

BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 75 October 1995
Charity No: 1004245

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

BROCKLEY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OPEN MEETING - ALL WELCOME

8pm Wednesday 25th October -
Upstairs Committee Room, St Peter's
Centre, Cranfield Road.

The Brockley Society AGM is your opportunity to discuss what projects BrocSoc should tackle next year, and to get involved in projects and activities that interest you. All the committee posts are up for election and there will also be opportunities to join special interest sub-committees.

What is BrocSoc?

What is The Brockley Society for? What does it do? BrocSoc is a registered charity, with the aim of improving and preserving the character and environment of the Brockley Conservation Area. We take this to mean not just the buildings and Hilly Fields park, but also the quality of life of the community.

How does BrocSoc operate?

As required by the charity laws, we have an elected main committee of four members. But there are many more people who get involved in other BrocSoc activities - for instance, producing and distributing this newsletter, organising the annual Fayre, lobbying the Council about planning applications, traffic problems and the facilities on Hilly Fields. Anyone can get involved, doing as much or as little as they can fit in with the rest of their life!

BrocSoc in 1995

BrocSoc seems to be getting busier and busier over the past few years. Some of the main events in 1995 were:

- the formation of a sub-committee to



organise the marking of the centenary of the creation of Hilly Fields park;

- restoring the Brockley mural at the station and protecting it with anti-graffiti paint;
- the culmination of the joint campaign with the Foxwell St. Residents Association and other bodies to get a new and safer footbridge at Brockley station;
- the publication of the Brockley Services Directory, designed to support and encourage local businesses and to help us find the services we need;
- supporting the creation of disabled access to the wildlife area on Hilly Fields through a donation;
- setting up an initiative to clean up the mews once and for all;
- establishing a partnership with Lewisham College to get support from students of building and design to improve the area;
- another successful Fayre, which not only raises money for these projects, but is also a major community event.

Supporting all these single events is an ongoing process of building relationships with the Council and other local bodies to get

support for our campaigns. BrocSoc representatives regularly attend Council sub-committee meetings on Highways and Planning, the Borough Conservation Area Advisory Panel and the Police Liaison Committee. Without these continuing relationships BrocSoc would not achieve anything.

What should we do in 1996?

The AGM is your chance to nominate the issues you would like BrocSoc to make its priorities for 1996. Topics could include:

- the Hilly Fields centenary celebrations - any more ideas for how we should mark this occasion?
- how can we make the most of our new partnership with the College?
- we need more community events - what sort of events would you like to take part in?

Come along and have your say, or just listen if you'd rather. After the business part of the meeting there will be a chance for everyone to meet and make new friends in the area whilst chatting over a glass of wine and refreshments.

BROCKLEY SOCIETY MEETINGS

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

WED 4th OCTOBER 1995 - AGM WED 25th OCTOBER 1995 - WED 6th DECEMBER 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	0181 469 3975
Vice-Chairman	0181 692 7869
Secretary	0181 691 1767
Treasurer	0181 691 3548
Transport	0181 692 7869
Planning	0181 692 6977
Police Liaison	0181 691 1767

Editor & Production	0181 691 2751
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Social Events	0181 692 8422
Fayre	0181 692 8422
Distribution	0181 691 1767
Environmental	0181 691 3096
Local History	0181 692 6977



The Brockley Society welcomes all - regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical disability

A BIG THANK YOU!



Miss Brockley Winners

Despite getting one of the few dull days this summer, the BrocSoc Summer Fayre was a great success. We'd like to say a BIG thank you to everyone on the Fayre Committee who worked so hard to get it all organised (how are you getting on with the 1996 preparations, folks?), to everyone who helped on the day, setting up stalls, taking down stalls, making the tea etc etc. And another BIG thank you to all the local business who once again supported the Fayre by donating raffle prizes, sponsoring stalls, and helping out in other ways, and helped to make it such an enjoyable community event. So thank you to:

A&B Carpets
 Al's Cafe
 Ashik Dry Cleaners
 Brockley Post Office
 Brockley Aquaria Pet Shop
 Cafe Ninucci
 Chick King
 Costcutter Supermarket
 David Mitchell Picture Framer
 Fine Taste Delicatessen
 Home Video
 The Lord Wolseley
 Magnolia Florists
 Mikiprint
 Mr Lawrence's Wine Bar
 PJ's Hair Design
 Roy Fenton Photographer
 Sewell's Newsagent
 Sid's Plumbing Supplies
 Spalding and Sparrow Newsagent
 Starbuck Upholstery
 Taylor's Grocers
 The Brockley Jack
 The Talbot
 Turners' Hardware
 The Wickham Arms

And a special thank you to **Mike Burnside** from 'The Bill' for opening the Fayre and coping wonderfully with the difficult task of selecting Miss Brockley 1995, and to St John's Ambulance for providing first aid - and winning the knobbly knees competition! If we've left anyone out, we apologise profusely. Please let us know and we'll make sure you get a mention in our next newsletter.



fun at the Fayre

HILLY FIELDS CENTENARY PROJECT

In the 1890s a local committee was set up to acquire the land now known as Hilly Fields for a public park. Funding was provided by LCC, Deptford and Lewisham Councils and from local people. In fact, over 20% of the money came from local residents. We have all benefited from the vision and generosity of the past, perhaps never more so than in this long hot summer. 100 years later we are again raising funds to improve our park.

The plan is to make a larger children's playground and a picnic area, enclosed by railings to make a dog-free zone. We also want to install two drinking fountains, one with ground level water for dogs. Lewisham Council has already promised a substantial sum towards new playground equipment, and we have to raise the funds for the railings.

We are approaching descendants of the original contributors, but we are also asking you as local residents to contribute to this centenary project for our park. The estimate for the cost of the railings is £14,000. BrocSoc will be making a contribution on behalf of all of us, but we will also need individual contributions and fund raising efforts to meet our target. If you want to help with either a contribution or by giving some of your time, please either come to the inaugural Hilly Fields User Group meeting on 2nd November at 7.30pm in the St. Peter's Centre, or contact Trottie Kirwan on 691 7234, who can give you more information about the project and will gratefully accept contributions.

HILLY FIELDS CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Earlier this year, we reported how the children's playground on Hilly Fields had got into a very bad state, with broken swings, a near-empty sandpit, and broken brickwork and fencing. To cap it all, vandals burnt out the little wooden train. However in the last few weeks, following a string of complaints from local residents, the Council have started work on repairs. The article on our hopes and plans for the Hilly Fields Centenary Project sets out what we would like to see for the children's play area in the longer term. In the meantime, we would like to say thanks to Frank Mason and his team at Lewisham Council for listening to and acting on our complaints.

HILLY FIELDS USERS' GROUP

OPEN MEETING
 2 NOVEMBER 7.30PM
 ST PETER'S CENTRE

Do you use Hilly Fields? Do you take your kids to play there, walk your dog, use the playground, jog, play tennis, football or bowls, visit the wildlife area, or just go for some fresh air and - this summer!- to sunbathe? Would you like more facilities, a flower garden, a dog-free area, somewhere to roller-blade? We are looking for interested volunteers to form a Park Users' Group - a sort of league of friends for Hilly Fields Park.

Other parks in Lewisham have User Groups and are working successfully with the Council to improve the facilities and upkeep of the parks and to increase local people's involvement and say in how the parks are run. If you visit these parks you will see that they have many more facilities than we enjoy in Brockley - much of this is due to the success of the park user groups in working with the Council to improve the parks. We think we could do with a Users' Group for Hilly Fields.

If you would like to join a Hilly Fields User Group, or are interested in finding out more about the idea then come along to the open meeting and have your say.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS



48 Wickham Road

New velux windows to side and rear roof slopes and replacement sash windows to existing dormers on front and rear roof slopes.

15 Tressillian Road

Conversion to provide 2 1-bed and 1 2-bed units.

136 Breakspears Road

Alterations to rear extension.

23 Wickham Road

Formation of a second flat at basement level.

283 Brockley Road

Demolition of existing mews building and erection of 13 2-bed houses and 2 2-bed flats with garages below.

40 Tyrwhitt Road

Change of use of one room from residential to a kitchen in association with the ground floor day nursery use.

23 Upper Brockley Road

Erection of an extension at the side to create a new entrance porch in conjunction with the conversion to 1 1-bed and 1 2-bed flats.

10 Darling Road

Erection of a studio building in the rear garden.

2 Tressillian Road

Erection of a single storey extension at the side and a conservatory over at first floor level.

2 Ashby Road

The erection of a pair of 3-bed houses and a three storey block of 10 1-bed flats, with 15 car spaces.

48 Breakspears Road

Erection of a conservatory at the rear.

25 Montague Avenue

Conversion to 1 1-bed and 2 2-bed flats.

2 Cliff Terrace

Conversion to 4 2-bed flats.

Hilly Fields School Annexe

The erection of a garage and the use of the area adjacent to the new gymnasium as a car park.

16a Hilly Fields Crescent

Construction of a canopy over the front door at the side of the property and installation of railings to the side window

Lea House, Lewisham College

Internal alterations to this listed building.

Breakspears Arms (184 Brockley Road)

Display of floodlit fascia signs and alterations internally and to the elevations, including a change of name.

St Andrew's Church, Brockley Road

Erection of a single storey addition to the side of the hall at the rear and a single storey extension to the nursery building.

22a Chalsey Road

Formation of a new double doorway and steel balcony at first floor level at the rear.

9 St Margaret's Road

Alteration of existing extension at the rear.



TREES

Applications to trim/remove trees

7a, 18c Tressillian Road

Lewisham College/2 Breakspears Road

146 Breakspears Road

12, 14, 18 Montague Avenue

101, 105 Tyrwhitt Road

16 St Margaret's Road

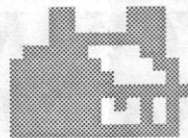
1, 64a Upper Brockley Road

2 Avon Road

23 Manor Avenue

3 Tressillian Crescent

Wickham Arms, Upper Brockley Road



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN ASHBY ROAD

(Rear of Manor Avenue/Upper Brockley Road)

Earlier in the year a planning application was submitted to the Council for the demolition of the old warehouse buildings in Ashby Road. These buildings, previously used by the paper merchant Gidney Rourke, are on a triangle of land between the gardens of houses in Manor Avenue and Upper Brockley Road. The application is to build two 3-storey family houses and 10 one-bedroom flats. Many local residents believe the proposed development is unsuitable for the area because of the density of the buildings, and their unsympathetic style and height, which will result in the houses and gardens of residents being overlooked and the removal of many fine large trees. A campaign team has been formed to try and ensure that this development does not cause blight or adversely affect the people whose homes back on to it. Following a public meeting with the Council and the developer, the team has drawn up a series of points it would like the Council to force the developer to stick to. This list includes a professional tree survey, design amendments, planting plans, density reduction and a

DEVELOPMENT AT 283 BROCKLEY ROAD: NEGOTIATING A SOLUTION

As you walk past the entrance to the old mews at 283 Brockley Road you will see signs of development. The developer put in an application to demolish the existing mews and to build 15 dwellings on the site. Residents of St. Margaret's Road, whose homes back on the proposed development, raised a number of objections to the application, on the grounds that there were too many units for the size of the site and there would not be enough garden and amenity space for the residents. As a result, the Council refused the first planning application, and the developer is preparing some revised proposals.

There are some useful lessons to be learned from the success of the St. Margaret's Road residents in getting their views heard and acted on. First, they enlisted the help of the ward councillors, and then had meetings with the councillors, Council planning officers and the developer and his architect. This enabled them to work towards a negotiated solution, without confrontation and bitterness. As we go to press, the new proposals have not yet been produced, but it looks likely that an acceptable compromise will be reached, allowing the building of quality homes which do not drastically affect the lives of the people living in the neighbouring properties. In BrocSoc we always try to work in this way, to get a 'win-win' situation, and the best outcome for everyone involved. If you have an issue that you would like to take up with Council or a developer, then BrocSoc will be happy to advise and help you work towards a satisfactory result.

new traffic scheme for both the new cars and the construction vehicles.

Amended plans have now been re-submitted. The Brockley Society will be commenting on these amended plans, but if you would like to see them for yourself they can be seen at the Town Hall chambers in Catford Town Hall, during office hours. (Hardly convenient for those who work full time.....)

If you would like to find out more, support the campaign team or let them represent your views, please contact Rachel Handley on 0181 469 3824.

BROCKLEY AND ST. JOHN'S SCORE LOW IN RAIL STATION SURVEY

In June the Brockley Society helped South East London Transport Action Group (SELTAG) carry out a survey of all the rail and underground stations in the boroughs of Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark. Stations were rated on the following points:

- access to the station on foot, by bus, car and bicycle
- prominence (ie is it easy to find the station?)
- station surroundings (security, graffiti etc.)
- nearby facilities (shops, cafes)
- access into the station itself
- the station entrance/booking office (appearance, information, timetables, waiting area, telephone etc.)
- buying a ticket (booking office open, machines working)
- staffing (was the station staffed; how helpful were the staff?)
- platforms (access to the platforms, seating and shelter).

The best station was Greenwich, which scored 59 out of a possible 75 points. The worst was South Bermondsey, with 20 points. The average score for all stations in Lewisham was 42. Brockley scored 30.5, and St John's 38.

Brockley and St John's scored particularly low on the area surrounding the station and the facilities inside the stations. Anyone who uses these stations will recognise the reasons why - points were deducted for aspects such as no or few staff on duty, graffiti and vandalism in the station and surrounding area, lack of closed circuit television (CCTV), and poor waiting facilities.

Obviously, there is a lot to be done to bring our local stations (especially Brockley) up to the average standard for the borough, and even more if we want to have stations that can match up to the standards achieved at Greenwich. Our local stations may be smaller than Greenwich, carry fewer passengers and are not the entry points to major tourist attractions! But they are vital to many people in Brockley for our work and social lives.

What next? The SELTAG survey provides hard facts for the basis of a campaign for getting improvements to our local stations. The recent improvements around Brockley station have shown



HILLY FIELDS CRESCENT ACCIDENTS

On 16 August there was a serious accident at the junction of Hilly Fields Crescent and Tressillian Road, with one driver having to be cut free from his overturned vehicle. Local residents who saw the accident said that it appeared to have been caused by a car speeding along Hilly Fields Crescent and failing to stop at the junction.

Over the years residents of Hilly Fields Crescent have approached the Council several times to implement traffic calming measures on the road - our photograph shows the aftermath of just one of the earlier accidents. A number of options have been considered, but these have either

been rejected by residents, ruled out by traffic engineers or are incompatible with a bus route. A current proposal is for Hilly Fields Crescent to become a 'bus-only' route. There are two main difficulties with this proposal: enforcing the measure, which would need an expensive bus gate, and the inconvenience to local residents, who would have to make a small detour on some journeys. However, both are surely cheaper than a life, which it seems is increasingly likely to be lost on this road before long. This proposal is still on the drawing board and the Council will consult local residents before any measures are implemented.

what 'people power' can do. Determined campaigning and hard work led to the installation of the new bridge between Coulgate St. and Mantle Rd. and the restoration and application of anti-graffiti paint on the Brockley Society mural.

So what should be our priorities? Some Brockley Society suggestions are:

- help point telephones on the platforms
- installation of CCTV, especially at the quieter and usually unstaffed St John's
- more shelters at Brockley station, particularly with winter coming on
- maps of the local area at both stations
- clear signposting of both stations from the main roads

and an answer as to why, having spent all that money on landscaping at Brockley, the trees have been left unwatered to die, and the grass seed unprotected to provide a pigeons' banquet!

What do you think?

What are your views? If you would like to get involved in campaigning for better station facilities, or would just like to make your views known, then please come along to the next Brockley Society meeting, or telephone Lindsay Beaton on 0181 692 7869.

If you would like a copy of the complete survey, or to find out more about SELTAG and its activities, contact Tim Lund on 0171 652 1679.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE



If you would like to submit an article to the newsletter, please send the article on a disk that is readable by the Applemac (we have PC Exchange software) as well as a printout of the article. The disk will be returned to you.

Please help us to keep costs down by enclosing the appropriate postage for return. Many thanks.

Handwritten articles are also welcome!

WHAT'S ON

Brockley Society and Lewisham Art House

Christmas Craft Fayre
2 December 11am - 5pm Lewisham Art
House, Old Deptford Library, Lewisham
Way

St. Peter's Centre, Cranfield Road SE4

Regular events:

- Children's dance class
Tuesdays 4pm - 5.30 pm
- Body Conditioning
Tuesdays 7.30pm
- Dog Training
Wednesdays 7.00pm - 10.00pm
- Step Aerobics
Thursdays 7.30 pm

Charity table sale

7 October 1pm - 5pm

Jumble sale

28 October 11am- 1pm

St Peter's Church bazaar

18 November 11am - 5pm

Lewisham Art House

Old Deptford Library, Lewisham Way

'Season: Changes: Art'

Exhibition of work by Gary Nash

20 September- 1 October

Wednesdays- Sundays

11am - 6pm

Admission free

'Season: Changes: Art'

Exhibition talk by Gary Nash on the

exhibition, art and art therapy

Saturday 23 September 1.30pm

Admission free

Lewisham Local History Society

The 1939 evacuation from Lewisham

Speaker: Gordon Dennington, author of

'Red Alert: SE London 1939 - 1945'

Methodist Church, Albion Way, SE13

7.45pm, 27 October

Sydenham Society

History of Croydon Airport

Speaker: Tom Sampson, Croydon

Airport Society

Venner Hall, beside Sydenham Station

7.45pm, 26 September

Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

Guided tour of the cemetery

2.15pm, 31 December

Meet at Linden Grove entrance

1st Brockley Cross Scout Group

Jumble Sale

11.30am -3pm, 7 October

St Cyprian's Hall

Brockley Road

Book Fair

10.00am -1pm, 13 January 1996

Scout Centre

25 Breakspears Road

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If you have an article, recipes, puzzles,
games etc. that you would like to see pub-
lished and are of interest to the community
as a whole, please send it to the Editor, c/o
30 Rokeby Road, Brockley, London SE4.

Natural Health Practitioner

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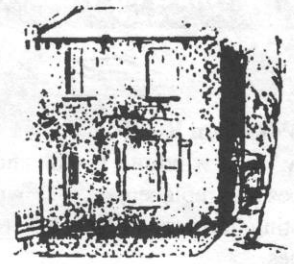
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