

BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 113 June 2008
Charity No: 1004245

Delivered free to 4000 households in Brockley Conservation Area
three times a year: March, June and November

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

Brockley Barbecue

Friday 4 July, 7.30pm

Stone Circle, Hilly Fields

Bring friends and family - meet others from the Brockley area. Some food and refreshments provided - and bring your own to cook on BrocSoc's large barbecue
All welcome!

Brockley Society Open Meeting

Wednesday 16 July, 8pm

Baptist Church Hall,

60 Upper Brockley Road, SE4

(entrance in Vulcan Terrace)

Speaker from Stephen Lawrence Centre on Brookmill Road (to be confirmed)
Bring your ideas for Brockley, meet neighbours, and find out more about

Brockley Society

All welcome!

Advance notice

Brockley Society AGM

Wednesday 12 November 8pm

Baptist Church Hall,

60 Upper Brockley Road, SE4

(entrance in Vulcan Terrace)

Autumn party for senior citizens

Date in November and venue to be confirmed

If you are interested in participating - to attend, to help, to transport participants, or tell us about someone who would like to attend - please email
clare@summer-type.co.uk

Copy deadlines for newsletter:

1 February, 1 May, 1 October

to clare@summer-type.co.uk

If you have ideas about the newsletter or would like to contribute, please email Clare. We will have a meeting in September to plan its future

Farmers' Markets on Hilly Fields

Second Saturday of each month 10am-3pm

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

www.brockley.com/brocsof/

Chair	8692 5027
	prbyrne@clara.co.uk
Fayre (general)	07714 084 296
Fayre (stall details)	07758 464 195
Newsletter	8692 3829
	clare@summer-type.co.uk
Newsletter distribution	8692 5027
Police liaison	8692 6977
Transport	8691 1463
Local history	8692 6977
Planning & highways	8692 6977
	fonemefirst@tiscali.co.uk

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

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

HILLY FIELDS SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 21st June 2008, 12-5pm
Hilly Fields, Brockley SE4

ARENA EVENTS....

Steel Band, Lewisham Salsa

Makoto Karate-do (Karate display), Tug o'war

Xtreme Falconry Birds of Prey Display, Dog Show

ATTRACTIONS.... Millers Ark Animal Farm, Bouncy Slide & Dome
Children's Rides, Rodeo Bull, Land Train

ALSO ON OFFER.... Craft & Bric-a-brac Stalls, Tea Tent with Homemade Cakes

Coconut Shy, Ice Cream, West Indian Food, Bagels & Panini's,

Doughnuts, Thai Food, Barbeque, Candy Floss, Popcorn

COMPETITIONS:

bring your entries on the day

Cake Decorating - U12's & over 12's - Theme 'Olympics'

Vegetable modelling - U12's

Photos - 'Local café life' - U12's & over 12's

'Self Portrait' (any medium) A4 size only - U12's & over 12's

www.brockley.com/brocsof/

Please see the website for information about the Fayre and stall application forms.

Stall Applications only:
07758 464 195

Please leave full name and address.

To offer help only: 0771 408 4296

BROCKLEY OPEN STUDIOS

Brockley Open Studios 2008

Saturday June 28th - 2pm to 8pm

Sunday June 29th - 2pm to 8pm

Monday June 30th - 5pm to 8pm

A well established, popular local event where you can meet local artists and view their work in the friendly surroundings of their own studios. You get to meet neighbours and exchange views, and artists enjoy the opportunity to talk about their work.

Admission is free and much of the work is for sale at studio prices. This year 39 artists are exhibiting at 29 different sites. A map listing artist sites will be delivered to Brockley households in June and will also be available on www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk

Roll Up! Roll Up!

Have you noticed a strange group of people cowering behind the hedge and giggling on the north corner of Hilly Fields?!? They're all on the grass – classified Class B for 'Bowls'!

Now into their 102nd season, Francis Drake Bowls Club is not your usual Bufton-Tufton boring, blazered and badged type of bowls club! How can it be, in Brockley!?!?

They may have crack shot players like maestro Pat 'Take The' Strain, Tony 'Two Hips' Ferguson and Stan 'The Man' Augar, terrorising one and all on the County circuit – but then there's ninety something Bill Perrin or eighty something Madam President Mary Scott out to scalp many a foolish young pup who dares to enter Brockley's very own Stadium of Balm.

And how young might those pups be? Well, 11 year old Leon is sometimes to be seen there during the school holidays with



Young Leon takes on the teenagers

grandma Phyllis. How many competitive sports can be played by such an age range?

Most Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm until mid September there's free (well, actually there is a 50p charge per person...) coaching by qualified EBA coaches. There's also regular roll ups for the leisured or self unemployed on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2pm.

Why not ring Bill or Jill on 020 8691 8926 to book a slot? It's the ideal sport for families (under 16 must, of course, be accompanied by responsible adults) and who knows – before long you might proudly be representing your own local bowls club in a friendly, league or county competition!

Log onto www.francisdrake.org to get a flavour and read all about the club – your club. It must be the hippest bowls rink in the country – name one other club that recently had a full page feature in Time Out magazine and a half page in the Evening Standard!?!?

- The BrocSoc Bowls Beans on 4 and 11 May were a big success, enjoyed by all! Coaching continues on Wednesday evenings at 5.30pm. *Come when you can!*

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!!



BXAG 'I Love Brockley' Fun Run

Congratulations and thank you to all those who participated in I Love Brockley Fun Run 2008 supported by The Brockley Cross Action Group (BXAG). Over 250 people raced up, down and around Hilly Fields on Sunday 27 April. Over 100 local supporters came out to cheer the runners.

They were running to help raise money for the Brockley Common, one of the BXAG's main projects. The money raised will be used toward the creation of the Common, a new open public space behind Brockley station ticket office. Please see the website www.brockley.com/bcag/ for more information as well as official race times.

Des Kirkland, BXAG chairman and Erin Essex, BXAG race organiser, said that the I

Love Brockley Fun Run 2008 was a great way to encourage people to be fit, healthy and enjoy our wonderful green spaces in Brockley. 'It was a wonderful sight to see', said Erin. 'There were two Sumo wrestlers, a devil, a native North American chief running as well as a runner on stilts along with families, prams, dogs and loads of local community runners. It was a truly amazing morning. It will definitely be an annual event!'

The BXAG group has approx 30 "I Love Brockley" Badger t-shirts left from the limited edition 300 print. They are currently on sale for £10 at the Broca coffee shop at 4 Coulgate Street, Brockley SE4 2RW. All the proceeds will go the BXAG.

New group aims to be 'naughty but nice'

Three Brockley residents have come together to form a new group for local supporters of the environmental campaign organisation Greenpeace. Most people know Greenpeace for its high profile – and sometimes highly risky – media stunts. But behind the scenes, the organisation is supported by a national network of volunteers who raise awareness about its campaigns and to put pressure on companies to clean up their act.

Brockleyite Camilla Berens decided to help kick-start a new group in the Greenwich and Lewisham area after becoming increasingly concerned about environmental issues. 'I got tired of sitting around talking to friends about climate change,' she says. 'I wanted to do something to actively address the problem and I liked Greenpeace's style – they're naughty but nice at the same time.'

The group now meets once a month at the King's Arms pub in King William Walk, Greenwich. High on the agenda at the moment is aviation expansion, an issue that has already been a cause for concern for many South-East Londoners. 'Our area is already blighted by the noise and pollution from aircraft flying in to Heathrow and City airports,' Camilla says.

'The number of flights is set to increase massively if the government gives the go-ahead for a third runway at Heathrow,' she adds. 'Aviation is the fastest growing source of carbon emissions in the UK and building a third runway will give the green light to airport expansion across the country.'

But the new group won't be hanging banners from the tail of a Boeing 747 jet. 'We leave the heroics to the experts,' Camilla laughs. 'But every new project we're given is a new challenge. We ask the public to sign petitions and to lobby local MPs and we challenge locally-based multinationals on green issues. The campaigns push you out of your comfort zone and I think that's a good thing to do once in a while – especially if it's for a good cause.'

- The Greenwich and Lewisham Greenpeace Supporters' group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm at the King's Head pub, Greenwich. For more information contact Camilla on 07811 451417.

- For more information on how aviation is contributing to climate change go to: www.greenpeace.org.uk/climate/aviation.

'Can You See Me Yet?'

by Timothy Findley

1938, a world about to go mad with war; an asylum for the insane seems to offer sanctuary for its patients, but as Cassandra Wakelin stands in the heart of the asylum, confusing her fellow inmates with members of her own ill-fated family, we are forced to ask the question, 'Can anyone find sanctuary anywhere?'

'a play of exquisite perception, vivid characterisations and a sombre wit'

The Brockley Jack Theatre,
410 Brockley Road, Brockley,
London SE4 2DH

June 11th to 29th,
Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8pm,
Sundays at 5pm,
(no performances Mon/Tues)

Tickets £11, Concessions £8
BOX OFFICE 020 8291 6354 or book
online at Lastminute.com

brockleymax

As we go to press, the Brockley Max Festival is about to swing into action. We hope you will have had a chance to enjoy some of the amazing acts on offer.

Brockley Society Reunion, 16 May 2008



Photos: Eddie Dent



Over 200 people celebrated Gillian Heywood's MBE in the magnificent Rivoli Ballroom. The reunion was to thank all those who had contributed to the Award over the years, many of whom no longer live in the area.

Guests arriving with contributions to the supper enjoyed cello music from Emily Mitchell and Sarah Westley, after which founding Chair John Morland described how and why the conservation area and Brockley Society were established in 1974. Daniel Confino spoke about recent activities; Natalia Rapak talked about the future. Gillian spoke briefly, sang a solo and, with Pauline Phillips, performed a hilarious BrocSoc version of a song from HMS Pinafore (see more on www.brockley.com/brocSOC/). BrocSoc Chair Peter Byrne proposed a toast to Gillian and to BrocSoc's future. Enthusiastic dancing followed to The Jivin' Instructors band and The Sidewinder disco.

We did our best to invite everyone we could think of who has contributed to Brockley Society now and in the past. We fear we may have omitted some by mistake. Please accept our apologies if you are one of them.

Clockwise from top left: Gillian Heywood MBE; the large crowd enjoys supper; The Jivin' Instructors; BrocSoc's founding Chair John Morland with Gillian; Emily Mitchell and Sarah Westley; The Rivoli Ballroom, 350 Brockley Road, SE4.

'Thank you to all who worked so hard to make the REUNION PARTY a success. Thank you to all who came. Thank you to the RIVOLI, the best venue possible. Thank you all for your congratulations. There was not enough time to talk to old friends, not enough time to dance. It was a fantastic party and I would like to do it all again!'

Gillian

The main headline in the last newsletter stated 'Lewisham Planning fails Brockley'. The article criticised planning decisions which Brockley Society considered inappropriate.

Planning: our Local Councillors comment

Concerns have been expressed in this newsletter about some of the recent planning decisions in the Brockley Conservation Area. As your local Green councillors we fully support and defend Brockley's Conservation Area status. We go to great lengths to ensure that the views of local people are represented in the planning process and frequently make objections to inappropriate planning proposals on behalf of local residents. Indeed, we always try to ensure one of us attends the relevant planning committee meeting in person whenever we are asked to do so by local people.

There are not enough places to allow

every councillor a place on a planning committee but the Council rules do provide for ward councillors to speak to the planning committee on behalf of local people and voice any objections. Your Brockley councillors have done this for residents throughout Brockley Ward, including the other two Conservation areas - Brookmill and St John's. Sadly, we are not always successful in overturning poor applications but it is not for want of trying. Recently, we successfully represented St John's residents in overturning plans to build on the garden of the old Crown and Sceptre pub in Friendly Street.

There is also a need to influence the overall planning policies for Lewisham that set the framework in which decisions are made. Your Green Councillors made a detailed submission to the Local Development Framework (LDF) consultation last year and encouraged Brockley Society and others to do so. Due to various problems with the first draft of the LDF, there will be a further consultation exercise. **It is important for**

the Brockley Society and other local groups to work together to ensure that your views are fed into the next consultation so that we have the strongest possible planning policies to safeguard our conservation areas, protect the local environment and ensure the highest possible standards for new buildings.

Finally, we must stress: don't ever be put off contacting your ward councillors about a planning issue, however small. We pride ourselves on speaking up for local residents and working to protect the local area from inappropriate development. So do get in touch if you have any concerns about future applications.

Cllrs Darren Johnson, Dean Walton, Romaine Phoenix. Green Party councillors for Brockley Ward

Cllr_darren.johnson@lewisham.gov.uk
020 8694 6541

Cllr_romayne.phoenix@lewisham.gov.uk
020 8699 3945

Cllr_dean.walton@lewisham.gov.uk
020 8691 1046

Brockley's internet community

Brockley Community website:

www.brockley.com

Acts as a central point of contact for Brockley (London SE4) organisations and individuals' web based activities. It maintains links to three local bodies, listed below.

Contact Webmaster on 020 7099 2951

Brockley Society:

www.brockley.com/brocsoct/

This site provides information between newsletters and tells you about the society's aims and history.

Brockley Cross Action Group:

www.brockley.com/bcag/

This lively campaign site describes the many activities the group engages in to improve the Brockley Cross area. If you click on the link on the site to order anything from Amazon, the Action Group receives a small fee to assist their work.

Brockley Central Blog:

www.brockleycentral.blogspot.com

If you have easy access to the internet and want to be part of a fast-moving discussion on what's happening in the Brockley area, this is the site for you.

Brockley Open Studios:

www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk

Artists invite you to view their recent work during the Open Studios Weekend.

Brockley Max:

www.brockleymax.co.uk/

A project of the Brockley Cross Action Group, Brockley Max is an inclusive arts festival produced by, with, and for Brockley residents. An annual showcase for a wide range of artists from the broad creative community resident in Brockley.

Brockley circulation:

chriswoods@easynet.co.uk

As a by-product of running the Brockley Max festival, Moira regularly sends out information on local events, jobs, exhibitions and anything else that is arts orientated. If you would like to subscribe, please send an email with 'Subscribe' in the subject line to chriswoods@easynet.co.uk. Similarly, if you would like to publicise an event, please let Moira know.

Francis Drake Bowls Club:

www.francisdrake.org

Hillyfielders Football Club:

www.hillyfieldersfc.com

Teams and training for 5-14 years.

Brockley Jack Theatre:

www.brockleyjack.co.uk

Pub theatre aiming to provide high quality, accessible and affordable productions.

... and finally, print, not internet

Se4 magazine is delivered to everyone in the SE4 postcode area. It has articles and listings which add to the richness of our area.

Dads' Group opens in Ladywell

Are you a stay at home dad?

or Do you work part time and help look after the children?

Stuck for ideas and wanting to meet other dads?

A new Dads' group has opened at the Ladywell Early Childhood Centre. Come along with your child/children for a cuppa and a chat and let the children enjoy a variety of activities.

The idea behind the Dad's Group is to show that men care about more than sports and video games. Men care about their families and want to love, nurture & share the wonderful experience of parenting with the mums. The Dad's role in the family is very important. Children need to see both mum and dad taking active roles in their lives.

These groups are obviously about being a dad so there is a lot of parent/child play sessions, but some of the sessions will be about men's health etc so there will be a creche available for these.

Men have added masculinity when it comes to speaking out, and we would rather deal with any problems or situations on our own and deal with the consequences but parenthood can be made a little easier knowing that other like minded men are going through the same thing.

Once a month we can arrange a group outing maybe to a museum, swimming, or even camping!

The Dads' group is held at the Ladywell Early Childhood Centre, 30 Rushey Mead, Brockley, SE4 1JJ.

**For more information contact:
mike.acord@gmail.com**

Snippets

My niece moved to Switzerland last year and had two visits from the police not long after she arrived. First visit: She was cutting her grass on a Bank Holiday (she knew it wasn't allowed on Sundays). Second visit: There was a tree overhanging the street and she was told it would have to be cut back or she would face a fine.

Just how many places are there around Brockley where there are thick hedges or trees which interfere with the width of the pavement? There are dozens of places where it would be impossible to push a double buggy. Perhaps we could do with some garden police round here?

OP

Strolling up Breakspears Road on a warm Saturday afternoon in May, I saw a man standing upright in the dormer window of one of the houses. He was calling instructions across the road to someone standing next to a big yellow skip. I then noticed the head of someone lying (yes, lying) in the skip. As I got closer I saw that the skip was full of water. 'What are you doing?' I asked. 'Oh, it's for our friend's project,' said one, while the man on the roof brandished his camera and waved me away. 'Would you like to join me?' asked the floating man. Hmmm.

CC

What future for Lewisham Way?

Visualise an imposing thoroughfare leading up the hill from Lewisham, with a picturesque old railway station and two churches on the right, elegant houses on the left followed by Lewisham College; Stone House opposite, more unusual Victorian buildings facing beautiful Memorial Gardens, a rich variety of shops on the right, the Arthouse on the left, with more imposing buildings on both sides leading to the spectacular buildings of Goldsmiths College. This could be the jewelled ribbon of road linking Lewisham Centre with New Cross.

Sadly it is not so. Instead we have a dreary, depressed, rundown street, with many shops closed or in disrepair, sorely neglected Memorial Gardens, and an overall appearance of dilapidation and disjointedness. Lewisham Way divides instead of uniting Deptford and Brockley, a physical schism across the Brockley Ward.

Several things have contributed to this. St John's Surgery has moved down the hill and so has the chemist at the bottom of Tyrwhitt Road, where three out of five shops are now empty. All shops from there on towards Goldsmiths have been hit by Tesco Express opening where the Italian furniture shop used to be in September 2007. The first casualty was the Bite sandwich shop, and two local supermarkets have halved their shop area. The chemist feels the effect as people buy medicines at Tesco, which some believe are sold below cost price.

Vijay Patel of Taylor's corner shop told me that Tesco's prices are often more expensive. So I did a comparison on a few basic items with four local shops. Tesco's were more expensive for free-range and organic eggs, large bottles of milk and canned drinks. Champagne and Jack Daniel Whisky were up to £5 more expensive at Tesco.

Of course some people are glad to see Tesco's, with 6am-11pm opening hours. But we pay a price. John Nim of LV Food and Wine told me: 'Our lease lasts until 2015, so we hope we can survive by opening a restaurant. People forget that we sell different products - Polish and Caribbean, for instance. Our trade has dropped 40 per cent since Tesco came.' Danny Shriram of Gogi's said 'We can no longer sell fresh sandwiches and the suppliers have pulled out. I hope I can sell the shop as the debts have started since Tesco arrived.'

When the local shops knew Tesco was opening they collected thousands of signatures, but Lewisham Council was powerless to stop it.

So what can we do? We should support our local shops as they are part of the business diversity of the area. They know their local customers and are part of the community. I remember Mrs Patel of Taylor's seeing off some visiting bullies who tried to take my young son's baseball cap. Perhaps the revival of the Talbot at the bottom of Tyrwhitt Road as a gastro pub will help.

But we need an initiative by Lewisham Council, working with the local community, both residents and businesses. This was raised at the Brockley Local Assembly (a lively and fun event). Let's see if we can work on it. A good start might be a community group to work on Memorial Gardens with Glendale.



Two lively teams: Brockley County Under 7s (black and white strip) played Junior Red Knights (red) on Hilly Fields.

Brockley County Football Club, part of the SELKENT League, has been coaching for about 10 years, with a mission to provide an organised soccer school for boys and girls from 4-11, run by qualified coaches. Secretary: Denise Cendrecourt-Haynes: 07956 283 543

Moonbow Jakes, A Craic

Having hung out at Moonbow Jakes for the last ten years, it's either very local and convenient for me, or I'm a very sad man. Yeah, OK. Ambience is a word that comes to mind. It's the bedrock of Moonbow's success. Why? Discussing it with regulars; it's created by conversation, staff, tables, music and convenient location. Oh, and coffee. Along with an impromptu input of art, poetry reading - now now - and excellent live music shows in the evenings. Now the back of Moonbows has been extended and a stage installed, presumably there will be more. The rumours of male pole dancing are sadly unfounded. Unless...I usually sit out at the tables at the front watching the Street Theatre go by. One of the joys of living in London. Brockley does not disappoint. It reflects the wonderful multi-culturalism of London. God help any racist who ventured in. But it can be very English sometimes...One morning a man walked by in a well-cut striped jacket, dark blue shirt and restrained tie, brogues and black socks. An accountant perhaps. Only... he was not wearing any trousers or underpants and was absolutely soaking wet. Not an accountant then. This being England, he was completely ignored as he strode (VERY) manfully by, leaving a trail of little puddles. 'Well,' I said to my companion, 'there's something you don't see every day.' 'Probably a domestic,' she observed. 'Want some carrot cake?'

Indoors, Moonbows can be equally entertaining. The inclusion of large tables that we all sit around should be a disaster for the anal English, who need at least two feet between them unless it's the bedroom before they can communicate. Not so Moonbows, where the tables are a success after initial trepidation. Complete strangers find themselves entering into conversations that blossom into friendship and even, allegedly, romance. But don't get your hopes up guys. It is much appreciated by women friends that harassment, like racism, is something that will get you a good slapping at Moonbows. Whatever. The cafe works. The staff certainly do. They are critical to the prevailing ambience. Friendly, efficient, irreverent, the leader of the pack is Tanya - pay attention Gordon, her management and people skills are something you could seriously learn from before you crash and burn.

The culture of Moonbows for both genders is whatever the opposite of macho is. Which is why it's popular with new fathers doing their stint on Saturdays, and new mothers with their babies on Thursdays. Breast feeding is a regular occurrence, as is men walking into tables as

they extravagantly avoid staring. Political correctness is also in its infancy. And finally, that leaves what for my money is the glory of Moonbows. The Craic. Appropriately, as the owner John is Irish. For those not Irish (how sad is that) that's Gaelic for conversation. Moonbows provides a forum for the residents of Brockley, particularly academics, writers, artists, musicians, students and other unemployables who seem to thrive in this physically and now

politically Green environment that drew most of us in. The Craic reflects all this. We may well get the politicians we deserve (Cripes) as with BBC. In Moonbows, I think Brockley gets the cafe it deserves.

Frederick Harrison

Frederick Harrison's new stage play *THE SHAMAN* opens in the Autumn. His travel books, are published by Harper Collins.

• Moonbow Jakes, 325 Brockley Road, London SE4 2QZ. Tel: 020 8694 9128.

The Brockley Foxes

Spring 2008

The first stirring of spring weather and the Brockley foxes are sniffing the cherry blossoms as they slip through the leafy back gardens of the conservation area. As usual they have foraged for good food throughout the whole of Brockley, sampling its many and varied eateries, and would like to share their recent findings with the newsletter readers.

A memorable venue on a chill evening in the early spring was the Chai's Garden Cafe Restaurant (at Skehans Freehouse, 1 Kitto Road, London SE14 5TW, 020 7207 7134) which is in fact Telegraph Hill, but looked intriguing from the road and nearly always busy - and it is well within reach of Brockley Cross. Inside it is indeed a very pretty Thai restaurant in the walled courtyard of a large pub (the pub had live guitar music the night we were there). Flickering lights, leafy plants and Thai wooden carvings add to the ambience. The efficient and friendly waitress encouraged us to sample the 'banquet' menu at £18 per head which turned out to be an extremely good deal as the à la carte dishes looked a little pricey. The banquet dishes arrived thick and fast, so many that we became completely confused as to what they were, but mostly good, fresh ingredients, sauces a little similar - but far more than even we could eat! The house wine met with great approval as it was a Lusac St. Emilion and such good value that more than one bottle was enjoyed. Coffee and ice creams were unremarkable. Definitely a place we would go to again.

Noticing that Mason's popular restaurant (38 Ladywell Road, SE13 7UZ, 020 8314 0314) had changed its pricing to a '£9 for 2 courses' deal during the week, it seemed a good idea to try a mid-week supper there. Spacious and comfortable the restaurant is conveniently located. Although the starters were enjoyable - duck pate (on the wrong bread) calamari and tempura - the main courses were thought to be very 'ordinary' and much like basic home cooking. The steaks were small, the chicken without embellishment, the trout just 'pleasant' and the vegetables just boiled!

The highlight of the evening was a 'digestif' at the Ladywell Tavern, now alas closed, but due to reopen at the end of April under new management. (Has it reopened yet?) The interior and furnishings were a medley of odd bits and pieces ranging from country kitchen to cheap chic, but sadly the ice maker and fridge were broken so no ice for our whisky and the coffee machine was out of order, so no black coffee to steady us on our way over Hilly Fields.

However for our most recent dining experience, the delights of Ladywell were sampled again, this time the Ladywell Tandoori (81 Ladywell Road, SE13 7JA, 020 8690 6600). Perhaps the foxes have found that little local gem they have been looking for! Opened in 1982 this is a small restaurant with an interesting décor, a rather nice wall painting in rich soothing colours. Our waitress was a very dignified lady in an elegant sari. The menu had some unusual seafood and game choices which set it apart from the usual curry house. Duckling Khandani was tasty but not too spicy. Murag Hydrabadi was also very tasty and a generous size, but best of all was the aubergine Brinjal Achari. The house wine was fine, if nothing special. Although we did not try them the Gosht and Sabjee Thali plates on the menu looked good value and will be tried on our next visit. At the end of the meal we were given a free liqueur - a nice touch much appreciated by the foxes.

We feel that one day we ought to visit Ecosium on Harefield Road. Have any newsletter readers tried it?

Betting shop in former Homeview premises

Bromley Magistrates Court has agreed a premises license for a betting shop under the Gaming Act 2005 at the former Homeview shop, corner of Brockley Road and Adelaide Avenue. Brockley Society, Lewisham Council and many others objected, but to no avail. We very much regret this decision.

Brockley Central blog attends a BrocSoc meeting

‘We couldn’t help but get a sense of the surreal as we sipped our heavily subsidised pint and sat in front of the glitzy stage of the Rivoli. For much of the crowd, the draw was surely the chance to marvel at the ballroom in all its glory. However, there was serious business on the agenda.

John Stewart, of Heathrow expansion opposition group HACAN Clear Skies, gave an engaging talk on the future of Brockley’s skies. John stood bolt upright behind the Rivoli turntables and, with a shimmering wall of tinsel behind him, it looked almost biblical. According to HACAN, the Heathrow expansion will be bad news for South East London, as well as West London. If a third runway gets the go-ahead, and Terminal Six is built (although they’ve got to sort T5 out first), the near constant ‘line up’ of planes across the skies of Brockley is set to double, into two ‘streams’ turning over Woolwich and descending slowly over our heads.

Anyone living in the north end of Brockley knows that there are already quite enough planes disturbing our peace, so John urged us to make our thoughts known to our local MPs. The good news is that the current legal limit on the number of night flights will not change.

Stuart Woodin of the Brockley Cross Action Group gave an informative talk about Brockley Common, bringing us bang-

up-to-date with the project’s progression. Hearing about the trials and tribulations from someone who is obviously passionate about the project made for interesting listening.

Considering the location, it was fitting that Gillian Heywood from the Brockley Society obliged with a short talk through the history of the Rivoli, drawing upon research from English Heritage. After this came a call for ideas as to what use the ballroom could play in the community. Then finally, a Q&A session, with topics ranging from Hilly Fields Fayre to the future of Brockley Police Station. In reality, the Brockley Society is the Brockley Conservation Area Society, with a clearly defined remit to represent the interests of those who live within it (who have automatic membership).

There’s no doubt that BrocSoc did a great job in protecting the Conservation Area from redevelopment since its formation in the 1970s. ... However, it’s also clear that BrocSoc is at a crossroads. Brockley is changing and BrocSoc needs to change too. At present, it lacks a long-term vision for the area – what kind of place do we want it to be? What initiatives can we organise to make things better? Defending the status quo is great up to a point, but it is also a wasted opportunity. BrocSoc has official status in local planning discussions, a newsletter and volunteers with a great knowledge of local issues – it could be doing so much more. ...

Brockley Central would like BrocSoc to focus on Brockley Road. Our high-street has been woefully neglected by Council and BrocSoc alike. ... Its fate is key to the fate of Brockley and as it’s part of the conservation area, it’s entirely appropriate that they should take a lead on its future, just as the BXAG has for Brockley Cross. ...’

The editor comments:

We welcome the arrival of Brockley Central blog. It adds an important internet dimension to the Brockley community. A lot of discussion followed the above article.

Yes, Brockley Society is really the Brockley Conservation Area Society. All conservation areas - of ‘special architectural interest’ - have an associated amenity society to maintain vigilance over developments. But they have no obligation to carry out other activities, though BrocSoc does.

Unusually, Brockley Society’s membership is everyone who lives in the Conservation Area and the newsletter is distributed to every house by numerous volunteers who deliver in their street or block. We would like wider distribution, even outside the area, in various outlets. But here comes the crunch. Who will organise it? At the moment it’s taken on by busy people already doing other things in BrocSoc (all voluntary). It requires about eight hours of time three times a year, with a few phone calls in between. Will someone volunteer to take on this interesting and not very arduous challenge?

BrocSoc is good at cooperating with other community initiatives in the area, such as Hilly Fields Park User Group, Francis Drake Bowling Club, Brockley Cross Action Group, Ladywell Society, Brockley Artists’ Open Studios, Brockley Max, Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, Lewisham ARthouse. We are proud of these and other local organisations.

Brockley Central blog says BrocSoc ‘could be doing so much more’ and ‘would like to see BrocSoc focus on Brockley Road’. Fine. WHO in BrocSoc? The people who already spend hours checking the planning applications and attending meetings? The people who work so hard on the brilliant Midsummer Fayre? The people who deliver the newsletter or run other events within BrocSoc as volunteers?

When some teenagers wanted the weatherproof gym bars for their age group at the top of Hilly Fields, BrocSoc helped them apply for funding. In 1999 local sculptor Polly Ionides came to BrocSoc with an ambitious proposal for a Stone Circle on Hilly Fields for the Millennium celebrations. With enthusiasm BrocSoc provided the organisational structure for this imaginative project.

What ideas would YOU like to carry out within or supported by BrocSoc?

In the 17th century John Donne wrote: ‘No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. ... therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.’

Grotesquely to paraphrase: ‘No man (or woman, or child) is an individual outside BrocSoc (if they live in the Conservation Area). Don’t ask what BrocSoc should be doing. BrocSoc is you.’

Please bring your grand ideas and your small ones and let BrocSoc assist you in achieving them.

See page 1

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The installation of replacement timber framed, double glazed, sliding sash windows in the front and rear elevations of **7 Drake Road. GRANTED**

Alterations to the window and door at ground floor level to the rear of **148A, Upper Brockley Road**, to provide a new timber framed casement window and patio doors together with replacement roof covering. **GRANTED**

The construction of a single storey extension to the rear of **59 Tressillian Road. GRANTED**

The alteration and extension of the existing pitched roof to the out-building at the rear of **84 Manor Avenue. GRANTED**

The construction of a single storey extension to the rear of **56 Chalsey Road. REFUSED**

The construction of a conservatory to the rear of **83 Upper Brockley Road. GRANTED**

The retention of double glazed timber sash windows at first floor level in the front elevation of **73 Upper Brockley Road. GRANTED**

Lawful Development Certificate in respect of the construction of a replacement single storey extension to the rear of **112 Upper Brockley Road. GRANTED**

The installation of replacement windows at first and second floor levels to the front elevation of **17 St Margarets Road. GRANTED**

The display of a double sided, internally-illuminated, free standing advertisement display unit outside **258 Brockley Road. REFUSED**

The construction of a single storey extension to the rear and alterations to and the construction of an extension to the rear addition and conservatory at the rear of the **Ground Floor Flat, 16 Hilly Fields Crescent**, to provide additional living accommodation. **REFUSED**

The installation of replacement, double glazed, timber sash windows in the front elevation of **31A Chalsey Road. GRANTED**

The retention of single glazed timber sliding sash windows in the front elevation of **11c (second floor) Tressillian Road. GRANTED**

The installation of replacement PVCu windows and doors in the front and rear elevations of **1-39 Adelaide Avenue. GRANTED**

The installation of PVCu replacement windows and doors to the front and rear elevations of **Erica House, Cranfield Road. GRANTED**

The alteration, conversion and change of use of **287a Lewisham Way** from a doctors surgery, to provide 1 one bedroom and 3 two bedroom self-contained flats, together with alterations to the elevations, including the installation of dormer windows to roof slopes, associated landscaping, provision of a bin store, 4 cycle spaces and 3 car parking spaces to the rear. **GRANTED**

The retention of a part single/part two storey extension to the rear, an extension to the side roof slope, rooflights to the front and rear roof slopes, alterations to the rear

and side elevations and the conversion of **20 Cranfield Road**, to provide 1 two bedroom self-contained maisonette and 2 three bedroom self-contained flats. **REFUSED**

The construction of a dormer window to the rear roof slope of **12 Brockley Gardens**, in connection with the conversion of the loft space to provide additional living accommodation. **GRANTED**

The partial demolition of the garden wall and the construction of a 2 storey, two bedroom detached house incorporating glazed doors and Juliet balcony at first floor level, with integral garage and installation of roof lights and solar panel to the rear of **82 Breakspears Road**, together with the provision of a car parking space and bin stores to the front. **REFUSED**

Trees

Fell an Ash tree to the front of 48 Tyrwhitt Road, Refused – TPO

Fell four London Plane trees at 158a Lewisham Way, Refused – TPO

Remove two Leylandii trees from the rear of 12 Wickham Gardens.

Carry out minor remedial and maintenance work as detailed in the schedule to trees at 12 Wickham Road.

Reduce by 6m. height of a Lime tree to the rear 84 Manor Avenue.

Repollard a Lime tree to the rear of 17 Chalsey Road.

Fell a Lime tree to the front of 45 and 47 Upper Brockley Road.

Fell an Ash tree to the rear of 70 Geoffrey Road

Fell an Acer and crown lift to 3.5m, reduce and reshape by 30% and remove dead wood from a second Acer tree, both to the front, crown lift two Hawthorn trees to 4m and clear roof by 1.5-2m; remove overhanging stem from adjacent garden and limb growing towards building and cut back remaining crown from a Chestnut tree to clear building by 3m. Remove two small limbs from a Sycamore and cut back to clear property by 3m, crown lift to main fork above roof line and cut back a Lime tree from building by 3m, all five trees to the rear of St. Peters Court, Wickham Road.

Fell three Cypress trees to the rear of 138 Breakspears Road.

Crown reduce by 30% two London Plane trees to the front and two Ash trees to the rear of 21 Tressillian Crescent.

Crown thin by 30% a Pear tree and crown reduce by 30% an Apple tree to the rear of 65 Tressillian Road.

Repollard to previous points an Ash and a Sycamore tree at 72 Wickham Road.

Carry out minor remedial and maintenance work as detailed in the schedule to three Lime trees to the front of 103 Manor Avenue.

What's on . . .



Glass Ceiling

at the Arthouse Gallery
140 Lewisham Way, SE14 6PD
Wednesday 4 June-Sunday 15 June

The Lewisham Arthouse building, formerly Deptford Library, was bequeathed to Lewisham by Andrew Carnegie in 1913. Designed by the architect Brumwell Thomas, one of its most attractive features is the vaulted glass ceiling on the first floor.

Glass Ceiling is a group show of Lewisham Arthouse studio members and will reflect the diverse range of artists who hold a studio within the walls of Lewisham Arthouse. You will be able to view the glass ceiling at our open studios in October, meanwhile visit our exhibition.

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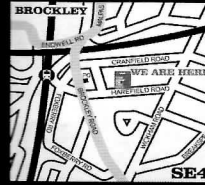
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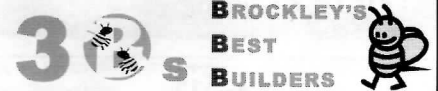
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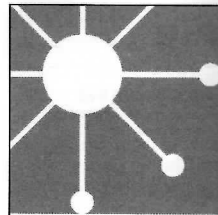
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