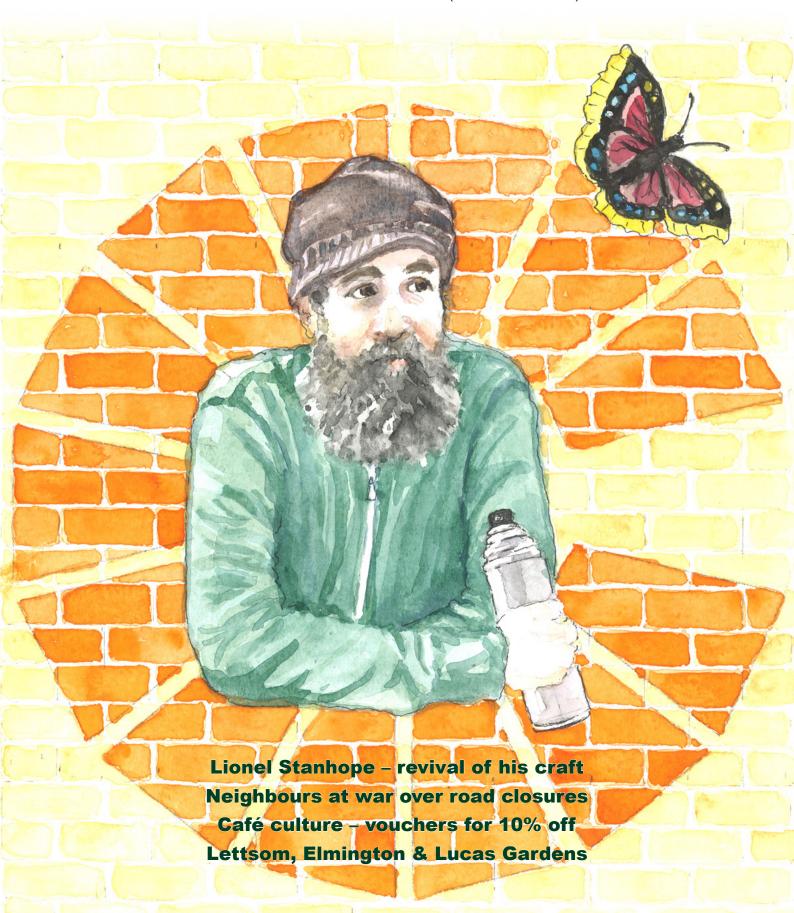
# CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

The magazine of The Camberwell Society
No 208 Summer 2021 £1.50 (free to members)



Chair's report

Sunflowers, Virtual Open Gardens Day, Planning Committee and the plinth



New series: Camberwell streets 3



Of marbles and murals

Update on the station and Butterfly Walk

Turning inside out

Camberwell Arts Festival is gearing up

Tour the world

Globetrotting with the new Lucas Gardens tree walk

A 'Great Estate'

Uncovering green potential at Elmington Community Gardens



Neighbours at war over road closures

> The pros and cons of the schemes blocking motor access

Community goods

Saturday stall at the Green

Camberwell's café culture

Get a 10 per cent discount at featured cafés!



**Lettsom Gardens** 

Past, present and future of a very special green area for Camberwell

4

5

6

7



Letters

Increase of lockdown violence towards women... Green Dale inquiry

**Planning** 

8

9

**10** 

11

A New Southwark Plan and planning update

**Obituaries** 

Architect Trevor Dannatt and designer Trevor Pattinson

The writing on the wall

The revival of Lionel Stanhope's craft is enhancing Camberwell



16

17

18

19

Make Camberwell smile

Free sunflower seeds a free book to download and a free film to stream



Cover

Cover picture: Lionel Stanhope illustration by Jane Moxham



# Local societies, venues and events - please check details

**Brunswick Park Neighbourhood** 

Tenants and Residents Association Patricia Ladly | 020 7703 7491 tandra.brunswickpark@yahoo.co.uk

**Brixton Society** 

www.brixtonsociety.org.uk

Burgess Park, Friends of

www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com

**Butterfly Tennis Club** 

www.butterflytennis.com

**Camberwell Arts** 

Promoting the arts in Camberwell and Camberwell in the Arts camberwellartsfestival@gmail.com www.camberwellarts.org.uk

**Camberwell Gardens Guild** 

Membership enquiries to: Pat Farrugia 17 Kirkwood Road SE15 3XT

Carnegie Library, Friends of

foclchair@gmail.com or foclmembers@gmail.com (for membership queries) Concerts in St Giles' Church Camberwell Church Street

www.music@stgiles.com

**Dulwich Picture Gallery** 

College Road SE21 7AD 020 8693 5254 www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Herne Hill Society

Membership: Herne Hill Society PO Box 27845, SE24 9XA www.hernehillsociety.org.uk

**Maudsley Learning** 

ORTUS learning and events centre 82-96 Grove Lane SE5 8SN www.maudsleylearning.com

Minet Conservation Association

020 7737 8210 | www.minet.fsnet.co.uk

**Nunhead Cemetery** 

Linden Grove SE15 Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC) 020 8693 6191 | www.fonc.org.uk

**Peckham Society** 

Peter Frost | 020 8613 6757 www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Ruskin Park, Friends of

info@friendsofruskinpark.org.uk

**SE5 Forum** 

SE5Forum.org.uk admin@SE5 forum.org.uk

**South London Gallery** 

65 Peckham Road SE5 Open: Tuesday to Sunday -12pm-6pm, closed on Monday www.southlondongallery.org

**Southwark Nature Action Volunteers** 

southwarknature@gmail.com

St Giles', Friends of

16 Sears Street SE5 7JL robertcope@hotmail.com www.stgilescambewell.org

St Giles' Churchyard, Friends of

StGilesChurchyardFriends@ gmail.com

**Wells Way Triangle Residents** Association

Andrew Osborne WWTRACamberwell@gmail.com

# We grow and flourish

urn immediately to the back page of the *Quarterly* to find some sunflower seeds so you can take part in the Camberwellwide planting of sunflowers. The black seed is a dwarf variety (Black Peredovich) which is ideal for smaller spaces, not least because it requires no staking.

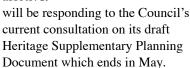
The striped seed is a Giant variety – which may need staking if planted anywhere windy. The planting season for sunflowers is surprisingly late and so certainly fine to plant now. Sunflowers do need sun! Local primaries have taken part as well as other local groups. It's wonderful to have done this in partnership with SE5 Forum. Remember Virtual Open Gardens Day on 20 June... can you contribute to our plant and cake stall? Do send in photos of your sunflowers' progress.

The Society's Planning Sub-

Committee has been particularly busy. In additional to its regular review of submitted planning applications, much thought has been given to the emerging New Southwark Plan, currently going though its Examination-in-Public. The PSC submitted formal representations about the draft local plan in November 2020 and concluded a Statement of Common Ground with the Council at the end of March.

The Society has agreed to disagree about the Council's approach to the sensitive issues of development density and height. Best practice drawn from other London boroughs has mainly fallen on deaf ears in Southwark but the Council has agreed to reconsider its heritage policies. The PSC has already submitted drafts of policy on listed buildings, conservation areas and the

local list of undesignated heritage assets. It



We are keen to extend the use of the Denmark Hill Station plinth to local groups (with, for safety reasons, some very specific restrictions). We have invited the excellent Camberwell Arts to curate the art usage of the plinth. The digging and planting which started with the crocuses continues (thanks Judith H for the grape hyacinth and hollyhocks). We may not be able to travel yet but we can go around the world in Lucas Gardens, following the tree trail on page 6 from the Japanese pagoda tree to the Norway Maple.



# Stories of Camberwell streets

In a new series of articles, local resident *John Hurst* shares his research on the history of Camberwell's streets that has been part of his collaboration with the new website: *londonstreetguide.com* 

everend John George Storie (1797-1858) was vicar of St Giles' Church Camberwell from 1823 to 1846. He was born and grew up in Camberwell where his family owned Springfield Lodge, now site of a Salvation Army Young People's Hostel on Grove Hill Road.

After studying at Cambridge University, he returned to take up his church post and oversaw the rebuilding of St Giles' by the renowned English architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, designer of amongst other buildings the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station. Scott admired Reverend Storie but feared his anger and

changeable moods.

Storie also supported local education, helping to establish the Collegiate School on the eastern side of Camberwell Grove opposite the Grove Chapel. Opened in 1835 it closed in 1867.

He was a fervent opponent of the Camberwell Fair, held since the Middle Ages but which by the nineteeth century had in his opinion become an evil and immoral affair. He was responsible for its closure in 1855.

On a wall in Stories Road there is a stone inscribed:

"Mr Stories Freehold extends 18 Feet 4 inches from this Stone."



Running off Stories Road down to Canning Cross (formerly Canning Place – the previous name still visible on the wall opposite the side of The George Canning pub) is Stories Mews – unique in being the only such named thoroughfare in Britain.

Originally an unnamed back alley between Grove Lane and Camberwell Grove, the properties on the mews were mostly built in the early twenty-first century – some on land where previously the stables of the grand houses stood. One of the Mews houses was designed and built for the British olympic swimmer Duncan Goodhew.

# A run of marbles fit for a plinth

*Tony Coleman* reports on progress on the new Windsor Walk entrance, praise for the marble run and successful spring gardening.

ou may have lingered by the railings of Denmark Hill station, watching the marbles trundling down the run. The marble run was created by Nick Mair, Camberwell Society chair. It is part of a series of objects of art and curiosity that will be displayed on the plinth over the coming months.

The run took three months to build and required a lot of attention as the steel balls sought out every little weakness as they hammered down the track. Eventually stable and reliable it was displayed for six weeks, to be replaced on the plinth by a 'chaos wheel'. The plan is to start a gallery of displays so that the hard work can be viewed for longer.

#### Tom Moran visit

The marble run caught the attention of Tom Moran, managing director of Govia Thameslink (GTR). Thameslink have funded the building of the plinth and provided funds under contract with the Camberwell Society for four displays.

On a sunny day in mid-March Tom Moran came to the station and spent an hour talking with Nick Mair about the creation. He was clearly impressed and, in a press-release issued by GTR, said: "We've commissioned artists, community groups and schools to liven up thirty stations with unique artwork inspired by their local area. The Camberwell Society's fabulous marble run here at Denmark Hill is probably the most inventive and enchanting so far."

At the same event the local area station manager Trudy Habgood was awarded a special commendation for her quick thinking to stop the trains at another station to save the life of a suicide jumper.

#### The new entrance

The new entrance on Windsor Walk is starting to take shape. The building frame is up and will soon be followed by panels and glazing. By the time of publication, it will be a recognisable entrance hall. Much is still left to be done but the constructors say they



L-R: Nick Mair (Camberwell Society chair) Festus Oba (project manager, GTR), Trudy Habgood (area station manager), Tony Coleman (the author) and Tom Moran (MD, GTR)

are still on track for opening in early August.

#### **Springtime gardening**

The 1600 crocus bulbs have come up... well, many of them have! In spite of late planting we have been treated to a sea of purple that greets passengers as they walk up the slope toward the ticket hall. More planting is being planned for the garden area and for the space behind the railings that we have cleaned up.

# Camberwell's murals gather momentum

*Tony Coleman* describes developments on the roll out of murals inspired by the new Camberwell identity.

fter the mural under the railway bridge on Camberwell New Road and on the panels outside the Phoenix pub on Windsor Walk we now have the Camberwell 'C' painted at the back of Butterfly Walk. The mural turns a pass-through piece of road into a space of its own.

A big 'thank you' to MJW, the owners of Butterfly Walk, who commissioned the work and to Lionel Stanhope (see page 18) for the skilled execution. Lionel is getting some practice at Camberwell 'C's having also created the one on Windsor Walk.

But this is not the end. In April a mural was painted on the wall outside the Piano Factory apartments opposite Camberwell College of Arts.

Local residents, the 23rd



The mural behind Butterfly Walk is admired. Photo: Marie Staunton

Camberwell Scouts Group who meet nearby and local shopkeepers, were consulted on the design. The location is just inside the border with Peckham and will welcome visitors to Camberwell. And still there's more as there is a programme for two or three further murals at identified prominent locations. As always local people will be consulted to gather support and input into the design.

# Camberwell Arts Festival turns inside out

Running between 19-27 June Camberwell Arts Festival's open studios, fringe and commissions will blend the physical and digital, says chair *Kelly O'Reilly*.

ore than a year after we first went into lockdown – and began frantically working out how to move the 2020 Camberwell Arts Festival online – we are once again preparing for this annual celebration of the arts in Camberwell.

Like most people, we are far more digitally savvy now. And we are still reeling from how much the world has changed in a year. To say it's been a culture shock would be an understatement: Covid-19 has become one of the defining experiences of our lives.

The last year has taught us how difficult it is to be isolated from our families, friends and communities. It has also been a year to rediscover our neighbourhoods, rejuvenate our creativity, take pleasure in small things, and remind ourselves of what really matters.



Happy Together
by Gabriela Szulman.
Shop window installation at
Good Neighbours, part of the
Camberwell Arts Lockdown Exhibition
www.gabrielaszulman.com

Festivals should bring people together and this year, more than ever, we see the Camberwell Arts Festival as an opportunity to share our art and our stories. It is also a chance to come together to share our experiences of the pandemic.

After a year in which art has been made on kitchen tables, from stockpiled loo rolls, with the kids, via Zoom, we want to showcase everybody's art – in whatever format it takes – and make this our most collectively creative Festival ever.

Taking the theme of Inside Out, we'll mix the digital and physical realms to bring art directly into our homes as well as the outdoor spaces we all share. Turning art upside down, back to front and on its head, we want this to be art like never before – and art as it always was. Essential.

Visit: www.camberwellarts.org.uk to find out how you can get involved in this year's Camberwell Arts Festival.

# **Dulwich Pot & Plant Garden**

**POTS • PLANTS • GIFTS** 

Free parking in front of North Dulwich Station

12b Red Post Hill SE21 7BX Tel: 020 7733 3697 www.dulwichpots.co.uk



# K.A. Jeffries & Company Chartered Accountants

Local firm of Chartered Accountants. Operating in East Dulwich from 1966

Deals with general financial matters of small and family businesses.

General advice on Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax,

Inheritance Tax Planning and VAT.

Regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales for a range of investment business activities.

18 Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich SE22 8RA Tel: 020 8693 4145 Fax: 020 8299 0326 Email: saj@kajeffries.co.uk





Pilates for back pain, rehabilitation, fitness, injuries, Pre and Post natal exercise and sports training.

Unit 3, Artichoke mews, Camberwell. SE5 8TS T: **0207 358 5454** E: **info@artichokepilates.com** www.artichokepilates.com

# Tour the world in Lucas Gardens

*Alex Mair* and *Ben Moxon*, members of the new Camberwell Trees and Green Spaces Group, on the latest tree trail.

he Tree Trail is a 30-45-minute self-guided tree walk through Lucas Gardens. We cannot travel abroad right now but we can tour the world without leaving this small park because of its range of tree species, some indigenous but many from overseas. From the Tree of Heaven and Tibetan Cherries, both introduced from China, to the Indian Bean Tree, originating from the American deep south, the trees in Lucas Gardens come from all corners of the globe.

You can download a full trail guide from the Camberwell Society website

under the events and activities tab: www.camberwellsociety.org.uk/ events-activties/ It explores the histories of the tree species from both a scientific and cultural perspective, enlightening us on the trees' ages, origins and the local legends attached to them. The guide predicts what Lucas Gardens will look like in a number of years - the English Oak in the park is young but could eventually grow to 40 metres and dominate the park. Visitors will be glad to know that folklore tells us no harm will befall a traveller who seeks shelter under the park's prominent Copper Beech!



# For New Windows in Traditional and Contemporary Designs and Restoration and Repairs

07791 620011 Angi.driver23@gmail.com

Angidriver.co.uk



# Elmington Estate residents uncover green potential

Alice Martin explains what a difference being a 'Great Estate' pilot has made to Elmington's community.







Gardening is all about teamwork at the Elmington Estate.

Imington Community Gardens came into being in the summer of 2020. During the successive lockdowns a group of residents got to know each other through the exploration of the estate grounds in which we live. From an initial shared interest in gardening, and with a green light from the council, we have begun preparing areas of land to become new gardens, food growing plots and wildlife sanctuaries dotted across the estate.

The Elmington Estate, north Camberwell, consists of a patchwork of post-war architecture set between amenity grassed areas, residential roads and paved walkways. There are 1950s brick blocks with deck access and inbuilt concrete planters, 1970s maisonettes with balconies and yards, Brunswick Park School's Grade II listed modernist hall with sloping grass verges, and a series of low-rise flats clad with pastel pink facades surrounded by communal gardens. Following the demolition of parts of the estate in the early noughties, the area is now also interwoven with new-build private flats, some of which include residents only gated gardens.

Geographically our estate is at the intersection of many of Camberwell's best nature spots: we border Camberwell Green, Brunswick Park and Burgess Park. But save for the haven that is Benhill Road Nature Garden, our 'in-between' green spaces have not been nurtured.

When news came via the Mid-Elmington Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) last year that Elmington had been selected as one of Southwark's 'Great Estates' pilots, residents jumped at the chance to have the council's support to improve our green spaces. As part of this scheme Southwark has employed two part-time community gardening coordinators who have spurred on our ideas and provided a link into the council for planning permissions, gardening resources and water access. Together we've developed a vision for a number of sites:

- A secluded yard with a litter problem near Langland House will become a gardening hub with raised beds for food growing, a composting area and a table for tea breaks.
- Existing brick planters around Shirley House will be replenished with drought-tolerant herbs, perennials and native shrubs to complement a nearby playground renovation being led by the South London Gallery.
- The concrete entances of Dekker, Cunningham and Bridges Houses will get planting and a sustainable urban drainage system 'SUDS' to harvest rainwater from new integrated bins and bike storage (in conjunction with Southwark's flood risk management team).
- A sunny patch of grass will become a community orchard.

In addition we have started rewilding some disused areas in partnership with Southwark Nature Action Volunteers who (as covered in the last issue) are establishing a green corridor to link Burgess Park to other nearby nature spots. The expertise of this group in ecology, public planting and landscape design has been a huge boost. In February we planted a patch of disused land

with a hedge of hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn whips acquired for free from a conservation charity, along with wild roses and raspberry canes. We added bird boxes, a bat box and tree stumps to mark the site as wildlife-friendly and to prick the interest of children on their way to nearby schools and nurseries. As part of this green corridor, residents are nurturing sunflower seedlings to plant out in May as a pollinator hedge along Brisbane Street and later we hope to create mini wildflower meadows in designated 'no mow' areas to be agreed with the council maintenance team.

Our estate is also home to a modest walled woodland behind Langland House which we want to protect and preserve for the wildlife that has made it home, and for the residents who enjoy views onto its canopy.

This is a gardening project but it's also about improving our health, educating ourselves about the environment, building community and taking care of our shared spaces. We are a subsidiary of the TRA and our group consists of relative newcomers alongside those who have lived on the estate for several decades - including Paul, our de facto chief gardener and long term community activist who has pushed for an improved use of our grounds for many years. Together we are discovering our green fingers and the green potential of the estate, and we look forward to getting even more residents involved once we can safely

Find out more: https://linktr.ee/ Elmingtoncommunitygardens

# Neighbours at war over road closures

In the past year, Southwark Council has introduced over thirty schemes that stop cars from entering streets. *Shekhar Das* reports.



Benhill Road LTN Photo: Marie Staunton

In the decade before Covid, traffic in residential streets increased by 70 per cent. Air pollution was way above its legal limits. Councils and the City were rolling out dedicated cycle routes, with little immediate effect.

Then came the virus. People were required to stay at home. Streets emptied of traffic. It was an opportunity not to be missed. As part of its emergency Covid legislation, the government empowered councils to bypass normal procedures in approving schemes that block access to motor traffic, under the guise of assisting social distancing and promoting cycle and pedestrian safety. It also put £175m into a fund for 'active travel' - cycling and walking - which the Mayor channelled to London's boroughs for Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) schemes and similar closures near schools. The money was not forthcoming unless the council agreed to complete the job within 12 weeks. Act in haste, consult at leisure, was the injunction.

An LTN is comprised of a group of residential streets bordered by main roads, access to which is blocked at one end to motor traffic by barriers such as planters or bollards, or simply forbidden, the ban enforced by number-plate recognition cameras. It is therefore possible for residents and others to enter it by car from one end, but not to drive through it.

In Camberwell and its environs, there are five such schemes. The only one within Camberwell proper is the one around Brunswick Park. It is no longer possible to drive through the area from Peckham Road to Southampton Way. This scheme is funded by Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, which gave Southwark £250,000. In fact, the charity was the main driver. It chose the area, presumably to improve the health of its residents. Even the ward Councillors had little say in the project. They had to fight for funding to monitor pollution in Peckham Road and Southampton Way, where it would be expected to rise. Detailed information on this LTN, and a place to leave comments, can be found at the website brunswickpark. commonplace.is

There is an LTN in north Peckham, enclosing the area within Naylor Road, Commercial Way, Meeting House Lane and Peckham Hill Street. Information about it can be found at: https://northpeckham.commonplace.is/

Then there is a big scheme around Walworth Road, within the huge area bound by New Kent Road, Albany Road, John Ruskin Street and Kennington Park Road. Information can be found at: https://walworthstreetspace.commonplace.is/

This is a complicated scheme with several closures signalled not by physical impediments, but by signs and policed by ANPR cameras.

Finally, there is a scheme that blocks access to Melbourne Grove and adjacent streets in East Dulwich (https://eastdulwichstreetspace.commonplace.is/) and the big scheme in Dulwich Village

(https://dulwichvillagestreetspace. commonplace.is/) which has generated the most controversy.

In addition to LTNs, Southwark Council has restricted car access in quite a few roads, particularly around schools. A comprehensive list of the Council's restrictions under the Covid enabling provision can be found at: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50023147

The period of consultation has a legal limit of 18 months from the inception of the scheme. After that the Council will have to modify, scrap or extend the numerous measures it has instituted. Comment is rife on the plethora of WhatsApp groups formed during the first lockdown and on the quasi-official sites mentioned above. It is often acrimonious, but so far we have not seen the street demonstrations that have featured in some boroughs.

Some consequences of these LTNs are predictable, indeed intended. It now takes much longer to drive from Camberwell to Dulwich Village, but is pleasanter to cycle there. Residents sometimes find that it is easy to drive out of an LTN, but difficult to return to it. Journeys of taxis and delivery vans take longer.

Some problems have emerged. The most important is the increase in traffic in some of the roads that surround LTNs, such as Commercial Way and John Ruskin Street. People live in these streets. They are often poorer than people who live within LTNs. Organisations that champion LTNs, such as Better Streets for Southwark (which wants LTNs in all neighbourhoods), seem to believe either that there are no such people or no such increase. This is nonsense. Ella Adoo-Kissi Debrah, the girl whose death was caused by air pollution, lived in just such a street. The extension of ULEZ to the inner suburbs such as Camberwell

# Community goods

Christine Coleman on rebranding the Saturday stall.

in October might help in improving air quality, but the lesson policy makers should draw is not to make a distinction between residential and non-residential streets in making their plans.

Secondly, LTNs have resulted in a deterioration in the quality of life for some disabled people, though for some it has improved. A survey carried out by Transport for All found that the absence of consultation has resulted in unexpected hazards for disabled people. Dedicated bike lanes whose purpose is to make cycling safe are not designed to make it safer for disabled cyclists. And it should be remembered that for many disabled people, there is no alternative to the car.

Thirdly, there are some people, carers are an example, who need to go into an LTN and come out quickly. Their need is also the need of those for whom they care. LTNs should be designed to meet these needs.

Finally, it is assumed that the danger to pedestrians comes only from motorists. This, alas, is not true. For many residents, the typical cyclist is no longer the doddery old duffer on his sit-up-and-beg, but Bullingdon Boris in lycra racing recklessly with an arrogance made more insufferable by his assumption of virtue.

Radha Burgess, St Giles ward councillor and Deputy Cabinet Member for Low Traffic Southwark, said: "There is a consensus in our communities on the desirability of reducing pollution, and encouraging walking and cycling. Schemes will be reviewed and feedback sought from residents. Naturally. it's vital we hear from all sections of the community, including the vulnerable and marginalised. As we develop Low Traffic Southwark, we are determined to ensure that any eventual settlement is both equitable and effective."



Barbara Pattinson and volunteers at the market stall.

fter a decade running a Saturday stall at Camberwell Green's Farmers Market Barbara Pattinson and the team of volunteers from Camberwell's SE5 Forum from Camberwell are expanding to include other community groups and artists.

The idea for the market came from Annette Cauneen and Atarhe Ejaife of Urban Farmers Markets, following the success of their market in Peckham. Camberwell Urban Farmers Market opened on Saturday 2 April 2011 from 10am to 2pm.

SE5 Forum for Camberwell took the opportunity to reach out to the community with a stall to attract interest in local issues, advertise local events, act as a network hub and sell local memorabilia. Products on sale now range from a £100 elevation of Camberwell Church Street to our £1 best seller travel card holder.

In 2014 Camberwell Green had a makeover. So the market was relocated to Datchelor Place for 18 months before moving back to a dedicated space with water and power on the Green.

Market volunteers chat to people about local issues, sell local products and hand out information. Many have helped on a regular basis over the years notably Mark Webb, John Frankland, Annie Cockcroft and Hedii Lazar but the real stalwart is Barbara Pattinson. From the outset she dedicated her Saturdays to running the stall – whatever the weather!

# **Future plans**

The stall is rebranding as a Community Stall incorporating the new Camberwell logo and inviting local groups and non-profit making organisations to share the stall. Camberwell Arts will be inviting local artists to showcase their work. Local park groups, and schools have shown interest in using the stall to publicise their activities. New products using the Camberwell logo include tote bags, water bottles and face masks.

New volunteers are always needed either as board members or stall helpers (e-mail: *getinvolved@ Se5forum.org.uk*) or just go on the website for SE5 Forum for Camberwell to sign up as an online member for free. Everyone welcome!

As well as running the stall the SE5 Forum are working on local issues of business, transport, environment and identity. If you have special knowledge in these areas your contribution would be welcome too.

# Café culture meets great expectations

As the Covid cloud lifts and life begins to return to something akin to normal, the *Quarterly* begins a new series on our business community. *Robert Wainwright* starts by looking at cafés.







LOVE WALK CAFE
81 DENMARK HILL, SEG 8RS
10% DISCOUNT WILD FOR CAFE
FOR CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS

O PORTUGUES
11 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SES 7BJ
10% DISCOUNT WALD FOR CAFE
FOR CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS

KINGS & QUEENS
116 DENMARK HILL, SE5 BRX
10% DISCOUNT HEMS ONLY
FOR CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS

LUMBERJACK CAFE
70 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SES 802
10% DISCOUNT HISS ONLY
FOR CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS

amberwell had a literary, café-type vibe in the middle of the nineteenth century. Charles Dickens was a frequent customer at the Camberwell Hall Tea Gardens in Grove Lane where he enjoyed kicking up his heels at afternoon dances. So enamoured was the author with the area that he apparently had his illustrator George Cruickshank draw a scene from an imagined ball at the building, still standing next to the Grove House Tavern, for his famed series *Sketches by Boz*.

And that was not all. In his novel *Great Expectations*, Dickens created a scene in which character John Wemmick takes protagonist Pip for a stroll through Camberwell Green and into St Giles' Church to witness a surprise wedding, the reception held in a fictional nearby tavern, most likely to have been based on The Fox Under The Hill (as the pub was then named).

In 1846 prominent playwright and satirist of the time Joseph Stirling Coyne published a one-act farce titled *Did you ever send your wife to Camberwell?* – a commentary on 'modern life' and the confusion of misheard words and mistaken identity. It would prove a smash hit in city theatres.

Coffee houses, until then mostly clustered in central London, had started to open beyond the Thames, including Camberwell which was growing from a rural village into a 'populous neighbourhood', as one 1840 newspaper advertisement for a new coffee house noted.

It was around this time, too, that a youthful Robert Browning, who lived in Southampton Way on a site that now houses a dry cleaning business, was wandering the fields between Camberwell and Dulwich, alone and often through the night to witness the serene beauty of dawn as inspiration for his early poetry.

Browning's love of Camberwell never waned as friend and biographer William Sharp testified many years later when, during a conversation, someone proffered the opinion that romance only ever existed in Italy. Browning smiled and replied: "Ah, well, I should like to include poor old Camberwell!"

Sharp mused that Browning's birthplace had left an indelible impression on a man who once remarked that the romance in his life was in his own soul, perhaps best reflected in the lines of his 1841 verse drama Pippa Passes which reads:

May's warm slow yellow moonlit summer nights – Gone are they, but I have them in my soul!

The 'poor old Camberwell' quote has been printed on the underside of the awning that normally spreads its shade outside the Love Walk Café, at 81 Denmark Hill, and when cafés reopen this month it will welcome back customers with a reminder of Camberwell's famous past as they pursue a vibrant post-Covid future.

Camberwell is once again hip (if the phrase is still valid in the days of emojis) and the number and variety of cafés in its centre and dotted through the parks are increasing. While most businesses were shuttered during lockdown, many cafés found a way to stay open, to adapt and survive. And with the return of footfall to our streets they now want to thrive as the Quarterly discovered talking to hopeful owners and managers.

It has been a tough year for Kamel who runs **Pronto Caffé**, at 61 Denmark Hill. He took over the lease three







FCB CAFE
DENIMARK HILL STATION, SE5 8BB
10% DISCOUNT WALD FOR CAFE
FOR CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS

CAFFE PRONTO
61 DENMARK HILL, 8E5 8RS
10% DISCOUNT HEMS ONLY
FOR CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS

CLUBHOUSE
BURGESS PARK

10% DISCOUNT WALD FOR CAFE
FOR CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS
UNTIL 30" JUNE 2021

ORTUS
82-96 GROVE LANE, SE5 8SN
10% DISCOUNT WALD FOR CAR
FOR CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERS

years ago and was building a good clientele base, mostly from hospital workers and patients, before Covid cut business by 60 per cent. He has survived, like others, mainly on home deliveries but is hoping that he can once again unpack his tables and chairs and welcome customers into his neat and pleasant premises.

**Lumberjack Cafe**, at 70 Camberwell Church Street, has survived in a different way, at first developing a home delivery service for items like fresh bread, pastries and even milk, before evolving into a deli as well as offering a takeaway service for coffee.

Staff member Natasha Godfrey found that rather than being isolated, it would grow into a community experience as the café became a popular spot for dog walkers: "We've watched puppies grow into dogs over the past year which has been wonderful," she laughed. "It's actually been a very spirited time. Camberwell is like that; still a village in a way filled with interesting and creative people who enjoy being part of something. I have to go now, we've got customers!"

Clubhouse is a new venture, although regular users of Burgess Park would be familiar with the tennis club café which stayed open during Covid while managed by Walworth café Louie Louie. Well-known local charity Burgess Sports has now taken over the lease. Manager Ruth Ashby is keen, with the help of chef Franco Amato, to provide not only a pleasant parkland venue but carefully chosen local, fresh and ecologically friendly fare as well as coffee from Brixton roastery Volcano. An added incentive is that Clubhouse is not-for-profit and raises funds to provide meals and activities for underprivileged children in the area.

The growth of Camberwell is probably best illustrated by the success of the **FCB Café** which has been operating from Denmark Hill Station for seven years: "As a destination, I think Camberwell is getting better and better," says manager Giovanni Naccarato who is busy resetting outdoor tables on the traffic bridge so customers can enjoy the spring sunshine rather than scurry aboard a passing train.

"We struggled like everyone else during the lockdowns but things are looking up and I think the new entrance on Windsor Walk will only make the station operate more fluently."

The **ORTUS Café** is tucked away at 82-96 Grove Lane, a pleasant garden setting in the grounds of the Maudsley Hospital. Manager Antoine Pierrat has overseen a complete refurbishment during lockdown and reopened with outside seating for 48 people and a fresh menu of salads, salads and soups to go with coffee sourced from UK roastery Extract.

Ivo Andrade, owner of **O Portugues** Deli and Café at 11 Camberwell Church Street, has watched the town centre change in front of his eyes over the past nine years: "It's still evolving and for the better," he says, refreshing the stock of custard tarts and bifanas sandwiches (marinated pork) which adorn his glass counter: "The streets are cleaner, the footpaths wider and there is good communications with my neighbouring businesses. Covid has been very tough but we are all looking hopefully to the future."

Camberwell Society members can support their local cafés by clipping the adverts on this page and getting a 10 per cent discount on café orders.

# Lettsom Gardens: past, present and future

Jonathan Hunt revisits a special area of Camberwell tucked away behind houses and loved by children and adults alike.



Grove Park's 1977 Jubilee party

ot too long ago, Lettsom Gardens was little known outside of its few hundred members, living mainly in upper Camberwell. Now, with Covid lockdowns encouraging more and more sedentary residents to seek green open spaces for exercise and fresh air, membership has expanded well into four figures.

These days it is stretching credibility to describe the three-plus acres as a secret urban gem. Yet there are still many SE5 residents who remain unaware of its existence and what improvements have developed over the last 40 years in its present guise.

# **Exciting plans**

But new trustees, led by two new local co-chairs, are out to change that with exciting plans to offer still more to even more members.

Towards the end of the 1970s, the wild, run-down area between Grove Park and Grove Hill Road was occupied by a number of dilapidated concrete garages, and a mechanic who occasionally fixed cars. It was also used nocturnally by local teenagers doing what adolescents did then – and now.

Southwark Council had its beady eyes on the whole site in 1977 as

somewhere to build flats and houses. Residents whose homes backed on to the site became worried about what this would mean to them, and an investigative group was formed from residents of both roads to investigate.

Grove Park was largely formed then, as now, of late Victorian semidetached three-storey homes on the north side and detached on the south, many then divided into several flats, rooming houses, or occupied by long-standing ageing residents. New arrivals, mainly young people, bought rundown properties and tarted them up in an expansion of gentrification by those too late for the Georgian homes. Grove Hill Road was similar, but larger and later.

#### Community created

In Grove Park, young and old came together for the Queen's Jubilee in 1977, and an active community was created. So, the area destined to become Lettsom Gardens became their first case to fight and eventually win.

They argued that entrances at either end were totally unsuitable for the number and type of vehicles that would use them. Actually, it was Tony Crosland, then Labour's environment secretary, who halted the bricks and mortar, in famously pronouncing 'the party's

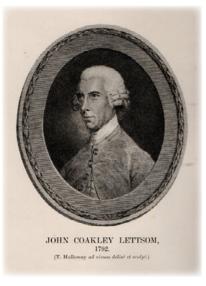
over' warning local authorities that the money had gone for such public developments. A little reluctantly, the council agreed to the then revolutionary suggestion in Southwark that a local residents' group should take over the running of the land. It is now a well-established practice with leases on council land held throughout the borough. Most of those involved agree that the Council has been very helpful over the years, especially now they are rebuilding a wall.

Campaigners included Dr Alison Telfer and her late husband Terry Jones, whose home borders the gardens. Alison, along with neighbours Mick Crowley and Veronica Hunt became the first trustees of the Lettsom Gardens Association which included then, as now, active and enthusiastic members.

The name Lettsom suggested itself, as it was the eighteenth century home of Dr Lettsom, a well-known Quaker doctor and collector of rare plants with a large garden laid out on Linaean principles.

# John Lettsom

John Coakley Lettsom (1744-1815) was a physician, natural historian, philanthropist and a founder of the Medical Society of London.



John Coakley Lettsom 1744-1815

Born in the British Virgin Islands, he sold his inherited plantations and moved to London. Here he established his country residence in the rural Camberwell. Alison says "For a Quaker he was very hospitable, hosting large garden fetes. He opened his library and museum to the medical profession on Saturdays. In addition to his botanically organised plant beds he was very proud of his apiary with 64 hives producing honey and wax.

"His grand home, long since demolished, was nearby. And his land, shown in old maps, occupied much land from Camberwell Grove into what is now the two adjoining roads.

"While the land lost most of its architectural features, including a temple and lake, it is enjoyed today by many more people. Indeed, membership greatly increased in recent years as more came to know about its existence."

All members pay £8 family subscriptions a year, plus £2 for a key to gain access through two main entrances north and south. It is well used by nearby Dog Kennel Hill primary school, which has its own allotment plot.

#### Games and picnics

About 30 per cent of the site is occupied by allotments, which the council needed to replace a lost site elsewhere and was leased to the Camberwell Gardens Guild. It contains a tarmac section used for a variety of games and wooded and grass areas, where members may explore, have picnics, or just relax in the open air. It is a delight for young children as it was for ours four decades ago.

But no-one has yet emulated Scott Parker, England footballer and now manager of Fulham FC. His dad got him up early to practice ball skills on the tarmac, before school at Lyndhurst primary. But other kids, who became good players, also practiced later in the day – and still do.

Both of the two joint chairs, Marq



Dr Lettsom's villa 1817



The unveiling of the Lettsom plaque

Bailey and Philippa Tilley have young children. "We see the gardens as most important for children, much as we adult members also enjoy it as a place to get away from the pressures of city life," they say. A brief visit confirms that the number of kids enjoying the natural area remains high, even with restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

"What my boys and now my granddaughter really like is just nature – woodland and tree houses and a few handmade swings. It is not a playground, and it allows them to discover things country children enjoy," says one older supporter who helped lay the paving stones from the Grove Hill gate.

#### Path widening

It is a reflection on modern life that among the chairs' plans is a need to widen the path. While they easily permitted passage of the fold-up, Maclaren-style buggies of the last century, modern versions are much wider and heavier; while they are yet seen as Chelsea tractors for toddlers, have youngsters really grown that much?

More of the improvements the dozen trustees wish to introduce await current negotiations with the council to extend the lease. The association is seeking a 40-year lease, with a 25-year break clause so that those who follow them will be spared such chores. And make the



The new LGA co chairs, Marq Bailey and Phillippa Tilley Photo: Elizabeth Cuthbertson

land safe from development.

But before further plans can be activated, council contractors have to finish rebuilding the wall between the higher and lower parts. We hope both matters progress smoothly. If so the *Quarterly* will report.

#### Allotments

A new lease is also under discussion for the allotments. The Guild tired of the admin a few years ago and so the Lettsom Allotments Association was formed to take over. Its chair, Katherine Down, says: "Our committee wants to align the leases so that both bodies renew together.

"We have 34 plots, with an average size of 11 by 7 metres, and a waiting list of 140. At current rates, it will probably take 10 years before anyone on the list gets an allotment.

"As well as the plots there is a large hut, a small aviary for beekeepers and a small orchard on land that is not really fit for anything else. We hold sales of produce in the summer, including excellent Lettsom branded honey, to help raise funds for charity, when non-members of the public are invited in. We also produce lots of compost.

"Among many varieties of insects, birds and wildlife are a profusion of protected stag beetles."

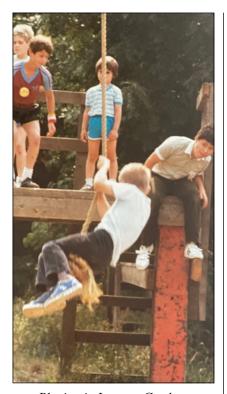
James LaTerriere, chair for the previous 10 years, recalls: "One of my contributions was to bring Lettsom into the digital age, with a website and much of the accounts, membership lists, etc, online. Membership continued to grow year by year until it reached 800 by the time I stood down in 2020.

"Much of our time was spent keeping the balance between maintaining the woods and semiwild areas with the activities on the tarmac and play areas. It became more a matter of keeping control and satisfying different needs.

"The numbers attending our two annual events, the summer party and the autumn bonfire, grew ever bigger. So much so that not only did we never have fireworks, but we had to ban sparklers because there were so many people.

"Our main aim was to keep Lettsom as it was, mainly a natural area. We encouraged use by schools and forest experts who came to





Playing in Lettsom Gardens identify trees and fauna until the money ran out."

# **Keys for needy**

With the start of lockdown, they recognised the need for parents and children living in local blocks of flats to get out and breathe fresh air in pleasant surroundings. Nearby Albrighton centre serves the East Dulwich estate and more and runs a much used and well supported food bank.

"We gave them 50 keys to distribute to needy families," says Bailey. "Children need space and to know about the protected trees, flowers and fauna we have," he says. "We also host visits from tai chi for elderly people, refugees through the Copplestone Centre and family groups from the Maudsley to give mothers a break."

Co-chair Philippa Tilley adds: "We hope the lease will be agreed and signed very soon, thanks to great co-operation and help from the council, its officers and councillors. Then we can get on with many improvements including new disabled access from Grove Hill, and into the lower grass area, plus lots of fresh planting."

# The increase of lockdown violence towards women and the Green Dale inquiry

Mark Webb, Southwark Neighbourhood Watch Association chair, on increased violence towards women during lockdown.

The case of Sarah Everard raises the ongoing issue of violence towards women. The lockdowns have seen a major increase in domestic violence in Southwark and indeed across the country. There has also been a rise in knife crime and knives used in sex crimes, both rising by a fifth. The government is blamed, the police are blamed, men are blamed. What is the answer to this dire situation?

I believe that the solutions to these problems should start in schools. Young boys need to be taught to respect women and girls, to both understand and to respect boundaries. Young women need classes in personal safety and selfdefence. Both things should be a part of the national curriculum.

Sexual predators do not expect their victims to fight back, statistics show that many criminals will often flee the scene of a crime if they encounter any resistance. Training leads to heightened awareness and therefore avoidance of people, places, and things likely to cause an increased risk or threat to personal safety. Not only do women have the right in law to act in self-defence, but they also have a duty as law abiding citizens to do so. As for the men in our society who wish to harm women, they must do so in the sure and certain knowledge that they will face life in prison.

The solutions lies in education, training, and the enforcement of the law of the land.

Niki Borowiecki, on Green Dale inquiry CQ 206.

Regardless of the pros and cons of the Dulwich Hamlet Football Club planning application for a new stadium and pitch and associated residential development at Green Dale, which was granted planning permission in July 2020, and notwithstanding the correction of some factual errors in the article in Camberwell Quarterly Spring 2021, I am concerned by the article's monstering of the Planning Committee Chair Councillor Martin Seaton. The article's clear intention was to discredit the decision made by the Planning Committee by launching a personal attack on its Chair, who was named and shamed no less than seven times, with his mugshot placed top and centre. The article accused him, amongst other things, of 'improper behaviour' and 'breaking a number of the council's code of conduct rules'. I understand that since the article was published, the independent inquiry into the conduct of the meeting has found that the meeting had been conducted properly and that Councillor Seaton had been wrongly accused. In a time when aggressive trolling seems to be prevalent, is the Camberwell Quarterly happy to be a platform for this kind of playground bullying? Kick it out.

CQ replies: We published a factual report without comment on numerous complaints, with reasons where known, about Cllr Seaton's conduct of the meeting, and the Council appointing Dentons, a leading law firm, to investigate. We also included quotes from the Society's long letter. Stephen Ashworth, the Dentons partner appointed as independent investigator into the complaints, sadly died at the end of April and the Council is currently considering how to proceed.

# New Southwark Plan

Jason Leech on the Society's response to Southwark's plan

Council has been making efforts to update its planning policies for the borough. The process to adopt the New Southwark Plan (NSP) will make substantial headway with the conclusion of the Plan's Examination-in-Public at the end of April – although it's far from being the end of the saga.

The Ministry's Inspectors have already made clear that main modifications will be required,

and these will be subject to fresh consultation. We know, for example, that the entire suite of heritage policies will be revised. Drawing on good practice from other London boroughs, the Society's Planning Sub-Committee has already submitted draft policy on listed buildings, conservations areas, and the local list of undesignated heritage assets, as part of the Statement of Common Ground it concluded with the Council at the end of March.

There is some hope that this wording will make its way into the final version of the NSP.

While other suggested planning tools to regulate the density and height of new development have already been rebuffed by the Council for the NSP, there is every intention to carry these forward into a neighbourhood plan for Camberwell which will be progressed in earnest later in the year.

# **Updates on existing applications**

Figures correct at time of going to press.

#### Lambeth

Hardless Street proposals for 20 and 29 storey towers: 474 objections, 36 support. Departure from Lambeth Plan. Everyone is being encouraged to send their views to the London Mayor.

#### Southwark

Southwark's deadline to submit Green Dale application to London mayor has been extended to 31 May.

The Lighthouse (former Regent Cinema) 254-268 Camberwell Road, together with the Medlar Street rear of the site: An overlapping 9 storey development. 20 new documents added 19 February.

Camberwell Lanes /Butterfly Walk: 156 objections, 21 support. 16 new documents added 12 March.

21-23 Parkhouse Street: 58 objections, 5 support. Numerous new documents add 11 March. Noted as reconsultation.

Mapother House, Maudsley Hospital: 97 objections, 3 support.
Numerous new documents submitted 11 March and 7 April.

The Society revisits and provides further comment to such applications where appropriate.

# Applications commented on by the PSC

All applications commented on are recorded on the Society website under Planning. Recent comments have been made on the following applications:

Land to the rear of Camberwell Grove SE5 8JS Demolition of garage and section of listed wall and construction of a 2 storey plus basement residential dwelling. 20/AP/2633

36-40 Denmark Hill SE5 8RZ Construction of a mansard roof extension to create 2 x 1 bedroom flats at land storage space at 38 Denmark Hill. 21/AP/0680

# **New planning applications**

1-13 Southampton Way SE5 7SW Clearance of site and redevelopment to provide 32 homes and a flexible commercial (use class E) / community unit (use class F2) in a building ranging from 3 to 7 storeys, including provision of land to be incorporated into Burgess Park. 21/AP/0451

Lettsom Tenants Hall
Vestry Road SE5 3PQ
Demolition of existing tenants
hall and commercial unit, and
construction of replacement
tenants hall at ground floor with
11 residential units above, new
landscaping and pedestrian route
through the site. 21/AP/1358

Silver Buckle
18 Camberwell Green SE5 7AA
Incorporating two Victorian awnings in main façade of ground floor.
21/AP/1140

# Correction

Camberwell Quarterly 207 p12
The 2000 Green Dale application located the Homebase store and car parking on Other Open Land and all the new Dulwich Hamlet football club facilities (a total footprint of 1660m2 of buildings) on Metropolitan Open Land. The 2019 Green Dale application places only the pitch, which will be below ground level, on Metropolitan Open Land.



The new 'Welcome to Camberwell' mural at The Piano Factory opposite Camberwell College of Arts. Photo: Marie Staunton

# Trevor Dannatt: Modernist, polymath and enthusiast

n this magazine, which he always so keenly studied, 'strictly local' should be the axiom for Trevor Dannatt's invited obituarist.

Others will already have celebrated the honours won and architectural brilliance shown by this pioneering modernist since he emerged in the 1951 Festival of Britain with his contributions to the radical elegance of the Royal Festival Hall.

Born in Blackheath, he remained, despite a growing international reputation, addicted to the capital city, where, especially in its south-east area one can enjoy not only the ingenuity and wit of his designs for Colfe's School but, in what was to be a long career's crowning finale, his work on the Greenwich University project.

With unrivalled spatial invention he can be seen relishing the chance of sparring with his hero, Christopher Wren. Here, as ever, with no trace of showing off, his solutions exemplify the poetics of practicality.

Truth to materials was a sacred watchword to Dannatt for whom culture was never an added veneer.

His knowledge of literature, art and music was wide and profound.

Likewise, his conversation was rich in reference and gleefully replete with quotation, not just from the classics and the Georgian poetry he loved, but from an eclectic range of lighter fare including whole pages of PG Wodehouse and Angela Brazil that he could reel off from memory.

Similarly, the elegant house he shared with Ann, his wife, became a sanctuary of artefacts both gathered from all times and places. The collection was specially enriched by the paintings and sculptures of Dannatt's contemporaries at the Royal Academy which he grew to regard as his second home.

One of these, a touching portrait by fellow Academician and south Londoner, Tony Eyton, will always remind me of Dannatt's greatest triumph: the ability to carry all the enthusiasms and aspirations of youth deep into old age. Painted, characteristically, as a swap for architectural advice on a bathroom rearrangement, it shows Dannatt in



Detail from the Trevor Dannatt portrait by Tony Eyton.

lively relaxation still dressed in the casual clothes and obligatory bright knitted tie of the fifties modernist.

Who else, I have come to think, would in his hundredth year, be exhibiting new drawings at the Academy's summer show, proofreading the book of his recent poems\* or, as often heard by passers by, would be practising on his front room piano, a piece by Haydn.

#### Tom Phillips RA

\*Available from the Bellenden Road bookshop

Roger Stonehouse's monograph *Trevor Dannatt: Work and Words* Black Dog Publishing 2008 is available from various outlets including blackwells.co.uk

# Trevor Pattinson: designer and practical campaigner

esigner Trevor Pattinson died, aged 86, on 6 April 2021. Not a committee man, Trevor took a practical role in the Camberwell Society from serving drinks at Society events to leafletting.

He supported many local campaigns such as the Selborne campaign in the 1970s when he and Jim Tanner consulted every resident of Selborne village about the Council's demolition plan (CQ206 p11). And the campaign to reopen the police station when he staffed the station as a trained volunteer (CQ 207 p12).

Trevor was born in Sunderland. His mother, a teacher, was a descendant of the explorer Captain Cook. His father – 'a man from the Pru' – sold insurance. After studying furniture design at Sunderland College he did national service in the Royal Navy

on HMS Dainty.

He, and many of the crew, caught Asian flu and such was the fear of the pandemic, which killed a million world-wide, that the ship was turned away from port at Marseille.

Trevor survived and took up an interior design place at the Royal College of Art. On graduating in 1961 he won a bursary that enabled him to travel to San Francisco. There he met and married Barbara Binns, then a production manager for an ad agency, known to many in Camberwell as Barbara Pattinson, until recently chair of the SE5 Forum.

In 1966 Trevor and Barbara moved to one of the stylishly boxy modern houses designed by Peter Moiret in the new estate of the Hamlet, Champion Hill. After designing sets



at the BBC Trevor joined architects Russell Hodgson & Lee, before becoming an associate at Purcells, architects, planners and heritage consultants, until he retired at the millennium.

He continued drawing, going on road trips to the wild Durham moors of his childhood or overseas and, always sociable, enjoyed entertaining friends.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, sons Josh and Sam and four grandchildren.

Marie Staunton

# The writing on the wall

Lionel Stanhope has painted three murals in Camberwell. As he embarks on his fourth, at the Piano Factory in Peckham Road, he tells *Marie Staunton* about the revival of his craft.

ionel Stanhope was one of the last trainees to learn the dying art of commercial signwriting. Now he is passing on his craft to a new generation of painters. They are making signs and murals for many communities in South East London.

He trained with the family firm Teasdale Signs of Merton where he learnt to paint lettering on the sides of delivery vans, hand paint estate agents' boards and used gold leaf for signage on solicitors' windows. That was in 1985. The combination of advanced plastic and computer technology was already making the craft redundant. Backlit perspex signs replaced old wooden fascia boards, vehicles were well-suited to computer graphics and painting on windows was no longer requested. Lionel joined the Royal Engineers. After more training, he was tasked to paint murals in squadron bars and sergeants' messes.

Eight years later he left the forces and joined Robert Knight, the theatre set builders, as a painter's labourer. In less than a year, he became the company's head painter. He made sets for West End shows such as Sunset Boulevard and Rocky Horror Show. Often he started after 10pm when rehearsals finished and worked all night. Being alone and deprived of sleep in an empty theatre did strange things to his imagination. He would see ghosts in a mirrored door; jump with fright when the theatre cat crossed the stage.

Then 9/11 happened. Tourists dwindled and shows were postponed. Lionel switched to film and TV sets. Most recently he worked on To Olivia, the film about Roald Dahl. New jobs sometimes came with



Lionel Stanhope by Jane Moxham www.spinnakerart.co.uk

enjoyable perks. He was allowed to take his family to the dress rehearsal of the 2012 Olympics because he painted the cauldron and four giant weaving looms in the Industrial Revolution scene. He took his wife and daughter to Disneyland Paris on a day when it was reserved for those that built it. He had worked on the Ratatouille attraction.

Five years ago, at a street art festival in Brockley, where he lives, Lionel met some people who wanted a sign in Herne Hill under the bridge. He started painting community murals funded by Network Rail. He has painted the Camberwell sign and butterfly under the railway bridge on Camberwell New Road and the sign outside the Phoenix at Denmark Hill station.

He met more SouthEast London muralists and now works with some of them, including Patricio Forrester, founder of Artmongers, who produce public art. Under the name Lewisham School of Muralists, they provided free training to twelve students. Most had a background in art. They learnt where to source paint that will last 20 to 30 years, when to use a graffiti repellent coating, how to engage with communities, how to find space and how to get funding. Some graffiti artists see getting permission and payment as selling out. But commissioned murals are increasingly being used by communities to bring a sense of togetherness around a place or to revive neglected spaces.

In March, MJW, the owners of the Butterfly Walk shopping centre, paid for a mural in the overlooked space at the back of the shopping centre. It was commissioned by Camberwell Identity, a group made up of the Society, Camberwell Arts and SE5 Forum. Lionel met lots of locals doing the murals

and says, "As a muralist you need to be mindful of the neighbourhood. This is their space. Camberwell has a lot of character. People were very friendly and happy to see the area being brightened up. My favourite was a woman who came back with her six-year-old and took a photo of her in front of the butterfly — a little moment of happiness."

Last month Lionel met the Camberwell 23rd Scout Group to consult them on a new mural being painted at the Piano Factory opposite the University of the Arts. Local groups are consulted before any Camberwell mural is agreed. In answer to their questions about being a muralist, he said, "There is work out there, a career to be had as a muralist. I started off doing shop shutters for the price of the paint. Once you find something you can do and enjoy – just go for it."

# Make Camberwell smile!

E5 Forum and The Camberwell Society are sharing sunflower seeds with residents, community groups, neighbours and schools. Plant out the seeds taped to the back of this issue of *Camberwell Quarterly* and make Camberwell smile...



# History

# Free book download offer...

Dr Harold Moody by local Camberwell historian Stephen Bourne, (https://stephenbourne. co.uk/) has been published for Key Stage 3 pupils by Pearsons. Dr Moody lived and worked in Camberwell and Peckham. He founded the League of Coloured Peoples and was called Britain's Martin Luther King. Download your free copy of the book at: https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/issues/diversity-and-inclusion/representation/the-life-of-dr-harold-moody.html.

Illustrations are by Jane Moxham. Here she draws Dr Moody with his mother.

# George Roberts video from Dr Ian Stone

Readers who enjoyed the video by Dr Ian Stone of Bill Hoare, the Camberwell lad who volunteered to fight in the Great War (CQ 205) will be interested in his latest video of our own George Roberts:

https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=p3qQf9CXjMY

The life of George Roberts, soldier, firefighter, Camberwellian, was covered by Stephen Bourne in CQ 202. In 2016 Roberts was honoured with a blue plaque which can be seen outside the Lewis Trust buildings in Warner Road, Camberwell.

#### **Chartered Accountants**

K A Jeffries & Company – p5 020 8693 4145

#### **Garden Centres**

Dulwich Pot & Plant Garden – p5 020 7733 3697

#### Interior Decoration

Bradley Viljoen – p6 020 7252 6167

#### **Estate Agents**

Wooster and Stock - p14 020 7952 0595

#### **Pilates**

Artichoke Pilates Studio – p5 020 7358 5454

#### **Stained Glass**

Stained Glass Windows – p6 07791 620011

#### www.camberwell.life

Website on where to go, what to do shops and services in Camberwell.

**CAMBERWELL SOCIETY OFFICERS** 

# THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or is interested in Camberwell. The Executive Committee is elected annually at the Society's AGM. Meetings of the Executive Committee are usually held on the first Thursday of the month. Members are welcome to attend as observers with prior notice to the Secretary.

Planning, the environment, traffic and transport, publications and local history form an important part of the Society's work. Members are welcome to involve themselves in areas of interest.

### $www. camber well society. or {\tt g.uk}$

The views expressed in the Camberwell Quarterly are not necessarily those of the Society unless clearly stated as such. The Camberwell Society is a registered charity (No 264751).

# President: Nicholas Roskill (Licensing)

020 7703 4736

56 Grove Lane SE5 8ST

#### Chair: Nick Mair

chair@camberwellsociety.org.uk 07557 868 159 156 Camberwell Grove SE5 8RH

Vice-Chair: Isabel Begg

07785 221 470

**Secretary:** Robert Wainwright secretary@camberwellsociety.org.uk 07775 858 765

55 Grove Lane SE5 8SP

**Asst. Secretary:** Liz Allen (Advertising) advertising@camberwellsociety.org.uk 07796 302 645

**Treasurer:** Kim Blackwell treasurer@camberwellsociety.org.uk 07767 232 122

78 Camberwell Grove SE5 8RF

**Asst. Treasurer:** Tony Coleman (Transport) transport@camberwellsociety.org.uk 020 7564 0168

#### MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership costs:

- £20 (household)
- £15 (individual)
- £10 (concessionary)

Join online at: www.camberwellsociety.org.uk

#### COMMITTEE

Liz Cook (Marketing) 07973 760 529

Tim Gaymer (Planning) planning@camberwellsociety.org.uk 020 7737 1059

Ben Moxham (Trees and Green Spaces) greenspaces@camberwellsociety.org.uk 020 7701 4032

Barbara Pattinson (SE5 Forum & Community Liaison) 020 7274 8045

#### CAMBERWELL QUARTERLY

Editorial Team: Marie Staunton, Shekhar Das, Jonathan Hunt, Helena Rhodes Thanks to Sue Hurst for layout pages 10 & 11.

Contributions to the *Quarterly* are welcome. Email: editor@camberwellsociety.org.uk

To place an advert please email: advertising@camberwellsociety.org.uk

# The **PRINT** Guru



Please call or email Nick to discuss your printing requirements

T: 01689 606116

M: 07522 757244

E: info@theprintguru.co.uk

