The Dulwich Society

Minutes of the 170th meeting of the Local History Group: 17 December 2024.

Present: Ian McInnes (Chair), Sharon O'Connor (host), Duncan Bowie, Brian Green, Steven Hicks, Eric Large, David Natzler

Apologies: Gavin Bowyer, Patrick Darby, Kenneth Wolfe, Julia Atkins

Minutes of the meeting on 10 September 2024 were approved.

1. **Matters arising**: the PG Wodehouse plaque is not proceeding. Ian presented Brian with his BALH certificate for Outstanding Individual Contribution to Local History, to applause from the group

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

3. **Enquiries received**: see Appendix

4. **Local history talks**:
   Jan: Jane Jordan on West Norwood Cemetery's Dulwich Residents
   Feb: Brian on Edward Alleyn's Fortune Theatre & its connection with Dulwich
   Mar: no talk as the Society has a Women and Politics in-person event that day
   Apr: possibly Zoe Lyons on suffragettes? Sharon to ask her

5. **Dulwich Festival:** Duncan is doing his Radicals walks, (Village walk to start at North Dulwich station), Eric on River Effra, Jane Jordan on West Norwood Cemetery to coincide with the new gate in Martell Rd. Sharon will offer a family introduction to Dulwich history. Brian suggested a walk/talk based around Dulwich Square/the burial ground: the Group could gen up on a couple of graves each and be available in the burial ground to talk to people. Sharon will check with Sarah Taylor, Festival Director.

6. **Members' research/outcomes of current research**: we continue to work with Kingswood Arts on the history of Kingswood House. A large information board is up in the Kingswood café together with snippets of the oral histories taken as part of the project. Next step is to get all the research up on their website. Patrick's website, for all his Dulwich history research, is now live and can be found here. Gavin's research on Bogle French is now up on the website. There is a potential article on the history of the site where Judith Kerr School is now.

7. **Information boards**: The battalion board will be installed at 11am, on Saturday 8 February 2025. The granddaughter of one of the officers involved will unveil it. Southwark Council will provide a new flag and we could use Mary Boast money to spruce up the concrete around the memorial. Ian and Sharon to action the cleaning up and 'Ian to contact the Dulwich ATC Squadron. The stocks board is not needed as the existing signage is considered enough.

8. **Preservica database of local history images**: Ian's postcards and plan elevations are now on Preservica. Brian spoke to a former director of the London Picture Archives about holding the physical postcards; Ian will follow up. We had a discussion about image copyright, downloading and potential misuse. For now the images are only available to this Group. Please think about if you are happy to share the database more widely and we will decide about this at our next meeting

9. **Mary Boast fund projects**: we discussed some local history projects that could use funds from the Mary Boast legacy. We could pay a designer to give us a design template for booklets like Kingswood House and Belair House, to be used when we update them or write new ones. We could fund Kingswood House to present the research we have done for them in an accessible way on their website. We could restore the war memorial (see item 7).

10. **Any other business:** Ian met with history teacher Craig Gordon who is organising the archive of Dulwich Prep & Senior who are 140 years old next year. Brian shared press cuttings about the

Pickwick Society (1967) which is still going! Duncan has expanded his Arthur Creech Jones for the Socialist History Society Journal. He is giving a talk on Dulwich Radicals for Southwark Pensioners. David asked about the history of Dulwich Hospital, including lesser known parts such as its abortion services after the 1967 Act. Peter Watkins wrote on a general article, but an overall history is needed.

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

Appendix

Enquiries: September to December 2024

A query about where a couple of servants, married at St Stephens in 1900, are standing in a photograph. Was it one of the lodges at Kingswood?

Coming into possession of some 1890s and early 1900s school certificates awarded by the Salcombe House School prompted an enquirer to ask for information about the school and where it was located.

After seeing the talk on the Lost Mansions of Dulwich, a query about a family photograph which was ascribed "Menival".

A 'scrumper' fell out of an apple tree in a garden in Alleyn Park or Road, but who was the 1950s film star who helped him?

An enquiry about who had lived previously in 101 East Dulwich Grove (Tit-Bits Villa).

A query about the Post Office on the same side of the road as the Crown and Greyhound in the 1960s and 1970s

The origin and meaning of one badge in a collection with a local connection to Dulwich

On behalf of her Father a search for information on Ernest Joshua Fairbrass and whether he had a butchers shop in East Dulwich.

A question about how Wyneham Road, SE24 got its name.

An enquiry asking whether there is film footage of the 1,000 years of Dulwich pageant that took place in the 1960s.

A query about why there is no old/medieval church in Dulwich Village.

A request for contact information about Patrick Darby, the author of 'Ties of Blood and Friendship'

Information requested about the history of a property in Crystal Palace Road, SE22

After finding the Local History Society website, a second request about a property in Dunstan's Road

A request on all information about the history and occupants of a third property in Dunstan's Road

Information was requested about the history of a particular house in Dunstan's Grove and the road generally.

An enquiry about whether a photograph of a dairy is in Dulwich or Crouch End

A request for information about the V1 rocket that landed on the Coop in Lordship Lane and a girl who was seriously injured at the time

Location of "Oak Cottage" at 12, a private road Champion Hill, Dulwich, in 1901

Enquiry about the history of West Dulwich, especially Park Road and Thurlow Park Road

Establishing who lived at 21 Acacia Grove in the 1930s

Request for information about unexploded bombs near to Clive Road

A relative of Joseph Redapple searching for a link with Samuel 'Roxy' Rothapfel in Australia

A request seeking information about any record of embroidery done by the servicemen or staff at the Southwark Military Hospital

A request for any history about 134 Melbourne Grove during the Blitz

Information sent to the Local History Group about Spillers Garages in response to the article on the Ghost Signs of Dulwich.

Enquiry about exactly where Boris Karloff was born and a request for any photographs of Karloff's home in Forest Hill Road.

Following Ian’s article about Dawson's Heights in the Summer 2024 issue of the Dulwich Society Journal, a reader wrote that he was home for the summer holidays in 1944 and from Overhill Road saw many of the V1 'Doodlebugs’ - in one day 19! The V1 that fell nearest to us was the one on Dawson's Hill, used as an adventure playground by local children, and he went up there the next day and retrieved part of the V1 tail pipe as a souvenir.

A query about the style of windows at an address in East Dulwich Parade and whether there are any photos that might show the original windows.

A query via the Imperial War Museum about a mother then aged 14 years who was seriously injured by the V1 landing on the Co-op.

From a file of old family letters and documents was a letter from a great-grandmother, written from '63 Court Lane, Dulwich, S.E.' on 17 September 1914. The enquirer wanted to know what sort of property this would have been.

An enquirer, born and raised in South Africa, is now living in West Dulwich where her mother grew up wanted advice about the best platform to learn about the past of West Dulwich

A request for any information on dogs in the Borough of Southwark from a London Tour Guide researching historic dogs of London

Following Ian's article on Beech House, later called 'Warrigul', information on research about early women doctors and Dr Irene Eaton who lived there.

An enquiry about establishing the ownership/responsibility for the fences of a garden of a property in Wood Vale, SE23 and whether the published research on the Friern Manor Estate might provide an answer.

An enquirer following up the talk on the Lost Mansions of Dulwich (2.4.2024) was interested to hear more about the Dryden and Foord printing press (one of which used to be on show at the Science Museum) and asked for a copy of the relevant slide of the talk and any further information on the Foord family in Dulwich.

A query whether a painting by Stanhope Alexander Forbes (old Alleynian) was of the Dulwich Pond.

We were sent an unsolicited article on Zdenka Pokorna – Czech nationalist who lived in Dulwich.

We were asked to trace a grandfather whose death certificate gives an address in West Dulwich.

A request to help contact old school friends from the 1980s in East Dulwich

We were sent further information on the people involved in the WW1 bombing at the Covered Courts.

A request from an architect on the history of Heber & Landcroft Roads to assist in naming a new house on Heber Road

A request from a journalist on the New York Times asking for pictures to help illustrate an article on Pissarro in Dulwich.

Location and wording on the DS memorial bomb plaque in Woodvale Road.

An enquirer in Canada asking whether 61 Overhill Road is possibly a concrete house