



# BLACKHEATH CATOR ESTATE



NEWSLETTER — WINTER 2020

Photo credit: The Blackheath Society

## WELCOME TO THE FIRST OF OUR NEWLY REDESIGNED NEWSLETTERS

Following feedback from residents, we've revamped the look and feel of it and we really hope you enjoy reading it! In what has been an unprecedented year, we hope everyone has managed to stay safe and well. The strength of community has never been more important than during 2020 and we celebrate residents (past and present) who have come together to support the area over many centuries.

We're hoping to publish two residents' newsletters a year, with occasional updates by email in between and we plan to eventually go paperless. If you would like to be added to our database\*, please contact the Estate office at [office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk](mailto:office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk).

\*Blackheath Cator Estate Residents (BCER) is compliant with GDPR, please see the Privacy Policy on our website for more information.

The BCER Board has been meeting, as scheduled, bi-monthly over Zoom. It's now made up of Elizabeth Allen, Derek Gardiner, Barry Hadingham, Christina Lane, Alex McCartney, Karolina Olbryk, Rhys Owen, and Jon Taylor (Chair). Rod Armitage continues as Company Secretary. The BCER office is being manned by both Steven (Estate Manger) and Isobel (Administrator) Monday to Thursday, between 9.30am and 5.00pm. We are still closed to passing visitors, but if you need to speak to us in person, feel free to ring the bell and we will come down and speak to you at the door.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Cator Estate area was first referenced in the Domesday Book in 1086. It was listed under its original name of 'Witenemers' and the land was evaluated at a taxable rate of £5, according to local historian, Neil Rhind, in his book 'A Fair Estate'. Bishop Odo of Bayeux was named as one of the first owners of the Estate, the half-brother of William the Conqueror, he is also the man understood to have commissioned the Bayeux Tapestry.

## St. MICHAEL'S CHURCH APPEAL

The Church would like to thank everyone who has kindly donated to the recently installed floodlighting at St Michael's Church. The scheme was initially proposed by a local resident benefactor, who is not a regular churchgoer, to enhance the building's architecture and particularly the spire. The project still requires some extra funding. If you wish to make a donation, please email the church treasurer on [treasurer@se3.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@se3.org.uk).



Photo Credit: Louise Dolan

## CATOR ESTATE MEMORIES: HERE & NOW

We would love to feature some stories from residents in our next issue. If you have any funny anecdotes to share about your time living on the Estate, please email [office@blackheathcatorstate.co.uk](mailto:office@blackheathcatorstate.co.uk).

## ESSENTIAL NEWS

### ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND TRAFFIC CALMING

After a detailed investigation, a specialist company has found that work is urgently required to bring roads up to the required standard. To avoid more expensive work in the future, we believe that this is the time to take action. A significant multi-year plan of work is scheduled to begin in Spring 2021, and we intend to use this opportunity to improve traffic flow and regulate speeds through the Estate too. These programmes will require an incremental increase in frontage charge over the programme's life. We will consult and update residents as the work progresses.

### CHEQUES

Since the closure of the Blackheath branch of Lloyds, we ask that frontage charges and vehicle permits are to be paid via BACS where possible. If this is unavoidable, please make cheques payable to BCER, not 'BCER Ltd', as this company name will now be rejected by bank clearance.

### GATE CONTROL AND GATE PASSES

Due to new cycle and pedestrian schemes being introduced locally, we have become more stringent on gate control to prevent cars using the Estate as a rat run. Only cars with gate passes or permits will be allowed through – please contact the BCER office for an application form.

### PATHS AND VERGES

Grass verges have become worn and muddy due to frequent use by pedestrians and people alighting from cars. In the past these areas were turfed, only to become worn and muddy again. We are investigating alternative coverings that will be in keeping with the semi-rural ambience of the Estate.

### SOUTH ROW MODEL FLOW

Lewisham Council will be reviewing all of their Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes in the New Year. Due to the increases on traffic through the Estate, an automated Gate Management System is being investigated for the Morden Road gate, where we have found the impact of rat running to by-pass Blackheath Village is greatest.

For the latest Neighbourhood Watch Crime Updates, including scams to watch out for, please visit: [www.blackheathcatorstate.co.uk](http://www.blackheathcatorstate.co.uk).





Photo Credit: BCER

# CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS

## BLACKHEATH PARK CONSERVATION GROUP

The Blackheath Park Conservation Group regularly comments on planning applications both on and in the neighbourhood of the Cator Estate, and warmly welcomes new and enthusiastic members. It was set up some 12 years ago by the late Chris Holland, a town planner who contributed to many notable planning issues. It has been closely involved with major developments, such as Kidbrooke Village and Huntsman. If you wish to join and can spare a few hours a month, please contact Ed Hall (020 8318 0420, [edmundhall44@aol.com](mailto:edmundhall44@aol.com)) or Anita Armitage to discuss further. Anita can be contacted via the BCER.

# THE CATOR ESTATE RESIDENTS

100 YEARS ON (1920 v 2020)



Photo Credit: The Blackheath Society

The Cator Estate's first informal residents' group, "the frontagers", is thought to have been formed in the 1920's. In 1950, this group merged into the Blackheath Cator Estate Residents' Association, with the intention of 'uniting opposition to destructive town planning proposals'. In 1965, its remit widened to take over ownership of the roads and administration of the estate from Cator family trustees.

Today, 100 years on, we are known as the BCER. We continue the brilliant work of our predecessors by facilitating the upkeep and repairs of this wonderful corner of London, to help preserve and protect its unique character for present and future generations. The well-being of the residents is also a primary concern and we liaise with Royal Borough of Greenwich on many issues, including planning applications and the Blackheath Park Conservation Area.

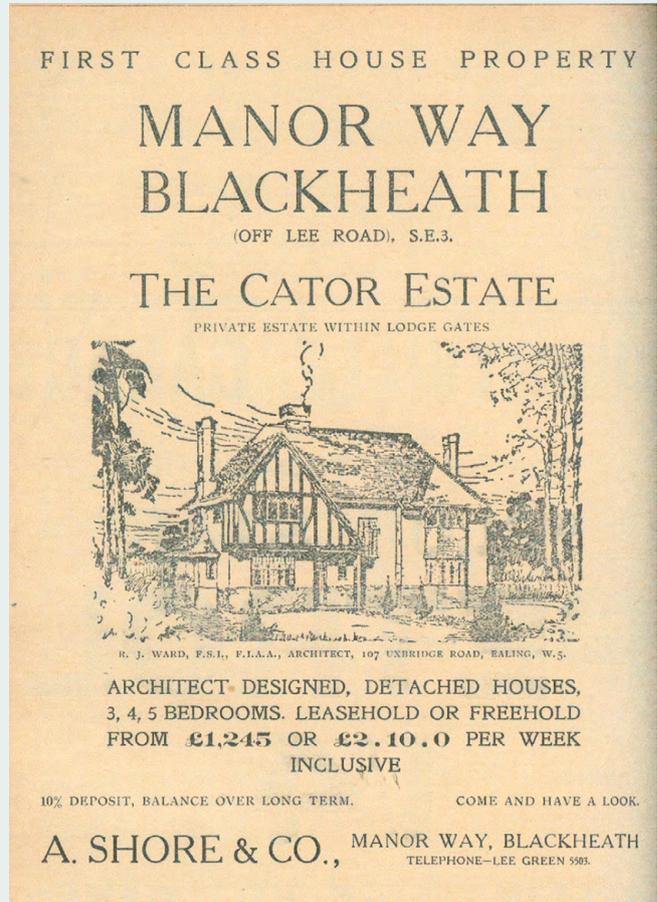


Photo Credit: The Blackheath Society



# HIDDEN CORNERS

With the lockdowns of 2020 encouraging us all to explore our local surroundings more, we bring you 3 things to look out for on your meanderings through the Cator Estate.

1. 'The Architect in Society' sculpture by Keith Godwin, Hallgate (1959), depicting the architect 'crushed by planners and conservationists'. It was commissioned by Span house architect Eric Lyons.
2. Described as 'the most influential English-speaking philosopher of the nineteenth century,' John Stuart Mill was an early advocate of women's suffrage and a staunch feminist. He lived at 113 Blackheath Park in the mid-1800's, with his wife Harriet, for around 20 years.
3. St Michael's Church has been dubbed the 'Needle of Kent' in honour of its slender spire, also earning its nickname 'Devil's Toothpick.' It was paid for by Estate owner John Cator in 1830 and designed by local architect, George Smith.

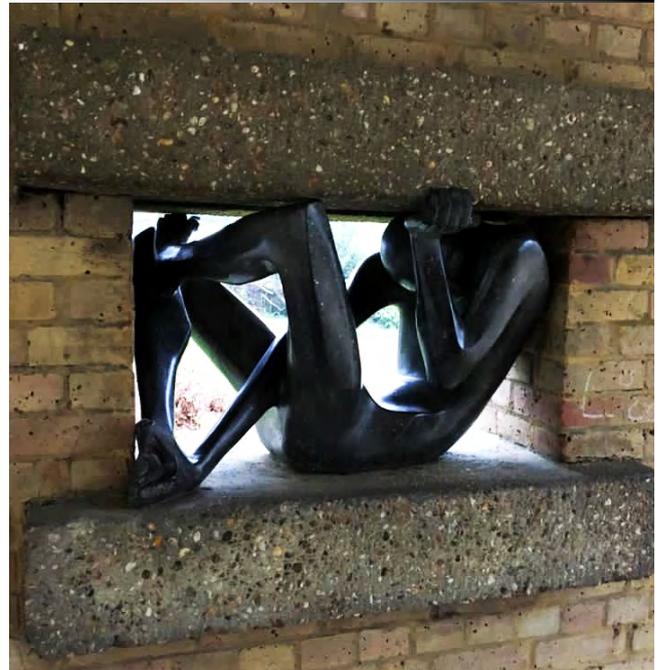


Photo Credit: BCER

## REMINDERS

- A reminder that homeowners are responsible for cutting back hedges to ensure they don't encroach on footpaths.
- Please refrain from parking on pathways. These should be kept for pedestrians.
- Litter bins should not be used for domestic waste. This has been causing them to overflow.
- Please ensure contractors adhere to the guidelines set out on the website, such as limiting working hours. Contractors should also not be parking on footpaths and will be issued with a Parking Control Notice (PCN), if they continue to do so.
- A reminder to clean up after dogs, using the waste bins provided.
- There have been reports of fly-tipping on the Estate in recent months. A contractor or gardener needs a 'Waste Carrier Licence' to dispose of waste correctly. Please see the BCER website for more details.
- A reminder that the two reserved parking bays outside 7 – 21 Blackheath Park and 21 – 35 Brooklands Park are allocated for the sole use of these residents. All other vehicles, including those with BCER vehicle permits and tradespeople, are not permitted to park there and are liable to be issued with a PCN.

## RESIDENTS CORNER

If you have an interesting story to tell or an interesting business that you'd like to share, please email:

[office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk](mailto:office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk).

## HOUSES WITH HISTORY

Do you have a house with history on the Cator Estate? We would love to hear from you and share your story. Please email: [office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk](mailto:office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk).

## NEW PUBLICATION

Neil Rhind has just completed the third volume of his major work, Blackheath Village & Environs. This will be published by The Blackheath Society this Winter and will be available to buy directly through them.

## WITH THANKS TO

Writer — Emily Seares  
Designer — Pippa Stanton  
Historian — Neil Rhind  
The Blackheath Society — Sacha Bright, Jo Swadkin and Allan Griffin

