

HERNE HILL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY • ISSUE 142 • Summer • 2018 • £2.50

Solar Investment



► *See page 5*

PROTECTING HERNE HILL VILLAGE

► *Turn to page 7*

NEWS
AND
FEATURES

PRESIDENT BILL -
HAMLET FAN

► *See page 3*

TUNNEL VISION

► *See page 14*

WHAT IS A BATH FACTORY?

► *Turn to page 12*



The Magazine of the Herne Hill Society



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CONTENTS

Champion performance	3
Artwork for Half Moon Lane	4
TimeBanking reaches Herne Hill	4
Herne Hill welcomes refugees – an update	4
Sun powers success of local energy group	5
Carnegie Library update	6
Obituary – Toby Eckersley	6
Personal data held by the Society	7
Is flower power enough?	7
Diary of events	9
Local election results	9
Obituary – Tessa Jowell	10
Book review – Shallow literary lido	10
Planning and Licensing	11
Marathon man	11
Field Day – the aftermath	11
What is a Bath Factory?	12
Tunnel vision – continued	14
Hanami in Herne Hill	15
The Crystal Palace Subway	15
The Commercial	16
From the Morning Chronicle 1829	16
The enchanting skill of Edward Bawden	17
... and we apologise for any inconvenience	18
Bees can't eat kind words	18

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CHAMPION PERFORMANCE

but Club locked out

They finally made it. After several years of falling just short of the line, Dulwich Hamlet won their play-off final against Hendon on 7 May 2018 on penalties. Next season they will play in the National League South (the sixth tier of English football) – the highest level the club has reached for nearly 70 years.

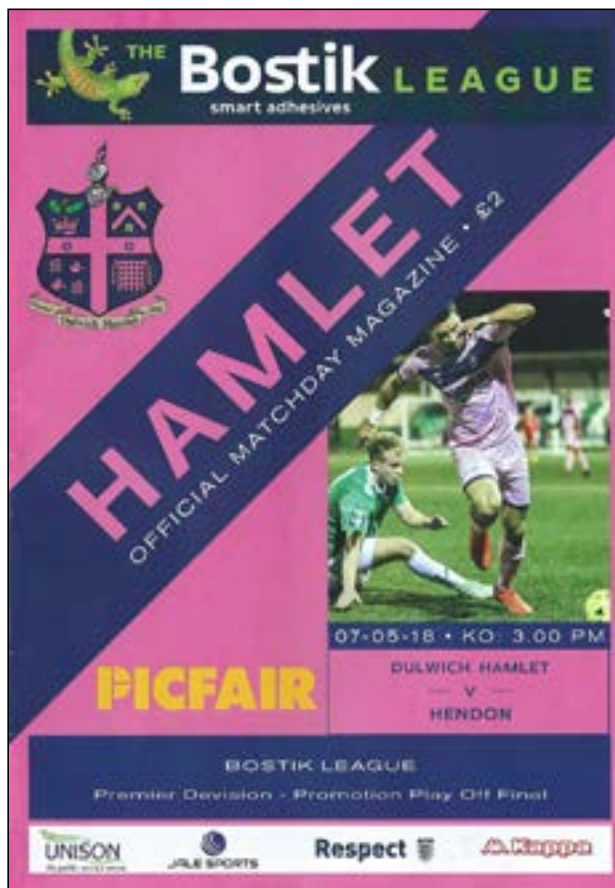
In the crowd of over 3,000, on a roasting hot Bank Holiday Monday, was the Society's President, Bill Kirby: at 97 their oldest supporter, and most loyal, having first gone to see them play in 1932. Bill reckons he must have seen 80% of The Hamlet's games since the war, home and away, which – at an average of 40 matches a year – adds to up six months of continuous football! That is what we call commitment.

Bill attended Goodrich Primary, which was very football-oriented, and from the age of 10 used to watch Millwall at the Den. A couple of years later he started to go with a cousin to Dulwich on Saturdays when Millwall were away. Amateur football attracted huge crowds in those days. Champion Hill regularly hosted 10,000 spectators. In 1937, when The Hamlet beat Leyton to win the FA Amateur Cup at Upton Park, there were 33,000 to see it. The team used to go to the Crown and Greyhound after each game, and on this happy occasion the players brought the cup with them. It was duly filled with booze, and an underage Bill was one of many to take a good swig from it. He's not sure exactly what it contained, although beer and whisky were part of the recipe.

Things changed after the war. The crowds diminished, and even smaller clubs, including Dulwich, started to pay their players. After Bill married Irene, the two of them would travel all over the south of England to support their team. Even for clubs like Dulwich, there were special trains at very affordable prices.

Now The Hamlet is on the up. Whereas 10 years ago they were lucky to get 300, the average gate last season was a healthy 1,500. The players mix with the "Rabble" (as the fans call themselves) more than they used to, and there is a genuine community spirit. But there is a problem.

When Dulwich Hamlet won that crucial game, the "home" fixture was played at Tooting and Mitcham United. As a result of a



planning dispute between Southwark Council and Meadow Partners, the owners of the Champion Hill ground since 2014, the football club has been effectively locked out of its historic home. This situation is by no means unique; as it happens, Hendon FC is another club which has lost its ground.

Helen Hayes MP raised the plight of Dulwich Hamlet Football Club in a well-received speech at the House of Commons on Friday 16 March (see Hansard vol. 637, no. 112), pleading for better protection for football grounds and asking how it was possible for a developer to register a club's name as a trademark and then forbid them to use it! Replying, Tracey Crouch, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage (a former Herne Hill resident)

said she looked to Southwark and Meadow to reach an agreement that would safeguard the Club for many years to come.

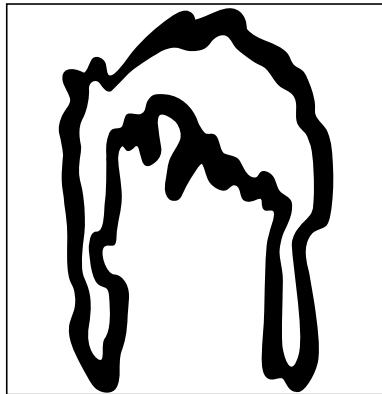
Bill fervently hopes to see the impasse resolved so that next season he can see his club, formed 125 years ago at a meeting at Dulwich Hamlet school, back in its rightful home.

Colin Wight



Bill Kirby, Herne Hill Society President, with fellow Hamlet supporter Sadiq Khan

Artwork for Half Moon Lane



Following extensive flooding in a key retail area of in 2013, footfall to the area has declined, leading to a challenging trading environment for local retailers.

In August 2017 artist Caroline McCarthy was commissioned through Contemporary Art Society Consultancy to develop a landmark artwork with the aim of creating an exciting focal point for the high street which will encourage footfall back to the area. Through close collaboration with the flood-affected traders and business owners, the project aims to bring a meaningful rethinking of place and local identity through the creative lens of contemporary art.

The artwork is due to be installed in Autumn 2018 and will take the form of a series of wall-mounted steel drawings installed between Herne Hill Station and Half Moon Lane. From Flying Boots to Bono's Bad Haircut (see illustration), the drawings are inspired by local stories, anecdotes and historical facts, woven here into a collective narrative which reflects the steely spirit and determination of our community.

For more info please visit www.halfmoonproject.info

Time Banking



reaches Herne Hill

Fancy spending an hour or two helping out someone in the Herne Hill area, and getting help in return with no money exchanged? If so, time banking could be for you. The good news is that a new hub has recently opened in Herne Hill.

Time banking is growing nationally. As well as giving and receiving help, other benefits include making more friends locally, learning new skills and attending organised group social events. There are also weekly free days out to places such as Kew Gardens, the British Museum, the Dulwich Picture Gallery and many other London attractions. All you have to pay for is your travel.

Time bank member Mary Salmon who lives in Herne Hill says: "I signed up at a time when I was socially isolated due to having two young children, and it has been wonderful for me. I get regular help with gardening and babysitting and went on two free courses run by Morley College. I've also made new friends and now know many more of my neighbours. It's a great community of people."

As well as inviting individuals to join, time bank also works with groups and organisations that can get free tailored support. Free training is also available to help use the time bank model, as well as practical support in setting it up.

Mary Salmon

If you are interested in joining, contact **Funmi**, your local time bank broker on **07789 70577**

or email T4Lbroker@pgtimebank.org

For more information on time banking, visit

www.pgtimebank.org or <http://www.timebanking.org>.



Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees Project moves forward

Harriet Lamb, one of the architects of this initiative, writes:

Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees continues to be blown away by people's enthusiastic responses from Arabic speakers teachers to gardeners to Free-cycle fanatics! Critically, a property owner has come forward ready – and indeed excited – to rent their home so a Syrian family can join our community. So now the application form will be making its way through the official Home Office process. The

group hopes that a family can come to Herne Hill by October. Want to get involved? follow us on

Twitter: @HHWR_ or get in touch at hhwelcomesrefugees@gmail.com

The Herne Hill Society hopes to invite the group to address one of our monthly meetings.

Sun Powers Success of Local Energy Group

Let's admit it: South-East London is a great place to live but is not the sunniest area of Britain. Can we agree on that? But even here, solar power is beginning to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and the consequent atmospheric pollution, including CO₂, a major contributor to Climate Change. Solar panel systems, also known as photovoltaics (PV), capture the sun's energy using PV cells that convert it into electricity. Here's a minor blessing: these cells don't need direct sunlight to work – fortunately for us, they can still generate some electricity on a cloudy day.

Then, if you can generate electricity from solar panels installed on your roof, you will receive payments (called a “feed-in tariff”) from the energy you generate, even if you use it. The payments are guaranteed for the period of the tariff (up to 20 years) and are index-linked. And there's a bonus: if you don't need all the power you generate for your own purposes, you can sell your spare units back to the grid at an agreed rate (technically the “export tariff”). There are official subsidies for all this, although less bountiful (many think) than they should be, compared with the incredible sums invested in nuclear energy.

Obviously the scheme delivers savings on electricity bills, because getting paid to generate power on your roof, and selling the surplus back to the grid, means you don't have to buy as much electricity from your energy supplier.

So why isn't everyone doing it?

That's largely because the upfront costs can be daunting. They include technical surveys (which direction does the roof face? Is it strong enough to take the weight of the panels? How energy efficient is the building?), and then the purchase and installation of the solar panels and associated equipment. These factors mean that the investment only delivers a meaningful payback where electricity consumption is relatively high and where

the roof area is extensive and accessible enough to justify the investment, and only then after many years. For most domestic consumers on tight budgets the arithmetic – at this stage – doesn't really work.

However, this is where a small group of local people is taking the lead and making things happen. Is there no limit to the energy, generosity and creativity of our residents?



Solar panels on roofs of Dulwich College

SE24 (Sustainable Energy 24 — get it?) is a community group with members all from professional backgrounds and largely volunteer-led, based in and around Herne Hill. They encourage and develop locally-owned renewable energy projects, so that we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and the “Big-6” energy suppliers. In pursuing this vision, they also aim to support local jobs in the solar field and to raise awareness about the benefits of solar energy. Any surplus funds will be ploughed back into the local community, particularly through action to tackle energy poverty. It is one of some 200 similar groups in the UK, of which roughly 20 are in London.

They look to engage with partners and premises that have large, robust roofs suitable for cost-effective solar installations. Suitable partners include schools, churches, industrial units, businesses and social housing. The normal payback time is 20 years, and for this period SE24 negotiates a lease of the roof surface which supports the solar panels.

This pioneering work is made possible by the support of enlightened local investors who are willing to pool resources over the

long term and for modest returns, so that projects can be completed even where the prospective partner might struggle to meet the upfront costs.

So far, the group has partnered two churches in Herne Hill for its first (but relatively small) projects and - on a much larger scale - has commissioned major solar energy installations at Dulwich College and St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham,

both of which will soon be generating solar energy.

These two significant new installations were made possible by the astonishing success of SE24's most recent 2017 share offer, which resulted in 42 individual backers pledging over £200,000 of investment. This marked a great step forward for SE24, increasing their generating capacity ten-fold, and making a significant contribution to CO₂ reduction in South

London. It will also, of course, provide energy savings for those institutions and lay the foundation for creating a Community Fund to tackle fuel poverty in the area.

A recent grant funding from the London Community Energy Fund will be used to fund a feasibility study on their next solar project just down the road at Walworth Methodist Church.

SE24 is a legal entity called a Community Benefit Society and is registered with and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The Chair is Alan Jones, a long-term resident of Herne Hill and retired chartered surveyor who worked in the public sector. He says “I strongly believe in the contribution renewable energy can make towards a more sustainable and just society now and for future generations”. Details of the SE24 project can be found at www.se24.co.uk. They are always looking for new potential partners.

As we go to the press, SE24 are hoping to issue another share offer over the summer so they can undertake another three projects (possibly). To find out more, email: lambpercy@hotmail.com

Pat Roberts



an update

Frances Lamb has provided the following update about the work of the Carnegie Community Trust.

The Trustees have met several times with Lambeth since the library reopened in February. Phase 2 of the works (fitting out) is due to commence in June.

Until the works are more advanced only one room is safe to occupy, and that is the main room where the library is currently housed. The two large front rooms are drying out after roof repairs and re-plastering.

We are discussing with Lambeth the terms of a draft Licence to Occupy, which will be a halfway-house to the final Lease. This allows for early access, to “test the water” on aspects of using the building, without the financial burden of being a leaseholder. We hope to be able soon to meet in the building with anyone interested in sharing ideas and moving forward.

A Project Board, including GLL, will meet monthly from June. We are still looking for more Trustees and supporters to come on board. If you are interested please email

getinvolved@carnegiehernehill.org.uk or frances.lamb@btinternet.com

A different assessment regarding future plans for the Library is given in the open letter of 28 March sent to the Chair of the House of Commons Select Committee for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The letter was written by Fred Taggart and Carol Boucher, respectively Chair and Honorary Secretary of the Carnegie Community Trust (CCT) until their resignation at the end of last year. They say that Lambeth has reneged on their offer of “a transfer of the whole building – as originally agreed in 2012 and in line with their Community Hubs policy – and are now offering part of the building and excluding the revenue-generating areas to be occupied by Greenwich Leisure”, thus subverting the CCT business plan. They go on to say “the inept and technically incompetent political leadership of Lambeth Council has thoroughly enraged the community, potentially costing the Council Taxpayer up to £2.5million facilitating works for GLL, while the Council will retain responsibility for capital works to the building and secure no income from it ... We consider this situation to be a travesty of local democracy.”

The full letter can be found at

http://www.hernehillssociety.org.uk/hhs_pdfs/carnegie_letter_select_committee.pdf



Toby Eckersley

We heard the news that Toby Eckersley, who was standing as a Conservative candidate for London Bridge and West Bermondsey ward, had died suddenly just a few days before the elections at the age of 76.

Toby won a Southwark Council by-election in 1977 for Ruskin ward, and soon became Leader of the Conservative Group. In 1990, after a four-year break, he returned and served for Ruskin (later, Village) ward until his retirement in 2014. It was his own fight against the powers that be in Southwark that drew him into local politics. In the early 1970s his Victorian terraced house was scheduled for demolition, as part of the Braganza Street Slum Clearance Area in Kennington. It was the era when local authorities

favoured razing whole areas to the ground and replacing them with a brave new world of huge new estates, even when restoration of the old housing would have made much better economic sense. Toby led a group of residents that fought all the way to the Court of Appeal, where they won and established an important precedent that in compulsory purchase orders the cost of restoration against the cost of redevelopment was a relevant factor. The experience gave Toby a sympathy for those facing inflexible local officials. In

recent times he had taken up the cause of Aylesbury Estate leaseholders, who had acquired their flats under Right to Buy – a policy he strongly supported – and who he felt were getting a raw deal when threatened with compulsory purchase orders.

Toby Eckersley was an Alderman of Southwark, a founding governor of the Charter School and an elder statesman to whom councillors from all political parties, as well as local residents, would look to for advice. He will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL DATA HELD BY THE SOCIETY

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force on 25 May. The Herne Hill Society has reviewed our privacy policy and how we handle the data we hold. We do have a right to process members' personal data as, by taking out membership, a contract has been entered into between the Society and its members. The Society holds very little data and it is only used to fulfil its obligations to members, e.g. delivering the *Herne Hill* magazine four times a year, monthly e-Newsletter etc. The privacy policy is reproduced below.

The data provided by members will be retained by The Herne Hill Society ("the Society") in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection

Regulations and prior legislation. A dataset is kept by the Society which covers each member's title, name and address, and email address and telephone number if provided, together with the method of payment of subscriptions, to enable the Society to meet its obligations to its members, including communicating with them. The dataset is held by the Membership Secretary of the Society (with a monthly back-up held by the Chair) and is not shared with anyone else. The data will not be made available to anyone not directly connected with the Society and will not be sold on.

We take reasonable precautions to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of information provided to us by members.



If any member would like to access, correct or update any information or would like information deleted from our records, please contact Val Suebsaeng at membership@hernehillsociety.org.uk

Is Flower Power enough to protect the Herne Hill village?

Over the past two years and more we have been reporting on the shops in Station Square and their refurbishment by Network Rail. Colourful shopfronts have recently appeared. Could we dare hope that some shops to put behind them would soon be appearing? Then a shock announcement last month. Network Rail discovered that the power supply for the shops was insufficient; they would need to install a new sub-station to service them. The site they chose was one they own next to the station: in fact, the Flower Lady, a well-established business run by Elaine Partleton. There was a swift and vociferous outcry against the idea of losing a popular shop – there has been a shop in this location for around 100 years – and getting a sub-station in its place. In no time at all a petition was raised with more than 1700 signatures. The twittersphere was buzzing. And almost as quickly Network Rail announced that they had found an alternative site. The flower shop would stay.

The centre of Herne Hill has seen huge improvements in recent years – indeed Network Rail's refurbishment of their shops will be adding further to the regeneration. The prospect of losing an important element in the diverse community of businesses that go to make up that centre highlighted an important question. What protection is there for the heart of Herne Hill? What is there to stop inappropriate development? The station is a listed building, but nothing around it is. There may be no other individual buildings near the station of outstanding architectural merit, but taken together as a group there is, alongside many individual

differences in style and age, a strong feeling of cohesion and harmony of scale. The building group combines to give Herne Hill a village centre and an attractive gateway to Brockwell Park.

So the Society is pushing for the creation of a Conservation Area to include Station Square. We have now made a formal approach to Lambeth through Becca Thackray, one of the newly-elected Herne Hill ward councillors, who supports the initiative. We understand that last year Lambeth in fact included Station Square in a draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal, as part of the Brockwell Park Conservation Area. Unless fast-tracked, there has to be consultation on such proposals, boundaries have to be agreed and the process can be quite lengthy. We will continue to urge Lambeth to promote the proposal and will report on developments.



Laurence Marsh

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DIARY OF EVENTS

Summer/Autumn 2018

For more information please check
www.hernehillsociety.org.uk_meeting

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

Wed 12 September, 7:45pm

“Respectable Tenants Wanted: Early days of the Rosendale Road Estate”

by Bob Reeves

In 1902 the Peabody Estate in Rosendale Road opened to its first tenants. Built away from smoky central London, near Brockwell Park, it was a pioneering venture in social housing. But who got to be a tenant? And who got to keep their tenancy? Bob Reeves explores the view that the project was primarily for “respectable” working-class tenants.

Wed 10 October, 7:45pm

“The Architecture of the London Underground since 1850”

by Edmund Bird

Transport for London’s Heritage Advisor will give a richly illustrated talk on the architectural history of the tube network appraising the diversity of Victorian, Edwardian and 20th-century station styles employed by architects and engineers from the steam age through to

the classic ox-blood designs of the 1900s and the monumental inter-war stations by Charles Holden, right up to the futuristic interchanges of the Jubilee line extension.

Wed 14 November, 7:45pm

“William and Margaret Huggins, Astronomers”

by Louise Devoy

William and Margaret Huggins had their own observatory in Tulse Hill during the 1860s. Louise Devoy is the Curator of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

Local History Walks

Robert Holden leads three walks based on our book *Herne Hill Heritage Trail* to coincide with Lambeth’s Heritage Festival in September. Walks last up to two hours.

Sunday 2 September, 2:30pm

All Saints Church, Lovelace Road entrance

Sunday 9 September, 2:30pm

Herne Hill Velodrome, Burbage Road entrance

Saturday 15 September, 2:30pm

Herne Hill Station

Local Election results bring changes around Herne Hill

Southwark

Dulwich Village Ward

Cllr Richard Leeming (Labour)
 Cllr Margy Newens (Labour)

Lambeth

Thurlow Park Ward

Cllr Anna Birley (Labour)
 Cllr Fred Cowell (Labour)
 Cllr Peter Ely (Labour)

Herne Hill Ward

Cllr Jim Dickson (Labour)
 Cllr Pauline George (Labour)
 Cllr Becca Thackray (Green)

Herne Hill ward was a fight between Labour and Greens and saw the Green share of the vote increase by 13% while the Labour share dropped by 6%. The candidate with the highest number of votes was Becca Thackray for the Green Party. Thurlow Park was a fight between Labour and Conservative. The Labour share increased by 5% and the Conservative share decreased by the same amount. In Dulwich Village ward there were boundary changes and the number of councillors reduced from three to two. Jane Lyons and Michael Mitchell, elected for the Conservatives in 2014, both lost their seats.

Tessa Jowell

We are sad to record the death of Tessa Jowell at the age of 70. Tessa was elected as the Labour Member of Parliament for Dulwich in 1992. Boundary changes saw the creation of the new constituency of Dulwich and West Norwood in 1997 and she was successfully re-elected in the next four general elections. Tessa was born in London but grew up in Aberdeen. After attending university there and in Edinburgh she moved to London, working in Lambeth as a childcare officer and for a time at the Maudsley Hospital as a psychiatric social worker. She became a director of the mental health charity MIND and worked for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Before entering Parliament she was also active in local politics as a councillor in Camden. Following the 2001 election Tessa became Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Her greatest achievement on the national stage was seeing through, with formidable tenacity,

the London Olympics from the germ of an idea to their triumphant realisation in 2012.

Here, Giles Gibson remembers Tessa as local MP and supporter of Herne Hill causes.

Tessa Jowell was that rare politician, someone who put people first, party politics a distant second. I had the privilege of working with her on various local issues in and around Herne Hill over the years. She didn't hesitate to turn up on a cold and dank morning to stand outside the waste-transfer plant in Shakespeare Road, along with a handful of residents and a placard or two to help us protest against the planning permission application to convert the site into a major waste-processing plant that would dramatically change the area.

Tessa was never pre-occupied with what party you were from, if any, just that the issue was worth fighting for, or needed sorting out. If she said that she would do something, then she did. She was



instrumental in the early stages helping Herne Hill recover from the Thames Water flood of 2013, getting all the parties round the table and quietly banging heads together to get people just to do the right thing. Her ability to bring people together from all different areas and quietly but firmly lead them to focus on what is important was a rare gift in these days of tribal politics. Herne Hill benefitted a great deal from her efforts and is a better place to live as a result.

A Shallow Literary Lido

I have to confess to being prejudiced against this much-hyped debut novel. In fact I avoided reading it until a neighbour gave me a copy in exchange for Peter Bradley's wonderful book about the history of Brockwell Lido, *Out of the Blue*.

I should explain. *The Lido* is a work of fiction. However, the lido it refers to is our own very real Lido, and this creates a kind of dissonance. The theme of the book is the redemptive saving of Brockwell Lido, which is threatened with closure. Kate, a 26-year-old reporter, joins forces with 86-year-old widow Rosemary after the council announces plans to transform it into a gym.

As one of the many passionate Lido users who worked from 2001 until 2007 to ensure its survival, this feels uncomfortable. I would probably have been mollified if Libby Page had written an acknowledgment to the real saviours.

Anyway, to move on... I am trying to be fair to Ms Page. However, I could recommend her novel only as a very light read, a holiday read. It is beset with cliché, chick-lit romance, bad sex — and a lot of it is simply boring. Stylistically, Ms Page uses a lot of simile and capital letters for Important Things. Eye colour is

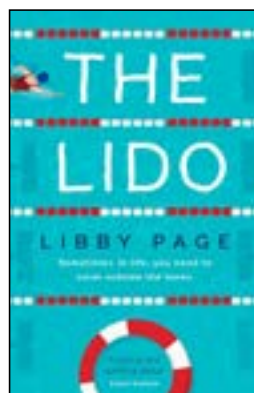
frequently mentioned.

The author shows a sound knowledge of Brixton but a much weaker knowledge of Brockwell Lido. If you are going to write about a real place, it is a good idea to do your research and get the facts right. Brockwell Lido does not have a cover. It has easy walk-in steps that would suit Rosemary much better than ladders. There are no cubicles or lockers in the changing rooms. It does not smell of chlorine, unlike indoor pools. This is irritating to those who know the Lido well, but of no consequence to the general reader.

Ironically, Brockwell Lido — in the novel — is ultimately saved by persuading a major advertiser to pay an unidentified amount of money for painting their brand on the bottom of the pool. (Funny that Evian didn't contribute that level of finance when Paddy and Casey were running it.)

I am sure many readers will enjoy this book but it is not up to the standard expected by the local reading groups I am familiar with.

Yvonne Levy



The Lido by Libby Page is published by Orion, 2018, £12.99

PLANNING & LICENSING

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

6 Fawnbrake Avenue, Lambeth 18/00024/FULREF

We informed Lambeth that we supported their decision to refuse permission for alterations which included an inappropriate triple basement window in the front elevation. The owner appealed the decision and we asked Lambeth to make our view known to the planning inspector.

14 Elfindale Road

Our attention was drawn by a local resident to a substantial "outrigger" loft conversion carried out without planning permission, but which Southwark said, after construction was complete, came within permitted development. We lodged an official complaint to Southwark, saying their decision was not based on a proper interpretation of the legislation. Southwark continued to seek to justify their decision and rejected our complaint. We consider Southwark to be wrong and their decision to be based on expedience rather than a correct interpretation of the law.

11 Wingmore Road, Lambeth 17/05598/FUL

Wingmore Road is unusual for retaining throughout the street its original "London" or "butterfly" roofs, i.e. gently pitched roofs concealed by a parapet. We objected to an application to introduce the first mansard and dormer roof extension in the street, causing the loss of its original historic form and character, something that is becoming increasingly rare due to the popularity of such extensions. Lambeth has permitted the development.

194-198 Railton Road, Lambeth 17/06222/FUL

We supported an application for the enlargement of this building by the addition of two storeys. The project has Lottery funding and from the Mayor and will encourage arts-based employment and skills in BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee) communities. We felt the design, by Brixton-based architects Carver Haggard was of high quality and appropriate for the location.

Higgs Estate, Herne Hill Road

Members of the planning group met representatives of the Peabody Housing Association, who have taken over the development of this site, following the demise of the earlier developer. We expressed concerns about quality of the public realm, where the access road entered the site and use of materials. We also raised concerns about the proposed two floors of commercial space, the quality of the architecture and the impact of the 15-storey block. A formal application is now awaited.

Park's Edge, 49-51 Norwood Road, Southwark 18/AP/0384

We objected to a proposal to site a BT "Inlink" unit 3.9m tall on the pavement outside Park's Edge restaurant in Norwood Road. We said the installation contravened Southwark's own policies and damaged views to and from Brockwell Park, a conservation area. Southwark have given permission. **Laurence Marsh**

MARATHON MAN

Dan Townsend is the Society's newest Committee member. He is Head of History at the Charter School and an expert on the First World War.

It was not a particularly easy year to run your first London Marathon. I have lost count of the miserable runs through snow and sleet since my training programme began in earnest on New Year's Day. Gradually I clocked up the runs: up to the Thames and back, loops of Brockwell Park and Dulwich Park, Thursday night laps of the Crystal Palace track. Over 350 miles in four months. Then disaster... an injury just three weeks before the Marathon meant I had to stop running. Luckily I had Tom at Lifestyle Therapies on Norwood Road to work his magic and on 22 April I was good to go.

The one thing I couldn't have trained for was the heat. It was sweltering. Before the start, runners were bunched under whatever shade they could find. Once we got going, it quickly became clear there were going to be no easy miles, which made it very different from a training run. By Tower Bridge, the half-way mark, my legs began to feel they felt like with concrete. It was difficult to compute. In further than problems. achieving slipping away got slower. brilliant and what seemed Embankment heavy. By 21 miles they had been filled. During the race it to comprehend and training I had run this without any. Any chance of my target time was as the mile times. But the crowds were kept me going. After an age I reached and the end was in sight. When I finally crossed the line on the Mall the overwhelming feeling was of relief.

My final time was 4 hours and 6 minutes: at least 15 minutes over what I was hoping for. However I did manage to raise £2,000 for Barnardo's, which made the whole run worthwhile. If you would like to donate to the fund you can find the link at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dan-townsend4



FIELD DAY – THE AFTERMATH



In its original meaning (first recorded in 1492) "aftermath" referred to a grass crop that grows after the first harvest. So will the grass of Brockwell Park be recovering? How do local residents feel about a "second harvest" next year? At this point it is still too early to assess the impact of the controversial use of the park by many thousands members of the paying public over a 3-day period and the effects on the park during the weeks on either side of the event itself. We want to return to the question in our next issue. For that we need feedback – please let us know your views.

WHAT IS A



Yes, Herne Hill gives off a villagey vibe – the shops, pubs, coffee bars and restaurants, the parks of course and a human-scale railway station with friendly staff. And the Sunday Market, if that’s your sort of thing. All in all, most of the ingredients for a civilised life within an increasingly hectic and stressful global city.



The pretty corner ...

But there is an unseen and undiscovered world here, too. It’s called the Bath Factory Estate. Unseen by most of us, it buzzes with crowded life. It labours behind the row of shops on Norwood Road. Its habitat is the hive of the 19th-century brick railway arches running between Half Moon Lane and Croxted Road. And it is a world of surprises. In no particular order, let us begin to explore just a little of this unfamiliar and – let’s admit it, messy – ecosphere.

But was it ever a Bath Factory? Or even a Factory? Kindly read on.

If you want to run a business or make things, but don’t require a shop for your customers to visit, railway arches have always been a natural urban home for small businesses, and remain valuable in a time when the high rents on inner-city industrial and commercial premises threaten to push these smaller entrepreneurs out to the margins.

How did they think of that?

So here, to start with, is a small company that identified a market for mending blinds. They argue that it makes sense to repair and professionally clean blinds, where possible, rather than throw them out and buy new ones. So in an act of admirably clear branding, they style themselves The Broken Blinds™ Company. Why did no one think of this before? The idea, the detailed technical experience, and the entrepreneurial energy that any start-up business needs – where did this come from?

From Romania, actually. Alex Stoian and his business partner Marius Mitrica found their local market insufficiently, shall we say, transparent. Their search for wider opportunities and a more open business climate brought them to cosmopolitan London in 2012. They followed the classic start-up path from garage to rented premises, landing in the Bath Factory Estate.

They find Herne Hill is nicely placed for getting out to their many customers – commercial and residential – in London and the Home Counties, and their Bath Factory arches give them just enough room to operate, so long as they don’t need to expand further. There is a tiny crowded office, a room where their specialists make curtains, cushions and other fabric items, and an arch housing a huge, very high-tech machine for cutting blind fabric. Indeed, much of their business is now

making, as well as mending, roller blinds and Roman blinds: other styles they source from some of the large operators that dominate the market. It is clear that their understanding of the mechanics and economics of blinds and curtains, combined with their patent commitment to high standards of manufacturing and customer service,



promote strong loyalty among staff are Romanian, Polish and more typical of a modern London. **brokenblinds.co.uk**

Sibling Power

Let us find our way to another under the railway lines, stepping parked vans and rusty, long-a-



Alex Stoian

London to surprise to efficient business in this alternative setting.

Thus at discover a Gardens business by a couple of brothers.

Phillip are the son diplomat stationed rejecting (had that they learn landscaping classic way here and i

Older re their origi

landscaping and tree surgery be seen all over south-east London but nowadays they have expanded work (kitchens, bathrooms a third brother, Darcy, who joined the business, and Acer now a

BATH FACTORY, ANYWAY?



building of outdoor structures as well as landscaping.

They have been particularly successful with their carefully designed garden offices (see image), with levels of endurance and reliability inspired by Patrick's mastery of Canada's Vancouver Building Code and the judicious use of handsome and rot-resistant Canadian cedar timber.



Acer Garden building

ng their customers. Their
d English – what could be
ndon business?

Their long experience of garden and building work has put them in a good position, they say, to project-manage all the different trades and specialities that go into the preparation, building and finishing of sophisticated projects for commercial and residential customers. No longer do they need to clamber up trees to commit surgery on them – though they know many a man who can.

And the Baths?

And now back to the burning question: were baths ever made on this site?

Logic and common sense suggest that they couldn't have been. Surely the making of metal baths required an industrial assembly line involving, in the simplest terms, a foundry, molten metal, large moulds, and a process for creating and applying the enamel lining. The sort of business conducted on a larger site, possibly in one of the northern industrial towns that flourished in the 19th century.

In that case, why the name? One local theory is that the site was owned by a Mr Bath, who made rustic outdoor furniture. Apparently there's a large germ of historical fact there, but it's more complicated than that.

Reader, please wait until our next report from the Bath Factory to learn the whole story.

Pat Roberts

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axis. Again, it's a
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Arch 1143 we
Acer Homes &
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Phillip and Patrick Bacon

nd Patrick Bacon
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Like our other discovery, the Blinds company, they employ a mix of nationalities – English, Irish, Latvians, Romanians, Albanians – well integrated into the team, and hired for their professional skills, good manners and strong work ethic: essential qualities in a service business that depends crucially on high-quality results leading to enviable levels of customer trust and satisfaction, personal recommendations and repeat business. Tellingly, staff loyalty and retention remains very high, a strong indicator of good management.

www.acer-homes-gardens.co.uk





... continued

In our last issue (*Herne Hill*, no. 141, Spring 2018, now also available online at www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/magazine) our sister organisation the Herne Hill Forum, represented by George Hornby, shared a very welcome update on the project to transform the neglected and ugly Underpass – the most complained about feature of Herne Hill – that runs under the railway lines and alongside the railway station. Thousands of people use it every day.

This work has been made possible by the support of key stakeholders, who have made significant funds available and helped in many other ways. The turning point was the Forum's successful application earlier this year to the Aviva Community Fund which has brought in an additional £25,000.

So finally it is happening

A full-length mural, inspired by the history of our neighbourhood and community, will run along one side of the tunnel. As George explained, it will be created and drawn in outline by a local artist and then coloured with the help of local schoolchildren.

The artist chosen for this intriguing and ambitious project is Victor Szepessy, a professional illustrator and muralist. To

find out how things are going, we caught up with him over a pint at The Commercial.

Victor has already done some mural work in Herne Hill when he mobilised and guided the children of St Jude's School to create the mural on one of the walls of Brockwell Passage, implementing their own designs and colours, albeit under his guidance. But the creation of the underpass mural will take a more deliberate and more challenging path, including the involvement of many more local schools.

Ancient concept, 21st-century techniques

The mural destined to bring the Underpass back to life will necessarily be very long (roughly 40 metres), but not very wide (roughly 2 metres): one is reminded of a panoramic story delivered through a very different medium, the Bayeux Tapestry. Imagine viewing all of Herne Hill with x-ray eyes from the top of Brockwell Park, and then combining together all the key landmarks in one over-arching vision. Schools, streets, churches, pubs, railway and station, shops, historical personalities – all can claim a space on this unique painted panorama. A special creative role is reserved for schools, so encouraging their sense of ownership of a valuable new community asset and helping to link the community: past, present and future.

From designs that he has already composed on paper by hand, Victor will draw the essential outlines of the panorama, section by section, on polytab, a smooth, high-performance artificial non-woven fabric akin to parachute cloth. The local schools that agree to take part will be given the relevant section, the one that depicts (among many other features) their own school. Under Victor's close supervision, they will use specially chosen high-performance paints to colour in his outlines. When all the sections have been completed by the different schools, Victor will assemble them in a room made available upstairs at the station and will

meticulously eliminate any errors and omissions so that the sections can be seamlessly attached to the wall to resemble one single panel.

Before the individual sections are affixed with special adhesive, the wall will require meticulous preparation and Victor will work closely with the contractors nominated by Network Rail to make this happen. Once finally installed,



Victor Szepessy

the panorama will receive a protective anti-graffiti coating – an essential feature nowadays, although one not thought necessary by the great mural artists of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance! We can also hope that CCTV will be installed in the tunnel and monitored.

The project is due to be completed before the end of 2018. It is funded by the Herne Hill Forum, Lambeth Council, Southeastern Railway and Network Rail and, most recently, as mentioned, by the Aviva Community Fund grant.

Along with the other transformations planned for the tunnel, it promises not only to transform the whole underpass into a safer and more enjoyable place to pass through and even linger, but also to create a truly unique and absorbing feature for one of Herne Hill's busiest thoroughfares.

Pat Roberts



Hanami in Herne Hill

Herne Hill offers a pleasing mix of residential and commercial architecture and streetscapes, typical of the many London suburbs that multiplied and diversified with the 19th-century expansion of the transport network, when London was well-advanced in its journey to becoming the world's greatest city.

With its gentle curve and fine, well-maintained late Victorian and Edwardian houses, Winterbrook Road is one of our most consistent and pleasing streets. Sitting within the compass of the Dulwich Estate, and along with the neighbouring Stradella and Burbage Roads, it is part of the conservation area known as the Springfield Estate. The full story of these streets is told in *Herne Hill Heritage Trail*,

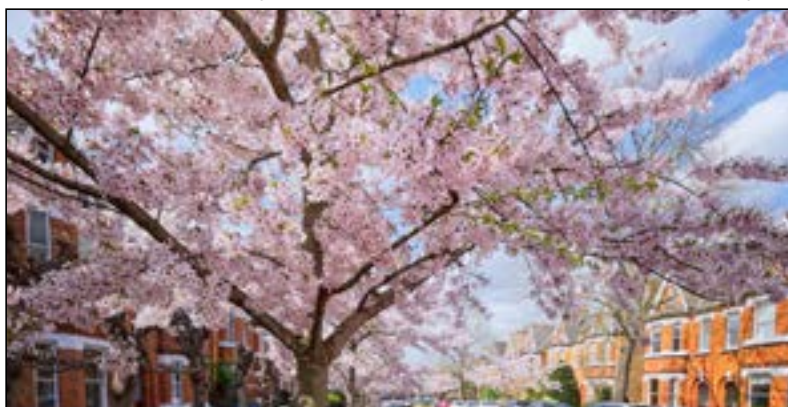
published by the Herne Hill Society (revised edition, 2013, pages 64-66).

But it has another claim to fame.

Increasingly, people are appreciating the important role played by the millions of trees – some exotic and recently planted, but some of them well over a century old and with a long life still ahead of them – that punctuate and ornament our streets, squares and parks in London. The term “urban forest” can be now used without

irony. Our trees provide us not just with shade and havens for wildlife, but with many eco-system services including the removal of pollution, climate moderation and CO2 storage. They can also be visually delicious.

So it is that our very own Winterbrook Road is now celebrated as one of the finest streets in London for its Japanese flowering cherry trees, planted on both



Japanese cherry trees in Winterbrook Road

sides of the street along its whole length. (Stradella Road also has some, but not as many.) These are of the Yoshino variety – Japan's favourite flowering cherries, whose ephemeral springtime blossoming is the occasion for Japan's annual celebration of their native cherry blossom festival known as Hanami.

How did these Yoshinos get to Herne Hill? And why? After the Second World War, the city of Tokyo presented a small

forest of Yoshino trees to Washington DC, where they are now a celebrated feature of springtime. Growing up there, local resident Robin Crookshank Hilton was so bewitched by their frothy blossom that on her return to London, and when she was a councillor, she mobilised other local residents and a helpful Southwark Council to introduce the trees to Herne Hill. That scheme began to take root in 2008. Robin

says now that “In order to develop visionary street tree planting schemes in Southwark, it is absolutely essential to triangulate efforts between residents, councillors, and council officers. Southwark Council is introducing increasingly restrictive street tree planting policies, but it's possible to agree compromises once all the parameters

are addressed in a creative manner”.

London's urban forest is celebrated and catalogued in an excellent book by Paul Wood published just last year (*London's Street Trees – A Field Guide to the Urban Forest*) by Safe Haven Books, with a foreword by the Mayor of London. Paul Wood contributes to Instagram and Twitter @TheStreetTree and writes about trees on <https://thestreetwork.com>

Pat Roberts

Footnote: *the Society has again been successful in applying for street tree planting under the Southwark Cleaner Greener Safer programme. We had provided Southwark with a detailed survey of old locations where trees have been lost and new locations where new trees could be planted. Planting street trees and ensuring their care for the first 2-3 years does not come cheap and funding is limited, but we are delighted to see two new trees towards the top of Danecroft Road and one at the bottom of Elfindale Road.*

THE CRYSTAL PALACE SUBWAY



The Friends of Crystal Palace Subway accepted an invitation to address the Society's meeting in February, and showed an absorbing 50-minute film telling the story of the Subway, part of the Crystal Palace High Level Station which ran alongside and underneath Crystal Palace Parade. It was designed by Charles Barry and opened in 1865. Following the destruction of the Crystal Palace by fire in 1936, use of the High Level Station declined. During World War II it was used as an air raid shelter, and finally closed in 1954. It remains a thrilling example of Victorian architecture, engineering and craftsmanship, which has survived many threats.

The film can be viewed on YouTube via the Friends' website at www.cpsubway.org.uk

Photo © James Balston and courtesy of Friends of Crystal Palace Subway

IN PRAISE OF THE INTER-WAR PUB THE COMMERCIAL



In 2015, following Historic England's project to understand and protect some of England's finest pubs built between 1918 and 1939, 21 of the best examples of "rare and overlooked" inter-war pubs were listed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Pubs listed at this time included the Duke of Edinburgh on Ferndale Road in Brixton, built by Truman's in 1936-7. Another fine example, the Ivy House in Nunhead, rebuilt by Truman's in the 1930s, was listed by Historic England in 2012. Thus, following a period from the 1970s up to the early years of the millennium, of being overlooked, converted and often demolished, the inter-war pub is suddenly in vogue again.

The 1920s and 30s, saw significant growth in the "improved" pub movement. Around 5,000 pubs were built or rebuilt by breweries in England during the inter-war years in an attempt to rid the industry of the Victorian pub's association with drunkenness. Following the surge in pub building in the 1890s, the years leading up the First World War saw few new pub buildings, largely because the prevailing opinion was that to improve them would encourage drinking. Ironically, it was this same temperance urge that triggered the great inter-war resurgence in pub design and building.

The new pubs of the inter-war period were designed to be bigger and better, with restaurants, gardens and meeting spaces. They aimed to attract respectable customers by appealing to families and, in particular, women. They were often modelled in a mock Tudor or neo-Georgian style, which was very popular at this time.

Although cited in CAMRA's 2004 Regional Inventory of London Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest, and locally-listed by Lambeth Council in 2016 as a heritage asset of architectural or historic interest, The Commercial, the finest example of an inter-

war pub in Herne Hill, has yet to be added to the 73 inter-war pubs currently listed by Historic England. In 1936 The Commercial was recorded as being a Licensed House of Wenlock Brewery Co Ltd of Shoreditch. The current frontage and historic interior dates from its enlargement in 1938 to incorporate 210 Railton Road, its subsequent remodelling being described by Lambeth Council as a "two-storey Neo-Georgian style inter-war pub with a three-part convex façade which follows the curve of the building line". Thus, The Commercial was transformed from an 1876 Victorian drinking den to the "improved" pub we see today.

Despite a number of refurbishments over recent years, The Commercial retains many surviving features and fittings from its original 1930s interior that continue to illustrate the style, layout and features once typical of a suburban improved pub. These include its fireplaces, floor-to-ceiling bar counter and screens, chequered-tiled spittoon trough, and neo-baronial wooden panelling (sadly, over-painted).

From the 1920s onwards, Birmingham brewery Mitchells & Butlers, current owners of The Commercial, were one of the



companies at the forefront of the improved pub movement, led by their managing director William Waters Butler. Indeed, by the end of the decade, they could write that "a new type of house has gradually evolved, which is neither ale-house, nor pub, nor inn, nor tavern, but is a new conception of what a place of refreshment and entertainment may be".

Our inter-war pubs are an intrinsic slice of our living history and part of our common identity. So next time The Commercial is scheduled for refurbishment, let's see Mitchells & Butlers look to restore the 1930s wooden panelling to its former glory, and remove the layers of paint from the faience tile work at the front of building. William Waters Butler would approve!

Peter Blair

from the Morning Chronicle 28 September 1829

In our last issue we recalled the days when dairy cows grazed in Herne Hill. To that we can add the following unhappy tale: *An event of a distressing nature occurred at Herne Hill on Thursday. A lady, named Osborne, residing in the above neighbourhood, was proceeding along the high road leading from Camberwell, in company with her two children, when she became exceedingly terrified at the approach of some cows, and hastily retreated towards her own residence. After running a short distance, the unfortunate lady found her strength exhausted, and sank down in the road in a state of insensibility, where she was soon afterwards discovered, and conveyed home, when it was ascertained that Mrs Osborne had ruptured a blood vessel, and in the course of an hour the ill-fated lady expired, to the indescribable anguish of her family and friends.*

THE ENCHANTING SKILL OF EDWARD BAWDEN

Dulwich Picture Gallery treats us to the ideal summer show in an exploration of the multi-faceted artist, Edward Bawden. Born into a working-class family in Braintree in 1903, Edward showed an early aptitude for drawing. Attending Cambridge School of Art led to a scholarship to study illustration at the Royal College of Art and a first commission at 21. His career



spanned 60 years, encompassing graphic design, book illustration, prints, watercolours and much more. It is brought to life in an exhibition of 160 works arranged thematically.

We enter through an archway decorated with his depiction of Brighton Pier. The wall ahead reproduces one of his charming wallpaper patterns; the left and right walls are painted pink. Here are original artwork and finished posters for Ealing Studios and such other evocations of leisure and pleasure as “Newhaven Harbour”, “York Races”, “Map of Scarborough” surrounded by fish, birds, whales and mermaids, “By the Sea” with divers, rowboat, people on deckchairs or the sand, cabanas and an ice-cream stand. A fun-filled “Map of the British Empire Exhibition” (1924) can be contrasted with “Country Life”, wooden panels created for the Festival of Britain.

A display case contains an illustrated letter, tiles, engraving copperplate, a brochure of air routes and the Contact Holiday Book World Off Duty.

Moving with his bride to Brick House in the Essex village of Great Bardfield kindled his interest in gardening. Paintings of his and other gardens, flowers, prize-winning vegetables, a greenhouse, an agave dominating a room, plus linocuts, postcards, booklets and menu cards all evidence a deep love and understanding of the subject, executed with a sureness of line, often with a limited palette. There are two posters for Kew Gardens, seasonal illustrations for cookery books, wallpaper designs, a textile study

and book jackets on display.

Becoming an official war artist in 1939, he travelled widely, recording phenomena such as “The Showboat at Baghdad”. Though his previous human figures had been small-scale and usually comic, when ordered to draw military personnel he created telling portraits. From young recruits in ink, a wide-eyed officer smoking a pipe to chalk and watercolours of a police sergeant, a coffee man and his son, an Iraqi Jew, “Shaikh Haji Farhud al-Fandi”, other Arab leaders and their servants, all capture character and attitude. The backgrounds are empty barrack rooms, the camp seen through a barred window, a palace balcony or a view of River Tigris. In “Refugees at Udine” a woman and a little girl peer through a wire fence at the many displaced people, a moving scene still relevant today.

The final room has drawings of Bawden’s son and daughter, a comical “Economy Committee” crammed into a wide-open car and works of fable and fantasy. “Church and Pigeon” covers one wall; “Bunyan’s Dream” is told in snakes-and-ladders style; books, original jacket designs (including a rejected one), Zodiac signs, even his blotter are full of fun. “Morley College Mural” study, a commission shared with his lifelong friend Eric Ravilious reminds us of that artist’s 2015 exhibition here. Designs for Fortnum & Mason, Twinings and the Aesop’s Fables series are further



highlights. In several rooms, the Curwen Press unicorn suggests activities for children. This enchanting exhibition has something for everyone.

Jeff Doorn

From 5 June to 22 July, the gallery's glass walkway hosts a free display of the six shortlisted designs for the 2019 Dulwich Pavilion. Choose your favourite and your vote will be combined with those of the judging panel to select the winner.

Edward Bawden, which opened 23 May, continues until 9 September.

Open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 10:00am to 5:00pm. Entry: £16.50 (including voluntary Gift Aid donation); seniors £15.50; students, unemployed, disabled, Art Fund £8; children and Friends free.

... and we apologise for any inconvenience

By now the delays and cancellations following the May 2018 rail timetable changes will (may?) be a fading memory. As warned in the Winter 2017 issue of this Magazine, these changes follow the completion of major works to provide more track capacity through London Bridge Station, a new connection to Cambridge and Peterborough at St Pancras International, and a faster signalling system between Blackfriars and St Pancras. These physical improvements to the rail infrastructure have been a long time coming but are now in place... just in time for the next infrastructure change – the opening of Crossrail (sorry – the Elizabeth Line) running from Liverpool Street to Paddington via Farringdon, which is planned to be operational for the January 2019 timetable change. All this physical infrastructure is being co-ordinated by Network Rail (well known in Herne Hill as the owner and redeveloper of the shops around the station).

Struggling to keep up and co-ordinate with these physical changes, while delivering profits for their shareholders, or at least avoiding going bust, are the train operators. These companies have been awarded franchises to operate the rail system – running and maintaining trains, employing drivers and staff at stations, and negotiating with Network Rail for the use of their rails, and crucially, their junctions. The two operators serving Herne Hill have markedly different situations.

Southeastern (which runs the station, and the trains between Victoria and Bromley South and Orpington) is currently on its best behaviour – the franchise is running out in December 2018. The operator (owned by Govia, a consortium of Go-Ahead and Keolis) is currently in the running as one of the three remaining bidders being evaluated for the new contract. The service pattern through Herne Hill is also relatively simple to operate, with just one major

junction to negotiate at Beckenham.

Govia Thameslink, Southern, and Great Northern (TSGN), the operator of the Wimbledon Loop Thameslink services through Herne Hill, is another story. The TSGN franchise is the largest in the UK; it covers a complex network including most of the recent infrastructure changes; it also involved the introduction of new trains; and is a long contract – awarded in 2015 to run until 2021. TSGN has a difficult job, which they are failing to do, with no commercial penalty for failing. Luckily for Herne Hill, the Wimbledon Loop services are relatively simple. They still, however, suffer when there is disruption at Blackfriars.

The recent timetable changes have started a fundamental reorganisation of the rail route pattern and timings, to be continued in January 2019. National Rail is seeking to use the network more efficiently following the improvements, and minimising the potential for knock-on disruption through their junctions. The train operators are seeking to simplify their routes, and avoid delays and cancellations which affect their contract performance. This means fewer complex through trains, more spare time built into the timetable, and more passengers waiting on platforms to change trains. It should also, however – hopefully – mean fewer last minute cancellations or short trains.

At the time of writing, the blame is being variously aimed at Network Rail (publicly owned, and pushing the operators into changing their staffing and service patterns); the train operators (trying to catch up while minimising their staff costs); the train staff (increasingly shunted around, and in the case of guards, having their jobs under threat); the Government (who show little desire to enforce the franchise agreements); but rarely at the whole system of divisions within the rail industry. **Bil Harrison**

Bees Can't Eat Kind Words

In April, Dale Gibson of Bermondsey Street Bees came to talk to us about urban beekeeping – and reminded us that kind words are not enough, bees need a plentiful supply of food in our city.

One of the benefits of beekeeping as a social activity is that it draws from a broad spectrum of society. As a beekeeper, I have found such contacts rather useful. However, I'm a little late to tap into Dale Gibson's talents. Dale has transferred his activities from stockbroking to beekeeping, and it is probably not by chance that his base is Bermondsey, given its proximity to the City. The decision to sustain himself financially, rather than to be a hobby beekeeper, has caused him to take a novel – though not unique – approach to beekeeping. Quite a few businesses in central London (and beyond) have seen the public relations potential of supporting and engaging in ecologically beneficial projects. Beekeeping has been at the forefront of such developments.

London is actually a better supplier of forage than many rural areas, but building development is consuming urban green space at an alarming rate. To increase sustainability for honeybees and other



Bob Jackman and Mary Slater
in their Herne Hill garden

pollinators, Dale now proposes to all corporate clients a diversion of cash from their coffers to local bodies for the development of greening projects. You can experience these developments for yourself without leaving Southwark. Plan your

walk to take in: Potters Fields – St Mary Magdalen Churchyard – Leathermarket Gardens – Guy Street Park. Choose a fine day in spring or summer and you are guaranteed plenty of flying companions.

Dale's talk moved on to "What best to plant in my garden?" Top tips were: Plant for an extended flowering season; Don't mow the grass too often; Choose varieties with open, natural, flower structures; Blue and purple have the greatest pulling power; Think shrubs and trees, for bulk supply of forage.

And Dale's wife, Sarah Wyndham Lewis, was on hand to give a few tips and to mention her new book, *Planting For Honeybees*. It has been getting good reviews in the bee press. I am not sure that it will replace the standard text, *Planting For Bees* by Kirk and Howes, now available in lavishly-illustrated form. But at about a third of the price, Sarah's book offers an excellent first stop. Thanks to both Dale and Sarah for an excellent presentation.

Bob Jackman

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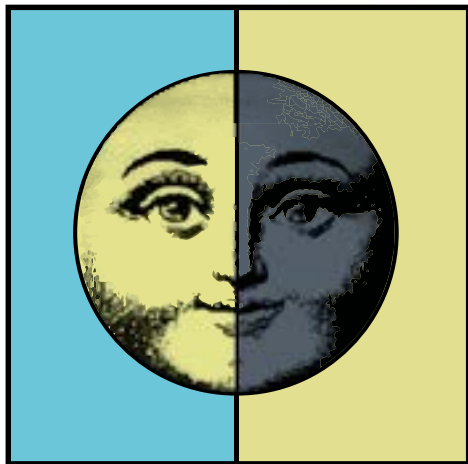
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