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## 'Where is the justice for Sasha Johnson?'

### 'IF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE STANDING TRIAL WERE NOT THE ONES, WHO DID IT?'

BY ALEXANDRA WARREN & TOBY PORTER  
toby@slpmedia.co.uk

Friends and colleagues of a black activist shot in the head at a party last year have expressed their devastation at the collapse of a trial.

Four young men were due to stand trial at the Old Bailey on March 7 for the shooting of Sasha Johnson in Consort Road, Peckham, on May 23 at a house party.

But on Tuesday the prosecution

announced they would not pursue the case.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) campaigner Sasha is currently in the neurological unit of a South London hospital as a result of her wounds.

She is able to communicate with difficulty, and can respond to requests to move arms and legs - but she cannot talk.

Her condition is described as serious.

The 28-year-old worked in

**TURN TO PAGE 2**



MOLA archaeologists at work on the mosaic unearthed in Southwark close to the Shard  
Picture: MOLA Andy Chopping

## Digging up our history

Archaeologists have discovered the largest area of Roman mosaic found in London for more than 50 years.

The mosaic has two highly decorated panels which feature flowers, intertwining strands and

geometric patterns.

It is thought to have been in the dining room of a Roman hotel - or mansion.

**SEE PAGE 8 FOR THE FULL STORY**



**CHARLTON:**  
JACKO:  
THIS IS MY TOUGHEST SPELL AT THE HELM  
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# Hilda Hewlett: Aviators do not know what fear is



Vardans Road, the site of the factory

Hilda Hewlett, the first woman in Britain to earn a pilot's licence and the first to set up an aircraft factory, was dismissive of her achievements.

Asked by the *Pall Mall Gazette* whether she was scared in the air, she said: "Aviators do not know what fear is."

"When you are up in the air, the exhilaration of flight and the necessity for careful control of your machine takes away all other feeling."

Billy wanted at one stage to run a training school for women workers – she said it was the kind of "delicate and exacting work for which they are quite fitted".

Her exploits were reported in suffrage publications like *Common Cause and Vote*.

At one stage, her factory was visited by a committee of the Imperial War Museum, wanting to record the achievements of

women in the war effort.

But she answered: "Many women have done more extraordinary things than taking a pilot's certificate and running a firm."

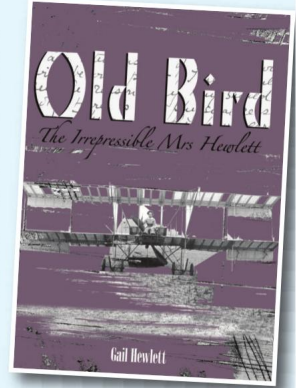
"I have had so much help from others that I take no credit to myself."

Some British papers marked her passing but the stories were short – or spent as much time talking about her son's wartime exploits as her own.

But she had left a memoir, which was used by her granddaughter-in-law, Gail Hewlett to write *Old Bird: The Irrepressible Mrs Hewlett* – the book that brought her back out of obscurity.

In 2015, Billy was celebrated with a plaque on Vardans Road, put up by the Battersea Society.

In 2018, she was added to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, almost 80 years after her death.



The biography *Old Bird - The Irrepressible Mrs Hewlett*

at Brooklands, Surrey and setting up Hewlett & Blondeau Ltd. She joined the Royal Aero Club but soon discovered women were banned from all except one of its rooms. She quit after less than two years.

The firm built Farman, Caudron and Hanriot aircraft under licence.

By 1919, they had built 10 different types of aeroplanes. The duo slept on camp beds and had primus stoves, some pots and pans. Most waking hours were spent at the airfield. They built a welding plant to provide repair services for planes and cars.

In August 1911, Billy finally became the first woman to gain her pilot's licence in Britain. That November, her son Cecco, now a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, also qualified as a pilot.

He went missing during a raid on

Cuxhaven on Christmas Day, 1914 and for six days was feared dead – but he was rescued by a Dutch trawler and later awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

The company created their own aviation works, which they named the Omnia Works, in 1912, at an old skating rink in Vardans Road in Clapham.

In 1914, they moved to Legrave, Bedfordshire, and expanded, three months before war was declared. At one point in 1918 the firm employed 700 people.

Demand slumped after the war and the site was sold in 1930.

Maurice died in 1923 and Billy, by then nicknamed "Old Bird", emigrated to Tauranga, New Zealand, with her daughter Pia Richards and family. She died there on August 21, 1943 and was buried at sea.



The plaque unveiling in Vardans Road, Clapham, where plane-making Omnia Works was.

From left, Tony Hewlett, Hilda's grandson whose father Francis was the pilot trained by Hilda and who fought in both world wars; his wife Gail, who wrote the biography *Old Bird - The Irrepressible Mrs Hewlett*; Pauline Vahey who unveiled was President of the British Women's Pilots' Association and Nicola Nardelli who was Mayor of Wandsworth.

## The spirit of South London

Since 1865 the **South London Press** has been the go-to place for businesses to the south of the river to connect with their clients, and for audiences to find what they want - whether that be a local plumber, plasterer or chemist.

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### Notice for Article 12 CLAPHAM COMMON Application (2)

#### 2022 Spring and Summer Events

The London Borough of Lambeth is applying to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for consent under Article 12 of the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967 to carry out restricted works on Clapham Common. The Planning Inspectorate will decide the application on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The proposed works are for the creation of temporary event sites on Clapham Common for a series of public entertainment, leisure and recreational sporting events in spring and summer 2022. Temporary fencing and event structures (including event stages, big top style tents, concession stands, event gantries, gazebos, toilets and welfare facilities, back of house cabins and plant enclosures) will be onsite for the events for a total duration of 43 days in 2022.

The fencing will be located on the following areas of the common:

- Area between Eagle Pond and Windmill Drive located at the south east of Clapham Common. (Luna Cinema Site 1)
- The dedicated public 'Event Site' located at the northeast of Clapham Common accessible from Long Road. (Luna Cinema Site 2)
- Area between Long Pond and Windmill Drive located at the east of Clapham Common. (Colourscape)
- Areas surrounding Clapham Common Bandstand located in the centre of Clapham Common. (Clapham Common Race for Life, Pretty Muddy and Pretty Muddy Kids)
- Area north of Clapham Common 'Funfair Site' located on the west of Clapham Common accessible from the Avenue. (Clapham Common Race for Life (including Bumper Day), Pretty Muddy and Pretty Muddy Kids)
- Clapham Common 'Southside Site' located at the south of Clapham Common bordered by Clapham Common Southside, Nightingale Lane, Nightingale Walk and the Avenue. (MoonWalk and BHF Bike Ride)

Heras style fencing will be a maximum of 700 metres in length for each onsite event. The fencing will be 2 metres in height. It will enclose the temporary event sites safely and will include public and staff entrances, including fire exits.

**Please note this application for Common Land Consent does not cover the 2022 Festival Republic Summer event, which is the subject of a separate application for Common Land Consent on Clapham Common submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 28 January 2022 - known as Clapham Common 2022 Application (1).** Due to Government advice in respect of Coronavirus (COVID-19), a hard copy of the application will not be left in a public area for viewing. However, electronic copies of the application form and supporting documents will be made available online from Lambeth Council at the website address [www.eventlambeth.co.uk/news/](http://www.eventlambeth.co.uk/news/). The application form and documents will be available **until Friday 25 March 2022**.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, any representations to the Planning Inspectorate should be sent by email ON or BEFORE that date to: [commonlandcasework@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:commonlandcasework@planninginspectorate.gov.uk).

Representations sent to the Planning Inspectorate **cannot be treated as confidential**. They will be copied to the applicant and potentially other interested parties. To find out more about how the Planning Inspectorate uses and manages personal data, please go to the privacy notice.

EventLambeth, London Borough of Lambeth, Civic Centre, 6 Brixton Hill, London, SW2 1EG

## Public Notices

### Lambeth Summer Events

#### Notice for Article 12 Application STREATHAM COMMON 2022 Spring and Summer Events

The London Borough of Lambeth is applying to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for consent under Article 12 of the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967 to carry out restricted works on Streatham Common. The Planning Inspectorate will decide the application on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The proposed works are for the creation of temporary event sites on Streatham Common for a series of public entertainment, recreation and leisure events in spring and summer 2022. Temporary fencing and event structures (including funfair rides and amusements, concession stands, catering units, gazebos, toilets and welfare facilities, back of house and staff cabins and plant enclosures) will be onsite for the events for a total duration of 47 days in 2022.

Temporary fencing will be located at areas on the western side of the common, typically set aside for public events. An event site area will be a maximum of 26,120 square metres at any one time, no more than 10 percent of the common.

Use of heras style fencing will be a maximum of 700 metres in length and 2 metres in height for three of the five temporary onsite events. The temporary fencing will safely enclose the temporary event sites and will include public and staff entrances, including fire exits. Pig iron fencing for one of the five onsite events is proposed to enclose two separate areas measuring a maximum of 100m x 75m and 50m x 50m.

Due to Government advice in respect of Coronavirus (COVID-19), a hard copy of the application will not be left in a public area for viewing. However, electronic copies of the application form and supporting documents will be made available online from Lambeth Council at the website address [www.eventlambeth.co.uk/news/](http://www.eventlambeth.co.uk/news/).

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25/02/2022

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