

BROCKLEY SOCIETY



Issue 161 June 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 3

Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre

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

Brockley Society BBQ

Friday 5 July 2024, 7-9pm

Stone Circle on Hilly Fields

Bring friends and family or come on your
own — meet others from the Brockley area.
Some food and refreshments provided — or
bring your own to cook on our barbecue. All
welcome!

Brockley Society Drop-In

Monday 22 July 2024

6pm to 9pm

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

What it means to live in the Brockley

Conservation Area. This is an informal
Drop-in to meet Brockley Society members
and others. If you are new to the area, a
long-term resident or living nearby
- all welcome

**Lewisham Way Youth & Community Centre -
Reunion Family Day**

Saturday 3 August 2024, 12 noon to 6pm,

Luxmore Gardens, Luxmore Street, off
Malpas Road, SE4 1BS Entertainment for all
the family, guest speakers, live performance,
food stalls. **FREE.**

All welcome *See page 2*

Brockley, Ladywell & St John's

Coordinated Front Garden Sale (12th year)
7 and 8 September 2023, 11am - 4pm

For details and participating addresses
see brockleysociety.org.uk. To join, email
gardensale@brockleysociety.org.uk (by 9am
on Thursday 7 September) with your house
no.+street+postcode.
State Sat, Sun or both

OPEN HOUSE LONDON 2024

An Architectural Walk in Brockley

Saturday 21 September 2024

Meet 11am, War Memorial, Lewisham Way,
cnr. Upper Brockley Road, SE4 1SX
Duration 60-75 minutes approx. Ends
Pistachio's Cafe Hilly Fields, SE13 7JN

Brockley's Historic Mews Walk

Sunday 22 September 2024

Meet from 10.30am at the Wickham Arms,
69 Upper Brockley Road, SE4 1TF Guided
Tours by Brockley Society: 11am, 12.30 and
2pm. (about 45 minutes).
See page 5

The Brockley Society AGM

Wednesday 15 November.

Details tbc



BROCKLEY SOCIETY

COME ENJOY OUR 49th ANNUAL

HILLY FIELDS MIDSUMMER FAYRE

SATURDAY 22nd JUNE 2024
HILLY FIELDS, BROCKLEY SE4 1QA
12 noon to 5pm

with Arts, Crafts, Bric-a-Brac Stalls, Music and Dance Performances,
Mini Music Stage - Open Mic, Dog Show, Land Train,
Children's Rides, Coconut Shy, Food Stalls...as well as our
Wonderful Tea Tent with Homemade Cakes.

YOUR CAKE DONATIONS ON THE DAY ARE WELCOME!!

For more information
and stall application forms visit:
www.brockleysociety.org.uk



TEA & CAKES

Our wonderful Tea Tent depends on
homemade cakes donated by
our community.

Thank you for bringing them on the day!

CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS

This year's theme is PATTERNS IN NATURE
#spots and stripes

There are 4 different age categories in art,
cake decorating and the ever popular
vegetable modelling!

HILLY FIELDS MIDSUMMER FAYRE

Our much loved community fayre is
now in it's 49th year. It is enjoyed
and run **ENTIRELY** by **VOLUNTEERS**
- and we need more of you!

*1 hour, 2 hours or all day,
we have a role for everyone!
Details are on our website.*

volunteer@brockleysociety.org.uk



Brockley Max Festival

31 May to 8 June

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



BOS invites you to Open Studios 2024

- 1-6pm Saturday 6 July
- 1-6pm Sunday 7 July

Over 50 artists will be welcoming you to their studios to see their latest work. Our biggest event ever... Join us for a delightful stroll around Brockley to view prints, painting, ceramics, textiles, installations, film, sculpture, photography, jewellery and more...

Map available locally, at Hilly Fields Summer Fayre and online.

www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk

Kindly supported by
Hestia's
hestias.co.uk 0203 976 6180



Brockley Open Studios 2024

We are excited to announce that Brockley Open Studios 2024 will see a record-breaking number of 50+ artists showcasing their artworks in and around our leafy area of South East London. We are proud to be one of the capital's longest-established annual open studio trails. The thing that is so special about our event is that audiences are invited into artists' studios, living rooms, hallways, garages and gardens and can view the artworks in the context of a relaxed atmosphere of the home or workspace.

At each venue, artists are present and happy to answer any questions. You can find out how artists make their work and gain insight into their inspiration. Prints, painting, sculpture, film, photography, installations, ceramics, textiles and more will be on show. So, whether you are a seasoned art lover or not, simply strolling around Brockley and popping into artists' homes will surprise you with the many creative talents in the area. So why not earmark the first weekend of July 2024?

Brockley Open Studios 2024

1-6pm Saturday 6 July

1-6pm Sunday 7 July

www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk

Maps available locally, online and at Hillyfields Summer Fayre (Saturday 22 June)

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.

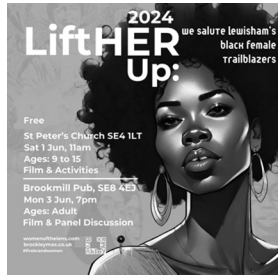
Newsletter copy deadlines:

1 February, 1 May, 1 October

Email to news@brockleysociety.org.uk

Advertising rates - back page

Salute Lewisham's black female trailblazers



trailblazers. Brockley Society is supporting the event.

Following the successful Black Female Icons project hosted by Brockley Max Festival and funded by the Mayor of London's Untold Stories Programme in 2023, two new events for 2024 will form part of the festivals' ongoing activities.

On Saturday 1 June, between 11am and 1pm,

Brockley Max Festival and Women Of The Lens Film Festival invites you to an exciting event called, LiftHER Up: we salute Lewisham's black female

activities for school years 7 to 11 youngsters take place - and this will be at St Peter's Church, SE4 1LT.

Then on Monday 3 June at the Brookmill Pub, SE8 4EJ there'll be a film screening followed by a panel discussion and Q&A.

The 2023 events culminated in three eye-catching murals that celebrate black female icons, now located in central Brockley (we hope you've seen them!). These new events seek to continue to honour the women initially celebrated, include young people in community history and invite community organisations to become involved in the creation of platforms and events that pass-on-the-baton (so to speak).

To find out more see the following websites; womenofthelens.com and brockleymax.co.uk and you can follow the festivals on social media: @womenofthelens and @brockleymax

Caribbean Community Choir

Want to perform at the above Lewisham Way Youth & Community Centre event singing Caribbean folk songs as part of the Caribbean Community Choir? No experience needed.

Contact Jacqueline Grant, jackiemusicgrant@hotmail.com or 020 8694 1409

(For a while Jacqueline ran a Caribbean Community Choir at the Lewisham Way Centre)

Super Sewer

At the end of March, Thames Water announced that it has completed its 16-mile long, £5bn “super sewer” which is officially known as the “Thames Tideway Tunnel”. In an era where sewage spills by water companies have become an everyday occurrence, this represents a rare piece of good news. The new sewer will divert 34 of the worst sewer outflows which discharge into the Thames.

In an average year, London dumps roughly 40m tonnes of raw sewage into the Thames. This normally happens when rainfall causes the system to become overloaded. Water companies then use CSOs (combined sewage overflows) to discharge sewage into the river. Although this is meant to be an emergency option, for reasons ranging from climate change to ageing infrastructure to population growth it has become commonplace and can be triggered by just a few millimetres of rain.

In March Andy Mitchell the CEO of Thames Tideway told the BBC: “This is the moment we’ve all been waiting for. We’re going to capture the vast, vast majority of the sewage that comes into the river and it will mean a cleaner river.”

The sewer’s stats are impressive. It took eight years to build and 20,000 people worked on it, ranging from engineers to divers. There were four large tunnelling machines and two smaller ones. The tunnel is 7.2 metres wide and its depth ranges from 31 metres below ground in the West to 66 metres in the East. When complete it will have a storage capacity of 1.6 billion litres – or around 600 Olympic swimming pools. The pipe will take the sewage to the treatment works at Beckton.

Residents of Brockley and surrounding area may have noticed two local construction sites related to the tunnel. Although Lewisham, Greenwich and Southwark are not on the route of the main sewer we have a smaller connection tunnel which runs from Greenwich to the Thames.

One of these sites is Greenwich Pumping Station (sometimes known as Deptford Pumping Station). Here a shaft has been used to drive the connection to the main tunnel. This is next to the original pumping station which is a Grade 2 listed Italianate building on Deptford Creek behind Greenwich High Road. Another local site is on Deptford

Citizen Science along the Ravensbourne River

Ravensbourne Riverfly is a water-quality monitoring project that has been running throughout the Ravensbourne River catchment since 2016. Currently we have nearly 30 volunteer citizen scientists sampling the Ravensbourne, Pool, Quaggy and Syd Brook rivers for freshwater invertebrates.

The method we use is kick-sampling: the riverbed is disturbed with booted foot for three one-minute durations, and the dislodged animals flow into a net placed immediately downstream. We then upend the net into a tray full of water and begin the counting. We do this monthly at ten locations around the catchment, from Keston to Chislehurst, from West Wickham to Sydenham and so forth down to Brookmill Park in St John’s.

Each site is awarded a score based on findings, for example: 1-9 freshwater shrimp (Gammarus) scores one; 10-99 scores two etc, and we do this for each target species we find. A good score will see the appearance of pollution-intolerant species such as cased and caseless caddis and mayfly larvae. When the rivers are polluted, we generally only see small numbers of Gammarus. Thankfully,

Rain Gardens

One of the reasons so much sewage ends up in our rivers is the increasingly paved nature of our cities. If rain hits gardens or grass, it is absorbed into the soil. If it hits tarmac or paving it runs off into drains. Trends such as the paving of front gardens to create driveways have exacerbated this.

Mitigation measures include green roofs and rain gardens. Both these reduce the amount of immediate run-off after rain by absorbing water as it hits. They also improve biodiversity and reduce the urban “heat island” effect. Locally we are seeing an increasing number of rain gardens, such as the scheme on Thornville street in St John’s and the ongoing redevelopment of Coulgate street by the station.

Church Street next to St Paul’s Church.

Finally, if we stretch our definition of local a bit, there’s the Chambers Wharf site on Thames in Bermondsey and, across the river in Wapping, King Edward Memorial Park. The second of these is a very significant site. Here, a chunk of new land juts out into the river just downstream from the Victorian Rotherhithe Tunnel Ventilation Shaft building. This will form a small extension to the park when the work is complete.

All this is needed because London, by and large, still has a 19th century sewage system. The original was the incredible feat of engineering which was overseen by Joseph Bazalgette. It was a response to the “Great Stink” of 1858 where the Thames became so full of sewage that the curtains in Parliament were soaked with lime chloride to try to mask the smell. Bazalgette’s system features landmarks such as Crossness Pumping station in Abbey Wood which is a Grade 1 listed building and is sometimes referred to as “The Cathedral of Sewage”.

However, all this was built to serve a much smaller city. London is now almost three times as populous as it was then, rainfall patterns have changed and there is far more paved over land. The super sewer is a much-needed update of Balzalgette’s masterpiece.

Rhymer Rigby

major pollution events are rare (Hither Green 2017 and Cator Park 2021 stand out) but we find that heavy rain can bring lots of muck down roadside drains, and this affects our figures considerably.

We have been heartened by some great scores over the months of April and May this year, with exceptional numbers at all sites, especially Brookmill Park: good numbers of Gammarus, mayfly and caddis have been recorded along with baby flounder and baby and adult bullhead, or Miller’s Thumb (a fish), also. In the past Brookmill had been impacted by all the work going on at the Gateway site and invertebrate numbers from 2016 to 2022 were poor, causing the Environment Agency to investigate on a number of occasions. The many river clean-ups by the Friends of Brookmill Park along that stretch of the Ravensbourne are having a positive impact and nature is feeling the benefit.

Ravensbourne Riverfly is part of the national Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (Riverflies.org) with all data uploaded to Cartographer. We receive advice and recommendations from ZSL (London Zoo) and get equipment help

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



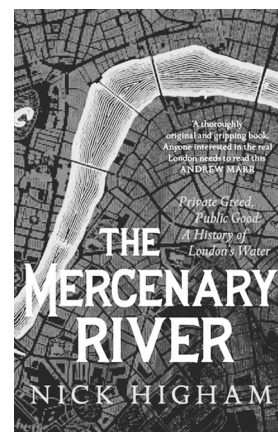
Talk by author, Nick Higham

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 water, 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.

• **Talk fully booked.** Please contact brookmillroadconservationarea@gmail.com for live stream link.

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

from Thames21. We occasionally run training sessions for new volunteers: info will appear on Facebook ‘Nature Volunteering in Lewisham’ when we arrange it with ZSL.

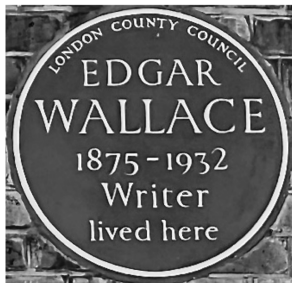
Lawrence Beale Collins & Julia Grollman

Edgar Wallace



Edgar Wallace (1928)

Born	Richard Horatio Edgar Wallace 1 April 1875 in Greenwich,
Died	10 February 1932 (aged 56) Beverly Hills, California
Occupation	Crime writer, war correspondent, journalist, novelist, screenwriter, and playwright
Known for	Creation of King Kong



A blue plaque at 6 Tressillian Crescent, Brockley, marks the house where writer Edgar Wallace once lived.

Born into poverty as an illegitimate child, Wallace left school at 12, joined the army at 21 and was a war correspondent during the Second Boer War for Reuters and the *Daily Mail*.

Struggling with debt, he began writing thrillers to raise income, including *The Four Just Men* (1905). Drawing on his time as a reporter in the Congo covering the Belgian atrocities, Wallace serialised short stories in magazines such as *The Windsor Magazine* and later published collections such as *Sanders of the River* (1911). He signed with Hodder and Stoughton in 1921 and became an internationally recognised author.

After standing unsuccessfully as Liberal MP in 1931 he moved to Hollywood, and worked as a script writer for RKO. He died suddenly from undiagnosed diabetes, during the initial drafting of *King Kong* (1933).

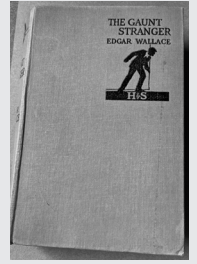
Wallace was such a prolific writer that it was claimed a quarter of all books in England were written by him. As well as journalism, he wrote screen plays, poetry, historical non-fiction, 18 stage plays, 957 short stories and over 170 novels, 12 in 1929 alone. Over 160 films have been made of his work.^[2]

As well as *King Kong*, he is remembered as a writer of 'the colonial imagination', for the J. G. Reeder detective stories, and for *The Green Archer* serial. He sold over 50 million copies of his combined works in various editions. *The Economist* described him as 'one of the most prolific thriller writers of [the 20th] century'. His books are mostly out of print in the UK, but are still read in Germany. A 50-minute 1963 German TV documentary called *The Edgar Wallace Story* featured his son Bryan Edgar Wallace.

His estate consisted mostly of debts, but the ongoing popularity of his works through continuing royalties put his estate in the black within two years of his death.

The Gaunt Stranger

Edgar Wallace set some of his books in Deptford between the two world wars, giving an interesting picture of the area at the time. The Metropolitan Borough of Deptford was still separate from Lewisham. Wallace's police thriller, *The Gaunt Stranger*, depicts crime-ridden back streets of Deptford which were not identifiable to me.



A young woman, Mary Lenley, had returned home too late to buy butter, so next morning she went to a 'shopping centre in the Lewisham High Road' to replenish her larder.

'It was eight o'clock, and few of the shops were open. Weary-looking youths were polishing the window of the big outfitters on the hill, and shapeless women in nondescript attire were emptying the debris of the previous day into the huge zinc barrels that stood at the side of the road waiting for the leisurely dustman. The dairies, however, had been open for hours, and she made her purchase and was turning back ... when she saw two men approaching her.'

The outfitters may have been the big department store Pyne Brothers, roughly where Big Yellow is today. The Welsh dairies in the area were well known. An article in Brockley Society newsletter, Issue 129, October 2013, describes the local Welsh community and the dairy cows kept in back yards.

Wallace also depicts the effect of World War I on the wealthier families in big houses: 'The big burglars did not trouble Blackheath any more. Poverty was creeping like an autumn mist toward the grand houses, whose sons lay in France. One or two had become boarding houses; one at least was falling to pieces for want of repair above the heads of its occupants.'

Although not the most riveting thriller, the book was intriguing. Project Gutenberg Australia ('a treasure-trove of literature found hidden with no evidence of ownership') has digitised the book so you can read it free:

<https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks14/1402661h.html>

Phil Baird's exhibition

I am an artist who has lived in Brockley for over 42 years. I am holding a retro exhibition of my work at Lewisham Arthouse, entitled: 'There is always more than a wish in Lewisham'.

I was part of the original Arthouse when it was situated at what is now Prendergast School on Hilly Fields. Over the many years I have had studios and exhibited in various venues throughout the borough, particularly Brockley. I had a one-person show at the Deptford Albany.

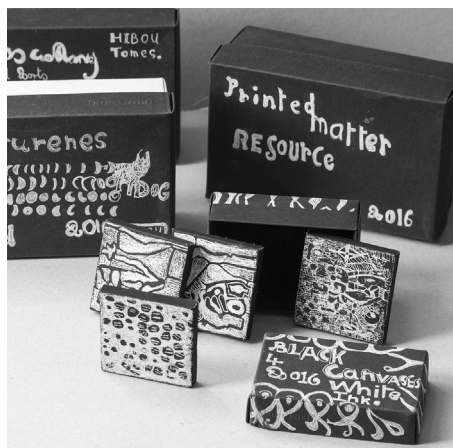
I have also taken part in several community groups and I am constantly at Arts Network in Lewisham. I hope that my exhibition will be a focal point for a community gathering. My art world spans many mediums: drawings, constructed assemblages and prints made at Deptford Community print shop. My copious materials are locally scoured from charity shops and the wonderful bazaar that is Deptford market.

I call my reconfigurations 'healings' as they reimagine the history of the community belongings into some thing new and hopeful.

The exhibition is a way to give back to the people of the small corner of Brockley that has been my home for four decades.

Date: 28th June till 8th July, 11am till 5.30pm.

Venue: The Lewisham Art House, 140 Lewisham Way SE14 6PD



Private Landlord licensing scheme

Lewisham Council has launched its Private Landlord Licensing Scheme. One in four households in Lewisham rent privately. The new scheme will help the Council ensure that landlords provide safe, quality homes, fair treatment and better security for renters. Over 20,000 more properties in Lewisham will now have better standards and less antisocial behaviour, making Lewisham a fairer place to live for everyone. Read more on Lewisham's website, lewisham.gov.uk. Search for property licence scheme.

Article 4 (1) direction on small HMOs
Houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) come under a separate scheme and most are covered by an Article 4 Direction, alongside other measures to improve the standard of HMOs within the borough. This is distinct from the Article 4(2) Direction which applies to protect the frontages of dwellinghouses in the Brockley Conservation Area. See details on the council's website

Dulwich Lawnmower Cricket Club



The club was formed around a pub table in winter 2019 and played its first game at Hilly Fields that summer against 'Wolverhampton Batdogs CC' and 'Length and Honour CC'. Despite its name, the website states: 'Proper Cricket at Hilly Fields, SE4.'

We now play around 20 games a season, around 75 per cent at Hilly Fields on Saturdays. We also organise a UK tour every year. Over 100 people have now played for 'the mower', the vast majority of whom live in the local area. Age range so far is from 20 to 60.

The club's name is Dulwich Lawnmower singular: one machine, precisely synergised parts. We also refer to each other as 'mowers'.

We provide all the kit and whites to play, with no prior experience needed. There is also practice with informal coaching at Peckham Rye nets (off Colyton Road) every Tuesday from 6pm till dark. Several novices now play confidently in matches as a result.

We play in nice old-style pink-and-green caps and our big pink gazebo is the matchday clubhouse. We run a small PA speaker set to a tasteful volume during games for players to walk on gladiatorially to bat to their chosen musical accompaniment. One hears a lot of Barry White. We run an invitational 6-a-side tournament every year where local teams come and compete in lots of short games.

The overriding ethos of 'the mower':

- Everything must be fun bar nothing (club cricket often isn't)
- Anyone can come and play bar nobody,
- You get out what you put in.

Want to play? Email: dulwichlawnmower@gmail.com Or send a direct message via: www.instagram.com/dulwichlawnmower/

Breakspears Mews Community Garden



The gardeners have been battling the snails and slugs during the wet weather – spring has been late because of the cold but planting is now getting going. We have welcomed 60 five-year-olds from Ashmead Primary School and have a group of young adults coming on Tuesday mornings.

The Garden is open on **Thursday and Sunday mornings from 11.30 to 1.30 – do come and see us.**

Brockley Max workshop: using plants as natural dyes – 3rd June, 4pm to 6pm – booking is going well – only a couple of places left

Hilly Fields Summer Fayre: come and see us on our stall – we will have plants for sale and you can chat to the gardeners

Brockley Open Studios: Saturday-Sunday 6-7 July, 1pm to 5pm. Visit the garden and seven 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 – Sunday 22 September, 1pm to 4pm after the Historic Mews Walk.

Everyone is welcome to these free events



OPEN HOUSE LONDON 2024

Architectural and Historic Mews walks

This year we are offering an additional guided architectural walk as well as an updated walk through Brockley Conservation Area's quirky mews, where leafy lanes and industrial units intertwine harmoniously with Victorian and radical modern architecture and public rights of way allow community contact with nature.

Saturday 21 September 2024

An Architectural Walk in Brockley

Meet 11am, War Memorial, Lewisham Way, cnr. Upper Brockley Road, SE4 1SX. Duration 60-75 minutes approx. Ends Pistachio's Cafe Hilly Fields, SE13 7JN

Sunday 22 September 2024

Brockley's Historic Mews Walk

Meet from 10.30am at the Wickham Arms, 69 Upper Brockley Road, SE4 1TF

Guided Tours by Brockley Society: 11am, 12.30 and 2pm (about 45 minutes, through Ashby, Wickham and Breakspears Mews)

Self-guided walks at other times with a map and information leaflet.

The walks will end at:

Breakspears Mews Community Garden

open 12 to 4pm for refreshments

Brockley's mews are part of 'Greater Brockley', which was featured in the shortlist of ten for the 2019 Ramblers' Association Annual Award for the Best Walking Neighbourhood, citing Brockley's innovative conservation projects, well-integrated walking network, variety of green spaces and community-friendly feel.

The tour and printed material on the day will describe Brockley's early history; 19th century High Victorian development; careful street layout with mews; the 1970s battle to protect mews and gardens from development; and several stunning modern buildings as well as recent developments.

Booking will be available on Open House at openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk — or just turn up for any of the slots.

FUTSAL@JAM?



We are a community driven club with an open policy for **ALL** children of all abilities, in an environment where barriers to participation are broken down. Futsal (played between two teams of five players each) has all the best attributes of 11-a-side football but with more **SKILLS & SPILLS!** The demands of the game encourage skilful and creative play, quick decision making, playing with your head and eyes. These skills help create intuitive players with desire and anticipation.

These elements are the key points we encourage in all our sessions and the small-sided format actively encourages more opportunities for the players to express themselves in a non pressurised environment.

The children play in their school years and are not judged on their ability. All our sessions are for all abilities, with emphasis on growing individual confidence and having fun.

Futsal for all abilities for 3-15 year olds on Hilly Fields, every Saturday from 10am - 11.30am. Just turn up & play!

Tel: 07983 534 553

www.futsal-jam.co.uk X - @futsaljam
In - futsalatjam

Recycle your electricals



Lewisham has 17 new recycling banks across the borough - all bright pink.

Material Focus, the not-for-profit leading the Recycle Your Electricals campaign, is funding the project.

The aim is to make it easier for residents to recycle their electricals and dispose of unwanted electrical items responsibly and easily.

Most of us have unwanted electricals we want to get rid of: on average, at least 30 hidden away in drawers in UK homes,

such as cables, hairdryers, headphones, and electric toothbrushes. With a simple repair, many could be donated or sold to people who could put them to good use.

Some local banks are: Brookmill Road, Opp Lind Street, SE8 4JE and St Norbert Road / Turnham Road Opp Shops, SE4 2HH

The full list of recycling banks is at <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/recycling-and-rubbish/public-recycling-banks>

At these sites, you can recycle any item powered by a plug or batteries, including cables and leads. But the maximum item size is 28cm by 23cm. Anything larger can be recycled at our Reuse and Recycling Centre at Landmann Way or by booking a bulky waste collection at

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/recycling-and-rubbish/bulky-item-collection>.

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

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 9 Wickham 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 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

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

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

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

50 Tressillian Road, SE4: Installation of PV panels to the southern roof slopes

Flat A, 44 Wickham Road, London, SE4: 3 replacement windows to front, 1 to side

Flat 3, 56 Cranfield Road, London, SE4: of 4 x conservation area rooflights (2 x front elevation and 2 x rear elevation)

Trees:

154A Albyn Road SE4: prune Eucalyptus

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

Brockley's mixed tenure: a surprising feature

'We should try to introduce in our modern towns and villages housing where the doctor, the grocer, the butcher and the farm labourer all live in the same street...in the living tapestry of a mixed community.' Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, 1949

The Victorians were prolific housebuilders, as anyone who has lived in different parts of London (or any big city) will attest. As the Industrial Revolution gained momentum, the population of London grew from 1 million at the start of the 19th century to 6 million at the turn of the 20th century.

In the first half of the 19th century, what is now Brockley Conservation Area comprised small farms, market gardens and brick fields owned by landed estates. Several factors influenced the development of these estates for housing from the second half of the century.

As agriculture in the inner city declined, the railways led to more land being available for housing developments, from workmen's cottages and terraces to grand villas.

Suburbs with houses had already been developed from the 18th century onwards. Many of these were developed on the great landed estates which were often constrained in their ability to sell land by settlements or entailments. This aimed to prevent individual family members from selling land, to ensure the estate could be passed on to subsequent generations intact. Development proceeded by granting builders a 'building lease' for a set period, after which ownership would revert to the estate.

OS map 1848-51 shows the flower beds (named Memorial Gardens following the First World War) on Lewisham Way, and Wickham and Breakspears Roads partially laid out.

Development in what is now the Brockley Conservation Area comprised single family, large detached, semi-detached and terraces of 4-6 houses. By 1873 much of the area remained undeveloped with only Manor Avenue (then Manor Road) and Wickham

Terrace completed. Sixteen years later, Charles Booth's London Poverty Maps show the area complete, and the inhabitants classified from upper and upper middle class through middle class to comfortable.

In 1910 90% of the population rented their homes. The early 20th century saw further population increases, the introduction of death duties and the First World War. These all contributed to the large houses no longer being viable for a single family with servants.

In 1939 the population of London had increased to 8.6 million. Programmes for slum clearance and new housing had tailed off and ceased altogether at the outbreak of the Second World War. Subsequent bombing raids destroyed and severely damaged existing housing, the good along with the bad. Brockley was particularly affected by the V1 and V2 attacks from 1944-45 as was much of southeast London.

The wartime coalition government gave local authorities, which could be the local council or the London County Council at that time, powers to compulsorily purchase vacant houses and land. Temporary housing provided homes on bomb sites until permanent replacements could be built, such as Erica House on Cranfield Road, Lilac House on Harefield Road and the large estate (Jasmin, Poplar, May Tree House etc) at Wickham and Brockley Roads and Wickham Gardens.

Redevelopment wasn't always the result of bombing. Some of the large houses were compulsorily purchased and demolished to make way for flats, others were bought privately and re-developed.

During the 1950s and 60s demolition proceeded as the pre-war slum clearance programme was revived. Although there was an economic boom, mortgage lenders would not offer loans on older properties until the late 1960s. The continuing housing shortage initiated another round of compulsory purchase orders with the large houses subdivided into bedsits and later short life

tenancies, then self-contained flats. Many of Brockley's large houses remain local authority properties. Some were leased to housing associations who could raise money to 'do them up'.

Right-to-buy legislation in 1980 enabled council tenants to purchase their homes at a discount, which increased in proportion to the length of time they had lived there. What looks like a block of council flats is now a mix of leaseholders and tenants. The freeholds remain with the local authorities.

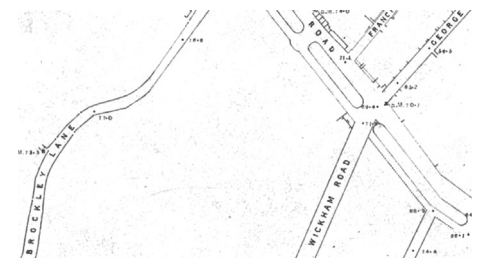
You can view a map of publicly owned land in London, including freeholds owned by Lewisham Council, at this link <https://apps.london.gov.uk/public-land/>

You might be surprised at the mix of tenures on your street in the conservation area!

Jane Hearn

References:

- The Streets of London - The Booth Notebooks - SE edited by Jess Steele, Deptford Forum Publishing, 1997 - Walk 58, pp 213-220 + Plate XI
- The Metropolitan Borough of Deptford - Official Guide 1962 - Housing in the Borough, pp 16-18
- Discover Deptford & Lewisham, Darrell Spurgeon, Greenwich Guide Books, 1997 - Brockley, pp 60-68
- The LCC Bomb Damage Maps 1939-1945, Laurence Ward, Thames & Hudson, 2015, Map 104, p161
- Municipal Dreams, John Boughton, Verso, 2018 - Right to Buy pp170-287



The Broadway Theatre, Catford

Lewisham has a landmark jewel in the Broadway Theatre in Catford. It deserves to be much better known.

Built in 1932 by architects Bradshaw Gass & Hope. It started as an extension to the original gothic-style town hall that has since been demolished. This gives the theatre a highly unique blend of architectural elements including Art Deco, Tudor and Gothic Revival.

The theatre was planned by Lewisham Metropolitan Council in the 1920s, to be an auditorium for 'a variety of Civic, Social and Dramatic purposes'.

During its initial years it was hired by local organisations who held regular orchestral concerts and dances. When World War II started in 1939 the theatre's auditorium floor was strengthened to be used as an air raid shelter. The building was also used as a telephone exchange and ration distribution centre.

After the war and throughout the 1950s and 1960s the venue saw stars come to perform from all over the UK and USA, including The Four Tops and Dizzy Gillespie.

In the 1980s the theatre was renamed 'The Lewisham Theatre' and technological developments such as computers were used extensively throughout the building.

From 1991 onwards the Black Theatre Initiative encouraged black-led shows and performances that introduced new audiences to the venue and led to a string of sell-out shows.

Throughout the rest of the 1990s the theatre was famous for hosting live comedy. The building was given its Grade II listed status in 1993. It has remained a landmark feature of Lewisham's architecture for over half a century and deserves praise as one of south London's best theatre and entertainment venues.

In 2001 a major refurbishment took place

and the theatre was renamed 'The Broadway Theatre'. A further £7 million refurbishment took place in 2022, fitting the theatre with some of the latest technology and ensuring disabled access to performance spaces.

View the theatre's lively programme: <https://www.broadwaytheatre.org.uk/>
I went to the 2023 pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. It was a cracking evening! My highlight was when Jack brought his mother the proceeds from selling their cow: a few beans. Total silence for a very long moment - not a pin drop - while a thousand children (and adults) waited for her reaction. Don't miss this year's panto!

View the theatre's lively programme: <https://www.broadwaytheatre.org.uk/>

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Phone box libraries: *Repairs expressions of interest*

Brockley Society owns two treasured libraries in phone boxes on Lewisham Way: children's books at Wickham Road junction, adult books at Tyrwhitt Road.

Maintained by volunteers, these are much used, as reported in previous newsletters.

Repairs need to be done according to BT's regulations as they are Grade II listed.

We are asking for expressions of interest in carrying out the repairs of one or both boxes. Brockley Society would pay for materials and labour, at rates that reflect our charity status and the efforts of volunteers who look after them.

Please email an expression of interest to chair@brockleysociety.org.uk and we will send you details of what is required.




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