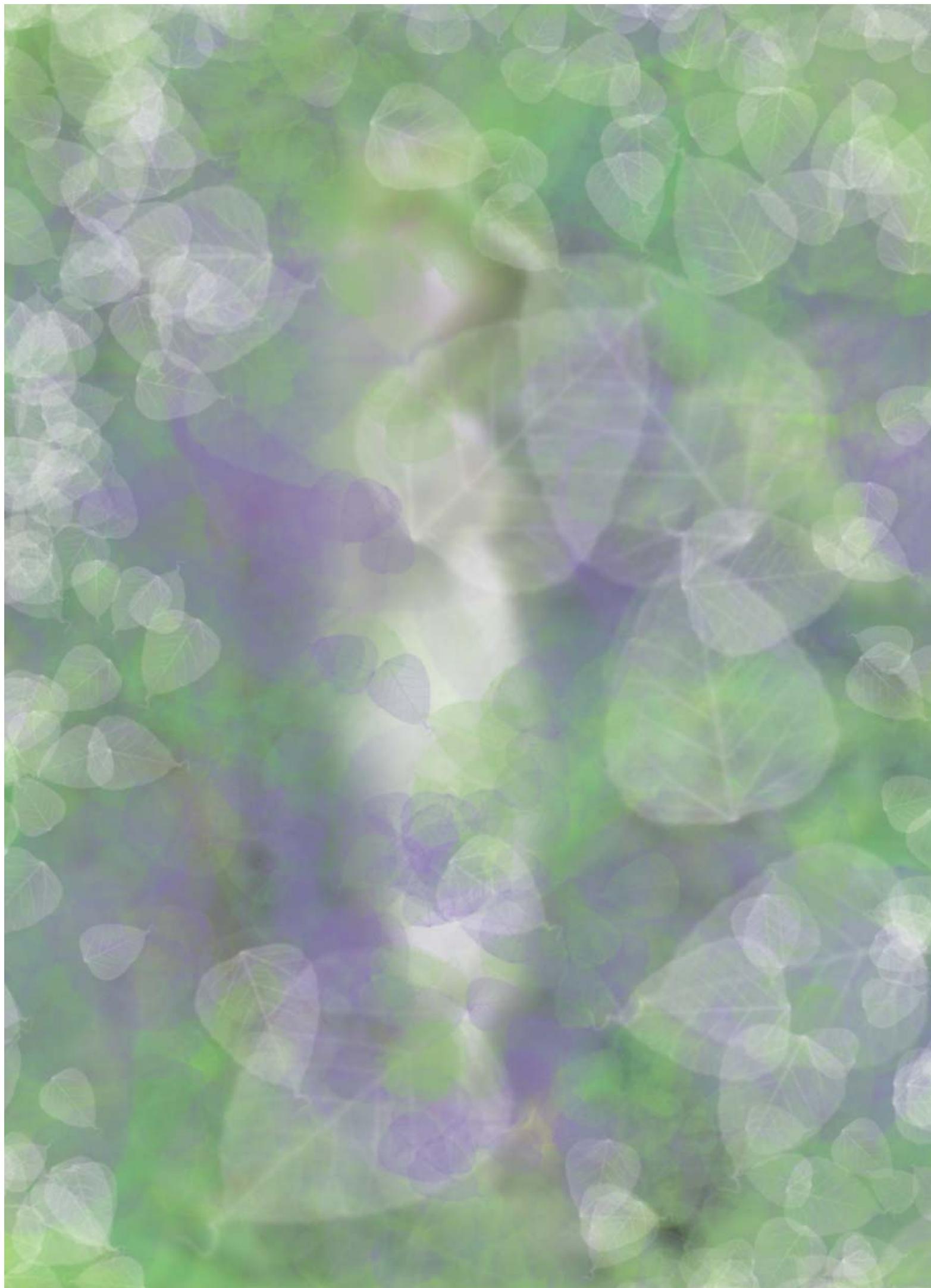
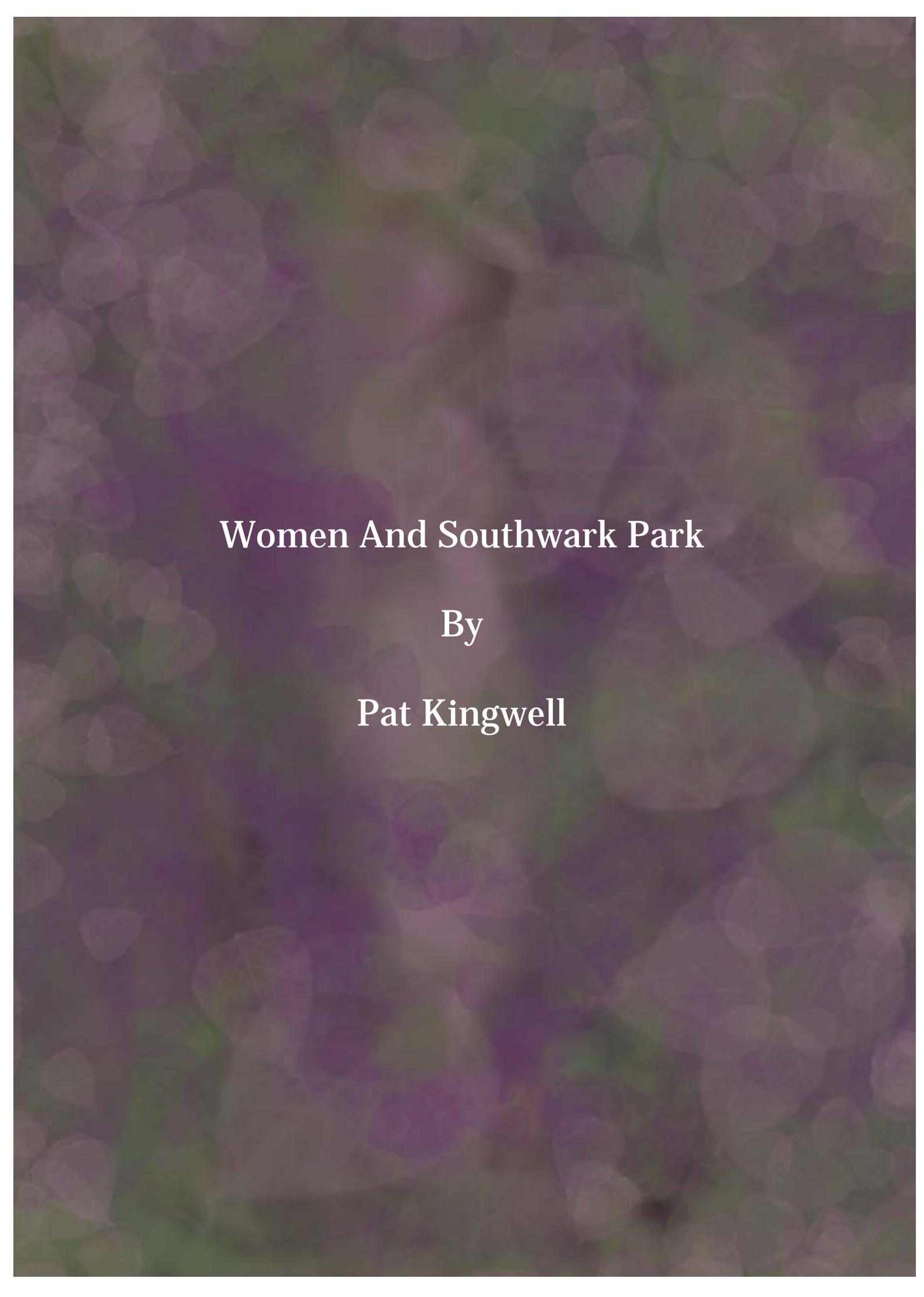
A photograph of a stone monument in a park. The monument is a tall, rectangular column with a decorative top. On the left side, there is a relief sculpture of a woman's figure, possibly a personification of a virtue or a historical figure, with her arms raised. The monument is surrounded by lush green foliage and a large, vibrant purple flower arrangement, possibly a wisteria, which is draped over the base and sides of the column. The background is filled with dense green trees and bushes, suggesting a park setting.

**WOMEN
AND
SOUTHWARK
PARK**

PAT KINGWELL





Women And Southwark Park

By

Pat Kingwell

Published by Kingwell Publications 2019

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Designed by Debra Gosling
Cover: Caryatides ©Debra Gosling 2019

Introduction

On 19th June 1869 Southwark Park was first opened to the public. In this year of 150th anniversary celebrations, and in support of *International Women's Day*, this book acknowledges the part some women have played in the story the park. In conjunction with Southwark Park Association 1869, brief information is presented about more than two hundred individuals who have been associated with the park over the years. What follows is a wide cross-section of women, some whose names are famous, but many, many more who may well be unknown or long-forgotten. You will read about writers, poets and artists; singers, musicians, entertainers and actors; sportswomen, environmentalists and teachers; campaigners for park improvements and the often unheralded workers and volunteers who put things into practice. Politicians, trade unionists,

suffragettes and feminists are recognised. Monarchs and their representatives are included, as are Temperance Queens. Just to confirm how all life is found in a park, there are even a few criminals.

In bringing this work together my special thanks to Debra Gosling for her design contribution. No claims are made to comprehensiveness.

A book like this will never be complete, so I present what I have found in my research of the public records. Apologies if any deserving women have been overlooked.

It is my hope that readers may be inspired to do their own delving into the history of our fine old park, and that one day a much fuller account of the role of women will be given.

Until then - enjoy!

Pat Kingwell
March 2019



Margaret Aldridge

Local resident. In March 2000 she donated personal memorabilia to the time capsule sunk in the park.

Anood Al-Samerai



Liberal Democrat politician. Anood is the leader of the Liberal Democrats on Southwark Council and a North Bermondsey Ward councillor.

Over many years she has consistently supported the protection and promotion of the park. In 2011 she was instrumental in opposing a proposal by a utility company to tunnel within the park, and in 2018 spoke out against inappropriate commercial ventures which cause environmental damage and reduce community access to the park. In 2016 Anood presented medals at the Bermondsey Carnival Tennis Day. Anood was also a leading figure in the Save King's Stairs Gardens campaign.

Moniza Alvi

Poet. In 1993 she published her poem



Meeting an Ex-Pupil on a Spring Morning, which is set in Southwark Park.



Alicia Amherst (1865-1941)

Horticulturist, botanist and author. Alicia Amherst sometimes wrote under her married name Mrs. Evelyn Cecil. As such, in 1907, she wrote of Southwark Park in her book *London Parks and Gardens*

"It is more the want of design, than any special style, that is conspicuous, and a good deal more could have been done to make the Park less gloomy.

An avenue is growing up, but it will never have the charming effect of the one across Battersea, as the line is neither straight nor a definite curve. The wildfowl on the pond are such an attraction, that perhaps it may be the wire netting and asphalt edges they apparently require are not drawbacks, but they are not beautiful. The gateway into the Park, near Deptford Station, has rather the grim look of a prison, and yet, with the forest of masts behind, all it requires is a climbing plant or two to make a picture."



Maisie Anderson

Labour Party politician. In 2016 she presented medals at the Bermondsey Carnival Tennis Day.

Suzanne Ayliffe

Singer. She played the part of Agnetha in the Abba Gold Girls tribute band, at the Bermondsey Carnival in the park in 2018.

Miss Bacon

Lavatory attendant. In May 1927 the London County Council reported that when she was retired from her post her birth certificate showed she should have been retired three years earlier.

Sarah Jane (Jennie) Baines (1866-1951)

Suffragette. Born in Birmingham, she began working in a factory aged eleven. Following involvement with the Salvation Army, the Temperance movement and the Independent Labour Party, she joined the Women's Social



Sarah Jane Baines

and Political Union around 1905. By 1908 she was a full-time organiser for the WSPU in the north and Midlands. One of the first suffragettes to advocate militant methods, she was imprisoned fifteen times. She continued to campaign until her death in 1951. On 29 June 1909 she spoke at a large women's demonstration in the park.

Mancie Baker

Singer songwriter. In 2015 and 2018 she performed in the park at the Bermondsey Carnival.



Mancie Baker

Miss A. Baldwin

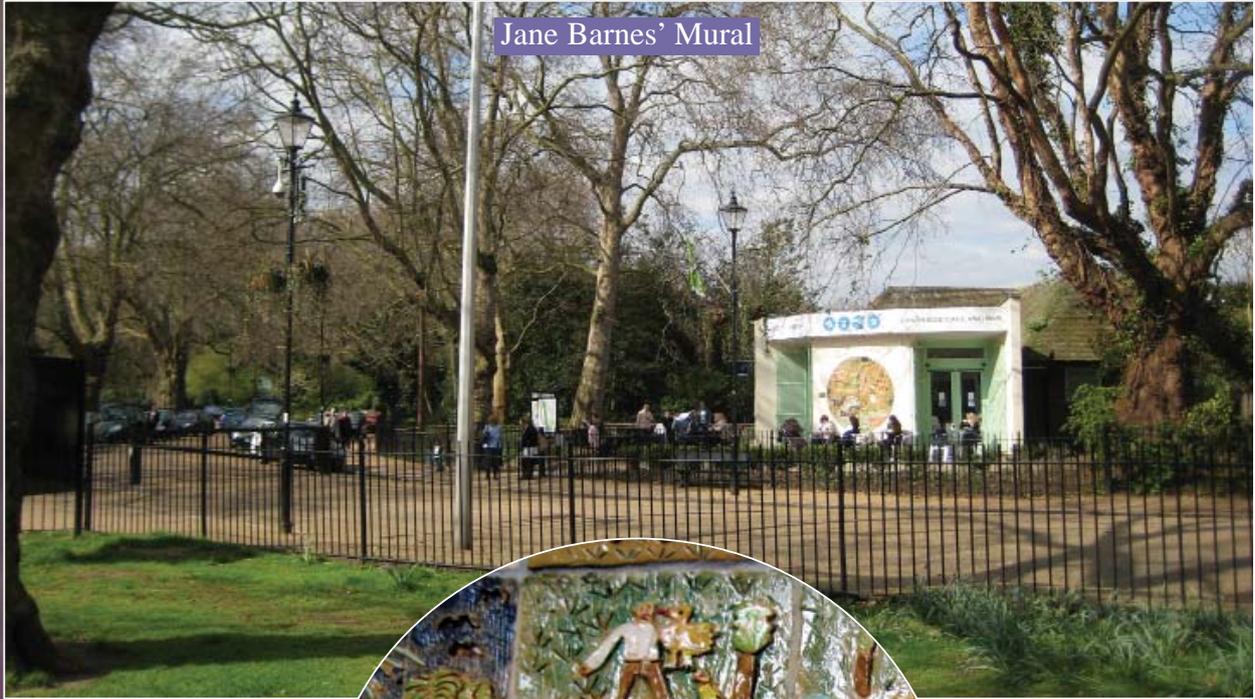
Teacher. In July 1902 she played a major role in organising the girls' events at the first

Bermondsey and Southwark School Sports Festival in the park. Several thousand spectators watched.

Julie Barleycorn

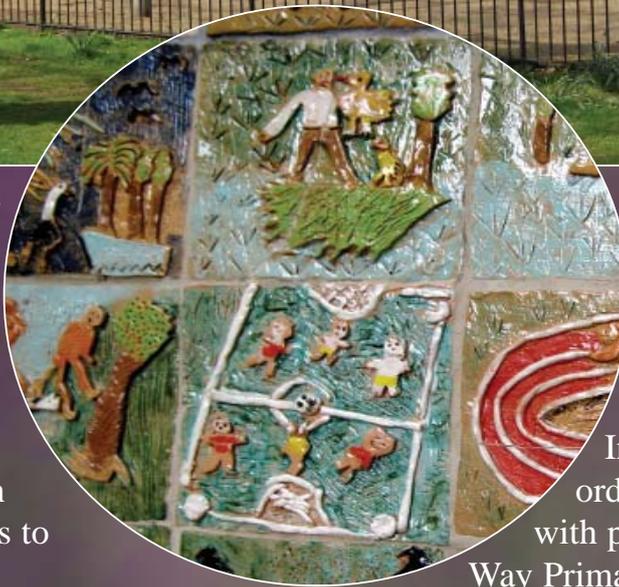
Athlete. On 1 July 1983 she won the Southwark Five Mile Road Race for women, which started in the park.

Jane Barnes' Mural



Mrs. B. Barnard
Local resident.

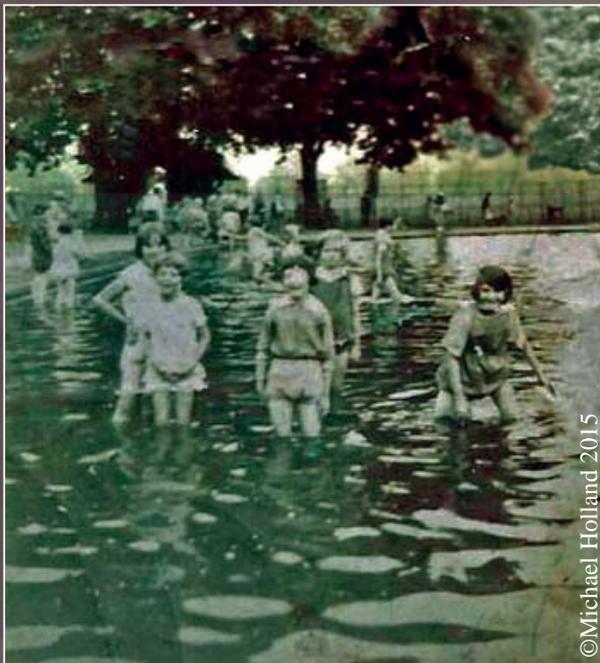
In February 1928 she wrote a letter to the London County Council suggesting the paddling pool in the park be fenced in during winter months to protect children.



Jane Barnes

Member of the Bermondsey Artists Group, based at the Café Gallery in the park. In 1999 she co-ordinated a project with pupils of Pilgrims Way Primary School.

The work, *Southwark Park Mosaic*, was fixed to the wall of the visitor's centre, later the café, until 2013, when it was removed and irreparably damaged. In 2010 Jane helped organise the *Our Park* exhibition in the Gallery.



©Michael Holland 2015

Raina Barrow

Filmmaker. In August 2010 Raina directed and produced a film of the *Our Park* oral history project book launch.





©Debra Gosling 2018

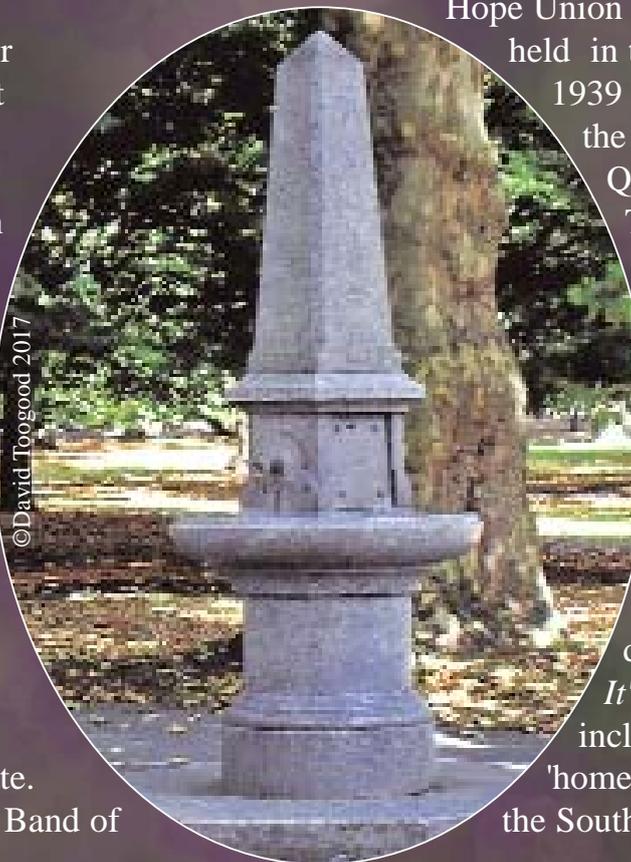


Sharon Bassey

Sharon Bassey

Apiarist and founder member and current Chairperson of Southwark Park Association. Sharon has developed beehives in the park, run educational workshops for adults and children, and secured funding for bee-related activities.

Joyce Basted
 Temperance advocate.
 At the Bermondsey Band of



©David Toogood 2017

Hope Union Open-Air Festival held in the park in June

1939 Joyce was crowned the ninth Temperance Queen.

The theme of the demonstration was 'Alcohol Retards Progress. Alcohol The Drug Is A Drag'.

Joy Beaumont

In 2014 Joy took part in the documentary film *It's Our Park*, which includes her own rare 'home movie' footage of the Southwark Park lido.

Mrs. S. Beale

Procession Secretary.

In 1977 she organised the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnival Grand Procession around the park.

Grace Beesley

Member of the Southwark Park Bowls Club and founding member of The Friends of Southwark Park. During the late 1970s Grace was a leading light in establishing the Ladies Team. In 2002 a new pavilion was opened, a project in which Grace played a major role. In 2002 Grace became the first woman President of the Southwark Park Bowls club. In 2001 as Chair of Arica House Tenants Association Grace successfully called for investment in the One O'Clock Club.



In 2010 she contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.

Bermondsey Carnival Tennis Day Volunteers

The Tennis Day is an established part of the annual Carnival, and since 2016 several women have given their time to make it such a success, including Judy Feasey, Rebecca Kaloo, Sallie Rickerby, Tracy Stewart, Perrine Summers and Mrs. Kar Yee Tung.

Tennis Day Volunteers





Jenny Bianco

Former Deputy Lieutenant of Southwark and Patron of Southwark Park Association 1869. On 19 June 2013

Jenny unveiled the Coronation Tree plaque in celebration of the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.

In September of the same year Jenny presented awards to young volunteers who worked in the park as part of the National Citizenship Programme.



Jenny Bianco

Mrs. Blakeley

Resident of Jamaica Road. In March 1869 her husband Dr. John Blakeley made a request to the Metropolitan Board of Works to take her and her daughters for a walk in the park before it was officially opened to the public. The request was denied.

Miss Maureen Booth

Temperance advocate.

At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival, held in the park in June 1946, Maureen was crowned Temperance Queen.

Mary Ann Boulwood

Resident of Sedan Street, Walworth. In July 1877 she sought permission from the Metropolitan Board of Works to allow her blind husband to play the harmonium

in the park on Sunday evenings. The request was denied.

Mrs. Boyes

Resident of Barkworth Road. In June 1891 she complained to the London County Council that her husband had been prevented from flying a kite in the park.

Mrs. Brady

Resident of Rose Lane.

In November 1867, as a yearly tenant on the market gardens, which were to become Southwark Park, she was given a gratuity of £5 by the Metropolitan Board of Works as compensation for the loss of her business.

Rosina Britchfield

Domestic servant.

In May 1871 she stole money from Miss Ostwell of Gipsy Hill and took a charity box.

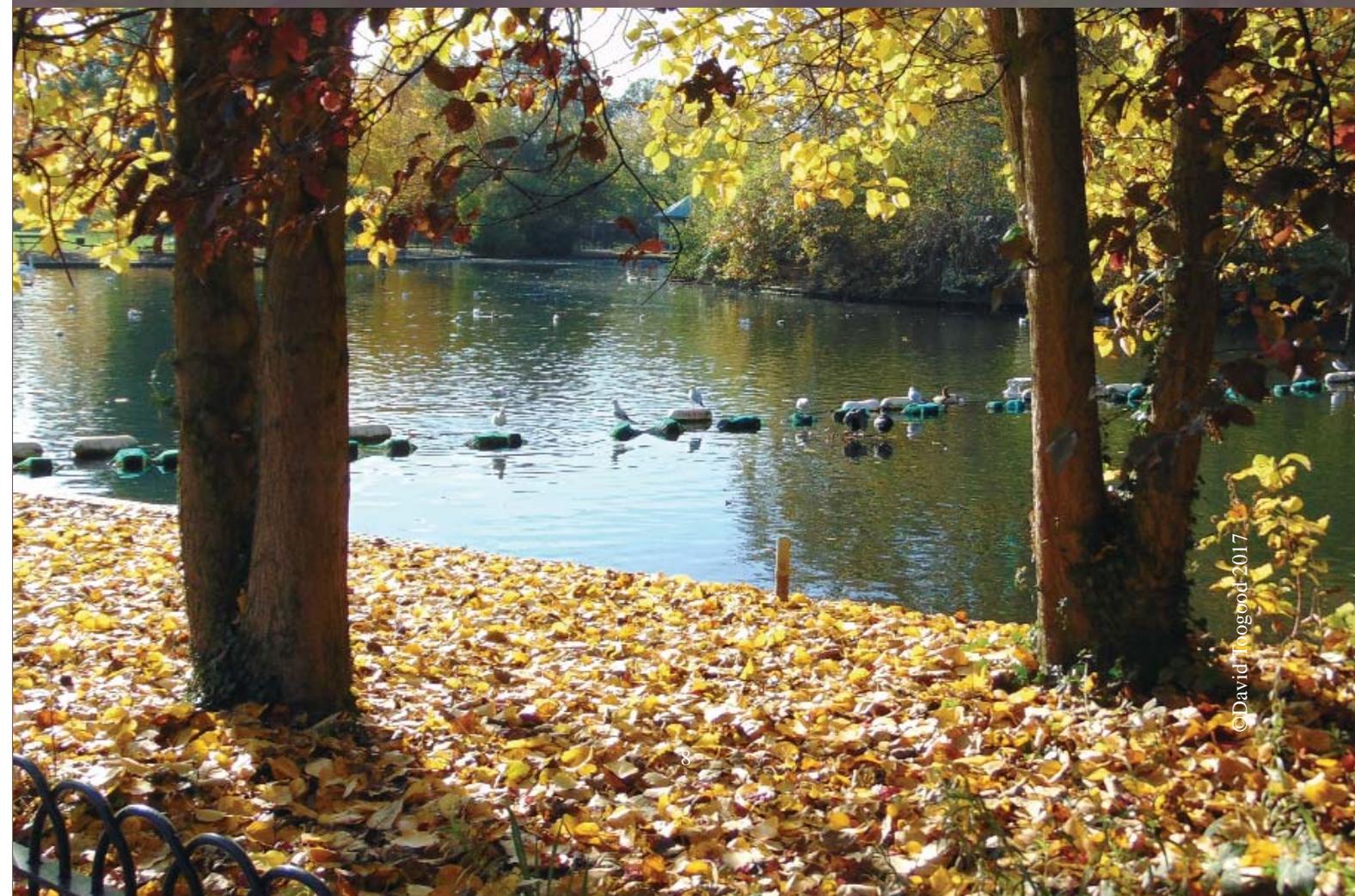
The police found her in Southwark Park and placed her into custody. In court she admitted the theft and said that she did it to help her sister pay for some goods, and thus escape getting into trouble.

She was given six months' hard labour.

Florence Britt

Resident of Clements Road.

In September 1893 she was found guilty at the Old Bailey of murdering her baby son Sydney Mauden Britt by drowning him in Southwark Park lake. She had also attempted suicide. Witnesses testified they had seen her in the park looking strange. While awaiting trial she said 'I do not know what made me do it, I was worried and upset about my husband's dinner, and worried over the child.' Medical evidence concluded that Florence was suffering from puerperal melancholia and was not in a state of mind to know the nature and quality of the act she was doing. Aged just 22, she was ordered to be detained till His Majesty's pleasure be known. Rev. W. Kaye Dunn of Manor Chapel was given permission to interview her after the trial, as she was a member of the Manor Women's Own and well respected.



Miss Brooks

Teacher. In July 1906 she requested the London County Council set aside a portion of the park for use by girls from Myrdle Street School Stepney, who came every Friday afternoon to play netball and tennis. The request was denied.

Ada Broughton (1879-1934)

Bermondsey
Councillor and
suffragette.



In the years immediately before the First World War, as a member of the Women's Freedom League, she organised many meetings in Scotland for factory girls. Moving to London she was elected to Bermondsey Council. On losing her seat in 1922 she was made an Alderman, and became

Chairperson of the Maternity and Welfare Committee.

In April 1932 Ada was Secretary of a special committee to organise a Children's Sports and Gala Day in the park, which was a big success. About 600 children took part and all competitors were given a bag of pastries and lemonade courtesy of the Labour Co-operative Bakery and Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society.

Mrs. Brown

Resident of Jamaica Lane. In November 1867, as a yearly tenant on the market gardens which were to become Southwark Park, she was given a gratuity of £5 by the Metropolitan Board of Works as compensation for the loss of her business.

Ruth Brown

Temperance advocate.
At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival, held in the park in June 1945, Ruth was crowned Temperance Queen.



**Elizabeth Miriam Burgwin
(1850-1940)**

Teacher, child welfare pioneer and trade union activist.



In December 1873 she was appointed head teacher of Orange Street School, Southwark.

In 1891 the London School board appointed her superintendent of schools for special instruction.

She was the first woman elected to the National Union of teachers executive. On 11 July 1902 she oversaw the first Bermondsey and Southwark School Sports Festival in the park, which included girls' events.

Ruth Bustin

Temperance advocate.

At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival, held in the park in June 1948, Ruth was crowned Temperance Queen.

Ruth also designed a mass tableau 'Saving Our Nation', which contained sections on health (Drummond Road); wealth (Southwark Park Congregational); life (St. Andrews Presbyterian); food (Gedling Street Mission); and a centre piece (Bermondsey Gospel Mission).

Mrs. Cain

Homeless woman. In August 1946 she, her husband and their young daughters Margaret and Maureen, moved into the former military huts in the park.

During the Second World War the Army had been based in the park, but by 1946 had decamped.

Due to extensive bombing there was a severe shortage of homes in post-war Bermondsey, so families like the Cain's unofficially took over empty buildings.

Judith Carlton

Director of the Gallery in the Park. Judith

came into post in 2015, having previously worked at

Matt's Gallery, Cubitt Gallery and Studios, The

Serpentine Galleries and Hatton Gallery, Newcastle.



Katharine Carter

Resident of Globe Street, Rotherhithe. In March 1874 she was found guilty of stealing a waterproof cloak from a child named Anderson and from Sarah Jane Dovey, a pair of boots, and money.

Mrs. Mary Ann Dovey, Lucy Street, said she sent her child with 4d, to purchase some tea, when she was met by the prisoner, who took the child into the park, robbing it of its boots and the four pence.

Mrs. Anderson, also of Lucy Street, said her child was taken at the same time into the park by the prisoner, and robbed of the waterproof cloak.

Evidence showed that Carter had pawned the stolen items.



Mary Chambers

Member of Rosewell Tennis Club. In April 1891 she signed a petition calling on the London County Council to provide more tennis courts. The petition was successful.

Mary Cheeseley

Resident of Paradise Street. In September 1874 she was visiting Southwark Park to meet her daughter and other relatives. On entering the park she had to pass 49 year-old Edwin Fox, who was carrying a thick cane, with which he struck her sharply on the back of the head, at the same time walking rapidly away. Fox, a hairdresser of Wellington Street, Rotherhithe, was committed to Wandsworth Gaol for two months' with hard labour for the assault.

Nicola Cheetham

Manager of Southwark Park. Nicola became manager of Southwark Park in 2017, only the second woman to hold the position to date.

Clementine Churchill (1885-1977)

Baroness. During the Second World War, while her husband Winston was

serving as Prime Minister, amongst many other duties she was Chairwoman of the Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund and the Young Women's Christian Association War Time Appeal.

In July 1941 the Bermondsey Shelter Council in conjunction with Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts provided open-air performances of *The Taming of the Shrew* in Southwark Park. She attended the first night and the *South London Press* reported she "wore a navy dress with white polka dots and an inch-pleated elbow-length cape and a velvet snood in her hair."



Clemmie Churchill

Elizabeth Clack

Resident of New Cross Road and owner of a property on land designated for Southwark Park. In July 1866 she claimed compensation for her cottage with garden facing Deptford Lower Road together with a piece of land in Rotherhithe New Road. The Metropolitan Board of Works agreed a payment of £250, about £15,000 in current values.

Teresa Claramunt (1862-1931)

Catalan anarchist, writer and feminist.



She was a weaver by trade and a strong public speaker.

A mother of five children, who all died before her, she spent half her life in prison.

Following a terrorist attack in Barcelona in 1896 she was arrested, brutally beaten, tried and deported to England. On 1 August 1897 she spoke at a public meeting in the park protesting against the inhuman treatment of Spanish anarchists.

She saluted those who protested against the tortures. She saluted all those who loved liberty and progress. She said the victims in Spanish government prisons must not be forgotten and called on the people of London to give hospitality and help.

Alison Clayburn



Creative Writing tutor and founder member of Southwark Park Association 1869. In 2016 she compiled *Voices Of The Park*, an anthology of writing inspired by the

park, for which she also provided many photographs.

Ann Clayton

Community Engagement Manager.

In 2010, while working with Time and Talents, Ann gave considerable support to the Our Park oral history project.



Alizon Cleal

In 2014 Alizon took part in the documentary film *It's Our Park*.

Miss Louisa H. Coaffee (1873-1926)

Gym Attendant. Louisa came to Southwark Park from Myatt's Fields in July 1915. In October of the same year she was transferred to Nelson Recreation Ground.

Frances Coleman

Artist/ Gallerist. A founder member of the Bermondsey Artists Group, and Café Gallery (CGP London) in the park, of which she is the Finance and Venue Hire Manager. Frances is also director of the nearby Coleman Project Space.

Mary Coling

In October 1891 she was convicted of damaging flowers in the park and fined two shillings.

Miss Dorothy Cooper

Park Keeper. In March 1948 Dorothy was one of the first women to be appointed onto the permanent staff at Southwark Park.



Jane Deakin

Artist. Member of the Bermondsey Artists Group, based at the Café Gallery in the park. In 2010 Jane contributed to the *Our Park* oral history project.

Una Dearman

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival, held in the park in June 1943, Una was crowned Temperance Queen.

Mrs. Deavin

Landlady of the Duke of Sussex Public House, Rotherhithe New Road. On 2 June 1872 she reported a man behaving indecently towards two young girls in the park. He was caught by her husband and subsequently convicted and sentenced to three months hard labour. She received 5s compensation for attending court.



Mrs Dennis' damp house

Bonita Delaney

Singer. She played the part of Frida in the Abba Gold Girls tribute band at the Bermondsey Carnival in the park in 2018.

Jennie Demont

Athlete. On 30 November 1986 Southwark's first ever 10k athletics race was held in aid of the Mayor's Charity. Jennie won the women's race and over 800 spectators saw her presented with a trophy.

Mrs. Dennis

Wife of Park Superintendent Charles Dennis. She suffered badly from the dampness in the Southwark Park lodge where her and her husband lived. In August 1873 Charles Dennis requested, and was granted, a fortnight's leave to care for his wife. "I should like to try the effect of a change of air upon her," he wrote. Two months later he wrote again to the Metropolitan Board of Works: "I cannot by any means keep the Lodge from damp the effect of which is developing itself very seriously on the health of my wife and may soon attack me.

My wife has been sixteen months in the lodge of which she has been fifteen under the Doctor's hands. Although she never previously had any illness. I am convinced that dampness in the sleeping room is the cause of her illness. She is now attending Brompton Hospital."



Charlotte Despard

Charlotte Despard (1844-1939)

Anglo-Irish suffragist and writer. Kent-born Charlotte French came from a conventional background and married a wealthy businessman. When her husband died in 1890, Charlotte decided to dedicate the rest of her life to helping the poor. In Wandsworth she funded and staffed a health clinic, as well as organizing youth and working men's clubs, and a soup kitchen for the local unemployed. She campaigned to reform the Poor Law system and was a member of both the Social Democratic Federation and the Independent Labour Party.

In 1906, she joined the Women's Social and Political Union, and was twice detained in Holloway Prison. In 1907 she and others formed the Women's Freedom League. She was an ardent believer in Irish Home Rule and a supporter of a united Ireland. On 12 September 1920 she spoke at a 'Hands off Ireland' demonstration in the park which attracted a big crowd.

Gwen Dickey

Singer. On 6 June 2008, the American artist, best known as the front voice of soul band Rose Royce, performed at The Event in Southwark Park.



Gwen Dickey

Dora Dixon-Fyle

Labour Party politician.

In 2014, as Southwark Council's cabinet member for adult care, arts and culture, she welcomed people to the Bermondsey Carnival in Southwark Park, saying "It is always a highlight of our events calendar and despite some typical British summertime weather 7,000 of you turned out to enjoy the fantastic line-up of music, dance, food and funfair - it was amazing to see so many of you getting into the spirit of the day!"



Dora Dixon-Fyle



Beryl Donovan

In 2010 Beryl contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.

Bridget Donovan (1906-1993)

Park Keeper. During the 1960s and 1970s Bridget worked in the children's playground, and is still fondly remembered for her storytelling and also for helping mothers by looking after their children while they went shopping.

Janet Donovan

In 2010 Janet contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.



Janet Donovan

Elizabeth Downes

In October 1882 Elizabeth Downes was fined for indecent conduct with Edward James in the park.

Emily Druiff

Artist and Curator. In May 2001 her work *Emit* was exhibited at the re-opening of the Café Gallery in the park.



Emily Druiff

Miss Edwards

Resident of Honor Oak. In August 1885, following the opening of the lake in Southwark Park, she donated two pairs of Muscovy ducks.

Miss E.M. Elder

Tennis player. In June 1887 she successfully called on the Metropolitan Board of Works to provide lawn tennis courts in the park.

Florence Eyre

Lido Attendant. In July 1928 she was censured by an inquest jury following the death of 8-year-old Dorothy Ada Conoley, who drowned in Southwark Park lido. She said she did not notice the child as there were about 200 bathers during the evening.

She found some clothing in one of the compartments when she went round to close up, and looked into the shallow end of the baths, but could see nothing. In evidence it was said it was impossible to see to the bottom of the deep end owing to the dark growth in the water.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" and added that Florence Eyre was deserving of censure for not making a thorough

search when she found the child's clothing. The Coroner agreed with the jury, and said that he thought that her attitude was most disgraceful.

Ann Faber

Author and resident of Rotherhithe Street. In October 1953 she and others appealed to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings about the proposed demolition of historic houses in the street to provide an extension to Southwark Park, later known as King's Stairs Gardens.

Miss Few

Fete organiser. On 4 July 1936 the Lady Gomm Cottage Hospital in Hawkstone Road held a Jubilee Year fete and bazaar in the park. Miss Few loaned and organised the stalls.

Mrs. Field

Mother of nine children.

In August 1885 George Field, an unemployed bricklayer of Dartford, was imprisoned for being unable to pay a shilling a week towards the support of his father in Dartford workhouse. He was imprisoned in Maidstone Gaol, but his indebtedness was not cancelled.

Appearing in court again he asked the magistrate, "We are all Englishmen, ain't we? If I can't get work what am I to do?" He also asked if his family were to starve for another 31 days. For his perceived impertinence the Chairman rebuked him as a disgrace to his class and gave him a further month in prison. On 30 August 1885 almost 1,000 people, largely composed of working men engaged in the building trade, met in the park to protest against the conduct of the magistrates.

A collection was made for Mrs. Field and taken to her home in Dartford.



Louisa Fisher

Louisa Fisher (1928-1988)

Resident of Bermondsey, who lived her adult years close to the park, which she knew very well.

Louisa worked as a cleaner, and also at Courage's brewery in Horselydown and Peek Frean biscuit factory in Drummond Road.

During the Second World War she was photographed dancing at the bandstand with Stanley John Fisher, who she married in 1947.

Her son David is a founder member of Southwark Park Association 1869.



©David Fisher 2019



Fikkan Skolekorps

Marching Band. In May 2014 they performed at the Norwegian Bi-centennial celebrations held in the park.

Miss Louise Fletcher

Culling Road resident. In October 1899 she complained to the London County Council about boys getting on and over the park wall at the back of her garden.

Joan Francis

Mother and resident of Camilla Road. She complained to Southwark Council about children using play equipment in Southwark Park as a toilet. 'The giant's head is being used as a lavatory. The health risk is tremendous, especially in summer,' she said. In April 1993 the Council agreed to open a portable toilet for children using the playground.



©Gary Magold 1990



©Gary Magold 1990

Miss Frank

Resident of Blackhurst, Tunbridge Wells. In May 1904 the London County Council accepted her offer of a peacock and peahen for the park.

It was reported "Miss Frank regrets to say that at the present moment the peacock has no tail. It strayed to join some more peacocks at a house near, and in the scrimmage of being caught lost its tail, but it is a fine bird."

Mrs. P. Garrod

Lido Attendant. In April 1968 she was awarded a bronze medallion in lifesaving.

Mary Gibson

Author. Mary has published six novels, all set in Bermondsey, where she was born and brought up. *Hattie's Home*,

first published in 2018, includes scenes set in Southwark Park. In March 2019 as part of the park's 150th anniversary celebrations Mary gave a public talk.

Mrs. Gillespie

In July 1869 residents of Banyard Road, Union Place, Wells Terrace and Rotherhithe Street, petitioned the Metropolitan Board of Works seeking permission for Mrs. Gillespie to have a stand in the park. The purpose of the stand was not indicated, but she was described as "a respectable woman, in reduced circumstances. Her husband being an invalid suffering from chronic consumption she is compelled to do something for their livelihood. We can vouch for her respectability and efficiency as a businesswoman." No decision was recorded.



Ann Godsave

Resident of Reculver Road. In March 1881 she was imprisoned for fourteen days due to indecent conduct in the women's toilet with James Fleming.

Debra Gosling

Author, designer and founder member and Secretary of Southwark Park Association 1869. Over many years Debra has produced and designed numerous publications about the park, perhaps most notably *Our Park* in 2010, *The Bygone Friends of Southwark Park Vol.1*, *The Trees of Southwark Park* in 2017, and this book. In 2010 she also carried out interviews for the *Our Park* oral history project.

Mary Gosling

Artist. Mary has produced several works about the park including, *Southwark Park The Bandstand*, *Southwark Park Event Supergroup* and *140 Years of Southwark Park*. In 2010 Mary contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.



Eileen Frances Greenwood (1902-1985)

Labour Party politician. During the Second World War the park was used as a military base. Although peace was declared in 1945 it was not until 1950 that the park was finally de-requisitioned. During those five years Eileen consistently pressed the authorities to bring the park back fully to the people. Eileen was Mayor of Bermondsey in 1950-51.



Mrs. Rose Hannen

Gym Attendant. She came to work in the park in February 1901, but lasted only a short time in the job, before being dismissed for misconduct. It was reported that she was unable to manage the children and had walked out saying she 'had had enough of it.'

It was said she was unsuitable for the work, being very neglectful, and was known to periodically beg by means of her son at public houses in the evenings. As she had little clothing the London County Council assented to her retaining her uniform provided the official badge and number was removed.

Mrs. Richard Hare

Patron of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnival. The procession of the first Carnival assembled in Southwark Park on 18/19 July 1900.

Vivien Harland

Artist. Vivien started working at Cafe Gallery Projects in Southwark Park in 2010 as an invigilator and is currently Assistant Director.

Miss Florence Harwood

Park Keeper. In March 1948 Florence was one of the first women to be appointed onto the permanent staff at Southwark Park.

Mrs. Emma Heesom

Lavatory Attendant. She came from Peckham Rye Park to work in Southwark Park in December 1908.

Mrs Irene Hesley

Gardener. In March 1948 Irene was one of the first women to be appointed onto the permanent staff at Southwark Park.

Patricia Hicks (1919-2011)

Actor. In July 1941 she played the part of Maria in the open-air production of

William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, set on 'a charming Elizabethan stage' in the trees. *The Times* reported 'On Tuesday evening the elements were not as kind as they might have been, a part of the microphone arrangements got out of hand and boomed disconcertingly, and there were other distractions in the noise of children and dogs playing beyond the canvas walls. It needed Miss Patricia



Hicks as Maria and Mr. Heron Carvic as the fool to stir the scenes they share between them to a proper life and vitality. There is much in these two smallish parts for actors who know where to look, and Miss Hicks and Mr. Carvic not only sought but found.'

Marjorie Hill

Founder member of the Friends of Southwark Park and Southwark Park Association 1869. For almost a quarter of a century Marjorie has consistently supported, promoted and protected the park. In 2010 she contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project, and in 2014 took part in the documentary film *It's Our Park*.



Marjorie Hill

Connie Hockley

Secretary of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnival. In July 1976 the Carnival in the park consisted of a parade and other activities including tug-of-war; football and netball matches; Royal Artillery display; motor cycle display; Royal Navy Youth Team display; donkey derby; and sky diving.

Lady Hollick

Businesswoman, broadcaster and human rights campaigner. In May 2001 she spoke at the official launch of the newly refurbished Café Gallery in the park.



Miss Holmes

Resident of Paradise Row.

In April 1869 she sought 500 guineas compensation for damage caused to her health and her property by the works carried out to create Southwark Park. Letters sent on her behalf claimed a broken garden fence and ruined shrubs; destruction of a large greenhouse and "vines of many years standing;" a spoiled pianoforte, caused by damp. Of her health it was written:

"Miss Holmes was attacked by rheumatic fever, or some affection of that kind, which rendered her incapable of using her limbs, and she was attended in consequence by Mr. Bryan for twelve months, sometimes at four guineas an hour, sometimes at two guineas. For ten months Miss Holmes was incapable of dressing or otherwise acting for herself without the aid of others, her arm during the whole of that period being heavily encased and even at the present time she is unable to raise it above the height of her head." The Metropolitan Board of Works refused to accept liability.

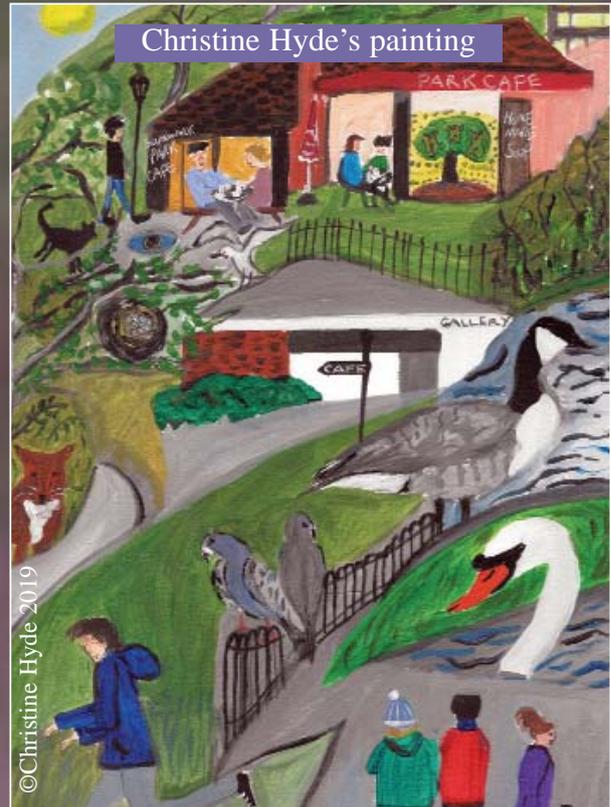
Mrs. Alice M. Hough

Gym Attendant. She retired from service in Southwark Park in June 1965.



Miss Eva Howard

Gardener. In March 1948 Eva was one of the first women to be appointed onto the permanent staff at Southwark Park.



Christine Hyde

Artist. Christine created a painting, *Southwark Park Café*, which during 2018 was exhibited in the Deli Felice café in Albion Street.

Mary Ives

Market Gardener. In July 1866 she requested the Metropolitan Board of Works to delay taking the land for Southwark Park so she could bring in her crops.

Mrs. James

Gym Attendant. She worked in Southwark Park from October 1901 to summer 1902.

Mrs Audrey Jerram

Park Keeper.

In March 1948 Audrey was one of the first women to be appointed onto the permanent staff at Southwark Park.

Lucy Johnson

Local resident. In March 2000 she donated personal memorabilia to the time capsule sunk in the park.

Janet Kay

Singer
songwriter.
In 2017 'The Queen of Lovers Rock' performed in the park at the Bermondsey Carnival.



Dawn Kelly-Jones

Local resident.
In May 2001 she raised concerns about threats to wild birds caused by lake restoration works in the park.

Joan Khachik (1928-2009)

Labour Party politician. In 2001, when a board member of the Southwark Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, she helped gain money to upgrade the Southwark Park One O'Clock Club.

Maddalena Kharfi

Businesswoman and artist. Maddalena and her husband Felice regularly exhibit art works and other materials which



promote the park in their Deli Felice café in Albion Street. In 2009 they supported the *Our Park* oral history project by hosting a group interview with women from the Rainbow Arts Group.

Grace Kimmins (1871-1954)

Child welfare reformer and member of the Bermondsey Settlement.

She lived for a time in Rotherhithe and was the driving force behind the Guild of Play, which sought to



promote the educational value of play amongst city girls, and The Guild of the Poor Brave Things,

which aimed to improve services for disabled boys. She argued that education should not be confined to school timetables and scheduled hours but it should, 'invade all public playing-spaces, parks and open places as well as halls of entertainment, and even the streets and alleys of towns and cities'. In March 1902 she gained the approval of the London County Council to allow the Cricket Club of the Guild of Brave Poor Things to play in the park although over age. The boys wore a badge indicating the club to which they belonged in order to signify they had been given permission to play.



©Pat Kingwell 2008

Lesley Kingwell

During the 1970s she regularly walked a fierce dog called Jezebel around the park. In 2010 Lesley contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.

Ethelfloed Caroline Knight-Bruce (1892-1956)

Chairwoman of the Bermondsey Shelter Council and organiser of the Bermondsey Shelter Festival during the Second World War.

In July 1941 she was instrumental in arranging open-air performances of William Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and *Twelfth Night* in the park.

Mrs. Langton

Widow. In April 1870 Rev. Henry Clarke Mitchison, of Christ Church Rotherhithe, sought permission for her to sell sweetmeats in the park. The Metropolitan Board of Works denied the request.



Doris Law

Temperance advocate. Doris was Temperance Queen in the 1950s.

Nora Lawrence (1918-2015)

Park Keeper. During the 1950s and 1960s Nora worked in the park where she was particularly well-known for her gardening and care of plants.

Susan Lawrence (1871-1947)

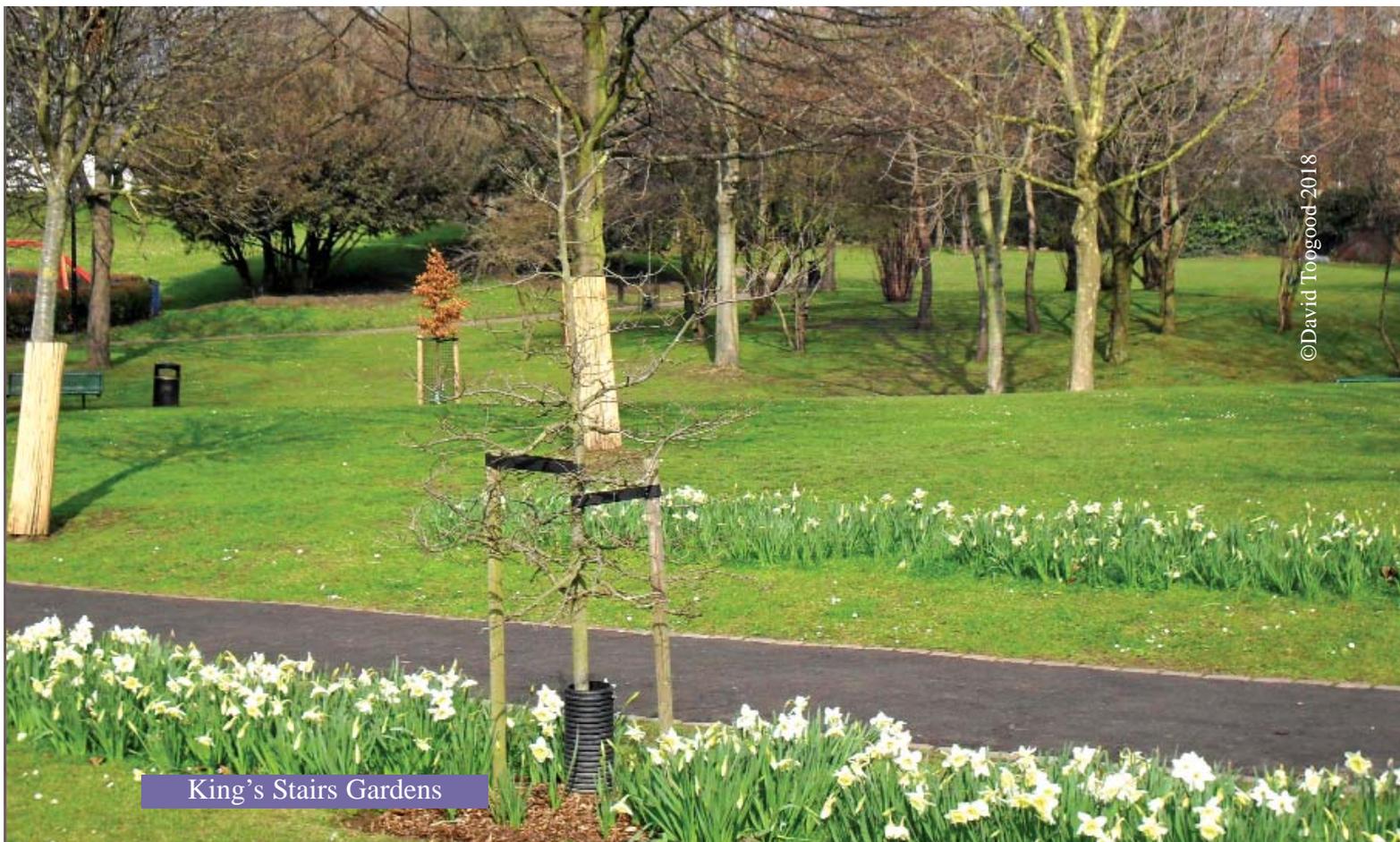
Labour Party politician. One of Labour's first women MPs. In 1932 she spoke at a May Day demonstration held under the Reformer's Tree, in the park.



Mrs. Jane Laxton

Gym Attendant. She came to the park in October 1899, and was in post for a few months before asking to be transferred back to her previous job at Nelson Recreation Ground. She wrote 'I beg most

respectfully to ask you that I may be allowed to return to Nelson Street Recreation Ground as soon as it is open again as I feel the strain of duty at the gymnasium and sandpit at Southwark Park will be too much for me in the longer days.' Her request was agreed to.



King's Stairs Gardens

Elizabeth Lee

Resident of Southwark Park Road. In October 1930 she was arrested for washing a dog in the paddling pool at the park lake.

When she appeared before Tower Bridge Police Court, she denied the charge, and said the dog jumped from her arms and into the water.

The children paddling there took a fancy to the dog and enticed it in to the water, as they liked to see it swim. She denied the offence, and said that in consequence of illness she was unable to wash herself, much less her dog, nor would she degrade herself by washing a dog in public.

The case was dismissed.

Miss A. Lethbridge

Actor. In July 1941 she helped arrange the open-air performances of William Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and *Twelfth Night* in the park.

Dr. Eroica Lewis

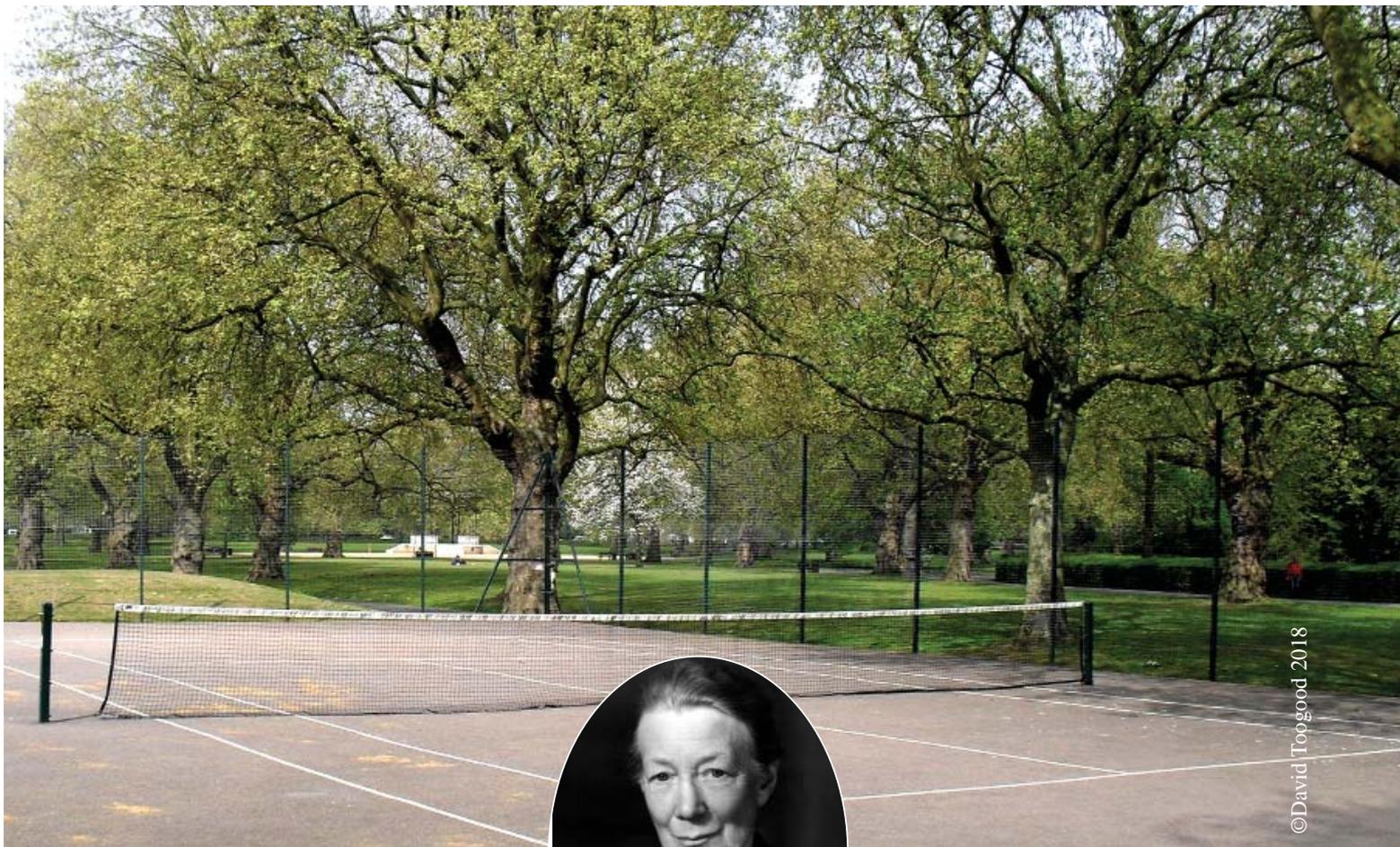
Resident of Rotherhithe Street. In October 1953 she and others appealed to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings about the proposed demolition of historic houses in the street to provide an extension to Southwark Park. The appeal failed and King's Stairs Gardens was developed.

Miss Maureen Long

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival, held in the park in June 1950, Maureen was crowned Temperance Queen by Mrs. Robert Taylor. The tableau theme was 'Safety First'.

Mrs Eileen Lovell

Park Keeper. In March 1948 Eileen was one of the first women to be appointed onto the permanent staff at Southwark Park.



©David Topgood 2018



Eveline Lowe (1869-1956)

Labour Party politician. She served on the Board of Guardians; the London County Council Education Committee and then as a London County Councillor from 1922-1938. In 1939 she became the first woman to Chair the London County Council. In April 1891, as Eveline Farren, she signed a petition calling on the London County Council to provide more tennis courts in the park. The petition was successful. In July 1923 she presented a petition against Sunday games. During the 1920s and 1930s she was a regular attender of the Labour Party and trade union May Day demonstrations held in the park.

Claire Luce (1903-1989)

Actor, dancer and singer. American Claire was one of Fred Astaire's partners, and he credited her as the inspiration for

the famous *Night and Day* dance routine. She often appeared on the English stage and stayed in the UK during the Second World War years. In July 1941 she was the star of the open-air Shakespearean production of *Taming of the Shrew* in the park. She played the part of Katherine. 'I am really looking forward to playing to Bermondsey. I have heard so much about the wonderful work their shelter council has done, and when we have given the show I hope to go and see the shelters,' she said.



Edith Lupton (1843-1904)

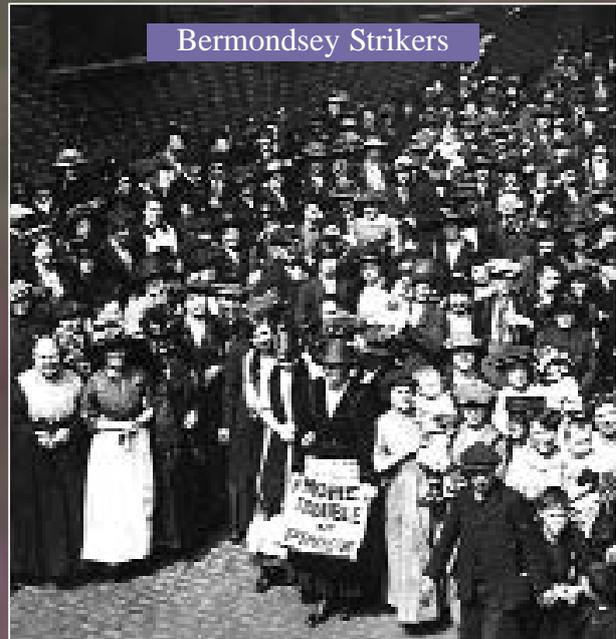
Artist, feminist and libertarian. Born in Leeds in 1843 into a wealthy household, she was educated at home before training as an artist at the Slade in London. From 1882-1888 she was an independent member of the Bradford School Board, where she campaigned strongly for education improvements. In 1890 Edith moved to London to agitate full-time for William Morris's Socialist League. She settled in south London, where her favourite place to speak was New Cut, then in Southwark. She organised to liberate women from the harsh working conditions of commercial laundries. This brought her into court several times in 1892 with fines imposed and two weeks in prison served. Edith kept on campaigning, and getting arrested, but late in life she succumbed to alcoholism. In 1904, she died in Marylebone, impoverished and un-mourned. Her contribution to the story of Southwark Park came in September 1889 when she spoke at two Great Dock Strike rallies in support of the men employed at the Surrey Commercial Docks.

Mary MacArthur (1880-1921)

Suffragist, socialist and trade unionist.



Mary moved to London in 1903 from Scotland and worked closely with early Labour leaders Keir Hardie and Ramsey



MacDonald. She helped found the National Federation of Women Workers and was its General Secretary. In 1911 she was especially active in organising women factory workers in Bermondsey, including a great demonstration in Southwark Park in August after pay rises had been won from the employers. In July 1914 she spoke at a demonstration in the park over the issue of fines and deductions from women's wages. She gave examples such as two pence for laughing at the dinner-table and threepence for being late in the morning.

Mrs. Mackay

Gym Attendant. She came to Southwark Park in October 1899, and was in post for just a few months before transferring to Clapham Common.

Monica Maeland

Norwegian Conservative Party politician. In May 2014, as Minister of Trade and Industry, she spoke at the Norwegian Bi-centennial celebrations held in the park.

**Irene (Rene) Magold
(1931-2018)**



For many years Rene was a regular attender of events in the park. In 2010 she contributed her memories and photographs to the *Our Park* oral history project.

©Gary Magold 2010

Eliza Mann

Liberal Democrat politician. Eliza is a long-serving Southwark Councillor who currently represents North Bermondsey Ward. Over many years she has consistently supported the protection, promotion and community access to the park. In June 2008, as Mayor of Southwark she formally opened the new cricket pitch in the park.



©Gary Magold 2008

Anita Marloe

Brownies' Organiser. In 2014 Anita encouraged the 1st Southwark Park Brownies to create *Kid's Park*, a Southwark Park nature trail leaflet for children.

Eleanor Marx (1855-1898)

Socialist activist, literary translator and actor. Eleanor was the youngest daughter of Karl Marx. In December 1889 she spoke at a mass meeting in the park in support of the Silvertown gas workers strike.

Rosamund Massy (1870-1947)

Suffragette and organiser in the Women's Social and Political Union. She was imprisoned several times for her suffragette activities.



In June 1909 she was a principal speaker at a mass meeting of women in the park.

Kathleen Metcalfe

In 2010 Kathleen contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.

Mrs. Clara Merivale Mayer

Australian suffragist. In the years leading up to the First World War, as a member of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, she toured England speaking for women's' right to vote. She organised women in Bermondsey in readiness for a mass demonstration in the park on 25 June 1909.

Joan Mercer

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival, held in the park in June 1931, Joan was crowned the first Temperance Queen.

Louise Michel (1830-1905)

Teacher, writer and French socialist heroine of the 1871

Paris Commune when she both fought and looked after the wounded. From 1881 to 1895 she lived in London and was head of a libertarian school.



She returned to France and her travels, dying in Marseilles.

In August 1897 she spoke in the park at a Labour Protection League meeting protesting against the inhuman treatment of Spanish anarchists and the Walsall anarchists.

Gladys Miller

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival, held in the park in June 1937, Gladys was crowned the seventh Temperance Queen by Hon. Hilda Dillon. The theme of the demonstration was 'For An A1 Nation MILK Is Best' and contained sections on the benefits of milk for babies, children, adolescents and middle aged.

Dannii Minogue

Singer. In July 2001 she got under way the Carlton London Fun Run in the park.



The Mint Juleps

All female a capella group. Consisting of the four Charles sisters - Sandra, Debbie, Lizzie and Marcia - and their friends Julie Isaac and Debbie Longworth - in July 2008 they played at The Event in Southwark Park.

Beryl Mortimer

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival, held in the park in June 1938, Beryl was crowned Temperance Queen.

Rubyjo Narbey

Park Ranger. In March 2000 she organised the time capsule project in the park, which contains memorabilia donated by local individuals and organisations.



Coral Newell

Labour Party politician.



In June 1989 Coral opposed the axing of the Southwark Park Carnival and campaigned successfully to have it reinstated in 1990.

Bev Nicholson

Athlete. In October 1989 the future Commonwealth Games bronze medallist, won the women's Miles of Miles event at Southwark Park athletics track.



Kate Nottidge

Community Engagement Manager of Grosvenor Britain and Ireland. In March 2015, in conjunction with Bede Centre, she arranged the planting of 30 fruit trees near the China Hall entrance to the park.



©Pat Kingwell 2015

Agnes O'Connell

In July 1990 her London Irish Girl Pipers Band performed at the Irish Summer Festival in the park.

Mary O'Connor

Country singer. In July 1992 she performed at the Irish Summer Festival in the park.



Barbara Old

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival held in in the park in June 1948 Barbara was crowned Temperance Queen.





Lynne Olding

Lynne Olding

Head Gardener in Southwark Park. In 2010 Lynne contributed to the *Our Park* oral history project, and in the years since has regularly given guided tours of her beloved Ada Salter Garden.

Betty Olliffe

Local resident. In March 2000 she donated personal memorabilia to the time capsule sunk in the park.

Marie O'Reilly

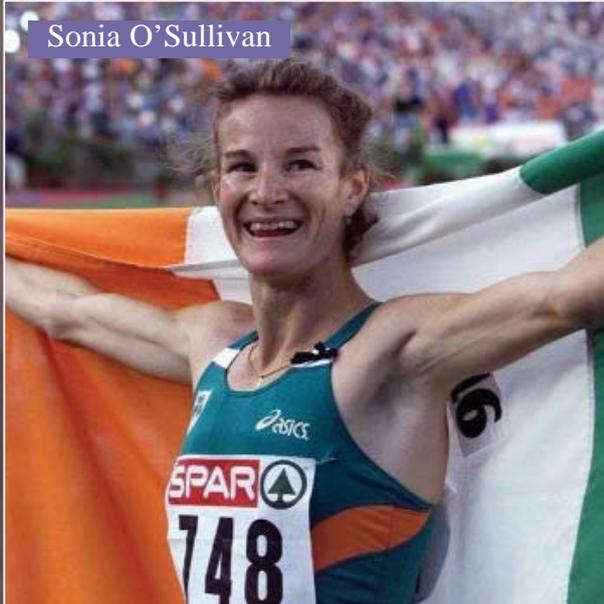
Irish singer, pianist and harpist. In July 1992 she performed at the Irish Summer Festival in the park.



Betty Olliffe



Sonia O'Sullivan



Fiona O'Sullivan

Young Friends of Parks Co-ordinator. During the early 2000's Fiona organised activities to attract young people to the park.

Sonia O'Sullivan

Athlete. In November 2004 she took part in the Nike 'Go Nocturnal' 10k race which finished in Southwark Park.

Dorothy Oxley

In 2010 Dorothy carried out interviews for the *Our Park* oral history project.

Joyce Parsons

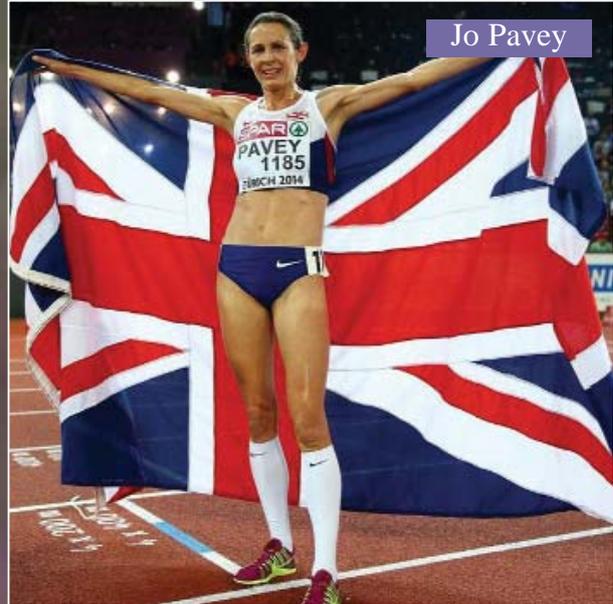
Local resident.

In May 2001 she raised concerns about threats to wild birds caused by lake restoration works in the park.

Mrs. Victoria Parsons

Gym Attendant. In December 1894 she was employed at Kennington and Southwark Parks on alternate days. Victoria remained in her job for almost five years. She was a spokeswoman for her colleagues. In April 1895 she wrote a letter to the London County Council

Jo Pavey



asking for boots because "the wear and tear of boot leather in the gymnasiums is almost incredible." Her request was declined.

Lil Patrick

Community activist and member of the Bermondsey Trades Council. In August 1963 she called for an adventure playground, which was eventually installed in the park.

Jo Pavey

Athlete. In November 2004 she won the Nike 'Go Nocturnal' 10k race which finished in the park.

Mrs. Peel

Gym Attendant. She worked in Southwark Park from 1900-1901, before transferring to Waterlow Park.

Miss R. Pennicott

In July 1924 she and ten other lido users wrote to the London County Council suggesting that after 7pm on women and girls' day, under 14's should not be admitted.

Mrs. Penning

In October 1907 her daughter Alice (11), was witnessed to have plucked dahlias in the park.

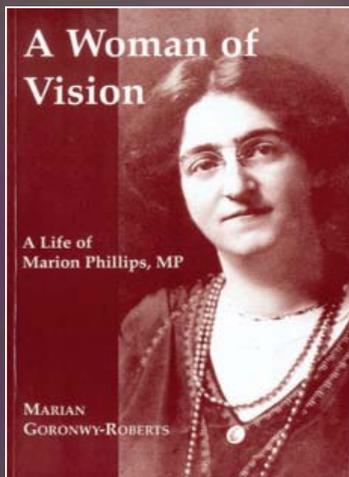
Mrs. Penning was reported to 'have treated the matter with contempt when the offence was brought to her notice.'

Dr. Marion Phillips (1881-1932)

Australian born academic, women's rights campaigner and one-time Labour Party MP for Sunderland.

On 14 August 1911, at a

demonstration of women factory workers in the park, she announced that following strike action several firms had increased wages, including Pink's, Wyatt's, Young's and Shuttleworth's.



Andrea Pita

Contract and Services Officer. Andrea started in the park in July 2011 and since then has been an invaluable link with the community and local schools.

Amongst the projects she is most proud of is her work with teenage volunteers on the National Citizenship Programme.



Mrs. Pledsted

Lavatory Attendant. She was in post at Southwark Park in April 1915, having previously worked at Royal Victoria Gardens, North Woolwich.

Bertha Poole

In October 1881 she was sentenced to seven days imprisonment for indecent conduct in the park with George Bridgeman.



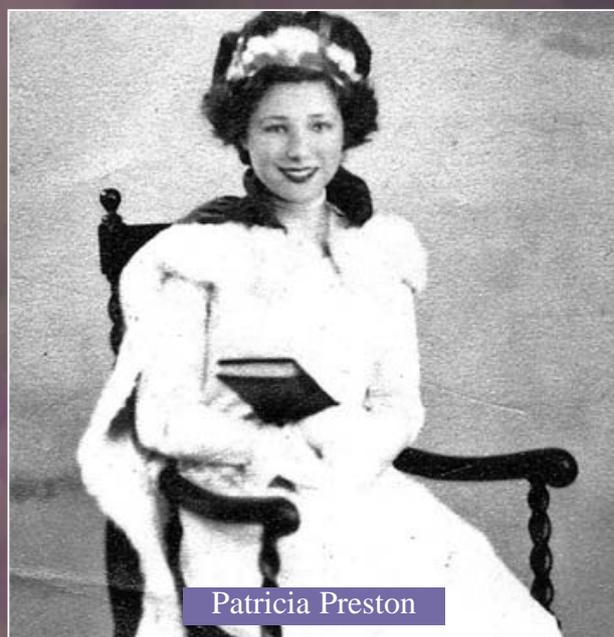
**Duchess of Portland
(1863-1954)**

At a large Temperance Jubilee Demonstration, held in the park on 3 July 1897, she received an address for presentation to Queen Victoria.



Patricia Preston 1937 -2016

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival held in the park in 1951, Patricia was crowned Temperance Queen. In 2010 she contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.



Patricia Preston

Miss P. R. Price

Teacher. In July 1902 she played a major role in organising the girls' events at the first Bermondsey and Southwark School Sports Festival held in the park.

Princess Martha Louise

On 17 May 2013

Princess Märtha Louise and her family led the parade of several hundred Norwegians at the annual Constitution Day celebrations.

The Princess was also the main speaker at the event.

Mrs. Quarrelle

Resident of Hawkstone Road.

In September 1903 her husband complained to the London County Council about window panes broken by football and cricket players in the park. An investigation confirmed the breakages, but found the incident was the result of Mrs. Quarrelle roughly handling a boy, whose friends later caused the damage as retribution.

Queen Elizabeth Second

Monarch.

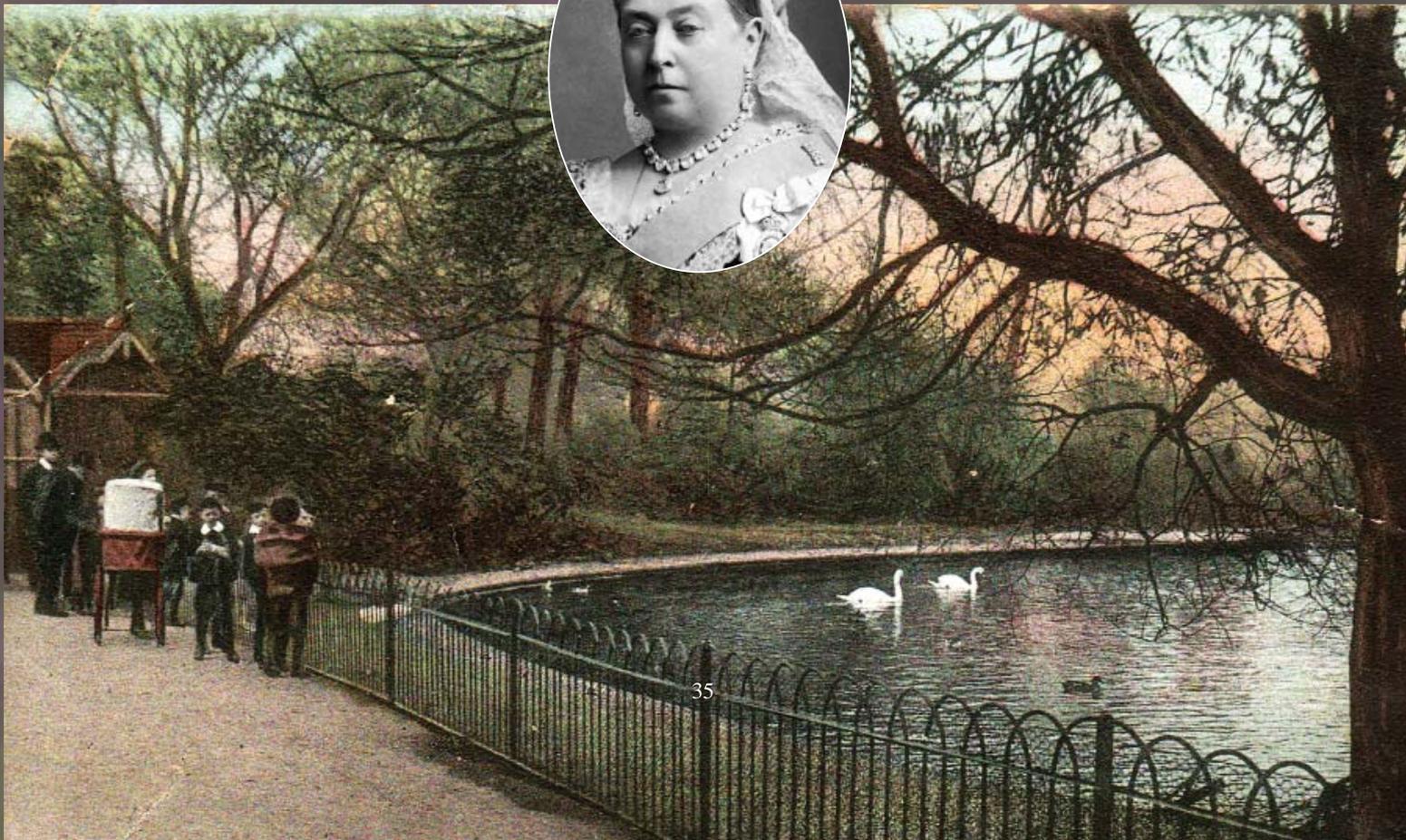
In 1953 a tree was planted in the park to mark her Coronation.

On 9 June 1977 as part of her Silver Jubilee celebrations the Queen unveiled a piece of inscribed stone from the former Surrey Commercial Docks in King's Stairs Gardens. In June 2014 Southwark Park became a Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust.

Queen Victoria

Monarch. In August 1885, to mark the opening of the lake in the park, she gave a pair of cygnets.

They failed to arrive on the day of the ceremony, but were provided shortly afterwards.



Paula Radcliffe

Athlete.

In November 2004 she took part in the Nike 'Go Nocturnal' 10k race which finished in Southwark Park.



Rainbow Arts Group

In 2010 the group, which operates at Time and Talents Centre, contributed memories to the *Our Park* oral history project and also had their works exhibited in the Café Gallery in 2014 as part of the Southwark Park Act commemorations. Members who took part included Barbara Andrews, Wendy Burgess, Rose Campbell, Eve Jajechnik, Eileen Kimberling, Gertrude



Lay, Sue Lim, Juliet McEwan, Kathleen Moss, Jean Murray, Pat Mynott, Vi Newman, Beryl Phillips, Vi Redmond, Sylvia Tull, June Whittenstall and Mary Wu.

Ebony Rainford-Brent

Cricketer and broadcaster. In June 2008 Surrey and England international Ebony launched the new synthetic cricket strip in the park, after which a match between Riverside Primary School and St. Josephs Primary School Gomm Road was held.

Ebony Rainford_Brent

©Gary Magold 2008



©Gary Magold 2008

Joan Regan (1928-2013)
Singer. In June 2004 and 2008 she performed at the Bermondsey Carnival.



©Gary Magold 2003

Zandra Rhodes
Fashion Designer.
She attended the Bermondsey Carnival in the park in summer 2003.

June Richardson
In 2010 she contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.

Rotherhithe Caryatides
Sculptures. In 2011 the former Rotherhithe Town Hall sculptures were restored and relocated to Southwark Park. Occasional concerts have been held at the beautiful attraction. Andrea Allen managed the project.



©Debra Gosling 2017

Norah Runge (1884-1978)

Conservative Party politician and former MP for Rotherhithe. In July 1938 she spoke at the opening of a new summer holiday shelter in the park for children under five years of age.



The scheme allowed working mothers to leave their children for a charge of a halfpenny an hour. The children received milk and biscuits.

Mrs. Mary Rush

Gym Attendant. Mary began work in the summer of 1902 and stayed in post until 1909, one of the longest continuations of service as a gym attendant at the time.

Mrs. Rosina Sales (1905-1970)

Gym Attendant. Rosina worked in the park during the 1960s.

Ada Salter (1866-1942)

Legendary figure in Bermondsey and London Labour politics.

As an environmentalist she recognised the inestimable value of Southwark Park to the people.

In 1934 she secured funds for an English Rose Garden, which was opened to the public in 1936. After Ada's death in 1942 the garden was renamed in her honour.



**Mrs. Elizabeth Search
(1858-1941)**

Lavatory Attendant. She came to Southwark Park from Myatt's Field and was recorded as in post by 1895. By 1901 she was earning 3s a day (about £12 today). Her male counterpart was earning 4s a day. Elizabeth stayed in the job until December 1908 when she moved to Peckham Rye Park. She died at a good old age of 83 in Camberwell.

Mrs. Sharp

A Sister of Phoenix. In January 1890 she spoke at a meeting of the London United Costermongers' Protection League, held in the park, to protest at their evictions from their place in the streets by the local authorities.

Mrs. A. Sherwood

Gym Attendant. In 1909 she came from Newington Gardens and stayed in post for two years. She certainly had her work cut out. In 1911 the Park Superintendent Carson reported to the London County Council that the number of children using the park had greatly increased, especially during the holidays, when the daily average was about 2,000.

Miss Mary Simmons

Temperance advocate, Poor Law Guardian and Bermondsey Settlement worker. On 13 May 1893 she spoke at a public meeting in the park in support of the Local Veto Bill. The platform on which she stood was disturbed by a

couple of dozen men who were not in sympathy with the objects of the meeting, and it was not until a free fight had taken place that order was restored.

Miss Sims

Anti-vaccinator. In September 1883 she presided over an Anti-Vaccination League meeting to protest against compulsory vaccination and the by-law of the Metropolitan Board of Works prohibiting public meetings in the park. Over a thousand people attended.

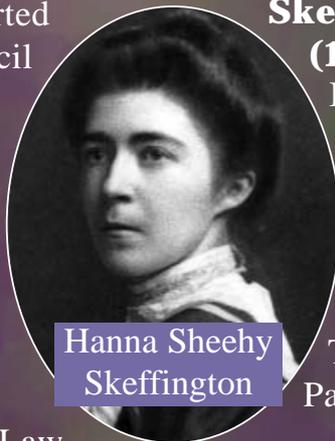
Beverley Skeete

Singer. In July 2004 she sang with Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings at The Event in the park.



**Mrs. Hanna Sheehy Skeffington
(1877-1946)**

Irish author, feminist and republican. In September 1920 she spoke at the 'Hands off Ireland' demonstration in the park, organised by the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Trades Council and Labour Party.



Hanna Sheehy Skeffington

Sophia Slipper

Landowner. In 1874 she was compensated £362 for land taken as part of the development of Southwark Park.



Elizabeth "Sissie" Smith

Member of the Southwark Park Lake Extension Committee. In 1907 she was given a purse for collecting 7,000 signatures in favour of an enlarged boating lake.

**Maud Smith,
(also known as Gwen)**

In 2010 Maud, who grew up in Lynton Road, Bermondsey, contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.

Mrs. R. Smith

Gym Attendant.
She retired on 31 May 1968.

**Southwark Park Association
1869 Members**

The Association was founded in 2018 with the aims of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the park to the public and to also promote

Southwark Park and King's Stairs Gardens for the benefit of the public. In addition to those mentioned elsewhere in this book, other members include Susan Dellet, Jill Gibbs, Anita Holmes, Jill Jerram, Fran Jones, Stephanie Kenward, Jenny Kingwell, Shirley Kingwell, Stacey Linstead, Margaret Lloyd, Benita Meli, Pam Miller, Heather V. Nicholson, Tracy Scales, Louise Sheridan, Ann Smith, Amanda Squires and Susan Vaughan.



**Southwark Park
Association 1869**



Southwark Park Bowls Club Members

At its height the Ladies team was affiliated to the Surrey County and South London Women's Bowls Association. Grace Beesley developed the women's game, along with other women including Eileen Box, Mercie Butler, Eileen Crew, Lily Fleetwood, Doreen Hams, Joyce Heather, Maud Holmes, Mary Horne, Brenda Johnson, Violet Jones, Irene Kemp, Ethel Leverington, Pearl Pike, Beryl Prevett, Kit Saunders, Mary Sawyer, Violet Shrimpton, Pat Spence, Mary Stanley, Michelle Statham, Rose Trotman, Winnie Waller and Wendy Webster.

Jean Stanford

Artist. Jean's works about the park include *Walking in Southwark Park* and *Summer in Southwark Park*.

Stick In The Wheel

Folk Music Band.

In June 2015 they performed at the Caryatides in the park. Band members included Fran Foote, Nicola Kearey and Ellie Wilson.

Mrs. Jane E. Stothard (1872-1937)

Gym Attendant.

Jane commenced work in Southwark Park in September 1918 and retired on medical grounds in May 1935. After seventeen years in post she was granted a special gratuity of £40 by the London County Council, about £2,000 today.

Jane must have been very highly regarded. She died in Bermondsey in September 1937, aged 63.



Mrs. June Swale

Senior Play leader at the One O'clock Club in 1975.

Miss M. Talmadge

Speaker. In July 1913 she spoke about the futility of war at a public meeting in Southwark Park under the auspices of the Association for the Right Understanding of International Interests.

Hannah Taylor

In 2010 Hannah contributed to the *Our Park* oral history project by transcribing interviews.

Rosie Thornton

Park Manager. In the early 2000s Rosie became the first ever woman manager of Southwark Park.

Mrs. Ethel Tilley (1886-1960)

Lavatory Attendant appointed in February 1930.

Mrs Florence May Tompkins
Park Keeper.

In March 1948 Florence was one of the first women to be appointed onto the permanent staff at Southwark Park.

Dorothy Topley

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival held in in the park in

June 1936 Dorothy was crowned Temperance Queen.

Voices Of The Park

Writers. In 2016 the following women contributed to the anthology of writing inspired by Southwark Park: Rose Ades, Jane Deakin, Katherine Evans, Helen Frederick, Cindy Glover, Sylvia Green, Daisy Moone, Ariadne Pascaladini, Mira Rutter, Sue Stewart and Natalie Webb.



Peta Webb

©Gary Magold 20008

Miss Walker

Teacher, who on 11 July 1902 played a major role in organising the girls' events at the first Bermondsey and Southwark School Sports Festival in the park. Over 2,000 competitors took part.

Mrs. Webb

Resident of Dartmouth Terrace, Rotherhithe New Road. In June 1872 she witnessed a man behaving indecently towards two young girls in the park.

He was caught and subsequently convicted and sentenced to three months hard labour. She received 5 shillings compensation for attending court.

Peta Webb

Singer. In July 2008 she sang with the Titanic Syncopators on the park bandstand.

Flo Weller (1920-2011)

Market Trader in The Blue, Southwark Park Road. In 2010 Flo contributed her memories to the *Our Park* oral history project.

Miss Margaret Werry (1897-1983)

Resident of Keeton's Road. In March 1953 she wrote a letter to *South London Press* about the proposed extension of the park to the riverside. "The arguments put against the extension of Southwark Park, Bermondsey, to the riverfront leave me aghast. Along Bermondsey's three miles of riverfront there is not a point where the inhabitants may enjoy the view of the river, except from Tower Bridge and across one or two bombed sites which, presumably, will eventually be built upon. When I first came to Bermondsey, four years ago, I walked miles trying to get a glimpse of the river, but always was frustrated by ugly warehouses and wharves; it was a very great joy to me when I learned of the possibility of the extension of Southwark Park to include a portion of riverfront where one might sit on a summer evening and watch the shipping. Man does not live by bread alone and a little more consideration for his aesthetic requirements might go far towards reducing undesirable tendencies. No garden enclosed on all sides can give the same sense of release as one



Patricia Wheeler

open to the sea or river." Miss Werry's wishes came true when King's Stairs Gardens was finally completed in 1982.

Countess of Wessex

In July 2002 she and the Earl of Wessex officially rededicated Southwark Park following the completion of major heritage restoration works.



Dora West

Liberal Party politician.



In the General Election of 1929 she contested the Rotherhithe seat. On 8 May 1929 she spoke at a meeting in the park before 'a large and voluble crowd under the scant shade of the Reformer's Tree.' It was known as the "Flapper Election" because for the first time women under thirty years of age were allowed to vote.

Patricia Wheeler

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival held in the park in June 1950 Patricia was crowned Temperance Queen.



Carol White (1943-1991)

Actor. In 1966 she appeared in Ken Loach's BBC drama *Cathy Come Home*, scenes of which were filmed in Southwark Park.

Community Council. Kath has helped fund projects in Southwark Park. Kath was Mayor of Southwark in 2016-17

Evelyn Louisa White

Resident of Cathay Street. In 1894 she sought compensation from the London County Council, claiming she had sustained injuries caused by falling over a wrought iron bar in the park. The Council denied liability.

Kath Whittam

Labour Party politician. Rotherhithe Ward Councillor and Chairperson of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe

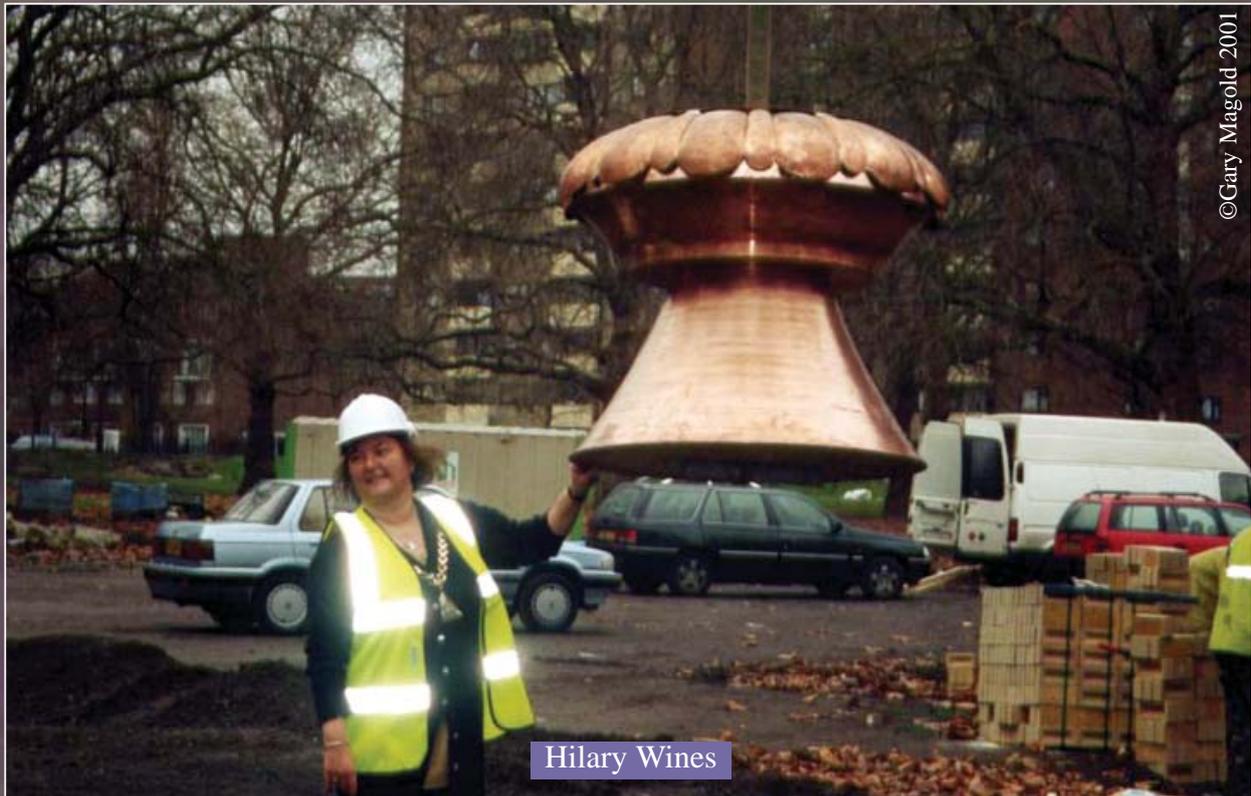


Jean Whymark

Temperance advocate. At the Bermondsey Band of Hope Union Open-Air Festival held in in the park in June 1947 Jean was crowned Temperance Queen. It was the centenary demonstration and

the tableau consisted of six groups: 'From Pub Bars To Prison Bars'; 'Children Slaves To Drink'; 'The First Band of Hope Festival 1847'; 'The Bridge Across The 100 Years'; 'The Brewers Plot in 1932 To Wreck The Bridge'; 'The Movement Still Growing Strong in 1947'.





Hilary Wines

Mrs. Williams

On 4 July 1936 the Lady Gomm Cottage Hospital in Hawkstone Road held a Jubilee Year fete and bazaar in the park.

Mrs. Williams provided entertainment given by the "Jubilee Babes" Concert Party, a group of Rotherhithe children.

Hilary Wines (1944-2010)

Liberal Party politician. Her time as Mayor of Southwark in 2001-2 coincided with the restoration of the bandstand in the park. She attended the works site and was only reluctantly dissuaded from climbing the works scaffold by Health and Safety regulations.

Mrs. A.M.M. Wing

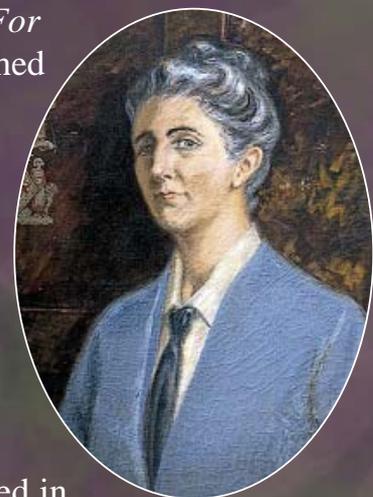
Gym Attendant. In 1911 she came from Victoria Park to Southwark Park.

Frances Garnet Wolseley (1872-1936)

Second Viscountess Wolseley and a horticulturist. She was educated privately but rejected marriage and the conventions of her upper-class background in favour of gardening education.

She founded a gardening college at Glynde in Sussex in 1902, which ran courses for women. She was the author of *Gardening For Women*, published in 1908.

She was a Patron of the first Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnival, the procession of which assembled in the park on 18-19 July 1900.



Anne Worsley (1940-2009)



Labour Party politician. In February 1996 she chaired a public meeting at the Rotherhithe Civic Centre, to discuss the poor condition of Southwark Park.

Under her leadership Southwark Council's Education Committee subsequently approved partnership money to support the major Heritage Lottery Fund restoration and improvement works concluded in 2002.

Anne Yates (1939-2008)

Liberal Party politician. Over many years Anne consistently supported the protection and promotion

of Southwark Park. She was a great campaigner for the Bermondsey Carnival when its funding was in doubt. One of her most permanent legacies is the Children's Centre, formerly known as the One O'Clock Club, for which she secured major investment in 2001. In her Mayoral year 2005 Anne attended the VE Day Concert on the bandstand.

Silvia Ziraneck

Performance Artist. In May 2001 Silvia performed RECAF: MORE NEW ENCORE (TO YOU?) at the re-opening of the Café Gallery in the park.



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Anne Yates



