

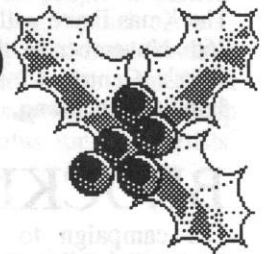
BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 72 December 1994
Charity No: 1004245

Delivered free to 4,000 households
in the Brockley Conservation Area

BROCKLEY LIGHTS UP FOR CHRISTMAS!



This year, for the first time ever, Brockley Cross and Brockley Road will be a blaze of lights this Christmas!

We have always envied other parts of the borough which seem to be lit up each year and felt that Brockley has always been left out, that the Council does not think Brockley worthwhile.

At a recent Police Community Sector Working Party meeting for Brockley, it was suggested that lights would not only create a more festive air, but would also be good for business, something which the shopkeepers would obviously welcome and the whole community can enjoy. Cllr Angela Cornforth, Chair of the meeting took the idea forward, and by the next meeting we were told that all had been arranged. The lights would go up and be switched on soon after the Lewisham Town centre ones, due on the 17th November.

Gillian. - Thank You Angela!

DID YOU KNOW?

By the time you read this, it's almost certain that the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act will have been passed. Surely a good thing? The government is fulfilling its pledge to 'get tough' on crime. The Act represents the biggest increase in state powers since the Second World War.

It includes:

* Provision for police to set up a national DNA database which will include anyone who has been arrested for any recordable criminal offense, regardless of

whether or not they have been convicted.

* Introduces new Stop and Search laws which gives police powers to target areas over a specified period of time. During this time a person and their vehicle can be searched whether or not police have reasonable belief that the person has committed a crime.

* Removal of the Right of Silence. Over the past 12 years, two different Royal Commissions have stated that the Right of Silence is an essential safeguard against the miscarriage of justice. Despite this,

the government has chosen to remove this cornerstone of democracy.

*The setting up of secure units (in effect prisons) for 12-14 year olds.

Many pressure groups such as Liberty, Charter 88 and the Freedom Network fear that these laws will be used to target inner city areas where poverty, the housing crisis and unemployment is acute. It is very probable that community relations with the police will break down even further and that, like the former SUS laws, ethnic groups will be targeted under the new stop and search powers.

The Government will spend £500 million on the introduction of a new ID card system. Surely this would be better spent helping community workers who are battling against the downward spiral of unemployment, drugs and crime. Increasing State control will only exacerbate the problems our communities are already facing and may well lead to innocent people to be wrongfully imprisoned.

Sorry to bring such gloom and doom over the festive season but in the long run, few of us will be able to escape the consequences of this alarming piece of legislation. For more details on the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, please call Liberty on (071) 403-3888. *Camilla*

BROCKLEY SOCIETY MEETINGS

Venue: St Peter's Centre, Cranfield Rd. Tel: 081-693-2030 Time: 8.00pm

WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 1994

WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 1995

Please contact an officer from the list below if there is an issue which you would like to be raised, or come to one of the meetings, which are open to everyone!

Chairman 081 469 3975
Vice-Chairman 081 692 7869
Secretary 081 469 3374
Treasurer 081 691 3548
Transport 081 692 7869
Planning Police Liaison 081 692 6977

Newsletter Editor 081 691 2751
Press & Publicity 081 691 2751
Social Events 081 469 3374
Fayre 081 469 3374
Advertising 081 691 3548
Subscriptions 081 691 2751



LIGHTS, MUSIC, ACTION!

Have you hankered after the smell of the greasepaint, the swish of the curtain and first night nerves but looked in vain for a local amateur dramatics group?



THEN SEARCH NO MORE!

Moves are being made to establish a group for Brockley. St Peter's Centre is being investigated as a possible venue for rehearsals and performances of plays.

However, there can be no plays without people. Do you see yourself as Ophelia or Hamlet, or even Othello? Whatever your age and even if you have no experience but are interested in performing why not give it a go. Of course, actors rely on a whole host of off-stage support so if performing is not your thing perhaps you fancy directing, stage-managing or even set building

HILLY

Hilly Fields was dedicated as a public open space on Saturday May 16th 1896.

A Local Committee formed by 1888 secured the top of the hill as a park, but it was to be another eight years before money was raised to acquire the land.

A contemporary writer for the Times wrote that there was more poverty south of the Thames, particularly between Rotherhithe and Greenwich, than there was north of the river. This fact was a major influence on the LCC and the parochial committees when they promised money for the purchase of the land.

The time had long since passed when Deptford had its country mansions, its Market gardens were getting fewer every year. Apart from the recently secured Deptford Park there was no open space of any size in the parish.

The Local Committee set about raising enough money to buy the 45 acres which we now know as Hilly Fields.

In 1890 the LCC promised half the cost if the rest was forthcoming from other sources. The District Boards of Greenwich and Lewisham were approached. The Greenwich Board of Works (which administered the Parish of Deptford) promised £7000 as requested, but the Lewisham Board declined to contribute, saying that the LCC should bear the entire cost. It subsequently relented and finally contributed £2800.

The Kyrle Society (of which Octavia Hill was a leading member), The Commons Preservation Society and the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association joined with the Local Committee and as a Joint Committee work to collect subscriptions and entered into optional contracts for purchase of the land with the several owners. The land to the south of the ridge and the School (built 1884) was owned by the City

and costume making. Whatever your interest or talent there will be something that you can contribute.

If you are interested in helping establish 'The Brockley Players' contact John Ainsworth on 081 691 6340 or, write to 26 Chalsey Road, Brockley, SE4 1YW.

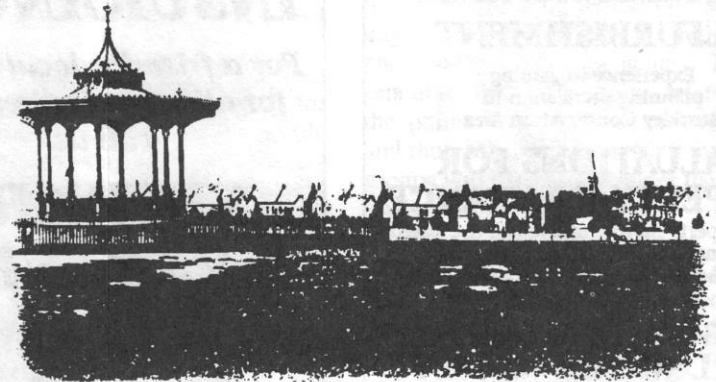
PLAY WRITING COMPETITION

The Brockley Jack Theatre is running a play writing competition for would be Shakespeare's or Hanberry's!

The limitations for the play are : a) it should not have been submitted to any

FIELDS

The early history.



Corporation as part of the Bridge House Estates. The land to the north of the ridge (34 acres) belonged to Lees' Trustees and was brickfields. That to the east fronting Vicar's Hill (4 acres) was part of the vicar's glebe, pertaining to St Mary's church, Lewisham. The New Land Corporation occupied the remainder around the school and an arrangement was made that land to the north and west of the new park should be developed in exchange for this land. By so doing the Committee had not only amassed the land as we see today as Hilly Fields and has also improved the view.

The northern and western portions abutted onto the backs and sides of houses in Crescent Way and Tressillian Road, so that the park commanded a somewhat unsightly view. This problem was removed by allowing Hilly Fields Crescent and Montague Avenue to be built having a frontage to the park.

At the same time as these negotiations were proceeding money was being sought from other sources. A well run campaign collected £4,631 in donations from local people in Brockley, ranging from £250 from an A.J. Tarleton, freeholder of the Wickham Park Estate to 2/6d from an A. Thankoffering. The total cost was

other competition, b) the cast of the play must consist of three people, c) the play must take place within the one set, d) the play should last between 30 and 60 minutes and if it is over 30 minutes the play should have at least one interval, e) the set should be as technically simple as possible (due to the confines of the theatre), f) the work must be written by amateurs.

Entries will be judged by a panel of professional actors/actresses including Mike Burnside. The overall competition winner will receive a 'Brockley Jack Writer of the Year' Award and will see the production performed by a professional cast, with professional direction, sometime in April or May 1995. Closing date for entries is 28 February 1995 and should be submitted to: Mrs J French, The Brockley Jack, 410 Brockley Rise, London SE4.

£44,872, of which public subscription was £9,000.

By November 1894 all the land was purchased, the Act of Parliament passed and the Committee could commence the laying out of the park. They left most of the fields as they found them, only filling ditches and levelling banks where possible without disturbing the trees. The northern part had been brick fields with several disused pits. These were filled in and grassed over to make a cricket ground, on the south side of which was and is an easy and attractive slope from which spectators can watch the game. Trees were planted and footpaths made on the natural lines of traffic, to replace the muddy and slippery tracks which were impassable in wet weather. A granite drinking fountain was placed near the top of the hill and an ornamental bandstand sited above the cricket ground, the whole park being surrounded by strong boundary railings.

I think we should thank our forebears for their foresight and valiant efforts and persistence. If it had not been for the people who lived in the houses at that time (now the Conservation Area) we could well be totally hemmed and not have a green space for miles.

Gillian

POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY



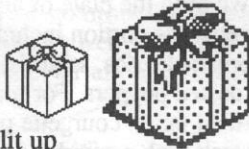
CHRISTMAS CRIME

Christmas is traditionally a time for giving, for some it is also a time for taking. Crime of any kind can almost certainly spoil what should be a happy joyous celebration.

By taking a few basic precautions its possible to minimise your chance of becoming a Christmas victim.

Burglary at any time can be one of the most upsetting crimes, at Christmas it can be devastating. Any home can be a target, so when going out and leaving the house empty if only for a short while, ensure all windows and doors are firmly closed and secure. Set the alarm every time.

THE HOME AT CHRISTMAS



Christmas trees all lit up with presents stacked underneath look lovely and are absolutely magnetic for burglars, especially if they are in full view by the window. Consider lights on timers to give the impression that the home is occupied and be a friendly neighbour - keep an eye open for strangers. If you do see anything suspicious, call the police.

SAFEGUARDING YOUR CAR



Be careful where you park when out shopping. Use well lit car parks and if you park in the daytime with the intention of returning in the evening, think about what the place will look like in the dark. Park near CCTV cameras where you car can be filmed. Leave nothing in the car and lock the boot.



PERSONAL SAFETY

You may be carrying more cash than usual at this time of year. Take care to ensure that wallets are kept secured in inside pockets and that handbags are kept closed and held close to the body. Be careful when withdrawing cash from cash machines, be aware of who is around you and if suspicious try again later. Better still cash a cheque in the bank - it might be safer.

Just a final thought - when Christmas is over don't let the burglar know what you

had for Christmas - keep it to yourself! Keep all your wrappers and boxes for videos, hi-fi, compact disk, cuddly toys etc inside.

Leaving them by the dustbin is an open invitation.

PC Graham Sugden

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Where once we had many Neighbourhood Watch schemes running in Brockley, there are now only a few. The police admit that they did not continue the liaison with the co-ordinators and things reached an all time low by last year.

There are now several dedicated officers and many members of the community who want to see the schemes work. Those co-ordinators who are still active, or want to start up new schemes have been meeting regularly with police and are now ready to launch many new or revitalised watches.

There are new initiatives which are both an incentive to people to become involved and also of benefit to the members and the local shops.

The Yellow Card Scheme, which has been running successfully in other places is set to start in Brockley very soon. A Watch member can buy a card, which will entitle him/her to discounts on goods in local participating shops. Although the scheme was started to encourage sales of locks, alarms and other security goods, even the pizza shop will give a discount to Neighbourhood Watch members!

There is to be a regular newsletter and feedback through the Neighbourhood Watch officer so that we can all participate in protecting our property and informing the police of suspicious happenings. New signs will soon be up at the ends of participating roads and we are in the process of publishing a handbook for each member to have useful facts to hand.

We hope that there will be a Christmas Social Meeting on December 9th, in the Brockley Social Club, Brockley Road. This will be for all who want to meet the local police, Neighbourhood Watch members, Business Watch, Brockley Society and others.

If you want to get involved, contact PC Dave Payne, at Brockley Police Station, 697 9441.

BROCKLEY POLICE STATION

There has been considerable speculation regarding the future of Brockley Police station. At a recent meeting of the Brockley Sector Working Party, Inspector Steve Jones revealed that the proposed

night closure of Brockley Police station would free one additional officer for beat duties.

Following a fairly heated discussion it has emerged that the majority were in favour of keeping our police station open on a 24hr basis and Inspector Jones agreed to implement that decision. Long term thoughts for the future of the building as a police station is less certain.

The new Lewisham police station which is to be built on the site of the old Army and Navy store on the High St will lead to some "rationalisation" of the smallest police stations. At the last meeting of the Lewisham Police Community Consultative Group, Chief Superintendent Ken Chapman, Operational Commander for Lewisham gave assurance that Brockley would not lose any of its police services due to "rationalisation" in 1997/8, but was unable to guarantee the continued presence of the Howson Rd station. He did offer a firm guarantee of a police base, although he was unwilling to speculate on what form this would take. Local officers have unofficially suggested that this might take the form of a shop or office somewhere on the Brockley Rd. RC.



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Work, Rest and Play

WHAT'S ON

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

081-469 3975/3374

26th November 10.00am - 5.00pm

Christmas Craft Fayre, St Peter's Centre,
Cranfield Road

ST PETER'S CENTRE

Cranfield Road, 081-693-2030

Mondays 7.00 - 8.00pm Step Class/beg.

Mondays 8.00 - 9.00pm Step Class/beg.&adv.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.00 - 8.00pm

Body toning Tone bums, tums & legs.

Burn fat and increase fitness.

Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm Dog training

Wednesdays 8.00 - 10.00pm Ki Aikido
class (use side entrance)

Thursdays 4.00 - 5.00pm Art Club for 6 -
10 years (Committee Room)

Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30pm Badminton

Saturdays 2.00 - 4.00pm Yoga.

LEWISHAM ENVIRONMENT TRUST

18th November

7.00pm Annual General Meeting

8.15pm Illustrated talk by a speaker from

English Heritage - "Listed buildings in

Lewisham: do they have a future?"

Civic Suite, Lewisham Town Hall, Catford.

PECKHAM SOCIETY

20th November

3.00pm Dr Isidore Crown: "Memoirs of a
Peckham Doctor"

Coplestone Centre, Coplestone Road,
SE15 4AN

21 January

3.00pm David Solman, Ecology Officer:

"The tress and plants of Peckham Rye Park"

Peckham Methodist Church Hall, Woods
Road SE15.

FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY

15th December 7.45pm Magic Lantern

Show by Rosemary Gill

Christmas refreshments. Admission free,
donations welcome.

Linden Grove Community Hall,

Nunhead Lane

27th December 2.15pm Guided tour of

Nunhead Cemetery

Meet at Linden Grove entrance.

Admission free

DIDN'T SHE DO WELL!

A good crowd turned out to participate in the Walking Tour of Brockley and reports indicate that it was a very interesting and enjoyable event! Full thanks and praise must go to Gillian Heywood for her extraordinary knowledge of the area and for organising the tour. Thank you Gill!

LEWISHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

27th January

7.45pm Talk "180 years of gas in South
East London"

Methodist Church, Albion Way, Lewisham

SOUTH EAST LONDON PERMACULTURE

Tel:081-691-6791

Meets on the first Thursday of each

month at the Lord Wolseley, Upper

Brockley Road at 7.45pm.

1ST BROCKLEY SCOUT GROUP- BOOK SALE

081-694-0757

There will be a giant sale of books and a

jewellery stall at Scout Headquarters,

Breakspears Road on Saturday 3rd.

December at 11am.

LEWISHAM ART HOUSE PROGRAMME

081-694-9011

The workshops have been arranged for

children and their families.

Sunday 18th December, 10am-1pm.

Festive Workshop - Making your own
cards and decorations etc. (No fee)

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th

December, 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm.

Festive Workshops for Christmas.

Charge: Friends of Lewisham Art House -

Discount, Normal charge - £25.

The price includes the cost of materials.

If you would like any further information
on future workshops, please contact Sue
at The Arthouse, 140 Lewisham Way,
London SE14 6PD.

THE BROCKLEY JACK THEATRE

081-699-3966

Christmas menu available, 30th

November - 23rd December.

Party bookings welcome.

Race Night, 26th November -

Screened Races

Turning Heads Poetry Group - Strange

Eventful History(The Seven Ages of
Man) - November 4th, 5th, 6th at 8pm.

Tickets £5 (£4 concession)

The Capital Theatre Company presents

a triple bill- **Sandcastle's on the Beach**

by John McColl, **Knightsbridge** by John

Mortimer, **Roman Fever** by Hugh

Leonard. December 1st, 2nd,

3rd at 7.30pm.

Spartan Productions present **Anthony**

& Cleopatra, directed by Mark

Normandy. November 15th and 20th at

7.00pm. Tickets £5 (£4 concession)

THE ART HOUSE

GOOD NEWS! On 3rd

October, Lewisham Art

House (LAH) became

Lewisham Art House Ltd, and

is now an industrial and provident society

with charitable status. Our charity regis-

tration number is:28058R.

It is the first time that an application "to
aid and help handicraft people, in particu-
lar artists at an early stage in their careers"
has been accepted by the Inland Revenue
as a charitable objective. It is hoped that
the success of LAH's application will help
secure charitable status for other artists'
studios in the future.

DELIZIOSI!

Cafe Ninucci has greeted the Autumn
season with a new menu. The favourites,
such as pizza and pasta remain, but with
more choice and many new sauces.

An exciting range of appetizers such as
polenta tart with roasted peppers, deep
fried camembert with cranberry.

We tried the plate of antipasti, and the

generous portion included garlic

bread,cheeses, salamis, bresaola and

roasted peppers. For main courses we

filled up on courgette parmigiana and

steak with a sun dried tomato sauce.

Other dishes included swordfish with a

standard tomato sauce and breast of duck

with mango and brandy.

The wine list has improved too and

remains good value for money. It is


encouraging to see a local restaurant pro-

viding a more adventurous menu, that

should go down well with customers.

FROM THE EDITOR.....

We have had enquiries from residents in
Brockley wishing to submit articles on
points that may be of benefit to the com-
munity. If you have an article, recipes,
puzzles, games etc that you would like to
see published and is of interest to the
community as whole, please send it to
The Editor, c/o 30 Rokeby Rd, Brockley,
London SE4

AND FINALLY..... 
*The Brockley Society wishes all
throughout Brockley, peace and
goodwill for the coming Season.*



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Wishing the residents of Brockley a

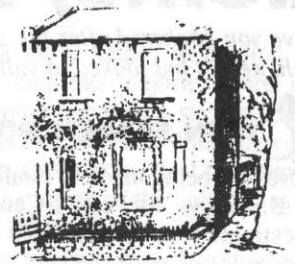
**Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year**

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