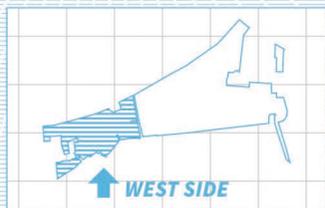


BRIDGE TO NOWHERE WEST SIDE

Burgess Park Heritage Trail



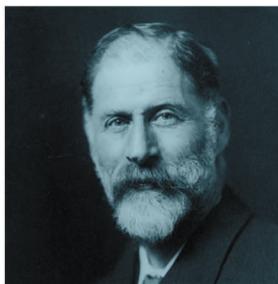
Burgess Park Heritage Trail

Burgess Park has a unique history because of the unusual way it was created. It took just 50 years, starting in 1800, for housing, factories, wharves, warehouses and a canal to spring up from the fields and market gardens of the area. Now, with the creation of this park, the area has more or less returned to open space, although traces of its past still remain.

You can uncover clues to the park's intriguing history with the Burgess Park Heritage Trail, and discover how it became the 'green lung' of South London. Look out for our heritage plaques which hold stories of the past. Scan the QR codes to explore the hidden tales of Burgess Park. The trail has been produced, with the help of Heritage Lottery Funding, by Friends of Burgess Park. We hope it will continue to develop and want to collect as much information as possible – please help! We are a group of interested volunteers working with all park users to represent the needs of the whole community, to protect, promote and enhance this important, inner-city London park.

To find out more about this project please visit

www.bridgetonowhere.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk



Addington Square was built between 1810 and 1850, when the area was still mostly fields and market gardens, and became home to the well-to-do escaping densely populated central London. It had a canal and two swimming baths by 1840. In 1844, National Trust founder Robert Hunter was born at no. 13. In contrast, the Richardsons, the infamous 1960s gangsters, operated from no. 33, occasionally with a live bear!

New Church Road was originally laid out as an elegant approach road to St George's church – new at the time – but contained some poor housing by 1898. After the war, houses started to be cleared and prefabs were built in this area of the park. Back down New Church Road, outside the park, stands Evelina Mansions. With its decorative flourishes of brick and ironwork, it was built to provide decent accommodation for the urban working classes.



The Lime Kiln is now Grade II listed, but was built in 1816 by builders' suppliers Edward R Burt & Sons. Coal and limestone brought along the canal by Thames barge were burnt in the kiln for 3 days to produce quicklime, which was then reloaded onto barges for local distribution. Quicklime was a key ingredient of mortar for houses and fertilizer for agriculture. As 'limelight' it was used to illuminate Victorian theatres. Burt's premises extended to Albany Road, and the kiln was in use until 1925.



The Coronet Cinema boasted the 'finest pictures in south London', from the silent movie era to cinema's golden age in the 1940s. Originally called Camberwell Central Cinema, the Coronet played to packed houses from 1913. In that pre-digital age, long before television, 'going to the flicks' was hugely popular. The Coronet was small yet grand, but suffered bomb damage and later fire, and was finally demolished in 1958. No remains have survived.

Adventure Playground / BMX track typify the park's development, having been relocated several times since the late 1970s. The current £1.1m national standard track replaces an earlier community track which local playworker Brenton Smith developed in 1995 with local kids, on the site of a nature park, which in turn replaced an adventure playground. The previous BMX track included a bike store with fox-proof chicken coop on the roof!



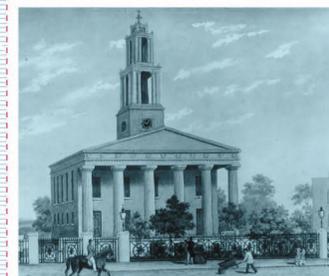
Jessie Burgess and the Abercrombie Plan laid the foundations for the park. Jessie Burgess, a local councillor and the first woman Mayor of Camberwell, is remembered for her work during the blitz and in support of the creation of green space. In 1943 the London County Council's Abercrombie Plan proposed clearing bomb-damaged and slum buildings in North Camberwell to create a new park, named after Jessie Burgess in 1973.



Chumleigh Gardens today provides a peaceful retreat with a multi-cultural garden established in 1995 to reflect the area's diversity. Before welfare reforms in the 20th century, looking after the elderly and infirm was mainly carried out by local charities. Many of them established almshouses – groups of sheltered housing for local people like this one, the Female Friendly Society Asylum.



Passmore Edwards Library, Baths and Wash House, a 'one-stop shop', opened in 1903 on the corner of Wells Way and Neate Street. Partly funded by Victorian philanthropist John Passmore Edwards, its aim was to improve the health and leisure of local working people in a busy industrial and residential area, at a time when many houses lacked bathrooms, clothes-washing facilities and books.



St George's Church was built in 1824 to accommodate the local population explosion, which was too much for the Camberwell parish church of St Giles. But a century and a half on, with local housing reducing as the park developed, the building became impractical for the local congregation. It closed, became derelict, and was eventually converted to housing in 1994.



The Grand Surrey Canal was started in 1801, with great plans to link fast-developing docks at Rotherhithe with Mitcham and Portsmouth. It opened as far as Camberwell Road in 1811, later reaching Croydon and Peckham, and formed a useful industrial artery for all kinds of goods and materials, finally closing in 1970.