# The Dulwich Society - Newsletter 95
## Summer 1992

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My main complaint about Dulwich — coming as I do from a sunny Pacific isle — is that it is such a very long way from the beach. My consequent addiction to a nameless Australian soap opera might be cured — and everyone’s quality of life enhanced — if the current campaign to unearth the long-lost River Effra gains sufficient momentum.

The possibility of being able to walk or cycle around London on tow paths seems to me a tremendously exciting one. According to the Effra Redevelopment Agency, part of the Platform organization’s visionary Still Waters project, there are 56 rivers, streams and rivercourses in London, and the idea is to uncover as many as may be feasible to reawaken the concept of London as a water city — which, of course, it originally was.

In Berkely, California, the Strawberry Creek Project buys up empty houses built over the original creek and demolishes them one by one, slowly uncovering the water course. OK, so this isn’t California, but there is food for thought. A number of the houses built over our natural waterways are nearing the end of their predicted lifespans anyway. And surprisingly, most of the course of the River Effra runs alongside or under roads — Dulwich Road, Brixton Road, Croxted Road — so think again before you rubbish this idea as just another bit of romantic nonsense. Now that we are beginning to see the private motor car in a new light will we really still want all these high density roads? Andrea Phillips or John Jordan at Platform, no.7 Horselydown Lane, SE21 2LN could give you more information. Phone 071-403 3738.

And while we are on the subject of a quieter, greener London, has sufficient thought been given to the possibility of reintroducing the environmentally friendly tram? With the current rash of traffic calming schemes proliferating the way it is (I am not complaining) it seems to me that trams, riding on rails which can slice straight through road humps, would be the sensitive alternative to buses. Then, when we have all got used to travelling on our new fast, efficient and convenient public transport systems, we can do away with the humps and cycling will be a pleasure again.

Meanwhile, back to the telly and the clean surf of Summer Bay...
Congratulations - With so many local businesses closing it is nice to report the success of a favourite. Jacques Restaurant in Rosendale Road has been awarded the Casserole Award of Le Routier, 1992. It is the fifth London Casserole and the second in South London. The other, incidentally, is Jack's in Clapham no relation, though.

Nature reserve - The London Wildlife Trust has produced a new Sydenham Hill Wood leaflet, available from LWT, c/o Horniman Museum, 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ. Please enclose a SAE and, if possible, a donation towards work in the wood.

Fire works - Nothing has yet been done to restore Brockwell Park Mansion, beyond emergency protection against the weather, since it was damaged by fire in 1990. English Heritage, apparently, is providing lots of expertise, but it is thought that the insurance should cover the cost of repairs. However, nothing has happened yet, so don't hold your breath.

Neighbourhood Watch - Police advise that phone books are being delivered at the moment, so please keep an eye out for any left on doorsteps, advertising the occupiers are out.

The Garden group - The Garden Group has arranged an illustrated lecture on "Cottage Gardens" to be given by Mr Stephen P Crisp on Thursday, October 1st, 1992, in St Barnabas Hall at 8pm. There will be no charge for admission; coffee/tea with biscuits will be served.

Mr Crisp is head gardener to US Ambassador (London); he is a Garden Designer (National Gardens Festival Gold Medal Winner 1986). This should be a most interesting evening, so please make a note in your diaries and come along.

Local History - On Wednesday, November 11, at 8pm, at Dulwich College, Dr Ian Piggott will give a conducted tour of the inside of Barry's superb building and talk about the various archives the College possesses. These include many Court Rolls, and other Dulwich papers, but more importantly, archives relating to the Elizabethan theatre including Philip Henslowe's notebook which gives expenses in connection with the Rose Theatre on Bankside and of course Edward Alleyn's diary.

HELP! HELP! HELP! - Susan Lee has given a stunning performance as our Membership Secretary during the past two years. Most regrettably, she finds it necessary to stand down in September, and it is essential to find her successor.

Between now and September, she is very willing to help the volunteer learn the ropes, and her teaching will be crystal clear.

The position holds Executive status, but only occasional attendance at Meetings will be necessary.
THE 29th AGM opened with 50-60 stalwart members, including a welcome number of new members, receiving reasoned apologies from the Secretary to the membership for the late appearance of the Notice convening the Meeting.

One Vice-President, Michael Rich QC, was warmly congratulated on his elevation to the Bench, and tributes were paid by the Chairman to Geoffrey Hall Clark and Bill de Baerdemaecker who had died during the year; to Geoff for his informed guidance during the birth-pangs of the Scheme of Management, and to Bill, affectionately known as 'Mr Dulwich', for the sharing of his love for and knowledge of Dulwich with us and many others well beyond the confines of Dulwich. (Extended Appreciations feature in the Spring Newsletters of 1991 and 1992.)

Analysis of a Poll of Residents had shown 70.9 per cent of those responding, leaseholders as well as freeholders, supported and had confidence in the work of the Joint Residents Committee (JRC) established in 1991. During a debate on its constitution, the JRC had nominated the following Officers: President, Peter Whiteman QC; Deputy Chairmen, Reg Collins and John Chilcott; Treasurer, Professor ML Meyer; Secretary, Bill Higman and Assistant Secretary, Walter Ernest. Arrangements had been made regarding representation in the High Court of the Residents' case in opposition to the Estates Governors' (EGs) intended application to opt out of some of their responsibilities as managers of the 1974 Scheme. Members with further queries were advised to attend a full meeting of the JRC on 10 March, to which the EGs have been invited. Abstainers (3) to a Motion passed "that this AGM fully supports JRC policy to date" were assured by the JRC Secretary that the results of future negotiations would be put before the residents.

An invitation had been sent by the Chairman, on behalf of the amenity groups and the Dulwich Village Business Association, to Tom Howe, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and his Agent, to discuss the plight of shops in the Village. There are indeed knotty problems to be resolved. We heard that no 2 shops are operating under identical leases! Patrick Spencer volunteered his services as a valuation surveyor if needed.

The Treasurer's Report and Annual A/cs for 1991 are attached. The A/cs were Adopted nem. con., as was the Report, with the exception that the Meeting Agreed a proposal to institute Life Membership (para.3) could stand as a RESOLUTION to be put before members at the 1993 AGM. If accepted, the RESOLUTION could take immediate effect, and the Society's Constitution could be amended accordingly.

Mr KAG Jeffries FCA was unanimously re-elected Hon. Auditor for 1992/93.

The importance of providing up-to-the-minute seasonal news for circulation to the membership was emphasised by the Secretary, who reaffirmed opening apologies for a recent bending of the statutory rules. St Faith's Community Centre had proved to be an excellent alternative to Belair, now closed, for social occasions. On members' behalf, the Executive Committee was to make a donation to Gemma Farmer for her young violinists for their contribution to the success of the event last Christmas. It had been a special privilege and delight to enjoy private 'lectures' given by Bill when copying his sub-committees' Minutes: he would indeed be missed. The news that June wished his large collection of slides of Old Dulwich to be lodged with the Southwark Local Studies Library was splendid.

This year, TREES is to organise a visit to Sheffield Park in October, instead of a summer Walk, and a memorial tree, chosen by June, would be planted later for Bill. Stalwart enthusiasts could join members of WILDLIFE at 4.30am on Sat. 25 April to hear the dawn chorus; a Woodland Walk would take place on Sat. 23 May, and Ruth Day, of WWF, would give an illustrated lecture on "Zoos Past and Present" on Thurs. 7 May. PLANNING was cautiously optimistic and integrity of Beechgrove may possibly be assured. Developments of immediate concern were 'Lyndenhurst' 19 Village Way and 99 Calton Avenue - 2 run-down properties owned by the EGs - and Burbage Rd Arches. The sub-committee urgently needed a member with legal expertise in planning matters, and a member living on the Estate within Lambeth to monitor applications from that Borough. Developers' plans were the main concern.

A visit to the Crystal Palace Museum had been organised by LOCAL HISTORY on Thurs. 4 June. Any members interested in local research would be warmly welcomed. The GARDEN GROUP would shortly be issuing the first batch of Invitations for visits to open gardens; these were to be followed by a lecture on Thurs. 1 October on 'Cottage Gardens', given by Stephen Crisp, gardener to the US
Ambassador. New members for the sub-committee would be most welcome. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT were following last year's forum on traffic-calming with a full-scale project 'A Safer Dulwich' which was displayed in the Hall; if members provided comments and suggestions, an Open Meeting would be called. The Editor was pleased to welcome Priscilla Waugh as Deputy Editor and Barry Shaw as Advertising Manager to the Editorial team; one further volunteer would complete the team. Advertising revenue had proved a considerable help towards covering printing costs. Members were asked to support advertisers, and to tell them where they had been noted. The Editor was accorded congratulations for her achievements.

The Officers and Executive Committee members, who were nominated for election and who were willing to stand, were elected unanimously, and are given in the pull-out Directory in this Newsletter, together with current sub-committee members; Newsletter Zone Distributors and their areas are also given.

Contradictions had been noticed in two items, each entitled "Five Year Dulwich Drama" - that of Jane Furnival in Newsletter 92 pp.8&9, and that of Jeremy Gotch in Newsletter 94 pp.47&48. It was apparent that Jane Furnival had written in good faith but had lacked adequate source information, and that Jeremy Gotch had finally, though hindered by a necessary passage of time, responded to the 'right of reply' accorded to the EGs by the Society.

After a Vote of Thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Robin Taylor

The Society produced a surplus of £1,527 for the year, after providing £1,000 towards the future costs of the challenge to the Estate Governors proposals for changes to the Scheme of Management. We must remember, however, that the current year's expenditure includes cost of printing three newsletters instead of four. If the cost of a fourth newsletter was included, the surplus would have been reduced to £327.

In my report for 1990, I predicted the costs of printing a newsletter might reach £1.00 by the end of the year. Following negotiations with the printers who, I am pleased to say, were co-operative and understanding, we have managed to contain the costs to a degree. The cost of printing the Autumn newsletter was 89p per copy. Advertising has got off to a good start and has helped. I feel that in 1992, we might be able to just about pay for the costs of the Society out of revenue derived from subscriptions and advertising. This is as it should be.

Although I have been apprehensive from time to time regarding the possibility of having to increase membership subscriptions, I am pleased to say that I feel we can manage to survive for another year on the current rate of £5.00. I wish to propose that if any member wishes to be a life member, he could obtain life membership upon payment of twenty times the annual subscription. If there are at least 5 life members, we could also print their names in the newsletter as life members. At current subscription rates, life membership would cost £100.

Our membership remained around 1,100 mark during the year. At 31 December we had 1,129 members in our register. I believe we would maintain membership at this level in 1992. Our membership secretary now writes to all those members who do not pay by bankers order. This letter costs approximately 27p and she also spends a great deal of time on this exercise. Unless there are specific reasons for not doing so, I would urge our members to pay their subscriptions by standing order. If any member requires advice or help in this connection, would they please contact the membership secretary or myself.

I take this opportunity to thank all those members who have generously sent donations towards the work of the Society and also generously contributed to the fighting fund.

The audited accounts of the Society for 1991 are produced in the following pages.

S.D. Moonesinghe, FCCA, ATII Honorary Treasurer
Note 1 Fixed Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projector</td>
<td>421</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photocopier</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>453</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 2 Fighting Fund

The Society has decided to challenge proposals made by the Estate Governors for the Scheme of Management. It is believed that this challenge would entail substantial costs, particularly in the nature of legal and professional fees.

The Executive Committee has decided to set aside from the current year's revenue the sum of £1,000 towards these costs. Individual contributions have also been received from some members.

We have termed this the Fighting Fund. The balance of the fund at 31 December 1991 was made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributed by members</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed by Society</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for the year</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brought forward from last year</td>
<td>345</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carried forward to next year</td>
<td>£1,420</td>
<td>£345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The charge in the accounts is made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Printing leaflets</td>
<td>266</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire of hall for meetings</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of J.B.C. expenses</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net aside to future costs (see above)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£1,020</td>
<td>£289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 3 Campaigns

Preservation of Beechgrove

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 4 Social Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception for helpers</td>
<td>Room rent</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the Society</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drinks</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Concert</td>
<td>Room rent</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food*</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drinks</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advertising and printing</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£179</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less - income from sale of tickets for concert</td>
<td>£287</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£155</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Most of the food was kindly donated by our members.

Note 5 Amenity Benches £561 represents the cost of replacing amenity benches placed by the Dulwich Society in 1976.

Note 6 It was decided to take in a limited number of advertisements in the Society's Newsletter with the hope that income from advertising would abate the increasing costs of printing newsletters. Advertising has got to a good start and has been moderately successful this year.
## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 December 1991

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>5,704</td>
<td>4,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest receivable</td>
<td>1,188</td>
<td>927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of books</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising (Note 6)</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deduct Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletters and broadsheets</td>
<td>3,603</td>
<td>2,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and stationery</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postages, telephone and sundry expenses</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire of hall and meeting expenses</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire of hall prior years</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special contributions (Note 3)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer's fees</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social events (Note 4)</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service of equipment</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs re challenge to Estate Governors' proposals (Note 2)</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity benches (Note 5)</td>
<td>561</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus for year</strong></td>
<td>£1,527</td>
<td>£972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**:  
1. Advertising (Note 6) includes £1,034 of which £7,960 relates to the year ended 31 December 1991 and £5,789 to the year ended 31 December 1990.

## Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1991

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Savings Investment Account</td>
<td>4,796</td>
<td>8,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIF Charitable Deposit Account</td>
<td>10,404</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barclays Bank Deposit Account</td>
<td>10,861</td>
<td>8,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank - Barclays Bank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Westminster Bank</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deduct Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry creditors</td>
<td>1,476</td>
<td>1,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions paid in advance</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>1,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting Fund (Note 2)</td>
<td>1,420</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>3,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2,994)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Represented</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated fund 1.1.1990</td>
<td>6,194</td>
<td>5,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for year</td>
<td>1,527</td>
<td>972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£7,867</td>
<td>£6,194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chairman**

**Treasurer**

**Report of the Auditors to the Members of the Dulwich Society**

The above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account and Notes show a true and fair view of the financial state of the Dulwich Society at 31 December 1991 and the results for the year ended on that date.

February 1992

K.A.G. Jeffries
Chartered Accountant
A SAFER DULWICH

THE SOCIETY’s Traffic and Transport Committee is embarking on an ambitious project to improve the safety and environment of the roads of Dulwich.

The project is to be community led, in liaison with Ward Councillors, and is intended to benefit lots of roads in Dulwich, including the Village itself. Improved safety and environment should also contribute to preserving Dulwich as a local shopping place.

The Committee is beginning by getting expert advice from an authority on traffic calming. Later we will convene a public meeting to stimulate and discuss specific proposals. In the meantime, we would like to hear from members with comments and suggestions.

The thinking behind this project is set out in the following contribution by our Committee member, Reed Searle:

Mission of the Dulwich Society Traffic Study

The streets and pavements of any community are used by local residents including children, elderly, disabled, by pedestrians, motorists and cyclists. Many streets are used by commercial and commuter traffic originating or terminating within and outside the community. Frequently the interests of the various users and residents conflict.

Vehicle traffic in recent years has grown exponentially. Conflicts have become more obvious, and their resolution more imperative. Motorists are seen to speed through local communities with little regard to safety or use of streets by anyone else; noise and fumes disturb the residents in their homes and gardens as well as on pavements and streets; residents and local businesses frequently suffer from shortage of parking space. People become afraid to cross streets. Cyclists, delivery vehicles, children, the elderly, residents, all are discommoded, their safety and their enjoyment endangered.

In recent years, a number of new tools have been developed with which to control vehicle traffic. Unfortunately, use of various methods of control may result in diversion of traffic to other streets, thereby alleviating one problem area, but aggravating another.

In part the issues are ones of priority — what are reasonable limits on vehicle movements, and what are the legitimate rights of inhabitants and non-motorised traffic? Is a motor vehicle entitled to priority in use of roads, and if so, on what roads? What degree of quiet, what elements of safety, what respite from the polluting effects of vehicles are local communities entitled to? Should vehicle traffic necessarily have priority in planning matters?

Dulwich has all of these problems — we have commuter, commercial and neighbourhood traffic. We have rat-runs. We have seen vastly increased traffic in recent years, with much commuter and
commercial traffic spilling over into residential areas, and we have residents who live on streets which have far too much traffic. We have small commercial and business areas that are used by Dulwich residents and others. We have schools which attract children of all ages both from our community and elsewhere. We have and are surrounded by parks and museums which are used by Dulwich residents and people from many other areas. We have only limited public transport. We have a substantial number of older people, and of people with various disabilities. Our streets have become less safe, less convenient, and less enjoyable. We have some traffic control devices which have both alleviated and aggravated traffic problems.

The Dulwich Society will create a traffic plan for Dulwich which will try to harmonise these elements. We shall attempt to resolve or minimise conflicts between motor vehicles and the rest of society, to suggest reasonable priorities between the values and interests involved, to suggest specific proposals to effectuate these values, and finally to propose a method of resolving future traffic and road use disputes.

We hope to locate problem areas and propose solutions appropriate to the problem using the many devices now available. We shall try to devise solutions which respect surrounding areas and the needs of motoring and non-motoring public, improve the safety of our streets, the quality of life for all occupants of Dulwich and users of Dulwich streets. We hope also that our proposals could serve to raise ideas and approaches that could be useful elsewhere.

Please pass any comments or suggestions to Reed Searle (081-693 4740) or to Alastair Hanton (081-693 2618). WATCH THIS SPACE for developments.

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Visit to Sheffield Park Garden - Saturday October 24, 1992

WE ARE arranging a coach trip to Sheffield Park Garden on Saturday, October 24. This is a magnificent 100 acre Landscaped garden laid out in the eighteenth century by Capability Brown and now belonging to the National Trust. It is renowned for its autumn colour and this will be at its very best in October. We hope that Mr Skinner, the head gardener, who is retiring this year and gave a lecture to the Dulwich Society in '85 about the garden, will agree to give us a guided tour. He is a friend of Richard Still our previous chairman whom we also hope to see there.

The cost of the coach will be about £6 per head and the entrance to the garden, if not a National Trust member, is £3.60. We shall leave Dulwich about 9 o'clock and return by 4 o'clock. You can bring a picnic or have lunch at the adjoining cafe. Would anyone interested in coming please fill in the form below and send it to Mrs Stella Benwell at 38 Dovercourt Road, SE22 8ST with a stamped addressed envelope so that I have some idea of how many people would like to come before ordering the coach. I will send details of the exact cost and time and place of departure later on.

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Sheffield Park Visit

NAME:
ADDRESS:
NUMBER IN PARTY:
TEL.NO:
NATIONAL TRUST MEMBER: YES/NO:

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TREES

 Sheffield Park Visit

NAME:
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THE FIRST two months of this year confirmed my impression that the variety of birds wintering in Dulwich is much lower than it was during the 1970s, when hard weather often brought such predominantly countryside birds as yellowhammers and the occasional stonechat or reed bunting to the allotments, with skylarks and lapwings frequently passing overhead.

While pining for the excitement of the spring migration, I at least had ample opportunities to admire a visitor from Scandinavia which was taken to wintering regularly in London in recent decades, the redwing. Though superficially similar to the slightly larger song thrush, it is really quite distinctive, the elongated creamy eyestripe being diagnostic and more conspicuous than the russet smear on its flanks and underwing coverts. Its upperparts are darker brown and the underparts less buff in tone, often gleaming at a distance, while scrutiny with binoculars discloses neat lines of dark streaks, as opposed to the tear-shaped spots of the song thrush. After watching individuals at close quarters in our garden seven times in January, I subsequently found them only on the playing fields along Dulwich Common, where a flock reached the modest peak of 50 on March 5, accompanied by five of its wary cousin, the fieldfare. These fields opposite Dulwich Park are usually favoured, as the adjoining trees provide a refuge from disturbance during football matches and from avian predators such as sparrowhawks.

While following the nomadic thrushes, I missed seeing the most unusual species recorded in Dulwich between last December's cold snap and the current spring passage; a kingfisher, seen once in Dulwich Park and once beside a garden pond near the Village. With 74 pairs recorded in the breeding season within a 20 mile radius of St. Paul's Cathedral in 1989, kingfishers are clearly flourishing in London, mainly in outer areas, but they also occur, surprisingly, along murky sections of canal as close as Lewisham.

The more salubrious confines of our woods attracted the first of the spring migrants, predictably a chiffchaff, singing hesitantly as it searched for insects through brambles on March 18, a fairly typical date. This elegant, hyperactive little warbler is one of the migrants most likely to be encountered in Dulwich gardens on passage, often obligingly singing as it slips through the foliage, periodically breaking cover in tumbling sorties after flies, so its appearance in our garden on March 19 was no great surprise. Nevertheless, its arrival thrills the most hardened birder as the turning point of the year, presaging the long-anticipated influx of summer migrants, mixed perhaps with stunning rarities. This promised influx materialised swiftly in the form of four immaculate male wheatears flitting over the golf course on the cold, blustery morning of March 21, and three meadow pipits resting on the Tollgate playing field. Considering their propensity while on passage through urban areas to move on at the slightest disturbance, I was surprised to find a party of three wheatears feeding on the cricket field of Dulwich Park at 9.30 on the morning of April 19, happily oblivious to passing joggers. Breeding in this country chiefly on upland pastures or rocky ravines and wintering on the African Savannah, wheatears use London only as a brief halt on migration, pausing principally on the grassy banks of reservoirs, at sewage farms and on the grazing marshes of the Thames.

Another species of chat, scarcer than the wheatear in Dulwich despite nesting regularly in London, is the black redstart. A female, which spent the sunny afternoon of April 10, dashing about the Wildlife Recorder's garden continuously flicking its fiery tail, was clearly untroubled by the proximity of man. It had departed by the next morning, probably in search of a suitable breeding site such as a power station or a derelict industrial estate. Equally confiding but more aesthetic in its choice of ultimate destination was a male pied flycatcher, interrupting its journey to some distant hillside oak wood to pass the morning of April 12 in Dulwich Park's birches, where it justified its name by darting tirelessly after insects, its pristine black and white plumage making its movements easy to follow against the verdant canopy.

While this same birch grove was visited by a pied flycatcher last
autumn and others will undoubtedly occur again, there is little prospect of repeating my most outlandish sighting over Dulwich, a stone curlew strutting over Fynners Close playing field (opposite Dulwich Park) early on April 21. This was an occasion when I wished I had taken a 'scope along, for although I could clearly discern its distinctive structure with my binoculars - its attenuated downward curving rear end, longish neck, round head, sturdy plover-like bill and long pale legs - and make out its variegated, sandy colouration, at a range of 200 yards I could scarcely distinguish the subtler plumage shades which I had appreciated upon more co-operative individuals abroad. In retrospect I should have retreated a little upon locating this notoriously shy bird. Then I would have least been able to observe its feeding habits from a safer distance, but unless one is inured to finding rarities the shock of discovery can short circuit commonsense and trigger the fatal reflex of trying to get closer. As it rose without warning and veered eastwards with deep, slow wingbeats, its strange cruciform silhouette looked strikingly incongruous against the suburban backdrop. Within a few hours it could have reached its breading territory in the Brecklands where it was presumably heading. For the rest of the spring I will be content with a trickle of commoner migrants, such as a yellow wagtail flushed from the allotments on April 23, and the first house martins seen over Court Lane the previous evening.

By the time this newsletter appears all our resident species will have reared young, including, hopefully, the coots on Sunray Gardens pond, and the volume of song from blackcaps and other warblers will already be diminishing until the woods assume their traditional late summer silence. This is the time to watch out for family parties of spotted flycatchers, squeaking insistently in wooded gardens, in Dulwich and Belair parks and possibly in the old cemetery in Dulwich Village. Look out also for mixed foraging parties of tits, which are sometimes accompanied by nuthatches, goldcrests, or lesser spotted woodpeckers.

Paul Bradbeer
April 24, 1992

Yes, the coots are hatched, but so far (early May) no ducklings or goslings have appeared. Ed.
until the 19th Century. The court roll is a list of fines for minor
manorial infringements, such as the cleaning of ditches, and not
helping with the lord of the manor's harvest and less serious incidents
of bodily harm. Not only are the miscreants listed, but the court was
composed of twelve or more witnesses to the proceedings.

There are two types of names useful for enlarging our knowledge
of both mediaeval occupations and mediaeval nobility. Of the
occupational names we have Margaret la Kembestre - which means a
female wool comber, Reginald Spindelman - a maker of spindles, Eliza
la Webbe - a weaver, Robert le Taburer - a drummer and Henry le
Melewarde - whose name suggests he may have been some kind of
minor manorial official who attended to either the storage or
accounting of grain.

Of those with names connected with places we have Henry de
Wyndbourn - probably Wimborne, Dorset, John De Wy - Wye, Kent,
Roger de Berlyngg - Birling, Kent, William de Walden, either Saffron
Walden, Essex or Walden N. Yorks, Philip de Adescomb, Addiscombe,
Surrey and lastly and intriguingly, John de Bologane - Boulogne,
France.

Eric Pollack's death in March, sudden and unexpected as it was,
has saddened many people. He had a vast practical experience in
architecture and in its associated arts - whether "fine" or "applied". Enduring
witness of his talents can be found in the restored west
front of Wells Cathedral and in the design of Chatham's Dockyard
Museum... among other places. He had a life-time devotion to
Dulwich and, in fostering and safeguarding its amenities, was an
invaluable member of the Dulwich Society's Planning Sub-
committee. We shall sorely miss his wise, weighty, and ever witty
advice at our working meetings.

Anthony Golds
ANYONE WHO travels regularly from Herne Hill Station must have noticed the gradual change taking place in that tiny building on the corner of Railton Road, sandwiched between Au Provencal Restaurant and the station. It was once a coal merchants, presumably supplied by railway freight trucks.

After lying empty, it was used by a potter and housed his kiln and wheel. He began to display and sell his work there. For a while a wooden cut out sign of tea pots and cups was above the door. The pottery studio was then taken over by Elise Arnold who made weird and wonderful sculptures of acrobats, dancers and horses. Around April '91, she moved the kiln and wheel to another studio and, with a fellow potter, Chrissy Tomlinson, transformed 297 Railton Road into a craft shop. Elise has gone back to America, but Chrissy still runs the shop with a group of other craft workers.

Now they sell not just pottery, but a wide range of other handmade articles. I saw screen printed T-shirts, leggings and muslin tops; batik work; painted silk; hats; and an embroidered jacket. More traditional needlework is represented by needlepoint cushions and kits and by knitted cotton jumpers. Inexpensive jewellery is made from papier mache, stained glass, pottery, needlepoint or embroidered velvet. Richard Langford has made stained-glass teraniums candle holders and multi-pointed stars to hang from the ceiling. There are curiously shaped candlesticks of papier mache from a group called "Art of Works" and decoupage trays, boxes, letter racks and lampshades. Decoupage is the Victorian craft of decorating with cut-out paper scraps.

However pottery still forms the backbone of the collection. Chrissy Tomlinson's cups are decorated with delightful pigs or ducks. Millie Swanepoel models jugs, vases and candlesticks in the shapes of fish, birds or animals. There are pots for all tastes from traditional to avant-garde.

The artists rent space in the shop and each serves behind the counter once every two weeks, so there is always someone who knows about the work to help you. The shop does not add on a percentage. (Many West End galleries add on 47% or more - nearly doubling the price to the customer.) This means the work can be sold at reasonable prices. So if you have a present to buy, why not visit that tiny building beside Herne Hill Station?

Herne Hill Arts, 297 Railton Road, SE24. Telephone: 081-761-5246. Open: Mon-Fri. 10.30 - 6.30; Sat. 10 - 6.

Sonia Rollo

DID WE really need another Sainsburys at Dog Kennel Hill? Well it's up and running now - so what is it like and how does it differ from Sainsburys at Selsdon Park (Crystal Palace Football ground), Forest Hill, Purley Way, Nine Elms, Streatham, or the Whigift Centre (Croydon)?

The aisles are clean and wide for easy trolley manoeuvring. The trolleys are new and have not yet developed any "lists to starboard." There are ingenious new types of trolleys to carry a baby and a toddler together and ones to fit a car baby seat.

However, they have not solved the problem of whether to start at the beginning with the fruit and vegetables, then crush them with the tins and bottles, or to start at the far end with the bread, then crush it with the bottles and so on.

There is an in-store bakery, wafting delicious bread smells throughout the shop - I read somewhere that one should never shop when hungry. There is also an area selling magazines, popular books and newspapers, but no coffee shop, like the Streatham store.

The greatest innovation is the revolving door. This door stops when touched, providing endless fun for bored children.

Another new idea is a creche and nursery which is in a separate building at the far end of the car park. Sainsbury's staff get a discount on the cost of the nursery; it is however, open to the public on a daily or weekly basis, but not as a child-minding facility while one shops.

Sainsburys has extended the route of the S11 hourly bus, which serves the Streatham store, to run via Leigham Court Road, Royal Circus, West Norwood Library, West Dulwich Station and Dulwich Village, to Dog Kennel Hill Sainsburys. A new circular route, the S12, buses will leave Dog Kennel Hill Sainsburys at 40 minutes past the hours and travel via King's College Hospital, Loughbourgh Junction, Brixton (bus Stop 'O'), Eterne Hill Station, Halfmoon Lane, Dulwich Village and back to Dog Kennel Hill at 25 minutes past the hour. These buses will not run on Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays.

I know it is nearby, and the car park is not full on a Saturday, but how many Sainsburys do we need? After all there are Tesco, Asda, Safeways and Gateway stores, as well as at least six other Sainsburys within easy car journey distances. On the other hand, it is convenient, and you do always meet someone you know there...
WELCOME TO THE TRUST'S NEW GREEN VISITORS CENTRE

LOOKING for somewhere to take the family on that boring Sunday afternoon that's fascinating, free, and not too far away? Do you want to plant some wild flowers into your lawn or plant up a new pond, but your local garden centre has never heard of a native plant?

Then the London Wildlife Garden Centre is the place to visit, especially if you have never been before, but even if you haven't been in the last six months - amazing changes have taken place.

This newest and most unusual of the London Wildlife Trust's key sites finally reached maturity on its third birthday - when in the first week of December 1991, the official opening ceremony of its new building took place.

This beautiful visitor's centre is as unique as the project it supports. It was designed by a local architects co-operative, Architype, along with a lot of input from local people on the management committee. The building was created to be a demonstration of ecological building principles. Although its role is to interpret environmental issues - it invites a lot of interpretation in its own right - too much to let you know about here! But just let me mention: the fact that it is fully insulated with mashed up old newspapers; all the materials used are from renewable environmentally friendly processes eg. no nasty wood preservatives or polyurethane based paints. It also provides wildlife habitats by including such features as bird nest boxes built into the walls and a meadow on the roof!

Since opening it has proved very popular with visitors. There is an ever growing array of interesting natural artifacts, displays about green issues and the work of the trust, along with a friendly reception/information desk and sales area. There are always art, craft, and science activities for visiting children to do (even fifty year old ones!) as well as the usual practical conservation and gardening tasks on the site that visitors can join in with. Other visitors just like to use the project as the green oasis it is - and sit and relax, read a book, have a picnic or practise their botanising (the list of wild plants in flower for July number about 150 species)

The new building has also allowed us to increase the range of activities and events the project can offer, so there are now endless opportunities to join in, including training courses, walks, talks, slide shows and children's activity days - so pick up an events programme. Other groups are also welcome to use the building as a venue for their meetings, courses etc. but you will have to book early since an increasing number of schools, youth groups and special needs groups are using the space as a classroom/study centre.

So don't be shy, don't put it off, come and visit us and see what the London Wildlife Garden Centre has to offer you. Our Summer opening hours for casual visits and volunteers are:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays - 11.00am to 4.00pm, groups by appointment at virtually any time.

The project has full wheelchair access including toilet and baby changing facilities.

Dawn Eckhart
Project Manager
London Wildlife Garden Centre, 28 Marsden Road, East Dulwich, London SE15 4EE. Tel: 071-252 9186.

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Visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show may have noticed that it is often the miniature flowers that draw forth the most "Oohs and Aahs" of admiration, and it is generally assumed that great expertise and care must be taken to cultivate these jewel-like offerings with all their exquisite and delicate detail. Fortunately, with a little care we can all grow these tiny masterpieces in our own gardens or windowboxes and revel in their perfection and the promise they hold of the summer to come.

Many of the miniature spring flowers are extremely easy and will rapidly establish themselves in your garden and increase over the years. A satisfying collection could well include grape hyacinths (muscari) with their spires of tiny deep blue bells and anemone blanda in gentle pinks, blues and mauves. Crocus of all varieties are most rewarding but perhaps a special plea should be made for the species which are generally smaller and inclined to flower earlier than the splendid Dutch hybrids. Crocus tomasinius, for example is a delicate shade of lavender with orange antlers, and when planted in conjunction with snowdrops strikes a delightfully Edwardian note.

There are so many varieties of miniature daffodils, many growing no more than 10 inches high, and some of these, such as Triandus Angel's Tears, with the petals turned back as if poised for flight, are quite irresistible. Picture a miniature tulip, no more than 6 inches high, and with a beautiful rosy red flower, and this doesn't have to remain a figment of the imagination, but exists in reality under the name of tulipa linfolia. Tulipa tarda, often called the Water Lily tulip, is another beauty, and the Greigii hybrids come in many brilliant colours and the leave too are beautifully marked. The artistry of the gardener lies in arranging these tiny flowers in such a way as to show off their beauty to perfection.

Many of these bulbs are obtainable from garden centres, but others are well worth seeking in catalogues from specialist bulb growers such as Broadleigh Gardens in Taunton, Somerset. Such lists read like a floral litany: erythroniums or dogtooth violets, chionodoxa or "Glory of the snow"; so called because the tiny blue flowers follow the line of snow as it melts in their native alpine habitat, ornithogalum or "Star of Bethlehem", rather stately this one appears to grow a little higher than most of the other miniatures. Iris reticulata flower very early, have narrow spearlke leaves, and are available in yellow and both deep and pale blue.

An added bonus of searching through the specialist catalogues is that the growers often offer their bulbs for sale "in the green", that is when they have just finished flowering and the leaves are still clearly visible. Snowdrops have a much higher rate of success when transplanted in this state, and don't need a year or two to mature as seems to be the case when the dry bulbs are planted in the autumn. Other bulbs can be planted in their dry state from September onwards, but tulip planting should be deferred until November, to avoid attack by "tulip fire" disease.

A small bed or window box is all that is needed to contain a good selection of these exquisite harbingers of spring. Ideally it should be near the house and clearly visible in the chilly days of late winter. A raised bed has the advantage of bringing the flowers nearer to your admiring glance, and will probably offer the good drainage required by bulbs for their good health. Bulbs do not like to sit in damp or waterlogged conditions and it has to be said that the cold London clay in which we garden is not what bulbs themselves would choose.

This can be overcome by planting in soil improved by the addition of peat or compost, and by digging a plant hole with a
level table for the bulbs, which is then covered with a layer of gravel and a fine layer of sand. The bulbs can sit comfortably on this, while the roots can reach through to the damper soil beneath.

As a general rule they should be planted at a depth three times the depth of the bulb itself and with the same space between. Planting in groups of a dozen or so is not only easier but more effective than dotting them about. Nutrition is best provided by foliar feeding with a product such as Phostragen when the flowering has finished, since it is the dying leaves that feed and replenish the bulb for its performance the following year. A light dressing of compost and bonemeal in the autumn is also beneficial. Because only a small area is needed to house your display, the work required to create good bulb growing conditions can hardly be described as arduous. The bed can safely be sited under deciduous trees, as the plants will then get the light they need during their growing period.

A larger bed may well require some extra furnishing if it is not to strike a desolate look in the garden during the summer. Polyanthus are good fillers-in of spaces, and primula Wanda is a particularly neat and attractive plant, covered as it is in early spring with deep purple blooms. A dwarf conifer or two can set off the tiny blooms superbly provided they are sited not to obscure the light, and if you have a rooted aversion to any form of weeding, a ground cover plant such as Ajuga reptans will smother all but the most virulent of the invaders.

Sissinghurt Castle in Kent, the magical garden created by Vita Sackville West and her husband, Harold Nicholson, provides an excellent example of how to create a spring display. Harold Nicholson underplanted the trees in the lime walk with just such spring bulbs as those describe above. The lime walk itself was paved, but an area about a square yard was left around the base of each tree, in which he wove a "tapestry" of spring flowers. He kept a careful record of the performance of all his plants, comparing their merits, planning their arrangement for the following year, and deriving enormous pleasure from them, as does anyone who indulges in this form of gardening in microcosm.

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**GARDEN MINIATURES**

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**THE FUTURE of the SCHEME of MANAGEMENT**

MUCH DISCUSSION has taken place since the last Newsletter over the need for representatives of the Joint Residents' Committee (JRC) to meet with those of the Estates Governors' (EGs) Scheme of Management Committee (SMC). At last, I am able to state that the two sides will meet at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 23rd June. At the time of writing, no detailed Agenda has been agreed, but I imagine the main points of both parties will be included. For your information, I quote important points noted by the JRC in earlier letters to the EGs:

a) "Following the Advisory Committee meeting on the 11th February we are glad to know that it will be possible to re-commence discussion of the Scheme of Management's future, a feeling which Professor Whiteman has already expressed in his letter of the 12th February to Mr. Joanes.

"To enable us to prepare for these discussions, we now urgently wish to examine the documents requested in my letter of the 29th January, which you acknowledged on the 7th February.

"1. Neither the JRC nor the Amenity Societies were aware of the report of the Scheme Judgment in the Estates Gazette, and we should appreciate the further copy which you promised to send.

"2. At the Advisory Committee meeting I understand that the Chairman acknowledged our requirement to have a list of enfranchised owners, and confirmed that the Estates Governors were looking into means of making this information available to the JRC as soon as possible. I should be grateful if you could advise us when we may expect to receive it.

"3. On the deficiencies of the existing Scheme, we are clear that Mr. Howe's undertaking at our meeting on the 8th May 1991 was to let us see a paper which had already been prepared on the cost shortfalls of recovery and administration. We are confident that this information must be available in some form, and should be grateful if its accessibility could be looked at again." And

b) "We believe that the meeting would be unproductive unless the discussion subjects are laid down in a formal AGENDA. As far as the JRC is concerned the topics regarded as most important are detailed on page 2 of our letter of 16 January 1992. Since item 1 of the 3 listed is likely to prove most controversial and difficult, we propose that the first meeting should deal with this as the first, and possibly the only item. However, you may wish to add other topics and I shall be
gad if you will issue such an AGENDA when confirming the meeting. We assume that the Governors have accepted discussion of the matter of control of the whole Estate, as indicated under 6 b) para 3 of the minutes of the Advisory Committee of 11 February, recently issued*

"The JRC looks forward to the proposed discussions, it being understood that its preferred alternative remains that the Estate Governors should continue as Managers of the Scheme."

*The Advisory Committee, meeting in February, discussed the future of the Scheme of Management as follows under item 6 of the AGENDA:

Additional Item: The future of the Scheme of Management

The Chairman introduced the additional item, as described in the Supplementary AGENDA, which had been added following a request from the amenity societies. In opening the discussion, he confirmed that, whilst only two items had been added from the five requested by the amenity societies, the Governors remained hopeful that the Joint Residents' Committee would be prepared to enter into discussions on the future of the Scheme of Management, which could include the remaining three items.

Discussion then turned to the two specific items included in the AGENDA:

a) Details relating to the application of the Estates Governors - The Chairman confirmed that information relating to the application, together with the estimated timetable for consideration, would be circulated when available.

b) Future discussions between the Joint Residents' Committee and the Estates Governors - Professor Whiteman spoke on behalf of all three Societies. In their view, the inclusion of the Estates Governors' own property in any amended Scheme of Management was fundamental. The societies did not accept the Estates Governors' position concerning the fettering of their interests.

The societies would, however, meet the Estates Governors for further discussions if the AGENDA for the meeting included an item on controls to be introduced on the Estates Governors' property.

The Chairman thanked Professor Whiteman for his comment and advised the Committee that it would be reported to the Estates Governors for them to consider the matter further. His view was that any relevant item should be included; and the Governors would be glad of an opportunity to discuss their reasons for not accepting any further fetter over their property.

In reply to a request for a list of enfranchised freeholders on the Estate, the Chairman informed the Committee that this was not straightforward as there were issues of confidentiality involved. However, the matter was receiving consideration to see if this request could be met in other ways.

Mr Collins requested a list of costs not recovered under the Scheme of Management, as had apparently been promised at the meeting on 8 May 1991, and the Chairman replied that this was being looked into.

Finally, it was AGREED that the draft AGENDA for any future meeting between the Estates Governors and the Joint Residents' Committee, would be mutually agreed in advance if possible.

The future of the Scheme was further discussed at the meeting of the JRC on 10 March. Its main purpose was to acquaint the Committee, and others attending, with actions taken by the Council since the last meeting, and to obtain the approval and support of the Committee for these and other future actions. The Chairman, Peter Whiteman QC, pointed out that the EGs had been invited, but had declined the invitation. I quote here items from that meeting.

1. Poll Results. This was summarised in the agenda. It was clear that the overwhelming majority of residents accepted the JRC as the representative body to negotiate with the Estate Governors.

2. Organisation. The Council had concluded that it was necessary to formalise the constitution and structure of the JRC, which had so far acted as a loose federation. A formal constitution was being prepared by a small sub-committee and it was expected to be available in final draft form soon for approval by the Council, and in due course by the full JR Committee. Officers had been nominated by the Council, who were listed in the AGENDA. At this point the Chairman asked for confirmation by the meeting that these officers were duly elected. The meeting unanimously approved the election of the officers as listed.
3. Finance. Each of the 3 Amenity Societies has allocated £1,000 towards a fighting fund, potentially required for High Court action and each would pay in £100 to cover the administrative expenses being incurred for printing and postage. The Chairman requested that other bodies and individuals should also make contributions and suggested a basis of £1 - £5 per household. These contributions should be sent to the treasurer of the JRC, Prof. M.L. Meyer, 89, Alleyn Park, SE21 8AD. A bank account in the name of the JRC was being established.

4. Negotiations with the Estates Governors. It was the policy of the JRC to maintain the Governors as Managers of the Scheme and to exert pressure on them to reverse their decision to abandon the planning powers of the Scheme. The JRC were prepared to support the Governors in an application to the Court, to broaden the Charging base of the Scheme to avoid disadvantaging the charitable beneficiaries, but in return required changes to the Scheme towards more open management. The JRC had, however, to address the possibility that the Governors would proceed with their applications. Under these circumstances the JRC was not prepared to support a Dulwich Trust as imposed by the Governors, and would oppose both interim and substantive applications to the Court for any change. If a successor body were appointed the conditions outlined in the AGENDA and in correspondence with the Estate Governors would have to be met. Whilst the earlier meeting arranged with the Governors had been aborted due to the unwillingness even to place the first of these conditions on the AGENDA for discussion (that is bringing the Estates Governors' own land within the Scheme) it had been agreed at a recent Advisory Committee meeting that the JRC would not insist on acceptance of the conditions prior to a meeting but only on their placement on the AGENDA for discussion. This was accepted by the Acting Chairman of the AC and the Council were now awaiting suggestions as to dates. The Secretary of the JRC continued to press the Estate Governors for delivery of documents, which had not yet been received.

In the ensuing discussion there was unanimous support for the policies outlined. A number of detailed points were put. A member asked if acceptance of discussions on a form of Dulwich Trust implied a change of policy. The Chairman said this was not the case, but the JRC could not insist on items for discussion (e.g. Governors' land) without accepting discussion on other items which it did not favour.

Several members pointed out that the Governors had completely changed their attitude to the maintenance of the amenities of Dulwich since the Scheme was formed due to pressure from the beneficiaries, and perhaps this was their duty. The Chairman did not agree that this was the case and cited other charitable bodies whose commitment to amenity has been maintained without the need for maximising financial return. One member also felt that the Governors could in fact recover more from freeholders without necessarily taking High Court action.

Village Shops

There have been meetings between the amenity societies and the Dulwich Village Business Association for urgent discussion of the many apparently conflicting issues at stake.

The amenity societies try to give a true picture of what we believe to be the views of the people of Dulwich, but it is not always possible to arrive at a consensus. Significant minority views on the matter require serious consideration. I can only ask all members a) to write to me if they feel strongly about the future of the shops, so that their views can be considered, and b) to bear with us in these discussions if quick decisions are not immediately forthcoming.

Possible Amalgamation between the DRA and the Dulwich Society

Patrick Spencer, until recently a member of the Executive Committee, and much involved with Society matters over recent years, is to join myself, John Chilcott, Chairman, and Roger Browning, Committee member, of the DRA for discussions on this matter. It is hoped that proposals will eventually be formulated to be put to both memberships for further evaluation and decision.

Reg Collins
LEASEHOLD REFORM

This letter is intended to provide an 'up-date' of the information on 'Leasehold Reform' in NEWSLETTER 94 (see my letter on p.49). The DoE leaflet I referred to, which had been published in July 1991, has been withdrawn and a new leaflet entitled, "ENFRANCHISEMENT OF LONG LEASEHOLD FLATS - The Government's Revised Proposals" is now available from the Department of the Environment by telephoning 071-276 3398.

The new proposals are: (i) that most people owning leasehold flats in buildings which do not qualify for enfranchisement should have a new right to extend their leases on an individual basis; (ii) to modify the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 so that houses with the highest capital values will be brought into its scope and become enfranchiseable.

The reforms will be introduced as part of the proposed Commonhold Bill, but the leaflet referred to above does not cover commonhold tenure; it deals only with changes to the law governing leasehold tenure in certain kinds of property.

There are important differences between enfranchisement and commonhold which are summarised as follows:

ENFRANCHISEMENT does not change the freeholder/leaseholder structure, and all the mutual obligations defined by the leases remain. It give long leaseholders a right to buy collectively, at market price, the freehold of their block, together with the interests of any intermediate landlords. Enfranchisement offers: a greater stake in property; control of management; power to grant new leases, to overcome loss of value as terms diminish.

COMMONHOLD is an entirely different, new form of tenure, especially suitable for multi-unit buildings with interdependent parts. Such buildings can be converted to commonhold at any time, as long as all the parties owning significant interests agree. There are no landlords under the system and no long leases. Instead each commonholder owns her/ her unit outright, together with a share in the common parts. Management of the whole is the responsibility of the democratically-run 'Commonhold Association'. Standard rules will govern management and also help to make buying and selling commonhold units simpler and cheaper.

John Aldwinckle, 76 Farquhar Road, SE19 1LT

OTDOGS TO SAINDSBURY

Dear Lord Sainsbury,

I am sorry that you did not perform the opening ceremony at the East Dulwich store on Tuesday. As you know, there is considerable anger in the local community about the loss of the open green space and the extra traffic which residents will have to suffer for about 360 days a year. In order to placate the local community, as a shareholder I am writing to make two requests. Firstly, will you please cease trading on Sundays. Secondly, will you please buy the North Dulwich Hospital site, convert it into a public park and give it to Southwark Council.

If you agree to these requests, campaigning against Sainsbury's at East Dulwich will cease. I shall look forward to hearing from you and shall be grateful for an early reply.

John D Beasley, 6 Everthorpe Road, Peckham, London, SE15 4DA

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The idea of publishing names of non-payers of subs in the DS Newsletter I would NOT find offensive, as I can never remember whether I've paid or not, and reminder would actually HELP!

John Westwood,
The Malt House, Church Lane, Streatley, Reading, RG8 9HT.

Why not drop in for some summer reading?

1d Calton Avenue, Dulwich Village, London SE21 7DE
Telephone: 081-693 2808
THE SAD news of Bill de Baerdemaecker's death obliges us to pay tribute to the sterling work he did for the Dulwich Society, with June supporting him. And to look back over that period. Although we came to live in remote Berkshire ten years ago, we still read your Newsletter with great interest, and particularly note that there seem to be even more unusual and creative people in Dulwich these days.

Your archives will contain a copy of the Dulwich Society Calendar 1971, which Peter Lawson compiled and which I designed for the splendid but now rare method of hot-metal letterpress printing. Thomas Bewick's wood engraving of the swan has been the Society's emblem since then.

Nineteen-seventy was a busy time, because in that year my wife, as a member of your Trees Committee (Bill de Baerdemaeker was there) suggested that I should undertake a 1:1250 survey of all the trees, each identified by variety, in Sydenham Hill Wood, then called Lapse Wood, because it was in great danger of being built over by the local authority with high density building. I have the master drawing before me: I mapped 310 oaks, 47 beeches, 51 yews, 21 hornbeams, 14 chestnuts and 2200 smaller trees. When shrubs (rhododendron, laurel, etc) were added, my wife and I found over 40 main varieties. It is a pleasure to know that publicising this survey of the woodland helped towards its preservation as such. And in 1980, a survey of the smaller triangular site at Farquhar Road (see Newsletters 50 and 51) was also successful.

In Berkshire, we have had a similar struggle to preserve an even larger area of fine hilltop woodland overlooking the Thames, which was being desecrated by organised motorcycle scramblers: this ('The Holies') is now National Trust property.

Although now thirteen years into retirement, I share with your unusual fellow-citizens an enjoyment of eccentric activity! In 1975 I found that the Meccano hobby, so popular with boys sixty years ago, was still developing its magic with impressive complexity; we now have computer control and radio control of wonderful models, and I am publisher and editor of 'International Meccano Man' magazine, with readers in sixteen countries worldwide. There are twenty Meccano clubs in the UK, now mainly adult; the Dutch club has 600 members; French, 500; and so on. A fascinating hobby; any Dulwich Society members who would like to revive and update this interest are welcome to write (enclosing sae) to me, John Westwood, The Malt House, Church Lane, Streatley, Reading, RG8 9HT.

La Gastronomia

Italian Delicatessen - for home-made patés and salads, and fine Italian wines, Continental cheeses, Italian salamis, freshly ground coffee as well as provisions for your everyday needs.

Ivano invites you to bring this advert with you to La Gastronomia and claim your free taste of Italy when you shop.

SHOPS AND SHELVES

QUOTATIONS OVER THE PHONE 071-737 2655

135 Half Moon Lane, Dulwich. Tel: 071-274 1034
Monday to Saturday, 9 - 7.30 Sunday, 10 - 1.30

My wife has for some years been secretary of the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group. Still digging!

Having helped years ago with the editing and production of the Dulwich Society Newsletter, we look forward with all the more interest to seeing your hundredth edition. Our kind regards to all old friends.

John Westwood 9.3.92
Early watercolours by Ann Spencer

ANN SPENCER, you might say, had a Good War. She got into training during a long childhood illness, when long periods spent lying on her back meant she had little to do but teach herself to draw. Then as a young woman during the war she drove a taxi in Wiltshire and in Kent, and on her days off she rode into the country by bicycle to paint a number of truly stunning watercolours.

After the war her career as a teacher of art continued, culminating in the many years she spent at the London University Institute of Education, from where she is fondly remembered by many of today's art teachers.

It was while in the process of clearing plan chests in the attic of her Dulwich home in preparation for the move to a smaller house that these forgotten paintings came to light. They encompass country holidays in England and France during the war and shortly afterwards.

The exhibition continues through June and July at The Other Dulwich Picture Gallery, 63 Beauval Road, SE22 by appointment: Phone 081-693 4361
**ART IN DULWICH THIS SUMMER**

198 Gallery: 198 Railton Road, SE24. Phone 071 978 8309. Hours: Tues - Sat 10 - 6. During June: "A Month to Remember". The ANC is 80 years old this month. This exhibition is of five South African artists and is timed to coincide with ANC Day on 26th June. During July, August: "Walking on Sunshine": a preview of the coming 12 months.

Artemidos: 27B Half Moon Lane, SE24. phone 071 737 7747. Hours: Tues - Fri 10:30am - 7pm. Sat 10:30 - 6. Details of summer exhibition not available, but it is always worth a visit. The gallery is upstairs from the shop.

Austen Pinkerton Gallery: 20 North Cross Road, SE22. phone 081 693 6210. Hours: Sat 10:30am - 1pm and by appointment. Interesting private gallery showing paintings, drawings and sculpture by Austen Pinkerton himself. Most works for sale.

Dulwich Picture Gallery: College Road, SE21. Phone 081 693 5254. Hours: Tues - Fri 10 - 1, 2 - 5. Sat 10 - 5, Sun 2 - 5. "Treasures of a Polish King" Collection of art treasures from Poland.

Galerie Dagmar
Upland Road,
Phone 081 693
Hours: Tues, Wed, 
- 3:30, Sat 11 - 5. Abstract
paintings by
Jane and
Seward. To 4th July.

The Other Dulwich
Picture Gallery
Beaumal Road,
Phone 081 693
"From my
watercolours by
Spencer. A ver
rediscovered
landsca
war years throu
June and Jul
appointment.

Itinerant poet Peter Cadle must have covered quite a lot of London by now with the door-to-door selling of his delightful collection of poems "Afterthoughts."

"copper-beech
Watching the movements of a tree
the less they are the more I see

It makes a refreshing change from dusters and pens.

If you haven't come across him, you could get it from:

First Impressions,
PO Box 1808,
London NW3 3AW
Saturday, June 27 - 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Liverpool Grove off Walworth Road, SE17 Music for Voices and Brass with the Fine Arts Brass Ensemble. (Dulwich Choral Society)

Saturday, July 5 - 12pm - 7pm
London Wildlife Garden Centre Green Fayre: stalls, arts and crafts, music, food and fun. (LWT - 071-252-9186.)

Thursday, July 9 - 7.45pm
St Barnabas Hall, Dulwich Village The Court of the Dukes of Burgundy, by Edward Saunders. (DDPAS)

Sunday, July 12 - 3pm
Meet at Peckham Rye Station (duration two hours) Peckham Architectural Walk. (The Peckham Society)

Wednesday, July 15 - 7.30pm
Great Hall, Dulwich College Highlight performance of Bizet's Carmen, by Opera Interludes. One hour picnic interval. Ten pounds.

Sunday, August 2 - 11am - 5pm
London Wildlife Garden Centre Prefabs, Perches and Penthouse: A family activity day on how to make and encourage homes for wildlife. (LWT 071-252-9186)

Sunday, September 20 - 3pm
St John's Vestry, Goose Green Short films on Peckham. (The Peckham Society)

Thursday, October 1 - 8pm
St Barnabas Hall, Dulwich Village Cottage Gardens, an illustrated lecture by Stephen P Crisp. (The Garden Group)

The Lambethans' Society invites members of The Dulwich Society to its weekly Thursday meetings. Telephone 081-761-1059 or 081 871-4956.
BARTLEY'S
of Dulwich

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