

BROCKLEY



SOCIETY

NEWS SHEET NO. 49

DELIVERED FREE TO 3,000 HOUSEHOLDS
IN THE BROCKLEY CONSERVATION AREA

OCTOBER 1987

Midsummer Fayre 87

July 4th was a good choice for our 14th Summer Fayre – the sun shone and the wind was gentle and did not blow our goodies away.

We were delighted with the response to our urgent plea for help, that so many new people offered to lend a hand and thus saved the situation. They helped with fetching, carrying and erection of the tent, banners and tables and then in the afternoon they helped with manning the stalls and helping generally. Especially we thank Rachel Copus, Phillip Poulton, Jason Chesterman (drinks and popcorn), Mary Sowe, Wendy Rooke (bangers and burgers), Jean Janusz, Jane and Natalie (cakes), Anne-Marie Chesterman, Jack Heywood (books), Mrs Ridgely (bric-a-brac), Juliet Johnson (fancy dress and children's games) Kathleen Turner, Molly Atkins (tombola) Kathleen and Jenny Cousland (raffle prizes), Sue and Paul Weston (a lot of the donkey work).

Our new M.P., Joan Ruddock judged the fancy dress and visited every stall on the field and chatted with many people. We were delighted that she found the time to come, and seemed to be interested in and understand the problems of the area.

We were pleased to have the Minimotes with us and also Perrier Ponies, both of whom were a great hit with the children. The St Norbert's Majorettes gave a fine performance in the arena as did the tug-of-war teams later in the afternoon. This competition was won by the 1st Lord Wolsely team, followed by their 2nd team. Perhaps the other local pubs need a little practice before next year! Raymond Cornwell once again brought his plant stall, but the fire brigade and the police stands were unable to attend and sent apologies. There were many stalls from other local charities and we hear that they were pleased with the afternoon.

We had arranged a public address system but it fell through at the last minute. Many people enjoyed the peace which ensued, compared with the over-loud 'Bang-Bang' music of last year, saying that it was more like an old fashioned village green affair, although we missed the notification of events as they took place.

Once again our loyal tradesmen turned up trumps and donated gifts and vouchers for our raffle and tombola for which we thank them.

At the end of the day we were grateful for the help in clearing up

the fields (among others Freda and John Porter were seen putting litter into untold boxes and bags) which means that BrocSoc keeps its name for leaving Hilly Fields cleaner than it was before the Fayre.

And finally the MONEY – which is one reason for the Fayre, the other being an excuse for us Brocklians to enjoy ourselves. We made £500 this year, a record. This will help to pay for Newsheets and to run the Society. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, it was a magnificent effort.

THANK YOU

Many of the local tradesmen gave generous donations towards the Fayre. Our grateful thanks to:

Tyrwhitt Road/Loampit Hill

The Talbot
Taylor's Grocers
Glen's Greengrocers
S. Patel, Newsagent
Northwoods, Chemist
K.J. Building Supplies

Brockley Cross & Brockley Road

V. Amato, Shoe Repairs
Bay Tree Florists
Baby Rose, Wools and Haberdashery
Brockley Aquaria
Amin, Chemist
P.J. Hairdresser
T.W. Barnes, Off Licence
Hastings, Butcher and Fishmonger
Brian Morris, Supermarket
Turner's Stores, Hardware
Sewell's, Newsagent
Oak Estates
Brockley Floral Depot
Baby Bargain Corner
Post Office at 254

Upper Brockley Road

The Post Box
The Wickham Arms

Ladywell

The Freemason's Arms
Ladywell Late Night Chemists

Also Sainsbury's, Safeways, Marks & Spencer's, for generous gift tokens, and Nationwide Building Society for records.

Apologies to anyone we have missed.

After our Fayre on July 4th we had some popcorn left, so we booked a stall at Lewisham Fun Day. Not only had we advertised the Brockley Society, but also made a further £36 for the funds.

Annual General Meeting

is to be held on Tuesday, October 20th
at 8pm in the Small Committee Room
St Peter's Centre, Cranfield Road

Nominations are wanted for
Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

All residents in the Conservation Area are members of the Society, so come to the A.G.M. to hear what the Society is doing on your behalf, hear what you could do to help, and meet other residents who are concerned about Brockley. We need more people to deliver Newsheets (three times a year) in their neighbourhood, to help research articles, put forward new ideas, and contact the Council if need be.

Come to the A.G.M. Wine and Cheese and continued conversations will be available after the meeting!

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday each month at 8pm in St Peter's Centre. Just walk in – you will be welcome.

LOCAL HISTORY MEETING

The name Joan Read, or "Mrs Lewisham", is probably familiar to many local people. Apart from her regular column and photographs of people, places and buildings in the Lewisham Free Press, and the many readable brochures and booklets that she has published on local history, she was also, for fifteen years, the Local Historian at the Archive and Local History Department in Manor House Library, Lee.

On Wednesday, 9 September she came to Brockley to give an informal and friendly talk on aspects of local history and advised us on how to embark on local history projects of discovery.

To start with, it is necessary to define an area of study. By walking round the area in spare moments one can begin to collate a series of notes itemising such features as the Parish boundary and the names and sites of open spaces and parks. One can read through back-copies of local newspapers and pin-point existing roads on old maps, Ivy Road is marked as Ivy Lane on the map of the Hilly Fields areas dated 1592. (This map was drawn up during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I!) It would be interesting to note the gradient of the land and the areas of different soils - before the sewers were constructed a lot of top-soil was washed down into the River Ravensbourne. Mrs Read then told us how Brockley developed, especially the building of the houses. This will be an article in the next Newsheet.

The Local History Group in Brockley has a wonderful collection of street scenes past and present in and around Brockley, which can be seen at the occasional exhibitions of local history around the Borough. If you have any snippets of information, whether it's your own memories of a few years, or interesting knowledge of any land, building, or past inhabitants and events in Brockley, or indeed, if you wish to discover more yourself, please contact Gill Heywood 692 6977. S. Job

DRAKE FORUM

The Forum is a meeting place for local workers and interested people. Next meetings, with refreshments, Fridays 27th November
29th January
1-2pm in St Peter's Centre

Lewisham Police/Community Consultative Group

The meeting of Lewisham Police/Community Consultative Group was held on 16th July 1987. The Drug Sub Group, which is relatively new, gave their report. The spokesman for the Group, Chief Inspector David Bailey, was pleased with progress made, and impressed with the hard work and dedication of the group. There was, however, a great deal to do and continued support was crucial.

The criminal use of knives, a subject on which Chief Superintendent Taylor from Catford Police station, expressed concern, had increased considerably and continues to be very worrying. In the first four weeks after Christmas in London SE area, more than 160 incidents were dealt with ranging from rape to minor assault; included in this number were five deaths

from stabbing. The group agreed that an approach should be made to the Home Office to express deep concern and request a reform of the laws involving the carrying of offensive weapons.

Street crime is rapidly increasing, one aspect of this was the more recent wave of crime occurring on the local buses. It was agreed that London Transport Representatives should be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the problem.

The most disappointing aspect of the meeting was the lack of public support. I would urge all residents to attend, ask questions, give your opinions and show that you care what happens to you and your community.

The next meeting will be held on 22nd October 1987 at Catford Town Hall - 7.30pm. B.H.



BROCSOC CAN-PAIGN

Following an article in our June '87 Newsheet "Can You Can-Can" which raised the possibility of organising the collection of aluminium cans, we have evaluated the logistics of a local "save-a-can" scheme. Before commenting on our findings some background information may be useful.

Every day valuable metals - steel, tin and aluminium are thrown away, despite the fact that recycling makes sound economic sense and ultimately benefits everyone. Most people are aware that aluminium beverage cans (coke, pepsi, soft drinks) are recyclable. However, so too are tin plate and steel cans containing soups, pet food, beans, vegetables, talcum-powder etc. In fact any metal cans/containers can be recycled! You may think that your humble offering of a few cans is negligible, but when added to those of a few thousand other households you can see how the numbers quickly add up. We are already familiar with "bottle-banks", well, there are also skips into which tins can be deposited.

Here in Britain, can collection is co-ordinated by The Can Makers Recycling Organisation. This group runs a scheme known as SAVE-A-CAN. Special can banks are provided by the Can Makers, who comprise the five major UK producers of beer and soft drinks cans, together with their raw material suppliers and the country's specialist de-tinning company. These SAVE-A-CAN skips are placed on sites where the public congregate, for example supermarkets, stations and car parks. Such sites are selected jointly by The Can Makers, the local council and the owner of the site. The public are then invited to deposit all types of used (and preferably washed and crushed) cans into the can bank. As mentioned earlier these may be food cans, drink cans, pet food cans etc. of any metal and without prior sorting!

When the can banks are full they are emptied at a central depot. Here they are stored and sent on to a processing plant for recycling - either through de-tinning (tinplate cans) or through secondary smelting (aluminium cans).

WHO PAYS FOR SAVE-A-CAN?

The Can Makers offer to local councils wishing to participate in SAVE-A-CAN, a scheme designed to keep their costs to a minimum, there are four main provisos:-

- i) The Can Makers will pay for the can banks and also for all transport and handling charges
- ii) The Council are asked to provide a central storage facility and to inspect sites regularly.
- iii) The metal collected belongs to The Can Makers.
- iv) The Can Makers donate an agreed sum to a charity or charities nominated by the council for every tonne of cans collected.

Currently a tonne of primary aluminium as priced on the London Metal Exchange is about £1700! Although recycled (secondary) aluminium fetches a lower price, you can see the cost benefits of recycling. The SAVE-A-CAN scheme currently has some sixty boroughs involved. The closest for us here is that run by Greenwich who in 1986 came fourth in the London Division's SAVE-A-CAN League Challenge for weight of cans collected.

SO WHAT "CAN" WE DO?

A local Brocsoc scheme is impractical because of the costs involved. What we should do, if the interest is forthcoming, is to lobby Lewisham Council to adopt the Can Makers SAVE-A-CAN Scheme. This is because they only work in conjunction with a local authority. This would be followed by a Can-paign of making people aware of recycling. For example, projects at local schools - children are well known for their avid interest in collecting anything! Additionally, we can get support from SEL Tech students, who seem to have cans to dispose of! The benefits are there to see. Local charities will benefit; the environment will benefit and we will benefit - not least from the fact that we will have more room in our dustbins for REAL waste! Your opinions please. NICK MOORE 60 Tyrwhitt Road

LETTERS FROM THE SOCIETY

Letters written by the Brockley Society since May.

To the Planning Department, about planning applications received for:

- 139 Upper Brockley Road, 16, 28, 30, 37 Tyrwhitt Road, objecting to the large number of small units being created. (See the article on conversions).

- 111 Upper Brockley Road, 20 Wickham Road, 74 Wickham Road, 37 Manor Avenue objecting to the proposals for housing in the rear gardens, facing a mews.

- 70 Loampit Hill, objecting to the proposal for a Sunday Market mainly on the grounds that it would create a potentially lethal traffic situation at the end of Tyrwhitt Road and the top of Loampit Hill.

- To the D.O.E. to get the telephone box at the end of St Margaret's Road Listed. All the other four old boxes in the area had been listed but they had forgotten this one. We were just in time, and now have five of the thirteen listed boxes in the borough in our area.

- To Councillor Scott: Two letters about the conversions policy, including a table showing the way houses are being converted in this area.

- To the Borough Engineer, requesting three new seats in the area, more litter bins and a list of locations of the new bottle banks. The seats will be provided, two at the Lewisham Way end of Tyrwhitt Road and one outside the Brockley Road Sorting Office. There is no money for litter bins, but they are investigating the possibility of sponsorship. A list of bottle banks was appended, the nearest being outside the Breakspears Arms, Brockley Road.

These letters were written in support of the policies which we think should apply to the area or on the request of various members at our monthly meetings. If you want action over something which bugs you, why not come along?



GOOD MEWS NEWS!

The D.O.E. has said that NO building will be allowed at the rear of 119 Upper Brockley Road and turned down plans for 4 houses in the garden of 2 Wickham Road. More details at the A.G.M. and in our next Newsheet.

Planning Applications

From May 1987.

Adelaide Avenue

50-2 two bedroom and 2 one bedroom flats
54-4 one bedroom flats
58-3 one bedroom, 1 two

Loampit Hill

Land adjoining 70 for use as Sunday Market.
12-16 Stalls.

47 St Margaret's Road - Demolition

of property and reconstruction of 3 one bedroom flats

Tyrwhitt Road

16-4 self contained flats
37-Conversion to 3 flats and 1 maisonette
64A Conservatory revised plans

Manor Avenue

37-Two storey two bedroom mews house
84-2 two bedroom maisonettes
116-Portakabin in garden for use as Daycare for residents

44 Wickham Road

3 brick garages in rear garden

139 Upper Brockley Road

Revised plans

22A Hilly Fields Crescent

Alteration to front window

9A Brockley Cross

Use of 2nd floor for counselling service

Vulcan Terrace

Church Hall. Conversion to one bedroom house

31 Cranfield Road

3 self contained units

14 Tressillian Crescent

Reinstatement of 6ft high boundary wall and gate.

UNWELCOME ADVERTISING

The advertising hoarding which has been erected at the side of the butcher's shop at the end of St Margaret's Road is illegal. Mrs Hastings informed us that she agreed to a small hoarding over the window, on condition that the advertising firm sought and acquired planning permission from Lewisham Council. This planning permission has NOT been applied for, the hoarding is much larger than agreed and the advertising firm is unobtainable! The planning department inform us that they will not give permission to a hoarding this size.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT

Nineteen years ago the GLC bought 16A Tressillian Road as part of the Ringway One road scheme. They left it empty and rotting for seventeen years, but now Lewisham Council has rehabilitated it and it is divided into four family units. Congratulations! This house has now been returned to its former state. Pity about the almond tree which was felled without permission, also the unsuitable paling fence. A much more attractive boundary treatment could have been provided. Even so we vote it a GREAT IMPROVEMENT.

The LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST (LWT) was established in 1981 and has grown rapidly to become the country's leading urban wildlife group. The aims of the Trust are to protect the plants and animals within the London area and to make people more aware of the wildlife all around them. To this end the Trust has set up over thirty wildlife sites throughout the Greater London area, and most of its Nature Reserves are open to the public.

The Trust has active groups in all of London's boroughs. Lewisham's group has a full programme of practical conservation work throughout the year, as well as fund-raising activities, and organises educational walks and talks. It has also established a local "Watch" group for children within the borough. For details of all these activities and membership details contact Mary Pettitt on 699-9544 or contact the head office at 80, York Way, London N1 9AG (278 6612 or 278 6613).

In the Brockley Conservation area are several patches of land which are rapidly becoming overgrown and reverting to a rather more natural state. The largest of these are the two banks of the railway, which has varied vegetation covering it, but mostly dominated by sycamore trees. There are also many much smaller areas mostly untended gardens. We have been offered the chance to 'manage and improve' such a site. It is 400 square metres so is too small to function as a real wildlife reserve but could provide a small patch of the 'countryside'. Anyone with ideas, expertise to offer or muscle power and determination to see those ideas through to completion should ring Jack Heywood on 692 6977.

Building in Geoffrey Road

Following urgent 'phone calls to us about the new red building going up at the corner of Geoffrey Road and Ashby Mews, we contacted the Council and building was stopped until the applicant had agreed with the officers of the Planning Department, the colour of the bricks to be used in so prominent a position. Planning permission was given five years ago for a very large garage, for domestic use only, the colour of the bricks to be agreed before work commenced. Thanks to the alert public round there, this was sorted out very quickly, before building had gone very far, and saved a lot of trouble for all concerned.

ABOUT CONVERSIONS

Looking at the list of conversions of houses recently, everything seems to be turning into one-bed flats. At the July meeting of the Borough Conservation Advisory Committee, we commented on this trend and asked if the Council's conversion policy could be more stringently applied so that there was a fair mix of types of accommodation provided. The Councillors are concerned about the trend, and were interested in the policies of other boroughs which we quoted, and which seem to go a fair way to controlling the problem.

If this trend is allowed to continue, we will have worse car parking problems than ever and the population will become a transient one, as no sooner have a couple bought a one bedroom flat, than they will realise that there is not enough room there and in a couple of years they will be looking for a three-bed unit. As there are NONE of these being created in the private sector they will have to leave the area.

We compiled a list of the conversions applied for in the last 18 months and were appalled at our findings.

57 houses came up for conversion to 212 units. Of these two were 4-bed units, seven were 3-bed units (all provided by housing associations), 62 were 2-bed units, 131 were one bed units and ten were studio flats.

Obviously, if a developer can turn a house into four flats at £45-50,000 each, he is going to get a larger profit than if he sells two units for say £60,000 and £70,000 each. This in turn means that he is likely to pay more for the house in the first place, even though his costs will be higher on the larger number of flats. So the market value of a house will rise and those of us who would dearly like to buy an unconverted house to live in are priced out of the market.

The other disquieting fact is that when a house is turned into "a flat to each floor", all the interior decoration has to go, i.e. the cornices and ceiling roses, so that there can be adequate sound and fire insulation between units; also the stair rails and bannisters again for fire-proofing requirements. If in the future, one of these houses were to be returned to its former family use, it would be impossible to restore it to its original form, whereas those houses that have been turned into two units can readily be returned to their former glory.

The Council has promised to look at the whole question of conversions and intends to review their policy soon, so that a reasonable mix of units is created in the future.
G.H.

"LAND FOR SALE"

We understand that the site of the 1st New Cross Scout hut at the back of St Margaret's Road and also the

land beside it are being sold by auction, as two separate lots. We watch eagerly to see what will happen here.

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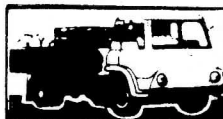
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