



## Annual General Meeting of the Society

The A.G.M. was held at St. Peter's Centre on October 17th. The following officers were elected:-

- Chairman — Mrs. G. Heywood
- Treasurer — W. Webb
- Secretary — (temporary) S. Spacey
- Fayre Committee Co-ordinator — Mrs. C. Webb

We hope to fill the office of vice-chairman and secretary soon.

The Treasurer reported that the balance was about the same as last year and that the Midsummer Fayre had made a profit of £200.

The Chairman told the meeting that over the last year there had been more successes than failures. Amongst the good news was the success in getting the Council to reinstate the pillar at the end of the mews into Wickham Gardens. Our persistence over the state of all the mews in the area resulted in the Planning Committee offering the Society £150 for the last financial year and £300 for the half year to October 1984 for clearance of the mews.

The Society has bought and is installing lights in Wickham Mews with help from local residents.

After a lively discussion about the use of money available from the Fayre profits, it was agreed finally

- that £50 should be used to give a welcome to the mentally handicapped children shortly to live at 114/116 Manor Avenue or to provide some equipment for use there

- that £75 be given to St. Peter's Centre to cover hire of the Hall for meetings and a donation.

- that £100 be set aside towards the cost of a seat on Hilly Fields near the Tressillian Road entrance to the park. This is the point first reached by people who walk up to the open space from Lewisham Way, Brockley Road, etc. We would also hope this would be used by elderly residents who might find the pull up to the top of the fields, rather too much. We have written to the Council about this.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the Chairman to Mrs. G. Jaques who had so efficiently carried out the work

## Brockley Midsummer Fayre 1985

On June 22nd, the day after the longest day of the year, we hope to hold our Annual Fayre — but we need help with planning and also on the day. All offers will be gratefully received — even little ones! Please contact Mrs. C. Webb 692-1478 who is desperately waiting for helpers. Remember June 22nd is the day.

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of secretary last year but had to resign for personal reasons.

After the meeting closed, members continued their discussions over wine and cheese produced by Juliet Johnson, Jenny Brooks and Michael Webb.

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## Mews Clean-up Set-back

One weekend in late October a large lorry and JCB digger were to be seen in the Mews, busily shovelling away the accumulations of years. We used the remainder of our Council "Clean-up" grant to scour the northern parts of Wickham Mews and almost the length of Wickham Gardens Mews — unfortunately our money ran out with only feet to go! These two mews are now flat and wide, and can be used as they were intended.

An application was made in November for a grant for a second year, which we hoped would allow us to tackle Breakspears Mews and the one beside St. Peter's Centre. The Planning Committee of Lewisham Council offered us half the grant we applied for on the condition that we provide the other half. As all our residents must realise, the Brockley Society has no regular income (membership of the Society is automatic for all who live in the Conservation Area, so we have no income from subscriptions). Our only income is from the Midsummer Fayre which must be used to the advantage of as many residents as possible, and the area with houses which have a mews behind them is about one third of the area we cover.

In view of this set-back to our plans we ask for donations to help us to finish the programme of major clearance. Perhaps those of you who are already benefitting from the work

so far will help us financially towards completion of the project. We hope that it will be a long time before we have to mount another earth-removing programme.

Donations please to The Treasurer W. Webb at 70 Tressillian Road. Because BrocSoc is a charity, donations might be possible by Deed of Covenant.

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## Some Planning Applications

June 1984 - February 1985

### CONVERSIONS

164, 182 Tressillian Road (Solon Housing)

133 Upper Brockley Road

86 Breakspears Road

Use as a hostel with Warden's flat (Church Housing Association)

28 Wickham Road

To three 6-person flats and one 5-person flat (London & Quadrant Housing)

30 Wickham Road

To four flats (Lewisham Borough Council)

45 Wickham Road

to a home for the elderly

14 Wickham Road

To a home for the elderly with side extension

56 Geoffrey Road (L.B.C.)

36 Geoffrey Road (Solon Housing)

1a Manor Avenue

To four flats (Solon Housing)

77 Tyrwhitt Road

To four flats (Solon Housing)

### USE

71-77 Upper Brockley Road

Offices, etc. Brian Whitty

74 Upper Brockley Road

Use as a restaurant and maisonette over

Talbot Public House, Tyrwhitt Road

Extension of forecourt

### NEW HOUSE

102 Manor Avenue

2 storey house and garage in rear garden

\*This is an end terrace house with a wider garden.

## Traffic Problems

### Breakspears/Harefield Rd

The Society wrote to the Council regarding problems at this crossing. In reply the Council states that the visibility problem is largely due to vehicles parked too close to the junction. The Police are unlikely to agree to waiting restrictions as they dislike their introduction on isolated sites and in any case they encounter problems in enforcing existing restrictions throughout the Borough.

The Council proposes eventually to exclude traffic along Harefield Road between Tressillian and Breakspears Road but this is dependent on traffic lights being installed at the Adelaide Avenue/Brockley Road junction for which G.L.C. agreement is being sought. This closure would reduce conflict problems which are now so evident during the morning and evening rush hours as vehicles cut through from Hilly Fields.

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### Home Sweet Home

On December 3rd, a tape and slide presentation about homelessness was given by members of the New Cross Circle Club. By the end of 1985 there will be 5 houses for homeless people in our area and when Carrington House is "disbanded" no doubt more will be resettled here. The residents of the hostels are interviewed to ensure that they will fit in with the rest of the household and help is on hand if they need advice or have any problems. One thing which was impressed upon us was that these aren't spongers or down-and-outs, just people from various walks of life. This is further emphasised in a pamphlet called "Experiences - views of members of the New Cross Circle Club". The bits of poetry in it were beyond me - but the articles hit home, especially the one on page 11. They made me feel privileged and aware that - but for fortune - I also could be in their situation.

*Stan Spacey*

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## Rapid Results

On Wednesday, September 12th, the Brockley Society received a letter from a resident requesting help with finding the owners of the three garages in Cranfield Road, near to St. Peter's Centre, which had recently been the playground of a group of children. These children had broken the doors of the garages and nightly pulled stored furniture into the road causing an eyesore and traffic hazard.

By Thursday, September 13th, BrocSoc had found and informed the owners of the garages, who had secured them against future vandalism before nightfall.

## Where is Luxmore Gardens?

At the moment Luxmore Gardens is reached from Malpas Road, but soon it will be a short cut off from Rokeby Road and reached from behind the Library.

Over the last year there have been meetings to decide what to do with this little used space. It is closed at the moment for bulldozers to make it a park ready for use in the Spring and Summer as a grassy walk and sitting place.

Toddler's play equipment, log climbing frames, etc. are now being discussed by the working party of local people and Borough officials. For information contact Phil Ashford, Planning Dept. Tel: 690-4343 Ext. 406.

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## Shepherd's School in Tressillian Road

At 71 Tressillian Road, formerly known as Naomi House, a small private school called the Shepherd's School began in September 1984. A pre-school is operating in the same location and has been doing so for two years. The children begin attending at three years of age, although some parents prefer to wait until their children turn four. School begins at 9.30 a.m. and ends at 3.00 p.m. with the exception of some pre-schoolers whose parents opt for a 9.30 till 12.30 or 1.00 p.m. day.

The Shepherd's is a Christian School. This means that as well as striving for academic excellence the children are taught the Bible and the moral standards so necessary to complete development. The teacher/student ratio is 12 to 15 children per teacher, thus enabling close personal attention academically. For the 3 to 6 year olds we use the Montessori approach to learning although we are not a Montessori school. The school has been inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Now there are 29 children aged 3 to 6. We aim to increase yearly by 15 children and an additional grade until we reach a maximum of 70. The fees are £5 weekly throughout the year. Parents provide snack lunches and the school provides milk; school lunches are under consideration.

Parents interested are welcome to phone for a viewing time. We would gladly answer any queries or questions you may have at Shepherd's School, 71 Tressillian Road (692-5015) Miss Chrissie Ford, Miss Cindy Herd and Mrs. Mary Miller.

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## Local History

The Lewisham Local History Centre is to hold a History Festival in June this year and have asked us to participate.

We have a collection of maps, pictures and information on the history of this area.

This is an ideal opportunity for us to display our activities, attract more participation and promote a sense of local identity.

If you have any old photographs or papers about Brockley, or having lived here for a long time, you would like to reminisce about this area in the past, please let us know.

We would copy any pictures or papers and return the originals.

If anyone is interested in forming a group to take this in hand please contact G. Heywood on 692 6977 for further information.

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## Street Lighting

We have had enquiries about the new lighting now being installed in the area.

The Council inform us that the concrete standards which were installed in 1938-39 are now crumbling and unsafe. The new lamp will be a 55w sodium one which gives an orange light and is cheaper to run. The new design and the fact that they are to be 30m instead of 50m apart should give better illumination. Due to oversights by two council departments, we were not informed of this development and our views were not sought. However, we have the opportunity to choose the colour of the standards:- green, black, grey or brown. In 1979 we choose green for those in Rokeby Road and perhaps it would be best to continue with this colour to provide uniformity within the area.

If you have any views please contact Juliet Johnson on 692-1553 before the end of February.

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## Road Signs

The Borough Road Signs Department Telephone: 692 1288, are interested to hear from you if you see defaced, missing or incorrect road signs.

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The success of the original Neighbourhood Watch scheme has encouraged other groups to set up their own "watches". Our Crime Prevention Officer says that the scheme is working well although there have been a few break-ins on the edge of the area and where the house is not displaying the police stickers.

Wickham Road and Wickham Gardens now have a Neighbourhood Watch, formed after a crowded friendly meeting at St. Peter's Centre on February 5th. Breakspears and Harefield Roads are both planning to set up "watches".

Other roads may want to start up Neighbourhood Watch groups. If you are interested in delivering leaflets about the scheme to about 10 neighbours houses and flats, contact Brockley Police Station, Crime Prevention Officer, on 853-8369, who will supply the leaflets.

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## 16a Tressillian Road

In the last Newsheet it was reported that pressure from the Brockley Society had forced Lewisham Council to approach its' owners, the GLC, over the future of this large derelict house. As a result the GLC transferred control of this property and of the nearby 19 Breakspears Road to Lewisham Council on the 4th July, 1983. The GLC will eventually bear the cost of putting 16a Tressillian Road into good repair (but not in the near future due to the reduction in the GLC's Housing Investment Programme). So it will remain in its present state.

**19 Breakspears Road** is adjacent to the hostel known as St. Vincents, and the Council have agreed in principle to dispose of this house to the Society of St. Vincent and St. Paul so that the hostel provision can be economically enlarged, from its present capacity of 12 boys.

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## The Ascent of St. Peter's Church Tower

BrocSoc arranged a visit to St. Peter's Church Tower on June 30th. Meeting Nobby Clarke at 10 a.m., we climbed the stone stairs to the balcony, getting an uninterrupted view down the centre aisle of the church.

At the back of the balcony are weights which drive the clock, high up in the tower. Next we climbed to the first stage where the clock is situated. The works are beautiful — brass cog wheels, polished and shining and a huge handle for winding, which has to be done twice a week. Cranking the handle winds the wire ropes onto large drums and so lifts the weights to give driving power.

The mechanism drives only the hands on two faces, because one side of the tower has subsided and the drive is not in line with the centre of that face. The faces used to be lit by candles, more recently by electricity, as witness the many used light bulbs littering the floor!

Nowadays the church cannot afford to light the clock at all.

The next stage up contains the bells. These five bells have sprung clappers on the outside worked by the clock and only one can be rung by hand from the church below.

Finally up a very solid ladder to the roof. It's alright if you hold onto the edge, at chest height. Slowly your knees stop wanting to give way, and you can even look down over the edge after a while. The view is magnificent. We could see into all the back gardens near the church, some of which are beautifully kept, and some not! We saw the variety of roof shapes in the area and were surprised at the number of flat roofs on the tops of houses, completely unseen from the ground.

Further afield, to the west, One Tree Hill and Nunhead Cemetery are very wooded with the spires of the Anglican Chapel emerging from the trees below and the "lego" building of Dorrell Heights an eyesore on the side of the hill against the sky. Turning to the right, we could see the Houses of Parliament, (Big Ben was behind a tree), Alexandra Palace on the skyline, the Post Office Tower, St. Paul's, The Tower of London, the river, the Naval College and Observatory at Greenwich, and even the Thames Barrier shining in the sunlight. Looking east you see Hilly Fields, the water tower on Shooter's Hill almost in Welling, and Kent fading away into the distance. Looking south we could see Blythe Hill and the television masts at Crystal Palace. A pair of binoculars is a must for a visit like this.

We all agreed that the climb was well worth the trouble, and would like to go again, when the trees are bare and more can be seen.

We gave a donation to the church when we finally reached the ground and are looking forward to the next time.

If you would like to know about the next visit, please phone 692-6977 and we will add your name to the list and tell you the arrangements.

Gill Heywood

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## The Brockley Society

Since publishing the last Newsletter, we have received a letter from a resident who says "I was pleased to see there is a community spirit alive in Brockley". We hope there is. Sometimes we who have supported the Brockley Conservation Society since 1974 feel that it is flickering and may well be going out unless more people take an interest.

The Society, strictly speaking should be concerned with planning future developments to ensure that they will enhance rather than destroy the character of an area which is of architectural and historic interest. The Lewisham Conservation Advisory Committee asked, in 1974, if residents in the area would form a Society to act as an advisory group. The first meeting was well attended and plans were made to fund the Society by waste paper collection (which continued until it was uneconomical). We also held regular monthly meetings, published newsletters and ran a Midsummer Fayre to give local people a 'fun day', to help local charities to raise funds and to make a profit to spend on the local environment re. benches, tree

planting, repairs to the Church clock, etc.

Then we found we were asked to give notice of various activities, and were being asked for advice. We helped to prevent the demolition of St. Peter's Hall and publicised all the hard work which went towards its repair. It is now used by the local community.

Conservation is the main purpose of the Society but members might wish to raise money for social projects ie. to help some of the disadvantaged groups moving into the area.

The membership of the Society is not by payment of a fee. Everyone who lives in the Conservation Area is a member, and would be welcomed at the monthly meetings, which from April will be held on the first Wednesday in each month, at 8 p.m. at St. Peter's Centre.

Also, when appeals are made in the Newsheet for help with planning the Midsummer Fayre, wouldn't it be lovely if we had more helpers than we know what to do with!!

So, residents/members of the BrocSoc, get out your community spirit, come to the meetings and take part in discussions about your environment.

# St. Peter's Centre Cranfield Road

The Management Committee continues to try and serve the community, but with increased management costs and further vandalism, a review of the rental system was necessary. We want the Hall to be used for celebration parties as well as various activities but so much damage has been caused at two parties that we have had to revise the letting policy. New rents and deposits as follows:-

Deposits for all Halls — £50.

Rents: *For all-day bookings*

Main Hall — £50

Small Hall — £35

*For occasional bookings*

Main Hall — £4 per hour

Small Hall — £3 per hour

Committee Room — £2 per hour

On a more cheerful note, it is hoped to redecorate the Games Room in 1985. Our February Jumble Sale made £140. Discos have been held throughout the year (watch for advertisements) these have been very enjoyable and well attended.

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The Church Housing Association have named their new accommodation in Cranfield Road "Marie Lloyd Court".

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**WANTED** — old photographs. Chris Johnson, 12 Wickham Road.

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