

BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 149 June/July 2020
Charity No: 1004245

Delivered free to 4000 households in Brockley Conservation Area
three times a year: March, June and November www.brockleysociety.org.uk

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

The coronavirus lockdown has been difficult in Brockley, as everywhere. Despite huge community efforts to look out for neighbours, many have suffered and there is anxiety about the future.

In the middle of the pandemic, the worldwide response to the murder of George Floyd in the US and widespread support for Black Lives Matter has affected us too. Racism and racial inequalities exist in the UK and these are issues for all of us: Brockley's residents are nearly 50 per cent from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, according to LB Lewisham statistics. Alongside rainbows in front windows to thank NHS and frontline staff are signs saying Black Lives Matter. Brockley Society endorses the statement from the Mayor of Lewisham – see page 3.

With deep regret, we had to cancel the **Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre** scheduled for 20 June. It will be sorely missed. The fayre has run annually for 46 years, as long as Brockley Society itself, and longer than Lewisham People's Day. Set up originally as a Victorian 'village fayre' to echo the Victorian houses that make up the Brockley Conservation Area, it is our most inclusive event, **run entirely by community volunteers**. Our diverse community supports it down the generations: about 6,000 people last year. With 200 stalls including Arts, Crafts, Community, Food, Bric-a-Brac, and varied local entertainers plus a funfair and animal farm, we have sought to retain the 'village fair' atmosphere.

We considered holding a smaller autumn fair instead. But we can't be sure government regulations will allow large events even by August or September, so with regret we have decided against and have cancelled the BBQ on 5 July and Brockley Society 8 July Open Meeting.

The Midsummer Fayre will be back next year! If you would like to help run it contact us. To help ease the isolation we are running two events:

Breakspears Mews Community Garden Open Day

Saturday 4 July, 1:30 to 4pm including
Annual General Meeting 2 to 2.30pm

Access: Breakspears Mews,
Ashby Road, SE4 1UW
or rear of St Peter's Court,

29-31 Wickham Road, SE4 1NE

Strict social distancing will operate!

Coordinated Front Garden Sale (8th year!)

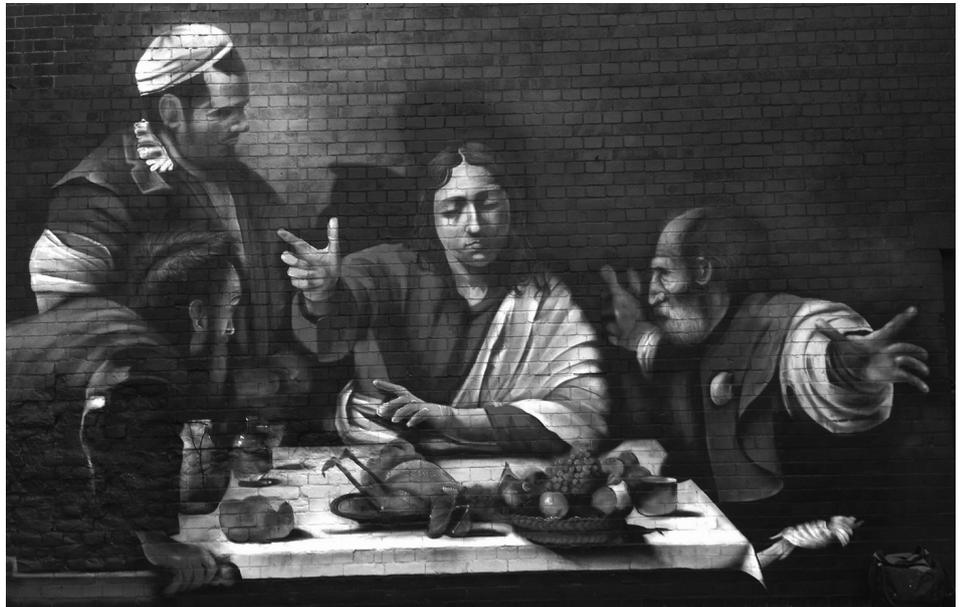
12-13 September 2020, 11am – 4pm

For details and participating addresses see
www.brockleysociety.org.uk

To join the list, email gardensale@brockleysociety.org.uk

(by 9am on Thursday 10 September) with
your **house no. + street + postcode**. State
Sat, Sun or both

If **street parties** are allowed later on,
individual streets can consider running one.
A great way to bring us together!



Street art in Brockley

Mercy Terrace, SE13: Lionel Stanhope's interpretation of Caravaggio's Supper at Emmaus.
Hilly Fields Crescent, SE4: NHS Superman. Upper Brockley Road, SE4: England footballer and Brockley boy Ian Wright

St. Peter's Brockley Food Bank

St. Peter's Brockley is launching a new community food initiative in response to the increased need we have observed during the Coronavirus crisis. Food banks across South East London are reporting that demand for their services is skyrocketing, and we have personally been meeting individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. We have also realised that there is a gap in food provision in Brockley itself.

We will be connecting with individuals and families in our community to deliver weekly food parcels, which will include fresh and non-perishable grocery items and a home-cooked frozen meal. Deliveries will take place on Wednesdays.

To request a food bundle, please go to www.stpetersbrockley.org.uk/covid19-help or call 07405136249.

To donate financially, go to <https://www.bankuet.co.uk/stpetersbrockley>

To donate fresh or non-perishable food items, please come to the South entrance of the church building between 2 and 5 pm on Mondays.
St. Peter's Church Wickham Road SE4 1LT

Foodbank for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

We never close!

St. John's Church, Lewisham Way, is the home of LewCAS (Lewisham Churches for Asylum Seekers) who have continued their weekly food distribution for destitute Asylum Seekers and Refugees throughout the Coronavirus lockdown. Our clients have no access to public funds and are not allowed to work, even though many of them would dearly love to. Every Tuesday morning volunteers provide food and friendship using donations from individuals and local churches. Previously many of our volunteers have been active over-70s but since lockdown they have given way to new younger helpers led by Georgia Ashwell and Peter Farley-Moore, Rector of St John's. You can help by dropping off grocery donations any Tuesday. Thank you!

We need: Rice, UHT full fat Milk, Toilet rolls, Sugar, Flour, Oil, Corned Beef, Tinned Tomatoes, Tuna. Drop off shopping bags Tuesday 11am-1pm at St John's Church or at the vicarage door any time.

St John's Church, cnr Lewisham Way and St John's Vale

Fabric - featuring the women of Brockley

Fabric is a crowd-sourced magazine and platform for female creativity. This year's edition celebrates the women of Brockley past and present, featuring poetry, fiction, illustration, photography and collage by 28 local women. You'll find a diversity of stories from infertility, friendship, dragons, soldiers and sisters, to the life stories of the female figures who have shaped our neighbourhood. To learn more or request a copy visit [instagram.com/fabricthemagazine](https://www.instagram.com/fabricthemagazine) or email Maya at fabricthemagazine@gmail.com All profits go to the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust and Brockley Max festival.

Chair's note: This lively, colourful publication was launched on 11 February to a packed room in the Arthouse — mostly women, but not only. It was inspiring to be part of this vibrant, young crowd. Editor Maya Foley asked several people to read their contribution, including Jane Nelson Vanneck's poem, which she recited because she is blind and deaf. The magazine gives a unique picture of Brockley and women who live here.

BROCKLEY
OPEN
STUDIOS

BOS is launching an Online Gallery and 'DIY Art Recipes' in place of 2020 Open Studios. BOS Virtual Gallery will highlight how London's local artists are keeping their creativity going under the lockdown, plus easy to follow step by step DIY Art Recipes to inspire people to try making Art at home.

www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk

BROCKLEY
SOCIETY

President: Gillian Heywood, MBE
www.brockleysociety.org.uk @broc_soc

Chair..... 020 8692 3829
chair@brockleysociety.org.uk

Fayre..... fayre@brockleysociety.org.uk

Newsletter..... news@brockleysociety.org.uk

Planning & conservation.....
planning@brockleysociety.org.uk

Planners, architects and others with conservation knowledge or interest are welcome to join our planning and conservation group. See planning email above.

Breakspears Mews Community Garden.....
breakspearsmews@brockleysociety.org.uk

Join our occasional email circulation about Brockley Society and local events:
email chair@brockleysociety.org.uk

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

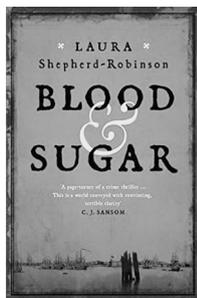
Brockley Society welcomes all

Newsletter copy deadlines:
 1 February, 1 May, 1 October

Email to news@brockleysociety.org.uk

Advertising rates - back page

Blood & Sugar review



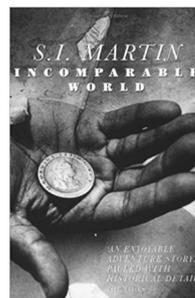
Blood & Sugar, published in 2019, opened my eyes to life in the Deptford Docks in the 1780s.

Slavery was abolished in 1810, but 30 years before, the world of slaves who landed here, lawyers in Deptford Broadway, coaching inn rooms in Deptford, camouflaged sorrows in Albury Street, and horseback journeys back to Mayfair. At night on the misty, smelly Thames, a rowing boat floats below a giant creaking sailing ship. Desperate crimes on the Atlantic crossings.

Laura Shepherd-Robinson took an MA in Creative Writing at City University, after half a working life in politics. I greatly valued her book.

Juliet Johnson

Incomparable World



S I Martin was the speaker at Brockley Society's AGM in November 2019. His historical adventure novel, *Incomparable World*, is an excellent companion to *Blood & Sugar* (see left). It takes place in London in the same period, the late 18th Century.

Enslaved men who fought with the British in the American War of Independence were granted their freedom and came to England. This book gives a gripping account of how they survived in challenging circumstances. It ends with a dramatic visit to the American Embassy.

This book opened my eyes to a seldom-described London and its freed and still enslaved communities. CC

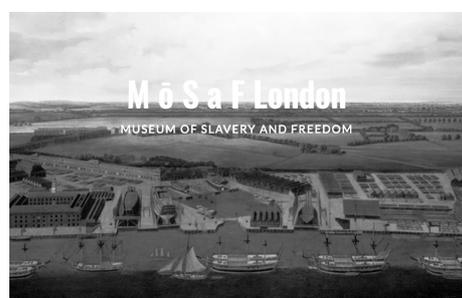
Museum of Slavery and Freedom



A small community group with strong roots in Deptford and culturally diverse backgrounds aims to set up a museum to highlight the role of Deptford and the Royal Navy in the triangular slave trade and its abolition, and to explain how London and the rest of the United Kingdom grew rich because of slavery.

The project's launch meeting was in October 2019. Deptford is a fitting location for such a museum because of its historic connections with the Royal Navy which provided convoy protection to slavers at the behest of monarchs for more than 200 years.

The first ever British slaver, John Hawkins, who enriched Elizabeth I with profits from slavery, lived and worked in a naval house in Deptford. The town subsequently built many of the cutting-edge vessels that travelled across the Atlantic for slaving profits. Being near the financial heart of London, there was no shortage of investors willing to take on the risks of the trade in return for the profits they would reap. Many of the area's principal citizens and institutions were also actively



involved in slavery.

One of the principal abolitionists, Olaudah Equiano, was kidnapped in Deptford by his naval master, taken down the river and sold into a further five years servitude in the Caribbean.

Deptford constructed some of the most significant vessels to take up the fight against the slave trade in the 1810s and, for more than three months, was the watery home of those freed slaves who, in hope of a better life, headed for liberty in Sierra Leone in the 1780s. Their story ended tragically.

More information: www.mosaf.org.uk

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE
TO HONOUR ALL WORKERS

TUESDAY 28 APRIL AT 11AM

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

New Cross Bus drivers marked International Workers Memorial Day on 28 April to remember the substantial numbers of bus drivers who, tragically, have died as a result of Covid-19. Inadequate health and safety measures on the job may have been responsible for many of the lives lost. Buses have now been adapted to give better protection to the driver.

View the film of New Cross busworkers dancing: <https://youtu.be/yBhJdJ34kcI> Their protective face masks were made by Deptford project Masks for Extraordinary People: www.masksforextraordinarypeople.org



Eid Mubarak ends the Ramadan month of daylight fasting and Muslim families usually gather for a 'blessed celebration'. This year's Covid-19 restrictions made this difficult but families still found ways to mark it. Here are Amy, Mustapha, Malick and Jai

Congratulations to Street Trees for Living

Street Trees for Living began as a small sub-project of Brockley Society in 2011. It has developed as an outstanding initiative since then, working in partnership with Lewisham Council's Green Scene. By Easter this year new street trees had been planted in most of Lewisham's wards, a grand total of 800 trees since 2012. Local residents and businesses have provided most of the funding, along with commitments to water the trees for their first years. Local assemblies have also made generous grants.

Brockley Society, as the parent charity, is proud to have incubated and invested in such a worthwhile project. We have spent the last year assisting with the legal, financial and practical arrangements for what started simply as a tree project to become an independent charity. Following the joint signing of a handover agreement on 14 May 2020, we are now able to transfer all assets and responsibilities relating to the project and we are delighted that it can now operate as the new, independent Street Trees for Living, Charity No. 1185165, www.streettreesforliving.org.

Please join us in congratulating STfL and

wishing them all the best in their independent life. We invite you to continue supporting their work or to look at it for the first time. We look forward to continued cooperation

Clare Cowen
Chair, Brockley Society
Charity No. 1004245

The Legal Background: The name Street Trees for Living as well as all assets and the associated logo remained the sole property of Brockley Society until 14 May 2020. Therefore any communication that you may have received using that name and logo before 14 May 2020 are deemed to have come from Brockley Society. As this name and logo have now been transferred to the new charity, all communications sent since 14 May 2020, when the handover agreement was signed, can be deemed to come from Street Trees for Living, the new charity No. 1185165. Please also note that as of 14 May 2020, all assets and liabilities relating to the former Brockley Society project "Street Trees for Living" are being formally transferred to the new charity No. 1185165. Please direct any further queries relating to past donations to the new charity info@streettreesforliving.org

Street Trees for Living: News Update



In 2020, for Street Trees for Living in partnership with Lewisham Council it's business as usual, helping residents across the borough to plant around 200 street

trees a year. However, behind the scenes there have been exciting changes.

Recently we became an independent charity. A big thank you to Brockley Society for its support and oversight since 2012, and warm hopes for ongoing collaboration. To mark the change we launched our own brand new website, www.streettreesforliving.org, based on the previous blogspot. Visit to see new features including FAQs, info about our volunteers and trustees, a podcast, and even a donate button!

We now run a 'School Trees Project'. All the trees will be close to Lewisham primary schools, with engagement by the school communities with funding, watering and even the curriculum! First planting through the scheme will be in Winter 2020/21. As a further development, much of our day-to-day work will now be done with the help of the School Trees Project manager, working alongside our contacts in the Wearside Service Depot in Ladywell.

We plan to run family-friendly Maintenance

Days to look after recently planted trees, and regular Volunteer Group meetings, currently postponed until later in the year due to Covid-19. We have increased our number of volunteers. Recently they have come in the form of trustees, a bid-writer, a bookkeeper, and three new area representatives. Please let us know via our website if you want to work with us. We are almost certain to find something for you to do.

We are delighted to announce that Street Trees for Living now has a patron, Paul Wood, dendrologist, author and artist. You can read more about him on the STfL website. Briefly, he has had a lifelong obsession with trees, and is the author of *London's Street Trees: A Field Guide to the Urban Forest 2017*, *London is a Forest 2019*, *The Great Trees of London Map 2020* and *London's Street Trees: revised edition* also 2020.

NB: Important message to those on STfL's emailing list. Under GDPR rules, as a new charity we can only keep you on our mailing list if you re-subscribe. **ONLY** your email address is required, on our website's contact page. We urge you to take this simple step so we can stay in touch with you.

Street Trees for Living charity no. 1185165

Web: www.streettreesforliving.org

Email: info@streettreesforliving.org

Swifts in Brockley

National Swift Day was on 7 June. You may have seen the swooping, weaving Brockley Swifts flying overhead in recent weeks. These birds have been visiting Brockley from their winter homes in Africa for hundreds of years.

When houses are renovated, the small holes in roof fascia boards, to which Swifts returned each year, have often disappeared. If you are doing home repairs please incorporate a home for the Swifts — they leave no mess as they eat their own waste. For a few pounds you can buy a Swift Box or Swift Brick. For information about how you can help the Swifts, visit the Swift Society website: www.swift-conservation.org/

Hedgehog super highways

Hedgehogs are a native, threatened indigenous species. I have not actually seen hedgehogs in Brockley. Has anyone? Having a 'highway' would help them in their habitat needs, so would it be possible to build a Hedgehog Super Highway through the back and/or front gardens throughout Brockley? A small hole under fences is all it takes to ensure free passage. I could discuss plans and offer voluntary help digging the route through.

Contact Phil Baird on
philbaird@hotmail.co.uk

Black Lives Matter in Lewisham

Statement from Mayor of Lewisham

Lewisham prides itself as being an open borough that celebrates our diversity and has a history of standing up against racism. We know many residents, like us, will have been appalled at the videos from the United States of the killing of George Floyd.

Racism and racial inequalities are not just an 'American problem'. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) inequalities are endemic in the UK too. We have been shocked by images of police using excessive force to arrest black people in Lewisham in recent weeks and we have been meeting with the police to ensure these instances are investigated, and that we receive information, by ethnicity, relating to the increase of stop and search during lockdown.

Racism exists in many parts of society including in the criminal justice system, access to jobs, in the education system and in health too. COVID-19 has highlighted the disparity in health outcomes for BAME people – but it is important to remember that BAME health inequalities don't end at COVID-19, they stretch across many aspects of our healthcare.

This isn't news to us in Lewisham and we have been working over many years to reduce inequality and injustice for all groups.

BAME health inequalities have been set as a priority for our Health and Wellbeing Board and last month we launched a ground-breaking joint review with Birmingham City Council to explore black African and Caribbean health inequalities in both of our communities.

In education we have been working with schools, with some success, to reduce the gaps between Black Caribbean young people and other groups and the majority of participants on our well established Mayor's Apprenticeship Programme are from BAME backgrounds.

And in our own Council we have re-established our BAME Professional Network staff forum and are launching a BAME leadership programme to find the next generation of leaders from our diverse and talented workforce.

But there is still a huge amount to do, and we won't rest and stop taking action while inequalities exist.

Fortunately, we know we live in a community where our residents share our values and support us taking targeted actions. But we won't be able to meet the challenges we face alone and we will be pressing the Government to make sure we have the support and resources we need, and that they too take issues of racial inequality in our country forward urgently.

This week we lit our Town Hall in purple as our small way of not just remembering George Floyd, but to send the clear message to all our residents that we stand in solidarity with them against racism in all its forms.

Black Lives Matter in Lewisham, today and always.

Damien Egan 10 June 2020

Dystopian novel

Brockley inspired the setting for *Rockstar Ending*, the debut dystopian novel by local resident N. A. (Nicola) Rossi. Fictitious locations include a Summer Fayre encounter, secrets lurking inside a Mews lock-up, and a cameo appearance from Nordic Walkers.

Based on a short story that won an Orwell Society award, the book will get you thinking about the social and political issues that will dominate the coming decade.

Available from Amazon and other bookshops. **More at nicolarossi.com**

Brockley before WWII

I must be the only person in Brockley who remembers a stone mounting block in Wickham Road for men to mount their horses. Whether it was from Victorian times or even earlier, it was certainly there at the beginning of the last war.

Brockley before the war was a very different place. We had trams, there were no cafes, takeaways, launderettes, or supermarkets, just individual shops, including a shop you never see now – a haberdashery. In the hairdressers each person had an individual cubicle and there was a Midland Bank at the corner of St Margarets Road with big open mahogany counters.

We all had coal fires and the coal came round by horsedrawn carts, as did the milk, which was served to your door in glass bottles. Walls Ice Cream came round on a little tricycle. Everyone sent their washing to the laundry as very few had washing machines. The phone exchange for Brockley was TIDEWAY then 3 numerals – they were not all numbers.

There was a cinema opposite Brockley Station, three cinemas in Lewisham and one by the Marquis of Granby. You normally had to queue to get in and at the end of the performance they always played the National Anthem. There was no television, only radio. There was a big department store called Cheesemans where Lewisham police station now stands and another department store called Pynes [on Lewisham Way] at the corner of Tanners Hill. Cheesemans later became Army and Navy Stores for a short time. Where the sorting office is at the end of Harefield Road used to be a church.

Just before the war the Sunday schools gave a big Christmas party for all the English children and the German children – I realise now the German children were Jewish refugees sent over by their parents, which I did not understand at the time.

I was evacuated to Oxford. An incendiary bomb fell on our house but luckily did not go off and we found it on the landing and there was a hole through the roof. A High Explosive Bomb fell at the end of our garden, making a big crater. This was part of a 'stick of bombs' which fell across Wickham Road where all the new flats are now. They used to be all big houses.

We all had blackout windows and there were no street lights – the trams and cars had dim filter lights. Everyone stuck strips of glued paper across their windows to prevent windows shattering. All the Underground trains had netting stuck over their windows to prevent shattering but it was difficult to see out. People started tearing bits off so London Underground put a little cartoon in each carriage of a man saying: 'I trust you'll pardon my correction, that stuff's put there for your protection, and underneath every one some Londoner would have written: 'I appreciate your recitation, but I can't see the bloody station.'

When you stepped off the train in the evenings there were rows of people sleeping on the platforms. They brought their bedding down every night and they had their own canteens and First Aid stations down in the Underground.

Strangely, the only time you could see the stars from London was during the war because there were no streetlights, everyone had blackout curtains and even the buses had filter lights, so you could see the stars.

Before the war, and even until the 1960s hardly anyone went abroad for their holidays. We all went to resorts in Britain. Very few hotels had ensuite facilities and I do not think

'The German Spy of Ashby Mews'

Wartime memories of Upper Brockley

My Brockley was quite small really, consisting of Upper Brockley Road from Brockley Cross at one end down to Lewisham Way at the other. That's where I spent most of my time, except when I went to school. I used to live at 126, Upper Brockley Road, until I left on 1st of October 1957 for Canada.

I have a thousand memories of the war years: you could stand at the top of Rokeby Road and see pretty near to New Cross across the bomb sites. Next time you go under the railway arch at Brockley Cross, look for holes in the tiles made by bomb splinters.

There was nothing glamorous about those times. When I was a little kid in the 1940s, London consisted of hundreds of small, self contained communities that shared some common facilities, like hospitals, a bank, and so on; it was like a series of connected villages. Everyone was within easy walking distance of 'the shops', and of course a pub or two, so you never had to go too far from home, except to go to work.

If you were to stand in Upper Brockley Road at the corner of Vulcan Hill, you would see a scene that is quite different from what it is today. The Wolsey Pub (corner of Vulcan Road) was doing great business, and on Sundays a barrow sold winkles and whelks.

On the other corner, the house that Google Earth shows as painted white, was Bessie Mansfield's grocery store. The entrance was on the corner of the building as was common during the 19th century when it was built, and you had to climb a couple of steps to get in. It was very small inside, and smelled of creosote from small bundles of firewood stacked in front of the counter. Bessie wore very thick glasses, like the bottom of Coke bottles, and I used to wonder how she could see. She was a very nice lady, which was unusual because the majority of people were not nice to little boys in those days. I used to sit on top of the letter box that is still in front of her store, and if she saw me, she wouldn't say anything.

Opposite Bessie's store was a building that isn't there any more. It had been added on to the last house in Brockley Gardens, and it consisted of a café and sweetshop side by side, run by Mrs. Cracknell. The café was very popular, open from about eight until late afternoon.

Opposite was the Wickham Pub. Most of its regulars were the sort of people who wore a shirt and tie, while the Wolsey, opposite, was more of a spit and sawdust sort of a place.

To the side of the Wickham were the once

any had showers.

At school we worked much harder than children do now. We worked until 4pm each day and then had two hours homework to do in the evenings. Every schoolchild had a satchel on their back, which you never see now. If we spoke to the teachers as children do now we would have been expelled. There were no biro's – we had inkwells and fountain pens.

London was a much safer place to live in those days and you could come home in the early hours by yourself, which I would certainly not do now. The banks all had big open mahogany counters, none of the sealed counters you have now and none of the policemen had walkie-talkies.

I hope this gives you some information of what Brockley like.

A Brockley Resident

quaint Victorian shops, now converted into houses. Two down from the pub was Clark's butcher shop, run by two brothers who had another butcher shop at the top of Tanners Hill on the left hand side going down. Clark's had sawdust on the floor and us kids thought that was real cool, although we must have used another word. It got even better when my father told me that it was used to soak up the blood that dripped on to the floor so that people wouldn't slip on it and hurt themselves. How cool can you get without exploding?

Next to Clark's was Dan's Bakery, nothing special. I don't think they baked on the premises. Next was an Off-Licence, and the only reason I went in there was to buy ginger beer in stone bottles.

Then there was a sweet shop. Because the sweet ration was only two ounces a week, about one small Mars Bar, I didn't go in there very often. There was a chemist's down that end too. In the window were three very large glass containers, with big glass stoppers that contained a bright colored liquid. One was red, one green, and the other blue. I used to ask what the liquid was used for, but I never got an answer.

Cockle's greengrocery was near the end and his shop had a very earthy smell. He used to boil beets out the back in a large copper, and it wasn't very pleasant.

The last shop was Mrs Mac's sweet shop. A direct hit on her Anderson shelter killed her and a couple of customers early on in the Blitz. I saw them loading sacks that contained their bodies on the back of a truck, and we got a 'Bugger off, you kids' and a threat of violence if we didn't go. The shop stayed empty for years. The unexploded bomb right next to the Wolsey pub brought another 'Bugger off' for being too close to people defusing it.

'The German Spy of Ashby Mews' was a rumour that started when someone reported seeing a flashlight being pointed towards the sky during an air-raid. There was a small factory in the mews at that time, making stuff for 'the War Effort'. Nothing ever came of it but it made for some colourful stories for a while.

I still know a whole lot of other stuff, like the air raid shelters, gas masks, and I haven't told you about life on the bomb sites, or the bombs, doodle bugs or rockets, and Billy Scutt's house getting hit with an incendiary bomb – a common occurrence in those times – or Woolworths in New Cross getting hit.

I have 'severe PTSD' that I have been told started in those days, and was added to in various other wars when I became an adult.

Good Luck in you efforts.

*Bob Terry <bobgeorg@rogers.com>
Sent from Canada*

Litter on Hilly Fields

Thousands of us have enjoyed Hilly Fields' open spaces during lockdown, on fields amazingly clear of litter. But be aware that in the early hours of each morning a team of volunteers from Friends of Hilly Fields has been picking up cans, bottles and general litter left the night before. Thank you to them and to Glendale staff. Please take your litter home with you and recycle what you can!

Brockley Mews for walking



Ashby, Wickham, Manor, Breakspears, Garsington, Tack Mews, Harefield, Each of Brockley's seven Mews is different, and all are being enjoyed more in Lockdown — for family walks, walks with dogs, learning to cycle, counting butterflies — for all generations. Not to mention the Breakspears Mews community vegetable garden and Wild about Brockley in Manor Avenue. **What a resource!**

My favourite book is 'Street Flowers', by Richard Mabey in 1976, and in a short walk past 20 houses, I discovered all sorts of minute creeping plants not identified yet, plus Shepherds Purse, Groundsel, and Herb Robert, with more due to flower later. Another wild resource.

Juliet Johnson

My observations on Brockley's mews and greenways is made on local explorations during lockdown. The mews offer unexpected and pleasurable views of local architecture. Without tarmac, parking lines and kerbs, the range of underfoot textures and unmanicured feel of the majority of the mews evoke a sense of the fields beneath, in contrast to surrounding roads. Edge plants creeping in give the area an unusually rural air and flair. Without easy public access to Ashby Mews, one of the neighbourhood's assets would be erased.

Brockley resident



How I agree with everyone that the mews should be kept open, rather like country lanes, to give some contrast to the formality of the fronts of the houses.

I first saw the house where we have lived for about 60 years from the mews — looking over the garden gate to see lilac trees and wilderness (it had been empty for at least 18 months).

When the Manor Avenue General Improvement Area (GIA) was created (in 1974) I helped do a survey of back garden trees for the then tree officer, a Mrs Heuting, so that Tree Preservation Orders could be put on them. More recently we attempted to beautify our stretch of the mews by planting wild roses and cow parsley and herbaceous geraniums alongside our wall but this (for some inexplicable reason) did not go down well with a garage owner in the mews who cut them all down shortly before they flowered.

Even though Ashby Mews is more built up than others it gives views of the houses and trees which are not accessible from the street and for this reason alone should be open to pedestrians.

Jenny Varney,
founder member of Brockley Society

Amazing how busy the mews have become since lockdown. They are being enjoyed by more and more people. Let's keep them the way they are. Little country lanes in a bonkers world.

Brockley resident

Friends of Hilly Fields

Whilst the park is being enjoyed in greater numbers, our volunteering activities have mainly come to a halt. Our meadow seeds are stored next to park-keeper Lee's lunch in the bothy fridge, and children on Cliffview Road are looking after tree saplings until autumn, when we can plant again. We're hoping to organise our #CelebrateNationalLottery25 event in the autumn, which ties in with our orchard's 10th year anniversary.

The usual dawn chorus walk was cancelled this year, but Rupert and I ventured out at six in the morning to enjoy the birdsong and sunrise. The highlights included seeing the nuthatches nesting, the fluting song of the black cap, and a crazy chaffinch attacking his own image in a car mirror, mistakenly confusing it with a rival, who was happily singing in the nearby hawthorn. A full update is on the hillyfields.blogspot.com

Rachel Mooney, Chair of Friends of Hilly Fields, www.hilly.org.uk.

We had a successful Big Garden Birdwatch event in the park back in January (how long ago that seems now!) with 24 species recorded. More recently, a pair of nuthatches have started nesting on Hilly Fields which we think is a first. The nuthatch has a pointed beak for digging insects out of tree bark and is the only British bird that moves down tree trunks head first. We're also aware that chaffinches and long-tailed tits are nesting in the park. The spring migrants blackcap and chiffchaff have been here for over a month now and are probably nest building. The song thrush is singing regularly. Swifts can be seen in the skies though not in great numbers, but overall the birds seem to be thriving.

Tom Moulton, Bird Champion Hilly Fields

Come, lay a while

At first I was nervous, then the hard work kicked in and now there's the reward of fresh greenery and birdsong in the laid hedge on the Cliffview Road side of Hilly Fields.

I had never led a hedge-laying project and it was more than ten years since I took a course near Sevenoaks in Kent. The work was made easier thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of the Friends of Hilly Fields. The reward, hopefully, is one all park users enjoy.

We started in March, at the end of the winter hedge laying season and got to work only just in time. The pandemic meant it was impossible to do the finishing touches — weaving cut stakes with cropped branches known as withies — before lockdown.

The skills required are pretty straightforward. The important things are to get the sequencing right. All materials are sourced within Hilly Fields.

Hedges have to be laid uphill while working down the slope. Most varieties of tree and shrub can be laid although hawthorn, hazel, ash, and field maple are among the most common and well suited. It is also theoretically possible to lay fully mature trees.

The method involves cutting about four-fifths of the way through stems. Done correctly, far from causing damage, plants in a laid hedge flourish. New growth comes from the exposed base areas and vertically from the laid saplings.

Well-laid hedges make great habitats and are visually appealing. The ages-old purpose, however, was to fence fields used for grazing livestock. Today, a layered hedge can work as an effective deterrent for human wanderings — especially if the planting is thorny.



Hedge laying in progress, early March

The Cliffview lay was a pilot in many ways. Over coming winters Volunteering Hilly Fields hopes to apply the techniques to other parts of the park.



Hedge layer's bodger

The Friends of Hilly Fields, or Volunteering Hilly Fields as the Whatsapp group is called, is a loose group of three dozen-or-so residents who give their time to enhance the natural environments on Hilly Fields. It is ably led by Rachel. Find us on Facebook Hillyfields,SE4 and the park notice boards.

Robert Cole

• Alongside occasional hedge laying, Robert is a local writer who supplied the words for the Shardeloes Road poem. Contact via www.robertscoble.com

Francis Drake Bowls Club

What has been happening at the club?

A new pavilion has been erected to improve the facilities both for watching games in progress and to gather together for match refreshments and other social activities.

Funding has come from local grants, club funds and additional donations. Useful practical help and support has been given by Glendale and Lewisham Council.



How are we managing lockdown?

We are missing bowls but keep in touch and support one another using a group What's App, phone calls, emails texts etc. We are all trying to maintain our fitness in line with social distancing/self-isolation requirements. Bowls England have put several exercise programmes on their website which use bowls!

What will happen at the club?

Our great plans for this season have had to be postponed and we are unsure when/how we will start bowling again. We suspect numbers may have to be limited initially.

We look forward to welcoming local residents to come and see our improvements and to play bowls as soon as we are able to do so. In the meantime, we wish everyone well.

Jeanette Singer, Captain
www.francisdrakebowlsclub.org

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Before you start making decisions on any changes to your property, we strongly advise you to look at the Council's guidelines at: www.lewisham.gov.uk. Click through [myservices / Planning / Conservation and urban design / Conservation areas / Brockley](#). The Brockley Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document describes what building modifications will be allowed. Under the Article 4 direction external changes visible from public viewpoints require

planning permission (doors, windows, roof, driveways, gates, walls, fences, painting the exterior).

You can view planning applications in the Planning section of the website, and then select 'Search and comment ...'. You must log in to make a comment supporting or objecting to an application.

To get involved in preserving the character of Brockley or for further guidance on planning issues, contact planning@brockleysociety.org.uk

Undecided

36B Wickham Road Timber replacement windows to front and rear elevations.

Ashby Mews, Retrospective planning permission for the erection of pedestrian and vehicular gates at the northern entrance to Ashby Mews, from Ashby Road and Install CCTV camera.

27 Malpas Road, Roof extension to rear roof slope, single storey rear extension and the excavation of a basement, together with the change of use to a 12 bedroom HMO.

29 Manor Avenue, Roof extension to the rear, install a rooflight to the side roof slope and replacement roof access window.

Unit 1, Ashby Mews, Change of use from existing light industrial use (Use Class B1c) to residential (Use Class C3), construction of front dormer windows. Install rooflights to front and rear roof slopes, Install new windows and doors, re-decoration and cycle parking and amenity.

13A Tressillian Crescent, Demolish conservatory, construct ground-floor single storey rear extension, replace all existing UPVC windows with aluminium-framed windows, replace front door, insert new roof lights to front and rear roof slopes, replace existing metal cladding to the front with zinc cladding and replace garage door with timber louvred doors to create new storage and habitable space.

121 Malpas Road, Extension to rear roof, single storey infill extension to the rear, Install two rooflights in the front roof slope.

21 Brockley Cross, Change of use from retail (A1 Use Class) to flexible commercial uses (A1/A2/ B1/D2 Use Classes), Install a new shopfront and construct additional storey.

110 Lewisham Way / 1 Malpas Road, Demolish storage buildings, change of use and construct a part single/part 2 storey building to provide one single bedroom and one two bedroom house at 1

Malpas Road, retention of the existing ground floor retail unit and construct an extension to the existing flat at second floor level at 110 Lewisham Way.

1-1a Brockley Cross, Demolish existing buildings and construct a part two/part three storey building comprising a Class B1 office unit and five flats, provision of bin and bicycle stores.

Land to the rear of 14 Wickham Road, Construct 8 Lockup Garages and 2 single storey garden out buildings.

5-7 St John's Vale, SE8, Replace windows and doors to all elevations.

30 Wickham Road, Replace windows to all elevations.

285 Lewisham Way, Replace windows to all elevations.

54 Tyrwhitt Road, Replace windows and door.

16 Manor Avenue, Part retrospective application for the raising of the roof and extension to the rear roof. Replace the existing rooflights in the front roof with three conservation roof lights,

53 Tressillian Road, Replace windows to the front, side and rear elevations.

11 Drake Road, Replace windows to the front, side and rear elevations.

Granted

197 Malpas Road, Single-storey wrap around extension, dormer extension to the rear roof slope.

14 Harefield Road, Replace double glazed timber sash windows, repair plasterwork to front. Bin store and bike store to front.

112 Upper Brockley Road, Replace windows and new roof lights. New terrace, new front wall.

20 Upper Brockley Road, Single storey rear extension, replace all rear windows.

58 Cranfield Road, Replace windows, front and rear.

8A Tyrwhitt Road, Change location of gates, install postbox.

2 Brockley Gardens, Upper Brockley Road, Construction of a rear dormer, insert rooflights to front roof slope.

152 Upper Brockley Road, Two storey rear extension, single storey outbuilding, new roof, bin store, front boundary, new door.

148B Brockley Road, Alterations to fenestration.

38 A & B Breakspears Road, Reconfigure flats, new entrance, Replace windows, doors.

22a Tressillian Road, Replace timber double glazed windows

Refused

62 Manor Avenue, Second floor side extension.

Chester Lodge, 25 Wickham Road, Fell three trees.

184A Lewisham Way, Demolish rear terrace; construct a single storey rear extension; form new steps with railings (listed building).

65 Tressillian Road, Stepped ground-floor side and rear extension, new gated cycle and bin store.

Trees

112 Breakspears Road Rear: Fell one Cypress (leaning at 45 degrees) and one Plum (dead). Trees should be replaced.

14B Tressillian Road Rear: Reduce crown of apple tree and thin.

7 Tressillian Road Front: Plane tree – prune to reduce height and spread.

St Peter's Court, Wickham Road, Fell two Hawthorns (damaged bark, proximity to building). Two replacement trees proposed.

24 Harefield Road, Replacement. Pollard Ash to previous pollard points

76 Tyrwhitt Road: Crown thinning and lateral reduction of one Mimosa and two Eucalyptus.

Ashby Mews gates!



A new application for retrospective planning permission for changes to the pedestrian and vehicular gates at the northern entrance to

Ashby Mews (installed without permission in April 2018) has been submitted to Lewisham Planning department. Search on planning.lewisham.gov.uk for DC/20/116785

Brockley Society opposed installation of these gates. We held a public meeting and conference respectively on 19 July 2018 and 11 May 2019 to raise awareness of the issues. A first retrospective planning application for the gates was submitted, but was refused by Lewisham's planners on the grounds of their design, height and siting, the loss of historic access, and harm to the character of the Brockley Conservation Area. To see details of the refusal search for: DC/19/110989

Hoping to find a compromise position, Brockley Society met the applicants on 19 May. Unfortunately our compromise suggestion was rejected and the subsequent retrospective application of 22 May 2020 was unacceptably different to what we were shown on 19 May. Brockley Society will object to this retrospective application.

Date for objections: by no later than 15 July 2020.

Planning backlog

To deal with the backlog of planning applications, and the online format necessary due to the coronavirus pandemic, Lewisham Council has decided on temporary changes, meaning more decisions will be made by a planning officer rather than heard in public at a planning committee meeting, currently required if three or more valid objections, or objections from an amenity group or a councillor are received. Now, with between five and nine objections, the chair of the committee can still refer the decision to a planning officer after reviewing the application.

The temporary changes will be reviewed after three months.

Unit 1, Ashby Mews

An application has been submitted for "Change of use from existing light industrial use (Use Class B1c) to residential (Use Class C3)" with construction of front dormer windows, rooflights front and rear, new windows and doors, external re-decoration and associated cycle parking. To see details search for: DC/20/116637

This site already has "permitted development prior approval for change of use to residential (C3)" and "permitted residential development for four dwellings",

Tree works

Due to Covid-19 restrictions Lewisham Planning are unable at present to accept any new tree applications except for applications made under the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 in relation to dead and dangerous trees; i.e.

- cutting down a tree when the whole tree presents an urgent and serious safety risk; *or*
- pruning part of a tree that presents an urgent and serious safety risk.

These applications are known as 5 day notices. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Please be aware that it is a criminal offence to carry out works to a tree within a conservation area or a tree covered by a TPO without permission.

We are unable to undertake site visits, so please email 5 day notices with sufficient supporting information and photographs to planning@lewisham.gov.uk.

despite our objections.

Brockley Society's opposition to such applications depends very much on how we can deal with the increasing threat being imposed by HM Government though the aegis of Permitted Development Orders, as Conservation Areas are not exempt.

Date for objections was 18 June 2020.

Great kindness

A friend and neighbour had fallen and hurt her right knee and left hip. She called me, saying that as she could not get out of her chair, could I get the spare key from her neighbour and help her. The key didn't work, it was an old one. The neighbour contacted a locksmith, Turners of London. Curtis Turner turned up within 15 mins at 6.15 or 6.30ish and then would not take any payment. He offered to replace the lock free of charge as well. My friend refused that offer.

Such an act of great kindness.

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Extinction Rebellion tree campaign

Would you like a free sapling? We've ordered 1,000 oak saplings -- trees that would have been destroyed but could now have a long life, benefit our local and global environment, and it lets more local people take some. Sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEiziuDZmasO5iov0tU6x6K3ZWPYbP7zoRFQeh-vr8eqKUXQ/viewform>

A whopping 765 trees have been ordered so far by 102 people!! We'll be in touch later with the details of where and when to collect your trees: somewhere in Lewisham, sometime in November.

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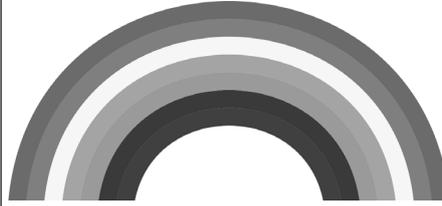
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