PECKHAM RYE STATION
STATION HISTORY

A HIDDEN VICTORIAN GEM

Peckham Rye Station is the gem of Victorian architecture in Peckham and its construction in 1864 helped transform Peckham from a small suburban area surrounded by open fields to a well-populated south London district. The station now is in rough shape and we hope it can be opened up, restored and returned to its proper role as a focal point for our town centre.

The station was designed by Charles Henry Driver (1832–1900) and accomplished architect who worked with the celebrated engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette on the Crossness and Abbey Mills pumping stations before designing many of the stations on the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company’s line. His stations at Battersea Park and Denmark Hill are both listed.

PANEL 5
OPENING UP THE OLD WAITING ROOM PHASE 1

Over the past twelve years the Peckham Society has campaigned to improve The Peckham Rye Station. With the help of Southwark’s Community Council grants, the first task we undertook was to reveal the station's Old Waiting Room which had been largely abandoned for 50 years. We un-bricked the south elevation which was bricked up in 1962, when the southern platforms were relocated.
PECKHAM RYE STATION
ONGOING RESTORATION

PHASE 2
REPAIRING THE FLOOR AND SERVICES TO THE OLD WAITING ROOM

The second project we raised funds for and carried out at Peckham Rye was to repair and refresh the large waiting room. With the windows and doors opened up, we needed to make the floor safe and put in basic wiring and lighting. We applied for a grant from Southwark Council to do this and carried out the work in 2010.

In 2010 we applied for a grant from the local community council’s ‘Cleaner Greener and Safer’ fund for TEA to put in new floor tiles and improve the painting in the station forecourt. We copied the neo-Gothic design from one of the station’s key stones to create a tiled panel that celebrated the confident Victorian architecture of the building. The design was painted in black and red.

PHASE 3
WORKS TO THE STATION FORECOURT

Following the completion of the floor and lighting project in the Old Waiting Room, we applied for a grant to improve the station forecourt with new tiles and some new paving. We also devised a historically inspired painting scheme for the external windows and booking hall.

In the summer of 2010 we devised a painting scheme on the booking hall in Peckham Rye based on our discoveries of the original stone in the forecourt. The main operating company, Southern, took an interest in this idea and offered to pay for the painting of the hall white as they had planned.

PHASE 4
REFENESTRATING THE STATION FORECOURT AND RESTORING THE IRON AND STONE STAIR

The current conservation work we are doing at the Peckham Rye is opening up the bracketed and shuttered windows and doors to the station forecourt. This will take back access to the magnificant iron and stone stair, the last great flourish of Victorian cast iron work left at the station. We have also recently received planning consent to restore and extend this stair to give access to the Old Waiting Room.

A perspective sketch (see bottom left of page) showing new doors and windows in a Victorian design to the south wing of the Peckham Rye Station. With these windows and doors we finished and opened up, the station’s original stone and cast iron stair will be revealed. This project, which will be on site in the summer of 2012, will be a key step toward restoring the historic style shown in the previous pages. The railway Heritage Trust and Network Rail have both given us a great boost towards realising this project.

We have received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for repairing and restoring the original iron and stone stair to the station. This would give direct access to the Old Waiting Room for the first time in 50 years.

The architect of the station, Charles Driver, was a noted reference for cast iron. These future beneficiaries, recently for 50 years, are an architectural highlight of this listed building.
Peckham Vision Town Centre Exhibition, The Old Waiting Room, Peckham Rye Station
2nd – 4th August 2012

http://www.peckhamvision.org/wiki/Old_Waiting_Room

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