

The Dulwich Society

TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

NEWSLETTER 24: APRIL 1974

Chairman:	Sir Frederick Everson, KCMG, 8 Gainsborough Court, College Road, SE21 7LT	01-693 8125
Vice Chairman:	Peter F.J. Lawson, 41 Village Way, London SE21	01-733 2646
Secretary:	Captain D.S. Wyatt, OBE, RN, 148 Thurlow Park Road, SE21	01-693 2123
Treasurer:	R. C. Low, 14 Acacia Grove, SE21	01-670 1609

You will notice that the newsletter comes to you this quarter in a new shape. This is an experiment and we should be glad to know what you think of it. We hope that the new format will seem more presentable and will be generally easier to handle. It is certainly better from the point of view of our distributors, but we are quite prepared to go back to the old format if a majority of members would prefer it. If you have any strong feelings on the subject, please let the Editor know what you think (19 Oakfield Gardens, SE19. Tel. 670 7963).

MEETINGS FOR MEMBERS

The next meeting will be at 8.0 p.m. on Thursday 2nd May 1974, and it will be in St. Barnabas Hall, Dulwich Village and NOT, as previously advertised, in Dulwich College. The subject will be WILD LIFE and we shall be showing four colour films as follows:

1. The Secret World
2. The flower and the hive
3. The hidden life of streams
4. The processionary pine caterpillar

On Saturday 8 June, the Trees Committee is arranging a walk to see trees of interest in the area of Belair, the Gallery and Dulwich Village. The walk will start at 2.30 p.m. from the Belair car park in Gallery Road and the Social Committee are arranging tea at Belair afterwards at about 4.30 p.m. at a cost of 25p a head.

On Thursday 4 July, we are planning a joint meeting with the Friends of the Picture Gallery. The meeting will be at the Gallery and will start punctually at 7.30 p.m. There will be discussion talks about some of the pictures and a wine will be served. Admission will be by ticket at 75p a head and numbers must be limited for security reasons. If you would like to go please apply after 1 June to Miss R. Davis, 118 College Road, SE21; Tel. 670 3011. Cheques or postal orders to be made payable to Dulwich College please and accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

PRESS OFFICER

We are very glad to welcome a new Press Officer for the Society. He is Mr. John Cran of 28 Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19. (Tel. 670 4105). He is now a member of the Executive Committee and of the Membership and Publicity Sub-Committee.

MR. SAM SILKIN

We congratulate Mr. Silkin, a Vice President of the Society, on his appointment as Attorney General in the new Government.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

May we remind those who have not yet paid that the annual subscription of £1.00 is now overdue. Payments please to the Treasurer, Mr. R. C. Low of 14 Acacia Grove, SE21.

WILD LIFE

We mentioned in the last newsletter a possible expedition to the Dungeness Nature Reserve in a minibus. The idea has been well supported and there is now a waiting list for the first trip in May. However, there is a possibility of a second trip in the autumn, so if you would like to join it, please get in touch with Miss Pye-Smith (693 8341) or any other member of the sub-committee who will be able to register you on the list even if they cannot give you a firm booking yet.

The Wild Life Sub-Committee would very much like to hear reports from members of the Society on Wild Life in the area, so if you see anything wild, please report it to one of the sub-committee and don't hesitate because you may think it is nothing very extraordinary. However, we are told that "streakers" are not Wild Life! We should be particularly glad to receive reports of sightings of ringed birds in the area as one member of the committee is carrying out a bird population survey. While on the subject of birds we have heard that the British Museum (Natural History) is renovating its Bird Pavilion and is interested in receiving freshly dead specimens of even common birds provided that the body is in good condition. Miss Pye-Smith can give fuller information.

Finally, we must give you the Spring reminder that it is not a good thing to feed garden birds during the nesting season with household scraps, especially bread. This is not because bread costs at least 15p a loaf, but because nestlings can be harmed if they are not given the correct diet of insects, etc., which the parents find naturally. If you cast bread on your lawn you encourage the parent to take the easy way out and this is a bad thing.

We have an appeal from Tony Welwig of 14 Frank Dixon Way, SE21 who put a number of leaflets and pamphlets on display at the AGM on 7 March in St. Barnabas Hall. These were assorted leaflets from organisations such as the Forestry Commission and Nature Conservancy and a pamphlet called "Trees for Small Gardens". Unfortunately a number of these were mistakenly taken away by members, and Tony Welwig asks those who have them to be good enough to let him have them back as soon as possible as he needs them for an examination he is taking in June and without them, of course, his chances of passing are jeopardised.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held in St. Barnabas Hall on Thursday 7 March 1974. The Chairman, Sir Frederick Everson, reported briefly on the events of the past year and was able to report that the Society continues to maintain a friendly and useful relationship with both the Estates Governors and the Borough Council so that the Society is able to exercise a beneficial influence over development and other matters of interest in the Dulwich area.

The Chairman expressed profound regret on behalf of all members of the Society to our President on the recent death in a tragic accident of Lady Shawcross.

Reports were then received from Chairmen of the various sub-committees, the main points of which are given elsewhere in this newsletter, and Officers of the Society were elected or re-elected as follows:

President: The Right Honourable Lord Shawcross PC, QC

Vice-Presidents: Lord Hinton of Bankside

C. W. Lloyd, MA

S. C. Silkin, QC, BA, MP

Keith Raffan

Chairman: Sir Frederick Everson, KCMG

Vice-Chairman: P. F. J. Lawson

Secretary: Captain D. S. Wyatt, OBE, RN

Asst. Secretary: R. Emmott

Treasurer: R. C. Low

Asst. Treasurer: John Barrett, FCA

Press Officer: John Cran

Members of Geoffrey Hall Clark

Executive and I. H. Lightman

Chairmen of A. Barnard

Sub-Committees: G. C. de Baerdemaeker

Miss E. M. Pye-Smith

C. R. Seaton

Mrs. K. M. Evans

Lt. Col. R. M. S. Maude

Legal

Planning

Trees

Local History

Wild Life

Traffic

Social

Membership

and Publicity

An abridged statement of the Society's Accounts for 1973 is given here for the information of members who were not able to attend the AGM.

INCOME	- Members Subscriptions	£748	
	- Miscellaneous, tax recovery, Social events, etc.	£158	£906
EXPENDITURE	- Kalendar & Newsletters	£191	
	Meetings expenses	76	
	Postage, stationery, misc.	54	£321
Surplus Income over Expenditure			£585
ASSETS	£1485 represented by Reserve Fund		£1043
	Legal Fund		442
			£1485

LEASEHOLD REFORM: THE MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The Estates Governors have asked us to appoint two representatives to the Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee of the Society has nominated our Chairman and Vice Chairman, Sir Frederick Everson and Mr. P. F. J. Lawson. The Governors' representatives will be Messrs. Baker, Francis, Maw and Hill. The Dulwich Leaseholders' Association has nominated Mr. R. E. T. Birch and Mr. D. Keating.

This Advisory Committee is to receive copies of all applications made under the scheme and the Managers (i.e. the Governors acting as managers) are to have regard for any representations made to them by members of the committee concerning such applications or otherwise concerning the amenities of the estate. (our underlining.)

We are told that the Governors will give a copy of the scheme to each enfranchising freeholder. Your Executive Committee thinks that the scheme is of interest to all who live in Dulwich and has decided to purchase enough copies to distribute to all members. When your copy arrives please keep it where you can find it again.

BUILDINGS OF ARCHITECTURAL, HISTORIC AND LOCAL INTEREST

The Planning and Local History Sub-Committee have together been working on a survey of buildings of interest in the Dulwich area. There are currently two lists of buildings of interest.

- (a) A list compiled by the Secretary of State for the Environment and published in May 1972, entitled "Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest". This lists all buildings entitled to statutory protection under the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act and includes, in Dulwich, buildings of the quality of Bell House, the Old College, Old Blew House, etc.
- (b) A list, compiled by the London Borough of Southwark and published in November 1972, entitled "Buildings of Local Interest". This list includes such buildings as the Toll Gate Cottage, Pickwick Cottage and the Chestnuts, Dulwich Common, but inclusion in it conveys no statutory or other formal protection; and the criteria for inclusion are obscure. However, planning applications concerning buildings on this list are given particular consideration by the Borough Planners.

Our committee members are considering the desirability of inviting Southwark to add certain buildings to list (b) above. Buildings in the Conservation Area have been excluded, since inclusions in that area seems to carry a sufficient degree of protection; but while acknowledging that the selection is inevitably subjective, the sub-Committees have had in mind the following criteria:

- Age over 100 years
- Historic interest or associations
- Architectural interest:
 - Individually
 - as part of a group of buildings
 - as representative of a local style.

They would be grateful if members would inform the Planning or Local History Sub-Committee if they know of any Dulwich buildings which they think should be on either list.

Below is a list of buildings which are already on one or other of the two lists.

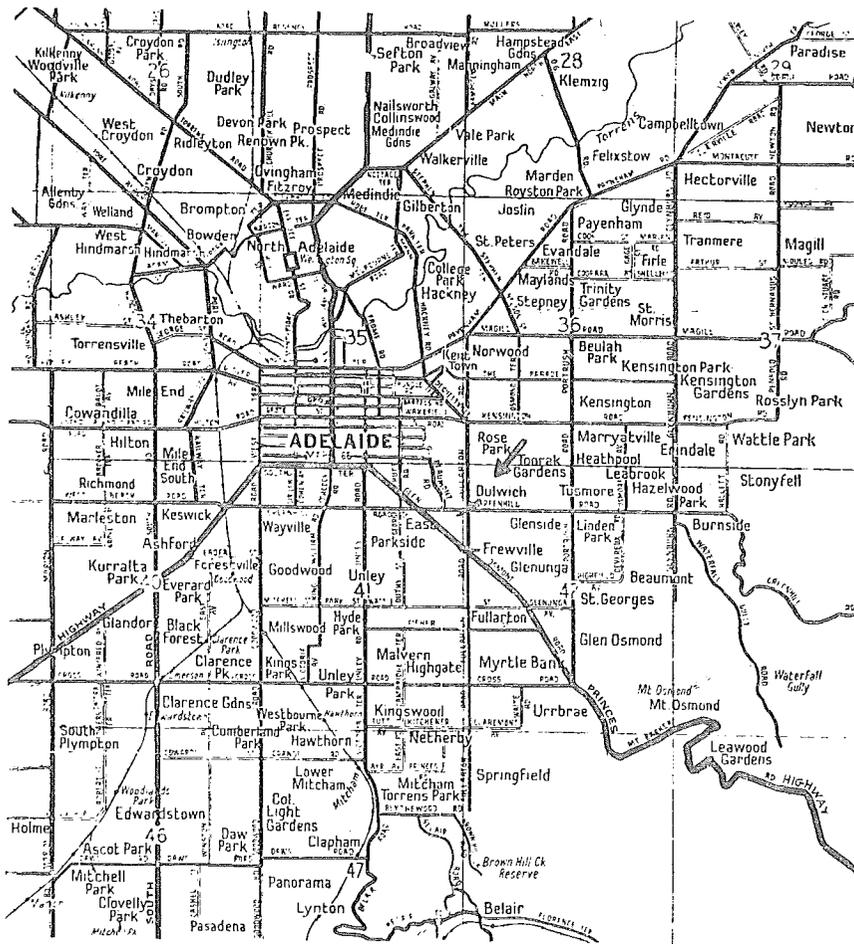
Buildings occurring in Pevsner's Buildings of England, London Volume 2, are marked (P). All Statutorily listed buildings in Dulwich are Grade II except those marked (*) which are II* (there are three grades: I, II* and

II). Churches are graded A, B or C. Southwark has only two Grade I buildings (the George Inn and Tower Bridge) and only three Grade II* outside Dulwich (the remains of Winchester Palace, Guy's Hospital and Nelson Dock House).

<u>Statutory</u>	<u>Local</u>
<u>Calton Ave.</u> St. Barnabas Church (B)(P)	<u>Alleyn Rd.</u> 92
<u>College Rd.</u> Dulwich Old College (P), gates and piers. Dulwich College (P), gates and piers. St. Stephen's Church(C)(P)	<u>College Rd.</u> 31, 51, 53 Tollgate Cottage. Forecourt walls of 48.
Bell House (P)(*), stable block and forecourt wall. 11, 13, 15, 23, 41 with outbuilding, 48	<u>Court Lane.</u> 1a - 16 <u>Crescent</u> 6 with courtyard and wall. <u>Wood Rd.</u> <u>Dulwich</u> Chestnuts. <u>Common</u>
<u>Crystal Palace</u> Subway under Parade <u>Park</u>	<u>Gallery Rd.</u> Gallery Cottage.
<u>Dulwich Common</u> Elm Lawn, Old Blew House (P), Willows and Northcroft, Glenlea.	<u>Half Moon</u> 72a. <u>Lane</u>
<u>Dulwich Village</u> Burial Ground gates, railings and wall (P). 57(P), 59, 97(P), 101, 103(P) 105(P), 50, 52, 60, 62, 70-86 (even), 94, 96, 98. Drinking Fountain.	<u>Lordship</u> 112, 114 <u>Lane</u>
<u>East Dulwich</u> <u>Grove</u> 31, 33.	<u>Sydenham</u> 133, 135 <u>Hill</u>
<u>Gallery Rd.</u> Old Grammar School(P), Belair(P) with Stable, Lodge and gates. Picture Gallery and Mausoleum(P)(*).	
<u>Kingswood</u> <u>Drive</u> Kingswood House and gates	
<u>Pond</u> <u>Cottages</u> 1-10 (all nos.)(P)	In Pevsner but not listed:
<u>Red Post Hill</u> Milestone at no. 20	Six Pillars in
<u>Village Way</u> 19(P), 20(P).	Crescent Wood Rd.

DULWICH IN AUSTRALIA

Members may be interested to see an extract from a letter received by our Vice Chairman, Peter Lawson from a colleague in Adelaide. As may be seen from the sketch map the Australian Dulwich seems to be well situated between the City centre and the mountains to the East. It would seem from some other place names in the suburbs of Adelaide that someone there was once familiar with our Southern railway network from Victoria even if he did put Croydon well north of Clapham, Norwood and Mitcham.



"Dear Peter,

15 February 1974

I was delighted to receive your letter of the 7th January, also the Kalendar from the DULWICH SOCIETY, which I have read with a great deal of interest. It is very good to know that one is still remembered in such an interesting part of old London, and from where our Dulwich in South Australia surely derived its name.

Dulwich in South Australia adjoins the South Eastern corner of the city of Adelaide, and is a very well-known land-mark out here. A copy of a small map is enclosed that will give you an idea of the location in relation to the city.

Naturally we Australians have been most concerned of late with the Industrial unrest which you good people are enduring . . .

We Australians still look on the old country as "Home" with deep affection, and we are very concerned with your troubles.

Thank you ever so much for the kindly invitation you have extended to any of my colleagues who may be passing, this is greatly appreciated.

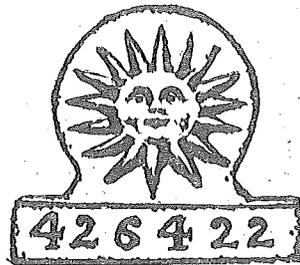
With very kind regards to the many Dulwich folk I met when on my last visit, and with fond regards to you.

signed Geo. J. H. BOLTON "

FIRE MARKS IN DULWICH

We would naturally expect Dulwich, with both its unspoilt village atmosphere and also its proximity to London, to retain some of those quaint fire marks. What are fire marks and why were they issued?

After the Great Fire of London the insurance market, which had hitherto confined its activities to the perils of the sea, turned its attention to the demand for cover arising from land catastrophes such as fire. During the ensuing decades the first fire insurance offices were established to write policies. It soon became evident that, in the absence of any other facilities, each office could not only reduce the risks but also provide a valuable service to policy holders by establishing fire brigades. It was certainly not their intention to fight the fires of either those imprudent enough not to insure or those premises insured by a rival insurer. Thus, to identify the properties insurers issued leaden plaques to "mark" their insured properties.



Sun



Hand-in-Hand

So on the cry of "Fire" the contraptions galloped like the Horse Artillery as if into action, but upon arrival at the burning pile would check the fire mark. If there was none, or if it was the wrong one, they would either trot home or more likely stand by in case one of their own insured properties was next door. Perhaps in the congested streets of the times another fire brigade could be impeded, albeit unintentionally.

In 1861 a conflagration occurred in Tooley Street (in Southwark, near London Bridge Station). Although by this time the London insurers had combined their brigades, it was far beyond their limited powers to cope. So as a result the London Fire Brigade was formed just over a hundred years ago, and "marks" were no longer needed.

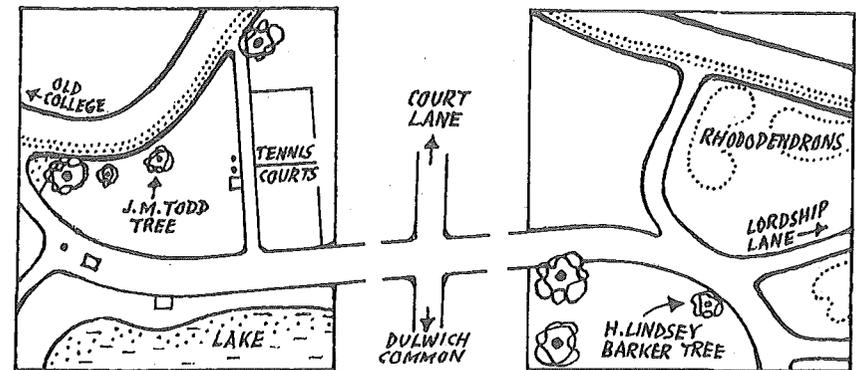
The Local History Sub-Committee have located five fire marks in Dulwich, and would be interested to hear of any others:

- 2 and 14 Aysgarth Road. Two Alliance (est. 1824) marks, protecting presumably this line of cottages.
- 15 College Road. Sun Fire Office (est. 1710) mark.
- Both these insurers still function as the Sun Alliance and London Group.
- Bell Cottage (23 College Road). } Both have a Hand-in-Hand
- Gable end of the Old College, facing } (est. 1696 and third oldest
- North on the Gallery Road side. } Fire insurer) mark.
- The Hand-in-Hand has been part of the Commercial Union Group since 1905.

Fire Marks are now valuable collectors' items and there are two famous collections, both in the City: not surprisingly, one in the Chartered Insurance Institute, and the other in the Fire Officers' Committee Offices.

TREES

We were just able to mention in the last Newsletter the tree planting ceremony held in Dulwich Park on 12th January, but we could not give any details as the ceremony took place as we went to Press. We are therefore re-printing below a fuller account of the ceremony from the minutes of the Executive Committee.



"Two trees were planted in Dulwich Park on 12 January 1974, in memory of two members who served the Society well and died in 1973, Mr. D.J. Todd and Mr. H. Lindsey Barker. The Chairman expressed the Society's gratitude to Mr. Evans of the Parks Department of the Greater London Council, who gave permission, and to Mr. Lindsay, Superintendent of Dulwich Park, who procured the trees and prepared the ground; both were present.

About fifty members of the Society were present when the Chairman, after speaking of Mr. Todd's services to the Society in 1968 and 1969, planted a sweet maple, *Acer Sacchinorum*, assisted by Mrs. Todd. Mrs. Todd's son and daughter were present. After the planting Canon Perry said a prayer.

The party then moved to the second site where the Chairman spoke of Mr. Barker's services to the Society as Treasurer and Secretary like Mr. Todd, but in 1970-73. The Chairman then asked Mrs. Barker and her son, Godfrey, to assist him in planting an oak, *Quercus Robur*.

As no plaques may be placed in the Park this record of the ceremonies has been read into the minutes of the Executive Committee. The sites are shown on the attached plan. "

DULWICH CHORAL SOCIETY will be performing works by Brahms, Purcell and Geoffrey Bush on Saturday 8 June 1974 - venue yet to be confirmed. On 15 June 1974 in St. Barnabas' Church there will be a performance of Haydn's Creation at 7.30 p.m. to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Church. Details of these two concerts may be obtained from the Secretary of the Choral Society (670 9758).