

# A TRAVEL GUIDE TO CAMBERWELL



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**CAMBERWELL**

**CAMBERWELL HISTORIES**

A Brief History	06
A Healthy History	08
An Artistic History	12
A Literary History	16
A Musical History	20
An Entertaining History	24
Architectural Gems	28
From The Caribbean To Camberwell	34
Eye Spy Camberwell	38

**CONTEMPORARY CAMBERWELL**

Camberwell's Green	42
Phileas Dogg's Guide to Camberwell	50
Pub Crawl	54
A Global Gourmet Guide	57
Café Culture	62
20 Things To Do In Camberwell	66
A View from the Baby Buggy	70
A Young Person's Guide	74
Shopping in Camberwell	80
Where to Stay	84
Local Resources	86
Camberwell Directory	89
Map	98
Transport Information	100

This Travel Guide to Camberwell has been updated after the upheavals of Covid 19. Businesses have closed, others have opened, and dates and times might change for classes, services and opening hours. Always check in advance.



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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

IMAGE King's College Hospital gymnasium

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## SOUTHWARK COMMUNITY SANCTUARY

Providing support for Southwark residents over 18 who are experiencing mental distress, this organisation offers plans and coping strategies. Self-referrals can use the website link.

**TEL 07880191285**

[www.together-uk.org](http://www.together-uk.org)

# An artistic



# history

IMAGE A life drawing class at Camberwell College of Arts

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.

## 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](http://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 two new buildings added to the campus in 2017. [arts.ac.uk](http://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, Goldsmith's 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, 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 & COMPLEXES

### ART IN THE PARK

→ CHUMLEIGH GARDENS, SE5 0RJ  
[artinthepark.co.uk](http://artinthepark.co.uk)

### CLOCKWORK STUDIOS

→ 38 SOUTHWELL RD, SE5 9PG  
[clockworkstudios.co.uk](http://clockworkstudios.co.uk)

### CLUBLAND STUDIO

→ 54 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 0EW  
[instagram.com/clublandstudio](https://www.instagram.com/clublandstudio)

### COLDHARBOUR STUDIOS

→ 26-34 SOUTHWELL RD, SE5 9PG  
[coldharbourlondon.com](http://coldharbourlondon.com)

### CORNERSTONE STUDIOS

→ 1 ADDINGTON SQUARE, SE5 7JZ  
[eatworkart.com/cornerstone-studios](http://eatworkart.com/cornerstone-studios)

### DENMARK PLACE STUDIOS

→ 47 COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9NR

### EMPRESS MEWS

→ OFF KENBURY STREET, SE5 9BT  
[empressmewsstudios.wordpress.com](http://empressmewsstudios.wordpress.com)

### REMAKERY

→ 51 LILFORD ROAD, SE5 9HY  
[remakery.org](http://remakery.org)

### SPACE STUDIOS

→ HAVIL STREET, SE5 8UB  
[spacestudios.org.uk/buildings/havil-street-se5/](http://spacestudios.org.uk/buildings/havil-street-se5/)

### VANGUARD COURT

→ REAR OF 36-38 PECKHAM RD, SE5 8QT  
[vanguardcourt.org](http://vanguardcourt.org)





IMAGE Una Marson

# 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.

## 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. 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# A musical



# history

IMAGE Pink Floyd in Ruskin Park

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.

## 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...”

## 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.

## 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 Rotherham through wild teen years in Sheffield to her eventual marriage and settling down on the outskirts of London.

Lead singer Jarvis Cocker had this to say about the track: “[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. Their first studio was in Lomond Grove, Camberwell, and they moved next to Loughborough Junction, the scene

of many of their legendary parties. Their most explicit tribute to the area is their Camberwell EP, released in 2000 under the pseudonym Banana Krew, with the tracks I Live in Camberwell (with lines including “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.

## SYD BARRETT & 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 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.

## 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 a mulberry tree in her local park, Myatt’s Fields, when she was about nine years old. “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.  
[facebook.com/thejoinersarmspub](https://www.facebook.com/thejoinersarmspub)

## MUSIC AT ST GILES

**LIVE AT ST GILES** is bringing live music and performance to Camberwell’s most beautiful venue. The majestic Neo-Gothic architecture of this grade 2\* listed church provides a captivating backdrop for classical and contemporary live music, dramatic opera, live silent films, and the now infamous Organoke.

- » [organoke.com](https://www.organoke.com)
- » [@organoke](https://www.instagram.com/organoke)

Launched in 2016 as **MUSIC AT ST GILES** and relaunching in 2024 as **LIVE AT ST GILES**, we continue to take this spiritual space beyond its religious roots to unveil its true potential as a dynamic cultural and performance venue for the whole community.

- » [liveatstgiles.com](https://www.liveatstgiles.com)
- » [@liveatstgiles](https://www.instagram.com/liveatstgiles)

**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 Condé Nast Traveller magazine, they also received the honorary “Freedom of the Old Borough of Camberwell” for their work in the local community.

The atmospheric crypt makes the perfect jazz venue, and is actually part of the original Anglo-Saxon church that stood on this site from at least the 11th Century until it was destroyed by fire in 1841.

- » [jazzlive.co.uk](https://www.jazzlive.co.uk)
- » [@jazzlivese5](https://www.instagram.com/jazzlivese5)

# An entertaining history

IMAGE Karno's Fun Factory



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.

## 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.

## BLUE ELEPHANT THEATRE

This 50-seater venue offers an eclectic programme of work from theatre and dance to comedy and family shows.

[blueelephanttheatre.co.uk](http://blueelephanttheatre.co.uk)

## CAMBERWELL AND CINEMA

By 1939 Camberwell had 8 music halls and 5 cinemas all a short walk away from the green. There was the Oriental Palace of Varieties, replaced by the Camberwell Palace in 1899. A glimpse of it can be seen in Pool of London which featured Earl Cameron, the first black British Actor in a leading film role. The Metropole Theatre's ornate Indian style décor competed with the Camberwell Palace Theatre's Moorish and Oriental style, and both screened films as well as live performances.

Of the cinemas, only the ABC/Regal building remains, now Grade II listed, even after reinventing itself as a Bingo Hall and currently as The Lighthouse church. The Essoldo, the Grand Hall and the Odeon cinemas were all repurposed, squatted or demolished between 1960s and 1990s. Today there is no cinema in Camberwell.

## 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 resident Terry Jones was a founder member of the 1970s ground-breaking Monty Python TV comedies, and Britain's most successful comedy film director (Life of Brian, Holy Grail etc).

## 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 GOLDEN GOOSE

Awarded for his Outstanding Contribution to Pub Theatre, Michael Kingsbury founded the Golden Goose theatre as a creative hub for artists to make all kinds of theatrical experiences, new work and development opportunities for emerging artists.

Its air-conditioned venue with attached pub bar make it a great evening out. [goldengoosetheatre.co.uk](http://goldengoosetheatre.co.uk)

## THEATRE PECKHAM

Founded nearly 40 years ago, Theatre Peckham is a flagship cultural venue and pioneering learning theatre embedded in the community.

They provide creative learning opportunities for young people through its award-winning Young Academy (3–16s) and Young Peckham training (17–29s), as well as showcasing a programme of creative work dedicated to amplifying underrepresented voices that resonate with local audiences. [theatrepeckham.co.uk](http://theatrepeckham.co.uk)

# 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 buildings, including Grove Chapel, 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.

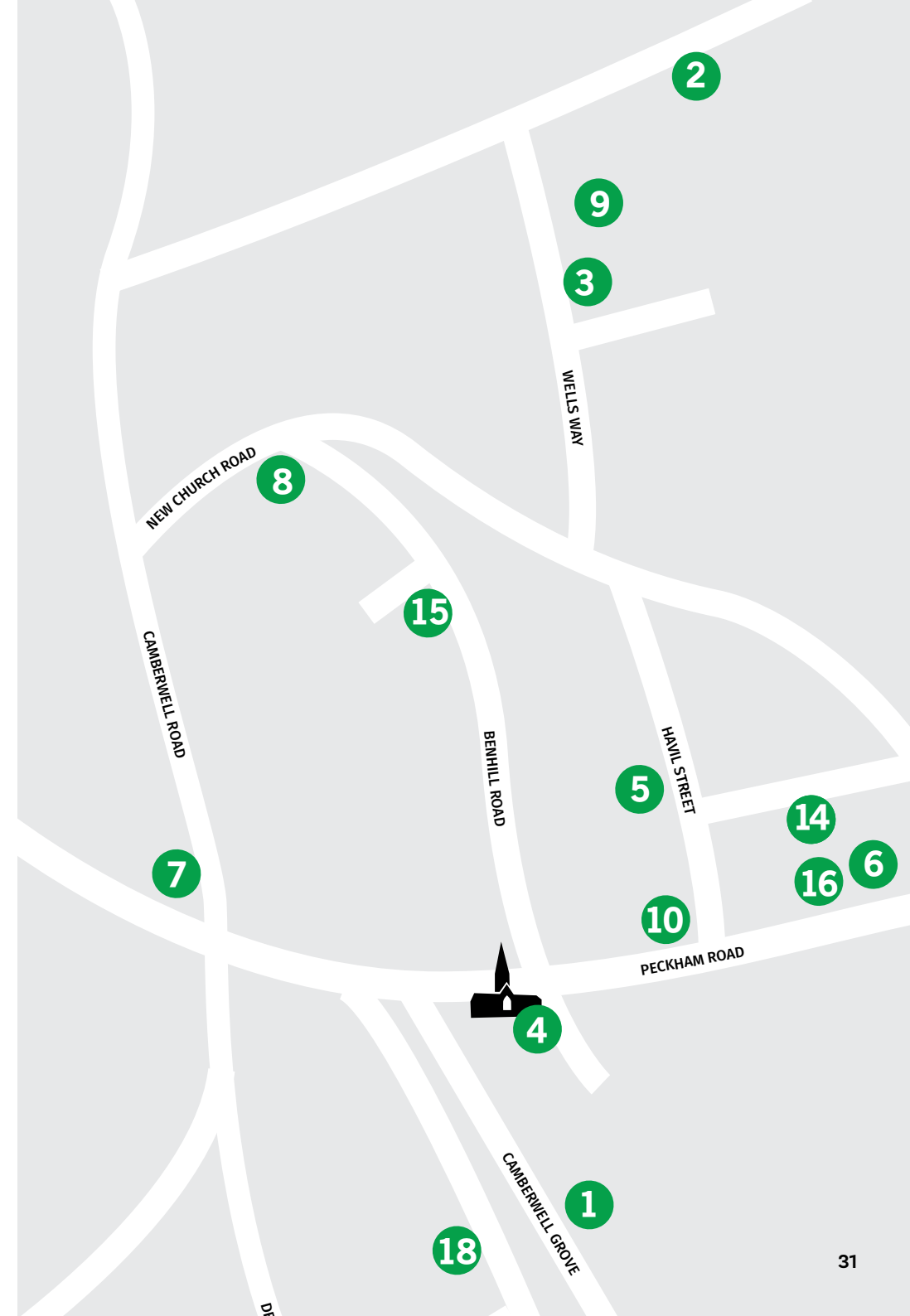
**8 EVELINA MANSIONS NEW CHURCH ROAD: 1900**

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.

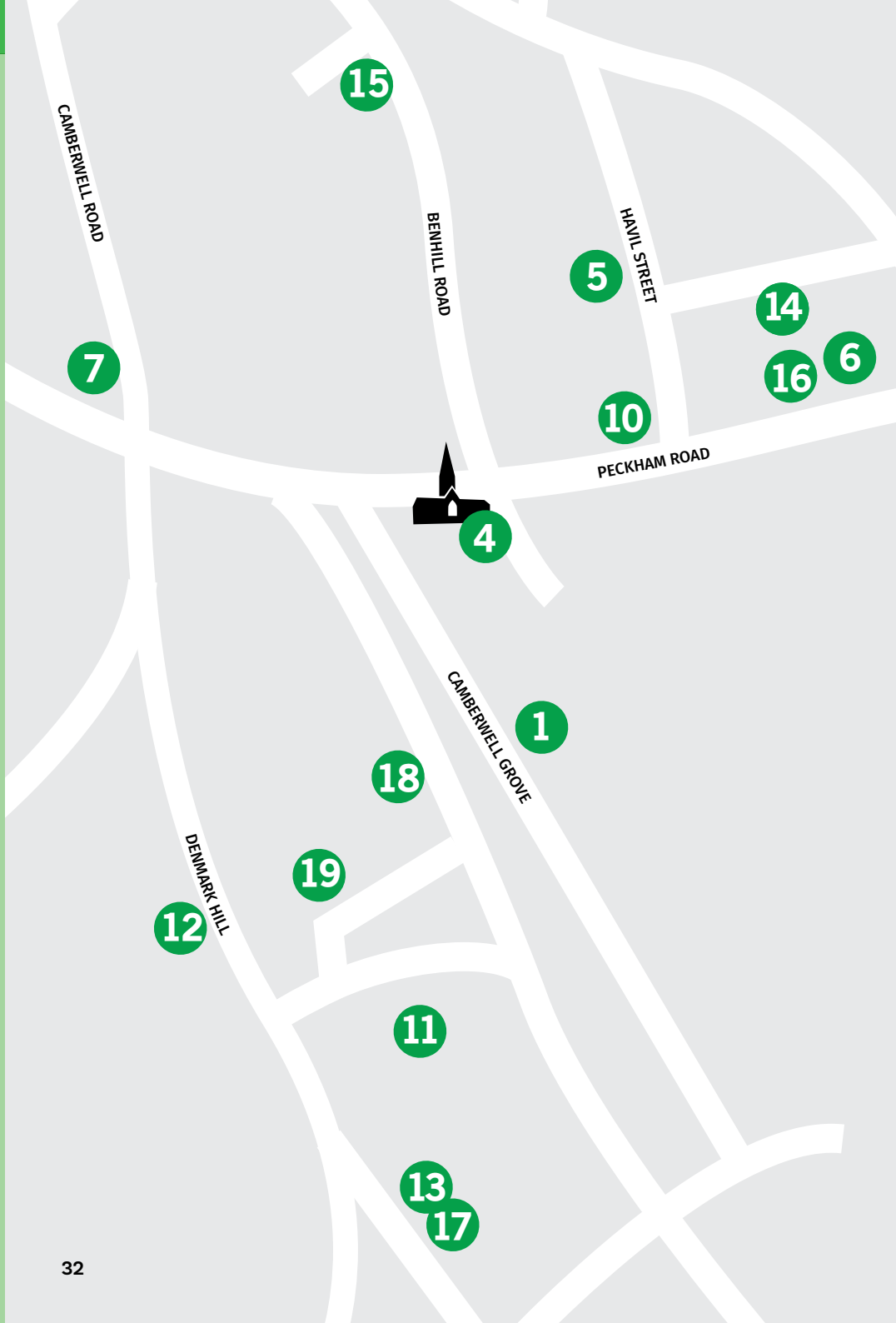
**9 BUTTERFLY BUILDING WELLS WAY: 1902**

(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'.  
**Architects: Edwin T Hall. Recent 2013 extension 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 sight 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 Hercules 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.**

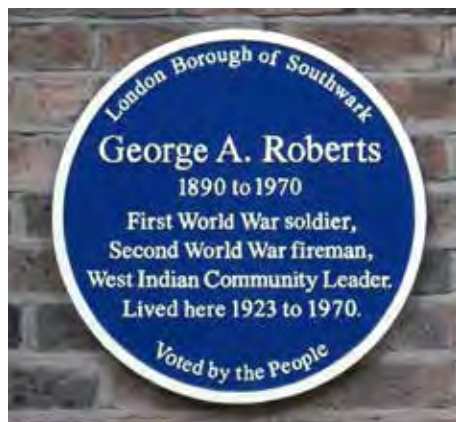
This new award winning building cleverly utilises the rear of an existing terrace of Victorian houses to create one side of a dramatic atrium space formed by swooping curved columns.  
Architect: A21 Architects



# 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 communities.

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 was honoured with a Southwark Heritage Association Blue Plaque on her former home in Brunswick Square. In 2021 her poem *The Test* was etched into the window of Denmark Hill Station. And in 2023 Southwark named a new library after Una.

Stephen Bourne was responsible for nominating George A. Roberts and Una Marson for their Southwark Blue Plaques and both of them are featured in his book *Under Fire - Black Britain in Wartime 1939-45*. A Camberwell resident, Stephen has been writing Black British history books for over thirty years. He is also responsible for researching and compiling Camberwell's popular Black History Walk. Stephen's *Fighting Proud* delves into gay men's lives in the two world wars and he has been an independent advisor to Southwark Police for over twenty years. In 2017 Stephen was recognised for his diversity work by London South Bank University when they made him an Honorary Fellow. For more information go to [stephenbourne.co.uk](http://stephenbourne.co.uk)





# 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, take a tree walk 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 Garudio Studiage



## BURGESS PARK

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
- » Clubhouse Café - all profits go to Burgess Sports. [ourclubhouse.org](http://ourclubhouse.org)
- » Car park
- » Fishing - permits from the council
- » BMX Track
- » Lake
- » Burgess Sports - afterschool and holiday activity. [burgesssport.org](http://burgesssport.org)
- » 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. 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](http://artinthepark.co.uk)
- » **GLENGALL WHARF GARDEN** Community food growing project running various sessions each week including volunteering drop-in Sundays. [glengallwharfgardens.org.uk](http://glengallwharfgardens.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](http://friendsofburgesspark.org.uk)

## BRUNSWICK PARK

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
- » Basketball / Multi-sports pitch
- » N<sup>o</sup>N<sup>o</sup> café and Outhouse Gallery

**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.

- » **OUTHOUSE GALLERY** was once a derelict toilet block in the park. Find out what's on via Instagram [@out.house.gallery](#). The Gallery is run by the N<sup>o</sup>N<sup>o</sup> café team. Check them out via Instagram [@nono.camberwell](#).
- » **THE FRIENDS OF BRUNSWICK PARK** Everyone is welcome to join this group and support their wonderful local park. [facebook.com/brunswickparkfriends](#)

## CAMBERWELL GREEN

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.

**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

**ACTIVITIES** A local food market is held on Camberwell Green every Saturday 10am–3pm. The Green is also a popular space for arts and community events, including 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.

There is no Friends group at present. Contact [barbara@pattinson.org.uk](mailto:barbara@pattinson.org.uk) for information about Camberwell Green

## MYATT'S FIELDS PARK

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 14½ 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.

### FACILITIES

- » Café
- » Greenhouses
- » Football pitch
- » 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 planting, growing and community cooking projects to engage local residents and park users; music and other events on the bandstand; regular children's activities including drumming and cultural events; and a range of activities for children under 4, which changes regularly.

- » **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: [myattsfieldspark.info](http://myattsfieldspark.info)

**IMAGE** Fanny Roos Waldemarsson



## RUSKIN PARK

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.

**IMAGE** 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 and Urban Village Estate Agents maintain. 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](http://friendsofruskinpark.org.uk)

## GREEN DALE

Just edging into the SE5 borders, Green Dale Fields is a tranquil open space to the south west of the large Sainsburys on Dog Kennel Hill. Once playing fields, it has been reclaimed by nature and is managed as a site of interest for nature conservation. It is a haven for birds and the meadows are full of butterflies in the summer. For more information see the Friends of Green Dale website.

[friendsofgreendale.org.uk](http://friendsofgreendale.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. [facebook.com/benhillroadnaturegarden](https://www.facebook.com/benhillroadnaturegarden)

IMAGE Fanny Roos Waldemarsson



## 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](http://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. [x.com/friendslucas](https://www.x.com/friendslucas)

## 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 and graveyard, creating an oasis of calm at the heart of Camberwell.

[stgileschurchyardfriends@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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

[www.templebowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.templebowlingclub.co.uk)

# 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.

## 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



IMAGE Jane Common

## 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, The Tiger has excellent music taste - for a cat.

SCORES ON THE PAWS: 3½/ 5



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



IMAGE Sarah Doyle

# Pub Crawl

## Where to start?



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 independent 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.

IMAGE Emma Barnie

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.

IMAGE Garudio Studiage



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 a few years back.

Some of us are starting to show the strain by now, and 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 two pubs on Grove Lane? The Crooked Well has raised the bar (pun intended) on pub dining and our meal lives up to its well-earned reputation. Most importantly, the wine list is impressive and the cocktails perfectly mixed.

Others in our party opt for The Grove House Tavern, where a heavenly pie can be washed down with cask beer. We all reconvene at their plentiful outdoor tables, allowing the faint-hearted to order a reviving cup of coffee – this being the kind of pub where such behaviour is deemed acceptable.

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 and The Bear, both on Camberwell New Road (rounded off with a nostalgic tour past the Sun of Camberwell). They will have to wait for another occasion. For now, Camberwell's pubs may have defeated us...

# A Global Gourmet Guide

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

IMAGE *Grace Helmer*



## EUROPEAN

## CAMBERWELL ARMS

The Camberwell Arms is an award-winning restaurant nestled in the unpretentious surroundings of a classic boozier. 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 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 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

## FORZA WIN

It's a win-win from Forza Win, the new(ish) Camberwell restaurant that manages to combine cool, minimalist aesthetics with the generous portions and boisterous hospitality of an old-school Italian restaurant. It's quickly become an established favourite as locals, and those in the know, head here for good-value pasta dishes, magnificent five-course feasts, and fun touches, such as the espresso-flavoured Custardo dessert.

→ 31 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR  
[forzawin.com](http://forzawin.com)

## FRANCESCO'S SOURDOUGH PIZZA

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. 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. But there's always the Pollo Fried Chicken Sandwich shop across Dachelor Place if the pizzas run out.

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

## 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

## LATIN HOUSE

Come for a happy hour half price cocktail and stay for hearty Spanish and Latin American food. A warm welcome and generous portions make lively Latin House a local favourite. It gets busy, but service is speedy from Margarita's team who always have time to help navigate the menu. Feeling hungry? The mixed grilled seafood or meat platters are huge. Or bring back memories of Spain with a homemade paella or authentic iberico ham and tapas. No Latin American meal is complete without something sweet - try a classic Tres Leches cake and leave replete and happy.

→ 4 COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR  
TEL 0207 733 4006

## 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. Fladda 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

## 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 RD, SE5 OED  
TEL 020 7701 8587

## 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 STREET  
SE5 8QZ | TEL 020 7701 6677

## 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 2021), 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

## 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 STREET,  
SE5 8QZ | TEL 020 7703 9707

## 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.

→ 47 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR  
TEL 020 7703 4832

## KURDISH

## NANDINE

The current manager at this new Kurdish mezze & grill is the power behind the latest reincarnation of this lovely restaurant - as well as the very successful Vestry Road 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 STREET,  
SE5 8TR | TEL 020 7703 3221

[nandine.co.uk](http://nandine.co.uk)

Even with all these recommendations, we are just scratching the surface. Look in the Directory for more local restaurants, their contact details and addresses. Since Covid-19, many local restaurants are now offering deliveries. Check their website for up-to-date information.

# 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. Some even come with parks attached, as Anna Harakopoulos discovered.

IMAGE Megan Stanton



## FOWLDS

Situated in a quiet residential street overlooking Burgess Park, this lovely little café used to have an upholstery workshop attached. At the time of writing it is an outdoor spot until its much anticipated refurbishment is complete.

→ 3 ADDINGTON SQUARE, SE5 7JZ

TEL 020 3417 4500

[facebook.com/fowldscafe](https://facebook.com/fowldscafe)

## IRENE BAKERY

Irene's Bakery and Wine Shop is a great spot to meet a friend. Excellent coffee to have with their fresh breakfast croissants and pain au chocolat. Also specialises in sourdough sandwiches and delicious cakes. They also sell sustainable, organic and biodynamic wines.

→ 31 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

[irenebakery.co.uk](https://irenebakery.co.uk)

## JUICE BOX

A new vegan restaurant and bar has opened just on the corner of Camberwell New Road and Warner Road. Say hi to friends and owners Absalom and Abraham who are serving you the freshest juices in SE5. The microwave-free vegan kitchen will follow soon.

→ 332C CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 ORW

[@juicebox\\_camberwellnewroad](https://@juicebox_camberwellnewroad)

## 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

## LUMBERJACK CAFÉ

Lumberjack is a social enterprise with its finger definitely on the pulse of Camberwell's community. Selling the most delicious salads, pastries, cakes and coffees for take away or sitting at tables downstairs, Lumberjack is also a deli offering handpicked items they know you will love. And alongside all these are local artists' work for sale.

→ 70 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8QZ | TEL 020 7207 9567

[wearelumberjack.co.uk](https://wearelumberjack.co.uk)



## 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 STREET,  
SE5 8TU | TEL 020 3305 8913  
[facebook.com/mymaloko](https://www.facebook.com/mymaloko)

## MR FALAFEL

Fancy tasty mezze, some succulent falafel or a flavourful chicken or haloumi shawarma wrap? Then My Falafel cafe on Camberwell Church Street is a really good choice for breakfasts, lunches, snacks, teas and coffees – all of which are very reasonably priced. In this family run cafe you will find falafel and salads made fresh every day and freshly squeezed juices at impressively low prices. My Falafel Café will not disappoint with its great quality and friendly service.

→ 37 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8TR | TEL 07951 581520

## 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.

→ 82 VESTRY ROAD, SE5 8PQ  
TEL 020 8001 8322  
[facebook.com/nandineuk](https://www.facebook.com/nandineuk)

## 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 STREET,  
SE5 8TS | TEL 020 7701 5755

## 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 STREET,  
SE5 8QU | TEL 020 7252 6316



## 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.

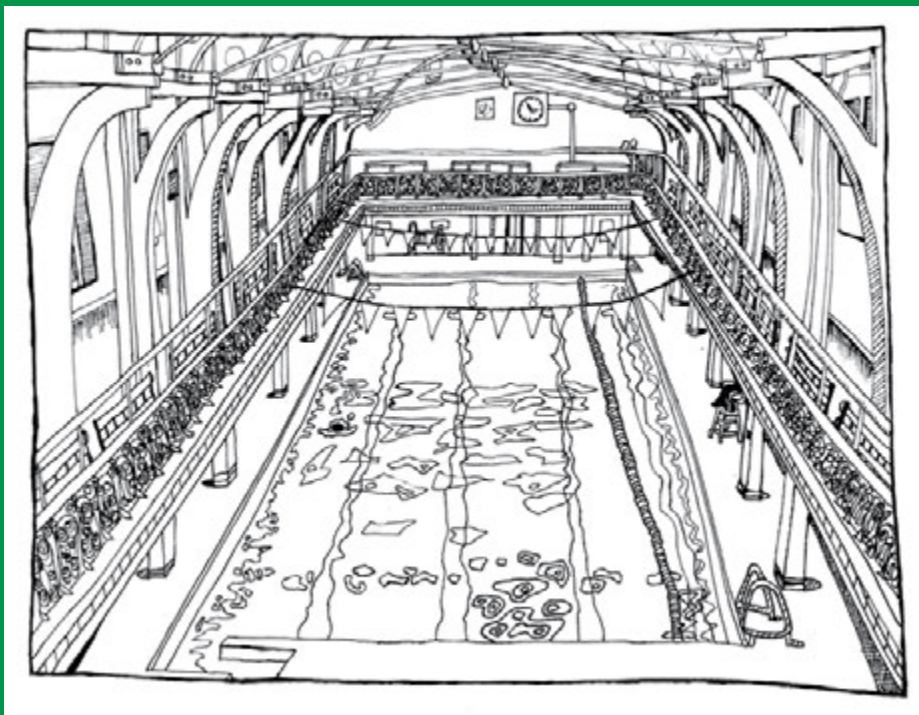
→ MYATT'S FIELDS PARK, SE5 9RA  
TEL 0773 505 6138  
[the-little-cat-cafe.business.site](https://www.the-little-cat-cafe.business.site)

## TOAD BAKERY

Judging by the happy queues for this tiny bakery with outside seating, Toad has made its mark on the local community with great success.

→ 44 PECKHAM ROAD, SE5 8PX  
[toadbakery.com](https://www.toadbakery.com)

For more local cafes look in the Directory section of this guide - as well as the website [camberwell.life](https://www.camberwell.life)



# 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.

IMAGE *Natasha Godfrey (Lumberjack)*

## 1 GET POTTING

Ever been inspired to make your own bespoke dishes and sculptures. Urban Potters offer tutored classes for all and a well-equipped workspace for experienced potters. All a short walk from Camberwell Green.

[urbanpotters.com](http://urbanpotters.com)

## 2 CHECK OUT SOME ART

Love art and culture? The South London Gallery offers a dynamic programme of international contemporary art with a delightful café attached. Next door the UAL Camberwell College of Arts often has interesting exhibitions showing in their Camberwell Space gallery.

[southlondongallery.org](http://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](http://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.

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

## 4 HOOK AND KNIT

Look out your crochet hooks and knitting needles – knitting and crocheting are making a big comeback. Once a month Camberwell Library [bit.ly@camberwell-library](mailto:bit.ly@camberwell-library) has a mid week PM session and Camberwell Knit and Crochet group has a Sunday pm session in Love Walk United Reform Church. Bring your own knit and crochet projects. Check the library for dates/times. Contact [camberwellartsmarket@gmail.com](mailto:camberwellartsmarket@gmail.com) for the monthly Sunday session.

## 5 NAME THAT TREE

Camberwell has around 40 green spaces in all shapes and sizes from parks, gardens, pocket spaces and even the open areas within council estates. Sauntering through these green public spaces you can discover a surprising variety of tree species, and trees of all ages. You can enjoy, celebrate and even study Camberwell's green heritage by following any of the many tree walks on [camberwellsociety.org.uk](http://camberwellsociety.org.uk) and click on the tab Events and Activities.

## 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. [southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre/](http://southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre/)

## 7 DISPLAYS OF THE UNEXPECTED

Take time to view frequently changing installations at Denmark Hill station, from optical illusions to mechanical curiosities, as well as a permanent public artwork by Godfried Donkor. Winner of the Community Rail 2024 award for Station Creatives, the Art Trail can be viewed at: [camberwellsociety.org.uk/event-activities](https://camberwellsociety.org.uk/event-activities)

## 8 BLACK HISTORY WALK

Camberwell has a wonderful legacy of men and women of colour who have contributed to our society through the arts, media, medical, military and more. Discover their achievements by listening to QR code descriptions at local locations and download the full walking guide at: [camberwellsociety.org.uk/events-activities](https://camberwellsociety.org.uk/events-activities)

## 9 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](https://parkrun.org.uk/burgess)

## 10 MAKE YOUR MOVE

Get moving at Theatre Peckham's dance classes for all ages, from street dance to ballet. [theatrepeckham.co.uk](https://theatrepeckham.co.uk)

## 11 RELEASE YOUR INNER AUTHOR

Literary Kitchen, run by Camberwell resident Andrea Mason, offers 10 week termly Creative Writing for beginners. Look out for posters in local coffee shops. [literarykitchen.co.uk](https://literarykitchen.co.uk)

## 12 GET RESOURCEFUL

Check out the workshops, discussions and the welcoming community at The Remakery to actively Rethink, Recover, Reuse and Redistribute materials. → **REMAKERY, 51 LILFORD RD, SE5 9HY** [remakery.org](https://remakery.org)

## 13 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](https://friendsofruskinpark.org.uk)

## 14 GET PLAY-FUL

Camberwell is home to no less than three theatres so why not watch a play at Blue Elephant Theatre, Golden Goose Theatre or Theatre Peckham?  
 » [blueelephanttheatre.co.uk](https://blueelephanttheatre.co.uk)  
 » [goldengoosetheatre.co.uk](https://goldengoosetheatre.co.uk)  
 » [theatrepeckham.co.uk](https://theatrepeckham.co.uk)

## 15 FIFTEEN LOVE

It's possible to hire tennis courts in Myatts Fields, Burgess Park, Ruskin Park and Brunswick Park - register with [www.clubspark.lta.org.uk](https://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk). And for Butterfly Tennis Club in Camberwell Grove: [butterflytennis.com](https://butterflytennis.com)

## 16 BE PART OF A CHOIR

Everyone who enjoys singing - regardless of musical experience. The Camberwell Community Choir meets at the St Giles Centre on Tuesday evenings. Camberwell Choir School is great for children every Saturday (term time).  
 » **0-3 YEARS** 10.15AM-10.50AM  
 » **4-6 YRS** 11.00AM-12.30PM  
 » **7-9 YRS** 11.00AM-12.30PM  
 » **10-17 YRS** 12.30PM-1.30PM  
[camberwellcommunitychoir.org](https://camberwellcommunitychoir.org)  
[camberwellchoirschool.org.uk](https://camberwellchoirschool.org.uk)

## 17 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 kids into karate, or look into the benefits of pilates, osteopathy or physiotherapy? Here's some suggestions to get started:  
 » [lambeth.gov.uk/leisure-centre/flaxman-sports-centre](https://lambeth.gov.uk/leisure-centre/flaxman-sports-centre)  
 » [southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre](https://southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre)  
 » [lostinyoga.com](https://lostinyoga.com)

## 18 VISIT A MUSEUM

It's impossible not to be aware of the Salvation Army college with its imposing building opposite Denmark Hill station, but do you know anything about the Salvation Army's origins and work? There is a great little Museum that can fill this gap in your knowledge. You will have to sign in and out at the Reception. Check opening days/hours. → **CHAMPION PARK, SE5 8BQ** **TEL 020 7326 7800** [salvationarmy.org.uk/about-us/international-heritage-centre](https://salvationarmy.org.uk/about-us/international-heritage-centre)

## 19 LIVE EVENTS

Camberwell's pubs offer some great entertainment for (almost) every night of the week. There are pub quizzes, Live Music Jam, Open Mic sessions, Comedy Nights, Late Nights with DJs and Live Jazz. Music at St Giles has an eclectic programme to discover. Record store Dash the Henge has live music every Saturday. And the basement cocktail bar at Church St Hotel has a rolling programme of live and DJ music.

## 20 ON YER BIKE

Did you know there's a national standard BMX track at the heart of Burgess Park - and that it's open to everybody? It's one of the most challenging in the country but if anyone's going to get you round, it's Peckham BMX Club - home to Olympians and local kids alike. They offer sessions for all abilities. [peckhambmx.co.uk](https://peckhambmx.co.uk)

# A view from a baby buggy



IMAGE 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. 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 (10, 11 and noon 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 noon 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 a 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 The Well Community Church to meet other mums and babies. The Grownup liked the chats with Other Grownups and I like the toys, even if I had to pull them from other babies at times – to anguished cries of 'share nicely'. But now I am over 6 months we can't go there anymore and we are off to Lost in Yoga for a baby and parent yoga session. The Grownup gets stretched and calm while I show how to do the perfect 'child's pose' and 'downward dog'.

Another day and another activity. 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 pool in Camberwell Leisure Centre. It's great to splash around in the baby pool, and there's always someone (as well as the Grownup) who makes sure no one's in danger of drowning! You'll need to look online to see the timetables for days and times.

Thursdays are looking up. I could go to Tiny Gym or another yoga session with Lost in Yoga, but the Grownup has already booked me for an exciting Outdoor Explorers hour in Ruskin Park. It's always something different with this lot (Southwark Children and Family Centres) and The Grownup checks their website to see what to book me onto each month. Afterwards as we are fairly 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 at 105 Lomond Road, which runs two morning sessions. It's very popular so look up times and get there promptly. The Grownup gets lots of support from chatting to other Grownups, discussing relevant issues, and comparing me with other babies. You can find out about all the local gatherings of Mumspace, Espacio Mama and loads more stuff run by PACT in the listings at the end of my week.

The Grownup says that The Salvation Army centre is also the home of the Baby Bank. It's where anyone with good quality baby things like buggies, cots, clothing and toys can just phone up 0207 708 5465 and leave a message about what they are giving away. When I grow out of my souped-up buggy that's where we'll take it. It's the same phone number for families to leave a message about the things they need from the Baby Bank. They call back everyone who leaves a message – so speak clearly and don't let us babies drown you out.

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.

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. Although Myatts Fields playground has some great water fountains and spurts to run around on a hot day.

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.

Check websites for the target age groups and their sessions' days/times.

### CAMBERWELL LIBRARY ACTIVITIES FOR 0-5s

Baby & Toddlers, Bookstart, Rhyme and Story Time, Kids Club Arts and Crafts are regularly offered.

→ 48 CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AL  
[bit.ly/Camberwell-library](http://bit.ly/Camberwell-library)

### TINY GYM

→ CAMBERWELL LEISURE CENTRE  
ARTICHOKE PLACE, SE5 8TS  
[synergugymnastics.co.uk](http://synergugymnastics.co.uk)

### PARENT ACTION (PACT)

PACT run a variety of groups for parents who are pregnant, or have babies/under 5s. They include specific groups for Spanish speakers. PACT also run the Baby Bank in partnership with the Salvation Army. To find out days, times, for are items you need, and where to collect them from call 07506 602254.

[parentaction.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/Southwark](http://parentaction.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/Southwark)

**THE WELL COMMUNITY CHURCH** has sociable and supportive sessions for pregnant mums, mums and babies, parents/carers and toddlers.

→ THE WELL, WELLS WAY, SE5 7SY  
[thewellcc.org.uk/community/projects-2](http://thewellcc.org.uk/community/projects-2)

### TEACUPS AND TEENIES

THURS 10 – 12 NOON (TERM TIME)

A safe, welcoming space for toddlers to play and parents/carers to connect over tea/coffee.

→ THE WELL, WELLS WAY, SE5 7SY  
[admin@thewellcc.org.uk](mailto:admin@thewellcc.org.uk)

### PARENT & BABY YOGA

At the time of writing there are pregnancy yoga sessions and Mother and baby sessions with Lost In Yoga.

→ ARCH 265, URLWIN STREET, SE5 ONG  
[lostinyoga.com](http://lostinyoga.com)

### SOUTHWARK CHILDREN AND FAMILY CENTRES

has a changing programme every month. Crawford Children's Centre is your local venue supporting under 5s and their families. Register at [dulwichwood.com/aardvarkcc](http://dulwichwood.com/aardvarkcc).

→ CRAWFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL, SE5 9NF  
[cdfccoffices@dulwichwood.com](mailto:cdfccoffices@dulwichwood.com)

### CAMBERWELL CHOIR SCHOOL

SAT 10 – 11AM (TERM TIME) FOR 0-3S

→ ST GILES PARISH HALL, 161 BENHILL ROAD, SE5 7LL  
[camberwellchoirschool.org.uk](http://camberwellchoirschool.org.uk)

# 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.

# 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:

- » 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! All courts are managed online now. [clubspark.lta.org.uk](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk)

## ON THE EAST SIDE:

- » Another playground, with a cafe next to it
- » Two beautiful seasonal flower gardens
- » A boxing club, just across Wells Way from the BMX track. The building this is located in was once a library
- » A sports area, with many activities including a football and cricket pitch
- » 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!

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

## SPORT &amp; OUTDOOR

**CAMBERWELL LEISURE CENTRE**

offer loads of sessions either free or at low cost to Southwark members. Check with the Reception desk for specific days/ times for Karate, Swimming lessons, Junior Gym (11-15 year olds). The online booking system is not in place just yet.

→ **ARTICHOKE PLACE, SE5 8TS**

[southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre/](http://southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre/)

**MYATT'S FIELD PARK** has football, table tennis and tennis court facilities plus a bandstand and picnic area for activities. There are always programmes of activities which are changed regularly. Information is on the website under Visit the Park. [myattsfieldspark.info](http://myattsfieldspark.info)

**RUSKIN PARK** 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](http://friendsofruskinpark.org.uk)

**SOUTHWARK TENNIS CLUB:**

**BE ACTIVE** offers tennis coaching for LTA Youth for players aged 4-17 in Burgess Park. Check the website [southwarkcitytennisclub.jimdo.com](http://southwarkcitytennisclub.jimdo.com) [nationaltennis.org.uk/locations/southwark](http://nationaltennis.org.uk/locations/southwark)

IMAGE Lottie Child

**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](http://dkhap.org.uk)

## 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 riso print, share their stories and make a DIY publication.

**TEL 020 7703 6120**

[southlondongallery.org](http://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. Mixing art with nature, they offer free drawing clubs, gallery visits and after-school workshops for young people. [artinthepark.co.uk](http://artinthepark.co.uk)  
[instagram.com/artinburgesspark](https://www.instagram.com/artinburgesspark)  
[x.com/artintheParktw](https://www.facebook.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](http://blueelephanttheatre.co.uk)

## THEATRE PECKHAM'S

award-winning Academy (3-16yrs) offers a range of classes for young people in Musical Theatre, Ballet, Acro, Music Production, Acting, Glee Club Pop, Acting, Tap dance, backstage, Street Dance and SteelPan. The Young Peckham programme (17-29yrs) offers professional actor training, spoken word, leadership, technical theatre and producing classes.

Participating at Theatre Peckham empowers young people of all ages with the skills and confidence to become the creators of their own stories. The Academy classes offer the best in performing arts training, striving to cultivate and instil a passion for the performing arts through self-exploration, teamwork, creativity, and play, providing a talent pipeline into the creative industries. Find out more and book classes at:

» [theatrepeckham.co.uk/tp-academy/](http://theatrepeckham.co.uk/tp-academy/)

» [theatrepeckham.co.uk/young-peckham-2/](http://theatrepeckham.co.uk/young-peckham-2/)

## 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. As well as singing anyone can try different musical instruments from keyboard to djembe, ukulele to flute and many, many others. Check the time on Saturdays (term time) for your age-appropriate session.

→ **ST GILES HALL, BENHILL RD, SE5 8RB**

[camberwellchoirschool@gmail.com](mailto:camberwellchoirschool@gmail.com)

[camberwellchoirschool.org.uk](http://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.

- » **MONDAY** - SCOUTS (10-14 years)
- » **TUESDAY** - EXPLORERS (14-18 years)
- » **WEDNESDAY** - CUBS (8-10 years)
- » **THURSDAY** - BEAVERS (6-8 years)

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

[23rdcamberwell.com](http://23rdcamberwell.com)

## YOUTH SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

### CAMBRIDGE HOUSE

When a young person in Southwark faces a crisis in their life they can find support at Cambridge House in many different ways. They offer a law centre, advocacy on behalf of vulnerable children and adults, and campaigning for safer renting. In addition there are programmes for Youth Empowerment and Disabled People's Empowerment (arts, sports, life skills, wellbeing) based at their new premises.

→ **PRINTWORKS, UNIT F, AMELIA ST, SE17 3BZ | TEL 020 7358 7000**

[info@ch1889.org](mailto:info@ch1889.org)

## YOUTH & HOLIDAY 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**

### BUTTERFLY TENNIS CLUB

→ **2D CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8RE**  
**TEL 07904 529188**

### CAMBERWELL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

→ **14 BADSWORTH ROAD, SE5 OJY**  
**TEL 0207 708 2711**

### DAMILOLA TAYLOR CENTRE

→ **1 EAST SURREY GROVE, SE15 6DR**  
**TEL 0207 703 9996**

### SPRING COMMUNITY HUB HOLIDAY CLUB

→ **UNITED REFORM CHURCH, LOVE WALK, SE5 8AE | TEL 07988 138997**

### ST GILES TRUST - GANG EXIT PROGRAMME

→ **GEORGIAN HOUSE, 64-68 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, 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.

IMAGE *Agustin Coll*

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, stationers and corner shops.

To add to the mix, there's a Farmers Market every Saturday on Camberwell Green as well as the Arts Market and Open Studios, which takes place every June and December. If you would like to buy directly from the many artists and crafts people that live and work in the local area, then sign up to the Camberwell Arts mailing list on [camberwellarts.org.uk](http://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 section of this Travel Guide.

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING A BIT BIGGER?

Burgess Business Park has a huge space housing craftsmen who can design and make you a staircase, or customise your van to be a mobile home, or build a bespoke bicycle. They have an abundance of talent and skills all under one roof.

[oos.co.uk/camberwell](http://oos.co.uk/camberwell)

## 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

## R & K NEWSAGENTS

Not only a newspaper and extensive magazine stockist, but also check out their wonderful range of spices, especially when you want refills. The gadgets kiosk takes you in another direction altogether.

→ 14 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8QU

## 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

## ELEVEN SE5

A beautiful lifestyle and homeware store selling well designed items from colourful baskets and cushions to more minimalist items and all made from natural or recycled materials. They will be selecting new stock from local designers and makers.

→ 114 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RX

## THE NUNHEAD GARDENER

This wonderful shop offering plants and pots in all shapes and sizes for all kinds of indoor or outdoor settings, has brought a great sense of style to our high street. Somehow it creates a link to Camberwell's market garden history.

→ 23B DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RP  
[thenunheadgardener.com/camberwell](http://thenunheadgardener.com/camberwell)

## TTFN VINTAGE

If you are looking for stylish outfits for your swing dance soiree, or a vintage kimono to lounge around in, TTFN is the place to find it.

→ 106-108 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RX  
[facebook.com/ttfnvintage](https://facebook.com/ttfnvintage)

## 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 RD, SE5 OHG  
TEL 020 7703 5720

## DASH THE HENGE

This is a vinyl record lover's paradise which has replaced the iconic Rat Records. There are live events in store every Saturday, and a wealth of vinyl-related knowledge at all times.

→ 348 CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 ORW  
[dashthehengestore.com](http://dashthehengestore.com)

## 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 STREET, SE5 8QU

## 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

## PASHA HOTEL

The Pasha Hotel is a comfortable and contemporary 3-star hotel that is the epitome of Pakistani hospitality, welcoming guests with a cup of tea upon arrival.

But that's not all - you'll be treated to an incredible dining experience at the hotel's very own greenhouse cafe, where you can indulge in a unique menu of breakfast/lunch/brunch while basking in the beautiful view and sunshine.

And when you're ready to relax in your room, you'll have access to free wifi and a flat-screen TV with Satellite channels. Your stay at the Pasha Hotel will be nothing short of extraordinary!

→ 158 CAMBERWELL RD, SE5 0EE

TEL 020 7703 5054

[pashahotel.co.uk](http://pashahotel.co.uk)

## 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.

Next door to the hotel is the wonderful Forza Wins, serving handmade pasta and seasonal Anglo Italian dishes. There is also a basement cocktail bar adorned with magical stained glass, one of a kind in London and a must see. Rolling events/ Live music and guest Djs. So you don't need to stray far from the hotel, its all there! Prices range from £70 for a single with shared bathroom to £160 for a family triple with en-suite bathroom.

→ 29-33 CAMBERWELL CHURCH

STREET, SE5 8TR | TEL 020 7703 5984

[churchstreethotel.com](http://churchstreethotel.com)



IMAGE Alice Butenko

# LOCAL RESOURCES

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



IMAGE Kimbal Bumstead

## LOCAL RESOURCES

### 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 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](http://camberwellarts.org.uk)

### CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

The Camberwell Society was formed in 1970 when the area was under threat from proposed demolition. The Society reviews all planning applications made in the SE5 area and encourages appropriate development. They organise local walks and events for members and publish the well-regarded Camberwell Quarterly four times a year with articles about Camberwell, its history and its future. The magazine is free to members.  
[camberwellsociety.org.uk/membership](http://camberwellsociety.org.uk/membership)

### 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.

**TEL 07880 191285**

[community-sanctuary@together-uk.org](mailto:community-sanctuary@together-uk.org)  
[together-uk.org](http://together-uk.org)

### 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 them on the community stall at every Saturday's Farmers Market on Camberwell Green.  
[se5forum.org.uk](http://se5forum.org.uk)

## SOUTHWARK PENSIONERS 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.

→ 305-307 CAMBERWELL RD, SE5 0HQ

TEL 020 7708 4556

[southwarkpensioners.org.uk](http://southwarkpensioners.org.uk)

## CAMBERWELL.LIFE

This website and social media channels will inspire you to explore the area further, whether you're a local resident or visitor, and experience Camberwell Life.

[facebook.com/CamberwellLife](https://facebook.com/CamberwellLife)

[instagram.com/camberwell.life](https://instagram.com/camberwell.life)

[x.com/camberwellSE5](https://x.com/camberwellSE5)

## 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. You will find Tree Trails and the Black History Walk on [camberwellsociety.org.uk](http://camberwellsociety.org.uk) and click on the tab for Events and Activities.

Other walks have been printed in past issues of the Camberwell Quarterly magazine. Focusing on a specific geographic area each walk points out art, buildings, idiosyncrasies and local stories and histories within it. There's even a pub crawl along local breweries.

Click on the Publications tab of the above website for past issues starting with no.210. For a blue badge guided walk you can go to [walks.com](http://walks.com) and look for Denmark Hill and Camberwell in the Search function.

## LOCAL HISTORY

### SOUTHWARK LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY

Camberwell is split across 2 boroughs, so you may want to access archives for both boroughs. Southwark Local History Library holds an interesting range of relevant local history information, including 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

TEL 020 7525 0232

### LAMBETH ARCHIVES

Lambeth Archives collects, makes available and preserves archives and published material relating to Lambeth and its people, past and present.

→ BRIXTON HILL, SW2 1ET

TEL 020 7926 6076



# 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 [hello@camberwellarts.org.uk](mailto:hello@camberwellarts.org.uk)

IMAGE Andrew Cadey

## CAFÉS

PARK CAFÉS 

## BREW BIRD CAFÉ

→ 29 PECKHAM ROAD, SE5 8UA  
TEL 07770 014272

[stgilestrust.org.uk/brewbird](http://stgilestrust.org.uk/brewbird)

## CAFÉ MONA

→ 49A DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

## CAFFÈ PRONTO

→ 61 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS  
TEL 020 7701 1860

[facebook.com/caffeprontose5](https://facebook.com/caffeprontose5)

## CAFFÈ VAPE

→ 8 COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR  
TEL 020 7274 4477

[facebook.com/caffevape](https://facebook.com/caffevape)

## FCB AT DENMARK HILL STATION

→ WINDSOR WALK, SE5 8BB

[fbccoffee.com/pages/denmark-hill](http://fbccoffee.com/pages/denmark-hill)

## FOWLDS CAFÉ

→ 3 ADDINGTON SQUARE, SE5 7JZ  
TEL 020 3417 4500

[facebook.com/fowldscafe](https://facebook.com/fowldscafe)

## GLADWELLS

→ 2 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QU | TEL 020 3745 3755

[gladwells.co.uk](http://gladwells.co.uk)

## GROVE LANE DELI

→ 4A GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY

[instagram.com/grovelanedeli](https://instagram.com/grovelanedeli)

## HOPE CAFÉ

→ SALVATION ARMY UK,  
1 CHAMPION PARK, SE5 8BQ

## JUICE BOX

→ 332C CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 ORW

[@juicebox\\_camberwellnewroad](https://twitter.com/juicebox_camberwellnewroad)

## IRENES BAKERY AND DELI

→ 31-33A DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

[instagram.com/irene.bread](https://instagram.com/irene.bread)

THE LITTLE CAT CAFÉ 

→ MYATTS FIELDS PARK, SE5 9RA

TEL 07735 056138

[the-little-cat-cafe.business.site](http://the-little-cat-cafe.business.site)

## LOVE WALK CAFÉ

→ 81 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

TEL 020 7703 9898

## LUMBERJACK CAFÉ

→ 70 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QZ | TEL 020 7207 9567

[wearelumberjack.co.uk](http://wearelumberjack.co.uk)

## MALOKO

→ 60 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8TU | TEL 020 3305 8913

[facebook.com/mymaloko](https://facebook.com/mymaloko)

## MR FALAFEL

→ 37 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8TS

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

## NANDINE CAFÉ

→ 82 VESTRY ROAD, SE5 8PQ

TEL 020 8001 8322

[facebook.com/nandineuk](https://facebook.com/nandineuk)

NºNº CAFÉ 

→ UNIT 2, BRUNSWICK PARK, SE5 7RH

[instagram.com/nono.camberwell](https://instagram.com/nono.camberwell)

## O PORTUGUES CAFÉ DELI

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

PARK LIFE CAFÉ 

→ BURGESS PARK, 3 CHUMLEIGH  
STREET, SE5 ORJ | TEL 020 7252 6556

[parklife-cafe.co.uk](http://parklife-cafe.co.uk)

RUSKIN PARK CAFÉ 

→ NEAR TO THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA,  
DENMARK HILL, SE5 9AN

[friendsofruskinpark.org.uk/ruskinparkcafe](http://friendsofruskinpark.org.uk/ruskinparkcafe)

## SANCHEZ PANADERIA

→ 45A DENMARK HILL/DANEVILLE  
ROAD, SE5 8RS

[facebook.com/sanchezpanaderia20](https://facebook.com/sanchezpanaderia20)

## SOPHOCLES BAKERY CAFÉ

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

## SOUTH LONDON LOUIE

→ SOUTH LONDON GALLERY,  
65-67 PECKHAM ROAD, SE5 8UH

TENNIS CAFÉ 

→ BURGESS PARK, ADDINGTON  
SQUARE, BURGESS PARK, SE5 7LA

## TOAD BAKERY

→ 44 PECKHAM ROAD, SE5 9PX

[instagram.com/toadbakery](https://instagram.com/toadbakery)

## VIET CAFÉ

→ 75 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

[vietcafecamberwell.com](http://vietcafecamberwell.com)

## DINING

### THE BEAR

→ 296A CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD, SE5 ORP

[thebearcamberwell.com](http://thebearcamberwell.com)

### BOLU KEBAB

→ 7 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TR

### BRUNCHIES

→ 2 VALMAR ROAD, SE5 9NG

[brunchiescafe.com](http://brunchiescafe.com)

### CAMBERWELL ARMS RESTAURANT

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

[thecamberwellarms.co.uk](http://thecamberwellarms.co.uk)

### THE CROOKED WELL RESTAURANT

→ 16 GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY

[thecrookedwell.com](http://thecrookedwell.com)

### CHEEKY BURGER

→ 5 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TR

### FALAFEL AND SHAWARMA

→ 27 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TR | TEL 07910 000108

### FLADDA FISH AND CHIPS

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

### FORZA WIN

→ 31 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TR

[forzawin.com](http://forzawin.com)

### FM MANGAL TURKISH RESTAURANT

→ 54 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8QZ | TEL 020 7701 6677

[fmmangal.co.uk](http://fmmangal.co.uk)

### FRANCESCO'S PIZZA

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

[francescoslondon.co.uk](http://francescoslondon.co.uk)

### GOLDEN GRILL KEBAB

→ 20 CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AA

### HUONG VIET

→ 49 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ROAD, SE5 8TR | TEL 020 7701 5311

### LA CARIBENA

→ 319 CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD, SE5 0TF

[@la\\_caribena\\_londres](https://www.instagram.com/la_caribena_londres)

### LATIN HOUSE

→ 4 COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9PR  
TEL 0207 733 406

[latinhouse.co.uk](http://latinhouse.co.uk)

### LITTLE CELLARS

→ 75 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TU | TEL 020 4551 9444

### MALOKO CREPERIE

→ 60 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TU | TEL 020 3305 8913

[facebook.com/mymaloko](https://www.facebook.com/mymaloko)

### MANAYU

→ 39 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

### MOMOTU

→ 69 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

TEL 020 7967 1435

### MOMO SUSHI

→ 23 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TR | TEL 020 8127 8578

[momo-sushi-bar.business.site](http://momo-sushi-bar.business.site)

### NANDINE KURDISH RESTAURANT

→ 82 VESTRY RD & 45 CAMBERWELL CHURCH ST, SE5 8TR | TEL 020 8001

8322 [facebook.com/nandineUK](https://www.facebook.com/nandineUK)

### NEW DIWANIAM

→ 225A CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD, SE5 0TH  
TEL 020 7703 9318

[newdewaniamrestaurant.co.uk](http://newdewaniamrestaurant.co.uk)

### NOODLES CITY

→ 21-22 CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AA

### NOKO ASIAN SREET FOOD & BAR

→ 15 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TR

[nokoasian.uk](http://nokoasian.uk)

### PARSEH

→ 51 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

### POLLO FRIED CHICKEN SANDWICH

→ 2 DATCHELOR PLACE, SE5 7AP

TEL 020 7703 7775

[thepollo.co.uk](http://thepollo.co.uk)

### REEM

→ 55 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS

TEL 020 7358 5271

### ROCKSTEADY EDDIES

→ 2A COLDHARBOUR ROAD, SE5 9PR

### SILK ROAD

→ 47 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET, SE5 8TR | TEL 020 7703 4832

### THE SUN OF CAMBERWELL

→ 61-63 COLDHARBOUR LANE, SE5 9NS

[suncamberwell.com](http://suncamberwell.com)

### TAPETE

→ 119 GROVE LANE, SE5 8BG

TEL 020 7737 1888

[tapete.co.uk](http://tapete.co.uk)

**THEO'S PIZZERIA**

→ 2 GROVE LANE, SE5 8SY  
TEL 020 3026 4224  
[theospizzeria.com](http://theospizzeria.com)

**VAN HING**

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

**VERAISON WINES**

→ 78 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QZ | TEL 020 7703 4999

**VINEYARD**

→ 3-5 CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8JA  
TEL 020 7703 2131  
[vineyardgreetaverna.co.uk](http://vineyardgreetaverna.co.uk)

**ZERET**

→ 216-218 CAMBERWELL RD, SE5 OED  
TEL 020 7701 8587  
[zeretkitchen.com](http://zeretkitchen.com)

## PUBS

**THE BEAR**

→ 296A CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 ORP  
[thebearcamberwell.com](http://thebearcamberwell.com)

**THE CAMBERWELL ARMS**

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

**THE CAMBRIA**

→ 40 KEMERTON ROAD, SE5 9AR  
[thecambrialondon.co.uk](http://thecambrialondon.co.uk)

**CLARENDON ARMS**

→ 225 CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD,  
SE5 0TH

**CROOKED WELL**

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

**FOX ON THE HILL**

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

**GEORGE CANNING**

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

**THE GOLDEN GOOSE**

→ 146 CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD,  
SE5 ORR | TEL 07933 486328

**GROVE HOUSE TAVERN**

→ 26 CAMBERWELL GROVE, SE5 8RE  
TEL 020 7703 8910  
[grovehousetavern.co.uk](http://grovehousetavern.co.uk)

**HERMIT'S CAVE**

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

**JOINER'S ARMS**

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

**THE KENNINGTON**

→ 60 CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD, SE5 ORS  
TEL 020 7735 9990

**THE NAG'S HEAD**

→ 242 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 ODP

**THE PHOENIX**

→ WINDSOR WALK, SE5 8BB  
TEL 020 7703 8767

**THE OLD DISPENSARY**

→ 325 CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD,  
SE5 0TF

**ST GEORGE'S TAVERN**

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

**THE STORMBIRD**

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

**THE SUN OF CAMBERWELL**

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

**THE TIGER**

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

## HAIR

**ARMANI BARBERS**

→ 76 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QZ

**ALBERTO'S UNISEX HAIRDRESSER**

→ 15 CAMBERWELL GREEN, SE5 7AF  
TEL 020 7703 9179

**CAMBERWELL BARBER**

→ 16 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RZ  
TEL 020 7738 5711

**FG BARBER**

→ 36 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QZ | TEL 07828 604215

**GABBY'S UNISEX HAIR SALON**

→ 52 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QZ | TEL 020 3582 9737

**HEAD TO TOE BEAUTY SALON**

→ 8 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QU | TEL 020 7701 4229



**HIKUSS HAIR**

→ 222 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 OED  
TEL 020 7701 6478

**MARBELLA HAIR & BEAUTY SALON**

→ 58 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QZ | TEL 07448 945973

**MILENA G SALON**

→ 252 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 ODP

**OFF-CUT**

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

**REFINED MALE GROOMING**

→ 77 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS  
TEL 020 7701 3314

**STARS BARBERS**

→ 33 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RS  
TEL 07535 178132

**TULA ROSE**

→ 6A COLDHARBOUR ROAD, SE5 9PR  
TEL 020 7733 1400

## SHOPPING

**A & B PHONES AND LAPTOPS**

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

**THE BIKE PROJECT**

→ 170-172 CAMBERWELL ROAD, SE5 OEE  
TEL 020 7846 9383

**CAMBERWELL SUPERSTORE**

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

**COWLING & WILCOX (ART SHOP)**

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

[cowlingandwilcox.com](http://cowlingandwilcox.com)

**DASH THE HENGE**

→ 348 CAMBERWELL NEW RD, SE5 ORW  
[dashthehengestore.com](http://dashthehengestore.com)

**EDUARDES BICYCLE SHOP**

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

**ELEVEN.SE5**

→ 114 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RX  
[eleven5.co.uk](http://eleven5.co.uk)

**ELITE SHOES**

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

**HOWARD BROS**

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

**JUMPING BEAN**

→ 66 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RZ

**R & K NEWSAGENTS**

→ 14 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QU

**TTFN VINTAGE**

→ 106-108 DENMARK HILL, SE5 8RX  
[instagram.com/TTFNVINTAGE](https://www.instagram.com/TTFNVINTAGE)

**SOPHOCLES BAKERY**

→ 24 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET,  
SE5 8QU

**SPICE N NICE BAKERY AND FOOD**

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

**TFC (TURKISH FOOD CENTRE)**

→ 303 CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD,  
SE5 0TF | TEL 020 7701 5705





## CULTURAL

- 01. Blue Elephant Theatre
- 02. UAL Camberwell College Of Arts
- 03. Camberwell Leisure Centre
- 04. Camberwell Library
- 05. Golden Goose Theatre
- 06. Theatre Peckham
- 07. Minet Library
- 08. South London Gallery

## ARTIST STUDIOS

- 09. Clockwork Sudios
- 10. Coldharbour Studios
- 11. Empress Mews
- 12. Vanguard Court
- 13. Warrior Studios

## GREEN SPACES

- 14. Brunswick Park
- 15. Burgess Park
- 16. Camberwell Green
- 17. Lucas Gardens
- 18. Myatt's Fields Park
- 19. Ruskin Park
- 20. St Giles Churchyard

## HOTELS

- 21. Church St 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
Euston:	68
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
Waterloo:	68, 176

IMAGE Frog Morris

## 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](http://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.

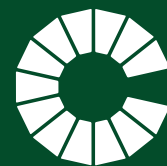
Having escaped Nazi persecution in Germany in 1935, Wolpe moved to London where he created his legendary Albertus, Sachsenwald and Pegasus fonts for Monotype. In 1941 he joined Faber & Faber, where he designed many of their most beautiful and memorable book jackets over the course of three decades. Wolpe 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 (4th edition) was researched and written by local residents. Conceived and produced by Camberwell Arts, this edition is generously supported by Hunters Estate Agent, The Camberwell Society and Southwark Council Thriving High Streets Fund.

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**DISCOVER MORE AT**  
[camberwellarts.org.uk](http://camberwellarts.org.uk)  
[camberwellsociety.org.uk](http://camberwellsociety.org.uk)  
[se5forum.org.uk](http://se5forum.org.uk)  
[camberwell.life](http://camberwell.life)

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

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## Resturant Reviews

Simon Taylor, Tanith Lindon, Kelly Blaney Marie Staunton & Shauna Blanchfield

**Young Persons Guide:** Ezra Lee Moy (Winner of write up, following workshop)

**Design** by Colleen Burns

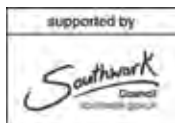
**Cover artwork** by Billie Mickwitz

# WELCOME TO *CAMBERWELL*

In this guide you'll find beautiful buildings, memorable meals, intoxicating pubs and incomparable coffee as well as an internationally renowned art college. There are galleries, secret gardens, a BMX track, a BBC broadcasting legend 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 was incarcerated 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.



**SE5FORUM**  
FOR CAMBERWELL

CAMBERWELL  
ARTS  
COLLEGE

  
THE  
CAMBERWELL  
SOCIETY

