**The Dulwich Society**

Minutes of the 169th meeting of the Local History Sub-Committee: 10 September 2024.

**Present**: Ian McInnes (Chair), Sharon O'Connor (host), Julia Atkins, Brian Green, Kenneth Wolfe

**Apologies**: Steven Hicks, Duncan Bowie, Eric Large, Gavin Bowyer, Patrick Darby, David Natzler

*Minutes of the meeting on 18 June 2024 were approved.*

1. **Matters arising**:

2. **Sub-committee members: notification of interests:** none notified.

3. **Enquiries received**:

• We were sent an unsolicited article on Anne Shelton, the singer, who lived at 142 Court Lane marking the 30th anniversary of her death. It will be published in an upcoming journal.
• We received a revised version of the article on Thomas Farmer Baily with more info and better pics. It is now on the website.
• A follow up on our article on the 'Redapples' in the 2023 Spring Journal.
• Bomb damage in Clive Road and Park Hall Road from an 88-year-old former Dulwich resident (based in the USA since 1960) researching their family history
• The name of a family living in Acacia Grove during WW2
• Family history of a tailor in a shop at 92 Park Hall Road
• Location of a property on Champion Hill where someone's great grandfather lived (or did not in this case, we finally found him further down the hill by East Dulwich Station)
• The Leach family, shopkeepers in Herne Hill & elsewhere – one of them lived at 61 Stradella Road, James' house.
• Possible help on locating where a WW1 embroidered bedspread was made
• The Speller family who ran a garage business in Melbourne Grove in the interwar years.
• Boris Karloff (William Henry Pratt) enquiry about whether he was born in Dulwich. Five brothers went to Dulwich College. We should
• The large house on the Denmark Hill Estate seen on the 1947 Britain From Above maps.
• 134 Melbourne Grove – which appears on one of our bomb plaques – a follow up from an Ancestry DNA test.
• 62 Dunstans Road
• 84 Dunstans Road
• 123B Dunstans Road
• 12 Dunstan's Grove
• a South Croxted Rd haunted house: we said we needed more to go on and the enquirer has gone away to find out the house number

4. **Journal articles, forthcoming publications inc. LH eNews**: in the current journal we have articles on Rosendale Hall, Mavis Batey, refugees from fascism, and William Whetherley**.** Future articles: we received an unsolicited article on Suffragettes from Zoe Lyons (a Twitter follower). Jeremy Prescott has offered an article about his house being on the site of Court Farm. Ian has written on East Dulwich factories.

5. **Local history talks** restart in October with Ian on Kingswood House. November is Ian on Alleyn Rd and December is Brian on Dulwich Then & Now: The Valley of Dulwich from East to West. Sharon will chase on a potential FoWNC talk (see 6. below).

6. **Members' research/outcomes of current research**: we continue to work with Kingswood Arts on the history of Kingswood House. In researching his talk Ian found this lecture from Cambridge University on Bovril. He also found that Oxo and Marmite have connections to Herne Hill, and information about the huge wealth of the Lawson Johnstons and the Vesteys (join the talk to find out more!). Gavin has

researched Irene Layman, a pioneering physiotherapist who worked at Kingswood during WW1. Sharon and Ian will begin taking oral histories soon. Ian and Sharon met with the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery and we are pooling history of Dulwich residents buried in the cemetery – Sharon is adding it to the 'Dulwich People' pages of our website. The Friends have offered us a talk on Dulwich residents buried at West Norwood and also a walk, possibly during the Dulwich Festival. Sharon is researching Olive Shapley, early BBC radio producer and broadcaster who lived at 65 Woodwarde Rd from 1922-39. Patrick's website, for all his Dulwich history work (and including his late father's two unpublished books), is in the hands of a website designer, and should be live within the next four weeks.

7. **Information boards**: It's hoped the battalion board can be installed before Remembrance Day. No news on the stocks board.

8. **Prospective database of local history images**: the College has scanned Ian's postcards and Sharon gave a demo of the platform, called Preservica. Image quality is very high and the system seems easy to use. The question is whether we should store our images there and if not where. Brian suggested the London Picture Archives and will speak to a former director of the archive to find out more. Southwark Local Studies have nothing similar.

9. **Any other business:** Ian has a copy of the Dulwich Millennium pageant brochure and a couple of newspaper cuttings from Pat Trembath. We have been approached about potential blue plaques: the doctors at Paxton Green and PG Wodehouse on Croxted Rd. We discussed whether we should launch our own plaques scheme and decided we should instead funnel future nominees through the English Heritage blue plaque scheme or Southwark's scheme. PG Wodehouse seems a more viable candidate than the Paxton Green doctors.

10. **Meeting dates:** 10 December. 2025: 11 March, 10 Jun, 9 September