



Brockley Midsummer Fayre 1985

Organised by the Brockley Society, this annual event, in many ways the high-spot of our calendar was not as successful as usual — due of course to the weather.

June 22nd dawned cloudy. Wind and rain threatened.

Rain came when stallholders were busy preparing at 12 p.m., then just before the official opening at 2 p.m., and then a prolonged outburst at 10 past 5 brought proceedings to a halt.

Throughout the afternoon, more hot drinks than cold were served by the "BrocSoc caterers".

Mayor Margaret Sandra opened the Fayre in her usual provocative manner. In the centre of the field were the Broc Soc stalls — refreshments, cakes, books, tombola and games.

The new tripod display was constructed and erected by Michael Webb, the banner was made by Gill Heywood and Kathleen Turner. This tripod will be used again next year — with improvements!

Several other entertainments and organisations who had booked stalls did not turn up — presumably because of the previous days poor weather, but our friends from the Police, Fire Brigade and Army did.

This year we had a loudspeaker system which really worked! The excellent announcer could be heard right across the fields. The children's fancy dress competition prizes were won by Esme Peach, Rachel Sadlier and Philip and David as a train.

The Wizard of Oz magician did a fantastic magic show in spite of high winds preventing his most spectacular tricks.

Our Fortune Teller dispensed words of wisdom from her tent and could certainly have predicted the shower that ended the Fayre.

The 5-a-side football participants enjoyed themselves and we hope to make it a bigger event next year.

Tug-of-War teams from The Talbot, The Wickham Arms and The Ladywell

Tavern, plus a team made up of St. Peter's Scouts, Firemen and Policemen competed. The supporters cheered wildly and everyone enjoyed it, although even with the local policeman as referee, I don't think the rules were always kept.

May we thank all those who have worked so hard, throughout the year and before and on the day for their help and support, especially Chrissie Webb who organized the Committee so well.

This is an entirely voluntary effort to give the community a fun day and help to raise money for various causes. It is not funded from the Rates. Why not give your support next year?

and Thank You!

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

- Amin, Chemist; Wavy Line;
- D.S. Hastings, Butcher & Fishmonger;
- Turners, Ironmonger; Brockley Floral;
- Sewells; Strides, Drycleaners;
- Food For All; Post Office;
- Asik Cleaners; Starbuck;
- Baby Corner; Sun Electrics;
- Home Video; Dewhursts, Butcher;
- Bay Tree Florist; Sounds Around;
- Brockley Beauty Parlour;
- Davis, Greengrocer;
- Brockley Hardware; Sev. Tap.

- K.J. Building Supplies;
- Northwoods Chemist;
- Dee & Gee, Greengrocers;
- Patel, Newsagent; Taylors, Grocers;
- Talbot Public House
- Sainsbury's, Lewisham.

Avalon House

114-116 Manor Avenue

This property has been renovated and converted and is now run by "Aurora" which is a charitable trust set up in 1981 to provide long term care and accommodation in the community for young adults. If you are interested in the project and would like to know more about it, the office is at 60 Arthurdon Road, Tel: 690-5789.

Come to our



51 Tressillian Road
Council owned and empty since
about 1978.

Empty Houses

Volunteers from the Brockley Society have compiled a list of empty houses and flats in Brockley.

A small BrocSoc working group is sending this with letters to people/groups who may be able to bring them back to use. These include Lewisham Borough (the major offender in numbers), Housing Associations, SHELTER, CHAR and SHAC who all know the importance of "a home of your own", MP's, Councillors and private landlords/ladies who leave much needed flats empty.

Juliet Johnson

******* Annual General Meeting *******

Situations Vacant

On Thursday 24th October at 8.00 p.m. the Brockley Conservation Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting and wine and cheese party. This is not a secret or closed society and everyone resident in the Brockley Conservation Area is automatically a member. If this newsletter has been delivered through your door this means that **YOU** are a member, there is absolutely no charge.

At the A.G.M. you have the opportunity to stand for election to the committee, even if you have never attended a meeting — I did. You can nominate someone and you can vote for those nominated. The committee consists of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. These positions are, of course, open to women and men — but I can't stand the word Chairperson, it sounds very silly to me — anyway let me tell you a bit about each of the titles.

Chairman

Ideally the Chairman would be a good organiser able to talk to all types of people and to act as a figurehead of the Society.

The duties involve chairing the eleven monthly meetings, introducing each topic on the agenda and calling on those who have something relevant to say. The chairman also has the final say should a dispute arise.

The Vice-Chairman

Stands in for the chairman when necessary — more of a doer than an organiser. Our current chairman — Gill Heywood, has indicated she's be happier in this role but as we are a democratic society the person who gets the most votes, gets the job.

The Treasurer

Keeps the accounts and signs the cheques (each cheque also requires the chairman's signature), provides a report for each monthly meeting (it's not always necessary to attend). As our main source of income is the summer fayre on Hilly Fields, you don't need to be a financial whiz-kid — just be able to add up.

The Secretary

Takes the minutes and prepares next month's agenda. Writes three or four letters a month to the local Council, GLC and other official bodies. Electric typewriter and stationery is supplied.

If any of the above isn't your cup of tea there are many other ways you can help, you might even enjoy yourself too. For instance . . .

The Brockley Midsummer Fayre takes a lot more effort than most people realise. Fortunately Chrissie Webb has again taken on the task of organising it. Honestly, it's not too early or too late to contact her on 692 1478 to join the committee or let her know if you would like to help with any of the 101 jobs to be done before, during and after the big day.

Juliet Johnson is the person to contact if you are concerned about the tragic waste of once lovely properties being left vacant. A lot of the basic work has been done but a proper campaign needs to be put together if there's going to be any change.

The Local History Group has already produced a display as part of Lewisham History Week and organised a walk around historic Brockley. They are consolidating the knowledge gained and would welcome new members. See Gill Heywood at the AGM.

Alan Jaques heads the Mews development sub-committee so if you're interested in conserving, improving and protecting the many Mews' from over-development contact him at the AGM.

If you would like to write an article for the Brockley Society News Sheet you can pass it on through any of the committee at any of our meetings, or deliver to The Editors, 104 Tressillian Road.

Those are some of the things happening through BrocSoc. Perhaps you can think of and are prepared to organise other things, like the problem of old car tyres — where can they be got rid of? Could you help organise waste paper collection as another source of our income? Should BrocSoc have more social events — if so what, where, when and how? Finally how should we spend the £200 profit from the Fayre — we'll be voting on that at the AGM.

Stan Spacey, Secretary

Colour Change

British Telecom are intending to exchange all red telephone boxes for modern yellow ones. We have been asked, through the Borough Conservation Advisory Committee if, as a Conservation Area, we wish to retain any of the old red ones, but with modern telephones inside.

At our last meeting it was decided that we would like to see those red boxes within the area remain.

The Hilly Fields Traffic Scheme

We have asked the Council what progress has been made with the suggested installation of traffic signals at Adelaide Avenue/Brockley Road prior to the closure of Harefield Road to traffic between Tressillian and Breakspears Road. Also passing on a complaint from a resident in Cranfield Road about noisy, large, fast lorries using that road to approach Brockley Cross and avoid the Geoffrey Road width restriction.

In reply, the Borough Engineer says the GLC are preparing a report about traffic management in Hilly Fields area for their Transport Committee. Approval of the GLC is necessary before traffic signals, planned road closures, etc. take place. The report has not reached their Committee stage.

Re Cranfield Road, he will arrange for a survey of HGV use, but feels that a width restriction will only transfer the problem to Harefield Road.

He will contact the police regarding HGV speeds in Cranfield Road and request that particular attention be paid to offenders.

Local History Walk

As part of the Lewisham Local History week, a conducted tour of our area was held on June 26th. Over 30 people met at 7.30 p.m. under the walnut tree in the Memorial Gardens at the end of Wickham Road. The walk was led by Madam Chairman, Gillian Heywood, who took us along Lewisham Way past the Technical College — a look at St. John's Church, the house which is part of the present Welsh Church and at the old railway station and house at the top of Loampit Hill. Then we went back through the Technical College, where in Breakspears Road, we saw what are thought to be the first purpose built flats in this area. After going up Breakspears Road, to Cranfield Road, where the exterior and interior and history of St. Peter's Hall was discussed, we walked up Cranfield Mews to the Red House, then back to St. Peter's Church where we spent some time admiring the splendours of the interior, and learning about its history.

A very enjoyable and profitable evening which occasionally threatened rain — but never did! Many of those taking part came from outside our area and often a member of the party was able to contribute some relevant fact not known to others.

Church Housing invites support for their Wickham Road Scheme

Church Housing Association has recently completed a bed-sitter scheme for ten single people in Wickham Road. This provides self-catering accommodation for people who have been living in traditional hostels in the London area. The aim is to enable residents to adapt to living in shared housing, with a far greater degree of independence, before they move on into their own homes.

Building has already started on a similar scheme in Breakspears Road.

Church Housing (formerly Church Army Housing) has been providing homes for people in need since 1924. Our hostels division manages more than 1,000 beds in fifteen schemes around England. These provide a range of accommodation for many groups of people, men and women, young and old.

With the help of Eva Gibson, our part-time Assistant Manager, I have overall responsibility for the Wickham Road scheme. Our role is to provide low key support to residents in the form of care, counselling and encouragement. We also assist them to find permanent housing.

We would like to stress that this is not an 'experiment', but a practical move by an organisation with many years of experience in housing provision. Eva and I are setting up an informal support group for the scheme to help iron out any potential problem areas and ensure that everyone involved with Church Housing may be good neighbours.

We have already enlisted the support of the local police, the Department of Health and Social Security and a social worker, and would like to invite residents from the area to visit us, either as individuals or as representatives of organisations, for informal discussions with a view to joining the support group.

Ken Jenkins, Project Manager,
Church Housing Association,
66 Wickham Road. Tel: 692 0408



33 Wickham Road

33 Wickham Road is now being rehabilitated by **Lewisham Young Builders** (*New buildings out of old, New jobs for school leavers in Lewisham*).

This will be used by the Social Services department as a family day centre, and children's play equipment is planned for the rear garden. The group of trees, etc., at the end of the garden, near the railway is to be retained as a wildlife refuge.

Mews Developments

Readers will recall Tricia Harvey's article in the last Newsletter concerning the publication of a draft **Design Guide for Mews Development** by the Council and the Society's response to it, in particular the call for full public consultation with residents.

The Borough Planning Officer's subsequent letter to the Society can only be described as disappointing. The fundamental issue is whether or not residents want new housing development within the Mews and this can only be determined by proper consultation. However, the Council chooses to fudge this issue, preferring to suggest that consultation with residents has taken place in the past and is undertaken now with occupiers who are directly affected by proposals. The Council also declines to defer decisions on current applications until consultation has taken place.

The Society has responded by writing to Councillor Scott, the Chairman of the Council's Planning and Development Committee, seeking a commitment to public consultation on Mews development. Copies of the letter have been sent to Drake Ward Councillors, requesting their support.

Planning Applications

CONVERSIONS

- 14 St. Margaret's Road**
1 flat, 1 maisonette.
- 21 Rokeby Road**
1 flat and 1 maisonette
- 160 Tressillian Road**
3 flats
- 91 Tressillian Road** — 3 flats
- 72 Tressillian Road** — 3 flats
- Chester House 25 Wickham Rd**
8 flats and erection of a 3-storey side extension of 3 flats.
- 100 Upper Brockley Road**
2 maisonettes and new external spiral stair at rear.
- 111 Upper Brockley Road** — 3 flats.
- 228 Lewisham Way** — 3 flats.
- 45 Wickham Road** — 4 flats and 1 studio flat.

NEW WORK

- 47 Harefield Road**
Alterations for use as a Nursing Home for the elderly and a new 2-storey rear extension.
- 75 Upper Brockley Road**
Erection of glass enclosed spiral staircase to first floor level.
- 45 Wickham Road**
Erection of a pair of 2-storey semi-detached dwelling houses with integral garages in the rear garden.
- 13-17 odd Breakspears Road**
Renewal of outline permission dated 1980 for the erection of 2 three storey students' blocks, children's crèche. Vehicle access from Tressillian Road.

TREES

- 60 Breakspears Road**
Remove 1 plane tree at front & crown lift 2 others.
- 62 Wickham Road**
Remove 5 sycamores at back.
- 18 Tyrwhitt Road**
Remove sycamore & elder at back and overhanging limbs of pear tree.
- 25 St. Margaret's Road**
Horse chestnuts at front. Remove 3 limbs and crown thin.
- 16 St. Margaret's Road**
Horse chestnut at front. Crown lift & thin.
- Jasmin House, Wickham Road**
Thin 2 beech trees at front.
- 86 Wickham Road**
Crown lift cherry tree in back.
- 47b Upper Brockley Road**
Crown lift lime tree at front.
- 93 Breakspears Road**
3 limes at front. Crown lift.



DO YOU ...

Care about your local environment; are you fed up with the signs of decay all around you?

Then why not ...

Come along to a **BROCSOC** monthly meeting on the first Wednesday each month at 8 p.m.

Together we can try to solve the problems.



Bridget Cherry

presents an illustrated talk
REVISING PEVSNER — the
changing face of South London

8 pm on October 2nd in
St. Peter's Centre

Admission Free!

Coffee will be available



The Changing Face of South London

On Wednesday October 2nd at 8 pm, we welcome Bridget Cherry to St. Peter's Centre, to give an illustrated talk on the changing suburbs of South London.

For those of you who are as ignorant as I was until recently, Nikolaus Pevsner spent most of his life in England writing the series *The Buildings of England*, which gives descriptions of every architecturally important building in the country, published county by county. Since 1968 Bridget Cherry has been working with him on the series, revising and updating each volume.

The volume *London 2: South* was recently published, mentioning our part of Brockley.

Bridget Cherry's talk is illustrated by colour slides, showing buildings between the river and South Croydon, old, occasionally new, some now demolished.

She has such an infectious enthusiasm for her subject and such a vast knowledge of the history of all buildings of any importance, that I am sure that anyone who comes to this talk will want to go immediately to find the buildings for themselves — even in the dark! There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience and coffee and biscuits will be served afterwards.

Please tell anyone you think will be interested about this talk. This is an open meeting, not just for residents of Brockley.

If you live in the Brockley area and would like transport to, or from the meeting, please ring 692-6977 and we will try to help you.

See you there!

Gill Heywood

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Local History Group

As you probably know, our Local History Group exhibited some of our collection of old maps and pictures of the Conservation Area and surrounding parts at Ladywell Baths in July. Since then the show has moved to Lewisham Way library for two weeks and then to Brockley Road library, where it remained until very recently. In fact, there was so much interest shown by the visitors that the exhibition would still be there if the display boards were available for our use.

We have been congratulated on the high standard of presentation and the use of rarely seen maps, to chart the development of the areas known in 1592 as "*The Queenes Woode*" on the southern edge of the parish of Deptforde, and "*Hill Felde*", one of the highest farmed parts of the rural parish of Leweshame. The sequence of maps shows the spread of the commercial town of Deptford, with a spurt during years 1850-1875, radically changing the market gardens of Brockley to an affluent middle class estate. The hilly area of Lewisham, however, was not developed by its owners, Bridge House Estates, until almost the end of the century. The maps we have for this side of the Conservation Area show two completely different layouts of roads from those which were finally built.

The photographic record we are building up of the area is continually growing. We occasionally find old post cards by chance, will copy any relevant pictures and are now investigating the possibilities of reproducing cards for sale. This last venture prompted by requests we received from visitors to the exhibition.

This exhibition has aroused so much interest that we would like to make our material available more easily than is now the case. The local libraries are always pleased to help us, but display boards are rarely available. Perhaps we should be considering buying our own stands, and then we can make our local history collection accessible to many more people.



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