

# BROCKLEY



# SOCIETY

NEWS SHEET NO. 54 JUNE 1989

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



Following my article in the last Newsletter I received only four bookings and no offers of help. I was witness to the great community spirit that Brockley Residents can show when attending a Public Meeting at St Peter's Church — What's happened Folks? — where has it gone? I can imagine that you are all saying "but I'm so busy" this I appreciate because I and the other members also lead busy lives. We do however, feel that the community is important, we like to live in a pleasant environment and we would like it to stay that way. Please help — a large amount of our funds this

year has been and will be used to fight the Tunnel Link and the proposed six line Roadway designated for our area, we don't just need help — we are desperate. We need people to run their own stalls — people to man our stalls — people to organise attractions — publicity — Raffle prizes — Game prizes — Cakes — Bric-a-Brac — Books and finally general help both in the morning and late afternoon.

*The Day — Saturday — The Date — 1 JULY 1989.*

If you can offer help or you wish to donate or you wish to book a Stall — Telephone 691 9724 — NOW. Bernie

## ● BR: The Continuing BATTLE ●

The battle with BR over the proposed route for the Channel rail link continues. In our Conservation Area the fight is being organised through the efforts of BATTLE and the Society and over the Borough as a whole through the efforts of the numerous pressure groups established since BR made its decision to tunnel under this part of South East London.

The Society would like to thank all those who attended the special meeting on the 20th February and all those who volunteered their services and who made donations to the

Brockley Fighting Fund.

The Brockley Society is represented on Lewisham Council's Channel Tunnel Panel, which comprises of Members of the Council, Council Officers and representatives of the local pressure groups. The next planned meeting with BR for the Panel is on the 13th June when it is hoped more details of the proposed emergency access shaft on Hilly Fields will be made public.

Lewisham Council are also proposing a Public Meeting for all those in the Brockley Area in early July.

## *We Are Top of the List!* Extension of Conservation Area

We have written to Lewisham Council to propose an enlargement of the conservation area.

One edge of our conservation area runs along the backs of the Upper Brockley Road (even) houses. Behind these the Brockley Nursery meets the rear gardens of Malpas Road in an irregular line. This is the line the stream drained the four hills either side of Brockley Road, Telegraph Hill and Hilly Fields and so gave Brockley its name — (Brucca — stream, brook, Leah — meadow). In using this line as a boundary to the conservation area we would, in a small way be preserving its history.

The shops on our side of Brockley Road should be included and those in Coulgate Street, which are very interesting. Although they are known as 'Railway Cottages' it is possible that they were built when Coulgate Street was the site of the Croydon Canal.

The other major feature we would like to see in our Conservation Area is Hilly Fields. Between 1889 and 1896 the residents of the now Conservation Area raised £9000, this was 20% of the total cost, the rest being found by the L.C.C. and the two local boroughs. At the same time Hilly Fields Crescent, Montague Avenue, Adelaide Avenue and Eastern Road were planned to face the green space and give a more pleasing prospect from the Hill. It therefore seems right that all these roads and the open space should be part of our Area.

Lewisham Council (Environmental Services Cmtte) is considering an item on Conservation Areas at its June Meeting. Of the 15 proposals put forward, ours is the first on the Agenda. There will be public consultation by the Council in the Areas concerned but if you want to 'phone us and tell us what you think, we will pass on any comments to the relevant people. Ring Bob on 692 2289, or Gill on 692 6977. GH

## OLD BROCKLEY

Reproductions of photos of Old Brockley. Notelets are available from Bernie on 691 9724. These photos have been very popular. 50p a set of six or 10p each.

## New Roads in our Area??

The consultants for the South Circular Assessment Study have short listed nine options for improving transport in this area. Some of these suggest improvements to public transport, both bus and rail, new lines, more light railways, more passenger trains on the South London Line with a station at Brockley High Level (closed in 1917) or the extension of the Underground as far as Bromley. There are also four major road options, any one of which would cause widespread disruption in the Borough of Lewisham.

The map at the top of this article shows Option D, a medium cost alternative whereas the other major road proposals are high cost. The new road is to follow the railway line known as the South London Line, part of which is the Nunhead, Brockley (High Level) Lewisham goods line. Will all the long roads — Wickham, Breakspears and Tressillian be blocked at the bridge or will the road be in the cutting beside the railway? If so, how many houses will we lose? What about pollution from traffic fumes, continuous noise, strong lighting to keep you awake at night? A lot of us will not be able to reach Lewisham Way and Deptford, and the rest of us unable to get to Brockley Road without long diversions.

The proposed route through Brockley has a history — Abercrombie proposed it as Route B in 1944, Laycock reproduced it in 1956, it appeared as Ringway 1 in 1967-71 and it is Option D in the 1988 report.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

Write, before

July 1st., a letter saying you want NO MORE ROADS but improvements in public transport ACROSS South London.

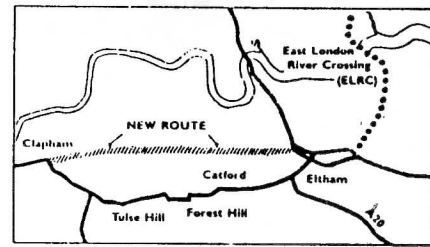
Write to: The Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher at 10, Downing St., London, SW1.

Joan Ruddock, MP (for Deptford)

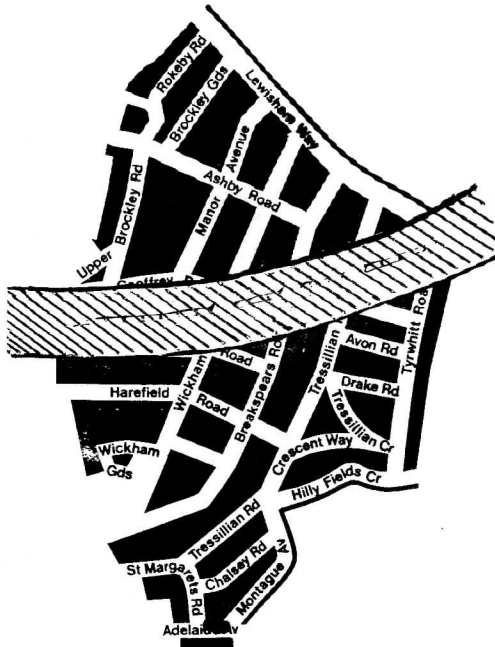
John Prescott, MP (Shadow Spokesman for Transport).

Both at — House of Commons, London, SW1 3EB.

The Rt. Hon. Paul Channon, MP (Sec. State for Transport).



NEW ORBITAL HIGHWAY NORTH OF THE SOUTH CIRCULAR



Map of Conservation Area showing route of new orbital highway passing through this area along railway.

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP (Sec. State for the Environment).

Mr. M. Portillo, MP (Minister of State for Transport).

Above three at — 2, Marsham Street, London, SW1 3EB.

Richard Balfe — Euro MP for South London Inner.

132-152 Powis Street, London, SE18 6NL.

and  
Cllr. D. Sullivan, Chairman, Environmental Services Cttee.

Town Hall, Lewisham, SE6 4RU.

Phone: Bernie on 691 9724 who has a copy of a specimen letter you can write.

COME to a public meeting in early September. This will be arranged to be held just before the DTp. puts forward its proposal. GH

## Planning Applications

### Wickham Mews

5-7-Demolition of garages and erection of 2 three-storey four bedroom Mews houses, garages and access to Wickham Mews.

### Tyrwhitt Road

5-Revised details of two storey rear extension to provide 2 one-bedroom and 2 two-bedroom flats.

46-Revised plans for 2 single storey extensions in connection with conversion to 2 two-bedroom and 1 one-bedroom flats and 1 one-bedroom maisonette and 2 garages in rear garden.

Rokeby House, Upper Brockley Rd. Conversion to hostel with 5 one-bedroom, 2 two-bedroom, 2 three-bedroom, 1 four-bedroom and 2 studio flats. Staff accommodation kitchen, laundry etc.

Tree works at: 43 Breakspears Rd.

16 Tressillian Crescent

Planning applications granted permission

58, Cranfield Road - Conversion.

99, Wickham Road - Demolition and erection of flats.

52, Cranfield Road - Conversion.

46, Tyrwhitt Road - Conversion to 4 Units.

1, Wickham Gardens - Conversion to 3 Units.

Rear of 20, Wickham Road - The Department of the Environment has allowed the application for 3 hses facing Nella's across Wickham Mews.

Planning applications refused permission

2, Wickham Road - Use of semi-basement in new extension.

45, Wickham Road - 2 hses. at the rear.

110, Manor Avenue - Sub-division from 4 to 5 Units.

## SAVE WASTE NEWSPAPER

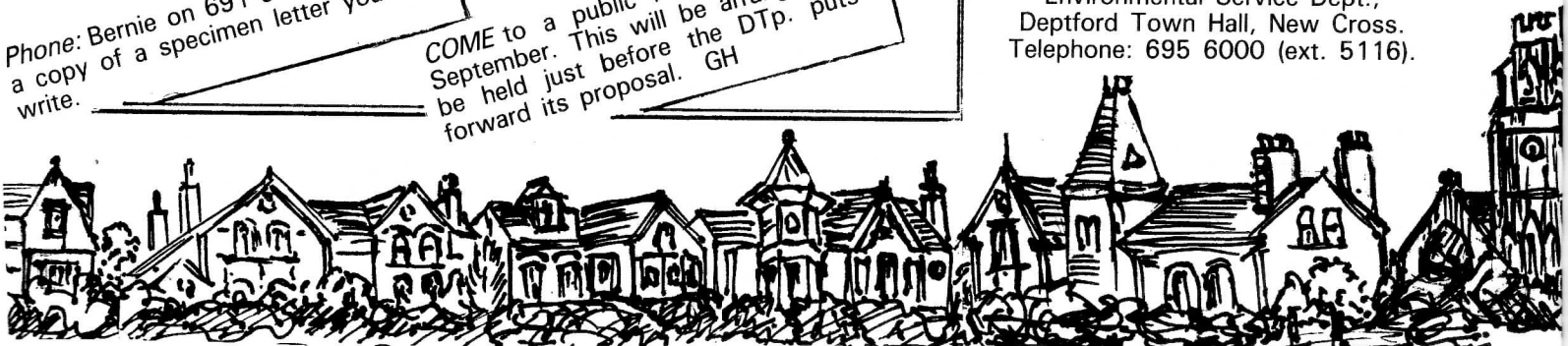
Three representatives of BrocSoc attended the launch of Lewisham Paper Banks on May 18th. We have 20 or so Bottle Banks which have proved very successful and now in association with Cheshire Recycling Ltd., Lewisham Council now has seven Paper Banks throughout the Borough. The Banks will be emptied regularly and are of metal construction with fire protection flaps.

This is the start of a Papersave scheme and if successful the number of Paper Banks will be increased. Householders throw away 4½ million tonnes of paper a year. Each tonne of recycled newsprint saves 17 trees! Paper Banks are for newspapers and magazines only, NOT telephone directories or mail order catalogues, which are held together with latex glues, nor cardboard.

You can of course, continue to support voluntary groups. Friends of the Earth successfully collect at Ladywell Lodge on the 2nd Saturday each month — 6 tonnes last month.

But whichever you do, Papersave and don't bin it.

For further information contact:  
The Client Cleansing Service Section,  
Environmental Service Dept.,  
Deptford Town Hall, New Cross.  
Telephone: 695 6000 (ext. 5116).



BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM • THE COUNCIL'S PHONE NUMBER NOW IS 01-695 6000

## JUNK MAIL

How many pieces of special pleading does the postman drop through your letterbox during the month? Probably too many and yet junk mail in Brockley is a mere trickle compared to say, New York's Greenwich Village where advertising agencies and the manufacturers of consumer goods combine to flood their potential customers with offers of free samples, next to free insurance, holiday timeshares or cut and present coupons to set against your next purchase at the supermarket. USA promotions issued 215 billion such coupons in 1988 worth about 100 million dollars at the checkouts. But is it all worth it? Do you rush into the stores to get that 15p off the washing powder now to be your choice of the month — do you collect six tokens from the tea packets to send away for some free knick-knack. Once your name and address is received by the promoters of Direct Marketing you are at once targeted as a 'customer' and all manner of lists will carry your name to be sent those brassy Mailing Shots for Books — Pictures — Clothes — Jewellery — Antique Reproductions — Insurance — Loans — the list is endless. 'Yes' coupons stream through the letterbox as Marketing Directors vie for your custom. If you sigh for this avalanche to slow down, and even stop, help may be over the horizon — more than one 'shop at home' magazine has closed down as more and more customers remain loyal to their favourite brands and put the Junk Mail where it belongs — in the waste paper collections for recycling. Who knows, you may even save a tree from the chain store — sorry, saw!

## SATELLITE DISHES

Proud owners of TVs receiving pictures from outer space will have been bombarded this week with guess what? Advertising. Because of the immense costs involved, commercial satellite television is very expensive, one company has spent £13 million on an advertising extravaganza running from now on into the summer. To receive all this on your screens you need a 'dish'. Planning permission is needed for any dish exceeding 90 cm and we hope that the round white 'dishes' will be erected in discreet positions. Perish the thought that these new aerials will match the horrors of the early rooftop aerials which sprung from chimney stacks when ordinary earth-bound TV came upon us in the early 1950's.

## HELPFUL HINT — D.I.Y.

**Question:** The ornate cornice in my living room is badly cracked and loose in places. How can I repair it invisibly?

**Answer:** If the crack has caused the two parts to be at very different levels, then it is probably best to gently lever off (remove) one piece. Either carve the ground or the back of the piece to fit flush, then coat both surfaces to be stuck with 1 to 5 Unibond and leave to dry. Use Tetrix filler as a gap filling adhesive, mixed rather thinner than usual. This can easily be sanded or carved when dry. If the cracked part is level but hollow behind and so rather loose, try using a 30-50 ml disposal syringe with a plastic tube 2" — 3" long in place of the needle. Drill holes in the cornice to allow the tube to reach the hole, then mix Tetrix to a thin poring consistency, and inject behind the moulding. The porous plaster of paris immediately soaks up the water and the Tetrix becomes firm and binds the parts together. Wipe off excess before final setting to save having to sand down later. Fill the drill holes later. A similar method has been used with success on a loose lath and plaster wall. GH

## The Return to Dickensian Standards?

Victorian houses, much in evidence in the Brockley Conservation Area, were built with cellars and basements of which a few survive to-day. Dark, dingy and damp the picture of gloom and doom pervaded these lower reaches of the splendid tall houses. Time was that with a coat of white-wash they were quite suitable for the tweeny and the bootboy to call home. Now, it seems that these subterranean rooms rising from the earth, half in the house and half below ground can be made into profitable space that can be called 'habitable rooms' and thus home to anybody who can obtain and afford a mortgage.

## JUST DRAINS

A few of the gullies (drain covers) have been cleared in Tressillian Road but many in the area are completely blocked — even trees growing in some!

Surely it is the duty of the Council periodically to clear the gullies systematically. This used to be done. Take note of blocked gullies as you walk around and notify the Borough Engineer or your local councillor.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In September of 1983 some roads covered by your Society became among the first Neighbourhood Watch Schemes introduced by the Metropolitan Police. In these six years we have seen changes in Crime Patterns not only locally but nationally. Although there have been 'hiccups', generally there has been a decline in the number of homes being broken into.

It is nice to report that because of information received, albeit anonymous, from members of your community several arrests were made of persons wanted for committing these crimes against you. 'Thank you'. Motor vehicle crimes never seem to go away so please do not leave valuables in the car. If you must do so, lock them away out of sight.

Since the start of the schemes there has been a large turnover of residents in this area. Do you know your neighbour? Please make some effort so that the Community keeps together and there are more people looking after each other and their property. A pleasant way to get to know each other is to organise small meetings to discuss items of interest to your Community. Your Crime Prevention Officers or local Home Beat Officers will only be too pleased to come and answer any queries you may have.

Last but not least a special 'Thank you' to Celia Burgess who has worked so very hard to keep the Scheme going, in particular the success she has had in organising the Self Defence lessons for women.

Your Crime Prevention Officers

## SELF DEFENCE

Owing to demand, the Police involved are willing to begin another course at St. Peter's Hall — shortly. Keep it up, Ladies — Be prepared — Please telephone 691 3719 for Further Information.

## NATURE RESERVES

The Ladywell Fields Nature Reserve (writes Brian Herring) will be more significant now that Lewisham Council have bought the waiting room on that side of Ladywell Station. There are plans to make this a local Museum and Nature Study Centre.

He also tells us that there will be a OPEN DAY at New Cross Gate Cuttings, Vesta Road on Sunday, 2nd July 1989.

*Birds in the Conservation Area are very busy just now, do please cherish and feed them.*



## St Peter's Centre

The Centre is still very much in need of people to use the Hall on a regular basis. Particularly during the day. The Centre could be a valuable asset to our community. Please help to make it this way.

We still have regular dog training classes each Monday and Wednesday in the Main Hall. New members, human and canine are very welcome.

Badminton and Kateda are held on Thursday evenings and would be grateful for more support.

BATTL hold Meetings at the Hall on a regular basis as do the Brockley Society. All members of both Groups are trying to keep Brockley as a Community — don't leave it to the guy next door — offer your help NOW.

The Management Committee will hold its Annual General Meeting on June 13th at 8.00 pm. Usually the Meeting is held in May but due to the recent illness of our Chairman we have postponed it for one month. The Committee are desperate for help and need more new members. Please come forward with your names and ideas.

For further information please telephone 691 9724.

For Hall Bookings telephone 692 4503 on Thursday Evenings. Bernie

## FAIR'S FAIR

The history of Fairs (Fayres) were derived from markets which were held weekly and the traders would reward their customers with an annual Fair which usually generated much merriment and some unseemly jollity. Such fairs were granted charters, many dating from King John's reign in the 13th Century. Few Charters survive today but PECKHAM remembers the Drovers Fair which was held between July 21 and August 3, next door to the Kentish Drover public house. DEPTFORD FAIR was at its height in the early 19th Century as were two Fairs at BLACKHEATH on May 12 and October 11, but these were suppressed in 1872. Riotous times were had in CAMBERWELL and in GREENWICH when the Fairs were held at the same time between August 10-20. CHARLTON HORN FAIR, of which the less said about the goings on the better, was in its heyday in the reign of Charles II when thousands of folk dressed as kings and queens and millers wearing horns visited Charlton by boat — needless to say this Fair ended in 1872. But take heart folks — BROCKLEY CONSERVATION FAYRE is here and now — Please see front page.

## TOXOCARIASIS

The eggs of the round worms Toxocaris Canis are found in dog excreta. Young children at play can find such interesting shapes when out playing, they may even suck their fingers and thus eat the dirt. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine say that more than one child a week suffers sight loss as a result of Toxocariasis. It is believed that most infection occurs from grassed public areas or pavements. Apart from damage to eyesight which may be permanent, the medical journal 'Lancet' reported other horrors such as stomach pains, nausea, fever, wheezing, lethargy, ear trouble, limb pains, sleeplessness, pneumonia and liver damage. Some district councils implemented bye-laws insisting on 'poop and scoop' methods of collecting dog excreta. Two Councils collection of the waste resulted in 1000 kilos of faeces being destroyed. Surely our open spaces and pathways should not be left uncleaned. Dog owners MUST recognise their duty to clean up after their animals, remember young children are at risk as well as at play.



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