KINGSWOOD HOUSE RESEARCH PROJECT

This research was produced as part of a collaboration between the Dulwich Society Local History Group and Kingswood Arts, the community group that runs Kingswood House in Dulwich. We researched the servants who worked in Kingswood House when it was a private home and a community artist then made an exhibition to share the stories, which now hangs in the café at Kingswood House. If you are related to one of the families who served the house please get in touch, the Dulwich Society would love to hear from you. Email history@dulwichsociety.com
For details of the house and the other servants who worked and lived there please go to https://www.dulwichsociety.com/local-history/kingswood-house-who-worked-in-a-house-like-this

BURFOOT family at Kingswood Lodge

Narrative for William Burfoot, coachman at Kingswood House

William Burfoot was born in 1848 in Egham, the son of Charles, a gardener, and Caroline. The family must have fallen on hard times as when William was 12 he and his siblings were in the workhouse in Cookham Berkshire. Their mother was with them but not their father, Charles, though clearly he wasn't working. He may possibly have had an accident around this time, as later in life he had a leg amputated. The family moved to Husbands Bosworth in Leicestershire where Charles got a job as a coachman and William became a groom in the same stables.
William married Mary Ann Dench in 1871 when he was 23. They went on to have nine children, two of whom died in infancy.
They lived in Husbands Bosworth for nearly 30 years before moving to Dulwich when William got the job of coachman at Kingswood House at the end of the 19th century. William and Mary Ann were in their 50s and several of their children made the move south with them. Their son, also called William but known as Will, became a doorman at the big house. Sons Herbert and Walter got jobs as clerks and Arthur became a carpenter's apprentice. Daughter Laura was in her early 20s but does not appear to have a paid job: she was probably helping her mother in the home as the household was quite large and this was a time before modern conveniences like washing machines or vacuum cleaners.
While living at Kingswood Stables, son Will got a job as a coachman to another family and married Annie Harley – Annie was born in New York City but we don't know how she made her way to South London. Will later became a chauffeur, when motor cars began supplanting horse-drawn vehicles. Daughter Laura met and married Harry Stagg, a groom in the Kingswood stables, who had made his own move from Somerset to Dulwich. The son of Gilbert Stagg, a stonemason, and Drusilla Osbourne, the daughter of a mason, Harry was from a long line of masons in Somerset but the family also had some connection to Southwark as Harry's parents had been married at St Jude's in Southwark.
Like William Barfoot, Harry Stagg also made the move to driving a car from driving a coach and horses. By 1911 he had moved his wife and young son to Leatherhead where he got a job as a chauffeur. The retired William and Mary Ann came too and lived with them. When Mary Ann died in 1916, William went back to work and moved to Pavenham in Bedfordshire to work again for Sir George Lawson Johnston, the 1st Baron Luke of Pavenham, this time as a groom. Eventually Harry and Laura moved to Pavenham too.
William died in 1925 aged 77. Harry died in 1947 and Laura a year later.

Research names in red lived at Kingswood Stables

1848 William Burfoot born in Egham Surrey, the son of Charles, a gardener, and Caroline
1851 William Burfoot aged 2 in Egham with family
1861 William Burfoot aged 12 in the workhouse in Cookham, Berks with his siblings
1871 William is a groom and living in Husbands Bosworth, Leics, with his father who is a gardener
1871 Married Mary Ann Dench in Husbands Bosworth, Leics
1881 William Burfoot is a coachman in Husbands Bosworth, Leics, living with his wife Mary and children Charles, William, Laura and Harry
1891 William Burfoot is a coachman in Husbands Bosworth, Leics, living with his wife Mary and children Laura, Henry Herbert, Arthur, Walter and Frederick
1900 May William Burfoot 26 doorman Kingswood s William a coachman to Annie Harley 27 of Kingswood d Alexander a lithographer (she was born at Perry Street, NYC). William, known as Will, was a coachman, later chauffeur. [we have photos of them]

1901 Census
Stables, Kingswood Rd

William	Burfoot	52	1849	Coachman	Egham, Surrey
Mary A Burfoot		56	1845	-	Putney
Laura Burfoot	23	1878	-		Gwersyllt, Denbighshire
Herbert Burfoot	19	1882	Clerk (commercial)		Leicestershire
Arthur Burfoot	17	1884	Carpenter's apprentice		Leicestershire
Walter Burfoot	15	1886	Clerk commercial		Leicestershire

1901 Census
Kingswood House Stables

Harry Stagg	24	1877	Groom	Norton sub Hampden, Somerset
Harry W Drury	20	1881	Groom	Suffolk
Sidney Shepperson	29	1872	Groom	Hornsey

1904 May Marriage Harry Albert Osborne Stagg 28 coachman Kingswood to Laura Burfoot 26 Kingswood d William a coachman
1911 William and Mary Ann Burfoot are living in Leatherhead with daughter Laura Stagg, son in law Harry Stagg and grandson Leslie Stagg. William Burfoot is a retired coachman and Harry Stagg is a chauffeur. William and Mary have had 9 children of whom 7 are still alive in 1911. The Staggs have one child.
1916 Mary Ann Burfoot died in Long Ditton
1921 William is a widower and lodging at Bury Gardens, Pavenham, Bedfordshire. He is a groom for Sir George Lawson Johnston, the 1st Baron Luke of Pavenham
1925 William died in Long Ditton, Surrey
1939 Harry & Laura Stagg at Bury Garage, Bedford Rd, Bedford. Harry is a private chauffeur
1947 Harry Stagg died in Beds
1948 Laura Stagg died in Beds

STAGG family at Kingswood Stables

1876 Harry Albert Osborne Stagg born in Norton sub Hampden, the son of Gilbert Stagg, a stonemason, and Drusilla Osbourne, the daughter of a mason. Harry was from a long line of masons in Somerset but the family had some connection to Southwark as Harry's parents were married at St Jude in Southwark. Perhaps Gilbert was working as a mason nearby: he probably wasn't working on St Jude's itself (it wasn't rebuilt until later) and they are both in

Montacute or Norton sub Hampden in Somerset for the Censuses either side of their marriage.