

BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 109 March 2007

Charity No: 1004245

Delivered free to 4000 households
three times a year

Brockley Meetings

All at St Andrews Centre, Brockley Rd,
(corner of Wickham Rd) SE4 2SA

Tuesday 27 March, 8pm

A history of Brockley and its houses
An illustrated talk by local historian
Gillian Heywood

Tuesday 3 July, 8pm
Joint Meeting with

Hilly Fields Park Users' Group
Brockley for children and families

The jewel of Brockley, which we share
with other adjacent areas, is Hilly Fields.
How can we enhance the area for today's
and future generations of children?
Bring your ideas!

Tuesday 13 November, 8pm

What makes Brockley special?
A talk on Brockley's buildings and why
they should be conserved
followed by Brockley Society AGM

Friday 6 July, 7.30pm
Brockley Barbecue

Hilly Fields, near Stone Circle
with the famous BrocSoc BBQ

Copy deadlines for newsletter:
1 February, 1 May, 1 October
to clare@sumner-type.co.uk

Farmers' Markets on Hilly Fields
Second Saturday of each month
10am-3pm

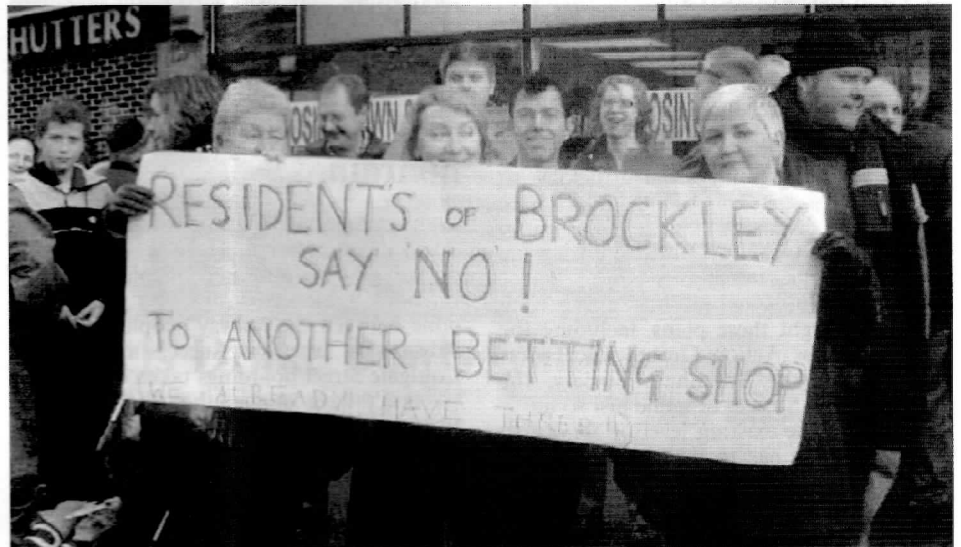
Telegraph Hill Festival

16 to 25 March. See www.thehill.org.uk
plus Craft Fair, 24 March, 11am - 4.30pm
Tables: £15 (large), £12 (small).
To book ring 020 7639 0795 or
email barker.je@googlemail.com

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

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Newsletter distribution 8692 5027
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Transport 8691 1463
Local history 8692 6977
Planning & highways 8692 6977

Everyone living in the Brockley Conservation
area is automatically a member of the Brockley
Society. The Brockley Society welcomes all.



No new betting shop!

A crowd of more than 60 Brockley residents gathered outside the Homeview video rental shop in Brockley Rd on Saturday 10 February to protest against the closure of the store and the application for a new betting shop to be established in its place. Members of the local press were also present taking pictures of the demonstrators, who dispute the need for another betting shop when there are already two nearby. Many thanks to those who organised this demonstration.

The owners and employees of Homeview are equally disappointed that they are having to close down their business. Homeview video was an excellent independent video/DVD shop that provided a valuable resource for the local community for over 20 years. However, with the rise of DVD clubs by post and the downloading of movies online, the business climate for this type of establishment is extremely harsh.

In response to the many issues raised by local residents, enquiries have been made to establish exactly what has happened so far and what can be done now to prevent the shop opening.

For a betting shop to open, there has to be the appropriate class of use (A2) for the premises as well as a separate betting licence. An application for a change of use from A1 to A2 was submitted to Lewisham Planning

Department on 26 June 2006. The required notices were sent to neighbours and a notice displayed at the beginning of July. A number of objections were received and followed up in the process. As class A2 covers a range of financial services (banks, estate agents, and betting shops amongst others), the Planning Department sought to clarify which type of A2 use was intended. It, and subsequently the Planning Committee which considered the application, were led to believe that the premises were going to be used by an estate agent. The Planning Committee then approved the change of use to A2 on 7 December 2006. This would not have been approved if it was known that the proposed use was for a betting shop. Subsequently the owner, Mark Weaver, applied for a betting licence and only displayed the notice over the Christmas period. Very few people were aware of this or had the chance to write to object.

However, the application for the betting licence is still being considered by Greenwich Magistrates Court, and they will take into account objections received in the next few weeks. Over 30 objections have now been received.

If you wish to object to the application for a betting licence with a personal letter, you need to send **two copies** of it clearly stating your own address and the proposal you are objecting to ('329-331 Brockley Road', currently the Homeview video shop) to:

The Clerk to the Licensing Justices
Greenwich Magistrates Court

turn to page 2

Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre

Saturday 23 June 2007

Celebrated annual community event!

Attractions already confirmed include Miller's Ark animal farm, the train, rides, food stalls, karate display, salsa, a surf simulator (ride the surfboard till you fall off!) and the usual tug o' war and dog show. You too can take part in making it another brilliant day in it's more than 30-year history.

We need you to bake cakes for the **Cake Stall** - bring them on the day. We need someone to run the long-running and very popular **Coconut Shy** The regulars can't do it this year.

There are many other ways to help For all inquiries (exhibitors included) call 020 8691 5023

Brockley Max 4

The opening night for Brockley Max festival is Friday 1 June, by the mural at Brockley Station. The closing night will be 9 June on a stage on Hilly Fields.

If you would like to take part - whether holding an event, opening your studio, having an exhibition, or by helping in any way at all, please get in touch with Moira on moira@brockleymax.co.uk.

The next meeting will be 28 March at Café Ecosium on Harefield Road at 8pm. Please come along.

East London Line Extension

June 2010 will mark a huge change to our local railway system with the arrival of the £1 billion East London Line Extension. The new line will have 8 trains an hour running in each direction: going north all 8 trains will terminate at Dalston Junction; heading south 4 trains will go to West Croydon and 4 to Crystal Palace.

There is one serious possible drawback to the extension of the East London Line: plans are afoot to cancel many of our direct trains running to and from London Bridge, leaving only 4 trains per hour (instead of the usual 6 per hour). This will mean further crowding, especially in the morning rush hour. There are currently 7 trains from Brockley to London Bridge between 7.45am and 8.45pm. Cancelling 3 of them will mean a 42% cut in direct services to London Bridge during the most vital part of the day.

A number of local groups are getting together to fight these plans, including the Brockley Cross Action Group, The Forest Hill Society, the Sydenham Society, the Telegraph Hill Society to name just some.

We believe the existing level of service to London Bridge has to be maintained with the extra East London Line Service being a very welcome addition in services from Brockley Station.

For more information please follow this link: <http://www.sydenhamsociety.com/04-06%20ELLX.html>

Save Our Services!

When the new East London Line (ELL) arrives in 2010, it will mean severe and unacceptable cuts in existing train services through Brockley, New Cross and New Cross Gate.

We are asking for your help to fight these cuts by writing to Mayor Ken Livingstone, your GLA member Len Duvall and your MP Joan Ruddock.

We are not opposed to the new East London line – we warmly welcome it – but this should not be introduced at the cost of existing services.

What you can do:

Write to or email Joan Ruddock, MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. hoyleel@parliament.uk
Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA. mayor@london.gov.uk
Len Duvall, GLA, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA. Tel: 020 7983 4517. Email: len.duvall@london.gov.uk

from page 1

9 Blackheath Road, Greenwich, SE10 8PG.

You will need to state that the application has only just come to your attention due to poor advertising (state the date(s) when you saw a notice, if applicable, or that it was very difficult to spot and read).

The magistrates will only be able to consider certain grounds for refusing or granting a licence which are set by national legislation. Therefore objections need to focus on these, in particular on the issues of demand or lack thereof, as well as on the impact of the existing betting shops and of the proposed new one on the area. In objecting it would be useful to address questions such as:-

• Does the area need another betting shop - are the other two existing ones within a 1/4 mile

Brockley Cross BXAG Action Group

Next meeting:
14 March 8 - 9.30pm
66 Geoffrey Road, basement

Over the last three years the BXAG, through its Brockley Common Group, has been reclaiming and transforming old common land around Brockley station (reported in previous two newsletters). The group is still fundraising and working on the detail of phase 2, with a planning application to be submitted in the next few months. www.brockley.com/bcag/

New advertising hoardings

Many people in the group are shocked and angry that two huge new advertising hoardings have appeared on platform 2 of Brockley Station. It stinks of a private deal done between the railway people and Titan Advertising when we successfully got the Coulgate Street hoardings taken down. As if we don't have enough hoardings littering Brockley Cross!

It's bad enough having to wait on a crowded platform with inadequate shelters for (late) Southern Region trains without having adverts blasting into your space. Why try to protect and enhance the Green Corridor and Brockley Common for all to enjoy when things like this happen out of the blue?

This is a new environmental blight and a blunt and insensitive attempt by the rail authorities to commercially exploit 'their' airspace and platforms at the expense of long-suffering commuters. If you agree, then please e-mail the following asking for them to be removed:

Dayral Hall (Southern Rail Public Relations): dayral.hall@southernrailway.com
Mike Manley (Network Rail Assets): mike.manley@networkrail.co.uk
Please send copies to: Joan Ruddock MP: HOYLEEL@parliament.uk and Brockley Cross Action Group (BXAG): stuart.woodin@btclick.com

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust Presents "House & Home"

3-11 March Opening 12-3pm March 3rd

An exhibition taken from a selection of artwork from residents of the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust Home for young women.

Venue: Chez Ecosium, 5 Harefield Rd, Brockley SE4 1LW (020 8469 0055)

Vote for your 'favourite restaurant in Lewisham.'

www.lewisham.gov.uk/NewsAndEvents/News/RestaurantLove.htm

radius overcrowded or empty most of the time?

- The applicant may argue that as an independent shop they will provide different services to the existing chain shops. Again, would this provision meet any local need or just be superfluous considering existing provision?
- Are there any big new residential developments nearby which would increase the potential customer base to make it viable, or is the local population unlikely to increase considerably in the foreseeable future?
- What impact have the existing betting shops had on the area?
- Has anti-social behaviour increased since the opening of these shops?
- Is there more rubbish from discarded tickets?

Brockley Society AGM

A proposal to wind up Brockley Society and join Brockley Cross Action Group, which seemed to be doing more, was put to our AGM in December. Apart from the Midsummer Fayre and the newsletter (delivered free, three times a year throughout the conservation area), it was felt that the society was inactive and jaded. Although not accepted, the proposal led to a lively discussion.

So what is the purpose and function of Brockley Society? It started historically as a conservation society in 1974 to stop large-scale building development and demolition. Its main purpose was to maintain and improve the character and amenities of the conservation area, which was designated by law. Today, Brockley Society's key message is to preserve and enhance the quality of the buildings, streets, and trees; improve the amenities and safety; promote community spirit; and establish good local contacts for help and advice (e.g. plumbers, electricians, etc.). The all-inclusive nature of the society was felt to be positive. Brockley Society will also continue supporting other groups and initiatives, like Hilly Fields Users' Group, Lewisham Art House and Brockley Cross Action Group, to name but a few.

More people with energy are needed, but unless there is a major threat to the area (like the threat of a high-speed rail link going through the area) it was felt that people become too comfortable and lazy to do things. Better communication was felt to be the key. The reviews of local eateries in the newsletter was considered very helpful.

People at the AGM felt that as well as the website being more informative and up to date, more public meetings would be beneficial. [See details on page 1]

Election of Officers

Peter Byrne was re-elected as Chair. Shawn Jhanji will take over newsletter advertising. Shawn & Reva Jhanji will take over the website. David Graham offered to help with accounts before committing to become treasurer. (The post of Treasurer, Vice-Chair, and Secretary remain vacant. We also need a newsletter distributor to coordinate our volunteer deliverers, London Civic Forum Representative, and a transport and a publicity officer.) Paul and Julie Hutton will continue to organise the Midsummer Fayre. - all offers of help welcome!! Clare Cowen is willing to continue editing the newsletter for another year, and then wants to hand over to someone else.

- Is the betting shop on a school route or near a school, and could the shop have a negative impact on passing pupils?
- Is there easy access to public transport, e.g. is there a bus stop nearby?
- The loss of a video shop, however important to the local community, is not a reason for the Magistrates to turn down the application.
- There is no formal (second) deadline to submit objections and the hearing about this application will only be held on 10-11 May 2007 (at Bromley Court). However, letters will have to be sent in the next few weeks as the Court will need to make all objections available to the applicant to consider before the hearing. Receipt of the letters will be acknowledged by the Court.

The Lifeline Expedition

Healing the past transforming the future

The March of the Abolitionists

Walking in yokes and chains to apologise for slavery

The final stage of the epic seven-year Lifeline Expedition journey will conclude with the March of the Abolitionists, a National Project for the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

Brockley resident David Pott is Project Leader for the Lifeline Expedition, a Christian response to the legacy of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

This newsletter reported the first Jubilee 2000 Lifeline walk in England, and its continuation when teams of Africans, descendants of enslaved Africans, and white people journeyed to slavery sites in France (2002), Spain and Portugal (2003), USA (2004), the Caribbean Region (2005) and West Africa (2006).

White walkers, accompanied by Africans and descendants of enslaved Africans, donned yokes and chains, recalling the gruelling journeys of enslaved Africans, during the period of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

The March from Hull on 1 March ends in Westminster on 24 March. The second stage, called the Sankofa Reconciliation Walk, takes place between 4 June and 11 July, linking the former slave ports of London, Bristol and Liverpool.

The purposes of the March are:

- to bring an apology for the slave trade (especially the role of the church) and to help those we meet to deal with its legacy.
- to engage with schools, public forums and the media about the true history of slavery and abolition, promoting greater understanding, reconciliation and forgiveness.
- to remember the black and white abolitionists of 200 years ago and to wholeheartedly support the current campaigns seeking to end the atrocity of contemporary slavery.

People are welcome people to walk with the core team as they pass through the localities.

The Lifeline Expedition has received extensive publicity. In 2006 Andrew Hawkins, a descendant of England's first slave trader, Sir John Hawkins, made an apology for the slave trade in the Gambia at the International Roots Festival. See details on news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/5105328.stm

Project Leader David Pott commented: 'Expeditions involve risks - slave trading expeditions were risky ventures, so as we seek to undo the damage, it should be no surprise that we face challenges. However, on our journey, we will not suffer a fraction of what slaves went through.'

www.lifelineexpedition.co.uk/mota



Francis Drake Bowls Club

Ever peered over the hedge of the bowling club, while walking on Hilly Fields during the summer, and seen a group of people in white rolling balls on a lawn? Ever wondered what the heck was going on? Why all the shouting? Why the groans of despair? Why all the arming waving and bottom wiggling?

Well, come April, it all starts up again. And this time, instead of just looking, why don't you pop in and see what all the fuss is about?

You can just watch, if you like. If you're lucky, you'll be offered a cup of tea, a biscuit, and a chair with a cushion. Then, if you'd like to have a go, we have a couple of coaches who'll take you through the basics. We can lend you bowls - all we ask is flat shoes, please, so our 101 year old green isn't roughed up. If you ring the number below, we could fix a time to suit you, day or evening.

Then, if you get really fired up, you could become a member and get to play in matches. You could travel to the far flung reaches of South Norwood or get really nasty in the local derby against arch rivals, Ladywell. And you never know - you might win a fiver in the raffle!

You could take part in the Club competitions and enjoy getting soundly stuffed by our 87 year old President, Mary, or routed by our Kent U25 trialist, David, aged 18.

The great thing about the game of bowls is that you can start to play straight away. It's not like tennis, for instance, where, as a

beginner, you can't play with the 'pros'. You don't spoil another person's game - and they'll enjoy beating you while having a jolly good game themselves. Then you have secret coaching lessons and come back and beat the lights out of them.

So why not give it a try? Fresh air, pleasant exercise, a gently acquired skill - and superb company. What more could you want to keep the summer bubbling?

Ring Jill or Bill on 020 8691 8926 - we're waiting to hear from you!

PLAY BOWLS - IT'S BRILLIANT!!



Where all ages meet and have a sporting good time on our beautiful Hilly Fields rink from mid April. Woods and tuition for beginners.

Telephone Jill or Bill:
020 8691 8926



SPORTING SURREALISM AT ITS FINEST!!

Hilly Fields Park User Group

is entirely voluntary. This is your forum to meet with representatives of the Council and Glendale, who are responsible for the upkeep of Hilly Fields. You can add your individual voice to our collective lobbying, to ensure that necessary maintenance and improvements are achieved.

Recent successes include: improvements to nature reserves, new park benches, new tennis-nets, re-establishing the old cricket pitch, and involvement in the restoration of the 'Bothy' area. A new Development Committee aims to create a longer-term strategy for planning the park's future.

We meet four times a year at the Bothy, and our minutes are advertised on the noticeboard near the play area. Get involved: it's in your interests! Next meeting Tuesday 13 March, 7.30pm at the Bothy.

Spangleguts Magic!!

This year the Brock Soc panto crowd went a little closer to home to watch its annual Christmas show, packing out the Albany Theatre Deptford to see another amazing spectacle from the acclaimed Bubble Theatre company, Spangleguts! A reworking of an Italian fairy tale the production used inventive stagecraft, video and music to create a spellbinding show, enjoyed by toddlers and old timers alike! Thanks once again to the Brockley Society for generously contributing towards this annual event.

Debbie

Public confidence in recycling took a bit of a battering when TV documentaries showed unsorted waste being shipped to China. We asked our councillors to find out.

What really happens to Lewisham's recycling?

I recently visited the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Greenwich, with members of the Council's Sustainable Development Committee, to find out exactly what happens to the materials residents put in their recycling bins.

After being collected from our green bins, all of Lewisham's recyclable waste goes first to Hinkcroft Recycling in Deptford, where it is



put into articulated lorries and transported to the Greenwich MRF. Once there it goes along an array of conveyor belts and crushing drums which separate paper, cardboard, glass, tins, plastic bottles and non-recyclable waste. The vast majority of the waste is sorted automatically, but pickers are employed to pull out anything that might contaminate the materials, such as food waste. Between 93% and 95% of the waste sent there is separated into recyclate (the sorted material which is then sold on to reprocessors). The remaining 5-7% residual waste is returned to SELCHP in Deptford and incinerated.

Apparently 60% of the volume of materials processed at the plant is paper and cardboard, 20% is glass. The remainder is plastic bottles and tins. At the moment MRF cannot deal with yoghurt pots, mushroom trays etc. as there is apparently no market for this type of plastic. Plastic bags also get stuck in the machines and have to be removed by hand.

It is one of the few MRFs in the country/world that is able to deal with glass, which it does by crushing it into small pieces which then fall through a mesh. Larger items



such as newspapers go down a different chute. The downside of this is that the glass is not suitable to be recycled back into bottles, but is sold as aggregate. This reduces the amount of waste going to landfill and the amount of aggregate being quarried, but is arguably not as energy efficient as recycling it into glass (or better still reusing bottles, of course).

We asked where the recyclate was reprocessed. The paper is exported to Malaysia and the plastic goes to China in shipping containers that have brought goods

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

202 Adelaide Avenue

The construction of a dormer window to the front roof slope. *Granted*

Doctors Surgery, 287a Lewisham Way

Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of the existing building on the site of 287A Lewisham Way. The construction of a four storey and semi basement building, incorporating balconies/terraces, comprising 3 one bedroom self-contained flats, 2 one bedroom, 1 two bedroom maisonettes and a studio flat together with associated landscaping and provision of refuse and cycle stores and 5 car parking spaces. *Refused*

185 Brockley Road

The alteration and conversion of the 2nd floor and roof space at 185 Brockley Road to provide 1 studio self-contained flat and 1 one-bedroom self-contained flat, together with the installation of rooflights in the front and rear roof slopes and a window in the rear elevation. *Refused*

8 Harefield Mews

The construction of a part single, part two storey, two bedroom terraced house with integral garage at 8 Harefield Mews. Conservation Area Consent for demolition of the existing workshop at 8 Harefield Mews. *Granted*

228a Lewisham Way

The change of use of the existing medical surgery on the lower ground floor to a three bedroom flat, together with alterations to an existing window in the side elevation. *Granted*

22 Geoffrey Road

Lawful Development Certificate in respect of the construction of a single storey extension, together with the formation of a roof terrace with enclosed glass screen above the extension and alteration to the rear elevation to create additional living accommodation. *Granted*

329-331, Brockley Road, (Homeview)

The change of use of 329-331 Brockley Road from a shop (Use Class A1) to financial and professional services (Use Class A2). *Granted at Committee*

197 Brockley Road

The construction of a two storey, three bedroom house with integral garage at the rear of 197 Brockley Road, fronting Harefield Mews. *Granted at Committee*

55a Tyrwhitt Road

The demolition of the existing buildings in the rear garden and the construction of a single storey timber building to provide a garden room and store. *Granted*

54 Chalsey Road

The installation of timber sash double glazed replacement windows. *Granted*

1-3, Ashby Road

Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of the existing Council offices at 1-3 Ashby Road. *Refused*

The demolition of the existing Council offices at 1-3 Ashby Road and the construction of a part two/part three storey building, to provide an 18 bedroom care home, together with associated landscaping, provision of a refuse store, bicycle spaces and 3 car parking spaces. *Refused*

199-201, Lewisham Way

The construction of an additional storey with roof terrace and the alteration and conversion of the first floor at 199-201 Lewisham Way together with alterations to the side and rear elevations to provide 2 one bedroom and 2 two bedroom self-contained flats. *Refused*

112 Upper Brockley Road

The replacement of two clear glass panels and one clear glass transom with Victorian stained glass panels on the front door and transom. *Granted*

59a Tyrwhitt Road

The installation of French doors to the rear of 59a Tyrwhitt Road, together with the installation of a front door in the existing opening to create a separate entrance to 59a Tyrwhitt Road under the front external entrance steps. *Granted*

40 Tyrwhitt Road

The installation of a rooflight in the rear roof slope of 40 Tyrwhitt Road, in connection with alterations to the roof space to provide additional living accommodation. *Granted*

55a Manor Avenue

The installation of three rooflights in the rear roof slope of 55a Manor Avenue, in connection with conversion of the roof space to provide additional living space. *Granted*

63 Tyrwhitt Road

The installation of timber framed sliding sash windows to the front and rear elevations of 63 Tyrwhitt Road, and the replacement of concrete roof tiles with natural (Welsh) slates. *Granted*

187 Brockley Road

The construction of a 2 storey two bedroom house with integral garage at the rear of 187 Brockley Road. *Granted*

1 Drake Road

Details of windows submitted in compliance with Condition (5) of the planning permission dated 22 October 2004 for the construction of a three storey plus basement, four bedroom house on land adjacent to 1 Drake Road. *Granted*

84-86, Wickham Road

The construction of 3 single storey two bedroom mews houses at the rear of 84-86 Wickham Road, together with the provision of 6 bicycle spaces and a bin store. *Refused*

Trees

2 Glensdale Road Fell a Bay tree at the rear.

66 Breakspears Road Remove an Ash tree from the rear.

101 Upper Brockley Road Repollard back to old pollard points, two Horse Chestnut trees to the front.

98 Tressillian Road Fell a Bay tree at the rear.

80 Breakspears Road Fell an Ash tree at the rear.

66 Breakspears Road Remove an Ash tree from the rear.

45 Wickham Road Crown reduce by 20% a Copper Beach tree to the front.

40 Wickham Road Reduce back to old pollard points four Lime trees to the front.

35 St. Margarets Road Fell a Sycamore and a Cherry tree at the rear.

127 Upper Brockley Road Fell a Crab Apple tree at the front.

28 Montague Avenue Reduce or fell a Cherry tree to the front.

134 Breakspears Road Fell two Sycamore trees at the rear of.

54 Chalsey Road Fell an Ash tree to the front; fell a Leylandii and crown reduce by 30% a Sycamore tree, both to the rear.

Oaklands House, 90 Cranston Road Remove an Acacia tree from the front garden and cut back to previous reduction points a Willow tree to the rear.

31 St. Margarets Road Remove Conifer trees from the rear garden.

2 Glensdale Road Fell a Bay tree at the rear.

Pending

58 Cranfield Road, Brockley, TUG

Demolition of single storey garage and garden wall and the construction of a three storey block in the garden adjacent to the existing house at 58 Cranfield Road, to provide 3, one bedroom self-contained flats, the provision of bin and cycle stores and associated landscaping.

Conservation Area Consent for demolition of a single storey garage and garden wall at 58 Cranfield Road.

Flat 2, 186 Lewisham Way

The installation of two roof lights to the rear.

17 Breakspears Road

The alteration and conversion of part of the basements at 13 and 15 and the whole of the basement at 17 Breakspears Road with the construction of additional lightwells to the front, to provide 1 one bedroom, 1 two bedroom and 1 three bedroom self-contained flats, together with associated landscaping, provision of boiler room enclosures and 1.8 metre high screens to the bin stores.

47 Breakspears Road,

Proposal: The demolition of the existing building at 47 Breakspears Road SE4 and the construction of a part three/part four storey, plus roofspace building, incorporating balconies, comprising 3, one bedroom, 3, two bedroom and 1, three bedroom, self contained flats, together with the provision of 1 car parking and 7 bicycle spaces, associated landscaping and refuse storage area.

to the UK and would otherwise return empty. The market for recyclate in the UK is poorly developed, and the infrastructure to reprocess it is currently lacking. Shipping recyclate to China is probably just about greener than landfill or incineration here, but the long-term aim must be to develop our domestic recycling industry. Tins and cans are recycled within the UK.

Following the investigation into recycling in the borough by the Sustainable Development Committee (chaired by Brockley councillor Darren Johnson), residents can be confident that the contents of their green bins is being

recycled. The committee made a number of recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet, which were all accepted. These include placing special signs on vehicles to help residents differentiate between refuse and recycling collections, a public education campaign to inform people about what happens to their recycling and a commitment for Lewisham to work with the GLA and other bodies to push for the development of reprocessing facilities in London and the domestic market for recyclable materials.

Cllr Sue Luxton
Ladywell Ward

Peace-building in Palestine

It often seems that only bad news comes from Palestine, but peace-building work goes on involving people on both sides of the conflict, with support from 'internationals' from other countries, like Heather Brunsell Evans, a member of the local Quaker Meeting. She has returned from three months in Bethlehem as an ecumenical accompanier.

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel is an initiative of the World Council of Churches, managed in Britain by the Quakers. Their role is to be alongside local Palestinians and Israelis, offering protection by their non-violent presence, monitoring and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, supporting acts of nonviolent resistance and engaging in public policy advocacy.

'Every Palestinian I have met confounded, in their own particular way, any stereotypes I might have had about them,' said Heather. 'They urgently wanted to redress the impression conveyed by Western media. One of the first people I met when I arrived in Bethlehem was Clare, a Christian in her late 30s, an utterly glamorous mother of four children who speaks English.' Bethlehemites are banned from travelling the ten kilometres to Jerusalem, but they have total access to the outside world through satellite television. 'Clare knows about the social and political experience of the West. My function, as her approach made clear, was to hear and to bear witness to her experience.'

The ecumenical accompaniers support local partners who are residents of the West Bank by living in the villages to help prevent intimidation by extremist Jewish settlers who live nearby. 'The international component is critical for peace in the Middle East,' said Israeli peace activists. 'You are coming to do something very important and we in the peace movement in Israel are very grateful to see you.'

Quakers are known for their commitment to pacifism and have always been involved in peace-building as the other side of the coin of non-violence. The local Quaker meeting for Brockley, in Sunderland Road, is running a programme of public meetings for people interested in a spiritual path with a strong practical witness in peace, justice, integrity and social reform. Quaker Quest is an opportunity to experience Quaker worship and learn more about Quakers. Sessions are open to all. You are sure to find a warm welcome and it may even change your life!

Quaker Quest at Forest Hill

Quakers (Religious Society of Friends)
Quaker Meeting House, 34 Sunderland Road
Forest Hill London SE 23 2QA

(At the end of Brockley Rise turn right onto Stanstead Road – the South Circular
– and Sunderland Road is the third on the left)

Refreshments at 7.00pm. Start 7.30pm

Tuesday 1 st May	Thursday 7 th June	Worship and God What do we mean by God? What is distinctive about Quaker worship?
Tuesday 8 th May	Thursday 14 th June	The spiritual path – Christianity and other ways Do all human beings seek meaning and purpose in life? We are searching together on a spiritual journey.
Tuesday 15 th May	Thursday 21 st June	Peace building Is peace more than the absence of war? How and where do we start to build peace?
Tuesday 22 nd May	Thursday 28 th June	Faith in action Living in today's world can we hold on to the values of truth and integrity, the equality of all people, simple living and care for our planet earth?

07958449133

It really does smell like teen spirit

What's that racket up at the school on Hilly Fields? It's Felix's School of Rock. But don't lock up your daughters (or your sons). Here's one parent's view of what the noise is all about.

Most half-terms and school holidays (even some weekends), Prendergast School on Hilly Fields changes – radically. Out go the 3 R's and in come the 2 R's that mean the most to your kids and mine – Rock & Roll! Felix's School of Rock takes over, with Felix Glenn as the Head. Forty or so 8-16 year olds join the roll-call and the curriculum is thrown over to guitar, drums, bass, keyboards and vocals. Four days later, the transformation is complete. Those kids are now fully-fledged Rockers, playing in bands with crazy names and gigging on stage to a wildy-cheering audience. 'Put your hands together for The Hoover Experience... Let's hear it for Biff! Bang! Pow!'. The lighting is like Top of the Pops and the amps are the size of radiators. There's even dry ice! It's awesome, believe me.

But how does it happen? Well, like so many things, it's a combination of extremely dedicated grown-ups, truly talented kids and some inspired leadership from Felix. By day, you'll find him at work in a local primary school. But when FSOR is in session, his teaching colleagues are professional rock musicians. They've got four days to turn the kids' raw musical talent into performances

worthy of the headline at Wembley Arena. And, boy, are those grown-ups good at it. But, make no mistake, the kids have to work hard too. Within three and a half days, each band has to generate enough material to fill a



ten-minute set. That's three or four numbers. Some are cover versions. But they write their own material as well.

The last afternoon of the four-day FSOR experience is the Gig. It's a full-on three-hour Rock-Fest. Yes, it's loud and yes, it's scary at first. Think about it. You're up on stage with a guitar in your hands that feels as big as you do and out there is a real audience. The drummer is about to count you in and you've got a tricky solo after the third verse. Of course you're scared. But as the first guitar chords crash in, you know you're one of the Band. That's Rock n' Roll.

I'll come clean with you. I'm a FSOR groupie. Our 11-year-old son is a guitar fanatic and he's done FSOR a few times now. He crackles with the energy and encouragement he gets from the tutors and the other kids. He blooms with a sense of achievement. And he's wide-eyed at the roar of a crowd. It's the best fun – ever.

But be careful. If you enrol your child into Felix's School of Rock, he or she will change. Things will happen that are experiences of a life-time. And who knows where that might lead?

Bruce Whitney-Low
www.fsor.co.uk

BrocSoc has been on this case for over two years!

Drains, Drains, Drains!

Many of you must have passed the foul, smelly mess oozing out under the gate and side wall of 98 Tressillian Road as it runs down Harefield Road.

In November, two or three years ago we notified Lewisham Council, owners of the property, of the dangerous state of the flank wall. Bricks were being washed out of the base of the old wall by the overflow from, presumably, a blocked gully. The wall was very unsafe. Nothing was done by Christmas, so we called in Building Control, who immediately cordoned off the adjacent pavement. Subsequently the Council removed an elder tree and rebuilt the wall to a very high standard. Well done!

But the foul water continued to seep out through the base of the wall and under the side gate. It often flows down as far as Breakspears Road. This is a health hazard. It stinks, it's slippery and slimy, and becomes dangerous in freezing weather.

Intermittently we phone the Council to complain, but very little is done. Recently we have been more persistent and they have sent operatives to deal with it three times: 28 January, 9 and 14 February.

But the foul water continues to undermine the wall and pour out on to the pavement and road.

We will get it sorted, but it takes perseverance and determination to get the Council to act.

Will they act or will it fall?

We have also alerted the South London Housing Association to the state of the wall pillar and fence to 25 Tressillian Road, corner of Darling Road. There are bricks out of the base of the pillar and it will soon fall over onto the road and pavement. Will they act or will it fall?

Brockley Ward Locality Fund

Many thanks to everyone who submitted ideas and suggestions. Ward councillors consulted with various local groups and local residents. Clearly, we were not able to fund all the suggestions although these will prove useful ideas for future years.

The proposed spending for Brockley Ward **£10,000** - PV Solar Panels to be installed on two Brockley Ward primary schools. The aim is to use £10k locality funding with £50k of other funding to bring about a £60k project installing 5kWp of PV on two schools. We have had very enthusiastic feedback from parents and teachers from a number of the local primary schools in the ward. Because Brockley Ward is an Energy Action Zone we are able to attract external funding to turn our £10k into £60k.

£5,000 to fund the following three projects (a) contribution to Brockley Max arts and culture festival, (b) planting of cherry trees along Tanners Hill, (c) replanting of the flower beds on the Wickham Road Estate.

Cllr. Darren Johnson
Green Party councillor for Brockley Ward
020 8694 6541

Last issue we ran a small item entitled 'Con woman - beware'. There has been a further development

The Con Artist

The young woman who appeared seemingly from nowhere stood on my neighbour Mary's doorstep. She had been 'locked out' of her flat and desperately needed to get to her sister, a nurse. Then she could get a spare set of keys and return the money later.

Although Mary (not her real name) did not recognise the woman she immediately empathised. Fortunately she had just withdrawn some money from the bank, but it was only in the form of a £50 note. The woman 'from across the road' told her that would be fine.

Later that evening and well into the next day and the next the young woman never returned. Mary had been conned. The mysterious woman did not live opposite and never had any intention of giving her the money back. The police did not investigate, neither did they list it as a crime, and like a little Houdini the con artist vanished. But my dear neighbour was not alone...

In fact the woman had been knitting the wool over kind eyes for quite some time and octogenarian Mary was no exception. Along with several other illegal substances the person responsible was hooked to deception and it was three days later that I would encounter her because of it.

I heard determined footsteps just behind me. I had just returned from school with my daughter. The woman smiled briefly and suddenly turned into Mary's pathway parallel to mine. I hung back...

The young woman rang the bell earnestly. There was something in the smile and the body language... I realised she was trying hard to seem casual. Certainly I had never seen her on Mary's step before, neither was she under that branch of the tree that we call 'community'.

I knew that Mary could be forgetful and so I watched... And waited...

'What makes you think it's the same woman?' came the officious police response. She fitted the description given to me by Mary and other neighbours. However this was unconvincing to the officer at the other end of the phone. As fate would have it, just as I went to the door a figure appeared through the glass at the bell. 'She's here,' I whispered.

The young woman was slim, and looked quite desperate. I asked the person at the other end of the phone to wait (they were recording) while I listened to her mantra. 'Locked out. Bexleyheath. Sister. Money.' etc., followed by tears. She needed to use the phone - desperately.

The phone number she gave belonged to a mobile that was switched off. But it was money she needed... Only then could she get a taxi 'there and back'. Later that evening she would return it to me. Her predicament was, she said, 'All a bit embarrassing really.' She sobbed uncontrollably.

'Would £50 do?' She immediately stopped crying and nodded enthusiastically. Buying time, I told her that I was out of money, but there was no need to worry, as my wife would have cash. Unfortunately, at this point my five-year-old piped up: 'But Mummy doesn't come back till the evening.' Remembering the police instruction not to stop her if she tried to leave I parried. 'My daughter thinks the dark afternoons are evenings.' The ruse made sense. But the best laid plans can be defeated. Mary suddenly trundled past. She had been down to Lewisham shopping and was carrying two bags. My game of cat-and-mouse was up. I told the young woman that I was not going to give her anything 'because you conned that old lady behind you out of 50 quid!' Mary confirmed this as she cried: 'That's her! She's the one who stole my money! You naughty girl!'

There was little I could do as she made a hasty retreat. She raced down the pathway screaming at dear Mary: 'Shut up, you old bag!' 'Charming!' was Mary's response. Just at that moment blue-flashing lights appeared from both ends of the street. 'Well, perhaps you'll speak to the police instead,' I said.

I heard later that Pamela was remanded in custody for getting a bit lippy in court. Not so much locked out as locked up, she later pleaded guilty to two counts of deception (against Mary), and one count of attempted deception against me. Pamela was bound over and given probation, and offered counselling. I do not know if she is ringing on a doorbell near you, but I keep one eye constantly on Mary's so I know that she hasn't returned there... yet.

Jon Paul Morgan

• *Brockley police have confirmed that Pamela Fay lives in this area. She has been served an ASBO forbidding her to ask anyone for money and stopping her from going to Manor Avenue. If you see her coming anyone, phone 999 and she will be arrested again and taken back to court.*

The Brockley Foxes visit more local Restaurants

In the interests of local gastronomy, the Brockley Foxes have visited two more local establishments during the winter months - both offering the exotic tastes and flavours of the East.

The first visit to the newly refurbished **Babur restaurant on Brockley Road**, confirmed that this is the sort of comfortable, modern restaurant that Brockley should have: sophisticated décor, soft music and great loos. An excellent selection of poppadoms and relishes were brought while consulting the menu and ordering, and the staff were helpful but discreet.

The starters of quail breast, beetroot salad and beetroot and 'gram' were pronounced 'excellent', but the main courses were less consistent. Rogan Josh was large and tasty but Lamb biryani was thought to have too much rice and not enough meat and sauce. The beef rib on the bone (unusual for an Indian restaurant) was a good sized portion but although juicy only moderately tasty. In general the impression of the food was that in some dishes there was more attention to presentation than to taste and texture.

Service is friendly and efficient and a visit to Babur with its landmark Bengal tiger is an enjoyable evening.

Venturing towards Lee Green, the foxes next dined at **Spice of Life** a small busy restaurant on **Lee High Road**. Despite being placed at the least comfortable table (location is everything in this restaurant as it runs a hectic takeaway service from the kitchen) the friendly staff create a pleasant ambiance (*well we have to use the word ambiance somewhere, don't we!*)

The food was thought generally average to good, the menu offering the standard choices at reasonable prices. The shrimp starter was quite good, the vegetable starter good. Main courses of Chicken Tikka Masala and chicken Korma were nice but with too much sauce. House wine is £9.95 per bottle and careful choices and a seat near the window would make for an enjoyable inexpensive meal at this local restaurant.

The foxes would welcome any tips and opinions to aid their quest to chart the full range of local eateries on the gastronomic map of the Brockley area.

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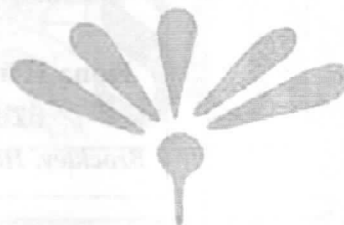
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