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

REDWARD family at Kingswood Lodge
A very old Sydenham family of gardeners going back to at least the 18th century

Narrative for Frederick Redward, gardener at Kingswood House

Frederick John Redward and his family lived and worked at Kingswood in the years between WW1 and WW2. He was a gardener, from a long line of gardeners who had lived in Sydenham for generations. His great grandfather was a nurseryman in Sydenham in the early 1800s and was beadle of the parish for nearly 40 years. His father was sexton at St Bartholomew's church on Westwood Hill where Fred was baptised in March 1859.
When Fred was 11 years old he was helping his father to extinguish the lights at St Bartholomew's after an evening service when a chandelier collapsed on top of him. He was lucky to escape with shock and a few bruises - the chandelier was completely destroyed!
Fred married Emma Godfrey from Suffolk in 1887 and they had two children: Fred Jr in 1888 and Alice (known as Doris) in 1895. Times were tough and some members of the Redward family, for example, Fred's niece Amelia, spent periods in the Lewisham workhouse.
In WW1 their son Fred joined the 1/2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers as a private and died at the Somme in 1916; his body was never recovered and he is one of the 72,000 soldiers commemorated on the Thiepval Monument.
By 1919 the Redwards were living at Kingswood Lodge where Fred was a gardener at the big house; Emma was a housewife. Their daughter Alice, now known as Doris, had married William Webb, the son of a plumber from Forest Hill and the Webbs lived with them at Kingswood Lodge. Fred's granddaughter Christine was born there in 1921. William Webb worked as a 'three colour printer' for the innovative Arc Engraving Company factory in Wimbledon.
Emma Redward died at Kingswood Lodge in 1935 and the family must have moved away after this as Fred died in Battersea in 1938. In WW2 the Webb family did their bit: Fred was an Air Raid Warden, Doris was a first aider and Christine was a member of the Women's Land Army. Christine never married and died on the Isle of Wight in 1998. As Fred Jr had died in WW1, this branch of the Redward family ended.

Research names in red lived at Kingswood Lodge

1830 Fred Sr born on Sydenham Common, the son of John, a gardener (and later beadle of Sydenham for 38 years), and Christina
1851 Fred Sr, 21, unmarried, gardener visiting Fanny Redward, 33, widow, laundress, and her daughter Fanny, 5, at Bell Green.
185? Fred Sr marries Emma Jones

6 Mar 1859 Fred baptised at St Bartolomew's Sydenham, the son of Frederick, a gardener of Wells Rd, and Emma Jones. Fred and Emma had also had Emma Edith in 1854 and Annie Maria in 1857. Annie never married and lived with her father after her mother died.
1861 Fred Sr married, living with wife Emma, 3 children including Fred, at Wells Rd, Sydenham. Fred Sr was the sexton at St Bartolomew's.
1869 See press cutting which must refer to Fred Sr and Fred
15 May 1887 Frederick married Emma Godfrey at St Mary's Walthamstow
1888 Fred Redward Jr born
1891 35 Bradford Rd, Sydenham, Fred, Emma and Fred Jr. Fred is a gentleman's servant
22 Jan 1895 Alice Ellen K Redward born (later known as Doris)
1898 Fred's niece Amelia is in Lewisham workhouse
1901 17 Prospect Rd, Sydenham Fred, Emma, Fred Jr and Alice
1910 19 Halifax St, Sydenham
1911-1915 living at Mount Ash Rd, Sydenham with children Fred Jr and Alice, Fred is a domestic gardener, Fred Jr is a cook
Q2 1915 Alice (now Doris) marries William Webb, the son of a plumber and house painter from Forest Hill
15 Sept 1916 son Fred Jr died in WW1 (Thiepval Monument):

Rank: Private
Service number: 6082
Regiment: London Regiment
Sub-unit: 2nd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers).
Previous unit: 2. Lond. R. Pte. 6082
Medals awarded: British War Medal And Victory Medal
Theatre of war: Somme
Remarks: K/A. 15.9.16
The National Archives Archive series: WO 329/1906

1919 Redwards living at Kingswood Lodge
19 Mar 1921 Christine Frederica Webb born at Kingswood Lodge
1921 Census

Frederick John Redward	Head	1858	63	Sydenham	Private gardener
Emma Redward	Wife	1852	69	Suffolk	
Doris Webb	Daughter	1895	26	Sydenham	
William Walter Webb	Son-in-law	1894	27	Forest Hill	Colour Printing in the Process Engraving Trade, Mr T Fordham, The Arc Engineering Co, Wimbledon
Christine Frederica Webb	Granddaughter	1921	-	Dulwich	

1919-35 Redwards at Kingswood Lodge with at various times their daughter, now called Doris Webb [not Alice], son in law William and granddaughter daughter Christine.
Q4 1935 Emma died at Kingswood Lodge. Buried in Lewisham cemetery
1938 no longer at Kingswood Lodge
Q1 1938 Fred died in Battersea
1939 Doris, her husband William and their daughter Christine are at 140 Park Lane, Carshalton. William is a printing machine manager, Christine is a hairdresser's assistant
1942 Christine, a hairdresser of 140 Park Lane, Wallington, serves in the women's land army
1998 Christine Webb died at the Isle of Wight. She never married. As her brother had died in WW1, this branch of the family died out.