

BROCKLEY



SOCIETY

NEWS SHEET NO. 55 OCTOBER 1989

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

***** **THE BROCKLEY SOCIETY** *****

What is BrocSoc? Who are we? What are we doing?

The Brockley Society was formed after the declaration of the Brockley Conservation Area in 1978. Its aims are to protect the character of this, the largest intact area of Victorian housing in South London. At the time, developers were buying and sometimes demolishing, houses which should have been preserved.

The Society has representatives on the Borough Conservation Advisory Committee (BCAC) who comment on all planning applications in the conservation areas. BrocSoc is NOT a preservation society—we recognise the need for change but wish to secure that changes are in keeping with the original character of the area and serve to improve the area and its amenities. This means that not only do we make suggestions on current, planned alternations, but campaign to improve those parts of the area which have been allowed to deteriorate, and we also work with the Council to outlaw unauthorised exterior alterations which are not permitted development.

Although we are concerned with the area's social amenities, the Society was not formed to provide community entertainment. A Brockley Neighbourhood Council was started in 1975 but it did not last long, and no other group has come together to foster a community spirit.

To finance our activities we used to collect waste paper throughout the area until the price fell so low that we were spending so much money on petrol, that we felt it not worthwhile! Now we rely on the Annual Fayre, and donations, to provide money for the Newsletter and running the Society.

Because we run the Fayre which provides entertainment some people mistakenly think we are a 'Community Association'. Many of us would like to expand in that direction but feel it would be too time-consuming for the few who are already involved with Society's work.

We would welcome more participation from all residents, particularly those new to the area. This is an ideal way to meet your neighbours and get something going in the area which will interest many of us.

If you require general guidance on design standards, wish to discuss a planning proposal or require information on grants, we try to help.

Gill Heywood writes:— I have been Chairman of the Society for six years and think that it is time for a change. Now that I am Chair of the Borough Conservation Advisory Committee I shall have less time to devote to the Brockley Society. I also think that we need new faces and new ideas. This is the only residents' group for this area and we should be doing many more things to interest various sections of the community. We monitor the planning applications, traffic problems, rubbish and fly tipping and try to improve the environment.

We also hold the Annual Fayre on Hilly Fields and in recent times we set up the public meetings out of which BATTL came to fight B.R's proposals for a Tunnel Rail Link. The social side is sadly lacking; we have the ideas but not enough people to carry them out—a forum for D-I-Y and gardening problems, local history talks and working groups, a boot sale are some suggestions. Anyone who is interested please ring me on 692 6977.

Send nominations for Chairman or Committee to the Secretary, Flat 2, 106 Breakspears Road, Brockley.

The Brockley Society Newsheet

The object of this Newsheet is to tell our readers (hopefully all residents of the Conservation Area) what is going on in and about the Area. You can have your say about anything that concerns you:

BOOT SALE

in SELTEC CAR PARK
Sunday November 12th
9.0 am to 2.0 pm

Cars £5 booked, £7 on the day
Vans £7 booked, £9 on the day
Cheques to Brockley Society Send with car Registration No. to:— The Secretary, Flat 2 106, Breakspears Road.

Refreshments available, have a great clear-out ready for Christmas and help the BrocSoc Funds.

Can you help in marshalling the cars from 8.0 am till 10.0 am (and get the best of the bargains!) or will you help clear up afterwards 1.0 pm till 3.0 pm? All offers welcomed—

—Please phone 692 6977.

WORLD WAR II

A class at Myatt Garden School is looking at Brockley in the Second World War. Have you any reminiscences which you would like to share? The pupils would be eager to hear first hand, the sort of things that happened 50 years ago in this area. Please 'phone 692 6977 and we will pass on your messages.

OLD BROCKLEY

Notelets with 'photographs of old Brockley are still available—Use them as Christmas Cards. There are 6 different pictures with envelopes. A set of 6 — 50p. Each — 10p. 'Phone 692 2409.

Annual General Meeting is to be held on Monday, October 23rd at 8pm in the Small Committee Room St. Peter's Centre, Cranfield Road

Nominations are wanted for
Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary

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.

Borough Conservation Advisory Committee

The first formal meeting of the Borough Conservation Advisory Committee for over a year was held at Lewisham Town Hall on the 12th September. This Committee, which has two representatives from the Brockley Society, discusses matters of concern, including planning applications, relevant to all the Conservation Areas in the Borough.

Gill Heywood, Chairman of the Brockley Society, was unanimously elected Chair of the Committee. All the Committee members were agreed that Gill's involvement in conservation matters and her dedication to our particular area, the largest of the conservation areas, made her the ideal choice for this important post.

As a matter of particular interest to Brockley, it was confirmed at the meeting that the enlargement of the Conservation Area to include all of Hilly Fields would be given high priority. This would give the Council more authority in its negotiations with British Rail over the siting of its intended Channel Tunnel Link emergency shaft on Hilly Fields.

New Homes from Old

'A Reader' has written to us protesting about an item in our last News Sheet—he (or she) seems to have misunderstood our message of 'Return to Dickensian Standards'. Of course the majority of basement flats in the Conservation Area make very desirable homes. However, with the recent disastrous rise in the cost of housing there has a tendency for developers to cash in. The article was prompted by a planning permission recently given for use of a coal cellar as a bedroom.

Note: Please give your name and address in all letters to BrocSoc—not necessarily for publication.

Traffic and Roads

Following numerous comments on the effect of the new traffic lights at Adelaide Avenue and Brockley Road, on the traffic in our area, we have contacted the Council. We are assured that the Hilly Fields Traffic Cell 'improvements' won't be implemented without public consultation. It is now nine years since first proposed. A traffic count will be undertaken soon, to find the change in traffic flow, for both sides of Brockley Road. A report should go to the Council in November.

The bollards at the road narrowing Geoffrey Road will be replaced with permanent ones, and at our request the Council intend to put a notice at the Wickham Road end of Geoffrey Road, warning of the width restriction, this should stop the present chaos when a lorry has to back up to Wickham Road.

We have also requested that the road markings in Ashby Road be corrected to one-way working—they have been incorrect for at least 11 years!

The junction of Hilly Fields Crescent and Tyrwhitt Road has always been dangerous and we have many times tried to get it improved, but have always been told 'wait until Brookbank Road by the bowling green is closed as part of the Hilly Fields Traffic Cell', as this is still in the distant future, we are again agitating for something to be done. A suggestion is that the traffic from Hilly Fields Crescent must stop at the junction, rather than the Tyrwhitt Road traffic. We are waiting for a reply from the Council on this issue.

Thank you for your comments, complaints, suggestions—keep telling us and we will try to get the area improved for all of us. G.H.

Planning Applications

Manor Avenue
Rear of 84/86 Erection of 2 storey block of flats & 6 garages.

Brockley Road
301 Retention of structure in rear yard.

Hilly Fields Crescent
No.9 Demolition of Coach House & single storey extension & connect whole to provide 5 units and 7 car spaces.

Tressillian Road
No.49 Convert to provide 4 units plus 4 car spaces in front garden.
No.28 Convert to provide 4 self-contained flats.
No.64 Construct external metal staircase.

Garsington Mews
Former stables at rear. Demolition & erection 4/bedroom dwelling hsq. with integral garage.

Upper Brockley Rd.
No.96 Detached conservatory in garden.
No.157 Use of garage for car repairs.

Breakspears Road
No.48 Alteration to 2nd floor to provide extra accommodation.

Wickham Road
No.2 Provide 5 car spaces at rear.

Wickham Mews
No.5-7 Erect pair of 2 storey 2 bed mews houses with integral garages.

St. Margarets Road
No.25 Erection 2 storey 1 bed dwelling house.

Geoffrey Road
No.24 Convert to 3 units

Adelaide Ave.
Site of No.52 Erection of 7 units in 4 storey block plus 10 car spaces at rear

Tyrwhitt Road
No.5 Convert 3 units.

Manor Avenue
Rear of No.102 Change of use—dwelling to offices.
Tree Works at:—121 Upper Brockley Road
9 Tressillian Road
Popular House
Alder House

Planning Applications Passed

Wickham Road
No.43 2 Houses at rear

Crescent Way
No.29a Alteration of garage to bedroom.

Planning Applications Refused

Tyrwhitt Road
No.5 Conversion to 4 units.

Adelaide Avenue
Site of No.52 Building containing 6 units & car parking.

Breakspears Road
No.179 Conversion to 3 units.

Tressillian Road
No.63 House at rear, facing Crescent Way.

2-8 Chalsey Road



AT LAST! The end of the saga—the houses in Chalsey Road were sold, demolished & new buildings erected.



Midsummer Fayre

THE DAY began with black clouds and heavy rain, one of the few days this summer that we have had rain. The weather, we think was the major contributory factor in keeping away many stallholders who had booked; however the ones who did arrive had a rewarding day and a pleasant time. BrocSoc had a successful day, perhaps not as good as we hoped but nevertheless the afternoon seemed to be enjoyed by all. The variety of stalls was enormous, a choice for everyone. Children were pleased with the Games and the performance given by the Brockley Dog Club was a popular event as was the Smallest Theatre in the World presented by Marcel Steiner. Fancy Dress entrants once again surpassed all efforts of previous years; the Vicar of St. Peter's Church—Rev. Geoff Van der Weegan was given a very hard task in selecting the eventual winners. The Mayor of Lewisham—Cllr Nicholas Taylor opened the Fayre and remained present for a good deal of the afternoon. He spoke individually to all stallholders and took great pains in judging the Arts and Crafts Exhibits. Brockley Society on behalf of all the charities present on the day would like to thank everyone involved for a wonderful day.

Profit from The Summer Fayre—
£553.31

Many of the Local Shops and Businesses gave generously for prizes for the Fayre. Our grateful thanks to:—

Tyrwhitt Road/Loampit Hill

K. J. Supplies
Northwoods, Chemists
Spalding & Sparrow, Newsagents
Glen's, Greengrocer
Taylor's Grocer
The Talbot

Brockley Cross

Elizabeth
The Bay Tree
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Brockley Road

Southern Building Supplies
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Magpie Antiques
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Brockley Aquaria
Coombs, Turf Accountant
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Sewells, Newsagents
Starbuck Upholstery
Jackies, Greengrocer
Brockley Glass

Crofton Park

Marjie, Hairdresser
Simmonds, Greengrocer
Smiths, Butcher
Barclays Bank, Crofton Park
Bond Insurance Brokers, Loampit Vale

Upper Brockley Road

The Gallery
The Lord Wolsely
The Wickham Arms

Deptford

Ebenistes, custom made furniture and wood mouldings

We apologise if anyone has been missed.

New Roads in our Area??

The Government is taking fright—cash in on it! The threat of a major motorway through the area is still with us and will be for some months yet. Transport Secretary Cecil Parkinson should receive proposals in October. After public meetings and discussions, decisions are not expected until well into next year. In a bid to please the environmentalist lobby the government has indicated that tunnelling is the answer. Any tunnelling done in this area would have to be cut and cover, so demolishing hundreds of buildings just in the Conservation Area and it would be extremely expensive. Tunnelling would not overcome the 'spaghetti'

junctions envisaged for both Brockley Cross and the junction of Tyrwhitt Road and Lewisham Way and would not solve any of the environmental problems.

We need an integrated PUBLIC TRANSPORT system in South East London. Investment in public transport and lower fares is the only way forward for a conurbation as large as London, other capital cities have solved their problems this way long before they reached the proportions of the mess we drive and try to travel in. You can influence the government on this issue, it is very vulnerable at present.

Continuing BATTL ●

On the evening of BrocSoc's Summer Fayre, BATTL were the hosts at St. Peters Centre, to a 60's Night. The evening was excellent and was popular with all who attended, however it was obvious that the music later in the evening was very loud and we understand that some neighbours were disturbed and for this the Committee of BATTL would like to apologise most sincerely. BATTL will be holding a Christmas Event early in December—Watch out for the Adverts!

The Committee of BATTL are again planning strategies in order to help Brockley with regards to the Tunnel Link. We desperately need more willing and able people to help with all the work which has to be done before November. We are also in need of Funds and would appreciate Donations. Please forward all you can to The Treasurer at 89 Tyrwhitt Rd. Brockley. If you want further information please telephone: 639 4293 / 692 6977 / 691 9724 and we will do our best to help.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

The final route as published by B.R. on September 13th is the same as that proposed in June. There are to be fewer vent shafts, but the escape shaft to be on Hilly Fields remains, now just south of the play area at the corner of the school site. Access is to be by a new road from Adelaide Avenue. The Brockley Society will be acting to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum and that the design of the final edifice is in keeping with the area. BATTL will be giving advice on how to petition parliament, complain about lack of compensation, get a survey done free by B.R. on your house if you live in the 80m wide corridor, and other ways of helping all of us. Read Lewisham 'Signals' when it comes through your door and act on it.

*** STOP PRESS ***

Visit Ladywell Leisure Centre on 17 & 18 October from 12 noon to 8pm. (The forecourt of Ladywell Baths).

B.R. is holding a second Channel Tunnel Rail Link Exhibition.

MARCH & RALLY

NOV 5

Join the Link wide march from the Embankment to Trafalgar Square. Ring 693 4293 for details and chance to book a place on the BATTL BUS, and come to the next Battl meeting Oct. 19th 8pm., St. Peter's Centre.



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 (off Lewisham Way)

A letter from an Observer

When we first came to live in the 'leafy suburb of Brockley' in 1952, the pavements, gutters and ground around trees in the roads were free of weeds—often removed by road sweepers and treated with weed killer at the appropriate time. Now as I walk around, the roads in Brockley remind me of areas which, during the war, were used by the Army and closed to civilians.

There is grass growing better on the pavements than on some lawns! I have seen golden rod, michaelmas daises, buddleia, hollyhock, silver birch as well as numerous weeds growing in the nick between wall and pavement.

As the Council cannot do this weeding, why not do it ourselves? If you look around as you leave your front garden and can see greenery where it should not be, attack it with spade, broom and shovel and let's see how the area is improved.

Saturday October 14th might be a fine day—and there will be a full moon at night. So—EVERYBODY OUT! K.M.T.

DID YOU KNOW?

6 Facts about Wheelibins:

1. Each bin is individually numbered and recorded against your address.
2. If a bin disappears the Council will replace it.
3. If you destroy your bin, a new one will cost you £35.
4. There are 5 sizes of bin available on request. 120 1,240 1,360 1,660 1 (green) & 1100 1.
5. A bin is guaranteed for 5 years, but may well reach the age of 12.
6. You can be as creative as you like in decorating your bin.

OLD BINSTORES AND WHEELIBINS

Have you got a binstore which cannot be used, and the wheelibins cluttering up your front garden? If you write to the Council and ask them to remove the roof of the binstore, it will be done, free. (The request has to be in writing or the Council could be accused of damaging your property). Then, we are assured that the wheelibins will fit into your binstore.

STOP PRESS

Discussion is taking place between SELTEC and BrocSoc with a view to using their car park to site a collecting bin for drink cans. They

have located a metal merchant who will pay 1p a can. If we join with SELTEC the money could be shared and BrocSoc funds would benefit.



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 Brockley Road/Breakspears Arms
 Molesworth St./by Model Market
 Albion Way/Car Park

Paper Banks: Emptied Mons. & Fri.
 Brockley Rise/Codrington Road
 Molesworth St/by Model Market

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 Evening: 659-6812

St. Peter's Centre

The Centre in Cranfield Road is the venue for many events.

- Brockley Dog Club
- Self Defence
- Badminton etc.

The Centre badly needs active Members to join the Management Committee, we need help and suggestions for fund raising, also Donations would be very much appreciated. Do keep your Community Centre alive and why not give a little of your time to help? Other dates for your diary:

21st October—Saturday Jumble Sale. Proceeds for running the Centre.

18th November—Saturday 2.0 pm Christmas Bazaar in the Centre; and in the Evening at 7.30 pm A Concert by the Lewisham Choral Society in the Church.



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