

# BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 150 November 2020  
Charity No: 1004245

Delivered free to 4000 households in Brockley Conservation Area  
three times a year: March, June and November [www.brockleysociety.org.uk](http://www.brockleysociety.org.uk)

## BROCKLEY SOCIETY

### Brockley Society Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11 November, 7pm

Online Zoom meeting due  
to current restrictions

7pm: Speaker: details to come

8pm: AGM business reports, election of  
officers and committees, constitution change  
To stand for election to our management  
committee or planning group, please email  
[chair@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@brockleysociety.org.uk).

(Officer nominations by 28 October.)

Details on how to participate on Zoom,  
visit [www.brockleysociety.org.uk](http://www.brockleysociety.org.uk)

### Brockley Historical Walk 2020

led by Gillian Heywood, MBE,

Sunday 15 November, 11am-12.30pm.

Meet: outside Pistachio's cafe on Hilly  
Fields, SE13 7JN. Walk through Brockley  
Conservation area and some of its mews,  
ending at Breakspears Mews Community

Garden where soup will be on offer  
COVID safety precautions will operate.  
Check our website [www.brockleysociety.org.uk](http://www.brockleysociety.org.uk)

### Breakspears Mews Community Garden Xmas Craft Market

Saturday 5th December, 12 noon to 4pm  
with music and mulled wine

Access: rear of St Peter's Court, 29-31  
Wickham Road SE4 1NE, or Ashby Road,  
SE4 1PX Weather permitting. COVID  
precautions will operate

### MidWinter Warmer for Brockley's seniors

Saturday February 2021

We plan to hold this ever-popular event if  
at all possible. Keep an eye on our website.

### Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre

Saturday 19 June 2021, 12 noon to 5pm

### Brockley Society's circular email

Join our occasional email circulation  
about Brockley Society and local events:  
[email\\_chair@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:email_chair@brockleysociety.org.uk)

Scouts  
1st New Cross



### Christmas Craft Fair

28th November 2020,

10 am-4 pm

25 Breakspears Road, SE4 1XW

Homemade crafts, Christmas Gifts,

Build a bear, popcorn, and much more!!!

Correct precautions for Covid Safety,  
including a 1-way system, hand sanitiser and  
QR code for the NHS App.

BROCKLEY  
OPEN  
STUDIOS

Brockley Open Studios presents  
their annual Christmas Fair.

Pick up a special gift for  
this year's Christmas from  
local artists and makers. The

Fair will be an outside event and the latest  
COVID regulations will be followed.

Saturday 28 November 2020

St. Peter's Church Grounds

Wickham Road, SE4 1LT

[www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk)



Breakspears Mews Community Garden really came into its own during the summer, providing a safe social escape after months of isolation in lockdown. Attendance of 80 people at the Open Day on 4 July (above) indicated how desperate people were to get outside and socialise safely. Read the committee's plans below.

## Breakspears Mews Community Garden 2020 season

We are now putting the garden to bed for the winter and taking some time to reflect on the strange year we have had. In January plans were well on their way - our planting schedule was agreed, we had made a link with Lewisham College to support Horticulture students with practical experience and a group of nine had visited the garden. We also had agreed with the Nursery at Myatt Garden School to do a gardening session in preparation for further activities at the school on 'Growing things'. All this ground to a halt when lockdown happened. What to do?

Well, a group of us decided that the garden would provide a venue for our daily hour of exercise which we would do in social isolation. We got on with the sowing, planting and cultivating. The spring turned out to be magnificent with glorious sunshine and little rain so the watering rota got going. Initially we were all very anxious as most of us are in the somewhat older category and some with health issues but over time we became more confident that the garden was a safe place for us. Indeed it became an important sanity break for many of us.

Lockdown started to ease as the garden became its most exuberant so we arranged an Open Day and a couple of very successful coffee mornings and a poetry and music evening: it was magic to sit outside in the dusk, glass of wine in hand, being serenaded by saxophone and accordion whilst watching the bats and dragonflies flitting about. Courgette muffins have become very popular and we have had an abundance of tomatoes, beetroot, cucumbers, sweetcorn, chard, cabbage and cavalo nero. We also held a fermentation workshop where we learnt how to pickle cabbage and other vegetables to preserve them over the winter.

The Garden no longer receives funds from



Brockley Assembly so we have welcomed donations towards seeds, tools and repairs to the raised beds.

At the time of writing the virus appears to be on the rise again so next year remains uncertain. We would love to re-establish our links with Lewisham College and Myatt Garden School. A longer term project would be to renovate the industrial building next to the site to provide us with some indoor space where we can run events during bad weather. This will take considerable effort to co-ordinate the Council and Planning as well as raising considerable funds to convert the building. Volunteers with skills in this area are very welcome to join us.

On a more sociable note, join us for soup after Gillian Heywood's Historical Walk on 11 November or come to our Xmas Craft Market on 5 December (see left).

Elizabetha, Cait, Carmel, Elaine, Helga,  
Sally, Shelagh, Laura and Ciara

## Hilly Fields: a lifeline during lockdown



Hilly Fields has been a life-line during this period of lockdown and uncertainty. It has made more of us really value our beautiful outside space. So when one of our volunteers was concerned about the very dry conditions

our saplings found themselves in and started a tree adoption system, it worked amazingly well. Very soon all the tiny saplings were 'ribboned' and watered weekly. It was heartening to see how much this ritual meant to those involved. It gave them a real sense of ownership and investment in their park.

Our park landscape can't stand still and we have had a few tree losses over this period due to disease and strong winds and are expecting more in the near future, so it is really great to see a new generation helping secure the health of trees for the future. While it is always sad to see a mighty tree fall, on the bright side, the losses provide us with opportunities to create more natural play areas and diverse wildlife habitats. With the gyms closed, our volunteers were looking for their exercise fix and were spurred on to do other 'jobs', including digging out brambles and clearing areas ready for planting bulbs and perennials which are particularly attractive to butterflies and bees. The latest addition to enriching the habitats is the stag beetle loggery.

Over the next few months we plan to complete the hedge laying, creating a Hawthorn walk with associated hedgerow flowers, which will provide excellent homes for many insects which the bats can come to feast on, and a great place for sparrows to socialise, not to forget a green backdrop wrapping around the boundary.

At this time, we are all very concerned about global warming and the loss of habitat

and diversity. We are committed to doing our utmost to contribute something positive both to our environment and to all our park users. We have been joined on our journey by lots of young people and are encouraged by their enthusiasm to make a positive change.

This is the way forward: with a greater sense of community, we will be part of making a better future.

We will be setting up an open monthly volunteering session when restrictions ease,

These TREES mean something to somepeople, maybe not to you, BUT DEFINITELY to the people who planned them. The people who put their time and effort into planting each individual TREE, and watering them and caring for them, hoping they will see them grow up! HOWEVER that can't happen if the TREES are harmed in ANY WAY, eg. having their bamboo stalk or "crutch" REMOVED. Please leave them ALONE.

BY CONCERNED CHILD

but in the meantime, we are running with our regular volunteers according to council guidance!

To go on the volunteering list email: [hillyfields4@googlemail.com](mailto:hillyfields4@googlemail.com)

## Become hedgehog friendly

I have had two responses from the last newsletter with memories from the 1960s when there were many hedgehogs in gardens, some fed by householders. Sadly, no one has come forward with any current sightings. Please do respond if any are seen and we can start our own superhighway map for local hedgehogs.

There are acres of good habitat in green and leafy Brockley that could support these beautiful small mammals. Perhaps there is a hedgehog rescue organisation for possible reintroduction. To all the gardeners here: slugs and snails form part of the diet of hedgehogs, another win.

With November the 5th happening soon please look carefully into bonfire materials as hedgehogs may be hibernating in leaves, twig and chopped wood areas.

*Phil Baird philbaird@hotmail.co.uk*

See also [www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/),

• Hedgehogs are vulnerable to extinction and roam between 1-2km each night. Gardens are their stronghold. A 13cm hole in the bottom of a fence allows them to move freely. A Change.org campaign to make hedgehog highways a legal requirement on new housing developments has almost 1m signatures. Like barn owls, hedgehogs are a species that local communities, planners and housing developers can really help.



## Bowling for everyone at Francis Drake

It has not been all doom and gloom for the Francis Drake Bowls Club so far this year.

At the beginning of 2020, the club, located on the corner of Hilly Fields, was able to buy and erect a much-needed additional cabin, thanks to grants from the Ladywell Assembly. People out on Hilly Fields may have noticed the building going up and work being carried out: painting, glazing and landscaping.

With the help of Lewisham Council, the green and the surrounds have been brought up up to Bowls England standards meaning the grounds can now host county matches. The club now offers easy-access for everyone, whatever their needs. Coaching facilities are available for beginners and those who want to refresh their skills.

Obviously the usual open days and skills training sessions have not taken place this year but Francis Drake hopes to be able to welcome new players – and those with more experience – in the spring of 2021.

Keep an eye on the website – [www.francisdrakebowlsclub.org](http://www.francisdrakebowlsclub.org) - or use the club's email address [secretary@fdbc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fdbc.org.uk) for more information or to be added to the mailing list.

## House arrest in Iran

Former Brockley resident and British-Iranian dual national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been living under house arrest and lockdown at her parents' house in Tehran after she was given temporary leave from prison in March 2020 because of the COVID pandemic. In September she was told she would face another trial over a new, unspecified charge.

She was detained in April 2016 and sentenced to five years in prison for allegedly plotting against the Iranian government, but maintains her innocence.

Nazanin used to see her daughter occasionally in prison. But Gabriella, now six, returned to London a year ago to start school and live with her father, who recently brought her to play on Hilly Fields playground. No resolution of the situation is currently in sight.

## Postal deliveries

Brockley Society received complaints early in lockdown of postal deliveries not happening or arriving in bundles after several days. — complaints not against our diligent postal staff (frontline workers throughout the lockdown) but a fear that Royal Mail was refusing overtime, sickness cover or new staff training, possibly as part of a long-term planned change. Fortunately, the service now seems much improved.

The Postal Services Act 2011 sets out that there must be a delivery every Monday to Saturday of letters, to the home or premises of every person.

In these unprecedented times, we can expect and tolerate disruptions but we should be vigilant: postal deliveries need to be protected. Next spring the universal service order is up for renewal and may not be renewed as Royal Mail travels towards parcel delivery with a few letters thrown in.

You may wish to complain to Royal Mail on 03456 021 021 or via their website: [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com) or contact Lewisham Deptford MP, Vicky Foxcroft, [vicky.foxcroft.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:vicky.foxcroft.mp@parliament.uk).

Meantime, encourage your local postie: help raise their morale in the face of continuing lockdown challenges.

**BROCKLEY SOCIETY**

**President: Gillian Heywood, MBE**  
[www.brockleysociety.org.uk](http://www.brockleysociety.org.uk) @broc\_soc

Chair..... 020 8692 3829  
[chair@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@brockleysociety.org.uk)

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Planning & conservation.....  
[planning@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:planning@brockleysociety.org.uk)

Planners, architects and others with conservation knowledge or interest are welcome to join our planning and conservation group. See planning email above.

Breakspears Mews Community Garden.....  
[breakspearsmews@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:breakspearsmews@brockleysociety.org.uk)

**Join our occasional email circulation about Brockley Society and local events:**  
**[email\\_chair@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:email_chair@brockleysociety.org.uk)**

*Everyone living in the Brockley Conservation area is automatically a member of the Brockley Society.*

**Brockley Society welcomes all**

**Newsletter copy deadlines:**  
 1 February, 1 May, 1 October

**Email to [news@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:news@brockleysociety.org.uk)**

**Advertising rates - back page**

# London Open House Festival: 19/20 September 2020

For three decades Open House London has celebrated London's history, architecture and urban landscape. This year the festival was restricted by lockdown, so organisers chose a different format to celebrate not only buildings but also parks and open spaces known only to locals. Here are four of Brockley's offerings.

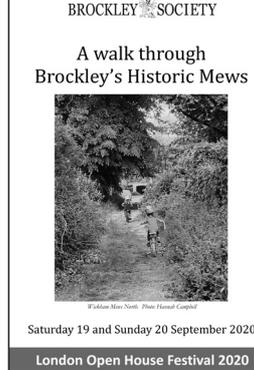
## A walk through Brockley's Historic Mews

Bright pink hi-viz BrocSoc jackets were fun to wear, evenings of planning and writing the Mews guide, and wide leafletting paid off, as a third of the 150 people who came on the walks had seen the leaflets. The colourful Mews guide booklet is a good BrocSoc resource

This year the London Open House team wanted walks to places only known to local people.

The two days were amazingly sunny, but everything was battened down in the wind at the base beside the Wickham Arms. The pub was really welcoming, with sandwiches, coffee and drinks on offer.

Guides in pink jackets materialised at the right times to take groups of six round the three Mews – about 5 guides and 4 helpers in total – more are always needed for future walks!



Three Mews from Ashby via Wickham Mews to Breakspears took us past lively live-work buildings and through the wooded pathway past giant trees which had been at the edge of fields before the roads were laid out. The Mews have been used much more in the last six months for walking, dog walking and cycling.

The highlight at the end of the walk was the Breakspears Mews Community Garden, full of burgeoning vegetables and flowers in the space rescued from a vehicle and tyre dump in 2013. The Breakspears Mews team provided chairs, tables, tea and cake.

Part of Lewisham's Open House offer was the Brockley 3 Peaks Walk – it can be taken at any time, from Hilly Fields through Ladywell Fields to Blythe Hill and One Tree Hill – just one area of the greenery of Lewisham to be discovered.

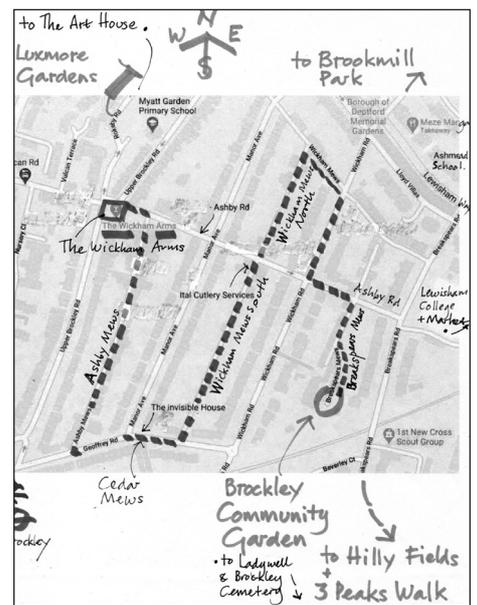
And also on the list, Brookmill Park, Luxmore Gardens and Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries are always rewarding.



Ashby Mews

Part of the historic ArtHouse was also open for the weekend.

As ever, the view from the main roads of an



urban area such as Lewisham, or even green railway cuttings, gives a limited impression of our hilly and green borough.

Mel Loveday and Juliet Johnson

A self-guided walk through the mews can be done at any time using the following resources from [www.brockleysociety.org.uk](http://www.brockleysociety.org.uk):

**Main booklet:** *A walk through Brockley's Historic Mews* (8 page PDF)

*Mews map and walk summary* (2 page PDF)

*Mews map and Picture Quiz* (ideal for children) (2 page PDF)

*Planning and Architectural supplement* (5 page PDF)

The printed booklet can also be purchased from: [brockleysociety.org.uk/shop/](http://brockleysociety.org.uk/shop/)

## Brockley 3 Peaks Walk

A big thank you to the volunteers who ran the map stall for two days by Hilly Fields café. It was great fun to meet the walkers, many who had discovered us on the Open House website and came from all over London. Most people came in groups of 2-6 people. Everyone had a story to tell. One group had been students at Goldsmiths in the 1970s and were amazed by the vibrancy of the area and the look of their old student house now. Visiting the Brockley Open House venues was a trip down memory lane for them.

Martin McTague, who has lived in Lewisham for a few years, took his family and young grandchildren on the walk. The usual two hours to complete took six because they had found so much to do along the way, with lots of stops for picnics and drinks. Martin sums up the joyous atmosphere in Hilly Fields park that weekend perfectly:

What a scene — I felt like I was on a movie set. Parents were playing with their kids on the playground or chatting in the sunshine. There were four tennis matches being played in the courts next door. Next to that friends were practising basketball; a few yards from them a Pilates class was in full flow and personal trainers were putting their clients through punishing routines.

As if that wasn't enough several football

matches were underway and a bunch of under fives were getting their first taste of the game.

Joggers trotted by; friends sat on the grass chatting over a picnic; there were stalls selling flowers and gifts and the café next to them were doing a roaring trade.

"This felt like a real community in action – amazing!"

Laura Cunningham,  
Brockley 3 Peaks walk organiser

## Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries

The group was able to participate in the London Open House weekend with three guided walks on Sunday 20. Attendance on the walks was restricted to five people plus the guide, with all places having to be booked. The arrangements that were made for social distancing etc. were approved by Bereavement Services, and the afternoon generally went well, with generous donations and purchases of Mike Guilfoyle's Guides to Illustrious Deceased in Brockley & Ladywell Cemeteries.

The Friends' group was not able to hold its AGM as planned, but the guest speaker, Tessa Boase, author of "Mrs. Pankhurst's Purple Feather" has said she will be able to give her talk next year. 2021 is the centenary

of the passing of the Plumage Act (1921), which outlawed the use of wild birds in the millinery industry.

A video file is available of the author talking about the founding of the RSPB. <https://vimeo.com/454523714>

## Friends of Brookmill Park

Friends of Brookmill Park were delighted to take part for the first time in this year's Open House. The event provided a great opportunity to promote this gem of a park running alongside the tidal Ravensbourne and share promotion with other Brockley green spaces. Local residents researched the origins and evolution of the park and produced a map and leaflet, which is now available for any park visitors in print or online at



<https://brookmillpark.deptfordcreek.net/a-walk-in-brookmill-park%e2%80%8b/>

One Open House visitor commented: "I have wanted to explore this area for a long time, my family are from here, OH has given me the reason to come and investigate the history of the area, the park and the streets around it."

## Windrush to Lewisham - Memoirs of 'Uncle George' - W. George Brown.

W George Brown arrived from Jamaica on the Windrush, initially staying in the deep shelter at Clapham South. He found a job immediately as a bricklayer but faced racial prejudice at work and when seeking a room for his wife's arrival. Through a friend he found accommodation with a family in Comerford Road, Brockley, and met the Whittings, Garstangs and Mrs Mazette — three English families who opened their doors to West Indians.

The Browns saved for three years to buy their own house, 79 Lewisham Road. But no one would give a black man a mortgage and he succeeded only when Mr Barker of 2 Manor Avenue fronted his mortgage application.

Because pubs in south-east London refused to serve black people, George and others set up the Anglo Caribbean Association and Club in 1953, meeting in his living room. They campaigned against appalling racist



restrictions until they were eventually able to meet in the Amersham Arms, Laurie Road Baths and elsewhere, supported by Deptford and Lewisham councils.

The Association dealt also with issues of housing, jobs, training and welfare of new arrivals. They set up a thrift, or partner saving scheme.

George was chairman when the Anglo Caribbean Club opened its first licensed premises in June 1959 in Alder House,



Breakspears Road. A year later it moved to 229 Greenwich High Road, as the Commonwealth Association and Club. The pictures show the club in two different premises.

After nine years in the building industry George found an engineering job in Deptford. Trade union support helped him counter racism at work. Several key English people supported the club against appalling press attacks whose crude racism we find quite shocking today.

'Uncle George' went back to Jamaica in the 1970s and died in 1974.

The resilience and initiative of George and others in the face of bitter difficulties shines through the book.

## Henry Williamson: 'The Hillies' and 'Old Loos' am'



*'Over the Hill at night shone the stars of heaven; but they were seldom observed by those walking there, for northward lay the city of London, with its street lights seen on a clear evening winking away into the haze by the river; while to the east and south of east lay the high roads into Kent, the vegetable garden of London, marked by the diminishing gas flares of the borough. Turning towards the west, where the last of the sunset was lost in the smoky dew, the solitary walker pausing in his constitutional beheld here and there in the dark spaces below him steady points of light which were windows of farm-houses lit by oil-lamps, and weather-boarded labouring men's cottages showing a glimmer of dip or farthing candle. Arable farming was, towards the close of the nineteenth century, still being carried on in the fields yet unbuilt upon south of the Hill.'* (opening paragraph of 'The Dark Lantern')

Towns, suburbs and neighbourhoods carry about them a feeling of the times when they were in tune with history. In spite of recent gentrification and a rash of high-rise blocks, the Lewisham area does still feel very redolent of its late 19th and early 20th century building boom, when it was on the very edge of the heaving metropolis and the open countryside.

The prolific author famous for writing a book most people have heard of but never read, namely 'Tarka the Otter', was born at 66 Braxfield Road, Brockley, in 1895. As the above plaque records, he spent his childhood at 21 Eastern Road on Hilly Fields, then experienced active service in Flanders in 1914 (his accounts of WW1 are considered among the finest).

Later on he would record his own personal experiences amid national crises, in painstaking detail, in his 15-volume semi-autobiographical novel 'A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight'.

For anyone who savours the indelible tinge of late Victorian and Edwardian style around Lewisham, Brockley and 'The Hillies' in particular, I'd recommend the first three books in the series as useful texts. What HW referred to as 'my London Trilogy', they are as follows: 'The Dark Lantern' (1951): events from June 1893 to July 1895

'Donkey Boy' (1952): March 1897 to spring 1907

'Young Phillip Maddison': February 1908 to March 1913



Phillip Maddison is the anti-hero, based on Williamson himself. The series roughly follows HW's own life - but with considerable fictional embellishment. Brockley is called 'Wakenham'; Ladywell is called 'Randiswell' after the Ravensbourne river. Readers will enjoy much engrossing dramatic incident involving the main characters and the local area; but one may also read it as a sensitive social history of this nation in the first half of the 20th century.

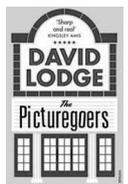
I am *not* an apologist for some reprehensible and quixotic political views that HW came to hold, which are not on display in these books; but I am an advocate for the quality of his writing. The 'Chronicle' demonstrates an amazing tapestry of memories, interwoven with a coherent and emotionally-compelling narrative sweep. He alludes to the dark underbelly of the Victorian world: how the building of the railways which created suburbs like Brockley also entailed slum-clearances; and how Hilly Fields became an important green space, not just for the middle and upper classes, but also for the large numbers of displaced working-class families. He mentions that the park had its very own Speaker's Corner at the time, The Socialist Oak (long-lost), where anyone could stridently express their views on religion, politics, morality or philosophy; Suffragettes such as Emily Davison and Nurse Pitfield, as well as the Pankhursts, are thought to have addressed the assembled community here.

The writing style is evocative of the period, and often takes the reader into the interior psyche of each character, seeing the world from their individual point of view, along with their hopes and fears for the future. All in all, a rewarding read.

AJH

Anyone interested To know more about his life and works access the comprehensive Henry Williamson Society website: [www.henrywilliamson.co.uk](http://www.henrywilliamson.co.uk)

## Brockley's cinemas



For those interested in books set in Brockley ('Brickley', as it is called in this book), I can recommend David Lodge's debut novel, *The Picturegoers*, first published in 1960.

Set around the dilapidated 'Palladium' cinema and the lives of the various characters that frequent it, the book gives a vivid impression of Brockley in the 1950s when the effects of the war were still clearly visible.

The author doesn't generally specify real-life locations, but he conjures up a picture of the locality and made me think of certain streets and areas in Brockley - other readers will no doubt form their own impressions. Some places are mentioned under other names ('High Hill' looks to be Hilly Fields for example), and I imagined the Palladium to be the real-life Rivoli Ballroom (formerly a cinema), although the fictional Palladium was a music hall before becoming a cinema,

which the Rivoli wasn't. A Marmite Factory is mentioned: perhaps some readers will know if it existed at this time - it may be based on the old Robertson's jam factory in Catford.

*The Picturegoers* is part comedy, part romance and part series of vignettes on everyday life and concerns, which one assumes is partly autobiographical and based on characters the author was related to or knew. Details of everyday life at the time will be interesting to many readers and includes a detailed account of a religious pilgrimage from London to Walsingham in Norfolk (Catholicism is one of the themes of the novel), which still takes place to this day.

The author was born in Dulwich but raised in Brockley (Millmark Grove). The book is (as Lodge acknowledges) his debut effort. Its rawness and naivety gives it a certain charm while his charisma and descriptive abilities make this an easily accessible read, set in the local area.

Tony McCartney

## Lia Ditton, Solo Ocean Rower, Born in Brockley

In the kitchen, hearing the Radio 4 lunchtime News on Sunday 13 September, we stopped short:

'Lia Ditton, aged 40, has rowed solo from San Francisco to Hawaii in record breaking time, and capsizing twice.'

It is rare to hear of someone you know, although we did know she had rowed across the Atlantic, I think more than once. This journey, in the Pacific, took 86 days from mid-June to 12 September, and one can try to imagine her family, tracking her journey and blogs.

She and her family lived near Myatt Garden Nursery, not far from the Wickham Arms, and when she was small her family and ours and one other, would 'share child care' after Nursery. At Ashmead School I remember she wrote long stories.

Now she is planning that the boat, decorated by Wes Archer, one of the original animators who drew the Simpsons, should be part of an art installation, as was her earlier one for a while in the courtyard at Chelsea College



of Art. Her website tells us a lot: <https://rowliarow.com>

This makes me think of Shackleton's boat at Dulwich Boy's School.

I am writing this looking out to a blustery English Channel, seen from St Leonard's on Sea, near Hastings, a world away from the bravery and mental stamina of Ocean rowing – Congratulations.

Juliet Johnson

## Volunteer with 1st New Cross Scouts

**Scouts** 1st New Cross Scouting is very popular, with a waiting list at the moment at 1st New Cross Scouts, based in Brockley. We need to recruit adult volunteers to support them and make sure we can run each week.

**Scouts Organisation/Charity:** everyone's welcome — all genders, races and backgrounds. Every week we give almost half a million 6-25 year olds the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life. This only happens because of great adventures and great volunteers. <https://youtu.be/cMGyuucCmuY>

**The Role:** Calling all tea makers, tidy-uppers, activity planners and helpers for as little or as much time as you can spare. Young people choose the adventures and it's our job to make them happen, from Cooking, Coding and Painting to Sailing, Climbing and Camping. We do everything under the sun. No



experience of Scouting is required and we have flexible roles to suit the busiest of people.

**We provide free:** DBS, Safety Training, Safeguarding Training, First Response Training. Following this, volunteers can access all kinds of further skills training.

**We meet at:** The Scout Hut, 25 Breakspears Road, Tack Mews, Brockley SE4 1XW

**Contact:** Katie Sturgess (Scouts Volunteer) 07809 609 531 [1stnewcross.co.uk](http://1stnewcross.co.uk) [Scouts@1stnewcross.co.uk](mailto:Scouts@1stnewcross.co.uk)

## Walking ... from Brockley to Brockley

During the previous days of lockdown, we were thrown a mental health lifeline by being able to leave our homes to exercise. Not having a commute to do, that meant come knocking-off time at 5.30ish we were free to go for a walk! Great! Where to walk to? There's that lovely pub by the river in Greenwich, we could stroll down, have dinner and a beer. Oh, hold on, everywhere is shut and anywhere which isn't has queues 20 deep. "Well, why don't we walk to Brockley?" "But we're in Brockley already ..."

And so the first of many circuitous walks was born. To boldly go where we already are.

While we all have our fingers crossed it doesn't happen, if we should face any future restrictions on our movements, we have some great walks on our doorstep which require nothing more than brains in our heads and feet in our shoes.

One amazing walk is Brockley – Nunhead – Peckham Rye Common – Brenchley Gardens – Brockley. At a shade under five miles, it can be done in less than two hours. It's got a mixture of parkland and paved roads, flat sections and hills and unrivalled views over London from two separate peaks.

Heading north from Brockley Station, we

take a left after the railway bridge and, enter a new neighbourhood, walking towards Nunhead. Those with a bit of extra time on their hands can include the upper and lower Telegraph Hill parks, marvelling at the views, before rejoining through Nunhead on the way to Peckham Rye. Alternatively, take a left at Skehan's down to Nunhead.

The expanse of Peckham Rye Common gives way to the beauty of Peckham Rye Park and then it's a climb up Forest Hill to enter Brenchley Gardens, a long park sited over a former railway line. Again, we get a marvellous view down to Central London as well as the neatly tended golf club beneath.

From there, every step brings us closer to home, with an option to cut through the Camberwell New Cemetery and then a pedestrian crossing over the railway line to go back down the Brockley Road.

Going for a walk 1. Sitting indoors 0. A win for mental health.

Things to spot: A talking bollard in Nunhead, Blue plaques for Percy Lane Oliver and Boris Karloff, a traffic light with a double back arrow, the Japanese garden.

Michael Donnelly

## Front Garden Sale



The ever popular Coordinated Front Garden Sale took place in Brockley, Ladywell and St Johns in glorious sunny weather during the weekend of 12 and 13 September. 116 addresses took part over the two days, with lots of people meeting neighbours and making new friends whilst hunting for bargains amongst the wonderful homemade goods and treasures to be found.



Natasha and friends

A very successful and enjoyable weekend!

"I got to know my neighbours better and that's been an absolute pleasure."

"It went really well; really pleased to be part of it."



Alison, Zoe and Teddy

"Chudleigh Rd is a busy road and we sold for a total of eight hrs over the weekend, clearing things from a Victorian chair to a set of Norwegian trolls!"

"I was really happy about my sale and the others on our road who took part - great sense of community!"

"We had a really good two days. Got rid of lots of stuff, met lots of neighbours."



Aiofe, 6, waits for customers in Manor Avenue

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Before you start making decisions on any changes to your property, we strongly advise you to look at the Council's guidelines at: [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk). Click through [myservices / Planning / Conservation and urban design / Conservation areas / Brockley](#). The Brockley Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document describes what building modifications will be allowed. Under the Article 4 direction external changes visible from public viewpoints require

### Undecided

**29A Tressillian Road.** Replacement of existing windows on the front and rear elevations of 29A Tressillian Road.

**87A Upper Brockley Road.** Alterations and conversion of the two existing flats/maisonettes at into a single dwelling, together with alterations to the front elevation

**58A Wickham Road.** Lower ground floor rear extension and re-configuration of internal layout and new side access

**11A and 11B Cranfield Road.** Replacement of windows and doors on front and rear elevations

**8 Breakspears Mews.** Removal of garage door on the front, installation of a window

**41 Manor Avenue.** Demolition of existing rear extension and construction of new single storey rear extension at basement level together with new rear terrace

**Flats A and B, 3 Rokeby Road.** Replacement windows, front and rear. New doors.

**Flats A and B, 41 Rokeby Road.** Replacement windows, front rear and side. New rear door.

**22 Harefield Road.** Replacement windows front and rear, ground floor flat

**62 Manor Avenue.** Replacement lower ground floor/ ground floor extension. Patios.

**84B Tyrwhitt Road.** Replacement windows on the front, side and rear elevations

**7B Tressillian Road.** Replacement timber double glazed windows at upper ground floor level to the

front, side and rear.

**15a Tressillian Crescent.** Single storey rear extension, rear dormer roof extension.

**13 Breakspears Mews.** Single storey rear extension.

**9 Brockley Cross.** Fascia signage and hanging sign to front.

**Land at the rear of 6 Tressillian Crescent.** (adjacent to 53 1/2 Tressillian Road). Construction of a part one/part two storey three bedroom semi detached house.

**10 Garsington Mews.** First floor extension to the side

**Wickham Arms, 69 Upper Brockley Road.** Construction of 6 covered timber sitting booths and outdoor pizza oven in rear garden

### Granted

**58 Wickham Road.** Replacement brickwork boundary wall facing with a new low-level brickwork wall and piers.

**Syringa House, Wickham Road.** Removal of 8 antennas, installation of 6 new antennas

**91 Manor Avenue.** Repair and refurbishment to the front

**Flats 1 and 2, 57 Upper Brockley Road.** Replacement windows in the front and rear elevations.

**14 Beverley Court.** Single storey rear extension

**115 Upper Brockley Road.** Replacement extension and enlarged patio at the lower ground floor, alterations including new brick cladding, window openings, French doors, glazed balustrade.

planning permission (doors, windows, roof, driveways, gates, walls, fences, painting the exterior).

You can view planning applications in the Planning section of the website, and then select 'Search and comment ...' You must log in to make a comment supporting or objecting to an application.

To get involved in preserving the character of Brockley or for further guidance on planning issues, contact [planning@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:planning@brockleysociety.org.uk)

### Refused

**17 Upper Brockley Road.** Construction of a part single / part two storey rear extension, cycle parking, bin store.

**62 Manor Avenue.** Demolition of existing front brick wall and side staircase walls, the installation of metal railings and posts, together with new handrail to staircase and formation of a paved hardstanding.

**58A Wickham Road.** Single storey rear extension with roof terrace.

### Trees

**41 Wickham Road.** Reduce height of 2 leylandii, trim and shape

**10 Tressillian Road.** Multiple trees – crown thinning, height reduction, pruning, etc.

**12 Tressillian Road.** 2 limes, reduce height and spread

**St Peters Court, Wickham Road.** 4 trees – pruning

**1 Geoffrey Court, Geoffrey Road.** 3 trees – pruning

**54 Wickham Road.** Chestnut – re-pollard crown

**Wadcroft Court, Court, Geoffrey Road.** 9 limes – thin and lift crowns

**51 Wickham Road.** Numerous trees. Two fell, mostly pollarding and pruning.

**64 Breakspears Road.** 2 limes – pruning, reduction, crown thinning

**44a Tyrwhitt Road.** 2 silver birches. Reduce height, width.

## Brockley Conservation Area: advantages and responsibilities

Because of its special architectural and historic interest, Brockley Conservation Area was designated by the council in 1973 and extended in 1991, 1993 and 2005.

Building of this speculatively-developed Victorian suburb began in the 1830s. Most houses were built in the second half of the 19th century, with southern parts completed in the 1900s.

The special character comes from the variety of architectural styles and detail, the leafiness of gardens and trees, and the distinctive street layout. Distinctive detailing includes stucco capitals and window surrounds, tile paths, terracotta details and spacious front gardens.

Post-war buildings exist almost entirely as a result of bomb destruction during the war. Large houses were requisitioned by the government for families made homeless by bombing and the council later bought up properties falling into dereliction, which explains the large number of council properties in the Conservation Area and its mixed character.

Today's varied ownership includes individual family homes, houses subdivided into flats, council homes, housing association properties, hostels.

Lewisham Council's 2005 "Character Appraisal", available on Lewisham's website, is a beautiful three-part document containing many pictures, assessing Brockley's special historic and architectural interest. It makes fascinating reading. See also the Supplementary Planning Document of 2006.

### Planning Permission

All houses benefit from being in a conservation area, and all are subject to the

responsibilities it entails.

Under the Planning Act 1990 the council must pay special attention to preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas. In 2006 an Article 4 direction was made for Brockley Conservation Area to encourage the retention of high quality architectural features and to control small-scale, but cumulatively intrusive developments such as the installation of uPVC windows and doors, or the changing of roofing materials.

**This means that planning permission must be sought for any of the following:**

- Any alterations visible from the highway, including to windows, doors, chimneys or alterations to the roof, enlargement, improvement or any other alteration (including demolitions)

- Laying a hard surface, including alterations to garden paths, erecting, altering or demolishing a gate, fence or wall

- Painting the exterior of the house or a building in its grounds

Don't be tempted to replace your front wall or windows for example, even with like-for-like, until you have contacted the Council planning department Lewisham Council's Supplementary Planning Document explains the restrictions.

If you or your landlord have replaced elements such as windows without permission, Lewisham's Enforcement Team may take action. It is therefore strongly recommended that you seek advice before undertaking any work that may be affected by the regulations.

- Lewisham's planning enquiries team can be reached on 020 8314 7400, or by email at [planning@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:planning@lewisham.gov.uk).

- You can report a breach of planning control by completing the online form on Lewisham's website or by emailing details to [planningenforcement@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:planningenforcement@lewisham.gov.uk).

### Brockley Society's Planning Group

Comprising 12 people elected at our AGM, the Planning Group meets monthly to consider new planning applications for work within the Conservation Area. Comments and sometimes objections are passed on to Lewisham's planning officers.

- We welcome informal requests for advice from residents prior to submitting a planning application.

- We also look out for and report on unauthorised work, which contributes to the creeping destruction of the conservation area's unique character.

### Trees in Conservation Areas

Trees are often very important to the character of conservation areas. They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife and act as a barrier to noise and air pollution. Trees which make a particularly important contribution to the public amenity of an area may be protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

It is an offence to cut down or wilfully damage ANY tree in a conservation area without first giving six weeks written notice to the Council's Tree Officer. The penalty for contravening a specific preservation order are severe.

**Street Trees:** Find out more about street trees from Street Trees for Living: [streettreesforliving.org](http://streettreesforliving.org).

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