



STREATTHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 249 Summer 2022



BIG PLATINUM JUBILEE LUNCH AT THE OVAL

Mike Morfey meets Prince Charles

(See p.6 © Metro newspaper)

**2022 Membership - If you have received a printed copy of this issue,
you have paid. Thank you!**

Book stall - More volunteers needed (See p.30)

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

PROGRAMME 2022

OUR MEETINGS are held in St Leonard's Church, Streatham. Non-members are very welcome but are requested to donate £1 to help cover costs.

Tues 6 Sept **The Art of Music Hall & Variety** Talk by Alison Young
7.30pm *A Lambeth Heritage Festival event*

Tues 4 Oct **James Gullely and the Balham Murder Mystery**
7.30pm Talk by Colin Fenn

Tues 1 Nov **The Manor of Norbury** - A tribute to David Clark, local historian
7.30pm Talk by Michael Gilbert

December No meeting

EVENTS (See also p.35)

Sat 3 Sept **Lambeth Heritage Festival Local History Fair** with our bookstall
10 - 4.30 St John's Church, Waterloo (opposite the station, by Waterloo Bridge).

Fri 16 Sept **Conyers Road Pumping Station - Open House London**

Sat 17 Sept *Booking essential - follow Thames Water on Eventbrite*

Sun 25 Sept **The Grounds of Park Hill, Sir Henry Tate's House in Streatham**
2 & 3pm Tours *A Lambeth Heritage Festival event. Booking essential at:*
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/streatham-society-31488784265>

Mon 26 Sep **Tour of St Leonard's Church** by John W Brown
1.30pm *A Lambeth Heritage Festival event. Booking essential as above*

7-16 Oct **Streatham Festival** - see local publicity for all events

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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 only with the editor's permission.

STREATHAM ROUND AND ABOUT

HERITAGE WITHOUT A HOUSE: Remembering Hester Piozzi's Streatham

This exciting project was introduced at Streatham Bowling Club, Pringle Gardens, on Friday 10th June.

The Streatham Society provided support, advice and local experience to the venture and were thanked by the organisers, Dr Cassie Ulph and Dr Katherine Fennelly.

Cassie and Katherine were at the Bowling Club from 2pm to 7pm armed with tea, cake and maps, and met local residents for a drop-in heritage session. The session began with a brief introduction to the project at 2pm, then residents were invited to drop in for a chat at any point to find out more, share their knowledge of the local landscape and engage in some general Thraliana over tea and cake.

Dr Cassie Ulph explains the project:

“Researchers are developing a new project to commemorate 18th-Century Streatham resident Hester Thrale Piozzi (1741-1821) and uncover what life was like at the lost Streatham Park House. The new research project, ‘Heritage without a House: Remembering Hester Piozzi’s Streatham’ will focus on recovering the experiences of Streatham Park House, using Hester’s own writings, documents about the estate, as well as seeking out other stories connected to the estate including the staff who kept the house running and the many guests who visited.

‘The project is being run by Dr Katherine Fennelly, an archaeologist from the University of Sheffield, and Dr Cassie Ulph, a literary historian from the University of Manchester. Cassie and Katherine want to build up a picture of the traces

Hester Thrale Piozzi needs

YOU...



**...to help us
map historic
Streatham Park !**

Drop in to see us at **Streatham Park Bowling Club** on

Friday 10 June, 2-7pm

- Learn about Streatham's Georgian residents
- Help us map features of the lost 18th Century estate
- Have a go at archaeological fieldwalking
- Free tea and cake!

2pm: introduction to the ‘Heritage without a House’ project

2.30-7pm: drop in, chat, map, mingle!

Venue: Streatham Park Bowling Club, Pringle Gardens, London SW16 1SH

of the estate with the help of the local community, whose memories and local knowledge will help us understand Hester's local legacy today.

'The drop-in session was held for local people to find out more about the project and get involved in mapping the lost house. Residents were encouraged to come along and chat about the project over tea and cake, and find out how to identify and record archaeological features in their gardens and public spaces through a technique called 'field-walking' that will then be used to build up a community based map of the area as the first stage of this new research project.

'Hester first came to Streatham as the wife of the brewer Henry Thrale, whose father Ralph built the Streatham Park house in 1730. As the mistress of Streatham Park, she hosted literary and artistic celebrities such as Samuel Johnson, Joshua Reynolds, and Frances Burney, but her own literary ambitions took a back seat during her first marriage while she ran the household, supported her husband's parliamentary efforts, and educated their children. After Henry's death, she remarried, to an Italian musician Gabriel Piozzi.

'Hester lived at Streatham periodically during this time but mainly she managed the estate at a distance, as part of her daughter's inheritance. Streatham represented mixed memories for Hester, of her restrictive first marriage but also of a brilliant intellectual circle and social life that she would look back on with pride, and the place where she met Dr Johnson, of whom she wrote a popular biography after his death."

Cassie, who specialises in women's writing of the late-18th and early 19th centuries, has been researching Hester's life and work for over ten years, and given a number of talks about her to community groups in the area, said that there is an appetite to know more about Hester but the lack of a site can be seen as a challenge. "As a literary historian I have always been interested in Hester's relationship with Streatham because, although she was a prolific diarist and letter writer during her first marriage, most of her published work dates from after her first husband's death, but is still heavily informed by the memory of those 'Streatham years.

'Although Hester is known locally to some extent, the fact that her house isn't there any more means there's no obvious focal point to connect her life and experiences to the contemporary community in Streatham today. Unlike other authors' houses (Samuel Johnson's or Jane Austen's for example) that you can visit to try and get a sense of their world, Streatham Park is lost to us as a building so that option isn't available. But what I've seen from my visits to Streatham, Wandsworth and Tooting over the years is that the house and its residents are still part of the shared local memory of the community, and that's what this project wants to do: to see what traces remain in the local landscape and the memories passed down through residents."

It was when Cassie talked to Katherine about the lack of an ‘Author’s House’ that the project really began to take shape: “The lack of a physical building seems like a limitation, but it actually opens up lots of possibilities and other creative ways of mapping the space,” Katherine says. “As a post-medieval archaeologist, a lot of the buildings I research exist through documents rather than a preserved physical site. The material record is gone, but there are other sources of evidence, from archival documents and narrative descriptions to the ways in which the site has been shaped through cycles of use. Even though Streatham Park house no longer stands, it has an impact on local geography and is part of the heritage of the area. In the life-cycle of places, usages change over generations, and that’s a natural part of how urban areas develop, but traces of earlier heritage exist in everything from the local archive to people’s memories of the space, and that’s what’s so exciting about this project.”

The perfect venue of the Streatham Bowling Club, Streatham Park, is very close to the site of the Thrales’ house and gardens. Several early maps showed the possible site and encouraged much discussion among older visitors. It was a beautiful sunny day and most enjoyable.



(l-r) Dr Cassie Ulph and Dr Katherine Fennelly in the beautiful grounds of Streatham Bowling Club holding copies of the Streatham Park Heritage Trail by Graham Gower (available from The Streatham Society)

BIG PLATINUM JUBILEE LUNCH AT THE OVAL



The photo on the front cover appeared in the Metro newspaper on 6th June entitled: *Food for Thought: Prince Charles at Big Jubilee Lunch where he highlighted weekend of 'togetherness'*. Opposite Prince Charles is Streatham Society member Mike Morfey (left).

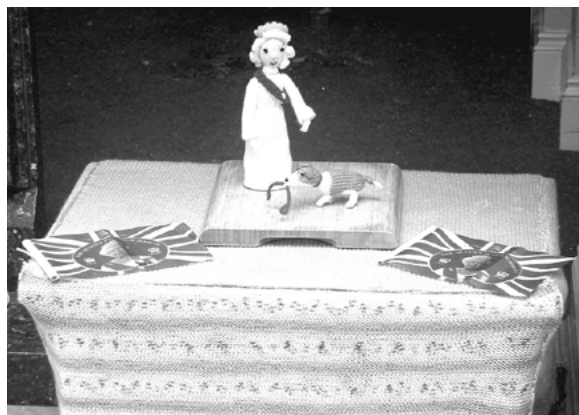
Mike was nominated by a local leader in Streatham Vale for all the voluntary community work he does in the Vale. He was invited by the Eden Project who reach out to communities all over the country for volunteers.

Mike writes: "I was fortunate enough to be nominated and invited to attend the prestigious event of all the numerous Jubilee Lunches that were staged all over the country on 5 June at the Kennington Oval. This was a reward for the voluntary community work I do in Streatham Vale.

'Some 500 attendees were treated to canapes and prosecco during the morning on tables set out on the cricket pitch. Then came the arrival of Prince Charles and Camilla who circulated among the tables and chatted to many of the guests. To our delight Prince Charles stopped at our table, sat down opposite me and chatted to many of us. The climax of the day was a superb buffet lunch inside one of the stands after which we all departed.'

When asked why he was wearing two hats, Mike replied, "Having taped on the Union Jack ribbon onto the smaller hat, it was too small to go on my head so I had to put it inside a larger one!"

JUBILEE WINDOW DISPLAY



This beautiful knitted Jubilee cake was displayed in the window of Maxwell's Undertakers, 538 Streatham High Road.

It was knitted by Valerie McMillan of Green Lane Norbury

Well done!

(Photo JWB)

NGS OPEN GARDEN AT RIPLEY HOUSE

Another Platinum Jubilee Weekend event shows John W Brown and Judy Harris (dressed in red, white and blue), with the Streatham Society book stall in the beautiful garden of Ripley House, 10 Streatham Common South on 4th June.

Actually John was selling books and answering local history queries, our secretary Mark Bery was networking, and Judy spent most of the afternoon on a lounger waving a glass of prosecco and chatting.

A second opening is planned on Sunday 28 August 2-6pm. Lindy and Mark Cunniffe now have their wonderful house for sale so this could be the last chance to view their fabulous garden. **JH**



MITCHAM LANE PAST & PRESENT

John Brown's talk for the Furzedown Project on May 25 attracted a large, appreciative audience, including 102-yr-old John White, long retired Head of English at Dunraven School.

His lively conversation and remarkable memory when speaking to Mark Bery after the talk gave those of us worrying about ageing much hope. I'm 25 years younger than John and worry I'm decrepit!

A post on our Facebook page attracted complimentary comments from several of his past pupils.

John Brown's talk was recorded for our YouTube channel.



*John White's 100th
(Archive photo Tooting Newsie)*

FAREWELL BOYCE DA ROCA



Hugo Rocha and Mark Boyce (l-r)

self-identified as the wise elder of Streatham. Or am I the mad old eccentric? Whichever it is, I'll miss Boyce da Roca and my smashed avocado, poached eggs with spinach on sourdough toast. I wish both Mark and Hugo well.

Welcome to their successors, the newly opened Monkey Leaf.

JH

After 10 years in Streatham, one of my favourite brunch venues has closed. Like others, two years of Covid restrictions followed by difficulties finding staff and the rising costs of supplies finally decided Mark and Hugo to give up, sell up, take a holiday, rethink and possibly move out of London.

For much of the last decade I have brunchted at Boyce da Roca weekly. Pre-pandemic, I spent some time sitting at a window table, proof-reading the *Streatham Society News*. I enjoyed the food, the atmosphere and the company.

As at my other brunch venues, I am about 30 years older than the average client (trendy, highly-motivated professionals?) so I was easily recognised and my name remembered. I

THE WOODFIELD PAVILION - MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



Some of the Woodfield Pavilion's talented members created these imaginative post-box toppers to publicise Mental Health Awareness Week.

Focused on well-being, they were located around Streatham and Balham.

How many did you spot?

(Photo MB)

AN EVENTFUL FEW WEEKS FOR STREATHAM HILL THEATRE

The theatre was added to SAVE Britain's Heritage Buildings at Risk register on Wednesday 29th June. At the same time we named two new Patrons - David Harewood and Jools Holland - and launched a student documentary about the campaign.



Unfortunately on the same day we heard that the theatre freehold was to be sold again, and this was confirmed on Friday 1st July. The property company Hold Land South East Ltd who bought the theatre for £2.67m as a medium to long term investment have sold the building on to Ruach City Church for £4m.

The church plan to use the theatre to relocate from their current Brixton Hill church - they announced the purchase at their gathering on Sunday 3rd July - their video of this was featured on our website..

Obviously this will affect the campaign! We will need to understand more about the circumstances, engage with the various organisations supporting the campaign, and reach out to Ruach to understand their plans and their implications.

SEE our website for more details.

Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre info@streathamhilltheatre.org

BEAT THE STREET

Beat the Street was a free, fun initiative that saw Lambeth transformed into a giant game for all the family. It started on 22nd June 2022 and ended on 3rd August.

The aim was to see how far participants could walk, cycle, run, scoot and roll in just 6 weeks. There were great challenges to enjoy and prizes awarded.

This sign and checking point in Garrads Road was one of several around our area.

(Photo MB)



LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

WHEN THE COMMISSIONERS CAME TO STREATHAM



A sketch of the medieval church of St. Leonard, Streatham.

Based on a drawing made sometime during the middle of the 18th century and prior to a series of rebuilds which changed the look of the church.

It all began on Tuesday the 18th of October 1552. At the porch of St. Leonard's Parish Church stood the churchwardens and an anxious group of Streatham parishioners. They were waiting to receive the King's Commissioners, Sir Thomas Cawarden of Bletchingley, John Scott from Camberwell and Nicholas Leigh from Addington. Their business was not cordial. They were coming to Streatham to enforce an aspect of the English Reformation that would see the despoliation of their parish church.

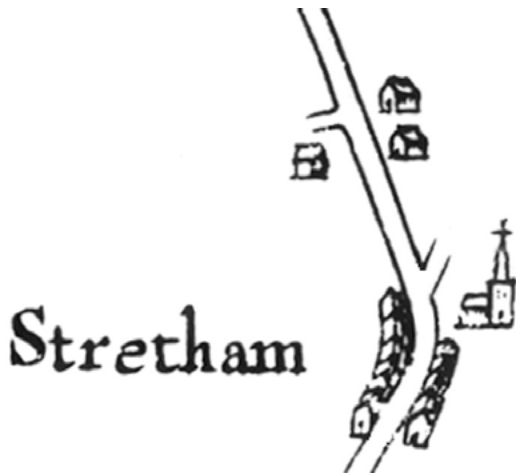
Similar action had previously occurred with the dissolution of the monasteries under King Henry VIII with the blatant confiscation of their wealth during the religious reforms of the 1530s. Now his covetous eyes were turned to the wealth of the churches. The pretext for this planned confiscation of latent wealth was legitimised by the government, who professed concern about the sale or the removal of religious items of value.

These valued items such as vestments, plate, crosses, cloths, ornaments and bells could be sold for secular profit, or taken away and hidden for their protection. Thus the churchwardens of St. Leonard's, Streatham, along with all other churches and chapels across the country, were instructed to make an inventory of all their church goods and valuables. The inventory should also include those items that were no longer being used in church services, and that any money made from the selling of such items should go to into the parish fund.

At Streatham the task of compiling the inventory fell upon James Revell and William Bateman, the elected parish churchwardens; a task that was undertaken during the winter month of December 1549, and with both men being fully aware of the dire consequences for not complying. Little were they to know that in the coming years the government was to orchestrate the wholesale seizure of church items, "for as muche as the Kings Majestie had neede presently of a masse of mooney", and to leave behind only the essential items for conducting a church service. This was to see the sending of all precious metal removed from churches to the melting pot at the Jewel House in the Tower of London and any money acquired passed to the treasurer of the Mint.

The inventory they compiled at Streatham revealed no great riches. Indeed it reflected the paucity and the limited wealth of St. Leonard's Church and its parish during these trying times. There were no outstanding objects of value to be found at St. Leonard's among the forty or so listed items, which included the three old bells in the steeple. A few items were made with precious metals, but most items were of pewter or of latten, an alloy of copper and zinc that resembled the more expensive brass. The vestments and cloths were of a plain and simple material with a few made of velvet and satin.

The expected but unwelcomed arrival of the King's Commissioners at Streatham in that October was to check on what items had been kept by the churchwardens of St. Leonard's and to see what items that may have been sold since the inventory list was first compiled. This required the making of a further inventory which listed nearly fifty items that remained within the church. This list was compiled a month later in December 1552 by John



*Olgiby's Map of 1675 Streatham (S-N)
showing St Leonard's Church*



*William Mowfurth, Rector of Streatham in the early 1500s, died c.1513.
Brass now on the northern wall of the chancel.*

Croft, William Allen and with the agreement of Harry Fylyon and John Lawson, the churchwardens, and the King's commissioners. Previously in 1551 and perhaps as a gesture of defiance against the authorities and the unfolding protestant reforms, someone or some people were emboldened enough to break into St. Leonard's Church during one night. Entering the building through an east facing window on the south side of the building they stole vestments, altar cloths, candlesticks and a Sanctus bell, all removed no doubt to ensure their survival, as the traditional liturgy was being banned. Similar thefts had also occurred at the churches at Tooting and Clapham, signalling further the discontent felt by local people about the nature and imposition of the reforms.

This reform, which began back in 1538 during the time of Henry VIII and continued with fervour under the short reign of his son Edward VI (1547-1553), saw among many things the introduction of the English Prayer Book, the abolition of the Latin Mass, destruction of images and statues, banning of candles and the destruction of rood screens and altars. Such happenings would have no doubt stressed the feelings of local people, who from time immemorial had followed tenets of the Roman Catholic Church, and were now being told to embrace the new religion and reject the old. Many found it wise to follow the new religion whilst others remained loyal to the traditional faith. One of many adherents who kept to the old faith was the rector of St. Leonard's, William Ibry, a Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral. He arrived at Streatham in 1550 and was obliged to leave four years later following the changes. True to his beliefs, Ibry expressed in his will of April 1557 the desire to "be buried after the olde Catholic and faithful maner and custom".

To make sure that everything was above board, any church items that were indeed sold by the churchwardens at Streatham were noted down along with the details of how the money was spent. This reflected the concerns of the reforming authorities, who were well aware of many parish churches selling off their treasures in anticipation of their confiscation. This confiscation by the authorities began with some earnest in 1553. On the 19th May that year St. Leonard's Church finally broke from its medieval past as the reforming Commissioners commandeered and removed the last items of the old religion from the church, which they appeared to have accomplished by the middle of the year. All that was left for the parishioners of Streatham was a chalice, two hearse cloths and a blue cope of satin for the communion table, plus a few minor items which they were allowed to sell. Even the three church bells, which for generation had sounded over the fields and meadows of Streatham, were now silent; for they too were taken for the King's use and were to be melted down.

This brutal wind of change finally came home to Streatham when the ancient altar of St. Leonard's Church was broken up and removed. Stone built, adorned and decorated and probably dating from the time the church was built, it was carted off as rubble and supplanted by the rude simplicity of a wooden table. This was probably the fate of the other altars in the church, particularly the altar of Our Lady sited on the south side of the church, upon which stood the tabernacle. With the removal of the main altar came some damage to the church fabric, with the surrounding pavement and the wall where the altar had stood needing repair and restoration. The cost, along with making of a new communion table, was some twenty-five shillings and five pence. Other monies made from the sale of church goods saw to the repaving of the church in a number of other places and the mending of the wooden rails which surrounded the churchyard, along with some other minor jobs such as mending a gutter.

But perhaps the most interesting expenditure from the sale of church items was for the purchase of lime and sand at a cost of twenty three shillings and two pence. This was for the "wyghttyng of the churche" and is most likely referring to the whitewashing of the church interior, which would have been decorated with biblical scenes. This was a common feature of the medieval church and such imagery, which may have included a wall painting of St. Leonard, is often referred to as the *Biblia Pauperum*, or the poor person's bible, and was a prime target of the reformers, along with the destruction or removal of any other decorative iconography. This was probably the fate of the statue of St. Nicholas in the chancel. This saint was mentioned in the will of Roger Norton, rector of St. Leonard's during the 1520s, and sited under a stained glass window for which he had financed. Whether this window and others in the church survived complete destruction we will never know, as imagery in windows was a further target for the reformers. However, it appears that some of the window survived. John Aubrey in his publication, *The Antiquities of Surrey*, which he begun in 1673, records that on a visit to St. Leonard's Church he observed that the Norton window



*Today's font, restored to its original
15thC design from a drawing
made in 1825*

derson was another parishioner who felt a need to pave his way to heaven and left a bequest for repairs to the church in his will of 1490. Evidently the state of the church building was a continuing problem during the late middle ages and warranted the expenditure of money from the sale of church goods for building repairs. A tidy sum of ten shillings was allocated for the purchase of wooden planks for the “shorryng upe of ye church whych ys lyke to fall downe”, and two shillings was paid for two men to do this necessary work.

These traumatic events in Streatham's long history have come down to us through an assortment of documents relating to the Commissioner's work, undertaken during the short reign of Edward VI. They briefly and tantalisingly acquaint us with the uncertain times that challenged the people of Streatham during the reformation, and of the desecration visited upon their parish church. We also note the evident lack of ready wealth to maintain the church building, which suffered the indignity of being shored up with wooden planks. But as history deemed, there is little to remind us of the old medieval building of St. Leonard's as we wander around the inside, save for the squat medieval tower embodied in the elegant structure we see today, a few brasses, a much restored font, and the time worn effigy of Sir John Ward and its canopy.

(Early map & recent photos from JWB)

still retained a figure St. John the Evangelist. He had also noted on his walk around the church two medieval niches, or recesses for religious statues, located in the chancel and which had been defaced, damaged no doubt by the reformers of the previous century.

A further expenditure listed by the churchwardens tells about the state of the church building at the time, which apparently was in a bad condition and had suffered from a lack of maintenance over the years. Hoping to find their place in heaven, parishioners often left money in their wills to the church, as did one Henry Fylyon. Probably a relative of one of the churchwardens mentioned, he left the sum of three shillings and four pence in 1533 for the painting of rood loft above the rood screen, an important feature of the medieval church and destined for destruction by the reformers. John Saun-

Graham Gower

JOHN W BROWN'S LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS



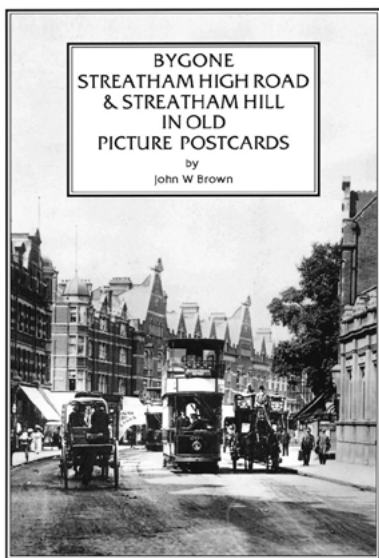
In the late 1960s John started work in Upper Thames Street, in the City of London, and spent many happy lunch-hours with friends exploring the variety of old alleyways and passages that were located near his office. This prompted his interest in the history of the area which led him to collecting antiquarian books on the subject.

Friends, learning of his growing book collection, would ask for copies of items of interest to them. As continual photocopying of the books caused damage to the publications, John produced a number of small booklets from them and Local History Reprints was born.

Established as a non-profit making enterprise, John produced material of interest to the local and family historian, with the aim of promoting a greater awareness of a locality's heritage and encouraging research into its past.

To date, more than 220 reprints from a wide range of antiquarian, Victorian, Edwardian and other local history publications that are now out of print and unavailable, have been published as well as 120 contemporary history books under the imprint of Local History Publications.

It was not until 1989 that John's membership of the Streatham Society prompted him to publish a series of reprints featuring Streatham and Tooting, including



those written by John Aubrey (1718), Daniel Lysons (1792), Manning and Bray (1814) and Edward Brayley (1878).

When John Cresswell, the Secretary of the Streatham Society, retired and moved to Bournemouth in 1999, John Brown took over publishing books for the Streatham Society, commencing with a series of Millennium Trails which were published in 2000.

As well as his own publishing activities, John has written a number of local history books for commercial publishers, including writing the text for six picture histories of Streatham, Tooting and Balham with Patrick Loobey.

In addition, John has also edited and published journals for a number of local history societies in the past, in-

cluding the Dulwich Society, the Norwood Society, the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery and the Crystal Palace Foundation for which he is still the Hon. Editor of their quarterly journal, *Crystal Palace Matters*.

Since John's retirement in the mid-1990s, he has written a book on an aspect of Streatham's history each year, including his five volume set of *Streatham Now and Then* and producing the third volume of his *Bygone Streatham* series this year, called *Bygone Streatham High Road and Streatham Hill in Old Picture Postcards*.

Thanks to John, the Streatham Society probably has the largest number of local history titles for sale (c.60) of all similar local societies. He also has an extensive archive which can be consulted by researchers by appointment via his home address (see Contacts, back page). He is also very happy to offer his advice and help in order to expand our recorded local history research.

John's publications for the Streatham Society and many of his Local History Publications involving our area over the last 22 years are available from our website. More recent publications are available from our bookstall at meetings.

Bygone Streatham High Road and Streatham Hill in Old Picture Postcards, publicised in our last newsletter (Issue 248), costs £6 from our bookstall. It is also available by order from our website for £8 (including p&p).

JWB & JH

CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S CORONATION 70 YEARS AGO

Few of the millions of people who celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this summer would have known a time when Elizabeth II had not been our Monarch. Only senior pensioners are now able to recall a time when there was a King on the throne. The Queen Elizabeth's Coronation was an occasion of great rejoicing throughout the land and we now recognise that it marked the time when the hardship and restrictions of the post-war years gradually came to an end and the "never had it so good years" of the 1950s boom began.

Streatham was to make a contribution to the Coronation, perhaps more so than many other towns of our size in the country.

Firstly, the Queen's dress-maker, Norman Hartnell, who designed the magnificent Coronation gown worn by Her Majesty at the Abbey, was born in Streatham. In 1898 a widow called Emma Coulson became the licensee of the Crown and Sceptre pub at Streatham Hill. When she married Henry Bishop Hartnell in 1899, her husband took over the pub and the newlyweds set up home in what later became the saloon bar. It was here in 1901 that Emma gave birth to a baby boy whom they christened Norman. As Henry and Emma watched their son play on the grass verge outside the pub little could they have imagined the fame he was to achieve in later life as one of Britain's leading fashion designers.



The Crown & Sceptre showing HB Hartnell's name over the door of the pub



Norman Hartnell set up his fashion house in 1923 and received his first royal commission in 1938. In 1948 he consolidated his place as the Princess Elizabeth's favourite couturier

Norman Hartnell and the white satin embroidered Coronation gown he designed



when he designed her wedding dress. He went on to design numerous outfits for the Queen establishing a unique style for the monarch which became the hallmark of his fashion house. Norman was knighted for his services to the fashion industry in 1977, the first couturier to receive such an honour.



*Arnold Bax and blue plaque
13 Pendennis Road*



Secondly, the Master of the Queen's Music, Arnold Bax, whose composition for the Coronation was performed during the Abbey service, was also born in Streatham and a blue plaque on No. 13 Pendennis Road records that this was his birthplace in 1883. However, the famous composer was not born in Pendennis Road, for at the time of his birth this part of the street was known as Angles Road and the house was called Heath Villa.

He wrote seven symphonies, as well as chamber and choral music, but most people are probably more familiar today with the film scores he wrote for *Oliver Twist* and *Malta GC*.

In 1941 he became Master of the King's Music. Preparations for the Queen's coronation were an exhausting experience for him and following his return to his home in Ireland he became unwell and died on 3rd October 1953. He is buried in St. Finbarr's Cemetery in Cork.

Thirdly, Eileen Murphy of Pullman Court, Streatham Hill, was one of four women commentators to broadcast during Coronation Day. Miss Murphy had never done a commentary before. She was personally selected by Brian Johnson, who tested 60 women for the posts. He personally wrote to Miss Murphy to notify her of her success.

Eileen had lived in Streatham since she was a few months old, when the family came to live in Mindaroo, a large house in Garrads Road. After spending her school days at a Brighton boarding school, she went to the Guildhall School of Music, and then graduated to the theatre.

Before commentating for the Coronation broadcasts, Eileen had appeared on several BBC programmes, such as *In Town Tonight* and *Variety Bandbox*.

Streatham was also proud to boast that four of the choristers who sang in the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey came from our town. They were all members of the Westminster Special Choir assembled for the occasion and also sang in the choirs of St. Leonard's, St. Margaret's and St. Alban's Churches in Streatham.

Edward Dixon and David Crawford both of New Park Road, stood in the Abbey's choir stalls on Coronation Day as representatives from St. Margaret's Church, Streatham Hill. A third chorister from the church, Bryan Barton of Lydhurst Avenue, was selected as one of the seven reserves for the choir. Neville Armstrong of Staplefield Close, Streatham Hill, was the winning entrant from St. Leonard's. He was trained by Choirmaster Mr A M Stacey. David Rands of Mitcham Lane made up the Streatham Quartet. He sang in the choir at St. Alban's Church. Their success came after intensive training by the choirmasters, and each boy had seven rehearsals at St. Margaret's Westminster before the final audition was held. After this there were three large-scale rehearsals in Westminster Abbey and each chorister had a 183-page programme of music they had to sing in the Abbey.

On the day of the Coronation, children from local Streatham Schools and youth groups, such as the Scouts, Girl Guides and the Boys' and Girls' Brigades, journeyed to London to line the Coronation route to cheer the Queen on her way to and from the Abbey.

Meanwhile, in Streatham, numerous street parties were organised to celebrate the occasion with the highlight of local celebrations being the lighting of a huge bonfire on the top of Streatham Common. The excitement of the evening was captured in the account of the occasion that was published in that week's *Streatham News* which reported that:



Leverson Street Coronation Party

“... a fiery pillar on the upper slope of Streatham Common on Coronation night proclaimed the crowning of a Queen. The firing of the Rover Scouts' beacon at 10pm was witnessed by 4 or 5 thousand people who defied drizzle and a chill wind to line the palings around the site. This ancient method of transmitting tidings was revived not only in Streatham, as the beacon on the Common was just one link in a country-wide chain of bonfires.

‘Fifteen minutes after a flaming torch had been pushed into the 20ft mound of

timber which had been kept dry during the day by a tarpaulin, an answering glow was seen far away across the roof-tops at Pollards Hill.

'The celebrations began at 8pm. The spirit of the crowd was raised by community singing. 20 Jamaican army cadets, not the least fatigued after day catching a glimpse of the Coronation procession in London, executed an amiable calypso. They stayed to see the beacon firing and then quickly scurried off to cover when unaccustomed raindrops began pattering on their heads.

'The speeches of the Prime Minister and the Queen were relayed, and the entertainment from the concert party platform was concluded by three cub mistresses who performed a jig, a Scottish reel, and the hornpipe.

'The arrival of the Boys' Brigade Band followed by 25 torchbearers heralded the time for the beacon firing ceremony. Up Streatham Common North marched the column, the torches giving off the appearance of a pagan ritual. Streatham Alderman A E Carr thrust home the fire torch while signal rockets were sent aloft. A wave of cheering rolled through the crowd as the first flames licked around the 7-ton pile.

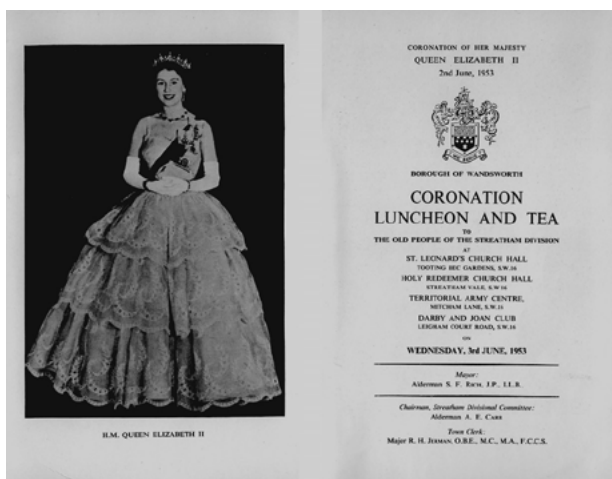
'Children were hoisted onto parents' shoulders to gain a better view of the ceremony and to protect them from the excitement cause by youths who tossed crackers between the legs of the crowd. Within 20 minutes of ignition, the beacon was shooting flames 50 ft into the air and warming faces 45ft away.

'At 10.30pm, the Scouts brought the official festivities to an end. As they sang "God save our Gracious Queen", the anthem was taken up by the crowd on the Common and on the roadway.

'Now the central structure of the beacon, firmly built to prevent the whole from toppling over, was burning fiercely. By 11.30pm it was reduced to a gigantic

mound of glowing embers. The sightseers began drifting away, but one who had to remain for a while yet was Rover Scout Assistant Commissioner Mr Pip Rands who had undertaken to see the fire safe before leaving it unattended."

In addition to all these festivities Wandsworth Council organised four Coronation Lunches and Teas which were



held on the 3rd of June at St. Leonard's Church Hall, the Holy Redeemer Church Hall in Streatham Vale, the Territorial Army Centre in Mitcham Lane and the Darby and Joan Club in Leigham Court Road

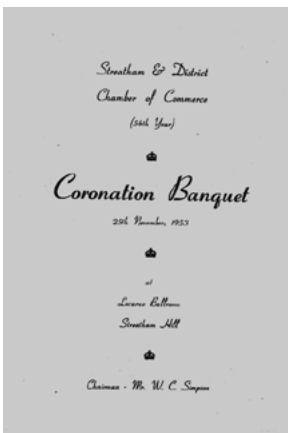
Another highlight of Streatham's Coronation celebrations occurred when the newly crowned Queen and Prince Philip undertook a special drive (*right*) through London in an open car, when the High Road and Streatham Hill were lined with well-wishers that afternoon eager to get their first glimpse of their new monarch at what was heralded as the start of a second Elizabethan Age for the country.



Various festivities associated with the Coronation continued over the following months and climaxed with a grand Coronation Banquet held at the Locarno Dance Hall in Streatham Hill on November 25th (*left*) organised by the Streatham Chamber of Commerce at which no less than four bands entertained the hundreds of diners and dancers who attended the event (*below*).



Decorations on Streatham Hill Station



John W Brown

REMEMBERING THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE IN 1977



It's 1977 and I am sitting at my desk in the office of the Government of Western Australia in London. The phone rings and I receive urgent instructions to gather colleagues and rush down to Buckingham Palace to help convey Western Australia's greetings on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Piling into a taxi we speed down the Strand on our way to the Palace where we are directed to the terrace at the rear of the building where colleagues are struggling to assemble the world's largest Jubilee greetings card to the Queen.

This takes the form of numerous panels measuring 8ft tall by 4ft wide which are hooked and slotted together to form a long concertina of panels each of which have been covered in messages and pictures of goodwill from school children and other organisations from towns all over the million square miles of Western Australia.

Each panel has different greetings on the front and back and have to be assembled in alphabetical order of the origins of the greetings which come from various places in the State from Albany in the South West to York in the heart of the wheatbelt.

The problem is it is a windy afternoon and as soon as several panels are linked together, they begin to sway dangerously in the breeze and keep toppling over. The panels are not very heavy comprising just sheets of brightly painted hard-board fixed to the front and back of a lightweight wooden frame.

Should they have been assembled in the Throne Room or Ballroom of the Palace there would be no problem, but someone of a higher paygrade than I arranged

for them to be set up on the terrace where they are at the mercy of the occasional gust of wind.

Assisted by members of the Palace staff we eventually link all the panels together in the correct order and placed at strategic points behind the panels we grasp the linking points and use our bodies to stop the panels toppling over.

Then, at the appointed time, I can see between the small gap of the two panels I was supporting the Queen emerg-

ing through the French windows at the back of the Palace and in company with the Agent General for Western Australia and the Australian High Commissioner, they slowly make their way towards the Silver Jubilee Greetings boards.

The Queen is carrying a black handbag over her arm, smiling broadly, and chatting to her companions. As she passes the panels behind which I am hiding I can hear her recalling the time she visited Western Australia on one of her Royal visits to the State and then she passes from my hearing.

When the Royal party reaches the end of the line, they move to the edge of the terrace to admire the garden while, under supervision, my colleagues and I, one by one, move to take up our positions on the other side of the panels and the Queen's inspection of the greetings then continues along the rear of the boards.

Once the Royal party have returned to the Palace, we can all relax and in sequence the panels are unhooked and returned to the large packing cases in which they arrived which had been carefully hidden, out of sight, at the far end of the terrace.

Our job done, my colleagues and I return to the office to toast the success of the afternoon with a can or two of Swan lager, the beverage of choice in Western Australia.

At the time, I thought it would be a day I would remember for the rest of my life but, 45 years later, now the rest of my life is rapidly shrinking, my memories of the occasion are a little vague. However, I do remember the massive Urns which stood on top of the terrace wall and of gripping my panels for all I was worth in



Western Australia's Coat of Arms



fear I would lose my hold on them and the huge boards would topple over. I could see the headlines in the Evening Standard reporting the injury, or even the death, of the Queen and accompanying Australian diplomats as the Jubilee greetings of Western Australian school children fell on the Royal party.

Fortunately, my worst fears were not realised, and all went well that afternoon without any major mishaps and the Queen has lived on to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee almost half a century later.

JWB

BYGONE STREATHAM

I was just reminiscing with my daughter on Streatham as it was through the 1930s - 1960s, when it struck me that “Streatham – the Halcyon Days” would make a very interesting talk, for which John Brown will almost certainly have a wealth of data in his archives: and which has most probably been used for similar presentations in the past.

My own recollections from 1950 (apart from short period in later 1930s) focused on those halcyon days when Pratts was at its height, we had a double fronted Waitrose among the shops across the road and along where police station is on the corner, with Wetherspoons a few doors along. And a smart Russell and Bromley shoe store. Also, three cinemas (actually four further back), a beautiful, live performing theatre, dance hall/night club, and bowling alleys. How an area rose to the sublime only to fall to the level it's at (and from which, sadly, it's never likely to recover).

A classic example perhaps of the demise of the High Street as used to be. All triggered by Pratts' failure to get the planning permission it sought for construction of new store: though one might also well wonder what might have been the effect of events of the last decade or so, and changes in shopping habits, if the intended new store had gone ahead. John Lewis itself is no longer the happy success story and darling of the high street that it once was.

Much is to be said of the 1950's: especially of its peaceful and gentle lifestyle as we emerged from the dark and difficult war years and continued food and clothing rationing. And, in my case, the excitement and joy of just getting married as 1951 drew to a close, with the joy and happiness that the Festival of Britain of that year brought to so many, with pretty well the whole nation flocking to the South Bank to see the wonders that creativity and inventiveness had created; and Battersea Pleasure Gardens – just for fun and pleasure. And to visit the newly built Festival Hall

A world away from the hustle and bustle, super-quick pace and time-for-nobody of today: thanks (if that's an appropriate expression in context) also to even greater creativity and wonders of science.

I have been combing through old photos (not so plentiful in the 1950s with Brownie cameras, than today's abundance through mobile devices), hoping to find something that had my late wife (Sheila) and me in it plus something associated with Festival of Britain 1951. But, alas, nothing!

So attached is photo of the two of us on our wedding day 1951. My suit was "made to measure" from what was then "Fifty-shilling Tailors" and Sheila's dress was made up with aid of clothing coupons (then still in use from war days).

*Sheila and Frank Purdy
Wedding photo 1951*



Frank Purdy

Married in 1951, Frank must be in his 90s. I hope this inspires others to contribute their memories of Streatham to print.

FIRST LAMBETH TOUR GUIDES - PUBLICISING OUR PAST

Congratulations to the first graduates of the Lambeth Tour Guide course at Morley College. Well done to three Streatham Society members Roger Wates, Robert Hardy and Maureen Taroni. We look forward to publicising their events.

They join long established London tour guides Society members Barbara Wright and Helen Long

Are you interested in becoming a Lambeth guide and spreading the word about the borough's fantastic history and diversity? See course tutor (and Streatham Society member) Chris Everett's website www.lambethtourguides.com



*Awards Presentation at Lambeth Town Hall by
Mayor of Lambeth Cllr Pauline George (Photo MB)*

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

At last, after two years of interruptions with the pandemic we are finally able to return some form of normality. I am therefore, delighted to report that our return to in-person talks has been a great success. Our decision to move to St Leonard's Church has given us the space to welcome more people into a comfortable and safe environment. Everyone can now see the screen; our tea and other refreshments are better organised and the addition of being able to offer visitors and members a glass of wine has added to a more convivial atmosphere.

Since our return to in-person talks in September, we have had a broad and varied range of interesting speakers covering such topics as the Brookwood Necropolis Railway, Streatham and Brixton Chess Club, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and more, right up to our recent talk on the painter Evacustes Phipson and his Croydon paintings. I would like to thank all our speakers for delivering our exciting and varied programme of talks

In the same month we participated in the Lambeth Heritage Festival which is organised by Lambeth Archives and Lambeth Local History Forum. We had a presence at the Lambeth Local History Fair which was held at St. Mark's Church in Kennington. We had our own bookstall which had many Streatham Society publications on display. After two years of Covid restrictions it was uplifting to see these events were well attended and to see friends again.

Also, in September there was an open day at Conyer's Road Pumping Station which was hosted by Thames Water and the Streatham Society. Tours of the grounds of Henry Tate's estate have also been well attended as was the tour of West Norwood Cemetery by Bob Flanagan looking at the graves and monuments of former Streatham residents. These were yet further opportunity to be able to show how active The Streatham Society is in the community

Earlier in the year we contributed a range of events for the Wandsworth Heritage Festival event which included the very popular tours of St Leonard's Church by John Brown and a walk through Furzedown by Helen Long. We also remained active with monthly Zoom talks when we were not able to meet in-person.

Thanks go out to the volunteers who helped on the days. Without our volunteers we would find it very difficult to cover such a wide range of events, however we are always looking for more volunteers so please join us and come along and see the fun you can have!

Our membership is growing. In the first four month of the year, we had a higher than usual number of new members join. This is maybe because of our active Facebook page and website. Our presence on social media has grown and across all platforms we have a staggering 6k followers

In our publications we stock approximately 60 titles which are available to purchase from our website

Overall, the Society is financially in very a very good state and is growing and gently adapting to changes and new ideas We are so lucky to have such a strong group of volunteers committed to our aims and the work needed to keep the Society alive, therefore at this point i would like to give a particular thank you to hard working committee members who are:

Mark Bery our Secretary is fantastic! He has helped us to move forward and is dynamic, enthusiastic, and full of energy. He works hard to keep up with events and change and is a delight to work with, is passionate about everything, especially the Streatham Society

Judy Harris, Newsletter Editor, Membership and Publications. Judy is the backbone of the Society, and we would be lost without her. She almost single-handedly produces the Streatham Society newsletter which really is amazing. Please keep sending interesting articles to help her fill the pages!!

Thanks for all their hard work goes to Robert Doyle, Russell Henman and Liz Burton who has done a great job and will be stepping down as Treasurer. I am very pleased Liz will remain a trustee.

A special thank you this year goes to Janis Benson, who has been responsible for our bookstall and is now retiring from the committee after 20 years of loyal service. During that time, Janis has been involved in all aspects of the Society and I am delighted she will remain a member. We send Janis our love and best wishes and look forward to seeing her at future meetings.

Finally, I cannot end this report without thanking and mentioning a very special person, John Brown, "Mr Streatham", who deals with Local History, Family History, Planning Enquiries and is the author of numerous books. Although not a committee member he is one of our most active supporters; always helpful, kind and very generous with sharing his knowledge of local history.

I am sure that all our members will be waiting in anticipation of our planned events for the year ahead

Shea Richardson, Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2022

GENERAL ACCOUNT	2022	2021
Income		
<i>Notes</i>		
Subscriptions	£ 3,824.83	£ 670.00
1 Donations	£ 656.98	£ 212.20
Raffles	£ -	£ -
2 Refreshments	£ 317.47	£ -
3 Publications	£ 5,443.18	£ 1,695.95
4 Bank Interest	£ 247.34	£ 251.05
Cash in hand	£ 31.00	£ 51.00
Repayment of float	£ 26.00	£ -
	<u>£10,546.80</u>	<u>£ 2,880.20</u>
Expenditure		
<i>Notes</i>		
Affiliation fees	£ 48.00	£ 48.00
Donations	£ 558.70	£ 1,670.00
Speakers' fees	£ 210.00	£ 180.00
Publications	£ 120.00	£ 1,574.00
Printing, postage, stationery	£ 2,170.64	£ 1,668.18
Insurance	£ 75.00	£ 75.00
5 Room hire	£ 450.00	£ 750.00
6 Technology	£ 454.13	
Refreshments	£ 163.80	
Miscellaneous	£ 154.00	£ 321.72
	<u>£ 4,404.27</u>	<u>£ 6,286.90</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	£ 6,142.53	(£3,406)
CURRENT ASSETS		
<i>Notes</i>		
RBS account	£ 30.03	£ 44.84
Cash in hand	£ 31.00	£ 51.00
Lloyds current account	£23,183.54	£17,243.35
Lloyds deposit account	£15,554.12	£15,554.12
	<u>£38,798.69</u>	<u>£32,893.31</u>

Notes: these were explained in the full Treasurer's Report at the AGM. A copy of this can be obtained on application to the Treasurer.

INCOME COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS (Less bank interest)

Income Stream	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Donations	£656.98	£212.20	£476.10	£1,316.00	£783.00
Subscriptions	£2,099.83	£670.00	£2,870.00	£2,425.00	£3,040.00
Raffles	£0	£0	£528.70	£426.00	£465.00
Refreshments	£317.47	£0	£470.00	£266.00	£460.00
Publications	<u>£5,443.18</u>	<u>£1,695.95</u>	<u>£3,313.90</u>	<u>£1,719.00</u>	<u>£1,923.00</u>
	<u>£8,517.46</u>	<u>£2,578.15</u>	<u>£7,658.70</u>	<u>£6,152.00</u>	<u>£6,671.00</u>

Gift Aid: A retrospective claim has been submitted

Management of Assets: It is the Streatham Society's policy to take the full cost of assets on acquisition

Other: I am sorry to report that we have still not managed to close the RBS bank account. This is however, our overall aim.

Our Lloyd's deposit account holds **£15,554.12** which was invested for three years and matured on April 19th, 2022. We have re-invested it for a further two years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- The Committee and Mark in particular for their support in these difficult times.
- Judy for maintaining excellent records of all income for subscriptions, publications and donations.
- Nick Cattermole for the meticulous work he has put into examining the accounts.
- Our in-house speakers who have given excellent talks at no cost to the Society.

Liz Burton, Treasurer, May 9th 2022

NEW TRUSTEES

At the AGM we welcomed three new Trustees:

Nick Cattermole, a Life member of the Society, who becomes our new Treasurer Dan Fieller and Tim Whitaker, both already active Society members.

Tim is assembling a Planning sub-group with far-reaching targets. Dan is to join the Talks Planning sub-group and is also interested in planning matters.

Unusually, we haven't yet had any female volunteers ...

Since our AGM our retiring Treasurer, Liz Burton, has also resigned as a Trustee to devote more time to her other interests. Happily she remains a volunteer for some of our bookstall events.

JH

PRESENTATION TO JANIS BENSON



*Shea Richardson (Chair), Janis
and Marion Gower at our bookstall*

Following the AGM reports a special presentation and appreciation were made to retiring trustee Janis Benson.

For 20 years she has been a very active volunteer: organising bookstalls, taking minutes, contacting speakers to check their details and helping at nearly all events.

Janis first joined the Streatham Society in 1979, almost 44 years ago, just 4 years after our first member. What a record! Thankyou, Janis.

VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR BOOKSTALL NEEDED

Our bookstalls at meetings and events are our main source of publications' sales. We desperately need more volunteers to organise and commit to a team. Past experience shows that couples or two friends are particularly welcome!

If you'd like to join the team or try it out, both at our meetings in St. Leonard's Church and at our advertised events, please contact our secretary Mark Bery (well in advance of an event). John Brown can also advise at St Leonard's.

In addition we need back-up offers from car owners to transport our table, banner, gazebo and stock to venues when Mark and his car are unavailable.

RECENT MEETINGS AND EVENTS not listed elsewhere

Meetings

May 1 *Evacustes Phipson and his Croydon paintings* by John Hickman and Carole Roberts - c.45 attended this return visit to showing part of a wonderful archive collection. John later mounted an excellent display in the Stanley Hall.

June 7 *Streatham Ice Rink - The Early Years 1931-46*. Following the AGM Saki Hajnal spoke to a packed meeting. A combination of an evocative subject, being part of the Wandsworth Heritage Festival and unrestricted access attracted almost 100 people. Only Beryl Bainbridge's talk on her book *According to Queeney* in 2022 (just) exceeded this.

This was an excellent presentation; Streatham Ice Rink from 1946-2022 would make a brilliant follow-up if there's anyone who can research and present as competently as Saki.

July 5 *Bygone Streatham* - John W Brown introduced to his latest book: *Bygone Streatham High Road and Streatham Hill in Old Picture Postcards*. This attracted c.60 members and visitors. His talk and good book sales made a most enjoyable and informative evening. The book is on sale on our website and book stalls.

Events

Sun May 29 *Tours of the grounds of Park Hill - Sir Henry Tate's House in Streatham*. This was also for Lambeth's Local History Walks and Wandsworth Festival programmes.

Three tours were fully booked but leader of two, Robert Doyle, tested Covid-positive, resulting in last-minute reorganisation by Mark Bery. John W Brown doubled his tour and Judy Harris led a U3A group. It was lovely weather and despite the problems our visitors were most appreciative.

Mon June 6 *St Leonard's Church and Crypt - a guided tour* by John W Brown, also for Lambeth History Walks and the Wandsworth Festival. John's Local History Publications and the Streatham Society provided a bookstall for the fully booked tour.

Sat 11 June *Sport & Recreation on Tooting Common* - a new Streatham Society guided walk led by Robert Doyle, also for the Wandsworth Heritage Festival.

Sun 12 June Streatham Society members Martin & Jane Cook opened their lovely garden in Leigham Court Road for the NGS programme. They raised a magnificent £800 from a pleasing number of visitors for their chosen charity.

Just a few of the many Streatham events held recently ... and more to come!

JH

MEMBERSHIP 2022

Thank you! We now have 280 paid members - heading for our target 300.

New members: We welcome Freda Graham, Sarah Blakeney, Kevin & Eileen Langley, David & Helen Webb, Andrew Johnson, Mary Tschiersch, June Arrol, John Spouge. We are also pleased to welcome back others whose membership had lapsed. We hope they enjoy our events and publications.

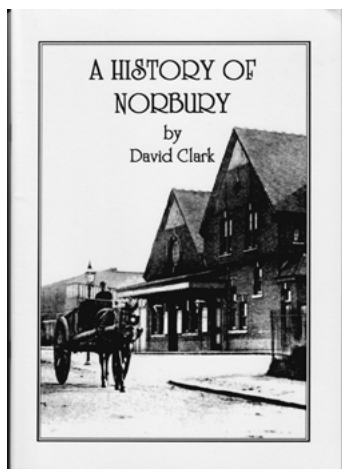
Bank details: Please note - our account is with Lloyd's, Bank not as previously.

Membership details are on our website or by application to me (*See back page*).

Facebook: We now have over 3,100 FB members. This does not include those who can access the public site without logging in. Thanks to our energetic secretary Mark Bery and his enthusiastic band of followers.

Judy Harris

DAVID CLARK



We were so sorry to hear of the recent death on May 22nd of member and local historian, David Clark. We offer condolences to his wife, Linda, and their family.

David was Norbury's historian, volunteer at the Cancer Research charity shop and keeper of the raised planting bed at the closed entrance to Norbury Station. He kept the Cancer Research second hand books cases filled at the Station office and, until ended by Covid, at the NatWest Bank and the Station platform café. He also dabbled in local issues.

For many years David collected Edwardian postcard images of Norbury. Sandwiched between Croydon and the well-documented Streatham, he realised there was a market for publicising his extensive collection.

In July 2019 David and Sean Creighton set up the Norbury History Group. This was an informal group to promote a greater awareness of Norbury's heritage, encourage research into its past, offer talks and walks, and advise on local heritage projects.

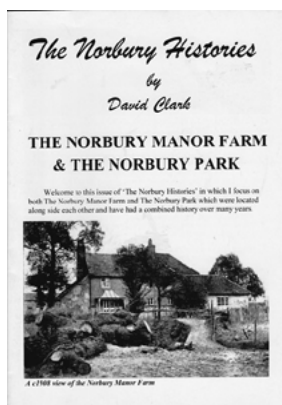
Using his postcards to illustrate, David published his *History of Norbury*, the *Norbury Chronicle* (planned 3 or 4 issues annually), and a chronological series *The Norbury Histories*. Sold by Sean and David and a local newsagent, all proved very popular. But the pandemic cut short his talks then his untimely death halted publications.

Fortunately his hard work and enthusiasm resulted in most of his cards being used in his publications. These are his legacy to local history.

He will be greatly missed.

On Tuesday 1st November at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church his friend and fellow local historian, Michael Gilbert, will give a talk to the Streatham Society in tribute.

All are welcome.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

S.E.19 - MY LONDON LIFE 1937-63

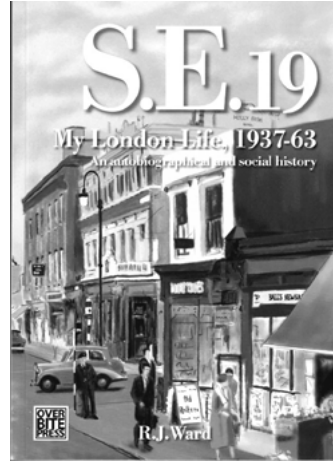
An autobiographical and social history by R.J. Ward

Professor Roger Ward kindly sent us a complimentary copy of his very attractive and informative book.

He writes, “Although titled SE19 you will find in it many links with West Norwood, where my maternal grandmother’s family lived, and with Streatham.

‘I was baptised at St Leonard’s Church, my family’s graves are in Streatham Cemetery, I taught at Battersea Grammar School from 1961-3 and played football for the Old Grammarians. Many echoes, I suspect, for your members!’

He attended St Joseph’s RC Primary School, Crown Dale.



Roger’s educational career has embraced schools, colleges, polytechnic and universities. He has published other biographical history books, advertised online. He concurs with Disraeli, who declared, “Read no history: nothing but biography, for that is without theory”. He now lives in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

A book review by Dr. Trevor James appeared in the Mid-Trent Historian in May 2022. He described the book as “deeply personal, written to describe and explain Roger Ward’s early life in Upper Norwood for his children.

‘...He takes us back to a time when children of working-class families were beginning to take their places at grammar schools - in his case Archbishop Tenison’s near The Oval - and how such experiences began to change people’s horizons, assisted in later stages by access to grants to allow them to enter higher education. In Roger’s case this led him into an academic link at Queen Mary College with Professor S.T. Bindoff, whose mentoring helped Roger develop his later academic career. Many of us will empathise with his experience as we have similarly progressed through parallel circumstances and received similar academic mentoring. This process has shaped our modern world.

‘For anyone familiar with the suburban landscape of Upper Norwood, this book will equally be something of a primary source because Roger gives some substance to the lives of people who lived in that neighbourhood. Those of us who

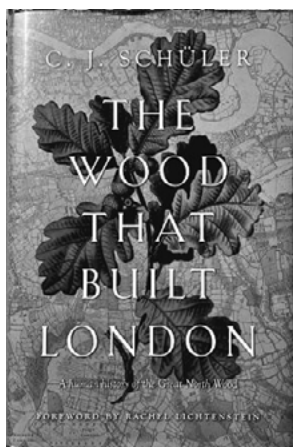
lived further south on the lower reaches of Norwood shared their interest in the fate of Crystal Palace Football Club at Selhurst Park, which has been a lifelong commitment for Roger.

‘There is a poignance to this book because it covers his life before he embarked on his distinguished career as an historian in, and of, Birmingham, and his long marriage to his beloved wife Robin, who died in 2014...’

The book (A5 226 pages, illustrated) is published by Over Bite Press ISBN 978-1-915292-39-1. It is well worth the price of £10.

It is obtainable by contacting Roger Ward by letter, phone or email: Professor Roger Ward, 8 Greville Drive, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UU phone: 0121 440 1426 email: rjandward@gmail.com

THE WOOD THAT BUILT LONDON - A human story of the Great North Wood by C.J. Schüler. ISBN: 978-1-913207-49-6. RPR £15 illustrated 325pp www.sandstonepress.com



The author, C.J. Schüler, has given several local talks to promote his substantial, fascinating and well-researched book. He gave a well-attended presentation to the Norwood Society on June 16 and another two days later on Streatham Common at the Great North Wood Festival. Here the London Wildlife Trust distributed complimentary copies of their annotated map *The Great North Wood*.

‘It is hard to imagine that the busy townscape of South London was once a great wood, stretching almost seven miles from Croydon to Deptford or that, scattered through the suburbs, from Dulwich to Norwood, a number of oak woodlands have survived since before the Norman Conquest.

These woods were intensively managed for a thousand years, providing timber for construction, furniture and shipbuilding, and charcoal for London’s blacksmiths, kilns and bakeries. Now they afford important green space, a vital habitat for small animals, birds and insects.

Drawing on a wealth of documents, historic maps and environmental evidence, *The Wood That Built London* charts the fortunes of the North Wood from earliest times: its ecology, ownership, management, and the gradual encroachment of the metropolis.’

There are colour photographs, early maps and a comprehensive index. Reference to our area includes quotations from the late Betty Griffin’s book *Biggin Wood, Norbury* (available by order and from our website).

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Open Garden 10 Streatham Common South SW16 *Sun 28 Aug 2-6pm*

Adm £5 (children free) Light refreshments. Lindy & Mark Cuncliffe.

This garden featured in Streatham Society News 246 Autumn 2021

Lambeth Horticultural Society's Summer Show St Luke's Church SE27

Saturday 10 September 2-5pm Their trading hut near Crown Point is open

Sats 2-4.30pm & Suns 10-12.30pm. Members only but visit and join there.

London Open House & Open City Festival *September 8-21*

See: open-city.org.uk

Kite Day *Sunday 11 September* 11am-4pm Lower Common

Friends of Streatham Common

Streatham Festival 7-16 October Programme includes Streatham Literary, Local History and Arts and other events for all.

London Tours Member Barbara Wright's programme continues: see <https://londonguidedwalks.uk/walks-calendar.php>

Local History Walks in South London 2022-2023

Programme from: lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk and local libraries

Streatham Choral sing Brahms' Requiem *Sat 12 November 7.30-9.30 pm*

St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Rd, Streatham

Streatham Choral Christmas Concerts *Sat 17 December 3-5pm & 7.30-9.30*

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

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES RUN London to Brighton Sunday 8 May

Finally ... we were delighted to see the revival of the run from Crystal Palace to Brighton. It skirted Streatham Common, then through Norbury on to Brighton.



(FB Photos Ian Grimley)

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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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