

= Deptford =

Deptford (/ ˈdɛpˌtɔːd / DET @-@ ford) is an area of South @-@ East London , England , located mainly within the London Borough of Lewisham and partly within the Royal Borough of Greenwich .

From the mid @-@ 16th to the late 19th century , Deptford was home to Deptford Dockyard , the first Royal Navy Dockyard . The area declined as the Royal Navy moved out and commercial docks shut ; the last dock , Convoys Wharf , closed in 2000 .

Historically a part of Kent , Deptford became a Metropolitan Borough in 1900 . This became part of Inner London in 1965 , within the newly created county of Greater London .

= = History = =

Deptford began life as a ford of the Ravensbourne (near what is now Deptford Bridge DLR station) along the route of the Celtic trackway which was later paved by the Romans and developed into the medieval Watling Street . The modern name is a corruption of " deep ford " . Deptford was part of the pilgrimage route from London to Canterbury used by the pilgrims in Chaucer 's Canterbury Tales , and is mentioned in the Prologue to the " Reeve 's Tale " . The ford developed into first a wooden then a stone bridge , and in 1497 saw the Battle of Deptford Bridge , in which rebels from Cornwall , led by Michael An Gof , marched on London protesting against punitive taxes , but were soundly beaten by the King 's forces .

A second settlement developed as a modest fishing village on the Thames until Henry VIII used that site for a royal dock repairing , building and supplying ships , after which it grew in size and importance , shipbuilding remaining in operation until March 1869 . Trinity House , the organisation concerned with the safety of navigation around the British Isles , was formed in Deptford in 1514 , with its first Master being Thomas Spert , captain of the Mary Rose . It moved to Stepney in 1618 . The name " Trinity House " derives from the church of Holy Trinity and St Clement , which adjoined the dockyard .

Originally separated by market gardens and fields , the two areas merged over the years , with the docks becoming an important part of the Elizabethan exploration . Queen Elizabeth I visited the royal dockyard on 4 April 1581 to knight the adventurer Francis Drake . As well as for exploration , Deptford was important for trade - the Honourable East India Company had a yard in Deptford from 1607 until late in the 17th century , later (1825) taken over by the General Steam Navigation Company . It was also connected with the slave trade , John Hawkins using it as a base for his operations , and Olaudah Equiano , the slave who became an important part of the abolition of the slave trade , was sold from one ship 's captain to another in Deptford around 1760 .

Diarist John Evelyn lived in Deptford at Sayes Court from 1652 . Evelyn inherited the house when he married the daughter of Sir Richard Browne in 1652 . On his return to England at the Restoration , Evelyn laid out meticulously planned gardens in the French style , of hedges and parterres . In its grounds was a cottage at one time rented by master woodcarver Grinling Gibbons . After Evelyn had moved to Surrey in 1694 , Russian Tsar Peter the Great studied shipbuilding for three months in 1698 . He and some of his fellow Russians stayed at Sayes Court , the manor house of Deptford . Evelyn was angered at the antics of the Tsar , who got drunk with his friends and , using a wheelbarrow with Peter in it , rammed their way through a fine holly hedge . Sayes Court was demolished in 1728 @-@ 9 and a workhouse built on its site . Part of the estates around Sayes Court were purchased in 1742 for the building of the Admiralty Victualling Yard , renamed the Royal Victoria Yard in 1858 after a visit by Queen Victoria . This massive facility included warehouses , a bakery , a cattleyard / abattoir and sugar stores , and closed in 1960 . All that remains is the name of Sayes Court Park , accessed from Sayes Court Street off Evelyn Street , not far from Deptford High Street . The Pepys Estate , opened on 13 July 1966 , is on the former grounds of the Royal Victoria Dockyard .

The Docks had been gradually declining from the 18th century ; the larger ships being built found The Thames difficult to navigate , and Deptford was under competition from the new docks at Plymouth , Portsmouth and Chatham . When the Napoleonic Wars ended in 1815 the need for a

Docks to build and repair warships declined ; the Docks shifted from shipbuilding to concentrate on victualling at the Royal Victoria Victualling Yard , and the Royal Dock closed in 1869 . From 1871 until the First World War the shipyard site was the City of London Corporation 's Foreign Cattle Market , in which girls and women butchered sheep and cattle until the early part of the 20th century . At its peak , around 1907 , over 234 @, @ 000 animals were imported annually through the market , but by 1912 these figures had declined to less than 40 @, @ 000 a year . The yard was taken over by the War Office in 1914 , and was an Army Supply Reserve Depot in the First and Second World Wars . The site lay unused until being purchased by Convoys (newsprint importers) in 1984 , and eventually came into the ownership of News International . In the mid @-@ 1990s , although significant investment was made on the site , it became uneconomic to continue using it as a freight wharf . In 2008 Hutchison Whampoa bought the 16ha site from News International with plans for a £ 700m 3 @, @ 500 @-@ home development scheme . The Grade II listed Olympia Warehouse will be refurbished as part of the redevelopment of the site .

Deptford experienced economic decline in the 20th century with the closing of the docks , and the damage caused by the bombing during the Second World War - a V @-@ 2 rocket destroyed a Woolworths store outside Deptford Town Hall , killing 160 people . High unemployment caused some of the population to move away as the riverside industries closed down in the late 1960s and early 1970s . The local council have developed plans with private companies to regenerate the riverside area , and the town centre .

= = Governance = =

The Manor of Deptford or West Greenwich was bestowed by William the Conqueror upon Gilbert de Magminot or Maminot , bishop of Lisieux , one of the eight barons associated with John de Fiennes for the defence of Dover Castle . Maminot held the head of his barony at Deptford and according to John Lyon writing in 1814 , he built himself a castle , or castellated mansion at Deptford , of which all traces had by then long since been buried in their ruins , but from the remains of some ancient foundations which had been discovered the site was probably on the brow of Broomfield , near the Mast Dock and adjacent to Sayes Court .

Originally under the governance of the ancient parishes of St Paul and St Nicholas , in 1900 , a Metropolitan Borough of Deptford was formed out of the southern parish of St Paul , with St Nicholas and the area around the Royal Dockyard coming under the governance of the Metropolitan Borough of Greenwich . Under the London Government Act 1963 , the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford was absorbed in 1965 into the newly created London Borough of Lewisham , with the area around the Royal Dockyard being transferred to Lewisham in a 1994 boundary adjustment of about 40 hectares (99 acres) . The electoral wards consist of Evelyn in the north and part of New Cross to the south .

= = Geography = =

Deptford borders the areas of Brockley and Lewisham to the south , New Cross to the west and Rotherhithe to the north west ; Deptford Creek divides it from Greenwich to the east , and the River Thames separates the area from the Isle of Dogs to the north east ; it is contained within the London SE8 post code area . The area referred to as North Deptford is the only part of the London Borough of Lewisham to front the Thames and is sandwiched between Rotherhithe and Greenwich . Much of this riverside estate is populated by the former Naval Dockyards , now known as Convoys Wharf , the Pepys Estate and some eastern fringes of the old Surrey Commercial Docks .

The name Deptford ? anciently written Depeford meaning " deep ford " ? is derived from the place where the road from London to Dover , the ancient Watling Street (now the A2) , crosses the River Ravensbourne at the site of what became Deptford Bridge at Deptford Broadway . The Ravensbourne crosses under the A2 at roughly the same spot as the DLR crosses over ; and at the point where it becomes tidal , just after Lewisham College , it is known as Deptford Creek , and flows into the River Thames at Greenwich Reach .

Deptford was mostly located in the Blackheath Hundred of the county of Kent , with the Hatcham part in Surrey . It was regarded as two parts and in 1730 was divided into the two parishes of St Nicholas in the north and St Paul in the south . The southern part by the ford was known as Deptford and the northern , riverside area was known as Deptford Strand . It was also referred to as West Greenwich , with the modern town of Greenwich being referred to as East Greenwich until this use declined in the 19th century . The whole of Deptford came within the Metropolitan Police District in 1830 and was included in the area of responsibility of the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1855 . It was transferred to the County of London in 1889 and became part of Greater London in 1965 .

The area was split in 1900 : the southern part , the parish of St Paul Deptford , became the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford ; while the northern part , the parish of St Nicholas Deptford , became part of the Metropolitan Borough of Greenwich . In 1965 the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford was absorbed into the London Borough of Lewisham , then in 1994 the bulk of the northern part , including the former Royal Dockyard area , was transferred to Lewisham Borough from Greenwich Borough , leaving only the north eastern area , around St Nicholas 's church , in Greenwich .

= = Demography = =

Deptford 's population has been mainly associated with the docks since the establishment of the Royal Docks by Henry VIII , though there has also been some market gardening and potteries . When the docks were thriving as the main administrative centre of the British Navy , so the area prospered , and fine houses were built for the administrative staff and the skilled shipbuilders , and a few grand houses like Sayes Court and Stone House on Lewisham Way were erected . There was a start of a demographic shift downwards when the Royal Navy pulled out of Deptford , and the docks moved into storage and freight . The downward shift continued into the 20th century as the local population 's dependency on the docks continued : as the docks themselves declined , so did the economic fortune of the inhabitants until the last dock , Convoys Wharf , closed in 2000 .

Deptford 's northern section nearest the old docks contains areas of desolate council housing and deprivation typical of inner city poverty , though the area , along with neighbouring New Cross , has been touted as " the new Shoreditch " by some journalists and estate agents paying attention to a trendy arts and music scene that is popular with students and artists . To the south where Deptford rolls into the suburban spread of Brockley , the previously multi @-@ occupancy Victorian houses are being gentrified by young city workers and urban professionals . Deptford has a growing Vietnamese community reflected in the number of restaurants in the area .

Deptford contains a number of student populations , including those of Goldsmiths College , the University of Greenwich , Bellerbys College and Laban Dance Centre . Goldsmiths College 's hall of residence , Rachel McMillan , in Creek Road was sold in 2001 for £ 79 million , and was subsequently demolished and replaced with the McMillan Student Village which opened in 2003 and provides accommodation for approximately 970 students of the University of Greenwich , Trinity Laban and Bellerbys colleges .

= = Economy = =

Deptford 's economic history has been strongly connected to the Dockyard - when the Dockyard was thriving , so Deptford thrived ; with the docks now all closed , Deptford has declined economically . However , areas of Deptford are being gradually re @-@ developed and gentrified - and the local council has plans to regenerate the riverside and the town centre . A large former industrial site by the Thames called Convoys Wharf is scheduled for redeveloping into mixed use buildings . This will involve the construction of around 3 @, @ 500 new homes and an extension of the town centre northwards towards the river .

Much of the area along Creek Road , close to Greenwich , has also been redeveloped , with the demolition of the old Deptford Power Station and Rose Bruford College buildings . Aragon Tower on the Pepys Estate was sold by Lewisham Borough to fund regeneration plans for the estate ; the

award winning refurbishment into privately owned accommodation was featured in the BBC1 documentary , " The Tower " .

Deptford Market , a street market in Deptford High Street sells a range of goods , and is considered one of London 's liveliest street markets . In February 2005 , the High Street was described as " the capital 's most diverse and vibrant high street " by Yellow Pages business directory , using a unique mathematical formula .

= = Culture = =

The Albany Theatre , a community arts centre with a tradition of " radical community arts and music " including holding 15 " Rock Against Racism " concerts , has its roots in a charity established in 1894 to improve the social life of Deptford 's deprived community . The original building , the Albany Institute , was opened in 1899 on Creek Road , changing its name in the 1960s to the Albany Empire . It was burnt down in 1978 , but rebuilt on Douglas Way , with Prince Charles laying the foundation stone , and Diana , Princess of Wales opening it in 1982 . Creekside , a regeneration area beside Deptford Creek , is used for educational and artistic purposes , such as the Laban Dance Centre , which was designed by Swiss architects Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron , and opened in February 2003 ; and the Art in Perpetuity Trust (APT) gallery and studio space . A record label , Deptford Fun City Records was set up by Miles Copeland III , brother of Stewart Copeland , in the late 1970s as an outlet for Deptford bands such as Alternative TV and Squeeze .

The area has several pubs , including the Dog & Bell which has a reputation for serving a range of cask ales ; and The Bird 's Nest which has live music , film and art performances from local bands and artists . The Town Hall of the former Metropolitan Borough of Deptford , built in 1905 with decorative sculpture by Henry Poole RA , lies just outside Deptford , on the New Cross Road in New Cross . It was purchased by Goldsmiths College in 2000 .

There are several green spaces in the area , the largest being Brookmill Park , Deptford Park , Ferranti Park , Pepys Park and Sayes Court Park . In 1884 W.J. Evelyn , a descendant of John Evelyn , sold ground then being used as market gardens in Deptford , to the London County Council for less than its market value , as well as paying toward the cost of its purchase . It was officially opened to the public as Deptford Park on 7 June 1897 . In 1886 he dedicated an acre and a half of the Sayes Court recreation ground in perpetuity to the public and a permanent provision was made for the Evelyn estate to cover the expense of maintenance and caretaking , this was opened on 20 July 1886 .

= = Transport = =

Deptford is served by National Rail and Docklands Light Railway services . The National Rail service is operated by Southeastern Railway on the suburban Greenwich Line at Deptford railway station , the oldest passenger only railway station in London , and St Johns , as well as nearby New Cross and New Cross Gate stations . The DLR stations are at Deptford Bridge and Elverson Road . Deptford station has recently been redeveloped and reopened in 2012 . The works included the demolition of the existing , dilapidated , station building and its replacement by an impressive glass and steel structure and refreshed platforms . Since May 2010 , New Cross station has also been served by London Overground services to Dalston Junction , after the East London Line reopened as part of the National Rail network . Nearby New Cross Gate railway station is also served by London Overground trains northbound to Highbury and Islington , and southbound to Crystal Palace and West Croydon .

Residents in North Deptford are within a short walk of both Surrey Quays station (East London Line , London Overground) and Canada Water tube station on the Jubilee line , although they are just over the border in Southwark . Planning permission has been granted to open Surrey Canal Road station which will be on the East London Line phase 2 extension to Clapham Junction station . The new station is due to open in the next couple of years and will be an alternative transport hub for residents in the Surrey Canal Triangle areas as well as residents on the periphery of New Cross and

South Bermondsey .

The two main road routes through Deptford are the A200 which runs along Evelyn Street and Creek Road , and the A2 which runs along New Cross Road . The A20 marks the southern boundary of the area , along Lewisham Way and Loampit Vale .

= = Education = =

There are five primary schools scattered around the area , with four ranging from " good " to " outstanding " in recent Ofsted reports (the fifth recently became an Academy) . There are no local secondary schools directly in Deptford , however there are two secondary schools nearby the border between New Cross and Deptford , Deptford Green , regarded by Ofsted as " needing improvement " , and Addey and Stanhope , regarded by Ofsted as " good " . A branch of the further education college , Lewisham College incorporating Southwark College (known as LeSoCo) , is located on Deptford Church Street ; the college was regarded as " inadequate " in the 2014 Ofsted inspection .

= = Landmarks = =

Deptford railway station is one of the oldest suburban stations in the world , being built (c.1836 @-@ 38) as part of the first suburban service (the London and Greenwich Railway) , between London Bridge and Greenwich . Close to Deptford Creek is a Victorian pumping station built in 1864 , part of the massive London sewerage system designed by civil engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette . The former Deptford Power Station , in use from 1891 to 1983 , originated as a pioneering plant designed by Sebastian de Ferranti , which when built was the largest station in the world . Lewisham Council recently granted permission for the last remnants of the Deptford Ragged School known as The Princess Louise Institute to be demolished and replaced by flats . Albury Street (previously Union Street) contains a fine row of early urban houses largely dating from 1705 to 1717 which were once popular with naval captains and shipwrights . Tanners Hill in the St John 's or New Deptford area to the south of New Cross Road , is part of an Area of Archaeological Priority due to the longevity of settlement and early industry , and contains a set of commercial buildings from numbers 21 to 31 which are survivors from a row of 31 which were built in the 1750s on the site of cottages dating from the 17th century . These timber @-@ frame buildings have a Grade II listing from English Heritage and are home to established businesses such as bicycle maker Witcomb Cycles . Of Deptford 's two important houses , Sayes Court no longer exists , but the Stone House in St Johns , built around 1772 by the architect George Gibson the Younger , and described by Pevsner as " the one individual house of interest in this area " , still stands by Lewisham Way .

= = Churches = =

St Nicholas ' Church , the original parish church , dates back to the 14th century but the current building is 17th century . The entrance to the churchyard features a set of skull @-@ and @-@ bones on top of the posts . A plaque on the north wall commemorates playwright Christopher Marlowe , who was murdered in a nearby house , and buried in an unmarked grave in the churchyard on 1 June 1593 .

There is also St. Luke 's , another historic circular church , dating from 1870 . It is the daughter church of the parish of St Nicholas ' .

In the 18th century St. Paul 's , Deptford (1712 ? 1730) was built , acclaimed by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England as one of the finest Baroque churches in the country . John Betjeman is attributed as referring to the church as " a pearl at the heart of Deptford " . It was designed by the architect Thomas Archer , who was a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren , as part of the Commission for Building Fifty New Churches with the intention of instilling pride in Britain , and encouraging people to stay in London rather than emigrate to the New World .

Adjacent to the church yard is Albury Street , which contains some fine 18th @-@ century houses which were popular with sea captains and shipbuilders .

== Deptford Dockyard ==

Deptford Dockyard was established in 1513 by Henry VIII as the first Royal Dockyard , building vessels for the Royal Navy , and was at one time known as the King 's Yard . It was shut down from 1830 to 1844 before being closed as a dockyard in 1869 , and is currently known as Convoys Wharf . From 1871 until the First World War it was the City of London Corporation 's Foreign Cattle Market . In 1912 The Times reported that over 4 million head of live cattle , and sheep , had been landed .

From 1932 until 2008 the site was owned by News International , which used it to import newsprint and other paper products from Finland until early 2000 . It is now owned by Hutchison Whampoa Limited and is subject to a planning application to convert it into residential units , though it has safeguarded wharf status .

Other notable shipyards in Deptford were , Charles Lungley 's and the General Steam Navigation Company 's yards at Deptford Green and Dudman 's Dock , also sometimes referred to as Deadmans Dock at Deptford Wharf .

== Murder of Christopher Marlowe ==

The Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe was killed during an alleged drunken brawl in Eleanor Bull 's house in Deptford Strand in May 1593 . Various versions of Marlowe 's death were current at the time . Francis Meres says Marlowe was " stabbed to death by a bawdy serving @-@ man , a rival of his in his lewd love " as punishment for his " epicurism and atheism " . In 1917 , in the Dictionary of National Biography , Sir Sidney Lee wrote that Marlowe was killed in a drunken fight . Modern theories are that he was assassinated . It is commonly assumed that the fight took place in a Deptford tavern .

The scholar Leslie Hotson discovered in 1925 the coroner 's report on Marlowe 's death in the Public Record Office which gave fuller details . Marlowe had spent all day in a house owned by the widow Eleanor Bull , along with three men , Ingram Frizer , Nicholas Skeres and Robert Poley . Witnesses testified that Frizer and Marlowe had earlier argued over the bill , exchanging " divers malicious words . " Later , while Frizer was sitting at a table between the other two and Marlowe was lying behind him on a couch , Marlowe snatched Frizer 's dagger and began attacking him . In the ensuing struggle , according to the coroner 's report , Marlowe was accidentally stabbed above the right eye , killing him instantly . The jury concluded that Frizer acted in self @-@ defence , and within a month he was pardoned . Marlowe was buried in an unmarked grave in the churchyard of St Nicholas , Deptford , on 1 June 1593 .

== Notable people ==

Among people associated with Deptford are Christopher Marlowe , who was murdered at Deptford Strand ; diarist John Evelyn (1620 ? 1706) who lived at Sayes Court , and had Peter the Great (1672 ? 1725) as a guest for about three months in 1698 ; and Sir Francis Drake who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I aboard the Golden Hind in Deptford Docks .

Other people who have lived in Deptford , range from the First Governor of the Honourable East India Company , and Ambassador to the court of Russia , Thomas Smythe , whose magnificent house was destroyed by fire in 1618 ; to early members of the Chartist movement , John Gast and George Julian Harney ; and the Cleveleys , John Cleveley the Elder and his sons John and Robert , a family of marine artists who also worked as tradesmen in the Dockyard . Other artists born in Deptford are Henry Courtney Selous , who is known for The Opening of The Great Exhibition , painted in 1851 , and the watercolourist Mariquita Jenny Moberly . Joseph Drew , newspaper editor , steamboat proprietor , author and lecturer , was born in Deptford in 1814 ; Joseph 's father of the same name worked in the Royal Navy Dockyard Service .

Leading British jazz and session guitarist Denny Wright was born in Deptford in 1924 . Members of rock groups Squeeze and Dire Straits lived on the Crossfield Estate in Deptford in the late 1970s ,

along with Mark Perry , founder of the punk fanzine Sniffin Glue and punk rock band Alternative TV . Influential Mod / Punk band The Chords also used The Birds Nest , on the Crossfield Estate , as their centre of operations in 1979 / 80 . The DJ and music journalist Danny Baker also lived near the Crossfield Estate , where he was born and brought up . Experimental R & B artist Daniel Woolhouse , aka Deptford Goth , chose his name after teaching in Deptford for a year .