

BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 124 March 2012
Charity No: 1004245

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

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

FoBLC Guided walk of Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries
Sunday 15th April 2pm - 3.30pm
Meet at the Ladywell Road gate

Brockley Society Pub Quiz

Tuesday 17 April, 8pm
Wickham Arms, 69 Upper Brockley Road,
cnr Ashby Road, SE4 1TF
FREE! Instead of our usual serious meeting
we are striking out with BrocSoc's first pub
quiz! For novices and aficionados alike!
Questions loosely based on Brockley, general
knowledge and the arts. **PRIZES!**

Breakspears Mews Open Day
Saturday 24 March (see right)

Architectural Treasure Hunt
Saturday 28 April (see p3)

Big Lunch: Sunday 3 June. www.thebiglunch.com

Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre
Saturday 23 June (see right)

Brockley Barbecue
Friday 6 July, 7.30pm, Stone Circle

Brockley Market

Local farmers, producers & traders
Every Saturday, 10am-2pm
Lewisham College Car Park, Lewisham Way,
SE4. www.brockleymarket.com

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

Copy deadlines for newsletter:
1 February, 1 May, 1 October

To contribute, please email
news@brockleysociety.org.uk

Article length: 100-300 words. Pictures welcome

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

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www.brockleysociety.org.uk

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To join an occasional email circulation about
Brockley Society events and activities, email
chair@brockleysociety.org.uk.

Planners, architects and others with
conservation knowledge or interest: Contact
Rob to join our planning and conservation
group. See planning contact details above.

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

'Ice' rink launches Brockley Design Festival



Picture: Johnathan Hall

A tennis court on Hilly Fields was transformed into a synthetic ice rink on 19 and 20 November last year, to the enormous enjoyment of over 550 children. When we asked people at last year's Midsummer Fayre to imagine what Brockley could be like, someone suggested an ice rink. With a bit of research we found out how to do it.

Alongside the rink was a stall asking people for their views on Brockley, with pictures and maps. People drew their ideas on very long banners that were hung on the tennis court fences.

A theme of the event was imagination: 'Today it's a tennis court - tomorrow it can be an ice rink. Today it's a scruffy toilet block and changing rooms - tomorrow it can be a cafe.' The owners of the soon-to-be-ready cafe provided refreshments and displayed their plans.

Other stalls provided activities and fudge and some strolling musicians appeared by chance.

- Thanks to Ladywell Assembly for help in funding the event.
- More on Brockley Design Festival: page 3

Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre, 23 June, 12noon -5pm

A brilliant day and the largest community event in Brockley. It has happened every year since Brockley Society started in 1974 and is enjoyed by all ages from all around.

Details for booking stalls will soon be on the website, www.brockleysociety.org.uk.

We need help with the advance organising: programme adverts, prizes, sponsorship,

events and performers, publicity, stall bookings, and more. If you would like to help with a small task, please contact Clare, chair@brockleysociety.org.uk.

We also need helpers on the day. Look for details in the June newsletter or on the website.

Breakspears Mews Open Day

Saturday 24 March, 12 – 3pm
Ashby Road entrance

A year ago we reported on our wish to 'reclaim the mews' from fly-tippers and abandoned cars. Now we've nearly reached our dream - a Community Garden at the derelict end of Breakspears Mews. Come and see how near we are to transforming it. Displays, refreshments.

All welcome, including children.



A snowy WASSAILING (wishing good health to) the orchard on Hilly Fields on 5 February with cider (for good root growth), toast (to encourage the birds) and lots of noise (to ward off evil spirits and wake the trees up from winter slumber)! Followed by warming spiced ale to complete the fun.

New President



We are very pleased to announce that Gillian Heywood MBE was elected President of Brockley Society at our AGM in November. This is in recognition of her long service to Brockley Society and to the Conservation Area as a whole. Congratulations!

Clare Cowen, Chair, Brockley Society

Fancy being naughty this summer?

Time was when bowls was considered so naughty that even Henry VIII, a very naughty king himself, banned the game for attracting drunks, low-lives and ne'er-do-wells. Getting interested?

Then pop into Francis Drake Bowls Club which opens on Saturday 14 April. During the season we offer coaching for beginners, club and county competitions, matches against other clubs and lots of time for casual play. Our Sunday sessions for members and beginners start at 10.30am on Sunday 15 April.

For more information, contact Mick and Jeanette Singer: 020 8291 9243, or visit www.francisdrake.org



Flyposting on trees

Brockley is increasingly being blighted by fly posting on trees. This is unsightly, anti-social, illegal and lots of drawing pins are harmful to the trees. I can tolerate notices for lost pets but there are now too many scam flyers appearing. Can people please tear these down as soon as they appear?! Otherwise this problem will only get worse.

Leo

Flores Cherie



We regret the passing of Flores Cherie, a local figure pictured here at last year's Brockley MidWinter Warmer. Flores lived a fascinating life, having travelled from Trinidad to the UK following her recruitment during the Second World War. Flores served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service and was a successful singer.

Are our trees in crisis?

A debate is raging among tree officers of the Brockley Society as to whether the present predicament of the conservation area's tree-stock is a crisis. But whether a 'crisis' or a 'chronic situation', something urgently must be done to safeguard an area feature arguably more important (certainly harder to replace) than our buildings.

So what's the problem? There's strong evidence of bad planting, chronic neglect and lack of long-term tree care, resulting in an out-growing of the environment. There's an obvious lack of resources for maintenance as well as replanting, causing a constant depletion of tree numbers, where current replanting is woefully inadequate. Then there's still ignorance among many residents about their obligations and even about the function of trees in the environment. Residents don't seem to be aware of the need for permission to remove or do major works on any tree. Nor what they're allowed to do to care for their own trees, yet alone the overgrown street trees the council says it has no time to manage. Little is policed properly. The council rarely turns down tree related applications, and when

trees are removed illegally, retrospective applications are put in place with no apparent enforcement action.

In addition, honey fungus and other diseases are taking a heavy toll (though the true extent is unknown); and young trees are being stolen or run over by vehicles.

While lack of funding is an issue, this is a problem of 'spirit'. The Big Society should imply having a 'big spirit'. That is, all of us getting involved; volunteering to the BrocSoc as tree 'guardians' within each street; raising money between local residents to plant trees where there are gaps and for maintenance; ensuring we know and keep to the law to protect them, while ensuring others do too; educating everyone to realise that trees protect us from pollution and improve our environment in other ways.

At risk here is the way of life we cherish. Unless we act to love our trees, our environment, and our neighbours alike, we will suffocate in a wilderness.

Anthony Russell is the Brockley Society's principle tree officer and author of the book *'Evolving the Spirit - From Democracy to Peace.'*

Merger proposals for Lewisham and Southwark Colleges

The proposed merger of Lewisham and Southwark college sets out an exciting and radical vision for a college of the future in southeast London.

Lewisham and Southwark Colleges believe that by working together we will get more local people into work and support the businesses that are transforming our communities.

Lewisham is an outstanding college in good financial health with a national reputation for quality and a track record of meeting community and employer needs. Southwark College has faced a difficult time, and its achievements fall short of its potential. It has, however, developed some excellent links with major employers in the local area, and with the right resources this potential could be realised.

We believe that by combining the resources and strengths of both colleges we can plan for growth. To do this, we will work closely with employers, local authorities and schools

to ensure that our offer makes a direct contribution to improving job prospects and increasing prosperity for the community.

We are determined that the new College inherit our passion and commitment to providing local provision for local people. We will continue to operate in both boroughs, and our proposals for governance and management set out how we will build on our existing community links and strengthen our involvement at local level.

If you would like to read more about the proposals for the merged College and have your say, visit The Skills Funding Agency <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/allthelatest/consultations/>

Lewisham College has a range of meeting spaces that are available for hire. Full details can be found on their website at www.lewisham.ac.uk. Alternatively you can ring Jo Wise at the College on 020 8694 3629 or email jo.wise@lewisham.ac.uk

Transition Top Tips

Transition Brockley have celebrated last year's activities, which included the orchard planting on Hilly Fields, local fruit harvesting, sowing of meadow flowers, and the growth of the 'edible' garden at Brockley Station. They have begun 2012 pledging to build on these successes and focus on energy, recycling and getting more people in the community involved in sustainable living. In the spirit of energy and cost saving, note that Smart Meters to measure energy use in the home can be loaned free from Lewisham Library (easy to use and very good). Here are a few other obvious but simple Top Tips:

- Turn lights out when not needed.
- Only boil the water that you are going to use when heating a kettle.
- Don't leave the fridge door open for any length of time, (it takes energy).
- When shopping, keep an eye out for the Energy Saving Trust Recommended logo on electrical goods. See: www.energy-savingtrust.org.uk/.

- When cleaning the house, try to use eco-friendly products, or make them from natural resources such as vinegar and lemon.
- Make use of the council's offers on home insulation at www.lewisham.gov.uk/get-involved/environment/energyefficiency/Community-Action/Pages/Lewisham-Insulation-Partnership.aspx.
- Note Lewisham's new recycling scheme allowing recycling of much more household waste at www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/wasterecycle/recycling/Pages/What-can-I-put-in-my-recycling-bin.aspx.

Everyone is welcome to join us for the next gardening session at the Brockley Station plot on Sunday, 22 April from 10am to noon. For details of all our activities, go to Transitionbrockley.blogspot.com.

Architectural Treasure Hunt

Saturday 28 April

Here is a Treasure Hunt where the treasures are the discoveries the hunters make and share about the buildings, environment and stories – real and imagined – of Brockley.

A family-friendly event open to everyone. Come in pairs or in teams of up to six, use your maps, your nose, your eyes, your memory, your puzzle-solving skills, and sense of make believe to find your way through a set of clues for a tour of Brockley as you've never looked at it before.

All materials will be provided and there'll be opportunities to stop for refreshments and catch up with other teams along the way.

It's not a race and it's not a competition (although there will be an informal awards ceremony at the end of the day at an as-yet secret location). This unusual day is a chance to explore as inspired by your neighbourhood and the prompts, and to make your own book of memories from the day.

And because it's by the Brockley Design Festival, we'll be capturing your ideas for how we should live here and what we'd like to keep and what we'd like to change.

More details on our website, www.brockleydesignfestival.org, and the Facebook page very soon. To register your interest email: info@brockleydesignfestival.org.

Memories of Brockley

We are looking for people with 'long' memories of Brockley who might be willing to appear in a film about the area.

We are particularly interested in hearing stories relating to the Second World War, shopping, entertainment and life in Brockley in the 1930s to 1960s.

This film project is part of the Brockley Design Festival. If you have a great local story, or memory of the area - its buildings, places, significant events, or personal stories - and you don't mind appearing briefly in a locally produced film, we would love to hear from you. The film will be presented in a relaxed documentary style and will be shown later in the year at a local venue.

If interested contact Robert Park, info@brockleydesignfestival.org, T: 07813 120 773.

Toad's Mouth Too

After many years, Toad's Mouth is being sold. It has been a café, restaurant and gallery for many years and has been key in the regeneration of the area around Brockley Station. After witnessing TWO road deaths right outside the café, owner Michele Henare campaigned for safety measures, resulting in the refuge on Brockley Road and one-way entry to Coulgate Street.

Toad's Mouth brought life into what was a busy but unremarkable corner of Brockley and encouraged other businesses to locate nearby. We wish Michele all the best in her future plans. In the meantime we have to wait to see the new café owners plans.

brockleymax

Brockley Max 2012

1- 9 June

www.brockleymax.co.uk



Brockley Design Festival – Update

The Brockley Design Festival launched with a flurry last year at the Ice Skating event at Hilly Fields in November. Since then we have been in hibernation waiting for the warmer climate to re-appear so we can get back out and surprise the residents of Brockley with further forays.

There are a number of events planned for the next few months, including a flash-mob, music, outdoor installations, reminiscence and consultation events. Expect to see things happening around Brockley Station and the new market over the course of the next month or so. We will publicise things around the time of each event. Or we might just surprise you with something unexpected!

The next date you can definitely mark in the diary is the Brockley Design Festival Architectural Treasure Hunt, on Saturday, 28 April.

You might justifiably ask, what is the point of the Brockley Design Festival?

At each of the local events we stage, we will also be asking questions about what you think about our area. What are your aspirations for our main shopping areas, green spaces, transport hubs, housing and public facilities? We will use this information as the basis for a Design Brief for Brockley. We hope to engage local architects, urban planners, artists and designers to respond to our brief with real designs.

Through the conversations we have already had with people, we have earmarked a series of potential design projects, some small in scale, and others more ambitious. At the end

of the summer festival, we will exhibit the proposals at a local venue and seek further feedback.

Here are some of the aspirational design briefs we have already been developing:

- A Public Realm masterplan for Brockley.
- A new business and media centre for Brockley, including affordable office and studio start-up units, with new restaurant, café, shops and bar.
- A colony of artist studios including exhibition space.
- Designs for a new station building for Brockley that includes pedestrian access from the west.
- A new public entrance square for St John's Station, including better lighting and a coffee shop.
- A Brockley Nature trail.

These are not yet real projects with funding attached, but the point of the festival will be to use the design ideas to generate interest and discussion.

If you have any more great ideas for projects that could be part of the festival, we would love to hear about them. Email your suggestions to: info@brockleydesignfestival.org

Also contact us if you would like to get involved in event organisation. The festival is run by a relatively small group of local volunteers, and we need all the help we can get!

For further information on the Brockley Design Festival, also visit our website www.brockleydesignfestival.org.

Brockley Netmums

Brockley Netmums Meetups are informal get-togethers, a picnic in the park, a cup of tea with a few friends, or a trip to the local playcentre together. Samantha Chater, mum to 18 month old Dominic, volunteered to help organise meetups, because she understood the importance of bringing people together and the value of friendship and community. Brockley Netmums Meetups launched in October 2011 and exists to offer a place for parents to get in touch with other parents.

As well as running her own business, Babistic, Samantha also volunteers at Crofton Park Community Library, running the 'baby bounce' on Fridays.

More information: please contact Samantha at info@babistic.co.uk, 07799 032 191 www.netmums.com/coffeehouse/groups/lewisham-brockley.html or facebook page www.facebook.com/BrockleyNetmumsMeetup

Regenter B3 is holding a Community Contact Day on Saturday 31 March. The purpose is to launch our new website and show tenants and leaseholders how to log on to it as well as to give all Regenter B3 residents an opportunity to tell us about their concerns. Events will take place throughout the Brockley B3 area including Clare, Foxborough Gardens and Wickham Road estates. There will be food, music and activities for all ages. Watch for more details in leaflets and posters throughout Brockley.

The Panto Trip 2011

2011 was another great year for Brockley Panto fans. A record-breaking 120 Brock-Sockers enjoyed an afternoon of Panto bliss at Greenwich Theatre in December. It's the 9th year this panto pursuit has been going, with a generous contribution from Brockley Society making it an affordable trip to our local theatre. The event is very popular and always sells out, so we're looking to increase the seat bookings again this year. Watch for further details in the October Newsletter.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Before you start making decisions on any changes to your property, we strongly advise that you look at the Council's guidelines for preserving the Brockley Conservation Area. These will give you a good idea of what is acceptable development:

www.lewisham.gov.uk. Click through Environment, Planning, Conservation and urban design, Conservation Areas, Brockley

If you would like to object to plans for unsympathetic or inappropriate development, please advise the Brockley Society. The more objections the council receives, the more likely the development is to be questioned. If you would like to support something, again, let us know – community pressure does actually work!

Applications Granted

The construction of a replacement conservatory and a single storey extension to the rear of **1A Darling Road**, to provide an additional bedroom to the existing 1 bedroom flat.

The installation of replacement double-glazed timber framed box sash windows to the front of **15 Upper Brockley Road**, at first floor level.

The construction of a part single and part two storey extension to the rear, a replacement sun room at first floor level, incorporating a balcony and screen wall and steps to the garden at **18B Tressillian Road**.

Lawful Development Certificate (Proposed) in respect of the construction of a hip to gable end and roof extension to the rear roof slope at **215 Malpas Road**.

The construction of a shed in the garden at the rear of **77A Manor Avenue**.

The construction of a conservatory at first floor level to the rear of **11A The Parade, Upper Brockley Road**.

The installation of replacement timber windows in the front and rear elevations and alterations to the flank and rear elevations at ground floor level comprising new windows and doors and the in-filling of existing window and door openings, together with alterations to the layout of the ground floor flat to provide an additional bedroom at **33 Breakspears Road**.

The construction of a two storey, 2 bedroom house on land to the rear of **189 Brockley Road**.

The construction of a single storey rear extension and side infill extension at **82 Tressillian Road**.

The continued use of a farmers market operating on Saturdays between 10am - 2pm at **Lewisham College Car Park, Lewisham Way**.

The alteration and conversion of the integral garage to the front of **14 Garsington Mews**, together with the installation of high level windows, to provide a home office and storage.

Listed Building Consent for internal alterations including demolition of some walls, replacement of roof above the toilet block, and new ventilation unit and extract vents at **Richard Hoggart Building, Goldsmiths College, Lewisham Way Campus**. The installation of replacement timber framed double glazed sliding sash windows to the front elevation and PVCu replacement windows and doors in the rear elevation in respect of **Flats 1 & 2, 203 Brockley Road**.

The construction of a single storey extension to the rear of **78A Tressillian Road**.

The installation of two replacement PVCu double glazed windows and a door in the rear elevation of **21A Cranfield Road**.

The alteration and refurbishment of the former changing room building in **Hillyfields Park, Hillyfields Crescent**, including the construction of a replacement single storey extension to the west elevation and the installation of new windows and door to the existing building to provide a cafe with a terrace area and toilet facilities.

The installation of timber replacement windows at first floor level to the rear of **32 Vicars Hill**.

The renewal of planning permission (DC/08/69777) dated 20 November 2008 for the construction of an extension at first floor level to the rear of **55 Loampit Hill**, to provide additional commercial floorspace.

The installation of solar panels to the roof, replacement roof tiles, gate/fence panel and gates at **46 Vicars Hill**.

Applications Refused

The construction of a roof extension with Juliette balcony to the rear of **4 Brockley Gardens**, together with the installation of a rooflight to the front roof slope in connection with the conversion of the loft space.

Trees

60 Manor Avenue. Front Garden – one Lime Crown Lift, Crown Thin 30% and Crown Reduce 30%.

66 Breakspears Road. Front Garden - one Robinia Crown Reduce by 50% & hedge many species cutback from neighbouring property. Rear Garden - one Sycamore and three Poplar cutback from boundary.

83 Cranfield Road. Front Garden one Lime tree (T1) Crown Reduce by 30% Clear Building of All Branch Endings 2.5m and Crown Raise 4.5m & ONE Sycamore (S1) Remove Sucker Growth. Side Garden ONE Lime tree (T2) Reduce Crown to give clear the Building by 1 meter. Rear Garden ONE Lime tree (T3) Pollard at 5m above Ground Level.

56 Tyrwhitt Road. Rear Garden - ONE Lime Pollard to Previous Pollard Points to main Knuckle of Tree.

16 Garsington Mews. Rear Garden - ONE Apple 30% Crown Reduction.

72 Breakspears Road. Front Garden - ONE Holly Lift Crown and Cut Branches Back 50 cm & ONE Sycamore Remove Young Shoot, Poison Stump. Rear Garden ONE Hawthorn Remove (these works are exempted) Branches and Thin & ONE Swedish Whitebeam Reduce Crown by 30%. **74 Breakspears Road, London, SE4 ITS**. Rear Garden Northern Boundary - ONE Sycamore, ONE Ash and ONE Cherry

Remove Overhanging Limbs (that are growing over the rear garden of **72 Breakspears Road**)

13 Breakspears Road. Rear Garden - ONE Sycamore Crown Reduce by 30% Back to Old Points & ONE Sycamore Crown Reduce by 30% Back to Old Points and Remove ONE Stem what is Pushing on Wall.

21 Breakspears Mews. Rear Garden - ONE False acacia (Robinia pseudoacacia) FELL.

25 Wickham Road. Front Garden - ONE Beech to Thin Overall Canopy by 25% and Lift Lower Canopy to Approximately 3/5 Meters. Rear Garden - ONE Elderberry FELL & THREE Sycamore to Cut Back to Boundary.

10 Breakspears Road. Front Garden - ONE Oak Reduce and Reshape by to 30% to Previous Pruning Points and Thin by Removing Epicormic Growth and Crossing and Rubbing Branches.

Lewisham College, Breakspears Road. Trees Located within the College Grounds adjoining the Rear Garden of **11-21 Breakspears Road** - ONE Sycamore Clean Out Dead Ivy (these works are exempted from the notification) & SIX Sycamore (Self-Sown) FELL.

Syringa House, Wickham Road. Frontage Along Wickham Road - ONE London Plane Cut Back to Clear Property by 3 meters.

NOTE - The proposed works to the cotoneaster have not been validated by the Council given it is consider a shrub and not a tree therefore Council has no powers to determine the proposed works to it.

St Peters Court, Wickham Road. Front Garden - ONE Silver Birch Crown Lift 3m. Side Garden - GROUP of THREE Chestnut and Limes Crown Lift and Remove Epicormic Growth from Ground Level up to 6 meter above Ground Level.

95 Upper Brockley Road. Front Garden ONE Silver Birch Crown Reduce by 25%. Rear Garden ONE Pear Crown by 25%.

36 Cranfield Road. Rear Garden - ONE Sycamore Pollard Canopy to Approx 1 Meter Below Previous Points & ONE Eucalyptus Reduce and Reshape Canopy By Approx 40%.

Syringa House, Wickham Road. Behind The Block of Flats - TWO Cherries Lift Crowns to 3 meters Removing Larger branches back to Source & ONE Walnut Thin Crown 25%, Reduce Crown 30% to Reshape and balance and Lift Crown to 2.5 meters.

22 Manor Avenue. Rear Garden - ONE Cherry Cut Back Crown by 30 % Reduction.

1 Glensdale Road. Rear Garden - ONE Oak & ONE Horse Chestnut Re-Pollard, ONE Sycamore & ONE Holly Crown Reduce 30% and Crown Thin 10% & ONE Holly FELL. Please note that the tree works notification to ONE laurel will not be considered by the Council. Given it is considered by the Council that laurel is not within the legal definition of a tree and therefore these works do not need to be notified to the Council.

21 Vicars Hill. Rear Garden - ONE Field Maple Crown Reduce by 25%.

71 Tressillian Road. Rear Garden - ONE Ash Crown Reduce by 30% and Shape.

111 Tyrwhitt Road. Rear Garden - ONE Sycamore Reduce Crown to 3 meters below most Recent Reduction Points, Lift Canopy over garden of No. 113 to uniform height with No.111 and Thin remainder of Crown by 25%.

29 Chalsey Road. Rear Garden - ONE Cordyline australis

(Cabbage tree) FELL & ONE Eucalyptus FELL.

75 Tyrwhitt Road. Front Garden - ONE Sycamore FELL & ONE Ash FELL.

19A Algiers Road. Rear Garden - ONE Lime (Small Decaying) FELL.

34 Vicars Hill. Rear Garden - ONE Purple Leafed Plum (T1) to Prune Crown by 30% and ONE Plum and ONE Pear (G1) FELL.

93 Breakspears Road. Front Garden THREE Lime Re-Pollard.

105 Tyrwhitt Road. Rear Garden - Group Sycamore FELL.

Pending

The installation of railings to the front elevation at **38 Wickham Road**. (Park Site) associated with the existing Mechanical and Electrical installation and internal doors. The demolition of garage building and shed at **Ashby Garages, Breakspears Mews** and the construction of a single storey building comprising 5 work units and a block of 7 garages, together with the provision of bicycle store and bin storage. Certificate of Lawful Development (Existing) for the use of the first and second floors plus loft space at **104B Manor Avenue** as 2 two bedroom and 1 studio flats.

Details of a management plan submitted in compliance with Additional Condition (2) of the planning permission dated 14 December 2011 (11/77746) for the change of use of **114-116 Manor Avenue** from a residential care home (Use Class C2) to a hostel (Sui Generis)

The construction of a single storey artist studio with mezzanine level and green roof at the rear of **33 Wickham Road**, together with 2.4 metre high fence and gates, separate access onto Breakspears Mews and provision of a car parking space.

The change of use of the **Old Bank Building, Shardeloes Road, Brockley Cross**, to Use Class D1 (Non-residential institutions).

The installation of two roof lights in the rear roof slope and one roof light in the front roof slope of **Flat 5, 101 Manor Avenue**.

The construction of a roof extension to the rear roof slope of **239b Malpas Road**, together with the installation of roof lights in the front roof slope.

The variation of Condition (1) of the planning permission (DC/10/74021) dated 8 July 2010 for the construction of a two storey temporary building at **Prendergast, Hilly Fields, Adelaide Avenue** to provide additional classrooms and staff accommodation in order to allow the temporary building to remain on site until 31 December 2013 instead of 31 July 2012.

The alteration, conversion of **49 Tyrwhitt Road**, from flats to single family dwelling, together with alterations to the rear elevation including the construction of a part single/part two storey extension, installation of French window with Juliette balconies, 2 rooflights to the rear roof slope and a terrace at lower ground floor level and the construction of a 1.7m high front boundary railing and gates.

The removal of the existing sheds and the construction of a replacement shed in the rear garden of **Flat 2, 3 Hilly Fields Crescent**.



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Brockley Artists in History By Paul de Monchaux

The following article is a synopsis of Paul's presentation to the Brockley Society in November. Paul's talk focused primarily on artist and poet David Jones, artist Evelyn Dunbar, and the creative forces behind Brockley Open Studios.

David Jones was born in 1895 in Arabin Road. His father was a printer from Wales and his mother was a Londoner.

His earliest surviving drawing, completed at age seven, is of a tethered bear dancing in the street in Brockley.

Jones left school at 14 and enrolled at Camberwell School of Art. In 1914 he enlisted in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, was wounded in the battle of the Somme and returned to the front until 1918 when he was invalided out with severe trench foot. He resumed his studies after the war at Westminster School of Art.

Jones established himself as a painter and illustrator and made some very fine drawings of Brockley gardens early in his career. He worked for a time with sculptor Eric Gill, and under Gill's influence took up wood engraving and lettering.

In the early 30s Jones joined the avant-garde 7 and 5 Society and took part in a series of exhibitions with Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, and John Piper. But meanwhile, his war experience was taking its toll, and he suffered a series of breakdowns.

In 1937, with the support of T. S. Eliot, he published 'In Parenthesis,' a book length prose poem about his war experiences. The cover drawing depicted a soldier crucified on the barbed wire, and the poem describes his time in the trenches.

The best known of the First World War poets were officers, but Jones sees things from the vantage point of the private. He shared Wilfred Owen's sympathy for the enemy troops, and he dedicated the book 'To my friends and to the enemy front fighters who shared our pains, against whom we found ourselves by misadventure.'

Jones died in 1974 and is buried in Ladywell cemetery.

The best way to see Jones's work is in art books. The Tate own 13 of his works, which can be seen in the museum's archives by appointment.

In contrast, **Evelyn Dunbar** did not live in Brockley, but she carried out a major mural commission that can still be seen in Prendergast School on Hilly Fields.

Dunbar was born in Reading in 1906, moved to Rochester in 1913 and attended the Rochester School of Art and the Royal College of Art in London, where she studied in the Mural Department. William Rothenstein, Principal of the Royal College, arranged for her to collaborate with her mural tutor Charles Mahoney on a mural at what was then the Brockley School for Boys on Hilly Fields.

Dunbar worked on the murals from 1933 to 1936 and is wholly responsible for one of the

four 12' x 7' panels entitled 'The Country Girl And The Pail of Milk.' This panel launched her career as an artist. Dunbar also painted a large panorama of Brockley in the school.

Dunbar's work was built around closely observed studies of landscape, plants, and flowers, and she went on to publish a series of illustrated gardening and farming manuals.

In 1940, Dunbar was appointed a war artist and was the first woman in that capacity to be paid a regular salary. Others had to work on commission, with no guarantee that the work would be accepted and paid for. Male war artists enjoyed much better conditions.

Dunbar concentrated initially on painting scenes of the work and training of the Women's Land Army, and these paintings make for a fascinating historical record. For example, her painting, 'Milking Practice with Artificial Udders,' shows a group of young women doing just that.

Dunbar went on to paint hospital scenes and home front subjects. For example, there is a painting of a queue of people outside a fish shop, in which she has painted a self-portrait in the foreground. This and other Dunbar paintings were in an exhibition of Women War Artists at the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth.

After the war, Dunbar took up a teaching post at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford and in 1956 was commissioned to complete a mural for the library at Bletchley Park College. Dunbar died suddenly in 1960.

There are now many artists living and working in Brockley, but in 1965 when I moved here, there were very few.

In 1965 I was teaching sculpture at Goldsmiths and moved to Manor Avenue in search of cheap living and studio space. Most of the houses at that time were semi derelict, having been neglected for many years by absentee landlords. However, the space was good, and not long after my family and I arrived, a painter colleague of mine from Goldsmiths bought the house on the opposite corner, followed by a printmaker and his family further up the street.

A year or so later the Council designated the street a General Improvement Area. However, its idea of improvement involved requisitioning the back gardens to build new housing and demolishing some of the terrace blocks to make a compensating public park along Ashby Road.

My artist friends and I formed the Manor Avenue Residents Association to oppose the plan, and we were gradually joined by a few other concerned residents, including John

Moreland from Wickham Road. John was later one of the founding members of the Brockley Society.

The Council dropped its plans and were persuaded to concentrate on improvements to the houses and the street. We collaborated with them in drawing up renovation guidelines, a kind of transfer of our DIY activities out into the street, and we also persuaded them to reintroduce the high trees that lined Manor Avenue before the war.

In retrospect, getting the street maples planted was our greatest achievement, after which we were absorbed into the newly formed Brockley Society with the advent of the much larger Conservation Area.

There are now at least 10 artists living in Manor Avenue, three of whom are former students of mine at Goldsmiths and Camberwell. Although cheap houses are a thing of the past, the Art School connection still has a strong and continuing influence on the neighbourhood. Many of our local artists now take part in the Brockley Open Studios weekend each year, so you can experience their work in the most direct way.

The **Brockley Open Studios** event was started in 1992 in response to a move by the Whitechapel gallery to extend its boundary for its own Open Studio programme south of the river. In those days The Whitechapel provided sponsorship and publicity, so a group of us decided to take advantage of the arrangement and, led initially by Anita Klein and later by my wife Ruth, organised the first and subsequent Open Studio events. Ruth is still coordinating the work, along with Biddy Bunzl and Victoria Scott.

Over 400 artists have taken part since 1992, including a core group of around 10 or so who take part every year. The numbers fluctuate, averaging 40 to 50 in recent years.

The event has become an engine of community development, with newcomers to Brockley routinely getting to know their neighbours by trekking around the studios, and with regulars returning each year to see what their favourites are up to. The artists benefit from friendly and informal contact with the public, and as we go into the event's 20th year, I hope we will continue to be able to count on enthusiastic support.

• We do not have enough room to include the writers of Brockley, also covered in the meeting, but hope to do so in the next issue.

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