

# London Borough of Lewisham Local History and Archives Centre

Info Byte Sheet No. 33

## Bellingham Local History

The name means “the water-meadow belonging to Beora’s people”. It was the name of the medieval manor in this area, and survived in Bellingham Farm. It was revived in 1892 as the name of a new railway station, then in open country, on the Nunhead and Shortlands Railway.



interspersed with open spaces and trees. churches, parks and other amenities.

The land for the Bellingham Estate (Bellingham Farm and part of White House Farm) was bought in 1920, and building of the main estate was completed in 1923. Historical names were chosen for the roads. Some were connected with King Alfred, who was thought to have been lord of the manor of Lewisham. Others were

After the First World War the London County Council began to build large estates on the edge of the built-up area of London to ease overcrowding and assist slum clearance. Downham Estate, close to Bellingham, is a typical example.

Because there was plenty of land available, most of the dwellings could be two-storey houses with gardens (rather than flats) Provision was made for schools, shops,



the names of old houses, fields, and mills in the area. The inhabitants came from crowded inner London areas, mainly from Deptford and Bermondsey.

The extension south of Southend Lane was built between 1936 and 1939. Here more flats were built, for economy, and to meet the pressing need for housing.



## General Local History websites:

Google Image search	<a href="http://images.google.co.uk">http://images.google.co.uk</a>
Google Book search	<a href="http://www.google.co.uk/books?hl=en">http://www.google.co.uk/books?hl=en</a>
Genuki	<a href="http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/">http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/</a>
Dictionary of London at History online	<a href="http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.asp?pubid=3">http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.asp?pubid=3</a>
Old Maps	<a href="http://www.old-maps.co.uk/">http://www.old-maps.co.uk/</a>
The National Archives [Good for how to guides and information on record types].	<a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/">http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/</a>
Internet Archives [Text, images and multimedia]	<a href="http://www.archive.org">http://www.archive.org</a>

## Bellingham Websites:

Ideal Homes [by Local History and Archives Centre]	<a href="http://www.ideal-homes.org.uk/lewisham/main/bellingham.htm">http://www.ideal-homes.org.uk/lewisham/main/bellingham.htm</a>
Local History and Archives Centre, Lewisham	<a href="http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/LeisureAndCulture/LocalHistoryAndHeritage/HistoricalResources/LocalAreas/Bellingham.htm">http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/LeisureAndCulture/LocalHistoryAndHeritage/HistoricalResources/LocalAreas/Bellingham.htm</a>
Bellingham Town Talk	<a href="http://www.bellingham.towntalk.co.uk/about/index.php">http://www.bellingham.towntalk.co.uk/about/index.php</a>
Wikipedia	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bellingham%2C_London">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bellingham%2C_London</a>
Lewisham Voices [by Local History and Archives Centre]	<a href="http://www2.lewisham.gov.uk/lbl/LewishamVoices/introPage.htm">http://www2.lewisham.gov.uk/lbl/LewishamVoices/introPage.htm</a>
Bellingham Lido	<a href="http://homepage.ntlworld.com/oliver.merrington/lidos/lidos1closed.htm#bellingham">http://homepage.ntlworld.com/oliver.merrington/lidos/lidos1closed.htm#bellingham</a>
Images of Bellingham	<a href="http://www.lewisham.myzen.co.uk/gallery/thumbnails.php?album=3">http://www.lewisham.myzen.co.uk/gallery/thumbnails.php?album=3</a>

## Publications at Local History and Archives Centre

Just like the country: memories of London families who settled the new cottage estates 1919-1939	A Rubinstein, A Andrews & P Schweitzer Pub Age Exchange [1991]	942.16
A history of St. Dunstan's church and the Bellingham Estate	Colley, John .Pub. V. Richardson & Sons Limited [1985]	942.163
Bellingham Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club 75th anniversary 1912-1987.	Bellingham Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club [1987].	796.31 BEL
Bellingham and Downham tenants' handbook; a handbook of useful information	Valuation, estates & housing department LCC [1934]	352.75
The LCC Bellingham Estate	Randall, Suzan	352.75 BEL
An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Bellingham Recreation Centre, Randlesdown Road	Holden, Stuart. Pub Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited; [2003]	913 BEL

## Newspaper

Catford Journal and Bellingham Weekly News [1915-1918] Continued as Catford Journal [1919-1927].

## Pictures from the Collection at Lewisham Local History and Archives Centre

**Address: 199-201 Lewisham High Street London SE13 6LG**  
**Tel: 020 8297 0682 Fax: 020 8297 1169**  
**Email: [local.studies@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@lewisham.gov.uk)**