

The Dulwich Society

Minutes of the 159th meeting of the Local History Sub-Committee: 8 February 2022, online via Zoom.

Present: Ian McInnes (Chair), Duncan Bowie, Gavin Bowyer, Patrick Darby, Brian Green, Steve Hicks, Bernard Nurse, Sharon O'Connor (host), Kenneth Wolfe.

Apologies: David Natzler, Pat Reynolds

Minutes of the meeting on 12 October 2021 were approved.

- 1. Matters arising:** Jeff Segal offered a trees talk. Sharon will speak to Sue re the Society's archives.
- 2. Sub-committee members: notification of interests:** Sharon is a trustee of Bell House.
- 3. Enquiries received:** What is the font on the mid-century estates: we referred to Butler Signs and the Type Archive. Origin of Mundanya and Therapia road names: Therapia is from the town of Tarabya, from the Latin *therapia*: healing; Mundanya is a town by the sea of Marmora, a port of call en route to Crimea. Scutari is the name of Florence Nightingale's hospital. Did we have any old photos of the north shop parade: Brian sent one from the 1960s and the enquirer used it to make a Christmas present for a friend. Francis Blackmore from East Dulwich asked if we would speak to her father who grew up in Dulwich: Ian and Sharon will follow up. Ian was asked about a house in Park Hall Rd. Two enquiries about ancestors who died in the Constance Rd workhouse in 1927. We could research the workhouse (some info [here](#)). Hazel Roy is publishing her father's memoirs: he grew up in East Dulwich and fought fascists in the 1930s. We should add East Dulwich street names to our Gazetteer: Sharon will draw up a list of names that need researching.
- 4. Talks, walks:** online talks are going well. 1 March is Dulwich Then & Now with Brian, 5 April is Dulwich Suffragettes, Republicans and Pacifists with Duncan. May has two talks: 3 May is Royal Dulwich with Ian and then 17 May for the Festival, Brian is talking in person on the restoration of Dulwich Picture Gallery paintings following WW2. Ian is leading a walk for the Festival.
- 5. Stretcher railings:** info board will be unveiled at 11am, 19 February at Quorn Rd, organised by Ian. Brian will give a short talk. Southwark's Mayor has been invited.
- 6. Stocks sign:** has been moved from its risky position at the entrance to the building site and is now in the burial ground. It's much more visible there but there are planning restrictions which would need to be unwound by Aquinna Southwark, and the Estate were it to stay there.
- 7. Library foundation stone:** David and Sharon met with stonemason Will Young. Sue applied for £500 CGS funding to re-cut its letters. Tom's advice is that the stone needs completely replacing, cost c. £5,000. Instead we could install one of our information boards giving more detail on the library and surrounding area and including the inscription if we get the CGS funding.
- 8. Journal articles, forthcoming publications:** 7 local history books are reviewed plus several articles for the journal: Gavin's part 2 on the Friern Estate, Ian on The Avenue and Sharon on Louise Michel. Gavin's part 3 and Duncan on Jonathan and Frida Knight are in the next journal. An article connected to the Platinum Jubilee would be welcome. The Jubilee tree trail will be updated as a free insert.
- 9. Court rolls:** Calista has a new photographer for the court rolls and 1973 map. Patrick sent another batch of completed rolls to Calista. He has also transcribed and digitised Muniments up to 1615 which have plenty of detail on crime and punishment. Patrick explained how a widow was ordered to lay a whelm (half a hollow tree to make a bridge) over her ditch. This is where we get the term 'overwhelm'; Patrick explained how therefore one can't be underwhelmed. Patrick is looking at the parish register for St Giles - Brian will ask the Camberwell Society if it has been transcribed. Patrick

said that in the five houses on Dulwich Common in between College and Gallery Rds, four of the heads and some further family members died in the year to June 1584 – plague?

10. **Information boards:** Sunray Gardens and the tollgate signs are with Ian.
11. **Meetings:** 14 June 2022.
12. **Any other business:** Julia Atkins will become a member. The 2021 census is expensive but we have directories and electoral rolls until it becomes cheaper. Duncan is researching Dulwich connections to London School Board (1870) and LCC (1889) and would welcome any ideas. The post cart has been moved to its new home in Alleyn Park sorting office. Kenneth suggested we take a half page advert in SE21 magazine. A number of us who live in SE21 don't receive this magazine so we would need to check to whom it is delivered.