
HERNE HILL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY ❧ ISSUE 155 ❧ Winter ❧ 2022 ❧ £3.00



A NEW VISION FOR
BROCKWELL HALL ▶ *See page 12*

HERNE HILL UNDIVIDED
▶ *See page 3*

THE BBC AT 100 – A LOCAL
CONNECTION ▶ *See page 17*



The Magazine of the Herne Hill Society



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Our thanks to Pat Roberts for his photographs on the front cover and pages 10, 11, 12 and 13, also to John East for his photograph on page 7. We are most grateful to BBC Archives for finding for us the portrait of William Noble on page 17 and allowing us to use it without charge.

Herne Hill undivided

Readers whose schooldays included Julius Caesar's account of the Gallic wars may recall that opening line about Gaul being "in tres partes divisa". It is a fate which Herne Hill will avoid, provided the recommendations of the Boundary Commission for England, published in November, undergo no further major amendment. In the



The earlier proposal

last issue of the Magazine we reported how the Boundary Commission had proposed that, in changes to parliamentary constituency boundaries devised to achieve approximate parity in constituency electorates, Herne Hill would be split between three constituencies and the seat of Dulwich & West Norwood would cease to exist. In the consultation process that followed the Society had put in a strong submission arguing against these

draft proposals, as did the Herne Hill Forum. So it came as very good news that the Boundary Commission have changed their mind. There are some slight adjustments to the old boundaries, but under the revised proposals all of Herne Hill stays firmly in one constituency and the constituency of Dulwich & West Norwood survives.



The revised boundaries in blue

But spare a thought for our neighbours in Camberwell. They now face the prospect of the Camberwell & Peckham seat ceasing to exist, as Camberwell is split between Vauxhall, Peckham and Dulwich & West Norwood. They are especially upset at Camberwell disappearing from the constituency name, a name they are proud to date back to the Domesday Book.

We cannot say that this Society persuaded the Boundary Commission to change its mind (though we would like to think so). What we can say is that without local groups such as this Society local voices will not be heard, and if your voice is not heard you can't expect to influence events. The moral of the story: keep supporting your Society!

Just too late for inclusion in the last issue of the Magazine was news that Ruskin Park had won a Gold Award in the Large Park category in the 2022 London in Bloom awards. The park also retained, under the separate Green Flag Award



scheme sponsored by the Government, its Green Flag Award. Behind these awards lies the hard work put in by gardening and litter-picking volunteers as well as improvements in park maintenance by Lambeth since the arrival of a full-time senior park attendant in 2020. One of the many attractions in the park that will have

Gold for Ruskin Park

helped the winning of these awards is the Labyrinth Garden, the very successful transformation from what was once a bowling green. In November 2021 the much-loved but sadly neglected Mendelssohn sundial, beautifully restored and with a new dial to replace the lost original, was moved from its former location to the centre of the Labyrinth Garden. More about the sundial can be read in the Winter edition (# 133) of the Magazine via the Society's website.



Out and About

In October the Society took part in the Autumn Fayre at the Carnegie Library. Pictured are the Society’s Chair Rebecca Tee with Helen Hayes MP. Many thanks to all those who volunteered to help on the stall. And on Remembrance Sunday members of the Society were joined by Councillor Jim Dickson and maintained the tradition of laying a wreath of poppies, a tradition that began in 2019 when the World War I memorial in the station entrance hall was unveiled. In our picture (from the left) Sophia Marsh, Laurence Marsh, Councillor Jim Dickson, Sheila Northover and Robert Holden.



The Herne Hill Society Excellence Awards are coming

After the closing date at the very end of December 2022, all entries to the Herne Hill Society Excellence Awards will pass to our specially chosen panel

and are sure they will be inspiring and admirable. “Part of the value of these Awards will be the discovery of the variety of initiatives going on in Herne Hill”, says Sheila.

and protect our heritage even more.

The **Community** category will demonstrate all those people and things which bind us together to create and maintain the congenial and cohesive



Sheila Northover



Colin Wight



Pat Roberts

for judging. There will be Awards in three categories, covering the -key areas of the Society’s work: **Environment, Heritage** and **Community**. Entries have been coming in for the last five months.

The judges for the Awards have broad experience with many years of significant involvement with the Society: two past Herne Hill Society Chairs, Sheila Northover and Colin Wight, and a past Secretary of the Society, Pat Roberts. Sheila will chair the panel, with the casting vote in the case of tied decisions.

The judges are keen to see what entries come in

The **Environment** category is particularly relevant, given that we live in a pleasant part of London with access to wonderful parks and greenery. The last two years in has made us very much aware of the importance of our green spaces, trees and great views. The judges will be welcoming entries which focus on enhancing and improving the area’s environment.

For the **Heritage** category there is no shortage of historic buildings and artefacts in Herne Hill which are well known and cared for (though see the article about Dorchester Court at p.12). Entries in this category will lead us to appreciate

atmosphere of Herne Hill. Community does not happen by accident and there is so much work that goes on behind the scenes on diverse community endeavours.

The judges will see the entries for these Awards after the closing date at the end of 2022. They are full of anticipation about what has been entered and are enthusiastic about the judging process to come. The winners will be announced and the Awards presented at a planned public event in Spring 2023. These Awards will really shine a light on all that is best about Herne Hill.

Rebecca Tee

Archives on the move

At a time when the economic outlook across the country appears so bleak, it is cheering to see an ambitious public project nearing completion, and doing so in style. Lambeth Archives will be closing in January 2023, but plan to re-open in the summer in larger brand-new premises.

The Archives are one of the finest borough collections in London, reflecting Lambeth's rich history over many centuries. They started life 133 years ago in a building donated by William



The Archives' original building

Minet, local landowner and philanthropist, in memory of his wife Alice. He was also a keen local historian who funded the purchase of archive material to help build up the collection and donated his own extensive collection. The building at the same time served as a public library. Badly damaged by an incendiary bomb in 1940 the Minet Library was rebuilt, re-opening in 1959. In recent years the future both of the Archives and the building itself was uncertain, with pressure on the Council to sell off the site, leaving the collection with no home to go to and the prospect of even going into storage and becoming inaccessible.

In 2015, as part of the rationalisation of Lambeth's landholdings, a scheme was approved to demolish 18 Brixton Hill, known as Olive Morris House. It had been built for Lambeth as council offices, a four-storey building with basement. A new building rising to six and in part seven storeys would take its place, providing 74 new homes with commercial use for the ground floor and basement. The previous building had been completed in 1978, during the era when Ted Hollamby

oversaw the design of Council buildings. The threatened loss of Cressingham Gardens, a product of the same era, continues to be a matter of wide concern (see p.9), but the loss of this office block seems to have gone largely unremarked and unmourned. Unlike the building previously on the site, the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society Bakery, the appearance of Olive Morris House is at least recorded.

It was only in 2020 that Lambeth decided the new building would be the Archives' new home— at the heart of the borough, a short walk from the Town Hall and no longer tucked away in a secluded corner on the borders with Camberwell and poorly connected in terms of public transport. They will now occupy the spacious ground floor, with the search room and exhibition space clearly visible from a busy street behind the generous glazed frontage and three times larger than the area at the Minet Library. In the basement will be housed the historic documents that form the bulk of the collection, along with many artefacts

— including pictures and ceramics donated by Charles Woolley, a Lambeth alderman and for many years a Herne Hill resident on Dulwich Road. At the Minet Library the Archives were running out of space. Now the new basement will provide room for expansion over decades to come, with

more than two miles of linear shelving and better safety and conservation conditions not dependent on costly air handling units and with a gas extinction system in case of fire.

Contrary to the sad trend of library closures across the country, we understand that Lambeth will not dispose of the Minet Library building and intends to retain it as a public library and storage facility. Good news in hard times.



A new home on Brixton Hill

WANTED! A treasurer

We made the same plea in the last issue of the Magazine, but to no avail. So we make no apology for repeating it. It is not an especially burdensome task but for a well-run Society, which we pride ourselves on being, it is an important one. Martyn Hall, our current Treasurer, who will be stepping down in March next year, says he reckons it needs

about eight hours per month. The Treasurer would also expect to attend our monthly committee meetings which last about 1½ hours. We know there is someone suitable out there, but can you help us find that person?

If you can, please contact our Chair, Rebecca Tee at chair@hernehillsociety.org.uk



Martyn Hall

PLANNING & LICENSING

The Society’s planning group has commented on the following applications:

10 Dorchester Drive, Lambeth 22/02824/LB and 22/02823/FUL

Following the Grade II listing for the house in the summer an application was made to build a rear ground-floor extension. This scheme involved a considerable alteration to the original building and the ground-floor plan. We objected, as did the Twentieth Century Society. Our detailed objection is too long to summarise here and can be read on the Society’s website. Lambeth has refused planning and Listed Building consent.

39A Milton Road, Lambeth 22/02659/FUL

We objected to this application in the Poet’s Corner conservation area for car parking in the front garden. We cited Lambeth’s own policy that such use is not appropriate unless on-street provision for a Blue Badge holder is unavailable. The applicant did not claim to be a Blue Badge holder. Moreover, the proposed use failed to preserve or enhance the character of the conservation area. Lambeth refused consent.

75-79 Norwood Road (Southwark Licensing)

We objected to the licensing application on the grounds that the hours applied for exceeded the hours in Southwark’s own licensing policies. The Dulwich Society had made the same objection. The applicants reduced the hours applied for to hours complying with Southwark’s policies. We then withdrew our objection as did the Dulwich Society.

1A Spenser Road, Lambeth 22/03369/FUL

We objected to a proposal for a rear two-storey side extension. In our view the proposal in its bulk, scale, choice of materials and design conflicted strongly with the character of the Poet’s Corner conservation area and failed to respond to the original architecture,

roof form, detailing and fenestration of the host building. Lambeth has refused consent.

71 Herne Hill Road

We drew Lambeth’s attention to ongoing construction of a side extension that does not appear to be built in accordance with the planning permission for the structure. Beyond an acknowledgement Lambeth’s enforcement team have not yet responded.

279 Rosendale Road, Lambeth 22/03635/FUL

We have indicated our support for this application. It seeks to develop for housing the site of what was once an Express Dairies depot (built 1899), which retains its decorative façade (locally listed) but is otherwise derelict. We supported an earlier proposal two years ago, in particular because the scheme would see the site brought back into use. Because of Lambeth’s concerns about dwelling units on the ground floor and their proximity to the adjacent railway embankment, this application modifies the earlier scheme and removes any residential use from the ground floor and makes first floor units into duplex apartments that extend to the second floor. Both the earlier and new schemes retain the decorative elements of the façade within the new building. A decision is awaited.

141-149 Railton Road, Lambeth 22/03435/FUL

This application seeks to replace a health centre built in the 1980s and disused for the last 10 years, with a terrace of five three-storey houses with a further mansard roof storey. While applauding the proposal to make use of the site, we objected to the design of the new building and the mansard roof in particular. We thought the design considerably less successful than an earlier scheme of five years ago that was not pursued. A decision is awaited.

Laurence Marsh

Could you be a Community Ambassador?

The Herne Hill Forum is looking for friendly, outgoing and reliable people with a passion for Herne Hill to act as Community Ambassadors at the community stall at the Sunday Market.



Your role would be to listen and talk to people who visit the stall, to discuss local issues, campaigns and events and encourage interest in the area. You would work alongside the stall assistants, a couple of wonderful teenagers

who set up and pack away the stall and run the children’s craft activities. The Forum share the stall with volunteers from the many local community groups and charities who use the space to promote their activities.

The Forum has a small team of Community Ambassadors and is looking for a couple more to join. Dates are covered on a rota basis and you would need to volunteer for one session a month, a Sunday morning or afternoon.

For more information go to www.hernehillforum.org.uk/herne-hill-community-ambassadors/ If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador, please email admin@hernehillforum.org.uk

The next sessions after Christmas are on 15 January and 29 January, when you can see the stall in action.

David Taylor

The retail face of Herne Hill continues to evolve

Herne Hill's entrepreneurs continue to adapt their businesses to the 2020s' ever-changing expectations, challenges and lifestyles. But there are painful casualties too – and we'll probably see more in the next six months.

Flo's

The always-popular coffee, snack and light lunch shop on Half Moon Lane formerly known as The Roome which opened in 2015 (only the cognoscenti realised that this was the surname of the previous owner, Claire Roome) has changed hands and has been taken over by Florence Thompson, who had been an employee of the previous owner. Florence (Flo) is changing the name of the coffee shop to Flo's. It promises to continue with the same successful format, though Flo may have some small changes in the pipeline. She is expecting a signwriter in the next week or so to inscribe the new name on the shop front.

Flo's, 23 Half Moon Lane – @flos_hernehill [Instagram]

Old Store, New Wine

Visitors to Station Square noticed earlier this year that the successful hairdressers Myla & Davis, sitting alongside the restaurant Llewelyn's, had moved. It now inhabits an attractive new shop just the other side of Railton Road: a welcome replacement for a scruffy betting shop. The original premises are currently (as we write) being converted to a wine bar, Lulu's, which enjoys a perfect position on the corner of the Square just a few paces from the station and is likely to be welcomed by many residents and visitors to Herne Hill. The wine bar, the neighbouring restaurant and the hairdressers (one of a chain across South London) are all owned by the same company, Misha Hill Ltd, whose director is Ms Katarina Milavic-Davies.

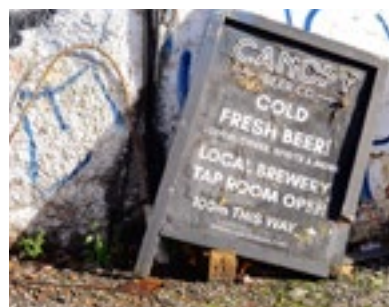
Like most of Herne Hill's shops, this corner shop has undergone

several changes of use in the last century, but in late Victorian times it was the premises of an Oil and Italian Warehouse, one of three owned by a Mr Charles Spiers, who had similar shops in Brixton and Battersea. They initially traded in many varieties of oil for culinary and household uses, eventually coming to focus, it seems, on household paints, varnishes and cleaning materials. The full story by Laurence Marsh, with a photograph from the 1960s, can be read online in our Magazine no. 153 (Spring 2022).

Lulu's, 291 Railton Road – @lulus.london [Instagram]

Canopy goes

One of our local craft brewers, Canopy, is closing down after 14 years at the end of December – driven out of business by rising



energy prices, cost of living increases and high rent demands from the Arch Company. A great shame: they made many delicious beers (Brockwell IPA, Sunray Pale Ale, to mention only two) and had a relaxed taproom at the brewery in the Bath Factory Estate,

near the Herne Hill end of the Arches. The company is selling existing stock throughout December or until it runs out.

Pat Roberts



For many years the buildings and other structures of historic or architectural interest in Herne Hill have enjoyed unequal protection. On the Lambeth side there has long been a “local list” of these places, but in Southwark there is none. Local listing does not provide the statutory protection of national listing administered by Historic England, but it does represent a recognition of heritage value and, in planning terms in particular, will be an important consideration in any development that might affect or harm places on the list.

Southwark seem to have noticed this serious omission in

Local List for Southwark

terms of heritage protection and have been consulting on a proposed local list. In the Herne Hill area they have five proposed designations: two boundary markers (one at the junction of Ruskin Walk/Herne Hill, another outside 169 Denmark Hill), St Faith's Church Hall on Red Post Hill, Herne Hill Velodrome and 173 Half Moon Lane (known as “Onaway”). Edmund Bird, a member of the Society's planning group, has registered responses on the consultation's interactive map and has proposed the following further designations for our area: (1) distinctive original David Greig tiling on the facade of 16 Half Moon Lane (Peachy Goat); (2) Parish Church of St Faith's at 62 Red Post Hill, built mid-1950s; (3) Grafton Hall on Village Way, the dance hall built 1912; (4) Croxted Road railway bridge at junction with Norwood Road, dating from 1866, with surviving iron pavement columns; (5) Fox on the Hill pub on Denmark Hill, a very good example of pubs built in the 1950s, so many of which have gone; (6) the railway bridge of 1866 outside North Dulwich station with decorative Dulwich Estate crests. We hope Southwark will take due note.

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Debbie's battle against the boxes

These days we take reliable telecommunication for granted, but it requires of course a huge physical network to make this possible. Part of this is a requirement for telecoms boxes on our streets. Debbie Monfries has been running her Umana Yana Guyanese restaurant at the junction of Norwood and Croxted Roads since 2009 and for much of that time she has been engaged in a long battle with the boxes. It started with one and has now grown to no less than five – one of wardrobe proportions.



Debbie Monfries

Debbie caters for takeaways, but she also has a few tables out on the pavement in summer months. It is not difficult to see why a view dominated by these boxes is not an attractive one for customers. And for passing traffic who might otherwise get a

good look at the restaurant, visibility is almost entirely obliterated by them. They have made the corner where Debbie has her restaurant an eyesore. No other shop in the parade on Norwood Road has suffered this fate.

The battle with the boxes is long and complex. It started with one box, which under the law at the time needed consent from Southwark. They refused consent but failed to communicate this within the strict statutory time limit to those installing the box. As a result there was a deemed consent. The Society intervened at that time on Debbie's behalf, but to no avail. Later the law changed and Parliament in its wisdom decided it should be much easier for telecoms companies to place their boxes on pavements – as permitted development, effectively depriving those affected of any say. More boxes arrived. Debbie saw a direct correlation between a drop in her takings and the arrival of the boxes. She continued to protest. Councillors were involved, so too Helen

Hayes MP and this Society, and there was even a full Southwark Council hearing on the issue. There was talk of moving the boxes, but the words led to no action. With help from crowdfunding Debbie even managed to obtain specialist legal advice, but was then advised that, given the huge resources of her adversaries, the only practical way forward was to campaign for the moving of the boxes using the publicity that could be generated through widespread local support and activism. And that is what Debbie has been doing and why in this article we are doing what we can to spread the message.

Vodafone, O2 and Virgin are the telecoms giants who profit from these boxes. The cost to them of moving the boxes would be a drop in the ocean, yet their representatives have told Debbie it would be "too expensive".

At a time when all businesses are struggling, and when those in catering are still suffering the effects of the pandemic lockdowns, Debbie, with support from her husband, who has now joined her in the business, is just about keeping afloat, largely due to what can be earned at the Herne Hill Sunday market. But it's touch and go.



Southwark councillors Margy Newens and Richard Leeming have taken up the case again. *Southwark News* and *South London Press* are covering it. Many others have rallied round to back Debbie's campaign. Debbie is not one to give up easily, but Umana Yana still needs all the support it can get. Moving the boxes can be the game changer that will allow it to survive.

Cressingham Gardens

Cressingham Gardens – not for the first time – is back in the news. The planning permission given by Lambeth for redevelopment is currently the subject of a judicial review challenge, the fourth time since redevelopment of the estate was mooted by Lambeth ten years ago. At the time of writing the outcome of the judicial review, due for hearing at the end of November is still not known. Lambeth insist that they need to provide a much greater quantity of affordable housing and this can only be done by using sites such as Cressingham Gardens for "densification".



The estate's importance in terms of cultural and architectural heritage has received further recognition in its recent listing as a finalist in the prestigious *Architecture Today* Awards. It is one of six contenders in the Residential category. In contrast to most architectural awards *Architecture Today* does not focus on newness but longevity-. Projects have to have been in use for at least three years and show a strong track record for delivering on environmental, functional, community and cultural ambitions. The winners will be announced in February 2023.

Dorchester Court – Ben Archard updates the story

Dorchester Court is the red brick, 1930s estate that sits atop Herne Hill, opposite the car wash. Built in the style known as moderne and Grade II listed, these once luxury flats are now on Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register, after years of neglect from their landlord and freehold owner of the Court, Manaquel Company Limited, a company owned by the multimillionaire Feldman family.

In 2020 the landlord submitted a planning application to build eight townhouses on the garage site and two penthouse flats on top of each of the eight

blocks. Purporting to be the development which would save the Court, which is in urgent need of repair, it in fact turned out to be a self-serving scheme, extremely light on renovation details and with absolutely no binding commitment to carry them out. Instead it promised permanent damage to the integrity of the listing, years of disruption and the dismantling of the tenant community. Because of this it received over 1,000 objections, becoming one of the most opposed planning applications ever in Lambeth.

Two years on it remains undecided but significant decisions have been taken by Lambeth in the interim.

In autumn 2020 Lambeth commissioned a structural survey of the Court that found, categorically, that neglect was the cause of poor condition of the estate and not, as the landlord had tried to claim, an inherent defect in the buildings. This finding placed further doubt on the financial viability of the project (experts were already dubious about its fiscal credibility).

In the winter of 2020 Lambeth’s Private Sector Enforcement Team became involved with the Court. This was due to two winters of prolonged heating and hot water outages. With their arrival came the promise of Improvement Notices being served on the landlord, forcing it to address the illegal, sub-standard living

conditions that its neglect has caused. Indeed the following year two notices were served. The first to improve the heating system and install double glazed windows across the estate, and the second to replace the lead pipes to all flats. Greatly encouraged by this the residents fully engaged with the Lambeth team in the hope of real improvements being made. Unsurprisingly the landlord appealed both notices.

Further Improvement Notices were promised. One to address the dangerous structures (balconies and brick work) and another to address fire hazards and security. These are yet to be served.

Unfortunately in August 2022 Lambeth revoked the second Improvement Notice after the landlord fitted lead filters and told them it would replace the pipes when it developed the estate. Concerningly, in Lambeth’s letter of explanation, they told residents to always flush their taps for two minutes before drinking the water. Clearly they did not feel assured about the lead filters’ effectiveness!

And so this is where Dorchester Court now stands. In the current financial climate, even if planning permission were granted borrowing costs would be so high that they virtually guarantee the development not taking place. That leaves the residents putting their hopes of decent homes in the hands of the Lambeth enforcement team. To her credit Cllr Maria Kay (Lambeth Cabinet Member for housing) has put her full support behind the Lambeth team. The residents continue to engage with them.

Recent update - we have just been told that the planning application will soon be open for consultation again (after the landlord has submitted a structural survey) and we are hoping members of the Herne Hill community will join us in renewing their objections.

Ben Archard is the Treasurer of the Dorchester Court Residents’ Association



Meanwhile ... the vegetation is returning

Fresh colours for Station Square

Well done to some of our independent shops in Station Square for keeping their colour schemes fresh and lively. The Flower Lady has repainted her shop in – already of course vivid with natural colours – a new shade of ‘Teal’. Jo’s House is now painted in ‘Brompton Road’, one of their Colours of London from Mylands, still in Lambeth where the firm began in 1884 and now the only remaining paint manufacturer in London. And Sharp Works have cleverly crafted a display of their wools in autumn colours and shapes.



Transport Notes

Bus Service Proposals Update

The bus service cut backs due to Government grant cuts and falling patronage proposed by TfL (and reported in the previous issue of this Magazine) have been softened by the Mayor, who has come up with some City Hall funding to save some of the proposed changes. The 12, 24, and 45 are to be saved – but for how long?

Updated Highway Code published (with very little publicity)

The Department for Transport published an updated Highway Code in early 2022, but there is little new in it (and much in it ignored by many). The main new concept is to reinforce a hierarchy of road users, with pedestrians and powered wheelchairs at the top. Still no mention of electric scooters – legal hire schemes or illegal private ones.

Dulwich Street Closures Phase 2 – initial ideas

Southwark has continued its efforts to annoy and inconvenience the residents, businesses, visitors, and deliverers to the east and west of Dulwich Village with an ‘Initial Idea’ to close Turney Road to vehicle traffic at its junction with Village Way. The Council’s partial ‘Idea’, while starting with the stated aim to prioritise road users in line with the new Highway Code, does not explain how this is achieved in practice. The four page ‘Consultation’ document makes no mention of traffic starting or ending in the east end of Turney Road, no mention of how the existing timed camera restrictions would be adapted, no mention of what mitigation would be suggested for the narrow roads which would be the diversion routes, no mention of how deliverers and carers would be able to turn round at the closure, no mention of any verifiable complete traffic data or modelling of diversion routes, and no mention of the ongoing diversion congestion on Croxted Road and East Dulwich Grove. The ‘Initial Ideas’ were published on the Council’s website with little local publicity, at first with an inadequate three-week period for consultation (under protest extended to the usual minimum of six weeks), with no local public meetings, and only asking for opinions between two very similar ‘Ideas’ – with no option for respondents to object to the

overall ‘Idea’ of road closure. It is unclear what is the view of TfL – responsible for the traffic signals and the P4 bus route.

All in all, a failure of design, consultation, and of the Council’s duty to manage the road network for the benefit of all users. A public meeting was organised by the local streets’ Residents’ Associations on 22 November – two days after the closure of the extended ‘Consultation’. About 200 mainly local people attended, but no Councillors or Council officers were present. All Associations reported overwhelming negative surveys of their members on the proposals, and at the end of the meeting only a few hands were raised in support.

It is unclear what will happen next!

New rail destinations

The new Elizabeth Line route (which connects at Farringdon with the Thameslink from Herne Hill, and provides a very frequent service between Liverpool Street and Paddington) now includes about four trains an hour between Abbey Wood in the east, through to Heathrow and on to Reading in the west.

Further up the Thameslink line, a new station is planned to open in 2023 called ‘Brent Cross West’ serving new retail developments, and located between the present Cricklewood and Hendon stations. We may not have a Croydon service any more, but we will be able to have a direct service to the Brent Cross retail offer.

The ‘Dutch Reach’

The new Highway Code (para 239) provides advice on how drivers should get out of their parked cars. This series of five linked actions was apparently first suggested in the Netherlands some time ago, but in recent years has been advocated more widely. The five actions are: reach with the left hand for the door handle; this involves swivelling the head to the right; this causes the driver to look back over their shoulder to check for approaching traffic; then the door is slowly opened; and finally the driver exits the vehicle while looking back in the direction of approaching traffic. This idea can also be used (in reverse) by passengers alighting on the pavement.

Bil Harrison



A NEW VISION FOR BROCKWELL HALL

Laurence Marsh reports

Four years ago Lambeth announced their bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for the restoration of Brockwell Hall. There had been extensive improvements to the Park funded by the Lottery, but the more ambitious project for the Hall itself was always separate. The Hall with its coach house and stables has long had practical uses, as a café, council offices and park maintenance depot but, in Lambeth's own words, its buildings were "largely underused, undiscovered and unappreciated". A successful feasibility study led to the creation of a



detailed project that would not only see a major restoration of, and improvements to the Hall, but also the development of the stables and coach house area to facilitate new use as a venue for community and commercial events.

In June 2021 the announcement came that the Lottery bid had been successful. A sum of £3.3 million would be available. This would go towards the overall cost of the project in a sum exceeding £6 million, with Lambeth responsible for finding funds for the balance. In today's world that scale of investment requires a return and the basis for the project's business plan is that through the revenue it can generate Brockwell Hall will be self-sustaining.

At a meeting organised in November 2022 by Brockwell Park Community Partners updated details about the project were presented. Brockwell Hall and its park make up, if you will excuse the cliché, Herne Hill's jewel in the crown. This is a good moment to spread the news about this important project more widely.

If one excludes two houses in Village Way on the border with Dulwich, Brockwell Hall is the oldest building in Herne Hill. It was

built between 1811 and 1813 for John Blades, a self-made man who built a very successful business as a glass manufacturer with premises on Ludgate Hill. The architect of the house was David Riddall Roper, often cited as the architect of St Mark's Kennington but less often as the designer of the Lambeth Shot Tower (the landmark structure by the Thames that survived until 1962 and the Queen Elizabeth Hall came to be built on the site).

Brockwell Hall is a very good example of a Regency country villa built in restrained neo-classical style, which probably accounts for it never being mentioned by the Gothic-loving John Ruskin despite his living so close to it for 50 years. The compact design – a relatively modest principal house with servants' wing and neat stable block to the side – lacks anything of the sprawling, grandiose scale and architectural extravagances that wealthy Victorian manufacturers wanted to see in their country houses. This probably accounts for the Hall's survival 200 years later. Ostentatious Victorian mansion houses can be magnificent, but they have proved to be highly impractical once the original use they were built for has gone and are extremely expensive to maintain. It is no surprise that so many no longer survive.

Brockwell Hall ceased to be used as a residence in the 1880s. So far the greater part of its life it has not had, apart from offering refreshments to park users and providing useful space for administrative and park-maintenance functions of Lambeth Council, any defining character or purpose. Although it sits in a commanding position in the park it does not act as a draw, something to make the climb up the hill really worth the effort. Many will of course go to enjoy the fine views, but the building itself is not the attraction for most people. The Grade II* listing for the main house and Grade II for its ancillary buildings has meant that they have been prevented from falling into serious decay. And sensitive restoration followed an incidence of arson in 1990,



The Hall with the new events space, whose roof dimensions have been reduced.

which did serious damage to the first floor and the roof. But the sense of the Hall being "largely underused, undiscovered and unappreciated" remains the problem. That is what the ambitious restoration project

sets out to tackle.

There is a huge amount of detail in the project, which can be found in documents submitted in the planning application (especially 20/03258/RG3). To summarise the principal points:

New maintenance depot on Norwood Road

Screened behind vegetation there is an existing maintenance yard at the Norwood Road/Brockwell Park Gardens entrance to the park. A purpose-built depot with better facilities in the same space will allow



all park maintenance functions to be based here. This will free the stable block and yard next to the Hall. A new direct vehicle access to Norwood Road will greatly reduce vehicle movements within the park and the new location will enhance security. The expense and



The maintenance depot will move out

importance of this part of the project have been underestimated and Lambeth have had to find increased funds – at a time of rising interest rates. It is an essential first step, without which the rest of the project cannot proceed. The good news is that work has now begun.

New events space in the stable yard

The most visible intervention in the project is the structure to be built in the Hall's stable courtyard, carefully designed to achieve subordination to the original buildings. It will cover a bit less than half the courtyard area, will have a glazed façade, with doors that can be opened up to the yard. All the attractive curved courtyard walls are retained. The new space will be able to cater for special local events and weddings – an important target in the scheme – with up to 160 guests.

Restoration of the main buildings

The principal reception rooms will be cleared of the clutter of unsightly kitchens and the damage they have caused to original fabric will be restored. New gallery space will be created for the exhibition and interpretation of the history of the park, the Hall and the communities that engage with both. The currently inaccessible Painted Room, with its original works by Henry Strachey of 1896 (one was lost in the 1990 fire), will become part of the transformed café that will spill out from its new location in the servants' wing onto the south-facing terrace.

Kitchens, serving the café and the new courtyard building, will be in the new building.

Accessibility

An important aspect of the restoration will be the incorporation of a lift, making the rooms on the first floor properly accessible. These rooms will be restored and made available for community use or private hire and for use by the team managing events generated by the project. Access from the outside will be facilitated by a newly landscaped approach on the north-west front providing step-free access for the first time.

Restoration of the stable block

Later accretions will be removed and the exterior restored to its original c1812 design. The interior will be similarly restored. The building will serve as offices for Lambeth Council staff. The public toilets will be retained and fully refurbished (though the outdoor facility for males outside the stable area will be removed).

Landscaping

A more curvilinear approach, closer to the design of 150 years ago, will be used around the Hall and areas of tarmac reduced giving the area a softer, more pedestrian feel. The natural screening around the stable block and yard will remain.



A new events space for the stable yard

Malcolm McGregor of Pringle Richards Sharratt, the architect responsible for the project, thinks the work could be completed in about one year with work starting in the New Year. Let us hope that everything can now come together and prove him right. For Herne Hill and beyond this is an immensely exciting project. No longer will it be said that Brockwell Hall is “underused, undiscovered and unappreciated”. Every reason for walking to the top of the hill not merely to admire the view.

ANNIVERSARY TREES

The Society branches out

Over the past 40 years, the Society has planted a number of trees to celebrate the founding of the Society in 1982. It is pleasing to see them maturing as the years pass.

In 1997 a small Italian Alder was planted, on the left side of the main path from the Herne Hill gate up to Brockwell Hall, to celebrate the first 15 years. The long-serving Treasurer, the late David Patient, took the lead on arranging the planting of this tree, and every time I walk past the tree I remember him with affection. It has survived the rigours of being in Brockwell Park despite the major events and the traffic movements, although one year early on it was knocked sideways. Thanks to quick action from the Park staff it was set straight again and regained its strength and dignity, to survive to this day. I particularly enjoy the all-year-round interest of Alders, with glossy green leaves from spring to autumn and with catkins and small "cones" showing well during the winter when the leaves have fallen.

In 2002, for our 20th anniversary we planted an Almond tree in Ruskin Park, along with several planted by the Friends of Ruskin Park. We were inspired by John Ruskin's reference to 'Herne Hill Almond Blossom' in his memoir *Praeterita*. Our tree can be found in rough grass in the land near the railway line between the wildlife pond area and the community garden. I well remember actually helping to dig the holes and plant the tree by hand, along with other HHS and FoRP members.

Back to Brockwell Park: in 2007 we planted a Whitebeam tree to celebrate our 25th (silver) anniversary. This tree was chosen



Italian Alder in Brockwell Park

stands on the small triangle of grass, near to a gate in the old dog fence and the park gate on Ferndene Road nearest to Denmark Hill.

because of the attractive feature of the backs of the leaves appearing as silvery white in contrast to the front which is green. It can be found on the right hand side of the path between the Herne Hill gate and the Rosendale gate, and sadly was the only one of a group of three planted that year to survive.

For the silver anniversary we also planted a Whitebeam in Ruskin Park. It



Whitebeam in Ruskin Park

Whitebeams are members of the Sorbus family, of which the perhaps more familiar Rowan (or Mountain Ash) is also a member. Like the Rowan the Whitebeam has small white flowers in spring and red berries in the autumn, so a good all-rounder for birds and other wildlife.

Despite the huge challenges of climate change the need for trees in our cities remains as great as ever and the Society is planning to continue the tree planting tradition in commemorating its 40th anniversary.

A donation to the Society to help meet the cost would of course be greatly appreciated.



Whitebeam in Brockwell Park

Sheila Northover

ROYAL HERNE HILL?

There are London boroughs that have this permanent distinction (Greenwich, Kensington & Chelsea, Kingston) and some towns (Leamington Spa for one), but how royal is Herne Hill? It seems a topical question at a time when we have marked the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and now await the coronation of King Charles III.

The short answer is that royalty has paid little regard to Herne Hill or, to put it another way, Herne Hill has paid little regard to royalty. We do have the Prince Regent pub, named in honour of the future George IV, but Regent Road (formerly Row) is probably named as much in honour of the pub as the future King. And leading from Herne Hill to Camberwell is Denmark Hill, named after a royal Dane, though there is debate as to which particular royal Dane. Beyond that Herne Hill retains a resolutely un-regal character.

There have been regular visits from royalty to neighbouring Dulwich, drawn especially by the Picture Gallery and the schools, and King's College Hospital on Denmark Hill has seen many royal visits including its opening in 1913 by King George V. But it is very hard to find evidence of royalty gracing Herne Hill with their presence. So I am grateful to Robert Holden who tells me that a health centre at 143-149 Railton Road was opened by Diana Princess of Wales in the 1980s. He was an eye witness. Today the health centre is boarded up, as



Frederica of Hanover (on the right) with sister Mary

it has been for many years since closure in 2012. No doubt royalty has passed through Herne Hill, not least en route to and from the Crystal Palace, a favoured outing when entertaining eminent guests, as happened in 1869 when the Prince of Wales was involved in a minor road accident in Half Moon Lane.

Perhaps this corner of London – often overlooked, as Colin Wight considers at p. 18 – has lacked buildings and

government and the local member of parliament. They were led by Lord Rosebery, the first Chairman of the London County Council. And when Ruskin Park was opened in 1907 it was a similar story. Mayors, aldermen and councillors of London boroughs attended and Mr Evan Spicer, chairman of the LCC, led the ceremony.



Brockwell Park, it is true, has a clock tower in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, but at the opening ceremony in 1897 it was again local government dignitaries and Charles Tritton MP, the donor of the clock, who attended the ceremony. Royal personages were absent from all these occasions.

Two rather obscure royal connections with Herne Hill – to the local historian it is the discovery of the obscure that can be so rewarding – can, however, be mentioned. The list of subscribers to the fund that paid for the building of St Paul's church on Herne Hill in 1844 is headed by "Her Majesty the Queen-dowager" with a sum of 25 guineas.

This was Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen, widow of King William IV. Compared to many, hers was a modest donation. James Fisher and William Stone (two wealthy men of business and local residents) each gave 400 guineas and John Ruskin's father gave 125 guineas. But the Queen Dowager's rank required her gift to be listed first.

Again it is German-born royalty that provides one other local link. At the end of the 19th century, in an age when private philanthropy provided many services that we now expect taxation to provide, a number of Homes for Gentlewomen were established. Royal patronage was valuable in helping to attract funds. One such home was in Trinity Road (today Trinity Rise) leading from Norwood Road to Tulse Hill. There were two large houses, a little way down from Holy Trinity church, today replaced by a block of flats. In 1897 a new wing was opened by Princess Frederica of Hanover (1848-1926) and it seems from that date the Home took the name of the Princess. Hanover had very close links to this country ever since the accession of the Hanoverian King George I in 1714 and Princess Frederica was herself a great-granddaughter of George III. Her patronage of the Trinity Rise Home seems to have brought some benefits because in 1900 the Duchess of York attended a fund-raising fête at the Home, and the following year *The Times* reported that the Duchess had sent 10 brace of pheasants to the residents. Later that year more pheasants were on their way courtesy of the Princess of Wales. A Home for Gentlewomen is listed in Directories up to the 1940s, but Princess Frederica's name does not appear. By this time the Home's address is Llangattock House, which can be traced to an aristocratic lady who had the practical task of raising the funds to keep the Home going. Lady Llangattock married into the Rolls family – the same Rolls that gave us the Rolls Royce and which also lies behind Herne Hill's Rollscourt Avenue, but that is another story.

Laurence Marsh

THE BUTCHER, THE BAKER, THE CANDLESTICK MAKER

The old rhyme comes to mind when looking at the history of Herne Hill's shops and their occupants in the last 150 years. No lack of butchers and bakers, but was there a candlestick maker?

For the idea of finding out more about the history of our shops we must thank Rosamund (Ros) Jones, a welcome recent addition to the Society's committee. Ros was intrigued by the "blue plaques" in the windows of shops in Crystal Palace, which recorded the names and occupations of earlier shopkeepers,

a glimpse into a past that could appear either familiar or very different. It was members of the Norwood Society who launched the project, did the research and

persuaded shopkeepers to put a plaque in their window. We arranged to meet up with Stuart Hibberd and Stephen Oxford (Chair and Secretary respectively of the Norwood Society) to learn more about how they had

with the colour, to make ours green.

We will initially seek to discover more about the shops around the station and Dulwich Road (the oldest shops in our area). Some research has already been done. For example,

the shop that is now part of Brockwell Art Services (232 Railton Road) was at different times between 1894 and 1934 the shop of a tailor, a photographer and frame maker, a "fancy dealer" and an umbrella maker. We can then move on to shops in Half Moon Lane, Norwood Road and the top of Herne Hill. There are of course quite a few shops that have disappeared, for example in Milkwood Road. There will be no windows for a plaque, but as part of a wider local shops history we



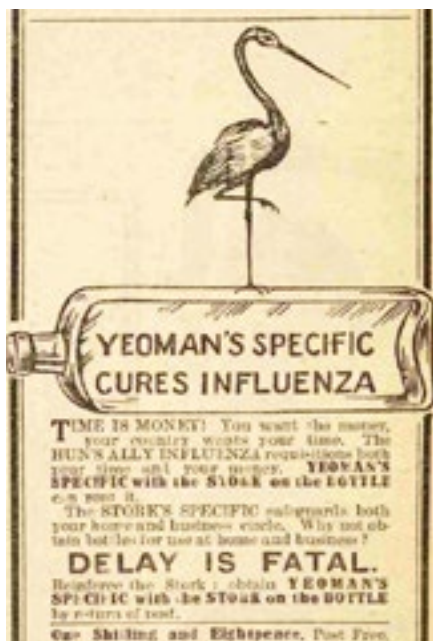
Herne Hill shops c1905

developed the project. Local history is a particular strength of the Norwood Society and, in addition, to the shops project, the Society has created a very impressive website <https://norwoodstreethistories.org.uk/> that aims to build up an online history of Norwood. Perhaps something for our Society to emulate in the future, but for the moment we aim our sights at a "blue" plaques scheme, though we would seek, given the Society's long association

would like to look at them too.

Since there is a distinct limit to how much can be printed on a plaque our plan is to make further information accessible to the curious onlooker by means of a QR code.

The shops of our area open the door to what is fascinating social history. We would love to see more joining our small research team. Do let us know whether you would be interested in helping with this project.



For several decades up to the Second World War Cyril Yeoman had a shop at 137 Half Moon Lane (the junction with Holmdene Avenue and currently unoccupied). He was a dispensing chemist and initially lived with his family above the shop. Not one to miss a marketing opportunity, in 1917 he was advertising his patent cure – precise contents unknown – for influenza. He later moved to "Adamton", a large detached house on Elmwood Road, between Elfindale and Frankfurt Roads, the site now occupied by maisonettes, 85-95 Elfindale Road.

THE BBC AT 100 – A LOCAL CONNECTION

William Noble will not be found in the Society's *Herne Hill Personalities* (2006). More recent research reveals that he was a resident at 9 Hollingbourne Road and 23 ("Roselea") Burbage Road in the years up to and during the First World. He deserves to be remembered, especially at this time, because he played an important role in the very earliest days of the BBC, whose centenary is now with us.

100 years ago the General Post Office (GPO), through the extension of its monopoly over the postal system to new forms of wireless telegraphy, had complete control over broadcasting through its licensing power. In October 1922 a licence was granted to the British Broadcasting Company Ltd, a company formed by the six major electrical engineering companies of that time, including Marconi and GEC. It broadcast for the first time under the station identified as 2LO on 14 November from Marconi House in the Strand. One of the seven directors of the new company was William Noble.

Noble was born in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, in 1861, son of a blacksmith and the eldest of eight children, and had worked all his life for the GPO. He started work as a humble messenger boy, but through study and ability became skilled in the technology of communication, rising to become the GPO's chief engineer. Knighted in 1920, he retired in 1922 and became a director of GEC.

He is particularly remembered for the appointment of the legendary John Reith in December 1922, which it seems was very much his doing. Reith, having learned of Noble's Aberdonian background, is said to have retrieved his original application to become the general manager of the British Broadcasting Company and adapted it to stress his own origins in the north east of Scotland. Reith, on his own admission, did not even know



Sir William Noble (1861–1943)

the meaning of the word "broadcasting" when he applied, but he still got the job. He later recalled thinking that Noble would be keeping a very close eye on what he did. But Noble simply said "We are leaving it all to you; you will be reporting at our monthly meetings and we'll see how you are getting on. That's all right isn't it?" So it was left to Reith to start building the unique institution that still aims to "inform, educate and entertain", while Noble and his fellow engineers developed the technology and successfully marketed their products to a rapidly growing number of avid radio listeners. By 1927 the Government realised that broadcasting to the public was far too important to be left in the hands of a private company

and by Royal Charter the British Broadcasting Corporation was born.

Laurence Marsh



23 Burbage Road, home of William Noble

CASH AND CARRIE

The discovery of Herne Hill has been reported in the press. Again. It happens, on average, once a decade. Yet, like America, it was always in plain sight. Of course, Columbus, to his dying day, believed he'd sailed to the Far East, and in any case he spent almost all his time exploring the so-called West Indies rather than the American mainland. And the Vikings got there before him – not to mention the aboriginal inhabitants, wherever they came from. But one can take an analogy too far ... what was I saying before I rudely interrupted myself?

Back in January 1988 the *Evening Standard* ran a property feature called "What's So Great About Herne Hill?". Not a lot, apparently: a couple of decent French restaurants, Brockwell Park, a railway station and some Victorian pubs "picturesque from the outside". However, "the Herne Hill Society ... strives manfully to give the area unity, identity and a true blue sense of pride." A bit down at heel, but picturesque in parts. "You will still hear and see the rag-and-bone man pass with his horse and cart": cue the Steptoe and Son theme.

Happy days, when you could bag a five-bedroom house in Elfindale Road for less than 120 grand – and it would have cost you only half of that in 1985 (now that's what I call inflation). We read that "fresh-faced first buyers who come to Herne Hill in search of residential property at reasonable prices are struck with a tricky but not insuperable problem. Describing – especially to north-side friends – exactly where it is." I carry a bag of chips on my shoulder, but the implication, as always, is that London proper is North of the River, whereas South London is – if not entirely beyond the pale – where you live if you are desperate. I mean, surely everyone knows where Kingsbury is?

That little feature appeared 34 years ago, and yet we remain undiscovered. According to a recent article in the *Financial Times* (6 October), our patch of South London was a "low-profile residential pocket ... until it was reported that former prime minister Boris Johnson was ... making the short move to Herne Hill from Camberwell. [Herne Hill] is quieter [= less scary?] than Brixton and yet not quite as fashionable as next-door Dulwich". Oh dear, we're still not as fashionable as Dulwich. But with the imminent arrival of Mr and Mrs Johnson we shall inhabit *terra incognita* no more. We can look forward to the return of astronomical house price rises; according to the *FT* they only rose in Herne Hill by a miserable 7% during the last three years.

That the Johnsons were poised to move to the boondocks of SE24 has been an open secret here for a long time. A neighbour

identified a house that was under offer. But a house with no drive? Really – or was it a smokescreen? Now I hear that they will be moving into a different substantial property. But even if I knew for sure I wouldn't put it in writing because I don't want to start a riot in my own back yard. According to social media reports, the "locals are up in arms about it". Doubtless this is true of some, but the general attitude seems more like studied indifference or even mild amusement. Of course, we are famously welcoming, open-minded and liberal – on most matters – and every second person here seems to be French, Italian or German.



There's this place called Herne Hill. Ever heard of it?

Herne Hill was, and probably still is, more "Remain" than almost anywhere in the UK. Moreover, in 2019 it returned (as part of Dulwich & West Norwood) a Labour MP with a majority of 27,000, and is home to two more Labour MPs as well as several Labour councillors. Obviously the Johnsons would have been aware of that, but in any case there are hardly any Conservative-held boroughs left in Central London these days. And unlike one of his heroes,

the virtuous Cincinnatus, Boris doesn't seem ready to embrace country life.

Talking of publications associated with doctors' waiting rooms, an article in the *Tatler* (October 2022) by a certain 'Isaac Bickerstaff' provides an impressively detailed guide to the shopping options the current Mrs Johnson can enjoy once Dilyn and the sprogs are settled in. How many of their potential customers read the *Tatler* I could not say, but the plugs for Wild and Lees, Lowie, Jarr Market, Seasons of England, Jo's House, The Flower Lady, Myla and Davis and Llewellyn's will doubtless be appreciated by their proprietors.

As Carrie Johnson owned a flat just up the road in Camberwell it is hard to believe that any of this will have come as news to her, but the *Tatler* is what it is. Posing the burning question of the day "could she soon be the Queen Bee of the Herne Hill mums set?" – pseudo-Bickerstaff name-checks Daisy Hoppen (niece of designer Kelly, I learn), Jasmine Hemsley (me neither), Liz MacCuish (ditto - has five kids and a dog), Dolly Alderton (famously single journalist ... a clue, perhaps?) and Erin O'Connor (even I know who she is). I must get out and enjoy a macchiato with the super-influencers more often. We could do with them on the Committee.

I close my eyes but I still cannot picture Boris in the Prince Regent, nursing a pint and chewing the fat with Jay Rayner and Mark Rylance while Carrie has her hair done. But it's been a funny old year.

Colin Wight

BETWEEN WORLDS IN DULWICH

Dulwich Picture Gallery's summer exhibition, *Reframed*, took the ever-popular Rembrandt *Girl at a Window* as a starting point to explore the theme of women in windows from ancient Greece to the pandemic lockdown. The gallery's new show, which began 21 September, showcases one artist, Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1895–1911). Celebrated in his native Lithuania, he has never before had a major exhibition in the UK.



M K Čiurlionis

Happily, Dulwich's policy of promoting less well-known artists puts that right. Čiurlionis was born into a family of church organists and was a child prodigy who went on to become his country's greatest composer. There is certainly a musical quality in his artwork, which he produced in the last six years of his short life.

He often draws on folklore and mythology to present celestial and cosmic scenes. A pair of pastels depict a god-like figure giving life to man, who then carves an image of his creator into stone. An oil painting, *Night*, has a bridge crossing between worlds. A series of 13 tempera works, *Creation of the World*, moves from deep blues to bright pinks. With fantastical starry, angelic or flowery shapes, his mastery of colour is striking.

There is a strong symbolic element in his work. The triptych *My Road* can be seen literally as a path in the landscape or as one's journey through life. A recurrent image of two suns can be interpreted as watching eyes or guiding lights. In an eerie winter



Serenity

scene, one light has gone out, its tower drooping.

Viewing his work in the context of his times, the growth of Lithuanian nationalism challenged the country's domination by the Russian empire. Čiurlionis celebrated the culture and customs

which had been suppressed. Inspired by traditional tales, seasons and natural phenomena, his depictions began moving towards abstraction or reductionism. This is particularly evident in his *Winter* cycle of eight paintings and the five of *Summer*. Another key series is *Zodiac*, with the sun passing through each of the 12 signs.

In the gallery's mausoleum, we can be immersed in his music. Experiencing his sound world complements and enriches our appreciation of his artwork.

As a composer, he was uniquely able to unite music with painting, as evidenced in his *Sonata* cycles, three of which are featured here: *Sonata of Stars*, *Sonata of Pyramids*, *Sonata of the Sea*, the titles *Andante*, *Allegro* and *Finale* analogous to the sea's movements. There is also a picture called *Silence*, making a somewhat ironic comment.



Creation of the World III

For all his concentration on his own country, he brings in a wide range of references to different beliefs and parts of the world, including the Jewish menorah, Hindu Vedas, Egyptian temples and Japanese torii gates.

The final room draws us deep between the worlds. Large paintings on the walls, along with a case of vignettes for folk songs and shelf of four views, *The City*, illustrate the breadth of his vision. An outstanding late work, *Rex* depicts a god-like figure towering over the earth and beyond as king of the universe.

You may find in some of the works on display reminders of other artistic visionaries, like Turner, Blake or Whistler; but the overall impression given by this intriguing exhibition is of a unique artist with an individual voice.

Running concurrently in the gallery, Anthony Daley: *Son of Rubens* displays twelve huge paintings by the Jamaican abstract expressionist as a modern response to the great 17th-century artist.

Jeff Doorn

M. K. Čiurlionis: *Between Worlds* runs until 12 March 2023. Tickets, which include entry to the permanent collection, are: Adults: £16.50, concessions available.

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