

Welcome to the May edition of Heritage News

### MEETINGS

Our next meeting is on Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 in the Bowls Room at Horn Park.

#### **May 29<sup>th</sup> Bigamy, Abuse and Scandal by Lynne Dixon**

Most of you will have enjoyed Lynne's previous talks and this promises to be equally good. This new talk is based on her own family history. Lynne says "I enjoy family history for two reasons. First of all, what I call the 'thrill of the chase': simply identifying the right ancestors. But second and equally important for me are the stories that can be told and set into broader contexts. One particular strand of my family allows a number of interesting aspects of life in Victorian times to be explored in a global context, in this case Australia and America."

Refreshments available at the start of the meeting £1.

#### **June 26<sup>th</sup> Professor Caroline Derry - Legal precedents derived from cases that occurred in Deptford**



Caroline is a lawyer and Professor at the Open University, and she will talk about two criminal cases from early 20th century Deptford and explains how they shaped the criminal laws of today.

#### **July 31<sup>st</sup> Four Ten Minute Talks**

This will be a varied meeting with something of interest to all members. Details on our website. [Heritage Group - Four Ten minute Talks - South East London](#)

#### **Next talk by Paul Wright**

In relation to my question which talk Paul should do next there was a considerable majority in favour of "The St Margarets Churchyard and its occupants". So that will be slotted into the Autumn schedule.

# Museum of the Mind - Bethlem Royal Hospital



If the talk by Amy whetted your appetite to visit the Museum of the Mind the details are on the website at : [Bethlem Museum of the Mind](#)

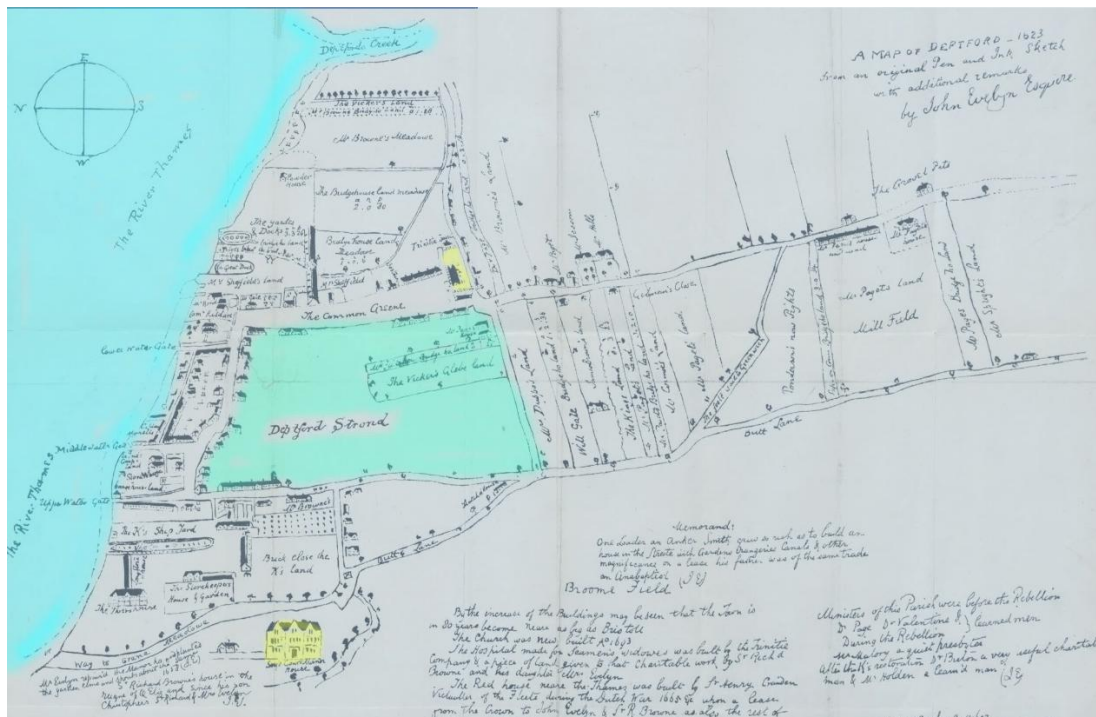
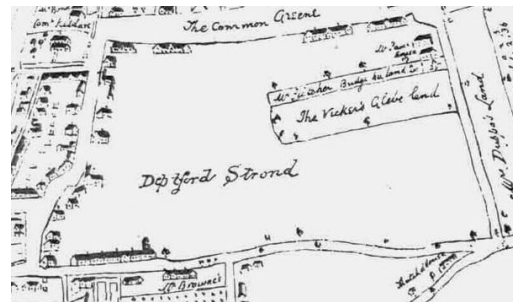
In general it is open from Wednesday to Saturday . You don't need to book in advance just turn up.

There is parking both on site and on the road and there is a café (not Saturday). The grounds are quite large so if the weather is good allow time to explore. Further details about location etc can be found here; [Visit | Bethlem Museum of the Mind](#)

## Deptford part two - The Strond

Last month I wrote about St Nicholas Church in Deptford and this month we are not moving very far just to Deptford Stroud, which was just alongside the church.

Strond was a word that I had not come across before, and it is an old English word for shore. Deptford was originally spelt Depeford meaning Deep Ford. So Deptford Strond literally means “shore by the deep ford”. Strond is sometime spelt strand which had the meaning of shore, however on the map you can see it is spelt with an O so that is what I will use.



The map is from 1623 and shows the Strond close by the river but not actually on the banks of the Thames but it is alongside Deptford Creek This map has handwritten

annotations by John Evelyn, who at the time lived in Sayes Court, which is just on the bottom edge of the larger map.

The Strond is now, as you might imagine, largely built upon but there are two “pocket parks”. The strangely named Twinkle Park now occupies the northwest corner of the Strond alongside Watergate Street and at the other end nearer the church there is a slightly larger park called Charlotte Turner Gardens. Together they have a joint Greenwich Green Flag Community Award. I have found out quite a lot of information about Charlotte Turner as a well-regarded author and poet but nothing about any relationship to Deptford. Perhaps someone knows more and can fill the gap.

The Strond was famous for two reasons.

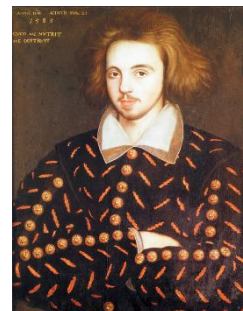
One of the claims to fame was that in 1514 a Royal Charter was granted to a group of mariners who met at Deptford Strond to regulate pilotage on the Thames. The charter was granted in the name “*The Master Wardens and Assistant of the Guild Fraternity or Brotherhood of the Most Glorious and Undivided Trinity and of St Clement in the Parish of Deptford Strond in the County of Kent*”. That is quite a mouthful, so it is not surprising that it was shortened to a name with which



TRINITY HOUSE

we are now more familiar - *Trinity House*. We have a speaker from Trinity House coming to speak to us later in the year, so I won't go into any more detail at this point.

The second event was the murder of Christopher Marlowe. There is a lot of confusion about how Christopher met his end but an inquest which was held on 1st June 1593. Christopher was with three men, Ingram Frizer, Robert Pooley and Nicholas Skeres they had spent the



day at a house on the Strond owned by a widow, Eleanor Bull. There was an

argument about the reckoning or bill. It was said that Marlowe snatched Frizer's dagger and lunged at him cutting his head. In the struggle Frizer managed to stab Marlowe in the eye causing his death. It was deemed the Frizer acted in self-defence and was pardoned shortly afterwards. Marlowe was buried in the churchyard probably in an unmarked pauper's grave. There has always

been confusion about the death and unusually the memorial window in Poets Corner Refreshments at the start £1 an open meeting all U3A SEL members welcome. Westminster Abbey has a “?” alongside the date of his death.

Next month I will cover Watergate Street and Paynes Wharf and maybe outline a self-guided walk.

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