



Midsummer Fayre 1987

The Fayre will be held this year on July 4th, on Hilly Fields as usual, and weather permitting should be as good as last year!

So it is time once again folks, when we appeal to you for your help in running this our

FOURTEENTH
MIDSUMMER
FAYRE

Without your help we could not manage to be so successful. How about lending us a hand or two? New-comers to the area are especially welcome. We would like to hear from you with ideas or things you would like to see or do at the Fayre.

Do you know of any organisations or Charities or youth group who may like to make some much-needed funds? If you do, then let them know of this opportunity.

The number to call regarding anything to do with the Fayre is 692 1478. Ask for Chriss Webb. We look forward to hearing from you.

TYRWHITT ROAD IMPROVEMENT???

Various "improvements" were made to the junction of Tyrwhitt Road and Lewisham Way last July. We asked why they had not informed us before they did the work and what was the purpose of it.

The Borough Engineer replied that narrowing Tyrwhitt Road and putting an island in Lewisham Way would help pedestrians, and that there had been no accidents since the alteration. We can only assume that they mean pedestrian accidents since there have been several vehicle accidents, both to motor cycles and cars,

We would be interested to hear any comments from both car users and pedestrians. Is this an improvement?

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES

A message from our Crime Prevention Officer

Since the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme started in the Metropolitan Police back in September 1983 some 30+ schemes have been launched in the Conservation Area.

Although most of these schemes have shown a general decline in the number of reported crimes, still more could be achieved. Most people, without having been victims, still have a fear of crime.

This fear must be destroyed and it can be — by a successful Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. This success is achieved by you — as members — having a closer liaison amongst yourselves and your Home Beat Officers. Arrange more meetings to discuss

problems worrying members. More emphasis should now be made in enhancing the community spirit (care for the elderly/activities for the youth, etc).

Those residents participating in the Neighbourhood Watch should be encouraging friends/neighbours, especially new residents, to join or to form schemes where none exists now. Thus a larger area can be covered.

It is hoped that people will continue the good work of these Schemes.

Don't be complacent but continue to support and publicise what has proved to be a successful crime prevention campaign.

Len Phillips

OUR COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS

PC DEREK McCAIG

A Londoner by birth I lived down at Herne Bay until I returned to live and work in North London at the age of 17. After working in the Furniture Industry as a Trainee Buyer and then as a Sales Rep. for B.I.C.C., I decided to join the Police where I knew they had nice centrally heated Section Houses for young men!

My first posting was to Commercial Street Police Station in the East End. Our area covered Petticoat Lane and parts of the old London Docks. My first very eventful years were spent dealing with drunks and prostitutes and working in the Market Areas.

I transferred south shortly after marriage and worked at Lee Green for about 4 years but found it too quiet and asked to come to Lewisham, where I spent most of my time on Plain Clothes work dealing with many aspects of crime in this area. When I started to physically slow down a bit (losing a few of those good runners!) I asked to work as a Community Beat Officer in the southern part of the Brockley Conservation area. For the past 6 years or so I have been happily working in the area amongst, I might add, a wealth of interesting characters.

If all works according to plan I hope to be with you for another 6 years assisting, I hope, to make the area a better place to live in. (I take two sugars in my tea!)

You will see them occasionally and you can contact them at Brockley Police Station if you need help or advice. Here we give you some personal information.

PC DAVID MOTT

I first joined the City of London Police in 1966 and then transferred to the Metropolitan Police in 1968, serving at Sydenham. In 1974 I left the Police and with my wife and 2 children emigrated to New Zealand. There I served with the NZ Police, but finding that there is "no place like home" returned to England and the Police in 1980. There I was posted to a Home Beat on the Honor Oak Estate for 3½ years. I returned to Brockley Station until March 1986. When I took up the Home Beat which is bounded by Lewisham Way from Malpas Road to SELTEC then the Railway Line which dissects Breakspears Road/Wickham Road and along to Brockley Cross then Malpas Road back to Lewisham Way.

I have met many people since coming onto the beat but for those who do not know me, I'm 6'2" with a ginger beard and I take one sugar with my tea. I hope that I shall continue working with you and for you for many years to come.

So if you do have any problems, please contact me via Brockley Police Station.

FURTHER NEWS ABOUT THE MEWS

We have persuaded the Council to think again about the development in THE MEWS.

We apologise to those of you who are unaware that the local name for the lanes at the back of so many of the houses in the Wickham Road area is 'mews'. As there is almost a mile and a half of these mews, it is a big issue as to whether residential development should be encouraged or resisted in these areas.

The Public Meeting of 14th October was attended by at least 150 people. We were told about mews developments in other parts of London and given a slide show and an exhibition of what is considered to be good and bad in the design of mews housing. During the evening it became obvious that the meeting was overwhelmingly against ANY such development in our area. The main points against were loss of potential parking space, change in the ecological balance, change in the social mix, loss of large trees and the "country atmosphere", the imbalance between the existing types of houses and modern dwellings and lack of adequate drains.

It was decided that we should write a paper for the Council Planning Committee, setting out in detail the case against development. We also organised a petition which was taken to all the houses directly affected.

Thanks to all who so willingly carried round this petition. You managed to get 804 signatures, only 21 people declined to sign, often on personal grounds rather than because they wanted to see the mews developed. Many people did not see the petition, but it is impossible to find a time when everyone is at home! Apologies for this, but even so I think we have made the point.

Both the petition and the paper went before the Planning & Transport Committee on November 18th and the Malpas HAA Residents' Association and the Brockley Society were both allowed speakers. Our ward Councillor, Jim Dowd who sits on this committee supported us and spoke so convincingly that the committee finally decided:

i) that the Design Guide be amended to take account of the points raised in the Public Consultation;

ii) that officers be asked to prepare amendments to the Design Guide based on the outcome of the Public Consultation for discussion with the Brockley Society and the Malpas HAA Residents' Association and a further report be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

iii) that all planning applications for backland/mews development be deferred until the action outlined in i) and ii) of the report has been satisfactorily concluded.

One of the consequences of the delays caused by the adoption of this policy is that a developer who is unwilling to await the outcome of these deliberations, has every right to appeal to the Department of the Environment for a decision if a planning application has not been determined within 12 weeks of the date of the application.

An appeal has been made in respect of the application for the erection of a house at the rear of 119 Upper Brockley Road, fronting Ashby Mews, since the decision has been deferred.

We intend to write to the D.O.E. explaining the situation and putting forward the views expressed at the public meeting.

There has as yet been no meeting with the planning department to discuss the new policy, but we intend to press for a policy which will effectively stop development.

**TO ALL OF YOU WHO PUT IN SO MUCH HARD WORK
— THANK YOU.**

Drake Ward Community Forum

A place of contact for local workers and local people.

Next meetings Friday 20th Feb and Friday 27th March. 12.30 - 2.00 p.m. at St. James Church, SE14 (near Deptford Town Hall).

Subjects discussed at last meetings:

- Private Tenants Advice service at the Housing Action Office
- Children under 5 — daytime care
- Compiling of a directory of local services

The next meeting will discuss action on day care for under fives. Interested members of the public are invited.

Secretary: Juliette Johnson 692 1553

Transport Report 'O.P.O.' (One-Person Operation of Buses)

Lewisham Passenger Transport Users Committee are much concerned about the spread throughout London of O.P.O. Buses. As a result, journeys are slower, there is slowing of traffic due to longer stops at pick-up points and no conductor to assist passengers with awkward loads or to combat vandalism.

Please show your concern over this by writing to:-

1. Chris Bainbridge, Planning Dept., Town Hall Chambers, Rushey Green London SE6
2. SELKENT District of London Buses, Riverdale Offices, 68 Molesworth Street, London SE13
3. London Regional Passengers' Committee, Golden Cross House, 8 Duncannon Street, London WC2

A DIFFERENT ONE EVERY DAY!

There are eight Restaurant/"Take-Aways" in the Brockley Road area around Cranfield Rd/Foxberry Rd and Adelaide Avenue. This is considered by some local people to be far too many and quite unnecessary. In a few cases, No. 175 Brockley Road for example, there was previously a Fish and Chips shop for longer than most people can remember and several generations have brought their Saturday fish and chip lunches and evening meals from these premises. It is felt that this area has reached saturation point and many of these establishments do little for local people, in the main, only serving the passing customer.

The newest of these, at No. 173 Brockley Road, has been given temporary planning permission and would like it to be made permanent. But there are objections to this, one being that it is next door to an already established "Take-Away", selling exactly the same type of food and this, apart from being bad policy, is bound to take away trade from his already established neighbour.

No. 173 Brockley Road has, since at least 1926 until very recently been RICKARDS the ironmongers and when it ceased to trade as such was a great loss to the people living in this part of Brockley since there is not another shop of this kind anywhere near.

The planners must be made aware of the interests of local people and it is generally thought that No. 173 Brockley Road should be re-instated as a hardware shop or a business that would better serve the people of Brockley. If you have strong feelings about this, please do write to:- THE PLANNING DEPT., LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM, TOWN HALL CHAMBERS, RUSHEY GREEN, CATFORD, SE6 4RY (TEL: 690 4343).

The Lewisham Shopping Policy states that Brockley Road is to be retained, enhanced as a local shopping area, i.e. 'A place for day-to-day requirements for the local residents', (not for clothes, furniture, etc. as Lewisham Centre is meant for those things).
F. Porter

184 LEWISHAM WAY

As you may know, there is a large pile of rubbish at the rear of this property outside two derelict garages,

The garages and half the rear garden are in separate ownership from the house, so please don't blame the residents — they are as furious as the rest of us about the state of affairs.

A developer holds the freehold and has put in a planning application for two houses in that half of the garden.

STOP PRESS- The Council has removed the rubbish. GOOD!

A Meeting About Our Local History

We have again been asked to give a display at the "Invitation Night" organised by the Lewisham Local History Society. This year it will be held on **Friday 27th March** in the **Council Chamber at Deptford Town Hall** from **7.45pm to 9.30pm**. This meeting gives groups like ours a chance to show any work done and to sell any publications both to members of similar Societies and to the general public.

Incidentally, this is also one of the few chances we residents of the old Borough of Deptford have of seeing our magnificent Town Hall in all its glory. The major part of the Conservation area consists of two housing estates which were built to house the wealthy people of Deptford and no doubt residents from this area helped to finance this imposing edifice.

The Town Hall was built in 1904 as a fitting building for a town, which from its earliest times was connected with the river, ship-building and explorers like Sir Francis Drake. There is a maritime theme which runs through the whole building. Not only are there the external signs — the ship for a weather vane and the figures of Nelson and others on the facade, but inside, as you mount the grand double marble staircase you will see that, in the wrought iron balustrade, there are ships' anchors with chains hanging from them. The blue and white moulded ceiling is magnificent.

The ceiling in the Council Chamber is cream and gold and all the fine detail is as sharp as it was when it was new.

There are raised seats at one end of the chamber and a huge fireplace at the other end. The walls are panelled in oak and there is a list of the past Mayors of the Borough from 1901 to 1965 when the London Borough of Lewisham was formed combining the two old Boroughs. Lewisham and Deptford were of such different origins, one a ship-building town and the other a rural village spread out along a mile of country road, that they have very different characters. Deptford has been a town for more than 600 years whereas at the end of the last century Lewisham was still a village, as were Forest Hill, Sydenham, Catford, Lee and the other villages that make up this huge impersonal Borough of Lewisham.

The centre of Deptford became overcrowded and people moved to the outskirts to avoid the stench and the mess. Originally the centre of the town was near St. Nicholas' Church, down by the river, but by 1726, when St. Paul's church was built in Butt Lane, the centre of the town was somewhere just north of the new church.

A century later saw the building extending further south and there were some houses on the north side of Lewisham Way, but as yet only two farms on the south side. Lewisham Way is part of the route from London,

through the Old Kent Road, New Cross (where there was a toll gate), Lewisham, Bromley and out into Kent and is an ancient road.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, the area between Deptford Broadway and Lewisham Way was developed and known as Deptford New Town. These houses were for the artisans and although some were larger, the better off people still lived near the church. After 1850 the fields to the south of Lewisham Way gradually disappeared under housing, but this was of the best standards of building, to attract the middle classes who, with the easy travel afforded by the new railways could afford to live in affluence well away from the town, whether that be Deptford or the City. As the estates grew so the houses became larger and we now see that the grander houses are at the upper ends of the roads or where the roads meet the old parish boundary. The two estates were complete by 1880.

To return to the present day, we obviously need to reconvene the local history group in order that we can both present a display in March and also produce some new work for the local history festival to be held for two days in June for which we have also had an invitation.

If you are interested in this aspect of the Society's work and you have not been contacted recently, please ring 692 6977 and you will be very welcome to join us.

Gillian Heywood

VICTORIAN BROCKLEY

From Charles Dickens' London Guide 1879

It seems unrealistic today that just over a hundred years ago, two police fixed points were established; one at the junction of Upper Brockley Road (then known as Brockley Road) and Lewisham Road, the other at the junction of Upper Brockley, Manor and Cranfield Roads. Geoffrey Road was then called Manor Road West and ran to Brockley Cross.

A policeman was stationed at these two points from 9 to 1.00 a.m. and on the sound of a rattle or steady ringing of a bell by anyone in the roads, the police constable would proceed to the spot to render any necessary assistance.

sent in by John Porter.

DOG FOULING

So many residents complain about this on the pavements and in the parks. What can be done? We realise this is not only our problem, the residents of Royal Boroughs complain too!

What ideas have you (apart from "shooting the lot"!!)? We don't know what happened to Barking's 'poop + scoop' which received a great deal of publicity when it started.

Planning Applications

CONVERSIONS

3 & 4 Hilly Fields Crescent 8 self-contained units.

41 Tressillian Road Revision of plans.

51 Tressillian Road Demolition of rear staircase and alterations to provide 4 self-contained units.

39 Tressillian Road New application for 4 flats and rebuilt coachhouse to 1 maisonette.

162 Tressillian Road 3 flats.

63 Tressillian Road Staircase at front for 3 flats.

19 Tressillian Crescent 3 flats.

21 Cranfield Road 3 units with dormer at rear and new roof over side addition. Revised plans.

28 Cranfield Road 3 flats and single storey extension on 1st floor.

171 Breakspears Road 2 units and new garage/store at rear, access to mews

112 Manor Avenue ground floor and basement to 2 flats.

2 Wickham Road Revision of details to 2 storey extension at side in connection with 6 flats.

2 Wickham Road 4 two-storey mews houses with garages, access onto Wickham Mews.

81 U. Brockley Road single storey at rear for office facilities.

Site of 1-7 Vulcan Road 2 portacabins for Neighbourhood Repairs team base and use of garages for storage.

97 Manor Avenue use of garage at rear for servicing and light vehicle repairs. (This has not yet been granted permission so it is at the moment an unauthorised business.)

TREE APPLICATIONS

25 Wickham Road. Prune yew trees at front.

33 Wickham Road. Fell 2 sycamores at rear.

37 Wickham Road. Prune robinia in rear.

99 Wickham Road. Prune bay and cherry in rear.

118 Wickham Road. Prune limes in front and rear

145 Breakspears Rd. Prune sycamore at rear.

113 U. Brockley Road. Prune sycamores front and rear.

7 Tressillian Road. Prune sycamore and plane at side.

Work in Progress

There is a lot of rehabilitation and conversion work taking place throughout the area.

The building work at the back of **37 Wickham Road** is to be two houses facing the mews, planning permission for which was given in November 1985. The large sycamore tree on the edge of the mews is to remain, as are the other two trees by the Cranfield Road wall.

Planning permission has also been granted for two houses in **Glensdale Road** in the rear gardens of 100-102 Breakspears Road. Although the design appears interesting, the houses are to be one metre in front of the other houses on that side of the road and parking is to be in the front driveway.

16A Tressillian Road by the railway bridge, is beginning to show signs of its former glory. It should be finished this spring.

51 Tressillian Road, a derelict wreck for several years (and now a rubbish dump) is hopefully on the way up. The Council have at last got plans to convert to four family units.

● JUMBLE SALES at ● ST. PETER'S CENTRE

28th February in aid of the Hall fund for repairs, etc. 2.30 p.m.

14th March to raise money for St. Peter's Church 2.00 p.m.

11th April fund raising for the Local Scout Group 2.00 p.m.

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TELEPHONE BOXES

The Secretary of State for the Environment has now started to add traditional red telephone boxes to the lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

Because of the intentions of British Telecom to modernise and replace public telephones, the Council has asked British Telecom to retain the traditional red boxes in conservation areas and in discussion with the Borough Conservation Advisory Committee, to recommend additional sites that would afford easy access for the disabled and wheelchair users. The Brockley Society would be interested to hear your ideas to pass onto B.T.

The boxes the Society would like listed are in Lewisham Way/Corner of Tyrwhitt Rd, Breakspears Rd, Wickham Rd, and in Brockley Rd at end of Wickham Rd and in St. Margarets Rd.

For suggestions for new positions of boxes please contact Bob Hayes on 692-2289.

**** DRUG LINE ** DRUG LINE ****

Now open at 9A Brockley Cross 9am - 5 pm weekdays. This is an advice centre on the subject of drugs and drug addiction to help users of various addictive drugs, and their families.

If you want help ring 692- 4975.



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St. Peter's Hall

This 107 year old building was once the centre for many activities including Bible classes, debating societies, readings, lectures, concerts, orchestral meetings and dramatic and operatic societies. Gill Heywood has researched the history of this impressive building which could become a real social centre once more. Anyone with interesting memories or anecdotes can ring her on 692 6977.

After the war Brockley had to fight to keep the Hall. There were plans to demolish it and build a smaller one, a new vicarage and some flats. But in 1976 new management arrangements were concluded and the Hall was saved.

There is a meeting of the Management Committee on the 2nd Tuesday in each month at 8 p.m. in the Hall Committee room. If you are interested in hearing what goes on at the Hall and what is available you are invited to come to the meetings.

The major work needed at the moment is repairs to the roof and internal decoration.

How You Can Help

Support the jumble sales, and use the Hall for functions so that money is available for maintenance, etc. There are rooms for all occasions — for 10 or 50 or 80 or 200 people. Also a Games room with snooker table, dart board and table tennis.

Booking times — Thursday evenings between 7 and 9 p.m.

JOGGING ALONG?

A lady would like female partners
for evening jogging — 692-8484.

PYNES BROS.

Although not in the Conservation Area, the north side of Lewisham Way is of interest to us, especially to those who live on that side of the area. 165-169 Lewisham Way, once Pyne Bros. store at the corner of Tanner's Hill is to be converted to 3 shops, some offices and a large number of single person flats. How nice to see at last a good use for this large building.