

# We love historic Peckham

## Peckham Rye Station - a hidden Victorian gem

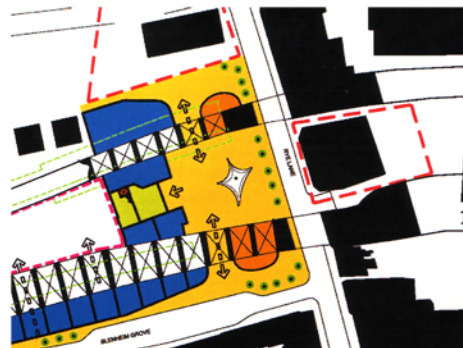


Peckham Rye Station is the grandest example of High Victorian architecture in Peckham and its construction in 1864 helped transform Peckham from a genteel suburb surrounded by open fields to a well populated south London district. The station now is in rough shape and we hope it can be opened up, restored 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 desining 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.



*When originally built, the Peckham Rye Station had a broad open forcourt and its bold Victorian architecture was a lively feature on Rye Lane. We hope that Southwark Council in collaboration with Network Rail can work toward opening this space up again, giving the heavily congested Rye Lane a much needed open space. We must work toward re-establishing the visual presence of our town centre's most important transport node.*



*Plan showing an open public space in front of the station where the dilapidated mid-century arcade now stands.*

*As the plan shows, this section of Rye Lane, one of Peckham's oldest roads, is very narrow. An opening up of space here would be a real delight.*

*On the platform level at Peckham Rye station the rather grand former waiting room lies empty. In the mid twentieth century it was used as a billiard hall. We think this space should be re-inhabited with perhaps a cafe like at Denmark Hill*



*The Peckham Society has drawn a scheme to restore the now bricked up windows to the old billiard hall. It is hoped that this is a first step toward restoring the station to its former nobility*



*The nearby Denmark Hill Station is by the same architect as our station, Charles Henry Driver. Although damaged by fire it has been beautifully restored and a pub and restaurant is set in the station's former waiting room. This offers a travellers a cosy and safe place to wait for trains and has become a popular destination in its own right. Many of Peckham Rye Station's interior rooms are uninhabited and derelict. Why can't this happen in Peckham too?*

# The Peckham Society

Conserving the best of historic Peckham for the Future

