

STREATTHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 227 Winter 2016/17



New Business for an Edwardian Building in Drewstead Road
(See p.3)

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

150 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY - The South London Press

Talk, Hannah Walker

Monday 6th March 8pm

SECRET UNDERGROUND LONDON - Closed tube stations, bunkers and catacombs

Talk, Nick Catford

Monday 20th March 8pm

LONDON IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR - How ordinary Londoners were affected

Talk, David Evans

Monday 3rd April 8pm

ZEPPELINS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR from the Streatham Raid to East Africa

Talk, Allen Brown

Monday 17th April 8pm

EPHEMERA, COLLECTABLES AND ANTIQUES

Members' contributions

Monday 1st May 8pm

PLANNING FOR YESTERDAY - Celebrating Town Planning Heritage

Talk, Professor Lester Hillman

Monday 15th May 8pm

HENRY TATE GARDENS TOURS

Meet main gates - Streatham Common North, close Leigham Court Rd

Sunday 28th May 2pm & 3pm

BYGONE STREATHAM

Talk, John Brown

Monday 5th June 8pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Review of Society's Year

Monday 19th June 8pm

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

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

STREATHAM NEWS

STOP PRESS - M&S COMES TO STREATHAM

The future of the former Morrison's supermarket, next to Streatham Station, has been in some doubt since the store closed. Rumours as to possible occupants of the building have ranged from TKMaxx through to Aldi. However a recent planning application for signage for the building suggests it is to become an M&S Foodhall. The planning application makes no specific mention of the store other than the name being featured on the proposed signage for the building on the forms being lodged by a Mr Coleman.

It is not clear if this M&S Foodhall outlet is in addition to the one planned as part of the Megabowl development at Streatham Hill, or in place of it and at the time of going to press we have been unable to obtain clarification from M&S.

John W Brown

A gym is advertised as about to open in part of these premises - Ed

ESTATE OFFICE COFFEE

Further to my article in the last edition of the Streatham Society News, concerning the attractive little building at 1 Drewstead Road, Streatham Hill, I am pleased to advise that a new coffee shop opened there in mid-October 2016. Called Estate Office Coffee, the business is run by two friends, Joe Thomas, of Levenson Street in Streatham, and his business partner Clark.

Although the building is small, there is room inside for tables at which patrons can enjoy their refreshment. A small counter is large enough to display a wide selection of delicious cakes and pastries to accompany the variety of different types of coffee on offer. These mouth-watering treats are competitively priced so that a large cup of beverage and a tasty cake can be enjoyed at a modest cost whilst soaking up the unique ambience of what must be one of the smallest shops in Streatham. Takeaway orders are also welcome so that for the upwardly mobile Streatham resident they can stride from the establishment holding a handsome beaker depicting the shop's attractive logo of a drawing of this unique building for all to see. Enjoy!

JWB

John's framed history of the building is displayed on the wall of the shop, just inside the entrance. His article on its history was published in our last issue entitled 'A Small Edwardian Curiosity in Streatham Hill'. (See cover photo) -Ed

CONSERVING OUR PAST

In past News issues, we have featured other of our heritage buildings which have received a new lease of life, although some retain only a façade. The most spectacular is Sainsbury's restoration of the Georgian silk mill at Streatham Common, as detailed in Brian Bloice's booklet 'From Silk Mill to Superstore'. Others include the ABC cinema frontage and foyer transformation to Picture House Interiors (*Issue 223*) and we await the conclusion of the Megabowl development.

Have any members photographs of similar upgrades? Or have you an opinion on the conservation of buildings and façades rather than a modern replacement? Are we preserving the familiar without considering quality or feasibility of use? After all, the Victorians destroyed much of Streatham's early heritage to build 'modern' replacements! Please send me any comments and/or photographs.

The Streatham Society has always monitored new development, tried to preserve what is best, or suggest compromise, but also encouraged the best possible modern design and materials. We try to consider the overall picture. We do not normally comment on domestic housing unless it has a wider impact. Residents objecting to this should do so together with neighbours.

One initiative encouraged by the Society is that significant new buildings or renovations should give suitable recognition of its heritage. The plaque system serves this well; if a blue plaque is not viable, local plaques may be installed, with planning permission. When Streatham Library was renovated and the Leisure Centre built, each recognised its heritage. The library has the bust of its founder, Henry Tate, and the Mark Bennett Hall has an exterior plaque showing its early history and interior tribute to Mayor of Lambeth, Mark Bennett.

One suggestion is that the developers should finance heritage or other displays,





particularly if the development will take some time and be financially rewarding. An example in Brixton is Morley's which has, on the staircase, well-designed panels displaying its history and former local residents of note (*above*).

Also in Brixton, the hording around the new town hall construction site first displayed copies of posters advertising former events (*right*) and now shows children's art work (*p6*).

In October 2016, the Arts Engagement Project, together with Art4Space, worked with students from Jubilee and Sudbourne Primary Schools and Evelyn Grace Academy to explore the concept of modern citizenship. Their ideas, drawings and paintings were adapted by muralist Jade Henry. They now brighten





a boring construction site.

However, visiting Brixton regularly, I have yet to see anyone looking at them.....

Similar projects in Streatham were often organised by a group of volunteers on a small budget. No doubt such funding is increasingly scarce - but developers can afford it.



FAREWELL UNIKOB - AND THANK YOU

After 20 years in Streatham, Unikob (adjacent to the Odeon) closed on December 22nd 2016. This small independent stationers and arts and crafts shop, formerly housed in two shops, finally bowed to market pressure. Its large variety of stock will be missed by many of us.

JH

REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 13th 2016
Albert Carr Gardens, Streatham Common



(Photos Marion Gower)



A large crowd gathered at the Streatham War Memorial for the traditional Armistice Day Service of Remembrance in memory of fallen comrades. The service was led by Imam Ajmal Masroor, the first Imam to do so.

The event was organised by Roger Bowdery, in association with Chuka Umunna MP and the South London Branch of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women.

Many wreaths were laid on behalf of an impressive number of local organisations, too numerous to list here.

On behalf of the Streatham Society, Shea Richardson laid a wreath at the War Memorial and flowers were laid by Robert Doyle at the Civilian Memorial (*below*).

Refreshments were generously provided by Sainsbury's, Streatham Common, in Immanuel & St Andrew's church hall. Assistance was also given by SLR Productions and the 22nd Streatham Scout Group, among others.

It is gratifying to note the increasing number of people who recognise and support the significance of the day.



CHRISTMAS ON THE COMMON

The Friends of Streatham Common held their annual Carols Round the Christmas Tree event and Christmas Party on December 7th, at the bottom of the Common. The evening started at 7pm with mince pies and mulled wine, followed by carol singing. The members' Christmas party was at 8pm in The Bull PH, across the road. As usual, it was a most enjoyable occasion, with good food and good company. The Friends also sold their doggie calendar and new Christmas cards.

This was a special year for John Taylor (84) who was presented a plaque, by the Friends, thanking him for his sixty years of dedication in arranging the crib on Streatham Common (1956 - 2016). He has carefully cleaned, repaired or replaced the crib over the years. The presentation took place on the common on December 3rd.

The tradition of our Christmas crib was initiated by The Knights of St Columba, a charitable organisation based at St Bartholomew's RC Church in Ellison Road. J Albert Steiert and John Taylor undertook the project; John built the original crib and Albert painted it.

A condition to allow the crib stipulated that neither the organisation nor church should be advertised on the structure. This was agreed to as the crib was to advertise the true meaning of Christmas to all. Despite this, in 1985 a section of Lambeth Council objected, citing unjustified criticisms. Fortunately support was received from all local



faith groups, including Hindus and Muslims; thus the crib was saved.

We were delighted when ITN London local news televised the crib and an interview with John Taylor as one of their features to publicise special Christmas decorations. It was broadcast on Thursday 8th December. **JH**



Presentation to John Taylor

(Photos JWB)



WASSAILING IN THE ROOKERY

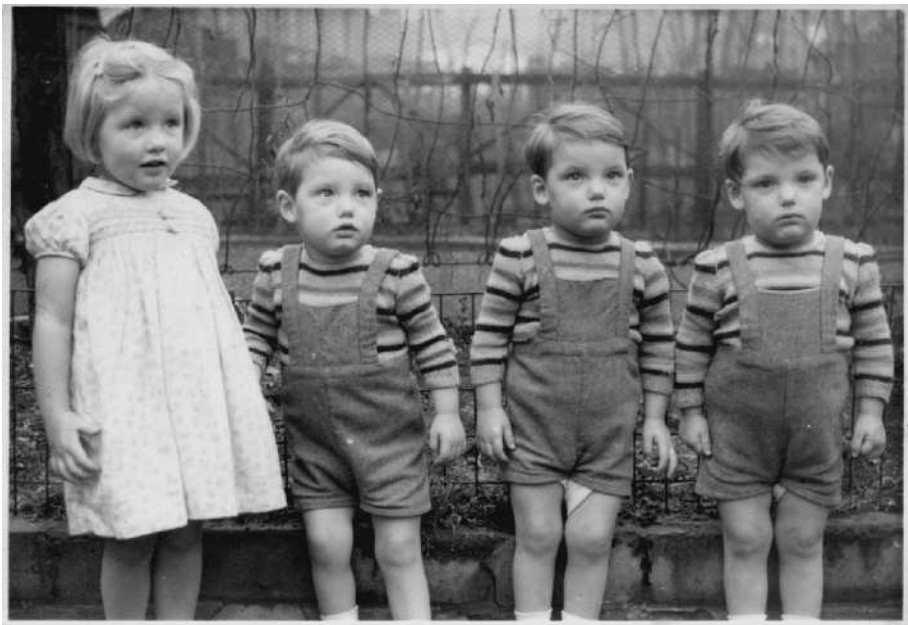
On Sunday 8th January, some fifty people and assorted dogs gathered in the Rookery orchard to bless the trees and welcome the coming spring. We drank cider and were entertained by music and a clog dancer, who danced on a metal tray, while the trees were blessed with pieces of bread soaked in cider.

The Streatham Common Community Garden community hosted the event. Hopefully, in February or early March new trees will be planted in the orchard. Three quinces, bought by the Streatham Society, will commemorate Brian Bloice, our late chairman and local historian who loved the Rookery and the community garden. **JH**



LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

THREE TIMES THE FUN



Pam, Maurice, John and Allen Brown

Over the years I have written numerous items for the Streatham Society magazine, mainly concerning the local history of our town. Ironically, on three separate occasions recently it has been suggested to me that I write an article about something quite different relating to the somewhat unique occurrence of my birth.

It is not every mother who gives birth in the UK that receives the congratulations of the monarch and a cheque to celebrate the occasion. But such was the case with my mother, Alice Mary Magdalene Brown, a humble housewife of Streatham in south west London.

Why then was she singled out for such special treatment when, a year and a day earlier, she had given birth to her first child, my sister Pam, for which no Royal recognition was received? The reason was that on the morning of 18th September 1951 she gave birth to not one, nor two, but to three baby boys - triplets - and for this delivery she qualified for the King's Bounty of a pound a baby for all multiple births of three children or more by women in the UK.

Accordingly, on the 20th October 1951, the King ‘commanded’ the Keeper of the Privy Purse to forward my mother a cheque for three pounds. Many years later, when I asked my mother for the pound the King had sent me when I was born, she replied she had frittered it away on nappies and talcum powder! However, my brothers and I still have the letter from Buckingham Palace which accompanied the payment, together with wonderful memories of a very loving (if somewhat spendthrift) mother to treasure.

The Bounty was introduced by Queen Victoria in 1849 to alleviate the financial hardship caused to poor families who experienced multiple births of triplets. The payment continued until 1957, when it ceased as the welfare state and the national health service, introduced in 1948, had done much to ease the financial burden caused by multiple births. However, the Royal congratulatory letter continued until 1995, by which time multiple births were much more common, mainly due to IVF and other medical treatments.

Be that as it may, some years ago a friend gave me an old clipping from a newspaper published in 1939 concerning Mrs James Burt of Seaton Sluice in Northumberland, then aged 68, who had given birth to three sets of triplets! In addition, she and her husband, had six other children.

To the best of my knowledge, my brothers and I are only the second set of triplets to have been born in Streatham, the first having been baptised in our ancient parish church of St. Leonard on the 29th January 1797 when Robert, Elizabeth and Sarah, the children of Robert and Mary Baker, were christened.

Robert and his family lived in a small wooden cottage in Baker’s Lane, South Streatham. It may be that the lane was named after his family and it is fascinating to speculate that the lane may have adopted the name in celebration of the birth of his triplets.

Previously the lane had been known as Burton’s Lane and Pasture Road as it led to the fields lying on the western side of the High Road opposite Streatham Common. These originally formed part of Burton’s Farm which, in the 1760s, comprised around 95 acres. In 1883 Baker’s



*The Baker Family Grave
St Leonard’s Church*

Lane was renamed Barrow Road in honour of Reuben Vincent Barrow, the then landowner. He was MP for Bermondsey between 1892-95, became the third Mayor of Croydon in 1885, and was a member of the large tanner and leather merchants called Samuel Barrow & Co of Bermondsey and Reigate (Samuel being his brother).

So what are the odds of being born a triplet? According to the Multiple Birth Foundation 1 in 160,000. Around 150 sets of triplets are born each year in the UK; there were 149 sets in 2006 and 148 in 2012. The average such births in the period 1936-1957 were less than half this number at around 70 a year. However, not all triplets born are same sex siblings and of those that are, not all are identical, as is the case with my two brothers and I. To obtain three identical boy triplets therefore lengthens the odds considerably. In 2004, the birth of naturally conceived identical boy triplets took place for the first time in 24 years at Southend Hospital in the UK, the previous occurrence having taken place in the USA in 1980.

So it was that being a special kind of triplet set me on a path of collecting 'triplet' postcards and I should advise that they are almost as rare to find as triplets themselves! The quest is also complicated as, when visiting card fairs, I am almost invariably mistaken for my elder brother, Allen (15 minutes my senior), who is a well-known collector of cricket postcards so I am frequently offered cricketing cards as dealers rarely have triplet cards in stock.

Despite these problems I have amassed a collection of around 150 such cards over the years. The card which started my collection was one that was originally



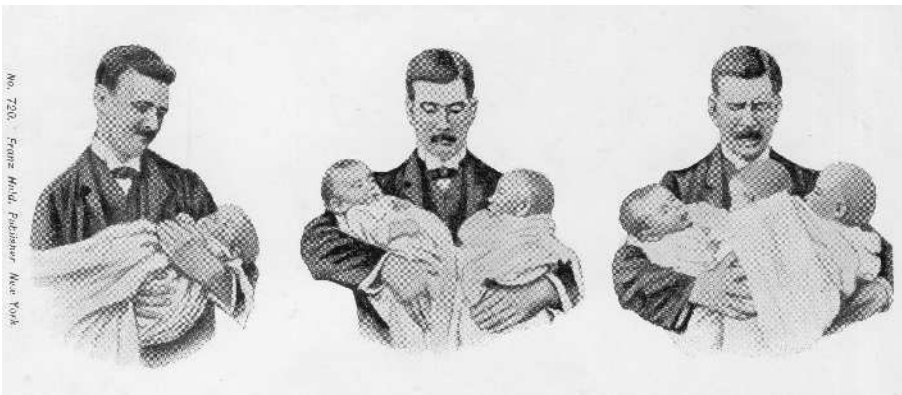
given to my father, Leslie Brown, and for many years this was propped up on the mantelpiece for all to admire. It dates from the early 1900s and features a drawing by C Griffith of a mother in a large bed with her three babies alongside her and her husband entering the bedroom with a bucket of water. The card is captioned: "TRIPLETS! Mr Brown - Which one do you want to keep? ". No doubt a card expressing such sentiments today would be banned by the PC brigade but in 1908, when it was posted, this passed as humour.

Interestingly, the reverse of the card shows that it was sent to Miss M Grumitt of Walpole Cross Keys, Near Lynn in Norfolk, by Maud who mentions in her message, 'I hope you won't be like them on the other side when you get married'.

The father with a bucket of water features on a number of other cards in my collection, although sometimes he is entering the bedroom with two pails.

Another of my favourite triplet cards, aptly with another reference to Mr Brown, was published by Bamforth and shows a nurse showing the distressed father his three babies and advising him, "Your treble chance has come up at last Mr Brown!".

Many of the cards are variations of particular themes relating to a triplet birth. One of the most popular varieties features a father overjoyed to initially learn that his wife has given birth





to a single baby. Then, on learning of the second birth, his joy is slightly muted but on the announcement of triplets his joy turns into despair! Sometimes this theme is illustrated on a single card or each birth is depicted on one of a set

of three cards.



I have several continental triplet cards depicting this theme including one published by G Piprot of Boulogne-sur-Seine in Paris, probably issued during the First World War as it shows a French soldier, firstly holding a single baby with the caption (translated): 'Rejoice'. The centre of the card shows him cuddling two babies with the caption, 'Resignation'. Lastly, the third picture inevitably shows him struggling to carry his triplets with the caption, 'Despair'.

Another favourite theme depicts a mother with her three babies and a distressed father. Sometimes the dad is shown as a small, timid individual, in other cards the father, often a sailor, is depicted as a man of great pride and virility at being able to father three children in one go!

More saucy cards show the mother in bed and her triplets arranged so that their bald heads create the impression of a woman with five breasts.

A 1960s card shows a nurse carrying triplets from the maternity ward out to the

father, a man who looks remarkably like Paul McCartney of the Beatles, who is in the waiting room with a guitar on his lap. The caption reads, 'Daddy-o Your Group has Arrived!'.

Many of the cards in my collection were published in America where, no doubt because of the continent's larger population, the incidence of triplet and multiple births are far greater than in Britain. The Americans also seem to have used triplet images on a number of advertising or trade cards. The earliest of such cards I have probably dates from the 1880s or 90s and shows an excited father being presented with his triplets and asking, "Did any of them get away?". The card was issued by HB Enos, a dealer in watches, clocks and jewellery, pianos, organs and sheet music in Marion, Iowa.

A favourite American triplet theme features storks delivering the babies. One card, published by Roth and Langley of New York in 1910, features one stork carrying two sets of twins and another stork transporting triplets and is captioned, 'Two pair beats three of a kind!'.

Other variations of triplet cards feature the three monkeys of 'Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil' fame.

I know if I was a proper triplet collector I should have three copies of each card in my collection; I should have sent this item to the editor of the Streatham Society's newsletter in triplicate and I should have received three times the payment for it! But we triplets are just like 'normal' people but, as my younger brother Maurice (20 minutes my junior) would say, "Three times the fun!".

John W Brown



A CENTENARY PEAL FOR WILLIAM LEE



St. Leonard's Belfry

On the afternoon of Tuesday 11th October the bells of St. Leonard's Church rung out over Streatham in a special commemorative peal. For the occasion, St. Leonard's welcomed a band of visiting ringers from the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths (SRCY) who rang a peal of Bristol Surprise Major, successfully completing the peal in 2 hours 50 minutes.

The peal was rung in memory of Lance Corporal William Charles Lee of the Suffolk Regiment, who was killed in action on 10th October 1916 during the Battle of the Somme and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. William was a ringer at Immanuel Church, Streatham Common, a member of the SRCY and worked at the Spitalfields Bell Foundry of John Warner & Sons. The peal was organised by Alan Regin who has

carried out extensive research into the lives of bell ringers who died in the First World War and this peal is one of a series commemorating those men.

After the rebuilding of Immanuel Church with a bell tower in 1865, it soon contained a ring of eight bells which were rung regularly for a over a century. The first vicar of Immanuel, the Revd. Stenton Eardley, gave the third bell in the tower and named it the 'Total Abstainer' in connection with his work with the temperance movement in Streatham. For many years the ring of bells at Immanuel were considered superior to the old bells in the tower at the ancient parish church of St. Leonard.

It is more than likely that William Lee would also have rung at St. Leonard's as many of Streatham's bell-ringers rang at other churches as guest ringers or when there was a vacancy for a ringer due to holidays, ill health etc.

After the second world war a large number of prefabricated houses (prefabs) were erected on Streatham Common to provide temporary housing to help replace some of the properties destroyed by bombing in the Second World War. At this time a complaint was made about the noise of the bells to the vicar of Immanuel who promptly stated that he would have them stopped on their Wednes-

day practice if fifty people would sign a protest against them. No such protest was ever received, instead many people expressed their appreciation and pleasure at the sound, including many living close by in the prefabs.

In 1968 concern was expressed about the safety of Immanuel's tower if the bells continued to be rung. Extensive remedial work was needed to solve this problem and, as the parish had other priorities for its limited funds, this could not be undertaken. The bells were subsequently sold to provide additional funds for building the youth centre. They were removed in November 1976 to All Saint's Church, Chelsea,

*Immanuel Bell Tower (right)
and the Removal of Immanuel
Bells to All Saints' Church,
Chelsea, November 1976*



but unfortunately they were not suitable for All Saint's tower as they were and had to be recast.

Extensive research has been unable to locate an address for William Lee in Streatham. He either lodged locally with relatives or friends and as such was not listed in local directories, or he lived outside the parish but rang with friends in the Immanuel tower. Regardless of his place of residence he proudly listed himself as a Streatham ringer and it was wonderful that he was remembered on the centenary of his death by the special peal rung by the SRCY.

**Tony Nunn, Tower Captain of St. Leonard's Church,
and John W Brown, Church Archivist**

THE BIGGEST BURIAL AT STREATHAM CEMETERY

Not being on the internet, or having a telephone, I was fascinated when Robert Doyle showed me the first blog on the Cemetery Club's site on his telephone. Contributed by 'Sam' the blog concerned funerals at Streatham Cemetery in Tooting and in particular that of Hilda Wilson.

The event was one of the last funerals taking place in 1936 when mourners gathered around an enormous grave, 4ft wide and 6ft long and deep, on a bleak, dull New Year's Eve day. Around the grave a special platform had been erected, like a small stage, which was somewhat ironic as the deceased was an unconventional entertainer. This must have been the largest single grave the grave diggers had dug at the cemetery and an additional six cemetery staff members were standing by to help ease the huge coffin into the grave.

What could easily have been billed as the biggest funeral at the cemetery didn't necessarily have a huge crowd of mourners present, just a gathering of the departed's friends and fellow circus performers, for to be interred into this gigantic grave was the body of Mrs. Hilda Wilson, 1936's self-proclaimed 'World's Fat-test Woman'.

By the mid 1930s circus 'freak shows' had lost a great deal of their former appeal with the public; Sam suggesting that this was probably due to the cinema which, in the preceding 25 years, had become adept at entertaining the public with spectacle and the unusual. This trend may have prompted 63-year-old Hilda to seek a new audience in England, journeying here from Berlin a fortnight before her death in order to participate in a Fun Fair staged in London's Haymarket in mid-December 1936.

As a living exhibit at the Fair, Hilda was indeed a huge attraction. Although only 5ft 3ins in height she weighed 46 stone with a waist three yards in circumference. Her late husband, John Wilson, was also of large girth and had been popularly known as 'The English Giant', being a fellow carnival attraction.

Following her arrival in England, Hilda experienced a number of problems, par-

ticularly in travelling in London. Buses and trams were too narrow for her and the normal rail carriages were not large enough to accommodate her and she was forced to travel in the guard's van.

No doubt such problems were familiar to Hilda and she had become used to surmounting them over the years. However her huge weight and size slowly took a toll on her health and, while appearing at the fair in the week before Christmas, she collapsed, never to regain consciousness.

It took eight men to carry Hilda's body to the mortuary where a post mortem examination determined that a pituitary gland disorder was responsible for her size, putting such strain on her 23oz heart that it could no longer support her frame. On her death certificate the cause of death was recorded as 'myocardial degeneration and aedoposis'.

Hilda's final journey to Streatham Cemetery also had its difficulties as she had little money in London as most of her funds were still in Germany and difficult to access over the Christmas and New Year period. However, Hilda's circus family generously contributed towards the cost of her burial and said their final farewells to her at her grave side on a cold and sad day at Streatham cemetery on 31st December 1936.

JWB with acknowledgements to 'Sam'.



Streatham Cemetery Chapel

THE MYSTERY OF BERNINA

Marion and Graham Gower have a well earned reputation for discovering old pictures and paintings of Streatham and some of their antique photographs of the area provided a fascinating collection of old views of the town which Graham showed us at the Streatham Society's first meeting in January 2017.

At Christmas they kindly gave me a small collection of old postcards of the area among which was a view of a large Victorian house in Leigham Court Road, which has subsequently led to the discovery that a former resident of the property was a famous late 19th century footballer.



The postcard, which has a Streatham postmark dated 2nd March 1907, shows a large impressive detached house. To the front of the dwelling is a set of impressive wooden gates through which horse-drawn coaches would pass as they travelled along a small driveway to the entrance of the house. Alongside this is a separate entrance for visitors on foot. To the side and rear of the property, large mature trees can be seen, devoid of leaves, suggesting that the picture was taken sometime during the winter.

The name of the house, *Bernina*, is painted on the coach entrance gates and on the smaller gate can be seen the number 70. Helpfully someone has written on the back of the card, in pencil, Leigham Court Road. A quick examination of the street renumbering files for the road has confirmed the house was located in this road and was known from 1892 as no. 70, then subsequently as no. 80 and then from 1930 as no. 188. The property no longer exists and was demolished to make way for a modern block of flats, which now occupies the site, called Delphian Court.

An examination of local Streatham directories suggests the house was built around 1890, the first occupant being Norman Coles Bailey (*right*), Norman was the son of Edward and Maria Bailey. He was born on 23rd July 1857 and was baptised at Immanuel Church, Streatham Common, on 23rd August.



At the time of his birth Norman's family were living in another large house in Leigham Court Road called *Springfield* (later known as no. 98). This was one of a pair of large detached houses, the other being called *Sunnyside*, later known as *Etherstone*, (no. 96), which were subsequently demolished and Etherstone Road and Springwell Road were laid out on the site. The only part of *Springfield* to survive was the coach house which now stands in Etherstone Road and has been converted into residential use.

Further research is needed to ascertain the date *Springfield* was built but it was in existence in 1855, when the name is detailed in Immanuel Church baptismal registers when, on 18th June, Ethel, the daughter of Edward and Maria Bailey of *Springfield*, Streatham, was christened.

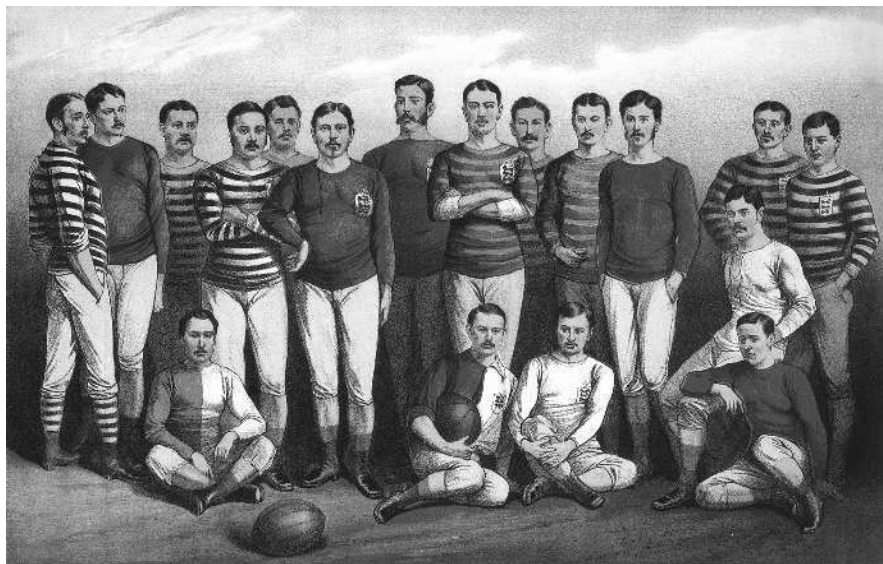
It seems likely that the coach house is of a later date as it is not detailed on the 1861 or 1871 census, nor is it shown on Stanford's map of 1862. However, a small building appears on the site on the Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1870 and published in 1872, suggesting that it originates from this time.

Norman's father, Edward, was born in Marylebone, London c1823. He was the head of the firm of solicitors Bailey, Shaw, Smith and Bailey of Berners Street who managed the London estates of the Duke of Portland. He was an evangelical layman and was instrumental in building the Blackwood Hall in Wells Lane (the present day Wellfield Road).

Edward was a staunch supporter of the work of the Revd. Stenton Eardley of Immanuel Church, Streatham Common, and donated the pulpit at St. Andrew's Church, Guildersfield Road, South Streatham, which was built in the vicar's memory. When Edward died in August 1888 his friends financed the building of the new vestry at Immanuel Church in his memory as a tribute to his work in the parish for over 35 years. A plaque to this effect used to adorn the wall of the church vestry.

Edward's eldest son, and Norman's brother, Edward Horseman Bailey junior, continued to live at *Springfield* after his father's death. He, together with his brothers, Norman and Reginald, followed the profession of their father and became solicitors and worked in the family firm which later was known as Bailey, Shaw and Gillett, which continued to be based at 5 Berners Street, London.

Edward junior was an officer in the 3rd Surrey Rifle Volunteers which were based in Streatham and later became the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. He joined on 6th November 1867, was made an Ensign in 1871; Lieutenant in 1872; Captain in 1877 and Major in 1884. He was appointed an Honorary Lt. Colonel in 1891 and commanded the Battalion between 1893 and 1906. He was made an Honorary Colonel in 1903 and retired from service in 1906. On his retirement he was presented with a photograph album containing pictures of the Streatham detachment and this is currently lodged at the Surrey History Centre in Woking.



1881 England team - Norman Bailey is seated centre, holding the ball

Norman Bailey was educated at Westminster School and in 1880 qualified as a solicitor. However, it was not in the field of law that Norman was to make his mark but as a sportsman where he became a prominent and successful footballer representing England on no less than 19 occasions between 1878 and 1887.

As well as playing football for his school, he was a member of a number of clubs including Clapham Rovers and in 1879 he was in their team which reached the final of the FA Cup, only to be beaten 1-0 to the Old Etonians. However, the following year, 1880, Clapham Rovers, with Norman playing at half-back, won the FA Cup, beating Oxford University 1-0 at Kennington Oval. Norman was described as, 'a very safe half-back with plenty of dash and judgement; he has both strength and pace and never misses his kick'.

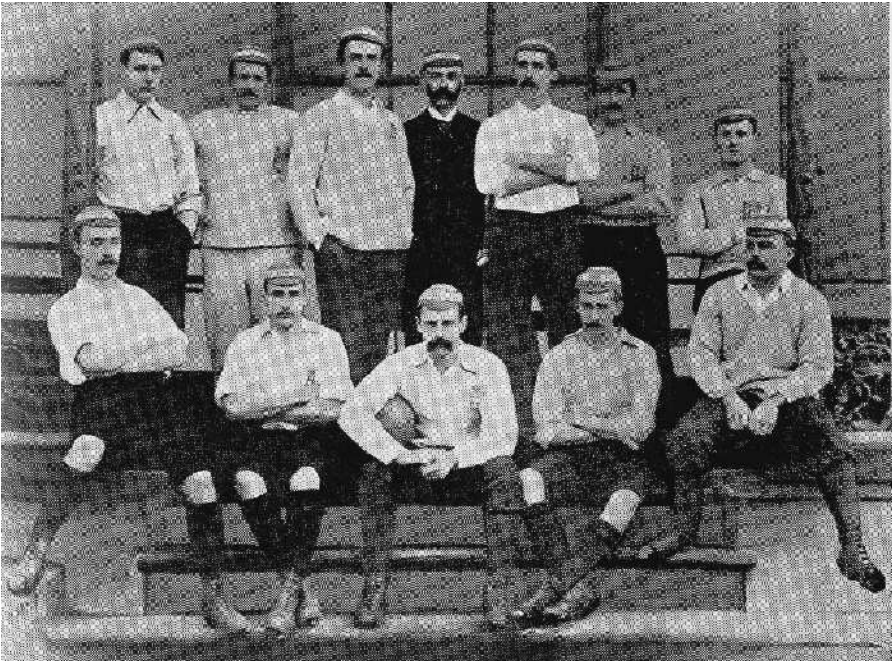
No doubt it was these attributes that led to him being selected on 19 occasions to play for the England team which he captained 15 times during the 10 seasons he

was selected to represent his country. Norman holds the record of being the first player to make more than 10 appearances for England.

As well as playing club football with Clapham Rovers, he also played for South Norwood; the Wanderers; the Swifts and in 1882 was a founder member of the Corinthians and is featured in an old photograph of the club taken at the time of their match against Preston North End in 1887. That same year he became a member of the FA committee on which he served until 1884, subsequently becoming a FA Vice President between 1887-1890, when he resigned as he was unhappy with the growing representation on the FA of directors of professional clubs.

Norman continued to reside at *Bernina* in Leigham Court Road until at least 1900 and died on 13th January 1923 at his then home, *The Beeches*, in Cowley, Middlesex. The postcard of Norman's house at 188 Leigham Court Road is the only image of the property we have and shows the Streatham residence of one of our town's most famous early international footballers, FA Cup winners and a prominent FA official.

John W Brown & Kevin Kelly



*Corinthians v. Preston North End, Kennington Oval, March 12th 1887
Norman Bailey is seated centre, holding the ball*

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Items discussed at recent committee meetings:

- 2017/18 programme in preparation, including heritage events for Wandsworth, Streatham & Lambeth Festivals
- Henry Tate Gardens tours planned Sundays May 28 & September 3
- No meeting Jan 1 2018 as a bank holiday
- Discussion recognised some difficulties managing our 22 meetings, especially refreshments, only missing one after 7 years. It was agreed that refreshments may not always be provided, especially at bank holiday meetings
- John Brown continues to receive a large number of Streatham-related planning applications. Most are for residential conversions. Objections to these should usually be by the residents concerned unless they are of wider significance. John is in the unique position of knowing the history of a site, of any demolished buildings, and of any considerations for the future. He may reply either on behalf of the Society or as a resident. Alterations to the height and external appearance of new buildings are carefully considered. Overall, he judged recent re-submissions acceptable, such as the South London Motors/Kempshott Rd site and another extension in Garrads Rd. John can only be contacted by post (see back page).

MEMBERSHIP 2017

We welcome new members Philip Payne, Richard Jenkinson, Caroline Leveaux, Martin and Richard Holdaway We hope they enjoy their membership.

As usual, I started taking subscriptions for the new year (January) at the last November meeting. The reason for this is that I like to collect as many subscriptions as possible, particularly payments from members attending meetings, before Christmas. January and February are busy months because I have the News to produce and dispatch, the publications stock check and the accounts paying in data to complete a month before the end of the financial year (March 31st). I am therefore very grateful to over 100 members (more than one third!) who paid their 2017 subscription before the reminders were dispatched.

Each January, I receive notes from worried members who have not received a reminder and apologise for their 'late' payment. Don't worry, you are not late. I prefer subscriptions before the end of March, but do not delete non-payers until May, before the AGM in June. Of course, I still accept payments after this, but cannot guarantee a missed News being available. **JH**

EVENTS REPORTS

MEETINGS

Brian Bloice Memorial Lecture - Fifty years of Archaeology in London

During the last half century or so, the amount of archaeology undertaken on Roman sites in London has increased considerably. On November 7th, Harvey Sheldon, Research Fellow, Birkbeck College, University of London, reviewed discoveries and assessed the current state of knowledge and understanding. Harvey, a long-term friend of Brian, gave a fitting tribute to him by outlining his fifty years' contribution to local archaeology and the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. Almost 70 people attended this memorial lecture.

Bankside - A History

On November 21st, Len Reilly, another good friend of Brian, gave a very informed and fascinating account of the history of Bankside. Len works part-time at Lambeth Archives and has spoken to the Streatham Society on several occasions. He met Brian when he was invited to speak to the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society, became a regular speaker and was SLAS president for three years. The Bankside history remains one of his most popular talks.

Members' Christmas Party

Our party on December 5th welcomed almost 60 people. Everyone did as Judy instructed and seemed to enjoy themselves. There was plenty to eat and drink, not too much mess, and the entertainment was just right. Graham Gower produced another very imaginative picture quiz and Allen Brown showed examples of the double entendre book titles from his book collection. Laughter abounded!

Recent Local History Discoveries

On January 2nd, regulars Graham Gower and John Brown gave illustrated talks inspired by their Streatham's heritage collections. Graham showed illustrations and identified the sites of some of Streatham's earliest buildings. John Brown explained why he has been a local historian from birth (*see article p.12*). Their depth of knowledge and ability to convey their enthusiasms is unique.

The Murder at the Priory? - The Death of Charles Bravo in 1876

On January 16th, Helen Long gave a new slant to the continuing mystery surrounding the death of Charles Bravo in April 1876. Was it murder? If so, who did it? Or was it an accident? A lively discussion followed her account. There was no definite conclusion, but Helen's evidence was very convincing and suggested much of the lurid contemporary press reports lacked conviction. Helen has been a member of the Streatham Society for many years. She was a local teacher and since retirement has trained as a Green Badge Guide, touring the City of London, Westminster, Clerkenwell & Islington, St John's Gate and St Paul's Cathedral.

JH

IN MEMORIAM

Brenda Hargreaves 31.03.1927 - 31.01.2017

Brenda died just short of her 90th birthday. She was a founder member of the Streatham Society in 1974 and played a major role in its organisation until ill-health forced her to resign as editor of our newsletter *Pump* in 2009. Tributes to her will be published in the our next News issue.

Her booklet *Wartime Playtimes* will be on sale for a few weeks, at meetings and by order, at a special price of 50p. This tells of her life-long passion for Amateur Dramatics from her teenage years during WWII.

Barbara Woznica 01.03.1946 - 23.01.2017

Barbara chaired the Streatham Society for ten years, from January 1998 until April 2008. During that time, she was responsible for the postal sales of our publications. She also designed and made the Streatham Society lapel badge, engraved with our Dyce Fountain logo. She enjoyed researching local history topics. Although her mind and speech were unaffected by a stroke in 2007, she became increasingly immobile and suffered another stroke leading to her death.

Encouraged by Brian Bloice, she spoke about her Polish background; her talk being entitled, 'The White Eagle has landed'. This will be reprinted in our next issue. She researched the history of Hester and Henry Thrale of Streatham Park, and the Society published her booklet *The Brewer and his Wife*. In tribute, this and our metal badge/lapel pin will be on sale at a special price of £1 each. We send condolences to her three children and five grandchildren.

Stephen Humphrey 1952 - 2016

Stephen, the noted Southwark historian, died unexpectedly in November. He was a regular speaker to the Streatham Society, giving his last talk to us, 'From Hats to Hops', on October 3rd. His funeral was on January 19th at St George's Cathedral, Southwark; several hundred people were present. The Streatham Society was represented by Shea Richardson. I attended as a member of the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society (SLAS) and as Brian Bloice's partner.

Stephen met Brian when he was in his teens and credited him with encouraging his love of archaeology. Following his graduation from Clare College, Cambridge, Stephen returned to SLAS, becoming a prominent member and succeeded Brian in producing the lecture programme. He retired from his job as archivist for Southwark Local Studies Library in 2010 and expanded his writing and lecturing. He wrote for the South London Press and was author of fifteen books and booklets covering Bermondsey, Rotherhithe and the Elephant & Castle.

He was president of the Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society and received the Freedom of the Borough of Southwark in 2010.

JH

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A COFFEE TABLE BOOK ABOUT STREATHAM?

You may think this sounds unlikely but a coffee table book about Streatham will be out in July this year. *The Streatham Sketchbook* will be lavishly illustrated and will present Streatham from unexpected angles. There will be plenty of historical insights but we will break new ground by also featuring aspects of contemporary Streatham.

How will we achieve this? By combining the efforts of a local painter – Jiro Osuga – with those of a local photographer – Torla Evans – alongside those of a London historian/art historian, Mireille Galinou. What they have in common is the Museum of London: Mireille was its former Curator of Paintings Prints and Drawings, Torla its former Head of Photography, while Jiro is represented in the Museum's collection of paintings.

The Streatham Sketchbook comes in the footsteps of *The Dulwich Notebook* published in 2015 by Your London Publishing. *The Dulwich Notebook* is selling well in Dulwich and received excellent reviews in local history societies' journals, including The London Topographical Society:

'*The Dulwich Notebook* is an admirably complete account of Dulwich past and present ... and for a book produced to such high standards its price represents outstanding value.'

Laurence Marsh in *The London Topographical Newsletter*, Spring 2016

However, *The Streatham Sketchbook* will adopt a slightly different approach from that of *The Dulwich Notebook*: it will home in on this area's outstanding contribution to the arts. The volume will pay tribute to the neighbourhood's historic links to many of the capital's key art institutions and will show that some of the same vitality is bubbling under the surface now. We will reveal some of this potential and we think you will be amazed by it!

One of the book's chapters – though not the most representative – has already been designed and a temporary cover too, to help with our Subscription Scheme (not exactly easy to sell a book in an area which has no bookshops). Please visit our website <http://www.yourlondonpublishing.co.uk/> and follow the links to *The Streatham Sketchbook*. We hope some of you will be ready to commit the small sum of £17.99 in advance for a copy of *The Streatham Sketchbook*. Please do this before our April deadline and your name will appear in print in the List of Subscribers at the end of the book.

Mireille Galinou
Your London Publishing



What is the link between this 1910 watercolour of Hyde Park Corner and the life-size portrait of a Streatham resident on the right? The answer is in *The Streatham Sketch-book* ...

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- Sat 25 Streatham Common Winter Bird Walk 9.30am**
 Meet Rookery Café (no dogs, please). Stout shoes and binoculars advised. *Friends of Streatham Common*
- Waterloo Sunset Walk - Lambeth 2pm**
 Tracking the movements of a WWI *Summerstown182* family
 Start St John's Church, Waterloo Rd, before Waterloo Bridge

MARCH

- Sat 11 Women of Summerstown Walk - Tooting/Earlsfield 2pm**
 The effects of war on the women at home. Celebrating Women's History Month. Start St Mary's Church, Wimbledon Rd SW17 *Summerstown182 project*
- Mon 13 Tribute to 'Forgotten Soldier' William Mace 2pm**
 A simple ceremony in Streatham Cemetery, Garratt Lane SW17
 Meet by war memorial *Summerstown182 project*
- Tues 14 Excavations at 25 London Bridge Street 2008-2012 7.30pm**
- An important Roman site close to London Bridge
 Talk, Tony Mackinder (MOLA) 106 The Cut SE1 (almost opp Old Vic)
Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society

Thur 16 Isambard Kingdom Brunel 7.30pm
Talk, Graham Harker Upper Norwood Library,
Westow Hill SE19 *Norwood Society*

Sat 18 The Talfourds 2.30pm
Talk, Prof Michael Slater, Dickens biographer
Chatsworth Baptist Church, Idmiston Rd SE27 (Family Centre entrance)
Friends of West Norwood Cemetery

APRIL

Tues 11 Symposium: A group of short talks on various subjects 7.30pm
by up to four speakers *SLAS*, as above

Thur 20 Exploring the story of time in the 19th & 20th centuries, 7.30pm
through the collection of the Clockworks Museum
Talk, James Nye of the Clockworks Museum, West Norwood
Norwood Society, as above

Sat 22 Tiny Ted's Tooting - Edward Foster, The Dustman V.C. 2pm
Walk, start St Mary's Church, Wimbledon Rd SW17, also visiting
his grave in Streatham Cemetery. *Summerstown182 project*

Fri 28 The First World War Memorial in Summerstown 8pm
and its 182 stories Talk, Geoff Simmons
Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street SW18
Wandsworth Historical Society

MAY

Sun 14 Streatham Common Annual Kite Day 11am - 5pm

Thur 18 Lambeth's Lost Buildings 7.30pm
Edmund Bird, Heritage Advisor to the Mayor of London
Norwood Society, as above

JUNE

Thur 15 The Triangle's Shopping History 7.30pm
Alun Thomas - Crystal Palace Overground Event in conjunction
with the Norwood Society Triangle Shops project
Norwood Society, as above

West Norwood Cemetery Tours: The *Friends of West Norwood Cemetery* run introductory tours on the first Sunday of each month. Meet at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road. The March tour starts at 11am; summer tours then start at 2.30pm. Donations towards conservation projects are welcome. For other events, including members only occasional tours of the Anglican Catacombs, please check website: secretary@fownc.org or phone 020 8670 5456.

If you wish to publicise community events which may be of interest to our members, please contact the editor (see back page).

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Chair
Shared

Joint Vice-Chairs
Daphne Marchant
Shea Richardson

Secretary
Shea Richardson
7 Barrow Road
Streatham SW16 5PE
shea.richardson@homecall.co.uk

Treasurer
Keith Searle
213 Green Lane
Norbury SW16 3LZ

*Membership, Newsletter Editor
and Publications Orders*
Judy Harris
125 Thornlaw Road
West Norwood SE27 0SQ
jharris.streathamsociety@gmail.com

Other Committee Members
Barbara Beer **Janis Benson**
Mike Bowtle **Robert Doyle**
Russell Henman **Pauline Hewitt**

Talks Programming Team
Mike Bowtle **Jill Dudman**
Russell Henman **Doreen Mackie**
Daphne Marchant
bowtle michael@gmail.com

Local History Team
John Brown (Publications)
Mike Bowtle **Graham Gower**
Judy Harris **Daphne Marchant**

Local and Family History
John Brown
316 Green Lane
Streatham, London SW16 3AS

Planning Enquiries
John Brown and **Graham Gower**
Address as above

Webmaster
Peter Main

Society Website
streathamsociety.org.uk

Society e-mail for general enquiries
info@streathamsociety.org.uk

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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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