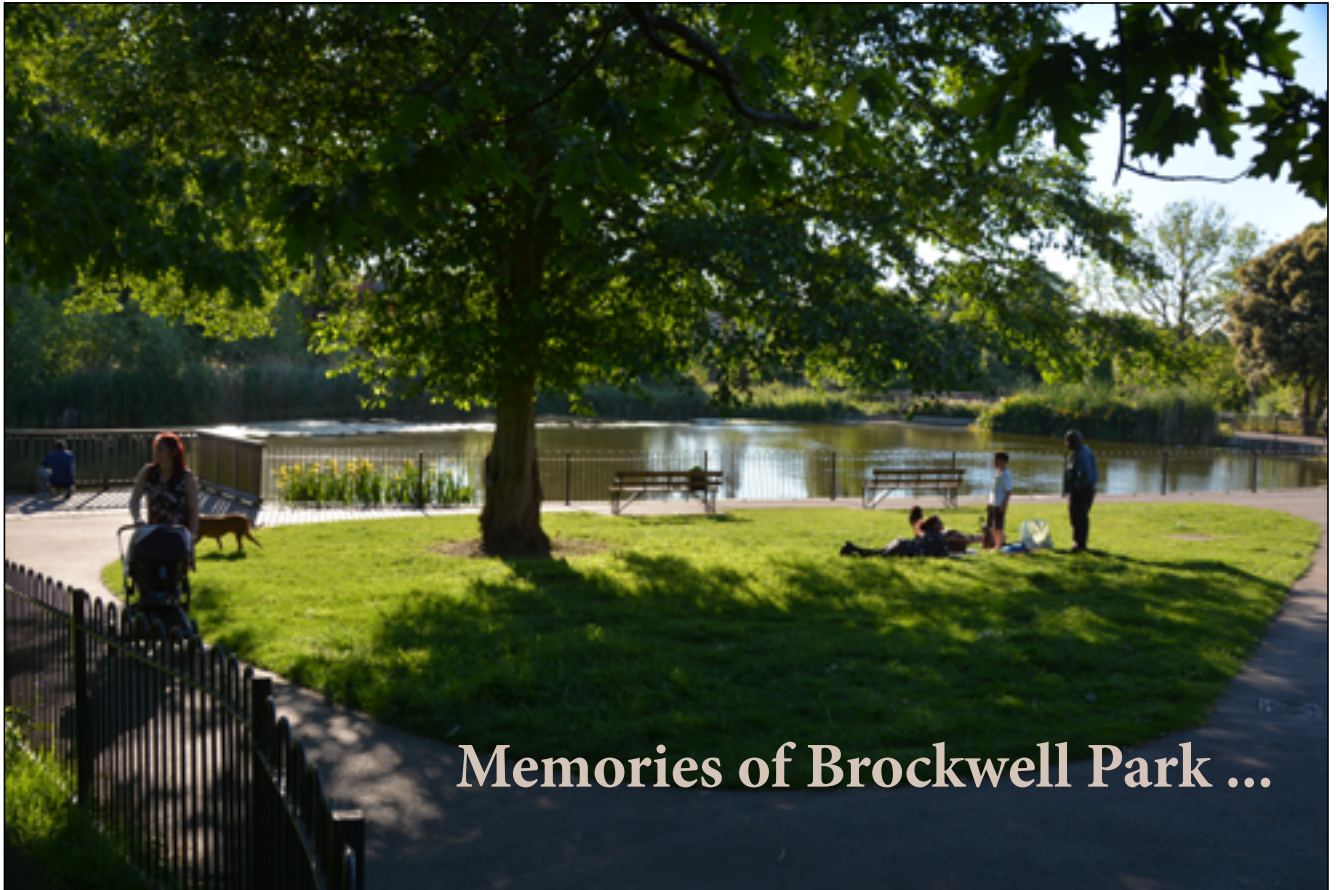


HERNE HILL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY ❁ ISSUE 138 ❁ Summer ❁ 2017 ❁ £2.50



Memories of Brockwell Park ...

► *See page 5 for Society's new book*

Researchers
needed!

REMEMBERING
HERNE HILL
1914 – 18

► *Turn to page 16*

SUCCESS STORY

► *Top Award for
Tales on Moon Lane*

– *See page 9*

FOOTBALL AT THE VELODROME

► *Women Take the Field – 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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ADVERTISING

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Quarter page: £60

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HERNE HILL STATION UPGRADE

The final opening is planned for July

Hollywell's £1 million refurbishment of Herne Hill Station has proceeded well –



The waiting room with new seating

and to a very high standard. Completion is planned for July.

Access to the hall downstairs will be from the main doors beneath the canopy, now

replaced and restored. There will also be step-free access through a new opening opposite the piano (where the newsagent used to be). The new ticket office itself, with two windows, will be to the right as you enter from Station Square, with a large cafeteria ahead of you in the previously blocked-off space. There is a second

commercial space on one of the platforms. Southeastern are currently advertising for tenancies, although we understand that (as before) Perks & White will operate the café.

The waiting room on Platform 1/2 (pictured) now has wheelchair access and smart new seating.

The refurbished toilets are a joy to behold (when your correspondent visited they were not yet open to the general public). We can but hope that they will be used



David Statham of Southeastern Railway, a Herne Hill resident

with proper consideration. Sadly, vandals have already damaged glass panes in the waiting room.

Southeastern Railway MD David Statham, a Herne Hill resident, says "it's great to see the new station starting to take shape. I hope the local community will see lots of change for the better at our station over this summer".

Colin Wight & Laurence Marsh

ANOTHER BLUE PLAQUE FOR SIR HENRY BESSEMER

On 16 May Professor Sir Paul Curren and Islington's Mayor, Cllr Una O'Halleran, unveiled a Blue Plaque to Sir Henry Bessemer at the entrance to the City University's building in Northampton Square, Clerkenwell. In 1833, aged 20, Sir Henry moved to a house on that site.

It was his first marital home, and where

**Sir Henry Bessemer
FRS
Engineer and Inventor
Born 1813 died 1898**

Lived in a house previously on this site from 1833.

Inventor of the steel production process that contributed to the Industrial Revolution

he developed some of his early inventions.

One of the 19th century's most remarkable men, Sir Henry Bessemer is closely associated with Herne Hill, where he lived for some 35 years in a magnificent house and estate until his death in

1898. Along with his wife Ann

he is buried in West Norwood Cemetery.



The unveiling on 16 May

To mark the 200th anniversary of his birth in 2013, the Society published a fully revised and illustrated edition of Patricia Jenkyns's book *The Story of Sir Henry Bessemer*.

Copies are available online from the Society or from Herne Hill Books at 289 Railton Road.

John Brunton

HERNE HILL'S PHARMACISTS RETIRE

For continuity and quality of service there can surely be no better example in our area than the 43 years' service provided by Mr and Mrs Patel at their pharmacy at the top of Herne Hill. Countless residents have come to rely on their friendly help and good advice. Doctors may come and go, but it seems that the Patels have always been there.

Mr Patel (Viren) came to England from Uganda to study in 1969, graduating from the University of Bath in 1972. That year, following Idi Amin's seizure of power, Ugandan Asians were expelled from the country, their property expropriated by the regime. Viren decided there could be no future in Uganda.

After working for a year at Boots and as a locum for another year, he was able to acquire the Herne Hill Pharmacy. He was fortunate, in that his father, a successful businessman in Uganda, was able to get some



funds out of the country before it was too late. Viren soon discovered that he had made a good



Mr and Mrs Patel served the Herne Hill community for 43 years

choice. He liked working in what is quite a small community where he could get to know his customers. He established a good relationship with the local GPs. There have of course been changes – and not just

the cost of a prescription (it started at 20p, now it is £8.40 – although there are exemptions). The pharmacist today is not merely dispensing what the doctor orders. There is far more two-way communication, with the pharmacist involved in treatment plans. A major part of the pharmacists' work is now concerned with advising patients about what constitute the most appropriate drugs, following up results and conducting MURs (Medicines Use

Reviews). And advice can be given, in confidence and privately, with no need for a prior appointment. Mr Patel has a small consulting room in the shop. He is sure that this greater involvement leads to better outcomes for patients. At the same time the workload has increased. Long gone are the days of lunchtime and Wednesday early closing. Meanwhile counter sales of non-prescription goods have gone down, there being far more competition from shops open 7 days a week.

Viren Patel and his wife Usha look forward to having more time to give to their family, particularly their grandchildren. Hard work obviously runs in the family, since one son is a doctor and the other a dentist. Viren will not be disappearing immediately from Herne Hill because he will continue in a consulting role for a while as the new management find their feet. He also plans to stay fit. Always a keen badminton player, he is now going to add the art of golf to his skills.

Sophia and Laurence Marsh

Dog Show Judge Knighted

Our photograph shows a local resident taking part two years ago as a judge at the Brockwell Park Dog Show. He also happens to be the outstanding actor of his generation. Renowned though the Dog Show is, we think it was probably on account of his achievements on stage and screen that Mark Rylance went to Buckingham Palace to receive his knighthood in April. This honour joins many other top awards for work in the theatre (*Jerusalem*, 2010), television (*Wolf Hall*, 2015) and film (*Bridge of Spies*, 2015) – to name but a few. Rylance also gives time to many good causes, so we hope one day the Dog Show might see him back in action. This year the Show is scheduled for 9 July.



THE HERNE HILL WASTE COLLECTIVE

This ground-breaking scheme was set up in 2016 by the Herne Hill Forum to help Herne Hill rid itself of the large commercial bins that dominate our pavements. These bins are not only eyesores, they can also block the way for wheelchairs and buggies and, when they overflow, their presence encourages fly-tipping.

Since last summer the Forum and Quantum Waste have worked together to bring a daily business waste collection to Herne Hill. Waste is now collected seven days a week from more than 20 local businesses and taken to the Shakespeare Road depot. In April 6,466 bags were collected, with over 90% of the contents sorted for recycling. It reduces



the number of trucks in the area as one truck can service numerous traders - rather than the 12 vehicles that used to visit the centre of Herne Hill every day. Recycling

rates have improved, and the problem of wheelie-bins attracting rubbish sacks has been reduced. Businesses are still joining the scheme, including the Lido and the Half Moon pub.

This joint initiative, subsidised initially by the Herne Hill Forum and Quantum Waste, is now self-sufficient after less than a year. Despite all the hard work, however, there are still a few commercial bins on the streets – if you see them, please encourage your favourite businesses to “bin their bin” and join the Herne Hill Waste Collective. And if you know a business that has “binned its bin”, please be sure to thank them!

One day we will have clean and clear pavements across the whole of Herne Hill...

Charlotte Ashworth



This delightful memoir recalling Brockwell Park, in particular as it was in the 1930s and 40s, has long been out of print but has now been revised

A BROCKWELL BOY

was born in 1931 and grew up in Herne Hill a “depression kid”, living for 45 years in the same house in Hawarden Grove off Rosendale Road until 1976, when his work took him out of Lambeth. Brockwell Park, a stone’s throw from his home, was his playground. The memoir vividly recalls the Park as it was, not least in the years of the Second World War: as the author

photographs and the author’s own drawings punctuate the book.

This is a picture drawn with wit and affection, undimmed by the passage of time. It is a world of childhood adventures, no-nonsense Park Keepers and the dangers of “doodlebugs”. This new and revised edition makes available a story that anyone who values

the role Brockwell Park has played and continues



The author, a recent photo with wartime mementos: an incendiary bomb casing and identity card

Jeffrey Rumble, *A Brockwell Boy*, published by the Herne Hill Society
ISBN 978-0-9540323-2-6

A Brockwell Boy can be purchased from Herne Hill Books, the Barber Shop or direct from the Society, price £3.50. Details on our website www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/bookstall

and republished by the Society.
Author Jeffrey Rumble

says, “a very disturbed period of our national history”. Contemporary

to play in the life of Herne Hill will have pleasure in reading.

PLANNING & LICENSING

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

Judith Kerr Primary School 17/AP/0118

The time for commenting on the Dulwich Estate's application to build on the playing field/open space next to the Judith Kerr Primary School has now ended. The application prompted 313 comments, a very significant response. It is thought the decision will now go to a full Southwark planning committee. The response was overwhelmingly (98%) against the application and in favour of keeping the land next to the school as open space for the school. The final comment on the Southwark planning website came from the Dulwich Society, which said that the Society's members were divided in their views and it therefore took a "neutral" view.

The Herne Hill Society's planning group were unanimous in finding the application seriously flawed on planning grounds and objected. The full objection can be read on the Society's website. The Society, through its elected committee, considers that, if the Society is to play any part in the democratic local planning process it needs to be able to express views on behalf of the Society and to do so transparently. The weekly lists of applications issued by Lambeth and Southwark Councils are monitored and where it is felt that a comment might be called for, the application is referred to the Society's planning group. Once a response is agreed the Society puts in an objection, a comment in support or says nothing. The vast majority of planning applications are not controversial and do not call for comment. The Society always welcomes any views expressed by members on planning issues. In the case of the Judith Kerr Primary School the Society has received no comments from members to say that they disagree with the objection submitted by the Society.

26 Sunray Avenue 16/AP/4961

The Society had objected to what was felt to be a back extension that was far too large in the context of what are small houses with good-sized gardens designed in the garden suburb tradition. There was particular concern that the scale of the proposal did not respect the character of the Sunray Estate Conservation Area. Southwark has allowed the proposal. Given an earlier decision allowing a large back extension it can be predicted that the Sunray Estate will now see many more such extensions and, the Society fears, a steady erosion of the Estate's special character.

179 Mayall Road 17/00340/FUL

Mayall Road provides very good examples of Victorian artisan housing built shortly after the railway arrived in Brixton and Herne Hill. They are remarkable for their intactness and distinctive decorated parapet with concealed roofs behind. The houses deserve conservation area status. We therefore objected to a proposed mansard roof extension, not because mansard roofs are in themselves undesirable, but because these houses will lose their historic integrity. However, the pressure on local authorities to allow house extensions is inexorable. Lambeth allowed the proposal, as they have done in nearby streets with similar, albeit not so distinctive, houses (e.g. Effra Parade and Barnwell Road).

In a few years mansard roofs in these streets will probably be almost universal.

Bath Factory Estate



There was a public meeting on 19 April convened by the Herne Hill Forum to discuss the future of this site (i.e. the Norwood Road shops, the railway arches behind and the land between them). The meeting generated considerable interest, partly it seems because many attending thought an actual scheme was under discussion. What in fact was under discussion were the planning policy proposals for the site in the draft New Southwark Plan. These proposals support redevelopment that preserves the current amount of employment floorspace, a new link (through the railway viaduct) that would improve the "permeability and legibility" of the site and good quality frontages for Norwood Road and the railway arches with the possibility of residential development above the Norwood Road shops. We have indicated support in principle for these policy proposals, since this an area that clearly needs regeneration and there would be great advantages in having this part of Herne Hill better integrated with other parts of the area. But everything would depend on the detail of any actual scheme.

Laurence Marsh

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The Ten (Food) Commandments — Book Review

Jay Rayner is a novelist, journalist, musician and familiar figure on television (*Masterchef*, *The One Show*), as well as in and around Herne Hill. It would be difficult to mistake him for anyone else. A big man with big hair, he looks like someone who eats (and writes about it) for a living. You may see him in Dugards, where this little paperback is on sale, or in Mimosa, or even in Sainsbury's. He is not shy, and his forthright views have no doubt made him more than a few enemies. It cannot be otherwise for a restaurant critic. Personally, I have found him to be approachable and courteous.

This book is as much about the author as about the business of eating food. He is frank about his less attractive traits. A fat child who was no good at sports, he found his macho side in swallowing, and enjoying, almost anything his parents put in front of him: snails, oysters... anything but baked beans - not through juvenile snobbery but because he did not like the taste or texture. He is greedy, messy, and a self-confessed "terrible Jew", who adores chorizo, andouillette, scratchings, a bacon butty: pig-meat in any guise.

I enjoyed the witty and trenchant myth-debunking: 'Thou shalt not cut off the fat' (fat is where the flavour is, and eating fat is not in itself unhealthy), 'Thou shalt not mistake food for pharmaceuticals' (superfoods do not exist, and nothing you eat will prevent you from getting cancer let alone cure it), 'Thou shalt always worship

leftovers' ("there's only one problem with leftovers. It's the word 'leftovers'"). There are straightforward recipes throughout that attest to his tastes.



Rayner writes thoughtfully about the moral and economic issues surrounding meat-eating. While - for most of us - meat tastes good, and is a key element of our diet, it is undeniably resource-heavy to produce (albeit there are Welsh hills which are only good for grazing). And not many of us would enjoy the prospect of slaughtering a lamb or a squealing pig. In any case we are going to have to get used to eating less meat as demand grows in Asia and inevitably forces prices up. So, eat more offal, and be more imaginative in the use of vegetables. In 'Thou shalt not sneer at meat-free cookery' he takes aim at the Quorn sausage and other so-called meat substitutes that constitute "a lack of imagination on a plate". Surely better to enjoy a roasted cauliflower with cheese and almonds? Or a porcini risotto? And better to admit that you don't really like steak than to ask for it well done and be served with a piece of shoe-leather that is an insult to the chef and the cow.

Rayner urges us to shun the food Taliban, get stuck in with our fingers, eat a balanced diet, and enjoy our lives. It is, as the saying goes, "not rocket science". Although he could pass for an Old Testament prophet in the right get-up, it turns out he's not Moses after all. We are encouraged to make up our own commandments.

Colin Wight



On Saturday 10 July 1937 a new "Open-Air Swimming Bath" was ceremoniously opened in Brockwell Park by the then Mayor of Lambeth, Alderman E.A. Mills. This summer we celebrate 80 years of the (sometimes turbulent) history of our wonderful Lido. BLU (Brockwell Lido Users) are working with Fusion, who have run the Lido for the last ten years, to plan some celebratory events for Saturday 8 July.

Shown here is our special logo generously donated to BLU by designer Peter Forsyth,

Lido celebrates 80 years

who was a loyal swimmer at the Lido until he moved to Devon with his family. You can see more of Peter's wonderful pictures of the Lido at Brockwell Art Services in Railton Road. Look out for celebratory T-shirts, caps, and other special goodies featuring the logo.

On Saturday 8 July we want to have upbeat music poolside and decorations across the pool. There will also be an invitation-only event later in the day. We are planning for a big swing band, swimming races between Lidos, and swimmers born in each decade from the thirties up to the 2010s (tenties?) jumping in the pool accompanied by appropriate music. And performances from our very own synchronised swimmers and from Whippersnappers. And much, much more. Some members of the Herne Hill Society have already received invitations because of the contribution they made towards the

saving of the Lido when it was threatened with closure. If you know someone who hasn't been invited but you believe should be, please let us know as soon as possible. We want to greet and thank people who fought to save our Lido and those who are still working their socks off to maintain and improve the enormous breadth of facilities and opportunities at Brockwell Lido.

Watch out for news of a very special swim offer on the actual birthday, Monday 10 July!

To keep up with BLU news, sign up to receive our electronic monthly newsletter. It's free and all you have to do is click on the link on our website, www.brockwelllido.com. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. And contact us at info@brockwelllido.com

We hope you will join us in wishing Brockwell Lido a Very Happy Birthday and Many Happy Returns! **Yvonne Levy**

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DIARY OF EVENTS

Summer / Autumn 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.

Talks

Saturday 3 June CANCELLED

Third Annual

Thomas Lynn Bristowe Memorial Lecture

by Helen Hayes

Owing to the General Election, Helen Hayes was unable to speak and this year's lecture was cancelled.

Wednesday 14 June

"Up in Smoke: The Failed Dreams of Battersea Power Station"

by Peter Watts

The fascinating history of this illustrious listed building, which went from unwanted baby-bleaching monster to much-loved riverside ruin. The locally-based author will explain why it has taken so long for the building to be saved and ask what the new £8bn development tells us about the future of London.

Wednesday 11 October

"Evelyn Dove: Britain's Black Cabaret Queen"

by Stephen Bourne

Historian Stephen Bourne celebrates the life and career of the glamorous singer Evelyn Dove. In the inter-war years she

thrilled audiences around the world and during WW2 she kept the home fires burning with her appearances on BBC radio. Stephen will also talk about some of his other books including *Black Poppies*, for which he received the Southwark Arts Forum award for Literature.

Lambeth Country Show

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 July

Society stalls, music, animals, rides, flowers, food and fun in Brockwell Park.

Local History Walks

Robert Holden leads three walks in August based on our book Herne Hill Heritage Trail.

Each walk will last about 90 minutes.

Sun 6 August, 2:30pm

All Saints Church, Lovelace Road entrance

Sun 13 August, 2:30pm

Herne Hill Velodrome, Burbage Road entrance

Sun 20 August, 2:30pm

Herne Hill Station

MORE SUCCESS FOR TALES ON MOON LANE

Innovative bookshop Tales on Moon Lane has won a Nibbie for Children's Bookseller of the Year. They were also crowned London's Independent Bookshop of the Year. Announced on 8 May, the British Book Awards (or Nibbies), recognise the successes of publishers, authors and bookshops.

This is a third win in eight years for Tales on Moon Lane, which held a record number of events in 2016, including a half-term reading festival and an imaginative scheme to encourage students to run pop-up bookshops in schools. The judges commented that Tales



on Moon Lane "punches way above its weight, with so much energy and passion".



The Team of Tales on Moon Lane

Owner Tamara Macfarlane said: "We are delighted to have been awarded both London's best independent bookshop and National Children's Bookseller of the year at the 2017 Nibbies. The award recognised our community work with schools and festivals, and our focus on increasing accessibility and inclusivity in children's books. We are very proud to be a part of Herne Hill and hugely grateful to all our customers for their support."

Congratulations also to Camberwell Library, opened in 2015, which won Library of the Year. It was described as "entrancing" and "vibrant" by its users.

HERNE HILL SOCIETY — ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Herne Hill Society's accounts for 2016 were presented at the AGM on 10 March 2017.

The Society's main sources of income were, as usual, from membership subscriptions and donations and from magazine advertising. The totals fluctuate from year to year depending on when they are received and banked. The Society is also dependent on the profit from the sale of publications and on Gift Aid, both of which were slightly down in 2016.

The cost of printing and posting the Magazine is our main expense. Our other major item of (£400) was on donations made under the Society's new Small Grants Scheme. The projects we supported last year were Lambeth Local History Forum History Month (£100), the Brockwell Lido Fun Palace (£100) and the People's Piano Appeal (£200). There is more information about the Small Grants Scheme and how to apply on our website. The Society also paid the usual annual subscriptions to the London Forum and to the Lambeth Local History Forum. The apparent increase in the cost of Hall Hire

and Stall Fees is because the cost of hiring the Church Hall (where we hold our Committee meetings and monthly talks) for the second half of 2015 was presented to the bank in 2016 and so is included in the 2016 accounts.

In 2016 the Society acted as 'banker' for the residents of Fawnbrake Avenue who raised money for street tree planting. This project was a great success and 40 new trees were planted. Taking into consideration the total income and the total expenditure for 2016, the Society showed a surplus of £394.27 for the year 2016.

If you have any questions about these accounts please contact the Treasurer. A copy of the full, examined, accounts is on the Society's website.

Rosalind Glover

Income

Subscriptions and donations	2,128.88
Magazine Advertising	1,117.50
Profit on Publications	822.12
Monthly meetings	379.76
Gift Aid	426.60
Fawnbrake Ave Trees Project	8,550.00
Bank Interest	22.68
Total Income	£13,447.54

Expenditure

Printing/Stationery/Postage	2,731.68
Refreshments/Raffle Prizes	175.30
Hall Hire/Stall Fees	695.60
Insurance	65.00
Subscriptions	58.00
Speaker Fees	140.00
Audit/Accountancy	50.00
Website Maintenance	3.39
Small Grants Scheme	400.00
Other Misc Admin & Equipment	144.30
Fawnbrake Ave Trees Project	8,550.00
Total Expenditure	£13,053.27
The surplus for 2016	£394.27

LOCAL U3A SIGNS UP 500TH MEMBER

The Dulwich and District U3A held their third AGM on 24 May at All Saints Church, West Dulwich, and were

also able to celebrate their 500th member – with a specially baked cake. The idea of a University of the Third Age started in France and got going in this country in the early 1980s. The British model does not rely on links to established universities (though



these exist) but on the combined expertise and skills of its members. U3A groups in this country have now reached a total of one

thousand. The U3A concept is aimed particularly at people who are retired or semi-retired, so the skills base is very broad. There are no rigid distinctions between teachers and learners. In this way, for a modest annual fee of £25, members have the



opportunity to learn about many subjects and participate in a wide range of activities. The Dulwich and District U3A currently offers from Archaeology to Writers Workshop with Boules, Cycling, Latin and Wine Appreciation (to name but a few) in between – and soon it will be a true A to Z with Zumba Gold being added to the range of interest groups. <https://u3asites.org.uk/dulwich>

FROM SUMO TO AINU: TRAVELLER'S TALES FROM JAPAN

Those fortunate enough to have attended Peter Bradley's talk to the Society in February about his travels in Japan were treated to a lively resumé of the charms and quirks of the country and its inhabitants.

Peter's verbal tour, supported by slides, diaries and artefacts collected during his visit, took us from a Grand Sumo Tournament in Osaka to a sanctuary for Japanese cranes in Kuchiro, via a 15th-century Temple Garden in Kyoto, a Buddhist monastery at Mount Koya, and a visit to a museum dedicated to the ancient indigenous tribe of the Ainu peoples in northern Japan. He even managed to walk the Kumano Kudo Ancient Pilgrimage Trail.

With thorough planning, Peter was able to make the best use of his limited time. He visited in March, during the lovely



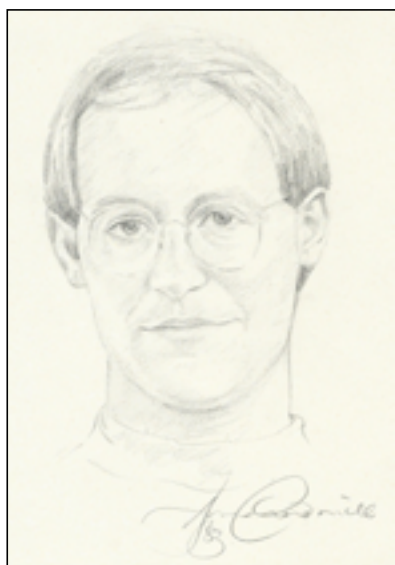
cherry blossom time. He sampled various types of accommodation, including the ryokan, a traditional inn, and the minshuku, which is similar to a B&B. He was struck by the Japanese people's unfailing charm and helpfulness, in spite of his limited knowledge of their language: 3.5 words.

Peter offered plenty of advice to people who might be considering a visit to this exotic country. Make use of the excellent Japan Travel Centre in London for booking travel and accommodation; carry a copy of the Lonely Planet guide to Japan; wear slip-on shoes as you will be removing them several times a day; treat yourself to a traditional tea ceremony and green tea ice cream. But avoid asking for a fried egg for breakfast, as it's impossible to eat it with chopsticks!

Michèle Arnal

HERNE HILL: FIRST CONTACT

"Saturday morning. A nice evening with Les yesterday. Met in the Old King Lud, then scanned Time Out for pub music, finally settling upon the Half Moon in Herne Hill. Just had time for a quick vindaloo at the Kwality restaurant, after which I really wasn't in the mood for more beer. Home by taxi (£6) which was fun; interesting route through Railton and Atlantic Roads. Dozens of youths hanging around with huge ghetto-blasters on car roofs. Les stayed over and left very early."



Colin in 1983
drawn by Anne Chadwick

So runs my diary entry for 28 July 1984. This was the first time I'd been to Herne Hill, having washed up in London from Oxford only the week before, a callow youth of 29. The taxi fare back to Deptford was dear enough for me to bother to mention it. Indeed it represented 0.1% of my annual salary (I'd just started at Methuen, having bought a briefcase, some smart clothes and a Pierre Cardin tie appropriate to my position on the bottom rung of the publishing industry). The reference to Brixton indicates that it was regarded as a bit scary in the 80s – especially by those who didn't really know South London. There were of course major riots/uprisings in 1981 and 1985.

But whom did I see perform at the Half Moon? Despite being a music fan, I have no idea. I only wish I could have written "Saw Jerry Dammers. Rubbish." Or "Dire Straits had a great guitarist. Gave him a lift back to Deptford". Maybe someone can enlighten me... and does anyone remember the Kwality Indian restaurant with affection? The Old King Lud pub at Ludgate Circus has also closed.

London was not a great place to live, as I recall it, in 1984. The Miners' Strike dominated the news. London seemed very run-down and dirty – particularly so in the depressed areas I frequented (Deptford, Plaistow and Hackney), as I couldn't afford anywhere posh. Not that Herne Hill was very posh in those days. Anyway, the freezing-in-winter slum housing didn't seem to do me or my flatmates any lasting harm; indeed it probably fuelled our ambition. Elaina became editor-in-chief of American *Elle* magazine, Pawel became an Oscar-winning film director, and my (then) girlfriend Marisa became Malta's ambassador to Washington DC! But what can compare to the honour of being Chair of the Herne Hill Society?

Colin Wight

FOOTBALL STARS AT THE VELODROME

Women take the field

We all associate the Herne Hill Velodrome with cycling, not least as the cycling venue for the 1948 London Olympics. But the field within the circuit has a long history of use for other sports. It became the home ground for Crystal Palace FC, for example, when the War Office requisitioned their stadium in 1915. Recently I came across a short news film of a football match played at the Velodrome in 1925 – between two women’s teams. Women’s football was not new – the pioneers of

“... as young men were sent off to fight in the 1914–18 war, women’s football saw a huge increase in popularity”

the sport emerged some 40 years earlier, often braving rowdy crowds and hostility in the press. But as young men were sent off to fight in the 1914–18 war, women’s football saw a huge increase in popularity, particularly

due to the emergence of works’ teams made up from the women now drafted in to fill jobs previously reserved to men. Another reason was that there was far less sport being played for public entertainment. It was feared that too much sport at home would sap young men’s will to fight – indeed county cricket was wholly suspended during the war.

The outstanding women’s works’ team was Dick Kerr Ladies from Preston, where the Dick Kerr company made tramcars and locomotives. This was the team, with their trademark striped hats, that met a French team from the Femina Club of Paris at the Velodrome on 11 May 1925. The match was played to raise money for the Shipwrecked Mariners’ Society and attracted 6,000 spectators, a number



From the 1925 newsreel

boosted by a celebrity appearance, that of the hugely popular entertainer George Robey, who kicked off the game. Robey, a South Londoner – he was born in the Kennington Road – was himself a very talented amateur footballer. Such was the throng of people at the Velodrome that Robey’s car was delayed and he was late in getting away to the theatre after the match. The Dick Kerr team

also had a star performer; that was Lily Parr. In the picture she stands on Robey’s right. Almost 6 feet tall, she was renowned for her skill and strength, once breaking a (male) goalkeeper’s arm with the power of her shot – footballs were considerably heavier at that time. She was also unusual in having been entirely open about her sexuality, rarely the case with lesbian women in this era.

Despite its popularity with both players and spectators,



Star player Lily Parr and entertainer George Robey

the football establishment (entirely male of course) did its best to prevent the development of women’s football after World War I. Despite the evidence of more than 50,000 packing Everton’s Goodison Park to watch the Dick Kerr Ladies play in 1920, the Football Association the following year banned women from using any ground whose club was subject to the rules of the FA – which meant most grounds (though not the Velodrome). It took another 50 years before the ban was lifted! Typical press comments from 1921 opined: “Women’s frames are not cast in the same mould as men’s, and their internal organisations are of a more delicate character ... As the mothers of our future race, they are running serious risks, which may cause them everlasting trouble and impair their life of motherhood” and “... there is something vaguely repugnant in the idea of football for women. The muscular type of female it produces is altogether opposed to our British idea of feminine beauty”.

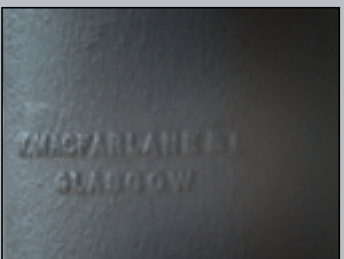
Today women’s football is seeing an upsurge in popularity on a par with that of almost 100 years ago. And the Dick Kerr Ladies would surely have been delighted to see their star player, Lily Parr, inducted in 2002 as the very first female player into the English Football Hall of Fame, 77 years after she scored two of the goals that gave them a 4-2 victory at the Velodrome.

Laurence Marsh

The long-awaited new pavilion at Herne Hill Velodrome was officially opened at the end of March by Brian Cookson, former president of British Cycling and now president of the UCI, the world governing body.

The architect is keen cyclist Mike Taylor, senior partner at Hopkins Architects, responsible for the superb 6,000-seat Olympic velodrome. Herne Hill's pavilion is in comparison modest, but it shows the same elegance and flair and will surely rank as a valued addition to Herne Hill's architectural heritage. The original pavilion dated back to the opening of the track in 1891 and had been on its last legs for many years. Happily, its six distinctive cast-iron columns live on in the new building, which contains offices, changing rooms, a club room and a cafe.

Funding came from a variety of sources including Sport England, who provided about half the budget with £750,000 of Lottery money. Also contributing were Southwark Council, the London Marathon Trust and the Mayor of London's Sports Facilities Fund. The Friends of Herne Hill Velodrome deserve particular praise for raising nearly £90,000 through crowdfunding.



NEW VELODROME PAVILION OPENS

THE HALF MOON — EDMUND BIRD REVIEWS

The Half Moon pub reopened in March, after a long closure following the severe flood that damaged so many properties in the heart of Herne Hill on 7 August 2013.

Its restoration required long negotiations between the new operators, Fuller's, and Southwark's planning and conservation officers to produce a refurbishment scheme that preserved and



enhanced this listed building's late Victorian character and historic features. The submitted scheme was supported by the Herne Hill Society Planning Group, Historic England, and the Campaign

for Real Ale (CAMRA). It won planning and listed building consent in April 2016 and the works to repair the flood damage, to restore the pub, and create a 12-room hotel on the upper floors took nearly a year to complete.

There has been a tavern on this site since the Georgian period or earlier, when it stood on the banks of a stream leading into the River Effra (covered over in the 1850s). The present public house dates from 1896, and is a much grander affair than the previous hostelry on this site.

The full and fascinating history of the pub is well covered in the book published by the Dulwich Society and the Herne Hill Society entitled *The Pubs of Dulwich and Herne Hill* (2016).

The Half Moon is one of the finest examples of Victorian



pub architecture in the borough of Southwark, acknowledged by its Grade II* status on the National Heritage List. The late 19th-century pub interiors have been lovingly restored. Both bars are well-staffed with friendly and helpful bartenders, and well-furnished with comfortable seating. On my three visits, both the bars and the restaurant were full to capacity so it is scoring highly on the popularity front with locals and those from further afield. It was designed in the Jacobean revival style with handsome elevations of red-brick, stone and terracotta dressings, polished granite columns, stained-glass windows, a Dutch gable

and mansard roofs crowned by a cupola. Much of the original panelling and etched mirrors survive in the interior giving the pub a delightful period character.

The bedrooms are lavishly and imaginatively decorated and are highly distinctive, a far cry from most anonymous corporate style hotel rooms. Prices for double rooms range from about £80 a night up to £240 (for a suite), including breakfast.

An outbuilding at the rear has been refurbished as a function room accommodating between 40 and 60 guests, providing a venue for meetings, conferences, work parties, wedding receptions and other celebrations. For smaller gatherings of between 10 and 25, the Snug offers a similar facility.



The huge outside seating areas will guarantee a brisk trade in the summer months – the south-facing rear garden has a well-designed layout of bench and table seating and a play area for children. Additional seating has been laid out on the pub forecourt, which catches the late afternoon and evening sunshine.

A real plus for dog-owners is the warm welcome given to pets in the bars and gardens. Beer drinkers tell me that the range of draught craft beers is impressive; the wine list is certainly commendable.



The menus offer a great range of enticing dishes and desserts in the spacious restaurant at the rear with elegant Georgian-style windows looking out onto the garden, again beautifully furnished. The Sunday menu offers roasts as well as fish and vegetarian dishes. For more informal dining, there is also a tasty bar menu. A breakfast menu is advertised too but the pub has yet to open before noon for non-hotel guests so maybe this will be introduced at a later date. An outdoor kitchen is also promised for the summer months.

After its long closure, it is both a relief and a boon to have the Half Moon open for business again and offering such a fine pub and dining experience.

The Half Moon is open every day from noon till 11pm on weekdays, midnight on Friday and Saturday and 10:30pm on Sunday. The restaurant is open until 10pm.

www.halfmoonhernehill.co.uk

NEW DECOR, NEW MANAGER AT HERNE HILL'S BUSY "COMMERCIAL" PUB



It's hard to keep up these days with the fast-changing scene in Herne Hill's Station Square.

Although the refurbishment of the Station itself, and the adjoining Network Rail shops, isn't complete yet, this spring has seen Herne Hill's central space putting on some bright new clothes to appeal to locals and regulars, and also an increasing number of visitors from further afield who come to the Sunday market and for the drinking, dining and music opportunities created by our entrepreneurial local businesses.

In place of the long-standing Pullen's restaurant, a very modern style Llewelyn's (@llewelynslondon) opened in April as a 62-seat restaurant after an extensive refurbishment. And just across the street from the station, the community's most centrally placed pub, The Commercial (@commercialSE24), reopened in March after a remarkably rapid and successful upgrade.

The Commercial Hotel Public House was in operation by 1876, and the pub was enlarged to its present size in 1938. The inside decor showed the comfortable hallmarks of the typical 1930s-style pub; many familiar features of this attractive and

welcoming style have been successfully retained in the refurbishment, but with a fresher and more airy feel. The external façade has been more dramatically repainted, and offers an attractive and – well, unmissable – welcome to people emerging from the station or congregating in Station Square from other directions.

New Look, New Manager

We have The Commercial's owners, pub and restaurant giant Mitchells & Butlers, to thank for these welcome improvements in a prominent and very popular local pub, and they certainly seem to have had better luck here than with their painfully long refurbishment of the Crown & Greyhound in Dulwich Village. They have also appointed a young new manager (supported by an ambitious Kitchen Manager) to take The Commercial forward.

New manager Mat Janzen comes from another M&B pub, The Calf, in Clapham Old Town and is thrilled by the busy vibe of Herne Hill. He sees it as his mission to keep the pub's many regulars happy while making it a welcoming place for all manner of customers who come to meet their friends for coffee or a glass of wine, to enjoy classic British pub food with a modern twist (including the compulsory Sunday roast lunch), or to party in the evenings

(the pub is open until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays, and midnight other days, taking its place in Herne Hill's lively night-time economy). Quiz Nights on Mondays are also a regular feature. The very wide range of customers can choose from progressive



**Mat Janzen,
the new manager**

craft beers, a wide selection of wines and spirits, seasonal beers and ales, and some of Mat's favourites like Timothy Taylor's classic pale ale 'Landlord' and 'Ghost Ship' from Adnams in Southwold.

Investments here in SE24 by major pub groups like Fuller's (at The Half Moon) and Mitchells & Butlers seem to be a further sign of confidence in the prosperity, wide appeal and social diversity of Herne Hill. www.thecommercialhotelhernehill.co.uk

Pat Roberts

SECRET UNDERGROUND LONDON

Nick Catford, author of *Secret Underground London*, gave an illustrated talk at the Society's April meeting. Fascinating photographs taken by Nick during his explorations of various sites were shown.

The talk focused particularly on "ghost" stations on the Underground network. There are quite a few such stations, Wood Lane near Shepherds Bush, North End



Railway Vaults at Camden

(known also as Bull and Bush), South Kentish Town, City Road, King William Street, Aldwych (originally called Strand), Down Street Station and Brompton Road. Many were used as air raid shelters during World War II. Sadly, some have been vandalised. Many are now covered by large buildings; the Westfield Shopping Centre was built over Wood Lane.

Aldwych was closed in 1994 because of underuse, and for a number of years could

be hired as a film set. It is now used as a testing site for designs for new stations, such as signage and tiling.

Down Street, which sits between Hyde Park Corner and Knightsbridge, was used by the Government during the last war, and includes a set of rooms for the use of Winston Churchill. He had an office and a bed, and Nick showed us a photo of a tin bath which Churchill might have used. Tours of the station are now available through the London Transport Museum.

Brompton Road station contained the Anti-Aircraft Operations rooms, built inside the lift shafts. Air filters had been fitted against poison gas. An original map showing all the anti-aircraft gun and rocket battery sites is still fixed to a door.

As well as the Tube sites, Nick showed photos of other under-ground settings, including cemetery catacombs, the Crystal Palace subway, the Kingsway Tram tunnel, the Camden Railway vaults, the chalk and sand quarries, and the Royal Observer Corps structures built during the Cold War. There is one of these in Dulwich Road, near the toll booth. An access point leads down to a small office where a series of monitoring instruments and two beds allow people to sleep on site. Many of these sites were closed in 1968 when the Civil Defence Corps was wound up owing to government cuts.

Lastly the Post Office railway tunnels were discussed. The old Mount Pleasant

Sorting Office is currently being restored and will be re-opened as a Post Office



Wood Lane ghost station

Museum later this year. Tunnels linked all the sorting offices and carried mail around London.

We appreciated Nick's passion and enthusiasm for exploration – clearly a dangerous hobby at times. Although he was careful to explain that he always seeks permission to go into these places, health and safety rules are not always applied in a consistent way. He has put himself at risk of smallpox (West Norwood Cemetery, where the spores from those who died of the disease may still linger), of trains coming through the tunnels unexpectedly, of descending and ascending rickety ladders.

If you are interested in any of these activities Nick would be very happy to advise. Nick has also written a book about Cold War bunkers. **Val Suebsaeng**

VOLUNTEER RESEARCHERS NEEDED

In our last issue we drew attention to the Society's project, to be run in conjunction with the Charter School, to tell the story of the people from our area in the First World War.

A book and a website, recording information about soldiers who were casualties of the conflict and about life on the "home front", are planned. For this we need volunteer researchers. We are about to put in our bid for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. If all proceeds to plan we will be able to provide training to our researchers

later this summer. This is a really interesting and worthwhile project. There are fascinating facts out there to be discovered and shared. Did you know that

Remembering Herne Hill 1914–18

one of the signatories of the Versailles Peace Treaty lived (and died) on Herne Hill? – a fact omitted from the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and *Herne Hill Personalities!*

Please contact the Society's Chair **Colin Wight** at memorial@hernehillsociety.org.uk if you would like to take part. Let's make this project a success!

LOOKING BACK ON ELECTIONS IN HERNE HILL

With a General Election either just behind or just in front of us when this Magazine appears, it is a good time to cast a brief look at some perhaps lesser known facts about Herne Hill's electoral history. Today Herne Hill, however you define its precise boundaries, is all included in Dulwich and West Norwood, a constituency with an electorate of some 75,000 created in 1997. At the 2015 General Election 67% turned out to vote, in line with overall turnout for the whole of the UK.

This is in fact only a little below the turnout in 1832. In that year, following the reforms of the Great Reform Act, the electorate in SE London was divided between the constituencies of Lambeth and Southwark, each entitled to send two members of parliament to Westminster. But even with the reforms only one in five of the adult male population was entitled to vote – and women not at all.

Charles Tennyson was one of Lambeth's first two MPs. He is perhaps best remembered for his boundless social aspiration – he added D'Eyncourt to his name to distinguish his side of the



Charles Tennyson d'Eyncourt

Tennyson family from the more impecunious side to which his nephew, the poetic voice of Victorian England, belonged – and for Bayons Manor, the magnificent mock-medieval moated mansion he built for himself in Lincolnshire. In the same spirit that saw the destruction of the Euston Arch in 1961, Bayons Manor – admittedly in very poor condition – was dynamited in 1964. The local yellow stone was used for local road building. Elton John's writing partner, Bernie Taupin, was living nearby at this time. It is said that, contrary to the popular association with the Wizard of Oz, this is the true origin of the "Yellow Brick Road" of their famous song.

"Yellow Brick Road leads to Herne Hill"

Increases in London's population in the 19th century and widening of the franchise saw the creation of two new constituencies, Norwood and Dulwich, in 1885. Lambeth and

Southwark had been very much Whig/Liberal strongholds. For the next 60 years, until the Labour landslide of 1945, both constituencies were firmly Conservative. In Dulwich Sir Blundell Maple, who built up the once globally dominant furniture company – supplier of furniture to the Imperial palaces in Vienna and St Petersburg – was the Dulwich MP from 1887 until his death in 1903. Andrew Bonar Law, briefly Prime Minister in 1922-23 (the shortest term of any PM in the 20th century), was the member for Dulwich in 1906–1910. Over in Norwood Thomas Lynn Bristowe was the MP until his untimely demise at the opening of Brockwell Park in 1892, the saving of which from the hands of developers was very much his doing. Elections were



Sandys with Diana Churchill

often a less bruising business in those days and Bristowe's successor, Sir Charles Ernest Tritton, was returned unopposed in two of the three of the elections in which he stood.

From 1935 until his defeat in 1945, Norwood's MP was Duncan Sandys, son-in-law of Winston Churchill. Sandys, who returned to Westminster as MP for Streatham in 1950, is now remembered for the strong pro-European views that he shared with his father-in-law and the long-running dissension within the Conservative party about Britain's place in Europe. More notoriously, Sandys is also remembered from the scandal about the Duchess of Argyll and the "headless man" photographs.

More recent times have seen Eric Morley, the successful impresario who brought us the Miss World competition and TV's *Come Dancing*, standing for the Conservatives in Dulwich in 1974 and 1979, on the latter occasion being defeated by a mere 122 votes by the Labour Attorney General Sam Silkin. Another unsuccessful contender in Dulwich was Labour's Kate Hoey, before her election in Vauxhall, a constituency that lies wholly within the borough of Lambeth. In the 2016 Referendum Lambeth had the highest Remain vote in the country (at 78%), but Hoey is a strong Brexiteer – a conundrum for her electorate to consider. An unsuccessful contender in Norwood in 1987 was Dominic Grieve for the Conservatives, who later found a safe seat at Beaconsfield and was until 2014 Attorney General in the Coalition Government. A first attempt to be elected by Kemi Adedoke for the Conservatives in Dulwich and West Norwood in 2010 also ended in failure, but – since her marriage, Kemi Badenoch – she is standing this year in the rock-solid Conservative seat of Saffron Walden. She will not be the first Black British Conservative MP, that position being held by Helen Grant, member for Maidstone and the Weald.

Boundary changes have been recommended that would see Dulwich and West Norwood lose parts of Brixton and, curiously, West Norwood station, but areas in East Dulwich would be gained. The calling of the 2017 General Election has put these proposals on hold.

Laurence Marsh

FRANCES ELLIS AND HER CHURCHES

At the beginning of the 20th century, Miss Frances Ellis spent her entire fortune helping to build more than 20 Catholic churches in South London – including Herne Hill

Following the Reformation and Henry VIII's break with Rome in the middle of the 16th century, few Catholic churches were built in England over the following 200 years, as the religion was outlawed. By the early 18th century, however, many English Catholics in London were allowed to use private rooms in foreign embassies to celebrate Mass. As these became full, the Spanish and Portuguese embassies started to build chapels nearby.

With the Toleration Act of 1791, Catholic worship became legal and these chapels were converted to parish churches, but this wasn't enough to accommodate the growing number of worshippers in London. Over the next hundred years



St Bede's in Clapham Park next to Frances Ellis's house

several large Gothic-style churches were built in the city by wealthy Catholic landowners. These became more ornate, so were expensive to construct, and by the time Westminster Cathedral opened in 1904 there was little money left for any new church building in London. This became a problem with the influx of immigrants from Catholic countries such as Ireland. Irish families had been coming to England since the 1850s and by the end of the century thousands had settled in the capital, but with no place of worship.

The arrival of a benefactor

In 1897, with the celebration of 1300 years since St Augustine arrived in Thanet in 597 and the founding of English Catholicism, the Benedictine monks of Ramsgate, close to where St Augustine landed, launched an appeal for funds to build a new church there. A local woman, Miss Frances Ellis,

came forward and offered to pay the whole amount. St Ethelbert in Ramsgate opened in 1902. Born in 1846 into a wealthy Anglican family, Miss Ellis had been left a considerable fortune on her father's death; when she converted to Catholicism in 1901, she dedicated the rest of her life – and her inheritance – to establishing schools and hospices and building Catholic churches.

In 1904, there were more than 4,000 Christian churches in London, but fewer than 300 of them were Catholic, so more were needed. When the Catholic Bishop of Southwark approached Frances Ellis for financial assistance she agreed to help. She then worked with the Southwark diocese to identify where the churches were needed and find inexpensive sites for them. One of the first to open in London was St Bede's in Clapham Park in 1905, next to Hyde House, where Miss Ellis had lived with her mother and sister. In 1903 she had donated the house and land to the diocese, and today it is the parish presbytery and study centre. With limited funds and to ensure a quick construction process, the churches were simply designed with little external detail, but they were built for a fraction of the cost of the more architecturally ambitious churches found elsewhere in London.



St Simon and St Jude's, Hillside Road, Streatham Hill

St Simon and St Jude's church in Streatham Hill was also built in 1905, followed by 20 more across South London, all financed by Miss Ellis. The architect she chose was more familiar with designing



Frances Ellis

railway sheds, hence the box-like shape of the churches. Using London brick in most of the buildings, they became known as "Ellis boxes".

A good local example can be found in



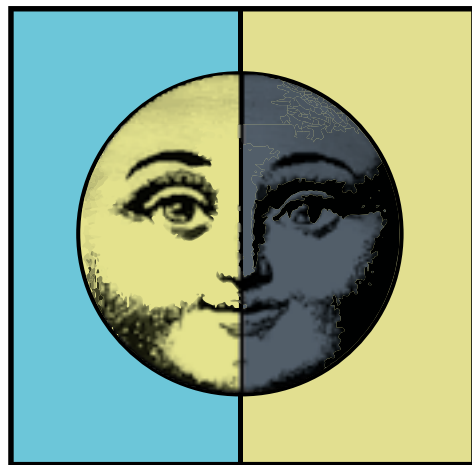
St Philip and St James's, Poplar Walk, Herne Hill

Herne Hill. St Philip and St James in Poplar Walk opened in 1906 and like most of the Ellis churches is still in use today.

Frances Ellis helped found over 40 Catholic churches in London, including 22 south of the river. She donated the equivalent today of over £14 million to the diocese.

Miss Ellis never married, and when she could no longer care for herself moved to the convent home at Hayle in Cornwall that she had founded some years earlier. Before she died in 1930, she only asked for one thing: that once a month each church would celebrate a Holy Souls Mass. In these parishes they're still known as the "Ellis Mass".

Simon Taylor



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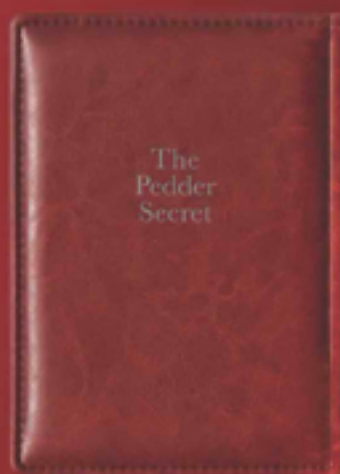


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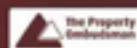
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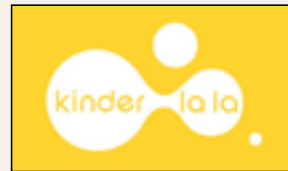
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