



STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 237 Summer 2019



**STREATHAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
LAUNCHED ON KITE DAY**

(See p.4)

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF OUR UNDERGROUND STATIONS

Talk, Edmund Bird

Monday 2nd September 8pm

(Part of Lambeth Heritage Festival)

LAMBETH LOCAL HISTORY

FAIR Tate Library, Brixton

Talks, displays & stalls

Saturday 7th September 10.15-4.15

(Lambeth Heritage Festival)

HENRY TATE GARDENS TOURS

Meet main gates Streatham Common North/Leigham Court Road

Buses 249, 417. No on-site parking or toilets. No photos of private homes.

Bookstall. Free, donations welcome.

Sunday 8th September 2pm & 3pm

(Part of Lambeth Heritage Festival)

HENRY TATE: HIS LIFE & WORK

Grocer, sugar magnate, art collector and philanthropist

Talk, Bill Linskey

Monday 16th September 8pm

(Part of Lambeth Heritage Festival)

ON THE WATERFRONT

Lambeth's Changing Riverside

Talk, Alan Piper

Monday 7th October 8pm

THE CRYSTAL PALACE STORY

An insight into its history

Talk, Philip Emery

Monday 21st October 8pm

DREAM PALACES

The picture houses of Streatham,

Tooting, Balham & Brixton

Talk, Richard Gray

Monday 4th November 8pm

THE WORK AND LIFE OF FIVE LOCAL ARTISTS

Talk, David Clark

Monday 18th November 8pm

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

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

STREATHAM ROUND AND ABOUT

KITE DAY

This year's Kite Day, on Sunday 12 May, was surely the best attended ever. A large crowd gathered on the common to enjoy the beautiful sunshine and fly kites. Alas the wind dropped during the busiest times, but many of those present were nevertheless able to get their kites up for at least a while. The expert kilters entertained us with some amazing displays of their skills

Particularly noteworthy were pairs of stunt kites flying in formation and some absolutely vast kites kept airborne despite the calm conditions. Bob Marley aloft for much of the afternoon was a sight to behold.

At the other end of the scale, the vendors of "the smallest kite in the world", tiny kites, perhaps 10 or 12cm in length plus lovely shiny tails and flown on sewing thread, did a roaring trade.

As well as the kites, there was a great array of stalls present. Among regular local attenders were the Streatham Society itself (hurrah!), RSPB, Streatham United FC, Streatham Community Garden, selling a lovely range of plants and the best way to get a head start on growing your tomatoes, chillies and peppers for the year, and some great food stalls. The latter appeared to be very busy with what looked like 30 minute queues at the peak. The lovely Rookery café had a busy stall out on the common as well as continuing to operate the café at the top. Inkspot Brewery, sited up by the Rookery, also appeared to be having a great day with lots of visitors. I counted three stalls selling kites, more than I have seen before, and all looked busy.



*Rory Gurney, Yvonne's son, prepares to fly his kite
(Photo YG)*



Kite Face (Photo Marion Gower)

This was the 21st Kite Day and the event is going from strength to strength. A great local day out and one to put Streatham firmly on the map. Huge thanks to all involved in putting kite day on and in ensuring the common was left beautifully tidy afterwards.

Yvonne Gallagher

STREATHAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

On Sunday 12th May 2019 at the Streatham Common Kite Day, Streatham United Football Club, with their new red strip, was born. It was formerly known as Furzedown United Football Club.



Furzedown United FC was established in July 2011 by Morris Nelson, Joanne Wason, Stephen Peacock and Donald Facey. The name was chosen because the majority of the players lived in and around Furzedown.

A competition was held to design the club's badge and motto. It was won by Carter Peacock, one of the players. The concept of the design originated from the history surrounding the Furzedown area, which was covered in a mixture of woods, scrub and furze, later named Furzedown. They adopted the motto "Football for All".



The change was brought about due to their strong ties with Streatham Common, which is now home for their football pitches, and Partnerships in Streatham. These include local community groups such as the Friends of Streatham Common, the Streatham Society, Love Streatham, Immanuel and St Andrew's Church, Immanuel and St Andrew Primary School and Bishop Thomas Grant Secondary School, together with local businesses: Mere Scribbler, Anthony Gold, Tesco's and Lambeth Council. More sponsors are very welcome.

The new Club's badge represents Streatham; it was designed by local young graphic designer Aaron Nelson. They also changed their inscription to "Football for the Community" because they are a Community Football Club. They currently have five teams: Under 9s, U10s, U11s, U12s and U13s. They are looking at adding an U8s, another U9s and another U11s.

They are also in partnership with Sported to engage more girls/women into football and with the Mosica Centre. The Club has just started supporting adults with mental health issues to play football and also employing the adults as volunteers to help with the morning and afternoon pitch preparations.

Streatham United FC's current activities on Streatham Common are:

Saturdays: A Free Fun Football for Toddlers (June to August) 9:00am-9:30am. U8s, U7s, U6s, U5s, U4s Development Session 9:00am-10:00am.

Every Sunday: Free Sunday Community Kick About for Everyone! 1:30pm-2:30pm (All genders, ages and all abilities.) This is the Club's most successful activity. It's also their main source of recruitment for new players. They average around 40 participants, the most they've ever had is 100.

They are also in the process of launching "Streatham Community Programme: Development, Mentoring and Wellbeing within the Community". The objectives are to: educate and up-skill five participants; find employment for five participants and engage twenty participants to take part in wellbeing/social activities.

The project is to educate and up-skill the Community via free workshops, courses, one-to-one support and mentoring; helping the community in finding employment and engaging the community to become more active and improve their wellbeing via weekly and monthly activities.

The future aims are to be the main football provider in Streatham; to support the local community with wellbeing, being more active, finding employment, furthering education and life skills.

Contact: furzedownunitedfc.co.uk

Adapted from information provided by Morris Nelson, with thanks.



Elliott Gower, 7, enjoyed his game with the club (Photo Marion Gower)

ALSO AT KITE DAY...



*Mike Bowtle and John Brown with
the Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr. Ibrahim Dogus
(Photos MG)*

Adjacent to the young people on Streatham United FC's stall were the (slightly) older and less fit, but equally enthusiastic members on the Streatham Society's bookstall. As usual, we thoroughly enjoyed the day. **JH**



THE WOODFIELD PAVILION- TOOTING BEC COMMON.

On Sunday the 30th June 2019 the restored historic Woodfield Pavilion was officially re-opened by the Mayor of Lambeth and the Mayor of Wandsworth. The pavilion is intended to be a community hub and conservation centre and the Woodfield Project Trustees would, in addition to what is planned already, welcome further ideas for community-use of the pavilion and the adjoining site.

Thanks to National Heritage Funding support and further donations from Veolia Environmental Trust, Western Riverside Environmental Fund and Wandsworth Borough Council, the Pavilion and grounds have been magnificently restored to their former glory at a cost of almost £500k.

At the ceremony on Sunday, Andrew Sharp (a Woodfield Project Trustee) outlined a brief history of the Woodfield site. The original opening of the new Sports Pavilion was on 6th May 1933 on the 3-acre 'paddock' at Woodfield, Streatham. Presiding at the ceremony were Sir Kenyon Vaughan, Chair of the Greater London Playing Fields Association, the Bishop of Kingston, the Rt. Reverend Percy Herbert and councillors from the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth and their wives and other local representatives. The Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Edwin Brookes, pronounced the building and the recreation ground open.

Included in the entertainment at the opening event were community stalls, refreshments and a steel band.

Andrew has provided me with a copy of his brief history which, at this stage, he does not want circulated widely. However, if anyone is interested and should like a copy to comment on and possibly is able to provide any stories they have heard about the site, he would very much welcome additional information.

Please contact me for a copy of his notes.

We will publish the final version of the history of Woodfield when it has been finalised.

(See contacts back page.)



*The original opening of the new Sports Pavilion
6th May 1933 (above)*

*The reopening of the restored Woodfield Pavilion
30th June 2019*



Mark Bery

CLASSICAL MUSIC IN STREATHAM



*Streatham Choral's Spring Concert at St Peter's Church
(Photo Anne-Marie Sanderson Photography)*

Streatham Choral's Spring concert in March packed out St Peter's Church in Leigham Court Road. Specially constructed platform seating for part of the choir resulted in a magnificent wall of sound which filled the church. The choir and orchestra were so large that their usual venue of St Leonard's Church, a popular events' venue, was changed to give more space.

Streatham has a strong history of producing high quality amateur classical music concerts. Those given by Streatham Choral, St Peter's Church Choir, guest musicians and St Bartholomew's Orchestra continue this tradition.

Streatham Choral is Streatham's oldest choir. Founded in 1921, it has entertained local people with high quality choral and orchestral music, first as the West Streatham Choral Society, then as the Streatham Philharmonic Society, and latterly as the Streatham Choral Society. Originally it sang with its own orchestra. In the 1960s it became an ILEA-supported evening class but when responsibility for education was passed to each London Borough, their members decided to re-launch the choir as a self-governing organisation relying completely on subscriptions and income from concerts.

Numbers vary from year to year but the choir is usually at least 70 strong. This allows them to tackle a wide repertoire. They use professional soloists and often also a professional orchestra for orchestral concerts. Their aim is to continue to

provide high quality music for the enjoyment of those people from all over South London and beyond who like to sing or enjoy the pleasure of listening.

St Peter's Church Choir also has this aim. I remember first enjoying performances in the 1970s when the choir already had the reputation of performing music of a high standard. Today St Peter's also has a youth choir and both welcome new members. The Church hosts regular concerts featuring a variety of guest singers and musicians such as the Aeolus X wind ensemble. They currently offer a programme of evening and Sunday lunchtime events.

St Bartholomew's Orchestra, also with a wide repertoire, performs three or four concerts a year, mainly in local venues. Like the above, it offers a friendly welcome to new members.

I regularly attend local events around South London, in the City and in the north of England but despair at the small audiences. Even with Streatham Choral's Spring concert, the best attended, it could be pointed out that if each of their 100+ performers brought two supporters, that alone would provide an audience of well over 200.

Why? It seems increasingly that a social attraction, such as a bar for the younger generation and chat with refreshments for the older may be a factor (organised by volunteers!). A sign of the times? We have a wealth and variety of local events in our area. Please support or lose them, (*See events p.35.*)

The above information is compiled from each organisation's website.

JH

AIR-COOLED IN SW16

You may have seen a gentleman driving a pale green Volkswagen Beetle car in SW16. The engine capacity is the usual 1300cc for this model and it now runs on a reconditioned engine. The electrics in the car have been upgraded to 12 volts from 6 volts. I have been informed that it is a very reliable motor.

What is unusual and interesting is that the gentleman purchased the car new in 1965 and still drives and owns it. He purchased it in Balham where he then lived with his late wife. He has lived in SW16 for some forty years.



The front windscreen of the car is flat as per my photograph (taken May 2018). This design was normal for the model in 1965. A small amount of rust can be seen but given the age of the motor this is inevitable.

As told to David Whitefield 25 May 2019

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

DEAR STREATHAM,

The tall, gable fronted house stood half way up the hill in a quiet, tree-lined avenue in Streatham, and from her bedroom window at the back of the house, the little girl was fortunate to have a perfect view of the garden next door. A perfect view of a perfect garden, with its long immaculately trimmed, rich green lawn, divided only by a central white path that lead to the deep flower border at the back of the garden. Wide borders surrounded the lawn on three sides and contained a wealth of plants in varying shapes and sizes, from tall stately flowers that swayed elegantly on slender stems to shorter, more sturdy types with cheerful little faces turned skywards, nestled close to the border's edge. While bright clumps of flowers wove through and among one another and seemed to dance and meander all around the garden... and roses, sweet delicate roses, their beauty spread among the other plants, here, there and everywhere, in shades from deep reds to softer pinks and whites, were in abundance. Proud standards with full blown heads stood majestically above smaller, bushier types, whose silky petals laid gently on their leaves before falling to the ground, while clusters of little gems cascaded daintily from high trellis, all delighting the on-looker with their loveliness.

In the warmth and brightness of long summer days, the plants seemed to glow, spreading a mantle of colour across the garden, such a joy to see, and to the little girl it was a little piece of paradise.

All this perfection was kept in order by a gardener, a rotund gentleman of mature years, who came twice a week on his bicycle. He always wore a buttoned-up waistcoat that matched his loose, tweed trousers, and his rolled-up shirt sleeves revealed stout, sun-tanned arms, and I think he smoked a pipe. Resting heavily on his knees in front of the borders, this portly gentleman worked diligently, laboriously primping and tidying the gorgeous blooms to keep them looking their best throughout their glorious display. A lot of his time was spent caring for and nurturing that very inviting lawn too; he must have walked miles, up and down, rhythmically pushing and pulling the hand mower, and the heavy iron roller used for rolling the grass took a great deal of effort for the poor man. Coaxing that lawn to perfection was very hard work, but the reward for his labour resulted in an expanse of lawn that resembled soft, green velvet.

This lovely garden was owned by Mr & Mrs Cook, but they never sat on their lawn, they chose instead to sit beneath the long, glass veranda which ran the full length of the back of their house. The only living creature allowed to sit on their perfectly manicured lawn was their cat, JINX.

Jinx was a beautiful animal, big and fluffy, with a long, glossy, tortoise-shell

coat, much admired by all who saw him. Jinx was often to be seen stretched out lazily on the lawn, basking in the warmth of the sun. Occasionally, Mrs Cook, a dark haired, bespectacled lady, wearing slippers to tread lightly on that precious lawn, would come out to Jinx to brush him. She'd crouch beside him, gently smoothing and grooming his sleek, shiny fur right down to the tip of his bushy tail, which Jinx seemed to enjoy enormously.

Mr & Mrs Cook were an older couple with no children, who were devoted to Jinx - he was their baby, and lovingly pampered by them. Jinx was king and this was his garden; he had it to himself and looked supremely satisfied and contented licking his paws.

The two belonged together, the beautiful cat and the beautiful garden, and the whole scene was like something out of a picture book.

The long ago vision of that garden has lived in my memory all these years, and I reflect how lucky I was to have had such a view from my bedroom window in my early years. All my life I have had a love of gardens which, perhaps, could have its roots in my early experience of the little piece of paradise next door.

Yvonne Watkins

An idyllic childhood memory from Yvonne's 1940s/50s years living in Arragon Gardens (below, today). (Photo JH)



DIGGING UP THE PAST AT ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH Part 1

In March work began at our ancient parish church of St. Leonard to underpin the north porch of the building which was suffering badly from subsidence. For some time now large cracks have appeared in the north east corner of the church and it is hoped that after underpinning the porch this serious problem will be remedied. In addition, the old stairway in the porch has been removed and two small rooms have been created in the space with access from the ground floor and gallery. The work was funded by generous grants received from Viridor Credits and the National Lottery.

During the work several delays were encountered during the process of digging out the floor of the porch where a number of unexpected discoveries were made.



The mystery passageway in the north porch

In March, what appeared to be a curved brickwork passage was discovered under the floor. The nature of the brickwork does not suggest a structure of any great antiquity and appears to be 19th century in origin. I therefore suspect that this feature dates either from the rebuilding of the church in 1831, or when the chancel extension was erected in 1863. Although the passageway is not tall enough for someone to walk along it, the top of a subterranean doorway at the western end suggests that this may have been the original purpose. The passageway curves round to the south and appears to continue under the floor of the north chapel in the chancel. This would have taken it round the rear of the apse of the rebuilt church which was erected in 1831.

From illustrations of the rebuilt church, and contemporary maps, the old apse of the rebuilt church was some distance from the discovered brickwork towards which it appears to be heading. Notwithstanding this, there is the possibility that it was a sunken path round the apse at the eastern end of the church, but this would not explain the subterranean doorway.

In examining the vestry entries concerning the rebuilding of the church in the early 1830s mention is made of the construction of “an additional catacomb at the east end of the church”. This work was subject of a special contract inde-

pendent of the original contract under which the church was being rebuilt. No further specific mention is made in the vestry books concerning this additional catacomb. However, at the eastern end of the crypt is a walled-off section known as the 'Treasury' which appears to be constructed beneath the old apse.

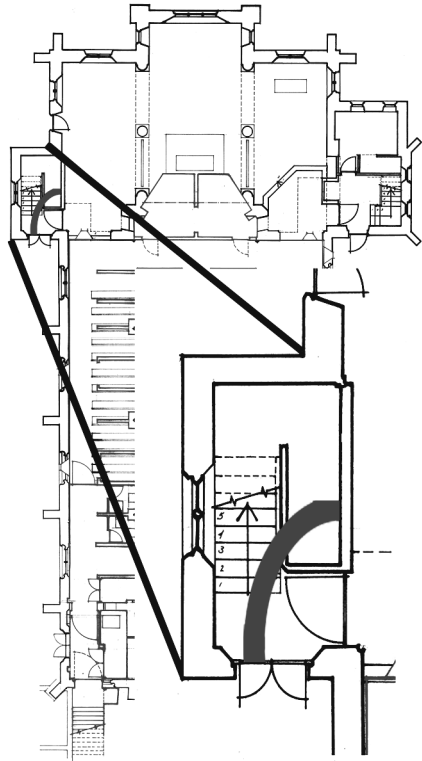
In the absence of the original 1830s plans for the rebuilt church it is possible that the discovered passageway may have been an independent means of access to the additional catacomb referred to above "at the east end of the church". When the Chancel was extended, this entrance to the catacombs was probably covered over to form part of the floor of the chancel extension and a new entrance to the eastern catacombs was opened up beneath ground with the existing two gated entrances being formed.

It was probably at this time that the gap between the two parts of the Treasury was bricked up and an iron beam erected to provide added support to the floor above.

This would have necessitated the two entrances being created to gain access to each of the now separate areas of the eastern catacomb. However, I have been unable to find any evidence of a bricked-up doorway or entrance on the rear or side wall of the southern-most section of the Treasury to support an independent entrance there leading from the location of the curved brickwork discovered in the porch.

Notwithstanding this, an examination of the east wall of the crypt clearly shows where a new wall has been built fronting the Treasury as there is a straight line of brickwork from the floor to ceiling of the crypt where the bricks are not interlocked as would have been the case if the entire wall was built at the same time.

As plans for the 1863 chancel extension appear not to have survived it is not clear what impact these works had on the crypt and what, if any, additional



Brick passageway discovered during excavation works for underpinning the north porch March 2019



The crypt passage

works were undertaken in the crypt at that time. It may have been that at the time of the building of the chancel extension there were plans to excavate a larger crypt at the eastern end of the church for which this passageway would have provided an entrance. These plans were subsequently cancelled, and the passageway abandoned leaving only that portion beneath ground level surviving under the floor of the extension. However, again this does not explain the existence of what appears to be a subterranean doorway.

As this fascinating discovery had no impact on the planned underpinning of the north porch, work continued after Heritage England had recorded the find and made a photographic survey of the remains.



The crack in the north porch



However, a further discovery was soon to bring excavations to a halt again.

To be continued...

John W Brown

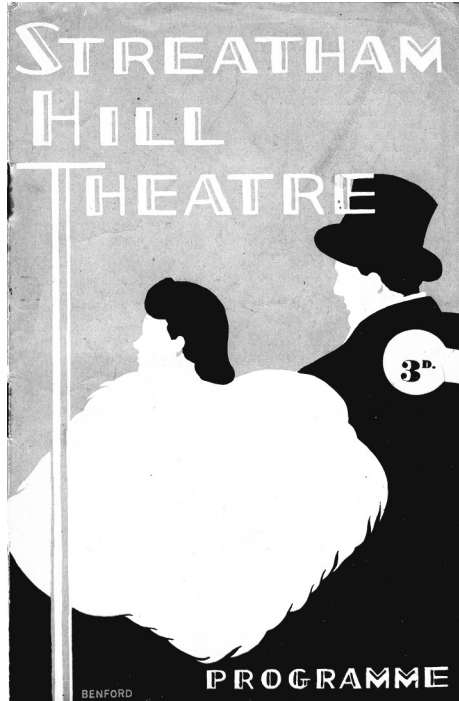
COTTAGE TO LET

Our thanks to Colin Crocker for the donation of sixteen Streatham Hill Theatre programmes to our collection as well as two flyers for productions of the pantomime *Cinderella*. It was wonderful to be able to fill gaps in the collection, especially from productions dating from the 1930s and the Second World War for which programmes are now difficult to come by.

Of particular interest among Colin's programmes was that for the production of *Cottage To Let* which was staged in Streatham in the week commencing 15th July 1940. The play was originally staged at the Wyndham Theatre where it became an instant hit. So much so, not only was the production toured around the country - hence its visit to the Streatham Hill Theatre, but it was also turned into a film with many of the theatre cast adopting the same roles in the movie.

Why then is this of particular interest to those of us in Streatham? The reason is that two of the actors appearing both on stage and on film resided in Streatham. One was to achieve lifetime fame as one of Britain's most popular comedy actors and the other sadly was killed in the war thus ending a promising acting career.

The first was George Cole who as a young teenage actor appeared in the production playing the role an evacuee, Ronald Mittsby. This appearance saw him perform with that great British comic actor, Alistair Sim, with whom he was to establish a life-long friendship and when Cole's family evacuated from Streatham in the war Sim became George's guardian and Cole stayed with him at his home at Henley.



George Cole



George Cole in 'Cottage to Let'

Today Cole is probably best remembered for his long-running role as Arthur Daley in the popular TV series *Minder* which ran for over 15 years on ITV. George was born on 22nd April 1925 at 19 Defoe Road, Tooting, (now no. 968 Garratt Lane), a nursing-cum-maternity home run by Lucy Blaber, a midwife. He spent his early years at his family home close by at 88a Covertown Road in Tooting and attended

Defoe Road Infants School before moving to a council house at 30 Cartmel Gardens in Morden.

From childhood he always had a flair for acting and so it was in 1939, as a young juvenile actor, he responded to an advert for a boy understudy for the famous musical *White Horse Inn* and so



Alfred Atkins in 'Cottage to Let'

began a long and successful career on stage screen and television. It was in the early years of his career as a young actor that he lived in Streatham, residing for three years in a flat above George Reeves Estate Agents' shop at 267 Mitcham Lane. The building now forms part of the DCP Ice Cream factory.

The second Streatham actor to tread the boards in *Cottage to Let* was Alfred Atkins, who played to role of Hayning. Alfred was born in 1899 at 104 Mitcham Lane and on leaving school served briefly with the Royal Artillery. After leaving the forces he commenced a career as a bank clerk but later turned to acting.

His first acting role was in a tour of *Chu Chin Chow* and in 1921-22 he was a

chorister in the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. He appeared in various West End productions including *The Beggar's Opera*, *The Little Minister*, *Rose Marie* and *The Desert Song*. One of his last performances was as the Boatswain in Shakespeare's *Tempest* at the Old Vic in 1940.

In 1936 he played the role of Spike Brady in *The Frog* at the Princes Theatre which starred a young Jack Hawkins in the role of Richard Gordon of Scotland Yard. Both actors were to revive their roles when the play was turned into a film in 1937 and Jack Hawkins subsequently went on to become one of Britain's most famous film actors. Alfred appeared in a number of other films in the 1930s, mainly playing bit parts, including *My Lucky Star* (1933), *My Last Barricade* (1938), *No Parking* (1938) and *Gaslight* (1940). His last stage performance was in *Cottage to Let*.

THE MAGAZINE PROGRAMME

COTTAGE TO LET

Characters, in order of appearance :

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Miss Fernery | FRANCES RUTLEDGE |
| Ronald Mittsby | GEORGE COLE |
| Peters | C. JERVIS-WALTER |
| Marguerite Barington | PAMELA NELL |
| George Perrey | THORLEY WALTERS |
| Helen Barington | GILLIAN LIND |
| John Barington | LESLIE BANKS |
| Sir Ernest Mountforest | GEORGE BUTLER |
| Trently | PETER ROSSER |
| Charles Dimble | ALASTAIR SIM |
| Evans | FRED GROVES |
| Hayning | ALFRED ATKINS |
| Aughton | WALLACE EVENNETT |
| Mrs. Trimm | FRANCES RUTLEDGE |
| Chief Constable Gannett | CHARLES MORTIMER |
| Detective-Sergeant Browne | ALBERT CHEVALIER |
| P.C. Mathews | WALTER PLINGE |
| Detective-Sergeant Hockley | WALLACE EVENNETT |
| Detective-Sergeant Simpson | HENRY WILLIS |

Play Directed by RICHARD BIRD

The Magazine Programme may be obtained from Westby & Co., Ltd., 63/5, Piccadilly, W.1

THE MAGAZINE PROGRAMME

STREATHAM HILL THEATRE

Proprietor STREATHAM HILL PLAYHOUSE, LIMITED
 Chairman JOSEPH C. CLAYBING
 Licensed by the London County Council to JAMES W. PERRY
 General Manager ROBERT G. WALKMAN
 Assistant Manager CHRISTOPHER WASON
 Stage Manager FRANK G. LEAN
 Chief Engineer ROBERT JOHNSON
 Press Representative

Telephone : (Box Office) STREATHAM 9470 BOX OFFICE OPEN 10-10

WEEK COMMENCING JULY 15th, 1940
 EVERY EVENING at 8 o'clock
 Matinees : (Reduced Prices) WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 2.30

PRIOR TO WEST END PRESENTATION
 O'BRYEN, LINNIT and DUNFEE, LTD.

Present

LESLIE BANKS

and

ALASTAIR SIM

in

COTTAGE TO LET

A New Comedy Thriller
 By GEOFFREY KERR.

SMOKING PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

The Management reserve the right to make any alteration in the Cast rendered necessary by illness or any other unavoidable cause.

A Telephone is installed for the convenience of Patrons.

In accordance with the requirements of the Lord Chamberlain—

(I) The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits doors and such doors must at that time be open.
 (II) All gangways, balconies and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstruction.
 (III) Persons shall not in any circumstances be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to sit in any of the other gangways. If standing be permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating, it shall be strictly limited to the number indicated in the notices exhibited (I, one position).
 (IV) The safety curtain must be lowered and raised in the presence of each audience.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING HOME YOUR MAGAZINE PROGRAMME."

'Cottage to Let' programme

Despite his acting commitments, after the outbreak of war Alfred joined the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) in which he served as a Section Officer in Streatham. He was killed during an air raid on the 10th May 1941 when a high explosive bomb fell on his home at Hereford Villa, 582 Streatham High Road, between Hepworth and Glencairn Roads.

JWB

HORSE BOOTS AND BOGEY HOLE CUP CUTTERS

In the many decades I have been researching the history of Streatham I never cease to be amazed at the fascinating and unusual things I have unearthed concerning our town.



4 Greyhound Lane - Jasmin Studio Crafts

I recently received an enquiry requesting information on 4 Greyhound Lane, a shop situated at the western end of the road, next door to the Railway public house. Anticipating a history of greengrocers, confectioners and clothing emporiums having occupied the premises, I embarked on my researches with little expectation of discovering the prestigious role this humble retail outlet played in the world of golf.

The shop was built in the mid-1880s when it, and the neighbouring properties, were known as Commercial Terrace. Originally called 1 Commercial Terrace the shop was first occupied by Hardwick Brothers' Dairy. The brothers were based at Greyhound Farm, which was situated on Greyhound Lane, formerly known as Lonesome Lane and now known as Streatham Vale. Directories show the farmhouse to have been located somewhere along the lane, between Eardley Road and Leonard Road. The farmhouse stood on the southern bank of the River Graveney and map evidence suggests that part of it may have survived and was incorporated into a building at the eastern end of Farmhouse Road.

This farmstead is not shown on the 1840s Tithe map, nor on the 1860s OS map of Streatham. However, a building is shown on the 1894 OS map suggesting it was erected sometime in the preceding 34 years. Directory entries would suggest the early 1870s. There is what appears to be a pre-1920s building at no. 130 Streatham Vale, between the River Graveney and Farmhouse Road, currently occupied by Vale Veterinary Clinic, which may also have formed part of the old farmstead. This has been referred to as the old farmhouse but its location differs from that shown on the 1894 OS map which locates the farmhouse further to the west.

By 1884 Hardwick Brothers had taken over the farm which had formerly been occupied by Richard Stone, described as a cow keeper, who is detailed at the property between 1880 and 1882, and before him Edwin Ive is listed there between 1872 and 1878. In 1887 the farm was taken over by Moses Miller and it

would appear about this time the brothers established themselves in the newly built shop at 1 Commercial Terrace. It would have been here that they sold the milk, cream, butter and cheese produced on the farm.

They continued to operate the business up to at least 1892, and by 1894 the Alliance Dairy Company occupied the premises. I would suspect the brothers' business was absorbed into this concern as it was a time when small, independent family dairies were amalgamating into bigger, more efficient units. In 1891 Alliance had three outlets in north London and ten in south London which included two in Norwood and at Forest Hill with others at Brixton, Clapham, Herne Hill, Stockwell and at 1 Railway Terrace in Streatham, not far from Streatham railway station.

I have an old advert dated August 1895 concerning a Mrs Albert operating from 4 Greyhound Lane. I suspect she was living above the shop at the time. It mentions "Ladies' and Gentlemen's wardrobes purchased". This refers to clothing rather than an item of furniture, hence the statement "Ladies waited upon at private residences" indicating that she will mend or adjust items of clothing at people's homes. Mrs Albert was obviously running a dressmaking and seamstress business from her home where she repaired and resold second-hand clothing.

**MRS. ALBERT,
4, GREYHOUND LANE,
STREATHAM COMMON.**

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Wardrobes Purchased.

LADIES' WAITED UPON AT PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

N.B.—Letters by Post punctually attended to.

*Advertisement in Immanuel &
St Andrew's Church Magazine
August 1895*

On 1st November 1904 Greyhound Lane was renumbered by the London County Council (LCC) and 1 Commercial Terrace became no. 4 Greyhound Lane. The Alliance Dairy Co. continued to operate from the shop and was still trading there in 1905. However, by 1910 H Pattisson & Co. had taken over the lease and a new and important chapter in the life of the property began. Pattisson's occupied both nos. 4 and 6 Greyhound Lane up to the mid-1920s. This company was probably the most prestigious occupant of the shop and described itself as "Golf Requisite Manufacturers" making a wide range of merchandise for golf courses and clubs. It grew to become one of the leading suppliers in the country.

The company was started by Arthur Harold Pattisson Cole in 1896. He had previously run an engineering company and it was his experiences at his local Streatham Golf Club that was to prompt his involvement in the golf industry. As he lived at 16 Acacia Road on the Streatham/Norbury borders it is likely that the Streatham Golf Club was in fact the North Surrey Golf Club whose links were close by, occupying the ground between Green Lane and Norbury Avenue, part of which later became Norbury Park.

The "Pattisson" Patent Horse Boots (T).

The Simplest, the Strongest and the most Economical Boots made.
The SOLES are made of the finest English Chrome Tanned Leather (**waterproof**).
HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS. SILVER MEDALS awarded by the R.H.S.
They are used in the ROYAL GARDENS and in thousands of the PRINCIPAL GARDENS.

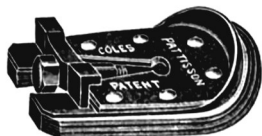


FIG. 1.—Bolt 'or Shod Horses). Entirely metal to metal fastening. Do not touch, therefore cannot cramp the animals' hoofs.



FIG. 2—WELTED Pattern. Copper Riveted.



“OLD STYLE.” Patent Screwed Soles.

Harold's first invention was the Pattisson Horse Boot. This simple device made of leather was fitted to the hoofs of horses enabling them to drag mowers and rollers over the fairways and greens without leaving indentations in the grass which would spoil the playing surface of the links. The sole of the boot was made from "the finest English Chrome Tanned Leather" and its waterproof surface provided an ideal platform to spread the weight of the horse, causing minimal damage to the grass ground below as the horses metal shoes were prevented from coming into contact with the soil. The boots were not only in use on golf courses but also on many private and royal gardens.

A second invention further boosted the business. Like the horse boots it was simple in design yet revolutionised the job of green keepers. Cole noticed the ground staff struggling with a knife and spoon to make holes on the greens of the club. Using a steel pipe from an old Aga stove, he added a wooden handle through the top and teeth at the bottom of the pipe which helped to pull the earth up and *voilà!* he had invented the Bogy Hole Cup Cutter. The cutter was still in use over 100 years later with little modification other than the addition of pedals to help sink the device into the earth.



TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS
AND
EQUIPMENT FOR
Golf Courses, Sports Grounds
and Lawns



BAMBOO BROOMS
ROLLERS
DRAG BRUSHES
Whalebone
Bass or Wire
AERATING FORKS
Hollow Prong
Solid Prong
AERATING ROLLERS
"Sarel" Spiked
"Pattisson" Spiked
FERTILIZER & SEED
DISTRIBUTORS
TURF RACES
TURFING TOOLS
TURF CUTTING
MACHINES
SPRINKLERS
HARROWS, BARROWS
"DURA" DRAG MATS



"DOME" BOOT WIPERS
MUD BRUSHES &
SCRAPERS
HOLE TINS
HOLE CUTTERS
FLAG STAPPS
FLAGS
SAND BOXES
NOTICE PLATES
TEE PLATES
TEE BASKETS
TEE MATS
PUTTING COURSE
EQUIPMENT
BALL CLEANERS
BALL MARKERS
HAND ROLLERS
HORSE ROLLERS
TRACTOR ROLLERS
TRACTORS








THE NEW "PATTISSON" TURF
SPIKING MACHINE

3 or 4 inch Spikes.
Makes 60 perforations per revolution.
(2,400 per minute).

H. PATTISSON & CO. LTD., STANMORE, MIDD.
TELEPHONE: STANMORE 400 TELEGRAMS: PATTISSONS STANMORE

In 1904 the company won a Royal Horticultural Society silver medal for its products and in 1912 another silver medal was achieved at the Royal International Exhibition. By 1914 the company was producing a wide variety of products and boasted of making "everything required on a golf course" including steel bogey hole tins, wood rollers (solid, hollow and water ballast), combined sweeping and rolling machines, mowers (horse and hand), roller carts, water-sprinklers, and even navy bunting and cotton flags.

Before the First World War Pattisson's were principally the only company servicing the golf sector with tools, equipment and furniture specifically designed for the golfing market. The company was also a leading producer of motorised golfing equipment and was still manufacturing tractors for use on golf courses up until the 1960s.

In 1926 Capt. T.R. Clutterbuck sold Clutterbuck's Stanmore Brewery in Middlesex to Harold Pattisson Cole who set about converting the 18th century building into a manufacturing base for H. Pattisson & Co. As a consequence, the company ceased operations in Streatham in 1926 and relinquished its outlet at 4 Greyhound Lane. In its new base at Stanmore the company continued to flourish and by 1971 it was employing 60 people there in designing and manufacturing turf maintenance and golf course equipment. After Pattisson vacated the premises, Myer Goldberg took up the lease and trading as Myer Goldberg & Son set up a tailoring business in the shop and was still operating there at the time of the Second World War.

Given the likelihood of Pattisson playing on the North Surrey Golf Course in the 1920s it is possible he may have known my grandfather who was a groundsman there after the First World War. Almost certainly my grandfather would have used Pattisson equipment in maintaining the links and no doubt was an expert at fitting Pattisson Horse Boots and a dab hand at using the Pattisson Bogey Hole Cup Cutter. Now there is a statement I never dreamed of making until after I received an innocent enquiry concerning the history of no. 4 Greyhound Lane!

JWB



STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

This year the Streatham Society celebrates its 45th anniversary. Jean Gaffin, who chaired the inaugural meeting in 1974, would be surprised and delighted to see just how much we have grown over the years. I am pleased to report that our paid membership has increased this year. £628 was kindly donated with the subscriptions.

Meetings

At last year's AGM concerns were raised regarding the seating arrangement at our monthly meetings and the fact that it was often difficult for members and visitors to see the screen or hear the speaker. Sadly, we cannot resolve the seating arrangements BUT I am delighted to announce that at our last committee meeting we agreed to buy a new sound system. Hopefully this will go some way to improve people's enjoyment. Despite all that our meetings continue to be very popular and are well attended. In total, 1070 people attended (May -April), an average attendance of 51 at 21 meetings, with 160 visitors, almost double last year's total, each donating £1 on entry. Our two most popular meetings were John Brown's annual "Bygone Streatham" talk with the launch of his latest book: *Streatham Now and Then*, held as part of the Wandsworth Festival, which attracted 80 people, and Philip Emery's talk "Waterways in and around London and the work of the Canal and River Trust", which attracted 70 including extra visitors.

Our eleven monthly raffles, which help to pay for the hire of the venue, raised an increased £488. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Judy Harris for organizing the raffle each month and thank all of you for buying tickets!

Local History continues to play an important part of our meetings and is also a great strength. Over the years many members have been engaged in research. Graham Gower and John Brown are our local history events and research organisers. John also produces all our excellent posters which are on our website and on display in Streatham Library. I thank both for all their hard work

Publications

Our book stall is as popular as ever. Janis Benson works hard to keep stock of the titles and is always ready to answer queries. I would like to thank her and Marion Gower for all their hard work. It would be helpful if people could buy the books during the break and not when the break is over as it tends to delay the start of the second half of the speaker's programme.

We have taken the book stall to three local events: Henry Tate Gardens tours days and the opening event of the 2018 Lambeth Heritage Festival, hosted by the

Clapham Society at the Omnibus Centre. We were unable to attend Streatham Kite Day as it clashed with our Henry Tate tours. These attracted over 200 visitors and book sales were good. I am pleased to announce that this year (2019) we were able to attend Kite Day and again sales were excellent.

We have over 50 titles in our publication stock, both Streatham Society and John Brown's Local History Publications. John publishes all our books. Total 2018 sales were about 470: 22% sold at the three events, 22% sold via our website and a much increased 54% sold at our meetings bookstall, the latter reflecting the increased number of new members and visitors.

The quarterly *Streatham Society News* journal contains excellent articles and local history items. We thank John Brown for his regular contributions. As I have said before this is the Jewel in our Crown and we must give a big thank you to Judy Harris for all her hard work and dedication in the production of the magazine. Please continue to send her your items of news and interesting history information.

Thank yous

Our programme sub-committee team, Mike Bowtle, Russell Henman and Jill Dudman have continued to offer us an exciting and interesting programme for 20 meetings over the past year and I thank them for all their hard work.

At Christmas our refreshment team, Barbara Beer and Pauline Hewitt, retired. They organised the teas and cakes for nearly ten years and we cannot thank them enough for all their commitment and hard work over that time. At least now Pauline can enjoy being part of the Society and sit and listen to the speakers! Allen Brown and his team of helpers have now picked up their mantle and I am very grateful to them for making it such a smooth transfer.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the main committee: Keith Searle, our treasurer, Judy Harris, membership, publications orders and *News* editor, Russell Henman, Vice-Chair and programme team, Janis Benson, meetings' minutes secretary and bookstall, and Robert Doyle, Pauline Hewitt and Barbara Beer. I thank them for their commitment and dedication to ensuring the Society continues for the next 45 years.

Shea Richardson, Secretary and Acting-Chair

THANK YOU - 1

This was Shea's last report as secretary as she has decided to spend more time on other neglected activities. She has been a most efficient secretary for several years, volunteering in the absence of any other. Happily she continues as our longest-serving committee member and as acting chair - until someone else comes forward to fill this latter position. Thank you, Shea.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Streatham Society Account for the year ending 31st March 2019

| General Account | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Income | £ | £ |
| Subscriptions | 3040 | 2425 |
| Donations | 783 | 1316 |
| Bank interest | 258 | 258 |
| Raffles | 465 | 426 |
| Refreshments | 460 | 266 |
| Publications | 1923 | 1719 |
| RBS refund | 628 | 0 |
| | <u>£7557</u> | <u>£6410</u> |
| Expenditure | | |
| Affiliation fees | 76 | 48 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 404 (see below) | 194 |
| Donations | 2113 | 330 (see below) |
| Speakers' fees | 200 | 350 |
| Room rental | 600 | 950 (July 17-June 2018) |
| Insurance | 75 | 75 |
| Printing, postage, stationery | 2445 | 2227 |
| <i>(Streatham Society News, programmes, membership cards, postage)</i> | | |
| Publications <i>(From John W Brown)</i> | 523 | 654 |
| | <u>£6436</u> | <u>£4828</u> |
| Surplus/deficit for year on current account | <u>£1121</u> | <u>£1582</u> |
| Current Assets | | |
| RBS current account | 13,023 | 14,254 |
| Cash in hand | 8 | 8 |
| Lloyds current account | 6756 | 6756 |
| Lloyds deposit account | 15,302 | 15,554 |
| | <u>£35,089</u> | <u>£36,572</u> |

NOTES

Miscellaneous expenses

Website maintenance - £168.44 and R Doyle for flowers - £25.17

Donations

Donations made by the Society are partly for local causes which the committee has decided are worth supporting and partly for organisations which supply speakers. These are:

Organisations supplying speakers: Friends of Windmill Gardens £50;
Age UK £30

Other organisations: Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal) £50;
Woodland Trust £200 (in memory of John Cresswell)

Combined Total - £330

Summary

1. The Society has achieved a surplus this year of **£1582**
2. The Lloyds account has not been used

3. Income Comparison with previous years:

| Income from | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Donations | 1316 | 783 | 816 | 880 |
| Subscriptions | 2425 | 3040 | 2571 | 2760 |
| Raffles | 426 | 465 | 567 | 433 |
| Refreshments | 266 | 460 | 400 | 300 |
| Publications | 1719 | 1923 | 1582 | 2482 |
| | £6152 | £6671 | £5947 | £6855 |

Further points to note are:

- Publications income has slightly decreased this year compared with 2018.
- Membership subscriptions have decreased compared with 2018.
- Donations and raffles are still making a significant contribution to funds.
- The Lloyds deposit account is our main reserve. The Committee considers that this should only be used when major publishing expenses are incurred. The RBS account is quite sufficient to meet our normal expenditure.
- The Lloyds current account allows the Society to have instant access to a reserve of **£6755.50**. The deposit account holds **£15,554.12** which is invested for three years

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 for maintaining excellent records of all income for subscriptions, publications, donations, raffles and refreshments.
- the refreshment team, Barbara, Pauline, and Ruth, for their hard work over several years in raising money and contributing to the social side of Society meetings. This has been greatly appreciated.
- Allen Brown, Dorothy, Jenny, Maureen and Tony for taking over the role of providing refreshments and raising money for the Society.
- Allen Brown for the meticulous work he has put into examining the accounts.
- Our 'in-house' speakers who have given excellent talks at no extra cost to the Society.

Keith Searle, Treasurer, June 2019

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

THANK YOU - 2

Our treasurer, Keith Searle, also resigned at our AGM. He has served us for ten years and feels it time to follow other pursuits. A conscientious and efficient treasurer, he produced a detailed report for every committee meeting. He leaves the Society's finances in a very healthy state. We thank him and wish him well.

We are now seeking a new treasurer. He/she will need to attend and report to our six (bi-monthly, January, March etc.) executive meetings, held on the second Monday of the month. As an increasing number of members request BACS and on-line payments, this will need to be expanded. However, we also have a significant number of members who prefer cash/cheque payments.

Hopefully, by our next issue, this position will be filled.

THANK YOU - 3

Peter Main, another of our long-term and hard-working volunteers, has relinquished his position as webmaster after almost twenty years. He started the website, advertising our news, events and publications, in February 2000. We were one of the first local societies, probably the first, to use the web. Peter continued as webmaster for several years after moving from Streatham. We thank him profusely and wish him well in his continuing community work in Wallington..

NEW SECRETARY, WEBMASTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We are very pleased to welcome Marc Bery to our committee as secretary, webmaster and responsible for social media.

Mark reports the analysis of our website shows 1,347 unique visits and 3,536 page views in the last month which is quite staggering so he hopes this is correct.

The Facebook page has 349 registered members but as the page has been set-up as 'closed' anyone can see the content on the public site without registering as a member. Key in <https://www.facebook.com/groups/546435545867439/> and sign up; or if you don't wish to, click onto **Discussion** to read Mark's posts. The private conversations will not show on this site.

Mark posts Streatham Society events, talks and publications as well those of general interest in Streatham and surrounding areas. He is also regularly posting historic facts on Streatham when an anniversary falls on that day

He is hopeful to have the old Twitter account up and running soon. At present Mark and Robert Doyle are using their personal accounts to post Streatham Society content.

CROWDED MEETINGS

Discussion at the AGM again focussed on seating problems at some of our crowded meetings. We can accommodate c.60 people but our Wandsworth and Lambeth Heritage Festivals' talks can attract about 80, many being visitors.

As one of our members pointed out, this has occurred because meetings are no longer limited to members (usually about 30-45 per meeting). A few years ago, we decided to open up to visitors who donate £1 at each visit. This was to attract more publicity and introduce new people to our activities in the hope that some would join the Society.

This has worked well as we always have visitors, usually around eight but it can be over 25. Our publications sales have increased significantly. We have increased our membership but several regular visitors prefer to donate a £1 rather than join, although they do not receive our quarterly *Streatham Society News*. These donations bring us revenue as if visitors come to more than three meetings a year we gain, as the *News* costs around £7.50 of the £10 subscription.

Several visitors tell me they read the *News* on our website. As these are (deliberately) back copies, they can't! However, it bears out my theory that our 36-page journal is only skim-read on-line. I usually have to print out any more than 8 pages of a publication if I want to read it properly. As the *News* editor, I know a majority of our members prefer a hard copy and I would certainly regard it a waste of my time if it only appeared on-line. Our Facebook page is a much more user-friendly method of communicating shorter items.

Another complication with seating is that too many visitors arrive on or after the starting time, which involves setting out extra chairs and disturbing the speaker.

It has been suggested that new chairs will help but I don't see how. Woodlawn is a centre for older people and too many of their comfortable chairs have broken. Replacements, which are heavy to move, will take up more space. Comfortable stackable chairs are also heavy.

We welcome our increasing number of visitors who are attracted by our excellent programme and friendly welcome. Our meetings are very sociable because we can spread out to chat during the break. Only very occasionally is it too crowded. But please come before 7.50pm if you want a choice of seat. (Several of our 'regulars' prefer the less comfortable stacking chairs - more room, a quick get-away and first in the refreshment queue!)

EVENTS REPORTS

Meetings

The History of the Beulah Spa, Upper Norwood

On May 20th, replacing the earlier advertised speaker, we welcomed Stephen Oxford. Stephen is a retired teacher, secretary of the Norwood Society and editor of their *Norwood Review*. Not surprisingly, the subject attracted about 55 people, including twelve visitors.

Stephen brought with him the recent publication *The Beulah Spa 1831-1856, A New History* by Chris Shields (publicised in *News* issue 235, available from the Norwood Society). His fascinating talk complemented this publication - and all the copies he brought were sold. We recommend this talk to other local groups.

Bygone Streatham - A lost corner of Wandsworth

John Brown's always popular annual talk on June 3rd, advertised as part of the Wandsworth Festival, attracted about 80 people including over 20 visitors. John publicised his new book *Streatham Village*, containing a wealth of previously unpublished information and illustrations. All the copies on our bookstall were sold and it continues to sell well.

AGM and Streatham's 41

Our AGM (see previous reports) on June 17th attracted 55 people, far more than the usual c.30, because John Brown was to introduce the Streatham Society's new publication, the reprint of *Streatham's 41*, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the WWII bombing in 1944 (see last *News*). Again this sold well and is continuing to do so.

The Diary of a Medical Officer during the First World War

On July 1st, Raymond Coggin told us about Douglas Page RAMC, MC on the Western Front 1915-1918. In his diary Douglas Page described his time on the

Western Front including periods of leave in London. It is a story not just of the Great War but of a young man used to a comfortable upbringing in Edinburgh. His home and that of Douglas Haig were only yards apart. Newly qualified as a doctor, he was thrust into the horror of war in France. Like many unarmed medics, he was exposed to every danger the battlefield threw up.

We heard remarkable stories of life in and out of the trenches; about the camaraderie of men, the comedy of life behind the lines and a French Christmas banquet with all the trimmings then cigars and champagne in the trench! With so many calls, young Douglas was spared to save lives and contribute to medical development in the most intense field training you can imagine. Stories that changed the course of world history were told as he crossed paths with people who would also make their mark in history.

Raymond Coggin is a London taxi driver, Taxiguide and City of Westminster Guide. We thank him for his presentation - and excellent details of his lecture for us to reproduce here.

Other events

Henry Tate Gardens Tours

Despite rain, our tours on Sunday May 26th attracted 75 people, several of whom gave donations, and book sales were good. Graham Gower and John Brown led the tours, Mike Bowtle sold the books, while Robert Doyle and Judy Harris provided back-up. The next tours are on Sunday September 8th. Thanks to the Residents' Association for their continued support.

(re)discover Streatham

Representing the Streatham Society and selling his publications, John Brown took a stall and display to Streatham Library on June 8th to this gathering of Streatham's community groups. He's an excellent PR person as well as knowing (nearly) all there is to know about Streatham's history, so he was kept busy.

Heaver Doodlebug 75

On June 29th John took his display and bookstall to this event in Carnie Lodge Gardens SW17. He sold books including our *Streatham's 41*. Thank you, John.

Also on our Facebook page, you'll see photos of John speaking at Streatham & Clapham High School.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members: Kevin Jordan, Catherine Pearson & household, Mrs M Insch, David Del'Nero, Irena Michalowska, Stephen Perry, Carolyn Clough, Eleanor Clough-Delaney, Frank Hooley, Bruno Boulanger, Richard Alcock and Anthony and Ruth de Grey. Most of these joined via our summer activities' publicity. We hope they enjoy our events and publications.

Judy Harris

JANET WEEKS & JANET WILMSHURST

It is with much sadness we announce the death of two long-standing members of the Streatham Society, Janet Wilmshurst and Janet Weeks.

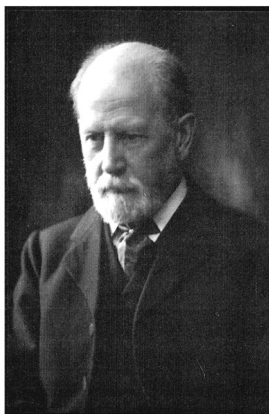


Janet Wilmshurst and her husband Leslie joined the Society in 1977 and both served on our Committee; Leslie being Treasurer for a number of years. I first came into contact with Janet in the 1980s with my study of the local history of the area and in particular researches led by Brian Bloice into the local architect, Frederick Wheeler, who designed many of the fine Victorian buildings which today make up Streatham's splendid streetscape along the High Road, particularly between Streatham Station and St. Leonard's Church.

Many of these buildings were erected by Hill Brothers, a local firm of builders and developers, which comprised Henry Ellis Hill (1845-1927) and William James Hill (1847-1937). Janet was the granddaughter of Henry Ellis Hill and arranged for me to have copies of a number of family photographs featuring her



Henry Ellis Hill at the gate of 'Helvellyn', 24 Ambleside Avenue to where the family moved in 1889. He died there in 1927; his wife, Kate, in 1940.



*Henry Ellis Hill
March 1914*

grandparents. She advised that the streets on the Woodlands estate which contain many houses built by Hill Brothers, such as Ambleside Avenue and Thirlmere, Rydal and Riggindale Roads, were named after places in the Lake District region of Cumbria which the Hills were fond of visiting on holiday. Indeed, her grandfather named his house at 24 Ambleside Avenue, "Helvellyn", after a small town in the Lake District of which he was particularly fond. Janet died on 20th May 2019 and her cheerful countenance and merry smile will be much missed at our meetings.

Janet Weeks passed away in April 2019. She was a keen member of a number of local societies and groups and for many years was a regular attendee on our coach trips and summer walks. She joined the Society in 1982 and it was on one of my heritage walks I first met her, and we became good friends. For many years we worked on a number of local history books together where her experience as a journalist and editor ensured her publications were always expertly researched, very informative and well written. Indeed, many of my own publications are much better than they would have been as a result of her editorial skills.



*Janet Weeks with Oakey family tombs
at West Norwood Cemetery*

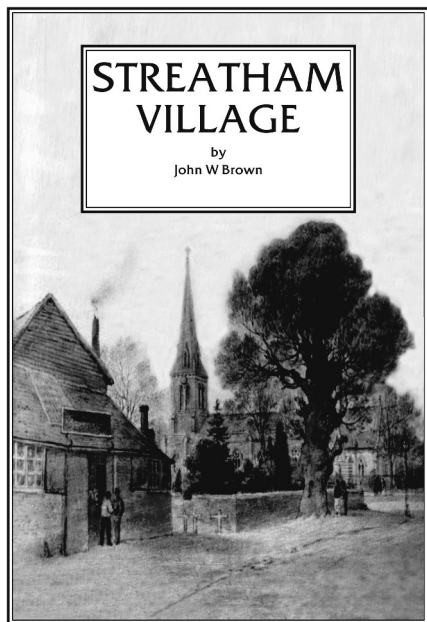
Janet had an active and enquiring mind and it was never difficult to interest her in a particular aspect of Streatham's history to write about which resulted in booklets as diverse as *A Convent at Norwood* concerning Virgo Fidelis Convent; *Magdalen Hospital* about the home for penitent prostitutes at Streatham Hill; *The Oakey Saga* about John Oakey & Sons of Wellington Mills in Kennington who for 125 years manufactured a range of abrasive products. Nineteen members of the Oakey family are buried in three neighbouring graves in West Norwood Cemetery; *The Folks Who Lived On The Hill*, containing biographies of some of the interesting people who lived on Streatham Hill; *Balls Horse Bus Service*, detailing the history of Streatham's first public transport and *Horace Marshall - Methodist, Mason and Mayor*, a biography of a former Lord Mayor of London who married the daughter of James Arthur Rank of film fame and lived at "The Chimes", a large house that stood on the northern junction of Streatham High Road and Streatham Common North.

Janet would often visit me on a Friday afternoon, always bringing a chocolate cake from Poundland for us to enjoy with our tea or, if an interesting film was screened at the pensioners' film club at the Odeon cinema, we would meet there and afterwards enjoy lunch together at La Casita where nothing was off limits on the menu for her to savour, including squid! Janet had led a fascinating life and was always good company; many local organisations of which she was a member are the poorer for her passing.

JWB

NEW PUBLICATIONS

STREATHAM VILLAGE



At our June meeting John Brown launched his latest book called *Streatham Village* which tells the fascinating story of our town when it was a just a small hamlet in north Surrey in the mid-1800s. The hustle and bustle of the south London suburb that is Streatham today is far removed from the peace and tranquillity of the small country village depicted in John's book.

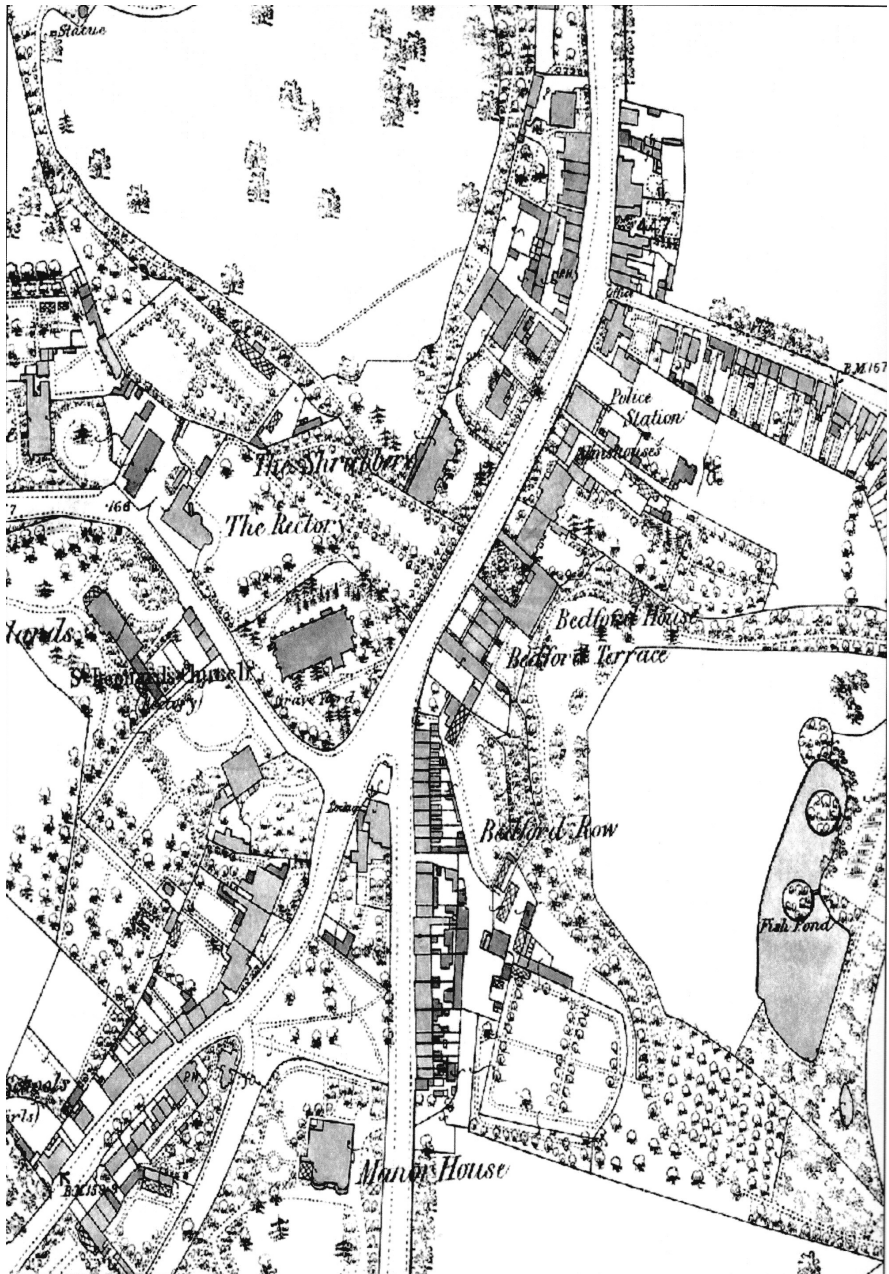
For centuries Streatham comprised just a small cluster of houses at the junction of Streatham High Road and Mitcham Lane, near the ancient parish church of St. Leonard. The book describes some of these ancient buildings, from the large, grand houses in which the rich and famous lived, to the small, humble cottages that then made up the village, some of which still survive as small shops opposite St. Leonard's Church. John also describes

the old village lock-up that stood by Streatham Green, where drunks and disorderly felons were imprisoned overnight, and the Streatham smithy or forge, where horses were shod.

The importance of the Village Green and Streatham and Tooting Bec Commons are highlighted, and their history recalled, including the time in 1771 when King George III came to Streatham with the Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland to witness army manoeuvres on Tooting Bec Common.

Some buildings detailed, now long disappeared, played an important part in village life like the old Streatham Workhouse on Tooting Bec Common where the poor of the parish were housed and the ancient Tithe Barn that stood in Tooting Bec Gardens, where one tenth of locally grown crops were deposited by farmers in payment for the upkeep of the parish church and clergy.

Between the Tithe Barn and St. Leonard's Church stood the Rectory in which the Rector of Streatham lived. This grand house dated back to at least 1535 and



Streatham Village in 1861

was well known by the novelist Jane Austen, who visited the house several times between 1811 and 1817 to see her friend Catherine Bigg-Wither, the wife of the Rector, the Revd. Herbert Hill.

The book also recounts the origins of the ancient pubs that refreshed local villagers in days gone by, two of which continue to trade today as the White Lion and the Horse and Groom.

Village life slowly changed after the coming of the railway in the 1860s and by the opening years of the 20th century Streatham had become a prosperous southern suburb of London. However, even before the First World War, Streatham still retained many of its rural charms with cows grazing in surrounding fields and horse riders enjoying the gallops on Streatham and Tooting Bec Commons.

Streatham Village is profusely illustrated with drawings, maps and old photographs, some of which have never been published before.

The book costs £6 and is available from the Streatham Society bookstall at our meetings or £7.40, including post and packing, cheques being made payable to The Streatham Society and forwarded to 125 Thornlaw Road, West Norwood, London SE27 OSQ.

JWB

THE NORBURY CHRONICLE

THE NORBURY CHRONICLE

Issue No.1 June 2019

Welcome to this first issue of 'The Norbury Chronicle'. The aim of this and future issues is to share with you Norbury's History and to explain how Norbury has evolved from a farming community to become the busy cosmopolitan suburb of Croydon that it is today.

In each forthcoming issue the plan is to incorporate Norbury's History in a chronological order along with pictures or images of that period.



An early 1900's view of Green Lane with its ancient oak trees.

The Norbury Chronicle was first issued in June 2019. The aim of this and future issues is to share Norbury's history and explain how it has evolved from a farming community to become the busy cosmopolitan suburb of Croydon that it is today. In each forthcoming issue the plan is to incorporate Norbury's history in a chronological order along with pictures or images of that period.

Any suggestions, historical information, pictures or recollections would be considered to contribute for future issues. Please contact the editor, David Clark (see below).

The Norbury Chronicle can be purchased for £1.50 from Sean Creighton at 6 Oakhill Road, Norbury.

davidandlindaclark@googlemail.com

David Clark

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LAMBETH HERITAGE FESTIVAL - throughout September
Programme available from libraries, participating groups and website

STREATHAM FESTIVAL - October 11th - 20th
Including 6th - 20th Art Trail; Sat 12 Streatham Strut;
Fri 18 Festival Ceilidh; Sat 19 Family Fun Day
See website and local publicity

SEPTEMBER

- Sat 7** **Lambeth Horticultural Society's Late Summer Show**
14.00 St Luke's Church, West Norwood
- Sun 15** **Music:** Guy James (counter-tenor) will give a recital of music by
12.10- Howells, Pärt & Gurney. St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Rd, SW16
12.50 *Free, donations for the Organ Fund*
- Sun 15** **Streatham Cemetery Open Day**, Garratt Lane, Tooting
14.00- Events and refreshments including a daffodil making display for the
16.00 unveiling of the plaque to Peter Barr, 'The Daffodil King'.
Friends of Streatham Cemetery & Summerstown 182
- Thur 19** **Talk: MyHouseMyStreer.** Ruth Hibberd and Society researchers
19.30 recount their finds in the Woodland Hill area. Upper Norwood Library.
Norwood Society

OCTOBER

- Tues 8** **Talk: St Clements Danes Almshouses, Garratt Lane**
19.30 Keith Rea. United Reformed Church, 2 Rookstone Rd, Tooting
Tooting History Group
- Thur 17** **Talk: From Concretopia to the Green Belt**
19.30 John Grindrod. Upper Norwood Library.
Norwood Society
- Sun 20** **Music:** The Signal Trio: Lucy Cox (soprano), Brendan Musk (trumpet)
12.10- & Will Mason (organ) play music by Handel, Mozart, Rachmaninoff,
12.50 Fauré & Gershwin. St Peter's Church. *Free, donations as above.*

NOVEMBER

- Sat 9** **Music: Streatham Choral: Visions of Albion - Romantic &**
19.30- contemporary English choral music from mid-19thC to the present;
21.30 incl. Parry, Elgar, Wood, Stanford, Stainer. St Peter's Church *£10/£8.50*
- Thur 21** **Talk: The Rich & Poor of All Saint's Churchyard**
19.30 Stephen Oxford. Upper Norwood Library
Norwood Society

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

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