



NEW HERE?

If you are a newcomer, you may not be aware that you live in a Conservation Area and as such you are a member of the Brockley Society — no membership fee, just a residential qualification.

We obviously have some members who are more interested than others but we would welcome more active support for the Society's efforts to keep the residents informed, to give advice if possible, to try to improve the area etc. Certain things need

planning permission, re: Tree pruning and lopping etc. and building of extensions. The Society can give advice on who to apply to.

We prepare and deliver this Newsheet which is a mammoth task for the few volunteers — can you help? Come to one of our meetings held monthly in St Peter's Hall and "meet your neighbours" and help Brockley Conservation Area to become a "Community".

You are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting on October 31st.

St Peter's Centre

Regular events at St Peter's centre are steadily increasing. Each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, dog training classes take place in the main hall. Classes are held for beginners to more experienced dogs. Under close supervision, dogs are trained to obey basic commands and eventually progress to exercises used in obedience trials. — A must for all responsible dog owners. Registration costs £10 and each lesson will then cost £1.50.

On Thursday evenings the Badminton Club is held in the Main Hall and Katedo classes in the small Hall. New members will be more than welcome.

In October 1988, Tumble Tots begin regular classes on Monday mornings. Parental involvement is encouraged initially and the organiser, Julia Forrest will be pleased to answer any questions.

Also beginning in October is a Mother and Baby club. This will replace Brockley Playgroup. Watch for details on the board outside the Hall. Future regulars may well include a Day Centre which is hoped to involve all ages.

In January 1989 Self Defence classes will resume.

The Centre Management would like to encourage more regular bookings and every assistance possible will be given to anyone wanting to organise any classes or regular entertainment. The Hall will of course still provide a venue for the usual Jumble sales.

December 10th is a date to remember, St. Peter's Centre proudly announce The Christmas Fayre. phone Rita Bennett on 692 4503 7pm—9pm Thursday evenings if you would like to have a stall at the Fayre. Sell your own craftwork or home produce for just £6.00 in advance. The Fayre will provide refreshments and a selection of Games. At 2.00pm the arrival of Father Christmas is sure to delight the kids. He will be in his Grotto until 4.00pm. Why not come along and enjoy the Festive season at St. Peter's, your Local Community Centre.

Queries regarding any of these events will be answered if you phone Mrs. Harper 691 9724, or Rita Bennett 692 4503 (Thursdays only).

Annual General Meeting is to be held on Monday, October 31st 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.

WASTE OF OUR MONEY?

Overhanging hedges and shrubs are a nuisance. Did you receive a recorded delivery letter from the Council about your overhanging hedge? Apparently hundreds of these letters were sent, (40p a letter paid by the ratepayers!) informing that if the pruning is not done by the resident, then the Council will, after three weeks, prune as necessary and, if possible, collect the cost from the owner [we noticed however, that the owner is often the Council!]

It does not appear that further action has been taken. There are still many hedges etc. which hit the unwary in the eye or pull at their hair, or cause pedestrians to step in the road.

The exercise was a waste of money if the letter is not followed up by action. So, if you have overhanging shrubs especially prickly roses, please deal with them, especially before dark weather sets in.

Wickham Mews

"A small step" for Brockley Conservation area. Have you noticed the new signs for Wickham Mews at the Geoffrey Road end? These were provided by a local business. Can we hope for such enterprise by business in other mews?

Re 301 Brockley Road—SIDS

The ugly temporary scaffolding and corrugated iron structure in the rear yard is an eyesore. This 'extension' requires planning permission and the shop owner has been so informed by the Borough Planning Department. An application should be opposed by residents who object to such permission being granted.

The dumping of shop rubbish on the pavement of St. Margaret's Road causes concern. The Environmental Health Dept. say there is no health hazard, so residents should contact the local councillors and the street cleansing department.

The 15th Midsummer Fayre, organised by the Brockley Society, was held on Hilly Fields on Saturday July 4th. Once again this proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon blessed with fine weather after a torrential downpour at mid-day. This year the Fayre was graciously opened by the TV star Elizabeth Estensen, who also judged the childrens fancy dress, toured the many stalls and attractions and was a great hit with the children giving them autographed pictures of herself as 'T bag'. The Brockley Society stalls included several games, Tombola, a bookstall and an exhibition of local arts and crafts. The cake stall and the hamburger and hotdog counter were well patronised. The coconut shy was so popular that it ran out of coconuts. Many local charities and organisations had stalls and dancing displays and added to the interest and high level of activity. In particular Brockley Junior School played a large part, especially in promoting the event and organising, amongst other things, the presence of the very popular Police motor cycle and horse, to the delight of the children.

One of the exciting climaxes was the tug of war between teams from local pubs.

The Fayre was as successful from the finance view as last year —we made £500

Next year's Fayre is already being planned. Any ideas for the event are welcome.

**OUR FIGHT FOR
DEPTFORD LIBRARY —
Round 2.**

Once again Deptford Library is under threat. Having successfully fought off the proposed closure of the lending library, we are now informed that the Council is considering the closure of the Commercial and Technical Reference Library at 140 Lewisham Way.

There has been a reference library on this site for the last 74 years and for the last 22 years it has served as the only public Business Reference Library in S.E. London. We feel that its closure would be a loss to the local community because of the loss of educational opportunities, business information and general help to the public.

If you share this concern please sign petitions at local libraries and schools and write to your local councillors or to the Chair of Leisure Services, Lewisham Town Hall, Catford S.E.6.

"WHERE'ER YOU WALK"

Several residents have complained about the state of pavements in the area. Not only the ill-fitting paving stones and unrepaired pavements broken during building works, but the growth of grass, plants and even trees in the nicks between wall and pavement etc. When we came here in 1953 the roads and pavements were weeded by the Council road-sweepers as they brushed. Now this is not their job apparently.

So if you want the area to be smartened up a bit, get out your hoe or spade or weed killer and remove plant life where it should not be! Or complain to the District Superintendent on 690 4366 Ext. 291. **K.T.**

St. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPICE

Most of you will know of St. Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham. Many people in our area have had friends or relatives lovingly cared for in this wonderful place. Terminally-ill patients are beautifully cared for within the Hospice and there is a home-care service so that patients can be looked-after in their own homes. The families of the patients are not forgotten either, as the Hospice knows how they can also suffer when a loved one is very ill and close to dying. But don't run away with the idea that the Hospice is a depressing and frightening place. It is bright and airy and warm—much of the warmth comes from the wonderful attitude of the staff and the smiles and contentment of the patients.

St. Christopher's was founded 21 years ago by the famous Dame Cicely Saunders. It relies solely on voluntary contributions and no charge is made to patients or their relatives.

You may have seen the stall for St. Christopher's at our Fayre in July. Two ladies in our area and their friends spend time during the year making toys and many other items to sell in aid of the Hospice. This year their stall made £172.27. Nothing was retained for expenses and all the money went to St. Christopher's. Congratulations, ladies and thank you, everybody! **J.E.J.**

London Wildlife Trust

The Trust manages over 45 sites across London. The Conservation work carried out ranges from planting trees to advising on development plans. Well-planned habitat management is essential to the survival of rare, threatened and even familiar species.

In Lewisham area, New Cross Cutting is one of the latest reserves;

The success of the Midsummer Fayre depends on the help and co-operation of many people. We, the Brockley Society Fayre Committee, organise the event and wish to thank all those who helped, the local shops and pubs who donated prizes:

Tyrwhitt Road/Loampit Hill

- The Talbot
- Taylor's Grocers
- Glen's Greengrocers
- Spalding and Sparrow Newsagents
- Northwoods Chemist
- K. J. Building Supplies

Brockley Cross & Brockley Road

- V. Amato, Shoe Repairs
- Bay Tree Florists
- Baby Rose, Wools and Haberdashery
- Brockley Aquaria

Brockley Carpets (Antiques)

Londis, Grocers

Southern Building Supplies

- Davies Greengrocers
- Amin, Chemist
- P. J. Hairdresser
- T. W. Barnes Off-license
- Hastings Butcher
- Sid's Plumbing Supplies
- Brian Morris Supermarket
- Turner's Stores, Hardware
- Sewells, Newsagent
- Oak Estates
- Brockley Floral Depot
- Starbuck Upholsterers
- Baby Bargain Corner
- Food for All
- Victorian Pine
- Brockley Glass
- Ultraclean Laundrette
- Post Office at 254
- Esso Garage

Upper Brockley Road

- The Post Box
- The Wickham Arms
- Off license on forecourt

Crofton Park

- Smith and Son Butchers
- Simmonds Greengrocer
- also pubs
- Flower of Kent
- The Lord Wolseley

THANKS ALSO TO:-

- Nationwide Building Society for gifts and Safeways for vouchers.
- London Regional Transport for vouchers.
- Tesco Stores for food stuffs for our stalls.
- South London Community Music who provided a workshop.
- Stewart the DJ who stepped in at the very last minute to man the P.A. system.
- Lewisham Borough Council Departments at Deptford, and Environmental Health and Health and Safety for the help given during the week before the Fayre.
- The Police — especially our local beat officer P.C. Franks who changed duties in order to be present throughout the Fayre. He also helped judge the competitions and was an excellent example of community policing. We are proud to have P.C. Franks patrolling our area.
- Kathy, Dave, Nick and Fran who came from Kent and Essex to help run stalls and games, and all those who manned stalls and helped run the raffle.
- All the participants of the Arts & Crafts display. We do have some excellent local talent.

Please accept our apologies if we have left you out!

Sunday Nov. 27, 10.30am is Work day on Ladywell Nature Reserve adjoining Ladywell Station. Details from Brian Herring (851-7895).

Who is winning the planning war?

This is a continuation of the saga of 2 Wickham Road which I started in the last issue of this newsletter.

Have you noticed the rather gross extension that is being built? - Well, there is more to come - possibly two lots of ugly semi-detached houses in the garden. Let me give you some more details of both.

Firstly, that extension. Planning permission has been granted: once for an extension with rooms at basement and ground floor level. Once for an extension with rooms at ground floor and first floor level. But the development sub-committee *refused* permission for an extension using all three floors. This is obviously what is being built although the windows and doorway as built do not appear on any application! Parking spaces should be beside the mews, but the whole of the garden area has been flattened and filled with hard core in what looks like preparation for a car park. This was to be amenity space (the jargon for gardens) on the approved plans, but was a car park on the plans which were refused.

Planning permission was granted in August, subject to certain conditions about improving the mew's surface, to build 4 houses in the garden. Many valid objections were presented to the Committee: trees and garden space would be destroyed, the houses were out of proportion with

the others in the Conservation Area, insufficient parking was provided, the mews guidelines were stretched to their limit (or beyond) in several respects and any recommendations (such as recessing garages) were ignored. But because there were no other objectors present, the Committee granted conditional permission. It is worth noting that the Planning Department are using the 'mews guidelines' to give us less parking than is considered necessary in other parts of the borough; where 1.5 spaces are considered essential 'to cope with visitors/two car families, but only 1 per household is deemed necessary for 2 Wickham. It seems that our parking problems are unimportant!

Unless you want the Conservation Area to lose its trees and gardens and to be filled with little houses, YOU must take a more active interest in local planning matters. It is no good sitting back and saying we live in a 'conservation area'. If you attend a planning committee meeting you will see that it is the might of public opinion that sways councillors more than reasoned argument. The meetings are advertised in libraries.

With over-stretched planning offices it is all too easy for developers with their financial muscle to exploit the situation and bend the rules. Walls are knocked down, windows moved, rooms added and no enforcement action is taken.

IT REALLY IS UP TO YOU. WRITE TO THE LOCAL COUNCILLORS AND SUPPORT THE BROCKLEY SOCIETY.

RESTORATION

Many of the houses in this area still have Victorian features, be it the marble fireplaces, wooden window shutters, turned banister rails, or mouldings around the cornices and as ceiling roses.

Have you restored any of these in *your* house? There might be quite a fund of knowledge amassed by these workers,

For instance, due to many years of coating ceilings with whitewash, many of the intricate mouldings are now blobs and blurs, nothing showing of the original crisp, fine detail.

Several different methods have been tried to clean off the paint.

Some use 'Peel-Away' paint remover which is left on for days, then removed bringing the paint with it. I have found the easiest way (messy perhaps) is to soak the whitewash with water using a plant spray bottle and then picking it out with a small sculpting tool. One person used a scalpel, another a nailbrush. It's a time-consuming, neck-aching job but so rewarding when the original design in all its pristine glory is discovered. When asked 'where did you buy such a lovely ceiling rose?' how satisfying to say 'It's the original'.

Have you stripped the woodwork of many coats of paint? What is the best way and what gives the best natural wood finish.

We would like details of your successes (and failures) and also any queries you have. We will publish them and answer what we can. G.H.

Planning Applications

From July 1988

Breakspears Road

18c-Conversion of maisonette on 1st and 2nd floors to 1 one-bedroom and 1 two-bedroom flats. 3 Relux rooflights at front and 1 at side.

100-102-Details of brick to be used for the 2 houses at rear.

177-New application.

179-Erection of extension at rear and provision of 2 one-bedroom and 1 two-bedroom flats.

70-This application went to appeal to, the Department of Environment. This appeal, was refused. The Inspector considered that the conversion to 5 units was unsuitable in a Conservation Area, also front garden parking is not desirable. This might therefore create too much on-street parking.

Montague Avenue

12-Conversion to 2 one-bedroom and 2 two-bedroom flats and erection of 2-storey rear extension with roof terrace and railings.

Cranfield Road

50-Demolition of rear extension and conservatory, and erection of single storey extension.

Tyrwhitt Road

5-Erection of 2-storey extension at rear, and conversion to 2 one-bedroom and, 2 two-bedroom flats.

8-Erection of 3 garages at rear.

Tressillian Road

39-Revised plan for demolition of garages and erection of house with garage.

52-Revised plan for demolition of side extension, and erection of a 3-storey rear

extension in connection with conversion to 2 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom flats.

34-Erection of 2 storey rear extension, conversion to 2 three-bedroom maisonettes with communal laundry.

Manor Avenue

37-Erection of 2-storey two-bedroom mews house and garage with access to Wickham Mews, and 1 car parking space.

108-Alterations to the roof of the single-storey building to provide offices at first floor and 2 dormer windows in front.—*Comment: What roof?*

Wickham Road

20-Erection of 2 two-story, three-bedroom, houses with garages fronting on Wickham Mews.

99-Demolition of house and erection of 4-storey block of 3 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom flats, with 6 car spaces at rear.

Geoffrey Road

42-Enlargement of 2 storey extension at rear in connection with conversion to 2 flats and 1 maisonette.

Tree works at:-

64 Wickham Road.

168 Lewisham Way.

53 Tressillian Road.

89 Cranfield Road.

17 Darling Road.

103 Upper Brockley Road.

If you feel strongly about any planning applications, contact the Planning Department Lewisham Town Hall, Catford. Tel: 695-6000 and make your views known. The Council must take all relevant objection into consideration.

● FRUSTRATING! ●

There have been no meetings of the full **BOROUGH CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** since September '87. The Council has informed us that this is due to lack of staff. Representatives of all the Conservation areas in Lewisham who sit on this committee have attempted to organise a meeting but the Council has been unable to provide facilities.

These are the Policy Making meetings where we make sure the Council understands the views of local people on things such as:- Developments without permission i.e. 2 Wickham Road; Lack of enforcement; Obtrusive advertising on public footways; Consultation on significant developments adjoining conservation areas, i.e. the future of the National Discount site in Lewisham Way.

The representatives of all the Conservation Areas have met nearly every two weeks throughout the year as the 'Planning Applications Panel' and consider all current planning applications but need the B.C.A.C. meeting for policy discussions.

OUR TOWN HALL

Deptford Town Hall has been in the local news recently with scare stories of it being sold to Goldsmith's College for a song; and the Borough losing this very fine Grade 1 listed building. Most of our Conservation Area lies in the old Borough of Deptford and many of the past residents helped to pay for their prestigious New Town Hall in 1912. In fact one of the first Mayors of Deptford, Sir William Wayland, lived in Darling (then Albert) Road for many years.

Lewisham Council's original plan to build another new Town Hall in Catford and sell the Deptford one will not apparently happen. There are moves now to consider using the land behind Deptford Town Hall for the new Education offices when ILEA is abolished. As Goldsmith's College and SELTC are near, it seems a sensible idea to concentrate education in this area.

Councillor Goodyer stated categorically that public access to the front of the Town Hall is assured. I hope this means that people can go inside and view the magnificent staircase with its anchors and chains and the Council Chamber on the first floor with its intricately plastered ceiling and panelled walls.

At present it is almost impossible to get past the door, so most people don't know what they are missing. This building belongs to the people of the old borough of Deptford and we should be allowed access.

In 1968 Lewisham demolished the Town Hall in Catford, a building to rival Waterhouse's Manchester Town Hall over which many will eulogise. This same Council must not be allowed to sell or even hide OUR Town Hall any longer. Use it as a Public Building as was intended and let us enjoy our heritage. G.H.

TUMBLE TOTS is all about balance, co-ordination, stimulating the imagination and having fun. Tumble Tots offer programmes designed to provide the opportunity for supervised physical play 'with a purpose'

TUMBLE TOTS are opening in Brockley in October. For full details contact JULIA FORREST on 01-778 3830.

Drake Forum

The Forum continues to be a meeting place every 2 months, at 66 Wickham Road, when any local workers can meet, and share problems, swap solutions!

Recent meetings with 10-12 people have had a Community Link Nurse speaking on health care, discussed levels of DHSS payments and Housing Benefit levels since April '88.

Future meetings

Friday 25th November 1988 at 1-2pm with a talk by Margaret Moses from Drugline at Brockley Cross, to be held at 66 Wickham Road.

Then the last Friday of January and March 1989. J.J.

Lay Visitors

Several months ago 20 people were appointed by the Home Office as Lay visitors to Lewisham Borough. After training, 18 of these people began the task of visiting police stations within the Borough to speak to police officers and prisoners in order to assess whether prisoners were treated, according to the law, in a satisfactory manner. The visitors work is on a voluntary basis and they have already had some good results.

The work is time-consuming but very rewarding and many prisoners are more than happy to speak to Lay visitors and in all cases valid complaints from the prisoners are brought to the attention of the police officers in charge

ST PETER'S CHURCH HEATERS AND ORGAN. Cheerful red glowing heaters have warmed people for two winters now. Along with the spotlights the atmosphere in this surprisingly large Grade II listed church, designed to seat 1100 (presently about 800) is welcoming. This Summer the organ is being restored and its rededication and a special CONCERT by Southwark Cathedral's present organist Harry Branna will be on the 12th December 1988 at 8.00pm

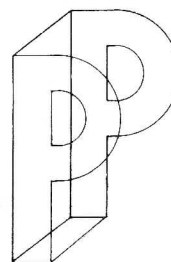


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