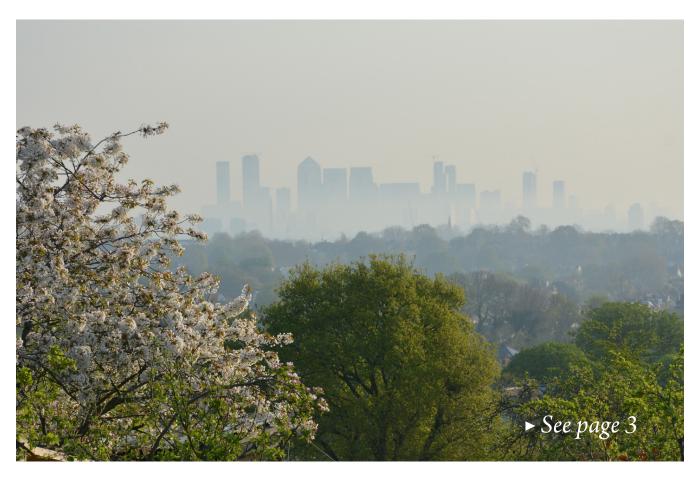
HERNE HILL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY & ISSUE 148 & Spring 2020 & online



DEAR GOD! THE VERY HOUSES SEEM ASLEEP; AND ALL THAT MIGHTY HEART IS LYING STILL!

THE HEIGHT OF THINGS TO COME

► See page 14

THE HALF MOON STUDIO

► Turn to page 16



The Magazine of the Herne Hill Society



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Our Front Cover

his issue reaches you through the miracle of the internet, without which enduring the current crisis would be so much harder – unless, that is, you are among the self-sufficient few who have decided to shun that particular miracle. But in that event you will not be reading this! We greatly regret not being able to follow our custom of printing a magazine for physical distribution. One of the drawbacks of the internet is that it can bombard one with too much information, too frequently. One loses the will to read it. There is something about a publication that one can hold in one's hands that can reduce this tendency.

So how do you find the right image for our cover in these troubling times? Looking back over past issues we have usually chosen a clearly topical image. But we thought that for this online-only issue a more thoughtful, more oblique approach would be appropriate. For this reason a member of our intrepid editorial team was up at 7am on Good Friday morning to photograph the view over South London from the hillside of the Rosendale allotments. Paradoxically, the times are not only troubling, they are in some senses also peaceful, even reassuring, especially for those of us who are spared the hardships and dangers of working on the

frontline, saving lives in our hospitals or continuing to provide the many essential services that our city relies upon. As has been widely remarked upon, the absence



of traffic in the streets and aeroplanes in the sky – a sky that looks and feels clearer and less polluted – and the halt to much of the hectic of modern life have brought a stillness to London never experienced in our lifetimes, one that allows us to rediscover the value of good neighbours and the beauty of the natural world as spring awakes in parks and gardens.

It is a time well suited for reflection, so in the year that on 7 April celebrated the birth of William Wordsworth 250 years ago it seems right that we choose his words to go with our front cover. Wordsworth was on his way to France in 1802, making use of a lull in the war against France following the Peace of Amiens. He set out in the Dover coach from Charing Cross very early and as he crossed Westminster Bridge he marvelled at the stillness of the city's mighty heart.

HERNE HILL'S STAR APPRENTICE

ew people in Herne Hill – no, in London or even in the United Kingdom – can have failed to hear that in January 2020 the winner in the 15th series of the BBC1 television programme *The Apprentice* was Carina Lepore, the founder and managing director of our very

own Dough Bakehouse on Milkwood Road. The show is said to attract an average viewing audience of over seven million

Carina battled for 15 rounds against heavy competition and in January was pronounced the winner and rewarded with the opportunity to be Lord Sugar's business partner. The prize is an investment to the value of £250,000, founded on a project to extend her successful artisan bakery business.

Carlo Lepore and his fellow baker Dave Bell had been making bread in Herne Hill for many years. It was a successful and

Carina Lepore

popular business. They coped with a major upheaval when they were compelled to move out of their old premises, branded as Ye Olde Bakery, at the top of Railton Road in what is now Station Square. Many of those premises were closed by Network Rail preparatory to being fundamentally

> refurbished and modernised. (Most of the new units, as we know, remain scandalously empty.)

Fortunately for us all, alternative premises were found for the bakery at the other side of the railway lines on Milkwood Road. But even there, their problems were not over. One night in 2015 a serious fire forced them to close. Carina and her sister Rachelle stepped up to the challenge and

up to the challenge and resurrected the business in 2018 as Dough Artisan Bakehouse, with a modern image, the reassuring presence of Carlo at the ovens and an energetic, friendly young



Carina and colleagues team serving an expanding range of bread, pastries and coffees.

The Coronavirus crisis has affected the bakery as so many other businesses in Herne Hill but they have taken advantage of the government's encouragement of food shops to stay open and serve the needs of their community. Business seems to be brisker than ever. Expansion plans, in partnership with Lord Sugar, have been temporarily suspended but no doubt there will be opportunities once the pandemic subsides. We hope to feature an interview with Carina when the Covid–19 crisis is over.

BROCKWELL HALL RESTORATION PROJECT

Letting the past enhance the future

Brockwell Hall was not included in the Lottery bid for the restoration of the Park, completed in 2012. It was thought that Brockwell Park could not compete at national level for funding, which would have been necessary if landscape and Hall had been combined. However, although we are not competing at the highest tier, the current application

for funds for the restoration is indeed being judged at national level, demonstrating the importance and significance of our wonderful park.

Backed by Lambeth Council, Brockwell Park Community Partners (BPCP) submitted the first application for Lottery support for the restoration of the Hall in June 2016, after two years of consultation with park users. Following acceptance of the preliminary proposal, the Council took on the project and submitted detailed proposals and a business case to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) for approval in late 2017. This was turned down initially, but eventually the NHLF agreed that the project could go ahead. What is known as a Stage 1 Pass was achieved in January 2019.

From a leisurely beginning, the project has become a sprint. Two years were allowed for appointment of architects and consultants and the drawing up of development plans for the hall, together with surveys and engineering investigations, the development of the Business Plan and an Activity Programme, with further community consultations. The final submission for a Stage 2 Pass is due this November for consideration in December.

On a dismal, wet day in February people came to a "Come and meet the consultants" session to hear about the consultant architects' preliminary plans, and to share ideas and aspirations for Brockwell Hall. It was intended to be the first of a number of community consultations. There were sessions in the Hall the following week but our plans for more have been compromised by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Despite the difficulties, the project team is making good progress. Following the consultations, the architects have been developing proposals that differ somewhat from the outline plan but respect the brief. A few people were unhappy about moving the café out of the Hall as it would prevent customers from having a partial view, at least, of the Park. The current proposal is to develop a café within the Hall, using the Picture Room as part of the space. This would be in keeping with the use of the Picture Room in the past and would provide a much more comfortable environment than that currently on offer. Since our intention has always been



to improve people's experience and open up the Hall to greater public use this is a welcome development.

Although concern about conservation and planning issues had suggested that the new event venue in the Stable Yard might just have to be a marquee, the current proposal is that it should be a purpose-built timber

and glass building - again offering a more pleasant environment for users and more "celebratory" surroundings. As our architects say, conservation is not trying to keep everything the same, it is managing change.

Once agreed, these proposals will go to consultation with the public; this is likely to be an online process. That is unfortunate, because a personal approach, especially for hard-to-reach groups, is naturally preferable but we cannot be sure of being able to organise an open event in the current circumstances.

Accessibility has always been an issue of concern for BPCP. The Hall is difficult for anyone with mobility problems, as those who attended the first Thomas Lynn Bristowe Lecture will know. There are design proposals which will address this issue, including modifying the entrance and installing a lift to the first floor. We hope that when the restoration is complete the Herne Hill Society will be able to hold events in the Hall again.

Critical issues that will need to be addressed over the coming months include the Business Case and the future governance of the Hall. The Business Case will be a crucial aspect of the application; both Lambeth and the NHLF need to be confident that the Hall can generate income to fund staffing and maintenance for the foreseeable future, particularly as Lambeth may need to borrow money to finance its contribution. BPCP is also concerned that the governance of the Hall should ensure that the Hall and the park are treated as a unified whole. At present the proposal is that Lambeth will manage the Hall with the community represented through the Brockwell Park Partnership Board but that, in time, the governance will move to a community trust organisation, with strong Lambeth representation. The NHLF will have to be satisfied that this will ensure public involvement and will provide a stable framework that will support their investment.

If this application succeeds it will be a success not just for Lambeth but also for the community of stakeholders, including the Society, and for cooperative working between the two. Belatedly, the Cooperative Parks project, "parked" by the Cabinet member a few years ago, will actually bear fruit.

Ann Kingsbury



The Florence shut



No rest for the wicked



On the breadline?

LOCKDOWN HERNE HILL SPRING 2020



Queuing for coffee



A reminder for everybody



How wide is 2m?



Ode to Joy



Rainbows of hope

HHS AGM – Report from the Chair

The followed Government advice at the time about Coronavirus and decided to go ahead with our AGM on Wednesday 11 March. In retrospect perhaps we should not have done so! As it was we saw a respectable turnout of 38 members.

I had decided some time ago that this would be my last year as Chair; more precisely, that I would be prepared to stand again, but only on the understanding that I would not serve the full year before handing over to another Committee member as soon as they were ready to take on the job. My seven years as Chair have passed remarkably quickly. I feel that I have, to some extent, modernised the Society and introduced a few necessary improvements. But at 65 I know that my best years are behind me and that it is time to step aside.

It felt odd not to have our much-loved President, William Kirby, amongst us. Bill, who died in February at the age of 100, was a strong supporter of the Society over the years and, even during the last year of his life, attended as often as he was able. He was also very supportive and generous to me personally. Those present celebrated Bill's life with a round of applause and we moved to the evening's main business. Apologies were noted and the minutes of the previous year's AGM were adopted as a true record, with no matters arising.

For a small Society, with an understrength Committee, we achieved quite a lot last year. For example, we made a number of Small Grants, totalling £1,500. We celebrated local hero John Ruskin by sponsoring two concerts and inviting Lambeth Archivist Jon Newman to give an excellent Thomas Lynn Bristowe Lecture. And we worked with Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees to hold an important meeting at a packed Baptist Church. But above all, 2019 was notable for the completion of our First World War project, which resulted in an online database holding descriptions of the lives and deaths of more than 550 of Herne Hill's residents. Our work unearthed a huge amount of information about the nature of our community a century ago. Few

local societies achieved anything on this scale. But the most tangible output was the memorial slate, made by Mark Brooks and financed by Southeastern Railway, which is now on display in the Ticket Hall of Herne Hill Station. We were delighted that Helen Hayes MP was able to unveil it at our Remembrance Sunday commemoration. To Vice-Chair Laurence Marsh, my heartfelt thanks for choosing the very appropriate wording. No one could have done it better. We ended 2019 with 299 members: a reduction of 10 compared with December 2018. However, as we did not conduct a recruitment campaign last year this ought not to be a matter of great

I then handed over to Treasurer Martyn Hall, who presented statements of the Society's income and expenditure. Our balance at the end of 2019 was in excess of £16,000; overall our finances were sound. It was noted that the Committee had made a conscious effort to reduce a more than adequate bank balance through supporting local good causes, and intended to do more in the future. The accounts were adopted unanimously.

Just before the break Patrick Roberts (outgoing Secretary) summarised the difficulties experienced by an understrength Committee in recent years and the strain this placed on certain members. An Extraordinary General Meeting in November had heard of the difficult decisions we faced unless people came forward to fill key positions. Thankfully in recent weeks the situation had become much more encouraging with people stepping forward to replace outgoing members of the Committee.

Rebecca (Becky) Tee, a long-time member, has offered to join the Committee with a view to taking over as Chair later in the year. She did not of course know when she stepped forward that while the Society's immediate crisis was being averted a much greater crisis was about to engulf the whole country! But I know that she comes fired with ambition to continue the work the Society does best. And I am also confident that, as someone who



has not been on the Committee before and with her own ideas, the Society will continue to prosper.

Moreover, Rosalind Glover has volunteered to rejoin the Committee as Membership Secretary and Carol Boucher, a former councillor, has also offered to join the Committee, with Henry Ferguson offering to stand for the post of Secretary.

There is more about Rebecca and Carol on the next page and a full list at page 2 of all members of the Committee, following their election at the AGM, for the conduct of which particular thanks to John Brunton.

You can read the full report of the 2020 AGM, together with supporting documents at https://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/agm-reports-and-committee-minutes/

As this is my last AGM report for the magazine, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in a variety of ways over the years. This includes every member on the Committee, past and present, with special thanks to Sheila Northover, Robert Holden, John Brunton, Ros Glover, Laurence Marsh and Pat Roberts. But of course this list could go on and on and on!

Although I am writing less than a month after the AGM, it sometimes seems that we are living in another world. With the country in lockdown, who knows when we shall be able to hold another public meeting? And, now that we finally have a full-strength Committee, how are we to meet and, more importantly, what should we be looking to achieve?

"Business as usual" would overstate what is achievable, but we will, in the short term, continue to do our best to bring you stories of local interest - a diversion, hopefully, from depressing current news. And in the longer term - over to you Becky!

Colin Wight (still Chair)

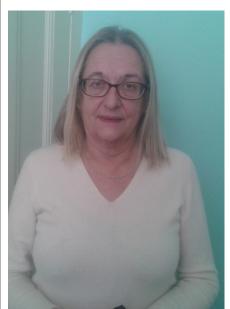
Welcome to our new Committee Members

Rebecca Tee has answered the Society's call in its hour of need with a view to taking over as Chair in the course of this year She has lived In Herne Hill since 1993, enjoying the mix of city life combined with the sense of community. She works as a careers expert, and for the last decade has been involved in the governance of local schools as a volunteer. She joined the Society 24 years ago and is committed to ensuring the continuation



of the good work of the Society in terms of its planning scrutiny, awareness of local history and care for the community and environment. Rebecca says: "I am ambitious to expand our membership to find more people with IT skills, experience of event organisation and social media communications in order to grow the next generation of Society activists."

arol Boucher has also stepped forward to join the Committee of the Society. She has lived here for some 45 years, first in Rollscourt Avenue and now in Lowden Road, and has a great affection for the area with its open spaces,



shops, restaurants, public amenities and good transport links. As a resident and a local Lambeth Councillor from 2010 to 2014 she understands the work of the Herne Hill Society in informing on local history and architecture, monitoring planning applications and contributing to preserving the fabric of our area. Carol adds: "I am pleased to join the Committee and to

play a part in continuing this valuable work."

ZOOMING IN ON LAMBETH HISTORY

ambeth Archives may be shut, but they have made sure their work goes on in ways to benefit the community. They are inviting all who are interested to attend, via Zoom, a series of talks on aspects of Lambeth history. To book a place and receive log-in details for any talk, email archives@lambeth.gov.uk. The talks are at Tuesday lunchtime and on Thursday evening:

Tuesday 21 April 13.15 – 14.00 Where is Lambeth?

An exploration of Lambeth's many identities, its geography, its landlords and its different localities by Len Reilly

Thursday 30 April 18.45 - 19.30 A walk around Water Lambeth

A virtual exploration of Lambeth's ancient village centre on the bank of the Thames by Len Reilly

Tuesday 5 May 13.15 - 14.00 A Place of public execution

The gallows at Kennington and other former execution sites in Lambeth by Jon Newman)

Thursday 14 May 18.45 – 19.30 Lambeth in Literature

How this part of South London has been represented by writers as diverse as William Blake, Charles Dickens, Jake Arnott and Alex Wheatle by Jon Newman

Tuesday19 May 13.15 - 14.00 Lambeth's history online

An introduction to some of the main online sources for researching Lambeth's history and how to access them by Len Reilly

Thursday 28 May 18.45 - 19.30 A walk around Waterloo

A virtual walk around the Waterloo area by Len Reilly

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Celebrating 40 years in Herne Hill







Great War memorial plaque rescued

style, formerly St John's Church, built in 1881, it was affiliated from the outset to the mother church of St Paul's Herne Hill, to minister to the growing population in the Milkwood Estate area. Although as a Mission Church it was not as well attended as originally hoped, it struggled on operating as a church until 1988 and thereafter served a variety of community purposes, suffering perennially from a shortage of maintenance funds and occasional vandalism. (We quote here shamelessly from the indispensable Herne Hill Heritage Trail book; a fuller history of the church can be found in another of the Society's publications, Milkwood Estate – the Story of a Lambeth Community.) Attempts to secure it as a long-term community resource were unsuccessful. The building was closed in 2010 and in May 2012 it was sold to the 7th Day Adventist Church, for whom it has become a busy and thriving centre for worship and socialising.

ictorian Ecclesiastical Gothic

When it was a parish building, and

well before it was repurposed as a centre for a variety of community activities, St John's housed a modest First World War memorial plaque. This did not list individual names but signalled that the



main church on Herne Hill recorded the names of parishioners who had lost their lives in the Great War. Unfortunately this plaque, which had survived and been protected for a century, recently found its way to the outside yard of the 7th Day Adventist Church, where it seemed

destined for an ignominious disposal.

This was clearly an oversight. The Society raised the issue and early this year met with the Elders of the church for a friendly and very positive discussion. Following

our initial contact, we found that they had decided, to reinstall the plaque. They have now been as good as their word. In its new life, it now figures on the outside of the church, which has the advantage that it can be seen by passers-by.

The interior of the church building, we also discovered, has been comprehensively rebuilt and modernised, at no small expense. It bears no resemblance to the shabby, run-down premises that some of us remember when we took our children there for Cubs and Saturday morning

dancing classes. The Church Elders are keen for their church to play a positive and friendly role in the local community and even to allow the use of these modern, welllit and attractive premises for the right sort of community activities.

Pat Roberts

New funding for the Velodrome

he Herne Hill Velodrome Trust has announced the grant of significant funding by the Rapha Foundation. Rapha, a British company, specialise in manufacturing quality cycle clothing and accessories and through its Foundation provides funding for grassroots and not for profit organisations to encourage the sport of cycling both in this country and internationally. The grant represents a major boost to the Velodrome's development work, allowing it to build on recent successes in women's and children's cycling while also growing the support provided to youth riders. Tim McInnes, Chair of the

Velodrome Trust said: "Herne Hill Velodrome is tremendously grateful to the Rapha Foundation for this investment. It makes a massive difference to what we do at Herne Hill, allowing us to reach out into our local community and improve our facilities,

to show people that cycling really is an accessible, fun and rewarding sport, whatever their reason for getting onto a bike." The Velodrome is currently closed, but the current lockdown has seen a remarkable increase in bike use, something that the Velodrome will surely build on when its gates are able to open again.





Helen Hayes MP

elen Hayes MP becomes Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office in the appointments recently announced by Sir Keir Starmer since his election as the new Leader of the Labour Party. This will be the first time our local MP holds a shadow cabinet role. The last issue of this Magazine appeared shortly before the General Election. Helen Hayes was comfortably re-elected with a majority of 27,310. The major change since the election of 2017 was the success of the Green Party which saw a 14% increase in its share of the vote and came second in the poll.

PLANNING & LICENSING

The Society's planning group has commented on the following:

32 Elfindale Road, Southwark 20/AP/0001

We objected to a proposal for a "rear dormer" roof extension for the full length of the rear outrigger, on the grounds that it contravened Southwark's Residential Design Standards SPD, in occupying an excessive amount of the original roof space and harming the architectural integrity of the building, in particular by destroying the gable end of the rear wall and introducing a large second floor window and in so doing failing to harmonise with the character of the area. We also objected to the loss of amenity for neighbouring houses through loss of privacy and sense of overlooking, contrary to Southwark's own planning policies. A decision is awaited.

Garages, adjacent 1 Chaucer Road, Lambeth 20/00480/FUL

We supported a proposal to demolish the garages and replace with a small two-storey house. We thought the design both inventive and respectful of its context and, in contrast to the garages, adding something of positive value to the Poets' Corner conservation area.

Shurgard self-storage, Milkwood Road, Lambeth 20/00234/ADV

We objected to a proposal to add to the two elevations visible from Milkwood Road advertisements for goods/services on sale, on the grounds that they did not add anything positive but merely introduced visual clutter to the detriment of the residential character of the area, and therefore went against the criteria in Lambeth Plan policies Q2 and Q17.

Peachy Goat, 16 Half Moon Lane, Southwark Licence application 872348

We have objected to an application to extend opening hours to 3.30 am and hours for recorded music and sale of alcohol to 3am, seven days a week. The current licence is up to 11pm (10.45pm for sale of alcohol). Such extended hours falls outside, by a substantial margin, Southwark's licensing policy for premises in this area category. There are residential flats above Half Moon Lane shops and other residential housing nearby. For this reason adherence to the licensing policy is appropriate.

Wellfit Street, Wanless Road, Hardess Street, Lambeth 19/04280/FUL

Our major task recently has been to analyse and comment on the application by architects/developers Metaphorm Limited to build two tall tower blocks of 29 and 20 storeys at the edge of the Herne Hill area. Our full objection can be read on the Society's website. Summarised very briefly we have said:

1. The two towers are not a positive, or contextual, response to the character of the area. They are wilfully antagonistic to that character, creating densely congested structures with an overbearing presence out of any reasonable scale with neighbouring buildings.

- 2. Nothing in the Lambeth Plan identifies the site as one suitable for tall buildings. The recent permission on the Higgs Estate is not a precedent, because of the differences between the two sites and the huge increase in height compared with what is proposed for the Higgs Estate.
- 3. Both the London Plan and Lambeth Plan stress the need to for very high architectural quality for very tall buildings, which in our view these towers do not possess.
- 4. The presentation of the effect of the towers on local views,



especially affecting heritage assets, is selective and misleading.

- 5. The very high density proposed is inappropriate, given the pressure this would impose on local infrastructure not equipped to deal with such pressure. This applied especially to Loughborough Junction station, including pedestrian access to the station.
- 6. The damaging effect of the towers on daylight and sunlight to neighbouring housing is unacceptable.
- 7. The proportion of affordable housing is not adequate.
- 8. The proposal is likely to lead to loss of industrial floorspace and a detrimental effect on existing industrial activities in the railway arches in Hardess Street, affecting local employment.

 A decision is awaited.

 Laurence Marsh

BREAKING NEWS

Dorchester Court

As we go to press applications for planning permission and listed building consent have been submitted to Lambeth for major development at Dorchester Court at the top of Herne Hill, ref. 20/01200/FUL and 20/01201/LB.

The Grade II listed mansion blocks were built in the latter half of the 1930s by architects Kemp & Tasker, best known for their cinema buildings. Dorchester Court has long been in need of repair – indeed it is on Historic England's "Heritage at Risk" register. The applications envisage repair and regeneration in conjunction with 16 penthouse flats added to the eight existing blocks and eight town houses built on the adjacent garage site, now derelict. We will report on this in the next issue once we have had a chance to digest the more than 200 documents submitted.



So you thought Nevill's was "brown bread"?

Allied Bakeries, later to become Associated British Foods. In due course H.W. Nevill was subsumed into the Sunblest brand and later dissolved altogether.

When the Nevill's brand was relaunched Tesco announced: "Back in 1872, Henry William Nevill founded his first bakery and started

> a proud baking tradition. Almost 150 years later, our hero bakers take their craft just as seriously as Henry did. Using only quality ingredients, they work through the night to create delicious bakery favourites for the whole family to enjoy."

But of course these favourites (such as that popular Victorian staple, plain tortilla wraps) have nothing to do with the company that Henry Nevill founded. Nevill's bread is now produced by the Chorleywood method on the computercontrolled production lines of one of the country's largest industrial bakers. You might see the resurrection of the Nevill's brand as a cynical attempt to market a

basic sliced loaf as a hand-crafted, traditional product. We couldn't possibly comment.

Colin Wight



lease forgive the Cockney rhyming slang. A while ago Society member George Young spied H.W. Nevill's wholemeal bread on the shelves of Tesco in Acre Lane, Brixton. Yet it is more than 50 years since Nevill's bakery in Milkwood Road closed its doors. Today the Milkwood Community Park stands on the site. Could it be that Nevill's has gone and done a Lazarus? Sadly not.

In January 2018 Tesco withdrew its own-brand, "everyday value" sliced loaf. In its place, at a similar price of around 40p, is a loaf marketed under the brand name "H.W. Nevill" and sold in a wrapper bearing a design that suggests the hand-

crafted standards of a bygone age. Nevill's was once a family business with bakeries in Acton and Leytonstone, as well as Herne Hill. But that was in the last century, before it was gobbled up by



Nevill's from the air c1950

Cleaner Greener Safer:

successful bids!

wo big community projects supported by the Herne Hill Society have won substantial financial backing from Southwark Council under this year's Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) programme. A total of £12,000 went to the street trees and £10,000 for speed signs.

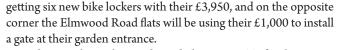
The street tree bid, drafted by the volunteers of Herne Hill Tree

Watch, should be enough for at least 20 young trees on the Southwark side in the planting season, which starts in late 2020. The Council's priority is to plant where trees have been lost, but residents will have a chance to propose locations and their preferred species.

The lighted speed signs will be going up along Half Moon Lane and Village Way. Half Moon Lane has a serious problem with fast and reckless driving, and the hope is that these signs, plus the

hand-held speed cameras of the Community Roadwatch team, will help curb the worst offenders.

Meanwhile the busy pavement build-outs at the junction between Half Moon Lane, Village Way and Beckwith Road are set for a green makeover thanks to a CGS allocation of £3,000, while Wesley Court, the block next to the Methodist Church Hall, will be



Heading up along Elmwood Road, there is £1,660 for three new street trees, while Sunray Gardens has £3,000 for an avenue of seven Yoshino cherries.

> Sunray Gardens is getting an additional £2,000 to plant in flower beds that are currently rather overgrown, and £3,000 is going towards improving the road surface, the pavements and the street lighting around one of the garden squares on Sunray Avenue, close to Nairne Grove.

Back on Half Moon Lane, Judith Kerr Primary School won £5,625 to resurface its all-weather sports pitch and £2,250 was approved for the Delachick Project, which raises chickens and

provides eggs to the people of Delawyk Crescent. In Burbage Road, £5,000 will provide a bikehangar unit for the Royston Court

And finally, CGS is providing Charter School North Dulwich with £5000 for a multi-purpose garden that students and staff can enjoy all year round. Jeff Segal



William Ernest Kirby 1919–2020

Bill Kirby, the Society's Honorary President, died in February, aged 100. He was in fine form, in a wheelchair, at his centenary birthday party in December, but after Christmas spent several weeks in King's College Hospital and died in St Christopher's Hospice on 18 February.

Bill was a founder member of the Society and served on the Committee from 1992 to 2009. He held the Transport portfolio for much of that time, writing campaigning letters when necessary and attending many meetings on our behalf. He had a special interest in buses and was a fount of knowledge on changes to routes in South London, with Herne Hill as his focus.

Bill and his late wife Irene were nominated for the Lambeth Civic Award in 2010 in recognition of the charitable work they had done over many years, particularly for Muscular Dystrophy UK. Members of the Committee were at the Town Hall to witness him receiving the prestigious borough-wide award, on behalf of both of them, from the Mayor of Lambeth.

Traditionally an Obituary describes the life and achievements of the subject, but we are very fortunate in Bill's case to be able to listen to his story, in his own voice.

Bill was interviewed in 2016 by Colin Wight for an online project called Herne Hill History Hear, and it is a pleasure to be able to hear him talking about his memories in four brief episodes. At the age of 96 he enjoyed talking about his childhood, his family, of witnessing Crystal Palace burning down in 1936 - as well as his hobbies, including stamp collecting, and much more. Without doubt this is a precious resource to have, and I can recommend it highly.

Bill attended most of our monthly Society meetings, right up until late last autumn, and enjoyed our activities and the friendship he found in the Society.

He is much missed by his children, Julia Kirby-Jones and George Jones, and their families, and many friends.

His Funeral and Thanksgiving service were due to take place on 19 March, but because of the Coronavirus pandemic the family were only able to arrange a small but fitting cremation service. They plan to hold a Memorial service at a later date for the many people who would like to pay tribute to him.

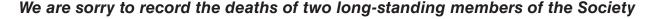
Sheila Northover

Colin adds

I got to know Bill when visiting his flat in Tudor Stacks on several occasions to record an oral history interview. We talked about his early life, his war experiences, his extraordinary dedication to Dulwich Hamlet, and his other interests and hobbies. He possessed an enviably clear memory.

He was a great character: very open-minded and expressive. He used to call me "my boy", which I did not object to. Although increasingly frail after the death of his dear wife Irene, he always remained positive and cheerful in company. He was described in a recent obituary as "sharp as a button"! No doubt Bill would have chuckled at that.

You can listen to the interview at https://soundcloud.com/herne-hill-history-hear/sets/bill-kirby or https://tinyurl.com/t749a3x



Gwladys Law, 1940–2020, who died on 16 January, was - I believe - a Founder Member of the Society. She was on the Committee in the 1980s and 90s, until she moved from Haredale Road to West Dulwich. She remained a member and kept up her interest in Herne Hill matters through the Magazine.

I first met her in the late 1960s when she was a Night Sister and I was a student nurse at King's College Hospital. She had a distinguished career in nursing, from her time as a student at Manchester Royal Infirmary and other hospitals, through to her many years at King's. The culmination of her time there was as Sister in charge of the world-renowned Liver Unit on Todd Ward, where she was highly respected by Professor Roger Williams and his team. She later changed direction within nursing, leaving clinical work to join the staff at the Department of Health, and become a Nurse Tutor at the Brompton Hospital.

In retirement she led an active life for many years, enjoying

lectures and exhibitions, as well as participating in nursing research as a volunteer and contributing to the oral history archive of the Royal College of Nursing. We stayed in touch with each other for more than 50 years.

Sheila Northover

John White, 1946–2019, who died in December last year, was a long-standing member of the Society. He became a resident of Twickenham, but was born in Southwark and grew up in Streatham and Balham. He was an active member of many organisations in South London, including the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery and the Lambeth Local History Forum, and came to Herne Hill Society meetings as often as he could and always told me how much he enjoyed the Magazine. His working life was spent with London Transport, retiring as an area manager. Among the many pursuits he took up in retirement was to become a City of London Guide.

Sheila Northover

Dulwich Traffic

keep calm and carry on quietly

outhwark's initiative "Our Healthy Streets
– Dulwich" takes an area-wide approach to
restricting through movement within the
area bounded by Half Moon Lane, East Dulwich
Grove, Lordship Lane, the South Circular, Croxted
Road and Norwood Road. Consultation is in four
phases, ending in 2021.

The overall area in consideration has been divided into Areas A, B and C, as shown on the plan.

The final 'toolkit' comprises three types of measure:

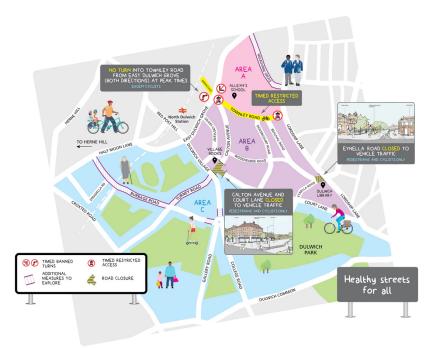
- "Permeable" permanent road closures effectively stopping routine vehicle traffic, but allowing the passage of pedestrians, cyclists and mobility scooters, and with exceptional access for public service and emergency vehicles;
- Permanent one-way restrictions blocking a road to routine vehicle traffic in one direction only; and
- Timed peak-hour restrictions of through traffic at certain points, but still allowing access to vehicles of local residents with permits (this will be achieved through Automatic Number Plate Recognition ANPR camera technology)

The proposals for Area B are fairly well defined. They comprise permeable closures of both Calton Avenue and Court Lane at the junction with Dulwich Village (effectively making the junction a simple T with Turney Road); a similar permeable closure of Eynella Road at its junction with Lordship Lane at the library; and timed peak-hour bans of non-permit holders turning into both Court Lane and Townley Road from Lordship Lane. Townley Road will be designated a "school street", with timed bans for all vehicle traffic at school start and end times.

For Area A options are being explored for a permanent restriction on Melbourne Grove as it approaches East Dulwich Grove – either a permeable permanent closure, or a one-way closure to allow vehicle traffic southbound from East Dulwich Grove, but to block traffic northbound.

For the larger Area C Southwark has suggested two options. Both involve peak-hour permit restriction for non-resident vehicle traffic entering Burbage Road or Dulwich Village from the roundabout with Gallery Road and College Road. Both involve a one-way closure of Turney Road at Burbage Road, stopping traffic travelling towards Dulwich Village. One option then adds a permeable closure of Burbage Road by the railway bridge near Stradella Road, or the other option adds just a one-way closure of Burbage Road northbound towards Herne Hill by the railway bridge.

For those who are still with me (and for those who jumped to the last paragraph) here are some points to ponder:



- Areas A and C will have routes available for non-residents to access all addresses at all times
- Given the scale of concern about air quality and traffic, it is likely that something major will be done, before neighbouring areas take similar initiatives
- Much is made of "traffic evaporation" the expectation that some vehicle users will change their behaviour – this will be an important assumption in adjusting the traffic arrangements on the boundary routes
- The definition of the peak hours is still being debated with the evening peak probably longer to cover school and work ending times
- The main Herne Hill junction under the railway bridge is an important, difficult junction with several important bus routes
- At the moment the right turn from the South Circular onto Croxted Road towards Herne Hill is banned – this boundary route issue will need to be revisited if restrictions are placed on vehicles using College Road and Gallery Road
- The role of the fee-paying Foundation private schools is vaguely supportive, in a non-financial way
- Southwark claim the eventual scheme will be funded, but it is not clear by whom
- The expectation is that the residents' permit scheme would be associated with a new or extended Controlled Parking Zone for the area
- Access to Area B during the timed perimeter bans by essential visitors such as carers will require specific extra arrangements
- Southwark claim the closure arrangements are "feasible" but it
 is not clear how heavy lorries will be able to manoeuvre at dead
 ends, or if the partially blocked roads will be one way or two
 way along their length.

More details can be found by searching for "Our Healthy Streets – Dulwich" on the London Borough of Southwark website. Lockdown has transformed everyday experience of our local streets and one can expect this to influence future attitudes.

Bil Harrison









or 250 years there was no building in London to rival the 111 metres' height of St Paul's Cathedral. Those of us who knew London in the 1960s will remember the shock and - I will admit - the excitement of seeing the arrival of the first truly tall buildings of the twentieth century. The very first I recall particularly well since the 88 bus passed close-by as it took me to school. That was the Millbank Tower, completed in 1963 and the tallest building in the UK until the arrival of the GPO Tower a year later. In 1966 Centrepoint appeared – and remained unoccupied for its first nine years. All these building were a little taller than St Paul's. It is a reflection of how what appears at first as disturbingly novel becomes, given time, part of the established order that all three building are now Grade II listed. In the years that followed very tall buildings remained the exception and continued to be so until much more recent times. In the 20 years after 1970 just six buildings over 100m were built in London. In the next 20 years this increased to 16. In the last 10 years the figure has grown to 50 with further increase to this rate in the building pipeline.

Herne Hill today is, predominantly, an area built in the 50 years up to the First World War. Like other London suburbs that grew up as the railway network expanded, it provided street after street of two- and occasionally three-storey houses. The two tower blocks of 18 storeys on Dulwich Road, 52 metres tall, completed in 1968 provide a notable exception, a product of the dynamism that Lambeth was able to invest in social housing under the leadership of the borough's architect Ted Hollamby. And there are a handful of buildings with up to five storeys, but to my mind the distinctive character of the area remains, despite later additions, that of the late Victorian and Edwardian suburb.

Is that character now coming under threat from the rapid growth in the number of very tall buildings? The growth has to date been largely confined to the northern end of the boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark and to the City. However, large residential blocks are increasingly appearing further south, such as those recently completed for the Guinness Trust in Brixton. At their highest they reach 12 storeys and for many Herne Hill residents they now exert a powerful presence on the urban scene (and have blocked a popular view of Battersea Power Station, as we noted in the Winter 2017 issue of this Magazine). Currently, as described in the current issue's Planning report, there is an application to build two residential tower blocks, one of 20 storeys and the other of 29 storeys on land used for a variety of light industrial purposes on a small site that lies between Wanless Road and the

embankment carrying the railway line between Brixton and Denmark Hill. Whether the site should be described as belonging to Herne Hill or to Loughborough Junction or even Brixton matters not in the present context. What matters is that these "twin towers", if approved, will introduce something – to my mind – wholly antipathetic to Herne Hill's essential character and could create a precedent for more such buildings in future.

It is clear that local authorities in London are under enormous pressure to see more homes built. The need for more homes is a reality, but how the need is met is more often than not a highly political question. It is often said that the Government builds homes. For example the Conservative Party in its 2019 election manifesto stated: "we will continue our progress towards our target of 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s. This will see us build at least a million more homes, of all tenures, over the next Parliament – in the areas that really need them". But in practice new homes can only be delivered via the planning system administered firstly, in the case of London, through the Mayor and the GLA and, secondly, through local London boroughs. The Mayor is responsible for devising the broad strategic framework for London's development in a document known as the London Plan. It contains specific provisions regarding tall buildings. So too does the local plan for Lambeth, a plan that must conform with the overall principles set out in the London Plan. Thus the current London Plan says that "Tall and large buildings should only be considered in areas whose character would not be affected adversely by the scale, mass or bulk of a tall or large building". But a new London Plan is in the process of being introduced. The new Plan does not contain these words. It looks very much to local authorities to identify where tall buildings could appropriately be sited and what heights would be appropriate on such sites. However, Lambeth have to date not done this in its current local plan, which itself is also in the course of being replaced with a new plan. My impression is that Lambeth do not want to tie their hands too tightly in terms of identifying appropriate sites for tall buildings and would prefer to make assessments on a case by case basis.

Alongside the uncertain position as regards the application of planning policy to tall buildings there is the constant pressure to increase housing supply. The draft new London Plan sets a specific target for Lambeth over the next 10 years – 1589 new homes every year. Importantly, the "density matrix" is abandoned. This was a means of calculating appropriate housing density by reference to public transport





THE HEIGHT OF THINGS TO COME?

availability levels (PTAL). However, it had in practice come to be applied very unsystematically. Were the old density matrix to be applied to the "twin towers" they would far exceed the recommended density levels. The new approach is designed to be more flexible, as indeed it needs to be if the targets set are to be met. As the new London Plan puts it: "Development proposals must make the most efficient use of land and be developed at the optimum density". Yet more pressure to increase housing provision can be seen in the very recent letter from Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to the Mayor, where he says: "Housing delivery in London under your mayoralty has been deeply disappointing". He has refused to approve the new London Plan until changes are made that will include revisions designed to improve delivery of more housing. This pressure will filter through to influence the new Lambeth Plan and the planning decisions Lambeth have to make on proposals such as the "twin towers".

A key part of the politics of housebuilding is its financing. Given austerity and Right to Buy, Government has increasingly come to look to the private sector to meet the need for new homes. New homes need the infrastructure to support them – schools, health care, community centres and a host of other facilities. Payments by developers under the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and \$106 have become important levers for delivering not only affordable housing but also underlying infrastructure, things that in the past would have been provided through state funding. The private sector will only build if it can make a profit. Combined with land speculation amongst developers, this has led to higher density levels and therefore increasing the height of buildings to meet those levels.

This is not to say that local authorities will suddenly be approving tall or even very tall buildings on sites where rational common sense planning criteria would dictate refusal. I would argue that the application of such criteria should prevent the proposal for the "twin towers" succeeding. Indeed the objection to the proposal that the Society has submitted to Lambeth (the full text appears on the Society's website) makes this argument and relies on established planning policies. However, we have to face the prospect of tall buildings playing an increased role in London's housing. At least one would have said that before the current Coronavirus crisis. The longer-term economic and social consequences of the crisis can at this stage only be guessed at, but I have already seen it suggested that the way we live in and build our

cities in future will inevitably change.

There are of course always two sides to any argument. I write as someone fortunate to live in a house built around 1905 with a good-sized garden – a particular privilege in a time of national lockdown. But, lockdown aside, there are many who prefer a flat in a contemporary building, not prone to draughts and high heating costs and, if lucky, with fine views over London.



Twin Towers seen from Northway Road

A huge variety of tall buildings have been built in London over the last 50 and more years. One only need consult Edmund Bird's survey in *Lambeth Architecture* 1965-99 or, for very recent development, New London Architecture's comprehensive London Tall Buildings Survey 2019, to see that building skywards has released a powerful creative impetus. There are buildings of beauty and ingenuity, and also buildings whose permanent eradication would benefit mankind. But do I want, at the edge of Herne Hill, two tower blocks, far taller than anything that has ever been built before, either in the immediate or the wider area? Clearly not. And I like to think that I base my judgement on an objective application of sound planning criteria. But if I'm accused by some of nimbyism, I think I can live with it.

Laurence Marsh

HALF MOON STUDIO - BUT IS IT ...?

or a start, Half Moon Studio is not in the Half Moon Hotel nor is it on Half Moon Lane. But its name is not frivolously chosen. And they are local. Read on.

It houses a group of artists who make prints. Four of them, in fact, who come together to rent a studio where this highly traditional and demanding artistic craft can be exercised. They each have their own style and vision, their individual and distinct range of subjects, and their personal approach to the science, technology and aesthetics that underlie the absorbing technique of

They make etchings, in fact.

The technique of etching goes back to at least the 15th century when it was used to embellish valued metal items such as high-class armour and swords. It was preceded by the technique of engraving on copper plates, a physically demanding and artistically limited way to produce a number of prints from the same original design. All

the same, an engraved



Susie Perring, Sonia Rollo and Karen Keogh

copper plate, carefully inked then pressed together with a sheet of paper under the enormous pressure of heavy rollers, was able to generate images that are comparable to modern etchings, if almost always merely monochrome and built around a combination of lines and crosshatching.

The production discipline for etchings is similar but can produce more sophisticated and colourful prints. Here, the indentations in the metal plate can produce not just lines but areas of colour and different textures and are created by acid. The plates these days are generally zinc. They are first coated with a substance resistant to acid (sometimes called the "ground"), which allows the artist to scratch through the ground with a sharp point, exposing lines and other patterns of metal which the mordant acid attacks once the plate is immersed in a bath of mordant. This oxidising agent "bites" into the metal to a depth depending on time and chemical strength. The remaining ground is cleaned off, leaving behind the hand-drawn image embedded into the plate. The plate is coated all over with the chosen inks and the surface colour wiped off, leaving ink left behind in the etched indentations. This is then sandwiched with the appropriate sheet of paper and fed manually under great pressure through the printing press to produce a unique print. Unique in the sense that each impression, however many the artist chooses to make, is individually inked each time and for each colour, and therefore each print is potentially a little different from others in the series. Prints are normally sold in limited, numbered editions, as inevitably the metal plate progressively wears out.

Artists such as those in the Half Moon Studio can employ many variations of this technique. Many use two or even three plates to build up a final image, and here the paper goes through the printing press two or three times. In other techniques such as aquatints, a complicated process creates areas of tone difficult or impossible to achieve by simply drawing through a wax ground.

Two of the artists have been together for several decades and are still to be found in their Studio most days, where they both design and sketch prints and then produce them. When we visited, Susie

Perring had just produced a series of dramatic cityscape prints and was moving on to a series of ink drawings of cats, which of course offer an endlessly varied series of poses and expressions. Her colleague Sonia Rollo, who specialises in limited edition prints of animals and birds, was printing one of her seductive and subtly coloured images of a hare, straining as she rotated the huge wheel to feed the

plate and the paper through her classic etching press. (It was built by Harry F. Rochat Ltd in High Barnet, but is probably not very different from an etching press that we might have seen in an 18th or 19th century printing shop.) Martin Ridgwell works only in black and white to create his distinctive and enigmatic images, while Karen Keogh habitually uses three plates in a demanding process to create vivid aquatints, often featuring landscapes and significant trees.

The four artists who work here sell their prints through a variety of channels – galleries, print shows, shops and their individual websites (see below).

So, you ask yourself, are they in Herne Hill? Yes, now they are — in fact they have fairly recently moved into new premises lodged in the further reaches of the Bath Factory Estate, which we have often written about with increasing affection. Their studio is tucked into an arch under that branch of the railway, hastening towards West Dulwich, that skirts the backs of the houses in Stradella Road. You get used to the sound of the trains trundling overhead after a few years, it is said.

Still, this doesn't explain why they have been calling themselves the Half Moon Studio for many a year now.

Here's the secret. Some years ago, in what became unintentionally a succession of moves, they set up their presses in what had once been a byre for cows in that small cluster of Victorian outhouses that were once a dairy (yes, with actual cows to be milked on a daily basis) that has gone through many a metamorphosis but is



Susie Perring touching up a new print

still discernible on Howletts Road behind Budgens on Half Moon Lane. (That's your clue.) They rented these premises for several years from the previous tenant, Mr Patel. After leaving there they sought refuge in premises on Coldharbour Lane, then moved again to West Dulwich, in a studio hidden behind the bakery on the corner of Park Hall Road and South Croxted Road. When that recently stopped being available, they took refuge in our railway arches but of course operated under the same, now familiar, name. A studio with heavy iron printing presses requires a particularly hard and robust floor. The railway arches can provide that. Herne Hill is delighted to have these creative people working here and wishes them a long and happy stay.

Pat Roberts

All the printmakers have their own attractive websites showing their work:

http://www.susieperring.com/ http://www.soniarollo.com/ http://www.karen-keogh.co.uk/ https://www.martinridgwell.com/

In 2020, the Studio is planning to offer two-day short courses in printmaking for groups of 6 - 8 people. If people are interested, they can contact

Susie Perring on susie@susieperring.com or 07817 762 780.

Holden on to historic artefact

by popular vote, to the ballroom dancing stars Bob Burgess and Doreen Freeman, who, after retiring from international competition in the 1960s, established the Grafton Hall in Village Way as a mecca for ballroom dancing over several decades. It seems that Grafton Hall will be getting more than just a plaque. Many years ago Robert Holden, Society member and

local historian par excellence, was able to rescue, from a skip in Milkwood Road, the illuminated sign that used to adorn the building and he has cared for it ever since. We



show it on display at the back of Robert's house. He would like to give it back to the Grafton Hall and for a suitable place to be found there for its safekeeping. We hope this will be possible. Robert, we should add, will be leading one of his renowned local history walks on 26 September. It is due to end at Grafton Hall.

he history of the Grafton Hall features in an article by Ian McInnes, which can be found here https://www.dulwichsociety.com/journal-archive/73-autumn-2011/654-grafton-hall.



Among the many interesting details is the use of the hall as a "British Restaurant" during the Second World War. Such restaurants were run by local committees on a non-profit making basis. Restaurant meals were not subject to rationing, but no-one could be served with a meal of more than one serving of meat, game, poultry, fish, eggs, or cheese - though one does not imagine such a generous choice was always available. The walls, Ian tells us, were

decorated with appropriate posters by James Fitton RA (1899-1982), who lived and worked in Pond Cottages, Dulwich. We show an example.

A NEW VEGAN RESTAURANT IN HERNE HILL - WILL IT CATCH ON?

nswer, almost certainly yes (though not in the throes of the Covid-19 lockdown, unfortunately). But in the longer term, the vegan movement now seems unstoppable, above all because people realise that they don't need to be full-on totally committed vegans to enjoy vegan food.

Earlier this year, in Veganuary (i.e. vegan January) as it's now called, the BBC reported that across Britain, people were spending more money on vegan products, and plant-based diets were trending online.

Supermarket chains in the UK are stocking more vegan options to keep up with consumers' food choices. In 2018 Waitrose introduced a dedicated vegan section in more than 130 shops, while Iceland reported that sales of its plant-based food have risen by 10% over the last year. The UK market for meat-free foods was reportedly worth £740m in 2018, according to market researchers

Mintel, up from £539m only three years ago. And consider the announcement at the beginning of this year by fast-food chain Gregg's of a bonus of £300 to each of their 25,000 employees, the result of the runaway success of their vegan sausage roll.

Plainly the number of committed vegans is on the up. According to research by the Vegan Society, conducted in 2018, there are around 600,000 vegans in Great Britain. It's estimated that this is up from 150,000 in 2006, and that there

Ollie Sechi and Martyn White

are twice as many women than men who are vegan. By now the numbers are almost certainly higher.

The picture is still nuanced. In findings published last month, the leading food and brand research company Kantar noted that many consumers who tried to give up meat, fish and poultry – and, most difficult it appears, cheese – in January didn't stay the course. Nevertheless, some did, and were converted: and anyway, there is a measurable move towards a much higher vegan or vegetarian content in our diets, sometimes for personal health reasons, sometimes in response to the impact of farming on the global ecosystems. The trend now seems irreversible.

Even some hallowed traditions are being challenged. Last year Tesco reported that sales of meat-free haggis had rocketed by 120% year on year. Its two best-selling vegetarian (actually, 100% vegan) haggis products profited from the "... clamour for vegan and

vegetarian food", the store admitted.

So Peachy Goat, launched in the Half Moon Lane shop previously occupied by Mimosa, seemed to have their timing right. (They hadn't predicted the coronavirus pandemic, but none of us had, had we?) It's a start-up venture owned and run by three friends passionate about food (and drink of course) served affectionately in the right happy environment. Opened in early 2020 and funded by their accumulated personal savings, it is already attracting not just the curious first timers but also many eager return visitors. Manager Martyn White insists that, while the

three of them are individually vegan and therefore could only run a vegan restaurant, Peachy Goat is for everyone - those who want to sustain a totally vegan diet, but also the rest of us who simply want to eat less meat and enjoy more seasonal plant-based food from time to time. So here we can all happily coexist and experience fine vegan food in a relaxed but professionally run restaurant and bar.

Ollie Sechi, his brother Luca Sechi (who is head chef) and Martyn are all well experienced in the professional food and

catering business from their teenage years. An earlier stint selling vegan burgers in Herne Hill's Sunday Market suggested to them that there was a growing appetite for good plant-based food – food that "speaks for itself", as Martyn puts it – in South-East London. As South Londoners, Herne Hill was their ideal focus for a new restaurant, especially one which occupies a different position from the already established eateries here.

In its inaugural weeks, Peachy Goat was open Tuesday – Sunday for lunch, cocktails and dinner, afternoon snacks, and brunch at weekends. Let's hope they, like other brave local adventures, will soon be able to emerge from hibernation.

So why 'Peachy Goat'? You will have to look it up on Google.

www.peachygoat.com

"Fully plant-based Bistro"

Pat Roberts

"Fully plant-based Bistro"
16 Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, SE24 9HU

Delivering the goods...

earing chickens –a new hobby in times of lockdown? If so, should we be following the advice of a resident of Herne Hill in these times when supermarket delivery slots can be so elusive? The *Norwood News* in 1947 carried the following add:

"Mr. C.B. of Herne Hill writes: 'I get on an average 22 eggs every week from my four birds. I give them a warm mash in the evening – plus a little dash of Karswood Poultry Spice. If poultry keepers want their birds to "deliver the goods" – in the shape of eggs [what other shape? ed.] – they should start using Karswood and keep on using it.' Get Karswood Poultry Spice (wonder egg producer, containing ground insects) in packets 7½d and 1/3d."

STRANGE EVENTS FORETOLD: SURREALISM IN DULWICH

B efore the entrance to Dulwich Picture Gallery's spring exhibition, British Surrealism, a chair hangs upside down on the wall; below it are two signs, one upside down. That is the perfect introduction to a quirky, irreverent show marking the 100th anniversary of André Breton's experiments with automatic writing, seen as the birth of Surrealism.

The curator, David Boyd Haycock, declares "there's always been something a little surreal in British art"; he has gathered over 70 works by more than 40 artists, including Leonora Carrington, Edward Burra, Ithell Colquhoun, John Armstrong and Reuben Mednikoff to point up the strain of absurdity in British culture. Gallery Director Jennifer Scott, expressing delight in hosting the



Leonora Carrington

show, says at this dark time "we need something playful and fun to make our imaginations soar". The display was planned to herald a season of the unexpected, with a range of projects and activities.

The arrangement is non-linear, but rather by broad themes, though some pictures could fit more than one. We begin with The Interpretation of Dreams. Paul Nash's 1918 "We Are Making a New World" depicts the sun rising above blasted trees, the world reawakening after the destruction of the Great War, while his 1930-31 "Opening" gives a glimpse of sea and shore beyond arch, door and window. In Edith Rimmington's "The Oneiroscopist", a birdman dons a diving suit to plunge into the subconscious. Visions of sleepers, a moonscape, figures waiting for something to happen in a passageway and a recreation of Fuseli's "Nightmare" combine with books, poems, sketchbooks and "Onanistic Typewriter" by Conroy Maddox; his intriguing "The Lesson" appears elsewhere.

Juxtaposition and Coincidences highlights collages; mixing images brings unexpected results. Surrealists believed anyone can make art, rather like the Fun Palaces of today. Examples include the post-WW2 "Aftermath" by Marion Adnams, Sam Haile's "Woman and Suspended Man", and Onslow Ford's "A Present from the Past" depicting metamorphosis of objects through unbridled thoughts.

Automatism and Subconscious presents writing or doodling as signposts of the mind. Artists made group drawings to get unexpected results. Richard Dadd, dubbed one of the ancestors of surrealism, hangs alongside Julian Trevelyan's "Standing Figure with Ace of Clubs" emerging from a plinth, a round white moon above mirroring a round white stone below.

In the gallery's mausoleum, a stone sculpture by F.E. McWilliam, "Spanish Head" evokes a screaming figure from Picasso's "Guernica".

Forbidden Desires: Surrealists broke social taboos, called for sexual freedom, explored unconventional gender identities and relationships. Women artists like Leonora Carrington, Grace

Pailthorpe and Eileen Agar were particularly daring and challenging. A Henry Moore bronze cast "Reclining Figure" features alongside a Roland Penrose oil painting "Night and Day", in which an androgynous figure with sky and cloud upper body holds a white dove in one hand, a black bird in the other. "The Green Child" by Oscar Mellor places a small nude orange man atop a chest of drawers linked to a larger nude green woman.



Marion Adnams

Politics of the Surreal:

In a word of absurdity and hypocrisy, artists sought a new moral code. Many supported the radical left in face of the rise of fascism. Clive Branson responded to the Blitz with views of working-class Battersea streets, e.g. "Plane Flying" with a huge Nazi bomber just above the rooftops. Edward Burra's "Blue Baby, Blitz Over Britain" has a monstrous creature causing devastation and fear.

The final room, Irrational and Impossible, brings together various strands to provoke new ways of seeing, from the ludicrous to menacing, surprising or macabre. Burra's "Dancing Skeletons" and John Bigge's weird ocean "Composition" appear with precursors such as Fuseli, Blake, Gillray and Tenniel. Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud are featured; Freud later objected to the doctrinaire nature of Surrealism.

Also on display are photos, such as the 1936 International Surrealist Exhibition artists, literary precursors such as Carroll, Swift and Lear, catalogues, lists of poetry readings, and letters, all contributing to this celebration of imagination.

Jeff Doorn

British Surrealism opened on 26 February and was scheduled to continue to 17 May. Like all other museums, the Gallery is now closed and has "postponed" all activities, other than those online. We hope the exhibition can still be seen when the gallery reopens.

HERNE HILL GHOST TRAIL

Editor's note: ideally we would have liked to have this article in our last issue, the piece being inspired by the time around Halloween. Space did not permit this, but we publish it now – perhaps also not an inappropriate time for strange events!

rom Edwardian séances on Herne Hill to sightings of Victorian demons, to phantom footsteps at Tulse Hill station, those of a nervous disposition look away now...

The Fox on the Hill, 149 Denmark Hill, SE5 8EH

The triangular area in front of the pub, now a car park and grassed area, is said to stand on a plague pit where victims of the Black Death were buried. While there is no evidence of plague victims' burials, no one has ever built on this site. Victims of the plague,

which wiped out 15 per cent of London's population between 1665 and 1666, were buried in hundreds of plague pits scattered across the city and surrounding countryside.

Sax Rohmer's house, 51 Herne Hill, SE24 9NE

Edwardian writer "Sax Rohmer" (real name, Arthur Stansfield Ward) was a member of several occult societies, and famously the author of the Fu Manchu novels. In his house in Herne Hill, he and his wife Rose Knox, a psychic, set

out to communicate with the spirit world one night on their Ouija board. It is reported that their fingers traced out the word C-H-I-N-A-M-A-N, which was henceforth to become the source of their literary prosperity.

St Paul's Church, Herne Hill, SE24 9LY

A letter reporting a Herne Hill sighting of Victorian folklore demon Spring-heeled Jack, "that malapropre fellow the ghost", was published in the *Camberwell and Peckham Times* on 9 November 1872. The incident was recorded as taking place where the footpath on Herne Hill ran past St Paul's Church into Half Moon Lane (the footpath later became Ruskin Walk). In his letter to the editor, a G.H.R. Davidson reports, "The figure came forth from behind the stile. I confess I was momentarily frightened,

but speedily recovering my presence of mind, was on the point of making an onslaught with my umbrella, when the object turned sharp round, and clearing the low railing at a bound, made off across the country. Being now over forty, it was useless thinking of pursuit, but I, however, satisfied myself that he is clad in a black suit, which, by some means, he transposes into white when needful. He also has spring-heeled or india-rubber soled boots, for no man could leap so lightly, and, I might say, fly across the ground in the manner he did last night."



Reputed plague pit on the Triangle

The Half Moon, 10 Half Moon Lane, SE24 9HU

In September 1907, a barman named Joseph Kemp, going upstairs to his bedroom at the Half Moon, fell over the banisters and died from his injuries a few seconds after being picked up. During the refurbishment of the pub before it reopened in March 2017, Fuller's applied to Historic England for permission to make safety improvements to the height of the original Victorian banisters. Remarkably, what looks like

evidence of poor Joseph's fall still exists in the form of broken floor tiles at the bottom of the stairwell.

Tulse Hill station, Station Rise, SE27 9BW

Since the 1930s, unexplained sounds of heavy footsteps are sometimes heard by staff at night working at Tulse Hill station. The footsteps ascend the stairs to Platform 1, pass through the barrier gates and proceed along the platform, before crunching along the track. The ghostly sounds are said to those of a platelayer who had been killed on the tracks shortly after the introduction of electric trains. The unfortunate fellow is said to have been run down when an approaching steam-hauled train drowned out the sound of a late-running and quieter electric train.

Peter Blair



When the Fox was under the Hill

In this view on a tinted card postmarked 1917 – though the photo was probably taken several years earlier – one sees the Triangle again but from further down Denmark Hill. On the left, at the junction with Champion Park, the Fox under the Hill. The pub dated back to the eighteenth century but was largely rebuilt in the 1870s and pulled down after the Second World War. On the right, a group of people gather at the entrance to Ruskin Park. Large mansion houses once stood here, but these had been demolished when Ruskin Park opened in 1907.









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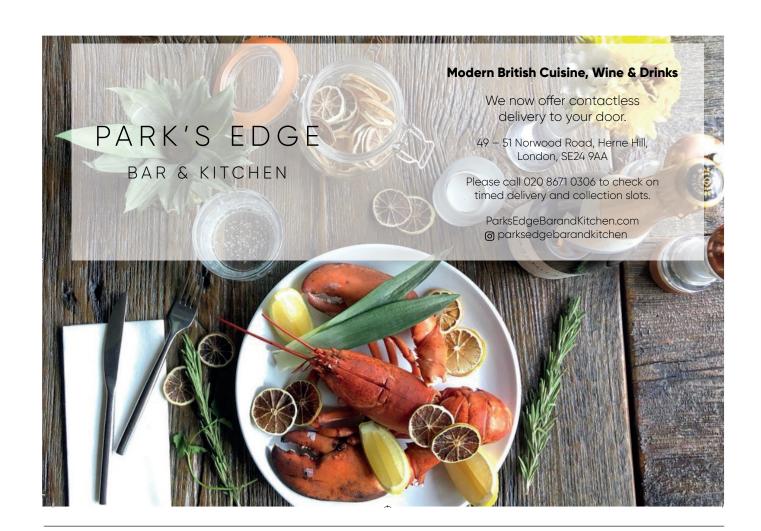
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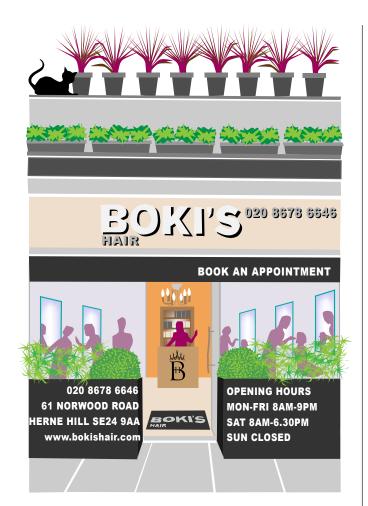
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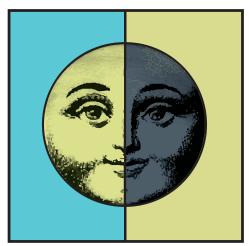












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