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June 2014. This guide and tour was compiled by volunteers from the Walworth Society with support from Southwark Council Cleaner Greener Safer funding. It has been compiled for interest and not for profit.

Please note that buildings & streets are changing around the Elephant & Castle area. We will always try to update our tour guidelines quickly.

We have tried to ensure that we have permission to use all photos & images. If any image has been used in error, please inform us.



Special thanks to:
Walworth Society volunteers
Southwark Council
Maria Dahlgren (leaflet design)

*Formally listed buildings on the Walworth Road (east side) are labelled.
Most of the east side is considered to be of 'townscape merit', but is without formal protection.
The Walworth Society is campaigning to make Walworth Road into a Conservation Area.*



Please take care when crossing the Walworth Road using the pedestrian crossings

Walworth Road, East Side, 2014

THE WALWORTH SOCIETY

Walworth Heritage Walk 1

The Heritage walk takes us through the area of Walworth along the side streets of Walworth Road. The 22 stops reveal important historical sites as well as some hidden local gems.

Before you begin find your map on the centre spread.

Enjoy The Walk!

1 THE ELEPHANT & CASTLE SHOPPING CENTRE

Our walk starts outside La Bodeguita at the Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre. That's opposite the Strata Tower.



La Bodeguita, Elephant & Castle, 2014

2 THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES AT THE ELEPHANT & CASTLE

The area around the Elephant and Castle has become home to one of the most vibrant Latin American communities in the country. The Elephant and Castle has acted as a catalyst for many different groups of immigrants; the Irish, the Italians and people from the Caribbean have all worked & established lives for themselves here.

The majority of businesses and cafés are now owned by members of the Latin American countries. After the recession in the late 1980s saw many of the local shops in the centre close; many of the empty units were taken up and developed by the Latin American communities. Many moved to this country following political upheavals in their own countries or were looking for opportunities to invest in business ventures. Low rents attracted many, as those with capital to invest or able to get an initial loan saw chances to start businesses either in or around the Elephant and Castle. Locations that had not been used for a long time or had been completely closed for several years proved to be the most attractive. The Elephant and Castle shopping centre has also become a social meeting point for the Latin American communities in London, with the result that the area has a Latin American cultural identity of its own. Not only are there businesses and shops, but restaurants and cafés flourish as many of those living here play a large part in establishing their own communities.

Not only do they have their own papers, but there are outlets offering legal advice, currency exchange, cheaper international telephone calls and other services. There is a constant flow of activity and of people moving around the shops and cafés. The Elephant and Castle has become the centre for a new group of people, who have made the area their own, and by doing so have added to its cultural regeneration.



The Latin American Communities at the Elephant & Castle

3 THE HEYGATE ESTATE

The Heygate Estate is currently being demolished as part of a renovation scheme to transform the area around the Elephant and Castle. The estate which was built by Southwark Council in the early 70s was home to 3,000 residents. At the time the Heygate, with its sweeping roads and long walkways crossing them, was seen as a showcase estate, built following the Corbusian concept of modern buildings, with large tall concrete blocks dwarfing smaller blocks and surrounding central communal gardens.

Over time, changes to the mix of residents lessened the strong sense of community that had existed and this coupled with poor maintenance of common parts such as lifts and heating systems made the estate far less attractive to live in. The estate also developed a reputation (often unfairly) for high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. It is currently being demolished to make way for a new masterplan which will see the area redeveloped to provide some 2,500 new homes. Many of the new homes will be made available to non-council residents.



Inside the Heygate Estate upon completion, 1974



View over the Heygate Estate, 2012

4 CUMING MUSEUM

The Cuming Museum is based on the worldwide collection of the Cuming family and is also the museum of Southwark's history. It is currently closed following a fire in March 2013.



Cuming Museum & Newington Library, top image 1905, bottom 1935

5 MOBILE GARDENERS

Mobile Gardeners is a network of community gardeners and community growing spaces based at the Elephant and Castle. The hub is at The Mobile Gardeners' Park in Wansey Street, a temporary space at the end of the street created by and for the community on a development site within what is known as the "Elephant and Castle Urban Forest".



Mobile Gardeners, Wansey St

www.moblegardeners.org

6 BALDWINS

Baldwins, the herbalists was founded by George Baldwin in 1844 at 77 Walworth Road; by the end of the nineteenth century, the company had expanded to 12 shops spread through London. It moved to its present position at number 173 in 1969 after the shop had been compulsory purchased to make way for the building of the Heygate Estate.

In 1978, the company bought the shop next door and since then, Baldwins has become one of the best known herbalists in London with people flocking to its doors to buy its herbs and to drink its sarsaparilla. The shop, selling products ranging from every type of herb to deal with ailments such as coughs, aches and pains, has appealed not only to local people but also to people who have become Londoners: Caribbeans, delighted to find menthol products which helped them keep warm; Chinese, the tiger balm which calms down pain; with the weekly glass of sarsaparilla that is appealing to everyone. It's one of the last group of old shops in the area and its popularity is as strong as it was when first founded.



Baldwins original shop at 77 Walworth Road (one of twelve shops)

6 CHARLES BABPAGE

The blue plaque on the corner of Larcom Street and Walworth Road commemorates the birth of the inventor, polymath and mathematician Charles Babbage, the man credited with inventing the first computer. The son of a wealthy banker, Babbage was born in Walworth in 1791.

He showed early initiative as mathematician and on entering Cambridge found he was far in advance of his tutors. He was elected a member of the Royal Society when he was only 25 and along with Sir John Herschel co-founded the Astronomical Society (later the Royal Astronomical Society).

He published six full length books ninety papers on scientific, economic and educational subjects. He invented the ophthalmoscope, the altimeter, a quick release coupling for railway engines, a machine enabling the public to play noughts & crosses, an instrument for seismic detection & a system allowing ships to communicate with the shore by semaphore. In 1821 he invented the Difference Engine to compile mathematical tables, this would later be developed in 1856 to become the Analytical Engine which was intended as a general symbol manipulator, & had some of the characteristics of today's computers. He died in 1871.

CHARLES BABBAGE



Charles Babbage commemorative plaque on Larcom St



7 8 HUSKY STUDIOS & THE PULLENS, AMELIA ST

Situated in railway arches Husky studios is a large rehearsal studios providing facilities for a range of clients from independent local acts through to established international artists & dance groups. The studios have been used by television companies on rehearsals for shows such as 'Pop Idol', and 'X-Factor', as well as hosting rehearsals for various leading fashion shows.

Further along Amelia St, the Pullens (now a Conservation Area) was built as a commercial venture by James Pullen, a local builder who acquired the land and developed it over a 15-year period from 1886 as a mix of one bedroom flats, workshops & shops. All roofs are flat, providing a variety of large shared amenity spaces. Traditional Victorian timber shop fronts flank the entrances to cobbled workshop yards. The three remaining yards contain workshops that are open to the public twice yearly to promote the independent traders including a variety of makers & designers. It is said that both Naomi Campbell & Charlie Chaplin lived here briefly (albeit at different times). The Pullens is often used as the backdrop for advertising & film.



5 The King's Speech being filmed on the Pullens, Crampton St, 2010

8 THE PULLENS & THE ELECTRIC ELEPHANT



Electric Elephant Cafe on Crampton St www.electricelephantcafe.co.uk
www.pullensyards.co.uk



9 MANOR PLACE BATHS

Manor Place Baths was a public facility built in Manor Place in 1898 to provide baths for the people of Walworth. Throughout the 18th and the 19th centuries, increased urbanisation had led to working people having poor quality and overcrowded housing, with little or no sanitation. The new building offered a men's first class swimming pool, a second class men's pool, a women's pool, with many slipper baths and showers for men and women, as well as, a laundry with ironing and mangling facilities. The washing and laundry provisions were further expanded in 1933 and included mechanised mangling equipment.

Manor Place Baths continued to be used up to the 1960s, also functioning as a place for receptions, dances and public meetings. By the 1970s, new homes containing bathrooms and washrooms were being built which led to a decline in the use of the Baths. The men's first class pool was occasionally covered to support a boxing ring with a number of matches being broadcast including bouts with notorious criminals the Krays.

The opening of the Elephant & Castle Leisure Centre finally led to its closure in 1978. In 2013 the Baths and the land around it was sold to Notting Hill Housing Trust. They propose to retain the building, converting it to flats and building an additional 270 homes. The clock on the tower is kept to the correct time.



Manor Place Baths, 2013

10 OCCUPATION ROAD & MANOR PLACE

The Walworth Society has been campaigning to try to ensure that this building survives the planned re-development around Manor Place Depot. The building dates from 1891 and for many years served as accommodation for those who were associated with the local Coroner's Court. Although unused for a number of years it has been identified as a building of "townscape merit" in the Elephant & Castle Supplementary Planning Document of 2012.



Occupation Rd & the old Coroner's Court on Manor Place

11 M HERBERT MORRISON HOUSE

On the corner of Browning Street is Herbert Morrison House which used to be headquarters to the London Labour Party. It was named after Labour boss, and Home Secretary Herbert Morrison. It was originally part of the Robert Browning Settlement which provided medical treatment, legal advice, social and educational activities, and holiday for local poor children. In 1899 it became the centre for the National Committee for Organised Labour which campaigned for old age pensions. In 1900 the Labour Party was created which eventually set up its London-based party headquarters in what became Herbert Morrison House.

Morrison himself had been born in Lambeth and became a pioneering leader in the Labour Party serving for many years on London County Council, becoming Leader of the LCC in 1934. He was responsible for setting up the London Passenger Transport Board which ran the unified bus, tram, trolleybus service and the underground; and for creating the Metropolitan Green Belt around the suburbs. He served in several important cabinet positions in the



Herbert Morrison House, 1978

12 13 BROWNING ST

Explore the recently restored collection of early factory buildings along Browning Street & Colworth Grove, currently occupied by Gisela Graham Ltd.



Alan Camp Architects house, 1989

Further along Browning Street at the north end of Morecambe Street, Alan Camp designed this house as a home and sculpture workshop. Completed in 1989, the facade is a representation of 19C gables that were in the neighbourhood. The architectural practice later designed & the adjacent houses and community building.

14 STEAD AND ROBERT BROWNING HALL (now demolished)

The Robert Browning Settlement was connected to the York Street Congregational Chapel, just around the corner from Herbert Morrison House. The settlement was at the centre of the fight led by Francis Herbert Stead (1857-1928) to introduce state-provided old age pensions in Britain and to develop the settlement movement. Before the introduction of the pension many of the elderly would find themselves in the workhouse, along with many others who were destitute with no form of income. Families would be separated as men and women were made to live in single-sex dormitories.

Stead, who came from Howden, and having served as a Minister in Leicester impressed by the work carried out by the Toynbee settlement and that in Canning Town, moved to work at Browning Hall. He believed that work carried out by the settlements offered the best chance of connecting and giving help to those – the poor and distressed - who needed it. Stead along with Charles Booth who had become interested in the question of old age pensions in 1898 invited a representative of the New Zealand Government, who had introduced an innovative pension scheme that year to a conference to which trade council officials and others from friendly societies were also invited. This led to the setting up of the National Committee for Organized Labour for Promoting the Old Age Pensions for All in 1899. This committee spearheaded the campaign for the next nine years. In 1908, the old Age Pension Act was introduced. The Browning Settlement also played an important role in promoting a bill for National Old Age Homes.

15 THEATRICAL CHANDLERS

Walworth, located near the West End, is the centre for theatrical chandlers who provide specialist theatre hardware, not only for the theatres themselves, but also for all those, such as scenic artists, production managers, engineers, carpenters and painters, who work within them. There were many small theatres and variety halls established in the South and East of London, so Walworth became a natural base for establishing companies linked to providing services to them.

Many of the theatres and halls closed due to bombing and with the introduction of television. But Walworth's location means that some of the theatrical suppliers operating here have survived. Flints Theatrical Chandlers based in Queen's Row was established in 1981 to provide a single source for the theatres, becoming one of the most successful companies. It now also provides equipment for the marine industry as many of the pulleys & ropes used in theatres are similar to those used in ships.

Other companies such as Stage Services (London) Limited can be found in Brandon Street. Established 25 years ago, it manufactures & maintains equipment for the theatre. The National Theatre at the Southbank is one of their clients. Other companies supplying curtains, screens and costumes can be found in locations in Queen's Row, Iliffe Yard and Peacock Yard.



Theatrical Chandlers on Brandon Street with gable profiles (similar to Alan Camp Architects Houses)

16 DRAPERS ALMSHOUSES



Drapers Almshouses on Brandon Street

17 NURSERY ROW PARK

Nursery Row Park which runs off East Street was first inaugurated in the late 19th century, and created from Locks Field and Walworth Common. It became the first public open space in East Walworth. Originally there had been market gardens and land to tether animals, but with the need for housing in a rapidly developing area, the land had been built over. By 1920, East Walworth was the most densely populated part of Britain, with some 249 resident people per acre. The Park, then called East Street Recreation Ground was originally set up with donations from the local MP; but after housing was erected on the designated land, another site was purchased with funds coming in from another MP, the council and the Vestry of St Mary Newington.

The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, still in existence, gave £1,000 towards planting and laying-out of the park; part of that planting, including the London Plane trees, still thrive today. Nursery Row Park was extended in 1980, following demolition of Blendon Row, Eltham Street and Nursery Row, after which the park had been named. The park as it now exists started to take shape in the later 1980s.

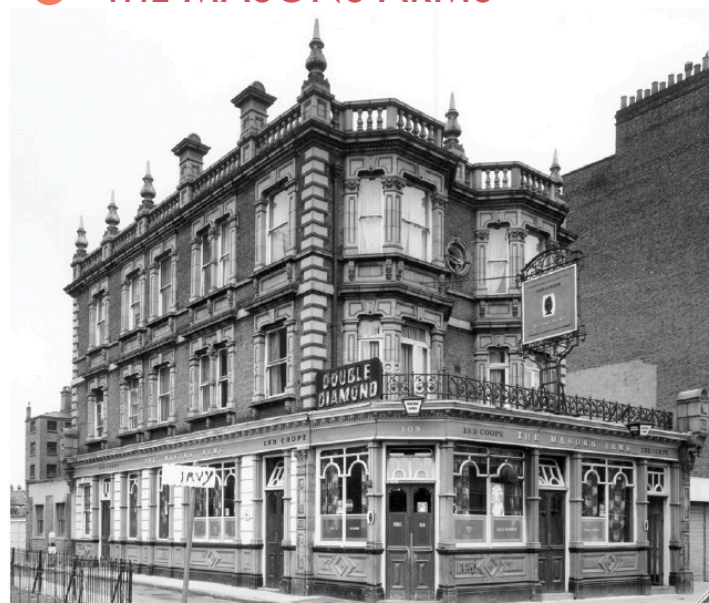
Since then an orchard and play equipment to cater for a wider age range have been added. The community has been encouraged to look after and value the park. Its future is safeguarded so that no building can take place on it.



Nursery Row Park

www.nurseryrowpark.org.uk

18 THE MASONS ARMS



The Masons Arms, East St



18a PILTON ESTATE ON EAST ST

The Pilton Estate on East Street, built in 1933 was the latest at that time to be erected by James Hartnoll Estates. Hartnoll was a Southwark man, born in 1853, who made a fortune building blocks of working class dwellings in London. His work became a template for several areas throughout London, providing working class accommodation which was sorely needed in the 1880s. Following his death in 1900, his company continued with the work that he had started. The blocks in the Pilton Estate are five storeys high, with shops at street level on the East Street frontage.

In 1971 Peabody bought the block adding it to their list of similar estates, such as, those in Islington and Walthamstow. Founded in April 1862 by the American financier and philanthropist George Peabody, (1795-1869), the Peabody Donation Fund, which continues to this day as the Peabody Trust, was set up to provide housing of decent quality for the 'artisans and labouring poor of London'.

Peabody who moved from America to London in 1837 saw his first dwelling open in Spitalfields in February 1864; two years earlier in recognition of his contribution to London's poor, he became the first of only two Americans – the other being General and 34th President Dwight Eisenhower to be made a Freeman of the City of London.

Much of the building of the Peabody estates took place as a result of London's first slum clearance schemes, following the introduction of new housing legislation in 1875. Many of the buildings were damaged during the Second World War. Peabody has continued to expand following the acquisition of several estates from various organisations who have faced financial problems and have taken over their work.



The Pilton Estate



The Pilton Estate, WW2 Bomb Damage Map

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19 BAPTIST CHURCH, EAST ST

The East Street Mission began in 1859 when John Dunn, a member of Spurgeon's Tabernacle, started a Sunday school class in a loft over a cowshed in East Street. By 1892 there were 1080 scholars on its registers. Larger premises were needed, so the current building was erected in 1896.



The Baptist Church & Jimmy Jager's working on the paint stall on East St Market

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22 ST PETER'S CHURCH



St Peter's Church circa 1825 by architect Sir John Soane. Grade I listed, it is said to be the best preserved of Soane's churches.



Thank you for
participating in the
Walworth Society Heritage Walk!

The Electric Elephant cafe is open in the crypt of St Peter's for refreshments