



Library Closure

The local Deptford library in Lewisham Way is due to close next summer depriving the area of an important leisure and educational facility.

It will mean local schools taking youngsters across major roads to the new site in Giffin Street, Deptford.

The elderly and disabled will also have to struggle some distance if they want to borrow a book – one of the few cheap and enjoyable forms of entertainment still on offer.

Although the closure of the library, which opened in 1914 as the Borough of Deptford Central Library, has been

chance for those with little money to read newspapers and magazines for free. It is also a valuable reference source to find out about local events and activities and is a meeting point for the local community.

Five schools use the library and last year 48,000 adult and 21,500 junior books were loaned. There are 16,000 borrowers registered.

Although the library records are currently being computerised and are expected to reveal that there are a much lower number of active borrowers, this still means that thousands of local residents are users of the library.

time and hassle of using at least two busses... *just to borrow a book.* This includes the elderly and those with poor vision who enjoy the larger type books the library has to lend.

Not surprisingly, the local people have voted overwhelmingly in favour of the new development. However, the local people surveyed were in Deptford High Street *not* Brockley.

The council would have probably gained an entirely different response if it asked Brockley residents if they wanted their library closed.

The Brockley Society has decided to do its own survey. Enclosed in this newsletter is a questionnaire. Please fill it in and return it to the editor as soon as possible so that your views can be heard.

So far Lewisham Council has not decided what the Grade One listed building should be used for. Do you have any suggestions, maybe you would like a small, part time library in the area?

Please enclose your suggestions on the questionnaire. The library was donated to the community and is part of our heritage. We may elect the local council, but we certainly did not vote them in on this issue and we should be allowed a say in what happens to *our* facilities which *we* pay for.

Also, if you want your views on the Giffin Street site to be put forward, please include these.

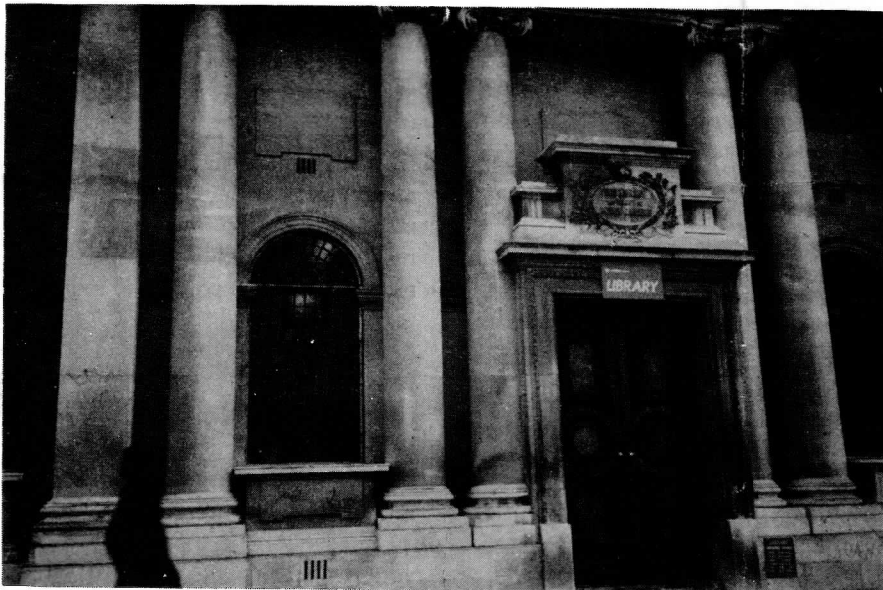
For instance; Myatt Garden Primary School which has 350 pupils, and has up to 300 books out on loan at any one time, to boost its own resources, currently makes good use of the Laurie Grove baths and the Deptford Library.

Apart from the obvious logistical problems of taking young children such a long way across busy roads, it wants to know the entrance fee to the new leisure pool.

Borrowing a book and going for a swim used to be among the few leisure activities nearly everyone could afford. But leisure pools can be very expensive.

If you have any other questions please write them down so that we can pass them on. We are looking forward to your replies.

✍️ Niki Chesworth



rumoured for some years many local people do not yet know that Lewisham Council finally plans to shut its doors next year.

The reference library of commercial and technical books was closed almost two years ago and, ever since, the future of the main lending library has been in the balance.

The library, a gift to the community from Andrew Carnegie, has 35,000 adult books and 8,000 junior books, three to four thousand cassettes and hundreds of records. It also provides entertainment for children during the school holidays, a photocopying and facsimile service and a

Lewisham Council claims that the library is "badly sited, under used and inflexible for development." It also says it is "out of the way", and that it "can't do anything with it".

There are also several advantages to the Giffin Street site, which will combine the Deptford and Old Town libraries and the Laurie Grove swimming pool.

For a start we will be able to combine a visit to Deptford High Street market with a swim and borrow a book at the same time. Well, that is if we can all get there.

We do not all have cars. So, on wet and windy days those who want to use the library will have to suffer the extra cost,

As summer fades and autumn creeps up on us again, it is time for work in the

Gardening Notes

✍ Nicole Livingstone-Smith

garden to begin again in earnest. Dead flower heads should be removed from all faded blooms where you do not want the seed to set. Cut the perennials that have finished flowering down to within six inches of the ground.

As autumn progresses leaves should be removed regularly from the lawn and placed on a compost heap or in large plastic sacks where they can be left to decompose slowly during the course of the next year. Once rotted they make excellent mulch which can be spread over flower beds and round the base of roses in late autumn.

Dead head roses by removing not only the emerging hip, but also the first set of leaves, cutting to within a ¼" of the second set. Major pruning is best left until spring.

July/August is the true season for taking cuttings, but if you haven't got round to it

yet, then there is still time. Snip young semi-ripe shoots (shoots that are still pliable) from bushes such as Buddleia, Forsythia, Rosemary and Lavender. Remove the growing tip and reduce the cutting to about four inches in length. The end for rooting should be cut just below a leaf junction. Remove the lower set of leaves, moisten the prepared end and dip in hormone rooting powder. Fill a pot with compost. Make a hole in the compost with a pencil and insert the cutting and firm the soil around it gently. Water well.

Remember to take several cuttings in case some don't take and keep them moist throughout the winter. By next spring they will have formed roots.

Cleaning Up

We still have dog excrement littering our pavements, it is difficult to avoid being personally soiled in this way. The council's use of Pooper Scooters does not seem to have reduced the problem. So, dog walkers, do give Fido a present; take home a full pooper scooper of your very own.

✍ Roger Vincent

A Note on Double Parking

Residents of Manor Avenue who had double parked their cars overnight recently, woke to find that they had received parking tickets. Whilst double parking in unrestricted side streets is hazardous and a nuisance and we do not wish to encourage it, it is not an offence in its own right, as long as the Police, ambulances and fire engines can pass easily between the cars.

Defending his right to park Mr J.Roynane, who proved to the court on the 21st of August, that the minimum width for a fire tender had been maintained. The case was successfully defended.

✍ Nicole Livingstone-Smith

Planning Applications

Applications Applied for:

Wickham Road:

No.2 Conversion of basement extension to one 1 bedroom flat.

No.13 Jasmine Hse, Installation of a satellite dish on rear elevation.

No.35 Retention of red brick wall with ornamental railings at front.

Breakspears Road:

No.110 To establish use as 3 flats.

Upper Brockley Road:

159/159a Revised plans for development of MOT garage site as residential.

No.127 Continued use as a Housing Action Area Office.

No.135a Retention of satellite dish on rear.

Tressillian Road:

No.52 Demolition of garage and erection of another.

No.63a Replacement of existing conservatory at rear.

Chalsey Road

No.28a Use of loft area as additional bedroom.

Hilly Fields Crescent:

No.16 Revised application for alteration of roofspace.

Lewisham Way:

Land at rear of Nos. 128-130a Erection of two storey office building.

Tyrwhitt Road:

No.41 Demolition of rear bay window and erection of 2 storey extension

Harefield Road:

No.71 Retention of satellite dish on rear of roof slope.

Granted Permission:

No.70 Breakspears Road

No.43 Wickham Road

No.28a Chalsey Road.

Refused Permission:

No.2 Wickham Road (Basement Flat)

No.325/327 Brockley Road

No.70 Upper Brockley Road (House in rear garden)

No.24 Geoffrey Road

No.23 Hilly Fields Crescent

No.27a Montague Avenue

No.22 Cranfield Road.

Treeworks:

No. 53 Breakspears Road

Nos.51a, 102, 198 & 57 Tressillian Road

Nos. 68 & 108 Breakspears Road

Nos.11 & 13 Tyrwhitt Road

No.19 Cranfield Road

No. 84 Geoffrey Road

Thankyou, and Goodbye.

In this issue we must say goodbye to Bill and Kathleen Turner, who edited this newsletter for many years. Mr and Mrs Turner have moved from Tressillian Road to Staffordshire, to be nearer their family. A big *thankyou* is in order for all the hard work they have done for BrocSoc in the past.

We are also grateful for Mr & Mrs Turner's donation to the Society of the folding Machine that folded the page you are now looking at.

Reflected Glory

Congratulations to local athlete John Regis. His multiplicity of gold, silver and bronze medal wins rewarded truly magnificent performances at the recent European Athletic Championships held in Split.

Also our good wishes for an early return to football's First Division for Millwall F.C. Their quick wins in the current season surely means their stay in Division 2 will be short lived.

✍ Roger Vincent

Watch Out, there's a neighbour about.

Thanks to Niki Chesworth for her "Victims" report, BrocSoc No.57.

The Home Office minister is reported as saying; "Community crime prevention is a force for the good—urging neighbours together, leading to good relations with the police and reducing the fear of crime."

Why not use your postcode to mark your movable property; bicycles, mowers, prams, TV's, videos, jewellery etc. There is a sticker available saying "Our Property is Postcoded". Don't make it easy for thieves.

Incidentally it may be possible for you to get discounts on home insurance policies for approved Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and for fitting good locks and alarms. Look into this with your insurance company and help yourself to help beat the burglar.

✍ Roger Vincent

Please write to us.

Tell us about anything you think will interest other readers, comment on what you have read in the newsletter, disagree with someone, tell us what you think of the newsletter and what you would like to see in it.

Please keep your letters concise and get straight to the point. Send them to

The Editor,

c/o 11c, Tressillian Road,
Brockley. SE4 1YG.

Brockley Station Update

The state of Brockley station has prompted many of its users to justifiably complain.

Now their case is being taken up by Councillor Michael Barry who joins Harold Shalet, who has been trying to get improvements from British Rail for some time.

At last their efforts seem to be paying off. Lewisham Transport committee is making good progress with British Rail. Until recently there was even talk of rebuilding Brockley station, but that has fallen by the wayside.

However, Lewisham Council and British Rail have pledged £10,000 for improvements.

Another gold star in the making?

Let's hope that these improvements include, (suggestions come from local resident Alison Munro, a Brockley commuter for the last seven years);

- ✓ A paved exit from the side gate so that passengers do not have to wade through the mud.
- ✓ Extra seating for passengers who sometimes have to wait for up to an hour.
- ✓ Extra shelter so passengers do not have to wait in the snow, rain or hail.
- ✓ A telephone in the station so that travellers can let work or friends and relatives know when they will be late because of cancellations and delays.

To that we ought to add a proper tannoy system so that passengers can be informed if a train is cancelled or delayed. That way, they will not have to wait on the platform when they could be making alternative travel arrangements.

We would also like to see more lighting in the approach to the station and, of course, more trains that preferably run on time.

If you have other suggestions of ways to improve the station or its services, please write to us so that we can include them in our consultations.

✉ Steve Chesworth

Local History

Part 2.

The History of Brockley has been difficult to research as the history of Deptford and the history of Lewisham are very different, and until 1965 Brockley was divided between them.

This part concentrates on the northern, Deptford part of Brockley.

The Parish of St Nicholas and, later, St.Paul, Deptford stretched from the river Thames in the north to a line which now forms the rear gardens of Crescent Way and Breakspears Road. It was bounded on the east by a footpath from Deptford to Ladywell which ran at the rear of the gardens on the east side of Tyrwhitt Road. For centuries this was the countryside of Deptford, fields and woods on the hills above the riverside town.

Although it is recorded that "Brocele" was once a manor, I can find no evidence of either a manor house or a manor court, although, there was a manor farm.

Soon after the norman conquest, most of the hundred of Blackheath in the county of Kent, which includes Deptford and Greenwich but not Lewisham and Woolwich was in the ownership of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, Earl of Kent and half brother of William I. Either Odo was still in the King's favour (he was the real leader of the Norman force at the Battle of Hastings in 1066) or he had taken the opportunity while in power, when William returned to France in March 1067 leaving Odo residing over a temporary Government. He was obviously more suited to the sword than the church, and by all accounts used extortion and perversion of justice to amass land and great wealth.

In 1802, having handed over the running of the hundred of Blackheath to the Bishop of Lisieux, Odo Prepared to visit Rome with the intention of influencing the cardinals and finally, the Pope. In France, William heard of Odo's intentions and intercepted him in the Isle of White, where he was tried of numerous crimes.

The confiscated manor of West Greenwich or Deptford was given to Gilbert de Magminot to raise men and money for the defence of Dover Castle. Gilbert chose to live at Deptford and built a castle which stood near the site of Says Court, now on the Edge of the Pepy's Estate. Deptford passes to his son Hugh and then to Grandson Wakelin.

We are told that in 1145 Wakelin gave the Manor of Deptford to the monks of Bermondsey, Surrey, but a little before 1189 his son, also Wakelin, gave the land of "Brocele" to Michael de Turnham for forty shillings for a yearly rent of twelve pence. Michael then sold the land to Wakelin's wife Juliana so that she could found a monastery there.

She bestowed Brockley upon the premonstratensian monks of white friars "in pure perpetual alms for an habitation". No sooner had Juliana given Brockley to the monks than they were complaining- Brockley was not good enough and they persuaded Michael's nephew Robert de Turnham to give them an estate at Bayham near Lamberhurst, on the Kent/Surrey borders.

✉ Gill Heywood

Library Questionnaire

Do you or your family use this library YES/NO

Would you like it to remain open YES/NO

Would you find it difficult to visit the new Deptford High Street Library YES/NO

What do you think the building should be used for if the library did close?

I declare that I am a local resident, and that these are my feelings on the Closure of Deptford Library

name:

signature:

date:

St. Peter's Church, Wickham Road
Events taking
place in the near future

Sunday Services:

8am, 10:30am and 6pm

Saturday, 6th October:

Scout Jumble Sale. 2:30pm StPeter's
Centre, Cranfield Road.

Sunday, 7th October:

Harvest Festival Family Service.
10:30am

Monday, 8th October:

Harvest Supper. 7pm StPeter's Centre.
Tickets from church, £1.50.

Saturday, 13th October:

Coffee morning, Bring&Buy and cake
stall. 10:30 am, Parish lounge in church.

Saturday, 17th November:

Christmas Bazaar, 2pm.

Satellite Dishes

The D.O.E. is in a process of consultation over altering the permitted development rights for satellite antennae, especially in conservation areas, such as this one. We will report when the results are announced.

Currently planning permission is not needed for:

- ① a single dish on a dwelling house (housing *one* family only), but it must be below the roof ridge.
- ② Two dishes on buildings more than 15 metres (50 feet) high, but they must be placed so as to minimise visual intrusion, (say on a roof to serve all the flats in a building), note you will need a Cable Television Company Licence to connect more than one dwelling unit to the same dish.

Any building which is under 15m high (this includes the vast majority of the buildings in this area), which is now converted to flats is not allowed *any* satellite dishes without planning permission.

✍ Gill Heywood

Trees Under Threat

Yet another BR intrusion comes to our attention. They wish to sell three acres of trackside woodland between Brockley and Honour Oak stations. Did we hear you say "So what! Its only railway embankment." But wait, the London Ecology Unit have recommended it be designated a Grade One site of Borough importance as one of the largest areas of woodland in the Borough. The site supports many fine and rare trees including Sweet Chestnuts, Wild Cherry and Oaks. Birds rely on the bramble and hawthorns for food in glades rich in flowers and grasses— at least 53 plant specimens. Thirty five species of birds including Tawny owls, Kestrels also woodpeckers nest and feed in this quite rare and so far undisturbed natural haven.

Development will destroy almost all of this valued area, we must all help to conserve this wood.

Make a date to attend Lewisham Town Hall on November 13th, when the Department of Environment will be hearing an appeal. Also write your protest now to; Planning Inspectorate, D of E, Room 1202E, Tellgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol, BS2 92J quoting APP/C5690/A/90/1503/12. You can also sign a petition at the Library at Crofton Park. Remember once lost these trees will no longer be home to some of the Borough's rarest wildlife.

✍ HOCPPRA

(Honor Oak and Crofton Park
Residents Assoc.)

With Thanks

This year's summer Fayre was generously supported by local shops and businesses to whom we are very grateful. We thank the following:

Loampit Hill—

72, B&R Windows; 55, KJ's Building Supplies; 57, Northwood's Chemist; 61, Spalding & Sparrow Newsagents; 62, Glen's Greengrocers

Tyrwhitt Road—

1a, Taylor's Grocers; 2, The Talbot

Upper Brockley Road—

74, The Gallery; The Wickham Arms; The Lord Wolseley

Colgate Street—

4, Eylet's Tailoring

Brockley Cross—

28, "Breeze In"; 28a, Brockley Cross Furniture; 21-3, M&M Contractors; 25, EH Baker Optician

Brockley Road—

169, Alpharm Chemists; 175, Sev Tap Fish and Chips; 181, Hairz; 185, Post Office; 187, TK Wines; 189, Londis Supermarket; 195, Sounds Around; 197, Michigan Launderette

Harefield Road—

3, Tomboys Hair Salon

Brockley Road—

188, Cottrell & Rothern; 252, Pet & Garden Centre; 254, Post Office; 258, Ultraclean Launderette; 262, Prudential; 285, Amin Chemist; 289, PJ's Hair; 293, D&G Butchers; 295, Howard's Caribbean Store; 301, Sid's Plumber's Merchants; 303, Brockley Aquaria Petshop; 305-7, Brian Morris Supermarket; 309, Turner's Stores 311, Sewell's Newsagents; 313, Naz Brasserie; 315a, Magnolia Flowers and Plants; 317, Oak Estates; 319, Al's Cafe; 325, Brockley Flooring; 327, Starbuck Upholstery; 294, Jackie's Fruit & Veg; 300, Brockley Glass & Joinery; 302, Food For All Supermarket; 304, Chick King; 308, RW Munden.

Library Questionnaire.

Please answer the questions on the other side of this page, cut around the box, pop it into an envelope and post it to the Brockley Society;

c/o 11c, Tressillian Road,
Brockley,
London. SE4 1YG

Conning!

An important message from the Crime prevention officer, Len Phillips, in the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter recently, is worth repeating here:

Beware the Con Artist. Over recent months there has been a marked increase in the number of reported cases of Conning. The people committing this offence can come in all guises; Water Board Men, Social Workers, builders or double glazing salesmen. When answering the door to strangers bear this in mind.

**If in doubt, keep them out.
Don't open the door unless you are absolutely sure.**

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The Summer Fayre on June 23rd was rained off at 4pm— the first time in 17 years, but not before most people had had a good afternoon.

Despite being let down by several attractions at the last minute, for which we apologise, the afternoon went with a swing thanks to the hard work and dedication of a lot of local people. Both the Mayor Les Eytle and our MP Joan Ruddock spent a long time with us, visiting all the stalls.

BroSoc, on behalf of all the carities and stallholders would like to thank everyone involved for a good afternoon.

£ Gill Heywood

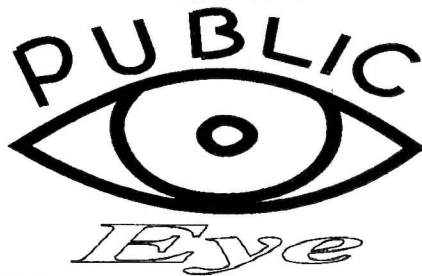
Chunnel Rail Link Update

Unfortunately British Rail has still not decided to go away— that is from South East London.

Another “final” decision on the route of the rail link should be made some time next year and we may have to campaign yet again. If past experience is to go by.

British Rail seem to be as pig headed as ever and it is a question of whether or not they have learned the lesson that coming through Lewisham will cost them dear.

Be prepared in case we have to fight another round. The Brockley Society



Where we award Lewisham Council gold stars for achievements, and black marks for failures.

Well done Lewisham Council on finally living up to your promise to care for the environment. At last the disgusting, smelly, unhealthy, and hazardous waste strewn in the disused toilets on Colgate Street, near Brockley Railway Station has been cleared out. We award the council a gold star.

P.S. On this subject, what should be done with these toilets? The Council claims it cannot afford attendants on the site, so what should they do, knock them down, put toilets in the station or put a portaloos on the site? Suggestions please.

Surprise, surprise! Two gold stars in one issue! (Well, if Lewisham Council lives up to its promise). We understand there will be another “Challenge Lewisham” this autumn. It is a scheme whereby local people can telephone the council and challenge it on matters of rubbish and cleansing, including refuse and fly tipping problems. Many residents missed the last one because by the time they had read the posters, the Challenge had ended. This is why we are giving you plenty of warning. To Challenge Lewisham ring up Malcolm Kendall at Deptford Town hall (081-695 6000) but wait for the challenge to be announced first.

Lewisham should get a very loud raspberry let alone a black mark for its so called Noise and Weekend Noise Service.

For a start it is misleading. It only operates on Friday and Saturday nights, not the entire weekend as one

would hope. So anyone suffering from an all night party cannot get any action at dawn when the revellers are still at it.

The police cannot step in until an offence has been committed (this does not cover offensive noise). So we *have* to rely on the council.

You would be better off relying on a pair of ear plugs. When we rang recently, we had to make do with an answerphone. It makes you wonder what we pay our Poll Tax for.

Noise pollution is a very important issue. A recent report from a head of noise pollution in Kent said that those deprived of sleep by noise nuisance undergo a “peculiar form of torture”. Too true.

Although a Noise Watch Scheme along the lines of Neighbourhood Watch has been discussed by the Institution of Environmental Health Officers, these would be no good without support from the council. The IEHO found that music noise accounts for 34% of noise complaints and dogs for a further 34%.

The Government has included a Noise Watch scheme in its recent White Paper on the Environment. It could place a clearer legal requirement on all local authorities to look into *all* neighbourhood noise complaints and respond to complaints 24hrs a day.

The Environmental Protection Act is due to be passed during the next session of Parliament putting responsibility for keeping boroughs clean in the hands of the local authority. Under the new law local groups and individuals will be able to take the Council to court if it fails to clean up rubbish within a set time limit. Lewisham says, “We want to be the cleanest borough in the country, but we will need help from the local community”.

£ Steve Chesworth



Firstly, news of a new school to open in Brockley:

A group of parents are planning to set up a small parent-run school in Brockley, aiming to start with a group of ten to fifteen 4 - 7 year-olds. Although largely parent-taught the Brockley Small School will have one Full-time teacher, and welcomes people from all groups in the community. We would like to hear from parents interested in joining us and would be particularly keen to hear from any would-be teachers. Information about premises to rent (small house or flat with garden, space in a community centre etc.) would also be most welcome. Contact 081-691 7118

✉ Viv Talbot

Related to the subject, a reader suggests, in response to the story about the development of the Brockley Nursery behind Upper Brockley Road:

I was wondering if part of the Brockley nursery couldn't be set up as a day nursery for children. As a parent I find that there are very few facilities for

children of working parents...

✉ B. Aidoo

Perhaps Viv Talbot could look into this idea. In response to the piece about accidents in the last issue, one reader wrote:

I think the worst black spot in the area is the junction of Geoffrey Road and Wickham Road; every few weeks there is an accident here. Has any reader any suggestions to stop the rat race in these roads?

✉ Mrs W. Sneller

On a totally different subject, a reader has asked us to print a version of a letter he has sent to the council, proposing the setting up of wildlife areas in various parks in the area.

I am writing to ask whether you could reinstate a nature area in Lewisham Park. Three or more years ago the south western edge of the park was allowed to grow into long meadow grass, with paths mown through to allow the natural area to be viewed, however these areas have now disappeared. Could they be re-initiated in a more suitable location within the park.

Secondly, could not this be a pilot for nature areas in other parks. In my local park, Hilly Fields, there are several areas suitable for a meadow regime.

I realise that projects of this sort involve extra cost; staff have to be trained, special litter

collection may be necessary, however, there are benefits. Nearby schools would gain additional areas available for nature study, as of course would the general public.

✉ Gavin Smith

Please write and tell us what you think. On the subject of noise, during the setting up of the boot sale stalls in the Lewisham College Car Park early in the morning:

Please spare a thought for those of us who live next to the car park. Sunday is the only day we have to sleep, a lack of loud radios and shouting people at 7am would be wonderful. Also; PLEASE don't throw your unwanted burgers and drink cans into our gardens.

✉ Philip Cross.

I am assured by the boot sale organisers that signs will be put up reminding all stall holders that it is early morning and asking them to be as quiet as possible. Please, readers and boot sale visitors, dispose of your rubbish carefully; you would not like half eaten burgers and empty drink cans thrown into your gardens.

✉ Letters Editor

-Situations Vacant-

Brockley Society Chairman:

Highly motivated person would suit, short hours (about 11 per year).

Vice Chairman:

Interesting Possibilities

Secretary:

No Society should be without one, and we are!

Apply in person at:

Brockley Society Annual General Meeting

St Peter's Hall, Cranfield Rd.

Just walk in, all welcome,

Invited guests include local councillors to answer questions about the closure of our local library, the future of the Brockley Nursery and Brockley Station, and anything else you want to ask.

Cheese and wine available afterwards.

Tuesday, 16th October 1990

8:00pm

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