

# STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 229 Summer 2017

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*'Pub Jiro' - Artist takes over the Horse & Groom at the Streatham Festival  
(See p.4)*

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## STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

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**LAMBETH HERITAGE FESTIVAL**  
Programme now available

**LAMBETH LOCAL HISTORY FAIR**  
St Leonard's Church  
Saturday 2nd September 10.30-4.30  
Bookstalls, talks, tours & exhibitions  
*Hosted by the Streatham Society*

**HENRY TATE GARDENS TOURS**  
Meet main gates, Streatham Common  
N, close Leigham Court Rd  
*No photos of private houses, please*  
Sunday 3rd September 2pm & 3pm  
*(Lambeth Heritage Festival event)*

**JACK THE RIPPER -**  
The possible suspects?  
Talk, Jenny Phillips  
Monday 4th September 8pm  
*(Lambeth Heritage Festival event)*

**THE DROUET AFFAIR**  
The notorious case of the man who ran  
Tooting Asylum  
Talk, Janet Smith  
Monday 18th September 8pm  
*(Lambeth Heritage Festival event)*

**THE PROMISED LAND**  
The Lure of London  
Talk, Len Reilly  
Monday 2nd October 8pm

**THE ANGELS' VOICE**  
A magazine for young men in Brixton  
1910-1913  
Talk, Dr Alan Argent  
Monday 16th October 8pm

**THE YOUNGEST BRITISH SOLDIER**  
The story of 13-yr-old Sidney  
Lewis and the Battle of the Somme  
Talk, Geoff Simmons  
Monday 6th November 8pm

**CHRISTMAS IN STREATHAM**  
Bygone festivities  
Talk, John Brown  
Monday 20th November 8pm

**MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Members only - details next issue  
Monday 4th December

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

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

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## **STREATHAM ROUND AND ABOUT**

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### **SPRING AND SUMMER IN STREATHAM**

#### **Kite Day on Streatham Common - 14th May 2017**



Streatham Kite Day originally started as a festival celebrating all things to do with wind in 1998. It was, and is, organised by the Friends of Streatham Common. It evolved into Kite Day, attracting large crowds, many community stalls and kite flyers, amateur and professional. Of course, the weather with a strong south-westerly breeze is important. This year was perfect, thousands came.

The Streatham Society has provided a bookstall and information from the start. This year was particularly successful and our stall holders were busy all day, selling publications and answering local history queries. It is very enjoyable to join with so many community stalls such as FoSC, SCCoop (Streatham Common Co-operative), Streatham Common Community Garden and Streatham Action, among others. This is now the only annual local event to attract them all.

#### **Streatham Festival: 1st - 9th July**

A full programme of varied events was offered and I managed to visit several, including the Festival Fun Day on Streatham Green. I particularly enjoyed St Leonard's Open Church & Children's Day. Cream teas with homemade cakes



*'Café Jiro' - Painter Jiro Osuga and London historian Mireille Galinou stand in front of Jiro's painted café in the Horse & Groom*

were on sale; children's craft and music shops were well-organised; tours of the crypt, belfry, church and churchyard were given. Much effort was put into the event which publicised and requested donations for the St Leonard's redevelopment fund.

However, my award for originality must go to Jiro Osuga and Mireille Galinou (*pictured above*). They transformed an upper floor of the Horse & Groom into a café with two walls exhibiting Jiro's fabulous life-size painted café, the research for which was conducted in and around Streatham. The exhibition celebrated the publication of *The Streatham Sketchbook* (*see p.33*). We publicised this at our Society meeting on July 3rd, and I understand several members visited. I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did - and bought the book.

My only criticism of the Streatham Festival was the lack of publicity. The programme should have been available at least three weeks in advance. I obtained my copy on July 1st and never managed to find *Heart Streatham*, also published at the beginning of the month, from my usual sources. The Festival rightly aims to attract Streatham groups' participation, but good publicity is essential to this.

*Do you attend Streatham events? If so, photographs and short accounts of these would be most welcome. Your editor only manages to photograph a few.*

## **STREATHAM CEMETERY: A hidden gem in the heart of Tooting**



Streatham Cemetery was opened in 1894 in fields adjoining the parishes of Streatham and Tooting. As well as two lodges, each by a set of gates on Garratt Lane, there are two mirror image chapels built in the Gothic style by William Newton-Dunn. Urban spread in the twentieth century has surrounded the cemetery with buildings and streets, although part of its early environment survives in the adjacent Fishponds Field on the north-eastern perimeter.

In 2009 the cemetery was a neglected and under-used space. However that was all about to change. One day Lucy Neal, a founder member of Transition Town Tooting, came across this 40-acre site while cycling around her neighbourhood. She was bowled over by the peace and tranquillity of the space and with her friend Lucinda Denning - a local artist - decided to start the Friends of Streatham Cemetery (FSC). Its aim was to ‘cherish and re-imagine the space as a community resource for peaceful recreation for people of all ages and all cultures’.

Over the next few years the Friends grew in number to include families of those buried there, neighbours of the cemetery, and people interested in how a community can flourish by contact with nature. In 2011 a major breakthrough was achieved with a grant for setting up an apiary and training bee keepers. The open



*Lucinda and Kath at the small mammal survey*



*Lucy by the repaired gate July 2014*

day in 2011 included hive painting activities, where local children were involved in preparing the apiary. Then in Spring 2012 the first bees were brought in and the newly trained beekeepers started tending them. Volunteer gardeners planted lavender, rosemary and sunflowers inside the apiary, together with fruit trees and hedging nearby, all providing forage for the bees. One of the volunteers dug a pond near the hives to provide water. In 2014 there was a large harvest of honey which was sold to raise money for the apiary. Another landmark event on 6th July 2014 was the re-opening of the pedestrian gate at the corner of L-shaped Broadwater Road, after the Friends had negotiated with Lambeth about the repairs needed to make this happen.

Sadly, 2015 was a difficult year for the bees as two out of the three colonies were destroyed by a disease called Nosema. The surviving colony was split in two and a new queen was bought, but there was no honey that year and the following year the bees had to use up all the honey for themselves. However, the hives are thriving again and it looks as though there will be a harvest this year. Meanwhile the Friends continue to meet and organise events in the cemetery to draw people in to this beautiful space. They also liaise with Lambeth who manage it, balancing the needs of bereaved families who visit the graves of loved ones, and people who appreciate the cemetery as a place for quiet recreation.

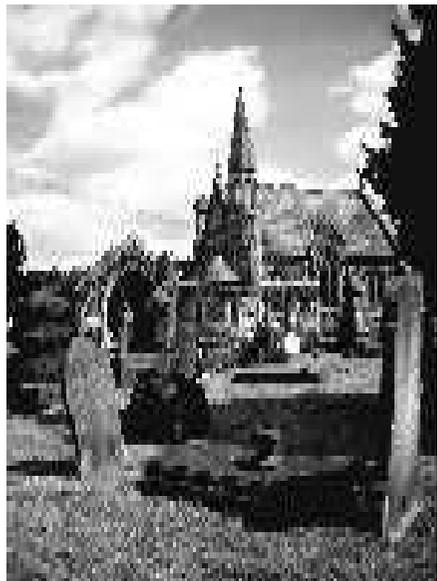
Over the last few years there have been a number of nature events, in-

cluding very popular bat walks, where people are invited into the cemetery around sunset to detect and see bats. A recent survey, organised with the Friends by Dr Iain Boulton, confirmed that at least two species of bats live in the cemetery: the common pipistrelle and the soprano pipistrelle. Another recent survey found evidence of small mammals - including the field vole and wood mouse. Other nature events have included dawn chorus, plant lore and butterfly walks. Details of the species identified in the cemetery can be found on our website through the 'biodiversity' link. There is also a link in the news section to our 2016 report written by Ray Turner. This report has some stunning photographs of wildlife in the cemetery.



*Rex Osborn leading a walk  
Open Day 2012*

As well as nature, the cemetery is a repository of local history through burials, monuments and the stories behind them. The Friends have worked with Tooting History Group (THG) and the Summerstown 182 project to organise history walks in the cemetery. A number of walks have focused on WW1 soldiers who



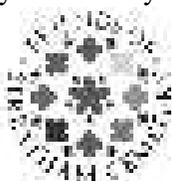


are buried there, notably ‘tiny’ Ted Foster, who survived WW1 and was awarded a VC for gallantry. Another event in March this year was a memorial for a forgotten teenage soldier, William Mace, who was discharged with TB and died shortly afterwards. Local schoolchildren, a poet and a musician attended the event for William Mace, whose name was not added to the war memorial because he did not die in action. Geoff Simmons of Summerstown 182 project organised this event and has also led other history walks for the Friends.

Other famous burials have been researched by THG members for history walks. These burials include: Jane Rose

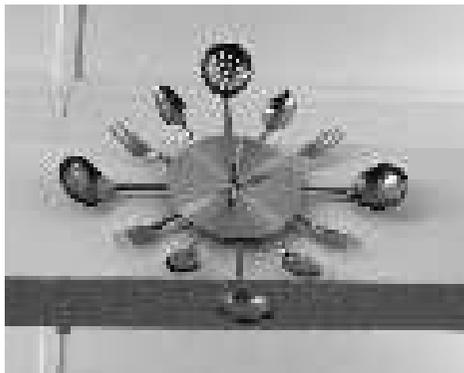
Waring Roberts, wife of the First President of Liberia; Caroline Alice White, authoress and editor of the Ladies Companion; C Arthur Ling, founder of the Vegan Society; and George Jeffreys, founder of Elim Pentecostal Church. The Friends have a number of resources which provide more details about biodiversity and history in the cemetery and this year we are hoping to make some of

them available at the Lambeth office in the south chapel. If you would like to find out more about Streatham Cemetery, please come to our **FSC Open Day on 24th September 2017 from 2 - 4 pm** by the vestry or north chapel.



**Kath Church**, *co-Chair Friends of Streatham Cemetery*  
<http://www.friendsofstreathamcemetery.co.uk/>

## ANOTHER QUIRKY CLOCK



Following the quirky clock featured in our last issue, John Brown submitted his photo of another which adorned the wall of the Rookery Café before its renovation.

Are there any more quirky clocks on public view in Streatham? We usually recognise those on churches and the library, but are there others? Photos, email or prints, please!

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## LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

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### MAURICE WH MILES

The recent discovery of a late Victorian photograph of a young boy apparently sitting amid ships rigging, creating the impression the picture was taken in the crow's nest of a ship, has helped to reveal the fascinating story of his life. The legend under the photograph shows that it was taken by one of Streatham's early photographers, David Wayland, who was born in 1851 and set up his studio in Streatham at 71 Streatham High Road in 1893.

Around 1905 David's brother, Henry Robert Douglas Wayland, took over the business and relocated it to Regina House at 186 Streatham High Road, where it occupied an imposing corner premises at the southern junction of Becmead Avenue in a building now occupied by Lloyds Bank. Wayland was one of the first photographers in Streatham to have electric light installed in his studio and this caused some sensation in 1908 when it was considered a most innovative means of lighting.



*Wayland Photographers  
Becmead Avenue*

The Wayland brothers were often commissioned to take photographs of the most eminent of Streatham's inhabitants, including local VIPs such as the Mayor of Wandsworth. There were three brothers and, in addition to their Streatham studio, they operated studios at Sutton and Blackheath.

The photograph of the young boy in the rigging shows the skill with which Wayland would compose his subjects and he promoted his studio as one which specialised in taking photographs of children. As normal, the reverse of the card on which the photograph is mounted shows details of the Wayland Studio where it was taken, in addition to which someone has helpfully recorded the name of the boy featured in the picture together with his age and the year the picture was taken.

*Misses' School*  
*and* *Boys' School*  
*of* *the* *City*  
*of* *St. Louis*



SEATING  
 Eighty Hours  
**TERMINES** on  
 the *Third*

For further particulars apply to the Secretary,  
 at the *City* *of* *St. Louis*  
 or to the *Principal*, *Miss* *W. H. H. H.*



From these inscriptions we know the boy was Maurice WH Miles, who was 4 years and three months old when the picture was published in 1897. By a strange twist of fate we know quite a bit of information about Maurice as copies of his military records during the First World War are contained in the collection of Streatham military material held by Streatham Society member Colin Crocker and Andrew Hadden.

For many decades Colin and Andrew have been collecting material relating to the local history of Streatham, especially that relating to members of the armed forces. Some years ago they acquired a badge known as a World War One Silver War Badge, sometimes referred to as a Silver Wound Badge. This badge was awarded to injured members of the armed forces who were discharged due to their injuries. By wearing the badge the public would recognise the holder as an injured member of the armed forces who had served King and Country and would not challenge them for not having done their duty in joining the army or navy. The badge shows King George V's cypher plus the words 'For King and Empire - Services Rendered'. By a strange coincidence the badge had been awarded to Maurice Miles and when Andrew and Colin acquired it they also obtained copies of some of his war records from which we are able to piece together information about his life.

Maurice William Holt Miles was born in Streatham on 27th December 1892. He was the son of William Miles, a publican, later to become a newspaper manager, who lived at 15 Hopton Road, Streatham, with his wife Gertrude, his sister Clara, his daughter and two servants, a cook and nursery maid. Maurice was baptised at St. Anselm's Church, Coventry Park, on 18th March 1893. He attended Merchant Taylors School and at the time of the First World War he was training to be a surgeon at St. Thomas's Hospital in London.

At the commencement of the war in 1914 he volunteered for service and went to France as a dresser in the Royal Army Medical Corps (R.A.M.C.). He later saw service with the Indian Medical Service, serving aboard the Hospital Ships *Glengorm Castle*, *Guildford Castle* and *Sicilia*. He also served in India, Egypt and the Dardanelles. It was while serving in the East that he contracted malaria and dysentery. He was subsequently invalided out of the army and resigned from the Indian Medical Service in March 1916 so that he could return to the UK to finish his medical studies.

While serving on the Indian Hospital Ship, the *Guildford Castle*, during an incident in which the ship sank, Maurice had received an injury to his foot and when he was at Blackpool training as a Lieutenant in the R.A.M.C., septic poisoning infected his big toe. He was sent to Manchester Hospital for treatment and was later admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital in London where part of his toe was amputated. Maurice continued his medical training and qualified as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in January 1917. The following month he was appointed to the Royal Army Medical Corps Special Reserve.

In May 1917, whilst serving at Blackpool, he reported sick with pyrexia and possible tuberculosis. Sadly his weakened condition led him to resign his commission on 17th August 1918 through ill health and he returned to his family home then at 11 Pinfold Road, Streatham. It was there, a few months later, where he died on 25th November 1918, after having succumbed to an attack of influenza and pneumonia which his weakened condition did not enable him to withstand.



*St Leonard's Church War Memorial*

Maurice there is another fascinating twist to the tale to reveal. As well as the original photograph of Maurice already referred to, in the collection of old cabinet photographs and cartes de viste (CDVs) held by myself, Kevin Kelly, Colin Crocker and Andrew Hadden, and from copies obtained from the internet by Dave Clark, there is another picture of Maurice taken at the Wayland Studios in Streatham in 1894 when he was one year old. We know this to be so for these details are recorded on the reverse of the second picture in the same handwriting as that used on the first picture.

But the surprises do not end there; for also in our collections are copies of three other photographs of a young boy taken at the Wayland Studio who has an uncanny likeness to Maurice and appear to have been taken at some time between the two other photographs, possibly when he was around 3 years of age. Although none of these photographs have any inscription on the reverse, the likeness of the young boy featured on them is so similar to that of Maurice as to leave little doubt it could possibly be the same boy.

Because Maurice did not die on active service he is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. However, his name is recorded on the Streatham Roll of Honour and on St. Leonard's Church War Memorial.

In addition to having all this information about

**John W Brown**

## HAMBRO ROAD'S SUBMARINE HERO

Hambro Road is one of the hidden streets of Streatham. Together with El-lora and Ferrers Roads it forms a triangle of streets between Natal Road and the railway line which is little visited other than by the inhabitants of the late Victorian houses to be found here. The early residents of these houses were mainly the solid working classes of the day. The comparative small size of the properties here and their location near the railway line, where steam engines would emit large amounts of dirty smoke and noise as they journeyed behind the houses, did not make the area a particularly salubrious one in which to live.

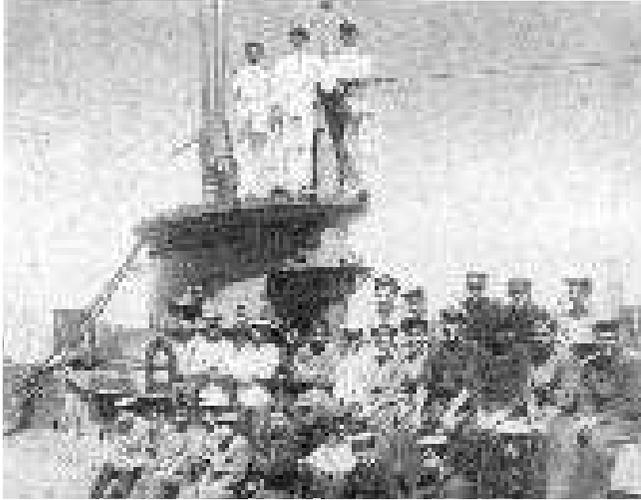


*131 Hambro Road, home of Hubert George Leggett DSM (below)*

But in one of these humble homes lived a hero of the First World War whose exploits in the submarine service could come straight out of the pages of an adventure novel. His name was Hubert George Leggett and he and his family lived at 131 Hambro Road. The Leggetts were a large and well known Streatham family. Hubert attended Eardley Road School and worked for Messrs J Harding and Co., a firm of ironmongers in Mitcham Lane. In 1910 he quit the ironmongery business and joined the Royal Navy in search of adventure, initially serving aboard *HMS Indomitable* and then *HMS George*. However, his fame was to come not above the waves but beneath them, for when war broke out in 1914 he was serving as a stoker on the British submarine E11 (*HMS Maidstone*). The E11 was an E-class submarine which had been launched on 23 April 1914.



Just over a year later, on the 25th April 1915, allied troops landed at the Gallipoli peninsula. The aim was to seize Constantinople and link up with the Russians. To support the invasion, the Royal Navy sought to attack the Turkish line of supply across the Sea of Marmara. But to get to Marmara, warships had to run the gauntlet of the Dardanelles straits. These straits were narrow and heavily defended by minefields and heavy guns on both shores. It had proved to be an



*The Crew of H.M. submarine E11*

impossible task for the Royal Navy's ships. The responsibility to penetrate the straits fell to His Majesty's Submarine E11.

The E11 was 181 feet long and weighed 807 tons. She could make 15 knots on the surface and 9 knots underwater. She could dive safely to 200 feet and stay under for up to 20 hours. Navigation was by compass and chart. They had no

radar or sonar and only a weak transmitter for Morse code transmissions. The submarine was crewed by 3 officers and 27 ratings. The officers shared two bunks and the crew slept on the deck, using buckets for washing and sharing two toilet buckets. The mess was comprised of a small kitchen with an electric cooker. The skipper of the E11 was the 32 year old veteran submariner, Lieutenant Commander Martin Nasmith. Nasmith was credited by his crew to have the best periscope eye in the 'trade' (the nickname of the early submarine service).

In May 1915, the E11 arrived at the Dardanelles to join the submarine campaign in the Sea of Marmara. At dead of night on the 19th of May 1915, the E11 slipped quietly out of her base on the island of Imbrues and dived to 80ft to transit the straits just as dawn broke on 20th May. The plan was to remain submerged throughout the transit to avoid the shore guns and to dive deep enough to avoid the minefields. During the transit, the E11 scraped herself past several mines with one of them becoming lodged briefly in the screw guards before she cleared the mine field. Finally, by 9.30pm the long transit was nearly over. E11 had been submerged for 17 hours, oxygen levels were low, and circulation fans were barely keeping the crew from succumbing to carbon monoxide poisoning.

A report on the voyage gives us an idea what it must have been like aboard this tiny submarine during this journey: 'Mingling with the all pervading smell of oil there was a sour smell from the batteries and un-emptied sanitary buckets standing in rows behind the engines ..... Grey mist rose from the bilges darkening the interior of the boat like London fog'.

Nasmith had been ordered to "Go and run amuck in Marmara", and so he did.

For the next three weeks E11 scoured the Marmara, torpedoing large vessels and scuttling smaller craft. Surfacing off the town of Gallipoli, Nasmith captured a Turkish sailing vessel and lashed it to the conning tower to act as a disguise. However this ruse failed to attract any targets, so after several days he abandoned it. Travelling up the Sea of Marmara, he sank a gunboat and several other small craft on 23 May. The following day, near the port of Rodosto, the E11 encountered the Turkish transport 'Nagara', laden with ammunition. Nasmith sank the ship after it was abandoned by the crew and passengers. He later sank another transport and forced another to run aground.

On the 25th May, Nasmith took E11 directly into Constantinople harbour, and sank a large troop transport at her moorings. E11 was the first hostile warship to enter the harbour in 500 years! Its attack on Constantinople had an enormous impact on Turkish morale and caused widespread panic in the city.

During the E11's patrol Nasmith successfully worked out how to suspend the submarine between layers of fresh and salt water. This allowed the E11 to hide for long periods under water without maintaining constant way, conserving the boat's batteries, and permitting the crew to rest. Nasmith ordered torpedoes to be set to float so that if they missed they could be recovered to use again. He personally dived into the water to retrieve and disarm the first torpedo recovered.

The E11 was nearly three weeks into her first patrol when she again dived to transit the straits for the return journey. After about an hour and a half they heard a scrape against the hull and the submarine started to behave strangely. Nasmith took her up 20ft and raised the periscope. To his horror he discovered that the E11 had snagged a mine on her forward hydroplane and was dragging it along through the water. Nasmith said nothing to the crew and ordered E11 deeper. He went up in the conning tower and peered into the sea through the tiny scuttle windows.

'The water cleared as the mine was pulled under. It surged from side to side and swung down towards the conning tower. It was only ten feet away from the scuttle through which he was looking. He counted six horns sticking out of it.' The submarine dragged its lethal attachment through the minefield. Some two hours later, Nasmith ordered a full astern bell, finally dragging free of the unwanted passenger. Only after the boat was free of the mine did the crew learn of their danger.

Minutes later, the E11 and her crew surfaced into the sunshine of Cape Helles. The proud Nasmith ordered his crew onto E11's conning tower to greet their escorting destroyer. 'Cheers were still echoing off the cliffs at Helles, for it had spread like wild fire in the British lines that the fabulous E11 whose exploits had been read to troops in daily bulletins, had returned safely.'

For E11's historic attack on Constantinople harbour, Lieutenant-Commander



*Cheering the E11 on its return from the Dardenelles*

Martin Nasmith received the Victoria Cross and Stoker Hubert Leggett, of Hambro Road, together with other members of the crew was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM).

The E11 would return to Marmara for two more highly successful patrols. Over the course of her three patrols, May to December 1915, the E11 destroyed 86 ships totalling 67,302 tons. The E11's adventures made her the most celebrated submarine in the Royal Navy.

Promotion followed Nasmith's dramatic success in the Dardanelles. Most significantly, he became the first submariner in the British Navy to reach the rank of Rear-Admiral. In 1932 he received a knighthood and served in World War II as the Commander-in-Chief of the Western Approaches. Thus the Submarine 'ace' of the Great War was charged with defeating the U-boat menace in the Atlantic.

On another occasion the submarine E11 rescued three British airmen from the sea after they had flown on a daring raid against German shipping at Cruxhaven harbour. Whilst picking up the airmen the submarine came under heavy attack and was bombed by a Zeppelin, but despite this they successfully rescued the airmen and returned them safely to England.

Today it is difficult to imagine that behind the front door of 131 Hambro Road once lived a submariner who served on one of the most famous submarines of the First World War. As a member of the small close-knit crew of the E11, Stoker Hubert Leggett DSM was Streatham's - and Hambro Road's - very own Naval hero, and locals marvelled at his many adventures aboard his tiny submarine.

**JWB**

## VICTOR MCLAGLEN - A FAMOUS HOLLYWOOD STAR WHO WAS NOT IRISH BUT DID LIVE IN STREATHAM

It is a dull Wednesday afternoon in February and I settle down in my kitchen for a cup of coffee and a biscuit or two (or three or four...). I casually switch on the small 12 inch black and white television which graces the kitchen table in anticipation of seeing the news. As the valves gradually warm up the faded picture slowly comes into view and I notice that one of John Ford's most famous westerns is being screened - 'She Wore a Yellow Ribbon', starring John Wayne. My brother, Allen, has obviously left the set tuned to channel 48, 'Movies for Men', from his previous night's viewing and as I marvel at the epic vista of Monument Valley the line of US cavalry comes into view singing the title song of the film.



*Victor McLaglen*

But wait, there among the column of dusty 'blue shirts' riding alongside John Wayne is none other than Victor McLaglen playing the role of the avuncular Irish sergeant Quincannon. He is a big man, over 6ft tall, and his face shows all the signs of a life of hard drinking, hard living and hard fighting which epitomises his role in this classic western. Oh, how different he must have looked when he lived in Streatham! Yes that's right, Victor had not always roamed the wild west on horseback and for a brief period of his life he strolled the sedate streets of Streatham in south London.





Research undertaken by Tony Fletcher has revealed that in the mid-1920s he resided at 24 Mount Ephraim Road in the early years of his film acting career in Britain. His first movie is listed as being 'The Call of the Road' made in 1920, in which he appeared as Alf Truscott. Five years later, when living in Streatham, he already had 20 films under his belt, and that year was to make a further five, including 'The Unholy Three' in which he appeared as Hercules the Strong Man and 'The Fighting Heart' in which he was Soapy Williams.

Victor is one of few Hollywood actors whose real life story is as adventurous and exciting as the many films he starred in and contains many surprises. For a start, he wasn't Irish. He was born on 19th December 1886 in Stepney, East London, and his ancestors

hailed from Scotland. His full name was Victor Andrew de Bier Everleigh McLaglen and he was the son of Rt. Revd. Andrew Charles Albert McLaglen who became a bishop of the Free Protestant Episcopal Church of England and later Bishop of Claremont in South Africa. Victor and his eight brothers and their spent their early childhood in South Africa before returning to Britain.

When he was 14 he left home and lied about his age to join the British Army to fight for Queen and Empire in the Second Boer War. However, he ended up guarding Windsor Castle with the Life Guards until his true age was discovered and he was discharged.

Around 1904 he moved to Canada and there he was to establish himself as a notable wrestler and heavyweight boxer. Probably the height of his boxing career came when he fought a six-round exhibition match against Jack Johnson, the heavyweight champion. Later, when recalling the fight, he said "He never knocked me down... but he sure beat the livin' be-jesus out of me!" Between professional bouts, Victor toured with a circus which offered all comers \$25 if they could go three rounds with him.

At this time Victor and his brother Fred formed a vaudeville act called the Romano Brothers which toured Canada as strongmen/boxers posing as 'living' statues, adopting the stances of classic pugilists of the past. The highlight of the act came when Fred would use a sledgehammer to smash rocks placed on Victor's

chest! It must have been an exciting life for the young McLaglen touring Canada and during this period he spent some time panning for gold as well as a brief period of service as a constable with the Winnipeg Police Force.

In 1913 he returned to Britain and during the First World War joined the 10th battalion of the Middlesex regiment in which he served as an acting Captain and later became the Military Assistant Provost Marshall for Baghdad. All this time he continued boxing and in 1918 became the heavyweight champion of the British Army.

After returning to Britain after the war he began his acting career. Now approaching his mid-30s his boxing days were probably drawing to an end and he recalled that at this time "Acting never appealed to me, and I was dabbling in it solely as a means of making money. I rather felt that the greasepaint business was somewhat beneath a man who was once a reasonably useful boxer."

Shortly after his stay in Streatham, he moved to the United States where his acting career took off in a big way and for the rest of his life he was never out of work, his final appearance being in an episode of 'Rawhide' in 1959, shortly before his death on 7th November that year aged 72.

Today he is best remembered for his roles in John Ford films such as 'She Wore a Yellow Ribbon', 'Fort Apache', 'Rio Grande' and 'The Quiet Man', for which he was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor. He had won an Oscar as Best Actor seventeen years earlier in 1935 for his role as Gypo Nolan in 'The Informer'.

As a young boy in the 1950s, I remember watching films on television when my parents would take my brothers, sister and me to my aunt's, who lived opposite us in Danbrook Road. She was one of a handful of people in the road who then had a television. There, seated on the floor, we would watch the flickering small black and white set which came to life with old movies made in the interwar years in which Victor McLaglen frequently appeared. I still can recall these films many years later such as 'Gunga Din' in which he starred with Cary Grant and Douglas Fairbanks Jr.; 'The Lost Patrol' with Boris Karloff; and of course his role as Sergeant Donald MacDuff alongside Shirley Temple in 'Wee Willie Winkie'.

I am told 'She Wore a Yellow Ribbon' was filmed in colour, and the rolling vastness of Monument Valley must be truly spectacular spread across a 48 inch colour curved high definition modern television.

However, here I am in my kitchen watching Victor McLaglen on a small, flickering black and white set as I did as a young boy in the 1950s. For the 90 minutes or so of the movie I am reliving the days of my youth in the company of a fellow Streatham resident who gave up the many delights of our town for fame, fortune and the glamour and glitter of Hollywood.

**John W Brown & Tony Fletcher**

## EDWARD KEMP - A STREATHAM BORN GARDENER



*Greyhound Lane Cottage (Lantern slide Marion Gower)*

Some years ago I helped English Heritage with research they were undertaking into the life of a local Streatham gardener called William Cresswell who went on to work at Audley End, and whose diary they published. A recent enquiry received from Barbara Moth, the Research and Recording Co-ordinator of the

Cheshire Garden Trust, has revealed another Streatham gardener, Edward Kemp, who went on to gain fame for his garden writing and designs, particularly in the Cheshire area.

This year marks the bicentenary of his birth in Streatham in 1817 and the Trust is planning a number of events to celebrate his life. He is detailed as residing in Greyhound Lane with his parents and a sister in the 1841 census and his parents and another sister are listed in the 1851 census. From information in the census and details contained in the Tithe schedule I have been able to identify the family home as being in a small wooden cottage at the High Road end of the Lane, near to what used to be Greyhound Square.

The cottage was known by a number of different numbers over the years. In 1907 it is shown as No. 7 Greyhound Lane. This changed to No. 129 in 1915 and No. 36 in 1923. Sadly the cottage no longer exists, having been demolished in the 1930s when the area was redeveloped. However the building was painted by Evacustes Phipson and has been reproduced as a greetings card by Lambeth Archives. A number of photographs of the cottages also survive and Marion Gower has a charming lantern slide of the building dating from the early 1900s.

Edward's birth is not detailed in the Streatham parish registers. The family may have been non-conformists and there was a small Baptist/Non-conformist chapel very near to their cottage which they may have attended. Edward's father, Charles, first appears as occupying the cottage in the parish rate books of 1821 and his name appears every year thereafter with the last entry being made in



1853. In 1854 and 1855 the entry is in pencil suggesting that it was about this time he may have died.

Charles was born on 11 May 1785 and baptised in the parish church of St. Leonard on 12th June 1785. He was the son of Charles and Margaret Kemp. His father was a tailor and it is likely this is the reason he became a tailor, following in his father's trade.

Charles's father, Edward's grandfather, was buried in St. Leonard's graveyard on 8th September 1801. Alas, his gravestone no longer exists but I can identify the place where the grave was from parish records. I have also found a transcript which records the wording on the gravestone as entry No. 238 as follows:

Mr CHARLES KEMP of this parish died 2 Sept 1801 age 47  
 also two of his children  
 also MARGARET wife of above died 18 July 1829 age 74  
 ELIZABETH granddaughter of above died 18 Aug 1835 age 17

There are a number of documents concerning the grandfather in the parish archives, notably a number of accounts relating to tailoring work he undertook for the parish in the 1780s. He is also mentioned in the minutes of the Streatham Volunteer Association, which was formed at the time of the Napoleonic Wars, for which Charles Kemp Snr was one of the local tailors making uniforms for the Association.

As to Edward, I have been unable to trace any specific mention of him other than for the census entry. However, there were a number of very large houses in the area and he could well have been a gardener at any of them. The 1841 census entry suggests that this was so. Close to Greyhound Lane were two very large country house properties: the Rookery and Park Hill, either of which would have provided an excellent education in gardening for Edward. Along the High Road

and surrounding Streatham Common were a number of other large houses, less grand than the aforementioned properties, but still of a size where gardeners were employed.

The Dictionary of National Biography informs us that Edward was born on 25th September 1817 and describes him as an English landscape architect and an author who, together with Joseph Paxton and Edward Milner, became one of the leaders in the design of parks and gardens during the mid-Victorian era. Nothing is known about Edward's education and early career until the 1830s when he worked with Milner as an apprentice at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire under Joseph Paxton. Paxton went on to gain international fame as the designer of the Crystal Palace, both in Hyde Park and at its relocation in Sydenham.

At the time Edward returned to live in Streatham in the early 1840s, he was involved with writing for various gardening publications, including *The Gardening Magazine*. In August 1843 Paxton was appointed by the Improvement Commissioners of Birkenhead to plan and construct Birkenhead Park, the first park to be established in Britain at public expense. In September of that year Paxton employed the 25-year-old Kemp to be superintendent of the park. Kemp was responsible for implementing Paxton's plans which were completed by the summer of 1845. Such was the success of the venture Paxton recommended that Kemp be kept as superintendent of the park and that accommodation be provided for him. In September 1845 Kemp married Sophia Bailey, whose father, Henry had been park steward and gardener at Althorp House for the Spencer family.

With the major works at Birkenhead completed, Kemp found that his work there



*Greyhound Lane Cottage - Phipson painting 1909*

did not fully occupy him and he became involved with the planning of Carlett Park, a large residential estate at Eastham in the Wirral. Although the plans were not realised the Commissioners were unhappy that Kemp had become involved in private practice. Birkenhead Park was officially opened in April 1847, and in 1849 the Commissioners decided that a superintendent was no longer required. Kemp negotiated a settlement which enabled him to work for no salary, but remain in his residence at the Italian Lodge and have use of a small plot of land to cultivate.

Now having no income, Kemp had to search out employment to support himself and his wife and this led to him becoming an author and a landscape gardener. His first commission in 1849 was to design a rose garden for James Barratt at Lyme Hall in Cheshire. In 1850 he worked with the architect Charles Verelst to design the garden at Stanacres (now Thornton Court) in Raby and also completed his first publication, 'How to Lay Out a Small Garden'.

Building on these successes Edward was engaged in a number of garden designs and publications in the 1850s. In 1858 a second edition of his book was published, now entitled 'How to Lay Out a Garden'. In 1860 his arrangement with the Commissioners to occupy the Italian Lodge came to an end and he built himself a house on the edge of the park now known as 74 Park Road West. As well as working for wealthy clients Kemp also received commissions for the designs of parks and cemeteries. These included Flaybrick Hill Cemetery in Birkenhead, Grosvenor Park in Chester, Congleton Park in Congleton, and Queen's Park in Crewe.

On 1st March 1891 Kemp died at his home in Birkenhead Park and was buried in Flaybrick Cemetery. It is interesting to note that his estate was valued at almost £10,500, equivalent to over a million pounds in present-day values. Not bad for a tailor's son who started life living in a small wooden cottage in Greyhound Lane in Streatham.

**JWB**

## **POSTSCRIPT FROM AUSTRALIA**

In our last issue we published an email from Australia, from Lillian Knight. Lillian has researched her family history extensively and is a direct descendant of Stephen Wilson, the silk manufacturer who built the Georgian silk mill, now part of Sainsbury's, Streatham Common.

Society member, Maureen McCarthy, emailed to say she was about to visit her daughter in Sydney, near Lillian's home area, and wanted to arrange a meeting. She contacted Lillian to say she was familiar with the church Lillian attended. Lillian replied from the USA, where she was researching her family. After emails had ricocheted across three continents, Maureen and Lillian finally met in Sydney and chatted family history for 2½ hours over a cup of tea!

## MEMORIES OIF STREATHAM



*Valley Road, Streatham Hill, 1963*  
*P. Moore*

Foothills from a road to Streatham,  
past verandah of pavilion;  
white posts to pitch side hallowed turf,  
by Valley Road's allotment earth.  
Fair verdant step with forest trees,  
rectangles legion forked and dug,  
above rituals of English tea;  
this valley's width emotions stab.  
St. Leonard's there, by sunbeams spun,  
with prayers for all in Shangri-La;  
this hillside where new crops will come,  
man dreams awhile and looks afar,  
retraced life's steps along his way,  
once upon time the other day.

In a request for copy from the readers of the Streatham Society News, I would like to add one small opinion from a distant stand-point. I live, in my late years, near Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire; but in time-past, between 1946 - 1964, at Streatham Hill.

Thus in those years I was well acquainted with your area. I attended Hitherfield Road School, did a paper-round in Leigham Court Road, was with the scouts at



*Valley Road Allotments c.1960s*

St Margaret's Church hall, and roamed around the commons with my siblings and friends. My father worked an allotment above Valley Road. All in all, Streatham Hill and Streatham had a certain rural atmosphere, and I always imagined that I was breathing the air from the village of Albury in Surrey, where my family was evacuated for several months in 1940, with a Miss Heath, at Albury House (but not at the manor!).

Now-a-days my connection with Streatham is by memory and reading the Streatham Society News, which I receive from my sister Clare, who still lives in the family home at Barcombe Avenue.

Now to my opinion. If on occasion the editor of this well-received magazine is short of copy, could you consider adding a few notes on the natural history of the area. I would treasure knowing that house-martins and swifts still breed here and there throughout the district and that warblers passed through on passage. Do you have a 'Gilbert White' residing in Streatham, who could reveal all about the passing seasons in a place I once knew rather well.

One further thing. Could you from time to time print full-page charming views of Streatham, of light and shade, enough to stir a little emotion to a most pleasant publication?

I enclose views of the allotments in Valley Road. Both my father and I painted there in the 50s, 60s, and father possibly in the 70s.

**P. Moore**

*We are delighted to reassure Mr Moore that the Friends of Streatham Common's 'Common Knowledge' carries articles about wildlife on the common. Peter Newmark, a regular contributor, has recently written about the Little Owls. Recent walks have been themed on birds, insects, plants and trees.*

## BLUE PLAQUE TRAIL



If you walk round the Crystal Palace Triangle, you will notice many of the shop windows display an adhesive 'blue plaque' which commemorates a previous trader or business. The Norwood Society has undertaken unique research into the history of 126 businesses in the Triangle and produced a free leaflet locating the plaques.

Congratulations to Barbara and Alun Thomas and their team for organising this imaginative community project which brought together young and old to research street directories, census returns and newspaper adverts.



## STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 19th June 2017

#### ACTING CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This has proved to be a good year for the Society after we recovered from the untimely loss of Brian Bloice in the previous year. I am pleased to report that as proposed in last year's annual report we bought three quince trees in his memory which were planted in the orchard in the Rookery in March. His memorial lecture: *50 years of of Roman Archaeology in London* given by Harvey Sheldon in November had a high attendance and was very well received.

The Society has been represented at many different events over the past year, including the unveiling a blue plaque commemorating Sidney Lewis in Garrett Lane, the launch of Lambeth Heritage month at Lambeth Palace, placing a wreath at the war memorial in November, being involved in laying of the Cather memorial stone in a permanent position in front of the war memorial at Streatham Common, attending Friends of Streatham Common meetings and participating in the Wandsworth Festival, to mention just a few.

John Brown and Graham Gower continue to monitor and occasionally help with planning applications.

The Society are joint partners with Lambeth Council, FOSSC and Scoop in a joint lottery bid for funding to restore the long neglected cascade in the Rookery on Streatham Common.

I am very grateful for the following information on Membership and Publications from Judy Harris.

#### Membership

Our 2016 membership was 281. In total 1124 people attended our meetings (May-April), an average attendance of 51 at 22 meetings. Attendance at meetings remains high and we are attracting more visitors (£1 entry). Those attracting over 70 were popular local history topics which brought in extra visitors. Monthly raffles, held to off-set the venue hire, have raised £567, the average being £47.

#### Publications

Our book stall was taken to the Henry Tate Garden Tours and Streatham Common Kite Day. Sales were good because the events attracted many people. Lambeth Archives Open day was less successful because of low numbers. Postal sales were mainly via our website. Our main sales continued to be: 'Norwood Grove and the Rookery', 'A History of Norbury' and the notecard packs which have sold out. New packs have been produced containing five

prints of paintings of 19thC Streatham. We also sell John Brown's publications. His latest book 'Fascinating Streatham' is selling well.

Our quarterly newsletter/magazine 'Streatham Society News' contains excellent local history items but we need more news items to make it representative of Streatham today. We acknowledge John Brown's and Graham Gower's input; without them the 'News' would not survive'.

This year saw the death of two of our long term committee members, Brenda Hargreaves and Barbara Woznica. Tributes were recorded in our Streatham Society News.

As reported last year, our vice chair Daphne Marchant resigned. We are very grateful for all her hard work and the loyal support she has given to the Society over many years. With this in mind we propose to recognise this more formally in the year ahead.

Thanks to Mike Bowtle and his sub-committee, we have been able to offer a varied and interesting range of topics and speakers for our twice-monthly meetings. As far as I can ascertain we are unique in offering our members two meetings per calendar month; quite an achievement. Please pick up a copy of our new programme for 2017-2018 from the bookstall at our next meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people mentioned at the bottom of your agenda (*Society contacts, back page*). Their tireless commitment to the Society helps to keep us going. I would like particularly to thank Judy for all the effort she puts into our quarterly 'Streatham Society News'. It is the jewel in our crown and takes a great deal of time and planning. PLEASE support her by submitting articles and news.

**Shea Richardson**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **Streatham Society Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017**

<b>General Account</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Income</b>	£	£
Subscriptions	2760	2571
Donations	880	816
Functions	1001 (summer outing)	
Bank interest	305	259
Raffles	433	567
Sundry income	300 (refreshments)	411 (400 refreshments)
Publications	2482	1582
	<b><u>8161</u></b>	<b><u>6206</u></b>

## Expenditure

Functions	926 (summer outing)	
Affiliation fees	86	15
Miscellaneous expenses (stationery, publicity etc)	852	839
Donations	800 (see note)	1325
Speakers' fees	160	195
Room rental	1100	500 (part year)
Insurance	65	65
Printing, postage, stationery (newsletter, programme etc)	1748	1757
Publications	532	339
	<b><u>6269</u></b>	<b><u>5035</u></b>
Surplus/deficit for year on current account	<b><u>1892</u></b>	<b><u>1171</u></b>

## Current Assets

RBS current account	11,228	12,140
Cash in hand	8	8
Lloyds current account	6250	6503
Lloyds deposit account	15,302	15,302
Valuation of publications stock (estimated)	16,382	(see note)

## Donations

Donations (all listed) are partly for local causes which the committee has decided are worth supporting and partly for organisations which supply speakers.

## Publications stock - note

The assets shown in the accounts are financial assets. The Society also has assets in the form of publications stock. A realistic value is difficult to determine as it is likely that some will be unsold or sold later at a price less than the current sale price. An attached sheet shows the current state of the stock which is offered for sale giving retail prices and profit.

## Summary

1. The Society has achieved a surplus this year of **£1171**
2. The Lloyds account (for major expenses) has not been touched.

## Comparison with previous years

Income from	2017	2016	2015
Donations	816	880	609
Subscriptions	2571	2760	3155

Raffles	567	433	604
Sundry income	411	300	612
Publications	1582	2482	2867
	<b>5947</b>	<b>6855</b>	<b>7847</b>

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the following for the help they have given me and the Society in general:

- The committee for their support over the last year
- Judy Harris, who collected and maintained records of all income for subscriptions, publications, donations and raffles and provided a comprehensive account of our current publications stock
- Our excellent Refreshment team, Pauline, Barbara and Ruth, for their contribution to funds and the social side of Society meetings
- Allen Brown for the thorough and meticulous work he has put into examining the accounts.

**Keith Searle, Treasurer, June 2017**

*A full Treasurer's Report, giving detailed explanatory notes, can be obtained on application to the treasurer. (See Contacts, back page.)*

## COMMITTEE REPORT

### Items discussed at recent committee meetings

- Society presence and floral tributes at Brenda Hargreaves' and Barbara Woznica's funerals
- Detailed annual publications stock and sales analysis circulated
- Website host now free; change of email address (see back page). Webmaster Peter Main thanked for all his work
- Probable approval of a request for a contribution towards a restoration project planned for John Thompson's grave (report to follow if successful)
- New publications: Note cards 5 for £3.50 (Marion & Graham Gower thanked for contributing paintings' prints). John Brown's 'A Streatham Christmas' to be sold on our bookstall mid-September
- Events: Reports on busy spring and summer (see p.3). Good book sales at Streatham Common Kite Day and Henry Tate tours. Good publicity via Wandsworth Festival. New notecards and John Brown's 'Fascinating Streatham' sold particularly well
- Preparations for September's Lambeth Heritage Festival. The Streatham Society will be hosting the launch event at St Leonard's Church and other events on the first weekend.

## EVENTS REPORTS

### MEETINGS

#### **Zeppelins in the First World War from the Streatham Raid to East Africa**

Allen Brown, one of our regular contributors, spoke to us on April 17th. His illustrated presentation was, as expected, most interesting and informative. It attracted several visitors. On his lecturer's information sheet, Allen gives his only details as 'John Brown's brother'; an unfamiliar self-deprecation! We are lucky to have two such excellent speakers with a variety of interests and enthusiasms.

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

May 1st was our Members' Evening when items are displayed, described and identified. These popular meetings have been held regularly for many years and there is always something new. We advertise it as for members only because there isn't room to display all the exhibits with our usual large audience. However a few visitors arrived and were very welcome as they contributed interesting items to the display.

#### **Planning for Yesterday- Celebrating Town Planning Heritage**

On May 15th Professor Lester Hillman's presentation commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act of 27th July 1967. This provided for the creation of Conservation Areas, of which there are now some 10,000. He explored the origins and rich legacy, along with some challenges for the future. The colourful contributions to wider planning history of colourists, convicts and coiffeurs were illustrated, along with local links.

Lester Hillman is a member of the City of London Conservation Area Advisory Committee. He is an international award winning town planner, lecturer, writer and accredited guide.

#### **Bygone Streatham**

John Brown's annual talk 'Bygone Streatham' was given on June 5th, attracting its usual large audience and extra visitors. He always has a wealth of new information, professionally presented. Those of you who have bought *The Streatham Sketchbook* (see p.31) will have seen the unique photograph of John's shed. In it is a vast collection of paper copies of seemingly everything that has ever been and is printed about Streatham. All are box-filed in alphabetical order of people and places. Researchers are regularly invited to access the (very secure) shed. We can rest assured that John holds enough information there for many years' talks to come. (He also has his archive digitally recorded.)

#### **Annual General Meeting**

After the formal business on June 19th, John Brown's presentation 'From Edwardian Splendour to 21stC Delight' publicised the SCCoop HLF bid, backed by the Streatham Society, to restore the Rookery cascade and rock garden.

## **Charles Dickens - His life and times**

Gene Mitchell gave us a most interesting talk on July 3rd. A secretary/personal assistant for the majority of her working life, the last 25 years of which as personal assistant to Head of Property Services at the London Borough of Camden. Upon retirement, she qualified as a tour guide, initially for the area of Clerkenwell & Islington and then as a City of London Guide. She has been guiding in both London and Wellington, New Zealand since 2006, as well as doing lectures on various topics in both countries. This breadth of experience was obvious in her presentation.

## **OTHER EVENTS**

We took our bookstall to Streatham Common for **Kite Day** on 14th May. The weather was perfect and thousands of people came. Our stall was very busy and sales were good. Our spring tours of **Henry Tate Gardens** were also most successful. Advertised as part of the Wandsworth Festival, about 100 people visited, most via this publicity. A smaller number of publications were on sale, but takings, including donations, were the highest yet at this event. The next tours are on Sunday September 3rd, as part of the **Lambeth Heritage Festival**.

## **Postscript**

As many of our speakers and society organisers show, we retirees fortunately have the time and energy to devote to new interests. Most of our local history experts retired, were made redundant or worked reduced hours c.1995, when it was decreed that employees over 50 were too expensive and had not the technical experience required over work experience. We were an amazingly energetic and motivated group. Unfortunately, 20 years on, we are getting on a bit... and early retirement is a thing of the past; thus few replace us. Thank goodness for John Brown's shed, with its state-of-the-art security. The shed is mentioned three times in this publication. Perhaps John would supply a photograph?

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We welcome new members Angela and David Ross, Ben Bennett, Imogen Tetzlaff, Brenda Keyte and re-join Teresa Tunstall. We hope they enjoy our events and News magazine. I am pleased to report our membership has already almost reached last year's level, despite deleting those whose membership has lapsed (they can still pay!).

## **Household membership**

This includes all who are permanently resident at the same address. It replaced the more complicated, and possibly less fair, previous categories of senior (most are senior), junior (none), corporate (difficult to 'chase up') and couples. Only one 'Streatham Society News' is received per household. We like to have a list of each household member; to date two or three people are the norm.

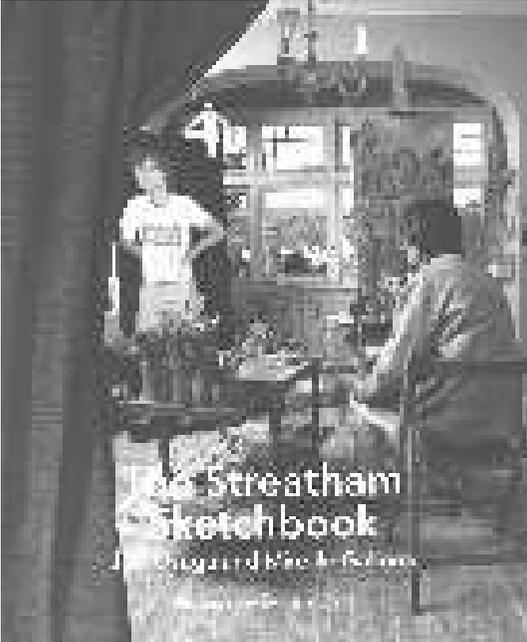
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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

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### PRESENTING STREATHAM - WITH A DIFFERENCE

**The Streatham Sketchbook** Jiro Osuga and Mireille Galinou Price £17.99  
*Your London Publishing* [www.yourlondonpublishing.co.uk/](http://www.yourlondonpublishing.co.uk/)



This impressive book (publicised in News 227), contains 260 lavishly illustrated pages, and is an important contribution to the story of Streatham, past and present. Combining the talents of local artist Jiro Osuga with those of local photographer Torla Evans and London historian/art historian Mireille Galinou (all with connections to the Museum of London), we have a quality publication. It blends art, urban history, contemporary life, journalism, historic images and new photography.

The photograph on the front cover gives an indication of its diversity and originality. Jiro is painting in his Woodbourne

Avenue studio, facing one of his self-portraits, with the view from his window replaced by a photograph of Hill House Road looking across Streatham to St Leonard's Church. Ten of Jiro's Streatham-inspired paintings inspire Mireille's ten landmarks, depicting Streatham's institutions, the High Road, its shops, architecture and character, creating a detailed historical context.

The Streatham Society's local historians, who have contributed much to this book, are acknowledged. There is even a photograph of John Brown's shed (a work of art in itself), containing some of his vast Streatham archive. From Henry Tate's first gallery to the wealth of local artists and studios we have today, we have a unique picture of Streatham in one volume.

The book can be ordered online or, for a limited time, is available, post free, from Your London Publishing, 8 Green Court, 27 Beckenham Grove, Shortlands, BR2 0XS. It will also be on sale at Lambeth Local History Fair, St Leonard's Church, Streatham, Saturday 2nd September 10.30 - 4.30.

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING - YOUR PRESENT LIST SOLVED HERE!

**A Streatham Christmas - A miscellany of items relating to Christmas past in Streatham**      **John W Brown**      **Price £5 (£6.30 p&p) A4 40pp**  
*Local History Publications, 316 Green Lane, Streatham London SW16 3AS*



John's latest book is sure to be a popular Christmas gift. Drawing from his vast archive, profusely illustrated, this unique book is a welcome addition to his local history publications.

He writes: 'Residents of Streatham have been celebrating Christmas for over a thousand years and our ancient parish church of St Leonard has been at the centre of these commemorations since the first church was erected on the site of the present building in Saxon times.

Although many of the trappings of the modern Christmas we enjoy derive from the 19th century, some of their origins date back through the annals of history and have been moulded and adjusted to fit the needs and aspirations of each succeeding generation.

This book takes a brief look at Christmas past in Streatham and reveals

how some of the former residents of the town celebrated the occasion, its local links with some well known Christmas customs, and some of the events that have occurred over the festive season in the town.'

*A Streatham Christmas* will be on sale on the Streatham Society bookstall, or by post from the Society (cheques payable to the Streatham Society), from the end of September.

## MORE TRIBUTES TO BRIAN BLOICE

We are delighted to report two new publications (to be reviewed in our next issue) are dedicated to our late chairman, Brian Bloice. These are *Regulating the Cinematograph in London 1897 - 1905* by Tony Fletcher and *Lambeth's Victorian Architecture* by Edmund Bird and Fiona Price who write, 'Brian's contribution to the promotion and conservation of Lambeth's architectural history was outstanding. He is greatly missed by the authors, Lambeth Archivists and Planning staff and so many others in the borough'.

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## MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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### SEPTEMBER

- All month Lambeth Heritage Festival** - see programme of over 60 events
- Sat/Sun 16 & 17 Open House London** - see programme booklet
- Sat 2 Lambeth Horticultural Society Late Summer Show 2 - 4.30pm**  
St Luke's Church, West Norwood SE27
- Sat 16 Summerstown 182 Celebration Day 2pm**  
Installation of Robert Sadler plaque, Burmester House,  
Garratt Lane, opp Tesco, then display St Mary's Church
- Thur 21 St George's Hanover Square reburials 7.30pm**  
**in West Norwood Cemetery**  
Talk, Colin Fenn *Norwood Society*  
Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill SE19
- Thur 21 Sport and Leisure in South London 8pm**  
Talk, David Feasey *South London Local History Group*  
Phoenix Centre, Westow Street, next to Sainsbury's
- Sun 24 Friends of Streatham Cemetery Open Day 2 - 4pm**  
Information by the vestry or north chapel (*See p..5*)

### OCTOBER

- Wed 11 Evelyn Dove: Britain's Black Cabaret Queen 7.45pm**  
Talk, Stephen Bourne *Herne Hill Society*  
Herne Hill United Church Hall
- Thur 19 Sport at Crystal Palace 7.30pm**  
Talk Stuart Hibberd *Norwood Society*, as above
- Thur 19 A View of Local History in Britain and Europe 8pm**  
**from underneath**  
Talk, Paul W Sowan *S London History Group*, as above

### NOVEMBER

- Thur 16 All Saints and South Norwood Hill area 7.30pm**  
Talk, Stephen Oxford *Norwood Society*, as above
- Thur 16 Film in South London - Part 2 8pm**  
Talk, Tony Fletcher *S London History Group*, as above
- Wed 22 Restoration, Renovation, Reworking 8pm**  
Preserving gardens of historical importance  
Talk, Guy Deakins *Lambeth Horticultural Society*  
The Old Library Centre, 14-16 Knight's Hill, West Norwood

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## SOCIETY CONTACTS

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This newsletter is published by the Streatham Society

Printed by **Printinc**. Tel: 020 8255 2110 e-mail: [info@printinc.uk.com](mailto:info@printinc.uk.com)

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

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

**Registered Charity 283297**