

HERNE HILL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY ♣ ISSUE 145 ♣ Spring ♣ 2019 ♣ £3.00



JOHN RUSKIN BICENTENARY

TRACING RUSKIN

► *Turn to page 14*

WEALTH AND WELLNESS

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THE POWER OF SEEING

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LOCAL ROADWATCH

► *See page 5*

FRAMING HERNE HILL

► *Turn to page 11*



The Magazine of the Herne Hill Society



THE HERNE HILL SOCIETY

President	Bill Kirby	
Chair	Colin Wight	chair@hernehillsociety.org.uk
Vice Chair	Laurence Marsh	vicechair@hernehillsociety.org.uk
Secretary	Pat Roberts	secretary@hernehillsociety.org.uk
Treasurer	Martyn Hall	treasurer@hernehillsociety.org.uk

Committee

Henry Ferguson
Jackie Plumridge
Val Suebsaeng

Magazine Sophia Marsh

COMMENTS & ENQUIRIES

To advertise in the Magazine	advertising@hernehillsociety.org.uk
To contribute to or comment on the Magazine	editor@hernehillsociety.org.uk
To comment on planning or licensing issues	environmental@hernehillsociety.org.uk
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Herne Hill notice boards	noticeboard@hernehillsociety.org.uk
Website	webeditor@hernehillsociety.org.uk
Community safety	publicsafety@hernehillsociety.org.uk
Other issues	enquiries@hernehillsociety.org.uk

Postal and online addresses

The Herne Hill Society, PO Box 27845, London SE24 9XA

hernehillsociety.org.uk
Twitter [@hernehillsoc](https://twitter.com/hernehillsoc)
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Carnegie Library update

THE LIBRARY

The Library was closed for a month from 29 October 2018 for redecoration, repolishing of the parquet floors and creation of new toilets in the former kitchen. To mark its reopening, the Carnegie Community Trust (CTT) held a Christmas Party on 10 December to which everyone was invited. People were free to inspect the new Community rooms now becoming available to the Community for the first time.

The Library itself is currently a 'neighbourhood library' and mostly self-service, with a member of staff present only two hours each day.



Gym entrance at Carnegie Library Spring 2019

The opening hours as at March 2019 are as follows

Day	Open	Staffed
Monday	2 to 7pm	5 to 7pm
Tuesday	1 to 7pm	4 to 6pm
Wednesday	10am to 7pm	10 to 12 noon
Thursday	1 to 7pm	3 to 5pm
Friday	10am to 5pm	10 to 12 noon
Saturday	10am -to 5pm	3 to 5pm
Sunday & Bank Holidays	Closed	

A member of Lambeth Libraries can use the online Lambeth-wide library catalogue, and for 50p can reserve any book. If the book is held in another library, it will be delivered to Carnegie and can be returned to Carnegie. The Book Club which meets in the evening of the first Monday of each month will shortly return to the Library from St Saviour's (contact Rita for information: RChakraborty@lambeth.gov.uk). For under-5s, the popular *Wriggle & Rhyme with Tina* is every Wednesday morning.

THE GYM

The Gym (sorry! Herne Hill Lifestyle Centre) opened its doors in mid-January. It is operated by Better, the other name for GLL, which runs leisure, health and community services across the UK, and it occupies a surprisingly generous space in the excavated basement of the Carnegie. It is reported to be already busy

with memberships and usage exceeding what was expected in the first six weeks. Only time will tell whether its location and membership tariffs can deliver sustained success.

PUBLIC MEETING

More recently on 16 February, Herne Hill ward Councillor Pauline George chaired a public meeting on Tackling Violent Crime in our Neighbourhood. The meeting was very well attended, with many good contributions from the audience as well as the speakers, who were Helen Hayes MP, Florence

Eshalomi AM, Cllr Mo Seedat, Pastor Peter Adigun and local Police representatives. At the end of the meeting it was agreed to continue as a forum and that its name should be "Positive Futures Lambeth".

LOOKING AHEAD – THE LIBRARY REMAINS AT RISK

The CTT tell us that they expect shortly to have a new Interim Licence from Lambeth Council covering the whole of the upper floors (except the flats). This Licence will stay in force until the full community asset transfer Lease is concluded. In addition there will be an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for capital works of renovation and improvement of the building. The interim arrangement will be beneficial in allowing both the Trust and the Council to see whether the Community Hub concept can be made to work - a challenge that no-one expects to be easy.

What is clearly important, and recognised by all parties concerned including those who strongly criticised Lambeth's decision to award the management contract to the CTT, is that the current under-use of the Library can only encourage the Council to declare it an unnecessary asset. As the Friends of Carnegie recently stated, "If usage remains low we will no doubt be faced with arguments from Lambeth that it should be closed for want of customers."

For further news, requests for volunteers, information and comments, see

CTT: <http://hernehillcarnegie.org.uk/> and **Friends of Carnegie Library:** <http://friendsofcarnegieliibrary.org.uk/>

A lost Caravaggio?

Not a lost Caravaggio, unfortunately, but a picture of interest all the same. And surely deserving of better than to be stowed with its glass broken in a very dusty cupboard, formerly the strong-room, in the Carnegie Library. It is an original oil painting on board, but with nothing to identify the artist or when it was painted. We asked a local art historian who said: "I rather like it. A lively scene. Traces of Gauguin and German expressionism." If anyone has an idea about its origins we would be interested to hear.



Herne Hill Forum EGM



At a meeting of the Forum on 30 January the Chair, George Hornby, proposed to increase the number of committee members from 21 to 25 (owing to changes in the Neighbourhood Plan boundary, four members now live outside the applicable area). It was also proposed that there be two-year terms for officers, with a four-year maximum; and that one-third of the committee should stand down each year. The committee quorum should be reduced from one third to one quarter. A formal membership scheme also needs to be established (as people become members simply by coming along to meetings). The proposals were agreed unopposed.

The accounts for 2017/18 were presented. Income had increased from £40,000 to £67,000, despite the loss of the management of the Sunday Market. Expenditure had fallen, so reserves had risen to £144,000. There is now £90-100,000 to run projects such as Station Hall (see below). In future, accounts will

be formally audited by sister organisations and published on the website. The Forum is not registered as a charity but as an unincorporated organisation, so committee members may be liable in situations not covered by public liability insurance. A change of status is necessary.

Lucy Reynolds talked about developments in Station Hall. Network Rail had, unsuccessfully, tried to let out the space in the past. With approval from Southeastern and Network Rail, the Forum has applied to the Mayor's Good Growth Fund. The money will be used to commission architects, run a trial programme (e.g. March's Book Week Festival) and make a business case for future use. They are asking for a 25-year peppercorn lease. They are also considering where to put the necessary lift shaft and hoping to increase interior space by moving the spiral staircase.

Finally, PC Daniel McLynn, dedicated Dulwich Village Ward Officer, talked about crime in our area. Street robberies against

schoolchildren were a great concern. It was vital to report robberies asap if police are to react, as they get good results from driving around with the victim and identifying suspects. Four arrests were made in the last 2 ½ months: all 14-17 year-old repeat offenders. Commercial burglaries in Herne Hill had also increased. Pat Roberts commented that traders in Herne Hill had reported 11 burglaries in last few weeks, including Canopy Brewery and The Flower Lady. Residential burglaries in last 2 ½ months were the same as the year before in Herne Hill ward, but down by 40% in Village ward.

Lambeth and Southwark police merged on 23 January into Central South Command Unit.

Incidents should be reported on 999 if the crime is taking place now. Or online at <https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Good News for Brockwell Hall

More than 10 years ago National Lottery-funded restoration of Brockwell Park was announced. It is difficult to remember now how scruffy many parts of the park had become. Over the following few years there were many improvements: the ponds were drained, desilted and the margins replanted, the children's paddling area was beautifully rebuilt, railings and entrances restored, the Temple and Norwood Road Lodge repaired and brought back into use and much more. But this still left the buildings at the heart of the park.

Since we published the last issue of this Magazine Lambeth have announced success in their application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to allow a detailed design and feasibility study for the restoration of Brockwell Hall, its stable block and coach-house. A sum of £387,500 has been awarded to allow this to proceed. The

objective is to secure the future of the 200-year old buildings and to make them available for wider public use than has been possible hitherto, to include the provision of food and drink, a venue for weddings and corporate bookings, exhibitions, community



meetings and events. A timescale of two years is envisaged for the feasibility study, after which Lottery funding would be sought for the cost of the restoration, currently estimated at £6 million.



Ash Crash

Our picture shows two casualties on 10 March. One of the last remaining ash trees in Poplar Walk simply snapped at its base during high winds, an indication that it was the victim of ash die-back, now decimating the ash population in most of the country. The second casualty was the VW parked in the street. Its owner (on the right) was remarkably philosophical about the matter.

COMMUNITY ROADWATCH

Serious road accidents on Half Moon Lane have prompted residents to join a growing band of volunteers monitoring speeding cars at Community Roadwatch sessions all over Herne Hill.

Working alongside police community support officers from the Southwark and Lambeth Safer Transport teams, they've been learning how to use a hand-held speed camera and quickly take down details – time, miles per hour, registration number, colour, make and model – before the next offending car, van, lorry (or sometimes even bus) shoots by.

Anyone doing over 24 mph in a 20 mph zone (or over 35 mph where the speed limit is 30) will receive a warning letter from Transport for London. But only police officers carrying out separate speed checks can actually issue tickets.

One recent two-hour Roadwatch session clocked over 110 vehicles travelling too fast on Village Way and Half Moon Lane. As well as encouraging drivers to slow down, the volunteers in their hi-vis jackets draw the attention of passers-by, who are eager to chat about dangerous road behaviour they've witnessed themselves. That includes vehicles driving recklessly down the wrong side of Half Moon Lane, putting at risk anyone using the zebra crossings and pedestrian islands.

"Being seen raises the profile of what we are about and gives people pause to think about their speed," said Councillor Margy Newens from Dulwich Village ward, who's been involved with Roadwatch since last autumn. "I have spoken to drivers who have received warning letters before and many do say it was a catalyst for behaviour change." In Lambeth's Herne Hill ward, Councillor Becca Thackray has been a long-time Roadwatch supporter and took part with a series of enthusiastic schoolchildren over the



Becca Thackray with a young volunteer on Railton Road

summer holidays. "Children love helping police and wielding an impressive piece of equipment," Becca said.

There are regular sessions at all the local speeding hotspots: Milkwood Road, Herne Hill Road, Railton Road, Half Moon Lane, Village Way and Herne Hill where it meets Holmdene Avenue. But anyone can suggest a new location. "It's a Community Roadwatch," Becca noted. "The community decides where the problems lie."

If you'd like to get involved email

Margy at margy.newens@southwark.gov.uk or Becca at BThackray@lambeth.gov.uk.

Alternatively contact Southwark PCSO

Kevin Phillips at kevin.J.Phillips@met.pnn.police.uk or

Lambeth PCSO Bruce Hay at bruce.R.Hay@met.pnn.police.uk

Jeff Segal

HYMNS IN HERNE HILL

For more than 50 years Christopher Idle, local resident and member of the Society, has been writing hymns. He has just published the third collection of his hymns, *Trees Along the River* (Lost Coin Books, 2018). As Christopher points out in a wide-ranging introduction about the nature of hymn-writing, to be able to both write and compose is a rare gift, and to play an instrument and sing in addition even rarer. Claiming no talent in three of those activities, he has always kept to writing words. Existing hymn (and other) tunes are, however, suggested for the words. There are also useful notes and appendices.



Christopher was born in Bromley, read English at Oxford, later training for ordination and embarking on 30 years in Anglican parish ministry, initially in Barrow, then London and finally in rural Suffolk. For the last five years he has lived in Herne Hill, but family roots in this area run deeper. His mother was born in Gubyon Avenue and his father grew up in Brockwell Park Gardens and attended Rosendale School. Christopher has just celebrated his 80th birthday and professes no ambitions to add to the more than 500 hymns he has written over the years. He enjoys proximity to family – the twelfth grandchild recently arrived – and fine views from his twelfth-floor flat over Brockwell Park where his parents once courted. But the fluency and accessibility of his verses would suggest that these are not the last hymns Christopher will be writing.

Traffic, pollution and the next generation's future

Since being elected as a councillor for Dulwich Village Ward last May, discussions on traffic-related matters have dominated my inbox. Growing disquiet over speeding, pedestrian safety, parking problems and vehicle generated air pollution lead many, like me, to the conclusion that there are simply too many cars on our roads. In recognition of the increasing volume of local debate on these topics, The Dulwich Society hosted a packed public meeting on 12 January at the Methodist Church Hall on Half Moon Lane.

If there were any doubts about the effect of traffic on our health, local parent and research scientist Dr Helen Wood shone a light through the smog. Evidence linking air-pollution caused by vehicles (especially nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) particulates) to a wide range of chronic respiratory conditions may raise few eyebrows; however, the links between what we are pumping out of our cars and the sheer multitude of other long-term health conditions affecting all ages are now incontrovertible. The list includes stunting of children's lung capacity by over 10%, reduced cognitive development and ability, a range of cardiovascular illnesses, fertility/foetal growth problems, neuro-degenerative illnesses (e.g. Alzheimer's) and lung cancer, to name a few. Yet more worrying is the fact that pollution sinks, so the smaller our children, the higher the concentration of harmful particulates in the air they are breathing. Furthermore, the worst air quality is actually inside the car, and a child being driven to school is exposed to more pollution than those walking or cycling outside.

As Helen Hayes MP pointed out during an overview of national policy, poor air quality is an avoidable public health crisis that is responsible for 40,000 premature deaths across the UK (9,000 in London alone) each year. Without more robust national legislation, local authorities, sadly, have limited powers to address this situation. Nevertheless, the Mayor of London is introducing

the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) which will be extended to the South Circular in 2021.

Richard Livingstone, Southwark Council Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment, spoke about the council's strategy for a healthier and pleasanter streetscape, which includes improved infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, installation of charging points for electric vehicles, and speed-calming measures. Idling (parking with the engine running) is now illegal and subject to penalty fines.



Close consultation with communities to achieve healthier streets is crucial. One area where this has been particularly effective is in the school streets initiative at Bessemer Grange Primary School. Local parent Dr Henrietta Collier gave an uplifting picture of the transformation that had been brought about by closing the roads to motor vehicles around school drop off and pick up times.

My own contribution focussed on controlled parking zones; in particular, the success they have had in reducing the volume of commuter traffic and parking in the North Dulwich area where I live. There is a growing – albeit not unanimous – frustration, both amongst businesses and residents outside the CPZ, about all-day or longer-term commuter parking that reduces space available to customers, residents and their visitors, and inevitably helps increase the volume of traffic on our roads. My fellow councillor Richard Leeming spoke about some of the benefits of a low-traffic neighbourhood.

There were excellent questions and contributions from the floor, including widespread criticism of our public transport system which certainly needs to improve if we are to be successful in changing travel behaviour. Meanwhile, whilst local views as to the path ahead may vary, the scientific evidence screams the need for change.

Cllr Margy Newens
margy.newens@southwark.gov.uk



A birthday tribute

In this issue of the Magazine John Ruskin's bicentenary has not been forgotten (see pages 12–16). The Society's Chair took this a step further and on the morning of 8 February, Ruskin's birthday, he was standing on Herne Hill, outside where the Ruskin family home once stood, behind him the memorial tablet placed by the LCC in 1925. We are glad to record this moment in our photograph.



Colin Wight reflects on 2018 – and looks forward



I am standing for Chair again this year, but of course it is possible that I won't be re-elected, in which case you will be reading the thoughts of your ex-Chair.

Membership

We finished 2018 with our member numbers somewhat diminished, as in 2017. We did not undertake a recruitment exercise in 2018, so that wasn't a great surprise; but there is no denying that the trend is downwards. Whether or not this can be reversed, even with a vigorous campaign, remains to be seen.

We took the decision to increase subscription rates which, as I hope members will appreciate, was long overdue. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so: we are grateful for all the support you have given over the years. Otherwise, this will be the last magazine you receive.

Publishing and retailing

In December we brought out *Grace's Story* (reviewed by Antonia Senior on p.17), edited and designed in-house, thanks to Sophia and Laurence Marsh. Sales have been encouraging. We've been well supported, as ever, by Herne Hill Books and, for the first time, by Village Books in Dulwich.

Once again, four full-colour issues of *Herne Hill* magazine were produced to schedule, excellently designed by Sophia and supported by all our contributors and advertisers. We receive many positive comments about the magazine. Laurence is now de facto Chief Editor, as I have kicked myself upstairs as Publisher (i.e. the person who has to take the rap when something goes wrong). Pat Roberts is the fourth, very productive member of our team. As we've so far failed to interest anyone in the role of Advertising Manager, I've (once again) taken it on "temporarily".

Remembering Herne Hill 1914-18

Our National Lottery-funded First World War research project dominated our activities and produced the clearest public benefit. We created a searchable online database with, as I write, descriptions of the lives and deaths of 402 local casualties – and also published the delightful *Grace's Story*, mentioned above. We also organised an Armistice Centenary event at Herne Hill Station, which was well attended and widely reported, and installed information boards in six locations around Herne Hill.

This flagship project was undertaken by a small team. Despite numerous calls for volunteers, I have to point out that fewer

than 10 Society members chose to get involved. Fortunately, we received good support from the parents and students at the Charter School North Dulwich. However, there is still time to volunteer, with more than 200 names left to investigate!

Finances

The overall position is sound, although it may not appear to be so at first glance. The principal reason is that we received £5,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund in July 2017 and spent most of it during the following year, as planned. So our 2018 receipts were down, in relative terms, while expenditure was up. But we are living within our means, with over £17,000 in the bank. My thanks go to treasurer Martyn Hall for keeping a careful watch on our finances.

Planning

We continue to regularly monitor planning applications. The great majority are for residential extensions and are not controversial. It is only where we feel that the council's own policies are being breached that we object. It is difficult to gauge the extent to which any objections we make are listened to, but it is definitely the case that there are applications to which we have objected that are then refused, so one would like to see some cause and effect. Important applications last year included building on historic garden land on Red Post Hill, an application that Southwark have still to decide and, very recently, the major housing development on the Higgs Estate site at Loughborough Junction. We have made detailed submissions in both cases.

We were also instrumental in preventing Network Rail from demolishing The Flower Lady shop to make way for an electrical sub-station. We have urged Lambeth to designate Station Square as a Conservation Area. The procedure is lengthy, and not helped by local authority cuts, but we hope to see progress on this next year.

What about this year, and the year after?

There are other achievements of which we can be proud: we continued our Small Grants scheme, (which supported Herne Hill's Music Festival and the Ruskin Park paddling pool), welcomed Helen Hayes MP as "Thomas Lynn Bristowe" speaker in June, and made good progress with the History Hear oral history project – which will, as a result of a successful funding bid, soon get a listening post installed in Brockwell Park.

But as with so many other local societies we desperately need more people – and, specifically, more women – on our Committee. By the time you read this you may have taken part in our 2019 Membership Survey. This is something I have been meaning to get underway for some time. I am sure it will provide useful (anonymous) information about the interests of our members, many of whom we see but rarely.

It is already clear that if we are to thrive some things will have to change. Just a few people are trying to do too much and they can't – and shouldn't feel obliged to – go on for ever. It would be irresponsible not to consider the future of the Society, and I hope everyone present will do so at this year's AGM.

Colin Wight

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DIARY OF EVENTS

Spring 2019

For more information please check
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Talks

Wed 10 April, 7:45pm

“Glorious Chile - from the Atacama Desert to Easter Island, and more” by Peter Bradley

Strange statues, high deserts, wooden churches: the voyage of a lifetime for a local historian.

Herne Hill United Church Hall

Wed 8 May, 7:45pm

“Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees”

Herne Hill welcomed the arrival of a family of four in December last year. HHWR will be presenting the many different, often challenging, aspects of the experience, not merely in Herne Hill but in other parts of London.

Herne Hill Baptist Church, Half Moon Lane

Wed 12 June, 7:45pm

“Reflecting on Ruskin: Thomas Lynn Bristowe Memorial Lecture” by Jon Newman

John Ruskin, arguably one of the finest minds to emerge from South London, was a writer and cultural critic with an extraordinary range that included art, architecture, economics and the environment. One of the great English public intellectuals of the 19th century, he simultaneously defined and savagely criticised what it was to be Victorian. In this, the bicentenary year of his birth, writer and archivist Jon Newman looks at why the grand old man of Herne Hill is still relevant today.

Herne Hill Baptist Church, Half Moon Lane

Flying Boots Hit the Ground in Herne Hill

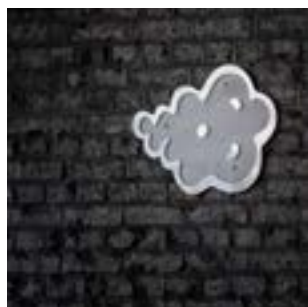
As you dash around Herne Hill (or maybe, like some of us, trudge slowly), you may have been puzzled to notice some unexpected shiny shapes that seem to have taken up residence high on certain walls. If not, please keep your eyes open next time you're around.



There are some 15 of these steel-cut images, which together form a new public artwork connecting the areas of central Herne Hill which were most damaged by the appalling flood of August 2013. Under the title “Flying Boots and Eyes on Fire”, it has been created by artist Caroline McCarthy in conjunction with

the Contemporary Art Society and with the support of the Herne Hill Forum. Each image encapsulates a local event typifying our community's resilience, determination and strong sense of identity in the face of adversity and damage – drawn from stories told to the artist by the people concerned or recorded in local histories, including Herne Hill Society publications and this magazine.

You could start by visiting Herne Hill Station booking hall to inspect a handsome stainless steel and glass installation which explains the story behind each image and the wider concept that inspired this unique piece of work, as well as its cryptic title. In addition there is now a website which



Caroline McCarthy

delivers the same information at www.flyingboots.info.

Be warned: not all the images are visible from the street. The shape recalling Bono's bad haircut sits above the fireplace in The Half Moon where U2 played in 1980, in the olden days when the pub hosted many a rock gig. In these quieter times, it's worth popping in to see it and sip a nice pint of London Pride or a cup of cappuccino, once you have ticked off the other 14 images.

Pat Roberts

PLANNING & LICENSING

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

65 Milton Road, Lambeth 18/04123/FUL

As noted in the last issue we objected to an inappropriate mansard roof extension to this property on the corner of the Poets Corner conservation area. Lambeth have refused permission.

20D Dulwich Road, Lambeth 18/04666/FUL

We objected to a proposed rear and side roof extension on this house within the Brockwell Park conservation area, visible not merely from the road but from the park. The proposal went against Lambeth policies Q22 and Q11 (k), would harm the historic integrity of the group of houses on Dulwich Road and their roof design and would set an undesirable precedent. Lambeth have refused permission.

32 Fawnbrake Avenue, Lambeth 18/04598/FUL

We objected to a proposal for a roof extension for almost the full length of the rear outrigger with a window at the garden end. We objected to the bulk and scale of the proposal, for which there was no precedent in the established local building pattern and no justification in terms of planning policy. Such a large rear extension would be over-dominant, raising issues of privacy and overlooking, and would damage the attractive congruity in the architectural treatment of all houses in the row. The application was subsequently withdrawn.

108 Herne Hill, Lambeth 19/00292/LDCP

We drew attention to what we considered to be a defective application, in that a proposed rear ground floor extension was wrongly stated to be permitted development. We have said to Lambeth that, on the drawings submitted, full planning

permission is required. A decision is awaited.

Higgs Industrial Estate, Herne Hill Road, Lambeth 18/05425/FUL

This is likely to be the most significant proposal affecting the Herne Hill area for a long time to come. The Peabody Housing Association want to build housing on the site, providing 134 units with bedspaces for 518 persons, and also commercial space of 4032 sq m. It would comprise 4 blocks rising up to 8 floors (including ground floor) on Herne Hill Road and a tower block, nearer the railway embankment and station platform, rising to 17 floors (including ground floor). There was a previous scheme, for which Lambeth gave permission (15/01062/FUL). The developers for that scheme went bust. It provided slightly less housing and commercial space and did not build to the same heights, largely achieved by providing the commercial space below ground, something abandoned in the current scheme where such space is on the first two levels. The levels of density have increased slightly in the current scheme. We objected to the previous scheme in particular on grounds of density. We have repeated that objection in the new proposal and have criticised the heights of the proposed blocks as being entirely out of character with their surrounds. We have also expressed the view that a historic opportunity is being lost to see an integrated development of the whole site, one would that include the unprepossessing 2-storey office building (now used as a church) at the corner with Coldharbour Lane. Such a development could achieve a major enhancement in the appearance of Loughborough Junction and its public realm and could act as a catalyst for further improvements. The full text of our submission can be read on the Society's website.

Laurence Marsh

Historical footnote: Why the "Higgs" Industrial Estate? The name derives from the firm of F (Frederick) and HF (Henry Frederick) Higgs, building contractors, who had their works here. They formed in the 1880s and built many public buildings, especially in South London, for example the Tate Library at Brixton and St John the Evangelist in Guernsey Grove. Henry was the son of William Higgs, the very successful Victorian builder who founded the separate business that later became the major construction firm of Higgs and Hill. The partners Frederick and Henry were probably related. Neither married and the firm in the years after World War I passed to Frederick's nephew, Basil Charles Aldous, a one-time Chair of the Dulwich Estate Governors.

Self-storage for Milkwood Road

"Storage is becoming a more essential part of everyday living in the modern world." So say Shurgard, the Seattle-based company



Proposed building

that has started work on the clearance of what used to be the Redwing Coaches site on Milkwood Road. In its place will come a new self-storage facility, in particular, it seems, to house what we cannot fit into our ever smaller homes. The new building is an architectural non-entity, but far better than some warehouses with Shurgard branding. The Society



Redwing Coaches have flown

commented on the planning application and pressed Lambeth to require proper landscaping to soften the impact. A planning condition has been imposed, requiring the presentation of a full landscaping plan for the site.

FRAMING HERNE HILL

Jim Davidson's business, Brockwell Art Services, has survived and prospered in the centre of Herne Hill for 40 years – whilst Jim himself was born, educated and brought up here. So truly he is a Herne Hill native. Perhaps even a Herne Hill Personality.

A conversation with this mild-mannered but tenacious, popular and immensely well-connected man roams engagingly across a wide landscape of personal, business and local experience. It cannot easily be condensed into a short article. But we can try to rough out some details of Jim and his business that reflect how our community has changed – and what stays the same.

Let's start with Jim's shop, 232 Railton Road. When he did his shopping in Herne Hill as a young person, this was F.J. Graham's Record Shop, supplier of vinyl LPs and EPs. Here, Jim bought his first Beatles EP in 1962. And how about this for retail archaeology? The existing counter in Jim's shop, where for the last 40 years many a customer's picture has been unwrapped and laid flat at the start of a conversation about mounts and frames - well, this is actually Mr Graham's original counter. At the back are the slots where 12-inch vinyls were stored.

Between 1945 and 2002, a few steps along from No. 232, Nick and Elly Pourou ran a shoe repair business. It is now a small barbershop under new ownership, the previous French coiffeur having cut his losses (get that?) at the end of last year.

Another neighbouring shop, which in due course became integrated into Jim's double-fronted enterprise, was until the late 1970s an auto electrical business.

Like the Blackbird Bakery on the other side (No. 230), these are all single-storey establishments: the upper stories, where typically the shop owners and their families would have lived, were never rebuilt after a German bomb hit this stretch of Railton Road in World War II. Perhaps one day might this stretch of Railton Road be properly rebuilt, symmetry restored?

Across the road Jim remembers one of a chain of greengrocers, run by the Kingston family: Mrs Kingston senior had started with a shop next to The Commercial in premises now held by the Agile Rabbit. In due course, after several changes of ownership, the business ended up in the hands of the Fox family, trading as Seasons of England, who more recently had to transfer their business across the railway line to Milkwood Road when the shops were closed for redevelopment by Network Rail.

But there have been some almost-constants. What is now the hardware store and builders merchants was a similar business some 50 years ago, once run by Masons, then by a Peter Lambert, one of whose claims to fame was that he was the very first boy to go to the huge, highly progressive Tulse Hill Comprehensive School in 1956 (it closed in 1990). Mr Lambert took over the hardware store and the attached woodyard in the railway arches – though that is now

inhabited by the Off-The-Cuff music venue: those seeking timber must go further afield. Thankfully, the hardware store flourishes.

Jim attended Tulse Hill School when he moved on from Rosendale School in 1965. Unlike a more controversial alumnus of the school, Ken Livingstone, Jim enjoyed his time there, became a Head Boy, made many lasting and useful friendships, and stayed on into the Sixth Form to study Latin, Greek and Spanish. But turning down the offer of a place at university and opting for the real world, he initially joined the companies criss-crossing London to convert the capital's gigantic gas distribution network from coal gas to natural gas. He later moved on to work in the telecoms business for British Telecom.

But clouds gathered over the business environment in 1976. Prudently, Jim started to ponder working on his own account. In 1979 he learnt that the owner of the record shop (who had taken over the business from Mr Graham) was about to sell up. Jim saw the opportunity, bought the necessary art and framing materials from Athena, and opened his framing business the very next day on 9 December 1979. The rest, if you like, is history. When the auto electricians ceased trading in 1992 Jim acquired their premises too, and doubled the size of his shop.

The biggest single change for all the shops in what is now Station Square was the 2010 part-pedestrianisation that followed the major junction regeneration. Jim was one of the local group who struggled, lobbied and negotiated hard and long to make this happen. It used to be just another busy street with heavy traffic running past the station. No one would dream of putting tables outside a café for customers who wanted to sip a coffee in the sun. Now the

part-pedestrianisation has led to much greater footfall, initially to an upturn in business, and a pleasanter and more business-friendly environment. At least, that was the case until 2016.

Then, three years ago, the shops opposite were emptied and boarded up, and for all the remaining businesses, including Jim's, turnover flatlined. That's still much the case. And who can tell what, if any, the impact of Brexit will be? Nevertheless, it's clear to Jim that completion of the refurbishment and occupation of the empty premises would work wonders in attracting more people, to the benefit of all the businesses in Station Square. Meanwhile, he has plans. Watch this space.

Apart from business, Jim exercises his lungs by singing in local choirs, principally at All Saints' Church in West Dulwich, and his legs by cycling – a pursuit he started in much younger days at the Herne Hill Velodrome, and now puts to good fund-raising use by completing sponsored solo rides to Santiago de Compostela and to Rome, for All Saints' Church, and to Paris, in 2017, as part of a group raising funds for St Christopher's Hospice. His next ride for the Hospice is in June, this time to Amsterdam. Prepare to dig deep, readers.

Pat Roberts



Jim Davidson

TRACING RUSKIN

On 8 February 1919 *The Graphic* published an article remembering the birth of John Ruskin on that day 100 years before. It talks



Ruskin's birthplace at 54 Hunter Street

of the house at 54 Hunter Street just north of Brunswick Square where Ruskin was born and lived with his parents until he was four years old, with its “chocolate cake identification disc”; the forerunner of blue plaques, they were put up by the Society of Arts. The article moves on to 28 Herne Hill, Ruskin's home through the formative years of his childhood and early youth. The author has some difficulty locating it, which seems surprising because in 1909 the LCC had placed a commemorative plaque in honour of Ruskin on the house. Perhaps the plaque had been removed by a Ruskin enthusiast. The house was unoccupied and probably had been for the previous 12 years, after the lease ran out in 1907. It must have made a sorry sight. Finally, the article turned to the much grander Ruskin house, bought by Ruskin's father in 1842, standing in its seven-acre grounds on Denmark Hill, and by this date a private residential hotel. This house was Ruskin's home for 29 years until he left London and in 1871, moved to Brantwood on

Coniston Water in the Lake District.

Among the many books written by Henry C. Shelley, author of the *Graphic* article, was *The Homes and Haunts of Thomas Carlyle*. Carlyle's Chelsea house was acquired by admirers in 1895. If one puts aside Shakespeare and Milton, whose homes were preserved centuries after their deaths, Carlyle's house is, I believe, the first example of the home of a celebrated person preserved by contemporary admirers in trust for future generations. Perhaps with this in mind Shelley said of Ruskin's birthplace: “Is it not possible so to utilise that building as to keep alight therein those lamps of Truth, Beauty, Power, Sacrifice, Obedience, Labour and Memory of which he was the high priest?” He refers of course to the *The Seven Lamps of Architecture*, that heady Ruskinian mix of scholarship, highly personal aesthetics and morality first published in 1849 and which, through many editions, came to have an influence on so much that was built in England in the second half of the 19th century. It was one that Ruskin came to regret bitterly. The rural South London outskirts that Ruskin knew and loved in his youth disappeared beneath the work of the speculative builder, rows of brick villas and terraces with their garnish of porches and pediments often loosely derived from the Venetian Gothic. In 1872 Ruskin wrote: “One of my principal notions for leaving my present house [on Denmark Hill] is that it is surrounded everywhere by accursed Frankenstein monsters of, indirectly, my own making”. It is right that



Ruskin's childhood home at 28 Herne Hill

surroundings of Herne Hill had changed out of all recognition. Preservation of the house at 28 Herne Hill, though it took as long as 190



The back garden at 28 Herne Hill

South London had begun to change by this date, but it would be another 20 or so years before the immediate

part of the later stages of the destruction of Georgian London. I have expected its demise for many years. The pages of *The Times* in 1947 a writer to that name. “In June it was still a grand house. Vanished! Of the estate at Shooter's Hill, nothing remains. Littered with tree-boughs, the remains are being laid across the road. Also along the adjoining road, Sunray Avenue. Notice the house of Camberwell Housing. I can imagine the land as the site of that Ruskin and his parents' own cream and churning house. “porter's lodge, where the porter was stopped before starting

Ruskin added: “But though the house in the Denmark Hill house,



Home at 28 Herne Hill

and Denmark Hill truly on. Hunter Street was not to be, 1869 before it was demolished, of the widespread in Bloomsbury. One might use to be remarked upon in but it passed unmourned. Herne Hill house disappeared in a newspaper had lamented: "The best house: now it has gone, with the wonderful view to the garden remains but broken ground, bricks and rubbish. New roads and the descent to Green Lane, the property to the modern boards announce 'Borough Building Site.'" It is hard today to see the pasture for three cows the parents kept, "skimming our milk and making our own butter", or the time when undesirable visitors could be kept from troubling us with a knock". And we had many happy days and none of our new ways ever

were the same to us as the old: the basketfuls of peaches had not the flavour of the numbered dozen or score, nor were all the apples of the great orchard worth a single dishful of the Siberian crabs of Herne Hill". No. 28 Herne Hill was one of a pair of semi-detached houses built about 1810. The two houses occupied a plot that today accommodates four houses, Nos.

26 – 32, between Dorchester Court and the Quadrangle. Where the latter now stands was a matching pair of houses. One must imagine the Ruskin house set back more than twice the distance of the houses on the site today. Ruskin's mother enjoyed tending lilacs and laburnums in the spacious front garden. But it was the gently sloping garden at the back, some 200 feet long, that her son remembered with most emotion. He recalled "the strong old mulberry tree, a tall white-heart cherry tree, a black Kentish one, and an almost unbroken hedge, all round, of alternate gooseberry and currant bush; decked, in due season, with magical splendour of abundant fruit; fresh green, soft amber, and rough-bristled crimson bending the spinous branches; clustered pearl and pendant ruby joyfully discoverable under the large leaves that looked like a vine".

The Herne Hill garden exercised a profound influence on Ruskin. One notices not only his intense sensitivity to colour and form — he was a fine artist himself — but also his deep love of nature, a recurring theme in his writing. It is justly claimed that Ruskin was an important



John Ruskin in 1886

Portrait by Thomas Blake Wirgman (National Portrait Gallery). Ruskin sat for the portrait in February 1884 at Herne Hill, with a second sitting at the studio of Edward Burne-Jones. It shows the interior of the attic room at 28 Herne Hill that he used on visits to London. An engraving of the portrait was published in *The Graphic* on 3 April 1886.

forerunner of the environmental movement of our own times.

The house at 28 Herne Hill was the first of the three Ruskin homes in London to go, in the early 1920s. A few weeks before war broke out in 1914 there were press reports of the house in the hands of the housebreakers with the attic story removed. *The Globe* wrote: "No one has thought it worthwhile to save it. It is to be pulled down to provide building material for the building of a block of flats for bachelor girls. A road is to be driven through the garden at the back, and all trace of the house and grounds which Ruskin described so lovingly



Old wall along back garden of 26 Herne Hill

in *Praeterita* and *Fors Clavigera* will soon have disappeared". The attic room had the best views. Ruskin recalled "the Norwood hills on one side, and the winter sunrise over them; and the valley of the Thames on the other, with Windsor telescopically clear in the distance, and Harrow, conspicuous always in fine weather to open vision against the summer sunset".

This room was Ruskin's nursery as a child, then his bedroom and later the room he often used when visiting London, after he had settled at Brantwood and given

the Herne Hill house to his cousin Joan Severn. Those views from Herne Hill were the basis of the strong affinity that Ruskin found with Turner, surely the greatest painter of skies and atmospheric effects in English art.

The First World War delayed the demolition, but by 1925 the house was gone. In the front garden of what is today No. 26 is a plaque on a post placed by the LCC in 1925 recording the fact that



The house on Denmark Hill

John Ruskin lived in a house on the site. That is the only reminder, unless a length of old brick wall in the lane that runs down to the derelict garages at the side of Dorchester Court could be attributed as part of the garden wall of the Ruskin house. Sadly, this seems unlikely, because careful overlay of an old map on the current topography shows the line of the old wall as the boundary of the large house that stood where Dorchester Court now stands and abutting a lane that divided that house from the Ruskin house.

After Ruskin's death his reputation suffered a period of decline. The Victorian era was over. The concept of the great man, the "hero" promulgated by Thomas Carlyle, was out of favour. And it was difficult to place Ruskin – was he an art critic, a social radical, a maverick reactionary, a writer too ready to sound off at length about almost any subject? It is therefore not surprising that, apart



Study of Rocks in the Alps, by John Ruskin

from local place names, all physical trace of Ruskin has been erased from Herne Hill. But one would like to think the animus loci remains; it did so much to shape the thinking of the man, and that thinking is preserved in what is, at its best, some of the finest writing in English literature.

Laurence Marsh

WEALTH AND WELLNESS

CURATING FOR RUSKIN'S BICENTENARY

John Ruskin: The Power of Seeing opened early in a year of celebratory exhibitions and events commemorating the bicentenary of John Ruskin's birth, dubbed – for purposes of expediency – Ruskin200. It is always a daunting, if exciting, prospect curating an exhibition on Ruskin, particularly in a year when there would be a press of at least a half-dozen curators looking for that elusive "different angle" and indeed a curatorial



Thun, 1854, by John Ruskin

rush for the object loans that would help illustrate the chosen take on the Victorian polymath.

And this presents a difficulty. Ruskin's work and interests cover an extraordinary range of topics from archaeology to ornithology, from botany to social politics; but he is also many things to many people, from dogmatic aesthete to revolutionary socialist to, understandably, persona non grata. Working within a Ruskin Collection it is easy to forget the majority of people have never in fact heard of Ruskin or, quite commonly, one is asked a slightly hushed, hung question: "was he the one who...?" What audience should the exhibition therefore anticipate and how should the works be presented?

The answer for me lay very simply in the Collection of the Guild of St George itself: Sheffield's particular Ruskin collection, and the collection that I take great delight in curating. This is a collection which was amassed for Sheffield's workers: a tool of inspiration for artisans and craftsmen, created, not as a monument to Ruskin, but

by Ruskin himself, the consequence of his belief that everyone should have access to something beautiful, no matter their background, status or position in life. This for me (and of course our collaborative exhibition team) was an exhibition that simply needed to present something – to borrow from Ruskin’s introductory letters on the collection – splendid and magnificent: something to delight the eyes.

The particular richness of the Collection of the Guild of St George lies for me in its expansive holdings in natural history, in particular botanical and ornithological imagery and a dazzling mineral collection. Natural history was for Ruskin a life-long passion; a joy rooted in beauty and spirituality. Over the period he was putting together the collection, Ruskin was also writing his “Grammars” in geology, botany and ornithology. He saw these subjects as indispensable for all people, not only as a science proper but as a natural illustration to ideas of mutual cooperation, respect and the laws of life.



Scarlet Macaw [sic], 1832 by Edward Lear

In writing of the collection and its original St George’s Museum, Ruskin hoped that its beauty would incite his visitors to take a country walk. The museum was perched on a hill, out of the Sheffield smoke and with views across the neighbouring hills and valleys. Ruskin planned that the attractions inside the museum would be eclipsed by the natural world and the health giving properties – both physical and emotional – it could bring. In modern terms, what Ruskin was trying to promote, in a fast-paced and seemingly evermore deprived nation, was wellness. This idea has such contemporary relevance that it seemed an ideal message for us to use in our exhibition.

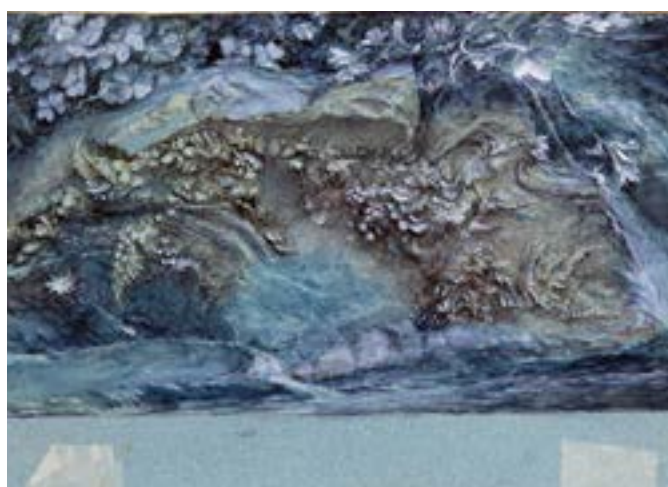
What we needed to do therefore, was to introduce Ruskin primarily as an educator, tracing his career through art and architectural criticism, addressing his own take on drawing as a means of – again, to use modern phrasing – practising mindfulness, and to look at this work as a precursor, and indeed stimulus to his social politics and

establishment of the Guild of St George. The Collection of the Guild of St George, would, as was always the intention, remain at the exhibition’s heart. It is not a collection perhaps that has value in a conventional sense of money: famous artists, flashy virtuosity and the like. As with Ruskin’s own drawing, it is a collection that radiates a quiet delight; its “splendour and magnificence” is in the detail and the colour of its drawings and in the workmanship of Ruskin’s pupils. For audiences its delight is also in the serenity of attending to the works, seeking out each piece’s intricacies.

“There is no wealth but life” is one of Ruskin’s most famous sayings. A good life for him, he wrote, is defined by the powers of love, joy and admiration. The Collection of the Guild of St George epitomises just that.

Louise Pullen

We are most grateful to Louise Pullen for agreeing to write this article for us. Louise is the curator of the Collection of the Guild of St George, the Ruskin collection at Museums Sheffield, and of the Two Temple Place special exhibition. The illustrations used here are from the Ruskin collection in Sheffield.



Study of Moss, Fern and Wood-sorrel upon a Rocky River Bank, c.1875, by John Ruskin

Ruskin events

The bicentenary has seen a remarkable awakening of interest in John Ruskin, much less in his life, the major source of interest in past decades, and far more in what he wrote and the ideas he advocated. There are numerous events across the whole country in celebration of one who is surely Herne Hill’s most illustrious resident – to date. We pass over the notion that, according to some, Ruskin belongs to Dulwich! Information about such events can be found at <http://ruskinto-day.org/> and <http://www.ruskin200.com/>. The Society’s Thomas Lynn Bristowe lecture on Wednesday 12 June, to be given by Lambeth Archivist Jon Newman, will be entitled “*Reflecting on Ruskin*”, and the Herne Hill Music Festival, in cooperation with the Society, will be staging a Ruskin-themed concert on Wednesday 9 September. The Festival also plans a performance on the following evening of Ruskin’s *King of the Golden River*, set to music for the first time, and sponsored by the Herne Hill Society.

THE POWER OF SEEING

– RUSKIN AT TWO TEMPLE PLACE

Among the many commemorations of John Ruskin's 200th birthday is a major exhibition at Two Temple Place. Originally the estate office of William Waldorf Astor, the splendid neo-Elizabethan/Renaissance building hosts annual displays drawn from regional collections. This show, which boasts over 190 items illustrating Ruskin's legacy in many fields, is produced in collaboration with Museums Sheffield and the Guild of St George.

We begin in the Lower Gallery, formerly offices for Astor's employees, to be greeted with an 1875 portrait of Ruskin attributed to Charles Fairfax Murray, but more likely a self-portrait. His hair combing is opposite to that shown in photographs, indicating a mirror image, as in known self-portraits, e.g. that on the cover of the current issue of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings magazine. A timeline covers events in Ruskin's life with the historical and cultural context.

Ruskin was an eclectic collector; examples here include Etruscan pottery and old English coins shown with his study drawings, an 18th-century History of British Birds which he annotated, plus engravings by Dürer and Holbein. Several watercolours exemplify Ruskin's view that we can understand overall structure by examining minute elements, from his own "Fast Sketch of Withered Oak Leaves" to his pupil George Allen's "Study of Thorns".

A section on Venice celebrates Ruskin's beloved city in closely observed building features, a large J.W. Bunney oil painting of San Marco (try to locate the spot from which the nearby plaster cast was taken) and portraits of doges, one from the National Gallery, another by Octavia Hill after Bellini. There is also a charming watercolour of the Piazzetta by Samuel Prout, who lived off Denmark Hill and was greatly admired by Ruskin.

Architecture was a special subject for Ruskin. It is fascinating to see



daguereotypes he took in Lucca, Thun, Rheinfelden and Pisa alongside his watercolour, ink and graphite renderings.

One artist Ruskin championed was Turner, several of whose works are on show, together with landscapes and nature studies he inspired. An amusing addition,



Two Temple Place on the Thames Embankment

by William Parrott, depicts Turner on Varnishing Day.

The stairwell features Sheffield crafts through the ages, with reminders of the unhealthy environment in which people lived and worked. Ruskin's deep

regard for the highly skilled craftspeople producing steel products, combined with his wish to improve their health and working conditions, prompted him to create a free museum in Walkley, on a hill above Sheffield. Workers could come and experience art, appreciate the natural beauty of organic forms and walk in the fresh air enjoying the views.

Ascend Astor's glorious staircase to the Upper Gallery, where a list of Ruskin's 15 pet hates includes railway stations, cycling and being photographed. Ruskin-inspired wallpaper and fabric panels complement a huge site-specific lampshade over the grand chandelier.

The Library has been arranged to give a flavour of the original museum in Walkley. There are no labels, as Ruskin wanted people to come to the works fresh and simply enjoy them, whether or not they could read. Architectural watercolours jostle with 13th-15th century books, a Japanese vase, a terracotta depicting a blacksmith's forge in a "Prie Dieu" display case, a charming Burne-Jones design, a Turner in a presentation box, Biblical scenes and a bust of Ruskin by a former knife-grinder whose life was transformed by the museum and Ruskin himself. There is also a tray of minerals, originally kept in velvet-lined drawers with those from deepest in the earth at the bottom. See how many you can identify.

The Great Hall is festooned with beautiful bird paintings, drawings and book illustrations by Ruskin and others including Audubon, Turner and Edward Lear plus enlarged model quills. Flowering plant studies reward close inspection; landscapes and geological studies made on Ruskin's travels show the breadth of his interests and skills. There are complementary views by artists such as G.F. Watts, while 21st-century installations and a film using photogrammetry to explore glacial peaks demonstrate Ruskin's enduring influence.

Jeff Doorn

John Ruskin: *The Power of Seeing* continues until 22 April 2019

Open Mondays 10am-4.30pm, Wednesdays 10am-9pm, Thursdays-Saturdays 10am-4.30pm, Sundays 11am-4.30pm. Entry free.

“A mischievous side that leaps from the page”

In 1913, a family came to live in Herne Hill. The father, Fred Lucas, was working in a motorcar workshop under the railway arches. The mother, Charlotte, was a one-time actress and mother of five children. The oldest child, Grace, wrote a lively, deeply moving memoir of her childhood – *Grace's Story* – published by the Herne Hill Society.

Herne Hill in 1913 was surrounded by fields and orchards, Grace tells us. The family lived on Kemerton Road, close to Ruskin Park. The detail of life is beautifully drawn: the ferrying of coal up small stairs, the magic lantern shows on Saturday, her mother's singing of the old music hall hits.

Grace draws an intimate portrait of family life. Her father is tall, handsome and gregarious. Her mother is tempestuous and beautiful. Grace herself loves books and reading, and has a mischievous side that leaps from the page.

Everything changes for the family in 1914. Guns are placed in Ruskin Park. The children begin to have nightmares inspired by the ferocious posters of rampaging Germans. Grace's sister Gladys begins to sleepwalk. And, one day, Grace's father comes home with his papers – he has joined the Army Ordnance Corps.

Charlotte spends her time crying over the casualty lists, gardening, and shouting at



the children. Grace and her siblings sit on the back wall, watching the boys who used to play cricket marching around the park in their ill-fitting uniforms. At night, they watch the bombs fall on London.

At last, the family get the telegram they have been dreading. Grace's father is killed in action. Grace's testament to this event is heart-breaking, as is her account of the

family trip into London, dressed in their Sunday best, to try to secure a War pension.

The fatherless family enters into a period of poverty. Charlotte goes out to work, and, as the eldest daughter, Grace is called upon to help feed the family. There are moments of happiness and beauty, amid the grind of a poor London childhood. They adopt a huge stray dog, and sit at night in front of the fire all with their feet propped up on his back. They visit the country and the seaside.

Grace is a regular at the Carnegie Library, and reads as many books as she can. Her father's regiment pays for her to go to James Allen's Girls' School, and she goes on to win a prestigious art scholarship. But art does not pay the bills, and Charlotte is adamant that her daughter will earn a decent wage.

Grace's Story is an incredible insight into the past of SE24 – its landscape and its characters. The book is dotted with photographs of the family and their environs. As Herne Hill dwellers, Grace's haunts are our haunts, and yet they are so utterly, mesmerisingly different.

Antonia Senior

Grace's Story: Growing up in Herne Hill During the First World War, by Grace MacFarquhar. Available from the Society www.hernehillsociety.org.uk/bookstall, and from **Herne Hill Books**, Price £8

THE PICARESQUE TALE OF ALEC'S EAR

In 1969, while John Lennon and Yoko Ono were holding their “bed-in” for peace at the Amsterdam Hilton, somewhat less peaceful events were taking place in Herne Hill's Half Moon Hotel.

In May of that year, 40-year-old builder Alec Graham was having a bust-up with his drinking pal, just before closing time. The *Daily Mirror* reported on Monday 5 May 1969 that the fight involved Alec's head being gripped in an arm lock, whilst a cufflink ripped his left



Bert Hyland standing to the left of world champion Rocky Marciano

ear off. An eyewitness account in *Private Eye* from the Half Moon's landlord, Bert Hyland, a former boxing champion, reported the fight slightly differently, “Alec put the lock on this chap, who reached up and tore his ear off.”

After the affray Alec staggered off home 50 yards up the road, pursued by Bert Hyland. “I've got your ear”, shouted Bert, who told him to get it sewn back on. “I don't want it,” groaned Alec, who took his ear and dropped it into a dustbin.

Later that night, Alec turned up at the emergency unit of King's College Hospital, where doctors asked police to hunt for the ear. The *Daily Mirror* reports that a police Z-car sped off, and a policeman retrieved Alec's ear from the bin. An hour later, Alec was in one piece again after the ear was stitched back on.

Interviewed by the *Mirror* with his ear heavily bandaged, Alec said, “I feel a bit groggy. Now I just want to forget about it. I've shaken hands with my friend.”

Landlord Bert Hyland was doubtless unfazed by the incident. A former boxing champion, active between 1942 and 1952, he took part in 57 professional contests, achieving 11 knock outs. “It wasn't a serious fight,” said Bert.

Peter Blair

Difficult Transport Choices

East Dulwich CPZ

Southwark is proposing a new CPZ covering the area south and east from East Dulwich railway station, bounded by and including East Dulwich Road, Barry Road, Lordship Lane, and East Dulwich Grove. Most of Dulwich Village is excluded from the proposals and will remain unrestricted. Consultation was launched in January, and a presentation made at the Dulwich Community Council meeting at the end of January. Comments have been invited by 28 February, and the proposals will be reviewed on a street by street basis. Formal plans will be subject to consultation in May 2019.



The proposals include controlling residents' parking; business parking permits; a scheme for free and paid visitors' parking near Lordship Lane; and associated street and pavement improvements. While many of the residents are welcoming the scheme (given the current parking congestion) the businesses along Lordship Lane are concerned that the scheme will reduce their trade. A particular concern is the new arrangement for using the short-term parking spaces on and around the Lordship Lane shopping area. This will involve a phone call to use them, and the option of paying for a one-and-a-half hour extension period after the first free half hour. This may result in fewer opportunities for very short-term parking due to slower turnover of spaces. There is also concern from shopkeepers about the costs of business parking.

And for those who like to drive to and park in Dulwich Park it looks likely that this may soon cost you £2 per hour.

Heathrow Third Runway Operations Consultation

Following Government approval in June 2018 for the owners of Heathrow Airport to pursue the development of a third runway, Heathrow has launched a consultation (8 January - 4 March) on how to manage resulting increased flight activity. Regular readers of this irregular feature (hello to you both) may have forgotten the article in the Autumn 2015 issue of this magazine on the Davies Airport Commission Report, which listed six conditions which would have to be met before Heathrow expansion could be considered. This current consultation seeks to discuss these, in the context of the two legal requirements for expansion:

- The Planning Inspectorate needs to issue a Development Consent Order to allow the physical development to take place;
- The Civil Aviation Authority needs to agree changes to the management of flight paths approaching and leaving the new runway configuration.

Over the years the aircraft using Heathrow have been getting larger and quieter (and there are landing fee incentives to promote this). Heathrow is also seeking to squeeze a further 5% capacity from their existing two runways, by using the enhanced satellite-

based navigation systems now available on aircraft, and juggling the early morning flight landing restrictions.

Currently, with a predominant wind from the west, most take-offs are to the west, and most landings are from the east – with the airport alternating the use of the two parallel runways between landing and take-off, to spread the noise impacts around. The third runway will enable a wider range of flight management tactics to be used, spreading the noise over a wider area. “Noise” is very complex issue – how loud, how long, how often, when, how unexpected, how variable – and there are many complex ways of combining these aspects, and many arguments about which are the clearest ways to present the noise impacts of various tactics for flight operations on surrounding communities.

Several suggestions are made in the consultation document as to how the wider spread of noise can be managed:

- Switching runway use between take-off and landing so that areas near to the airport affected by take-offs in the morning are spared in the afternoon;
- “Airspace alteration” – so that a wider range of approach and departure paths over the south-east of England are used;
- “Managed preference” of the use of the three runways, so that in periods of low winds, easterly and westerly operations can be managed to reduce the impact on communities underneath the flight paths.

Insomniacs will know that early morning flights into Heathrow start to fly over Herne Hill about 4:15am. Heathrow are consulting on how they can manage the early morning surge of arriving flights when they have an extra runway, considering aircraft arriving both as expected, and early, using both a “quota count” (a system of penalty points for night arrivals by noisy, older, planes) and a



“movement limit” (a cumulative seasonal limit on night flights).

The overall thrust of the document is asking those affected to choose between bad alternatives.

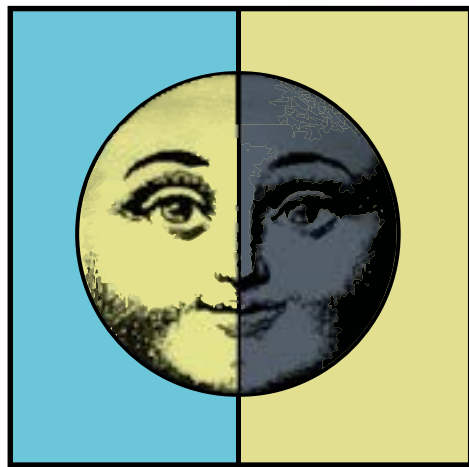
The current consultation on

the airspace use will be followed by a consultation in 2020 on the more intensive use of the existing airport runways. If the parallel local planning process on the physical expansion proceeds as the Heathrow owners hope, there will be a development approval in 2021, construction will start, and a further consultation held in 2022 on the flight path options for the three runway development. Heathrow then hopes that the third runway will come into operation in 2026. Given the considerable problems with satisfying the constraints on development impacts, and satisfying safety and environmental standards, this start date is somewhat optimistic.

To take part in the online survey

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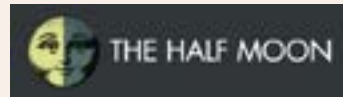
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