

The MIDSUMMER FAYRE HILLY FIELDS SATURDAY JUNE 21 2 o'clock until 6



children

FAIR

We want to have a children's stall at the fair. Here is your chance to sell all those unwanted toys and books, the sweets you made, the pottery that your parents say there is no further room for, anything and everything. How about running a bran tub? Over to you.

We will provide a stall at the fair for you. You fix the prices, you do the selling. The profits go to the children's corner, for prizes for future competitions. Contact us with your ideas. - NOW!

The Midsummer Fayre is days away. Many of you are already beavering around the area organising and making for June 21. We always welcome offers of help. Don't be backward in coming forward, there is plenty to do, both before and on the day. This is your fair, your fun.

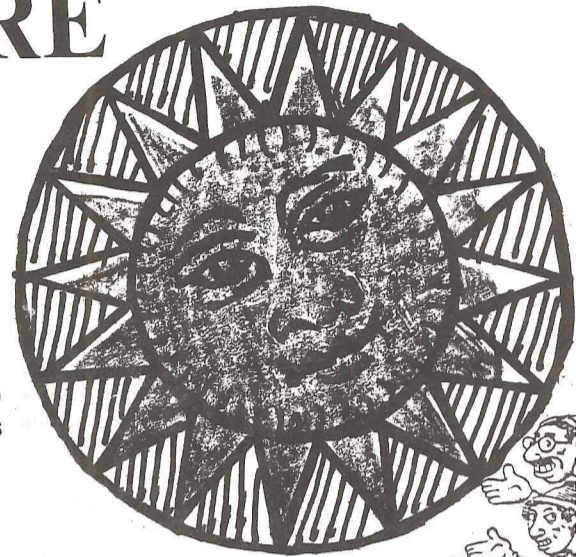
Newcomers to the area are very welcome, but those who have lived in the area for some time are especially valuable for their local knowledge and expertise. Please contact us with your offers. There is something for everyone to do, from helping before the day, to eating, drinking and being merry on Saturday 21 June.

- Old Books ? Juliette House, 23 Hillyfields Crescent is running the book stall.

- Plant cuttings and seedlings ? Maureen Mayers, 118 Tressillian Road is collecting plants for the stall.

- Good at making cakes ? Maureen Mayers, 118 Tressillian Road is collecting cakes for the stall.

- Bric-a-Brac, that small gold statuette that you could never stand, the diamond tiara which never suited you, the chippendale chair which everyone found so uncomfortable, we can probably find someone to buy these things ? Children's (good) clothes. Mrs. Turner, 104 Tressillian Road, would be grateful for your donations.



Fancy Dress



There will be a fancy dress parade at the fair. Prizes will be awarded for the most original, outrageous, amusing entertaining fancy dress outfit ... so come on all you Robin Hoods, pirates, Bo Peeps, all of you who want to take part, be at the rallying point at 3.00. There will be a sign, telling you where to report.

CARS

In recent weeks Brockley seems to have become a dumping ground for abandoned, smashed up cars. Apart from being eyesores, these are frequently parked in dangerous positions and also occupy residents usual parking spaces.

If you notice dumped cars near your house, you should first notify the local police in case the cars are stolen. If they are not, the Police will notify the Local Authority but it is much quicker to do this yourself.

The number to ring is 692-1288 Ext.28 which is the Engineers & Surveyor's Dept. at Deptford Townhall. The information they will require for each car is:

Registration No.:

Make of Car:

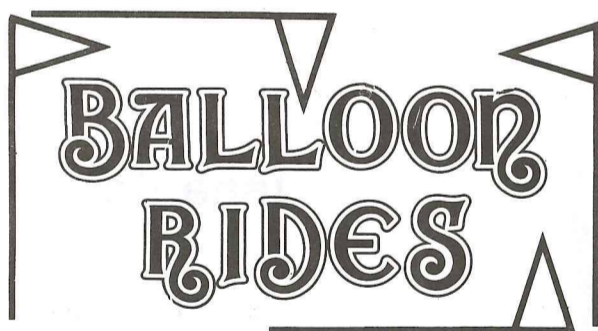
Colour:

Expiry date of Tax Disc (if any):

Within a few days, Lewisham Council should stick notices on to the windscreen, requesting that the car be removed within 7 days or else be towed away for disposal.

Six such cars in Tressillian Rd, were reported on 28th. April and notices quickly appeared on them. However, so far they have still not been removed, although a spokesperson for the Engineers Dept. assured us today (20th.May) that they would be gone within the next few days. It is obviously useful to telephone the Dept. now and again to speed up the process!

P.S. The cars have now gone.



St PETER'S CENTRE

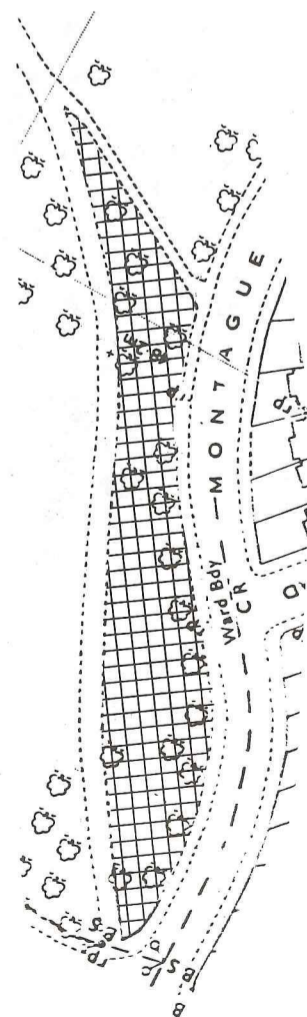
ST. PETERS

Thanks to the Manor Avenue GIA Residents Association. Mrs Varney has passed a cheque for £152.86p which is much appreciated.

The music room is now being redecorated. SELTEC apprentices have done an extremely good job, thanks to them for all their efforts. The search is now on for someone to take on the renovation of the pictures.

The next plan is the repointing of the whole building which it is hoped, will be started in the summer.

Is there anyone interested in starting a modern dancing or OT dancing group, there would appear to be others interested in such an enterprise. There is also room for anyone to start a group for darts, billiards, snooker or table tennis in the games room. There already is badminton on Wednesdays, but there could also be a group on Thursdays, or during the day.



DOGS

Lewisham Council has started a campaign to clean up our parks and has agreed to set aside part of Hilly Fields as a special Dog Exercise Area. This is a grassy area situated next to Montague Avenue and bounded by the two footpaths shown in the map. We understand this is due to be marked by dog posters in the near future.

If you are a dog owner, please help to keep the rest of the park clean and safe for the many other users, especially children, by exercising your dog only in the reserved area and training him/her to use the road gutters.



LETTERS

We expect and hope that the ideas expressed in this newsheet will provoke comment and even controversy from time to time. Our articles on Traffic and the ideas for Hilly Fields have aroused the following comments from Miss Arnold of Tressillian Road.



Leave the Hilly Fields alone, the whole beauty of it is its openness. It is not a park. When Tyrwhitt Road was built up it was open fields and left so as a recreation ground. There used to be a shrubbery between the bowling green and the workshop, this was cleared because men with sick minds enticed children there to molest them. The undergrowth under the may trees next to Vicars Hill was removed for the same reason.

Do not suggest cutting down the old may trees, blue and great tits nest in the holes of these trees and should be encouraged. As for foxes they are vermin and kill for the sake of killing even cats are not safe from them. As there are now no hedgehogs I suppose they are killed by foxes. If you want to study wild life and undergrowth just go and look over the railway bridge in Wickham Road.



You ask for ideas in your leaflet on Hilly Fields traffic, I say for heavens sake leave it along. You cannot stem a flood by forcing it through narrow channels you only make it more dangerous as you have done by the closures of Vulcan road Ashby Road and Manor Avenue. I am not a motorist or a cyclist I walk around the neighbourhood and see what harm is done. Geoffrey Road was a nasty road before the closures now it is hell let loose. You closed Manor Avenue a good wide road and forced traffic through Rokeby road and Upper Brockley Road both roads on which schools let out. One way traffic is dangerous for pedestrians. The other day Rokeby Road was completely blocked by a Borough bus and a school bus. What would happen in case of fire or accident when nothing could get through? I noticed a car turning out of Wickham Road into Breakspears and realised it was because there was no right turn out of Wickham. If Manor Avenue was open right turns could be made there easily when the traffic was stopped at Wickham without disrupting traffic in Lewisham Way. Nothing will reduce the constant flow of traffic up and down Tressillian Road day and night. Since the motorist was given the right of way at Harefield Road some years ago, the speed and carelessness of drivers has increased as for closing Harefield Road between Breakspears and Tressillian Road as suggested by the Brockley Society how crazy can you get? What if there is a fire or accident, have appliances to go all the way round to get there? There would be other turnings between these roads if the person who owned the land had not been cranky and refused to sell if roads were cut. The morning and evening traffic only lasts about an hour each time and owing to its volume it has to take care. It is not they who run over our cats and kill them.

You say residential roads yet the roads you have blocked and propose to block are the least built up. If you are going to force traffic through certain roads something should first be done to remove parked cars in these roads. Also have you thought that by forcing motorists to take a longer route you are causing them to use more petrol. Where is your ecology?

Signed

Miss S.B. Arnold

Walkabout

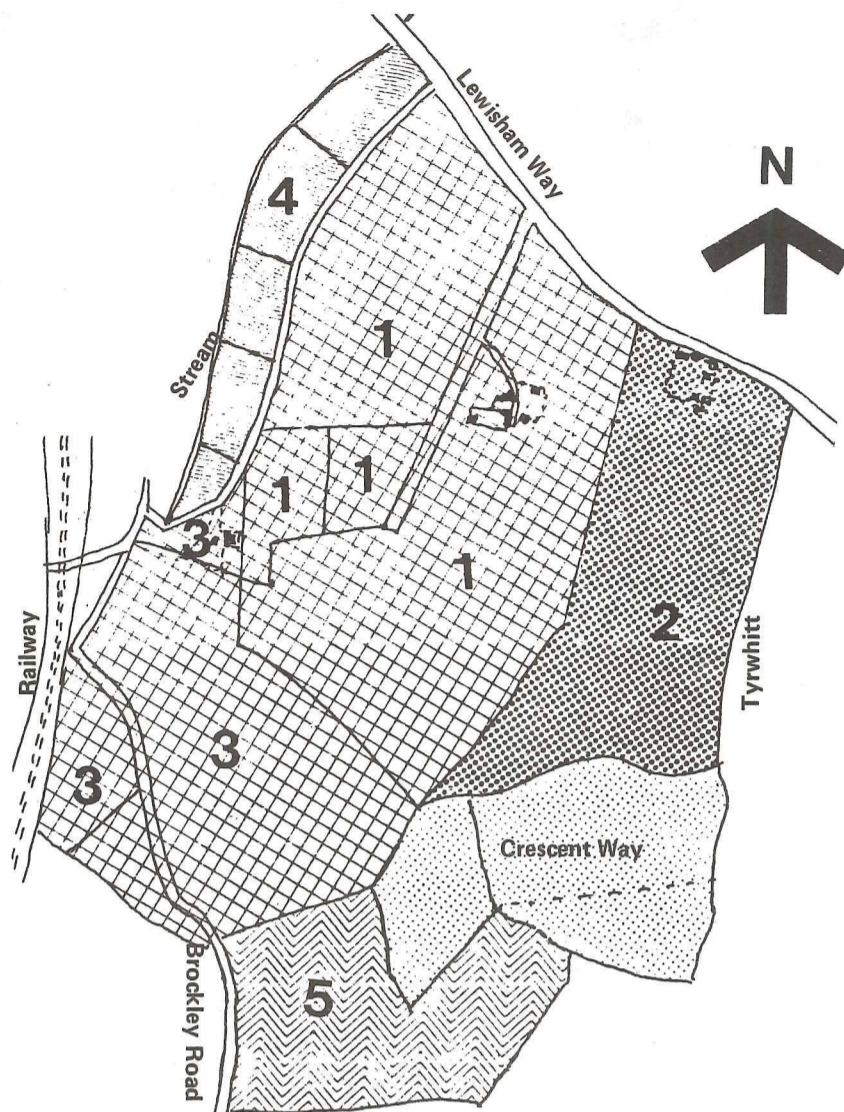
A most interesting walkabout of the Brockley area took place on Sunday, May 4. Conducted at break-neck speed by Nick Taylor, we were treated to a fascinating account of the historical, architectural, botanical and contemporary preoccupations of the area. All who joined the walk found it a most interesting and informative way in which to spend a Sunday morning.

These walks take place regularly around the Borough, at the instigation of the Conservation Advisory Committee, in order to keep members of the committee and local residential groups well informed.

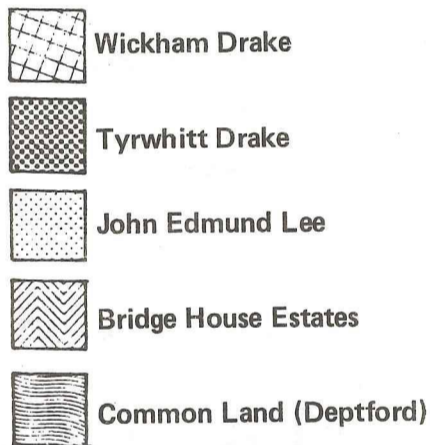
also

Nick Taylor gave a most interesting talk on the development of Victorian London suburbs on May 6th at the St. Peter's Centre.

Brockley 1844

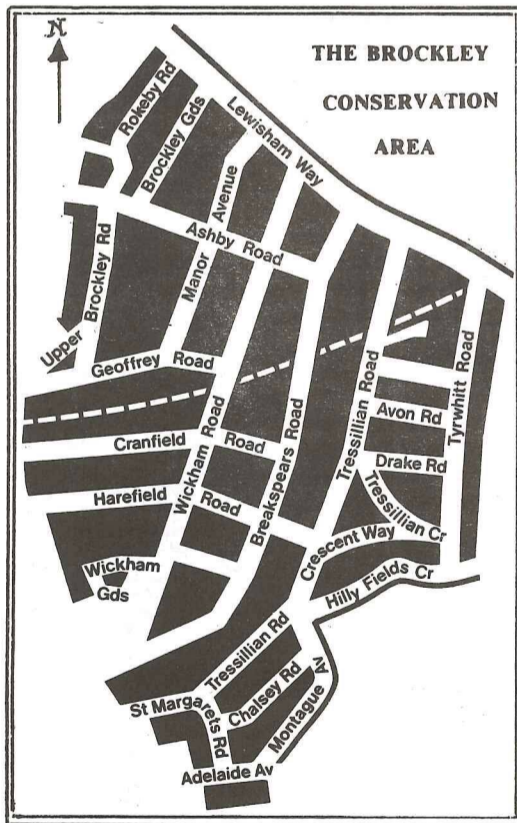


Land Owners

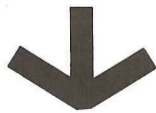


Tenants

- 1 Joseph Myatt & Sons
- 2 Edward Hawke
- 3 George More
- 4 Samuel Shepherd
- 5 James Houldsworth



Your Society



There is no membership fee as the Brockley Society is open to all living in the area, but the more support the Society has, the greater its influence in getting things done.

OSCAR STREET

A small park is being laid out by the Council on the west side of Friendly Street across the road from the Brookmill road Conservation Area. It replaces a blighted area of derelict buildings and is being financed by Government sponsored eyesore site money in the main, though local people have raised £300 for it.

LOCAL HISTORY

Do you know the origin of the name Brockley? According to the Oxford Dictionary of English Placenames the most likely meaning comes from the old English words BROC meaning brook and LEAH meaning field i.e. "Field by the Stream". The Brook being the stream which once ran from Brockley Cross, behind Rokeby Road and down to Deptford Creek.

This is the second of a series of articles we are publishing on local history. In the first we dealt with the ownership of the land from Mediaeval times up to the beginning of the 1800's when it was held by two sisters Anne and Mary Wickham who married respectively two brothers, the Rev. John Drake and Thomas Tyrwhitt.

At the turn of the 18th Century London was beginning to expand rapidly and this gave impetus to market gardening. The soils of Brockley never seem to have made rich farming land and the area prior to the 1800's was used mainly as pasture land. But a ready market and "an unsparing application of London fertilizing matter" seems to have turned Brockley into a rich market garden.

The main produce from these market gardens was strawberries, rhubarb and pears. (Many large pear trees from the original orchards can still be seen in the area).

One farmer is of particular interest. Mr. Myatt (and his two sons) who rented Manor Farm (No.1) - 76 acres 3 rods and 3 perches. He developed a champion variety of giant rhubarb called 'Victoria' and also a type called 'Linnaeus' which was extremely productive. Large quantities were sent daily throughout the season to Covent Garden and distributed throughout England. It appears that prior to this rhubarb had been used mainly for medicinal purposes! George Moore was the tenant at 'Little Brockley Farm' (No.3) - 47 acres which was roughly on the site of the stables off Geoffrey Road. The land between Breakspears Road and Adelaide Avenue was owned by Bridge House Estates and farmed by James Houldsworth (No.5).

The area between Montague Avenue and Chalsey Road was owned and farmed by John Edmund Lee as pasture. J.E. Lee lived on Loampit Hill where Grover Court now stands and also owned the loampit, chalk pit and brickfield which was the origin of the 'hole' where Undercliff and Sandrock roads were built.

Apart from market gardening the clay and loam soils were used for brick and tile making and brickfields and tile kilns were to be found east and west of the area.

The function of Brockley as a market garden area continued right through until all the available land had become part of a London suburb.

This process lasted from 1849 - 1900.

Look out for the next episode of Brockley past when we will deal with the early building development.

ADS

ANTIQUES WANTED

I wish to purchase any of the following pre 1930 items:
Wardrobes, Sideboards, Bookcases
Display Cabinets, Dining Tables,
China, Brass, Tiles, Bric-a-Brac
ANYTHING OLD AND INTERESTING

Phone Ian Middleton 01 - 692 - 2845 or write 91 Tyrwhitt Road, London SE 4

Broc Soc Newsheet is published every 3 months. Your contributions are welcome. Send them to the Editors c/o 114 Tressillian Road.