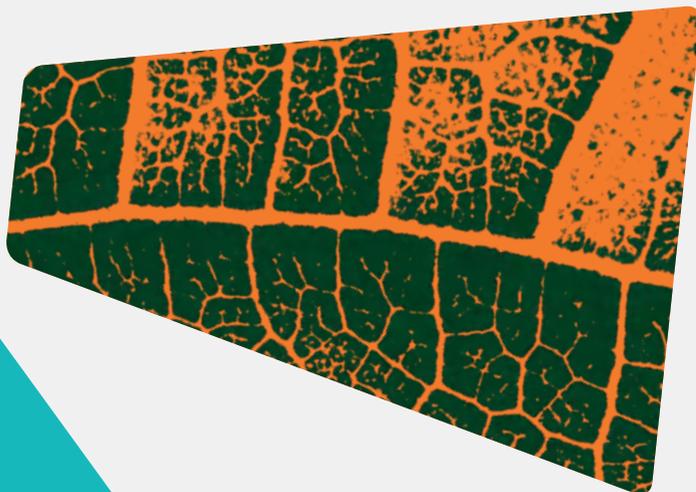


A TRAVEL GUIDE *to* CAMBERWELL



2020 LIMITED EDITION

WELCOME TO CAMBERWELL



Thank you for supporting the Camberwell Banners project. As your reward, we're delighted to present you with the 2nd, limited edition Travel Guide to Camberwell – the essential companion for those in search of the real SE5.

In this guide you'll find beautiful parks, exotic meals, wonderful cakes, intoxicating drinks and excellent coffee, as well as an internationally renowned art college. There are galleries, ghosts, a graveyard, a Turkish spa, a Greek bakery and Britain's first purpose built mental health hospital.

Robert Browning was born here, Michael Caine grew up here, Charlie Chaplin worked here, Dan Leno lived here and John Ruskin left in disgust when the railways ruined his view.

It's an unlikely mixture, perhaps, but it's what we think of when we think of Camberwell. We hope it will inspire you to explore the area further, whether you're a local resident or visitor.

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CAMBERWELL HISTORIES



A brief history of Camberwell

Camberwell's story is one of how a small Surrey farming community became engulfed by the great metropolis of London.

Today, Camberwell is so much a part of the city that it's hard to believe the area once had its own mill and supported itself from the surrounding fields – or that it traded with London by supplying the city with fresh fruit and vegetables and milk.

From a farming village, Camberwell became an exclusive Georgian retreat, attracting visitors because of its reputation for clean air and healthy waters – as well as improvements in transport. The most significant of these was the construction of new bridges over the Thames to bypass the congestion of London Bridge, which in turn led to the construction of a new local road network. Camberwell New Road, for example, was opened in 1818 to link Camberwell with Vauxhall Bridge, which was built in 1816.

As London's transport infrastructure expanded, Camberwell developed into an inner city suburb. By 1800 two firms ran coaches 7 times a day from Camberwell to Gracechurch Street in the City to accommodate commuters. This was a relatively expensive form of transport as tolls had to be paid. In the mid 1800s the horse-drawn bus was developed and the first buses came to Camberwell in 1851.

In 1862 a railway line was extended to Camberwell, followed by a station at Denmark Hill, enabling less wealthy people to commute to London. In 1871 the service attracted competition from tram companies and by the 1900s as many as 250 trams passed through Camberwell every hour on 14 different routes.

By the beginning of the 20th century, Camberwell had become so over-crowded that philanthropic organisations began to look at how to improve housing in the area. In 1910 the Peabody Trust built flats by Camberwell Green followed by the development of the Samuel Lewis Trust Buildings in 1915. Further redevelopment was necessary following World War II when air attacks destroyed 5,650 houses in the local area.

Today, Camberwell has become well and truly part of London – an inner-city area with a diverse population. Elegant Georgian properties sit alongside post-war estates, giving the place its eclectic character. Throw into the mix a large teaching hospital, a leading mental health research institution and the students of Camberwell College of Art and you have a truly unique part of London.

A healthy history



It began when the first Londoners decided that the waters of the Camber Well were a remedy for life's ills. Ever since, Camberwell has been a cradle for medical discovery and innovation, particularly in the area of mental health and well-being. It's no wonder the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell adopted the motto 'All's Well' when they were granted the right to a coat of arms in 1901.

IMAGE *King's College Hospital gymnasium*

HEALING WATERS

The waters of the Camber Well were said to be rich in iron and mineral salts, with a beneficial effect on any number of ailments. Springs and wells are known to have existed on the southern slope of Denmark Hill, especially around Grove Park.

As a result Camberwell developed as a hamlet where people from the City of London were expelled when they had life threatening diseases, like leprosy, for treatment by the church and the clean, healing waters from the local wells. An article, written by Prosser in 1827, states: "it has been conjectured that the well might have been famous for some medicinal virtues and might have occasioned the dedication of (St Giles) church to this patron saint of cripples".

By the 18th century, Camberwell's springs had established it as a desirable location for recreation. People would come from far and wide to experience its healing waters. The elegant Georgian terraces of Camberwell Grove and Grove Lane are a legacy of the area's prosperity during this period. Dr Lettsom, founder of the Medical Society of London, established a botanical garden of rare plants, some of which can still be seen in Lettsom Gardens.

As the metropolis expanded between 1740 and 1840, the fields became streets and terraces. The health giving springs and wells became forgotten in all but the place name. However, in one of those curious threads of history, the area remains vital to the health of Londoners.

CAMBERWELL'S INFLUENCE TODAY

Today Camberwell is home to some of the world's most influential medical research organisations. Where Londoners once took the healing waters of the Camber Well, three leading medical organisations are now in residence.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL

King's College Hospital was founded in 1829 to provide clinical experience for students in the medical faculty of King's College London. It originally opened in 1840 in Portugal Street, close to Lincoln's Inn Fields, and moved to its current site on Denmark Hill in 1913 when a larger building was required.

King Edward VII laid the foundation stone of the Denmark Hill location in 1909 and the new King's College Hospital was opened by King George V and Queen Mary on 26 July 1913. Soon after its opening, it was requisitioned as a military hospital and treated over 75,000 wounded soldiers during World War I.

It is now one of London's largest teaching hospitals as well as providing general healthcare to the London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham – and a range of specialist services for patients across south east England and beyond. King's is recognised nationally and internationally for its work in liver disease and transplantation, neurosciences, cardiac services, blood cancers, foetal medicine, stroke and major trauma.

THE MAUDSLEY HOSPITAL

The Maudsley is England's first purpose-built psychiatric hospital for treatment and research. It dates from 1907, when Dr Henry Maudsley offered London County Council £30,000 (increased to £40,000) to fund a new hospital that aimed to find effective treatments, rather than simply providing confinement and 'asylum'.

All patients were admitted on a voluntary basis – possible only after an Act of Parliament in 1915. By the time it was built, World War I had broken out and the building was requisitioned as a war hospital, not opening as a mental health resource until 1923. In 1948 the Hospital joined the NHS, amalgamating with the Bethlem Royal Hospital (also known as Bedlam) to become one of a small group of postgraduate Special Teaching Hospitals. In 1999 it became part of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM), providing mental health services in hospital and in the community. It continues to play an important role nationally and internationally and is supported by the Maudsley Charity.

ORTUS

In 2013 the Maudsley Charity built the ORTUS on the site of the hospital, to focus on learning, education and connection. It aims to break down stigma and work closely with patients, staff and the local community. As well as state-of-the-art events and conference spaces, there is a deliciously healthy café that is open to everyone.

THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE

IoPPN is a world leader in the research, study and practice of psychiatry, psychology and related disciplines, and one of the most cited research centres in the world. Its origins date back to 1896, when the eminent neurologist Sir Frederick Mott put forward proposals for the then novel concept of university level training courses in subjects related to psychiatry. However, it was not until 1914 that Mott's idea began to bear fruit when London County Council agreed to establish the Maudsley.

Within ten years, the Maudsley Hospital Medical School was officially recognised by the University of London. It retained this title until 1948 when it became a founder member of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation and changed its name to the Institute of Psychiatry. In 1997, the Institute became a school of King's College London. In 2014, the remit of the Institute was broadened to include all brain and behavioural sciences, and was renamed the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE

Founded in 1889, Cambridge House is part of the Settlement Movement, which saw activists living and working alongside their neighbours in London's deprived areas to overcome the social problems of the day. The collaborative ethos remains, with Cambridge House and its residents supporting over 150,000 people every year. ch1889.org



An artistic history

Camberwell has a strong reputation for the visual arts – a legacy of the world-renowned art college that bears its name as well as one of England’s most pioneering galleries, the South London Gallery. Their histories are strongly interwoven and they still share the fabric of a building today, despite the different directions they have taken.

IMAGE Life class at Camberwell College of Art

SOUTH LONDON GALLERY

The South London Gallery (SLG) is one of London's best-loved contemporary art venues. The gallery opened free to the public in 1891, founded by philanthropist William Rossiter to 'bring art to the people of south London'. Today, the SLG comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station, which opened in September 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate; and an artist-designed garden. The SLG gained a reputation during the 1990s for its programme of British and international contemporary art under Director David Thorp, who presented exhibitions by established figures such as Anselm Kiefer and Gilbert & George, as well as emerging artists of the time including Tracey Emin and Gavin Turk.

Margot Heller was appointed Director in 2001 and has overseen the expansion of both the SLG's programme and its public spaces. Over the last two decades, the gallery has exhibited hundreds of artists, presenting new work by early and mid-career artists such as Alice Channer, Oscar Murillo, Magali Reus and Michael Armitage, as well as by established international figures such as Dara Birnbaum, Thomas Hirschhorn and Lawrence Weiner. This period has also been characterised by the depth of the SLG's commitment to engaging local residents in its programme often through long-term projects, and including thousands of children, young people, and adults. southlondongallery.org

CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ARTS

In 1892, the newspaper magnate and philanthropist John Passmore Edwards offered the South London Gallery £3,000 to build a lecture hall and library and the extension was opened by the Prince of Wales the following year. He offered a further £5,000 to finance a Technical Institute, which was opened on 6 January 1898 by Sir Edward Poynter, President of the Royal Academy.

The school aimed to give the 'best artistic and technical education to all classes in the district'. Originally, the school offered classes in specific trades, such as architecture, cabinet design, embroidery, wood carving and stencil cutting. By 1920, a Fine Art Department had been created. During World War II, Victor Pasmore was appointed head of the Painting Department, which initiated an exciting period for the School.

Many well-known artists, including Frank Auerbach and Edward Ardizzone, taught at Camberwell during this period, while Ron Kitaj, Euan Uglow and Frank Bowling followed in the 1960s and 70s. In 1973, the School expanded into a modern purpose-built block next to the existing premises.

The school was renamed Camberwell College of Arts in 1989 and granted university status in 2004, as part of the University of the Arts London. A major new makeover resulted in 2 new buildings added to the campus in 2017. arts.ac.uk

CAMBERWELL AND THE YBAs

The 1980s saw a new chapter in Camberwell's artistic history – one that is more often accredited to neighbouring New Cross. In his memoir, *Lucky Kunst*, Gregor Muir, writes: "Not yet housed in the university building at New Cross to which it eventually moved in the late 1980s, Goldsmiths was a stone's throw away in Myatts Field on the other side of Camberwell Green. In contrast to Camberwell's Friday night bacchanal, Goldsmiths held its disco on a Tuesday evening with dinner ladies serving drinks, including tea, from a service hatch. This indicated to me that Goldsmiths was deeply uncool."

During this deeply uncool period, students from Goldsmiths Fine Art department were taught in the Millard building on Cormont Road in Camberwell. A former convent and secretarial school, it was from this building that many of the group now known as Young British Artists – or YBAs – emerged. Some of the most celebrated artists of their generation, including Sarah Lucas, Gary Hume, Anya Gallaccio, Damien Hirst and Mat Collishaw, started their careers in Camberwell.

THE MAUDSLEY LONG GALLERY

Art is recognised as being both a beneficial therapy and an outlet for those with mental health issues. The Maudsley Charity funds art exhibitions in the Long Gallery, curated by Bethlem Gallery, featuring artwork by service users and is open to all.

ARTIST STUDIOS AND COMPLEXES

AREBYTE STUDIOS

→ BURGESS BUSINESS PARK UNIT 4,
1ST FLOOR PARKHOUSE ST, SE5 7TJ
arebyte.com/studios

ART IN THE PARK

→ CHUMLEIGH GARDENS, SE5 0RJ
artinthepark.co.uk

CLOCKWORK STUDIOS

→ 38 SOUTHWELL RD, SE5 9PG
clockworkstudios.co.uk

COLDHARBOUR STUDIOS

→ 26-34 SOUTHWELL RD, SE5 9PG
coldharbourlondon.com

DENMARK PLACE STUDIOS

→ 47 COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9NR

EMPRESS MEWS

→ OFF KENBURY STREET, SE5 9BT
empressmewsstudios.wordpress.com

REMAKERY

→ 51 LILFORD ROAD, SE5 9HY
remakery.org

SPACE STUDIOS

→ HAVIL STREET, SE5 8UB

VANGUARD COURT

→ REAR OF 36-38 PECKHAM RD, SE5 8QT
vanguardcourt.org

WARRIOR STUDIOS

→ ARCH 264, 241 COLDHARBOUR LANE,
SW9 8RR
warriorstudios.org

WHIRLED STUDIOS

→ 259 – 260 HARDESS STREET, SE24 0HN



A literary history

Whilst the presence of Camberwell College of Arts has meant that the area has a strong historical association with the visual arts, it has provided inspiration for writers too. Here are six notable authors associated with Camberwell:

IMAGE *Una Marson*

ROBERT BROWNING (1812–1889)

Camberwell was the childhood idyll of the eminent Victorian poet Robert Browning, who grew up just off Southampton Way. The area has changed significantly since Browning lived there: both Rainbow Cottage, where he was born, and Hanover Cottage, where the Browning family moved when he was 12, have long since been knocked down.

Browning disliked school and his education took place mainly at home, where his father amassed a library of around 6,000 books. At the age of sixteen, he studied Greek at University College London but left after his first year, clearly preferring the facilities at home: he lived there until the age of 34, financially dependent on his family until his marriage to fellow poet, Elizabeth Barrett.

As a writer, Browning lived for many years in the shadow of his wife. However, he achieved success late in life through his brilliant use of dramatic monologue in works such as *My Last Duchess* and *Porphyria's Lover*. These made him a literary icon and influenced future generations of writers, including Thomas Hardy, Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot.

JOHN RUSKIN (1819–1900)

In 1842, the Ruskin family moved to 163 Denmark Hill. Writing about his home there, Ruskin later said, "It stood in command of seven acres of healthy ground... half of it meadow, the rest prudently and pleasantly divided into an upper and lower kitchen garden, a fruitful bit of orchard and chance inlets and outlets of wooded walk."

Only a year after moving to Camberwell, Ruskin came to widespread public attention with the publication in 1843 of his first volume of *Modern Painters* – an extended essay in defence of the work of J.M.W. Turner. In later volumes he championed the Pre-Raphaelites, who were influenced by his ideas.

From his study in Denmark Hill, Ruskin wrote on subjects ranging from geology to architecture, myth to ornithology, and botany to political economy. By the time he moved to Cumbria in 1872, he had become the leading English art critic of the Victorian era, as well as an artist, patron, social thinker and philanthropist. His main legacy to Camberwell is the stained glass window he designed for St. Giles' Church.

UNA MARSON (1905–1965)

During the years she lived in Camberwell, Una Marson gained a reputation as a pioneering publisher, broadcaster, feminist, pan-Africanist and anti-racist – the first black female to work for the BBC and producer of the influential poetry programme *Caribbean Voices*.

However, this aspect of her work sometimes overshadows the fact that she is also widely recognised as the earliest female poet of significance to emerge in Jamaican literature. Her best-known works, such as *Nigger* and *Kinky Hair Blues*, pioneered the articulation of gender and racial oppression.

JENNY ÉCLAIR (B. 1960)

Stand up performer Jenny Éclair is also a prolific writer with five novels, newspaper and magazine articles, and radio comedies under her belt. Much of her work references Camberwell for which she is both defensive of its shortcomings, and proud of its eccentricities and achievements.

MARTIN MCDONAGH (B. 1970)

The award-winning playwright and film-maker Martin McDonagh grew up in Camberwell, of Irish parents, and spent most of his childhood summers in the west of Ireland. The titles of his best-known plays – *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *A Skull in Connemara* and *The Lonesome West* – suggest that Connemara may have been more of an immediate influence on his work than Camberwell. However, the combination of pastiche rural Irish forms and displaced urban sensibility gives his best-known works a dark, violent and very funny edge.

So successful is this Camberwell/Connemara cultural collision that in 1997 McDonagh was widely described as the first dramatist since Shakespeare to have four works professionally produced on the London stage in a single season. In recent years McDonagh has moved from theatre to film-making, winning an Academy Award in 2006 for his first film, the short *Six Shooter*, an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay for *In Bruges* in 2008, and two Golden Globes and three BAFTAs for *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* in 2018.

Drawing on both African-American and Jamaican speech, and of folk monologues, she wrote devotional sonnets and love lyrics as well as more modernist works.

MURIEL SPARK (1918–2006)

During her life, the novelist Muriel Spark travelled from her childhood home in Edinburgh to Rhodesia, London, New York, Rome and Florence – but it was in Camberwell that she wrote the first of the many novels she became famous for, including *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *The Ballad of Peckham Rye*.

A local priest helped her find a bedsit at 13 Baldwin Crescent in 1955. She arrived a struggling single mother, recovering from a serious breakdown. Within 2 years she'd published her first novel, *The Comforters*. Once she'd started writing, Spark was unstoppable: over the next 20 years she published almost a novel a year, as well as short stories and plays.

In 1961 she published *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, her legendary tale of the Edinburgh spinster schoolteacher who devotes her middle years to her 'gerrils', to Mussolini and to having illicit sex. The success of *Miss Jean Brodie*, in its Broadway, film and television versions, assured her financial security for life and a place in the most hallowed annals of Scottish and English literature. With the money she earned, she left Camberwell for New York in 1965.

A musical history

The soundtrack to contemporary Camberwell is one in which ambulance sirens play a key note – the result of the busy A&E department of King’s College Hospital on Denmark Hill. But Camberwell has provided rich inspiration for musicians throughout the ages, offering a soundtrack for the streets of SE5. From Mendelssohn to Florence and the Machine, we provide a playlist for Camberwell, inspired by 7 musical moments and personalities in the history of Camberwell.

IMAGE *Pink Floyd in Ruskin Park*



MENDELSSOHN AND CAMBERWELL GREEN

In 1842 Mendelssohn stayed in Camberwell with the Bennekes, affluent relatives of his wife, who lived on Denmark Hill (in one of the villas that was knocked down to make way for Ruskin Park). He found the area so charming he was inspired to write *Camberwell Green*, now better known as *Spring Song*. It is taken from the fifth book of Felix Mendelssohn's series of lyrical piano pieces *Lieder ohne Worte*, or *Songs without Words*.

MUSIC HALL AND CAMBERWELL

Camberwell has quite a tradition in music hall songs – a legacy of the many popular music hall venues in the area. In 1915 Lionel Monckton wrote *Chalk Farm To Camberwell Green* for his wife Gertie Millar. It includes the classic lines: "Chalk Farm to Camberwell Green, all on a summer's day; Up we climbed on the motor bus and we started right away. When we got to the end of the ride, he asked me to go for a walk, But I wasn't Camberwell green by a very long chalk."

Camberwell also featured in a Gracie Fields number from the '30s, *Heaven Will Protect an Honest Girl*. In this song, written by the great R.P. Weston and Bert Lee team (with Harris Weston too). Gracie sets out for London to go into service, gets into trouble, and heads home to Oldham in her undies: "Said 'eaven will protect an honest girl. Next day I pawned me shawl in Camberwell. Then me skirt and blouse I sold 'em. And went trampin' back to Oldham..."

SYD BARRETT AND CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ART

In 1965, Syd Barrett won a scholarship to Camberwell College of Art, where he shared a flat with childhood friend Roger Waters – and musical history was made. Barrett joined Water's band The Screaming Abjabs, which was eventually named Pink Floyd.

His talents for eccentric pop songwriting and bold sonic exploration ensured his rapid rise to fame – but the equally rapid descent into chemically-induced mental illness sadly leaves us with the never-to-be-answered question of what Barrett would have accomplished had circumstances allowed him to achieve his full potential.

JAZZLIVE AT THE CRYPT

Jazzlive at the Crypt was established in 1995 and quickly gained a reputation as one of the UK's premier jazz venues. It has featured the top musicians from London, the UK, Europe and beyond, and is bringing new audiences to jazz through its diverse programming. Awarded 'unmissable' status by Conde Nast Traveller magazine they also received the honorary "Freedom of the Old Borough of Camberwell" for their work in the local community.

The Crypt is the perfect setting for a live jazz venue. Its gothic architecture adds to the mystery of the space deep below George Gilbert Scott's St. Giles' Church. See the website for details of upcoming concerts and events.

jazzlive.co.uk

PULP & 59A LYNDHURST GROVE

Lyndhurst Grove, close to Camberwell College of Arts, was the inspiration for the final track of *Inside Susan*: a story in three songs, which follows the eponymous Susan from her Rotherham puberty through wild teen years in Sheffield to her eventual marriage and settling down somewhere on the outskirts of London. Lead singer Jarvis Cocker had this to say about the track in a 1994 Record Collector interview: "[It] was inspired by a party I'd been to the weekend before. We were thrown out by an architect but I got my own back by writing a song about the event. It was a really crap 'right on' party – there were children there. You don't take your children to a party in my book. I sent a copy of the CD to 59 Lyndhurst Grove, the lady of the house, because she was in a bad situation married to this prick, but she never wrote back. A Japanese fan went there and stood outside and asked if she was Susan!"

BASEMENT JAXX & LOUGHBOROUGH JUNCTION

In terms of dance music, Basement Jaxx (Simon Ratcliffe and Felix Buxton) are one of the biggest acts to come out of South London – particularly in terms of their sustained output over the last 25 years. Their very first studio was in Lomond Grove, Camberwell, and subsequently they moved to Loughborough Junction, the scene of many of their legendary parties. They have supported local initiatives, including the Loughborough Junction Action Group's *7 Bridges* project.

Their most explicit tribute to the local area was the *Camberwell* EP released in 2000 under the pseudonym Banana Krew, and which included tracks *I Live in Camberwell* (with lines including "I live in Camberwell, she lives in Brixton" and "On the streets of Camberwell, the tramps are coming at me"), and *Camberskank*. The B-side of their smash hit single *Romeo* in 2001 was called *Camberwell Skies*.

FLORENCE WELCH & MYATT'S FIELD PARK

Florence Welch, of Florence and the Machine, grew up in Camberwell and studied Foundation Art and Design at Camberwell College of Art, where she specialised in painting.

We'd like to think the area has had a clear influence on her artistic development: in the London Evening Standard (30th July 2009) she described her earliest London memory as climbing the trees in her local park, Myatt's Fields, when she was about nine years old. "The willow tree was the evil tree and the mulberry tree was the good tree. It was great for climbing and you could eat the mulberries in summer. I spent a lot of time in that tree."

Florence chose The Joiners Arms pub in Camberwell to launch her 4th studio album *High as Hope*, the highlight of the night being *South London Forever*, which name-checked the Joiners Arms.

[@thejoinersarmspub](https://twitter.com/thejoinersarmspub)

An entertaining history



Though no signs of it remain today, Camberwell was once renowned throughout London for its vibrant music hall scene. In this section of the Guide, we give a ghost tour of Camberwell's theatrical and cinematic history.

IMAGE Karno's Fun Factory

THE CAMBERWELL FAIR

The earliest form of advertised local entertainment was the Camberwell Fair, held annually from the Middle Ages to the mid 19th century to commemorate the feast of Camberwell's patron, Saint Giles. Around the 18th century, the fair was transformed from country market to funfair, with drinking, music, dancing, acrobats, puppet shows, magicians and dancing bears. The most famous act in the mid 19th century was Richardson's Theatre, which provided popular drama in the days before TV.

CAMBERWELL AND MUSIC HALLS

In Victorian times Camberwell was a focal point of South London's music hall scene with household names, such as Dan Leno and Gracie Fields, performing here from the 1850s to the 1940s. The earliest music halls in Camberwell were in the back of pubs. One, the Nollywood (formerly the Father Redcap, built in 1853) still stands by Camberwell Green, though its interior and exterior are now much altered. In 1896, the Dan Leno Company opened the Oriental Palace of Varieties on the corner of Denmark Hill and Orpheus Road. This was so successful that it was replaced in 1899 with a new theatre, the Camberwell Palace, which had a capacity of 1,553. The Metropole Theatre and Opera House soon followed, which presented transfers of West End shows. Following the advent of the cinema, and later of television, Camberwell's music halls fell into decline with the last closing in 1956.

CAMBERWELL AND CUSTARD PIES

38 Southwell Road is now an artists' studio, housing a range of exciting artists and craftspeople. At the turn of the 20th century, however, it was labelled London's 'Fun Factory' – home to Fred Karno's music hall performers. Two of the most notable were Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel (of Laurel & Hardy fame). Their employer, Frederick John Westcott (26 March 1866 – 18 September 1941), best known by his stage name Fred Karno, was an English theatre and music hall impresario. He is credited with inventing the custard-pie-in-the-face gag. During the 1890s, in order to circumvent stage censorship, Karno developed a form of sketch comedy without dialogue. Authority-defying routines, such as *Jail Birds* (1896), in which prisoners play tricks on warders, can be seen as precursors of silent movie comedy. At his peak Fred Karno was producing productions throughout the world. The sets for these were built in the back yard of the 'Fun Factory', while trapeze artists practiced in the tall three-story building and the slapstick routines of Vaudeville were worked out in and around the rehearsal rooms.

CAMBERWELL AND CINEMA

By 1912, music hall venues such as the Camberwell Palace were showing films as a part of their variety programme. It became an ABC cinema in September 1932 – known simply as The Palace Cinema. The Metropole Theatre was demolished to make way for an Odeon cinema – which has now also been demolished.

A second ABC cinema, opened in 1940. With 2,470 seats, it was one of London's largest suburban cinemas. It closed in 1973, becoming a bingo hall until 2010. Now a church, it retains its Art Deco style and is Grade II listed.

CAMBERWELL ON SCREEN

Peter Sellers' 1957 film, *The Smallest Show on Earth* – which tells the tale of a struggling family-run cinema – is thought to have been based on the Camberwell Palace. Camberwell also has an unusual starring role in the cult classic, *Withnail and I*. The Camberwell Carrot is the enormous spliff rolled by Danny the Dealer. His explanation for the name is, "I invented it in Camberwell and it looks like a carrot".

STOP MESSING ABOUT...!

Kenneth Williams (of *Carry On* films fame) showed a very different side to his scathing public persona when he visited an adult literacy project at Cambridge House, Camberwell, in the 80's - using his gift for fun to inspire students who had left school without reading or writing skills.

NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT

Back in 1933, shortly after the birth of one Maurice Micklewhite junior, his family moved to 14 Urlwin Street, Camberwell. A two-room flat at the top of this house was to become the childhood home of one of the finest actors of his generation.

Sir Michael Caine's start in life was tough: not only did he live in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Camberwell but he also lived there through the Blitz. Despite this, the roots of his future career can be traced back to Camberwell and Clubland, a youth club run by the Rev. Butterworth. He offered sports for boys and drama for girls but the young 'Michael Caine', motivated by a combination of clumsiness and adolescent lust, opted to join the drama group.

THE BLUE ELEPHANT THEATRE

This 50-seater venue produces an eclectic programme of new work across the performing arts, from physical and dance theatre to new writing and revamped classics.

blueelephanttheatre.co.uk

THEATRE PECKHAM

Founded over 30 years ago, Theatre Peckham is a flagship cultural venue and pioneering learning theatre, where inspirational artists meet aspirational young people. They are home to world class creative learning and performances with, by and for young people, providing a talent pipeline into the creative industries. theatrepeckham.co.uk

THEATRE DELI

Theatre Deli has brought new life to the old public library and washhouse on Wells Way, Burgess Park, with circus, theatre, comedy, exhibitions, cabaret, workshops and more.

theatredeli.co.uk/theoldlibrary

Architectural Gems

**A personal selection of interesting
buildings in date order.**

IMAGE Fetal Medicine Research Institute, Windsor Walk



1 CAMBERWELL GROVE: FROM

1780 Take a stroll down this long tree lined street with its wonderful variety of Georgian and early Victorian houses, making it one of the loveliest streets in South London.

2 CHUMLEIGH GARDENS FORMER ALMS HOUSES: 1823–1847

These buildings form a delightful contrast to the wide open spaces of Burgess Park and are all that remain of the buildings that were cleared to create the park in the 1960s.

3 FORMER ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

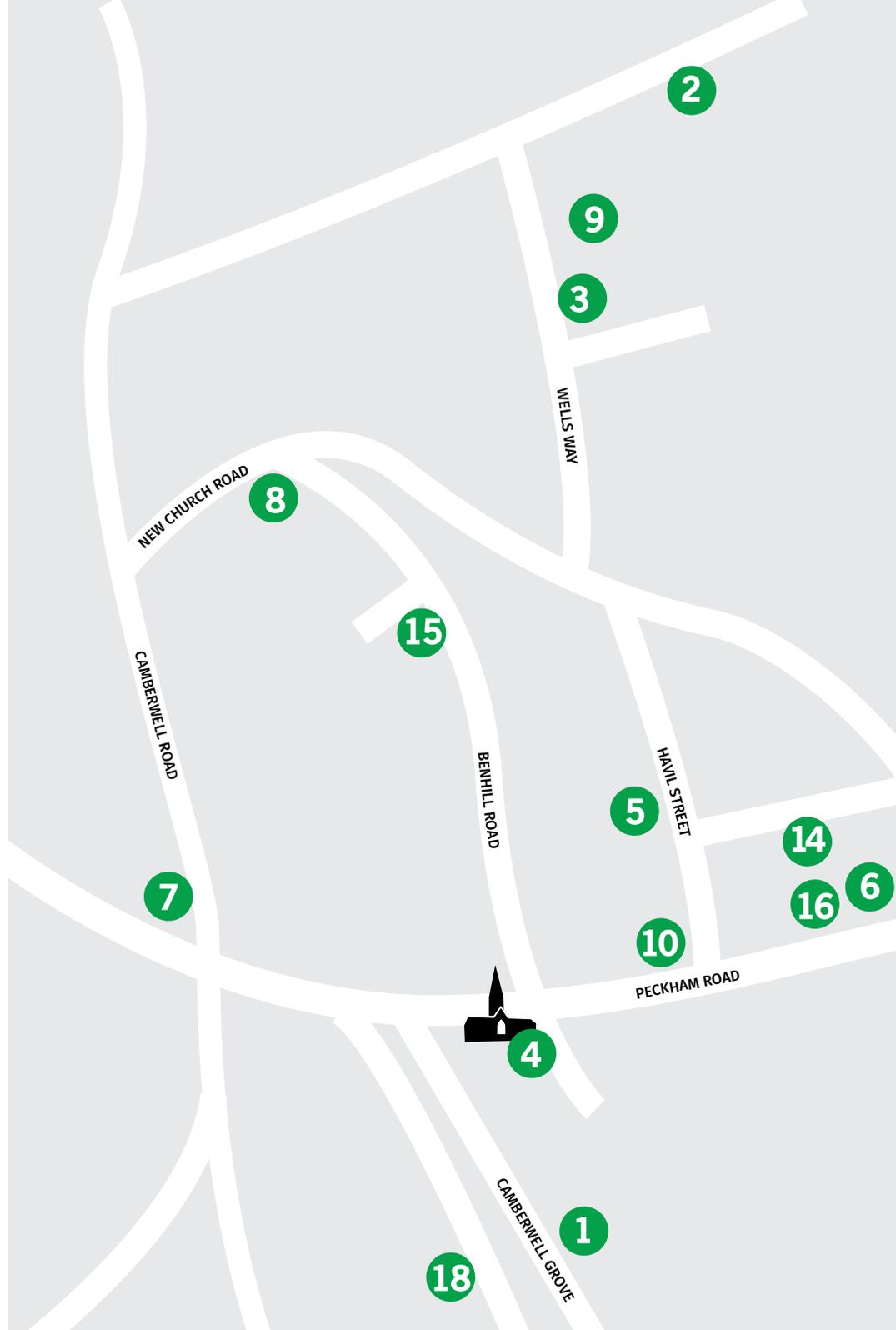
WELLS WAY: 1824 It is hard to imagine that when this elegant building was first built it was right beside the thriving Grand Surrey Canal, now filled in as part of Burgess Park. Architect: Francis Bedford.

4 ST GILES CHURCH, CAMBERWELL

CHURCH STREET: 1844 The parish church is one of the most imposing buildings in Camberwell, with the spire of this Victorian gothic building projecting up over 64 metres. Architect: George Gilbert Scott.

5 CIRCULAR WARD BLOCK HAVIL

STREET: 1888 (Formerly part of St Giles Hospital). A rare early example of form following function in a circular building which provided four hospital wards from principles laid down by Florence Nightingale. Architect: Robert Wellock



6 UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS AND SOUTH LONDON GALLERY PECKHAM

ROAD: 1898 A riotous highly decorated façade built to unify the original art gallery and technical institute. Architect: Maurice B Adams.

7 FORMER NATIONAL WESTMINSTER

BANK: 1899 Originally London and County Bank. This flamboyant late Victorian building lets you know that you have arrived at the centre of Camberwell as it dominates the main cross roads.

8 EVELINA MANSIONS NEW CHURCH

ROAD: 1900. These striking red brick mansion blocks are an early example of philanthropic housing for the poor in the area. Four Per Cent Industrial Dwellings Company Ltd.

9 BUTTERFLY BUILDING WELLS WAY:

1902 (Formerly North Camberwell Public Library, Baths and Washhouses) Known for its striking depiction of the Camberwell Beauty butterfly, this building is also a beautiful example of Edwardian Freestyle architecture. Architect: Maurice B Adams.

10 EMPLOYMENT ACADEMY: 1904

(Formerly Guardian Offices, Peckham Road) A wonderfully exuberant Edwardian building described variously as 'arts and crafts' or 'Edwardian Baroque'. Architect: Edwin T Hall with recent extension in 013 by Peter Barber Architects.

11 WILLIAM BOOTH MEMORIAL COLLEGE CHAMPION PARK DENMARK HILL: 1929

This is the landmark by which Camberwell can be found for miles around South London and was deliberately built so that the college would become a prominent landmark and create a sense of awe. Architect: Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

12 KINGS COLLEGE HOSPITAL GUTHRIE WING DENMARK HILL: 1937.

The small entrance showing between the Ruskin Wing and Accident & Emergency is an art deco curiosity.

13 RUSKIN PARK HOUSE ESTATE CHAMPION HILL: 1938 - 1954.

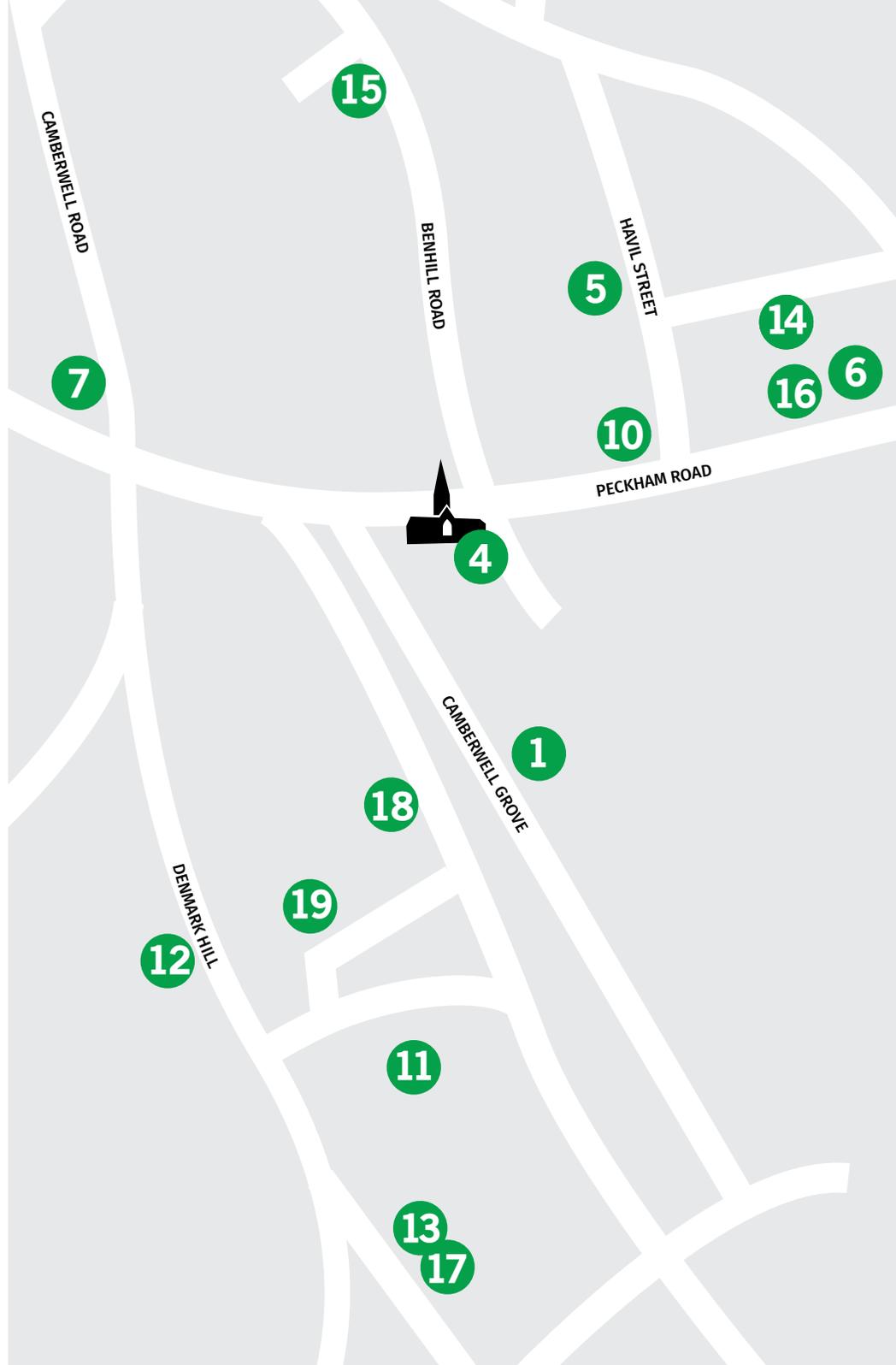
One can somehow imagine Hucule Poirot emerging from this art deco inspired estate. Architect: Watkins Gray.

14 SCEAUX GARDENS ESTATE DALWOOD STREET: 1957-1960.

The first (and an exemplar) large post war council housing estate in Camberwell including two fifteen storey tower blocks softened by mature landscaped gardens. Architect: Camberwell Metropolitan Borough Council Architects HP Trenton.

15 BRUNSWICK PARK SCHOOL PICTON STREET: 1961-2.

An opportunity to see a dramatic single storey early work of the late James Stirling (of Stirling Prize fame) and his then partner, James Gowan. Architect: Stirling and Gowan.



16 UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS EXTENSION PECKHAM ROAD: 1964.

This example of 1960s brutalist architecture has recently been restored and the entrance area transformed to make a stunning contrast with its Edwardian neighbour. Architect: Maguire and Murray; restored and adapted by Stephen Marshall Architects.

17 THE HAMLET, CHAMPION HILL: 1967.

An award winning private estate of 32 townhouses, which is one of the best examples of 1960s residential design. Architect Peter Moiret

18 ORTUS BUILDING GROVE LANE: 2013.

A deceptively simple building that, on inspection, reveals its subtleties. Internally, it is arranged around a large dramatic multi-level space. Architect: Duggan Morris.

19 FETAL MEDICINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE WINDSOR WALK: 2017.

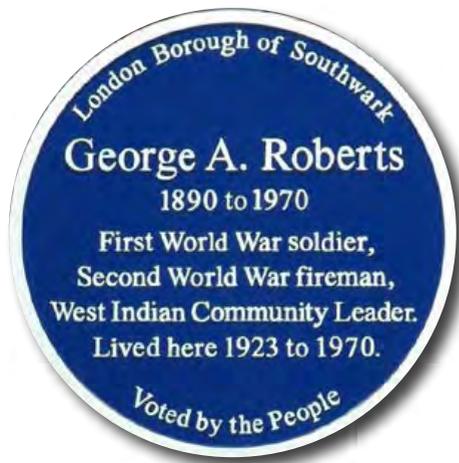
This new award winning building cleverly utilises the rear of an existing terrace of Victorian houses to create one side of a dramatic atrium space formed by swooping curved columns. Architect: A21 Architects



From the *Caribbean* to Camberwell

Camberwell historian Stephen Bourne remembers George A. Roberts and Una Marson who left their homes in the Caribbean to live in Camberwell and become trailblazers for Britain's black community.

IMAGE *George A. Roberts*



George A. Roberts and Una Marson felt inhibited by the lack of opportunities in their colonised homelands, Jamaica and Trinidad, and decided to spread their wings in England, then known as the 'Mother Country'.

George left Trinidad in 1915 to join the Middlesex Regiment in the First World War. He fought in several major battles, including the Somme. After the war he remained in England, and made Camberwell his home in 1923. Active in the Royal British Legion from its beginnings in 1921 until he died in 1970, George was the President and Founder Member of the Camberwell Branch. In 1931, with the Jamaican-born community activist Dr Harold Moody, who had settled in Peckham, George was a founder member of the League of Coloured Peoples. This was one of the first organisations to represent and support Britain's black community.

George remained an active member of the League until it disbanded a few years after Dr Moody's death in 1947. George was one of many hundreds of mourners who attended Dr Moody's funeral at the Camberwell Green Congregational Church in Wren Road.

Too old to fight in the Second World War, George became a fireman instead. Throughout the London Blitz and the rest of the war, George served as a brave fire fighter, putting out fires and saving lives while the bombs fell and exploded. In 1944 George was awarded the British Empire Medal which was presented to him by King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

In 2016 George A. Roberts was honoured with a Southwark Heritage Association Blue Plaque. It can be seen on the outside of his former home, the Lewis Trust Buildings, in Warner Road, where he lived from 1923 to 1970. George's plaque was the result of a popular public vote and the honour drew attention to a remarkable gentleman. What makes George special is that he was a Trinidadian adventurer who came to England long before the Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury in 1948. He was a black settler who successfully integrated into British society and made Camberwell his home.

When the feminist and poet Una Marson arrived in England in 1932, she was helped by Dr Harold Moody and his family who offered her a room in their home at 164 Queen's Road, Peckham. She was employed as the secretary for the League of Coloured Peoples.



After moving to a new home in Brunswick Square, Camberwell, Una became involved in broadcasting and joined the staff of the BBC. During the Second World War she became the BBC's first black woman programme maker. Una's pioneering work for BBC radio spanned just over five years, from 1940 to 1945.

Through the popular weekly series *Calling the West Indies*, Una broadcast messages from servicemen and women in England to their families and friends in the Caribbean. Despite air raids and other wartime dangers, Una and her guests broadcast from BBC Broadcasting House near Oxford Circus and, although it was dangerous, Una understood the importance and value of *Calling the West Indies*. Una was very conscious of the struggles faced by West Indians in Britain at that time, and on radio she had the ability to infuse her broadcasts with her personality as well as having a sense of the literary and the cultural.

After the war, Una returned to Jamaica and continued her work in politics, broadcasting and literature. Una died in Kingston, Jamaica in 1965 at the age of sixty. In 2009 Una Marson was honoured with a Southwark Heritage Association Blue Plaque. It can be seen on the outside of her former home in Brunswick Square, Camberwell.

Camberwell resident Stephen Bourne is a writer and social historian specialising in black heritage and gay culture.

He has "discovered many stories that have remained untold for years" from the contribution that Britain's Black community made in World War I (Black Poppies) to uncovering the life of George A. Roberts, whose life as a soldier and significant local driver of social improvement is commemorated with a Southwark heritage Blue Plaque in Warner Road. Stephen's *Fighting Proud: The untold story of the gay men who served in two World Wars* delves into LGBT's hidden history.

In 1992 he curated *Out of the Archives*, the first of many successful LGBT television retrospectives for BFI Southbank. During the 1990s Stephen was instrumental in setting up one of the first Southwark based LGBT forums to address homophobic crime.

He has been honoured for his work documenting the lives of Black Britons in film and television, and South Bank University made him an Honorary Fellow for his work on diversity.

Fortean Camberwell



A tour around SE5's folklore, mythology and ghosts. This guide can be read or walked. It makes more sense if walked and, by the nature of the strange clusters of Camberwell, it can be taken as one walk with a longer walk in the middle or two walks – one through Burgess Park and one from Orpheus Street to St. Giles Church. Or it can be used as and when you find yourself in certain parts of Camberwell. Enjoy it as you wish!

IMAGE Sarah Sparkes

BURGESS PARK

Start by getting to the middle of Burgess Park. Have your back to Albany Road and the lake to your left and you'll be looking across or standing on the ground that *Sacrilege*, the inflatable Stonehenge installation by artist Jeremy Deller, occupied in 2012. Beyond that is the Bridge to Nowhere, next to the old red toy steam train. The bridge is obviously pointless, as its steps are blocked off and buddleia blown, but mainly because it crosses a path people walk and cycle down. The bridge is a relic of the area's past when once all this green space was streets and houses with the Grand Surrey Canal running through it.

The Second World War destroyed much of the area and what is now Burgess Park was left as a breathing space for the choked folk of Southwark. People now play football on what was Longcroft Road and fish over Scarsdale Road, Brymer Street and Dartnell Road. Before the bridge, a relic of the past, the canal was the centre of local life and that is where we get our first traditional haunting rather than the relics of old Camberwell.

Come along to the park at night and stand by this footpath and you may hear the 'bump, bump, bump' of ghostly children's footfalls and scurrying footsteps. These are long gone children who drowned in the canal while using it and the boats moored on it as entertainment by hopping between them at night. They died for a lack of a playground and now their sounds hang over one.

I was told this story by an artist who said she kept a studio near the park and heard the ghostly pitter-patter of little feet when working late at night. Remember, though, that artists are in the business of creating their own worlds within our worlds.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Turn right away from the revenant canal and walk towards Wells Way and St George's Church. Before you get to the church there's a red brick building with some brilliant stonework on it. The pert mermaids on either side of the doors are the attention-grabber but look to either side of the big door to see sideways faces of a woman on one side and a man on the other being consumed by foliage.

These are modern versions of the foliate head, or green man – a popular medieval church decoration that usually has a man's face vomiting leaves. These Camberwell ones are leaves that are vomiting people.

The building is a former public bathhouse and the faces on either side are there to demonstrate which door the men and women go through. Turn right away from the mermaids and leaf-people and head next door to St George's Church.

You'll pass a mosaic of the Camberwell Beauty butterfly, which was discovered nearby, but pass that – we're seeking stranger, uglier beasts. You can see St George's four-pillared spire as you approach.

St George's is the site of a genuine and disturbing mystery – a suggestion that once the church was a den of vampires.

On the 4th September 1977 the Sunday People reported that raiders had smashed through a wall into the vault of St George's, 12 coffins were opened and the bodies within strewn about the vault.

Coffins were ripped open with what looked like 'a giant tin opener', two bodies were beheaded and one had a stake driven into it as if it were a vampire.

The attack was described as a commando-style raid. What happened to build up to this?

THE WORLD BELOW

Turn away from the suspected vampires' nest and cross the road back into the park. Carrying along the main path is an old lime kiln – a squat brick structure with arches.

It is another relic from the area's urban past and is said occasionally to be haunted. I've not heard by what, or whether there is a story to the ghost attached, but it feels fitting that two parts of Burgess Park's past have a ghost attached to them.

Carry on over Addington Square to Camberwell Road, turn right, cross Albany Road and stop at Boundary Lane. There's a forgotten tunnel beneath your feet with a story.

In the 1940s a tunnel was dug from Elephant & Castle tube to extend the Bakerloo line down to Camberwell Green via a station on Albany Road. The plan was abandoned, the official story goes, with the Victoria line extending to Brixton instead, but there is an alternative version.

The 1950s and 60s, with the Korean War raging and the Cold War blowing, was a time with nuclear bombs hanging over it. Walworth and Camberwell Roads, near to Westminster yet in a deprived part of south London, would make an ideal hiding place for secret government bunkers to hide the great and good during a war and the tunnels are already dug, so it is less effort to place a secret base beneath Walworth and Camberwell's streets. Government, though, requires a lot more apparatus than a tube train – so how could the base's construction, in the 1960s, be hidden from spies and any potential irradiated south Londoners wanting a safe haven amongst the great and good?

How about building a huge shopping centre and, while it is constructed, filling the tunnels running to Albany Road with the needs of a post-nuclear government?

And that, some think, is why the Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre was constructed. Now turn back, walking back past Burgess Park, down Camberwell Road, through Camberwell Green, and stop when you get to the corner of Denmark Hill and Orpheus Street.

GREEK MYTH AND GHOSTS

Orpheus was the seer whose lyre playing and singing was so beautiful it could bring wild animals to sit beside him. He lost his love and travelled to the underworld to reclaim her. Hades, the lord of the underworld, told him she would return to life with him if he were to leave the underworld without looking back. Just as he reached the gates of the Land of the Dead he did look back and lost his love forever. I don't know why this street is called Orpheus Street but, just to be safe when walking down it, don't look back. On the corner of Orpheus Street and Denmark Hill was once the Camberwell Palace Theatre, harking back to a time before cinema and television when everyone went to see variety acts and musical hall in London's countless theatres.

It is said that a Lion Tamer was mauled to death here in 1902 when his act went wrong and his bloody, bandaged ghost haunted the theatre until it closed in 1956. The theatre has since been demolished but plans are afoot in 2019 for new developments to include a cinema. Cross Denmark Hill again and turn left, heading further up Denmark Hill until you arrive at the grey and brick building and iron railings of the Maudsley Hospital. We'll borrow now from 'gentleman ghost hunter' Elliott O'Donnell's *Casebook of Ghosts* which, like most of his books, contains stories of the author stumbling across folk tales and other people's ghostly encounters and pretending he'd been told them by an unnamed member of the aristocracy while he's sitting in his club.

This story harks back to 1780 with a young housemaid called Rebecca living and working in a lodging house on Fish Street Hill near the Monument. O'Donnell was keen to point out how 'plain' Rebecca was and how entranced by the sort of silly romantic literature that young girls so adore. She falls in love with a handsome young man lodging in the house but is so shy about it he doesn't notice her, let alone her longing glances at him.

When the day comes that the young man leaves the house Rebecca expects a kiss and proposal from the man but, as he leaves, he shakes her hand and tips her a golden guinea. This sends Rebecca into a screaming frenzy, so maddened by this that she is committed to Bedlam, the mental hospital which, then, was on the site of what is now the Imperial War Museum.

She spends her whole life there, never letting go of the golden guinea her handsome young man gave to her, until she dies. As she lies there an unsavoury character prised the guinea from her dead hand and makes off with it.

Rebecca's ghost then wandered Bedlam, asking for her guinea back, and it seems just as her body could not leave Bedlam neither could her soul – because when Bedlam moved and merged with the Maudsley her ghost came with it. She wanders the area around Camberwell asking for her golden guinea, another lost soul asking for money on Camberwell's streets.

CURSED AND SACRED GROUND

Walk away from this story until you reach the grassy area on the corner of Denmark Hill and Champion Park. If you've just stepped onto the greenery, then sorry: I may have just cursed you by accident. This grassy triangle between Denmark Hill and Champion Hill was discussed by the email list Talking Folklore. There was, it was said, a local tradition that it was a 'plague pit', thus sacrosanct and never built on. But researcher Brian McConnell looked into it and it wasn't a plague pit at all – just a grassy triangle. Further ideas were thrown around. Folklorist Theo Brown had a sort of Romantic + Jungian theory that triangular patches left intact at road forks are what the Greeks meant by the accursed 'trivium' or triple crossroads which got poor Oedipus, it's that demi-god again, into trouble in Hades. There is at least one such grassy triangle in Sussex reputed to have been the site of a gallows. Flee this area along Champion Park and, as it turns into Grove Lane, keep going until you get to the top of the hill where Grove Lane becomes Dog Kennel Hill and on your right is Champion Hill.

Grove Lane and Champion Hill were two of the many places the 'Peckham Ghost' was seen – a pale figure in a long dark coat with a white lining that terrorised the areas around Peckham in 1872. The 'ghost' would leap out of the darkness of what was then the fields that south London was spreading across and terrify a young girl or drunk musician and then disappear again, occasionally leaping over a high fence.

The hysteria created by this figure was so great that mobs in Peckham were reported to have burnt an effigy of the ghost by the railway sidings around Oliver Road.

A man was captured and charged, after he was caught throwing dried peas at the window of a house, with being the ghost and although there was little evidence that he was the ghost the sightings stopped once he was arrested. From Grove Lane turn left to walk along Grove Hill Road and left again to walk up (because you will be heading north, but in fact you are walking downhill) Camberwell Grove.

On your right will be Grove Park, turn in and take the next right again. All roads here are called Grove Park. You will see a sign for allotments in one corner. In the gardens of one of the flats here lies the possible location of the Camber Well.

No one quite knows why Camberwell is named so, but Ladywell and Clerkenwell both have wells so it could be presumed that Camberwell, too, is named after a water source. Further speculation suggested that the word 'camber' can mean 'bent' or 'crooked' so perhaps the Camberwell was a healing well where crooked men and women could go to be cured.

This may be sacred, healing ground. The well itself first emerged when discovered by a Dr Lettsom – 'physician, botanist, Quaker and philanthropist' – who bought his estate in 1776.

He put red bricks around the well and gardens around the well but it became lost by the 1950s amid the construction of the current Grove Park estate. Enter, in the mid 2000s, local historian John Chapel who found the well on an ordinance survey map from 1868 and compared it to the original plans of Grove Park.

John found the well in the back garden of one Noreen Morrin who, in keeping with being the guardian of a healing well, is a former midwife. In his website Britain's Hidden History John describes finding the Camber Well: 'I was only about two feet out, which shows the incredible accuracy of the maps. Four or five feet under the lawn there was a big void, which was exciting to find.

It is possible the well has gone dry but I would be surprised if there wasn't water down there. It will be expensive to excavate but I would love to find out.' This is not the only mythological origin to Camberwell's name. The other goes back to the legendary origins of Britain itself. After the destruction of Troy, Brutus – next in line to the throne of the now-ruined kingdom – fled and found himself on an abandoned island. Sleeping in a temple to the goddess Diana, Brutus dreamt of a land beyond the Mediterranean he could rule.

Setting sail, he landed on the island and named it after himself: Britain. After exterminating the indigenous population of giants Brutus founded his 'New Troy' around about where the Guildhall in the City of London is today.

Brutus's son, Prince Cam, is thought to have made his home on the Surrey hills that are now Camberwell. The Brutus myth first cropped up in 9th century Britain and the idea that the foundations of Camberwell, London and Britain were laid by legendary kings – even ones from the losing side of the Trojan war – is an idea too attractive for medieval chroniclers, the writers of the British Empire and twenty-first century south London antiquarians.

As with a lot of historical mysteries, there can never be any conclusive proof against these ideas, and there have been some ancient finds in Camberwell, but the lack of proof against a myth or mystery does not always mean that the mystery is true. But remember the theory of Camberwell being the place of a healing well? We'll meet someone who suggests this may be true.

THE OUTSIDER SAINT

Leave Grove Park the way you came in and turn right onto Camberwell Grove. Keep walking down the hill until you pass Lettsom Estate, named after our philanthropist botanist and well-discoverer, until you come to an alley on your right that leads into the churchyard of St Giles Church. Walk up it and into the churchyard.

This path, Churchyard Passage, is haunted: in the 1970s a ghost was seen in clerical cloths and has been seen walking along here since, though the presence seems to have diminished and the last sighting couldn't identify the ghost as a vicar.

Walking around the side of the church you will see some rain-eroded gargoyles on the corner of each turret. A local legend says that these faces are caricatures of the political figures Lord Randolph Churchill, Lord Salisbury, Lord John Russell and abolitionist William Wilberforce. I have asked the current vicar about the gargoyles but he had not heard the legend and there is a similar story told about the stone faces of the houses on Telegraph Hill in New Cross. These are said to be caricatures of the late nineteenth century German royal family; pre-Great War Londoners were often German then. Perhaps it's the ghost of the curate who moved into the vicarage in 1880 and served this church for 35 years.

One of his three children was Rose Edith Kelly who, in 1903, married occultist and self-styled 'Great Beast' Aleister Crowley. She met Crowley through her brother, Gerald, who may also have been one of Crowley's lovers. It was Rose, while in a trance, who pointed out a statue of Horus to him that was numbered in a Cairo museum as exhibit 666 – this being the number of the great beast of Revelation and a number Crowley had identified with since childhood.

Through Rose, Crowley received his famous book *The Book of the Law* but, like many with magical powers, Rose took to intoxicants and developed a drink problem. It is as if she could not escape the bacchanalian spirit of Camberwell; after they divorced in 1909 Crowley had her committed to an asylum for alcoholic dementia.

Neil Transpontine, in his brilliant south London blog, found this passage the Great Beast wrote about a trip to Camberwell in his book *Magick without Tears*: I remember sailing happily in to breakfast at Camberwell Vicarage, and saying cheerfully, in absolute good faith: "A fine morning, Mr Kelly!"

I was astounded at the reply. The dear old gentleman – and he really was one of the best! – half choked, then gobbled at me like a turkey! 'You're a very insolent young man!' Poor, tiny Aleister! How was I to know that his son had driven it well home that the hallmark of English stupidity was that the only safe topic of conversation was the weather. And so my greeting was instantly construed as a deliberate insult! St Giles Church is a home to other stories. Buried in the churchyard is Lucy Warner, or Wanmer, the 'Little Woman of Peckham', who kept a school in order despite being only thirty-two inches tall. Lucy herself is said to have worshiped at Grove Chapel, the independent church on Camberwell Grove.

Local legend has it she ran away from a travelling circus to form her school. Despite her height she lived a long life, dying at the age of 71. Another outstanding woman of St Giles Church is Agnes Skynner, wife of Richard Skynner, who has a monumental brass in the church. It states that Richard died in 1407 but his wife died in 1499, making her a widow for 92 years. This may make her the longest lived widow in history. Or the brass is worn and is easy to misread. For the legend of St Giles himself, let's go to the pub.

THE HERMIT'S CAVE

Turn left out of St Giles Church. The Hermit's Cave is the pub on the corner of Grove Lane but first walk down Grove Lane to the next pub for a rumour.

The pub's name The Crooked Well speaks for itself but it is a new name: the pub was known as The Dark Horse in 2008, and The Kerfield before that. There are rumours I've not been able to penetrate about the pub and the secret cult of 'The Horseman's Word' that are said to have conducted strange rites in the cellars of the pub. The initiates may be still among us but, such is the nature of the Horseman's Word, I'm afraid I can say no more. Turn on your heels and walk back up to the Hermit's Cave. London is said to have two saints – St Paul, who is the saint for the rich, and St Giles, the saint for the poor.

Camberwell is rich and poor but it seems fair that we are in the Parish of St Giles. St Giles was a hermit who lived in a cave in a forest near Nimes in France. His only companion was a doe who fed him with her milk. One day he was struck by a hunter's arrow that was meant for his deer-friend and refused to have the wound treated: believing that the infected wound would help him focus his mind on the holy.

Giles is often depicted as an old man with an arrow in his leg, living in a cave– as with the pub sign here: the Hermit's Cave.

His cult spread rapidly far and wide throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, as is witnessed by the countless churches and monasteries dedicated to him in France, Spain, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Great Britain.

St Giles is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, and the only non-martyr, initially invoked as protection against the Black Death. His feast day is 1st September.

Is St Giles crooked-leg our name's origin? Does the well belong to him? He is the spirit of Camberwell, with its possible healing well, just as much as Orpheus is, and it is fitting to drink to his health in this excellent London pub. A while passed here can often tell you more about the mysteries of Camberwell than any amount of writing can.

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Scott Wood is a writer and walks guide who currently co-runs the London Fortean Society. forteanlondon.blogspot.co.uk



**CONTEMPORARY
CAMBERWELL**





Camberwell's Green

Camberwell's green spaces offer a surprisingly diverse range of activities for all the family. You can listen to music on the Victorian bandstand at Ruskin Park, play table tennis on Camberwell Green, grow vegetables in Myatts Fields, or take part in art workshops with Art in the Park at Burgess Park. We've compiled a summary of some of the best things about Camberwell's green spaces.

IMAGE PUG in the Park

BURGESS PARK

OVERVIEW At 46 hectares, Burgess Park is one of the largest parks in South London. It has been re-landscaped in 2012 and 2019. This has included taking out old roads and putting in new walkways, woodland, lawns, BBQ areas, stunning prairie planting and extending the lake, and a new bridge. The wow factor comes from several new 'hills' which provide panoramic views to the north and envelope the park in green views, as well as two 30ft fountains in the extended lake. Within the park is Chumleigh Gardens – a world garden that reflects styles and plants from different parts of the world, including African and Caribbean, Chinese, Islamic and Mediterranean gardens. There are also raised beds for community gardeners and school groups to grow their own plants.

HISTORY Burgess Park is an unusual park, in that it was not formed from common land, fields or an old manorial estate, like most London parks. Instead, it rose from the rubble of 19th century terrace housing and factories that were bulldozed after World War II to make way for a new 'green lung'. To give an indication of how much the landscape of the area has changed since the park was built, the park entrance on Camberwell Rd was once underwater – part of the Grand Surrey Canal route.

FACILITIES

- 2 Playgrounds & under 5s playground
- BBQ area
- Café

- Car park
- Fishing (permits from the council)
- BMX Track
- Lake
- Giraffe House (after-school activities)
- Sports Centre
- Community Cycleworks – Bike repair
- Tennis Centre
- Toilets

ACTIVITIES Burgess Park runs a diverse programme of events, from outdoor film screenings to wild and edible walks. For further information, please visit the Friends' website (details below). Burgess Park is also home to:

Art in the Park An arts education charity who offer a wide range of courses, workshops, events and activities for visitors of all ages throughout the year.

artinthepark.co.uk

Theatre Deli Offering rehearsal and development support to theatre, comedy and drama, and public performances.

theatredeli.co.uk/in-camberwell

Glengall Wharf Garden Community food growing project running various sessions each week including volunteering drop-in Sundays. burgessparkfoodproject.org.uk

The Friends of Burgess Park are an association of people and other interested groups who are concerned to protect, promote and enhance the park. They meet regularly and welcome new members.

friendsofburgesspark.org.uk

BRUNSWICK PARK

OVERVIEW Brunswick Park is a lovely neighbourhood park, which was awarded the coveted Green Flag status in 2012.

HISTORY It was originally named Brunswick Square in celebration of the marriage of King George IV to Caroline, the daughter of the Duke of Brunswick, and was intended as a private square for the adjoining residents. It was acquired by the council in 1901 and opened as a public park in 1907.

FACILITIES

- Children's play area
- Tennis courts
- The Bower gallery and printing press
- Café

ACTIVITIES The Friends of Brunswick Park organise plantings throughout the year, fetes, Scruffs – the annual dog show, coffee mornings and a range of arts workshops and events.

The Bower In recent years the derelict toilet block in the park has been transformed into an art gallery. They organise exhibitions and events and produce books with artists and writers on site.

thebower.org.uk

The Friends of Brunswick Park

Everyone is welcome to join this group and support their wonderful local park. [facebook.com/brunswickparkfriends](https://www.facebook.com/brunswickparkfriends)

CAMBERWELL GREEN

OVERVIEW Camberwell Green is the historic centre of Camberwell. The Green has been the focus of local life for many hundreds of years, once a market and a trading place, before becoming an area of recreation. Today the centrally located green has a children's play area and table tennis tables

HISTORY The ancient village of Camberwell had no market place and Camberwell Green became the centre of social activity. From 1279 until 1855 an annual fair was held to celebrate the Feast of Saint Giles. In 1885 the green was acquired, on a 1000 year lease, now held by Southwark Council, with covenants requiring it to be kept as 'an ornamental pleasure ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish'.

FACILITIES

- Children's play area
- Table tennis
- Toilet

ACTIVITIES A Farmers' Market is held on Camberwell Green every Saturday from 10 – 2pm. The Green is also a popular space for arts and community events, including those held as part of the annual Camberwell Arts Festival. Look out for the sculptural bench, created by artist Rossen Daskalov and based on the theme of reconnecting, with each other and with nature.

Friends of Camberwell Green

[facebook.com/pg/friends-of-Camberwell-green-1618677981715982](https://www.facebook.com/pg/friends-of-Camberwell-green-1618677981715982)

MYATT'S FIELDS PARK

OVERVIEW It's everything a London park should be, from beautifully restored Victorian features to imaginative events and family activities.

HISTORY During the nineteenth century the Myatt's Fields area was transformed from fields and market gardens into a populated neighbourhood. In the 1860s, after the Camberwell New Road Station opened, demand for houses increased and the remaining land was laid out for residential use. The Minet family donated 14 ½ acres to the Metropolitan Board of Works for use as a public park.

Myatt's Fields Park opened to the public in May 1889 and was designed to combine recreation with ornamental horticulture. It was named after the market gardener who previously tenanted the land, Joseph Myatt, and was designed by Fanny Rollo Wilkinson – Britain's first professional female landscape gardener.



ILLUSTRATION Fanny Roos Waldemarsson

FACILITIES

- Café
- Greenhouses
- Football pitch
- Mulberry Children's Centre
- Tennis courts
- Victorian bandstand
- Victorian summerhouse
- Water play area
- Wildlife area

ACTIVITIES The Myatt's Fields Park Project Group runs a diverse range of activities designed to enable local residents to benefit from the park. There are monthly activities for families in the Mulberry Centre on the 3rd Saturday of each month (10-noon) with crafts, cultural celebrations and cooking/sharing a free lunch.

Myatt's Fields Park Market is every Sunday 10am-3pm with a range of food, fresh produce (including vegetables from their community greenhouse) and local crafts.

Myatt's Fields Park Project Group The Park Project Group has no formal membership. Anyone who is a local resident and/or park user and supports the aims of the Group is regarded as a member and can be involved. For information about meetings and mailing lists please visit the website: myattsfeldspark.info

RUSKIN PARK

OVERVIEW Ruskin Park is a large Edwardian park at the top of Denmark Hill, with open spaces for sprawling out in and admiring the spectacular views, and areas with historic features and mature trees perfect for quiet relaxation and playing hide and seek. Throw in the restored Bandstand with regular concerts and community events, a paddling pool and playground, ponds, wildlife garden, sports pitches and tennis courts and you have pretty much everything you could want in a park.

HISTORY The park gets its name from John Ruskin, the famous artist, writer and social campaigner, who lived nearby from 1823 to 1871. Following his death, local residents campaigned for a new park on 24 acres of land in Denmark Hill, and the famous parks designer J.J. Sexby laid out the site. Ruskin Park was opened to the public on 2 February 1907, then enlarged in 1910 by adding a further 12 acres of land to the south, which is now used for sports, dog-walking and informal exercise.

Ruskin Park is Grade II listed and contains many heritage features. Some, such as the listed Portico, are remnants of villas on Denmark Hill demolished to make way for the park. There are plans to restore others, such as the former stables and a listed sundial erected in 1904 to commemorate time spent by Mendelssohn in one of the houses when he wrote *Spring Song*.



ILLUSTRATION Grace Helmer

FACILITIES

- Bandstand
- Children's playground & paddling pool
- Kiosk café with outdoor seating
- Ornamental pond
- Wildlife garden and pond
- Wildflower garden
- Community garden for food growing
- Sports pitches
- Tennis courts

ACTIVITIES Ruskin Park has a playground for younger children and a popular paddling pool, which volunteers maintain and raise funds to keep open. The wildlife garden is great for children to learn about nature. There are basketball courts, grass football pitches, tennis courts and a free outdoor calisthenics gym.

friendsofruskinpark.org.uk

BENHILL ROAD NATURE GARDEN

Benhill Road Nature Garden was originally a bomb damage site, then a prefab housing site and finally a nature garden. Southwark Council reestablished the garden in 2014, after it had fallen into neglect. Since then it has been run by and for the community with the help of local volunteers.

Walking through the garden you can enjoy different habitats including a pond, wildflower meadow, drought tolerant planting, natural play area and the centrepiece of a living willow tepee.

From the garden look over to neighbouring Brunswick Park School where a concrete mural of the Pied Piper of Hamelin celebrates the poem written by Camberwell-born poet Robert Browning.

GREEN DALE

Just edging into the SE5 borders, Green Dale is a 'Metropolitan Open Land' area just south of Sainsburys (the Dog Kennel Hill store), and Dulwich Hamlet stadium. The scenic route is to approach it from Champion Hill and walk or cycle on the car-free route towards Dulwich Village. Green Dale will be signposted off to the left.

Make sure you appreciate the amenity now, as there is a planning application in at the time of writing, to build apartments and extend Dulwich Hamlet stadium.

LETT SOM GARDENS

This secret spot consists of natural woodland and a concrete play area, which create a well-used community garden. It is run by a charity and access is only by keys that come with an annual membership (for a nominal fee.)

lettsomgardens.org.uk

LUCAS GARDENS

Walking down Camberwell Church St, it would be easy to think there is nothing more to Lucas Gardens than a bizarre ornamental rockery. Venture past these boulders, however, and you'll discover a surprisingly large public park. Lucas Gardens has wooded gardens as well as large open areas that are good for a kick-around, pick-nicking and sunbathing. There is also a popular children's playground.

OROZCO GARDEN AT SLG

Open Saturdays and Sundays, 11am–6pm; free to visit. The garden is situated at the back of the South London Gallery, and accessible through the main building or a gate from Sceaux Gardens Estate.

The garden was created in 2016 by internationally acclaimed artist Gabriel Orozco, with support from 6a architects and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Its geometric design hosts grasses, creepers and fragrant plants, and welcomes visitors to sit, eat and play.

ST GILES CHURCHYARD

St Giles Churchyard is maintained by Southwark Council, rather than the church, these days – but this secluded green space maintains a welcome air of tranquillity and contemplation nonetheless. Although only metres from the buses and bustle of Peckham Road, the park is well protected from the noise of the streets by lines of hedges and mature trees, as well as by the church itself, creating an oasis of calm at the heart of Camberwell.

EMAIL stgileschurchyardfriends@gmail.com

THE SECRET GARDEN

This delightful community garden has been created by local residents out of a rescued strip of wasteland running between Mary Datchelor Close and a row of shops on Camberwell Church St. The garden is located by the entrance to the estate on Kimpton Road. The idea of a community garden arose as a way to generate greater community cohesion on the estate, and as somewhere for all ages to relax and connect with nature, as well as making new friends.

The garden includes a woodland/wildlife area, vegetable beds, a greenhouse, arbour, kids adventure swing and much more. Everyone is invited to join or simply come and visit. Visit the website for opening times and special events.

deynsford.org/secret-garden

TEMPLE BOWLING CLUB

This hidden gem, tucked behind houses on Sunset Road, boasts a magnificent outdoor green for the summer months and an indoor area for the rest of the year. The membership options range from all social and bowling facilities, to selecting the facilities you want to use.

Founded in 1881 by publican John Temple in a space behind his pub near Camberwell Green, the club moved to a few different sites before settling in 1931 off Sunset Road. The club's most famous matches were played in 1934 when it hosted the Empire Games (these days called the Commonwealth Games) in conjunction with Paddington Sports Club. Temple Club's own Fred Biggin led the England Fours to victory and the Gold Medal. For more information:

TEL 020 7274 2449 **MOB** 07932 910 247
templebowling.webs.com



ILLUSTRATION Fanny Roos Waldemarsson



Phileas Dogg's Camberwell

I am Attlee, aka Phileas Dogg, and I travel the country, with my team of rover reporters, investigating hang outs for hounds. Booze hound that I am, I was asked to list my favourite Camberwell hostelries, from my four legged, nose to the ground point of view. Here they are, in order of favouritism.

PHOTO Jane Common

THE PHOENIX

This is my favourite Camberwell hostelry. I like The Phoenix; my owner Jane likes The Phoenix and The Phoenix likes us. Here's why I like it: I am always provided with a bowl of water and doggie snacks within five minutes of my bottom touching the wooden floor. On sunny days, or even on not so sunny days as there is a canopy, I can sit outside at the wooden benches and watch the world go by, creating merry hell if another dog struts past.

Jane likes The Phoenix because there is no music playing or television blaring – just chatter. And the décor – there is a big clock hanging from the ceiling. It used to be the railway clock at Denmark Hill station and Jane thinks this is quirky.

The Phoenix always has all the Sunday newspapers available – not just the odd scrappy supplement. This is good because Jane can justify the economic expense of Sunday lunch out by including a free read of the broadsheets (cost for all of them – about £10) in the equation. Oh – the final thing we both like about the Phoenix is that it is open, -every day, from 12pm. And it serves food, every day, from 12pm. No faffing about with kitchens opening here and closing there and then opening again an hour and 37 minutes later: just good food all day. High Paw!

SCORES ON THE PAWS: 5/5



THE HERMIT'S CAVE

I am not sure about this coming in second place but Jane is pressuring me and threatening me with Chappie for dinner if I don't oblige. She says The Hermit's is a Camberwell institution and as such must be revered. I suppose, in terms of hours spent per week in Camberwell boozers, The Hermit's wins. It is basic. It is no nonsense. It serves good beer for men and women who like ale. There is no food available apart from crisps and nuts. From my point of view this is a good thing. People are careless with crisps and nuts in a way they aren't with sirloin steak and there is always some overspill.

IMHO (in my hound's opinion), however, The Hermit's has a few flaws. For starters, I have never once been offered a bowl of water in the establishment. For mains, there is a French Bulldog in the role of barfly and I don't like the cut of his jib. And for pudding – well, famous actor Dominic Cooper once spotted me chewing Jane's expensive leather glove in the Hermit's. And informed her of the fact, spoiling my fun. Grrr-not-huzzah.

SCORES ON THE PAWS: 4/5



THE CROOKED WELL

The Crooked Well is a firm favourite. Prior to its arrival in 2012, the critics had us believe no sensible-minded dog would set paw in SE5 for fear of their lives. Dog's Bollocks. We might not have a Barks and Spencers or a Wait-wet-nose in Camberwell but we are far from savages. The Crooked Well is deserving of applause if only for the fact that we dogs are not relegated to the bar area but allowed to take our places like normal members of society in the restaurant. Take that – haterz. And before the waitress had even started to explain the extensive wine list to Jane and her dining companion, I had been taken care of, with a proper metal water bowl placed in front of me – not a plastic slops tray as is so often the case.

The restaurant feels upmarket but it isn't stuffy and when I barked – even though Jane had instructed me not to even consider such an act in this rarefied atmosphere – no one reached for the smelling salts. The food – ricotta and something ravioli for Jane and steak for dining companion – must have been good because there was nary a scrap for me. And here I have some advice for the Crooked Well. Dogs can be foodies too, and in some establishments I have known, they have high quality pigs' ears for canine consumption. This, I would say, is a trend The Crooked Well should latch on to.

SCORES ON THE PAWS: 4/5



THE TIGER

Now I am a big fan of The Tiger and the reason for that is simple: They do a mean sweet potato chip and I can be sure to get a few while everyone's in deep conversation or listening to its excellent music. Jane particularly likes the vegan menu, so it's a win-win.

I also like the décor in The Tiger. It is what is referred to as shabby chic. Basically this means lots of old stuff lobbed together in a haphazard fashion. And old stuff smells good. Of course, to a biped's nose, The Tiger smells normal. But to me, with my superior canine snout, The Tiger smells goooooood. Antiques and old books and dusty lampshades have much to tell one with my olfactory power.

My only complaint – and Jane's too – is that when the football is being shown on the large screen in the left alcove of the pub it can be very noisy. And it's a shame because when the football isn't on,

SCORES ON THE PAWS: 3½



Attlee's travel website is at:
phileasdogg.com / [@phileasdogg](https://twitter.com/phileasdogg)

Pub Crawl

Where to start?



ILLUSTRATION *Emma Barnie*

One of the many pleasures of Camberwell, for me, are its brilliant boozers – timeless taverns that are as deeply connected with the area’s cultural identity as buses, art students and pound shops.

Throughout London, the social institution of the pub is being threatened: turned into flats, knocked down or, worse still, bought up by characterless chains. Yet somehow Camberwell has managed to cling on to a wonderful, diverse array of proper pubs.

Despite this, I realise that – like so many of us – I am guilty of taking for granted the rich cultural heritage on my doorstep. I have become lazy, centring my social life round the same small number of pubs that I know and love. To remedy this, I have agreed to take on the challenging task of taking a pub crawl through Camberwell and attempting to write about it afterwards. It’s tough work, but somebody’s got to do it.

To help me look at my local boozers with a fresh eye, I’ve invited some friends who don’t live locally – and rarely venture south of the river – to join me on this arduous task. They are long overdue a visit south of the river and this is my chance to show them Camberwell at its best.

We meet at Denmark Hill station and don’t have far to go to kick things off: **the Phoenix** is part of the station itself. Like its mythical namesake, this characterful pub rose from the flames of the great Denmark Hill Station fire and remnants of the building’s

original character – including an impressive station clock – provide a great backdrop for boozing.

From there, we walk past the Salvation Army’s training college (one of the most disapproving looking structures ever built) towards the Fox on the Hill. You’ve got to give Camberwell some credit: even the **Wetherspoons** pubs have character here. With its large beer garden – perfect for families and sunny days – it’s hard to believe you’re socialising on the site of an old plague burial ground (who knows if it’s actually true or not!). The pub is conveniently sited close to Kings Hospital but we have no need of that yet and walk past it down Denmark Hill to the **Joiners Arms**. This is the best place for open mic comedy and live music locally: we haven’t timed our visit too well, as it’s still a bright and sunny day and the dark backroom definitely comes into its own at night with the music turned up loud and the lights turned down low. But we stop for a quick game of pool (it’s one of the few pubs in Camberwell with a table), admiring the tile work in the front room when we order.

Next stop is **the Tiger**, on the edge of Camberwell Green. Somewhere beneath the beautifully boho, shabby chic exterior lies the ghost of the Silver Buckle – a pub that once boasted the roughest reputation in Camberwell. Where now people sup fine wines and peruse gourmet menus, the bare knuckled ghosts of the Silver Buckle fight on...

It’s tempting to stop for a second in this charming pub but we have strict rules and more pubs to see. Plus the **Hermit’s Cave** is just around the corner on Camberwell Church Street and if ever there’s a pub to lure you in, this is it. The Hermit’s Cave is a Camberwell institution: it’s difficult to describe its charms beyond saying that this is the kind of London public house that students at Kingston University were talking about when they applied to UNESCO to give World Heritage status to the London pub.

By now, we are definitely in need of some sustenance to soak up the booze (this is, after all, an academic assignment) and where better to fuse good food and drink than the **Crooked Well** on Grove Lane? The pub has raised the bar (pun intended) with a meal that lived up to its well-earned reputation and, most importantly, the wine list is impressive and the cocktails perfect (we had some time to kill before the meal arrived).

Some of us are starting to show the strain and the next stop allows the faint-hearted to order a reviving cup of coffee: **the Grove House** is the kind of pub where such behaviour is deemed acceptable. The pile of games in the back room makes this a good place for families though right now there is only a scholarly (and mercifully silent) game of draughts going on.

Back on Camberwell Church Street we head to the Camberwell Arms pub, for a quick pint.

We’re possibly a little too drunk for our next stop, the **Stormbird** – opposite the Hermit’s Cave – which serves an impressive range of eye-wateringly strong beers, lagers and porters. Common sense tells us that we should order nothing but water; however, the bar staff are so charming and knowledgeable about all those beers we’ve never heard of that we end up falling for a Coconut Macaroon (yes it’s really beer and not cake) at – I kid you not – 13%.

I don’t remember what happened after that. I don’t think we made it to the remaining pubs on my must-do list – **the Old Dispensary** on Camberwell New Road and **the Cambria** near Loughborough Junction being key amongst them (rounded off with a nostalgic tour past the Sun of Camberwell). They will have to wait for another occasion. For now, Camberwell’s pubs have defeated us...



ILLUSTRATION *Garudio Studiage*



A Global Gourmet Guide

Foodies with a love of global cuisine can indulge in cuisines from across the world in Camberwell. The area is becoming increasingly well-known for its excellent and affordable restaurants, representing the diverse mix of people who live here.

ILLUSTRATION *Grace Helmer*

EUROPEAN

CAMBERWELL ARMS

The Camberwell Arms is an award-winning restaurant nestled in the unpretentious surroundings of a classic boozer. It is the ideal setting to take your parents when they're visiting, celebrate a special occasion, or just splash out on a really good meal. The food and drink menu changes regularly and is characterised by quality ingredients, forming interesting yet hearty, comforting dishes. You'll find yourself converted to something you'd never heard of before entering that day.

If you're not after a full meal, you can also just pop in for an English ale and a snack in the bar - the pork fat and scotch bonnet on toast is always a crowd-pleaser.

→ 65 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7358 4364

THE CROOKED WELL

One of the quality eateries among the many on Camberwell's gastronomic scene, this dining room, bar, and street terrace, is found on a quiet residential road in a beautifully spruced up pub. They have been well-reviewed by the Observer, Independent, Time Out and Telegraph, and they continue to impress. Simple elegance, attentive staff, quirky twists to classic cocktails and frequently changing menus of delicious dishes, all add up to a great experience. "Treat your customers as you would like to be treated when you go out!" says owner Hector.

→ 16 GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY
TEL 020 7252 7798

CARAVAGGIO'S

This longstanding Camberwell favourite ups-the-anti with modern touches on the Italian classics. Whether you go for a quick lunch special, or a special evening meal, they have a menu for all tastes served by friendly and knowledgeable staff. Take a seat in the restaurant's rear room amid the artist Caravaggio's paintings, and immerse yourself in the drama and sensory experience of it all.

→ 47 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7207 1612

FRANCESCO'S SOURDOUGH PIZZA

At the time of writing, this newcomer to the Camberwell restaurant scene has been an overnight success. A Naples street-style pizzeria with simple, canteen-like tables and benches, it's really popular with the young, with students and in fact all ages. Unfortunately, you can't have a beer or wine here yet (in 2019) but maybe in the future. Despite this, the owner thinks the secret of his success is that his pizzas are 'affordable and delicious.'

He then explains that "the flour is of an exceptionally high quality heritage wheat, grown and milled just down the road in Essex!" Don't forget to taste Francesco's arancini, they are very special. And be sure not to go too late for one of Francesco's pizzas as he is always really busy, and sells out most nights.

→ 53 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7701 0400

EUROPEAN

THEO'S

Always busy, Theo's gives the people what they want! i.e. delicious and economical Neapolitan-style pizzas. The bases are light and chewy, with quality toppings like spicy nduja sausage and wood smoked aubergine, plus outstanding chunky homemade chilli sauce on all the tables: apply liberally. The olives are salty black giants, and worth adding as a side, with a crisp and lemony house salad. The house beer comes straight from the Kernel brewery in Bermondsey and cocktails are definitely worth a try.

→ 2 GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY
TEL 020 3026 4224

FLOUR TO THE PEOPLE

This fusion, sourdough pizza, bread and breakfast café has a huge wood-fired oven centre stage to cook the thin Romana style pizza fast! It's a friendly family affair run by a sister and brother and many of their siblings and friends. The menu is extensive but carefully crafted to cater for a mixed crowd, morning, noon and night. They are keen to share one secret on the menu.

"We use organic flour to make our dough from scratch" and "where possible we source local, free range and organic products..." They call their fusion breakfasts 'The Slams' which look ample - but at the time of writing the restaurant is new and your reviewer has not yet tried it.

→ 16A COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR
TEL 020 3982 3374

FLADDA

While it's heaven on earth to be able to eat your way through the world's major cuisines on Camberwell Church Street, sometimes you just want an old fashioned chippy.

Fladdas offers that and more - fusing old-school fish and chips with new, serving saveloys alongside artisan sausages, homemade pies as well as Pukka. The fish is flakey, the batter crisp, the chips plentiful and the mushy peas come with just a hint of mint. What more could you ask for?

→ 55 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 8127 6297

TURKISH/MIDDLE EASTERN

FM MANGAL

The regulars of this very busy long-standing restaurant enthuse about the succulent meat and herb coated 'naan-like' flatbread which comes with roasted onions and garlic - free with all main courses! There are also some of the best vegetarian options to be had too.

A heady mix for the senses of hot charcoal, essential oils and a lip-smacking marinade contributes to Mangal's uncomplicated beautiful food - the secret of this restaurant's popularity. Go early as it can be packed on ground, mezzanine and balconied street-view bar upstairs.

→ 54 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7701 6677

TURKISH/MIDDLE EUROPEAN

REEM

Slightly less well known than Camberwell's most famous falafel joint, Reem opened more recently and is positioned on the way to Denmark Hill station. With a classic kebab takeaway in the front, and a cosy restaurant in the back, Reem offers more in both flavour and ambience than you'd expect from the outside. All the meals are cooked to order by shyly smiling chefs.

The falafel & halloumi wrap may not be the cheapest, but is the tastiest around, with layers of woody spice in the falafel and bright pink pickles that lift every bite.

→ 55 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 020 7358 5271

FALAFEL AND SHAWARMA

Opened in 2007 by Syrian Mahmoud Alkhatib, this super-friendly fast-falafel joint sits in the heart of Camberwell, and benefits from being flanked by the Hermit's Cave and Storm Bird, both pubs that allow you to bring in food to have with your pint!

Mahmoud's policy has long been to keep prices low, and with the classic falafel wrap at only £3.50 (at the time of writing in 2019), it is a fresh and filling meal that lures students and suits alike. A renegade choice is the mezze platter - vegan, varied and delicious. Finish off with a palate-cleansing sweet and sharp homemade lemonade; a snip at £1.50.

→ 27 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR

KURDISH

NANDINE

The current manager at this new Kurdish mezze & grill is the power behind the very successful Vestry Rd and Peckham Levels cafes.

His background is in cocktails in the West End but he describes his current role as being '...a mixologist. I like to work with the chef to bring a modern twist to the table, as well as the bar.'

He's not Kurdish himself, but '...I grew up with the second generation brothers who own the restaurant.' He reminisced about 'the treats each time I was invited by their mother, father and grandmother to the family table.'

When asked about the marinades that the Kurds are famous for, he simply said, 'Sumac!' That zesty flavour is the mystery behind the home-made flatbread, the char-babaganoush, the mixed-mezze (that changes frequently, but includes perfect pickles, delectable dips, and even the humble hummus and falafel reach new heights), shish meat and the best borek ever.

Delicious, cool, stylish and comfy, the Camberwell Church Street restaurant is packed seven evenings a week - go early or book.

→ 40 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR

ETHIOPIAN

ZERET KITCHEN

Off the beaten track, hidden in the foothills of the Castlemead Estate, you will find Zeret Kitchen - a friendly, family-run Ethiopian restaurant. Set in a relaxed, airy room with modern African art, the menu has ample provision for both vegans and meat-eaters. New to Ethiopian? Try the Zeret Surprise, a large sharing plate of popular dishes served on top of a tangy flatbread called injera. You use the injera, instead of knives and forks, to scoop up the tasty flavours sitting on top!

→ 216 - 218 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 0ED

CHINESE / VIETNAMESE

VAN HING

A Camberwell classic, Van Hing serves a mix of Vietnamese and Chinese dishes in a no-frills cash-only cafe setting.

The food is light on your wallet, comes out fast, and is virtually always more than you can eat in one sitting. It's a great place to go as a group and share, though it does get busy in the evenings these days, so you might find yourself queuing for a table.

The Vietnamese bun salads are highly recommended - a mix of cool vermicelli noodles with raw and pickled veg, topped with piles of fragrant herbs and your choice of main event; pork, fish, or tofu stir fried in chilli and lemongrass.

→ 198 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ

SILK ROAD

Silk Road is so unpretentious and cheap that it's hard to believe they regularly receive rave reviews - until you taste the food.

No ordinary Chinese restaurant, Silk Road serves food from Xinjiang, which is similar to Sichuan food but with less pork (Xinjiang's Turkic Uighur Muslims are the area's largest minority) and more lamb and cumin (a legacy from the Silk Road that ran through the area, transporting silks and spices from east and west).

Popular dishes include pork dumplings - made fresh all day they are delicious - and the big-plate chicken, a savoury chilli broth. Once you've eaten all the sizeable chunks, a waiter obligingly dumps a load of hand-made noodles to soak up the remaining broth - a bit like mopping up your dinner with bread but tastier.

→ 49 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR

Even with all these recommendations, we are just scratching the surface. Look in the Directory for more local restaurants, their contact details and addresses.



Café Culture

Exploring is all well and good, but sometimes we need to take it easy. Camberwell has an eclectic mix of cafes to unwind in. One comes with a gallery attached, so you can get some culture without having to move too far, and many come with parks attached.

PHOTO Megan Stanton

THE LITTLE CAT CAFÉ

This lovely café, run by a very friendly Ecuadorian family, has been described as the beating heart of the park. Set on the northwest edge of Myatt's Fields Park, between Cormont Road and the bandstand, The Little Cat Cafe is the ideal place to relax and replenish yourself with delicious homemade cake and a fresh juice or tea. The cafe is family friendly and the owners have also made a huge effort to make the cafe eco-friendly by offering compostable plates, cutlery and a recycling area as well as dedicating the small plot next to the cafe to growing plants and herbs in re-purposed plastic bottles and pots.

→ **MYATT'S FIELDS PARK, LONDON SE5 9RA**
TEL 0773 505 6138
the-little-cat-cafe.business.site

MALOKO

This vibrant, artsy cafe filled with bold colours and patterns is a true breath of fresh air amongst the hustle and bustle of Camberwell. Cameroonian owned with a name that means "journey", Maloko has an exciting French, African and Caribbean vibe and is the place to go for vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free crepes and galettes. You will also find a menu of healthy juices, exotic smoothies and much more. Chill out on one of the many comfy sofas alongside sunflowers and tropical plants indoors or watch the world go by at one of the tables outside. Maloko is open from 9am until 10pm every day of the week, making it the ideal place to kick back whenever you feel like it.

→ **60 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TU**
TEL 020 3305 8913
facebook.com/mymaloko

THE PIGEON HOLE

The Pigeon Hole is a laid back and peaceful spot tucked away on Datchelor Place, a small side-street off the busy Camberwell Church Street. They serve excellent coffee and a variety of delicious food - the perfect place to indulge in a salted caramel chocolate brownie. The staff are wonderfully friendly and they even have a small gift section selling greetings cards and local, homemade jams and honey. As well as having a really quirky interior filled with second hand furniture, there is also seating out at the front of the cafe and also out in the cosy patio area at the back.

→ **2 DATCHELOR PLACE, SE5 7AP**
TEL 020 3784 6035
thepigeonholecafe.com

FOWLDS

On a quiet residential street overlooking Burgess Park sits this delightfully tiny cafe you can barely move in because it is so popular. It serves very good coffee as well as boasting an excellent food menu with an ample list of vegan and vegetarian options. There are plenty of home-baked treats from warm buttery croissants to vegan avocado and chocolate fudge cakes. There is seating outside and it's popular with families and dog owners. The cafe, which has an old vintage feel, is actually part of A.V. Fowlds & Sons Upholstery workshop – a family run business which has been around since 1870.

→ **3 ADDINGTON SQUARE, SE5 7JZ**
TEL 020 3417 4500
facebook.com/fowldscafe

SOPHOCLES BAKERY

The Greek-Cypriot owned Sophocles Bakery is definitely the place to visit to fulfil your cake and pastry desires. A never-ending selection of different breads, traditional Greek desserts, cheesecakes, tarts, buns, rolls and even birthday and wedding cakes are available. If you are wanting something a bit more savoury then there's a selection of pies – the feta cheese and herb pie in particular is a real winner. The prices are fantastic and the owner and staff are very warm and welcoming. The bakery also has tables to sit at and is popular with native Greeks as well as locals and visitors to the area.

→ 24 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QU
TEL 020 7252 6316

LUMBERJACK CAFÉ

Need to find a relaxed and airy place to work at your laptop? Then Lumberjack is the place to go – with its huge floor to ceiling window at the front, an interior full of beautiful timber furniture, London-inspired black and white artwork along the walls and a huge selection of beverages. Even the sweet and savoury food is beautifully homemade – highly recommended are the avocado on toasted sourdough bread, a delicious slice of cake or the tasty frittata of the day.

Lumberjack also has its own little shop and a downstairs where they host late night gigs, events and creative workshops.

→ 70 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7207 9567
wearelumberjack.co.uk

NANDINE

Tucked away on the quiet Vestry Road close to Lucas Gardens is Nandine – a hidden gem in Camberwell run by a Kurdish family serving a mouthwatering selection of middle eastern mezzes and pastries. A brilliant mix of contemporary and traditional, its hard to come away from this cafe feeling anything less than happily satisfied by both the amazing food and friendly staff. If you're just after a quick bite, check out the counter full of pastries – the olive and cheese borek is truly glorious. Nandine also have a restaurant on Camberwell Church Street and another branch at Peckham Levels.

→ 82 VESTRY ROAD, SE5 8PQ
TEL 020 8001 8322
facebook.com/nandineuk



LOVE WALK CAFE

This colourful and exciting Italian-run coffee shop and restaurant is set on the corner of Denmark Hill and Love Walk and is a firm favourite with locals. They serve sensational breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks, homemade cakes, shakes, freshly pressed fruit juices, coffees, teas and much more. They also offer plenty of vegetarian and vegan options.

With ample seating indoors and out, the cafe is full of art, quirky decorations, neon lights and coloured light that add to a fun and cosy atmosphere.

Although it can get busy at peak times due to its popularity, Love Walk Cafe is the perfect place to have brunch and catch up with a couple of friends, whether you go for the eggs royale (they are very generous with the hollandaise sauce!), the goat's cheese burger or a yummy polenta cake.

→ 81 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 020 7703 9898

DAILY GOODS

Daily Goods has a deservedly excellent reputation for its coffee. It has retained its independent vibe while still being part of the Department of Coffee and Social Affairs group. They have been active participants in Camberwell Arts Festival, and are open to suggestions for exhibitions/ functions they can host in the future.

→ 36 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
[@dailygoodsldn](https://dailygoodsldn)

CAFE NOIR

Fancy a tasty mezze, some succulent falafel or a flavourful chicken shawarma wrap? Then Cafe Noir on Camberwell Church Street is a really good choice for breakfasts, lunches, snacks, teas and coffees – all of which are very reasonably priced. Its middle eastern décor and painted deep red walls, hanging woven baskets and Arabic tea pots really set the scene, giving it a homely and authentic feel. Here you will find the best freshly squeezed juices at impressively low prices. Lots of indoor seating and open until 9pm every day, Cafe Noir will not disappoint with its great quality and service.

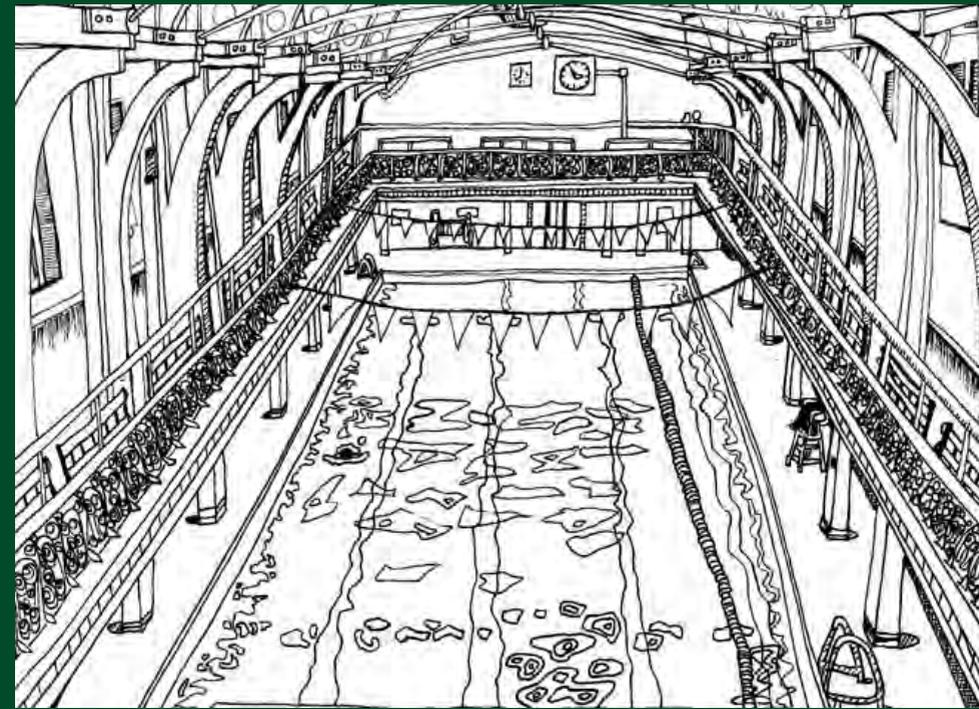
→ 37 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 07951581520

O PORTUGUES CAFE DELI

Hard to miss with its bold red, yellow and green shop front, O Portugues Cafe Deli offers a fantastic selection of Portuguese delicacies. Here you will find freshly made sandwiches, freshly baked pastel de natas (custard tarts), biscuits and cakes as well as coffee, beer and cured meats.

The deli also has indoor seating alongside the counter and a TV in the corner to keep you entertained as you drink an iced coffee and delve into a coxinha (Brazilian chicken croquette). Apart from Monday, when it is closed, O Portugues is conveniently open until 8pm.

→ 11 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TS
TEL 020 7701 5755



20 things to do in Camberwell

Local residents give their top tips for great things to do in Camberwell – whether you're a long-term resident or just visiting for the day.

ILLUSTRATION *Natasha Godfrey (Lumberjack)*

1 START WITH BREAKFAST ON THE EDGE

Crane's Café is on the edge of SE5 borders – at 67 Peckham Road. It's a lovely little café with an art gallery attached. You can sit in the double height garden room and forget the traffic, or face the front and embrace its pace and potential. Start with the brunch menu and plan your day.

craneskitchen.co.uk

2 CHECK OUT SOME ART

Love art and culture? It's a short step from Crane's cafe to the attached South London Gallery, which offers a dynamic programme of international contemporary art. Next door the Camberwell College of Arts often has interesting exhibitions showing in their foyer exhibition space.

southlondongallery.org

3 MAKE YOUR OWN ART

If you're inspired by the South London Gallery's exhibitions they also offer free, drop-in family activities on Sundays, from 2-4PM, giving young people the chance to make their own art. southlondongallery.org/projects/sunday-spot

Art in the Park also offer an exciting free workshop programme, giving people of all ages the chance to get creative. From drawing plants in the park to designing murals and heritage installations, their projects are varied and original.

[@artinburgesspark](https://www.instagram.com/artinburgesspark) [@artintheparktw](https://www.instagram.com/artintheparktw)

4 TAKE A CAFFEINE BREAK

You can find good coffee everywhere in Camberwell these days, so why not peruse the cafe section of our Travel Guide Directory to find your personal favourite? Whether you're seeking comfort, great cakes, a plug for your cable or somewhere your child will be welcome we guarantee you'll find it in Camberwell.

5 SAUNTER THROUGH SNICKETS

A snicket is a narrow passage or alley, and here's a delightful back route to discover. Start at St Giles Church and walk through the hidden park behind, and into Churchyard Passage.

Cross over the wide tree-lined Camberwell Grove and instead of walking straight ahead on Mary Boast Walk, turn left (walk 20m) and find the snicket between two houses. Carry straight on across Grove Lane into Love Walk where there is another snicket leading to Denmark Hill. You can carry on to Coldharbour Lane by taking the snicket beside Eaton Green estate agents.

6 SWIM THROUGH HISTORY

Enjoy a swim in one of the most beautiful pools in London – a Victorian wash-house from 1892, now modernised. Southwark residents have access to free swim sessions at certain times of the week.

For more information or to register online: everyoneactive.com/camberwell

7 STEP UP TO THE TABLE

Play a game of free outdoor table tennis on Camberwell Green. Bring your own bats and balls – and why not challenge some passers by for an impromptu ping pong tournament?

→ **CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AL**

8 FLY THROUGH THE AIR

TLCCTrapeze School in Ruskin Park offers flying trapeze classes for beginner to advanced students for anyone over 6 years old. Open April – September.

TLCCTrapeze.com

EMAIL info@tlcctrapeze.com

9 RELAX IN RUSKIN PARK

Named after one of Camberwell's most famous residents, this delightful park is full of charm. Take a stroll through the mature trees and gardens, admire the views, attend a free concert at the Bandstand, grab a coffee or snack at the kiosk cafe, or bring the kids to enjoy the Sunday youth footie, the summer paddling pool and playground.

friendsofruskinpark.org.uk

10 GET BUSY IN BURGESS PARK

The newly renovated Burgess Park is the perfect environment for the sports-mad, and one of the friendliest ways to get some exercise on a Saturday morning is the Burgess Park Run at 9am. What are you waiting for? parkrun.org.uk/burgess

11 LEARN THE LOCAL HISTORY

Lambeth Archives is a great local history resource that's open to the public, free of charge. Why not trace your family history or discover the origins of your neighbourhood?

→ **52 KNATCHBULL RD, SE5 9QY**

12 JOIN READING GROUP

Check out classic and contemporary literature with the Camberwell Library Book Group, which meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

→ **CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AL**

13 BE PART OF A CHOIR

The Camberwell Community Choir is for everyone who enjoys singing – regardless of musical experience. They meet at the St Giles Centre on Tuesday evenings. camberwellcommunitychoir.org

For a fun singalong, you can join others on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Love Walk United Reformed Church.

TEL 07340 303607 (*Hamish Cook*)

14 GET PLAY-FUL

Watch a play at The Blue Elephant Theatre – a great small theatre that produces an eclectic programme of new work from physical and dance theatre to new writing and revamped classics.

blueelephanttheatre.co.uk

15 MAKING MOVES

Develop your dance skills with Theatre Peckham's varied programme of classes for all ages, from street dance to ballet to musical theatre.

theatrepeckham.co.uk/academy

16 GET IN SHAPE

Whether you're looking to try Chi Kung with the Southwark Pensioners Centre or Tai Chi at the Leisure Centre, there's something to meet your needs and preferences in Camberwell. Why not try a relaxing massage or yoga session, get martial with Kids Karate or look into the benefits of pilates, osteopathy or physiotherapy? Here's some suggestions to get you started:

f [/camberwell-green-tai-chi-and-kids-karate](https://www.facebook.com/camberwell-green-tai-chi-and-kids-karate)
supportandsustain.co.uk
zenyoga.org.uk

17 FOR THE OVER-FIFTIES IN SOUTHWARK

At the Southwark Pensioners' Centre Southwark residents over fifty can take part in a wide programme of activities from Computer club to Chair-based exercise, and Art class to Line dancing, as well as campaigning, research and consultation activities dedicated to promoting the voice of older people in Southwark.

→ **SOUTHWARK PENSIONERS' CENTRE, 305-307 CAMBERWELL RD, SE5 0HQ**
southwarkpensioners.org.uk

EMAIL info@southwarkpensioners.org.uk

TEL 020 7708 4556

18 PEACE AND QUIET

A surprising and comfortable oasis of peace is the Salvation Army college (opposite Denmark Hill station). Their ethos is to welcome anyone (during opening hours) who wants to sit quietly. They offer comfy sofas on the ground floor, or maybe their small Reading Room and Museum is more to your taste.

You will have to sign in and out at the Reception. Check opening hours:

salvationarmy.org.uk/international-heritage-centre

19 LIVE EVENTS

You can choose from Monday's Live Music Jam at the Old Dispensary Irish pub (and music most Fridays and Saturdays too), Wednesday's Pub Quiz at the Sun pub, Open Mic on Thursday evenings at the Joiners, The Tiger pub Lates with DJs every Friday and Saturday till 3.30am, Live Jazz on Saturdays at St Giles Crypt. That only leaves Sunday and Tuesday to recover!

20 A GAY NIGHT OUT

The Flying Dutchman pub on Wells Way, SE5 7SY, is on a mission to promote difference, diversity and the arts. With a weekend license to 6am, they host dance parties, fetish and kinky parties, and art exhibitions, in this hidden gem for free spirits (the human type).

flyingdutchmanlondon.com



A view from a baby buggy

PHOTO by Jo Barton

Getting ready in the morning is always a bit messy and sometimes I decide to cooperate, but not always – just to test the waters you understand. Anyway eventually we set out on our adventures with me strapped into my 4-wheel drive, super-suspension baby buggy with a few dangly toys to keep me occupied, and The Grownup is trying to remember all the other things we need in my baby bag so that we are ready for every emergency.

As it's Monday, The Grownup decides if Tiny Gym (10am and 11 am starts) at the Leisure Centre or Camberwell Library's Baby and Toddler sessions (10.30am start) will suit my mood, or maybe it depends more on what time we leave the house. But today we are heading to Camberwell Library for my Babies and Toddlers group. We have to get there before 10.30 or the seats for The Grownup will be taken. I'm happy enough crawling around poking other babies and trying to grab their books and sometimes I'll sit on The Grownup's lap and listen to the story and nursery rhyme singing.

The Grownup obviously thinks I've been too noisy at the Library and I find I've been booked into Tiny Gym for the 11am start, just to let off steam. This is great fun as I crawl around the colourful cushion shapes, through tunnels, up steps, down slides and diving into the ball pool. When I've outgrown tiny gym I can progress onto Pre-School gymnastics on Mondays and Thursdays, but right now I'm pooped by the end of today's Tiny Gym and back in my souped-up buggy I drift off to sleep....

...only to wake up in Lumberjack café where The Grownup has sneaked some quiet time for themselves. But I'm really hungry now so we stay longer while I join in the café experience. I know that all will be well so long as I don't disturb the others at their laptops or chatting together, so The Grownup had better be good to me.

Before we head back home we drop into Lucas Gardens playground, which is always good fun. The Grownup and I can sit on the swings and watch the toddling kids tackling the ladder and slide, or the bigger kids on the climbing structures just outside the play enclosure.

When I was even younger we would go to Breakfast, Bumps and Babes on Tuesdays at the Wells Community Church between 10.30 – 12noon. The Grownup liked the chats with Other Grownups and I liked the toys, even if I had to pull them from other babies at times – to anguished cries of 'share nicely'.

But now I'm over 6 months we can't go there anymore and we are off to Zen Yoga for a baby and parent yoga session at 11.15 - before I get too old for that (up to 12 months). Corinne and Simone get The Grownup stretched and calm while I show how to do perfect 'child's poses' and 'downward dogs'.

The Grownup seems to think that I need to have lunch and a snooze in Benhill Nature Garden, which is so peaceful.

When I wake up we have a lovely time crawling around the willow tepee playing hide and seek. It's Wednesday, and The Grownup is already feeling the week is lasting rather a long time so we are planning to go swimming at the baby and toddler class in Camberwell Leisure Centre at 12noon. It's great to splash around in the baby pool, and the teacher makes sure no one's in danger of drowning!

Thursday's are looking up. I could go to Tiny Gym again but The Grownup has already decided we are heading for Love Walk Stay and Play (for 0-4 year olds) in the United Reformed Church on Love Walk. There are toys, books, snacks and other children to play with. Afterwards as we are so close to Love Walk café we head off there for lunch, because there will always be other buggy pushing parents there. It's easy to make instant friends when you can find something to praise about someone else's baby.

We are off to Friday's MumSpace Baby and Toddler group at 105 Lomond Road, which opens at 10am. It's very popular so you have to get there promptly. The Grownup gets lots of support from chatting to other Grownups, discussing relevant issues, and comparing me with other babies.

There's another MumSpace afternoon group that meets on Tuesdays 1-3pm at St Michaels Church on Wyndham Road, and even a Spanish-speaking group called Espacio Mama that meets on Fridays at 1-3pm in Lomond Road. Come to think of it there's even a DadSpace the first Saturday

of every month 11am – 1pm at Brandon Baptist Church, Redcar St, SE5 ONA.

The Grownup says that 105 Lomond Road is also the home of the Baby Bank, where people can donate good quality items like cots, buggies, clothing and toys and they are given to families that don't have them. Donations can be dropped off there on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9.30-12.30, and for Spanish speakers on Friday 1.30-2.30pm.

On the way home we drop into the playground at Brunswick Park which has a cute little café where lots of parents, babies and dogs seem to gather. I had a good scratch around in the dirt with some dogs before anyone comes over to stop me.

It's the weekend and so it must be The Other Grownup's turn on Saturday to settle me into the well-sprung buggy for some quality time. We are on our way to sing (in my own special way) with Camberwell Choir School, and bang a bit on a drum too. I don't pretend to be much good at this, and The Other Grownup certainly isn't either, but we have a lot of fun together. The Choir School is based in St Giles Hall on 161 Benhill Road, and the 0-3 year olds session starts at 10.15am.

On Saturdays the parks are full of families and Ruskin Park is a particular hit in the summer for some splashing around in their paddling pool. I love being able to crawl explore so many different parks and playgrounds, but this is the only one with a pool.

I'm looking forward to a rest day on Sunday, relaxing with The Grownup and The Other Grownup, crawling over the papers, and trying to be the centre of their world, before our dizzy week starts again.

CAMBERWELL LIBRARY

ACTIVITIES FOR 0 – 4S:

Baby & Toddlers Mondays **10.30AM-12 NOON**

Bookstart Tuesdays **10-11.30AM**

Rhyme Time Fridays **10.30-11AM**

→ **48 CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AL**

bit.ly/camberwell-library

TINY GYM AT CAMBERWELL LEISURE

CENTRE MON, TUES, FRI, SAT & SUN

check the leisure centre for times (Under 4s).

→ **ARTICHOKE PLACE, SE5 8TS**

everyoneactive.com/centre/camberwell-leisure-centre

BREAKFAST, BUMPS AND BABES

TUES 10.30 – 12.00 For pregnant and new mothers of babies under 6 months (term time).

→ **THE WELL CHURCH, WELLS WAY, SE5 7SY**

thewellcc.org.uk/breakfast-bumps-babes

POST-NATAL CLASS @ ZEN YOGA

TUES 11.15 – 12.15 With Corinne and Simone

→ **24A CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8RE**

laybrinhyogalife.com

CRAWFORD CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Supporting children under 5 & their families.

→ **CRAWFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL,**

CRAWFORD ROAD, SE5 9NF

MUMSPACE

Please contact MumSpace to confirm days and times before attending a group.

MON 1.30-3PM 105 Lomond Grove, SE5 7HG

TUES 1-3PM St Michael's Church, SE5 0UB

FRI 10AM-12PM 105 Lomond Grove, SE5 7HG

EMAIL kate.traynor@citizensuk.org

ESPACIO MAMA

FRI 1-3PM 105 Lomond Grove, SE5 7HG

EMAIL grace.romero@citizensuk.org

TEL 07561 070518

DADSPACE

First Saturday a month **11AM-1PM**

→ **BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH, REDCAR ST, SE5 ONA**

EMAIL grace.romero@citizensuk.org

TEL 07561 070518

BABY BANK

2nd hand baby stuff free of charge.

→ **CAMBERWELL SALVATION ARMY,**

105 LOMOND GROVE, SE5 7HG

EMAIL claire.rooney@salvationarmy.org.uk

CAMBERWELL CHOIR SCHOOL

SAT 10.15 – 11AM (TERM TIME) For 0-3s.

→ **ST GILES PARISH HALL, 161 BENHILL RD**

camberwellchoirschool.org.uk

LOVE WALK STAY AND PLAY

THURS 10.00 – 12.00 (For 0-4 year olds)

→ **UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,**

LOVE WALK, SE5 8AE



A young person's guide

If you're looking for something to relieve the boredom of teenagers and toddlers alike, then Camberwell offers a wealth of distractions for young people. There's art, sport, drama, scouts and singing among the wealth of activities. But even when things are NOT going so well, there are people to help you in a crisis.

PHOTO *Lottie Child*

SPORT & OUTDOOR

BURGESS PARK A teenager's personal view by Ezra Lee Moy.

Burgess Park is a large park in the northeast of Camberwell. Unlike many parks in London, the land Burgess Park is built on was once full of housing. However, most of it was destroyed in the blitz, and it was decided to put a park there instead of more apartment blocks. I don't know about you, but I think that was a great idea.

The park is split down the middle by Wells Way, with a tunnel and a few zebra crossings from one side to the other.

On the west side, there is:

- A short nature trail
- A fun and unique playground made of wooden dodecahedrons
- A BMX track (you can take lessons there, but it costs money)
- An exercise area, behind lots of artificial hills planted with wildflowers
- An adventure playground across the path from the BMX track. Sadly, it was deemed unsafe and was demolished in 2018. At the time of this writing, it hasn't been rebuilt
- Lots of open fields. Perfect for kids to play football
- Tennis courts! Near the tennis courts there is a small cafe. If you talk to the man at the counter he'll let you use an available court for free!

On the east side, you can find:

- Another playground, with a cafe next to it
- Two beautiful seasonal flower gardens
- A boxing club and a theatre, just across Wells Way from the BMX track. The building that these are located in was once a library
- A large sports area, with many different activities including a football pitch and a cricket field
- A very large pond. On the southeast bank, there are some reeds. If you're lucky you may even find a swan's nest!
- An old bridge that seems to lead to nowhere. It used to cross a canal, but the canal was filled in. The bridge stayed there as a reminder of the old days. If you walk the paved path that traces over where the canal used to run, you'll end up at the Peckham Library!

Camberwell wouldn't be the same without Burgess Park. Make sure to check it out.

CAMBERWELL LEISURE CENTRE offer loads of sessions either free or at low cost to Southwark members. Check the specific times for free Swim and Gym sessions for 11-15 year olds. Other activities for all ages include gymnastics, karate and capoeira.

TEL 03330 050401
everyoneactive.com/camberwell

SOUTHWARK TENNIS CLUB: BE ACTIVE

deliver regular coaching programmes during the term and school holidays. Typical cost is £45 for a 1 day per week term time training programme.

TEL 020 7703 4275
southwarkcitytennisclub.org.uk

MYATT'S FIELD PARK has a purpose-built children's centre, the Mulberry Centre, which houses: **The One O'Clock Club** on Monday, Tuesday and Friday; **Family Activities** monthly (every 3rd Saturday 10-12.00) for crafts, cultural celebrations and cooking/sharing a free lunch.

Stay and Play – free sessions for under 5s on Monday, Thursday and Fridays run by Mulberry Outdoor Pre-School. Information is on the website under Visit the Park.
myattsfieldspark.info

RUSKIN PARK has a playground suitable for younger children and a popular paddling pool, which remains open due to fundraising and maintenance by volunteers. The tennis courts host regular lessons for all ages, while the wildlife garden is a great space for children to learn about nature.

To find out more about activities for children and young people visit the Friends of Ruskin Park website:
friendsofruskinpark.org.uk

BETHWIN ROAD ADVENTURE

PLAYGROUND (for 6-16 year olds) has far more to offer than the name suggests. Activities include trips, snooker, table tennis, football (with Millwall coaches), and meditation. But that's not all. Older kids do work experience in preparation for leaving school. And the large kitchen is used for community cooks.

TEL 020 7703 4281

DOG KENNEL HILL ADVENTURE

PLAYGROUND For over 40 years DKHAP has given children 5-16 years old the opportunity to play freely and take risks in a safe and stimulating environment with qualified staff on hand to supervise. In addition to the adventure playground they offer football, basketball, pool, table tennis, climbing structures, swings, gardening, music workshops, arts and crafts, Xbox360, internet access, tshirt making, sewing, baking classes and clay work. They also run holiday play schemes.

dkhap.org.uk

FC CAMBERWELL recognises the importance of children playing regular team sports. They learn not only sporting skills but much needed life skills including working in teams and communication. If you are interested in getting your child active through football or one of our other weekly sports please get in touch via the website or social media. fccamberwell.com

ART

THE SOUTH LONDON GALLERY (SLG)

hosts a range of activities and events for young people. The Art Assassins is a group of young people aged 14–20 who meet every Tuesday and together have curated exhibitions and events, formed a political party, directed a short film, made a video game and designed hair products.

Sunday Spot is a weekly session of hands-on activities for families. The programme includes monthly workshops for 3–12 year-olds and an artist-designed space that supports self-directed play for younger children. The Big Family Press is open at the Fire Station on the first Saturday of the month, and invites children aged 5–12 and their families to learn how to rise print, share their stories and make a DIY publication. For information on any of these activities.

TEL 020 7703 6120

southlondongallery.org

ART IN THE PARK is a charity devoted to enriching Londoners' lives and environment through visual arts. They are involved in community, studio and public art projects. Their well-resourced studios are located in the centre of Burgess Park, and run by a team of experienced and talented artists. Offering free drawing clubs, gallery visits and afterschool workshops for young people: check out their programme on social media:

 [@artinburgesspark](https://www.instagram.com/artinburgesspark)

 [@artintheparktw](https://twitter.com/artintheparktw)

DRAMA

THE BLUE ELEPHANT THEATRE holds regular drama sessions for young people at the theatre and in other local spaces. Participants work towards a performance at the end of each term, inspired by their own ideas and interests.

TEL 020 7701 0100

blueelephanttheatre.co.uk

THEATRE PECKHAM Young people aged 3–25 years, from all background, are invited to study performance out of school – with the goal of improving self-esteem, raising ambition and discovering the arts. Theatre Peckham Academy offers 30 different classes a week – including acting, singing, musical theatre, ballet, tap, music production, writing and street dance.

theatrepeckham.co.uk

MUSIC

CAMBERWELL CHOIR SCHOOL

is a fantastic, fully inclusive community music project for 0 – 18 year olds living in Camberwell and Peckham.

All children are welcome with or without any musical ability, and as well as singing skills any child can try a wide variety of musical instruments (ukulele, guitar, violin, keyboard, steel pan, and more unusual ones too). Every Saturday (term time) in age-banded sessions.

→ **ST GILES HALL, BENHILL ROAD, SE5**

EMAIL camberwellchoirschool@gmail.com

camberwellchoirschool.org.uk

SCOUTS

THE 23RD CAMBERWELL SCOUTS

has been running in the Camberwell area since 1912. Their home since 1968 is a purpose-built Scout Hall on the Gilesmead Estate opposite St Giles Church. They seek to actively engage and support young boys and girls (between ages 6–18 year olds) in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

BEAVERS 6–8 years on a Thursday

CUBS 8–10 years on a Wednesday

SCOUTS 10–14 years on a Monday

EXPLORERS 14–18 years on a Tuesday.

Full info can be found online and across all the social medias. Come along and join the adventure!

23rdcamberwell.com

YOUTH SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROJECT

When a young person in Southwark faces a crisis in their life they can find support at Cambridge House in many different ways. They have services that respond to local people's needs including ways to build emotional resilience, anger management and some mental health issues. The RISE Youth programme offers long term intensive support for marginalised young people. And the Disabled People's Empowerment services run creative arts and sports projects for all ages (11+). For further information contact Cambridge House.

EMAIL info@ch1889.org TEL 020 7358 7000

YOUTH CLUBS

BRADFIELD YOUTH CLUB,

→ 5-13 COMMERCIAL WAY, SE15 6DQ

TEL 0207 703 2692

BRANDON YOUTH CENTRE

→ 19 MADDOCK WAY, COOKS ROAD, SE17 3NH

TEL 0207 735 2506

DAMILOLA TAYLOR CENTRE

→ 1 EAST SURREY GROVE, SE15 6DR

TEL 0207 703 9996

NEW VENTURE YOUTH CENTRE

→ SUCCESS HOUSE, 45 COOPERS RD, SE1 5ZT

TEL 0207 237 9312

BEDE YOUTH ADVENTURE PROJECT

→ ABBEYFIELD ROAD, SE16 2BS

TEL 0207 231 6027

DOWNSIDE FISHER YOUTH CLUB

→ COXSON PLACE, DRUID STREET, SE1 2EZ

TEL 0207 939 7400

SALMON YOUTH CENTRE

→ 43 JAMAICA ROAD, SE16 4TE

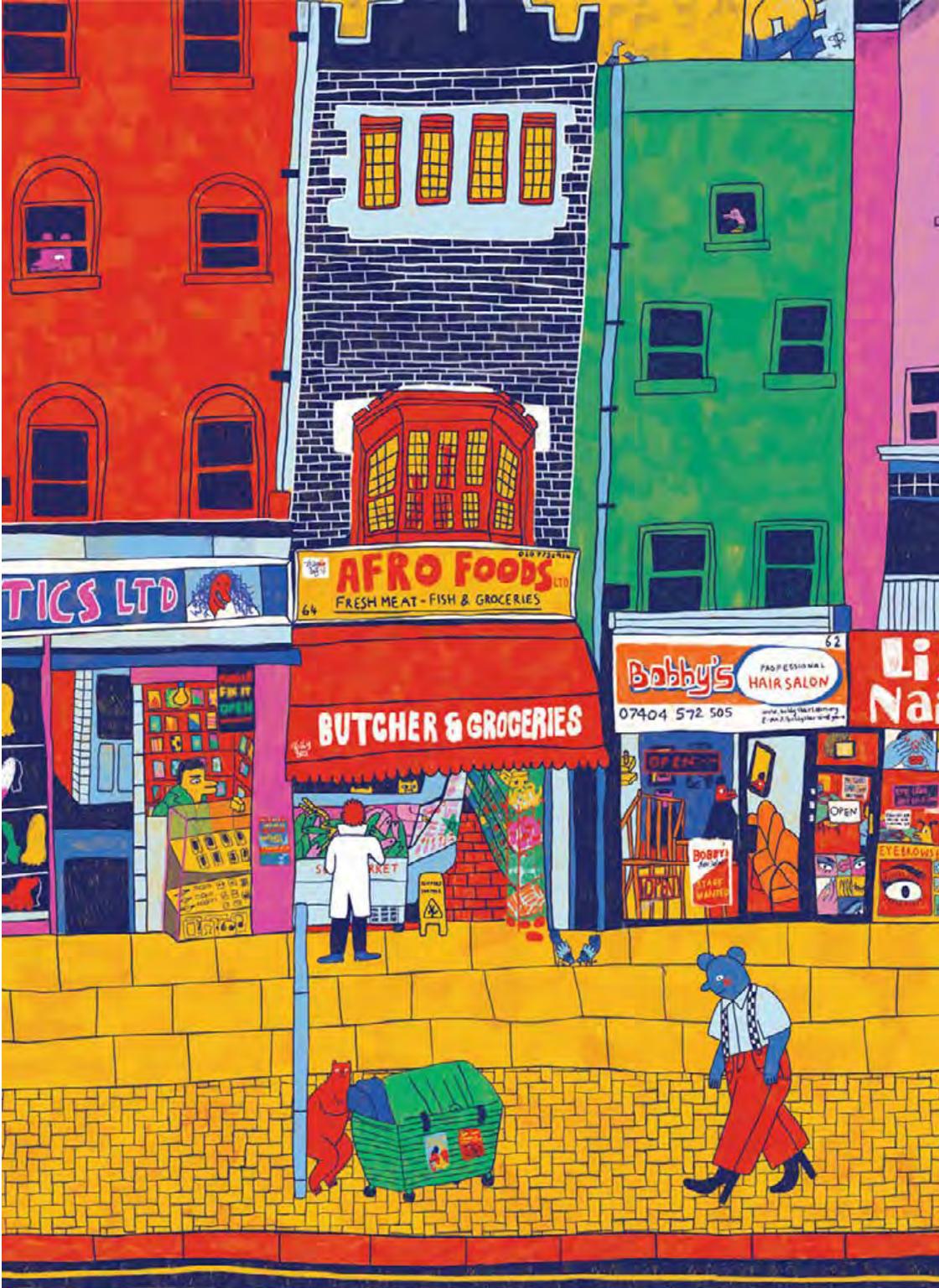
TEL 0207 237 3788

ST GILES TRUST

→ GANG EXIT PROGRAMME, GEORGIAN HOUSE, 64-68 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8JB

TEL 0207 708 8000

Shopping in Camberwell



There's a lot more to Camberwell than meets the eye: you just need to be prepared to look beyond the obvious.

ILLUSTRATION *Aysha Tengiz*

Some of Camberwell's best shops are not the best-looking. If you're prepared to look beyond the surface, however, there's some incredible bargains to be had, as well as an impressive diversity of products and ingredients on offer.

For the smart shopper, Camberwell has all the elements that make for a great London neighbourhood: well-stocked greengrocers; decent bakeries; an independent record shop; places to buy art books; art materials, vintage clothing and a computer repair shop - not to mention a useful cluster of chemists and stationers.

To add to the mix, there's a Farmers Market every Saturday on Camberwell Green as well as the Made in Camberwell Arts Market and Open Studios, which takes place every June and December. If you would like to buy directly from the many artists and craftspeople that live and work in the area sign up to the Camberwell Arts mailing list on camberwellarts.org.uk

To get you started on your Camberwell shopping experience, we've listed a few of our favourite shops below. There are many other great shops in the area, of course, and details about these can be found in the Directory.

CAMBERWELL SUPERSTORE

This might look like any other newsagent but the unexpected addition of a DIY store in the basement means that you can buy ladders, drills and much, much more until midnight. It's also an off-license, so you can celebrate the end of a DIY task.

→ 32-34 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7703 1357

HOWARD BROS

Another great ironmongers in Camberwell.

→ 4A COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR

R & K NEWSAGENTS

An impressive stock of obscure art publications.

→ 10 CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AF

A&B PHONES AND LAPTOPS

Bring in your computer problems to discuss and get a free diagnosis. If it can be repaired, A&B offer a same day repair service. They also buy/sell second hand laptops.

→ 67 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 020 7018 5070

FOWLDS

With one of the most picturesque workshops in London, Fowlds look every inch the master upholsterers their sign proclaims them to be. The business has been in the Fowlds family since 1870.

→ 3 Addington Square, SE5 7JZ
fowldsupholsterers.co.uk

BRIGHT PRINTERS & STATIONERS

Established in Camberwell for over 24 years, they have been supplying all kinds of office needs, as well as scanning, printing (up to AO size even) and laminating. If anyone still needs something to be faxed these days – they can do that too!

→ 46 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RZ
TEL 020 7738 5017

COWLING & WILCOX

The largest art supplier south of the river, Cowling and Wilcox also stock a range of creative gifts, with an inventive craft range for kids. It's also a great place to pick up flyers about local exhibitions, life art classes, creative workshops etc.

→ 8-12 ORPHEUS STREET, SE5 8RR

EDWARDES

A family-run business that has been selling bikes in Camberwell for over 105 years, Edwardes offers a wide range of bikes and biking paraphernalia. They will also order bikes in, make repairs, etc.

→ 221-225 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 OHG
TEL 020 7703 5720

SEA BASS BIKES

A fantastic local bike shop for custom built bikes as well as full bike services and individual repairs that they aim to complete the same day. If you would like a service or a custom bike built, get in touch or just pop in.

→ 62 Camberwell Church ST, SE5 8QZ
seabasscycles.co.uk

RAT RECORDS

Rat Records is a record lover's paradise and has been part of the Camberwell landscape for over 23 years. Established by expert vinyl dealer and collector, Tom Fisher, it has eclectic and regularly updated stock at affordable prices.

→ 348 CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 ORW
ratrecordsuk.net

SOPHOCLES BAKERY

This long-established Camberwell favourite is a specialist Greek bakery selling olive, tahini and halloumi bread as well as delicious cakes and desserts. Their sandwich bar will freshly make your lunch to order when you tire of pre-packed alternatives.

→ 24 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QU

THE HILL BAKERY AND DELI

Artisan breads are made fresh on the premises every day in the old fashioned way. This little treasure trove of a shop also offers interesting foods from small-scale producers of cheese, charcuterie, wines, jams and other specially selected items.

→ 4A GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY

SPICE N NICE BAKERY AND FOOD

Bringing the tastes of Jamaica into the heart of Camberwell, from traditional breads to jerk chicken, ackee and salt fish – as well as cakes and desserts. Open 8am – 11pm with a genuine Jamaican welcome.

→ 8A COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR
TEL 0207 733 2283



Where to stay

CHURCH STREET HOTEL

The restrained exterior of Camberwell's very own boutique hotel gives no hint of what lies inside. The gold-painted altar for the reception desk does give a clue, as do the intriguing icons and artworks that lead you up the staircase.

There you will find bedrooms rich with vibrant colours and bathrooms lined with Mexican tiles. The Havana lounge with its 24 hour honesty bar and free wifi is an extra bonus.

The basement of the hotel has an eclectic stained glass bar which has rolling events throughout the week – from pop up LGBT nights, live music to old school reggae.

Fiona Duncan, of the Telegraph, described the hotel as "Individual, eclectic, unusual, refreshingly different ... a Cuban/ Mexican fantasy in Camberwell."

Prices range from £70 for a single with shared bathroom to £160 for a family triple with en-suite bathroom.

→ 29-33 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7703 5984
churchstreethotel.com

PHOTO Alice Butenko

OYO NEW DOME HOTEL

The New Dome Hotel is a small, friendly budget hotel, offering good value for London. All rooms are en-suite and have colourful bedlinen, a decent amount of storage space and satellite TV. There is free wifi throughout. Continental breakfasts are served daily. Rates £65-£95.

→ 51/53 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7703 5262
OYOrooms.com / thenewdomehotel.co.uk

PASHA HOTEL

The Pasha Hotel is a comfortable, contemporary 3* hotels that welcomes its guests with Turkish/Kyrgyz hospitality, including a cup of Turkish tea on arrival.

The hotel boasts a Turkish hammam steam bath as well as a Turkish/Kyrgyz/ Kazakh/ Romanian restaurant serving a unique menu in cosy surroundings.

Room features include free Internet connection and a flat-screen TV with satellite channels. Rates £70-£120.

→ 158 CAMBERWELL RD, SE5 0EE
TEL 020 7703 5054
pashahotel.co.uk

Stories and Colours of Camberwell

A brief journey through the stories and colours of Camberwell. Text and photos by Elisa Spampinato.

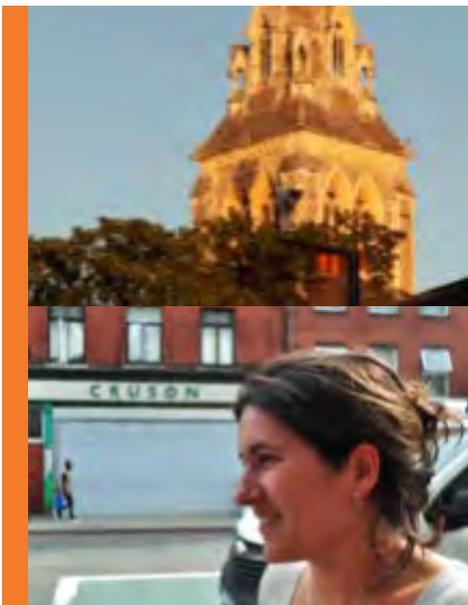
I am a traveller and a community storyteller. I invite you to walk with me through Camberwell's streets like a stranger and open all your senses to different experiences - like noticing a rarely seen object on a white wall, that is an artwork in itself. Come with me on my journey full of colours and stories. Delve into the community undertaking a "dimensional shift" into what Tom - the new young manager of the Old Dispensary - has called a "living breathing creature" that is Camberwell. So, I want to tell you the stories and the colours that I have imprinted on the retina of my eyes and on the sensor of my camera, but especially, on my soul and my spirit. These are the colours that Camberwell has whispered to me.

The dark GREEN tiles of the Tiger's pub sign that date from 1900. The beautiful tiles revealing the original name to the venue, were discovered by the new owner under layers of renovation from the 1980s. The original Victorian green has finally re-emerged.

Rachel D'Arcy, (British) songwriter and vocalist working in Jazz and Drum 'n' Bass. She manages the Vintage Shop on Denmark Hill. Her Camberwell is GREEN, not only because of all the green spaces and parks all around here, but because "it's an area that nurtures talent whether it is music or art. Things grow here!"

Samir from Afghanistan, who has been living here for the last eleven years, says the green parks make him feel at home. "Look", he said pointing to the nearby park, "all around here is green".





I have seen many beautiful flowers but not many brought me to my knee as the ones I found in Myatt's Field Park.

The intense ORANGE of its petals have made my knees stick to the soft grass and my eyes to my camera to capture the perfect shot in a very windy and sunny summer day.

ORANGE is also the colour of warm sunlight on buildings and sunsets, chosen by Patxa to describe her Camberwell. Spanish-born and local resident, Patxa is a sculptor, decorative artist and scenic painter, and is one of the many artists that populate Vanguard Studios with their vibrant creativity.



There are stories that love to be hidden or just need time to be unfolded. Who knows why there is an Elephant on a BLUE tile next to the RED Victorian letter box? It is like saying "I deserve respect too" declaring, in Latin, that "Elephants are people".

On my first day of exploring I found this colourful and cosy place that sheltered me from the bold sun in an unexpected heatwave. It felt like it was my lighthouse in a stormy day. Francklin Evagle, or simply Evagle, originally from Cameroon, is a Camberwell resident since 2004, and he opened Maloko in 2012.

Its RED wall explodes with everyone's free expressions of creativity. By experimenting with acrylic paint and grout they have

found a way to decorate a wall that local artists and art students happily use as a graffiti board. The same happened when looking for a way to design the flooring.

Also, more conventionally, artists have contributed to decorating the interiors with extravagant sofas, colourful murals, pieces of original designs, radiant drawings and harmonious paintings.

From all those creative and collaborative efforts Art Café Maloko emerged. "Keep trying, Keep trying, Keep trying... That's what everyone was doing here" Evagle told me remembering those days when "this was a big open laboratory of creativity".

The shining YELLOW of the house door, I found at the end of LOVE WALK. The colour reminds us that the journey through LOVE will take us, eventually, to a bright ending. Or at least so we hope.

I have been caught by the YELLOW and the bright AZURE of the mural that stands out on the sooty walls of the tunnel next to the bus garage on Camberwell New Road. This is its story.

The designer and mural painter Lionel Stanhope, having painted signs at several stations in South East London, was invited to create another at one of the four roads into Camberwell. To make this sign unique, pupils and staff of Sacred Heart School were asked to choose the colour scheme.





The pupils decided that these bright colours represent Camberwell's personality better than the colours of the (now extinct) Camberwell Beauty Butterfly - the preferred colour scheme of the teachers.

The artist offered to deliver a surprise to the disappointed teachers – a Camberwell Beauty painted on the wall opposite the Camberwell mural.

Another much older example of this beloved butterfly is on the wall of the shopping mall, looking down at the intensely populated Denmark Hill all day long like a silent saint protecting its followers.

The colour BLUE entered many of the stories I heard.

Sherfzel, from Afghanistan, who lives in Camberwell and works as a butcher in Brixton, has chosen the BLUE simply because Camberwell “feels right” to him.

Dennis Omoro who works in his mother's shop (G&O Collection) just off Camberwell Green, confessed to me that his Camberwell is BLUE: a calming and soothing colour.

The most beautiful BLUE though, (after the deep blue of the sky, of course) was definitely on the original tiled flooring of Church Street Hotel.

Many other colours have been registered by my senses; the BROWN of bricks and big old trees.

Brick path and walls in the snicket between Camberwell Grove and Grove Lane.

The GREY of the grease on the skilful hands of the guys of Seabass Cycle, in Camberwell since 2013.

My senses have registered a lot of GOLD as well.

The golden letters of The Old Dispensary sign, shining through the night against a glossy black, in the same way as the music shines inside the premises, during the well-known Jam Sessions of Monday nights, and the weekend music sessions.

I found REAL gold too. Mary, who manages the JazzLive at the Crypt with her partner Russell, told me the fascinating story of the old French gold coins.

Left in a mysterious bulky plastic bag in St Giles Church porch, the suspicious-looking wax paper cylinders were anonymously donated when the Jazz Club was first conceived.

The gold coins made the renovation of the Crypt into the music venue possible. Camberwell has a local angel with a love for jazz, apparently. Lucky us.





George a regular visitor to Camberwell, friend of a resident and probably future resident himself, told me that Camberwell is definitely MULTICOLOURED, “because of the beautiful loud colours of the fabrics that walk its streets”.

The Colours of the RAINBOW emerged often in people’s descriptions of their Camberwell.

And sometimes the Rainbow of colours appears in one place. Take the card shop, for example.

Imagine how many stories this shop has helped to create with its cards and how many stories it might have seen through its windows in the forty years of its existence.

Ali, from Zanjan, Iran, business owner of Love Walk Dry Cleaning, on Denmark Hill chatted with me and his business partner Farahd, originally from Tabriz, Iran. They both agree, and they said it out loud: “of course, RAINBOW! Camberwell is a rainbow, it has all the colours!”

Camberwell presents itself as a kaleidoscope. It is a rainbow of colours that I have chosen to absorb with all my senses: my hearing, my taste, my vision, my touch, my smell. But it is an everchanging combination of colours.



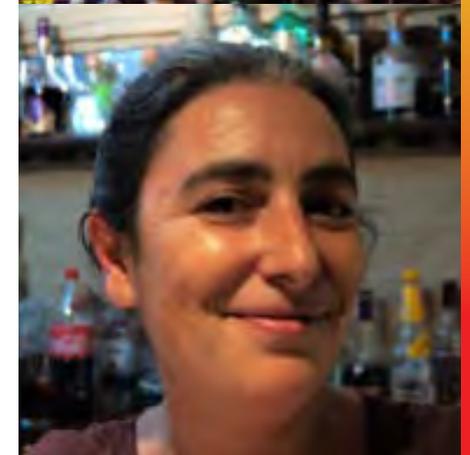
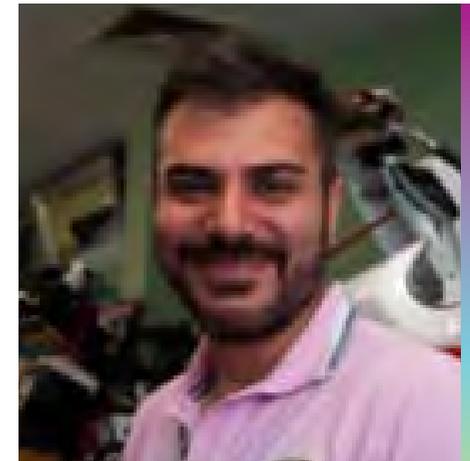
In the same way your eyes might catch all the colours of a RAINBOW but you won’t be able to register and decodify them, I believe it would take a lifetime to discover all the colours of Camberwell. Camberwell has lots of stories still to tell.

The night I met her at the Crypt, after having shared my stories with her, Mary said to me “you are not a stranger anymore, you know”. I nodded happily. And I now feel this way, like I have been adopted, not only by Mary but by the streets and walls of Camberwell. I can now feel the living creature that Tom was talking about, hugging me and taking my hand for a walk.

Thank you Camberwell, for having shared your stories and your multiple and colourful identities with me. It has been a pleasure to be adopted by your streets and international flavours. I look forward to future encounters.

I invite you to walk around Camberwell, along streets you don’t usually walk, sit at a different coffee table and look at your Camberwell from a different angle, with the eyes of a stranger. I believe that you will discover many things that you haven’t sensed before. This is an invitation to discover your community again and again.

Happy travelling!
A traveller storyteller.



Local Resources



If you're interested in finding out more about Camberwell, here are some great local organisations and resources to start you off.

PHOTO *Kimbal Bumstead*

LOCAL HISTORY

LAMBETH ARCHIVES

Lambeth Archives is a great local history resource that's open to the public, free of charge. Whether you want to trace your family history, discover the origins of your neighbourhood or look at the records of Lambeth Council, their staff will guide you through their great collections of historical material.

→ **LAMBETH ARCHIVES, MINET LIBRARY,
52 KNATCHBULL ROAD, SE5 9QY**
EMAIL archives@lambeth.gov.uk
TEL 020 7926 6076

SOUTHWARK LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY

Camberwell is split across 2 boroughs, so you may want to access archives for both boroughs.

Southwark Local History Library is not based in Camberwell but holds an interesting range of relevant local history information, including copies of most printed books on the history of the area; pamphlets and periodicals produced by local organisations; microfilm holdings of local newspapers from 1856 to the present; maps, videos; illustrations; press cuttings and other ephemera. Their helpful staff are happy to guide you through their collection.

→ **JOHN HARVARD LIBRARY, 211 BOROUGH
HIGH ST, SE1 1JA**
EMAIL local.history.library@southwark.gov.uk

LOCAL BLOG

CAMBERWELL ONLINE

Get inside local information from Camberwell Online – a popular and informative local blog described as 'a place for free and spirited exchange on anything with even a tangential connection to the South-East London district.' camberwellonline.co.uk

LOCAL RESOURCES

SOUTHWARK WELLBEING HUB

This is a service providing information and support to anyone living in Southwark who is worried about their wellbeing, or that of someone close to them. It's an online directory to point you in the right direction whether the problem is at crisis level, or just manageable. You'll be surprised how much help there is.

EMAIL contact-us@together-uk.org
TEL 020 7780 7300
together-uk.org

SOUTHWARK PENSIONERS CENTRE

At the Camberwell community resource centre, Southwark Pensioners is an organisation that works to promote choice, opportunity and quality of life for people aged 50 and over, so that they enjoy healthier, independent and more active lives.

EMAIL info@southwarkpensioners.org.uk
TEL 020 7708 4556
southwarkpensioners.org.uk

LOOKING FORWARD

SE5 FORUM

SE5 Forum is a grassroots, non-political, umbrella organisation that exists to work for the improvement of Camberwell to benefit all members of the diverse local community. The Forum was set up to be the eyes, ears and voice of the community, to see and understand what is happening within the area, to listen to concerns and raise them with the relevant organisations.

Everyone is welcome to join or attend meetings addressing issues such as local transport infrastructure, local regeneration plans etc. You will find their market stall every Saturday on Camberwell Green.
se5forum.org

CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

The Camberwell Society was formed in 1970 and is the recognised amenity society for those living, working or interested in Camberwell.

The Society's objectives, as defined by their constitution, are: to stimulate public interest in Camberwell; to promote high standards of planning and architecture in Camberwell; to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in Camberwell.
camberwellsociety.org.uk

CAMBERWELL ARTS

Camberwell Arts is a registered charity that aims to represent and promote the diverse cultural geographies of Camberwell. Founded in 1994 by Selina Hamilton and a group of local residents and artists, they sought to highlight the diversity of the local arts scene by establishing an annual arts week and open studio programme. Now the longest running visual arts festival in the UK, the annual Camberwell Arts Festival takes place every June. It works in partnership with local residents and arts organisations to programme a 9 day festival of exhibitions, events, open studios, walks, talks and workshops.

camberwellarts.org.uk

LOCAL WALKS

There is so much to see in and around Camberwell, and the content of this Travel Guide might inspire you to wander around and explore at your leisure.

Alternatively, you can take a Guided Walk by Blue Badge Guide Isobel Durrant and enjoy her personal anecdotes, and immense knowledge of people, facts and events that have shaped the neighbourhood over several centuries. To find out when the next Camberwell and Denmark Hill walk will be go to: walks.com

Camberwell Directory



Whether you want to dine or drink, purchase unusual gifts or vinyl records, keep fit or get your nails done, Camberwell is home to a wealth of shops, services and amenities.

We've selected a few of our favourites to get you started, and would love to hear your suggestions for future editions of the Camberwell Directory at info@camberwellarts.org.uk

ILLUSTRATION *Andrew Cadey*

CAFES

CRANES CAFÉ

→ 67 PECKHAM RD, SE5 8UH
(ATTACHED TO SOUTH LONDON GALLERY)
TEL 020 7207 2524
craneskitchen.co.uk

BREWBIRD CAFÉ

→ HAVIL STREET (OFF PECKHAM RD) SE5 8UE
TEL 07770 014272
stgilestrust.org.uk/brewbird

CAFÉ NOIR

→ 37 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TS
TEL 07951 581520

CAFFE PRONTO

→ 61 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 020 7701 1860
facebook.com/caffeprontose5

DAILY GOODS

→ 36 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
facebook.com/dailygoodsldn

LUMBERJACK CAFÉ

→ 70 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QU
TEL 020 7207 9567
wearelumberjack.co.uk

PIGEONHOLE CAFÉ

→ 2 DACHELOR PLACE (OFF
CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST) SE5 7AP
TEL 020 3784 6035
thepigeonholecafe.com

MALOKO

→ 60 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TU
TEL 020 3305 8913
facebook.com/mymaloko

GRINDERS OF LONDON CAFÉ

→ 23 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
grindersoflondon.com

MONO

→ 49 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 07460 579708
facebook.com/monocafelondon

O PORTUGUES CAFÉ DELI

→ 11 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TS
TEL 020 7701 5755

SOPHOCLES BAKERY CAFÉ

→ 24 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QU
TEL 020 7252 6316

PARK CAFES

THE LITTLE CAT CAFÉ

→ MYATTS FIELDS PARK, SE5 9RA
TEL 07735 056138
the-little-cat-cafe.business.site

RUSKIN PARK CAFÉ – NEAR TO THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

→ DENMARK HILL, SE5 9AN
friendsofruskinpark.org.uk/ruskinparkcafe/

TENNIS CAFÉ IN BURGESS PARK

→ ADDINGTON SQUARE, BURGESS PARK,
SE5 7LA

PARK LIFE CAFÉ

→ BURGESS PARK, 3 CHUMLEIGH ST, SE5 0RJ
TEL 020 7252 6556
parklife-cafe.co.uk

THE BOWER HUT CAFÉ

→ UNIT 2, BRUNSWICK PARK, SE5 7RH
thebower.org.uk/about.html

MORE FLOUR TO THE PEOPLE

→ 16A COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR
TEL 020 3982 3374
flour2people.co.uk

CAFÉ TOSCANA

→ 116 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RX
TEL 020 7737 8244
facebook.com/caffetoscana69

VIET CAFÉ

→ 75 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
vietcafecamberwell.com

FOWLDS CAFÉ

→ 3 ADDINGTON SQUARE, SE5 7JZ
TEL 020 3417 4500
facebook.com/fowldscafe

LOVE WALK CAFÉ

→ 81 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 020 7703 9898

FCB AT DENMARK HILL STATION

→ WINDSOR WALK, SE5 8BB
fbccoffee.com/pages/denmark-hill



DINING

AFRO MUMII

→ 227 CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 0TH
TEL 020 7227 2629

CAMBERWELL ARMS RESTAURANT

→ 65 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7358 4364
thecamberwellarms.co.uk

THE CROOKED WELL RESTAURANT

→ 16 GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY
TEL 020 7252 7798
thecrookedwell.com

CARAVAGGIO

→ 47 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7207 1612

FALAFEL AND SHAWARMA

→ 27 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 07910 000108

FLADDA FISH AND CHIPS

→ 55 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 8127 6297
facebook.com/pages/Fladda-Fish-Chips/360063767782315

FM MANGAL TURKISH RESTAURANT

→ 54 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7701 6677
fmmangal.co.uk

FRANCESCO'S NEOPOLITAN SOURDOUGH PIZZA

→ 53 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7701 0400
southlondonguide.co.uk/Francesco.htm

GOOD NEIGHBOUR

→ 21 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7703 2820
goodneighbour.uk.com

HAYATT LEBANESE AND MOROCCAN RESTAURANT

→ 22 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QU
TEL 020 7701 6004
hyatt.org.uk

MALOKO CREPERIE

→ 60 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TU
TEL 020 3305 8913
facebook.com/mymaloko

NANDINE KURDISH RESTAURANT

→ 82 VESTRY RD & 45 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 8001 8322
facebook.com/nandineUK

NEW DIWANIAM

→ 225A CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 0TH
TEL 020 7703 9318
newdewaniamonline.co.uk

REEM

→ 55 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 020 7358 5271

SHOPPING

CAMBERWELL SUPERSTORE

→ 32-34 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7703 1357

HOWARD BROS

→ 4A COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR
TEL 020 7274 8091

A & B PHONES AND LAPTOPS

→ 67 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 020 7018 5070

R & K NEWSAGENTS

→ 10 CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AF

JOJO'S SHOES

→ 30 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7703 1113

COWLING & WILCOX (ART SHOP)

→ 8-12 ORPHEUS STREET, SE5 8RR
TEL 020 7703 1342

EDWARDES

→ 221-225 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 0HG
TEL 020 7703 5720

SILK ROAD

→ 49 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7703 4832

TAPETE

→ 119 GROVE LANE, SE5 8BG
TEL 020 7737 1888 / 07779 619318
tapete.co.uk

THEO'S PIZZERIA

→ 2 GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY
TEL 020 3026 4224
theospizzeria.com

VAN HING

→ 42 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7703 9707

VINEYARD,

→ 3-5 CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8JA
TEL 020 7703 2131
vineyardgreetaverna.co.uk

WULI WULI

→ 15 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7708 5024
wuliwulicamberwell.co.uk

ZERET

→ 216-218 CAMBERWELL RD, SE5 0ED
TEL 020 7701 8587
zeretkitchen.com

SHOPPING

SEA BASS BIKES

→ 62 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7703 3470

RAT RECORDS

→ 348 CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 0RW
ratrecordsuk.net

SOPHOCLES BAKERY

→ 24 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QU

THE HILL BAKERY AND DELI

→ 4A GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY

SPICE N NICE BAKERY AND FOOD

→ 8A COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR
TEL 0207 733 2283

TFC (TURKISH FOOD CENTRE)

→ 303 CAMBERWELL NEW RD SE5 0TF
TEL 020 7701 5705

HAIR

ARMANI BARBERS

→ 76 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,
SE5 8QZ

GABBYS UNISEX HAIR SALON

→ 52 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 35829737

HAIR SHACK

→ 78 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8QZ
TEL 020 7708 0497

HIKUSS HAIR

→ 222 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 0ED
TEL 020 7701 6478

OFF-CUT

→ 1 CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8JA
TEL 020 7458 4751

ROSE & CROWN HAIRDRESSING

→ 106 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RX
TEL 07958 995302

PUBS

THE PHOENIX

→ WINDSOR WALK, SE5 8BB
TEL 020 7703 8767

FOX ON THE HILL

→ 149 DENMARK HILL,
SE5 8EH
TEL 020 7738 4756

JOINER'S ARMS

→ 35 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS
TEL 020 7701 1957

THE TIGER

→ 18 CAMBERWELL
GREEN, SE5 7AA
TEL 020 7703 5246

HERMIT'S CAVE

→ 28 CAMBERWELL CHURCH
STREET, SE5 8QU
TEL 020 7703 3188

CROOKED WELL

→ 16 GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY
TEL 020 7252 7798

GROVE HOUSE

→ 26 CAMBERWELL GROVE,
SE5 8RE
TEL 020 3247 1001

THE CAMBERWELL ARMS

→ 65 CAMBERWELL CHURCH
STREET, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7277 2601

THE STORMBIRD

→ 25 CAMBERWELL CHURCH
STREET, SE5 8TR
TEL 020 7708 4460

GEORGE CANNING

→ 123 GROVE LANE, SE5 8BJ
TEL 020 7274 5503

THE OLD DISPENSARY

→ 325 CAMBERWELL NEW
ROAD, SE5 0TF

THE NAG'S HEAD,

→ 242 CAMBERWELL
ROAD, SE5 0DP

THE SUN OF CAMBERWELL

→ 61-63 COLDHARBOUR
LANE, SE5 9NS
TEL 020 7737 5861

THE JUNCTION

→ 171 COLDHARBOUR LANE,
SE5 9PA
TEL 020 3715 2762

THE GOLDEN GOOSE

→ 146 CAMBERWELL NEW
ROAD, SE5 0RR
TEL 07933 486328

THE KENNINGTON

→ 60 CAMBERWELL NEW
ROAD, SE5 0RS
TEL 020 7735 9990

CLARENDON ARMS

→ 225 CAMBERWELL
NEW ROAD, SE5 0TH

THE CAMBRIA

→ 40 KEMERTON RD,
SE5 9AR
TEL 020 7737 2000

ST GEORGE'S TAVERN,

→ 14 COLEMAN RD, SE5 7TG
TEL 020 7277 1790

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

→ 156 WELLS WAY, SE5 7SY
TEL 020 7703 2078





CULTURAL

1. BLUE ELEPHANT THEATRE
2. CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ARTS
3. CAMBERWELL LEISURE CENTRE
4. CAMBERWELL LIBRARY
5. THEATRE PECKHAM
6. MINET LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
7. SOUTH LONDON GALLERY

ARTIST STUDIOS

8. CLOCKWORK STUDIOS
9. EMPRESS MEWS
10. COLDHABOUR STUDIOS
11. VANGUARD COURT
12. WARRIOR STUDIOS

GREEN SPACES

13. BRUNSWICK PARK
14. BURGESS PARK
15. LUCAS GARDENS
16. MYATT'S FIELDS PARK
17. RUSKIN PARK
18. ST GILES CHURCHYARD

HOTELS

20. CHURCH ST HOTEL
21. NEW DOME HOTEL
22. PASHA HOTEL

OTHER

23. KINGS COLLEGE HOSPITAL
24. INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
25. MAUDSLEY HOSPITAL

Transport Information

Camberwell is well served by public transport, with frequent buses passing through Camberwell from South East and Central London and trains running from Denmark Hill and Loughborough Junction stations. The Overground line is also running from Denmark Hill Station.

BUSES TO CAMBERWELL

TRAVELLING FROM

Elephant & Castle:	P5, 12, 35, 40, 45, 68, 148, 171, 176, 468
Oval (bus stop C):	36, 185, 436
Clapham Junction:	35, 345
Battersea Park:	436
Brixton:	P5, 35, 45, 345
Forest Hill:	176, 185
Lewisham:	185, 436, 484
Liverpool St:	35, 42
New Cross:	171, 436
Peckham:	12, 36, 345, 436
Victoria:	36, 185,
Vauxhall Cross:	36, 185, 436
Euston:	68
Waterloo:	68, 176

TUBE

The nearest tube stations are Oval, which is on the Northern line, and Elephant & Castle, which is on the Bakerloo and Northern lines.

TRAIN

The nearest train stations are Denmark Hill and Loughborough Junction. Elephant & Castle, East Dulwich and Peckham Rye stations are also close to Camberwell.

Camberwell is in Travel Zone 2.

For more detailed journey planning and cycle routes, go to www.tfl.gov.uk



The Wolpe Collection

ABOUT THE FONT

Camberwell even has its own font, thanks to Berthold Ludwig Wolpe – the visionary German-Jewish calligrapher, typographer, designer and illustrator who helped shape graphic design in post-war Europe.

Having escaped Nazi persecution in Germany in 1935, Wolpe moved to London where he created his legendary Albertus, Sachsenwald and Pegasus fonts for Monotype. In 1941 he joined Faber & Faber, where he designed many of their most beautiful and memorable book jackets over the course of three decades. Wolpe went on to teach at Camberwell School of Art from 1948-53, as well as designing a masthead for The Times in 1966. He was made a Royal Designer for Industry in 1959, awarded an honorary doctorate by the Royal College of Art in 1968 and appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1983.

The Wolpe Collection, revived by type designer Toshi Omagari, brings together a restored set of his typefaces and reinvigorates the work of a man who was quietly instrumental in the world of British visual culture.



CREDITS

A Travel Guide to Camberwell (2nd edition) was researched and written by local residents. It was commissioned by the SE5 Forum, with financial support from Southwark Council through the Neighbourhood Fund, and developed by Camberwell Arts.

Many thanks to all the local organisations and residents who have supported this project, including everyone who supported the Camberwell Banners project, Camberwell Business Network, Camberwell Library, Camberwell Society, Lambeth Archives, SE5 Forum and Southwark Local History Library.

MURAL *Lionel Stanhope*

Most importantly, thanks to everyone who contributed to this Guide:

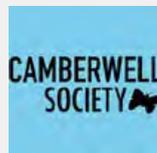
Debbie Allen, Attlee, Isaac Bamba, Emma Banfield, Emma Barnie, Richard Barton, Stephen Bourne, Kimbal Bumstead, Andrew Cadey, Alessandro Campbell, Yves Caulder, Ross Clifford, Lottie Child, Jane Common, Sara Doumbia, Garudio Studiage, Natasha Godfrey, Matt Green, Ellen Guervo, Kofi Gyima, Grace Helmer, Alex Hodson, Dan Lee, Laurent Mercer, Frog Morris, Amani Nateel, Mark Norris, A.N.Onymous, Christine Osokogu, Joe Osohou, Liz Pembroke, PUG, Dina Rabbah, Dan Rossiter, Vicky Simpson, Paul Smithson, Elisa Spampinato, Sarah Sparkes, Megan Stanton, Fanny Roos Waldemarsson, Celeste Williams & Scott Wood.



DISCOVER MORE AT
camberwellarts.org.uk
camberwellsociety.org.uk
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