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Local History Talks are held on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7.30 pm at the Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill, SE19 1TJ. Free entry including refreshments but donations are appreciated.

October 20th  Building Restoration, Conservation and Masonry
Nick Wilson from Stonewest, one of Britain’s major restorer of historic buildings which is based at Crystal Palace, describes the techniques and challenges of his company’s work.

November 17th  900 Children lie in All Saints’ Churchyard
Stephen Oxford will talk about these pauper children and their connection with Aubin, Dickens and Harden.

December 15th  Social evening with a local history flavour.

January 19th  The River Effra
Jon Newman, Senior Archivist L.B. Lambeth and Author of “RIVER EFFRA South London’s secret spine”.

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FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION
Re-painted sphinx in Crystal Palace Park
(private photograph)

THE NORWOOD REVIEW

The Norwood Review is published quarterly: at the end of March, June, September and December. Copy should be submitted a month before publication.

Contributions should be sent to the Editorial Board, The Norwood Review, 47 Ross Road, London SE25 6SB or secretary@norwoodociety.co.uk (020 8653 8768). Would contributors please give their ‘phone number, address and e-mail address.
FROM THE SECRETARY

As from now my colleague Ruth Hibberd will take over all membership responsibilities.
Subscriptions are not due before January and membership records are fully up-to-date.
A revised membership application will be on our website shortly. These are her contact details:-

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RIVER EFFRA – South London’s secret spine

Jon Newman, writer and archivist (Lambeth Archives) has written a comprehensive account of the lost River Effra, once a tributary of the Thames that ran through South London. The book looks at its Victorian disappearance and modern moves to reclaim the river. The book is richly illustrated with archival images and crisp contemporary black and white photographs. River Effra combines geography and geology with social, environmental and engineering history. The book includes a detailed walker’s itinerary for anyone needing to follow the ghost of this watercourse from Norwood, through Herne Hill, Dulwich and Brixton to Kennington and Vauxhall.

CENTRAL HILL ESTATE
The recent OPEN HOUSE tours around this sadly neglected, award winning estate gave us an insight into Lambeth Council’s proposed plans for its demolition and re-building.

The costs would be enormous, residents face an uncertain future and possible financial loss and the disruption to those living in the vicinity would be long lasting and considerable.

For further details and proposals for alternative plans visit the website: http://www.savecentralhill.org.uk/ as well as https://architectsforsocialhousing.wordpress.com/category/save-central-hill-community/.

AYSGARTH (Central Hill)
One of our members (Kevin Carleton-Reeves) wonders if anybody knows the history of this house (in which his grandparents lived). It stood on the Lambeth side of the road between the junctions with Gatestone Road and South Vale and was demolished to make way for the above estate.

Email kevin@carletoneng.com, write to him at 197 Church Road or send text to 07928 710250.
The London Mozart Players have relocated their offices to the premises of St John the Evangelist in Auckland Road, Upper Norwood.

With the temporary closure of the Fairfield Halls in July 2016 - where the orchestra’s offices were previously based, this office move will see the LMP become a community-located orchestra.

As well as physically relocating, St John’s and the LMP will be launching a visionary joint venture to engage surrounding communities with projects that will further enrich and develop the cultural life of Croydon.

Julia Desbruslais, executive director of the LMP said: “By planting the orchestra in the very heart of the community it opens up the potential to develop a new audience, a concert series, educational and community projects and a real vision for the orchestra moving forward.

“While regeneration projects take place in the centre of Croydon we will be engaging in efforts that will further develop our ties with communities across the Croydon borough, tapping into new areas and securing our place at the centre of all things cultural when the Fairfield re-opens.’

Fr. John Pritchard of St John the Evangelist said: “Since the establishment of St John’s Church in Upper Norwood in 1887, faith and music have been of central importance and practice in SE19.

“We are a community crammed with artists and musicians; so, it is of immense delight to welcome into St John’s, the London Mozart Players.

“This joint venture, of St John’s providing a home for the LMP, and the LMP becoming a community centred and located orchestra means that for both of us, life will never be quite the same.

“Community focus, educational projects, concerts, teaching, charity –
opportunities to celebrate and enhance every aspect of the life of our community through the influence of music and a social community.”

New office address: LMP at St John’s, St John’s the Evangelist, Auckland Road, Upper Norwood, LONDON, SE19 2RX

SPHINXES IN CRYSTAL PALACE PARK REPAINTED

The sphinxes in Crystal Palace park are set to get renewed interest from visitors after being restored and repainted in terracotta red - what appears to be their original colour.

David Carrington, managing director of Grantham-based Skillington Workshop which carried out the restoration works, said they had taken paint scrapings from the sphinxes. They had been regularly painted with evidence of eight layers of paint up until the end of the 19th century.

The sphinxes appear to have been made in an early form of concrete, part modelled in situ and part pre-cast.

Joint funding from Historic England, the Mayor of London and Bromley Council has helped to conserve the sphinxes.

A Bromley Council spokeswoman said that following the fire in 1936 which destroyed the Crystal Palace the condition of the sphinxes had deteriorated.

“In places the brick core of the sculptures was exposed, saplings had taken root in surface cracks and their stucco finish had discoloured after years of exposure.

“The sphinxes, which were added to the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register in 1995, have now been cleaned and their stucco surfaces repaired. “To complete their transformation the sphinxes have been painted a Victorian terracotta red.

“Not only will the paint provide the sculptures with an important protective coat, but it will reinstate their original mid-19th century colouring and help
bring to life their story as ‘gatekeepers’ to the famous Crystal Palace.”

The majestic grade II listed sculptures are a remnant of Sir Joseph Paxton’s parkland setting for the Crystal Palace, which moved from Hyde Park to Sydenham in 1852.

The restoration and repainting of the sphinxes poses a few questions: Firstly: Has anyone ever deciphered the hieroglyphs around the base of the sphinxes or are they just decorative?

Secondly, there are two sphinxes facing inward into the park close to the path which runs up the Anerley Hill side of the park. Facing them at the other end by the ‘television tower’ there are similar steps and similar plinths - but no sphinxes. Were there ever any sphinxes on those plinths?

And some sphinxes appeared to have traces of brown, blue and green paint on them prior to their restoration. Would anyone have any idea who painted them that colour - or why?.

**FAREWELL TO THE FORGE**

The old forge in Beardell Street has been demolished. Work is currently underway on building nine apartments on the site - which will be car-free.

A planning inspector gave the go-ahead for planning permission following an appeal by Beardell Street Developments Ltd after Lambeth council failed to give a decision within the required time.

The appeal judgment makes no mention of the building’s history as a forge, or long-term plans to knock the back top floor wall of the library out to give vistas over London.

The new development will have two lower ground floor, two commercial units and nine apartments above, consisting of two apartments per floor and a penthouse set back on the top floor.

Allowing the appeal the inspector said: “The site is currently occupied by a disused commercial building formerly used, I understand, for furniture repair.

“It has no off street car parking. “I noted on my site visit that the surrounding residential area is under considerable stress for parking of this kind given the proximity to the varied retail, business and recreational outlets in this part of the Crystal Palace area.
“There appears to be no objection in principle to the mixed land uses proposed. “The retention of commercial activity at the lower level would be consistent with the history of the site and the nature of the upper part of Beardell Street.

“The residential element above would help to make effective use of the site by maximising the development potential of this disused site, as well as making a useful contribution to the housing needs of the borough.

“The redevelopment is intended to be car free. “This appears to me to be sensible given the physical limitations of the site and more particularly its very good relationship to convenient public transport connections by trains and buses. “It enjoys a PTAL( public transport accessibility level) rating of 6a which is considered to be excellent.

“New housing is to be encouraged in such areas where there is considerable potential to move around by means other than the private car and this is reflected in both national and local planning guidance.

“I understand that the imposition of a controlled parking zone was formerly offered to residents by the council but this was rejected by the local population.”

The proposal includes the provision of a ‘car club’ bay outside the appeal site and also makes provision for on site cycle parking

“The building to be replaced is modest and insignificant and has no intrinsic visual or historic merit.”

The Norwood Society had opposed the plans.

In a strongly-worded letter of objection to Lambeth council, Philip Goddard, chairman of the society’s planning sub-committee, said the proposed development’s nearest equivalent in height, massing and scale is the warehouse on the opposite side of Beardell Street which the applicants themselves characterise as ‘bearing no relationship to the building which it abuts.’

“They could not have devised a better description of their own proposed building” added Mr Goddard.

“The applicants seek to justify the height and scale of their building by reference to possible future buildings on either side, shown shaded on their elevations.
“No doubt if permission is given for their proposals there will be further applications for buildings on either side which will in turn be justified by reference to the current proposals.

“This whole argument is circular and entirely devoid of merit. “The height and scale of the proposed building should be justified by reference to existing buildings, not to buildings which do not now and may never exist.”

Old forge faces demolition - www.newsfromcrystalpalace.co.uk 13 Sep 2012.

HISTORIC SUBWAY RE-OPENED

The Friends of Crystal Palace Subway are in discussions with Southwark council in regard to an access agreement and a timetable of small-scale activities for 2016 and 2017.

News of the discussions follows a ceremony held on Thursday September 8th to mark the reinstatement of the Southwark gate on Crystal Palace Parade which leads down steps and into the historic subway which once formed part of the Crystal Palace high level station.

Friends’ chairman Peter Hore told people from local amenity societies and businesses and other subway supporters: “This has been a real community effort. The amount of help we have had from local people and local businesses has been terribly important - not just for the moral support but also for the generosity of local businesses whose support has been truly amazing.”

Among a myriad of organisations and people he thanked for their long-term support were the Norwood Society, Dulwich Society and Sydenham Society.

“Without their consistent support we wouldn’t be where we are today” added Mr Hore who also thanked the “newer generation” especially Friends’ secretary Sue Giovanni - whose ‘What Remains’ film about the subway had filled East
Dulwich Picturehouse and Anerley town hall - and Friends’ treasurer Jules Hussey.

The subway is a listed site on the Heritage at Risk register and approximately £2 million pounds is needed to make it fully usable.

Norwood Society chairman Richard Lines and other Society committee members were among many who attended the ceremony.

**20 MPH LIMITS INTRODUCED**

Hundreds of north Croydon roads have a new 20mph limit under a Croydon council commitment to make the borough’s streets safer.

Except for main through roads such as Whitehorse Lane and Beulah Hill, all residential streets in parts of South Norwood, Selhurst, Bensham Manor, Thornton Heath and Upper Norwood are now covered by the new permanent 20mph limit.

The roads included in the new changes all have 20mph signs and drivers caught speeding by police can expect fines, points on their licence or even prosecution, say Croydon council.

Several of the affected roads, which are listed on a zoomable Google Map on the council website, also include numberplate recognition speed visors and electronic signs that flash up each vehicle’s speed.

To see which roads are covered by area 1’s 20mph area please visit the council website on: www.croydon.gov.uk/20mph and click on the North Croydon - Area 1 tab. (Source: Croydon council press release)

**SOUTH NORWOOD RE-GENERATION**

Croydon council’s ongoing regeneration of South Norwood will see the area receive £750,000 towards improved pedestrian access, tree planting, better pavements, and new outdoor seating for shoppers and businesses in Station Road and Portland Road.

NB: The funding allocation will be discussed at a meeting of the council’s cabinet.
NEW HOMES PLANNED ON SYLVAN HILL ESTATE – But Croydon won’t be demolishing any existing ones

Croydon council are planning to build new homes on the Sylvan Hill estate – with Croydon acting as the developer.

But in stark contrast to Lambeth council’s hugely controversial ‘Homes for Lambeth’ scheme, Croydon say they will not be demolishing ANY existing homes on either Sylvan Hill or the Rushden Close estate under their new ‘Brick by Brick’ scheme.

Lambeth council’s own ‘Homes for Lambeth’ proposals have caused uproar. Lambeth plan to demolish six council estates*, among them Central Hill which was built in the 1970s. (The estate sits behind and to the left of the Gipsy Hill police station building.)

Lambeth council, it has to be said, are totally ignoring any alternative suggestions for the six estates including infilling proposals suggested by ASH (Architects for Social Housing)

Sylvan Hill is one of around 50 sites across the borough which Croydon say have been identified that potentially could be used to build around 1,000 new homes by 2018.

Others in the area include: Hermitage Road, SE19 3QN – Land adjacent to Hermitage Road and Virgo Fidelis Convent School; Oxford Road – 20 A-D Oxford Road, SE19 3JH – The site occupied by demountable homes.

Ravensdale Gardens, SE19 3QD and Rushden Close Estate, SE19 3QB: Croydon council say Brick by Brick will be undertaking a wider study of this estate, to identify areas where new homes could be built. This will not involve pulling down any existing properties.

Sylvan Hill Estate, SE19 3DX: Croydon say Brick by Brick will be undertaking a wider study of this estate, to identify areas where new homes could be built. This will not involve pulling down any existing properties.

Eagle Hill Garages, SE19 3JL – Garages to the rear of 61-69 Eagle Hill; Marston Way, SE19 3JB – Garages on Marston Way;

“Feasibility studies are now under way” said a council spokeswoman.”When suitable sites have been identified, the council will be engaging with local people about any possible residential development in their area.”
Croydon’s cabinet member for homes, regeneration and planning Cllr Alison Butler says: “We can no longer afford to sit back and let the market take its course, as it is just not delivering enough homes to meet demand, leaving many of our residents homeless or stuck in temporary accommodation, unable to afford to rent or buy.

“Although the private sector has a huge part to play in helping Croydon to achieve its targets, the council also has a direct role to play in making sure we are providing enough new and affordable homes for local families.”

A council statement says: “Croydon is one of a handful of local authorities that is taking an innovative commercial approach to house building by setting up development companies in order to address housing shortages and meet increasing demand in their own communities.

Calling the scheme “an ambitious house-building programme” Croydon says its development company – Brick by Brick – will build the much-needed housing on council-owned land across the borough.

*The others are Cressingham Gardens (Brockwell park / Tulse Hill); Fenwick (Clapham South), Knights Walk (part of Cotton Gardens estate, Kennington);, South Lambeth (Stockwell and Westbury (SW8).

Lambeth websites say demolition of Knights Walk and Westbury, located between Wandsworth Road and St. Rule Street, Stockwell, is unlikely to begin before 2019. No date yet for starting work on Central Hill, which has yet to be approved by Lambeth.

THEATRE CENTRE NEEDS TO RAISE EXTRA £150,000 South London theatre centre is appealing urgently for funds to repair its traditional home in the old fire station at West Norwood.

The theatre’s Bryon Fear says: “The building was due to start its restoration in May
- then only weeks until the start date the original builders pulled out leaving us dead in the water.

“Then we went to our second choice builder whose quote had come in higher than the previous contractor and this has not only pushed back our build by almost a year, but we now need to raise an extra £150,000.

“So far we have had a very positive response from our own membership and members of the local community donating generously to the appeal but we still have a lot to raise.

“One of our main revenue streams to help fund the project are our theatre productions and our biggest production to date - Jesus Christ Superstar by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber - will be performed at our current home at the Stanley Halls, South Norwood from August 23-27.

“We moved out of our Old Fire Station theatre at the end of October 2015. “A huge number of members and some people from the local community came to help move our wardrobe consisting of thousands of costumes spanning all ages.

“One of the reasons why we chose to move to Stanley Halls was because it is a location where we could house the wardrobe whilst still being able to hire it out to other theatre and film companies - another of our important revenue streams.

“October 31 was the date we agreed (with our project manager and the Heritage Lottery) to vacate the Old Fire Station so that works could begin.

“Unfortunately, building works did not begin in November and the builders that had won the tender needed to negotiate some value engineering to get the cost in line with something that they could agree to and that we could afford.

“There was still money to fundraise when we had agreed to work with the first builders. “But because the cost was being negotiated the amount was a variable.

“The total project cost is: £2,640,000

“We had to raise £810,000 in match-funding and we have so far managed to raise £660,000 of that amount. “So we have a £150,000 shortfall at the moment.

“Heritage Lottery granted us £1,830,000 70 per cent of our target figure which will be released in increments as the building works begin which we hope will start in the coming months.
“We have had a small amount of that money to begin to deliver our community projects which are a part of our requirement in order to receive the HLF grant.

“One of the projects was to involve the local community in cataloguing our extensive wardrobe.

“We engaged volunteers from the U3A (University of the Third Age) who photographed the entire collection and catalogued it for future reference.

“We have been working on unearthing the history of the fire station, its original use and the years when it was owned by St. Luke’s Church and then the years when the South London Theatre Centre (as they were known in 1967) took it over.

“We are still looking for people’s personal memories of the building - anyone who may have seen a show there, or used the Fire Station when the church owned it or anyone who may even have a connection to the firemen who worked there at the turn of the century.

“The information is being compiled and turned into a book.”

Further information:
http://southlondontheatre.co.uk/restoration/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1
http://southlondontheatre.co.uk/restoration/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=114&Itemid=64

UPPER NORWOOD JOINT LIBRARY

Staff numbers at Upper Norwood library have been decimated by Lambeth council.

Several of the familiar faces there have taken voluntary redundancy leaving the library with just one staff member.

Bizarrely, it now appears the library will be opening six days a week from early September - including Sundays. Further details are awaited.

The library was set to be a ‘book lounge’ with no staff. It appears protests by union representatives have led to one staff member being kept on site with peripatetic staff who are being moved from library to library (sometimes being at three Lambeth libraries on the same day.)
As many of you will be aware the libraries at Carnegie, Herne Hill and the lending part of the Minet library, Knatchbull Road, SE5 have been closed since March 31st prior to Greenwich Leisure installing gyms in the buildings. (The archives are still accessible.)

The plans are provoking huge opposition. No applications for planning permission have yet been made.

Meanwhile Lambeth have employed two firms of consultants to look into what to do with the archives at the Minet.

Lambeth council blame Government cutbacks for the library closures. But the council’s draft accounts for the financial year ended March 31st 2016 show Lambeth put £98 MILLION into building societies during that year.
LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

We ended the first half year of talks with Alun Thomas’s historical survey of shopping in ‘The Triangle’. For many of the large audience there was nostalgia for the shops long gone. We also learned about the great variety of shops, including many large ones, that existed before the War. In our summer walks we have covered a large part of Norwood starting with Jill Dudman’s tour of the centre of West Norwood. This was followed by Alun’s walk from Westow Street to West Norwood and concluded with Richard Lines’s walk along Church Road and around ‘The Triangle’. The latter two walks on Thursday evening seemed to attract more participants than those traditionally held on Sunday afternoon, although there was some competition with commuter traffic!

We begin the new ‘season’ with a joint talk about South London’s Dangerous Women. This event about local suffragettes is part of the Lambeth Heritage Month programme. Our talks will continue to be held at the Upper Norwood Library in Westow Hill which is now being managed by the Upper Norwood Library Trust (http://unlt.org/). We have already been in discussion to consider how the Society can support them. The Trust shares our hope that the library can become a centre of local history research for Norwood.

Stephen Oxford, Alun and I have been attempting to locate historical material held in the past by the Society. As part of this we have been clearing those items to which we have access that have been stored in the basement of Kingswood House. There is a great deal of sorting to be
undertaken especially as the material has not been kept in the best of conditions and has suffered water damage. This has been a mammoth task especially in this summer’s hot weather. There is still much we cannot find, and we are in correspondence with the London Metropolitan Archives to check what may have been deposited there.

We continue to receive local history enquiries, and a recent enquiry Alun made to another society in connection with the chemist Izod as part of his shops talk has led to a link with the Chipping Camden Local History Association in Gloucestershire. Another such link is with the great-great-grand-daughter of R H Fry of the Grecian Villa. This will furnish much information for a future article. If any reader has anything they consider worth sharing please email us on: norwoodshistory@btinternet.com.

What we had thought would be a summer to recover and recoup has turned out much busier than anticipated. Running local history meetings is just a small part of what we do, but nonetheless we are well underway with our programme of talks for 2017.

Barbara Thomas
28th August 2016
Another world first for Norwood? The Thurlow Arms in West Norwood could be the first pub where 'piped' music was played in a bar.

The pioneering and world renowned company 'Tannoy' had its origins in West Norwood where it was based until 1976. It had been founded by motor mechanic, Guy Fountain, in Tulsemere Road. By 1928 it was based in Dalton Street, a small cut through between Lancaster Avenue and Chatsworth Road. The premises still survive.

It was here that 20 year old George Wheeler arrived that year. Those were early days in the development of loudspeakers and amplifiers and George had plans to play recorded music in the interval of a dance in Woolwich Town Hall. Unfortunately the equipment George had made blew the fuses of the Town Hall and the experiment was a failure.

However, Guy Fountain, always an innovator with an enquiring mind, was curious to experiment with the loudspeaker and amplifier. One Sunday the equipment was linked to a turntable and taken to the roof of the Dalton Street factory. Guy walked along Lancaster Avenue to see how far away the music could be heard and satisfied himself that this powerful equipment had strong possibilities. It was shortly afterwards that the landlord of the Thurlow Arms
pub, near to the cemetery and now a Tesco, having heard the music, came to enquire about the possibility of using it to play records for customers in the bar. This was probably Edward Auckland, the landlord from 1921 to 1934. This was arranged shortly afterward and so it may well be that the Thurlow Arms was the first pub to play 'piped' music in the U.K, if not the world!

There are many tales circulating in West Norwood about the 'Tannoy' factory and in the area lived, and probably still live, people who were associated with 'Tannoy'. In 2004 Julian Alderton published 'The Tannoy Story' (publ: Edward Gaskell 2004) which is now out of print and difficult to find. This short article arose from an enquiry concerning the bombing of part of the company's premises. Much of the book is difficult for those without a knowledge of electronics etc., but the pages contain a wealth of information about West Norwood in the 1920s to 1970s.

*Alun Thomas*

1 http://pubshistory.com/LondonPubs/Lambeth/ThurlowArms.shtml
Since the opening of the Norwood Cottage Hospital in Hermitage Road on the 21st October 1882 the matron had been Emma Jane Phillips, born in Birmingham in 1844. Over the years Matron Phillips developed a position of trust and influence and many of the improvements to the hospital were instigated as the result of her recommendations.

The Management Committee of the Hospital were faced with a situation that caused them considerable consternation when, in early 1896, Matron Phillips tendered her notice of resignation so as 'to tend her mother in her declining years'. The Committee sought to overcome their dilemma by offering Matron Phillips three months’ leave of absence with full pay should she withdraw her resignation. Matron Phillips accepted this on condition that Nurse Phillips be appointed to deputise for her during her leave of absence. The matron wrote 'I would suggest Nurse Phillips be allowed to act as matron pro tem. She knowing so well my ways and routine of work. I am anxious upon this point feeling she would not entertain to work under a stranger'. Nurse Phillips had previously deputised in December 1885 when the matron had been unwell and
the nurse had been at the Hospital from the beginning. All were happy with this outcome, especially as Matron Phillips returned to her post within the three months, her mother's health having improved. On the 13th July 1896 the matron recommended Nurse Phillips to have a salary increase and £5 per annum was agreed.

In the light of the above it seems surprising that on September 14th of that year the management committee was informed by Matron Phillips that on August 26th she had given Nurse Phillips one month’s notice 'for insolence and want of respect for her authority'. Nurse Phillips appeared before the committee and offered her resignation, which was accepted.

At this time the Hospital had a small nursing staff of matron, sick nurse, probationer nurse, porter, cook and housemaid. There were six part time medical staff and a dentist who had other practices in the locality.

The committee had many other concerns on their minds and only three years previously had doubled the size of the Hospital with twelve additional beds. They were now considering the necessity of enlarging the mortuary, but they still had to consider their staff arrangements. The porter had died on the 30th August, they had resolved to pay Cullens the Westow Street undertakers £8 for the funeral, and also reimburse the attending staff’s expenses of 8/6d.

The Committee were clearly not happy with the matron's action but, accepting the situation, on October 12th agreed to pay Nurse Phillips 20 guineas 'in recognition of her services to the Hospital during her fourteen years’ service also a formal testimonial for her use in applying for any fresh situation'. In the following August Matron Phillips also resigned and received a gratuity of 30 guineas and a fulsome testimonial was written.

Formal committee minutes so often do not tell the full story and raise unanswered questions. Did the nurse increasingly exceed her authority, and did
the Committee regard her departure as a satisfactory outcome? They were not short of new applicants as 220 applied for the post, and on October 15th 1897 they appointed Miss Edith Fry. Miss Fry had previously been at the Cornwall Miners’ Hospital at Redruth. It is significant that Edith Fry was the daughter of Richard Fry of the Grecian Villa, Beulah Hall, a long time benefactor of the Hospital. Her aunt, the actress Blanche Grey, had for some years held an annual performance at The Crystal Palace, the proceeds of around £100 p.a. of which were for the benefit of the Hospital.

What became of the two Phillipses? Nurse Caroline Phillips is not easy to trace, and she may be the boarder in 1901 at a house in Pokesdown, Dorset, where the census describes her as a trained nurse. Also she may be the Caroline Phillips who died in Edmonton in 1925, and before coming to Norwood had been at the Durham County Hospital. We can be more sure of Matron Emma Phillips, who in 1901 became a hospital matron at Parkstone, Dorset and was living with her mother. As Pokesdown and Parkstone are only seven miles apart could they have made up their differences and even worked together again?

Alun Thomas
29th August 2016

The source of this information is the third minute book of the Norwood Cottage Hospital (1890 – 1900), deposited in the Croydon Local Studies Library.
Indecent behaviour was the charge recorded in the Croydon Advertiser in June 1875 against local resident and retired army officer Mr Joseph Cameron! The case was heard by the Bench of Croydon Magistrates. The offence, the details of which were 'unfit for publication', was alleged to have taken place in woodland off South Norwood Hill.

Margaret Holly, a servant from Penge, was in the woodland with five children under her charge when she noticed the defendant lying on the grass. While sitting on a bench nearby her attention was drawn to the defendant by the children. She observed him behaving in a very indecent manner! She left the wood but on her return a week later saw the defendant again.

Mr Cameron was found guilty and sentenced to three months’ hard labour. However, he was bailed pending an appeal. The appeal was heard, a month later, at Newington Quarter Sessions and centred on the argument that the offence had not occurred in a 'place of public resort'. Much time was spent calling numerous witnesses, police officers, a local photographer and surveyors to prove the point.

As back-up the defence then called four character witnesses of high status, all of whom stated that Mr Cameron was of 'good character'. It arose during their cross-examination that he had served in the army during the Indian Mutiny. It was further pointed out that the woodland was the property of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and that no one but them and their servants had the right to be there. The Bench then retired to consider the evidence.

Mr Hardman, Chairman of the Bench, said that, after careful consideration, they had unanimously decided that the appeal must be dismissed. Mr Cameron was removed in custody to undergo the sentence imposed by the Croydon magistrates.

A Jolly Sailor customer was charged with being drunk and assaulting two police officers, Croydon Advertiser and East Surrey Reporter, 18th March, 1876. Henry Gates, a rough-looking fellow, was the central character in a fight with another drunk in the midst of a crowd of about three hundred people on South Norwood Hill at half past eight in the evening. Police constables Thomas Hall and John Atkins tried to break up the fight but Gates used abusive language and,
as attempts were made to take him into custody, he assaulted the two officers; a further three were required to get him to the station. Gates was remanded in custody till a later date.

'Bad smells' were reported to the local Sanitary Committee, *Croydon Advertiser and East Surrey Reporter*, 30th June 1877. Local residents near the junction of Ross Road and South Norwood Hill had complained of the smells arising from the sewer ventilators. Happily the committee recommended inexpensive action to be taken to improve the action of the ventilators. It was not reported if the matter was thus resolved. However, sewerage draining from South Norwood Hill was diverted into local cesspits.

In the same paper it was also reported that attempts to cover up an outbreak of smallpox was made by a local resident, which had probably led to its spread. Committee member Dr Strong stated that the culprits ought to be prosecuted for negligence.

A quaint tradition of Victorian society was to announce in the local newspapers where people were holidaying or even eating. Thus came the report in the *Cornishman*, 3rd June, 1880, that Mr & Mrs John Williams Ledger of South Norwood Hill had visited the Devon and Cornwall Dining Rooms in Falmouth. John Ledger had just retired as licensee of the White Hart at the southern point of the Norwood triangle, see map, at which time it was a plain two story building selling Barclay Perkins ales brewed in Park Street, Southwark.

John Ledger was born in Horsley Down, Southwark, Surrey, in 1820 to John and Frances Ledger. Born into a middle-class family, he was soon to become a businessman calling himself a 'corn merchant' in the 1851 census. Coulter says he was landlord of the White Hart from 1845 but he does not give that as his profession until the 1871 census where his address is recorded as the White Hart, Church Road.
However, the *Morning Advertiser* 6th August 1856 describes him as hosting a 'convivial table' for the Caledonians V Sydenham and Crystal Palace United cricket match at the White Hart.

In 1862 John Ledger hosted the Friends of Labour Loan Society at the White Hart Tavern. This mutual society was a working class organisation started in London in the 1850s and still active in the 1930s, organised to lend money on favourable terms to the working classes. Foolishly he lent £3 to a young man pretending to be the son of a regular at the White Hart. This was reported in the *Croydon Advertiser and East Surrey Reporter* in July 1876 where it was also reported that due to a gambling habit and accruing debts the young man had borrowed money from three other people, with little chance of paying them back. He was sentenced to four months with hard labour at the Croydon Sessions.

Ledger had left the White Hart by May 1879 when the license was transferred to a Mr Adamson. A month later the *Croydon Advertiser and East Surrey Reporter* was advertising various items and fittings from the White Hart for sale. No doubt Mr Adamson was carrying out improvements and alterations.

In September 1883 the *London Evening Standard* advertised a sale by auction of the White Hart and its stables, coach house and yard along with twelve adjoining messuages (dwelling houses, with out-buildings and land) as well as the messuage of Rose Cottage in nearby Lansdowne Place.
Whether these were all owned by John Ledger is not clear but as he was an astute businessman it is more than likely.

In 1880 Ledger and his wife, Eliza, made the most of their retirement and visited the West Country, dining at the aforementioned Devon and Cornwall Dining Rooms in Falmouth. By 1881 they were living at 'Ravenswood', two doors up from Hazelbank on the eastern side of South Norwood Hill. Later he moved to Erith where he lived in comfortable retirement until 1912. John Ledger left a small fortune in his will, an amount in today's value of £3,497,095.99.

'An Amusing Case', reported in the *Illustrated Police News* October 1882, was that James Squires of the large house, 'The Firs' on South Norwood Hill, was summoned at Croydon Petty Sessions by his neighbour Miss Sophie Dresser for suffering a ferocious dog to be unmuzzled (sic) in a thoroughfare. The dog, a huge mastiff, kept by the defendant as 'protection against burglars', apparently regularly 'flew at' and 'bit' locals, much to their consternation. It was claimed to be 'quite harmless' but the Bench held a different opinion and ordered the dog to be kept under proper control. Dr Hetley, one of the magistrates, advised that it should either be kept tied up or destroyed!

*Stephen Oxford*
GROWING UP IN PARRY ROAD SE25

On the morning of 3rd July 1931, life in Parry Road was changed, but only a few people were aware of it, those being my mother, father, brother and the doctor. I am told it was a very hot day. I would think my mother was happy at my coming into the world, and glad that all had gone well.

From the rented flat in Peckham Mum and Dad moved on Christmas Eve 1927 into a house newly built by a Mr Wooton. There were only some lock-up garages at the top where it joined Canham Road and two houses on the opposite side: Grangeville and Hillside. According to the local papers, 1927 had been a very wet year. In November there was a great freeze with many people ending up in hospital with broken bones. Parry Road had not yet been made up; it was just a collection of new terraced houses. Dad spent Christmas Day on his hands and knees laying lino and my brother was pushed out of the way with his Christmas presents. Mum was getting to know the kitchen and cooking the Christmas dinner. The Christmas weather was the coldest in many years. In the night a blizzard blew in and dumped a whole load of snow on Croydon and the surrounding area, in some places as high as 4ft. Much of the high ground was cut off and aeroplanes dropped supplies. How my parents kept warm I do not know. Some time after the houses had been built the road was surfaced and the digger for the drains moved in. That caused a big panic as the driver managed to pull out all the gas, electricity and most of the water pipes in the process. Also, a lot of the houses had to have their room ceilings put back up. The houses were put up on the cheap. In the winter it was normal to get into the loft to shovel up the snow that had blown in when the wind lifted the tiles. Later on war damage repairers felled the roof under the tiles.

Dad had not been keen on the idea of buying a house, but Mum set her mind on it, so Dad, sensibly, agreed. His argument against buying was, “What if the roof blows off?” And Mum’s reply was, “Well, we will put it back on again!” Little did she know how true that was going to be. The house was built on a hill with a grand view South from the front. At the back the garden was terraced, rising up to Ross Road, Kilarvock House and Grange Woods. Michael Road had not yet been built and was waste ground good for blackberrying. Parry Road, on the Ordnance Survey map, is shown joining up with Ladbrook Road, but actually the made-up road ended at the entrance to some allotments well
before it connected with Ladbrook Road. The ground was a disused brick field and was being used by Croydon Council as a refuse site, all the clay having been dug out. One day, when my big brother was on his way home from Whitehorse Manor School, he got into an old tin bath found on the side of the roadway of the council dump and slid down the steep slope into the pond near Ladbrook Road. Unfortunately for him the bath had large holes in the bottom which let in the pond water. He got wet and then got a walloping from Mum when he got home. But the story got a big laugh when told many times later!

I don’t remember much about my life as a baby and toddler. There were holidays by the sea (organised by my mother). These annoyed my brother who wanted to explore the locality we were visiting, but was held back because of me preferring the sand and the sea. Christmas time was a family affair. I never knew my father’s family. I only knew one set of grandparents. Every Christmas was spent at my mother’s parents’ house in Lewisham with all my uncles, aunts and cousins. My father dressed up as Father Christmas in Aunt Hilda’s red dressing-gown, now edged with cotton wool stuck on with chewed toffee. He made his appearance complete with a sack of presents on Christmas Eve by way of the front door (my brother was sworn to secrecy). I was about 2 or 3 when I noticed him and I screamed the house down when this strange man came to talk to me. I had to be given my present first to quieten me. It was quite a few years later that I found out who he was.

Soon after moving in Dad thought about building a greenhouse and he bought the wood for the glazing and found some bricks to build the waist-high walls and later the glass. This work took him about 5 years and he was immensely proud of it. Thinking it would add value to the property he informed Croydon Council, expecting the rateable value to be increased, but was informed that what he had constructed was “an unimportant piece of garden furniture”, which really upset him. Tomatoes were grown in it which pleased Mum. One year he grew cucumbers which was a big disaster, as we had gone on a fortnight’s holiday. When we came home we found that the cucumbers had taken over. Getting into the greenhouse was as good as impossible as they had grown into a tangle all over the floor. Many were given away.

The house in Parry Road was built on ground that had once possibly been owned by a seed merchant, Osmans, and under the bit of grass where I drove my pedal car had been foundations of the greenhouses that might have been left over
when Kilravock House was sold. It is possible that the greenhouse had been the
vinery of Kilravock House. When Dad wanted some bricks to build a new coal
shed he dug up the grass and then down into the foundations and took some of
the bricks out one by one. That now left a big hole in the ground that was filled
with earth from the allotments. There are still more bricks under the ground.

There was one incident that I remember well when I must have been about 4 or
5. I was playing on my tricycle in the small yard just outside the kitchen door
when I became conscious of an engine noise above my head. Looking up I saw
a massive silver object slowly floating by. This terrified me and I rushed into
the house to tell my mother, whom I found upstairs making the beds. I quickly
told her about “the big silver thing above the house”. Without looking out, as
I had expected her to do, she continued making the bed and said unconcerned,
“I expect it is the Graf Zeppelin”. This puzzled me even more. Was she not
interested in this unusual sight? I knew she had seen a Zeppelin shot down in
the Great War when she lived in Charlton.

I have clear memories of all the neighbours at our end of the road, because they
had a lot to do with me. Most had children about my age and we all went to
school at Cypress Road together; some were in the same class as mine.

Mum had a smallish pet dog called Floss which was very excitable. Any caller
who knocked was greeted by a lot of barking and the dog doing a flying leap and
hitting the window in the door, which quickly made them take a few steps back.
She would not let one of my mother’s brothers into the house. Later I was given
a small grey tabby kitten; he was very timid and was fittingly called Timothy.
He lived a long time.

In 1936 the Crystal Palace burnt down. I did not know anything about it until
the next day. My parents and brother saw a little of it from the garden, but the
high ground and Kilravock hid most of it. A few days later my mother took me
there to see the damage. The ruins were still smoking.

Colin Richardson
(to be continued)
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