

Peckham Town Centre News

January 2013

Peckham Rye Station was built in 1865 by notable Victorian architect Charles Henry Driver, who also built Denmark Hill and Battersea Park stations. All the stations are Grade II listed. As a result of campaigns led by Peckham Vision and the Peckham Society, major restoration of the historic parts of the station and other improvements are being planned.



Peckham Rye station

The lost grand stair and the Old Waiting Room



Iron and stone staircase now permanently revealed

This striking stone and cast iron staircase originally led to a gallery at second floor level in the ticket hall. Later, it was extended out onto the front of the station building and through a window on the top floor into what became, until the 1960s, the Billiard Hall. Until about 1900 it had been the original Waiting Room, and since 1962 was bricked up. Current work is restoring the staircase and extending it up inside the stairwell one flight, to bring it into the Old Waiting Room for the first time from the forecourt. It is hoped to complete this by the end of 2013.

The work is being carried out by Benedict O’Looney Architects who have done all the restoration work so far, with the generous support of Southwark Council’s Cleaner - Greener - Safer Fund, Network Rail, the Railway Heritage Trust, and the Peckham Society. More work and funds are needed to restore the Old Waiting Room fully, and plans are being developed by Peckham Vision for this, and for the use of the room as a community managed town centre space.



The Old Waiting Room

TOWN CENTRE HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Peckham was successful in the first round for the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) scheme. The scheme, to be run by Southwark Council, would repair and restore some historic buildings on Rye Lane and Peckham High Street and develop better appreciation of Peckham’s heritage. The second round proposals are being developed by the Council with Peckham Vision. HLF will take the decision before the end of 2013. If approved, the programme would run from 2014 to 2019.



Arcade in front of the station

The station improvement works

The Council now has sufficient funds for transforming the front and rear of the station. A square in front of the station will be recreated. This will replace the narrow dark arcade and crowded Rye Lane pavements, with a public open space in front. Access is planned from that new square through the station, to a new public space at the rear with active shop fronts.

The land and buildings are owned by Network Rail, and they are working with the Council, in discussion with the leaseholders who will be affected. This extensive preliminary work, including discussions with existing businesses, needs to be done before work on the buildings can start. The plan is for public consultation on proposed designs during 2013, and to complete the work by 2015 – 2016.



Station rear

Peckham Town Centre News is a community information sheet produced by **Peckham Vision**, a community consortium led by local residents and working with local artists, local creative enterprises and other local businesses pioneering citizen action to revitalise Peckham town centre linking past, present and future for the benefit of all.

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