

BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 153 November 2021
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

Brockley Society AGM & Open Meeting

Wednesday November 10, 2021

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Lucas Vale Primary School, SE8 4QF
(access Lucas St or Tanner's Hill)

Part 1: Open Meeting: 7:30pm

Local resident Jane Hearn will talk about the fabulous online Prefab Museum, the national archive of post-war prefabs and prefab life, which she co-founded. Dozens of prefab dwellings were erected on Hilly Fields immediately after World War II and finally removed in the mid 1960s.

Part 2: Annual General Meeting: 8:30pm

Yearly accounts, reports on our projects, elections. The meeting is free and open to all

Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre

Saturday 25 June 2022

Brockley Society's circular email

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



Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre, Saturday 17 July 2021. The sun-drenched day dawned for a brilliant event - but what a road was travelled to make it happen! See p.3

Breakspears Mews Community Garden Christmas Fair

Gifts, Music, Mulled Wine And Mince Pies on Saturday 27 November 11am to 3pm. If you require a stall please (fee £10) contact us at breakspearsmews@brockleysociety.org.uk before November 19th.

Access: behind St Peter's Court, Wickham Rd SE4 1PN or at the south end of Breakspears Mews off Ashby Rd SE4 1PX



In the sweltering heat, Lewisham Concert Band played on in the Main Arena



The Mocktales perform on the Music Mini-Stage

BROCKLEY OPEN STUDIOS

Brockley Open Studios presents their annual **Christmas Fair**. Pick up a special gift for this year's Christmas from local **artists and makers**

Saturday 27 November 12-4pm

St. Peter's Church
Wickham Road, SE4 1LT

www.brockleyopestudios.co.uk

Borough of Culture 2022

The programme for next year's events will be announced on 23 November 2021. Criteria for smaller local events to be included in the programme will be issued soon.

Brockley Society has tossed around a few ideas: a Brockley literary festival, a carnival procession at the 2022 Hilly Fields Fayre; celebration of the first Anglo-Caribbean Social Club in Breakspears Road; another mass photo on Hilly Fields; specific history projects; a rounders tournament on Hilly Fields; a Design & Conservation conference ... Bring your ideas to our AGM (see p.1).

Pantomime at Greenwich Theatre

Sunday 28 November, 5pm

Brockley Society books a block of 120 tickets, which reduces adult prices to £21 while Children pay £15.50. They are sold on a first-come-first-served basis until they run out. Book on Brockley Society's website at <http://brockleysociety.org.uk/shop/> and select how many adult and children's tickets you want, plus £2 postage. Pay with PayPal or credit card. Your tickets will be posted to you. Please book before Monday 22 November to be sure you receive your tickets in time.



Help shape the future of Brockley Max

27 May - 4 June 2022

Would you like to meet new people, put smiles on people's faces and play a role in bringing the community together? Here's your opportunity...

Brockley Max is seeking more people to bring new ideas, energy and enthusiasm to south east London's biggest community arts festival and share in its success. By joining our organising team you could develop new skills, make new friends and widen your experience while having lots of fun!

We're especially looking for people who can contribute time and/or expertise in the following areas: Press and publicity, Fundraising, Event management & programming, Sponsorship & advertising

You can find out more here: <https://brockleymax.co.uk/volunteer-2021/>

Even if you don't have experience with the above, but would still like to become part of a team which creates positive change in our neighbourhood, please get in touch with moira@brockleymax.co.uk

Volunteer at Community Library

Crofton Park Community Library is a lively hub run by volunteers, organising events and classes for all ages and offering many services from photocopying to printing.

We are looking for new library volunteers to help us keep our library open!

Being part of our community will gain you new skills, confidence and good references.

To enquiry about volunteering at Crofton Park Community Library, please send an email to croftonparklibrary@ecocom.org.uk and quote "Volunteering" or go on our new website www.croftonparklibrary.org.uk at the "Volunteer" page and apply online.

Or just come to the library for a chat!

Crofton Park Community Library
375 Brockley Road
SE4 2AG
www.croftonparklibrary.org.uk/

Satellite Dishes

Satellite dishes have long been a thorn in the side of conservation minded residents. While not permitted on the front of houses in Brockley Conservation Area, their ubiquity and lack of permanence means that enforcement is lax at best.

There may at long last be some good news: Sky is launching Sky Glass, a smart TV with a built-in Sky Box which streams TV over the internet (like Netflix) rather than broadcasting via satellite. The TVs start at £649, and require a Sky subscription. They will also be able to show content from other providers such as BBC iPlayer and Amazon.

Speaking to the BBC, Ernest Doku, of Uswitch, the comparison site, said the market was due a shake-up. 'It's about time that Sky sprinkled some magic dust over the outdated satellite dish.'

Over 30 years after satellite dishes started appearing on British houses, they may, finally, start disappearing.

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 in the Brockley Conservation Area and its surrounds is 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

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

Secretary needed!

Brockley Society is looking to strengthen its management committee with a Secretary.

Are you interested in supporting the success of Brockley Society?
Is one of your own skills helping organise people and processes?
Do you get satisfaction from ensuring that ideas become reality?
Then you could be just who we are looking for!

Brockley Society is a local charity first set up in 1974. Our objectives are:

- 1 To advance the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in the Brockley Conservation Area and elsewhere in Lewisham for public benefit
- 2 To advance the education of the public in heritage and conservation
- 3 To advance citizenship and community development
- 4 To advance the arts, culture, science and heritage for public benefit
- 5 Any other charitable purposes consistent with the preceding objects

As secretary, you will become part of the management committee of Brockley Society: a role that will also automatically make you one of our trustees.

Our team comes from a variety of backgrounds and has a variety of interests, however we all share a passion for the wellbeing of Brockley and its people. We strive to fulfil the objectives as set out in our constitution: in our regular committee meetings we set out our plans and activities for the next year. We have a variety of smaller and larger projects that can benefit from being organised; by providing support for a consistent follow-through on our ideas, you can help make them reality.

For full details visit www.brockleysociety.org.uk

Brockley's Olympian

Congratulations to Lewisham triathlete Alex Yee who won the silver medal in the Men's Triathlon and the gold medal in the Triathlon Mixed Relay at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



To celebrate, local artist Lionel Stanhope added a Gold medal to his iconic 'Brockley' sign by the overground station not far from Alex's family home – a brilliant tribute to Alex's incredible achievement.

Alex Yee attended Stillness School and Kingsdale Foundation School in West Dulwich.

The history of Brockley Society logo



Brockley Society's logo contains a wyvern, designed for the society in around 1975 by a Breakspears Road resident, Don Harris. The wyvern is part of coats of arms of both the Tyrwhitt-Drake and Wickham-Drake families. It is the crest which sits on top of the shield in each case.

Apparently Don drew the caricature as a parody on the original: that's why it has a knot in its tail and a grin on its face.

The coat of arms belonged to a family whose country seat was in Amersham in Buckinghamshire and called Shardeloes. The Tyrwhitt-Wickham-Drake family left a legacy of local street names in this respect too: Amersham Road, Shardeloes Road, Drake Road, Tyrwhitt Road and Wickham Road.

Little Amal comes to Deptford



Excited groups heading down Tanners Hill. School crocodiles walking up Deptford High Street, cleared of stalls on one side. South London Samba waiting. A tall man creating gigantic bubbles to entertain those

waiting. Palpable excitement.

A cheer when someone noticed Amal arriving at the New Cross Road end. She slowly made her way up the high street, greeting, bowing, holding out her hands. When she reached the Samba drummers they struck up their powerful rhythms. Amal danced! Yes - arms, shoulders, hips. She acknowledged the children's welcome signs. She waved to watchers from upper floors and rooftops, blinking her eyes, turning around.

Shrieks of joy, laughter, tears in adult eyes, disbelief suspended despite glimpses of the puppeteers. In Giffin Square she was greeted by Lewisham Mayor Damien Egan and more children. She moved on, and then it was all over. Children went back to school, many of the crowd milled around, chatting, laughing happily. A group of Syrian young men were joined in a traditional dance by the Speaker of the Council, Cllr Tauseef Anwar, in full regalia of red robes and gold chain.

A foretaste of our great community that will show its best for Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022.

- The Walk is a travelling festival of art and hope in support of refugees. At its heart is Little Amal, a 3.5 metre tall puppet of a nine-year-old Syrian refugee girl, created by the Handspring Puppet Company.

Amal's search for her mother takes her on an epic journey from the Syrian border right across Europe and shines a light on the millions of displaced refugee children she represents. We are delighted that her first stop in London was in Deptford on 22 October.

Francis Drake Bowls Club

A curious if successful season is coming to an end. We started in April under strict Covid 19 rules, using only three out of the usual seven rinks. Our bowls had to be sanitised and mats could only be handled by one person. But when the government relaxed the rules we were able to play our usual games.

Our Francis Chappell day was a success, the sixth time we had hosted the event, drawing members from eight nearby clubs. Frances Ward Day in June was dedicated to a member who died last year. Captain of the club's North West Kent Ladies team, Frances was willing to turn her hand to anything needed at the club premises. President Jill Bonner credited her with a fine, analytical brain and the prime mover in writing our constitution.

Our new cabin has given us time and room to breathe and we hope to use it during the autumn and winter months. It was used in May as a local election polling station instead of the temporary shelter used previously.

Perhaps our greatest win was signing up new players during the season. Member Keith Ward kept the club open during the Hilly Fields Fayre and it paid dividends with about 20 trying out the game. During the following weeks, Coach Ron Phillips spent many hours instructing them. Result: 12 new members bringing our numbers up to 50 members, the most we have had for a long time.

We had some individual successes too. Partially blind member Steven Symmonds has qualified for the Commonwealth Games next year and Rob Warne has got his Kent Badge.

The season is over for another year till next April when we hope to welcome existing members and anyone else (young or old) who wants to have a go!

'Uprising' from Sir Steve McQueen

Did you catch Oscar-winning director Steve McQueen's BBC documentary



series, 'Uprising'? It tells the story of three historical moments, one of which is the tragic New Cross fire. This event is an important part of our local history and the account is incredibly moving. You can still stream the powerful series, Uprising, on BBC iPlayer.

Are you:

- Aged 16-18?
- Born in the UK?
- Unaware that Government put money aside for you at birth which could now be worth £1,000 or more?

If your answers to these is 'yes', then:

- Find your Child Trust Fund via <https://findCTF.sharefound.org> or
- Join our next virtual event at www.sharefound.org/london to find out more

We Walk Wednesdays

Have you seen the large group of Wednesday evening walkers on Hilly Fields? Since June, up to 70 walkers, mainly women, have met every Wednesday at 7:30pm outside the Bowls Club.



The walk was started by Angie Le Mar, comedian, actor, writer, director and presenter, who was born in Brockley and still lives here, along with comedian Mr Glazz Campbell.

'We needed to get outside after months of lockdown and isolation,' said Angie. 'We start with laughter therapy and then walk round the park for about 50 minutes in groups, each at their own pace, with music.'

The walk ends with stretches and the Candy Dance — easy to learn if you don't know it.

We Walk Wednesdays has spawned similar groups in five other parks in London.

Now that the evenings are dark the walkers meet at 7pm on Hilly Fields every Wednesday. All welcome! Just turn up!

The Migration Museum

The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages has made us who we are — as individuals and as a nation.

Opening times: Wednesdays–Sundays, 11am–5.30pm (5pm close on Sundays)

Free admission — advance booking not required. Lewisham Shopping Centre, SE13 7HB www.migrationmuseum.org/

Letters

When we bought our home on Geoffrey Road, there was rumour that the Queen's mum visited the garden. We took this with a pinch of salt but a couple of the neighbours have confirmed that they remember the road shutting down for a royal visit. Apparently, a royal gardener lived on this road.



Queen Mother visiting the Excalibur Estate prefabs, 1980s

A keen a gardener friend of mine keeps asking if I know the name of the gardener and wonders if the road is named after him. Would you know if the road is named after a particular Geoffrey and do you have any more information about the royal visit?

Rabiya

Geoffrey Road was originally St Peter's Road and according to Joan Read in her booklet on 'Lewisham Street Names and their Origins' (1990) was renamed in 1915 after Geoffrey de Say of Magna Carta fame, Brocile (Brockley) being part of his barony.

Brockley Society's summer

Aside from the Hilly Fields Fayre on 17 July (see p.3) we've had a busy year.

Breakspears Mews Community Garden came into its own as a safe open space for spread-out relaxing during lockdown, with Open Days, workshops and Art & Crafts fairs, including during Brockley Open Studios.

Brockley Society BBQ on 2 July at the Stone Circle on Hilly Fields was enjoyed by a mixed group of locals and visitors.

Brockley Society Open Meeting in August at Lucas Vale Primary School was entitled *Penguins, not Polar Bears*

Local resident Sandra Margolies described the three journeys of her grandfather, Captain William Colbeck (1871–1930), to Antarctica at the start of the Heroic Age of Exploration.

We were gripped by descriptions of the hardships endured in the Antarctic and fascinated to learn about the inside-out seal skins used as sleeping bags.

As a Merchant Marine officer Colbeck went on the *Southern Cross* expedition of 1898–1900 to the Antarctic and two years later captained the *Morning* to relieve Captain Scott's ship *Discovery*, trapped in frozen ice. They unloaded food and coal for another year and returned in 1903 with explosives to blast through the ice and free the Royal Navy's *Discovery*, whose crew weren't thrilled to be rescued by a merchant marine vessel.

Colbeck lived in Catford from 1913 to 1930, commemorated by a plaque in Inchmery Road. He is buried in Hither Green Cemetery.

Brockley's Historic Mews Walk

We ran these walks again as part of Open House London 2021 on 4 & 5 September, along Ashby and Wickham Mews, finishing at Breakspears Mews Community Garden. The Open House website brought many people from wider London.

Coordinated Front Garden Sale (9th year) on 11 & 12 September attracted 104 houses Brockley, Ladywell, St John's and Brookmill Road areas. A great chance to find bargains and chat with neighbours in the open air.

Two **Brockley Society social events** were held in the run-up to our AGM (see p.1): for anyone interested in planning and conservation on 28 September and for general interest in Brockley Society on 25 October.

see: www.brockleysociety.org.uk

The Queen Mother came to Lewisham on 24 November 1971 to open the then new Civic Suite at the Town Hall - this link gives some info:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/5fff30e6-4b90-4a13-9a4c-5cec68944f08>

Chris

To shed some light on the Queen Mother's visit. At least until the 1980s she presented awards for the best gardens on behalf of the London Gardens Society, based on Duck Island in St James's Park. It was a regular event from the immediate post-war period.

Some years ago I was sent photos of her visiting the Excalibur Estate prefabs, 1980s, and there is a short film on British Pathe, <https://www.britishpathe.com/video/queen-visits-london-gardens>. It's less likely that a royal gardener lived in Geoffrey Road.

Jane Hearn

(Jane will speak on prefabs at Brockley Society's AGM on 10 November, see p.1)

Save the Ravensbourne Arms

Three women are re-opening The Ravensbourne Arms (formerly Coach & Horses) on Lewisham High Street, Ladywell, as a Community Pub, like the Ivy House in Nunhead. It's not-for-profit and the community can buy shares with associated tax benefits.

The group, Sister Midnight, comprising Lenny Watson, Verity Hobbs, and Sophie Farrell (below), plan to re-open the



Ravensbourne as a pub, live music venue and all-day community hub for locals of all ages. That means baby mornings, tea dances and many fabulous gigs. We invite Brockley Society members to check out the website for information about the project and the share offer - www.sistermidnight.org

Farewell to Wellbeloved

Sadly for Deptford and Brockley, Wellbeloved family Butchers and Graziers closed this summer.



W H Wellbeloved was established in 1829 on Deptford High Street (before moving to Tanner's Hill) when Deptford was still a thriving naval store and despatch point.

HMS Comet, the Royal Navy's first steam powered ship, had been launched at Deptford just five years before.

The William Wellbeloved most of us knew took over the business aged just 18 in 1976 after his father (also William) died at 54 in a tragic car crash.

He had lived above the business since he was a baby and worked in the shop since he was 14, joined later by his wife Val. They became famous for freshly baked pies and high quality meat from their own suppliers ('Butchers and Graziers' are butchers who are involved in maintaining and controlling the breeding stock).

Through all the changes in Deptford and other parts of South East London, Wellbeloved continued to provide the very best of traditional high-welfare meats, skillfully prepared and trimmed.

The shop was also a remarkable living piece of old London. William and assistants were always ready for a few words about cuts of meat, recipes, or the state of the world. No matter where you were from, you felt yourself a local, a cockney, having bit of a chat and a bit of a laugh.

We will miss Wellbeloved.

Irish love and passion in Brockley

In June 2021 Dr Luke McDonagh wrote about Irish history in Tressillian Road. Now Mickey Kelly fills out some more rich detail.

Over half a million people gathered in Glasnevin cemetery in Dublin, on 10 October 130 years ago, to witness the funeral of 'The Chief', Charles Stewart Parnell, 'the uncrowned king of Ireland'.

Aged 45, he died in the arms of his wife Katherine, broken in health but not in spirit. Although married only a few months, they had been lovers for many years and had three children together. The scandal of their relationship rocked Irish politics to its very core, destroying the Irish Parliamentary Party and shattering the possibility of a peaceful transition to Irish Home Rule.

Historians have speculated endlessly that had Parnell not fallen from grace a peaceful, democratic and gradual transition might have prevented the bloodshed and rancour which came to dominate Anglo-Irish relations after the 1916 rebellion.

The property at 112 Tressillian Road, like many in the area, is now subdivided into flats, but in this genteel and respectable Brockley property part of this great tragedy

was acted out. For some time, Charles Stuart Parnell and his lover and partner, Katherine O'Shea, met there. Parnell rented the property in 1887 under the assumed name of Mr Fox. When asked for a reference, he haughtily replied that a man with horses ought not to be called on to give references. He paid the rent in advance and in cash. For a short while they lived out their love in suburban anonymity.

Katherine describes how they first met on the train to Charing Cross in 1880.

'He did not speak ... He helped me into the train and sat opposite me ... leaning over he whispered, I love you ... and I slipped my hand into his and I knew I was not afraid.'

Katherine was married to Captain O'Shea a fellow member of Parnell's Irish Parliamentary Party, a man she met when she was 15. Although fully aware of the affair for a number of years, only when Katherine's aunt died leaving a significant fortune did O'Shea sue for divorce and control of the fortune, citing Parnell as co-respondent. The press had a field day with the story dubbing Katherine as 'Kitty', a name she had never used, but was a slang term for a prostitute at that time.

Parnell was unparalleled as a politician in his day. He managed to unite all of the factions within Irish nationalism, including elements of the physical force tradition characterised by the Fenians.

From a Protestant Ascendancy family and a landlord in his own right he was a paradox that defied easy explanation. Coming to power in the shadow of the great Irish famine, he was instrumental in bringing about comprehensive land reform in Ireland so that the people could for the first time own their own land.

Through Catholic Church organisation he built the grass roots Land League, which agitated peacefully for reform, instigating tactics such as boycott, and raising money and support for his united and disciplined political party in Westminster at a time when other parties were just loose coalitions of interest. His party held the balance of power

between the Conservatives and Liberals. His party's cohesion and discipline enabled them to thwart and obstruct the conduct of parliament. Members often spoke consecutively for hours on end to hold up business and force government reform.

English Prime Minister William Gladstone said, 'I cannot tell you how much I think of him, and what an interest I take in everything concerning him. A marvellous man, a terrible fall.'

Later Prime Minister Winston Churchill described his fall at the height of his potential power as a 'Grecian tragedy', commenting 'As he had previously sacrificed all for Ireland, so, when the moment of choice came, he sacrificed all, even Ireland, for love.'

When the divorce case broke, Parnell found himself beleaguered and under attack from all sides. The Catholic Church turned against him as an adulterer. The English press which had previously attacked him using forged letters to suggest his involvement in terrorism, now knew their opponent was severely wounded and made best use of the salacious revelations.

He fought on doggedly, losing by-election after by-election. Even after Katherine was

divorced and he married her, the Catholic Church denounced him for marrying a divorcee in a registry office. At one memorable election rally, standing in failing health in the pouring rain, he begged the people 'not to throw him as a sop to the English wolves!' James Joyce later commented, 'They did not fail his desperate appeal; they tore him to pieces themselves.'

In the works of James Joyce the ghost of Parnell is a recurring theme. In *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* the argument

over Christmas dinner is unforgettable. More subtle is, 'Ivy day in the committee rooms' in *Dubliners*. Parnell also appears in *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*.

Katherine later told of their early courtship when a red rose she was wearing fell from her bodice. Parnell picked it up, kissed it and placed it in his pocket. Many years later she found it in an envelope in his papers with her name and the date. She placed the rose in his coffin when he died.

In Glasnevin he lies, under an unhewn stone of Wicklow granite bearing only one word 'Parnell'.

Katherine died in 1921 and is buried in Littlehampton Cemetery. Only two carriages were at her funeral, one of them empty. On her grave the simple message 'Fide et amore' (by loyalty and by love).

In this quiet part of London behind the nondescript net curtains in Brockley, great love and passion played out a drama that reverberated in history. Let us remember them both. As the poet Yeats said

*'The Bishops and the party
That tragic story made,
A husband that had sold his wife
And after that betrayed;
But stories that live longest
Are sung above the glass,
And Parnell loved his country
And Parnell loved his lass.'*



Parnell Monument, O'Connell Street, Dublin

Made in Lewisham (or very near) talk by David Perrett

An astonishing array of enterprises have been based in Lewisham, from warships, ship propellers and unusual railway locomotives to plate cameras, micro aerometers for coalmines and Garibaldi biscuits. All these and much more was made in our borough.

The most striking buildings are the Grade II Listed Ship-building sheds at Convoys Wharf (Paynes) with sweeping curved roofs, visible at a gate near the Thames. This is where 735 timber ships were built until 1869 for the Royal Navy, before the era of iron ships. More recently the spaces have been used for paper and storage, and boat building on a smaller scale.

Local resident, Professor David Perrett, who is Chair of the Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA) and the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS), gave a fascinating talk at our regular Open Meeting (by Zoom) on Tuesday April 20 2021.

The Royal Navy Victualling Yard in Deptford was on the Thames from 1780 to 1980, beside the Naval Dockyard which closed in 1869, becoming the Foreign Cattle Market for sheep and cattle from Ireland being fattened before going to the abattoir. So WH Wellbeloved, Butcher and Grazier,

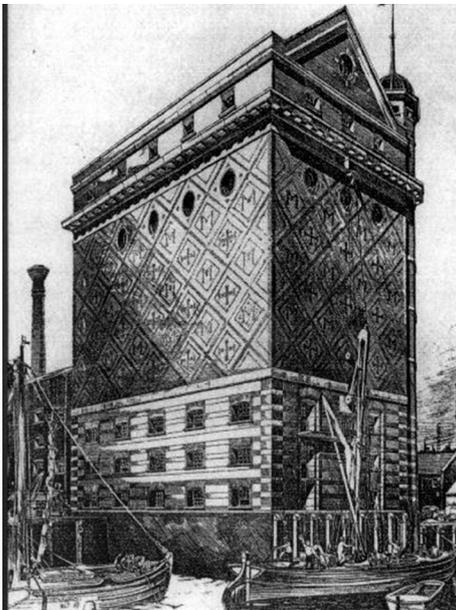


The Foreign Cattle Market, established 1872 when the City of London purchased the former dockyard. In 1907 (the peak) 184,971 cattle and 49,350 sheep passed through the market.

in Tanners Hill, was correctly named, as were the Deptford 'Gut Girls' (See p.4).

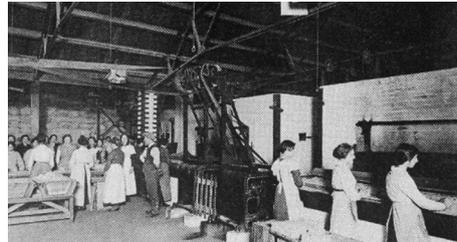
David took us to the Surrey Canal, running along Shardeloes Road, and past the canal-side houses, now coffee shops at Brockley Station, created when the railway replaced the canal in 1839. Excavation of clay for brickworks and lime kilns on Hilly Fields added to the heavy local work.

By the River Ravensbourne were 40 watermills: a sign for one is on the footpath from Ladywell Fields; Tide Mills were at Deptford Creek;



Mumford's Mill

Mumford's Mill is now residential with extra windows inserted in the walls; the Riverdale Cornmill is opposite Lewisham shopping centre. Chiltonian Biscuits were baked nearby, in Manor Lane Lee.



Chiltonian Biscuits, Lee. Photographs - Lewisham Archives.

Continuing with drink and food: coffee and tea works were at Brockley Cross on Endwell Road, until the 2006. The building has now been extended upwards with projecting green upper floor flats. Gin distilling at the Seager Building in Deptford Broadway continued until 1970. Beer was brewed at Forest Hill Brewery in Perry Vale, followed by today's successful Brockley Brewery, near Brockley Station.

For fresh milk supply depots were needed every few miles, one being at Martin's Yard off Drakefell Road. The white flats on Mantle Road beside Brockley Business Centre were for the milk company employees.



Workers' flats for United Dairies, Endwell Street, Brockley Cross © David Perrett

Engineering firms operated widely. Henry Maudslay, 1771- 1831, who trained at Woolwich Arsenal in Mechanical Engineering, made the Time Ball at Greenwich and the shield for what is now the overground tunnel under the Thames in 1825. A rival was John Penn, whose Boiler Works on Blackheath Hill, are now Pets at Home. They made, boilers, water pumps, and steam engines (one still powers a paddle steamer in Dresden). John Penn built the Almshouses on Greenwich South Street in 1884, and is buried in St Margaret's Churchyard on Belmont Hill.

Stones, another Deptford firm, established in 1842, made coal hole covers, found in Kentish streets, gratings found in Malta, and propellers. A wonderful photograph showed a wheel shaped Stones hand pump in the



Payne's (Convoys) Wharf, formerly Penn's boiler shop. By Penn's death in 1878 his firm had built engines for 735 ships, from river ferries to battleships © David Perrett

Nairobi Railway Museum.

In Pomeroy Street, at the Hatcham Locomotive works, George England, 1811 to 1885, and RF Fairlie, (1831-1885), built double-ended push-pull engines, taken by sea from the Thames round to Porthmadog in North Wales for the Ffestiniog Railway, which are still running. In the Dunedin Museum in New Zealand is a Fairlie Engine. Houses in Kender Street, typified by flights of steps up to the front doors, were built for the workers.

A Tangye Testing machine from Hatcham Ironworks now in the Swindon store of the Science Museum.

The World's first High Voltage Power Station was built by Ferranti in 1889, six months before Edison. The arched façade is now within a new Thames-side building. Nowadays SELCHP (South East London



Deptford Power Station, designed by Sebastian de Ferranti, opened 1889, the first central high-voltage power station in the world © David Perrett

Combined Heat and Power) Plant turns refuse into energy.

The list continues: In the Victoria & Albert Museum is a 1698 knife made by cutlers based at Southend Pond. Morleys made Pianos until the 1950s. The highly specialised Gandolfi Cameras were made near Brockley Cross from 1880 to 1982 and some are in the Science Museum. Lowne Instruments in Boone Street, Lee High Rd, used clock lathes from the 1750s to make mini compasses for World War II, and aerometers for mines until 2003.

The Silk Industry, which needed mulberry trees, is commemorated in Silk Mills Path, with houses for workers nearby. Work using Jaquard looms continued until 1937. Lambeth saved their silk mill, now Streatham Sainsbury's, but similar Lewisham buildings, camouflaged and kept incognito because of gold and silver braid trims made there, have been lost.

Up the road in Blackheath Village, in Bennett Park on the Blackheath Art Club, is a blue plaque for the GPO Film Unit (General Post Office) where the famous documentary film the 'Night Mail' was filmed and produced.

An extraordinary range of skills and research is to be proud of. Today if we search we find metal workers, knife grinders, silk weavers, and all sorts of other specialists.

More pictures from this talk: www.brockleysociety.org.uk

Juliet Johnson

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

Pending:

5 Tressillian Crescent, SE4: The construction of a single-storey rear extension. Boundary wall works, front path restoration, new windows, brickwork restoration

Chester Lodge, 25 and Half Wickham Road, SE4: Replacement of arrow-slit gable vent in the street facing elevation with single timber-framed sash window

Stephens CoE Primary School, Albyn Road, SE8: The installation of 3no air source heat pumps

Basement Flat, 24 Breakspears Road, SE4: Excavation of the rear garden to create a patio and installation of a new door at the lower ground floor rear elevation

44 Cranfield Road, SE4: Two storey rear extension, replacement of all windows at the front, widening of windows in the side elevation, new roof and works to the front garden

Ground Floor Flat, 5 Glensdale Road SE4: Demolition of rear garden wall to create a parking space and other works

58 Manor Avenue, SE4: Rear extension and patio at lower ground floor level, insertion of a ventilation outlet at the front LG floor

5 Manor Avenue, SE4: Replacement of all windows, doors, front garden works

Rear of 99 Manor Avenue SE4: Demolition of existing single storey garages and the construction of a two storey detached house

34 Ashmead Road, SE8: Single storey rear extension

138 Lewisham Way SE14: Retrospective planning application for the change of use of a Lewisham Way Youth And Community Centre

Granted:

137 Upper Brockley Road, SE4: Demolition of existing lean-to structure and construction of two

storey side/ rear extension

26 Admiral Street, SE8: Replacement of existing single-glazed white timber sash windows with double-glazed white timber sash units

79 Harefield Road, SE4: Replacement double-glazed timber windows at the side and rear elevations

49 Manor Avenue, SE4: Replacement double glazed timber sash windows at the second and lower ground floor front elevation, and the second floor rear

2 Breakspears Mews SE4: The alteration of the front elevation (garage door)

74 Tyrwhitt Road, SE4: Replacement of all front windows with wooden double glazed sash windows

19 Breakspears Mews SE4: The alteration of the front elevation (garage door)

8 Brockley Gardens, SE4: Construction of two rear dormer roof extensions

12 Drake Road, SE4: Replacement timber sash windows to the second floor at the front

33 Upper Brockley Road, SE4: Construction of a part one/part two-storey rear extension to; replacement of aluminium windows with timber sash windows.

36 Tyrwhitt Road, SE4: single storey extension and first floor extension to the rear

72 Manor Avenue SE4: Single-storey rear extension, the replacement of the front and rear elevation doors and windows at, front lightwell.

61 Harefield Road, SE4: extension to the main rear roofslope

18 Upper Brockley Road, SE4: Replacement of window and door at the rear, insertion of skylight to rear extension

17 Upper Brockley Road, SE4: Replacement double glazed timber sash windows to the first and second floor front and rear elevations of

29B Tressillian Road, SE4: Replacement bi-fold door to the ground floor rear elevation

The Workshop, 101 Ashby Mews, SE4: Change of use from light industrial (Use Class Eg(ii)) to live/work (Use Class Sui Generis) at Blitbolt Ltd, together with construction of first floor extension and alterations

Refused:

42 Tyrwhitt Road SE4: Single storey extension to the rear, enlarged rear first floor window, a dormer in the rear roof slope, roof lights in the front and side roof slopes

51 Wickham Road, SE4: The construction of an additional storey on top of the existing two storey dwelling

Parkyn, 65 Harfield Road, SE4: The construction of side and rear roof extensions, rooflights

30B Wickham Road, SE4: Replacement double glazed timber sash windows at the front and rear together with a double glazed uPVC window in the rear elevation

Unit 1, Ashby Mews, SE4: Change of use from light industrial use (Use Class E(g)(iii)) to residential use (Use Class C3), various extensions, windows and doors

2 Alder House, Breakspears Road, SE4: Installation of double glazed uPVC windows and door to enclose existing ground floor terrace

Trees:

60 Manor Avenue, SE4: Repollard lime tree at front

Flat 1, 17 Darling Road, SE4: Prunus Pissardii, reduce and thin crown

Flat 2, 139 Upper Brockley Road SE4: Repollard sycamore tree at front

26 Friendly Street SE8: Fell eucalyptus tree, prune hawthorn tree

Nazanin loses appeal



Former Brockley resident Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has lost an appeal against a second jail sentence in Iran. There was no court hearing, but her

lawyer was informed of the outcome.

Iranian authorities alleged that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was plotting to topple the government in Tehran. She completed a five-year sentence in March this year, only to be slapped with a fresh one-year jail term for 'propaganda against the system'.

She spent the final year of her term on parole at her parents' home in Tehran.

Her husband Richard said his wife was 'traumatised' at the fear of imminent return to jail and had called her daughter in London several times over the course of the day to tell her she loves her.

During the five and a half years since Nazanin's arrest, it has become increasingly clear that she is a pawn in a geopolitical game, and that political calculations lie behind Iran's legal moves against her.

In particular, it wants the UK to repay the £400m debt owed since before Nazanin was born, when Iran bought tanks that were not delivered after the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

• As we go to press Nazanin's husband is on hunger strike outside the Foreign Office, attempting to persuade the UK foreign secretary to do more to bring his wife back from detention in Iran.

Learn more about improving energy efficiency of your Conservation Area property whilst protecting its heritage qualities. Register for webinar:

Practical Solutions for Retrofit in Conservation Areas, Tuesday 9 November, 7-9pm:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/retrofit-in-conservation-areas-south-east-london-tickets-182779286767>

This is the second of two webinars initiated by Brookmill Road Conservation Area Society in partnership with SELCE (South London Community Energy) and their Future Fit Homes division. Speakers featured from Historic England, Arboreal Architecture, SELCE and London Borough of Lewisham.

The recording of the first webinar,

Introduction fo Retrofit:

<https://www.futurefithomes.org/post/retrofit-in-conservation-areas-webinar-1>



Lewisham Way Youth and Community Centre

A new planning application seeks to change the Use Class of the Lewisham Way Centre to commercial use. Brockley Society and others are objecting as we believe this building's 44-year cultural history must not be lost by turning it into a commercial property. Once lost to the community it can never be regained.

As we go to press we await information from Lewisham Planning department.

Community Connections Lewisham

A free 'social prescribing' service for all adults in Lewisham, connecting you with social groups and support services that promote your health and wellbeing. CCL offers support for a broad range of personal needs and goals. For example, helping you discover nearby lunch clubs or exercises classes, or helping you find a befriender or counselling support if you're feeling lonely or struggling to cope. They also help with practical needs including shopping delivery, transport applications, and improving IT skills.

To get in touch, contact their helpline on **0330 058 3464** (open Monday-Friday 9:30am-4pm)

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Hilly Fields Fayre, 17 July 2021

Hilly Fields Fayre date was fixed for 17 July, after lockdown was scheduled to be lifted.

Preparations proceeded: licenses, booking forms, method statements, additional Covid risk assessment and further refinements; performers, stall bookings (about 200); replacements for events not available because of Covid.

Problem! Lockdown was extended till the 19 July, two days after our scheduled date! Delay wasn't viable for multiple reasons.

We looked at the current Step 3 regulations and were convinced our open-air event on a big space would be compliant.

We emailed the authorities, who asked for more Covid-safety details: the main 21m marquee to be open on three sides to allow airflow; the tea tent separate from the marquee, stewards, signs.

We spread the activities out: two mini stages at opposite corners of the big field: one for music, the other for spoken literary works; children's activities in the shade garden.

Our 32-page Fayre programme was ready to print with generous support from local businesses' adverts and prizes. Three weeks to go — but we still we didn't have permission. We emailed the authorities again.

On Tuesday 29 June, less than three weeks from the event, permission came. Great joy.

Final arrangements: distributing 8,000 programmes, signs, hand-washing facilities, traffic management, generator for the mini-



Gloria Brown and Errol (Black Steel) performed on the Spoken Literary Word and Open Mic Stages

stages, recruiting volunteers, more volunteers and more volunteers. We had a brilliant team!

Last-minute problems in the main arena: Heart of Steel Orchestra and Lucas Vale Primary School Year Six pupils (due to perform the Jerusalema dance) faced Covid isolation. Aquila Taekwondo and Lewisham Concert Band rose to the occasion (in the heat!), WCKUK Lewisham Wing Chun gave an extra demonstration, and the dog show ended the proceedings.

Lewisham Mayor, Damian Egan, and Lewisham East MP, Vicky Foxcroft, came to show support.

The shady areas on the perimeter of the field were enjoyed by picnicking groups. Hundreds sat on the slopes facing the music mini-stage. The spoken word mini-stage was intimate and shady.

Hilly Fields, a lifesaver for so many people over the last 18 months, hosted a huge, friendly relaxed event with a feeling of peace, pleasure and happiness.

Thanks to all our volunteers, advertisers, performers, stallholders, lead sponsor Conran Estates, Partner Lewisham College, and Glendale Ground Management!

The following morning we received the email below.

The morning after

Congratulations on yesterday's wonderful Midsummer Fair. Everyone seemed to be happy, thoroughly enjoying the event.

Looking out last night and early today at your miracle clean-up, there is our beloved Hilly Fields completely restored to its outstanding beauty.

What I love most of all about your carefully planned annual occasion is to see the very wide variety of peoples mingling and talking so happily together.

What you achieve apparently so effortlessly each year has national and indeed fundamental global significance. Here we have the ideal model for the rest of the world. This, surely is, I hope, the way forward for all of us.

Paul Tempest



Children's Competitions -- Cake Decorating: Best Thing about Hilly Fields

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