

# BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 88 March 2000  
Charity No: 1004245

Delivered free to 4 000 households

## The Millennium Stone Circle



Plans for a Millennium Stone Circle on Hilly Fields have been stampeding into action. We learnt before Christmas that the idea had won the approval of the Lewisham 2000 Team. The grant they have awarded covers the cost of the stones and the installation as well as bestowing the Lewisham 2000 logo (shown above) on the project. In addition we are being offered help with the preparation of the site. Thank you Lewisham! We must thank, too, Juliet Johnson for offering her professional skills in submitting a planning application on behalf of Brockley Society.

**Planning permission** was granted on 25 January. A small debate about the precise site was resolved in favour of the plateau which used to serve as a putting green.

A meeting on site with three officers from Lewisham council was arranged on 31 January. An advance party gathered, equipped with 15 milk crates (courtesy of Unigate) to sort out Gill Heywood's research into **sun dials** combined with Chris Ionides' mathematical calculations. The crates were laid out around an ellipse with a major axis of 20 metres set East/West in such a way that the shadow of a person standing on a centre stone could be used to tell the time. The minor axis of the ellipse depends on the latitude (51° 28'N). The centre stone needs to be marked with the different positions for the feet during the different months of the year, appropriate to the changing inclination of the sun through the year.

**The stones to be used are of two types, both**



Geologist Phil Gurr shows us giant granite pebbles deposited by glaciers of the last Ice Age in the far North

from Scotland. On 6 February Joseph Cullen and Polly Ionides took the Easy Jet route to Inverness and headed north towards Mount Struie from where the boulders for the Circle originate. Accompanied by geologist Phil Gurr, they were led to a valley in which these giant granite pebbles had been deposited by the glaciers of the last Ice Age. The brief was to select the 12 stones we would like to have for the Circle, with a maximum allowance of 48 tons (two lorry loads each of 24-ton capacity).

This task successfully completed, the **choice of stone** for the standing stones of the St. Norbert's Gate and the large centre stone was debated. We decided to use Caithness flagstone. The floor of the quarry is currently producing 8"/200mm slabs many metres wide and high, from which our modest requirement of 4 metres high (one third to be set in the ground) would be no problem. The cut surface of the gateway stones will be brought up to a gentle polish. The centre stone, to be carved by local letterer John Pitt, will be around 2 metres by 1 metre, laid flat on the ground.

Arrangements are well under way for receiving the stones during March. We hope the contractors, McNicholas, will take on the site preparation and provision of the crane needed for unloading and installation. *turn to page 2*

## PICNIC ON THE HILL

keep 12 noon on  
1 May free to  
inaugurate the  
stone circle

## Brockley Festival

After the success of the winter festival last November, this spring there is a series of four concerts beginning on Wednesday March 15 at 7pm. This is a great chance to hear talented artists, many of whom live locally, in an intimate setting. The festival provides a mixture of vocal and instrumental music, in St. Peter's Church, at the corner of Wickham and Cranfield Roads. All concerts are in the same popular slot: Wednesdays at 7pm. Admission is FREE. All are welcome, no tickets required! See What's On - page 6

Find out more at

[www.brockleyfestival.org.uk](http://www.brockleyfestival.org.uk)

## BROCKLEY SOCIETY

Chair	020 8694-1476
Vice-Chair	020 8691-1463
Fayres outside stalls	020 8691-3318
" stalls in marquee	020 8691-7234
" advertising	020 8691-3318
Newsletter	020 8692-3829
'What's On'	020 8691-1939
Newsletter Distribution	020 8691-1463
Police Liaison	020 8692-6977
Transport	020 8691-1463
Local History	020 8692-6977
Environment and Hilly	
Fields Park Users Group	020 8691-7234
Planning & Highways	020 8692-6977

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



## Winner at Christmas Craft Fayre!

Mr Balcombe of Brockley (left) won first prize in the draw, a wonderful hamper, at last November's Fayre in the Art House. Thanks to Saxton's Estate Agents who have a long tradition of sponsoring all our Christmas Fayre prize draws! And thanks also to Anna who helped set up the front desk and decorate the tree.

Right: Hannah helps with the draw.



**This year's Craft Fayre:**  
Saturday 25 November at the Art House

## BrocSoc Meeting

Wednesday 5 April 8pm

at St Peter's Centre Cranfield Road

Reclaim the Streets!

Nick Long, Lewisham Renewal Team  
with Transport 2000 video

See article p.3: Home Zones for Brockley?

## BROCKLEY DIGS IN . . .

RESULTS OF THE BROCKLEY IN BLOOM COMPETITION

In 1998, the Brockley Society's annual Front Garden Competition was put on hold following the sad death of the competition's founder Roger Vincent from cancer. For a time there was doubt over whether the competition would be reinstated. However, I personally felt that it was important that the event should continue, not just because I enjoy having a good snoop over other people's garden fences (!) but because I felt the competition was symbolic.

Brockley's front gardens add colour and interest to the area but they also reflect the diversity of the local population. I think we're very lucky to live in such an interesting neighbourhood and I felt strongly that this diversity should be celebrated whenever possible.

To broaden the competition's appeal, this year we changed it around a little and divided it into four categories (Best Formal, Best Informal, Most Improved and Best Window Boxes / Hanging Baskets). This was done in the hope that we could focus equally on those who put a lot of effort into maintaining their front gardens, those who have reclaimed their front garden from the weeds and those who have no front garden at all but still manage to find ways of introducing colour to the outside of their homes.

Several local people contacted our competition hotline to nominate the recently completed 'designer' gardens in Breakspears Road and Harefield Road. However, the judges decided that although these gardens had sparked a lot of interest – both positive and negative – the winning gardens should be the kind that anyone could achieve with a small budget and some time and imagination. We hope you think the winners reflected this. We certainly did. The next competition will be judged at the end of June, so there's still plenty of time to get digging. **Camilla** Thanks to the judges *Clare Cowen, Tina Holley, Camilla Berens and Mike Keogh.*

### Winners of Best Front Garden Competition

Name	Address	Category
Tom Duffley	62 Adelaide Ave.	Best formal
Frank & Mary Barrie	114 Tressillian Rd.	Best informal
Roy Ruston	95c Cranfield Rd.	Most Improved
Britgit Ward	Top Flat, 68 Tyrwhitt Rd.	Best window boxes/ Hanging Baskets

Each winner received a £25 voucher for Phoebe's Garden Centre.

### HIGHLY COMMENDED FRONT GARDENS

Address	Category
71 Geoffrey Road	Informal
46 Geoffrey Road	Informal
121 Upper Brockley Road	Formal
70 Upper Brockley Road	Formal
74 Manor Avenue	Most Improved
50 Manor Avenue	Most Improved
53 Cranfield Road	Formal
55 Cranfield Road	Formal
36 Harefield Road	Most Improved
57 Breakspears Road	Most Improved + Informal
17 Beverly Court	Most Improved
2 Cranfield Road	Most Improved
21 Montague Road	Formal
9 Montague Road	Formal
12 Hilly Fields Crescent	Informal
58 Tyrwhitt Road	Formal
56 Tyrwhitt Road	Formal
85 Tyrwhitt Road	Informal
1 Avon Road	Informal
3 Tressillian Crescent	Formal
126 Breakspears Road	Most Improved
144 Breakspears Road	Formal
45 Harefield Road	Informal
14 Wickham Gardens	Window boxes
1 Glensdale Road	Informal
Flat 4, 74 Wickham Road	Window boxes

continued from page 1

Granite Union, the firm supplying the stone, is being extremely helpful. Thank you, Granite Union!

Thoughts are now turning to **1 May**, the day chosen for an informal **inauguration of the Stone Circle**. It is hoped you will put this in your diary. At present we are thinking that we could gather there around the middle of the day, bringing a picnic and enjoying some gentle entertainment. There will be Madrigals at noon and dancers from the Laban Centre are being asked to give us a surprise. We are hoping that the Brownies will plan some games and that tea-time will offer further music and dance for those who gather there.

The important thing will be for us all to come

## New Year's Eve

A few of us decided that, rather than face the crowds on the river in central London, we would go to Hilly Fields to see in the Millennium. As we started up Tyrwhitt Road we met others. We were astonished that so many other local people had had the same idea. There must have been over a thousand people on top of the hill.

It was amazing. People were singing "Auld Lang Syne" and all seemed to be drinking champagne! Several groups had brought fireworks and the atmosphere was terrific, with everyone so friendly; meeting neighbours, friends and local acquaintances and talking to complete strangers. And yes, we saw the "wall of fire" by the Houses of Parliament, the cover of the Dome lit with moving lights, fireworks on the river, the Blackheath display, those at Crystal Palace and even some in Beckenham. We certainly had more to see than anyone at one of the organised functions.

A huge thank you to the unseen person/people who cleared up the following day – champagne bottles stacked neatly by the overflowing bins and the remains of the fireworks removed completely.

As one four year old said: "This was my best New Year's Eve ever"! I think even better for being only a few minutes walk from home, with no transport problems and being among so many local people.

Depending on one's mathematics, some say the millennium should be celebrated at the end of the year 2000. I will agree, if only as an excuse for another celebration like this on next New Year's Eve! See you there! **Gillian**

## Who Wants a Street Party?

A group of people in Tressillian Road have expressed interest in another street party as a Brockley event for the Millennium.

If you would like to participate in holding a street party (suggested date is Sunday 23 July) and if you have ideas about it, contact Sybil Phoenix at Marsha Phoenix House, 90-92 Tressillian Road, tel: 020 8691 5911. Sybil is quite willing to organise it if people in Tressillian Road (and elsewhere) want it to happen, and will participate.

Contact her before 1 May because an application to close off the street needs to be made in time.

and say "hello" to the Circle at some stage during the day and if we can manage to be there for 12 noon that would be the time to give the Circle a really warm welcome.

If you would like to put forward ideas for 1

May please get in touch with Joseph on 020 8694 1476 or Polly on 020 8692 1939. **Polly Ionides**



"We'll have this one!" Joseph Cullen makes his selection

## Football Success for Hillyfielders

The Hillyfielders' Football Club have been so successful in their first season that the under-10s are top of the league already.

The local boys were thrilled to receive individual trophies and a shield for ending up top of the West division of the Sunday league, just after Christmas. The other five teams, which include one U7s, two U8s and two U9s, have been playing just as well.

The club, which trains at Hilly Fields on Saturday mornings, was formed only last September by local parents. The training sessions are open to all primary-age children for a small fee and girls would be most particularly welcome. However membership to a team is now closed, in accordance with League rules, but it will re-open in June.

Links were strengthened with Brockley Society at a joint children's party in St Peter's Centre. The event raised much-needed funds and was so popular with both club members and local children that we hope to make it an annual event. **Mandy**

## Anyone for bowls?

The Francis Drake Bowls Club on Hilly Fields is keen to encourage new members and have offered Brockley Society the prize of a free game of bowls for two people to try out their facilities.

Named after Francis Drake who lived and was knighted in Deptford, the club was founded in 1907. The club is open for playing bowls from the last week of April till the first Saturday in October.

It is a mixed club, which plays most Saturdays and Sunday from 1.30-5pm and Thursday evenings starting at 5pm. They also take part in the Lewisham Direct Shield matches, home and away on Mondays at 6pm.

There are also internal club competitions for ladies and men. Members can play any day of the week for a fee of £45-£50 for full membership. If you are not a member you can also play for £2.50 per hour plus 50p for tea and biscuits.

As a small, friendly club, they are looking for new members, aged 16 and over. Inexperienced players are welcome and spare woods and shoes are available for loan.

● To enter the prize draw for a free game of bowls for two, put your name, address and phone number on a postcard and send it to Bowls Draw, 18 St Margaret's Road, London SE4 1YU to arrive by Sunday 7 May.

# Home Zones for Brockley?

Britain has one of the worst records in Europe for injuring and killing children on our roads. One idea to help tackle this issue is to introduce radically traffic-calmed streets – home zones.

Home zones have long been established in the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany, with the idea of redesigning the social space of the street. As well as road humps and reducing the space given to vehicles, the 'social space' of the street is reallocated to other road users – pedestrians and cyclists. The width of the carriageway is greatly reduced, often the road surface is changed, with no separation of the pavement and roadway. The zone is heavily signed and the street becomes a shared-surface road. Many home zones have trees and boulders in the middle of the roads, some even have benches and play areas in the street! Car speeds are limited to 10 mph or less. The burden of proof for drivers is changed, in line with the principles operating around accidents on or near zebra crossings: drivers have to establish they were driving with due care.

Now the government has given the go-ahead for a number of local authorities to trial the concept of home zones before it considers changes to the local traffic laws to underpin the legal changes required to make home zones work in Britain.

Evidence from the Continent shows that introducing a home zone also leads to radical changes in perceptions of the street and local community. The sense of belonging and ownership of the street changes, and often leads to the growth of community networks and solidarity. People are able to stop and chat in their street without being intimidated by speeding and rat-running cars.

Other benefits of home zones have been dramatic reductions in crime and improvements in mental and medical health as more people cycle or walk to school and work. Children benefit from becoming more active but their development is also enhanced through unsupervised play and more social interaction with their peers in the community.

A home zone can only be introduced if the local community supports the concept and is prepared to become involved in the consultation and design: local residents have to own the scheme and be fully supportive.

**Nick Long – Lewisham Renewal Team**



above: children can play in safety . . .

below: and neighbours can chat in peace



photos: © David Allen/Maymark

## Breakspeare Arms Name Competition



Everyone looking forward to the opening of the new J.D. Wetherspoon pub on the site of the former Breakspeare Arms will have

to wait a bit longer than expected.

The brewery had initially hoped to have the pub up and running by this February but because of the dilapidated state of the interior, the company had to apply for fresh planning permission. Work is now expected to start on April 3rd and the opening ceremony is planned for the beginning of October.

The winner of the competition to name the new pub will be announced in the next newsletter.

"We have had a few setbacks but we are looking forward to inviting the winner to cut the ribbon later this year", spokeswoman Clare Youdell told the newsletter. The entries are:

**1) The Pope's Hat** *Deborah Haddard*

In commemoration of Nicholas Breakspeare, the only Englishman to become Pope and who was believed to have been born near to the site of the pub.

**1a) The Pope's Cradle** *Rev. Corinne Tournay*  
A nomination from our local vicar. As above.

**2) The Phoenix** *David Potts*

A nomination to mark the works of Sybil Phoenix, a local black rights activist and former Mayoress of Lewisham. Sybil lives a few streets away from the pub and is one of the area's best known and most respected figures. Mr Potts adds that The Phoenix would be appropriate because the new pub would be rising out of the ashes of the old one.

**3) The Henry Williamson** *Mr P A Butler*

A suggestion to mark the residence of local author Henry Williamson who wrote Tarka the Otter and who lived near Hilly Fields in Brockley in the early 1900s.

**4) The Tideway Tavern** *David Halliday*

Tideway was apparently the name of the local telephone exchange before the system was modernised. (I think I'm right in saying that the exchange was very near to the pub.)

**5) The Ravensbourne** *A Maitery*

To remind us of 'our poor, neglected local river'.

**6) The Station** *F. Maye*

A reference to the pub's proximity to Brockley rail station and the fact that Brockley grew up after the railway was introduced at the end of the last century.

**7) The Badger's Meadow** *Rose Lewis*

A marriage of two schools of thought. Some people believe that the name Brockley was derived from the old term meaning 'meadow with a brook' while others think it is a reference to badgers, the male of which is known as a 'brock'.

**8) The Brockley Barge** *Camilla Berens*

Sorry, I'm afraid I had to put an entry in too! I thought this name was appropriate because the old Croydon Canal ran very close to the site back in the early 1800s. The canal was later filled in and the Connex railway line now runs over the top of it. I also thought the pub's shape looked rather like a barge or at least a double-decker one!

**9) The Pitcher House** *Mr Holley*

A bit of word-play on the fact that a) it's a pub and b) there was an old and very popular cinema opposite which is also depicted on the mural round the corner. (I think it was demolished in the 1950s).

**10) The Lancelot Loat** *Mr P A Butler*

A reference to Lancelot Loat, local landowner and trader. Loat also owned the local brickfields (now covered over and replaced by a park) of which much of Victorian Brockley is made up. For all we know, the Breakspeare was also made of locally made bricks.

## Lewisham in Love

An arts project launched by a group of local artists aims to create a community archive and multimedia artwork/celebrating love in Lewisham!

Local people are invited to submit their true stories (in word or other media) identifying particular places in the borough that have romantic significance for them. Answer the simple question: Where is the most romantic place for you in Lewisham?

Lewisham in Love is a celebration of our own important places – Hilly Fields, the Clocktower, the Lewisham Odeon, that lift, the phonebox on the corner . . . Our personal experiences change the way we view public sites. Where would you put a monument to your loves?

You can drop us a line or a letter or just nominate your favourite location:

By hand: Postbox c/o Lewisham in Love, Lewisham Library, Lewisham High Street.

By post: Lewisham in Love, c/o Lewisham Arts Advisory Service, Lewisham Library, London SE13.

Email: [Lewishamlove@aol.com](mailto:Lewishamlove@aol.com)

Fax: 020 8265 4175

### Grappling with Graffiti

Have you noticed a sudden increase in spray paint vandalism in Brockley, especially around Brockley station? Residents with concerns about the damage being done to the fabric and the tone of the area gathered in St Peter's Centre on 2 February to hear a talk by Simon Baxter who is one of Lewisham Council's Enforcement Officers. He began by hearing the concerns of individuals who were clearly aware of a particular increase in graffiti in the conservation area. Simon was able to explain the useful partnerships which work best against this offending behaviour which, although criminal damage, is very difficult to combat as the offenders are unlikely to be caught red-handed. These measures include close links with police and schools, together with a programme of education and the establishment of graffiti-busting teams who receive training and materials from the council to try to break the cycle of mindless damage with aerosols. Some protection can be given to prime sites by using a protective coat of special paint which makes removal easier, but clearly we cannot treat every surface in the borough.

To win the fight against graffiti:

1. Report eye-witness accounts to police immediately, like any other crime.
2. Defuse the incentive to graffiti vandals by removing any examples near your home or business as quickly as possible. This has been shown to be the most effective way to break their spirit (instead of yours).
3. Join a graffiti-busting team. Find out more and volunteer for effective action by contacting Jayne Confino (020 8691 1463) or Joseph Cullen (020 8694 1476) **Joseph**

### Thameslink 2000

works at St John's/Tanners Hill

In case you haven't heard, there are some unpleasant goings-on down in the Vale! Currently the roof of St John's station is being removed in the middle of the night and creating much disruption to nearby residents. (The roof has asbestos within its cement casting.) Much more work is planned by Railtrack to create an extra track (which would not serve the station's commuters). A public enquiry is likely to be held this Spring. This is part of Thameslink 2000's plans for delivering an enhanced rail network to encourage train travel and provide a stronger alternative to road use. But St John's Conservation Association's Statement of Case for the enquiry says there appears to be no co-ordinated strategy on the works proposed by Railtrack and Connex and they have listed numerous concerns about the way the work is being carried out. They are unhappy at increasing the number of trains without more of them stopping at St John's.

The plans would offer no benefit to local people but would increase levels of disturbance and discomfort. For more details or to express your views on this historic station and its surrounding area, contact:

Paul Wellings-Longmore, St John's Conservation Association, on 0467 454 979; or Sandra Jones, Railtrack Regeneration Officer, 020 7922 2549.

### St Peter's, Brockley

Talk by Gillian Heywood - September 1999

St Peter's church is in what was originally the parish of Deptford, out of which most of its lands were carved. Under Edward the Confessor (reigned 1042-66), last of the English kings before the Norman Conquest, the 'hundred' (administrative district) of Blackheath contained seven distinct hamlets. Two of these were Levesham and Grenvic, which was divided into East and West Grenvic; the latter became Deptford (deep ford). In the 12th century Deptford was the parish of St Nicholas, from which, by an Act of Parliament passed in 1730, the parish of St Paul's was cut out. The Surrey part of this parish, known as Hatcham, was separated from it in 1845. Ten years later the newly built Deptford New Town needed a new church and therefore a new parish: St John's. Ten years later still, yet another new church was planned. This was to be St Peter's.

The ancient manor of Brockley was partly in Lewisham, partly in Deptford. The Deptford part was given to Wakelin de Magminot by King William I, but before 1189 the land had been given to Michael de Turnham, who in turn gave it to Wakelin's wife Juliana so that she could found a monastery of White Friars. These monks had been in Sussex but had persuaded their patroness that their land was barren. So they were given Brockley, which they held until the 16th-century Reformation, when it went, first to Cardinal's College, Oxford, four years later to the Crown. Later still, the land was farmed by tenant farmers.

In 1865 the then owner of this land, William Wickham Drake, presented a site for a church and a vicarage, together with £2,000 towards the building of a church. Before the church was built, the congregation met, at first in an 'iron hut in the rhubarb fields', later at 171 Lewisham High Road. The Revd. Joseph McCormick was curate from 1867 until his retirement in 1875. Built to the designs of Frederick Marrable, at a cost of £12,000, the church was opened on 24 August 1867; £7,000 was then still outstanding. The church was consecrated in 1870, and on 21 December 1871 the parish of St Peter was ratified by the Queen. In 1873 the worshippers decided to order their own organ and to enclose the church and vicarage grounds. So a Grand Bazaar was held, which raised over £700. Walls and fences were erected, and an organ was ordered at a cost of £700. When the new vicar, the Revd. J. C. Wetherell, arrived in 1875, there were still debts of £2,500. Dry rot having been found in the church floor, Mr Wetherell had it refloored at his own expense; the solid block flooring cost him £400. A church hall was needed, too, and this was opened on 25

November 1879. It had cost £3,000.

By now the church was at last free of long-standing debts, but a further problem soon arose: the hot-air system was failing, and at length it was decided to install a low-pressure hot-water system at a cost of £500. To raise this sum, a special charge was levied on seat-holders. All outstanding debts were paid off by the summer of 1884. But then the organ was found to be in need of repair.

When Mr Wetherell died in 1886 he was succeeded, first by Dr. J. McCann, then by Revd. Bishop Titcomb, who occupied the pulpit for only four Sundays before his death in April 1887. His successor, the Revd. Charles Henry Grundy, would serve as vicar until 1929. In 1888 £450 was raised for improvements to the organ, and a further £950 for the building and furnishing of a choir vestry, designed by J. O. Abbott, a local resident. In the following year Mrs Bonner and Mr T. H. Fry offered to help pay for the completion of the church, which still had neither bells nor tower. There was a heated debate about the bells in *The Times*; public opinion was against them, and they were not installed. The tower, 120 ft high, was built to a design by Sir Arthur Blomfield; originally it had eight pinnacles rising a further 15 ft. The architect forgot to provide access to the tower; so a hole had to be made, leading to a landing over the west gallery, where there are step-ladders to each of the floors. The stained-glass windows were added later, as parishioners' memorials to their relatives.

Where was the vicarage? In 1875 the Revd. Joseph McCormick wrote his annual address from Minster House, Albert Road, Brockley, S.E. This is now 14 Darling Road, which is where the author of the present article lives, and is in fact in the parish of St John's. In 1893 a churchwarden, Arthur Lloyd Edwards, wrote a short history of St Peter's in which he referred to 'the present vicarage', which Mr Wetherell had 'accepted . . . with all its difficulties and liabilities'. This seems to be a reference to 60 Wickham Road. Documents dating from the 1920s, held by the Local Studies Centre, refer to the vicarage as being in Breakspears Road. This was possibly no. 50, a building destroyed by a bomb during the Second World War.

The present Wickham Road vicarage was built in 1952 between the church and the railway, on the site that had been rejected for its instability in 1877. The foundations of this building have been moving for at least thirty years, but are finally being stabilised this winter and it is planned that the present vicar, Corinne Tournay, will take up residence in early May.

### Night-time Aircraft Noise

Heathrow is a 24-hour airport: up to 50 aircraft between 4am and 6am. Last year the government sought views on a proposal to switch Heathrow to an easterly preference for landing direction at night, with London being woken only 16% of the year, instead of 87% as at present.

Council-led opposition from the sparsely populated area west of Heathrow has made the government withdraw this offer in favour of two offers of a broadly neutral preference, splitting the nuisance 50/50 claimed to be

"fair and equitable". However at least 300,000 people in London are affected by westerly preference operations and only 20-40,000 people to the west of Heathrow by an easterly preference.

The SE London Aircraft Noise Group continues their campaign to minimise the numbers of people exposed to disturbance and calls for an easterly preference.

- Register your noise concerns by phoning the BAA Freephone noise line: 0800 344 844

## The Brockley Community Web (BCW)

was formed in February 1998 when I realised that the Internet equivalent of local place names were being "cyber squatted" by speculators with no beneficial purpose other than their own potential profit. So I registered the Internet Net Name of 'www.brockley.com' and rented computer space from a firm in California to act as a public Web Site. I run the Web Site on a non profit basis for the people of Brockley.

I realised that the best initial use for the name was to provide a central reference point to people interested in Brockley. Over the years the typical questions are "Do you know a good builder? What is the phone number of the Launderette?" So I started walking the streets with a notebook in hand noting down the names and 'phone number of the local shops and establishments.

Listed on the site are many things including Schools, Shops, Churches, Doctors, Businesses, Libraries, Restaurants, MP's, Garages. To help liven up the content there are photographs of the locality, details of famous people who lived in the locality and occasional comments about life in Brockley. I now even show copies of the Broc Soc news letter.

Although I have to pay a monthly bill for the site, listing of local businesses is free. There is also a standing offer of free pages to local schools, clubs and charities.

Recent statistics show an average 75 visitors per day making 760 requests for information from the site. There are currently approximately 200 pages on the site with over 500 links to external web pages. **Charles Smith**

## Women at the turn of the Millennium

The latest ambitious production from Montage Theatre was the women's community theatre project, *Second Nature*. It was enjoyed by all, as 26 local women told stories from their childhoods, weaving words, song, music and movement into a kaleidoscopic journey spanning time and land.

Directed by Judy Gordon, director of Brockley-based theatre company Montage Theatre, the production was devised in nine weeks by the new performers, aged 24 to 72, and professional production team and performed in the magical Rivoli Ballroom in Crofton Park.

Jazz singer Emma Finlay sang live with her musicians through the piece while renowned singer/performer Barb Jungr arranged the final rousing song for the women. Original costumes, props and projected image took the audience on a visual and aural experience through the histories of these performers. Children of the performers and from the Montage Theatre



## Young Artists at the BrocSoc Summer Fayre

Here are a few choice works from the children's drawing competition at last year's Jubilee Midsummer Fayre. This year's Fayre, the heartbeat of BrocSoc, is on Saturday 24 June and promises to be another wonderful event. Put it in your diary!



**For stall bookings phone:  
020 8691 3318 (outside) or  
020 8691 7234 (stalls in marquee)**

## Jubilee 2000 Lifeline Walk

A Walk of Reconciliation down the Meridian Line with representatives of all the meridian line nations (England, France, Spain, Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo and Ghana) will take place from 15 June to 12 July (England), and: from August to November 2000 (France to Ghana).

The idea came from Brockley resident David Pott and has developed into the Jubilee 2000 Lifeline Walk, which begins across the Holderness peninsula on Thursday 15 June and continues south. It will reach Greenwich on 4 July, finishing at Peacehaven on 12 July, a total of 252 miles, and continues down the line through the meridian nations in the late summer. The closest the walk gets to Brockley is on 5 July, when it will go via Blackheath, Hither Green station, Torridon Road and link with the Green Chain Walk before entering Bromley.

The Lifeline Walk is linked to the campaign to relieve Third World debt and is supported by the Jubilee 2000 Coalition. Many important reconciliation issues affect the nations on the meridian line, not least the legacy of slavery and colonial exploitation which has led to the north-south divide and Third World debt. Schoolchildren

and other community groups will accompany the core team as it passes through their locality.

The walk is an initiative of the Meridian Millennium Way Project which aims to establish a new long-distance walking route using existing Public Rights of Way close to the meridian line. The first stretch opens this year along the Lee Valley from St Margaret's near Hoddesdon to the Thameside view of the Millennium Dome. The long term intention is for the Meridian Way to be used to raise funds for projects in Africa, much as the Macmillan Way is used for cancer research funds.

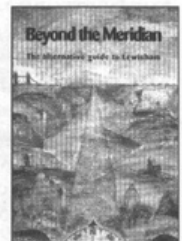
### How you can help

The appropriate participants from the meridian nations need funding to bring them to England. We also need help with administration, accommodation as we pass through, and contact with schools close to the line. If you can help, or if we can help you by, for example, joining some local millennium celebration, please contact:

David Pott, 58 Geoffrey Rd, London SE4 INT.

## A booklet to treasure

*Beyond the Meridian – The alternative guide to Lewisham.* Deptford Forum Publishing on behalf of Lewisham Shopping Centre. ISBN 1-898536-96-1.



Seldom is a local history booklet as lively and decorative as this delightful little book. It is surprising and pleasing to discover that it was done for Lewisham Shopping Centre and came originally from the murals at the back of the centre.

"We set out to produce a guide with three walks and snapshots round the parks," Lewisham Centre manager Richard Merry said. "Then we heard the council was doing their own. That is why it is called the 'alternative' guide." But Lewisham Arts Department's support enabled a full-colour booklet. The pictures are many and varied. As well as walks from Ladywell to Brockley, Lee to Blackheath, and Sydenham to Forest Hill, the booklet focuses on specific areas and also has items on Rockin' Lewisham, Bligh and the Bounty, the Spanish Civil War, Foods, and lists of famous residents.

The booklet is available by post from Deptford Forum, 441 New Cross Road, London SE14 6TA at £2.99 + 50p p&p, or from W H Smith and Lewisham libraries. You can also get the official millennium guide from libraries.

• Next time you are in Lewisham Shopping Centre, stop at the murals at the West Walk entrance and find the BrocSoc dragon. If you have not already done so, pick up the excellent leaflet at the centre's information point which explains all the images.

Education Programme also took part, creating a truly inter-generational production.

The women worked incredibly hard over the months to create this unique experience. Hopefully it will be performed again in the near future and be the start of many a community theatre project. Meanwhile from early May, new physical theatre workshops for

women take place at the Mornington Centre in New Cross, led by Judy Gordon and the popular singing, acting and dance classes for children in the Montage Theatre Education Programme continue in the summer term. For more information on any of these adult or children's courses and professional productions, please contact:

Judy Gordon, Montage Theatre,  
45 Chalsey Rd, London SE4 1YN  
Tel/Fax: 020 8694 9497  
Mobile: 0961 392 336  
email: info@montagetheatre.com  
Web site: www.montagetheatre.com





## THE SUMMER GARDEN

Garden Design & Maintenance

By qualified Horticulturist



Caroline

0181 690 6061



### HONOR OAK GALLERY

20th Century Works of Art on Paper.

Bespoke mounting and framing to museum standard.

Conservation and restoration of watercolours, drawings, prints, paintings and frames.

Tues-Fri 9.30 - 6.00 Sat 9.30 - 5.00  
52 Honor Oak Park, London SE23 1DY  
0181-291 6094

### Face Painting!

**For Parties and Events**

Professional artists - 18 yrs exp

Various rates.

Please leave name & number on  
Pager no. 07669 163720

### D.J.A. PLUMBING & GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Plumbing/Carpentry & general maintenance work  
D J Atkins.

0181 691 2553 / 0797 160 3840

No Job Too Small. No Call Out Charge. Free Estimates

### CLEANING SERVICE

All housework undertaken, Weekly, fortnightly, etc. Spring cleans, one-offs, ironing Saturdays can be arranged. Refs. Provided.

Phone 0181 265 1387 / 0956 589 394

## FREE MANURE!!

Collect from the Geoffrey Road Stables.

Geoffrey Road, SE 4



ESTATE AGENTS & VALUERS

369 Brockley Road  
Crofton Park, SE4 2AG  
40 yards from Crofton Park Station  
Telephone 0181 691 1516

# Spalding & Sparrow

## Newsagents

Paper delivery - bus passes - travel passes

Confectionery & greeting cards

New services - paypoint for domestic bills

WESTERN UNION | MONEY TRANSFER

The World's No. 1 money transfer service



and

CHEQUE CASHING

Open: 7am - 7.30pm Monday to Saturday, 6.30am - 3pm Sunday  
61 Loampit Hill, SE13. Phone: 0181 - 473 2688

## Restructuring Lewisham Council: how it will affect you

The Council now has a Mayor, a Cabinet - in the future to be directly elected, but this year chosen by the ruling Labour Party - and the rest of the councillors, who make up the Assembly.

Most of the abundant committee meetings will disappear which, we are told, will give our councillors more time to be in their wards. Another reason given is that they want a more "joined up" council. Previously, if a child was late for school, this was dealt with by the Education Committee as truancy. If he was held up by bad traffic it was a Highways problem. If he was unwell, it was a Health problem, possibly caused by traffic pollution - a Highways and Health problem. In future it should be sorted out as a whole, not treated in separate sections of the Council. So far, I can see no evidence of cross-referencing.

The Cabinet meets once a week and the Assembly will meet four times a year. All meetings will be open to the public and anyone can ask a question, if handed in, in writing, at least three days before the meeting.

The Planning and Highways meetings will continue

as before, except that they will be constituency based, i.e. all planning and highways applications for this area will be put before councillors local to this area, but the meetings will still be in Catford, every six weeks for us.

The Council seems to think that it will be able to consult better with the community. Certainly there are forums, one on Grove Park, one in Sydenham and Forest Hill, one in Deptford, but in Brockley? Are we going to be left out again, as this area always has been historically, on the edge of several areas?

We are told there is a Lewisham Citizens' Panel, made up of a randomly chosen 1,000 people, who advise the council, but I have yet to meet anyone who is on it. Is anyone out there on this panel? You should have been given the choice of three different types of local government but Lewisham seems to have jumped the gun. It is proud to be the first to encompass change and has chosen the option of Mayor and Assembly. I think it will be difficult to alter their choice.

If you have any comments please let us know.

Gillian

## MGC Secretarial Services

Word-processing - Letters, CVs, Forms, Projects, Thesis, Accounts. Fax Service, Photocopying, Binding, Laminating, Passport Photos, Small Volume Printing.

0181 469 0634. Fax: 0181 469 0639  
353a Brockley Rd, SE4 2AG

## ADVERTISEMENTS

Send finished copy (and fee) to:

Brocsoc Newsletter Ads,

17 Tressillian Crescent, SE4 1QJ

Small	3.6cm x 6cm	£15
Medium	7.5cm x 6cm	£25
Large	12.4cm x 7.6cm	£40

All ads must be prepaid

CIRCULATION 4000

READERSHIP 8000

to advertise, phone 0181 691 3318

## MIKIPRINT

Specialists in short-run printing  
business & fancy cards, letterheads etc.  
laminations: A4 from 90p each  
wedding invitations gold foil printed to your  
design at a very reasonable price.

Tel: 020- 8692 8591

## NEIL FENNEL OSTEOPATHY

Including Cranial,  
Reiki Healing & Reflexology  
at Professionals

3a Coulgate St. 0181 692 3073

## REFLEXOLOGIST

**DEBORAH DYE**

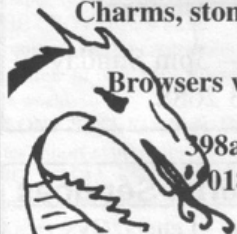
ITEC DIP. REFLEXOLOGY

member of the Guild of  
Complementary Practitioners.

0171 635 7471

## DRAGON'S DEN

Tarot Reading. Accessories for  
Country & Western and Line  
Dancing. Magazines, pictures,  
Music. Candles, feng shui, gifts.  
Charms, stones, incense.



Browsers welcome!

398a Brockley Rd.  
0181- 699 4948

[www.dragonsden.co.uk](http://www.dragonsden.co.uk)

email: [info@dragonsden.co.uk](mailto:info@dragonsden.co.uk)

## THE SYDNEY FISHER CLINIC

REGISTERED OSTEOPATHS

Osteopathy can help a variety of acute  
and long-term problems including:

lower back and neck pain; headaches and  
migraines; whiplash injuries; sports injuries;  
arthritis ad rheumatism.

It can also be effective in helping  
pregnant mothers, babies and children.  
Appointments six days per week and  
some evenings until 7pm. Both male and  
female practitioners are available.

For more details or advice please contact us at

81 Tressillian Road 0181 694 2714

## COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

A fully professional service  
By an experienced therapist

**Andrea Clough**

Dip.Couns, Dip.Psychotherapy,  
U.K.C.P. Accredited

0181 691-5303

Brockley SE4

## Rocodells



Estate &  
Lettings Agents

388 Brockley Road, Brockley,  
London SE4 2BY

0181-691 8731/0313

Call now for free valuation

## C.J.'s Property Maintenance & Repairs .

Builder, Carpenter, Painting & Decorating, Restoration work - Home Improvements

Landscape Gardening, Walls, Fencing, Patios, Paths & Ponds etc.

Exterior painting and repointing, Insurance work undertaken.

Please ring Colin Brooks for free advice & estimates on

0181 695 6234



Aromatherapy Massage  
Reflexology, Reiki  
Indian Head Massage

Helena Argüelles

tel/fax 0181 305 6865

email: Helena Argüelles

@compuserve.com

• Gift vouchers available

• Appointments in Brockley

## LOCAL CARPENTER

28 years experience.

Apprenticeship trained.

Doors, locks, kitchens and flatpacks,  
windows, period restoration and  
traditional built cupboards, wardrobes  
& bookcases.

Also heating engineer, plumbing &  
decorating. CORGI registered, no  
call out fee

All work guaranteed.

Free estimates. Call Len  
0181 244 5838 / 0976 579 721

No job too big or too small!

## EASTWOOD GARDEN SERVICES

Designs, consultations, construction  
restorations, maintenance.

For your year 2000 garden changes  
call:

0181 858 6541

Jane Bishop LCPH.  
MCHE. MHMA

## Homeopathic Practitioner

The way to natural health with  
homeopathy, one of the fastest growing  
forms of alternative medicine today.

For an initial consultation please  
telephone Jane on

0181 694 6753

at her clinic in Upper Brockley Rd. SE4

Jane is delighted to introduce Elaine  
Musgrove, a QUALIFIED  
REFLEXOLOGIST, to the practice.  
Elaine will be offering treatment at  
the introductory rate of £15

## CB DECORATING EXTERIOR PAINTING

interior decorating • all  
CARPENTRY work undertaken •  
free estimates •  
ring Colin

0181 695 6234



## BROCKLEY SOCIETY

## BARBECUE



The Society owns a very  
large and splendid barbecue.

You can hire it for the modest fee of £10 for the weekend.  
Contact Bob on 0181 692 2289