

# HERNE HILL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY ♣ ISSUE 140 ♣ Winter ♣ 2017 ♣ £2.50



*Cider comes to Herne Hill – ▶ See page 11*

**RICHARD DEACON – EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**

*▶ Turn to page 12*

**NEWS  
AND  
FEATURES**

**BLUE PLAQUES  
AND URBAN  
MYTHS**

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**CARNEGIE CHAOS**

*▶ See page 4 for latest*

**CLAPHAMIFICATION  
REACHES HERNE HILL?** *▶ Turn to page 15*



# The Magazine of the Herne Hill Society



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	Pat Roberts
	Val Suebsaeng

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Magazine	Sophia Marsh
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Postal and online addresses  
The Herne Hill Society, PO Box 27845, London SE24 9XA

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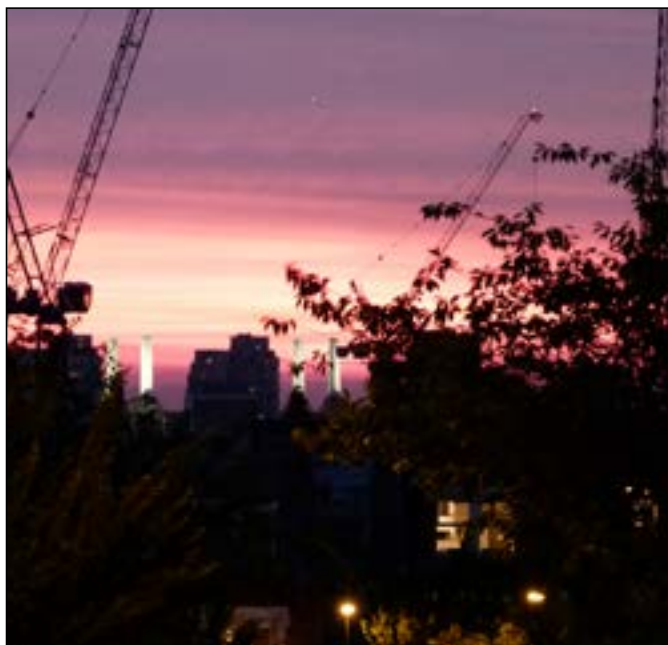
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## A change of view



Our pictures show a major change that all who are familiar with Kestrel Avenue will instantly recognise. What has happened to Battersea Power Station? The old view has gone, its place taken by the major development for the Guinness Trust between Loughborough Park, Shakespeare Road and the railway. Our thanks to David Williams for providing us with a photograph he had the foresight to take some years ago.

## Herne Hill Piano Academy at the Half Moon



Following the Herne Hill Forum's successful fundraising campaign to bring music to those who normally couldn't afford the opportunity, we're delighted to report that November marked the start of the project. Three young students were the first to try out the Academy's new digital piano. Lessons are being held in the Workshop at the Half Moon or at the Street Piano. Herne Hill Forum Acting-Chair Sian Dragonetti said, "we're very grateful to the Herne Hill Society and the Half Moon pub for sponsoring the project, to all the residents who contributed to the funding, to Sunita for donating her time, and all our other volunteers for seeing this project off the ground".

The mother of one of the students said that "our daughter was so happy and excited to learn she would have piano lessons. She told everyone at school about it. We literally couldn't scrape together enough money for piano lessons. We're delighted our daughter can still have the opportunity for lessons. Thanks to the

Herne Hill Forum and all the supporters and volunteers for making this happen."

If you would like to know more about the programme or you're interested in helping with teaching, please get in contact via [info@hernehillforum.org.uk](mailto:info@hernehillforum.org.uk).

**Tricia Keracher-Summerfield**

## The writing's on the wall – no longer

After the cri-de-coeur in our last issue about the growing blight of graffiti in our area, it was a welcome sight in October to see one of the most prominent examples – on the side of the student accommodation above Tesco – being efficiently expunged. We hope for good, because Banksy it was not.



# To the editor

**We received the following letters in response to our editorial about the Carnegie Library in the last issue.**

*Dear Editor*

*I am writing in response to the article in your last issue about the Carnegie Library. I have been a member of the Herne Hill Society for many years and an active member of the Friends of Carnegie Library (FOCL) almost since it started.*

*I am surprised and disappointed that “the Society” does not appreciate or seem to understand the differences between the Carnegie Library Association (CLA) and Carnegie Community Trust (CCT). The CCT is not a democratically elected group and therefore its name is misleading.*

*The issue is, for myself, the Carnegie LIBRARY which we have been fighting for, for nearly 20 years (with support from the HHS) and which serves so many purposes for the well-being of its community. The CLA and Defend the Ten and FOCL want the Library to be reinstated in its purpose-built rooms with its full-time Library staff. Lambeth Council and the CCT’s plan for the Library is for it to be in the two rooms adjoining the entrance hall with Library staff attending a few hours a day, their expertise compromised by attending two separate spaces. (Due to the campaign this has changed from a few books on a shelf.)*

*Your article is not very informative or easy to follow. I am especially disturbed that “the Society” should voice, on behalf of myself and other members, the opinion that “the various parties involved will need to sink some of their differences if the Carnegie (the word Library omitted) is to survive and flourish in its new incarnation, whatever that turns out to be”.*

*After the long and very close past relationship between the HHS and the FOCL I would have expected a much better formulated article and yes, some commitment to your local, Carnegie Library.*

*Yours sincerely,*

**Sue Madden**

*Can I say first that I have no axe to grind, nor any wish to take sides... But the Carnegie was the very first library I ever remember visiting, this would have been soon after we moved to Dulwich in 1960, and I was a regular visitor from then on.*

*While I do appreciate the financial strictures facing Lambeth Council, it always struck me as particularly insensitive that a library named after such a great philanthropist should be closed down!*

*Surely all parties must work together with the aim of getting the building open - even if only partially used for library purposes, it must be of benefit to the community? If the basement has to be exploited in order to return the library upstairs to its original use, could that not be undertaken? A cafe and opportunity to use the lovely garden would be a great asset too.*

*In the end, do we not all agree that the sight of this beautiful building, founded with the best intentions, standing desolate and vacant, is a tragedy?*

*Perhaps if both sides can bear to make some concessions, it may be possible at last to get this much-loved library open again?*

*Regards,*

**Patrick Humphries**

# Chaos at the Carnegie

**A**s we were about to go to press, news broke of a serious rift between Lambeth and the Carnegie Community Trust (CCT), one that it is difficult to see being bridged. We reported in the last issue how CCT were chosen by Lambeth as their preferred partner in the controversial plan to create a “community hub”. This involved major changes to the building, including excavation of the basement for a gym, loss of important parts of the library’s attractive garden and a library service of uncertain value and duration.

We also referred to the ongoing discussions between CCT and the Council, and hoped that the matter would be clearer by the time of our next issue.

The only thing that is now clear is that both the chair, Carol Boucher, and the secretary, Fred Taggart, have stood down from the trust.



They accuse the Council of “ramming through” a deal with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), the company chosen to run the gym. Carol Boucher commented: “No-one wants this deal between the council and GLL. We cannot get to the bottom of why the councillors are doing it. We are told there is a public benefit, but the procurement arrangements are unknown to us or anybody in Herne Hill.” She added that the Council needed “to make a very strong case if it intends to give this public space to a private company for no rent and to also spend £1.5 million digging out the basement to accommodate its gym. It is insulting to offer the community the bits that will be left over.” Fred Taggart said: “we are seeing a Labour council being rolled over. The people driving these policies are pitting themselves against the communities they are meant to serve. Herne Hill is losing its one publicly accessible civic building and our beautiful Carnegie is not being conserved and respected.”

There are those who say that the Council was always open to the community aspect of their plan failing – thus clearing the way to a full-scale privatisation of the Carnegie. Others might say that “donkey” is a better description for the Council than the machine currently at work outside the Library. However one puts it, this latest news does little to create confidence that the Carnegie Library, now closed for almost two years, will be preserved for the community it was built to serve.



## Renew your Membership – no increase in 2018



We hope you are enjoying the fifth edition of the full-colour *Herne Hill Magazine*. To continue the good work we need your support, so we very much hope you will renew your subscription in January.

Standard household membership is still only £8.00 - seven successive years without an increase! You can save a stamp and the bother of writing out a cheque by renewing online at [www.hernehillsociety.org.uk](http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk). Click on the “How to Join” button on the homepage. It couldn't be easier.

Otherwise, please see the enclosed leaflet for how to renew by post. However you choose to pay we are grateful for your loyalty.

## Would you like to help the Society?

Your Society depends on a small and friendly committee to make things happen. Could we persuade you to join us? The recent or imminent departures of two valued committee members leaves us short-handed. In particular, at this stage, we are hoping to find someone who would be interested in managing the advertising aspects of this magazine.

Our income from advertising by local businesses is vitally important in allowing us to go on producing a magazine like this. We greatly value the support that local businesses give us, so it is desirable to have an enthusiastic committee member who focuses on keeping in regular touch with current and potential advertisers and other businesses in Herne Hill – in itself a rewarding and interesting activity. Perhaps you are that person? Or are there other activities you would like to help with?

A more detailed description of the role can be obtained from Colin Wight through [chair@hernehillsociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@hernehillsociety.org.uk).

## HERNE HILL STATION REFURBISHMENT NEARLY COMPLETE

Our fine railway station stands proudly at the heart of our community. Indeed, the expansion of the railway in Victorian and Edwardian times was probably the biggest stimulus to the development of Herne Hill as we now know it. The station entrance block is a handsome Victorian building which opened in 1862; it was Grade II Listed in 1999 but in the last decade was beginning to look a little decrepit despite regular repainting jobs.

But now it is benefiting from a £1.5 million upgrade conducted by Southeastern Railway, with funding support from the Department for Transport's National Stations Improvement Programme. As rail travellers and residents will have seen over most of this year, work has been spread across every part of the station, but is now nearing completion.

### Booking Hall Opens Up

Perhaps the most obvious change has been the extension and remodelling of the booking hall, with new accessible ticket office windows. There is a much more roomy feel, which improves passenger circulation. The information screens have been resited to prevent congestion, CCTV

will improve security, and provision has been incorporated for Automatic Ticket Gates if these are installed in the future. The archway behind the old ticket office has been opened up to create a new retail unit – part of the move to improve retail facilities across the station.

The welcome involvement of the Railway Heritage Trust is very visible in the work done on the facade of the station and on the platform passenger facilities. The street-facing windows on the façade now incorporate original features, and the handsome doors are closely modelled on the original ones. The brickwork has been cleaned, and where necessary replaced and made good. The two individual steps from the street up into the booking hall have been replaced with one single step, an original feature of the building. The Royal Mail letter box, however, remains sadly locked (see separate news item).

On the platforms, the waiting room on platforms 1 & 2 has been extended and made accessible for wheelchair users; and it now has a more spacious and attractive coffee shop. The original parquet flooring, and the original fireplace, have been retained and refurbished.



The subway walls will be panelled to provide a cleaner environment, and furnished with better lighting and devices to rectify the pigeon nuisance.

### Busier Than Ever

The station is probably busier than ever, as commuter traffic from the suburbs to central London multiplies year by year. Official figures suggest conservatively that about 1.5 million passengers enter or leave Herne Hill station each year. Traffic has been growing by at least 3% per annum and is expected to rise further when Crossrail/The Elizabeth Line opens at Farringdon in 2018 or 2019.

Now all we need is for the train operating companies to deliver a better punctuality performance and trains to accommodate these mounting numbers of commuters.

## PLANNING & LICENSING

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

### **13 Dulwich Road, Lambeth 17/04822/FUL**

An application to demolish garages in what was once garden land and to build a small two-storey house fronting onto Chaucer Road, within the Poets Corner Conservation Area. The Society's planning group did not object to the proposal in principle – it is broadly the same as an earlier application that received planning permission but was not activated within three years; but we did criticise the proposal to lime render the facing brick, because we felt unrendered brick is the prevailing characteristic of the area. We also objected to the intention to facilitate car parking in the narrow courtyard garden in front of the house, which we thought was not consistent with Lambeth's own planning policies for a new dwelling.

### **135 Dulwich Road, Lambeth 17/03600/FUL**

An application to add an additional story to a new two-storey residential building in Brockwell Passage. A proposal for a three-storey building was refused permission in 2012. A scheme of reduced height, size and bulk received permission in 2014, that scheme is now nearing completion. We have objected to what, in our view, is an opportunistic attempt to re-introduce what was refused before. We pointed out, as local residents have done, the need to respect Lambeth's own policies on sense of enclosure and overlooking, especially given the constraints of the site. Lambeth have refused permission.

### **143-149 Railton Road, Lambeth 17/03387/FUL**

An application to demolish a disused heath centre and erect 10 self-contained flats. We supported the proposal; it marks a distinct improvement on the existing building and is in sympathy with the architectural character of the adjacent Victorian terrace and other buildings in the immediate area and serves to enhance the setting of the nearby Poets Corner Conservation Area. We did not support the applicant's proposal to have the scheme exempted from Lambeth's policy on car-free development.

### **12 Haredale Road, Lambeth 17/03958/FUL**

An application to add a further storey, creating front and rear gables and side dormers. We objected to the design which we felt would exaggerate the already poor articulation of the front of the house. We also criticised the use of dormer windows with outlook on both sides. Lambeth gave permission, but requiring the side dormers to be obscure-glazed and non-opening.

### **Judith Kerr Primary School, Southwark, 13/01/2017**

On 29 September Southwark decided to refuse permission for new almshouses that the Dulwich Estate had applied to build on the open space next to the school and used by the school as a playing field. Southwark regarded the school's use of the land as a playing field to be the more sustainable use and the proposal to build on the land to go against policies in the London Plan and the Emerging New Southwark Plan. The intentions of the Dulwich Estate, following this refusal, are not known.

**Laurence Marsh**

## History Hear More oral memories



Just over two years ago we began recording interviews with people about life in Herne Hill. The Society has produced many printed publications over the years, but there doesn't appear to be an audio collection and we intend to fill that gap. There are now over 50 recordings on the internet, with more awaiting editing.

To give just a few examples, you can listen to Rudy Daley's journey from settling in Herne Hill from Jamaica to becoming Mayor of Lambeth, Olive Pompa on moving to Herne Hill after her home was hit by a flying bomb or Maude Estwick describing when Prince Charles came to tea in Poplar Road.

Last month we were at Herne Hill Market to encourage visitors to listen to a selection of recordings and to consider if they would like to help us with interviewing, editing or suggesting interviewees.

Our focus is very broad: for instance, to reflect life before the war, as well as more recent memorable events. Interviews are carried out in people's homes by trained volunteers, with interviewees being asked to sign a copyright consent form. The recordings are then edited and uploaded to SoundCloud, a website designed to host recordings.

We also want to work in partnership with local organisations, such as church groups and sports clubs, to help preserve their histories. This Herne Hill Forum-funded project will build up into a valuable source of information and will be deposited with local archives.

If you have stories to tell, photos to contribute, or would like help in any way, do get in touch with us via

**[historyhear@hernehillforum.org.uk](mailto:historyhear@hernehillforum.org.uk)**

**Beth Taylor**

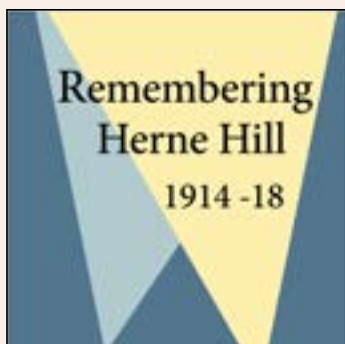
### **Links**

<https://soundcloud.com/herne-hill-history-hear/sets>

<https://www.facebook.com/historyhear/>

<http://www.hernehill.org.uk/news/introducing-history-hear-oral-memories-herne-hill>





The Society's joint project with the Charter School is forging ahead. At a training session for researchers on 13 November more than 40 volunteers attended: half were students from the Charter School and Alleyn's with the other half drawn from Society members, local residents and school parents and teachers. Our picture shows WWI historian Dan Hill guiding volunteers along the highways and byways of serious internet research.

Link: [twitter.com/Hernehill\\_WWI](https://twitter.com/Hernehill_WWI)



## Mr Hahn's Bakery



### We recently received the following email from Gareth Long:

*"I stumbled across your website, your WWI interactive map and Remembering Herne Hill 1914-18, while researching a postcard I bought recently. My card shows the shop of Henry William Hahn, baker, at 51 Hinton Road, in the aftermath of an attack on businesses run by people with German-sounding names."*

The outbreak of war and fevered reporting in some parts of the press, especially Lord Northcliffe's *Daily Mail*, led to an increase in anti-German sentiment, resulting in assaults on suspected Germans and attacks on shops owned by people with German-sounding names. Serious rioting broke out

following news of the sinking of the RMS *Lusitania* by a torpedo from a German submarine on 7 May 1915, initially in Liverpool, the *Lusitania's* home port. The rioting then rapidly spread to Manchester and London. Our research has revealed many German-born residents in Herne Hill, especially in the Milkwood Road area, and it was here that German-owned businesses were targeted, including the baker's shop and home of Henry William Hahn at 51 Hinton Road. Mr Hahn did not merely have a German-sounding name; he and his wife were German. Their three children, Helene, Eric and Gladys, aged 7, 6 and 4 in 1915, were all born in Lambeth. The *South London Press* reported how not

a single pane of glass was left intact, as this remarkable photograph, previously unknown, confirms. It also reported how the stock was pillaged, the till emptied and the money thrown to the crowd, and how the Hahns' children were terrified when they returned to find their home ruined. The subsequent fate of the Hahn family is unknown. We hope to discover more about the personal stories of immigrants and the part they played in Herne Hill's history in the course our research for the Remembering Herne Hill 1914-18 project. Particular thanks to Gareth Long for contacting us and for permission to use this image.

Laurence Marsh

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# DIARY OF EVENTS

## Winter 2017

For more information please check [http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/society\\_meeting](http://www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/society_meeting)

**Wednesday 13 December 2017**

**“In Search of a Baker’s Story - My Grandfather’s Herne Hill Connection”**

**by Alice Graysharp**

Alice will talk about her grandfather’s links with Herne Hill and Nevill’s Bakery in the wider context of the family’s life in Brixton and West Norwood. She is the author of *The Keeping of Secrets*.

**Wednesday 10 January 2018**

**“The Lost Effra Project”**

**by Rachel Dowse**, Project Officer, Community Sustainable Drainage Systems, London Wildlife Trust  
The history of the underground River Effra, the need for the project, explanation of completed work - and what can be done in your own garden.

*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 14 February 2018**

**“The Ruined Subway at Crystal Palace”**

Local Historian and tour guide Stephen Oxford and Sue Giovanni of the Friends of Crystal Palace Subway will introduce a film and answer questions about this hidden gem, a beautifully designed and crafted relic of Victorian construction, and unique part of our cultural heritage.

**Wednesday 14 March 2018**

**Annual General Meeting – followed by “Lambeth’s Victorian Architecture”**

**by Edmund Bird**, heritage adviser to the GLA and TfL  
A talk based on the fifth book in a series illustrates the transition from a largely rural landscape to an urban one. The survey encompasses public buildings, parks, shops, transport, industry, housing, churches and lost buildings of the borough.

# HEATED DEBATE

**T**hat is the question. Or it was, as posed at this year’s Brockwell Lido Users (BLU) Forum.

The case made for heating was simple: inclusivity. A number of people described how they or others were reluctant or unable to swim in cold water, although they loved the idea of swimming in an Olympic-size outdoor pool. Those people, it was suggested, include small children, learner swimmers, older people, people with certain disabilities and people from ethnic minorities.

Those who put the case against heating were passionate in their defence of cold-water swimming. They found the experience uplifting, therapeutic and bonding. Practical objections to heating the pool include, of course, the cost of installation and the greater running costs, as well as the environmental impact of heating the water. To balance the needs of different users, and mitigate the risks

of poor summer weather, a third option was also discussed: heating the Lido to a consistent (but not excessively warm) temperature during the height of the season, say April to September, leaving the water at ambient temperature for the



remainder of the year.

There are, of course, a number of heated indoor swimming pools within a couple of miles of our Lido but, with the exception of Crystal Palace, all are 25m or under in length and provide none of the pleasure of

swimming in the open air.

There is a growing trend for outdoor pools to be heated so that they can be used all year round by more swimmers. In London, Hampton, Charlton and London Fields are heated. Brockwell, Tooting and Parliament Hill Fields are unheated.

It must be emphasised that Fusion, who have a 25-year lease from Lambeth Council to run the Lido, currently have no plans to heat the pool, but they were interested to hear the discussion at the AGM. The priority for BLU is securing the installation of a new pool lining, but this also presents an opportunity to look at other ways of ensuring the long-term viability of the pool. A timely debate about all options is an ideal way of tapping into local requirements.

BLU exists to safeguard the future of the Lido, ensure users are involved in decisions on the future of the lido, and to maintain, support, promote and enhance the user experience. We welcome all views and discussion on this subject. Let us know by emailing [info@brockwelllido.com](mailto:info@brockwelllido.com)

**Yvonne Levy**

# HERNE HILL WELCOMES REFUGEES

The vicious and many-sided conflict in Syria has created the most catastrophic refugee crisis since World War II. Some 5.5 million people have had to leave their homes in danger of their lives, abandoning family members, livelihoods, homes, education, businesses and dreams. Too often, frightened families and individuals embark on ill-prepared dangerous journeys which can end in destitution or death. The majority of Syria's refugees have fled — by land and sea — across borders to neighbouring countries, but remain in the Middle East. Some 3 million are currently in Turkey, and Lebanon hosts 1 million Syrian refugees. A further 6.3 million Syrians are displaced within the country. Few of us are unmoved by the human impact of this catastrophe; many, in Britain and other countries, would like to help but are not sure how, apart from donating money to refugee charities, or urging their governments to “do more”.

Since the crisis began in 2011, the UK has granted asylum or other forms of leave to almost 5,000 Syrian nationals and their dependants. But clearly more will always need to be done, and under the government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, the aim is to resettle 20,000 Syrians fleeing conflict and in need of protection during the current Parliament (in addition to those resettled under other programmes, and the thousands of people who receive protection in the UK under normal asylum procedures).

## Grassroots Enthusiasm

Most refugees arriving under this scheme are supported by local authorities. Lambeth, for example, is committed to accepting 23 families, most of whom have now arrived.

But in a new departure, the scheme also allows for local community groups to sponsor a family, following a model successfully developed in Canada. This depends vitally on the willingness of local community groups to sponsor refugee families, and to give them welcome, protection and support to help them resettle and integrate. So it is exciting that such a group – Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees – has now been set up here to achieve exactly that. It is among the first projects of its kind in Lambeth, though similar programmes have been successfully implemented in other parts of the country. Several dozen residents attended a public meeting at St Saviour's in early October, and follow-up meetings with a smaller group have confirmed that there is solid commitment to the initiative.

The process of preparing for the refugees and settling them into their new life is both complicated and sensitive, and is subject to local authority and Home Office supervision. The refugee family (who will have been through a thorough security vetting process) could arrive needing immediate access to medical and social services, and of course somewhere to live.

The sponsoring team must demonstrate more than a fund of goodwill and sympathy. It will require a formal constitution and partnership with an appropriate registered charity (this group have joined Citizens UK Lambeth); a sound safeguarding policy to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults and children; a thorough resettlement plan showing how they would deliver services for integration and support; access to a network of interpreters and



Herne Hill residents Rachel Griffiths, Harriet Lamb and Nick Jeyarajah are among the founders of the Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees initiative

language teaching (many refugees will arrive with little or no English); adequate financial resources to support the resettled family; and, not least, provision for accommodation for at least two years.

So a broad mix of skills and professional experience is needed to harness the enthusiasm and energy required to make this a successful project. The long-term aim is to guide the refugee family towards employment and self-sufficiency.

Harriet Lamb, one of the local organisers of the project, said “We have been blown away by the enthusiasm of the Herne Hill community. It is so inspiring how so many people have responded so positively, saying that they wanted to do something about the terrible situation facing refugees, and just didn't know what. This scheme is a practical way that the whole community can help welcome a family – whether you want to take the family shopping or help them practise English, or join the organising group”.

## Where Will They Live?

In the case of the Herne Hill group, the required sum of money (£9,000) has already been raised by a group of cyclists based at St Saviours and St Paul's. A recent meeting revealed a wealth of experience and skills capable of dealing with the other issues.

The greatest challenge is housing. The refugees would arrive, probably from a refugee camp in Lebanon, with immediate refugee status and access to the necessary social benefits, including housing benefit. But finding a landlord willing to rent out a house or a flat locally in return for the housing benefit rate is particularly difficult in London.

So the search for acceptable accommodation will occupy much of the group's time in the early months. If any readers are able to help or suggest possible solutions, or wish to help in other ways, please contact [hhwelcomesrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:hhwelcomesrefugees@gmail.com).

It reflects great credit on our community that some of our neighbours have the courage and commitment to set up this project. In our next issue we hope to report on the progress made by Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees.

**Pat Roberts**

## Pressing Engagement – Cider in Herne Hill



**Y**ou knew, didn't you, that cider is now officially hot? Or if not hot, then cool, on-trend, in vogue, fashionable... That's a new thing. Until recently, cider was uncool – that is, the fizzy, cheap ultra-commercial brands that teenagers used to drink to get, er, mellow (or rowdy) as swiftly as possible.

No, the new sort of cider is not like that and has a new appeal, because it is Craft Cider, a radically different product, made on a much smaller scale and with a conscious emphasis on local provenance, sustainability and community involvement. And not just made in Somerset, either.

Indeed, cider is now being made all across London, from apples grown in and around the metropolis, sourced from community orchards and even private gardens, as part of the "Orchard Project". This autumn saw the start of volunteer-led Local Fox Cider and London Apple Juice making here on the Bath Factory Estate in Herne Hill (see our front cover picture) as well as in other parts of London, all pressed using traditional methods. A unique mix of

dessert and culinary apples grown across the capital are collected and donated from community orchards and gardens, giving both drinks a true taste of the city. All proceeds are used to help the Orchard Project – and its growing use of volunteers – work to maintain and rejuvenate London's forgotten orchards and to train communities in orchard skills.

We hope to report further on this project next year and to alert residents on how they can in due course join the project if they wish or contribute apples from their gardens, rather than let them be wasted as windfalls.

The Orchard Project is a national charity dedicated to the creation, restoration and celebration of community orchards. It aims to make a serious contribution to a better food system, based on people working together where they live to produce and harvest their own fruit.

**Link:** [www.theorchardproject.org.uk](http://www.theorchardproject.org.uk)

**Pat Roberts**

## Blue Plaques and Urban Myths

**T**his year's Southwark Blue Plaque winner was the famous Mayflower Inn at Rotherhithe with 1,160 votes. Herne Hill had two runners in the field. The Half Moon came third (264), and the former Sir James Black laboratory, now the Judith Kerr Primary School in Half Moon Lane was fourth (159).

Sir James Black (1924–2010) was a pharmacologist who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1988. And the Herne Hill connection? Black worked in the building that now houses the Judith Kerr Primary School and the Sir James Black Foundation (part of KCL) was based there from 1988 to 2006.

There was strong local support for the Half Moon, centred on its history as a music venue and alleged connections with Frank Sinatra and Dylan Thomas.

We do know that Mia Farrow, then heavily pregnant, visited The Half Moon in 1969 or 1970, and a photograph exists to prove it! Her former chauffeur, Dennis Parker, had just taken over as landlord and she was guest of honour. But was Sinatra there? Surely if he had been present he would have been in the photo too? One reason for him not being in the photo

would be that Mia Farrow divorced Sinatra in 1968 and married André Previn in 1970. As for Frank Sinatra once performing at the Moon – it's a lovely thought, but where is the evidence? On the website BuzzFeed a "local" (unnamed) is quoted as saying Sinatra's "ex driver was the landlord in the 50s and Frank popped in to see him and sang a number. My dad told me he heard about it the next day and was gutted that he was in the Milkwood Tavern at the time." Putting aside the double hearsay and the fact that Mr Parker was not the landlord in the '50s, it seems strange that no-one can actually remember seeing (or hearing) him.

What about Dylan Thomas? Did our local street inspire the choice of name in *Under Milk Wood*? According to Wikipedia,

Dylan Thomas lived for a time in Milkwood Road and used to drink at The Half Moon. Here again the evidence is not exactly watertight. Residence in Milkwood Road is based on something an artist friend of the poet casually told someone many decades later. The artist died in 1999 and he seems never to have been asked for more details, which, given an academic industry devoted to the life and work of Dylan Thomas, is surprising. As for celebrating at The Half Moon after watching London Welsh playing at their then home at the Herne Hill Track, this seems to clash with the tradition of London Welsh supporters gathering at the Commercial. But ... why spoil a good story?

**Colin Wight and Laurence Marsh**





Out Of Order (2003). Photo Dave Morgan

PUTTING THINGS TOGETHER

**Richard Deacon** (born 1949) is an internationally recognised artist who has his London studio in Bessemer Park Industrial Estate. He won the Turner Prize in 1987, having been shortlisted in 1984. Tate Britain held a major retrospective of his work in 2014.

*Interview by Colin Wight and Laurence Marsh*

**What brought you to Herne Hill, Richard?**

For a long time I had a studio from ACME housing association in Acre Lane. In fact I helped set it up as a group studio in the mid '70s. After 18 years I decided to buy into a new development in Milkwood Road. The London Residual Authority was building it at just the wrong moment, and were selling off individual units at a loss. I was one of the first to move in, with Thomas Benacci and Aquapac [see *Herne Hill* 137] in 1990.

I knew that a new, very different building would change the work I did. This studio has great ceiling height. I also prefer to work somewhere with a hubbub of activity. Often artists aren't at their studios as they have to do other work to survive, so you're the only one there. Coming from Brixton to Herne Hill was a good move. Herne Hill is very special. It has such good light and there are the parks nearby. It's always been very neighbourly. I know most of the shopkeepers here and I have a small flat nearby. And the transport links are very good now.

By the way, I am not the only artist to have worked here. Takahiko Sanada was also here in the early days. He was a fabric designer who'd worked with Issey Miyake. In 1995 we worked together on producing felt, a technology I was interested in. I find it fascinating: the way things are made, the process of transformation. Basket-making, spinning, weaving... I've used the word "fabricator" to describe what I do, because I start with a flat material that becomes a three-dimensional form. I'm not a carver or a modeller; I put things together.

**What goes on in the studio?**

Upstairs, it's mostly drawings and model-making, plus

a lot of found objects. People used to throw a lot of things away, and I would come along and put things in my van, like fence posts, to use as raw material. But not so much these days. Maybe all the good stuff has been used up or gone to salvage companies like LASSCO. But also people are nervous about putting things into skips in case there's an argument about who owns it and they get sued, so things get smashed up.

There's not a lot of equipment here because I'd rather have the free space - although I haven't got that at the moment



either! I've just done a show in Paris and I need to clear out the studio. I don't really trust other people's storage conditions. The large-scale works are made elsewhere: the wooden objects at West Norwood (Matthew Perry); steel with a guy in Bletchley (Gary Chapman of Twin Engineering); ceramics in Cologne



In the artist's studio 2017

(Niels Dietrich). Our collaboration is very informal but intense, with a lot of discussion about how things can be done. I need to have privacy here; I don't want to feel like the gaffer overseeing their work! They are all extremely competent.

**Does Brockwell Park need more public art, like Dulwich Park?**

I don't think it's necessarily missing public art. Brockwell Park has a very nice walled garden. The house at the top of the hill is underused at the moment and could be made more of. It could be a showing venue. Perhaps they could move the tennis courts. Maybe then a sculpture might be appropriate. People pour in for festivals. It's very Brueghelian when it snows.

**Without wanting to appear rude, does age play a role in how you think or what you do?**

I do think artists should be able to retire. It shouldn't be a negative. I stopped teaching in July 2015, thinking that would give me a lot more time, though that hasn't been the case; in fact I've been busier in the last two years than ever, with four big shows. And I now have a grand-daughter so I am officially old. You have to reshape your ambitions. Of course I'm not as strong as I was; and it does hurt sometimes. The physical weakening is more apparent than the mental weakening. The consequence is that I am doing more drawing. But it would be hard to give up the physical activity entirely and it wouldn't be good for you.

**Link**  
[http:// www.richarddeacon.net](http://www.richarddeacon.net)



Thirty Pieces (2017, detail). Photo Werner Hannappel

# EVELYN DOVE - BRITAIN'S BLACK CABARET QUEEN

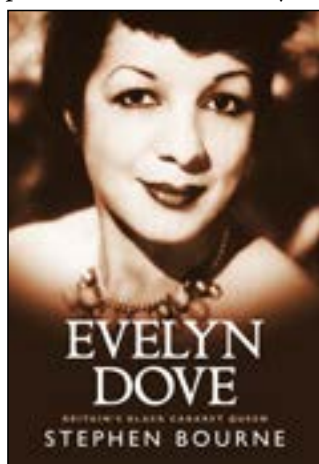
The arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948 is sometimes mistakenly taken to mark the start of the black contribution to Britain's history and society. But people of African origin have come to live and work here for hundreds of years, albeit in small numbers, employed in modest jobs, and often unacknowledged in mainstream history.

At the height of empire, however - in Edwardian times before the First World War - a more significant number of professionally qualified middle-class black families, drawn from the elites of African colonies, put down roots in Britain. But still almost invisible roots. As Jeffrey Green, author of the ground-breaking book *Black Edwardians*, wrote in 1998, "these black doctors, lawyers, businessmen... have disappeared from history".

This invisibility was also the ultimate fate of Evelyn Dove. Born in London in 1902, she was the greatly talented daughter of an ambitious and successful London-trained Sierra Leonean barrister Frans Dove and his English wife Augusta Winchester. An accomplished professional singer with an attractive presence and a fine contralto voice, she was unable to gain entry to the classical music stage because of her colour. Instead, she became a prominent and popular variety theatre, cabaret and broadcast singer. Her career stretched across five decades, from the 1920s to the 1960s. She was the first black female singer on BBC Radio and the first black British female singer to work in America.

But, by the time she died in 1987, her reputation had evaporated. She was almost unknown.

Our October monthly talk, acknowledging this year's Black History Month, brought Evelyn back into the light. Our speaker, Stephen Bourne, is a writer, film and social historian specialising in black heritage and gay culture; his fascinating talk was based on his recent book *Evelyn Dove - Britain's Black Cabaret Queen*: the fruit of meticulous and detailed research into her personal and professional life, enriched by his discovery of unique photos.



Evelyn was educated privately in England until, at the age of 15, she entered the Royal Academy of Music, from where she graduated in 1919 with a Silver Medal for Singing. Her first professional engagements were with the Southern Syncopated Orchestra, a New York orchestra that included many African American musicians who were pioneers in bringing jazz to British audiences: Evelyn joined them when they were on tour in United Kingdom and

gained experience of not just jazz but other black repertoires, like spirituals. In the 1920s she worked with other American-based groups and musicals when they toured Europe and went on to form her own black song and dance act, Evelyn Dove and Her Plantation Creoles.

Later she toured Europe with other black American jazz groups and in the 1930s replaced the celebrated Josephine Baker as the

star attraction on the stage of the Casino de Paris - though her near-nude costume was apparently the cause of a lifelong rift with her prim father. Moves to New York brought more experience of black music and performing before black and white patrons but there, unexpectedly, she encountered a resistance to black British



singers trying to sing black American music, particularly during the heyday of Billie Holiday and Bessie Smith.

Returning to Britain, Evelyn appeared on many musical stages, and this continued throughout the War when she sang regularly on BBC Radio and, in its early days, television. Further work on television and the stage followed during the 1950s, though the few dramatic roles for black actresses were often offered to visiting American celebrities rather than equally competent British performers. In the 1960s saw Evelyn playing roles in the Negro Theatre Workshop. By then in her 60s, she was finding it difficult to get new work. A long period of personal and financial hardship followed. In 1972, suffering from depression, she entered a nursing home in Surrey where she died in 1987.

Only one old friend attended her funeral. But as Stephen Bourne writes, "she was ahead of her time ... facing up to her own personal struggles with determination and defiance. In the end these struggles may have defeated her, but her spirit remains alive".

**Patrick Roberts**

#### Links

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evelyn\\_Dove](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evelyn_Dove)

<http://www.jacarandabooksartmusic.co.uk/book/evelyn-dove-britains-black-cabaret-queen/>

# CLAPHAMIFICATION



**F**or the past seven years, I've lived in Victorian London and now it's time to leave. In 2009, we moved into a small terraced house in Herne Hill, built in around 1880 and modelled along classic London proportions. It had the standard measurements of houses of this era – a front that measured one rod, ie 16 ft 6 in – and is pretty much identical to hundreds of thousands of houses thrown up in this era as London expanded alongside railway lines like Japanese knotweed. Throw out the contemporary fittings – the central heating, white goods, plastic toys – and you have a house that even a Victorian might still recognise.

I loved the house when I moved into it. I mainly loved the coal hole on the front step but I also loved the way that when I visited friends almost anywhere else in London I would immediately feel at home. Their house or flat was invariably built along similar dimensions, with a near-identical floorplan adapted only for the size, from grand five-storey detached dwelling to the more humble two-storey terraced house I occupied.

Humble. That word scarcely seems appropriate or even tasteful given the prices such houses now fetch. My house was one step up from the traditional two-up two-down and

would have been built, I imagine, for the artisan working classes. Now it makes a fine first home for rich young City bankers exiled from Clapham and Fulham, whose first act is to insert white wooden slatted

blinds, paint the front door sage and apply for planning permission to build a side return. The Victorian Londoner would have known his social class simply by the size of the home he inhabited, but it is no longer quite so easy, with the traditionally wealthy forced to occupy somewhat dingy homes originally intended for the poor. Instead the status-conscious London homeowner is forced to mark out his superiority to hangers-on and renters via window furnishing, colour scheme and the size of skip required for the proposed extension.

We've time-travelled now to the 1930s, occupying a house that is almost comic in its determination to differentiate itself from the Victorian houses on the other side of the railway line. You can see that in the bourgeois stained-glass window on the stairs, and the wide hallway but most notably in the garage that is attached to every house on the street. It's an addition that perhaps best distinguish the change from urban to suburban, even if, in 90 per cent of cases, the garage has since been adapted for some other purpose as Londoners in any type of house relentlessly look for a way to tack one more room on to any property they purchase.

I loved my Victorian house. After all, my youngest daughter was born right there in the

front room, much like a Victorian baby might have been. But I was glad to leave, tired of the living room slugs and the damp bathroom – badly adapted from the old rear utility room and outdoor privy – and endless noise from the new neighbours and their builders. We've moved by choice – the area no longer suits us, but even if it did, we couldn't afford to live there. Gentrification is the process that eats us all, and as we had moved in because the previous tenants couldn't afford the rent, we were forced out in part by demographic changes that made us no longer feel entirely at home in a place we'd lived in for so long.

Shortly after our landlord put our house on the market, I was in the front garden when a car pulled up. A man got out and asked me how much the house was selling for. I gave him the answer, and after laughing, he introduced himself as a former occupant. This was the house he had grown up in with his parents and three brothers 40 years before. I showed him round, and as he pointed out old home improvements, old trees he used to climb, he talked about the past, the street back in the 1980s, when the larger homes were multiple occupancy and the neighbourhood was 80 per cent black. And I told him how two doors down, the last black family on the street are preparing to move as Herne Hill's Claphamification continues apace.

**Peter Watts**

*Peter Watts published this piece last year in his fascinating blog about London, greatwen.com. We are grateful to Peter for permission to reproduce it here. Peter is also the author of *Up in Smoke: The Failed Dreams of Battersea Power Station*, published in 2016.*

## From Pillar (Box) to Post (Box)

**N**ow that we have a shiny refreshed and refurbished-station (with just a touch of graffiti, so far, from our dear friends) wouldn't it be nice if the postbox on the façade could actually be used to post letters? But it has been closed up for many years. Of course, there are other postboxes dotted around Herne Hill, but not with the architectural prominence or passing traffic of this one – one of only two, so far as I am aware, with a VR monogram to date it to the reign of Queen Victoria.

We wrote, on 2 October, to Moya Greene, Chief Executive of Royal Mail, to ask if they would consider bringing it back into use. Ms

Greene replied on 19 October that it was out of use “due to concerns raised about its safety and overall condition” and that it was “owned by the railway station”. By Southeastern Railway, perhaps? In my naivety, I had imagined that it would have been the property of Royal Mail, or do I mean the Post Office?

So the owners will need to repair it “before a collection can be arranged from it”. Ms Greene then helpful added that “the nearest postbox is situated in the wall at South London Dance Studios on Herne Hill which is approximately 0.1 miles away”. We have written to Southeastern and await a reply. **Colin Wight**



# FINDING MY HERNE HILL GRANDFATHER

When I was a child my grandfather, Frederick John Rees, worked at Nevill's Bakery behind Acton's high street. One day I was taken to see him in his manager's office. He seemed terribly important in his white coat and holding a clipboard that contained lots of figures on a sheet of paper. My grandfather had previously worked at Nevill's Herne Hill branch and family reminiscences were peppered with references to this intriguing place.

Growing up as I did on the edge of a Surrey town surrounded by flat, Thames-basin countryside, a wooded hill rising in the distance, the mention of Herne Hill in my grandparents' conversation brought forth a bucolic vision of a tree-strewn undulation with steep rhododendron-lined slopes, an ice cream hut somewhere near the bottom for hazy summer days, and topped by a big factory building that churned out mini Hovis loaves like the ones my Mum bought me and my sister at the baker's shop on our way home. Childhood imagination translates what we don't know into what we do know; it was 50 years before my imaginary Herne Hill revealed its true self.

I first acquainted myself with the real Herne Hill around the time I took my mother to the 2011 Spring meeting of St Martin-in-the-Fields Old Girls' Association. My mother was thrilled to be back in the area in which she grew up, telling me that Nevill's Bakery was part of the Milkwood Estate and recalling the morning her father met her on his way home from his night's work as she was walking up Tulse Hill to embark on

evacuation, on Saturday 2 September 1939.

Later, online, I found the Herne Hill Society's book published about the Milkwood Estate and got my Mum a copy. Looking at the photographs she exclaimed excitedly, "Oh look, that's the



street entrance in Milkwood Road where, when I was a child, my mother used to bring me in the mornings to wait outside so we could greet Daddy as he came out and accompany him home."

Around this time the firm I worked for opened an office in Herne Hill and I was sometimes sent to work there. By now I was well aware that London was a somewhat busier place than the imaginings of my childhood, but I had never visited Herne

Hill itself. I marvelled that I was now walking in the footsteps of my grandfather all those years ago as he made his way along Milkwood Road towards the bakery's street entrance.

Following my mother's death in 2014 I found among her papers a letter dated Christmas 1946 written "to hands of Mr Rees" from a prisoner of war who was working under my grandfather's supervision at Nevill's Acton bakery (my grandfather was moved from the Herne Hill to the Acton bakery following the end of the Second World War). He wrote:

"Sirs... Now is Christmas, and in a few days, we will write 1947. Seven month we have been working in this factory, we hope that it was been to this best satisfaction.... We all would like to go home very soon... till then, thanks very much, for the confidence, and for all that, what the firm was doing for us.

"We wish all... to Christmas, happiness, cheerfulness, and the best for the New-Year too."

This letter echoes my grandfather's reminiscences of working with prisoners of war at Nevill's.

I have recently published, under my pen name Alice Graysharp, *The Keeping of Secrets*, a novel inspired by some of my parents' and grandparents' experiences of the Second World War. The central character is a Brixton girl whose father works nights at Nevill's at Herne Hill.

My novel has itself spawned a new journey for me – that of putting together the facts of my grandfather's life and his connection with Nevill's bakery. I look forward to sharing this journey at the Society's December meeting in my presentation "In Search of a Baker's Story".

**Rowena Tompkins (Alice Graysharp)**

## Nora's Postcard



In this postcard postmarked 14 October 1937 a car turns into a tranquil Half Moon Lane from Beckwith/Elmwood Roads. Behind the trees one can just make out the Methodist Church, badly damaged in the last war and subsequently demolished; on the left, delivery bicycles for "C.Sellar". Imposing brick piers led to 149 Half Moon Lane, a large Edwardian house that suffered the same fate as the church. The house was originally the home of Walter George Tucker, whose father Augustus Quackenbush Tucker had a successful business in patent medicines and lived a few doors down the road at "Onaway". The two houses may have been built as a matching pair. The postcard was written from the actual house with the imposing entrance by one "Nora". It was now a private school known as Glenshee House, and Nora seems to have been a pupil, since she proudly reports reaching 90 words per minute in shorthand.



# FINNISH FANTASY AND FAMILY



What an enchanting exhibition this is! For those of us who know her as a short-story writer or cartoonist/illustrator, Tove Jansson (1914-2001) at Dulwich Picture Gallery, will come as a delightful surprise.

From the first pictures on display, “Sleeping in the Roots” and four other equally charming gouache works from the 1930s, we are in a magical world, further explored in the oil painting “Mysterious Landscape”. More realistically, her “Blue Hyacinth” on a seaside window ledge was perhaps inspired by a Matisse work, “Flowers in Front of a Window”; while a portrait of bare-breasted “Maya” is rather reminiscent of Gauguin.

There is a series of self-portraits made at various stages of her life: sitting self-assured on a table, confidently standing with hands on hips, framed as in a mirror within a room, smoking, wearing a lynx boa and a final, uncompromising view in her 60s. Her 1942 “Family” has a disconnected air, her parents in their artist smocks, her brothers at a chessboard, one in uniform, while she stands at centre wearing black.

A display case of covers for the satirical *Garm* magazine illustrate her clarity of line and incisive humour. One depicts a childish Hitler stamping his foot, demanding more cake.

Jansson’s paintings range from still life and garden views to narrative scenes and bold, abstract depictions of the sea and rocks. A recurring motif is a figure standing by a window or French doors looking out.

As an illustrator Jansson achieved well-deserved fame; the 25 examples here include telling scenes from Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, The Hunting of the Snark and The Hobbit with animal studies and sketches indicating how the works developed.

The Moomin stories are Jansson’s best-known creations; their adventures embracing fear and bravery, threats to overcome in the cold wilderness contrasted with the safety and warmth of home. Characters drawn from her family, friends and lovers form a wonderful imaginary family, delighting readers around the world. A display case contains 13 Moomin dolls, popular and highly collectable since the 1950s. We are also treated to sketches for comic strips, experimenting with different colours, plus recently discovered finished strips as published in the *London Evening News/Evening Standard*.

Jansson also designed stage sets and posters. One design includes cartoon versions of herself with actress and director Vivica Bandler, her first female lover; this was many years before same-sex relationships were legalised in Finland in 1972. For the last 36 years of her life, Jansson’s partner was Tuulikki Pietilä (Tooti), portrayed leaning over her work in the studio in “The Graphic Artist”.

Many of the works on display have never been seen in the UK before. The gallery has added to the fun by painting the walls bright colours, green here, pink there, with the occasional Moomin decal. Visiting this smile-inducing exhibition on a dull winter day is a sure way to lift your spirits.



On another happy note, if you are wondering what happened to the Dulwich Pavilion, which graced the Gallery’s front garden for several months, it has been dismantled and stored for future reassembly at Goose Green Primary School. **Jeffrey Doorn**

**Tove Jansson (1914-2001), which opened 2 October, continues until 28 January**

Open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 10am-5pm. Entry: £15.50 (including voluntary Gift Aid donation); seniors £14.50; students, unemployed, disabled £7; children and Friends free.

# Transport

**T**rain services through Herne Hill got generally better in the summer.

After the dreadful winter, with driver shortages, unreliable new trains, and restrictions at London Bridge Station, the Thameslink services have improved over the summer – with the operator’s performance improving to its highest ever (but still below the original contractual target) and now much nearer (but still below) the national average. The operator Govia made a good effort to cope with the knock-on effects and extra passengers resulting from the major track works outside London Bridge over the last week in August. While there are still troubles slotting trains in at Blackfriars, at least the new trains are more comfortable.

Southeastern, too, has improved overall, with performance markedly better than a year ago, and now above the national average. As it happens, the franchise here is up for renewal in 2018, with the incumbent operator (owned by Abellio) one of the three remaining shortlisted bidders. The other two bidders are Govia (responsible for Thameslink, and for the recent dreadful performance of Southern services through North Dulwich) and Stagecoach (currently struggling to cope following the acceptance of their unrealistically low bid for the East Coast Mainline services): not a strong field. The fourth shortlisted bidder, Trenitalia (from, you guessed it...) has dropped out. A pretty sorry, very short, shortlist.

## **More train service restrictions at Christmas...**

Work continues to complete the Thameslink improvements, and there will be no through trains between Blackfriars and St Pancras

between Saturday 23 December and Monday 1 January 2018. Victoria services will be particularly busy 27 - 29 December due to restrictions elsewhere.

This should, however, bring to an end the major rail and station improvement works between South Bermondsey through to north of St Pancras, and herald a new era of efficient services.

## **Sometime in 2018...**

Next year’s improvements should include full implementation of the new signalling system to allow some 24 trains per hour each way between Blackfriars and St Pancras should happen early in 2018 – following the major battle a few years ago, these trains will include the Wimbledon Thameslink trains serving Herne Hill. There will also be some trains using the new link towards Peterborough and Cambridge direct from the Thameslink platforms at St Pancras. At time of writing the January 2018 timetable has yet to be published.

The major works on construction the new rail line between Paddington and Liverpool Street – Crossrail, now to be known as the Elizabeth Line – are continuing, with most of the work at the major interchange at Farringdon almost finished. The start of service is still planned for 2018, but may slip into 2019. This will allow Herne Hill train passengers direct access to the new services operating between Reading and Heathrow in the west, and Abbey Wood and Shenfield to the east.

As mentioned earlier, the South Eastern franchise including the Herne Hill to Victoria services (and the station staff at Herne Hill) runs out next year. The bidding process is planned to involve bids and award in mid 2018, with a “new” operator providing “new” services in December 2018.

**Bil Harrison**

## The History of Your House

**A**lan Piper from the Brixton Society gave a talk to our September meeting on the history of house building in Herne Hill. The talk was very well attended by an audience clearly keen to explore the history of their own properties. Alan provided a list of useful sources when undertaking your own research. (See below.)

The talk was illustrated by old maps and photographs of houses in the area. From the 18th century on there are references to the Manor of Lambeth, which encompassed a number of large open spaces, for example Rush Common in Brixton and the woods of West Norwood. A map of 1810 shows that Herne Hill was still mainly rural, although the slow spread of main roads begins around this time. Vauxhall Bridge opened in 1816, and with the river development came new roads eg Camberwell New Road. The area was characterised by a number of grand houses which sat in large grounds - for example,

Brockwell Hall.

Gradually built-up areas spread southwards particularly influenced by the development of the railways and subsequently the building of garden suburbs. Herne Hill was significant in the railway network because of two separate lines, one to Victoria and the other to Blackfriars. Not much change really!

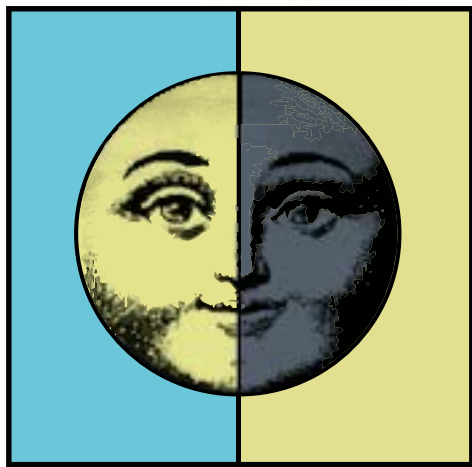
We were fascinated to see photographs of how housing developed over the years from 1800 to the present day. From the last part of the 19th century until the First World War, a number of shops were built with dwellings above. Properties built in the interwar years of the 1920s to ‘30s abound in the area – for example the Casino Estate built in 1922. There are beautiful examples of Arts and Crafts design – with tiles and gables. After the Second World War there was intensive rebuilding, as well as larger houses being converted to flats. In the 1960s there was a drive for high-density Council Housing. Blocks of flats were

built at this time in both Southwark and Lambeth.

Alan said that the archives in both Lambeth and Southwark are very good, although not entirely comprehensive. He mentioned the Survey of London of 1956, which is available online, as a good source of information. Dulwich College Archives have excellent records – open to the public on one day a week. **Val Suebsaeng**

## **Sources for House History Research**

- Local History books (including Heritage Trails)
- Old Maps (preferably over a range of dates)
- Title Deeds and other property records (e.g. Manors/ estates)
- Street Directories (residents to 1920s, businesses to c.1950, Southwark esp.)
- Census Records (to 1911)
- Voters’ Lists (limited franchise before 1918)
- Drainage Records (Lambeth 1854–1984, but not Southwark)
- Town Planning records (post-1947)
- Road naming, re-naming or re-numbering (Borough archives or LMA)
- Booth’s Social Surveys (1889, 1899)
- Later surveys or area studies (e.g. Inner Area Studies c.1977)



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