

HERNE HILL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY ♣ ISSUE 137 ♣ Spring ♣ 2017 ♣ £2.50



NEWS
AND
FEATURES

“Walking continues to be a healthy and predictable way of getting around.”

► *See Transport Report – Page 14*

MEET THE MANAGER

► *Half Moon to open in March– Turn to Page 3*

WORLD WAR I PROJECT

► *Herne Hill Society joins Charter School – Turn to Page 9*



HERNE HILL'S ANSWER TO CENTREPOINT?

► *A Seifert building discovered– See Page 12*

The magazine of the Herne Hill Society



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Opinions expressed in the Magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily of the Herne Hill Society Committee, which likewise does not approve or endorse the quality or suitability of any goods or services advertised in the Magazine.

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The Half Moon is finally getting ready to open

Matt Dutson will be the new General Manager of the restored Half Moon. For several months now, he's been getting ready for his new job and preparing for the grand opening, hopefully on 20th March.

We caught up with Matt at the end of January. We were keen to learn what plans he and Fuller's, its new owners, have for this prominent and much-loved local landmark, injured by the serious flood of 2004, and empty and desolate since the second, epic flood of 2013, which tested (in some cases to destruction) the resilience of several local businesses.

Matt is a cheerful and energetic Australian, clearly up for the challenge of running what's going to be a very busy and complex establishment. He worked as a chef for many years in Australia and originally came to the UK to continue that work but fell into pub management almost accidentally. It turned out to be his perfect niche. He has worked for Fuller's in London for the past eight years; until recently he ran the Mason's Arms, the popular pub on Battersea Park Road. Last autumn he emerged from a competitive shortlist to win the exciting new position as General Manager of the Half Moon, with the exciting responsibility for relaunching this famous old pub in its new incarnation.

His biggest challenge, he admits, will be managing the unusual diversity of this new enterprise. "One minute you're talking to a customer about a potential function, the next minute you're discussing food menus, making sure the restaurant and



the different bars are running smoothly, dealing with kitchen and front of house staff issues – and on this site, unlike many pubs, we'll also be having guests who need to be checked into their rooms upstairs and made welcome."

So what sort of pub will it be? we asked.

"We have a simple aim: to create a happy, enjoyable and friendly atmosphere, welcoming to all. How to do that? It's not an original ambition of course, but the key to this is getting the right staff – that makes all the difference to the way people feel about a pub. It's a challenge in every industry but particularly so in the hospitality sector, and especially in London where people have so much choice about where they eat and drink, and can readily find some other local if they have a disappointing experience. So above all we

are focusing on getting terrific staff. We are actively recruiting now, bearing in mind that this will be a 24/7/365 operation. We'll need both full-time and part-time staff for the kitchen and for front of house – all told we've been looking for around 25-30 staff. And fortunately we've already hired some really excellent people."

And the food?

"We will certainly have a properly equipped and well-staffed kitchen. Of course the food will be what people would expect from a pub menu, hopefully with an interesting twist. On top of that we'll have a good snacks menu throughout the day. We'll be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. And Sunday roasts – one of the most important British traditions! – will definitely be a big thing."

Pat Roberts & Colin Wight



THANK YOU MIKE RICHARDS

The Committee has awarded Mike Richards Honorary Life Membership of the Society in grateful recognition of his dedication and expertise as designer of *Herne Hill* magazine for the last three years.

In August 2013 Mike took over from Nick Baker, who had turned our modest newsletter into the much more professional-looking and engaging magazine we enjoy today. Mike, a journalist, brought his own skills and flair to the job. He designed issues 124-135, and also came up with most of the headlines – not as easy as it sounds! While many readers may not know Mike, they might recognise his wife Rebecca and young son William from their photograph in the station underpass. Rebecca, a talented illustrator, has also contributed

to our publications, designing the cover of the *Heritage Trail* book and the six eye-catching colour maps within it.

JOHN BRUNTON LEAVES THE COMMITTEE

John has decided not to stand for re-election at this year's AGM. For the past 16 years, apart from a short break, he has played a key role on the Committee, including a stint as Vice-Chair.

John enjoyed his career as Head of Personnel Services at the Department of Education and Employment, but early retirement saved him from killing himself

from over-work: often as much as 70 hours a week travelling around the country. He and Ros (our efficient Treasurer) moved to Hawarden Grove from Crystal Palace in 1999. He loves "the excellent parks, amenities, schools, transport, sense of community and, not least, the very nice people here".

Among his many tasks for the Society has been the monitoring of Licensing applications. "I wouldn't want the Society to gain a reputation for being anti-pleasure, but allowing people to enjoy the peaceful occupation of their homes and traders to be unaffected by the negative effects of alcohol is important too. It's a balance". John cycles, attends yoga classes and, with Ros, is planning another of their walking holidays abroad. But as if to illustrate his own propensity for the occasional indulgence he adds "I have a large wine cellar downstairs!".

John greets people as they arrive for Society talks; and he volunteers on the Society's stall at events such as the Lambeth Country Show. It gives the Society exposure, it's great team work, it generates funds and new members and he relishes meeting people. "The Lambeth Country Show in particular is so vibrant and varied. It's a chance to talk to people about Herne Hill and listen to the issues that matter to them."

John is particularly proud of his contribution to the Society's publications. The first book he helped produce was the *Herne Hill Heritage Trail* (now in its second edition). Having done places, they then moved on to people: *Herne Hill Personalities*. There were two criteria for inclusion: you had to be interesting and you had to be dead. Then the Milkwood Road Residents Association asked the Herne Hill Society to write something to coincide with the opening of their Community Park. They thought they'd get a pamphlet. Instead they got a book, now sold out.

There is one book that he produced alone. It came about while he was taking a two-year sabbatical from

the Committee. In a couple of days he drafted *A Short History of Herne Hill* "to start them off". He hadn't expected them to go straight ahead and publish it.

Next was a new edition of Patricia Jenkyns's book on Henry Bessemer; and most recently *The Pubs of Dulwich & Herne Hill*, which is proving very popular.

John's most lasting achievement will surely prove to be

his role as a member of the Herne Hill Regeneration Project Board, without which we could not have had the re-routing of traffic and the popular Sunday market. The transformation took ten years from inception as a 'soapbox' item at Herne Hill Forum. "The objections at the time caused delays which meant that some corners had to be cut. But people still tell me how much they love it, even if they were against the Project at the time."



John with the Mayor of Southwark at the launch of *Herne Hill Personalities*

One particular disappointment is Brockwell Passage. Despite Lambeth's continued assurances over many years that the upgrade work would go ahead, nothing happened. As a result, TfL funding has been withdrawn, the owners of the Florence have made changes to their garden that make it almost impossible to widen the Passage and an opportunity to produce a pleasant route between the station and Dulwich Road has been lost.

He's pleased at all the Society manages to do, though "How much more could be achieved if Herne Hill Forum and Herne Hill Society worked together?"

John was also associated with the Society's successive triumphs as Brain of Lambeth. But his current plan is less taxing: "to sit and contemplate the infinite for a while".

The Chair adds:

It was John who encouraged me to join the Committee. He must have spotted me as a young lad (of 50) with potential! Over the years I have got to know John, and his partner Ros, well. They have both been unfailingly kind, supportive and helpful, as well as tremendously hard-working. Much of what the Society has achieved has been down to their determination to do things as well as they can be done, a precept with which I am wholly in agreement. We will struggle without them, but the show will go on!

Becca Thackray and Colin Wight

A WELCOME RESTORATION - The Portico in Ruskin Park



It is not often that we have a good news story about a historic building in public ownership and in urgent need of restoration. But anyone taking a winter walk through Ruskin Park will probably

have noticed that, largely thanks to Historic England grant-funding with additional financial support from the Heritage of London Trust and Lambeth Council, the Grade II-listed "Portico" has been given a new lease of life.

This intriguing structure is all that remains of a large late-Georgian house built in the 1790s as the first houses started to appear on Denmark Hill. Substantial gardens went with the houses and when the original leases ran out there was a danger that the houses would go and all the land would be built over, as in time occurred with the other large houses on Denmark Hill and Herne Hill. However, a local initiative led to the creation, in 1907, of Ruskin Park. In laying out the park the decision was taken to preserve the front and rear porches of No. 170 Denmark Hill and two ground-floor window bays on each side. A roof was built between the front and rear walls, providing a form of park shelter. The idea is to make the shelter accessible again, which will require appropriate iron grilles in the former window bays.

Some, but not all, of the funds to pay for

the ironwork are available. However, the hope is that the project will be completed later this year. An information board is also planned.

There was once a plaque in memory of Captain James Wilson, probably the very first occupant of the house. Although the plaque has gone, the wording is known:

In the house of which this shelter is a remainder lived 1799–1814 Captain James Wilson, who was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne 1760 and after an adventurous life at sea during which he was present at the Battles of Lexington and Bunker's Hill and was confined nearly two years in the Black Hole at Seringapatam, served the London Missionary Society 1796–98 as Honorary Commander of the 'Duff', the first British Missionary Ship.

We look forward to seeing the intrepid Captain Wilson remembered again.

Laurence Marsh

RAILTON ROAD SHOPS - Update Spring 2017

Work is pushing ahead in the long-empty premises on Railton Road in Station Square, owned by Network Rail.

The specialist contractors hired to check for asbestos have found nothing problematic. Protective hoardings have been erected. Network Rail plan to have these covered with a community-focused design scheme to be overseen by the Herne Hill Forum. This was planned for early February, but there has been some delay. The refurbishment of the buildings is currently proceeding.

When will it all be finished?

As seems to be the case with most building projects, no-one seems confident about a definite completion date. But Network Rail say they anticipate a six-month delivery for the scheme, so we're maybe looking at Summer at the earliest.

The refurbishment, once completed, will be a huge relief for the neighbouring shops and businesses, for the Sunday Market traders, and indeed for everyone living in and visiting Herne Hill. It has taken too long to have this ugly and depressing feature of our streetscape finally looking tidy and welcoming again.

Network Rail say they have had some expressions of interest in



the refurbished units but reiterate that they are "not seeking to let to national chains" to occupy these premises.

But at a time of rising rents and threatened increases in business rates, we must now hope that the new premises are accessible to the sorts of viable long-term businesses that do justice to the needs and ambitions of our community.

Pat Roberts

PLANNING & LICENSING

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

26 Sunray Avenue (Southwark 16/AP/4961)

We objected to a proposed large rear extension. Rear extensions are increasingly commonplace and generally not the sort of development to which we object. However, the Sunray Estate is a Conservation Area, which brings into play specific planning policies. It is a rare example in South London of an estate built on “garden city” principles. We were disappointed that Southwark – to our mind contrary to its own planning policies – recently saw fit to allow an application of a large extension in Casino Avenue, one to which we objected (see Issue 136). To allow extensions that are out of scale for cottage-style buildings will set a precedent and will erode the special quality of the Conservation Area, the very quality that its conservation status was designed to protect. The site is also within the Dulwich Estate Scheme of Management. We have written to the Dulwich Estate to express our concern on this issue. They have told us that their Consultant Architect has the same concern about the scale of the proposal.

89 Shakespeare Road (Lambeth 16/06927/FUL)

We objected to a proposed top-floor addition with mansard roof. Although we do not regard mansard extensions as objectionable in principle, we felt that their piecemeal addition is undesirable and that insufficient regard was being paid to the group character of the terrace, which has an architectural heritage value, particularly when mansard extensions are becoming so widespread. However, Lambeth have now granted consent.

Carnegie Library (Lambeth 16/06270/FUL and 16/06271/LB)

We objected to the scheme, the full text of the objection appearing on the Society’s website. Essentially, we argued that the scheme goes against many of Lambeth’s own planning policies and signally misses the opportunity to come forward with a truly innovative and practical plan that uses the great potential of the building and its garden land to best advantage, while respecting the building’s historic quality. Lambeth’s planning committee considered the application on 7 February and approved it by 6-1, a very disappointing decision both in terms of planning policy and a future for a library service in the building.

Land next to the Judith Kerr Primary School, Half Moon Lane

Green space next to the school provides a playing field for the children, who will number 350 when the school reaches full capacity. The Dulwich Estate wishes to build on this land, to provide accommodation for up to 20 elderly people. The present beneficiaries of the Dulwich Almshouse Charity would be moved out of the old almshouses in Dulwich Village. The Dulwich Estate will shortly be putting in its planning application. We will of course be responding to the application, one of considerable interest for our area. It throws into sharp focus the conflicting requirements of different age-groups in the community.

Laurence Marsh

DORCHESTER COURT PLANS



Artist’s impression of the proposal

Dorchester Court, when built in 1936, was a stylish example of contemporary design. However, for many years, through age and neglect, the Grade II listed buildings have presented a rather sorry sight. Recent years have in fact seen internal improvements and repairs. Now there

are plans for major works that will not only restore the exterior, but will also include the addition of two penthouse flats on each of the eight blocks, the demolition of the more or less derelict garages to the south of the site and their replacement with eight town-houses. The scheme also envisages improvements to landscaping and communal areas and measures to prevent non-resident parking. Planning permission and listed building consent have not yet been sought, but it is understood that Lambeth looks favourably on the scheme. The proposal to add penthouses to a listed building is potentially controversial (though the views out over London for those who can afford one will be stunning!), but it may be the price that has to be paid for the overdue restoration of Dorchester Court as a whole.

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2016 – The Chair looks back

Membership

Membership increased to 322, higher than in 2014 or 2015, helped by a vigorous door-to-door leafleting campaign by Simon Wingard, and the convenience and cost-effectiveness of online payment. We now have email addresses for nearly 80% of our members, who receive a monthly e-newsletter. We also revived our Corporate Membership scheme (WBC at the Bessemer Park Estate becoming our first for some years – thank you!), and will develop it further in 2017. We have held all subscription rates once again, with no plans to increase them in the next 12 months.

As part of our modernisation programme, we commissioned a new logo which works better online; my thanks go to designer Philip Stavrinou for his generous assistance.

Val Suebsaeng did excellent work in welcoming and supporting members and in organising magazine distribution. Our long-serving Secretary, Jeff Doorn, put together an excellent series of events, which were well attended; thanks also to Jackie Plumridge, who managed the catering, and to Henry Ferguson, who looked after the technical requirements.

Publishing and retailing

The Pubs of Dulwich and Herne Hill, jointly published with the Dulwich Society, is a strong addition to our range of books and was well received. The initial print run sold out quickly and a reprint was ordered before Christmas. We sold over 160 copies of our five in-print titles through Herne Hill Books, and a similar number online and at events. Our stall did particularly well at July's Lambeth Country Show – thanks to everyone who helped out. We also sold 50 books in the Lambeth Architecture series written by Society member Edmund Bird and published by Lambeth Archives: a useful boost to our finances.

Further titles are being planned, thanks principally to Laurence Marsh and John Brunton. Laurence began a series of entertaining historical articles in the *South London Press*, which helped raise the profile of the Society. Some of these can also be read on our blog. Although we managed to publish only three issues of

Herne Hill in 2016, we produced our first full-colour issue in December. Thanks go to our advertisers for their support and to Liz Ochagavia for organising copy and payments. We awarded Honorary Life Membership to Mike Richards, who has overseen design and production for the last three years. Sophia Marsh succeeds him.

All our publications have been catalogued and are available at the British Library, which also regularly archives our website. Thanks to all who helped with orders and delivery, as well as to our editors and contributors.

Of course publishing today is not limited to paper media. Together with the Herne Hill Forum, we made considerable progress with the History Hear oral history project. Interviewees included Robert Holden and our President Bill Kirby. Our online World War One interactive map has led to a proposed joint project with the Charter School, which we hope will lead to a physical memorial to Herne Hill's 400 soldiers. It is important to interest younger people in the work of the Society and I look forward to seeing how this develops.

Finances and administration

Once again Rosalind Glover, our Treasurer, has balanced the books. She negotiated a special charity rate from PayPal and completed work on our Reserves Policy (i.e. how much cash the Society should hold to enable it to function for at least two more years, 'if the worst comes to the worst'), as recommended by the Charity Commission. This will help us to take prudent decisions on future discretionary expenditure.

We set up a Small Grants scheme to support external projects of benefit to Herne Hill, and made several awards (including to the Herne Hill Piano Academy and the Brockwell Lido Fun Palace). Please help spread the word so we can do more next year. The amendments to our Constitution following the 2016 AGM were accepted by the Charities Commission, and we also compiled job descriptions for the officers' roles. All this information can be found on our website.

Thanks to Michèle Arnal for taking on the role of Minutes Secretary this year, and



to Martyn Hall for allowing himself to be co-opted!

Planning, licensing, transport and environment

One especially notable contribution of the Planning group was the comprehensive and well-argued objection to the Carnegie Planning Application submitted by GLL.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Herne Hill, an ambitious undertaking under the auspices of the Herne Hill Forum, made significant progress thanks to the major contribution of Society members David Taylor and Yan Hawkins, amongst others.

We held a number of fruitful meetings with key local stakeholders, including Fuller's and the Dulwich Estate – thanks, in particular, to Patrick Roberts for his negotiating skills. Bil Harrison has continued to make informed responses to the transport companies and authorities on our behalf. We have joined forces with other local societies to improve access at Denmark Hill station and are hopeful that, eventually, we will see a second entrance opened up.

Through Laurence Marsh and Society member David Williams we were able to complete a tree-planting scheme for Fawnbrake Avenue, with costs shared between residents and Lambeth Council, that saw 40 new trees planted.

We shall miss John Brunton's dedication and expertise in scrutinising licensing applications over many years. I wish him all the best for his second retirement.

In sum: an interesting and fruitful year which should lead to further notable achievements in 2017.

Colin Wight

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SOCIETY JOINS CHARTER SCHOOL IN NEW PROJECT

Remembering Herne Hill 1914 –18

The Society plans to lead a project to commemorate our community's role in the First World War. The principal aim is to uncover the story of all those connected to the area who served in 1914–18 and who were casualties

within the community. Currently this project is at the early stages of applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

There will be two key aspects in achieving this. The first will be to inform the local community through the writing of a book and a virtual online memorial. It will require extensive research, not merely to identify the names of over 400 casualties, but also to discover more about their lives, and the lives of those who lived through the conflict.

The second key aspect of the project is the creation of a physical memorial as a focus for commemoration. No physical memorial currently exists to all the

casualties from the locality, so the research for the book and website will lead to the compilation of a complete record for the first time. We would like to see the memorial have a permanent home within the locality, ideally in a prominent public place and to be unveiled on 11 November 2018. The creation of a memorial will serve as the major legacy of the project and ensure that we have a focus for commemoration and remembrance for many years to come.

We look to involve anyone with connections to the local community willing to play a part. A key partner will be the Charter School, with students, staff and parents being invited to take part in the research task. We hope though that volunteers of all ages from across Herne Hill will want to take part; no prior experience of research will be necessary to play a role.

For further information or to register an interest in volunteering please contact:
memorial@hernehillsociety.org.uk

Dan Townsend, Charter School



Children in Oakbank Grove celebrating the end of WWI. Photo courtesy of Robin Drayton, whose father Ronald (born 1910) is in the front row.

of the conflict. There is no public memorial, and therefore a lack of understanding of the war's impact

of a physical memorial as a focus for commemoration. No physical memorial currently exists to all the

Irene Kirby, wife of our president Bill Kirby for 73 years, sadly died in King's College Hospital on 23 December aged 93.

Irene and Bill met during WW2 and married in 1943. She was born in Camberwell, and their first home was in Peckham. In 1951 Irene and Bill moved to Hollingbourne Road with their daughter Julia, and later their son George was born. In 1967 they moved to Brantwood Road, where they lived until moving to Tudor Stacks six years ago.

Irene and Bill joined the Herne Hill Society in 1982 within the first year of its founding, and have been regular attendees at our events ever since. Irene's familiar face in the front row next to Bill will be much missed.

Irene was a member of the St Paul's Church congregation and active in the Mothers' Union for many years. She was secretary of the

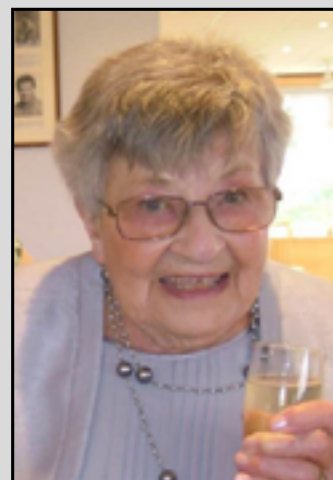
Heron Club for retired people for 20 years and organised holidays and meetings. She was also secretary of the local South Lambeth Scouts and was involved in organising jumble sales and other fundraising activities for the troop.

In the 1960s Irene went to work at what is now Muscular Dystrophy UK and soon became involved, with Bill, in fundraising outside office hours. Over a period of 40 years they raised thousands of pounds running stalls at local events, collecting recycled stamps and coins, and more. Their efforts were rewarded in 2006 by an invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and with a joint Lambeth Civic Award in 2010.

Irene will be sadly missed by Bill, her daughter Julia and her son-in-law Alan and by her son George and his wife, who live in Suffolk.

Sheila Northover

Irene Kirby



DIARY OF EVENTS

Spring/Summer 2017

For more information please check
www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/meetings

Unless otherwise stated, Herne Hill Society meetings will be at Herne Hill United Church Hall, at 7:30 (doors open) for 7:45pm. Please try to arrive before the speaker is introduced.

Wednesday 8 March

Annual General Meeting

followed by

“Herne Hill Remembered: Uncovering the Community’s First World War Experience”

by Dan Townsend, Head of History,
 Charter School

See report on page 9

Wednesday 10 May

“Sir Alfred Manns” (Provisional)

by **Adrian Falks**

This talk on the life and career of the Music Director at Crystal Palace, who held the post for 50 years, will be illustrated by images and musical examples.

Wednesday 12 April

“Secret Underground London”

by **Nick Catford**

Take a tour of some surprising, hidden sites, uncovered by the speaker, who has written a book on the subject.

Saturday 3 June

Third Annual

Thomas Lynn Bristowe Memorial Lecture

by **Helen Hayes MP**

It is planned that this talk will be held at Brockwell Hall.

JUST FANCY THAT!

“Herne Hill, a neighbourhood in south London near Brixton, which is known for its large park and lido, has had the highest growth in the country since the peak. New research by Knight Frank has found that property there has increased in value by 59.8pc since the first quarter of 2008, and the average home is worth £728,154.”

Isabelle Fraser, Sunday Telegraph, 9 January 2017

When Committee member Pat Roberts tweeted this article without comment, it started a Twitterstorm between Labour councillor Andrew Wilson (Larkhall Ward), Cressingham Gardens activist Tom Keene, and the anonymous ‘Brockwell Hall’. Before long, the debate had escalated to the price of Scotch eggs at Herne Hill market.

Brockwell Hall @BrockwellHall Jan 9

@HerneHill81 That also explains the lack of diversity and pricing at #hernehill market #gentrification

Andy Wilson @cldr_andywilson Jan 9

@BrockwellHall @hernehillforum @HerneHill81 should read the definition of gentrification

Tom Keene @anthillsocial Jan 9

Ummmm seems about right @cldr_andywilson @BrockwellHall

Andy Wilson @cldr_andywilson Jan 9

@anthillsocial you mean all the independent business that are operating at the market and on railton road since it was pedestrianised

Andy Wilson @cldr_andywilson Jan 9

@anthillsocial why do you revel in finding the worst in everything? Herne Hill has a vibrant mixed community that it can be very proud of

Brockwell Hall @BrockwellHall Jan 9

@anthillsocial @cldr_andywilson @hernehillforum @HerneHill81 And not forgetting the six quid scotch eggs :-0

Andy Wilson @cldr_andywilson Jan 9

@BrockwellHall and the many local artists who have pitches at the market that have to prove a local connection, it’s not all scotch eggs

Brockwell Hall @BrockwellHall Jan 10

@cldr_andywilson Yes there’s a lot of expensive upcycling as well as expensive food

Andy Wilson @cldr_andywilson Jan 10

@BrockwellHall I’m glad I didn’t have to face the uphill struggle of buying you a present at Christmas time

As Private Eye might put it: [cont. page 94] ...

Cleaner, Greener, Safer Southwark Awards

One of the riches of London is that there are historical artefacts all around us but it can be easy to miss them.

I noticed while out walking that the milestone and the Parish boundary marker, both at street level at the top of Ruskin Walk, are very difficult to read as a result



of the build-up of urban dirt and rust. I guessed that others in the area would be in similar need of attention and I wondered if there was any way that they could be restored or maintained.

Asking the Herne Hill Society for advice, they suggested that

such work might be suitable for consideration as part of Southwark Council's Cleaner, Greener, Safer



scheme. This programme operates by wards being provided with a pot of funding which the ward Councillors then divide up, based on the bids they receive and approve from within their wards.

James Price, Project Manager of Southwark's CGS team, was extremely helpful in putting my proposal together. An application was made for both Village and College wards to cover refurbishing the milestones and boundary markers across the two wards (seven locations in total).

February's Dulwich Community Council approved these bids meaning that £3,200 has been

allocated for the project. This is not to change anything about these historic markers, just to clean and maintain them. They are such interesting small historical monuments and they are the perfect height for children to notice as an intriguing introduction to the history that surrounds us.

Rebecca Tee

Stephen Humphrey 1952–2016 – an appreciation

Stephen was an honorary life member of the Herne Hill Society and attended the Society's meeting last November just a few weeks before his unexpected death. He was widely respected as a local historian and writer: well-known for many books published over more than 30 years and his regular articles in the *South London Press*.

Born and bred near the Elephant and Castle, with a history degree from Cambridge, Stephen found the job that perfectly suited his talents. In 1978, he joined Southwark Libraries as an assistant in the local history

section, now based in the John Harvard Library, trained to become Southwark's first professional archivist, and remained in post until he was retired early, to his great dismay and the service's great loss, in 2010. During a long and devoted period, he put in order and listed most of the archives which the library had inherited and received. As a result of his work, personal interest and wide reading, Stephen built up an unrivalled understanding of Southwark's history and its sources. The affection in which he was held by the community because of his generosity in sharing information that he

had gained is acknowledged in the many tributes paid to him in the Book of Condolences held in the library. Recognition also came after retirement when given the Freedom of the Borough by Southwark, honorary life membership of the Lambeth Local History Forum and the presence at his funeral in St George's Catholic Cathedral of the Mayor, Leader of Southwark Council and a large congregation.

Stephen did much to revive the fortunes of the Ecclesiological Society, a society for those interested in church history and architecture. He was Treasurer of the Surrey Record Society, Past President of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society and President of the Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Local



History Society. Among other thoroughly researched publications, he edited and contributed to two volumes of the *Blue Guide to Churches and Chapels in England* (1991), and wrote a history of the Elephant and Castle. He will be greatly missed, not least because of the many books and projects he was working on at the time of his death.

Bernard Nurse

ICON OR EYESORE?

An architectural excursion

Architects like to be remembered for creating landmark buildings. Like them or not, Centrepoint, Space House and the NatWest Tower (now Tower 42), provide what are probably London's most striking landmarks of the 1960s and 70s. They are all the creation

“Centrepoint, Space House and the NatWest Tower, provide London's most striking landmarks of the 1960s and 70s. They are all the creation of the Swiss-born Richard Seifert”

of the Swiss-born Richard Seifert (1910–2001), who built up one of the largest practices in the country and was responsible for some 600 buildings in London – more than were built by Christopher Wren. They have had a significant influence on the way London's buildings over the last 50 years have

climbed ever higher. Among those 600 buildings designed by Seifert's practice many will have been forgotten (or even demolished). Until the very recent discovery of its origin by Edmund Bird the two-storey building in Station Square at Herne Hill was just another piece of 1960s infill – the original Victorian terrace was damaged in the war. Now



Colonel Seifert designed the “shed” in Station Square

Herne Hill can actually boast a Seifert building – though opinions may well be divided as to its enduring architectural quality.

More broadly, what other architects, better known for iconic projects elsewhere, have built in Herne Hill? Marks Barfield Architects, the designers of the Michael Tippett School on Milkwood Road, are now renowned as the designers of the London Eye and, more recently, the British Airways i360 in Brighton – apparently the first vertical cable car.

Staying in Milkwood Road, many of the Victorian houses there

were designed by architects Habershon and Pite. A worthy practice in their time, partner Alfred Pite is best known as father to William Pite, architect of King's College Hospital in 1913, and Beresford Pite, who designed St Saviour's Parish Hall in Herne Hill Road the same year. He practised for a while with another local resident architect, John Belcher, who lived at 'Redholme' on Champion Grove. In the 1950s Belcher's house was used as a pub when the bomb-damaged 'Fox under the Hill' was demolished and the new 'Fox on the Hill' was being constructed.

Just down Herne Hill Road, at the junction of Hinton Road, are two 1950s houses located on a former bomb site. These were built in 1954 by Owen Luder (one of them as his own house), better known in the 1960s as the head of the Owen Luder Partnership, a leading 'brutalist' practice. Film buffs will remember the famous scene at the Gateshead multi-storey car park in the film 'Get Carter' – his firm designed it. It succumbed



Luder house in Herne Hill Road

to the bulldozers in 2010, as have other Luder buildings, including the practice's Tricorn Centre in Portsmouth. Buildings by Luder, a past president of the RIBA, have always attracted strong admirers as well as detractors.

Dorchester Drive is our next stop. Here the Grade II-listed blocks of flats, Dorchester Court, are looking very sorry for themselves. But next door is the amazing art deco Dorchester House, both designed by noted interwar cinema architects Kemp and Tasker. They built several other houses in the road as well as the unique Temple Bowling Club in nearby Sunset Road. Their many cinemas included the Grade II-listed Regal in Camberwell (still standing, and now a church for the Redeemed Christian Church of God). All Kemp and Tasker's work in Herne Hill was for local builder/developer, Cyril Herbert Morrell, remembered now for the 1937 Coney Hill Estate mortgage strike; his houses were so badly built that the new owners refused to pay their mortgages until the problems were resolved.

Oswald P. Milne, best known for his work with Oliver Bernard on the art deco interiors at the Strand and Regent Palace Hotels (you can still see his work in the Brasserie Zédel) acted as consultant architect on the redevelopment of the Denmark Hill Estate, the former Bessemer House site. Given his interest in art deco, it's difficult to imagine what his contribution might have been.

Towards the top of Herne Hill one can see the work of the Austrian-born architect Rudi Kompfner who in 1936, with his partner Keller, designed the modernist house at No. 25 Herne Hill, now locally listed. Initially imprisoned as an alien in 1939, Kompfner went on to study physics and was employed by the Admiralty in research related to radar and microwave tubes. Architecture was eclipsed by a highly distinguished career as a physicist and engineer, including a fellowship of All Souls Oxford, the first architect and engineer to be appointed since Christopher Wren.

Ian McInnes

Most of us can remember our much-lamented branch of Lloyds Bank on Half Moon Lane (now Pedder estate agents) which closed in 2007, but only those living here 25 years ago will recall the National Westminster Bank branch at the junction of Herne Hill, Milkwood Road and Half Moon Lane. NatWest closed their branch in November 1993 and it was converted to restaurant use, most recently by two Indian restaurants – *Three Monkeys*, followed by *Mela* and, since 2010, a *Pizza Express*. The fine late Victorian building was built on this corner site in 1898 by the London & Westminster Bank which, following a series of mergers became the London, County & Westminster Bank in 1909, the Westminster Bank in 1923 and then the National Westminster Bank in 1968.

It was known originally as No. 1 Bank Buildings, Herne Hill, becoming No. 140 Herne Hill following a renumbering in 1901 by the newly created Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth. The building was designed by the architect Frederick William Hunt and built by Messrs. Holliday & Greenwood. Hunt also designed the Grade II* listed Church of St Luke (1883–92), Ramsden Road, on the Clapham/Balham borders in Wandsworth.

It comprised a banking hall on the corner with

“The building was protected in 2007 as part of the Conservation Area”

two shops fronting Herne Hill (one of which became part of the bank in the 1920s and the other was absorbed into the restaurant in more recent times). The bank was remodelled in 1922 by the architect Frederick Wheeler (1853–1931) who built some of the grand Victorian shopping parades on Streatham High Road.

The building has a triangular footprint and is



NatWest interior 1973

built of a mellow yellow stock brick with red brick quoins and terracotta dressings. The playful roofscape is a riot of shaped gables, tall chimney stacks and dormer windows set in a mansard roof



London, County & Westminster Bank 1915

of slate. Unusually, the ground floor elevation is little altered except for the regrettable loss of the original timber panelled door to the corner entrance and the shopfront to No. 136. The terracotta door surround with its pair of keystones is very fine, flanked by attractive sets of pilasters on the bull-nose. The six-over-two sash windows have also survived as has the pedimented entrance to Bank Chambers on the Milkwood Road façade, beside a quirky oval window. The date of construction is proudly recorded on a terracotta tablet on the corner gable.

It was protected by the designation of the Herne Hill Conservation Area by Lambeth in

2007 and it is hoped that before too long it will be added to the borough’s Local List of heritage assets of architectural and historic interest. It will appear in Edmund Bird and Fiona Price’s next book in the fifth volume of their series on the built-heritage of the borough, *Lambeth’s Victorian Architecture*, due out later this year.

Edmund Bird



TRANSPORT

— slowing down

The Lambeth and Southwark initiatives and consultations on introducing cycling 'Quietways' appear to have gone – quiet. The new Mayor may not have such a focus on high-profile TfL-funded cycling schemes as the now Foreign Secretary had, and the local opposition to many aspects of the draft 'Quietways' proposals appear to have given Councillors cause for a pause. In Southwark, however, decision-making has recently been concentrated to the relevant Cabinet Member.

The Southwark 20mph speed limit on all Borough-controlled roads was originally introduced in March 2015, and the results of a 'before and after' speed survey programme have now been published, showing mixed results. A full formal report is awaited, but the raw results show a slight general slowing down, including on Herne Hill, Half Moon Lane, and Norwood Road. The impact on accidents will only be evident over a period of years. Lambeth introduced a 20mph limit on its Borough roads in April 2016, and hopefully they will also be monitoring the impact.

The saga of the dreadful performance by the Southern railway franchise continues at the time of writing. Southern is one of the five UK rail operations run by GTR (Govia Thameslink Railway). Overall, the 54 operations running on National Rail have an average performance of 87.4% of services considered to run on time over the Christmas period. The six worst performing operators include all five of GTR's franchises, with Thameslink at 75.2% and Southern Metro services into London at 73.6%.

Buses through Herne Hill are performing reasonably well. The 68/468 routes, after a poor performance 2014/15, had their contract renewed for two years, from April 2016 to March 2018, and have started off at slightly above the minimum standard for reliability. The 42 bus now operates using double-decker hybrid buses, and starts from Dog Kennel Hill Sainsbury's. The 37 route continues to be unreliably unreliable, with the service erratic at busy times, due to congestion along the route. Consultation has taken place on variations to the 3 bus route, suggesting it ends in Russell Square rather than Regent Street as part of major changes to bus services near Oxford Street.

Walking continues to be a healthy and predictable way of getting around.

Thameslink 2018 Timetable consultation

It is hoped that May 2018 (or more likely Dec 2018, that is 2019) will see dramatic improvements in Thameslink services through Herne Hill. This is because the construction of new through platforms at London Bridge will be complete; the full fleet of new trains will have been delivered (and will have drivers trained to use them) and the new signalling system between Blackfriars and King's Cross will be operational.

The service operator GTR is consulting the public on how these dramatic improvements should be shared out – with major changes in service patterns being considered. The initial 'Phase 1' consultation took place between September and December 2016. After considering responses, Phase 2 consultation will be carried out in early summer 2017. The initial suggestions are ambitious, with major impacts for some users, but crucially dependent on negotiations with other train operators as Thameslink services converge on East Croydon and Kentish Town.

The initial proposals for Herne Hill are ... to run the current timetable reliably! That is, to have sufficient new reliable trains

to run four eight-car trains per hour on Thameslink, with much reduced delays and cancellations, and no short trains. The new 'Class 700' trains are now appearing (look for the number on the front) and driver recruitment and training is now beginning to catch up. The Class 700 trains have about two-thirds of the seats of the existing trains, in order to provide much more standing room, and have walk-through space between carriages – much like a modern Tube train.

Longer term

While we all look to the end of 2018 (or 2019?) for the completion of Crossrail 1 (and new rail services east-west through Farringdon) and for the completion of the Thameslink improvements (at

“There is no shortage of longer-term ideas for further rail system changes”

London Bridge and through central London, and the promise of new rolling stock coming to the Herne Hill Thameslink services) there is no shortage of longer-term ideas for further rail system changes.

These ideas have been recently reviewed by Peter Cox, Barry Coker and Alastair Hanton of the Dulwich Society. A summary of the ideas follows (*with my strictly personal comments in brackets*):

- An extension of the Bakerloo Line from its terminus at the Elephant and Castle, along the Old Kent Road to New Cross Gate and Lewisham. This idea has been examined by TfL. It would release land at the Elephant and Castle sidings for development and enable development along the Old Kent Road. TfL have rejected the idea of a loop through Camberwell. The possibility of a further branch from the Bricklayers Arms area south towards Peckham has also been suggested. (*Much work remains on more detailed alignment investigations and demand studies, but these extensions are of interest. They would be competing for funds and priority with 'Crossrail 2' – the idea of a new tube from Chelsea to Hackney.*)
- A rail flyover north of Herne Hill Station. This would remove the need for the rail junctions just south and north of Herne Hill Station. (*An expensive scheme, with little benefit. Herne Hill has coped with Eurostar trains in the past, and with diverted Thameslink trains at present.*)
- Conversion of some suburban national rail lines in London to Overground management. This is particularly aimed at the current poorly performing Southern Metro services through North Dulwich. (*A very good idea, but requiring Government co-operation with TfL.*)
- Reopening of the derelict Camberwell Station. This would form part of an increased Thameslink service through Herne Hill (*but would need careful consideration of the catchment areas of the Elephant and Castle and Loughborough Junction stations.*)
- A new service from London Bridge to Victoria, via Peckham Rye, Tulse Hill, Streatham Hill, and Balham. (*This would allow several new interchanges, but would require careful co-ordination with other services.*)
- Extending the Victoria Line from Brixton. Brixton tube station is very busy, and overcrowded at times. An extension looping under Brockwell Park has been suggested, to speed up the turnaround of trains, and to provide a new interchange with the suburban rail station. (*This would require expensive deep tunnelling, with a requirement for extensive new housing development in Herne Hill to fund it – unlikely.*)

Bill Harrison

SHOCK LITERARY DISCOVERY: SATANISTS IN HERNE HILL!

Herne Hill can boast several eminent writers as residents, but, apart from John Ruskin, who liked to reminisce fondly about the area where he grew up, literary references to Herne Hill are few and far between. Last year I stumbled on a long-forgotten West End play partly set in Herne Hill, and can now add *The Bond of Black* by William Le Queux, published in 1899. Here's the start of the final chapter:

"... We hailed the first four-wheeler, and in one of those most terrible of all conveyances which ply for hire in London – vehicles known in the vernacular as 'fever traps' – we made our way with much rattle and jolting along the Camberwell Road, past Camberwell Green, and up Denmark Hill.

The cab deposited us on the brow of the hill at the corner of that steep hill, Red Post Hill, one of the few thoroughfares untouched by the modern builder, and together we descended Herne Hill until we came to a great old house standing back in its own grounds with large trees around it, and approached by a broad carriage drive. It had undoubtedly been an important residence a century ago, but in the darkness I could discern that weeds had been allowed to grow upon the drive ... and a large board which announced that the desirable site was for sale 'for building purposes' told conclusively how the neighbourhood had decayed ..."

This contemporary description of the dying days of Herne Hill as the 'Belgravia of South London' is of genuine interest. Sadly, the same cannot be said of the rest of

the book, though the absurd denouement in the final chapter provides some good laughs. Deluded residents of Herne Hill gather in the abandoned house and indulge in Satanist practices (the worst that happens is that a black cat is 'sacrificed'). "In an instant she grew pale as death and stood there quivering in fear." If a well-worn phrase will do, use it! Or add some mild titillation: "Aline, the mysterious handmaiden of evil paused. Her full breast rose beneath her thin summer bodice and

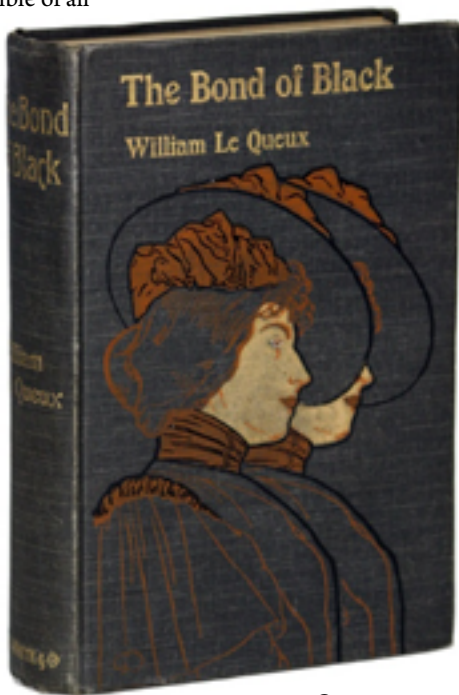
fell slowly, and for one instant her well-arched brows were knit as she thought deeply."

Literary hack William Le Queux may have been – he wrote up to six novels a year over several decades – but he did play a seminal role in the development of a hugely popular literary genre, the novel whose themes are espionage and international skulduggery. Le

Queux, pronounced "Q" (not a nom de plume – his father was French) made a small fortune with one particular book, *The Invasion of 1910*. Published in 1906, it gave a highly coloured account of a German invasion of England and was serialised with enormous success in Lord Northcliffe's *Daily Mail*. Northcliffe, the wily founder of tabloid journalism, saw that the story was a perfect fit for his readers' xenophobia – a feeling he shared and did his very best to inflame (does this sound familiar?). Sandwich-board men dressed in Prussian uniforms and spiked helmets advertised the story on London streets



William Le Queux



and the *Daily Mail* enjoyed a large boost in circulation. In *Spies of the Kaiser* (published in 1909), Le Queux claimed that there were as many as 5,000 German spies in the country and that he had documents to prove it. The claims were wholly bogus, but it was material eagerly seized on by the Northcliffe press and reflected in advice to readers, such as "Refuse to be served by a German waiter. If your waiter says he is Swiss, ask to see his passport." Meanwhile, the quality of Le Queux's prose did not improve. "There's just a chance of us falling upon something interesting here," Ray was saying, as he pressed the tobacco into his pipe, and by the expression upon his keen clean-shaven face I saw that he had scented the presence of spies."

Ian Fleming is said to have read Le Queux and James Bond may well owe something to Duckworth Drew, the British agent created by Le Queux in 1903 – and perhaps Bond's "Q" is a form of acknowledgement to the author, who was especially interested in the gadgetry of espionage. Few remember him today, but not for nothing does the protagonist of Graham Greene's *The Ministry of Fear* cry out, "The world has been remade by William Le Queux."

Laurence Marsh

LOCAL LOCATIONS

HERNE HILL ON FILM

Herne Hill is not often the location for a feature film. However, the 1953 movie, *The Intruder*, features exterior shots taken around Loughborough Junction and East Dulwich. It's not one of director Guy Hamilton's best works, but worth watching for some of the performances and the players.

The story, set in the early 1950s, starts



Ginger jumps from a 37 bus

when Jack Hawkins, who plays a former tank regiment colonel, discovers one of his former privates, Ginger Edwards, played by Michael Medwin, engaged in robbing his Belgravia home, armed with a pistol. The film then goes on to tell, in a series of wartime flashbacks, how Ginger, a brave and spirited soldier, came to end up as a criminal.

The film is also worth watching for the familiar faces from films and TV of the 50s and 60s. As well as Jack Hawkins and

Michael Medwin, we also see George Cole, Dennis Price, Richard Wattis, Dora Brian, Patrick Barr and many others. *The Intruder* gives a demonstration of the class divisions of the time typified by the attitudes of the officers towards the other ranks. Though Dennis Price, playing Lieutenant Pirry, rather lets the side down by escaping from a burning tank leaving the rest of his crew to

fend for themselves. Fortunately, despite one of them being seriously injured, all manage to escape.

Ginger, now demobbed, returns to his home near Loughborough Junction. But he soon gets into an argument with his uncle and his younger brother, Marshall, the subject of the argument, runs off. Ginger leaves

to meet his girlfriend only to find her with another man. He then learns that Marshall has met with an accident and is in hospital. Ginger sets off to find his brother. We see him seen walking across and along Coldharbour Lane. Arriving at the hospital – cue exterior shots of East Dulwich hospital – he finds his uncle who tells him that Marshall is dead. Another argument follows in which Ginger accidentally kills his uncle by hitting and causing him to fall down a flight of stairs. Found guilty of



He races into the hospital

manslaughter, Ginger is sent to prison: the downward path that leads to him being found robbing his former commanding officer's home at the start of the film.

But it is perhaps the locations that are of the greatest interest to us, not least a rare glimpse of the Congregational Church designed by W.G. Habershon, and built in 1860 just before the railways arrived. It used to stand at the junction of Herne Hill Road and Coldharbour Lane and was



In Coldharbour Lane

replaced by a remarkably undistinguished building, now a "Sureway" church.

John Brunton

MORE ABOUT THE CHURCH ...

By the time the Coldharbour Lane Congregational Church was fleetingly caught on camera in *The Intruder* its days were numbered. Damaged in WW2, it was demolished in the 1960s. The *Building News* engraving from 1861 shows it newly built, its style "Lombardic, rather freely adapted" according to the journal, where it is also described as a "Chapel for Converted Jews". This intriguing description arises from the role played by David Abraham Herschell, its first minister, a post he retained for 32 years. Herschell (1823–1904) came from a family of orthodox Jews in Strzelno, then part of Prussia. He came to London to help in the work of his brother, Ridley Haim Herschell, also a convert and co-founder of the Evangelical Alliance in 1846. Ridley's son became a successful lawyer and Lord Chancellor in the 1890s. Described at his death as "an untiring and faithful evangelist", David Herschell was also active in the Brixton Orphanage for Fatherless Girls. He is buried in West Norwood Cemetery.

Laurence Marsh



For more information about the Congregational Church, see the excellent blog at

<https://loughborough-junction.org/>

VANESSA BELL AT DULWICH



Room (left, Private collection), with black panel walls and three isolated women, is dominated by a pot of flowers. Examples of the quirky pottery featured are on loan from Charleston, Bell's Sussex farmhouse. At home there and in Gordon Square, Bloomsbury, the inhabitants and visitors are shown with great affection. Lytton Strachey reappears, his features clear, his left hand drooping over a chair; Bell's daughter Angelica quietly studies a book; son Quentin has the smudged face of an inchoate boy. Complementing these paintings are photographs giving a favour of the intimate relationships. There is also a striking 1914 collage with newspaper and other domestic items, asserting the importance of art in times of crisis.

A series of landscapes evoke the Sussex countryside and Bell's travels in England and the Continent. A haystack reminds one of Monet's famous, rather different rendering of the same subject. *Interior with a Table* presents a bright, colourful view of St Tropez through a window.

The final room highlights exceptional pictures of women, strong and self-contained. Outdoor scenes of *Summer Camp*, *Tents and Figures*, *The Bathers* lead up to the modernist *Studland Beach*. An unusual glazed ceramic *Madonna and Child* and a large folding screen plus photographs and a letter round out the story. The

Often thought of simply as the sister of Virginia Woolf, or as one member of the Bloomsbury Group, Vanessa Bell (1879-1961) was a uniquely talented artist. Dulwich Picture Gallery has gathered a wide variety of her works from British and North American galleries, museums and private collections, in what is, surprisingly, her first major solo exhibition.

Rather than arranging her output chronologically, the curators decided to strip away the narrative of her life and highlight key themes. First, 13 portraits of friends and family provide striking contrasts, from the thickly applied oil of *The Red Dress*, a loving depiction of her mother, based on an old photograph, to brightly coloured, often satirical takes on members of her set. Some faces are nebulous or obscured, e.g. Lytton Strachey in garish yellow specs. Hanging next to a remarkable vision of Bell's lover Duncan Grant is a large, pink rendering of bare-chested David Garnett, who was also Grant's lover and who later married Bell's daughter by Grant.

Bell was an innovative designer; as co-director of Omega Workshops with Grant and Roger Fry she experimented with abstraction and bold combinations of line, colour and form. Display cases contain textile fabrics for home furnishings shown in pictures hanging above. Another case displays ten books with covers and dust jackets Bell designed for Woolf.

Bell's still life paintings are sensuous, even sensual, from phallic flowers and fruit to silky, luminescent jars and vases. *The Other*



final picture is a 1952 self-portrait in a large straw hat, holding her paintbrushes, ever the artist.

Jeffrey Doorn

Vanessa Bell, which opened 8 February, continues until 4 June.

Open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 10am-5pm. Entry: £14.00 (including voluntary Gift Aid donation); seniors £11.50; students, unemployed, disabled £7; children and Friends free.

BESSEMER PARK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE



Have you ever ventured into the Bessemer Park Industrial Estate in Milkwood Road? Well, I hadn't until a few weeks ago. I was aware that it was the home of the Brixton Ambulance Service, and that celebrated sculptor Richard Deacon had his atelier there, but that was about all. In fact there are a number of very successful small and medium sized enterprises based in its 25 units.

Aquapac can be found at Unit 7. I



Michael Malavasi of Aquapac

met up with Michael Malavasi, its longest-serving director. It employs 10 staff and currently has a turnover of about £1 million. Aquapac produces and sells waterproof bags for cameras, smartphones and tablet computers, as well as larger general-purpose waterproof bags. With so many people now taking active holidays where getting a soaking is a risk, or indeed inevitable if you are rafting or snorkelling, such specialist products are now



commonplace.

Aquapacs are widely available at

major retailers such as Cotswold Outdoor, though you can also buy direct. The duffle bags are made in China (no surprise) but the phone and computer cases are still made, out of a material known as TPU, on the ground floor by a staff of three. In the upstairs office, Mike explains that the company started in 1983 with three employees. In 1991 they moved to Bessemer Park because it was near to where they all lived, purchasing a 3,000 sq. ft unit for about £150,000. It would cost three times as much today, although the estate as a whole would be much more valuable as a residential site —if everyone would agree to sell up. The business quickly grew, becoming the market leader: a position they still hold despite increasing competition. Major overseas markets are North America, Japan and Western Europe. Aquapac have won three Queen's Awards and sold over five million bags.

Mike is also one of the two directors of 250 Milkwood Road Ltd, the association set up to manage security, gardening etc. on behalf of all the businesses. He wryly comments that "no one ever calls me until something goes wrong".

Opposite Aquapac, at Unit 15, is WBC, the UK's largest supplier of



Andrew Wilson of WBC

display and gift packaging for the specialist food and drinks trade. Customers can order bespoke packaging (for celebratory events, for example) or choose from a huge range of existing products including wine boxes, wicker hampers and

jute bags. They also design and sell retail display furniture.

Director Andrew Wilson tells how he began by importing wine from Reims while living there as a business studies student. The business prospered, but he failed his degree, much to his parents' chagrin. Soon he and his partner discovered that it was easier to make a living from packaging wine and food than from dealing in wine itself. In 1989 WBC started in Clapham. In 2013 they moved to Bessemer Park, despite the



WBC at Unit 15

warnings of Claphamites that there was nothing in Herne Hill of any interest. Andrew, who lives near Sydenham Hill station, doesn't agree. Like Mike, he finds the transport links excellent and he enjoys using the local shops. He asks about the Half Moon, and is delighted to hear that it will soon be reopening.

WBC now have a turnover of £11 million, and employ 27 people in Herne Hill and up to 20 in the warehousing operation in Croydon, depending on the time of year. They also have an office in Shanghai and a training centre in Calcutta, where the jute bags are made.

Andrew observes that it is essential to know your market when designing packaging, especially for overseas. Major challenges include the recent weakening of the pound and logistics, of course, but also retaining young, talented staff who are struggling to find somewhere they can afford to live. But perhaps the City isn't so appealing these days, and money isn't everything!

Colin Wight

REVEALING HERNE HILL – QUIZ RESULT



Herne Hill Books



Arthur Terrace Dulwich Road



Dulwich Road Mural



Clock Tower



Westmorland Lodge



Bank Building



Lido



Baptist Church

MAPPING THE 20TH CENTURY

Tom Harper, map historian, Society member and local resident, gave a presentation to the January meeting on 20th-century maps. Tom works at the British Library and has curated the exhibition entitled “Maps and the 20th Century: Drawing the



Western Front trench model, 1917 (The British Library)

Line” which shows more than 200 maps from a huge variety of sources. We were lucky enough to be given a virtual tour of the exhibition, and a fascinating talk by someone who clearly has a great passion for his subject and extensive knowledge.

Maps were central to the waging of war in the

last century. Not only did states invest massively in surveillance, but maps were used in the media to explain aspects of war to the public, and as propaganda to incite fear and patriotism. Just a couple of examples: the exhibition includes detailed trench maps issued to officers during the First World War – some chillingly annotated by their owners – for example, “All dead here”. There are maps based on aerial photographs of British and German cities, with bombing targets marked for the Luftwaffe and Bomber Command.

In peacetime maps become increasingly important to the general public – they are used in education (rarely is there a classroom scene in a film which does not include a map on the wall); for leisure and tourism; for mapping natural resources, e.g. mineral deposits, oil fields in the Middle East, America, and the North Sea; for town planning and transport. Maps are useful for promoting political causes, anti-war, and ecological issues. And there are fantasy maps: for example, the map of the Hundred Acre Wood in *Winnie the Pooh*. There are fascinating examples of all these in the exhibition.

Tom’s talk made us aware of how useful, interesting and beautiful maps can be.

Val Suebsaeng

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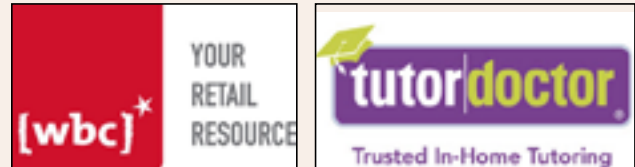
CORPORATE MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome two new corporate members

WBC and Tutor Doctor Dulwich

WBC, based in Milkwood Road, is the country's largest supplier of display and gift packaging for the specialist food and drinks trade. Tutor Doctor offers tailored private tuition for pupils in Herne Hill, Dulwich and the vicinity.

Do you represent a local business that might be



Interested in corporate membership of the Herne Hill Society? Corporate Members are highly valued for the additional support they offer to our work for the local community. They receive acknowledgement on our website and in this magazine, as well as three copies of each issue, for just £25 a year.

Find out more at

http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/HHS_store/product/membership_corporate

Or email Val at membership@hernehillsociety.org.uk

Friends of King's College Hospital

(incorporating The Kingfishers)

Registered Charity No.207328



VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!



The Friends of King's is a charity that raises funds to provide comforts for patients and staff at King's College Hospital in SE London. As part of our fund-raising efforts we are currently looking for volunteers to fulfil the following positions

- A shopkeeper/buyer for our Trolley Shop. This is a pivotal position and the successful candidate will be responsible for ordering, taking in and pricing items from our suppliers to enable the shop to keep open.
- Volunteers who are willing to set aside half a day a week to come and join our friendly team and help take our snack Trolley to patients and staff on the wards or serve in our Gift Shop.

If you possess good social skills, are confident at handling modest amounts of money, ideally are local to King's College Hospital and think you could help please contact our Administrator on 020 3299 3370 or kch-tr.friendsofkings@nhs.net.

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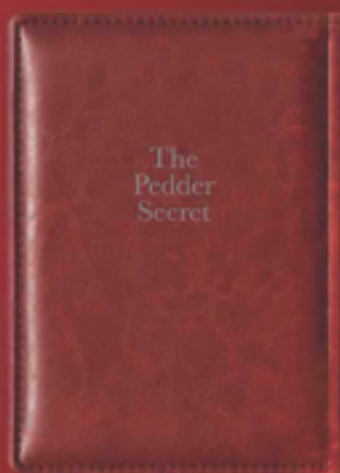
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