



Brockley Midsummer Fayre 1984

The Fayre held on Saturday June 23rd was the biggest ever both in number of events and sideshows, and on a fine warm day was crowded with local people

The day started for some members of the Brockley Society before 10 o'clock as they were working hard preparing the area for the afternoon's events. By noon the cricket/football field was a scene of activity as stalls were erected, the many organisations turned up with their wide variety of sideshows and the childrens' fairground arrived. By 2 o'clock nearly everything was ready and from then until 6 o'clock it was a place of merriment and fun.

The Downham majorettes opened the proceeding and impressed everybody. This year the P.A. system worked all the time and this enabled everyone to enjoy the Emmanuel Handbell Ringers. As well as the childrens' fairground, there was a puppet show and an exhibition by the Les Bois Theatre School. One of the attractions was a tug of war between local pub teams. Both participants and supporters were very noisy and obviously enjoyed themselves. The participating pubs gave generous donations as did "The Lord Wolsey" who unfortunately could not field a team.

Our thanks to P.C. Derek McCaig and P.C. Len Philips who ably refereed the match and kept law and order on the field!

We hope to repeat this next year, so remember to get in training in time for June 22nd, 1985.

We welcomed a display by the police of crime prevention technique and a stall and information service was manned by local members of Neighbourhood Watch Committees, who dealt with numerous enquiries.

Congratulations to Chrissi Webb and Malcolm Ryan for organising such a large and successful event (helped by Michael Webb). We are grateful to all those who helped including young Andrew Ryan, Kevin Whysacher and Paul Barnet throughout the day and especially Broc-Soc stalwarts Mr. & Mrs. Porter, Mr. & Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Roberts and Mr. & Mrs. Heywood, who besides being there from 10 till 6 had also worked very hard for over 6 months on the detailed preparations.

The posters advertising the event were screen-printed by John Porter, Juliette Johnson and Rosemary Copping from a design by Bill Turner. This entailed two days' work at the **Albany** with their advice and know-how. Many thanks for this essential and time-consuming work.

The annual Fayre depends entirely upon voluntary work by residents and is **not** funded from the Rates! If you feel you can help next year, contact Gill Heywood, Chairman as soon as you like.

The profit this year amounted to about £200.

The Brockley Society

The Brockley Society holds monthly meetings at St. Peter's Centre at 8 p.m. on the first Monday in the month.

Every resident in the Conservation Area is a member of the Society and is welcome to attend meetings and take an active part in discussions, etc.

and Thank You!

Many of the local shops gave generously for prizes for the Fayre. Our grateful thanks to:

Tyrwhitt Road/Loampit Hill

Taylor's Grocers;
D & G Greengrocers;
S. Patel, Newsagent;
Northwoods Chemist;
K.J. Builders Merchants.

Brockley Road

Baby Bargain Corner;
Brockley Floral Depot;
Sunshine Fruits;
Homeview Video;
Sewell's Newsagent;
Turner's Hardware;
Wavy Line;
T.W. Barnes, Off Licence;
D & S Hastings, Butchers;
Post Office, 254
Comet School of Motoring;
Brockley Aquaria;
Spar Grocers;
Post Office, 185;
Brockley Beauty Parlour;
La Lanterna;
G T Bennell;
Sev-Tap; Banani;
Pharmco Chemists;
Edward Baker; Davies Bros.

Malpas Road

C.U. Patel, Newsagent;
La Monica Enterprises.

Brookbank Road

The Greengrocers.

Public Houses

The Talbot;
Flower of Kent;
Wickham Arms;
Lord Wolsey.

Apologies if anyone has been omitted!

Thank you for a Thank you!

We received a letter from a resident in Manor Avenue thanking us for our work in trying to clear up the Mews and pressuring the relevant authorities over neglected and empty properties.

We may not always be successful but how nice to know at least one resident appreciates our efforts.

The Case For Collective Housing Schemes

In recent months much publicity has been given in the local press to the case for and against the establishment of a collective house for six ex-homeless people in Brockley. Some of the language used in the petition circulated by a few local residents to oppose the scheme was excessive and extreme and did little to enable local people to understand the aims of collective housing and the benefits for the local community. Indeed, the petition seemed to indicate that anyone male or female, young or old, black or white who had experienced problems in the past, and now wished to re-dress such circumstances, were not welcome in the Brockley area. We appreciate the fact that the Brockley Society is willing to allow us space to counter this view.

The term collective housing covers a variety of needs, indeed the Brockley Society in listing such schemes has included housing for students as well as for people who are overcoming a range of physical and social problems such as homelessness, physical handicap, infirmity, etc. In the past, Victorian society, attempting to resolve such housing problems, created numerous large hospitals in the country and workhouses in the towns. Such provision denies people finding it necessary to use such institutions on a short-term basis the rights to the same standard of housing provision that we would insist on for ourselves. Many of these institutions still remain although they are slowly being phased out; additionally, there is an increasing number of people who are legally homeless linked with an increasing shortage of housing in London and often unemployment. Thus conditions people are subjected to are often beyond their immediate control and do little to encourage them to feel they have the ability to improve their circumstances. Many people feel institutionally trapped, and institutionally labelled accordingly; the media does little to alleviate such stigmatisation either, bundling people together under banners of 'nutter', 'dosser', 'cripple', etc., and as the petition being circulated around Brockley stated "innadequate". It is such views we wish to counter as being incorrect, damaging, and offensive to human dignity.

Collective housing is a positive means of overcoming a gross housing need. The term collective housing describes a variety of accomodation from individual or shared self-contained flatlets to small group houses for people who are in need of a degree of support. The main aim behind such schemes is to keep the number of people in each house small so as to allow each person a degree of privacy in his/her life, and for their family in some cases, and also to ensure that accomodation is of a respectable standard. People offered such opportunities are able to integrate into the community without inconvenience to local residents there are many examples of successful like-minded housing schemes throughout the country. We regard Brockley as a caring community, also we believe Brockley does not have a higher number of schemes than any other part of the Borough, indeed the opposite is the case.

Collective housing is meeting a housing need which is ours. In Lewisham alone there are over 2,000 people who are legally regarded as homeless, also in the Borough there is 17% unemployment and an above average number of people who are single and socially isolated. One in every tenth person in London at some stage in their lives will have emotional problems which require psychiatric support, equally most of us suffer some degree of physical handicap which we need support with. These are the needs of our community, collective housing is a responsible and successful means of meeting these needs when housing is required. We hope the majority of local people will see this as so and allow such schemes to exist and to deal with their own management unhindered by unsubstantiated fears generated by a few who wish to oppose such schemes but are not prepared to come up with a caring and reasonable alternative.

Colin Teasdale,
Nick Batts. (local residents working in resettlement work).

A Protest by Neighbours

I wish to make an appeal for a good attendance at the A.G.M. and the meeting on December 3rd, one which could be taken to represent the members of Brockley Society as a whole.

The special reason for the appeal on this occasion is a letter, signed by over 20 people living near 86 Breakspears Rd, protesting to the Council about its proposed use as a hostel. This letter was condemned at a recent meeting of the Society by a small group of people who had never been before but were sufficient on this occasion to out-vote all others.

I am convinced the letter represented the sentiments of most Brockleyites. But it needs to be stressed that it was not a BrocSoc letter; it was independently signed by the majority of the neighbours of the proposed hostel.

It is important that we should not be misrepresented. Please do not let this happen.

Donald Harris

Home, Sweet Home

This is the title of the tape-slide show to be given by Colin Teasdale at our meeting in St. Peter's Centre on December 3rd. It deals with the scheme for the resettlement of homeless men from the Camberwell Settlement, the "Spike" and afterwards there will be a question and answer session. Most of us fear the unknown and will worry about the impact that hostels for 36 men from the "Spike" will make on the area. Many questions have been voiced such as "Will these men mix into the community?"

Will they be good neighbours?

How were they made homeless?

Could it happen to me?

How do you "rehabilitate" a person?

How long does it take?

Will the men be "passing through" the area, or will they stay in the same house for years?

Will this area look like the area near Carrington House?

We are fearful for our children playing on Hilly Fields. Can we be assured we need not be?

If we are housing men from the "Spike" in this area, where will the men go if Carrington House is split up, more homeless men here, or will they be sent further away?

Who is financing the scheme?

Has Lewisham Council a plan for homeless men and if so, is it to locate them all in the Brockley area?"

Perhaps when we are less ignorant of the facts, there will be fewer misgivings and we will be able to welcome these people with sympathy and understanding.

Come to St. Peter's Centre on December 3rd and join in the discussion, hear the answers to these and other questions you might have.

Gill Heywood

COLLECTIVE HOUSING IN THE AREA

86 Breakspears Road was the home of the Mayor of Lewisham, Councillor Les Eyle. Recently a planning application was submitted by the Church Army Housing Association to use the house for six homeless men from the Camberwell Settlement, with a warden.

As this is the fourth application for similar accommodation within a small area, the Brockley Society opposed the application on the grounds that too many hostels too near together will not benefit the inmates, or make for a balanced community. The other applications, which have already been approved, are:

45 Tyrwhitt Road, 10 men.

12 Tressillian Crescent, 10 men and a warden.

13 Crescent Way, 10 men.

All the men have been residents of Camberwell Settlement and the applications were made by London & Quadrant Housing Association on behalf of the Lewisham Caring Houses Trust. It appears to us that there is no co-ordination between the various trusts to ensure that these schemes are not concentrated in one small area, but are widely and evenly dispersed.

In this way the inmates of the hostels would benefit and each hostel would have minimal impact on the local community.

A letter, or petition which was written by a local resident and circulated among houses near 86 Breakspears Road, has received wide publicity, especially in The Mercury, where most of the petition was quoted word for word, but wrongly coupled with the name of the Brockley Society.

This article has caused several people, particularly those who work in the rehabilitation field, to write to the press, and to the Brockley Society, criticising our supposed attitudes.

The Brockley Society monthly meeting on September 3rd was a stormy one. It was attended by ten local people new to us, all of whom work in resettling the homeless. They were incensed by the petition and made sure that we knew their views. A motion was passed by seven votes, requesting the Brockley Society to "Condemn the petition being circulated around Brockley opposing a collective housing scheme for six ex-homeless people in Brockley on the grounds that the views expressed in the petition are offensive and derogatory to the many homeless people who wish to change their circumstances through the provision of such housing schemes".

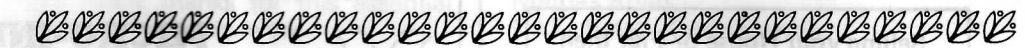
There are many of us who are ignorant and have not seen the old Victorian workhouse which is the Camberwell Settlement or the problems of homeless people, often because we do not come into contact with them. Local resident Colin Teasdale, Lecturer in Life Skills at Goldsmith's College, has written an article for us on collective housing schemes, which you will find in this issue.

We have invited Colin Teasdale to our meeting on December 3rd with a tape-slide show called "Home, Sweet Home," about the Camberwell Settlement replacement programme. He will answer questions, and perhaps put our minds at rest over the influx into our community.

During the past year, of the 44 planning applications for collective housing within the whole of the Borough of Lewisham, 14 were in the Brockley Conservation Area.

This means we have one third of this year's schemes in our area. Is our area one third of the Borough?

Gill Heywood



Annual General Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 8 p.m.

The A.G.M. of the Brockley Society will be held at 8 p.m. in the Music Room of St. Peter's Centre, Cranfield Road. We need a new secretary as Geraldine Jacques who has done the job so well this year is unable to commit herself for next year (the secretary takes the minutes at the monthly meetings and writes two or three letters a month. This is not an arduous job, and you will meet local people at our informal meetings and also find out what is going on in the area. If you are interested please ring 692-6977 before Oct. 17th and we can discuss it).

This meeting is open to all residents of the Brockley Conservation Area. Even if you have not been to one of our meetings before why not come and join us. You will meet other residents and get to know them so that if you see them around when you are out and about you can at least give them a smile and a word of greeting.

It has been our custom each year to discuss ways of improving the area using any profits arising from the Fayre - about £200 this year. One of last year's donations went to maintain the clock on St. Peter's Church. Have you any ideas for this year? Ring 692-6977 with ideas, or bring them to the meeting.

After the A.G.M. we hold a wine and cheese party, when you can meet local people and discuss the problems of the area and maybe find solutions! Come and join us on October 17th.



St. Peter's Centre Cranfield Road

The Centre in Cranfield Road is well used by local groups including Dog Training, Brownies and Guides, Playgroup, Senior Citizens, Church Groups, Youth Group, African Group, Community Market, Badminton, Dancing Class, Jumble Sales, Parties, etc.

However, with four rooms as well as the main hall there is plenty of room and we would like more people to use the hall for clubs or meetings or children's parties.

Lewisham Council has agreed to pay for the Caretaker and gave us £1,000 to help run the Hall, but we need more volunteers to join the Management Committee to discuss problems, further use, etc, etc. If you are interested in helping to keep this lovely old Victorian Hall as a going concern, visit it on a Thursday between 7-9 p.m. to see the Booking Officer who will show you around. Then contact a member of the Management Committee.

At present the heating in the Main Hall is giving cause for concern and expert opinion is being considered re. repair or renewal. The cost of the heating plus electricity and rates is high and payments for hire just about cover expenses but we would like to renew the fencing in the mews.

We would also like to run a jumble sale but cannot do so without more help as the few members of the committee cannot manage on their own. Any offers of help for this or any other ideas would be welcome. Write to the Editors for further information or phone Mrs. C. Cole, Tel: 692-5838.

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Saturdays:

Dance for 5-10 yrs 9-9.30 am . 50p

Children 11-16 yrs

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Phone Gill for details . . . 691 6916

8th Brockley Scouts

are holding a
JUMBLE SALE

IN St. Peter's Centre
Saturday Oct. 13th

Doors open 2.30 p.m.

Any Jumble for this?

phone 692-2176

St. Peter's Church Christmas Bazaar

November 24th, 2.30 p.m.

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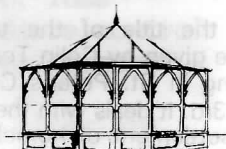
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Sirapite, 50 kilo..... £3.50		2x4..... 23p	1,000mmx600mm..... £36.95
Sof/Ballast, bag..... £1.00	BLOCKS	6x2..... 33p	10'x2' Worktops..... £27.95
Plasterboard	3" Per Yd..... £3.65	PLYBOARD	Copper Tube
8x4x½..... £2.95	4" Per Yd..... £4.25	8x4x6mm..... £6.95	3mx15mm..... £1.79
6x4x½..... £1.99	8" Per Yd..... £7.95	8x4x12mm..... £12.95	Carolina Door..... £41.00
Angle Bead, 8'..... 75p	LINTELS AVAILABLE	CHIPBOARD	Plyflush Door..... £12.50
Artex, 25 kg..... £5.85	6"x6" W/Tiles (36)..... £4.50	8x4x½..... £4.95	Insulation, 1.2mx36mx4"
		8x4x¾..... £5.95	Thick Only..... £17.95
		HARDBOARD	
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