

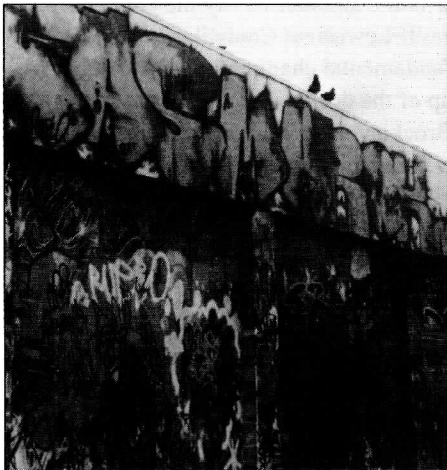
BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 61 July 1991

Delivered free to 3000 household in
the Brockley Conservation Area

Power to the People



The Brockley Society is often accused of being anti everything. Not surprising since we seem to be under siege from planning blight, library closures, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, dumped rubbish and traffic problems.

But we also achieve a lot and it is not just those who bother to turn up to the meetings who get involved in improving our living and working environment.

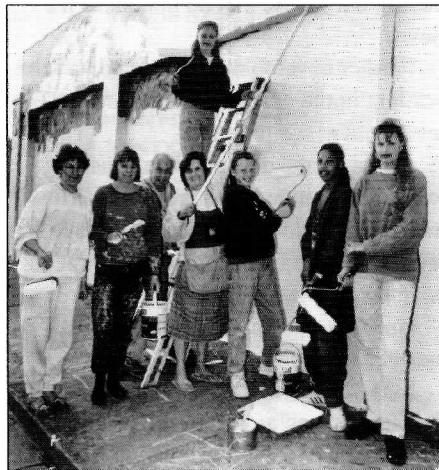
The repainting of the graffiti covered walls by Brockley station is a prime example of people power, and one of the main things that the Brockley Society has achieved in recent weeks.

Our Environment Week project was to paint murals on the wall opposite Brockley Station but when members of Broc Soc started to paint over the graffiti the reactions from passers by varied from "thank you" to "how dare you destroy our art".

But the negative reactions did not last long. Critics and supporters alike soon became involved in painting the wall.

Bobby and Alex Boyle, Daniel Rock, Andrew Brock, Mike Cheal, Jerry LePage, Claire, Georgie, Susie and Louise Hawkins, Heidi Schumacher and of course the help of Peter Long - thank you all very much.

Even more people have admired the results. The brilliant portrait of Bob Marley by Daniel Lauder has attracted praise from young and old alike.



We are however in need of artists to help us complete the other sections of the wall. If you have any ideas please get in touch with Celene or if you want any more information - phone 081 682 8795.

We need to raise extra funds to buy acrylic paint to finish the remaining panels. The cost of the paint is very high, but it is needed to ensure that the work lasts and more graffiti is not painted on top of it. Many thanks to Miss Norton for her generous donation. Any other donations will be gratefully received.

We have entered our WALL into the Eyesore '91 Competition so watch this space for the result.

Finally thanks to Tweg and friends for keeping an eye on everything and for keeping the wall graffiti free.

The wall project has been a major achievement. It has not only improved the area, but has also brought the community together.

Other major achievements have been:

- Some 40 local residents getting up on a Sunday to clear Wickham Mews of rubbish (see page 2 for full story)
- Up to 50 people attending local talks arranged by our new social secretary John Langley. Already we have had a local history lecture, slide show on our industrial heritage and a talk on cats. And there are more events to come.
- The Hilly Fields Fayre was bigger than ever before. (more information after the event)
- Boot sales run by Broc Soc have



become a money spinner for local people.

•and we do much more: from reviewing every planning application to keeping the Council on its toes over drains, rubbish, rats and traffic. And who does all this? People like you. Pensioners, mums, teenagers, people with full-time jobs. Some have lived here all their lives, others are new to the area. But we all have one thing in common. We want Brockley to be a good place to live and have a bit of fun at the same time.

So why don't you come along. Our meetings are informal and you can raise issues or ideas that you want to share.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month, (not in August), at 8pm. at St. Peter's Centre, Cranfield Road, in the upstairs room.

Celene.

Car Boot Sale

The next Boot Sales, to be held in the Lewisham College Car Park, are on

September 8th

and

November 17th.

Cars; £7

Vans; £9

For information call:

692 6977

Major Move to End Mews Mess *By Niki Chesworth.*

The word "mews" conjures up images of quaint cobble-stoned lanes lined with cottages converted from old stables. That may be correct for Kensington and Hampstead, but this is Brockley.

Here the initials MEWS stand for Messy, Environmental Wastelands.

But Not For Long

On Sunday 16th June some 40 residents living round Wickham Mews spent the morning clearing up years of mess— the cab of a lorry, old mattresses, builders rubble and even a car phone.

Well done to Stephen Langley for getting the ball moving, and to Pat and Jim who even provided a truck and an earth mover to take away the rubbish!

The cost of delivering all this rubbish from the unofficial dump to the official one in Creekside was some £350. We are trying to get it refunded by the council. (WE HOPE)

Although this has been a major improvement, parts of the mews are still an eyesore of dumped rubbish. There are back gardens left in a state of neglect. There are many more like them round Brockley. Often they are bought up by Developers who leave them to go to rack and ruin in the hope that one day they may be able to build on them.

In other mews the problem is of illegal businesses who do not pay rates and therefore do not get rubbish collected. So it is dumped. It often means piles of car parts and old tyres cluttering up the area.

It would take endless cleaning by local residents to keep these areas rubbish free.

That is why we want the way planning in the mews is handled to be improved.

On 2nd May 1991 the Brockley Mews Committee met to discuss the future of

Planning Applications.

Former Roundel Club r/o 1-39 Adelaide Ave:

Revised plans and approval of details for conditions 2,4,5 on planning permission dated 11.12.89 to provide 8x1-bed & 16x2-bed flats in two blocks with 27 car spaces.

43 Wickham Road:

Approval of facing materials for planning permission dated 26.9.89 for 2 2-storey 2-bed mews houses with Integral Garages.

89 Tyrwhitt Road:

Erection of a brick built storage shed in rear garden.

99 Wickham Road:

Reduce the depth of reveal to all windows.

46 Wickham Road:

Conversion to 3x1-bed and 2x2-bed units with 2 garages and 2 car spaces in the mews.

158 Upper Brockley Rd.

Installation of a 60cm. black mesh satellite dish on the front.

39 Tressillian Road:

Revised details for planning permission given

the Mews in Brockley. The committee has come up with some ideas but needs to know your views.

We want clean, rubbish-free mews that local residents can use to park their cars. But to help us achieve this we need the Council to update The Mews Design Guide and then enforce it. This is what we want done:

- 1 Illegal and messy businesses closed leaving only those that do not abuse the mews.
- 2 Further development restricted and the wording in the design guide regarding development tightened up.

Although the design guide bans development it does not prevent it. The result is that a lot of back gardens have been bought up by developers who then leave them as derelict sites.

Updating the guide would end this confusion.

Many back gardens are supposed to be used for parking as part of the conditions for turning houses in the area into flats.

- 3 The mews cleared up and then gravelled to keep the surface clean. Width restrictors at either end to help reduce illegal dumping. And local residents encouraged to use their garage or rear of garden for parking and to light their area.

There are seven mews in all - Ashby, Breakspears, Harefield, Wickham, Manor,

Leaseholders Face Problems

Leaseholders who have problems with their freeholder have been given some hope of reform in new legislation proposed by the Government to give them the right to buy the freehold of their home. But legislation may take years to come into force. Meanwhile leaseholders with problems face a lengthy procedure to get improvements. One local leaseholder has proposed getting together with others facing similar problems. Watch out next time for more about this story.

21.12.88 for 2-storey, 3-bed house, with integral garage, to increase the the first floor space.

179 Breakspears Road:

Alteration & conversion to 2x2-bed & 1x1-bed unit, erection of 2-storey rear extension, terrace & 2 car spaces in front Garden.

53 St. Margaret's Road:

Erection of single story rear Extension.

69a Manor Avenue:

Retention of french doors & Patio.

Tree Works.

St. Peter's Church
56 Wickham Road
62 Manor Avenue
38 Wickham Road
40 Wickham Road
45/47 Manor Ave

Appeals to the DOE

r/o 168 Lewisham Way. Refusal of plans for housing facing the mews.

Garsington and one unnamed - and each has its own particular problems, be it noise, paintspray fumes, fires of burning rubbish and tyres, flytipping, hazardous waste, pot-holes, unruly dogs and illegal businesses working at all hours of the day and night - even bank holidays. These different problems must cause a nuisance to many Brockley residents.

So what do you thank? Do you agree with the aims set out by the committee?

If Lewisham Council agrees to fundamental changes in and a tightening up of the design, then residents of Brockley would do their bit and make improvements to the Mews in Brockley.

To fund these improvements goodwill donations would have to come from local residents, fund raising events would need to be organised and other funding from charities such as the Civic Trust would have to be sought. As Lewisham Council owns sites along many of the mews it could be lobbied for donations.

On 1st June a walk up Ashby and Wickham Mews was arranged with two Drake Ward local councillors, Jimi Aderfiranye and Jarman Parmar, so we could show them just how bad some of the mews are. The councillors have agreed to push for a review of the council's policy on the mews and to lobby for a new Design Guide for the Mews.

Watch this space.



THE 1991 FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

Bright and early on June 1st. Broc Soc's Chairman and Secretary tramped the roads of the Conservation Area to find 1991's best kept front garden. There were 18 entries. Very soon our task became difficult, we were awarding up to 20 points for "Impact" and "Tidiness" and deducting points for "Weeds"! All this and two hours later resulted in 4 runners up at 17 points each but we had an outright winner with 18 points - No 88 Geoffrey Road has £10 to spend on next year's garden and the cup which was presented at the Fayre. The 4 runners up received potted Chrysanthemums presented by a keen gardener. Thanks are due to all concerned and we look forward to at least 36 entries next year.



Public Eye



Seen in the latest issue of Lewisham Council's *Outlook*—Councillor Michael Barry's (Drake Ward) appointment as the new chair of the

Leisure Services Committee, in recognition of his work to save the libraries in Lewisham from closure. But we never saw him actively campaigning in his ward to save the Lewisham Way Library, which ironically closed at the same time as he took up his new position on the Council.

Although we lost the library fight, do you have any ideas as to future uses? We think a Museum for Lewisham would be a good idea. Ideas to Roger Vincent: 692 2763.

Help!

Can you help in marshalling cars before and after the BootSales (See page 1)? Helpers are needed between 7am and 9am and to clear up afterwards at 1:30pm
Phone 692 6977

BROCKLEY STATION

On the front page of the last issue of the newsletter we showed a picture of the old Brockley Station before it was torn down and replaced with the portacabin design of today. And we threatened an exposee on the problems of the station.

British Rail, for once, have beaten us to it. Have you noticed the new railings, turfing, new clocks and general improvement of the station? It is a vast improvement on the rubbish-strewn entrance to the station and muddy side exit.

And that's not all folks! British Rail are also replacing the ugly corrugated iron sheets on the London-bound platform with wooden fencing.

BR really is getting there for once. (But no comment on the trains).

BBQ

The Brockley Society now owns the very large barbecue which we bought at some expense to use for the Fayre. To help recoup some of this cost, we are hiring it out to local residents for a very modest fee of £10 for the weekend. Contact Gill on 692-6977

The Brockley Fayre

June 22nd turned out to be a good day; the rain held off and lots of people came to Hillyfields to enjoy the afternoon. It was hard work for the organisers and a *thankyou* to all those on the committee to strived so hard to make the day the success it was. A special *thankyou* to all those who turned up in the morning and stayed to help tidy up. To those who helped run stalls; please help again next year, you did a grand job.

The competitions were a new venture and proved very successful, and as our PA rightly said, we need even more entries next year to share out the prizes!

The support from sponsors was also new yet proved fruitful, again, please come back next year. Lastly to all of you who came and supported the afternoon, enjoyed yourselves and spent your money a big *Thankyou*.

The day is a focus for the people of Brockley and the funds go towards the printing of the Brockley Newsletter, which is delivered free to your door, and to subsidise projects to improve the area.

So, make a date in next year's diary; **Saturday June 20th 1992.**

See you there.

Brockley Since 1845

A talk by Gill Heywood

A very informative talk on April 17, this proved to be extremely popular and attracted the largest audience we have had. Gill's presentation was superb - her lecture was illustrated by our collection of historic maps, photographs and postcards of the area which lined the walls of the small hall at St Peter's Centre. Everybody who came had questions to ask and her answers were so full of information that there wasn't time to mention all the important facts about our neighbourhood! We'd better have a continuation lecture soon so we can all get genned up, enjoy the wine and food and have some fun!

Local History

By Gill Heywood

Part 3.

Part 2 gave the history of the Deptford part of Brockley up to the Reformation, 1529. This article does the same for the

part of Brockley which was always in the parish of Lewisham.

By the early years of the tenth century Elfrida, youngest daughter of Alfred the Great owned the lands of Lewisham, Greenwich and Woolwich. It is likely that she inherited them from her father on her marriage to Count Baldwin of Flanders. Being in Kent these lands are nearer to her new home than other land in the ownership of the King. On the death of her husband in 918, she gave this inheritance to the Abbey of St Peter of Ghent, which appears to have owned the manor until the reformation, but there were difficulties from the beginning caused by an absentee landlord. In 964 King Edgar confirmed the gift of Elfrida.

Edgar's son Ethelred the Unready, fled from the Danes when they invaded and took refuge in the monastery at Ghent. His son, Edward came to the throne in 1042 and he gave a charter to the Abbot of Ghent confirming the gift of "Leuesham, Grenwic, Modingeham and Cumbe" amongst other property in Kent. By 1081 it was known as the Manor of Lewisham.

Various people claimed to own the manor at some time, among them Robert de Baunton, son of the Lord of the Manor of Lee, who seized Lewisham, in the absence of the Abbot.

In 1294 Edward 1 was preparing for war with France. He annexed the land and goods of the overseas monasteries to help pay for the war. Over Lewisham he stated that he needed control of lands that fronted the Thames to protect England from invasion. In peacetime the land was returned to the Abbey of Ghent. Successive kings did the same thing.

The frequent changes of ownership and the fact that there was another war in the offing made Parliament, in 1414, to desire the king, Henry V, to completely take over the land in foreign ownership, saying that the loss of his revenue overseas, maybe to fund a war against England, impoverished the state.

Future Social Events

Sun 22nd September 11 a.m.

A Historical Walkabout Around Brockley
With Gill Heywood (Start at bottom of Tyrwhitt Road at The Talbot Arms (11 a.m. sharp) and finish at Wickham Arms. (Put lunch on the back burner!)

Wed 18th September

Modern & Latin Ballroom Dancing
Probably to tapes and records or a Group. (Men wear a tie, ladies a nice frock)

Wed 16th Oct

French Impressionist Painters
Slide-talk by John Langley.

Wed 20th Nov

Old-Time Music Hall
Not so much a "performance" (unless people come forward) as a Sing-Along.

The Society is indebted to Muriel Kibblewhite and Margaret Meams for

starting this Social season with "Reminiscences of Brockley". Both gave a brilliant narrative, and both would have warranted an evening each!

The community spirit began here and the catering was superb.

Cats Of Brockley was a light-hearted evening and intended to be so. All were delighted when the projector broke down as everyone could look at the pictures.

Can You Help?

The Fayre Committee is looking for new recruits. Two posts have become vacant, as Lindsey and Berni are both retiring, having done an excellent job over the last few years. What I need are some cheerful people who are prepared to help in whatever way they can. We don't require particular skills and the level of commitment can

be tailored to suit yourself.

The fayre was bigger and better this year than ever before, and is a key fundraising event for the Brockley Society. We use the money to fund this local news letter, and to subsidise projects to improve the area. The latest project was the improvement of the area around the Brockley Station (See front page) and the painting of the mural.

If you think you can help in any way then give me a call on 469 3975

N. Livingstone-Smith
Chair of the Fayre Committee

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