consideration includes the following and more detail can be found at <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/propose-a-plaque/>

At least one building associated with the figure must survive within Greater London (but outside the City of London, which has its own scheme).

The building must survive in a form that the commemorated person would have recognised and be visible from a public highway.

Buildings with many personal associations, such as churches, schools and theatres, are not normally considered for plaques.

No more than two plaques are allowed on one building.

Nominations to commemorate buildings that have historical significance for an event, or a group of individuals, will be considered as resources allow.

Nominations are subject to thorough historical research and discussion, and English Heritage’s Blue Plaques Panel of experts meets three times a year to decide the shortlist. Proposals may be turned down for many reasons; for example if a subject’s historical significance is felt to be insufficiently clear, and if the connection to a surviving London building is not strong enough.

Many more suggestions are submitted than can be approved, given the resources available, so the process of shortlisting is highly selective

The process for gaining agreement for an English Heritage blue plaque can take many years and we believe English Heritage may have a quota, by discipline and may also be reluctant to place a blue plaque on a property if any other plaque is already present or to have more than one blue plaque for the same person at different addresses.

The Executive proposes to adopt the following guidelines.

If an individual would be worthy for consideration for an English Heritage blue plaque either now or at a later date within the next 10 years then we should put forward a case for a blue plaque at the appropriate time with no more than one application per year

We consult external bodies such as Lambeth Archives/Wandsworth Heritage or the British Music Hall Society should we wish to have a collaborative plaque. The latter has indicated they may fund such a venture connected to Music Hall

We draw-up a list of individuals for a Streatham Society Plaque and that we process no more than two per year in the area. Unlike the English Heritage scheme our plaques

a) can be placed on the site of the building where the person lived so for example Winnifred Knights could have a plaque on the building which is now on the site of the house (now demolished) where she lived in Madeira Road

b) we need not wait 20 years after death so actress June Whitfield and Nobel laureate VS Naipaul who both died in recent years could have a plaque at Mount Ephraim Lane and Wyatt Park Road respectively and,

c) we can commemorate a person who may have a blue plaque elsewhere e.g. Sir Norman Hartnell has a blue plaque in Bruton Street, Mayfair.

We invite members of the Society to comment on the proposal and to submit names of individuals they feel should be commemorated and also the design of our plaques. The Executive, consulting with John Brown, will research the individual, where they lived and for what duration, decide which plaques should be placed in the area and initiate discussions with property owners if we wish to proceed.

Members may wish to look at information relating to our former residents on Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streatham> where there is a long list, our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StreathamSociety> or web blogs <https://www.streathamsociety.org.uk/blog>

The Executive will also decide the process for any application to an external body. If there are Society members that wish to be more actively involved, then we would welcome such interest which could be as a “Champion” to a particular person.

Please email comments to me at StreathamSoc@gmail.com or if not on email by post to 14 Woodbourne Ave, SW16 1UU by the end of May 2021

Mark Bery

ZOOM TALKS AND EVENTS

Our recent Zoom talks were:

The Telford Estate Then and Now (Feb 15) by Chris Sluman; 81 attended.

London's West End: Creating the pleasure district 1800-1914 (Mar 1) by Professor Rohan McWilliam; 79 attended.

The Suffrage Photographs of Christina Broom 1908-13 (Mar 29) by Beverley Cook; 67 attended.

Remembering Hester Thrale Piozzi, 200 years on (Apr 29) by Cassie Ulph. This is fully booked (100) with a waiting list.

If any member finds a talk is fully booked they should let Mark Bery know as he can fit them in on the basis that people do not all attend. There are often 20% + 'no shows'.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We will be holding the AGM in the autumn and depending on government restrictions in place this may be held by Zoom. The formal notice of the meeting will be sent in the next newsletter and also by email to those members for whom we have a current email address.

If you have not registered your email address with the society and wish to receive updates on talks etc. please email me StreathamSoc@gmail.com

Mark Bery

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members Chris Everett, Anne-Marie Griffin, Mandy Talbot, Barbara Kemp, Alisdair Bowles, Sue & Mark Alhadeff, Mariota & Roger Gar-side, Revd. David Butler and Rachel Godfrey.

We regret to announce the death of Christine Bonnell, one of our original meetings' refreshments team. She was always cheerful and efficient. Sadly her failing health forced her to stop coming to our meetings. Her funeral took place on March 18th at West Norwood Cemetery. We send condolences to her husband Michael who cared for her devotedly in her final years.

JH

FRIENDS OF NORWOOD GROVE

We are very pleased this Facebook group has been formed to protect the Grove and ensure it is properly maintained. This should ensure the park (Croydon) adjoining Streatham Common and the Rookery (Lambeth) will be protected as a beautiful open space for our community. If you wish to help the Friends please contact Mike Robinson at: friends.norwood.grove@gmail.com

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

London War Trophy - "Warts 'n' All"

Some time ago you included a couple of my articles in your Streatham Society News publication and I thought you might now be interested in my book: *London War Trophy - Warts 'n' All - 1945-1967*, published by Austin Macauley ISBN 9781528908054. It has 228 pages with many photos and is advertised on the internet.

Much of it is based in Streatham: the Junior Red Cross cadets in Pinfold Road, the Locarno, Greyhound Lane, Woodmansterne Road School, Coronation celebrations, children's Saturday matinees at the Odeon Cinema, Pratts departmental store in the 1950s - and much more.

Maureen Katrina Wilson



The Norbury Chronicle

David Clark's excellent Chronicle issue 8 is now published. It continues the journey through the history of Norbury, now in the 2nd half of the 20th century.

It is on sale at Showells Newsagents, 1412 London Rd, Norbury.

Contact David for postage details at davidandlindaclark@googlemail.com



SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOT DUE UNTIL 2022

Have you sent us your email contact and returned your gift aid form?

For information please see website or contact Mark Bery
(Contacts back page)

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Acting Chair

Shea Richardson

7 Barrow Road

Streatham SW16 5PE

shea.richardson@homecall.co.uk

Vice-Chair

Russell Henman

Secretary, Webmaster & Social Media

Mark Bery

14 Woodbourne Avenue

Streatham SW16 1UU

markbery@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Liz Burton

53 Hambro Road

Streatham SW16 6JD

liz.joynes@gmail.com

Membership, Newsletter Editor &

Publications Orders

Judy Harris

125 Thornlaw Road

West Norwood SE27 0SQ

jharris.streathamsociety@gmail.com

Other Committee Members

Janis Benson Robert Doyle

Talks Programming Team

Mike Bowtle Jill Dudman

Russell Henman

Local History Matters

John Brown (Publications)

Graham Gower

Local History, Family History & Planning Enquiries

John Brown

316 Green Lane

Streatham, London SW16 3AS

Society Web Page

<https://www.streathamsociety.org.uk>

Society e-mail for general enquiries

streathamsociety@gmail.com

Facebook

**[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/546435545867439/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/546435545867439/)**

This newsletter is published by the Streatham Society

Printed by **Printinc.** Tel: 020 8255 2110 e-mail: info@printinc.uk.com

Final copy date for next issue: July 1st 2021

**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