

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

Issue 94 April 2002
Charity No: 1004245

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BROCKLEY CALENDAR

Spring Festival

St Peter's Church, cnr Wickham and Cranfield Roads

7pm Wednesday 1 May

Beethoven, Fauré, Kreisler

Jane Ng - violin

Wai-yin Lee - piano

7pm Wednesday 8 May

Messe de Tournai

Lagrima:

Mark J Chambers - countertenor

Nick Todd - tenor

Thomas Guthrie - baritone

Brockley Society Public Meeting

Wednesday 1 May 8pm

St Peter's Centre Cranfield Rd 8pm

Golden Jubilee Hilly Fields Picnic

Monday 3 June 12 noon

at the Millennium Stone Circle

Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre

Saturday 22 June 12 - 5 pm

Friends of Marsha Phoenix Street Party

Saturday 16 June 90/92 Tressillian Road.

Photography, Art & Craft workshops May-June

Phone 8691 5911 for details

Brockley Society

Jubilee Midsummer Fayre

Saturday 22 June 12-5pm Hilly Fields

Brockley Cross Action Group

Committee meetings are open to the public:

Wednesday 24 April

Thursday 6 June

Tuesday 16 July

Wednesday 11 September

All in clubroom above the Wickham Arms, Upper Brockley Road, 7.30pm start.

Brockley Police Station, Howson Road, SE4

Open Monday to Friday 10am-2pm

As well as performing normal police front counter services, there are different agencies working from the police station providing advice and assistance.

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Chair | 8692 5027 |
| Vice Chair | 8691 1463 |
| Treasurer | 8691 1767 |
| Fayre general | 8691 7234 |
| Fayre outside stalls | 8692 0772 |
| Newsletter | 8692 3829 |
| Newsletter | 8692 5027 |
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| Transport | 8691 1463 |
| Local History | 8692 6977 |
| Environment & Hilly | |
| Fields Park Users Group | 8691 7234 |
| Planning & Highways | 8692 6977 |

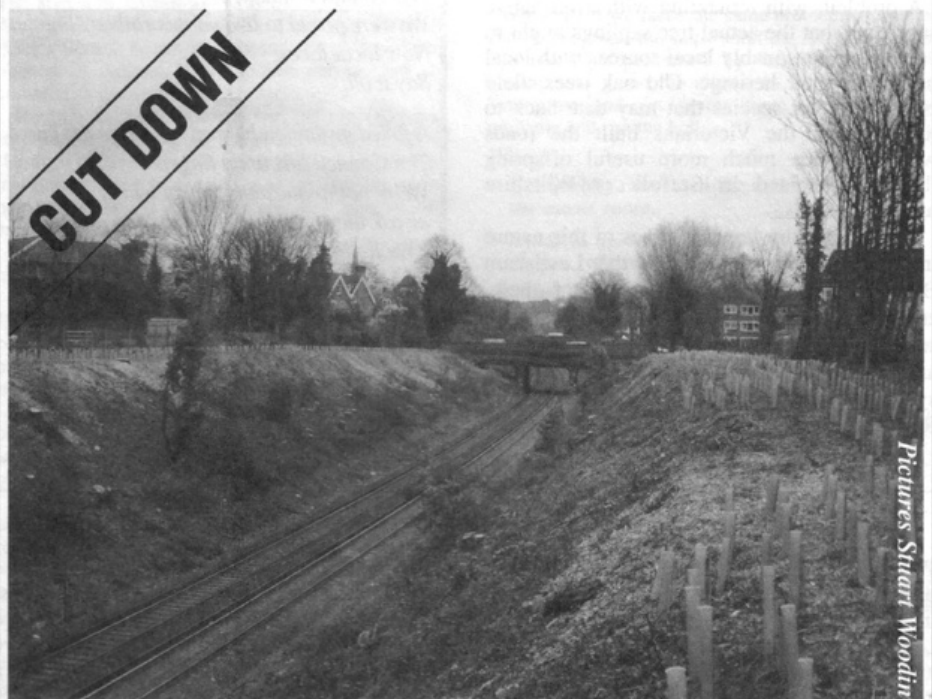
Everyone living in the Brockley Conservation area is automatically a member of the Brockley Society. The Brockley Society welcomes all - regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical disability.

St. Peter's Centre

SOLD



Our Railway Trees



Details & More Inside

Our railway trees

For safety and operational reasons, Railtrack Southern have cut down the trees on both sides of the Nunhead to Lewisham railway line, a site of importance for Nature Conservation Grade II.

BrocSoc, other concerned people and Green Party GLA member Darren Johnson met with Railtrack to see if it could be done less drastically, for instance by doing one side at a

time so that nesting birds could remain. The GLA biodiversity team provided suggestions for replacement trees.

New trees and shrubs have been planted, but will take at least two years to become established – and many more years to become a leafy, rustling bird filled forest again, which will not be to the same extent and grandeur as before.

A comment

Apparently Railtrack have carte blanche to do whatever they like to keep the trains running.

As someone who is involved in the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, writing the Woodland Habitat Action Plan at the moment, I can see some sense in their actions, but also some errors.

Most of the trees that have colonised and thrived along the embankments since grazing or mowing was stopped have been Sycamores. These are not particularly valuable for wildlife as a food plant but do provide a lot of shelter to animals making their way up and down the railway 'wildlife' corridor into and out of London.

Many older trees on the other side have a lot of associated ivy growing all over them which provides useful nesting habitat and food for birds. The scale of destruction is indeed great, no selectivity has occurred, and some more wildlife valuable native trees may have been lost as a result. Railtrack (or the current managers) would argue that the sycamores produce the wrong type of leaf—large, difficult to rot and easily sticking to wet tracks.

It is true that sycamore leaves rot slowly due to the bacteria and fungi being absent.

Railtrack say they will replant with more native tree saplings, with a hope to outgrow the (in effect coppiced) sycamores if they regrow. They have poisoned all sycamores, but they do want to see the soil stabilised so we do not get the slippages experienced in Vesta Road in the heavy storms of the late eighties/early nineties.

A problem with replanting with even native species is that the actual tree saplings ought to come from reasonably local sources with local history to their heritage. Old oak trees, field maple or other species that may date back to times before the Victorians built the roads would provide much more useful offspring than trees raised in Suffolk or Wiltshire nurseries.

If you have any 'veteran' trees of this nature in your gardens please give the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership a record of them, especially if they bear seeds or fruits. Local schools could be encouraged to propagate them and replant them in areas of established sycamore woodland which are being felled by Railtrack in future sorties.

Mike

A Lament

The Trees! Tall Trees!

Who would live on a railway line?

The noise, the grime...

But was it just a railway line?

with trees and song,

and flowers and foxes and squirrels

& creeper & nettles that stung.

We used to love our railway line

The trees, tall trees.

That held the space,

and softened the city

and rustled and moved in the Brockley cutting.

Who paused on the bridges, to take it in?

Our woodland track direct from Kent,

left to mature, at ease with itself,

a 50 foot crown

stirring with spring.

Then Railtrack pounced.

Two measly letters.

An army of workers,

The noise of destruction,

The Trees, the Trees!

They're down, they're down.

Some were ill, most were not.

The earth is scorched,

The ground is hot.

We were proud to live on this railway line.

Now local faces,

Say it all.

A failed institution blamed leaves on the line,

The Council lifts not a finger.

We're not to question 'safety works'

or ask they rethink their plunder,

"We'll plant some shrubs.

and little trees"

the sods mutter.

The Trees! Tall Trees!

Stuart Woodin
Geoffrey Road

Biodiversity official in Brockley!

The meadows at the Stone Circle end of Hilly Fields have now been incorporated into the management plans of Lewisham Council, which are carried out by Glendale, the management contractors. Last summer the grass was allowed to grow in defined areas, with normal cutting regimes and some paths outlining the edge. From the air it may be possible to see a butterfly when the meadow grass is long. Plants that have grown unhindered include field bindweed, yarrow, rare grasses and even figwort. A large population of Meadow Brown Butterflies appeared to breed in the areas.

Local green woodpeckers would have benefited from the red ants building hills, adding to the biodiversity in the park. Joggers and dog walkers have been using the new desire line paths that were strimmed and then mown, they even remained defined over winter due to use. Access into the Nature reserve (top of Eastern Road) was encouraged by strimming a special path from the stone circle area. The long grass did not attract pyromaniac vandals, although some litter was trapped in it, Local botanists should be recording the next season's species, and future management will be based on the findings, encouraging rarer plants that appear, hopefully. There are four locals who are involved in improving the biodiversity of the park: Maggie, Anita, Marie and myself. We hope the public appreciate the interest the changes bring. Future improvements may be to plant up the hedge gaps along Vicars Hill, with appropriate shrubs and trees, to make sure the ageing hedge is succeeded by a stronger, more wildlife supporting one. A tight, properly laid mixed deciduous hedge attracts more birds to nest within, and also could mean the tatty fence could be removed in time.

Mike of Lewisham Environment Trust.
Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership and Ladywell Society.
(as well as HFUG and LFUG)

Dead Trees round Hilly Fields

Some trees near the stone circle have died, and it was suggested that rather than replace them (which is difficult since they would look out of place) they may be sculpted by a local sculptor as they stand (Giles Kent springs to mind). The stone circle has become accepted and respected by locals and there is no reason why a more delicate sculpture could not be created. The design could be based on echoing the Gate, or a totem pole style, maybe even covered with carvings of the local wildlife. Suggestions can be put to the Hilly Fields User Group.

Uncertain future for Brockley Station

Brockley Station is under threat: it may be closed and replaced just by ticket machines.

Many problems face railway stations today. Railtrack owns them but is in administration. The train companies run them but will not pay to repair something they do not own, or pay for more staff.

The problems at Brockley are with the poor state of the building and safety of staff, some of whom have been threatened with knives and guns. When ticket checks are made, large numbers of people climb over the railings to avoid being caught, while law-abiding people have to queue to show tickets.

It seems as though nothing can be done without large numbers of Transport Police present. So because of the lawless few, it will become inconvenient to purchase season and other tickets. Have you ever tried to buy a ticket at London Bridge? Do you want to walk to New Cross Gate or Lewisham to buy your tickets?

Kate

Call for papers!

We are trying to put together an archive set of papers of the Brockley Society since it started in 1974 - these would then be lodged with Lewisham's Local History Studies Centre, who are keen to have such papers. They would be kept in good condition and be accessible to all who wanted to study the local area.

So, what is needed are past papers such as correspondence, agenda and minutes of meetings etc. from former Committee members, especially those between 1974 and 1976 and since 1989. (Photocopies would do

but originals are preferred — well, what else would you do with them?) Any past newsletters, again the early years, would also be very welcome. Although we do have records, they are incomplete and it would be a pity to leave past efforts of BrocSoc unrecorded for posterity.

If you have any such papers that you think might be of relevance, please give me a call — tel. 020 8692 6232. Hoping to hear from some of you!

Sale of St. Peter's Centre

Sad chronology of the sale of St. Peter's Centre

- ◆ In early November 2001, the vice-chair of the BrocSoc was informed that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) wished to sell St Peter's Centre. There was no request for discussion.
- ◆ In early December a meeting was held with people from BrocSoc and members of the PCC to enquire about the decision and request a delay in the sale process. Various people made enquiries with the Church Commissioners, the Bishop, sources of funding, etc.
- ◆ The next PCC meeting was in January.
- ◆ At the BrocSoc meeting in early January there were local councillors, Mayoral candidates and local people giving support to any attempt to help with managing the centre and seeking sources of funding to repair it. Letters were written to the PCC on behalf of BrocSoc and individual letters were sent.
- ◆ At the next PCC, despite all these requests, plus a pledge to take over the management of St Peter's and seek funding from BrocSoc, the PCC decided to go ahead with the sale, with a 6 March deadline for offers.
- ◆ Another meeting between the PCC and BrocSoc took place in February. No decision was made by the PCC members present. BrocSoc decided with a week till the deadline, that it would make a bid for St Peter's with a small amount of money up front and a request to be given 18 months to find the rest of the money from sources of funding. This was non-compliant as it did not have all the money up front, so was ignored when the next PCC took place on 19 March and the decision was made.

If the Church had had any faith in its local community it could have negotiated a solution which would be to everyone's advantage.

Other halls in the conservation area

On the periphery of Brockley Conservation Area there are halls and meeting rooms of one kind or another. None of them has the same community function that St Peter's Centre has had. Here are some: Myatt Gardens School; Lewisham College; the Wickham Arms public house, Upper Brockley Road; St Andrews Church, Brockley Road; St John's Church, Lewisham Way; Duke of Edinburgh pub, Malpas Road; Lewisham Art House, Lewisham Way. The Scout hut, Breakspears Road, is the only community building within the Conservation Area.

All these venues are useful for certain functions, but none of them is a community resource in the way St Peter's Centre has been. Pubs are not suitable for many activities. Schools and colleges aren't necessarily the right place either. This is why St Peter's ceasing to be a community venue will be a great loss.

St Peter's Centre has been sold.

Brockley Society and others opposed the hasty sale, without consultation, of this community resource.

As we went to press, we learned that the Parochial Church Council has accepted the offer from another Church to buy St. Peter's Centre.

A meeting scheduled for Sunday 14 April was to discuss the development of the church for community use. It is stated that the buyer is 'open to some community use of the premises'.

We hope that we can develop good relations with the new owners so that the only hall within Brockley Conservation Area is not lost to the community.

Brockley Society proposal

The Brockley Society proposal prepared by Charlie Hedges, was for a community centre incorporating a main hall with climbing walls, badminton court, netball, basketball, five-a-side football, and a music room, a fitness suite, a cafe and two meeting rooms. The existing users would be still be able to use the centre.

The proposal had the support and interest of several organisations, including the British Mountaineering Council, Sport England, Capital Community Fund. Although climbing and mountaineering are becoming increasingly popular sports, distance from mountainous areas makes it difficult to practise. Other sport, health and educational bodies were also keen.

BrocSoc's bid identified other sources of funding — for the purchase, renovation, maintenance and running of the centre — and included calculations of the incomes the climbing wall, fitness suite and cafe could generate. Within Brockley Society there is expertise in raising funds for regeneration, commercial law, marketing, architecture — especially conversion of large buildings — consulting engineering, and bricklaying. BrocSoc has a track record of successfully regenerating amenities.

However, our plan was not to be. The PCC was not prepared to delay the sale to enable all the details to be tied up.

History of St Peter's Centre & BrocSoc's connection

The area now known as the Brockley Conservation Area was developed between 1850 and 1880. St Peter's Church began its existence in 1865 and was opened in August 1867, so the church and the community grew up together.

The hall, St Peter's Centre, was built in 1877-8 in response to the Vicar of the parish saying in 1876: 'Until we have a room erected for gatherings, instruction of the young and to serve, in short, as the home of a variety of institutions and agencies, we cannot make much progress.'

It seems that we still need this hall, and for the same purposes.

The hall was opened, free of debt, in November 1879. In the 19th Century, the majority of the community would have been churchgoers and so the hall was as much for the community as the parishioners, they being one and the same.

Now the hall is not necessarily used by the church, but is definitely used and needed by the community, as it is still the only community resource within reach of all corners of this area of about 4,000 families.

The Centre contains several rooms, which can be used together or independently. There are two large rooms at the rear, toilets and a kitchen which need refitting, and dressing rooms behind the stage of the main hall. The hall is so large that it can accommodate the British Badminton Championships. It is used weekly by an internationally successful Judo club, a dog training class, a badminton club, Brownies, singing, a keep fit group, with wedding receptions, parties, jumble sales and other infrequent events. And, of course, Brockley Society uses the upstairs committee and music room monthly and has held a children's Christmas party in the hall for several years.

The church has been unable to persuade a theatre group to rent part of the premises, so finance is the

problem. It appears that the income from lettings only just covers the maintenance and there is no extra cash to pay for larger projects, which would make the hall more attractive to hire. The present members of the PCC see fit to solve the problem by selling the whole building and depriving this large residential area of its only community centre.

But in 1974 we faced the same problem — and the church proposed the same solution. At that time the community, represented by BrocSoc and other groups, was given the chance to form a voluntary committee and get grants from the Council to renovate and run the halls.

We:-

- ◆ Completely renovated the main hall and the music room.
- ◆ Installed up-to-date heating in all the rooms, refitted the kitchens.
- ◆ Overhauled the billiard table upstairs, put a new roof on the rear end of the building.
- ◆ overhauled the main and front roofs.
- ◆ Sorted the guttering and damp.
- ◆ Divided rooms at the front to make storage and better toilets.
- ◆ Did works to comply with fire rating for a public hall — and much, much more.

Some finance came from grants, but much from our own fund-raising. At that time the tennis courts beside the hall were sold and Oaklands House now stands on the site.

This time the PCC seems to have made the decision to market without consultation or enlisting the support of the community or exploring other sources of funding.

At a meeting of the PCC and BrocSoc in December, strong representations were made to defer the marketing while we had an opportunity to explore other options, but the PCC did not see fit to withdraw the property from the market.

Gillian

Update from the New School for New Cross Campaign

www.newx.freeserve.co.uk

The latest Report by the Local Education Authority (LEA) on their future plans for Secondary Education in the borough has just been released. We wonder whether we are being paranoid or whether they were trying to sneak it out under cover of the Easter holiday.

Anyway, it is not exactly what we wanted. It contains proposals for expanding some existing schools and opening a new school somewhere (possibly a revamped Northbrook?) in the north. It also makes a lot of assumptions about Addey's and Prendergast taking local children and relies on the 6th Form Centre opening in order to make any sense of the expanding numbers in existing schools. As funding for this has now been turned down twice by the Learning and Skills Council, it would seem unlikely that this project can go ahead even though the LEA claims to still be negotiating with them.

All in all it is another shoddy piece of work in which the LEA appear to be trying to do as little as possible rather than really tackling the problem. We have clearly shifted them into accepting that a new school is required, but we will have to work a lot harder to get the type of school we want where it is most needed, i.e., on the Telegraph Hill site in Wallbuton Road.

One way you can all help with this is by voting for Local Education Action by Parents candidates in the forthcoming elections. (Visit the LEAP site on www.l-e-a-p.fsnet.co.uk)

Read the LEA report for yourself: www.newx.freeserve.co.uk/report3.html.

A planning triumph

A group of concerned residents have stopped the council demolishing garages in Wickham Mews without Conservation Area planning consent.

When the council's demolition squad moved in, they were challenged to show that they had obtained planning permission — from the council's planning department.

They had not, and had to withdraw.

The concern of people living in the flats next door is that the demolition would remove the back wall to their communal garden where their children play and their washing hangs. Some of the garages are still in use.

The proposed replacement is a hard standing which will encourage fly tipping and dumped cars.

We think that a better proposal must be made that will preserve or enhance the area, before the scheme is given planning consent.

There was a feeling of triumph at ensuring that the council does not flout it's own planning regulations.



Lewisham Art House asks for support

LAH is an artist led voluntary arts organisation that does a considerable amount of charitable work in the borough of Lewisham.

Its principal aim is the provision of affordable studio space for artists who are unable to meet a more commercial rent. In exchange for their use of studio space, artists are required to do a set amount of unpaid hours either running the organisation itself, or organising events and workshops that promote the arts within the borough.

Volunteers run a Gallery and an extensive education programme, an important resource in Lewisham. The building the Arthouse uses, the Old Deptford Library, has been transformed from a derelict building into a workable and popular space through the voluntary work of its studio members.

Until now, thanks to the support of the Lewisham Valuers Department, the Arthouse has operated on a peppercorn rent. This has allowed us to provide both cheap space and fund our charitable works.

The valuers are no longer in a position to allow us to continue with a peppercorn rent due to a change in council policy.

They are now required to charge us £45,000 per annum.

LAH would have to charge its members more than the average commercial studio rent in order to meet this rent demand.

The building does not have the amenities to justify a commercial rent.

LAH would no longer be able to continue to

do any charitable works. When the members pay a high rent, we cannot ask for a part payment in terms of voluntary work. Many of the current members will be forced to leave for financial reasons.

In recent publications the council has stated its support for organisations like LAH. It has made a written commitment to provide cheap, or free, Artist's studio space. This is stated in both the Creative Lewisham document and the Urban Planning document.

If LAH is forced to close, the council will have to consider the cost of creating an Arts Centre in the North of the borough that will replace LAH. The cost of funding the educational provision and Gallery space when it is not run by volunteers would be prohibitive.

Artists are a valuable resource at this particular moment in the borough's history. Lewisham describes itself as a Borough of the Arts. The borough claims to encourage artists to participate in the regeneration process. Please do not allow local artists to be priced out.

*Please support us in
our request to be
allowed to fall into a
special assessment
category and retain a
rent free status*

A more detailed document that outlines the nature of our organisation and the extent of our work for the arts in Lewisham can be obtained on request. (LAH office 020 8244 3168)

HOW TO SUPPORT US.

Contact

Your local M.P.

Make

Your views know to
Lewisham Arts Service.

Contact

Council Members,
particularly those on the
regeneration team.

Contact

The Mayor of Lewisham.

Contact

Central Government.

CONTACT

*Lewisham art house.
tel 020 8244 3168*

*We will inform you
of how our campaign
is progressing and
suggest ways to help.*

Pizza BrocSoc

Pizzas from two local suppliers were compared at the November BrocSoc meeting. (So you thought it was just a boring business meeting? Wrong!)

For a fair comparison the same pizzas — Tomato and Cheese and Pepperoni Plus — were ordered from **Pizza Gogo (tel: 020 8318 0066)** and from **Dominic's Pizza (tel: 020 8692 6111)**.

We tasted slices of pizza and tried to judge which was best — very difficult. Both deliveries arrived punctually and piping hot. Some liked Dominic's pepperoni better, others preferred Pizza Gogo's tomato and cheese.

Final view: it was pretty close and both were worth recommending!

Thank you to both companies for the free trial pizzas.



A note from the Editor

Sorry! This issue is desparately late. As a volunteer editor, I have been beset by every imaginable small problem, plus a sad family bereavement.

Other BrocSoc Committee members have been preoccupied with the sale of St Peter's Centre. Thank you for your understanding.

Would anyone like to join the editorial group — because you have experience, because you want to get experience, or just for fun? Ring Clare on 8692 3829.

Thanks are due to Mike Faith for design and typesetting of the newsletter for seven years.

We would like to welcome Ian who has taken on the task and also Karen who has offered to help with posters and Fayre publicity material.

Stone Circle wins award

The Millenium Stone Circle on Hilly Fields has won an award from the Civic Trust.

We await the details.

Brockley Society played the major role in this imaginative community project. Its inauguration on 1 May 2000 was a lively, creative and unusual event (see right) with dance, music, drumming and storytelling from a wide range of local talent.

To celebrate, bring your Jubilee picnic to the Stone Circle on Monday 3 June at 12 noon to share the occasion with other local people.



Summer solstice at Hilly Fields

Last year the Summer Solstice attracted a mix of people hoping to catch the rising of the sun between St Norbert's Gate. This year it occurs on a Friday, so may be even busier! Thankfully the visitors left little rubbish behind, respecting the circle, some even finding hidden ancient energies.

The circle is popular all year round as a relaxing resource, and is envied by members of Ladywell Fields User Group who want to emulate the site and spirit. Local Ladywell sculptor John Pitt was involved in the Circle and has intentions to create a similar attraction near the hospital.

Spring festival - a feast of music

The Brockley festival is proud of the exciting artistic talent that appears at St Peter's Church as part of the festival. Free admission, a relaxed atmosphere and performance of the highest calibre combine to make Brockley festival concerts a unique experience.

For several years now St Peter's church has been the venue for these wonderful concerts organised and performed by local Brockley musicians.

The spring festival begins on Wednesday April 17th at 7:00pm with a concert from clarinettist Chris Richards and prize-winning pianist Alasdair Beatson. They will be performing works by Brahms and Poulenc.

We welcome back baritone Richard Lea and pianist Juliet Allen on the 24th of April in a performance that will tell the story of the life and loves of Clara Schumann. They will explore her career as a virtuoso pianist, her marriage to Robert Schumann, and her troubled relationship with Johannes Brahms through songs written by Clara Schumann and those around her.

On the 1st of May we welcome Malaysian violinist Jane Ng and Hong Kong pianist Wai-yin Lee for a concert of Beethoven, Fauré and

Saturday 22 June

12 noon – 5 pm

JUBILEE SUMMER FAYRE

on Hilly fields



The Summer Fayre is BrocSoc's central event for all people of all ages. Keep this date free. If you missed the parachutes last time make sure that you're there this time. They and many other attractions and food will be there for a fun, enjoyable day.

Kreisler.

The spring festival comes to an end with a performance of the first known polyphonic mass, the Messe de Tournai, from the ensemble Lagrime - countertenor Mark J Chambers, tenor Nick Todd and baritone Tom Guthrie.

All are welcome, with no tickets required. St. Peter's Church is on the corner of Wickham Road and Cranfield Road, SE4.

To find out more, including artist's biographies, a map of the local area and details of the autumn festival, visit our website at <http://www.brockleyfestival.org.uk>.

Please tell anyone you feel may be interested.

To sign up for email updates from the Brockley festival, simply email us at list@brockleyfestival.org.uk

BrocSoc newsletter by post

Our three-times-a-year newsletter is delivered to everyone who lives in the Brockley Conservation Area, but many people who live outside the area – near and far – would like to receive it. If you are one of them, please send three labels with your name and address (or three envelopes) and three stamps to:

Brockley Society newsletter by post,
102 Tyrwhitt Road, London SE4 1QB for a year's supply, or pick up free from Spalding & Sparrow newsgagents, 61 Loampit Hill, SE13

October 2001-March 2002

51 Wickham Road The construction of a 2-storey 2-bed house to the side of 51 Wickham Road

Ashby Garages, r/o 38 Breakspears Road Demolition of existing garages & construction of 6, 3-bed houses with integral garages.

Site of garage works r/o 2-12 Cranfield Road, Harefield Mews Demolition of existing buildings and construction of 2 single storey plus basement live/work units with 4 car spaces to the front

12 Darling Road Construction of a conservatory to the rear

39d Tressillian Road Alteration of the roof space to provide additional living accommodation together with rooflights in the side and rear roof slopes.

Flat D, 80 Wickham Road Conversion of basement flat into 2, 1-bed flats

Breakspears building, Lewisham College Installation of telecommunication equipment on the roof

53 Wickham Road Retention of trellis on top of boundary fence and walls.

7 Harefield Mews Alteration and conversion of existing garages to provide a live/work unit, with a 1.8m high wall to enclose the garden area.

Flat 1, 52 Tressillian Road Demolition of garage and construction of single storey extension to the side

15 Coulgate St Change of use to a private vehicle hire office

225a Lewisham Way Conversion of first floor to 2 1-bed flats, with installation of new windows to back and flank

81, 83, 85, 89, 95, 111, Tyrwhitt Road Separate applications for Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of the rear boundary wall, onto the footway.

68a Upper Brockley Road Construction of a single storey replacement extension to the rear, together with replacement windows

51 Wickham Road Retention of replacement walls, gates and railings.

73 Upper Brockley Road Alteration of basement area to provide additional living accommodation

40 Tyrwhitt Road Deletion of condition on use as a nursery in order to allow the permanent use as a day nursery

170 Lewisham Way Listed building consent for painting the walls and replacement of existing roof

14 Wickham Road Installation of timber gates to the existing piers at the entrance together with the erection of a trellis screen to the side.

185 Brockley Road Installation of a teller machine in the front elevation

40 Manor Avenue Alteration and conversion of the 1st, 2nd and top floors to provide 1 1-bed and 1 2-bed units, with rooflights in the rear roof slope

Ashby Garages, etc Revised details Construction of 4 3-bed houses, conversion of the coach house to 2 3-bed houses with 9 car spaces.

16 Tressillian Crescent Removal of a door and installation of a sliding sash window.

50 Cranfield Road Erection of s.storey rear extension and conservatory, together with a first floor conservatory, dormer extension to the rear, velux window to the front and rear roof slopes.

Flat 2, 74 Wickham Road Construction of a single storey extension to the rear

Land at rear of 186 Lewisham Way The erection of 2 2m high fences to divide the existing garden.

Land at rear of 186 Lewisham Way The construction of 4 2-storey plus attic 2-bed houses with integral garages together with the alteration of the existing coach house to provide a 2-storey plus attic 2-bed house with integral garage.

Land at rear of 170 Lewisham Way The erection of a 2-storey plus roof space 2-bed house with integral garage.

Garage of the rear of 17 Wickham Road Conservation Area Consent for demolition of existing workshop at the rear of Colin Blanchard House.

58 Manor Avenue Construction of a single storey extension at the rear to provide a studio.

R/o 53 Manor Avenue Construction of 2 1-bed houses with integral garages.

Trees 33, 38, Tressillian Road - 4 Drake Road - 24-26, 56, 57 Breakspears Road - 78, 103 Upper Brockley Road - 70, 95, 95b, 99, 109b Tyrwhitt Road - Veronica House, Wickham Road 18a Montague Avenue

Planning application determined
1st September 2001 to 15h March 2002

Granted: 20a Hilly Fields Crescent, 33 Harefield Road, 87, Upper Brockley Road, 21 Breakspears Road, 3 Tyrwhitt Road, Bridge House, 100-106 Endwell Road, Garage at rear of 17 Wickham Road, Land at rear of 195-197 Brockley Road and 3a, 5, 7 Harefield Road, 51 Wickham Road (alteration to roof), 177a Brockley Road, 120 Tressillian Road, 40 Tyrwhitt Road, 51 Wickham Road (construction of a house at the side), (retention of railings and walls), 66 Tyrwhitt Road, 39d Tressillian Road, 12 Darling Road, Breakspears Building, Lewisham College, 14 Wickham Road (conversion to 1 1-bed, 3 2-bed and 1 4-bed units), 53 Wickham Road, Flat D 7 Tressillian Road, 15 Coulgate Street, 83, 85, 89, 95, 111 Tyrwhitt Road, Flat D, 80 Wickham Road, 5 Harefield Mews

Refused 199a Brockley Road, 143 Breakspears Road, 225a Lewisham Way.

Raised no objection none

Enforcement action/withdrawn none

Appealed Railtrack against enforcement notice served in relation to profiled aluminium sheeting valance installed to the canopy of St. John's Railway Station.

3 Brockley Cross against enforcement notices served in relation to the change of use to a class 3 takeaway, together with the retention of roller shutters and their metal storage box.

A Brockley GP for 36 Years

Dr Parsons Retired from St John's Medical Centre in 1996. His farewell letter to his patients gives a fascinating glimpse of local history. He has kindly allowed us to print it here.

Fifteen years after the war, I started here in 1960 having done two years National Service with the RAMC in Central Africa.

Prefabs, as the factory-built homes were known, had been placed on every piece of open ground. Hilly Fields was ringed by them and so was Brookmill Park. Nuding Close, previously Nuding Street, had been flattened by an aerial mine and there was a pleasant mini estate of prefabs each complete with its own fenced garden.

The Victorian house next to St. John's Centre had been damaged and the rafters still show signs of singeing by incendiary bombs. Soon after this Centre was built (1969), I found a small bomb with German markings where No 1 St John's Vale stands.

The greatest threat to everyone's health then was smog, even on good days it was sometimes impossible to see across Blackheath for the blue haze. Chronic bronchitis and emphysema were the commonest problem doctors and patients faced. There was little one could do for the people who had spent all their lives working and living in smoke. Desperate measures were tried: we suggested putting trays of ammonia in the windows hoping it would neutralise the acid of the smog! There was no double glazing or central heating then and many windows were ill fitting. Shirt cuffs and collars were as grimy at the end of a day as if one had worked in a coal mine. The Clean Air Act of 1966 and the introduction of smokeless fuel did more for the health of the people of South East London than any doctor.

Few had telephones, so requests for home visits both day and night were made by knocking on the doctor's front door; consequently, doctors lived on their premises within the community of their patients. Between Goldsmith's College and Loampit Hill there were six doctors' surgeries. Not one lives here now.

The interiors of the houses in Halesworth, Tyrwhitt and Tressillian Roads were just as they were built, i.e. having one kitchen, bathroom and perhaps two WCs. Many were occupied by elderly single ladies with most rooms unused and unheated. Some were widows whose children had moved on, several were spinsters whose fiancées had been killed in World War I and who then spent their lives 'in service' All struggled to survive on miniscule pre-war pensions.

After they died, the houses were filled with families living one family to a room and all sharing the one bathroom and WCs; there were cookers on landings and people everywhere. The only source of heating was the paraffin stove; tragically several patients were burnt to death when stoves were knocked over, usually on stairwells. All over the country this became such a problem that they were changed to a safer design — the flame expiring

automatically when it is no longer upright. Eventually, all these houses were converted into the flats as we know them today, but to me they have 'ghosts' — memories of interesting people who told me about their lives in the early years of the century.


After the smogs and the horrors of multiple occupancy, the next challenge we faced was the dearth of hospital maternity beds in the late 60's and early 70's. The shortage occurred because of an increase in pregnancies with which the hospitals could not cope. It was still common practice for babies to be born at home and it was some years before it was public policy for there to be a hospital bed for every pregnant woman who wanted one. The result was that every GP who practised midwifery had to take responsibility for many more home deliveries. GPs formed teams and cared for the patients of doctors who did not practice obstetrics.

As usual the babies came when it suited them, not us, so we delivered daytime and night time. It was the most exciting and tiring time, but we enjoyed every moment. It lasted only a few years until hospitals built new maternity wings and everyone was guaranteed a hospital bed. Home deliveries then became a thing of the past, until recently, when more women are choosing to have their babies at home.

Soon all will have an electronic smart, card and number and medical records will be on computer. Attend a hospital in Glasgow and your records at Lewisham Hospital will be available to the doctor there in a flash. Unfortunately, many others will also have access to this computer network, with the result that medical confidentiality is going out of the computer's Windows.

Dr D L T Parsons

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◆ Brockley Society newsletter comes out three times a year: end of February, beginning of June, end of October.

Events, articles and pictures are welcome!

◆ Copy deadline is one month before:

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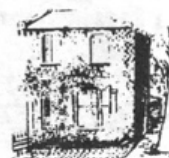
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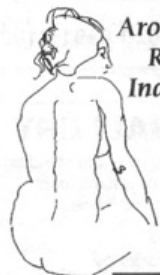
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