

The Dulwich Society

TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

Newsletter 36

April 1977

Chairman:	Roger V. Low, 41 College Road, SE21	693 2953
Vice Chairman:	Peter F.J. Lawson, 41 Village Way, S.E.21	733 2646
Secretary:	Lt Col R.M.S. Maude, EA, 19 Oakfield Gardens, Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19	670 7963
Treasurer:	R.C. Low, 88 Alleyn Road, SE21	670 1609

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held in St Barnabas' Hall on Thursday 3 March 1977 with Mr. Roger Low in the chair in the absence of the President: 56 members were present.

The minutes of the last meeting on 4 March 1976 were approved and the Chairman, speaking of events during the past year, said that the Society had continued to maintain good relations with other authorities in the area, particularly the police, the GLC, the Estates Governors and College authorities, as well as the Borough of Southwark; we had entertained the Mayor, Councillor Francis; we were looking forward to having the Master of Dulwich College as our guest of honour at the Society Dinner later this month; and Sub-Committees would be reporting on successful contacts in the fields of planning, wild-life, trees, traffic and so on. As a result of our good relationship with the authorities he felt that the Society's opinions are now taken seriously and are often taken into account when planning and other decisions of importance to the environment are made. In this respect it is important that the Society should be seen to represent a good proportion of the households in Dulwich and it is gratifying to see that our membership continues to grow. We lose a number of members each year through deaths, moves out of the area and so on, but these losses have been more than made up in the past two or three years by new members coming in, mostly recruited in the annual autumn recruiting drive.

Mr. Low said that, although he was only speaking personally to those present in the Hall on the night, his remarks were addressed to all members of the Society and he wished to thank those who had written in during the past year. The opinions of members and the information they provided were always welcome and were carefully considered when matters of interest to the Society were being discussed, and he hoped that members would continue to make their feelings known.

Mr. Low mentioned that two members of the Executive Committee were unfortunately having to retire through pressure of other business. These were Mr Edgar Brady, the Secretary, and Miss Mary Pye-Smith, Chairman of the Wild Life Sub-Committee. Both would be sadly missed and he thanked them for their valuable services to the Society. Fortunately both are still members of the Society and we look forward to seeing them frequently at future gatherings. Replacements had been nominated for both vacancies (which were subsequently approved by the members present) and the new Secretary would be Lt Col Rodney Maude, who presently was Chairman of the Membership and Publicity Sub-Committee; and Mrs G.D. Howells had volunteered to replace Miss Pye-Smith.

Mr Low finally mentioned the arrangements for the Dinner on 25 March which, for the first time, is to be held in the Dining Hall of Dulwich College, and the Society was very grateful to the Master — who is to be the Guest of Honour — for his kind permission to allow us to make use of College premises.

Reports were then received from Chairmen of the various sub-committees, the main points of which are covered elsewhere in this newsletter, or have been mentioned in previous newsletters.

Officers of the Society were then elected or re-elected and the current office holders are listed on the centre fold of this newsletter. These pages may be detached if necessary and kept for future reference. Please note particularly that we now have a new Secretary.

Ladies of the Social Sub-committee provided excellent light refreshment and members present were able to study interesting displays of photographs and other exhibits provided by the Trees and Wild Life Sub-committees.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer wishes to remind members who have not yet paid that the £1.00 subscription for 1977 is now overdue.

We publish here an abridged statement of the Society's accounts for 1976 for the information of members who were not able to attend the AGM.

Corporate Members are now as follows:

Dulwich Choral Society
 J. Lyons & Co Ltd (London Steak House in the Village)
 Spencer and Kent
 J.W. Kennedy & Co
 Alexander Pritchett
 R.W. Gray & Co

Abridged Accounts for Year Ending 31.12.76

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions	£874	Cost of Newsletters and Broadsheets	£394
Corporate Members	30	Postage and Printing	93
Tax Recovery on		Meetings Expenses	105
Deeds of Covenant	62	Amenity Improvement Projects	384
Interest	174	Miscellaneous	48
		Surplus	116
	<u>£1140</u>		<u>£1140</u>
Accumulated Balance 1.1.76	£1748		
Surplus in year	<u>116</u>		
Accumulated Balance 31.12.76	<u>£1864</u>		

SOCIETY MEETINGS

- 7 April: History 8 pm St Barnabas' Hall, Dulwich Village
 Dr Philip R. Whitbourn, FRIBA of the Historic Building Division, GLC, will talk on historic buildings in Dulwich with coloured slides.
- 5 May: Wild Life 8 pm Dulwich College Great Hall
 Mr Alwynne Wheeler of the British Museum (Natural History) will give an illustrated talk on 'Fish in the cleaner Thames'.
Please note the venue for this meeting.
- 2 June: Trees 8 pm St Barnabas' Hall
- 7 July: Trees Walk RV 7.30 pm at Belair in Gallery Road. The Trees of Belair Park and neighbourhood will be examined under expert guidance.

Further meetings will be held on 6 October and 3 November for which details have not yet been settled and we are planning the traditional choral gathering with the Dulwich Choral Society in December. Details of all these meetings will be announced in future newsletters.

It has been suggested that Society meetings are much more enjoyable when it is possible to provide coffee and light refreshments since this gives members the opportunity to meet each other and to discuss matters of interest in the atmosphere of a friendly social gathering. We are therefore considering the possibility of doing this for all meetings instead of, as at present, only a few. Whether we shall be able to afford coffee (or even tea) in future is obviously uncertain but we are sure that some alternative solution (sic) will be found. What is more important is the extra load this will throw on the ladies of the Social Sub-committee who organise the refreshments for us. Mrs Evans, Chairman of the Social Sub-committee, would therefore like to recruit additional helpers so that the duties can be organised on a rota system. Will any persons (one cannot legitimately advertise for 'ladies' these days!) who could help, maybe only once or twice a year, please contact Mrs Evans at 22 Dulwich Village, telephone 693 3522.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN SOUTHWARK

Plans for Southwark's participation in the Silver Jubilee celebrations are now well advanced and include the following:

Queen's visit

The Royal party will visit Southwark between 11.30 am and 12.15 pm on 9 June. They will disembark from the Thames at Cherry Garden Pier (Rotherhithe) and make a short ceremonial drive through the streets, meet a number of local people and unveil a commemorative stone before re-embarking at Cherry Garden Pier. There will be view points for spectators.

Water Pageant

A river spectacular will consist of some three miles of boats moving up and down the river to salute the Queen on 9 June. The procession will be in six groups, the 'ceremonial' group, followed by commercial river users, river services, other commercial organisations, youth organisations and the Dunkirk 'little ships' contingent. Each group will have its own band. The Borough of Southwark will man a specially decorated boat provided by the London Nautical School in the first group.

The timetable is as follows:

18.20 Leave Greenwich
18.35 Pass Rotherhithe
18.55 Pass the Tower
19.30 Vauxhall (turn and return down river)
20.35 Pass the Queen at County Hall
21.05 Disperse at Cherry Garden Pier

Firework displays

Will be held after the River Pageant at 10.15 pm at South Bank (between Blackfriars and Waterloo Bridges); at Greenwich Reach - Isle of Dogs; Richmond; the Crystal Palace; Alexandra Palace.

Jubilee Youth Games

An inter-borough event open to young people of the Borough with the finals on 6 and 7 August at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. There will be competitions in athletics, badminton, basketball, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, tennis, netball, weight-lifting and volleyball.

Belair - Weekend Gala 18/19 June

Following a procession from Dulwich Village to Belair on Saturday there will be a Bavarian evening with a German Band. On Sunday there will be a festival of sport. The Dulwich Society will have a stand at the Gala.

Full details of these and other events may be obtained from Southwark Celebrations Committee, The Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5.

PLANNING NOTES

Links with the Governors: 15 Alleyn Park

In our last newsletter we reported on a very useful discussion between Mr Russel Vernon, the Architect to the Governors, and the Town Planning Sub-committee, and more particularly on a discussion we had had with them about their plans for No 15 Alleyn Park. We are glad to be able to say that these discussions have borne fruit very quickly indeed. No 15 Alleyn Park has been a subject of contention for many months, with the Estates Governors proposing - and the Society resisting - developments which the Society regarded as being out of keeping with the style and character of Alleyn Park. Our attitude has always been that the most suitable development for this site would be either a pair of semi-detached houses or perhaps two detached houses, and it gave us great pleasure to learn that the

Governors have now seen the light and have submitted an application for permission to develop the site by erecting on it a pair of semi-detached houses. This is good news indeed.

The Queen's Jubilee

We reported last time that the Norwood Society, in collaboration with the Jubilee Committee and the GLC, had taken an initiative to celebrate the Jubilee by erecting a viewing tower or platform on the Crystal Palace Heights. Regrettably, this flight of fancy - like so many in recent times - has fallen victim to financial stringency. Those who wish to enjoy the view over Kent or over London from the Crystal Palace Heights will have to continue to do so from a position between five and six feet above the footway!

2 Dulwich Wood Avenue

Another subject of past reports now seems to have been finally settled. The house on this site has now been bought for private occupation by a single family, and redevelopment is therefore no longer in prospect.

British Rail

1. Sydenham Hill Station. Members may have noticed that British Rail have erected a standard red and white illuminated sign outside the station at Sydenham Hill. This has outraged some local residents, who not unreasonably feel that a sign of this kind, while appropriate for an urban station, is totally unsuited to what is really a country station in a rural road, even though it is only five miles from central London. We have protested to British Rail on behalf of these residents and have asked them to remove the sign; the results if any will be reported in our next newsletter.

2. West Dulwich Station. Members will have seen that virtually the last remaining part of the Victorian cast iron embellishments to the railway bridge at West Dulwich station recently collapsed, leaving the structure on the east side of the bridge naked and very unsightly. It would of course be unreasonable to expect British Rail to restore the Victorian ironwork as it was; but we have written to them to ask what they DO intend to do, and the result of this approach too will be reported in the next newsletter.

Lapse Wood House

Long standing members of the Society will remember our battles with the London Borough of Southwark over the development of Lapse Wood, almost the last remaining substantial piece of woodland on the London side of Sydenham Hill. Lapse Wood itself - long demolished - stood on the corner of Sydenham Hill and Cox's Walk (leading down to the little railway bridge and the path that emerges near the Grove Tavern). Southwark Borough Council have now given a planning brief to their staff to prepare plans for a small housing development on this site, amounting to not more than about fifteen houses. In the past we have not objected to some development along the Sydenham Hill fringe of the wood, since some such development would offer some protection against vandalism and the dumping of old bedsteads in the woodland. The top of Cox's walk is in a poor state, and a small development there would we think do no harm. But our objections to

a major development of the woodland would of course remain, and bearing in mind the cost of developing this very unstable land, building there in the foreseeable future seems pretty unlikely.

London Borough of Southwark, local plans

The Greater London development plan was approved and published late last year and set broad policies for London in jobs, housing and transport. Each London Borough has now been given the task of preparing formal local plans, and as a part of this operation, the London Borough of Southwark has written to the Society inviting us to take part in a series of meetings which will be held during this year and next as the Council develop their ideas for mid and south Southwark. We shall of course be glad to take part in this exercise and will report progress from time to time.

THE DULWICH SOCIETY KALENDAR: 1977

Please keep these four pages carefully for reference.

OFFICERS OF THE DULWICH SOCIETY

President: The Rt Hon Lord Shawcross, PC, QC
Vice Presidents: James Fitton, RA
Lord Hinton of Bankside
S.C. Silkin, QC, BA, MP
Charles Pearce, OBE, FCIS, JP
D.A. Emms, MA
Sir Frederick Everson, KCMG
Hon Auditor: Ken A.G. Jeffries, FCA, 119 Alleyn Park, SE21
693 5270
Press Officer: John Cran, 670 4105

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Roger V. Low, 41 College Road, SE21 693 2953
Vice Chairman: Peter F.J. Lawson, DA, FRIBA, FI ARB,
41 Village Way, SE21 733 2646 Chartered architect; representative
on the Southwark Conservation Areas Advisory Committee
Secretary: Lt Col R.M.S. Maude, BA, 19 Oakfield Gardens, Dulwich
Wood Avenue, SE19 670 7963
Treasurer: R.C. Low, FCII, FCIB, 88 Alleyn Road, SE21 670 1609
Company director
Geoffrey Hall Clark, 23 Gilkes Crescent, SE21 7BP 693 3003
Lawyer; Chairman of Legal Sub-Committee
I.H. Lightman, 22 Walkers Croft Mead, SE21 670 4743
Civil servant; Chairman of Town Planning Sub-committee
W.A. Alan Barnard, 18 Dovercourt Road, SE22 693 6487
Chairman of Trees Sub-committee
G.C. De Baerdemaecker, 110 Woodwarde Road, SE22 693 4017
Purchasing officer; Chairman of Local History Sub-committee
Mrs G.D. Howells, PhD, FIBiol, 7 College Road, SE21 693 7226
Chairman of Wild Life Sub-committee
R.H. Adams, TD, MA, FSA, 108 Dulwich Village, SE21 693 1161
HM Inspector of Schools; Chairman of Traffic Roads and Transport
Sub-committee
Mrs K.M. Evans, MA, 22 Dulwich Village, SE21 693 3522
School governor; Chairman of Social Sub-committee
John Cran, 28 Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19 670 4105 Press Officer
and Chairman of Membership and Publicity Sub-committee
P.G. Gallichan, 108 Burbage Road, SE24 274 5728

MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

LEGAL: Chairman: Geoffrey Hall Clark, 23 Gilkes Crescent, SE21 7BP
693 3003
Members:
G.C. Grant, LL B, 134 Burbage Road, SE21 274 8229
P.F.J. Lawson, FRIBA, 41 Village Way, SE21 733 2646
B.St.J.C. Carr, 8 Burbage Road, SE24 733 9055
M.V. Carey, MA, 2 Frank Dixon Way, SE21

TOWN PLANNING: Chairman: Ivor H. Lightman, 22 Walkerscroft Mead,
SE21 670 4743

Secretary: J. Rogers, FRICS, 144 Thurlow Park Road, SE21
693 5612

Members:

Mrs M. Mathewson, 33 Alleyn Park, SE21 670 1756
S. Rhodes, OBE, LL B, 9 Hitherwood Drive, SE19 670 7520
M. Rich, MA, 18 Dulwich Village, SE21 693 1957
P. Rutteman, B.Sc, ACA, 37 Woodhall Drive, SE21 693 7543
Bernard Smith, Dip. Arch, RIBA, 60 Crofton Road, SE5
R.N. Burton, 41 Great Brownings, SE21 670 1238
T.R. Hearn, 48 Alleyn Road, SE21
Stuart Valentine, 26 Lowood Court, Farquhar Road, SE19

TRAFFIC, ROADS AND TRANSPORT: Chairman: R.H. Adams, TD, MA, FSA,
108 Dulwich Village, SE21 693 1161

Members:

E.P. Fisher, JP, 20 Gilkes Crescent, SE21 693 2790
Mrs K.M. Evans, 22 Dulwich Village, SE21 693 3522
C.W. Walker, 121 Burbage Road, SE21 274 3276
R.A.C. Hill, 3 Oakfield Gardens, SE19 670 1005
J.G. Todd, 21 Lovelace Road, SE21 670 2695
Miss G.D. Johnson (Secretary), 75 Stradella Road, Herne Hill, SE24
274 5780
B.C. Leach, 97 Court Lane, SE21 693 1076

TREES: Chairman: W.A. Alan Barnard, 18 Dovercourt Road, SE22
693 6487

Members:

Secretary: Mrs S.M. Low, 88 Alleyn Road, SE21 670 1609
D.G. Clarke, 35 Pymers Mead, SE21 670 2680
R.T. Reed, 2 Court Lane Gardens, SE21 693 5512
Mrs M. Westwood, 13 Tarleton Gardens, SE23 699 0820
G.C. De Baerdemaecker, 110 Woodward Road, SE21 693 4017
Miss R.W. Davis, 118 College Road, SE21 670 3011
Mrs E. Blackburn, 14 Woodsyre, SE26 670 5212
Mrs S. Benwell, 36 Calton Avenue, SE21 693 3171

SOCIAL: Chairman: Mrs K.M. Evans, 22 Dulwich Village, SE21
693 3522

Members:

Mrs E. Todd, 15 Eastlands Crescent, SE21 693 6239
Mrs Lindsey Barker, 38 Village Way, SE21 693 4803
Mrs Happell, 37 Pond Mead, Village Way, SE21 693 1902
Mrs Taylor, 26 Pond Mead, Village Way, SE21
Miss Thomason, 11 Beresford House, Kingswood Estate, SE21
Mrs Welwig, 14 Frank Dixon Way, SE21 693 2787

LOCAL HISTORY: Chairman: (Bill) G.C. De Baerdemaecker, 110
Woodward Road, SE22 693 4017

Members:

Miss M.J. Boast, 188 Peckham Rye, SE22 693 3802
Dr A. Cox, 4 Court Lane Gardens, SE21 693 5950
Mr & Mrs R.C. Low, 88 Alleyn Road, SE21 670 1609
Miss J. Webster, 6 Carters Croft, Red Post Hill, SE24 274 1430
Miss P. Hackett, 14 Gilkes Crescent, SE21 693 6843
Mrs W. Darby and Mr. P. Darby, 91 South Croxted Road, SE21 670 2838
Mrs. G.C. De Baerdemaecker, 110 Woodward Road, SE22

WILD LIFE: Chairman: Mrs G.D. Howells, PhD, FIBiol, 7 College
Road, SE21 693 7226

Secretary: G.C. De Baerdemaecker, 110 Woodward Road, SE22 693 4017

Members:

Miss G.M. Pye-Smith, 9 Breakspeare, SE21 693 8341
Mrs L. Martin, 122 Woodward Road, SE22 693 2907
Miss J. Webster, 6 Carters Croft, Red Post Hill, SE24 274 1430
B. Jones, 16 Mount Adon Park, SE22 693 3698
Miss R.W. Davis, 118 College Road, SE21 670 3011
G.R.C. Fairlie, The Grange, Grange Lane, SE21 693 1187
D.V. Freshwater, 24 Dulwich Village, SE21 693 1666
Mrs G.C. De Baerdemaecker, 110 Woodward Road, SE22
J.W. Toler, 127 Sydenham Hill, SE26 693 6854

MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICITY: Chairman: John Cran, 28 Dulwich Wood
Avenue, SE19 670 4105

Members:

John Westwood MSIA, 13 Tarleton Gardens, SE23 699 0820
Mrs S.M. Low, 88 Alleyn Road, SE21 670 1609
J.R. Webb, 107 Woodward Road, SE21 693 7297 (Posters)
John Lane, 3 Alleyn Road, SE21 670 3682 (Distribution)

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM: For distribution of Newsletters and other
material the area is divided into eight zones, each controlled by
a zone organiser under the overall direction of:

Mr. John Lane, 3 Alleyn Road, SE21 670 3682

Zone A: Mrs Peter Lawson, 41 Village Way, SE21 733 2646

Aysgarth Rd, Burbage Rd, Carver Rd, Dulwich Village, Half Moon Lane,
Pickwick Rd, Roseway, Turney Rd, Village Way, Stradella Rd, Ruskin
Walk, Winterbrook Rd.

Zone B: Mrs J.E. Taylor, 51 Townley Road, SE22 693 3674

Calton Avenue, Dekker Rd, Desenfans Rd, Dovercourt Rd, Druce Rd,
Gilkes Crescent, Great Spilmans, Red Post Hill, Townley Rd,
Woodward Rd, Denmark Hill.

Zone C: Mr John Orr, 167 Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, SE21 670 3098

Allison Grove, Court Lane, Court Lane Gardens, Dulwich Common,
Eastlands Crescent, Frank Dixon Close and Way, Rycotes Mead, Thurlow
Park Rd, Eynella Rd, Lordship Lane.

Zone D: Mrs S.M. Low, 88 Alleyn Road, SE21 670 1609

Acacia Grove, Croxted Rd, Lings Coppice, Lovelace Rd, Pymers Mead,
Rosendale Rd, Walkerscroft Mead, Carson Rd, Ildersley Grove, Park
Hall Rd.

Zone E1: Mrs Charles Pearce, 6 Pond Cottages, College Rd, SE21
693 3141

College Rd, Breakspeare, College Gardens, Constable Walk, Ferrings,
Gainsborough Court, Hitherwood Drive & Court, Stonehills Court,
Pond Cottages, Tollgate Drive, Woodhall Avenue & Drive, Fountain
Drive, Hogarth Court, Great Brownings.

Zone E2: Mr C.C. Phillips, 6 Crescent Wood Rd, SE26 693 5023
Crescent Wood Rd, Peckarmans Wood, Sydenham Hill (1-110), Rock Hill, Crouchmans Close, Woodsyre.

Zone F: Mrs R.M.S. Maude, 19 Oakfield Gardens, Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19 670 7963

Alleyn Crescent, Alleyn Park, Alleyn Road, Baird Gardens, Farquhar Rd, Knoll, Lowood & Glenhurst Courts, Little Bornes, Lymer Avenue, Grenville, Raleigh, Marlowe Courts, Oakfield Gardens, Rouse Gardens, Linley & Whitfield Courts, South Croxted Rd, Tylney Avenue, Drake Court, Dulwich Wood Park, Giles Coppice, Kingswood Drive, Rockwell Gardens.

Zone G: Mr J. Westwood, 13 Tarleton Gardens, SE23 699 0820

Little Brownings, Sydenham Hill (111 upwards), Sydenham Rise, Frobisher Court, Tarleton Gardens, London Rd, Thorpewood Avenue.

Postal: Mrs E.T. Nash, 30 Dekker Rd, SE21

TRAFFIC

Buses and trains serve the perimeter of the Society's area and it is important to residents that the facilities should be as frequent and regular as possible. Unfortunately neither seems nowadays to be the case. We have suffered cuts in the train services, and access to the City by rail is at the moment only possible at the weekend from North Dulwich Station, and that on Saturdays. Sunday services operate only on the Victoria line. The infrequent services may well be further reduced in the next time-table. We therefore very much depend on the regularity of the bus services, and the P4 service (now increased in size to a midi-bus) is of vital importance to many.

The growing swell of concern in the public mind is reflected in campaigns such as that of 'Save Our Services', and the Traffic Committee would welcome views on these matters. They should be addressed to its secretary, Miss G.D. Johnson, at 75 Stradella Rd, SE24.

CONSERVATION OF WINE BOTTLES

We have received an interesting communication entitled 'Bottle Recovery' from which we quote:

'Raise money for your charity by recycling wine bottles.

'Everybody feels that more should be done about recycling raw materials and cutting down the waste of our so-called 'throw-away' society.

'Bottle Recovery has been recycling wine bottles for two years now, collecting them from large London hotels, sorting them, washing them and selling them back to wine bottlers.

'We have a few local groups that collect wine bottles in their areas and we make regular collections from them when they have a sufficient number; they usually do this to raise money for their local charity. We are now in a position to extend these collections and would be very pleased to have more groups collect for us.

'The first thing to do is arrange for a depot for people to bring their bottles to and it must be under cover, such as someone's garage. People should bring them in cartons containing approximately a dozen bottles (try and get someone to arrange to bring the bottles from the local restaurant; they will be doing the restaurateur a favour too as he has a terrible job disposing of them). When you have got more than 250 cartons call us and we will come and collect them and pay you a penny a bottle, about £30 a collection.

'Please, only standard wine bottles, the larger the better, but no sherry, port, aperitifs, nor Schweppes non-returnables, which are not economic to recycle.'

The Dulwich Society is registered as a charity and could use £30 from time to time to improve local amenities. If anyone would like to organise a collecting system, please contact the Secretary who can give more details.

CORRESPONDENCE

In amplification of the Chairman's remarks at the AGM reported earlier in this Newsletter, we would very much like to open a correspondence column and we hereby invite members to write to the Secretary on any subject of interest, particularly matters covering local amenities. Whether your letters get printed or not must depend on space being available and to a certain editorial control, but we freely invite you to have a go.

JAMES ALLEN

There is now a second edition of JAMES ALLEN: A PORTRAIT ENLARGED by M.A. Wren and P. Hackett, copies of which are obtainable for 75 pence at The Art Stationers, 31 Dulwich Village, or at 14a Gilkes Crescent (693 6843).

First published in 1968, the book traces the ancestry and the Dulwich career of this eighteenth Century Master of the College, of whom, shortly before his death in 1746, a local resident wrote in the Gentleman's Magazine:

'The present Master is a man of fortune but lives in a most retired manner, improves the College estates with the greatest industry, is very seldom absent, and entirely well beloved by all who are acquainted with him as well as all who are under his authority'.

In 1741 he founded the Reading School which by 1886 had developed into James Allen's Girls School.

SOCIETY PRESENTATION TO BELAIR

In the interest of improving the amenities of Dulwich the Society has presented two teak garden seats to Belair. The seats are six feet long and have been inscribed 'Presented by the Dulwich Society'. They have now been installed in the gardens of Belair.

WILD LIFE NOTES

The early migrants are arriving even earlier than usual this year as the chiff chaff was heard in the woods near Gt Brownings on 11 March.

Other 'sightings' of note are that of a kingfisher once again on the Mill Pond last October, tree creepers in Grange Lane and of a lark singing early in March.

In the parks the shelduck introduced to Dulwich Park lake last autumn are showing signs of nesting and the pen introduced in February as a companion to the solitary swan in Belair seems to have settled down and been accepted by the cob. The free flying Canada geese that reared five young last year in Dulwich Park have returned to the lake.

DULWICH PARK

Trees and shrubs

The work of maintaining parks and open spaces for the pleasure and entertainment of the public is of course a continuing process. As the seasons pass flower beds have to be cleaned out and replanted, shrubberies need tidying and thinning from time to time, paths have to be edged and repaired, fences and gates have to be kept in good condition and trees sometimes have to be lopped or even felled if disease or extreme weather conditions cause severe damage.

All these situations are accepted as the normal run of events in the diary of care and maintenance, and most of us who are gardeners know what has to be done and what is involved in doing it.

In recent years the GLC Parks Department found that many of the shrubs in the perimeter area of Dulwich Park as well as in more central beds and screens were becoming not only old, but weak, straggly and in many cases no longer able to bear flowers. Moreover it was becoming increasingly difficult to get capable staff to do the specialised pruning and tree maintenance work. In addition, like all of us, the Parks Department have found the effects of inflation biting deeply into their financial resources, so that, even if trained staff were available, the cost of supporting them was becoming increasingly difficult.

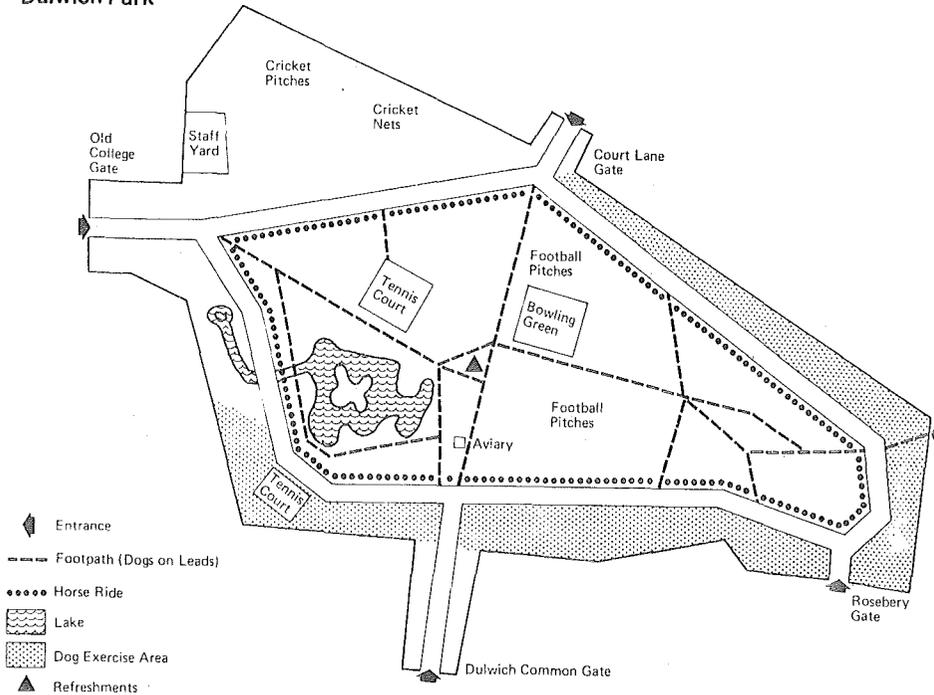
With all these different problems the Parks Department has not had an easy time trying to sort out the best way to solve their difficulties and some compromise has been necessary. Clearing out old stock and then seeding or turfing the cleared area can be an expensive operation, but then the subsequent maintenance and consequently the running costs are undoubtedly reduced. However, when this is done the environment may suffer as a result of too drastic clearance.

Many local residents and visitors have recently remarked on the increasingly bare and clinical appearance of the Park as a result of recent clearance. For decades it has provided a delightful countryside vista in that from virtually any position one could enjoy a wide view of trees and shrubs, some exotic such as the azaleas and rhododendrons, and others of a simple aesthetic beauty like the magnificent screens of trees.

During the past year or so a scheme of intensive clearance has been carried out along the perimeter boundary areas roughly from the tennis courts to the Rosebery Gate, the object being to replace the worn-out shrubs with new varieties. At this point the ugly head of economic cuts raised itself and the Parks Department were given two instructions by the GLC: (1) cut your budget for this year by one third and (2) any inflationary trends for the whole year must be absorbed into the remaining two-thirds of the original budget.

Maintenance staff had already been cut, so these additional cuts have had to fall on current schemes with the result that, at present, only about half the area being treated has been completed, and here at least during the next two or three years there should be satisfactory new growth which will eventually cover the bare fencing

Dulwich Park



behind. In the remaining areas it seems that the best we can hope for is that the newly grassed areas will be replanted with bushes a little at a time.

Unfortunately we have now heard of a new threat to our trees, not only in the Park but elsewhere. This is a newly discovered disease which is attacking sycamore trees and which has been named 'Wanstead' disease from the place where it was first discovered. Like dutch elm disease it appears to be fatal to sycamores in some similar way although little seems to be known about it as yet. We all hope it will not turn out to be too serious and we will keep our readers informed in future newsletters.

Vandalism in the Park

We hear from Mr Woods, the Park Superintendent, that Senior Keeper Mr T. Keynes, whilst patrolling the Park with his dog, caught red-handed two thieves from Corby on Monday 28 February at 9.45 pm breaking into the aviary. They had cut the wire and had nets and cages ready. At Camberwell next day they were each fined £75 and ordered to share the cost of the damage of £45 and given six months suspended sentence for two years. Unfortunately, three birds were lost, a canary, two pekin robins and one diamond dove, so if any members see these birds they will know they belong to Dulwich Park. A mynah bird was also missing but it was later caught by a lady in the Frank Dixon area and is now in the aviary.

We are supposed to live in an enlightened age yet one wonders. Mr Woods further reported that late at night he found a fox terrier tied to the park gate with two packets of potato crisps beside him. However, before he could be caught he had bitten through his lead and run away. About midnight Mr Woods was again called out as a dog, which proved to be the same one, had been run over and was badly injured. The vet was called and it had to be destroyed. Fortunately the motorist concerned was uninjured but his car was badly damaged.

Dogs in the Park

As some members will know, the GLC Parks Department is now reviewing the regulations restricting movement of dogs in the park. They will be issuing an interim report in June and a final one at the end of this year. The Society has agreed to assist the Parks Department by passing on comments or suggestions from interested members. Mr Alan Barnard, Chairman of the Trees Sub-committee, will be glad to receive comments at 18 Dovercourt Road, SE22. He will pass them on to the Parks Department.

In case you have not seen it before, we reproduce the recent GLC notice on the subject of Control of Dogs:

"All dogs need exercise and for most dog owners the only place they can safely allow their pet to run off the lead is the local park. However, many complaints, both written and verbal, are received on the subject of dogs in parks, mainly from the parents of children whose bodies or clothing have been fouled from contact with excreta.

There has also been recent publicity both on television and in the press highlighting the dangers of children becoming infected with the ova of Toxocara Carnis from dogs' excreta. If ingested the ova can cause lung disease, blindness and brain damage. Evidence has proved that the ova is significantly present in public places particularly parks. More control of this pollution of parks by dogs is therefore needed.

The general practice in the Council's parks and open spaces has been to allow dogs to be exercised off the lead provided they are under control. In certain areas dogs are prohibited by notice or required to be kept on a lead. But now the Council has decided that to avoid further pollution and dangers from Toxocara Carnis and to improve the park generally for the majority of park users the following regulations will apply in Dulwich Park:

1. Dogs will be allowed off the lead only on the grass area on the outside of the carriageway from 50 yards inside the Court Lane entrance to 100 yards from the College Road entrance.
2. Dogs must be kept on the lead on all paths and carriageways within the park.
3. Dogs are banned from all other areas of the park.
4. Dogs may not be taken into any refreshment place (except for blind persons' guide dogs). NB. This regulation applies to all GLC parks and open spaces.

These regulations will operate experimentally for one year from January 1 1977. It is hoped that all dog owners will co-operate and assist in making Dulwich Park a much more pleasant place for all park users - especially children.

The plan of the park shown overleaf shows the exercise area, paths and carriageways and the banned areas.

James C. Kennedy
Chief Officer of the Parks Department"