

BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 160 March 2024
Charity No: 1201209

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

BROCKLEY SOCIETY

Brookmill Road CA Society with Brockley Society

7pm Wednesday 19 June 2024

THE MERCENARY RIVER: Private
Greed and Public Good. The History
of London's Water

Talk by author, Nick Higham
Blueprint for All (formerly Stephen
Lawrence Centre)

See page 4

Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre

Saturday 22 June, 2024, 12 noon to 5pm
(See right)

Find out about participation and
volunteering at one of our informal
Drop-In sessions

Monday 8 April - 7pm-9pm

Parlez, Coulgate Street, SE4 2RW (next
to Brockley Station)

Thursday 11 April - 3pm-5pm

Pistachio's Cafe, Hilly Fields, SE4 1LB

Tuesday 16 April - 7pm-9pm

The Talbot, 2 Tyrwhitt Road, SE4 1QG

Brockley Society BBQ

Friday 5 July 2024, 7-9pm

Stone Circle on Hilly Fields

Brockley Society Open Meeting

Subject and venue tbc

Wednesday 17 July

Coordinated Front Garden Sale (12th year)

7 and 8 September 2024, 11am - 4pm

Brockley's Historic Mews Walks

Part of Open House London

Saturday 14 or 21 September 2024 (tbc)

Brockley Society AGM

Wednesday 20 November 2024

Your Fayre needs you - join our team!

Spring has finally arrived, and our annual Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre is just around the corner.

Our much-loved community fayre is now in its 50th year. Over the years, the fayre has grown in scale, and is enjoyed by c.6,000 fayre goers every year. It is organised and run by a team made up ENTIRELY of volunteers. However, as the fayre has increased in size and attendees, we need more volunteers.

This is where you come in - we are appealing for organisers and volunteers to:

Join the fayre organising team and take ownership of a specific area or task!

Volunteer for a few hours on the day, or the entire day.

To give you a flavour, we are looking for:

- Organising team
- identifying volunteers

- seeking programme advertisers and prizes
- identifying sponsors
- distributing the programme beforehand

On the day support:

Tea stall / barbecue / coconut shy.

Raffle ticket sales.

Set-up and take-down gazebos, arenas, and signs.

Car marshalling and stewarding (early morning/late afternoon).

Breakdown (late afternoon).

Litter picking.

Interested? We are running a series of drop-in sessions *see left*.

Alternatively, email volunteer@brockleysociety.org.uk

Further information www.brockleysociety.org.uk

How do we create a community in Brockley?

If you have lived in Brockley some time you will be aware of the strong sense of community, pride or identity with the area, that has been fostered over decades by the people who live here. New people moving into the area may not realise this at first.

A few days ago, I showed a friend the mass photo that we took on Hilly Fields in 2015. About 6,000 people turned up for a photo in the same place as the August 1918 procession and photo to support the final days of World War I, also attended by a similar number of people.

'How did you get so many people there?' asked my friend in astonishment. 'Why did they come?' Another friend replied: 'Well, that's what community means. Everyone who had any connection with Hilly Fields and with Brockley wanted to be there.'

What brings about this sense of community?

Our community has been developed over decades by people wanting to improve the area they live in. Brockley Society has played a role in this since 1973, and so have other

groups who worked to bring our community together, to make our parks better places, to create small community gardens, to plant trees, stimulate interest in the cemeteries, oppose demolitions and bad policies, such as a four-lane motorway through Brockley, run events like Brockley Open Studios, Brockley Max Festival — and much else.

The Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre, has been run annually since 1975 and has been a major contribution to the community. It was started to counter perceived divisions, tensions, racism and lack of pride in the area. It remains a real symbol of a community that values itself. It is the area's biggest community event, attended by thousands of local people.

The fayre is run entirely by volunteers! If you value community, if you want your children to grow up in a pleasant and friendly area that welcomes all, we need your help and participation. We are appealing for more people to come forward!

We have well-established systems to organise the fayre, including preparatory tasks requiring just a few hours of volunteer time. Come to one of three drop-ins to find out more. (*See left*)

We are open to new suggestions if you wish to organise something new. Please join us in building and strengthening our community. Email: volunteer@brockleysociety.org.uk

Clare Cowen Chair, Brockley Society
chair@brockleysociety.org.uk



Above; Photographer Simon Terrill prepares to take the 2015 Mass photo

Brockley Max Festival



31 May to 8 June

Nine-day community arts festival in
Lewisham Brockleymax.co.uk

Brockley Open Studios

6/7 July 2024 brockleyopenstudios.co.uk

Lewisham Way Youth & Community Centre

Family Reunion

Saturday 20 July 2024 Luxmore Gardens Visit
our stall at Hilly Fields Fayre

Friends of Brockley & Ladywell Cemeteries

Illustrious Ladies commemorated in Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries

Saturday 9th March, 2.00pm – 3.30pm
International Women's Day tour exploring some of the 'illustrious ladies' commemorated in Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries. Tour led by Jane Hart
Meet at the Ladywell gate.

Nature walk led by Tom Moulton and Peter Robinson

Sunday 21st April. 10.30am – 12noon
Meet at the Ladywell gate.

Explore the copious flora and wildlife in the Cemeteries with our local experts.

foblc.org

Anthony 'Fred' Harrison

Brockley resident, well-known playwright, author and occasional Guardian columnist Anthony Frederick Harrison has died in Lewisham Hospital, aged 80. His funeral was at Honor Oak Crematorium on 23 January 2024.

Better known as Fred or Tony, he lived for many years in a house on Adelaide Avenue, where he wrote most of his plays, books and newspaper columns. As he made a name as a writer he adopted his middle name, Fred, as there was already a famous poet and playwright called Tony Harrison.

Born in Hull in 1943 to working class parents, he left school at 15, joined the merchant navy and for several years travelled the world. Naturally intelligent and bookish, he took A-levels at the local college and earned a place at the LSE in 1968, achieving a degree in economics.

Fred always had a yearning to write and became a successful playwright. His plays for theatre and radio included *A Hard Day's Night* and *Land of Green Ginger*. Most were set in Hull and featured working-class characters and social issues.

Fred loved cats, owned several and wrote about them, including books titled *Travelling Cat*, featuring journeys around England and Ireland in his old van with his beloved cats. As a Guardian columnist he wrote about current affairs including the issue of fly-tipping in Brockley and, sometimes, his cats. He was also active in the campaign to oppose new bookies' shops opening on Brockley Road.

Fred spent the most of his life in Brockley and was well-known in the area, in cafes like the former Moonbow Jakes.

Fred's health deteriorated over the last few years and he was mostly confined indoors or in hospital. He was selflessly cared for by his long-term friend and Brockley resident Pauline whom he had known since their LSE days. He will be missed by his many friends.

Michael Joseph Guilfoyle

14 March 1955 – 19 November 2023



Michael, better known as 'Mike' died on Sunday 19 November at home, following a four-year battle with prostate cancer. He was well known for his involvement with the Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries as a member since its early days, and as vice-chair and chair. An assiduous researcher, he led many guided walks round the Cemeteries, sharing his enthusiasm and erudition with everyone. He wrote four guides to 'illustrious deceased', narrated podcasts on some notable deceased, contributed articles to the FoBLC website, and the Lewisham-Live website, and gave talks to local groups.

Involvement in the Friends' group came after retiring from the Inner London Probation Service in 2010, after 20 years as a probation officer. He continued involvement with NAPO, the probation officers' trade union, attending conferences and writing articles. Appreciations on the NAPO website are a testimony to his influence and popularity. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the union. He is also remembered for clashing with the then Home Secretary, Jack Straw, on 'Question Time'. He attributed being picked to ask a question to the brightly coloured tie and shirt he was deliberately wearing!

After retirement, he became a lay-magistrate in 2014. Alongside all this, he was closely involved with St. Mary Magdalen RC Parish Church, serving on the parish pastoral council, contributing to the parish newsletter, and helping to set up the Sunday coffee morning. He worked for many years with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Wapping.

Born in Oldham, Mike was the eldest of seven children to Denis and Veronica. His father served on the Arctic convoys during World War II. Mike campaigned vigorously for a medal to honour those who had served, eventually successfully. He wore the medal with pride at Remembrance Sunday events in the Cemeteries. Having failed his 11+ he studied for A levels at evening classes and achieved a place at Lancaster University in 1977 for Religious Studies and a post graduate certificate in education. After a Post-Graduate Social Work certificate in 1990 at South Bank University he joined the Middlesex Probation Service and the Inner London Probation Service.

He leaves behind his partner, Nana, and their son, Matthew, as well as six siblings.

Mike will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS

7 March – 27 July 2024

Free – no booking

We're reopening in Lewisham on 7 March with our acclaimed national touring exhibition, shining a light on the stories and experiences of people who have come to Britain to work in the NHS over the past 75 years.

Migration Museum, Lewisham Shopping Centre, SE13 7HB



BROCKLEY SOCIETY

President: Gillian Heywood, MBE

www.brockleysociety.org.uk

Chair chair@brockleysociety.org.uk

Fayre fayre@brockleysociety.org.uk

Anyone with planning or conservation knowledge or interest, including architects, are welcome to join our planning group. In the first instance, email chair@brockleysociety.org.uk

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

Join our occasional email circulation about Brockley Society and local events:
[email chair@brockleysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@brockleysociety.org.uk)

Everyone in the Brockley Conservation Area and its surrounds is an associate member of Brockley Society.

Newsletter copy deadlines:

1 February, 1 May, 1 October

Email to news@brockleysociety.org.uk

Advertising rates - back page

Icy Slopes on Harefield Road

I had made the unrealistic resolution to go for a run every day, and came across a neighbourhood observation on my somewhat daily excursions in the direction of Hilly Fields. There had been a constant flow of water running down the slope of Harefield Road where it meets Brockley Road. The water became frozen sheets of ice on the concrete during the cold days in the early weeks of January, and this caused the vehicles parked on the side of Harefield Road next to the Brockley Royal Mail Delivery Office to slip and slide down until the cars met bumper-to-bumper.

Currently unsure whether that is the fault of the drainage system or some pipe leakage, but without further investigation this issue is left a mystery for now.

Hoi Wong

Wassail on Hilly Fields

The ancient tradition of Wassailing, blessing the apple trees to encourage a healthy crop in the autumn, first returned to Hilly Fields on the night of 3 February 2011, inspired by Fran Rogers from Transition Brockley. You might have heard tambourines, whistles and song from the dark of the orchard. There are lots of variations of the event throughout the country. The name comes from the Old English phrase *waes hael*, which means 'good health'. The Anglo-Saxons used the phrase *Wæs hall!* as an everyday greeting.

Below: We have been marking the season Brockley-style over the years, adding songs to our repertoire. Musicians and singers have joined our band. We were lucky to be led by violinist Sarah Harrison, with Charlie Hart on accordion, Phil Hall on guitar, Dave Aylward on the bodhrán and singers Lizzie (and tin whistle), Ally and Bella. Over 30 wassailers joined the merry band, warmed by mulled cider and spiced apple juice, sharing a swig with the trees and tying toast to the branches to encourage robins.

A couple of dogs made quick work of the low-hanging toast as we were leaving.



Birdwatch on Hilly Fields

After all the storms, we had sunny windless weather for the 2024 Big Birdwatch on 28 January. Around 50 people visited the Friends' stall outside the cafe where we handed out bird ID leaflets and sold some 'merch' including postcards and our Birds of Hilly Fields booklet.

Children enjoyed the messy job of rolling bird seed into lard to make fatballs and several were hung on nearby trees. About 20 people came on a bird walk and 20 bird species were recorded including great spotted woodpeckers, redwings, a mistle thrush and Britain's smallest bird, the goldcrest. The stats will be forwarded to the RSPB as part of their Big Garden Birdwatch.

Thanks to Rachel from the Friends of Hilly Fields for organising the event and managing the stall (with the welcome help from Sadie, Oliver and Daniel who volunteered as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award course) to Emily Millhouse the Glendale Conservation Officer, and to the local birders who lent their ID skills.

Brockley Conservation Area's 'Elders'

Some of the people responsible for establishing Brockley Conservation Area and Brockley Society in the 1970s met for lunch to exchange memories and talk about where they are now.



Lindsey Hayes, Chris Johnson, Gillian Heywood, Noel Varney



Nick Taylor reminisces with John Moreland



Left to right: Sandra and Jimi Adefiraniye, Chris Johnson, Gillian Heywood, Noel Varney, Lindsey and Bob Hughes, Nick and Rosemary Taylor, Chris de Monchaux, Sue Beckett-Doyle, John Moreland, Juliet Johnson. Current Chair, Clare Cowen hosted the lunch.



Informal chats also happened afterwards. Juliet Johnson and Rosemary Taylor

Early days of BrocSoc

Children: In 1973, before the Hilly Fields Fayre was invented, Ruth De Monchaux and another parent fenced off a triangle of Hilly Fields on a hot summer day. Their older children provided the Band - Toys and Games - Music and a Roundabout - this was the first Hilly Fields Fayre, followed the next year with more!

Tree Planting: In the drought of 1976, teenagers were commandeered to water the recently planted Lime trees in Manor Avenue. Jenny Varney had organised planting Limes, despite being shouted down at a public meeting in the Library, which is now the ArtHouse. Some people saw trees only as shedding leaves, not for giving shade and absorbing CO2. These trees are now nearly 50 years old.

Memories told by Ruth and Paul De Monchaux

U3A hears about Brockley

South East London U3A (University of the 3rd Age) invited Brockley Society's Chair to show the short film made for our October 2023 Conference: Conservation — Legacy and Innovation and to speak about Brockley Conservation Area. The theme of the invitation was 'Pride of Place'.

The specially commissioned film was an interview with Nick Taylor, author, former councillor and Brockley resident, and described the campaigns that brought into being the conservation areas in Brockley and Lewisham. The audience of 39 people found it interesting enough to ask a lot of questions.

The meeting was held in St Mary's Community Centre on Eltham High Street, which has amazing facilities, including three meeting rooms to hire, ready with AV equipment. If only we had something similar in Brockley!

Community Memory Call-out



Lewisham Arthouse

This is an exciting – but challenging – time for Lewisham Arthouse. We have been given the opportunity to get a full lease on the old Deptford Library, but in order to secure that lease we need to raise the funds to repair and renovate the building.

We are planning an approach to the National Lottery Heritage Fund - and other funders - and are currently working away on the application process, but we need your help!

We want to learn about people's memories

of the old library, and the years since 1992 when the library closed, including stories from those who squatted in the building or who attended one of the raves, or from someone from the crew of "Tale of a Vampire", and of course memories of the work delivered by our resident artists. Can you help us by leaving your memories via the link below? You can also let us know what your hopes are for the building's future.

Link: <https://forms.gle/yP45SXGLjc2g5n7XA>
Lewisham Arthouse, 140 Lewisham Way, SE14 6PD

Woolworths' buildings remembered

Do you remember Woolworths, the ubiquitous high street emporium, affectionately known as Woolies? Selling everything from children's clothes and toys, records and books, stationery, seeds and compost, household goods to the famous pick'n'mix sweets. The stores were a great source of Saturday jobs. The Woolworths in Rye Lane, Peckham, had a mini garden centre on the roof!

Created as a division of the American company FW Woolworth, the first Woolworths UK store opened in Liverpool in 1909. 100 years later the company went into administration and all branches were closed, with a loss of 27,000 jobs. Many of the Woolworths buildings are still there, adapted to other uses. The Lewisham branch, which was very grand, now houses Superdrug in part of the frontage, and Catford Woolworths Specsavers.

On 25th November 1944, a V2 long range rocket hit a crowded Woolworths in New Cross Gate with the loss of 168 lives and 123 injured. It was the greatest single civilian loss of life during the Second World War. The premises, which were rebuilt, now house Iceland and a plaque commemorates the event.

To see photos and descriptions of the former stores, visit <https://wooliesbuildings.wordpress.com/> and to learn more about the history visit <https://woolworthsmuseum.co.uk/>

Canny Insights, a retail consultancy, produced a report #Woolies15, What Woolworths Stores Are Now, 15 years on. The research was carried out over a lengthy period to find out what had happened to the stores after 2009, their built heritage and subsequent uses, and if it can inform the future of our high streets.

Civic Voice hosted a webinar with Graham Soult, the author, in January which was well attended and interesting.

Like the local branches, some former Woolworths buildings were home to discount stores, some of which have subsequently gone bust or have been taken over.

Do you have memories of your local Woolworths and what you miss about it (if you do!). Please let us know.

The report can be downloaded at this link https://www.cannyinsights.com/sdm_downloads/woolies15-report/

Woolworths opened its 20th store in Lewisham in 1913. It was rebuilt in 1937 and the grand original building remains as part of Lewisham Shopping Centre.

Details: woolworthsmuseum.co.uk

Lewisham Woolworths, 1937, before the rebuild. Source: *Woolworth's 100 years on the high street, Morrison K*



Lewisham Woolworths 1937, rebuilt with a grand Art Deco frontage. woolworthsmuseum.co.uk



Lewisham's former Woolworth, 2012. Now Superdrug and Currys. *The Lost*



Appeal to anyone who loves FREE books

There is clear evidence that there has been widespread removal of books from the Phone Box Free Book Library on Loampit Hill at the junction with Tyrwhitt Road (SE4 1UU) for resale. This is having a serious impact on our making FREE books available for their intended purpose.

Quite recently the shelves had been filled to capacity with an overflow left on the floor. Within 24 hours only a handful of books remained. I have received multiple reports of people observed leaving the phone box carrying several canvas bags filled to capacity. It is time to take simple measures to deter this! Three stamps and ink have been ordered. They will read:

'FREE BOOK HAPPY READING

**This Book is NOT For Resale
Donated Books Are Welcome!
Please Return Me & Thank You
brockleysociety.org.uk'**

On behalf of Brockley Society I am seeking three volunteers who can on a regular basis:

1. Stamp all donated books!

2. Remove children's and young adult books and take them to the nearby Phone Box Free Book Library on Lewisham Way at the junction of Wickham Road.

3. Keep the shelves tidy and if possible store excess books (not often a reality).

4. Remove any items not related to books.

5. When there is a shortage to make occasional appeals for more books via Facebook/NextDoor/Similar.

If you are interested to volunteer please send me a message via Brockley Society Chair: chair@brockleysociety.org.uk.

MP

- Since 2012 our phone box libraries have been supported by people in the community, by Brockley Society volunteers and by local people caring for it, including a 78-year-old man from Breakspears Road who has cleaned the glass and replaced the carpet. There has been no vandalism or serious damage for 12 years. Long may this community tradition continue!

Breakspears Mews Community Garden



The garden is beginning to wake up after a very wet winter. We have been cutting back brambles, ivy and buddleia to allow more light in.



We have been providing work experience for a Capel Manor student and are renewing our ties with Lewisham College: eight students and three staff visited last week and will be coming on Tuesday mornings. Ashmead School Key Stage one will be visiting at the end of April. Meanwhile we're off to the stables in Bexley to collect more of their excellent manure to top up our raised beds and have been sowing seeds for this year's vegetables.

Garden Opening times from 1 March: Thursday and Sunday mornings 11am to 1pm.

Do join us to see what we do and have a cup of tea in our hidden haven.

Event Calendar

AGM: Sunday 28 April, 1pm – come and hear what we have done and future plans.

Brockley Max workshop: using plants as natural dyes – early June date to be arranged

Brockley Open Studios: Saturday-Sunday 6-7 July, 1pm to 5pm. Visit the garden and five Artists selling their work. Enjoy tea and cake

Bastille Day Open Mic – Sunday 14 July, 5pm to 7pm – please contact Elisabetta on efumagalli@hotmail.com to register your act.

London Open House event – tea in the garden – 22 September, 1pm to 4pm

Everyone is welcome to these free events



Come hither to Breakspears Mews Community Garden

Loampit Hill: planning permission granted

KJ Building Supplies, 55 Loampit Hill SE13, is part of a cluster of four shops at the bottom of Tyrwhitt Road. These form an important local community hub of businesses and services. The other businesses are a gallery, the busy Londis newsagent/convenience store and Middleton's cafe.

When KJ commenced operations as a builders' merchant and local DIY store in 1983, the associated land to the east, the end of White Post Lane, was used ancillary to it for many years for deposit and collection of building materials. When Lewisham council took enforcement action to remove a shipping container, pieces of timber and other building materials from the adjacent yard, a community campaign and petition were mounted to Save KJ Building Supplies, who say loss of the space will endanger the survival of the business.

Now a retrospective application has been submitted to continue use of the land, erect a fence at the side and front boundary and to install planters.

White Post Lane was always the historical boundary between Deptford and Lewisham Boroughs pre-1965 and became the boundary

of Brockley Conservation Area in 1973. It extended from Hilly Fields Crescent to Loampit Hill, but was truncated after a landslide in the 1960s, with at least one fatality. The end bit of White Post Lane enables KJ Building Supplies to function, with recognition of the legal right of way for the tenants of 55-61 Loampit Hill to have rear access. We understand that the access arrangements work cooperatively without problems.

The rest of White Post Lane's closed section has been sequestered by the houses on the east side of Tyrwhitt Road, Nos. 1-75. Enforcement action to reclaim this land is unlikely to be considered beneficial by anyone.

KJ sells all kinds of goods and provides information beyond straightforward plumbing material and is much valued by the local community. Ownership of the piece of land in question is unknown.

Brockley Society is supporting the retrospective application and has recommended that the ownership of this end piece of White Post Lane needs to be determined in favour of 55 Loampit Hill.



The Loampit Hill shops in 1973, l to r: KJ's shop was an antique shop; Northwoods Chemists Ltd (the sign above the door survives); Lewisham St John's Post office; Sparrow and Spalding (High class confectioners); W. Poulter & Sons butcher: 'Turkeys, chickens, capons for Easter: Order now' Picture: John Moreland



The same shops in 2023

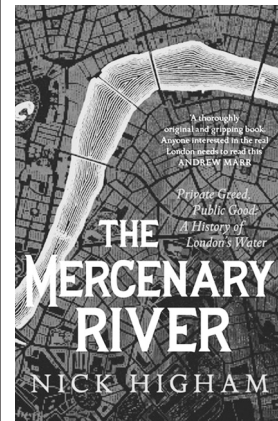


KJ Building Supplies, with a direct view of the land in dispute

THE MERCENARY RIVER: Private Greed and Public Good. The History of London's Water



Talk by author, Nick Higham
Wednesday 19 June 2024, pm
At Blueprint for All (formerly Stephen Lawrence Centre)
39 Brookmill Road, SE8 4HU
Preceded at 6.15 by Brookmill Road Conservation Area Society AGM



Talk is free, but registration is required on Eventbrite from mid April and link on Brookmill Road website below.

Works to construct London's super sewer and renew the ring main

are only too obvious in streets and parks today from Brockley to Deptford. But what's the history of London's water? No city can survive without, and lots of it. Today we take the stuff for granted: turn a tap and it gushes out. But it wasn't always so. For centuries London, one of the largest and richest cities in the world, struggled to supply its citizens with reliable, clean water. Come and hear Nick Higham's tale, based on new research, of remarkable technological, scientific and organisational breakthroughs: but also of greed and complacency, high finance and low politics.

Event kindly hosted in partnership with Brockley Society and Your Space at Blueprint for All.

Your Space offers co-working solutions from flexible hot-desking membership, natural light meeting rooms to a beautifully designed event space. To find out about current availability, email: yourspace@blueprintforall.org blueprintforall.org/about-us/your-space/ brookmillroadconservationarea.org.uk



BROCKLEY SOCIETY

Our AGM hears about the Great North Wood

Our Open Meeting in November 2023 heard about the Great North Wood which once covered much of what is now South London, stretching from Brockley to Croydon.

Our speaker was Chris Schüler, author of *The Wood That Built London*, which draws on historic documents, maps and environmental evidence to chart the fortunes of the Great North Wood. He spoke about its ecology, ownership and management, the gradual encroachment of the metropolis, and the

battles fought by locals and the London Wildlife Trust to save what remained. The stimulating talk engaged the audience's interest in the natural world on our doorstep, including Oxleas and Pett's Woods.

Chris is also the author of another rather different book, *Along the Amber Route: St Petersburg to Venice*.

Brockley Society's Annual General Meeting followed and confirmed the Trustees Committee elected on 19 April when Brockley

Society formally became a Community Infrastructure Organisation (CIO), Association model, Charity No.1201209

Under our new CIO constitution you may continue to be an **associate member**, as before, without filling in any forms and independent of where you live. If you want to become a **voting member** please complete the membership form on our website brockleysociety.org.uk and email it to chair@brockleysociety.org.uk

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

Granted:

Flat 1, 97 Cranfield Road, SE4: retrospective application for the installation of a ground floor window to the side elevation

70 Tyrwhitt Road, SE4: replacement of existing timber single glazed sash windows with timber double glazed sash windows

36 Harefield Road SE4: construction of a single-storey side infill extension and first floor rear extensions

64B Breakspears Road SE4: replacement double glazed sash windows

46B Tyrwhitt Road SE4: construction of a single storey wrap around extension at the rear

Pending:

Flat 3, 13 Manor Avenue, London, SE4: Installation of three replacement double-glazed white-painted timber sash windows to both the first floor front elevation and first floor rear elevation

70 Tyrwhitt Road, London, SE4: Installation of replacement double glazed French doors, new

French doors and a side window

9 Wikham Road: Full height 'Crittall' type window to the rear facade

40 Ashmead Road, London, SE8: Replace windows. Timber sashes to front, uPVC sashes to rear, PVC doors to rear

65 Tressillian Road, SE4: Construction of a new parapet roof to the side extension and installation of a new aluminium window and door

124 Friendly Street, SE8.: Installation of a double-glazed timber window in an enlarged opening in the rear elevation

Flat 7, 15 Breakspears Road SE4: the installation of replacement double-glazed windows to the front and rear elevations

55 Loampit Hill, SE13: retrospective application for the use of the land to the east side for the storage of building materials, a storage container and the erection of a fence at the side and front boundary and the installation of planters

27D Tressillian Road SE4: installation of replacement timber double glazed windows in the

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

front and rear elevations

1 Glensdale Road, London, SE4: single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory, single storey outbuilding in the rear garden, the installation of three rooflights in the rear roof slopes, replacement garage doors, a new door in the rear of the garage and associated landscaping

Rear of 2 Breakspears Road SE4: demolition of two existing outbuildings and construction of a single storey detached dwelling, together with cycle/refuse storage and amenity area

Rear of 151 Upper Brockley Road SE4: construction of a two-storey dwelling house

Trees:

154A Albyn Road SE4: prune Eucalyptus by 5 metres

1 Drake Road SE4: prune Magnolia

34 Wickham Road SE4: prune Laurel

34 Manor Avenue SE4: prune False Acacia

17 Beverly Court: prune Bay Tree

The environmental benefits of a "rain garden"

Rain gardens can absorb around 30% more water than a lawn, and much more than tarmac, helping to reduce pressure on the local drainage infrastructure during periods of heavy downfall.

You can walk to Thornville Street in St John's to see one for yourself. The rain garden is now functioning as a sustainable drainage asset and important home to wildlife, increasing biodiversity in the area. It is being used by Lewisham as a model for other potential rain garden locations in the borough.

A collaboration of St John's Society and Friends of Friendly Gardens designed, built and planted the rain garden with funding from Lewisham Council and Thames Water. Plants were generously donated by Sarah Raven, waste management offered by Glendale.

Over 20 local residents (including two councillors) volunteered on a sunny autumn morning to plant it up. A small team of locals now maintain it.

Read more about the Thornville Street in St John's, SE8, here - <https://st-johns-soc.org/rain-garden>.

We are keen to share the considerable knowledge gathered across the two years it took to make this possible. If you want to find out more and whether this would be well suited to a public space near you or your own garden, get in touch with chair@st-johns-soc.org.

Follow St John's social media [@stjohnsse8](#) on Instagram and [@thestjohnssociety](#) on Facebook to get involved in our upcoming, biodiversity-focussed, "Flower Power" campaign.

The premise of the rain garden is to replace an area of tarmacked road and pavement with free draining soil and an area planted with drought and flood tolerant plants.

Stables Site, rear of 14-48 Geoffrey Road

Geoffrey Road residents were dismayed at the decision to approve this application for eight new homes (DC/23/131277) at Planning Committee B on 14 December 2023.

They felt that the Committee had given scant consideration to their objections which mainly concerned:

- the poor attendance by Councillors - only four were present out of eight with two voting in favour and two abstaining
- the short notice which made it difficult/impossible for the majority of local residents to attend
- the presence of two major large developments nearby and the need for the scheme
- increased traffic and pollution, parking controls and refuse collection
- impact on ecology/biodiversity with a loss of trees and wildlife

As a result residents are now campaigning against the decision and have started a petition to challenge - see this link:

<https://www.change.org/p/save-the-stables-rare-wildlife-from-demolition-and-redevelopment-se4>

LBL Planning Management have responded with a strong rebuttal on 29 January 2024 and residents are now considering their next move.

Landmark trees saved



Cr o w n reduction has been applied for to the two magnificent plane trees in Tressillian Crescent, but the trees are now protected with a Tree

Preservation Order (TPO), Ref. No: DC/23/133294



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