



St. Peter's Tower

It was a beautiful crisp, clear day when I accepted an unexpected invitation to 'go up the church tower', a short distance from my home. I decided, 7 week old Oliver notwithstanding, that this was a chance not to be missed, so I popped him in a sling on my front, and off we went.

The inside of the church was cold and dim after the brilliance and clarity of the early spring sunshine, and I looked forward to re-emerging into the light at the top of the stairs.

I had glanced up at the tower as I walked along the road towards it, but had not really taken in its height, and, consequently I was continually surprised that at the end of each flight there were yet **more** stairs to go up.

First, some wide stone steps which ended in a low passage, then a series of increasingly steep wooden stairs linked by narrow walkways, which took us up past the bell pulls, and, finally the workings of the clock. The last set of stairs resembled a wide step ladder which was almost vertical, and seemed very long. People's misgivings were increasingly audible as they ascended, and by this point we were all holding on tight to the side rails! It was a situation where to go up or down was equally terrifying!

Finally emerging onto the small platform at the top of the tower, I was reminded of the castle turrets I have visited in Kent and Sussex. It was a superb vantage point both for the locality, and for a large part of London. The Post Office Tower and St. Pauls were clearly visible, as were the tower blocks of the East End, and the shiny new developments in the City. Closer to home there were neighbours' gardens — yielding up their secrets. Did you know that there were beehives and geese in Breakspears Road? It was an unusual experience to be looking down onto the roofs of the 4 storey houses in Wickham Road.

People had cameras and binoculars to view the scene, and there was something of the excitement of an old charabanc trip to an unexpected destination.

Sarah Davies

There will be another opportunity to go up St. Peter's Tower on July 12th. Please contact Gill Heywood 692-6977.

MIDSUMMER FAYRE 1986

**COME TO THE FAYRE
SATURDAY JUNE 21st
2pm to 6pm**



Once again the Brockley Society Midsummer Fayre will be on Hilly Fields with its usual wide range of attractions.

In the arena there will be almost constant activity including:

- The Ladywell Majorettes
- A Children's Fancy Dress Parade
- A display by Police Dogs
- The Wizard of Oz
- A Blue Grass Band

And the ever popular Annual Tug-o-War between local pubs

Come and support your favourite team!

We are holding children's games and five-a-side football and new this year will be the donkey rides.

The Fayre is the Brockley Society's major source of income and provides the money for this newsletter, so we are keeping our fingers crossed for a fine day. Although last year when it rained all the morning and the proceedings were closed early by rain at 5 o'clock, it was voted a very enjoyable afternoon and a success by those who turned up.

The Brockley Society will be present in force under its new banners on a steel erection and will be providing

Refreshment for the body
(tea and cakes)

Entertainment for the mind (books)
Games for young and old
(bran tub and tombola)

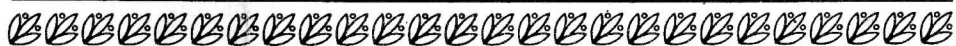
The Fayre is not a spontaneous happening, it needs planning beforehand, which we have done. But it also needs brainpower and musclepower on the day to help with putting up the stalls and getting everything ready for the "off" at 2pm.

The other area in which we would appreciate help is in the provision of cakes, sweets, gifts for the tombola and any other things you might like to give.

There was no response to our plea in the last issue — was this because you were waiting till nearer the time, like now, or was it apathy?

Entries for the 5-a-side Football and the under-12 Fancy Dress Competition to J. Johnson 692-1553.

All offers of HELP, cakes, books, prizes, etc, gratefully received by Crissie Webb 692-1478.



OLD CAR TYRES

In the past months big piles of used car tyres have been dumped in our area. We contacted the Council Refuse Department and managed to get some removed. Others remain as traffic, fire and health hazards and eyesores, which is annoying when we have recently spent our hard earned money trying to clear Mews of rubbish.

If you see anyone dumping old tyres **please** take the number of the vehicle and contact the police. Why should we suffer because of the selfish one or two who use OUR land to get rid of their problem.

OUR NEW COUNCILLORS

Drake Ward

Jim Dowd: 7 Surrey Mount, SE23 3PS
699-5870

Eric Goodyer: 42 Howson Rd, SE4 2AS
692-7826

Clifton Graham: 116 Drakefell Rd,
SE14 5XQ 732-8250

Crofton Park Ward

Gurbakhsh Garcha, 54 Rockbourne Rd
SE23 2DD 699-2050

Anthony Link: 91d Breakspears Rd,
SE4 1TX

Sinna Mani: 17 Thorpewood Avenue,
SE26 4BG

MEWS NEWS!

MEWS NEWS!

The Brockley Society has made a complaint of maladministration against the Council, and the Chief Executive has found in our favour on the major issue.

At the end of the article in our last issue we reported that we were in contact with Councillor Goudge over further action. This resulted in our preparing a complaint of maladministration against the Council. This has been investigated by the Chief Executive prior to its submission to the Local Government Ombudsman. The investigation took almost three months and we have at last received a copy of this report. The Chief Executive considers the Council has been guilty of maladministration on some of the charges levelled by the Society.

These were:

that the Council had failed to deal effectively with the issue of mews development and with public consultation over this, that we were given an undertaking to carry out public consultation and it was not honoured, that letters went unanswered and that a copy of the Design Guide as considered at the Planning and Transport Committee meeting was not available to us until after that meeting.

The report of the Chief Executive states that he does not think that the issue of mews development has been mishandled and considers that the amount of consultation undertaken must be a decision for the Council and if the decision is reasonable then it cannot be considered maladministration.

BUT the Council **has** been found guilty in that the Chair of Planning and Transport promised to carry out an exercise in public consultation before a final decision was made on the Design Guide and he failed to do this.

The Chief Executive judges that this might be resolved by submitting his report to the next meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee with a request that the decision of 19th November be reconsidered in the light of his report. This will be done and we have been invited to attend.

We have been offered an unreserved apology for the maladministration which occurred and it has been suggested that any decision as regards referring the complaint to the Ombudsman should be left till after the outcome of the reconsideration of the Design Guide.

May we urge all of you who are at all interested in the outcome of this issue to attend the next meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee to be held on **June 24th at 7.30 pm at Lewisham Town Hall, Catford.**

We need to demonstrate how much local feeling exists on this matter.

Any queries or request for transport to 692-6977 or 692-1944.

FOOTNOTE

The application for 2 houses at the rear of 45 Wickham Road was refused on the grounds of non-compliance with the Design Guide and with a request that the question of the capacity of the existing drainage system be investigated and a report made to the planning department.

The Planning Department have told us that the decisions on the current applications for building in the Mews are being postponed until after the meeting on June 24th. These include:

- 4 houses at the rear of 2 Wickham Road
- 2 houses at the rear of 184 Lewisham Way
- 1 house at the rear of 119 Upper Brockley Road

Wickham Mews

— Lewisham Way
to Ashby Road

CRANFIELD MEWS? OR?

Last June, we became aware of the plight of the residents in the two new houses at the rear of 47 Wickham Road — they haven't got an address! There has been no name officially registered for that Mews although all but one of the other Mews have names officially.

The residents applied to the G.L.C. Road Naming Department for the name St. Peter's Mews, but this was unacceptable as being too like St. Peter's Court. Cranfield Mews was turned down for a similar reason and then Aaron Mews was suggested. The G.L.C. were quite happy with this name, but we were not! On research, we find that it has been Cranfield Mews since at least 1929. This name relates both historically and logically to its associated road, as do the other mews names with their roads. We do not think this name will cause confusion, in fact any other name would do that!

We wrote twice on this matter to the G.L.C., the second time with copies to Cllr. Lewis Herbert, the vice-chair of Public Services and Fire Brigades Committee and G.L.C. member for, Lewisham West and also



to our G.L.C. member, Alex McKay. Both the latter replied saying they supported the reasonableness of our cause and would respond again when they have further information. These last letters were written in September, and since then the Chair of the Borough Conservation Advisory Committee has also written in support of the name Cranfield Mews.

Now that the G.L.C. is no more, the naming of roads comes under Lewisham Council, we think the Borough Engineer's department. We have asked Cllr. Nicholas Taylor to support our views and to this end he wrote on our behalf on 14th April urging that this lane be named Cranfield Mews, and as quickly as possible, as the residents there desperately need an address.

To date we have heard nothing.

LOCAL HISTORY

The Local History Group has been busy this year preparing for its show at the Lewisham Local History Society's Invitation Night on May 30th.

As part of the work of this group, and with a wish to publicise the Society and increase our funds, we have published five postcards. These are all reprints of old postcards of the area and we hope they will sell well. They will be on sale at the Fayre and also in a few selected local shops. Ed Bickley, of Wickham Framing, on the Upper Brockley Road Forecourt has offered to display and sell the cards for us and has also suggested that a framed set might appeal to many of you.

Postcards: 20p each or 80p per set of 5

IDEAS NEEDED

We are trying to write down some of the history of the area with a view to publishing it in leaflet form and would like to hear from you as to which aspects appeal to you most so that we can concentrate on these first.

Brockley is a difficult place to write about as a whole and I can now understand why it has not been done before.

The first problem appears in the eleventh century, when the place is first mentioned as being a manor, but there is no record of manorial courts being held which is one way of finding the extent of the area. Secondly, part of Brockley was in the parish of Deptford and the other part in the parish of Lewisham, a situation which persisted until 1965 when the London Boroughs were formed and Deptford lost its identity. Thirdly, as there was no church within the area called Brockley until the middle of the eighteenth century, any relevant parish records have to be sorted from the rest of Deptford or Lewisham and fourthly, as the land was relatively sparsely inhabited for centuries, any records which do exist are few and far between.

Subject areas which we consider covering are:

Early history until the area was used by different factions.

How and why the area developed as it did.

Houses and who lived in them.

Shops — what they sold and the characters associated with some of them.

Comments on these and any other suggestions please to:

G. Heywood — 692-6977.

LETTERS

We have written several letters on your behalf after numerous complaints received. These include:

- To the Corporation of London about the state of the mews at the rear of 285-331 Brockley Road.

Reply: A three-monthly inspection and clearance has been arranged.

- To the Borough Engineer enquiring about the progress of the Hilly Fields Traffic Cell and accompanying road closures now that the G.L.C. is no longer with us and decisions are to be made by the Borough. We also again requested replacement of the mirror at the top of Tyrwhitt Road, where there have been so many near-accidents due to the blind corner.

Reply: Funding for the scheme has not been resolved yet. We will be informed once this resolution has been made, meanwhile, no mirror. Mirrors are dangerous as drivers misjudge speeds and distances. The main hazard is caused by drivers exceeding the speed limit.

Our comment: In trying to turn out of Tyrwhitt Road the speed of any approaching vehicle is of no consequence once above 15mph as the sight line is so short! Even cutting hedges will do no good as the Crescent bends back on itself from here.

- To the Borough Planning Officer about: pipes on the outside of 228 Lewisham Way, 14 Wickham Road and 184 Lewisham Way. Also concerning the builder's yard at the rear of 170 Lewisham Way, the replacement window at 23 Tressillian Road, the rubbish at the rear of 25 Tressillian Road, the new extension at 119 Upper Brockley Road, the fence in the garden of 37 Wickham Road and the "Summer House" at 45 Wickham Road. No reply yet.

Planning Applications

CONVERSIONS

74 Wickham Road Granted except parking to be with access from Harefield Rd.

135 Upper Brockley Rd. 2 maisonettes. Granted.

158 Upper Brockley Road
Not determined yet.

2 Wickham Road. Recently withdrawn.

119 Upper Brockley Road.
First floor extension. Granted.

60 Wickham Road.
Not determined yet.

COMMERCIAL

7-9 Brockley Cross
Drug Rehabilitation Scheme. Granted.

44 Wickham Road
Basement and 2nd floor to 4 1-bed flats.

37a Tressillian Road
4 s/c flats

27 Cranfield Road
3 s/c flats

46 Adelaide Avenue
4 s/c flats

8 The Parade, Upper Brockley Road
4 s/c flats

11 Rokeby Road
2 flats and basement extension at rear

36 Adelaide Avenue
4 flats

96 Upper Brockley Road
2 s/c units and 2-storey rear extension and external staircase

7 Rokeby Road
As above

79 Tyrwhitt Road. 6 bed-sit flats.

36 Harefield Road
Use as Nursing Home with side and rear extensions and metal fire escape at rear.

90-92 Tressillian Road
Use of part of ground floor as Arts' Centre and erection of shed in rear garden. Not determined.

45 Wickham Road
Erection of 2 2-bed houses with integral garages. Refused because not in compliance with Design Guide.

184 Lewisham Way
Demolition of 3 garages and erection of 2 2-bed houses in rear garden.

NEW BUILDING

41 Tressillian Road.
Approval of materials and landscaping of new buildings in rear.

TREE APPLICATIONS

All applications for these tree works have been granted. Where a tree is to be felled, a replacement has been asked for.

87 Breakspears Rd. Reduce by 12ft Box Elder in front and crown reduce 3 Sycamores in rear by 15ft.

62 Breakspears Road. Prune by 50% 3 limes in front garden.

1 Montague Avenue. Reduce various trees in rear.

41 Tressillian Road. Fell 3 limes, prune 4 limes.

112 Tressillian Road. Remove 1 lime in front. Prune 2 in rear.

106 U. Brockley Road. Prune 3 limes in front.

118 U. Brockley Road Crown thin tree in front.

49 Wickham Road. Fell 2 ash trees in rear.

21 Manor Avenue. Prune lime in front.

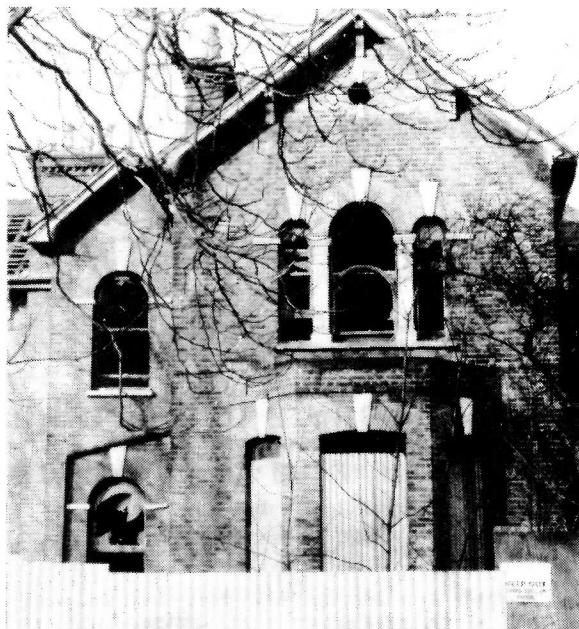
36 Manor Avenue. Prune 2 limes in front and 1 ash at rear.

3 Avon Road. Prune a false acacia in rear

Beverly Court. Prune sycamore on grass verge.

16a Tressillian Road

At last work has started on the rehabilitation of this once fine house next to the railway. It is to be divided into four units, two with an entrance facing Tressillian Road and the other two using a new entrance looking towards Breakspears Road. The work is expected to take until March 1987 when we hope the building will have restored to its former glory. We have been asked to publicise the fact that workers will be on site between 8 and 6, Monday to Friday and if you see anyone around outside these hours then please inform the police immediately. By stopping vandalism and theft you will not only be helping the Council to house families more quickly, but will stop the cost being handed on to all of us through the rates.



* *St. Peter's Church* *

* **GARDEN FETE** *

* *July 5th at 2.30pm* *

* *in Church Grounds,* *

* *Wickham Road* *

* **STALLS : GAMES :** *

* **REFRESHMENTS** *

TREES! TREES! TREES!

You live in a Conservation Area if you receive this newsletter and you should be aware of the restrictions imposed on pruning and felling trees in these special areas. No tree may be pruned without planning permission being given by Lewisham Council Planning Department 690-4343. This permission and advice can be obtained free by phoning the department — ask for the Tree Officer. That's not his correct designation but is easy to remember! On the other hand, anyone found responsible for pruning, damaging or felling a tree without permission can be fined up to £1,000. If you have applied for and obtained permission, THE BROCKLEY SOCIETY can help you in that we have a chain saw and two people to use it who will carry out the permitted work at a fraction of the cost of a commercial tree surgeon. This service has been provided by the Society from the beginning, but has recently been upgraded due to our having a new saw. If you need work done please phone Ray 692-3283 or Stan 692-2313 for a quote. In this way we hope to keep Brockley "one of the leafy suburbs of South East London" and help you and also repay some of the cost of the equipment.

The Marsha Phoenix Arts Centre

Concern has recently been raised by some residents of Tressillian Road regarding the use of nos. 90 and 92 Tressillian Road as an Arts Centre, and regarding the erection in the rear garden of 20' x 10' x 10' timber shed. The matter was raised at the Society Meeting held on 5th March, 1986 when it was agreed that representatives from the Marsha Phoenix Centre should be invited to attend a subsequent meeting of the Society to discuss the Arts Centre and its workings.

Mrs. Sybil Phoenix, Simon Palmer and Lucia Tambini kindly gave their time to explain the workings and the intentions of the Marsha Phoenix Arts Centre to the Society Meeting on the 7th May, 1986.

Mrs. Phoenix explained that the current project had grown from the original use of nos. 90 and 92 Tressillian Road, as a hostel for teenage girls and the need to provide activities and stimulation for the girls, their friends and children from the local community during the daytime. The activities being run include music, pottery, photography and drama. It was explained that the garden shed in question was for table tennis and drama purposes as space within the house was limited. Unfortunately the shed was erected without the necessary Planning Approval and this has become the main source of concern from the adjoining residents. The matter of the Planning Application has still to be resolved by the Council.

Mrs Phoenix stressed that the Centre was for the young people of Brockley and that she hoped that it would be for the benefit of the local community generally. It was suggested by some present at the meeting that the proposed activities were not suited for a residential area and that there were facilities locally, eg: Goldsmiths' College and the St. Peter's Centre that would be more ideally suited.

Mrs Phoenix was thanked by those present at the meeting for coming to talk about her project.

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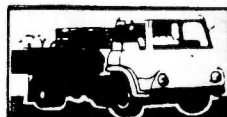
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