



STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS

Published quarterly

No. 251 Winter 2022-2023



CHESS TABLES ON STREATHAM COMMON

MEMBERSHIP 2023 - Have you paid? *(See p.24)*

CELEBRATING NEWSLETTER ISSUE 250 part 2 *(See p.27)*

STREATHAM SOCIETY MEETINGS & EVENTS

MEETINGS

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Leonard's Church, Streatham High Rd/Tooting Bec Gardens. Non-members are very welcome but are requested to donate £1. Please check our website for any changes made after publication

7 Mar Life and Work of Charles Voysey - The Voysey Society

Talk by Richard Havelock

4 Apr Freemasonry Talk by Michael Neville

2 May Heritage without a House - Remembering Hester Piozzi's Streatham

Drs Cassie Ulph and Kate Fennelly report on their project and study day at Streatham Park Bowling Club

6 June Alfred Carver of Dulwich College Talk by Drs Spence and Black

Also for the Wandsworth Heritage Festival programme

4 July Annual General Meeting for members at 6.30pm. Followed by:

7.30pm John W Brown's new talk on Bygone Streatham

EVENTS

Mon 22 May St Leonard's Church Tour John W Brown. Booking

1.30pm essential (see our website) *Also Wandsworth Heritage Festival*

Sun 28 May Tours of Sir Henry Tate's Grounds at Park Hill

2pm & 3pm Guides: Robert Doyle and John W Brown

Streatham Common North, near Leigham Court Road junction

Note: There are no on-site toilets or parking

Also Wandsworth Heritage Festival. Booking essential

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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

THE PLANNING BATTLE FOR STREATHAM HIGH ROAD'S “IMPROVEMENT”



Most local residents would like to see Streatham High Road improve and become more welcoming for shoppers and pedestrians. Key concerns apart from the increasing inevitable traffic are litter, graffiti and unsightly street clutter which make the area look shabby.

Add to that mix a proposal currently being considered by Lambeth Council for BT to remove old phone boxes replacing them with “BT Street Hubs” along the High Road. These are like large 75-inch tablets with LCD screens showing adverts which then pay for the units. They provide free calls, USB charging, access to services and 5G, track air quality amongst other “benefits.”

BT’s “heritage statement” in their planning application inevitably sells them as great benefit with a boost to the High Street. In their words, “The street hub is a

slender, well-designed structure with advanced technology and public benefits that no other similar proposal can match.” And it “will be able to effectively assimilate into a busy street scene where the precedent for modern communication infrastructure has already been set.” And finally, “due to the scale of development and wider setting of the locality, any impact by the proposal on the Conservation area is minimal”. Elsewhere BT go on to boldly claim BT street hubs will fuel local economies, drive digital inclusion and be climate conscious.

But many critics see these types of developments as no more than glorified advertising, part of the inexorable trend of corporate advertising throughout all our high streets. Specific concerns include they will obstruct public use of the pavement making people feel unsafe, they look out of place, they cause visual light pollution, they can distract drivers, and some disabled people experience distress with them. Others state they aren’t energy efficient

Some councils have permitted them, but other councils are vehemently against them classifying them as street clutter, with unrelated advertisement to the area but also worryingly providing a magnet for anti-social behaviour including drug dealing.

In Lambeth there are currently 31 such units and it appears there are sixteen further applications to be considered. Lambeth Council seem to be favourably disposed. For this application the Council’s pre-application feedback (this is the advice provided by the council prior to a formal application), written by a Christopher Poad, sent to BT in May stated, “No concerns are raised to this proposed location on design and heritage grounds”.

Unsurprisingly Lambeth Council’s 2021 local plan is both vague and ambiguous about what can be permitted stating in its corporate planning prose that “it supports the safe, attractive, uncluttered, co-ordinated public realm that enhances the setting of and spaces between buildings; removing redundant or unsightly street furniture/clutter; and when assessing proposals on the footway, a clear footway width of at least 2m will be required in all schemes affecting public footways and property main entrances”.

The Streatham Society is against street clutter in all forms as they are visually intrusive and detract from quality of streets and so we are objecting to this application. There are various ugly advertising illuminated hoardings across Streatham and having more will adversely affect people’s experience of the area. The idea they will be used for local community information is probably overhyped as the majority of time will be straight forward advertising. Despite BT’s claims they really add nothing to the quality of the High Road as a conservation area. The risk is that more advertising gets approved in an incremental fashion which will be detrimental to the area and not help improve Streatham High Road.

Tim Whitaker, Trustee Streatham Society

SOME RECENT EVENTS IN STREATHAM

STREATHAM FESTIVAL October 7th-16th



The Rookery Café and Market

STREATHAM ART TRAIL



Again Streatham's talented artists contributed to displays in various venues around Streatham including St Leonard's Church, the Woodfield Pavilion, estate agents, businesses and a wealth of cafés. The Tate library (*above*) was a particularly attractive and spacious venue.

Streatham Society member Ronnie Hackston, artist and photographer based in Streatham and resident for 35 years, was one of the exhibitors. He described his



appreciation and inspiration offered by the quiet green spaces as well as the bustle of the High Road.

Three schools participated. *The Natural World* was an impressive exhibition of children's artwork chosen from a whole-school project at Woodmansterne Primary School.



VETERAN CAR RUN November 6th



Mark Bery braved appalling weather to take these brilliant photographs at Streatham Hill which he posted on our Facebook site.

It was the first Run I've missed for many years. I couldn't face the 15 minute walk in heavy rain to the bottom of Streatham Common, my usual vantage point, so I went back to bed!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY November 13th (Photos MB)



The Streatham Society laid a wreath of poppies at the War Memorial and flowers at the Civilian War Memorial

ANOTHER ROUTEMASTER MOMENT



On December 2nd at 10am, I joined a small group of men wearing warm jackets, woolly hats and large rucksacks, carrying a variety of cameras, to board the 137 Routemaster from Crown Point to Marble Arch (*left*). This was advertised as being operated by the RM 2217, numerically the last standard length.

Special journeys throughout the day were to mark the retirement of the Arriva Heritage Bus Fleet. Travel was free but collections on board were made for the Royal British Legion as the route passed their Royal Hospital Chelsea's grounds.

It was a nostalgic trip as my love of riding around on buses, particularly on the top deck of a similar bus, started at the age of 11 (alone!) - and still continues over 65 years later. A fellow passenger kindly took my photograph (*below*) for the record.



Of course it was the routes, views and travelling upstairs rather than the bus models which I appreciated. I think the seats were not as comfortable or as wide as today's buses (bigger bottoms?).

When I was about 15 in Middlesbrough, I remember running for a departing bus, jumping on the platform then falling off landing in the road flat on my face. Years later in Oxford Street, London, I again fell off but managed to remain upright. Can you imagine the jostle to mount the platform today, even with a conductor? (There were six staff managing the Routemaster trip.)



I had intended dismounting at Streatham Hill but few people got on so I had an enjoyable ride to Sloane Square followed by a pleasant coffee and wander round Peter Jones.

JH

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE COMMON & PARTY IIN THE BULL

On December 7th I braved the cold to join the Friends of Streatham Common round the traditional Christmas tree at the bottom of the common for a hot drink and mince pie before the annual carol singing.

However feeling very cold, I left the singing and went to warm up in an almost deserted Sainsbury's. I later joined a large group of members in the welcoming external covered area at The Bull for excellent refreshments.



Familiar faces enjoyed meeting to chat. (Why do I always look like a miserable old eccentric on photographs *(right)*? I'm not miserable!)

The party was sponsored by Anthony Gold Solicitors who also donated the hamper raffle prizes.

Christmas Market and Lights On took place in Babington Square on December 3rd.



The Rookery Christmas Fair/Market: I didn't stay long at the market on December 18th because of the awful weather. There was a good array of attractive stalls and I enjoyed chatting to people I haven't met for some time.

LONDON IN BLOOM AWARDS 2022

The Rookery again achieved Gold in the Small Park of the Year category and became the Overall Category Winner for the first time ever. Streatham Common secured Gold in the Common of the Year category and Silver Gilt for its Local Nature Reserve in the Large Conservation Area category.

St Leonard's churchyard won a Gold award. Eardley Road Sidings, Palace Road Nature Garden and Hillside Gardens also won awards.

Overall Lambeth entered 26 applications for London in Bloom 2022 Awards winning 17 Golds and 9 Silver Gilt. Congratulations all.

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

J HARVEY BLOOM: A LIVELY STREATHAM HISTORIAN



Streatham's historians and how they've addressed Streatham's history, is a neglected topic. We'll wait for future generations to dissect and probe the writings of Brown and Gower, but we're now ready with one historian of Streatham – J. Harvey Bloom. He was the author in 1926 of a slim volume called *Bygone Streatham* which charted Streatham's history with his own delightful line drawings.

Bloom was an English Clergyman born in 1860, Cambridge educated and following stints as a curate, became the Rector of Whitchurch in Warwickshire from 1896 to 1917.

Information about him is sparse apart from a revealing biography titled *Parson Extraordinary*, written

by his daughter Ursula Bloom in 1963 which unveiled his flamboyant and controversial life. Ursula herself was a journalist including chief crime reporter for the *Empire News* and *Sunday Dispatch*, yet also a prolific author largely of romantic novels (writing over 500 books and appearing in the *Guinness Book of Records*).

Harvey Bloom started his career as a parish priest at various parishes but was extremely interested in natural history and painting. He started to write natural history notes for a local newspaper and was often seen cycling on countryside roads on nature tours.

It was his wife Polly who suggested he take up genealogy as a side-line and soon after he wrote his first book on heraldry in the Southwest Riding. The light duties of his parish (a population of only 120) meant he had the time to research and write more and was asked to edit the Warwickshire volume of the *Victoria History of England* series, a big step up in the world of antiquities.

Whilst in Warwickshire he assisted the Countess of Warwick on a volume on Warwick Castle and its Earls, and through her connections became more well-

known and introduced to publishers and writers. But here the seeds of his downfall were beginning to be sown.

He was introduced in Stratford-upon-Avon to Marie Corelli the famous and notorious author who in 1900 was a household name and revered by Queen Victoria and Gladstone no less. Through her extensive contacts he was offered contracts for two new books and Bloom who by all accounts was a clever but flirtatious man revelled in this newfound fame.

But they fell out over an allegation that Bloom's daughter Ursula had publicly said Corelli was a divorcee. Corelli sought an apology and naturally Bloom defended his daughter, but this only triggered an acrimonious public exchange. Corelli had started up a magazine about Shakespeare and Stratford-upon-Avon (including the preservation of old buildings) and Bloom seeking revenge started his own counter magazine which made fun of Corelli's work.

The war between the two of them rapidly escalated and Corelli wrote a bestselling novel *God's Good Man* caricaturing Bloom as the Revd. Putwood Leveson, "whose truly elephantine proportions were encased in a somewhat too closely fitting bicycle suit and whose grand pianoforte shaped legs and red perspiring face together presented a most unclerical spectacle of the Church at Large".

But more damaging she highlighted Bloom's extra marital affairs to the great and good of Stratford. It emerged that Bloom had in fact been earlier suspended from the church for "extra marital affairs" after being found in the organ loft with a church worker Annie Archer which led to the Bishop being notified.

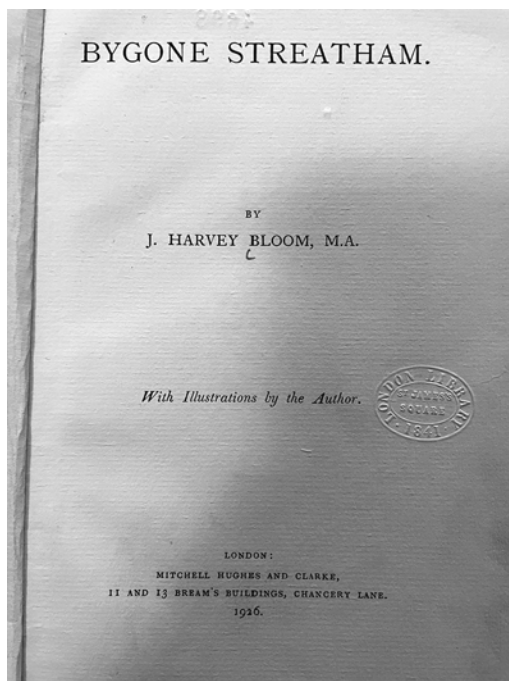
Meanwhile Bloom's historical work was proceeding at pace. Getting up at 5 in the morning to write, his books varied from *Shakespeare's Garden* to heraldry in cathedrals. His only concern were financial problems and that he didn't charge enough for his work and was still the hard-up country rector.

But in the summer 1906 his fall came about. Suffering from illness through overwork he went alone to Western-Super-Mare to recuperate. Making a very rapid recovery he met Jo Sims a middle-aged lady from Bath and led her to believe he would marry her despite him obviously being married.

She found out his marital status and returning to Bath was given an ultimatum by her brother, a Mayor of Bath, of giving Bloom up or leaving her home. She chose Bloom and was then looking for a roof over her head.

As the story came out Bloom's wife Polly left him with their two children. In his daughter's inimitable words, "Here was a veritable genius of a man who could at any time have taken his place with the greatest yet could not withstand the peccadilloes of a naughty schoolboy and he loved a flirtation". But Bloom's life became ruined. Polly his wife died and soon after he married Jo and his clergyman days ended.

The final episode in Bloom's career was a move to London hoping to work in



Museums and Record Offices. Despite the hard times he set up as an Archivist and Genealogist with an office in High Holborn and was made an honorary Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and much in demand to catalogue cathedral archives.

Bloom and his new wife moved to a flat in Ryde Vale Road, Balham. He continued to author many books including *Bygone Streatham* and *Bygone Balham and Tooting Bec*. Ursula commented that these *Bygone* books were to “amuse himself”. It’s unclear what sources he used, though the Streatham volume makes reference to relying on the work of Herbert Baldwin who wrote *Streatham Old and New*.

Bloom’s later years were still spent writing and he was in demand for cataloguing cathedral libraries. He continued his interest in nature and sat on Tooting Common each day.

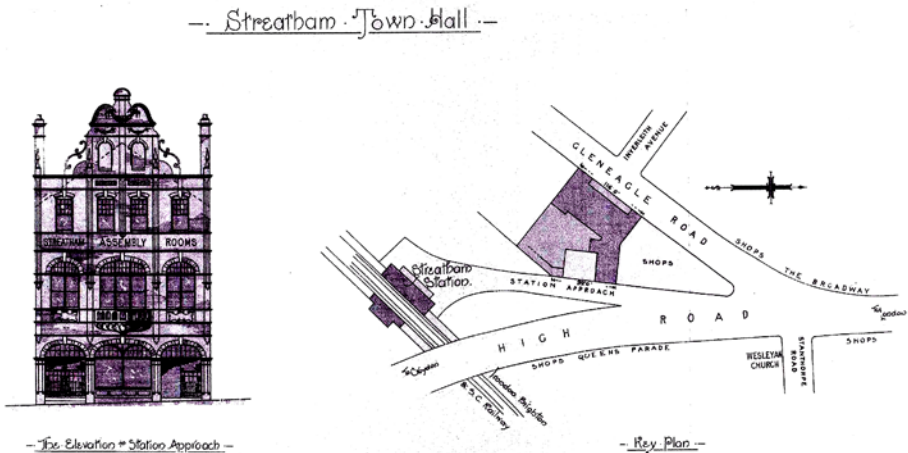
In 1939, keen to do his bit for the war effort, he volunteered at the age of 79 with the local auxiliary fire brigade telling them he was just over 60. But he didn’t stay long in the fire service and as he said he “lost his puff” at the drill sessions. Undeterred he turned his attention to dealing with incendiary bombs and as an ex-pastor helping local people with the effect of air raids.

But his own flat was bombed and he and Jo left London to live in Stratford still working as the Archivist to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trustees. He eventually died in 1944 following a stroke.

Perhaps not the best vicar or husband, Bloom was a notable and prodigious antiquarian. Whilst his writings on both Streatham and Balham were not the most scholastic they betrayed a genuine love of the area.

Tim Whitaker, Trustee

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMOLITION OF THE STREATHAM TOWN HALL



*Plan and Site of Streatham Town Hall
near the junction of Streatham High Road with Station and Gleneagle Roads*

Today, Streatham is bustling southern suburb of London, but of course this has not always been the case. The town's transformation from a small Surrey village into part of the sprawling suburban landscape of the great metropolis has its roots in the arrival of the railway to Streatham in the mid-1800s which brought the area into easy commuting distance to London.

The present day Streatham Hill Station was the first to open in 1856 when commissioned by the West End and Crystal Palace Railway company. Six years later in 1862 Greyhound Lane Station was opened by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, which today is known as Streatham Common Station. The last of the town's three railway stations was Streatham Station opened by the South London and Sutton Junction Railway in 1868.

The subsequent twenty years was to see increasing house building in the area, prompted by the aspiring middle classes of the day wishing to live in a charming rural setting which Streatham then offered with the added bonus of being situated within a short and comfortable railway journey from the heart of London.

By the late 1880s, Streatham village had grown to become a town although then still surrounded by fields and open land. Confirmation of the growing importance of the area came in 1887 when the Streatham Town Hall was opened close to Streatham Station, opposite the present day M&S and Aldi supermarkets on the site now occupied by Gleneagle Heights.



Gleneagle Heights

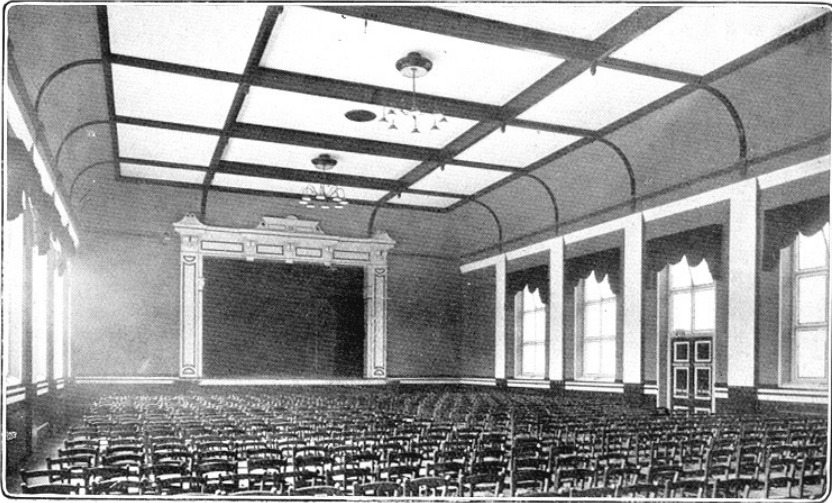
Despite its prestigious name, the Streatham Town Hall had no civic function and was a community, or assembly hall, used to stage concerts, lectures and other public gatherings.

This year, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of the demolition of this once handsome building which played such an important part in the social life of Streatham for almost sixty years.



Demolition of Streatham Town Hall 1923

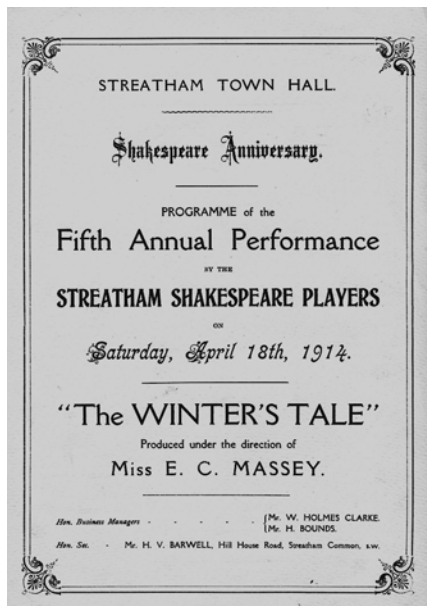
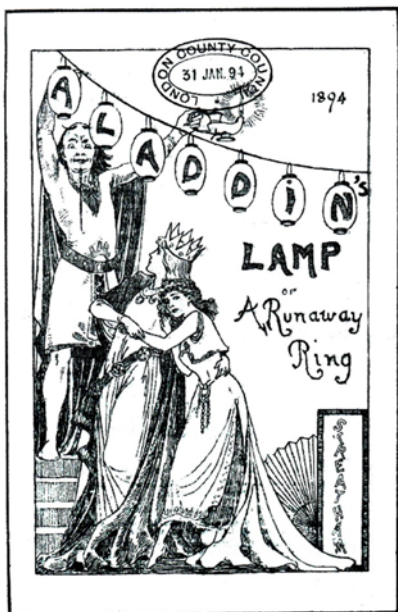
The building comprised three halls, with the main auditorium providing seating for 1,000 people with two smaller halls accommodating 450 and 350 people respectively. As well as having an entrance facing Ambleside Avenue the Hall had a corridor entrance leading from the High Road.



Streatham Hall - Large Hall Interior

One of the noted features of the Hall was a series of murals painted on the walls by the Greaves brothers. In 1890 Walter and Henry Greaves were engaged to paint the murals and over the following five years the brothers painted over 100 murals in the halls, corridors and ancillary rooms of the building. At the time of this commission they were both extremely poor, and every day, bar Sunday, they would walk from their home in Chelsea to Streatham where they would spend all day at work with their brushes. The murals were painted straight onto the plaster walls and featured many views of Chelsea and the River Thames, locations that were well known to them. When St. Leonard's Church acquired the building Harvard University offered to pay £200 for one of the murals depicting a boat race on the Thames between a Harvard crew and a team from various UK Universities but unfortunately there was no way of removing the painting from the wall without destroying it and so the offer had to be rejected.

Walter and Henry Greaves were the sons of a Chelsea boat builder whose boat yard was on the River Thames so they knew the river well. In 1873 the famous painter James Whistler moved close to the Greaves house and Walter and Henry ferried him about the river just as their father before them had taken the artist J.M.W. Turner to various places on the Thames from which he painted his famous views of the River. The brothers also helped Whistler out in his studio and became his first pupils.



Telegrams:—"THEATRE, STREATHAM."

GRAND THEATRE

Streatham Hall,
STREATHAM, S.W.

Fifteen seconds from Streatham Station, L. B. & S. C. Ry. Omnibuses pass after every performance to Streatham Hill Station, Eriston Hill, Eriston, Croydon and outlying districts.

Theatrical Manager - Mr. DUDLEY B. THOMPSON

STALLS 3/-. RESERVED 2/-.
UNRESERVED 1/-.
Doors open at 7.30. Commence at 8.
EARLY DOORS for Reserved and Unreserved Seats (6d. extra) will be open each Evening at 7 o'clock.
CHILDREN IN ARMS ARE NOT ADMITTED.
Box Office at the Theatre Opens Daily, from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m.
Seats may at all times be secured by Letter or Telegram.
NO FEE FOR BOOKING.

Musical Director
Theatrical Artist
Bill Inspector

For
Grand Theatre,
Streatham Hall.

ERNEST G. M. READER
Messrs. H. & W. GREGG
C. KEECHAN

Walker Brown & Smith, Printers, Streatham.

*Programme Cover for Aladdin's Lamp
or A Runaway Christmas 1894
A Winter's Tale 1914
and an Advertising Poster 1901*

Sadly the murals they painted at Streatham Hall were lost when the building was subsequently demolished. I have never seen any photographs or illustrations of these murals and their loss is one of the historic artistic tragedies in Streatham.

The opening night concert in 1887 was a great success with the main hall bursting at the seams with a thousand local residents cheering enthusiastically as the event concluded with the popular tenor of the day, Sims Reeves, singing "Come Into the Garden Maud" to rapturous applause.

Many of the popular music hall stars of late Victorian and Edwardian Eng-

land appeared at the Streatham Town Hall, including George Chegwin, known as “the White-eyed Kaffir”, who lived in Leigham Court Road, and Charles Coborn, who received a standing ovation on singing “The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo”.

The Town Hall also hosted some of the earliest lantern slide and cinematograph performances in Streatham. At 6pm on Friday 12th October 1888, the Rev. J. Thomas, the Metropolitan Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, gave a lecture illustrated by dissolving views and oxy-hydrogen lights on “China and the Chinese”. Although entry to the lecture was free a voluntary collection from those attending raised £13.18s.2d (£13.91p). In 1904 one of the world’s earliest “talking” pictures was screened here, which was achieved by synchronising the action on screen with a gramophone record.

The Town Hall also became a popular venue for staging pantomimes during the Christmas period; in 1894 a spectacular performance of Aladdin’s Lamp was given there. In 1898 a magnificent production of Cinderella was staged on the 10th and 11th of January. The production comprised seven scenes in addition to a grand transformation scene and a harlequinade. Describing the world of pantomime to its readers the local newspaper, the *Streatham News*, referred to “those enchanting and bewildering fairy extravaganzas, where the spirits of gossamer

ONE NIGHT ONLY!
Town Hall, Streatham.
FRIDAY, MAY 11th, 1894.
TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED, AND PLAN OF THE HALL SEEN AT—
WALTER BROWN & SMITH, 219, High Road.

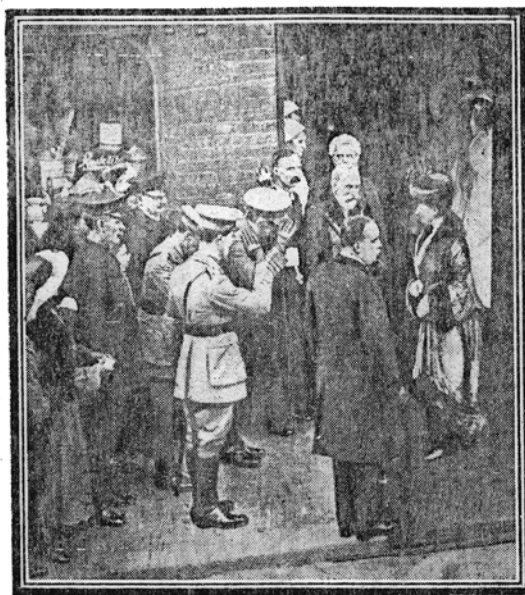
MR. ALBERT CHEVALIER
RECITALS
Manager for
MR. CHEVALIER MR. CHARLES INGLE.

SKETCHES OF STREATHAM DOINGS

THE SUFFRAGE MEETING



QUEEN ALEXANDRA AT STREATHAM.



Queen Alexandra being received by the mayor at Streatham Town Hall, where she attended a children's pageant in aid of the War Hospital Supply Depot.

and good-will strive with their darkly-clad demons of mischief, and rescue the hero and heroine from the thousand-and-one dangers that every little one knows were common in the age of "Once upon a time".

In October 1910 a young Dame Edith Evans made her stage debut at the Streatham Town Hall when she played Viola in the Streatham Shakespeare Players production of *Twelfth Night*.

On 10th May 1916 Queen Alexandra visited Streatham Hall with Princess Victoria and Princess Arthur of Connaught. The royal party attended a children's pageant to celebrate the first anniversary

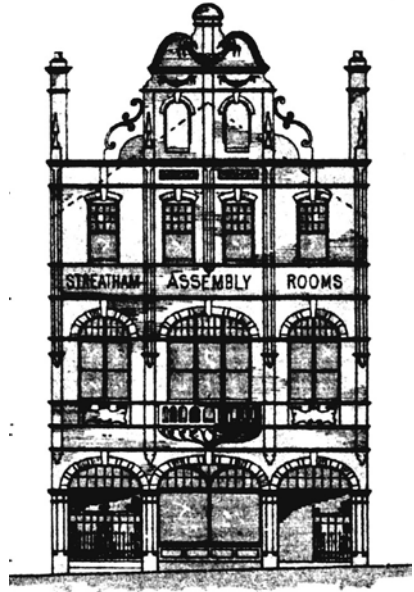
of the opening of the War Hospital Supply Depot at Hill House, Streatham Common. The Queen had previously made a private visit to the Depot on 18th August 1915 when she met many of the volunteers working there. She made another visit to Streatham Hall on 25th May 1917 to attend a patriotic sale and concert to mark the second anniversary of the opening of the Depot.

As well as concerts and musical performances, the hall also hosted various public meetings and lectures. In 1913 Mrs. Pankhurst, the suffragette campaigner, addressed a fervent gathering of supporters here and in November 1901 Winston Churchill spoke here of his adventures in South Africa. In October 1910 Ernest Shackleton also addressed a large gathering in the main hall when recounting his polar explorations.

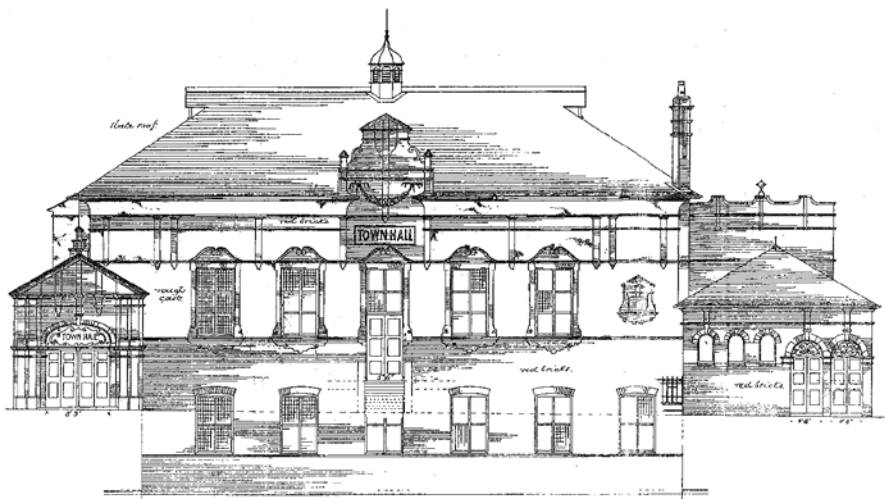
By the early 1920s the halls were well known as a venue for huge whist drives made popular by the cash prizes that were to be won. In April 1921, 1,700 players sat down to play whist in the halls and over a thousand people had to be turned away as there was no room for them to be accommodated.

In 1925, St. Leonard's Church purchased the hall and it had a new lease of life as a popular social centre for the parish.

The following year, 1926, large audiences attended the Pageant of Streatham, depicting the history of the town, which was staged there. This was directed by Miss Ellen Massey, a noted local drama teacher and leading light in the Streatham Shakespeare Players. Among the cast



Streatham Hall 1986



was a young June Whitfield and Hy Hazell who later went on to have successful acting careers on stage, screen and radio.

Another successful parish event held in the hall, occurred in 1935, when 500 Streatham pensioners were hosted to a special King George V Jubilee lunch there by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wandsworth, Cllr. and Mrs. Evan Rees.

At 2am on the morning of the 17th June 1944 a V1 flying bomb fell on the site of the old Empire Cinema, on the High Road opposite the Streatham Town Hall, the blast of which caused considerable damage to the building. The austerity of the post-war years led the War Damage Commission to refuse to allow the building to be sufficiently repaired for use for large-scale public gatherings and



Streatham Hall 1972

as its future as a social centre for the parish was no longer viable the church sold the building to an engineering company and it entered into commercial use as warehouses.

By the early 1970s the building was empty and had fallen into gradual decay. The former grandeur of the large main hall, and the smaller pink and blue halls, had faded and the Greaves murals had disappeared under a covering of whitewash. Moves were made to have the building listed and protected but in the week this was to be approved by the London County Council (LCC) the main building in Gleneagle Road was suddenly demolished, without any warning, immediately quashing any prospect for its renovation and reuse as a civic amenity.

However, the foundation stone of the building was discovered and opened up and its contents, including a set of Jubilee coins of Queen Victoria minted in 1887 and a contemporary copy of the *Streatham News*, were rescued. The High Road entrance to the building was subsequently pulled down in 1988.

In 2002 the site was developed with large blocks of flats known as Gleneagle Heights with the individual buildings being named Churchill, Shackleton and Pankhurst to commemorate some of the prominent people who had appeared at Streatham Hall in its heyday.



Folder containing ten 1887 Jubilee coins

John W Brown

STREATHAM COMMON WOODS 1905

This postcard is another of long-term member Frances Partridge's generous donation to our archive of a fascinating collection of old postcard views.

A large tree and dense undergrowth at the top of Streatham Common forms the view on this old Edwardian postcard.

The woods here are a relatively recent development. The ancient woods which originally covered the land here had been cleared many centuries ago and by the 1800s this part of Streatham Common was open scrub land with the vegetation kept under control by the grazing of livestock on the common.

At that time, it would have looked very much like parts of Mitcham Common does today and contemporary maps show it to have been rough, uneven ground covered with scrub and gorse.

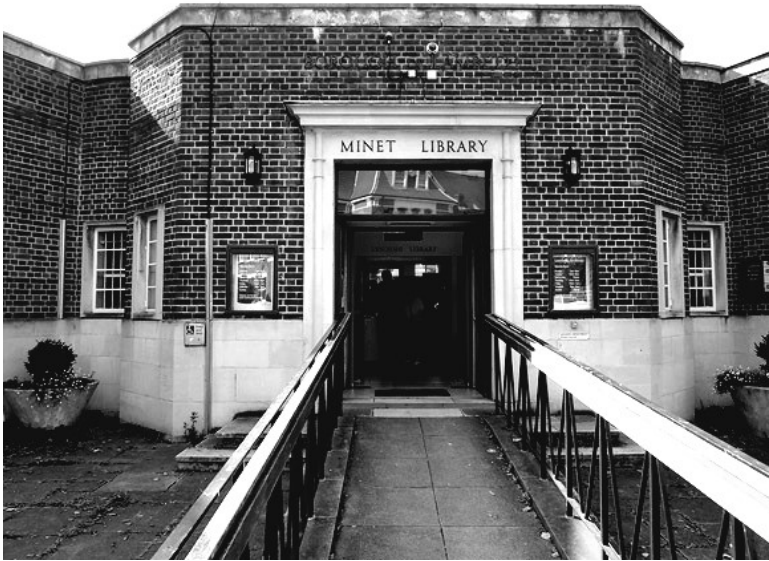
It was only after the Metropolitan Board of Works acquired the common in 1888 that they allowed the eastern end of the land to develop as a natural wood which we see today.

If you look closely at this photograph you will see two people sitting on a bench to the left of the tree trunk no doubt enjoying the privacy this quiet, secluded spot offered.



JWB

LAMBETH ARCHIVES CLOSURE



After 133 years at the Minet Library, Lambeth Archives is moving its rich historic collections of documents, books, maps and photographs about Lambeth and its people, to a new building on Brixton Hill. The move from the increasingly cramped library on Knatchbull Road should be complete by summer 2023.

Its new location will be a highly visible and welcoming presence, close to the Town Hall and Civic Centre. It will bring Lambeth Archives into Brixton's growing cultural hub - alongside the Black Cultural Archives, Ritzy Cinema, Brixton library and the shopping centre with Brixton market. Close to all public transport links it will be easily accessible for all.

The new open-plan public search room will be three times larger than the previous space and designed to meet the needs of visitors in providing access to digital records as well as paper. There will be an exhibition area and an education space. There will also be a large strong room in the basement with sufficient space to store records for decades to come.

The space has been designed by Haworth-Tompkins architects to meet all the international standards for archive storage. It will be securely protected from fire, with a gas extinction system in the strong rooms. The temperature and humidity will be maintained by the thermal inertia of the basement's concrete walls and plinth so the Archives will not rely on costly air handling units.

Check their website for details of interim services.

(Adapted from Lambeth Archives Update. No. 1, September 2022 and website.).

STREATHAM SOCIETY REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

Membership 2022: Our final membership was 301 - well above the expected 250. This was our highest total since 2015. It included 40 Life members. Donations given with subscriptions totalled £446. Thanks to all for your support.

Membership 2023: We welcome 11 new members: Sandra Horne, William Amos, Adele Rodrigues-Khan (household), David Crundall, Trudy Kuhn, John Sephton, Sue Heeley, Freddie Wootton, Yvonne Nazareth & Mervyn Almeida. We hope they enjoy our events and publications.

2023 subscription: Renewals: To receive our quarterly *Streatham Society News* uninterrupted, your subscription should be paid by March 31st 2023. Payments last until December 31st 2023. Subscriptions remain unchanged at: Individual £10; Household £15; Life membership (single or named couple) £180.

Payment is via bank transfer (BACS) or standing order to The Streatham Society (business) account: Sort Code 30-84-68 a/c no 39526068. If you use BACS, please identify the amount (subscription, donation or publication) and email me confirmation to activate registration details.

Payment is also accepted by cash or cheque, payable to The Streatham Society, to me at meetings or posted to 125 Thornlaw Road, West Norwood SE27 0SQ.

If you prefer, or if your details have changed, our membership application form can be downloaded then given, posted or scanned to me.

Gift Aid declaration: Tax payers: Boost your subscription and any donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1. A form can be sent to you on application or is available on our website to email or post to our secretary (*contact back page*).

Your email address: Please supply this for our contacts list as it is now our only method of communication, apart from our quarterly newsletter. Your details are not passed on to any other group or individual without your permission, as stated on our privacy policy. See: <https://www.streathamsociety.org.uk/>

Subscription acknowledgement: Payments will be acknowledged by email; in-person payments will have been recorded at meetings.

Streatham Society News: Our quarterly magazine is posted to your address, not emailed. Back copies are available for public view on our website.

Life Membership: Especially with Gift Aid, this is a welcome source of income. Particularly welcome are our oldest members who may not benefit financially as much will be a donation - with the added bonus of not having to re-member to pay annually!

Judy Harris

PUBLICATIONS - NEW OFFICER NEEDED

We have over 60 titles available on our website or by contacting me, the publications officer, by post or in person (*contact back page*). A selection of our more recent titles is on sale at our meetings and events.

Our website brings in about fifty orders annually for a variety of titles. Since pandemic closures our open meetings bookstall has sold steadily. A large number of new members and visitors have contributed to this.

I hope to relinquish my position as publications officer in 2023 to concentrate on other areas. The current book stock is stored in my house in two low 4-shelf bookcases and supplied to order. If any member is interested in taking over in the coming year please contact Mark Bery or me. I'll happily donate two bookcases to my successor.

JH

RECENT MEETINGS

Nov 1 The Manor of Norbury: Michael Gilbert's tribute to the late David Clark, local historian and Society member, was enjoyed by over 50 people. We were particularly pleased to welcome David's close family. His excellent *History of Norbury* (£6/£8) is on sale on our bookstall.

Dec 6 Members' Christmas Party: A record c.65 members gathered to celebrate Christmas. John W Brown's organisation (helped by others) was impressive. He was up a ladder hanging decorations, accompanied by Christmas music, at 5pm. Guests arrived from 7pm. John gave a presentation based on his book *A Streatham Christmas* which was on sale (£5/£7). He then organised a quiz with prizes. There was also a raffle and plentiful refreshments.

Jan 3 The Cubitts: Streatham, Lambeth and Beyond

Our grateful thanks for a brilliant talk on the Cubitts by Chris Everett at St Leonard's Church (*right*). It was very well received by the packed audience (c.70) despite foul weather and reduced transport.



MB/JH

MEMBERS' TOUR OF St. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



Our very grateful thanks to Helen Long for a fascinating tour of St Paul's on January 12th 2023. Twenty-three Society members attended. Helen is a long-term Streatham Society member and St Paul's Cathedral guide. She kindly agreed to run the event again at a later date.

MB

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As details of many local groups' events are now seldom advertised far in advance and usually on-line, I can no longer accurately publicise them in our newsletter. Visit the various websites for their programme - and any last minute alterations.

Watch out for large events in which the Streatham Society hopes to participate. We'll publicise in our newsletter, on our website, via our email contacts list and on our Facebook. Facebook now has over 3,600 members - with more accessing the public site where there is no requirement to log in.

Check our events for Wandsworth Heritage Festival (May); Kite Day (May?), Lambeth Heritage Festival Month (September); Black History Month (October), Streatham Festival (October) and hopefully others.

JH



THE STREATHAM SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER ISSUE 250

Part 2: PUMP 1987 - 2009

November 1986: Brenda Hargreaves first edited Pump

Brenda Hargreaves had been involved as a committee member in all aspects of the Streatham Society from the start. She was the founder, writer, and producer of the Streatham Society Players. She enjoyed writing about Streatham life. *Pump* very much reflected this. All articles were handwritten then a typist was hired to type up for photocopying.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
<p>An 80th Birthday tribute</p> <p>TOMMY TRINDER</p>  <p>an illustrated talk by John Cresswell</p> <p>A celebration of this famous Streatham-born comedian's nearly 70 years in Show Business</p> <p>St. Leonard's Church Hall, Tooting Bec Gardens, SW16.</p> <p>Monday, 20th March at 8pm</p>	<p><i>Camille at the Crystal Pissarro Palace</i></p>  <p>an illustrated talk by Nicholas Reed</p> <p>Camille Pissarro, the famous French Impressionist, painted a series of canvasses around south London.</p> <p>Streatham Pool Streatham High Road, SW16</p> <p>Monday, 17th April at 8pm</p>

Streatham Pump No. 75 (March 1989) shows the new Twin Spires logo. Meetings were usually on Mondays at 8pm in St Leonard's Church Hall (*now the Spires' Centre*). *Tommy Trinder Streatham-born comedian, an 80th birthday tribute* was the March talk by John Cresswell. *Camille Pissarro at the Crystal Palace*, a talk by Nicholas Reed in April, was held at Streatham Pool.

Geoffrey Manning's death, age 60, was reported. He was Secretary of the Norwood Society, very much involved in local history, the environment and planning; a great loss.

Streatham Pump No. 100 (May 1993), displayed a pink first page. Brenda Hargreaves explained the *Financial Times* celebrated their 100th by pink turning white – so she did the opposite! Ten A4 pages were packed with items from several contributors.

Streatham



PUMP no 100

The Newsletter of the Streatham Society

May 1993

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AGM

Annual General Meeting

The Review of the Streatham Society's
Active Year

St.Leonard's Church Hall
Tooting Bec Gardens, SW16

Monday, 17th May
at 8 p.m.

Vauxhall St.Peter's Heritage Centre

(And how to create your own)

A talk by
Zoë Brooks

St.Leonard's Church Hall
Tooting Bec Gardens, SW16

Monday, 21st June
at 8 p.m.

The March meeting, *Iceland and the Faroe Islands*, a talk by Paul Sowen, was reported. The March Local History Research Group meeting was *Local History and the National Curriculum*, a talk by Judy Harris. In April (LHRG) John W Brown introduced his latest publications: *Sherlock Holmes in Streatham* and *The Coulthursts of Streatham Lodge*. Both these Local History Publications were obtainable from WordsWorth Books (then in 'the dip' near Streatham Station) where John sold hundreds of his LH Publications. The AGM and *Review of the Streatham Society's Active Year* was held in May.

Society meetings (1st & 3rd Mondays) were in future to be held in St Leonard's Church Hall in the small hall with a kitchen behind the main hall.

A very active May/June programme was offered: May 3 LHRG: *Artefacts and Ephemera* brought by members; May 17 AGM; May 19 a minibus trip to Aylesford Priory; May 23 a visit to St Michael's Convent (Park Hill) arranged by Daphne Marchant (then Hayes-Mojon); June 7 LHRG *Streatham People in Norwood Cemetery*, a talk by Bob Flanagan; June 21 *Vauxhall St Peter's Heritage Centre*, a talk by Zoe Brooks; July 5 John Brown's St Leonard's graveyard tour; July Sat 10 & Sun 11 the Streatham Society's 1993 Local History Exhibition & talks at the United Reformed Church.

Other reports included: a long article from John Cresswell on Pratts' plans at a public meeting; a Town Centre Manager was suggested. John also wrote about local restorations at Pullman Court, Christ Church, St Peter's Church organ and the Ritzy Cinema in Brixton.

A Literature Club on Mondays 10–12 noon was advertised at the spacious Adare Adult Education Centre, Leigham Court Road, after the closure of the Literature AE Class c.1991. The programme suggested readings, topics, speakers and theatre visits. Also Colin Crocker reported that the Streatham Bus Garage War memorial was safely stored in West Norwood Bus Garage.

The deaths of 'Four Remarkable Men' were reported: Ron Cadell, Basil Dawson, Charles Chaperlin and Bob Sly.

Some other events - all in March (!): Gordon Gompers reported on music for Streatham for the UR Church Centenary; Salvation Army & Lewin Rd Baptist Church concerts; Streatham Society Players' performances; and concerts at St Leonard's Church from the South Bank Conservatoire Orchestra and Streatham Choral Society.

St Leonard's Village Fete in June was advertised and a photography exhibition in July arranged by the Stratham Society to create a future arts festival. Also included was a jumbo prize crossword. Committee contacts listed were John Cresswell (Hon. Sec.); Maureen Melvin (Membership Sec.); Brenda Hargreaves (Editor & Social Sec.).

PUMP No. 140 (January 2000) displayed our new logo: the Dyce fountain on Streatham Green. This design was used for our popular Streatham Society lapel badge and brooch, designed by John W Brown and produced by Barbara Woznica (Chair and Publications) at her workshop in Streatham Vale.



PUMP

No.140 January 2000

Bimonthly Newsletter of
The Streatham Society

Recollections of a South London School Master

a talk by
Paul Swan

Monday 17th January

Lambeth's Riverside Industries

an illustrated talk by
Brian Bloice

Monday 21st February

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS

English Churches & Chapels

an illustrated talk by
Stephen Humphreys
Monday 7th February

Another Journey in Edwardian Streatham

an illustrated talk by
John Brown
Monday 6th March

All meetings at "Woodlawn" 16 Leigham Court Road, SW16 (5 mins from Streatham Hill Station) at 8 pm



PUMP

No. 150 September 2001

THE BRAIN OF LAMBETH

Streatham heat

Monday 17th September

THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

illustrated talk by
Brian Bloice

Monday 15th October

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS

A SHORT HISTORY OF MITCHAM

Audrey Thomas

Monday 1st October

The WILLIAM ROUPELL STORY

Judy Harris

Monday 5th November

All meetings at "Woodlawns" 16 Leigham Court Road, SW16 (5 mins from Streatham Hill Station)
at 8pm except where otherwise stated.

Christmas Lights, switched on by Keith Hill on Saturday December 4, were reported as a great improvement on recent previous years. The Odeon manager invited in those waiting for a cup of tea while the Immanuel School Steel Band performed.

Meetings were now held on Mondays at 8pm at 'Woodlawns' (then the Darby & Joan Club), initially with limited numbers and access only to the main room. Talks listed were: (Jan) *Recollections of a South London School Master* by Paul Sowan; (Feb) Local History Group *English Churches & Chapels* by Stephen Humphrey and *Lambeth's Riverside Industries* by Brian Bloice; (March) LHG *Another Journey in Edwardian Streatham* by John W Brown

Visions of Streatham: With long-term objectives and ideas, new secretary Robert Doyle reported Millennium Year plans: a Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme for improvements to the Town Centre; working with the Community Forum and Town Centre Partnership Board and a need to widen membership while continuing to provide an attractive programme of events.

John Cresswell, who had long been extremely active in all areas, moved to Bournemouth, a great loss to the Society and Streatham. His extensively researched book *The Streatham Hill Theatre* was published in 2000.



PUMP

No. 194 January 2009

Bi-monthly newsletter of
the Streatham Society

JANUARY

STREATHAM SOCIETY NEW YEAR DINNER

Bocca, 14 High Parade

Saturday 10th January

RECENT LOCAL HISTORY DISCOVERIES

Local History Group

Various speakers

Monday 5th January

THE VETERAN CAR RUN

Roger Etccl

Monday 19th January

FEBRUARY

OCTAVIA HILL: HER WORK AND INFLUENCE ON SOCIAL HOUSING in Southwark & Lambeth

Local History Group

Len Reilly

Monday 2nd February

AGE CONCERN LAMBETH AND ITS WORK

Julia Shelley

Monday 16th February

MARCH

THE HISTORY OF SCOTLAND YARD AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE

Local History Group

Maggie Bird

Monday 2nd March

THE PRIMARY CARE TRUST, LAMBETH

Gill Baker

Monday 16th March

All meetings at "Woodlawn" 16 Leigham Court Road, SW16 (5 mins from Streatham Hill Station) at 8pm except where otherwise stated.

1

New, enthusiastic committee members were listed: Barbara Woznica (Chair & Publications); Daphne Hayes-Mojon (later Marchant) (Vice-Chair); Robert Doyle (Secretary); Peter Main (Treasurer); Brenda Hargreaves (Newsletter & Events); Judy Harris (Membership & Local History); Brian Bloice (Planning & Regeneration); plus Glyn Kyle, Betty Parr, Joan Rich and Shea Richardson. Sub-committees also included other members. Six officers gave their landline number as contact; four of them gave their home address.

(It is interesting to note how many committee, sub-committee members and other active contacts we had then. As other similar groups, within 10 years these were covered by a decreasing number of older people.

The Society was now on the Internet with an email address. Peter Main created our website which included all our publications. As far as I remember, only Peter, Brian Bloice and Robert Doyle used the email address or viewed the website for several years. Few of our members looked at it, despite being on-line.

PUMP No 150 (September 2001)

Robert Doyle's report welcomed Streatham Town Centre Manager Leah Levine who replaced Stephen Nice, Ice Rink area plans, various TfL meetings, Urban Design Week, St Leonard's Open House plans, Big Hand Mo's name return to the Horse & Groom pub, and other news in the Conservation Area.

PUMP No 177 (March 2006) *(Copies of this and future issues are held by JH).*

With this issue, Brian Bloice and Judy Harris started newsletter production for Brenda Hargreaves. Brenda's eyesight was failing and, although making a valiant effort with little help, she had computer problems. Articles were supplied to Brian and Judy, who typed up them up onto a CD, then Brian emailed it to our printer Printinc. The internet finally defeated Brenda (and other members).

PUMP No 194 (January 2009)

The Streatham Society New Year Dinner was held at Bocca 14 High Parade on Saturday January 10. Meetings were: (Jan) LHG *Recent Local History Discoveries* with various speakers; *The Veteran Car Run*, a talk by Roger Etcell; (Feb) LHG *Octavia Hill: Her Work and Influence on Social Housing*, talk by Len Reilly; *Age Concern, Lambeth and its Work*, talk by Julia Shelley; (March) LHG *The History of Scotland Yard and the Metropolitan Police*, talk by Maggie Bird; *The Primary Care Trust, Lambeth* a talk by Gill Baker.

STREATHAM SOCIETY NEWS No. 197 (Summer 2009)

After Brenda Hargreaves retired, Brian Bloice and I took over. I changed the name and adopted an A5 size to avoid folding to post; the newsletter appeared very much as it is today. Ideally, we wanted one-third of the newsletter with articles about Streatham today – particularly planning; one-third local history (then as now mainly provided by our archivist and publisher John W Brown); and one-third Streatham Society reports. This remains my ideal although the planning and current Streatham reports dwindled after Brian's death in 2015.

As several groups started producing an online newsletter only, I became concerned. I enjoy producing it but I am not prepared to spend considerable time on a c.36-page on-line newsletter which would likely be skim-read and forgotten. Fortunately I have been encouraged by our trustees and members (new and old) to continue publishing and posting copies as now, despite the cost. Back copies are put on-line after three months as each new issue is distributed.

Pump – the name change: I hope you are not offended by the following account. I never liked the name as I did not think gossiping round the village pump reflected the achievements and aspirations of the Streatham Society in today's Streatham. By then the word pump also had more common usage: to pump iron (weights), tyres - and another meaning.

One day c.1990, as a teacher at a local primary school, I was supervising my Year 6 class during a wet lunchtime. I left them for a few minutes in charge of three girls who had volunteered to tidy my desk (a special privilege). On my return the three were collapsed in hysterical giggles while the other children stared in puzzlement. I asked what was going on. Between giggles one girl pointed to the *Pump* which I had been reading. I explained what a village pump was and why the newsletter was so called. They didn't appreciate my explanation.

The girls couldn't stop laughing. Then a nearby boy loudly informed all that pump meant fart – if you pumped you had farted, (emit or pump wind from the anus). The whole class collapsed with laughter. From then on, I could only look at the title and see the *Streatham Fart*. After I took over as editor years later, I changed the name close to that originally mentioned in the first issue.

Before he moved to Bournemouth, I was talking to John Cresswell at a very poorly attended Christmas party. I asked why he always supported every event whether he agreed with the activity or not. He replied that every aspect of the Society had to be encouraged in order to find new active members with different interests for the future of the Society. (John was very much an idealist.)

I suggested he must be very pleased with the rapid expansion of the local history meetings. To my surprise, he replied that local history was "the easy option". He explained that local/family history research was increasingly popular, easy and fascinating but that it was what happened next that was important - and difficult. Monitoring planning applications, local development, suitability and design are essential - but very time-consuming for volunteers.

Today, all local groups I know are asking for volunteers to monitor the planners. Happily under Tim Whitaker our planning activities are reviving.

The Future is bright – but I always need more articles for the newsletter!

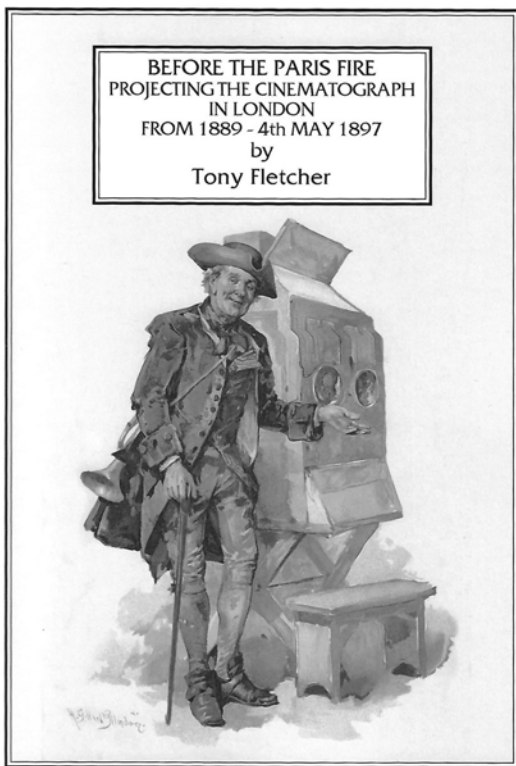


Judy Harris

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BEFORE THE PARIS FIRE - PROJECTING THE CINEMATOGRAPH IN LONDON FROM 1889 - 4th MAY 1897 by *Tony Fletcher*

Published by John W Brown and Local History Publications £18.50 incl p&p



Streatham Society member Tony Fletcher continues his impressive research into London's cinematograph history with this new publication.

There are many references to Streatham.

To purchase the book please send an email to celluloidtapestry@hotmail.com or write to 11 Claverdale Road SW2 2DJ.

Paid-up members of the Streatham Society can purchase the book for £13.50, including UK postage and packing, by contacting the above.

WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY - AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

by Bob Flanagan Published by The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery £7.50

Building on an earlier guide, this 116-page guide contains details of 99 graves (109 notables) and a map showing where to find them.

Each grave/memorial is illustrated, and most entries include portraits of the principal burials. In addition, there is a brief history of the cemetery itself and outline descriptions of the St Mary-at-Hill and Greek Enclosures.

An innovation is the colourisation of many monochrome photographs such as that of the Anglican Mortuary Chapel featured on the cover.

All the graves discussed may be visited except the vault of Sir William Tite, which is situated in the catacombs beneath the site of the Anglican Mortuary Chapel. However, the design of the cemetery, the way in which burial rights in a plot were purchased, and the period over which interments took place mean that it is not easy to visit all the monuments illustrated in one visit.

Suggested visiting parts in turn are: the Gilbert monument (23 monuments), the Dissenters' ground (23 monuments), Doulton Path and environs (24 monuments) and Ship/Beeton Paths and environs (28 monuments). These zones/monuments have been colour-coded on the map on the endpapers.

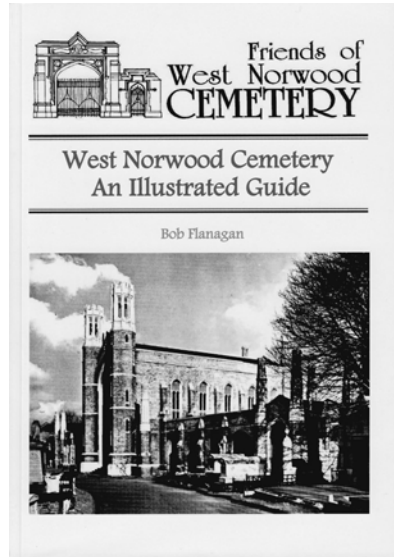
NORWOOD AND THE GREAT WAR - Reflections on Military and Social History

by John Clarke and Peter Hodgkinson FoWNC £15

The result of much painstaking research, this 400-page full-colour volume contains a spreadsheet giving key information concerning the 595 servicemen or women who died either during, or after the war of service-related conditions, 27 who served and died well after the war, and 16 civilians with WW1 connections.

There are photographs of all the Great War graves and of family graves bearing commemorative inscriptions that survive in the cemetery, as well as web links to photographs of some of the individuals. In addition there are photographs of some now lost gravestones.

Both these books are researched and written by FoWNC members. They can be bought on the first Sunday in each month, from 11.30am and 12.30pm in the crematorium and online at <https://www.fownc.org/publications/> where postage and packing details are given.



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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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