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

PARKER family at Kingswood Lodge
A family of gardeners going back to the 18th century

Narrative for Peter John Parker, gardener at Kingswood House

Peter John Parker was born in 1833 in Clerkenwell, the son of Joseph and Mary Ann. Joseph was a distiller who moved to Gipsy Rd, Norwood when Peter was very small, and became a florist and then a gardener. Peter grew up to be a gardener too. In 1858 he married Ann Littlefield from Streatham, herself the daughter of a gardener. They set up home at Kingswood Lodge and Peter worked as a gardener in the big house. They had 3 sons and 5 daughters, one of whom died in childhood. Two sons were themselves gardeners, one at West Norwood Cemetery and one in Queens Park, west London. Their third son was a decorator who emigrated to Australia. Two daughters went into service and never married. One daughter married an engine driver and lived in Martell Rd, West Dulwich and another daughter married a factory hand and moved to Islington.
Peter worked as a gardener all his life and died in 1907 aged 74. Ann went to live with her son Joseph and his family in Martell Rd Dulwich and when he emigrated she lived in Park Rd Dulwich with her daughter Deborah, who had been a parlourmaid. She died in 1924 aged 87.

Research names in red lived at Kingswood Lodge

1833 Peter John Parker born in Clerkenwell the son of a distiller
1841 living on Crown Hill, Norwood, father a florist
1851 living on Gipsy Rd, Norwood, father a gardener
1858 living in Croydon, married Ann Littlefield from Streatham (1836-1924), the daughter of a gardener in Croydon. They had 3 sons and 5 daughters.
1859 son Charles born, grows up to become a jobbing gardener in Queen's Park. Marries Mary Ann Rich

1861 Census
Kingswood Lodge

Peter J Parker	Head	28	1833	Gardener	London
Ann Parker	Wife	23	1838	-	Streatham
Charles Parker	Son	2	1859	-	Lambeth

1861 daughter Ann born (twin), marries a factory hand and moves to Islington
1861 daughter Emma born (twin), marries an engine driver and lives nearby in Martell Rd

1865 son Joseph born. He becomes a house painter and lives in Pond Cottages and Martell Rd before emigrating to Australia
1868 daughter Kate born
1869 son Arthur born, grows up to be a gardener at West Norwood Cemetery
1874 daughter Deborah born, becomes a parlour maid in Kensington. Doesn't marry
1879 daughter Ruth born, she died aged 5
1881 Peter and Ann living at 15 Crampton Rd, Beckenham, gardener
1891 Peter and Ann living at 74 Hamilton Rd, Norwood, gardener
1901 Peter and Ann living at 74 Hamilton Rd, Norwood, gardener
1902 Peter and Ann Directory at 74 Hamilton Rd, Norwood, gardener
1907 Peter died at 74 Hamilton Rd, Norwood. Buried in West Norwood Cemetery
1911 the widowed Ann is living with her son Joseph and family at 17 Martell Rd (he emigrated)
1921 Ann is living with her daughter Deborah in Park Rd Dulwich
1924 Ann died