



The Dulwich Society

TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

Newsletter 39

January 1978

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Vice Chairman:	Peter F.J. Lawson, 41 Village Way, SE21	733 2646
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope you all had a very happy Christmas and that the New Year will be both happy and prosperous for you. At the moment the amenities of Dulwich, which are our principal concern, are fortunately not seriously threatened but this is no reason for relaxing our guard. Our influence in the places where planning and other decisions are made does depend very much on the size of our membership and I am therefore very pleased to see that our strength is being maintained and that we have nearly one hundred new members since we put out our annual appeal in the autumn. I look forward to meeting many of you during the coming year and I hope you will enjoy the various meetings we are planning for 1978 and which are detailed below.

We held a successful meeting in November last in St Barnabas' Hall at which we invited members of the public who were not yet members of the Society to come and meet our Executive Committee and other committee members and to learn something about the Society and what we have been doing in the past year. As a result of this we have a number of new members and we feel encouraged to do something similar next year.

We had another very successful gathering in December with our sister Society, the Dulwich Choral Society. As a result of an unfortunate confusion between ourselves and the booking agencies there was a muddle about the location for this meeting, but luckily all was well in the end and we held it most happily in the Dining Hall of Dulwich College. We are most grateful to the Master for providing the Society with such an admirable setting, and also to the staff of the College for the very considerable help given to us in making these arrangements. We very much hope that this combined meeting, which is undoubtedly a highlight of our year, will become a regular feature of the Dulwich calendar and that it will in future attract the larger audiences that both the recognised high quality of the Choral Society's singing and the wide range of their programmes richly deserve.

Roger V. Low

MEETINGS IN 1978

Please make a note in your 1978 diaries of the following events planned for this year. Fuller details of the later meetings will be given in later newsletters which, for the benefit of new members, are published quarterly in January, April, July and October.

2 February 8 pm St Barnabas' Hall - Local History
An illustrated historical talk by Bill de Baerdemaeker entitled 'Dulwich past and present'. This will include many of Bill's old favourites as well as an interesting collection of newly discovered photographs.

2 March

8 pm St Barnabas' Hall
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Light refreshments available.

19 20 April

8 pm St Barnabas' Hall - Planning
'Planning policies in the new GLC', a talk by Councillor
H.H. Sandford, Chairman of the Central Area Planning
Committee and member of the Planning and Communications
Policy Committee.
This is a great opportunity to hear an authoritative
statement of the new GLC's attitude to planning.

20 21 April

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER
This will be held at 7.15 for 7.45 pm on Friday 21 April and
will be held, as last year, in the Dining Hall of Dulwich
College (by kind permission of the Master). The price per
head will be £6 and dress will be lounge suits for gentlemen.
The principal guest and speaker will be the Rt Reverend
Michael E. Marshall, Bishop of Woolwich.

N.B. Numbers which can be accommodated are limited so please
apply for tickets in good time to Mr L.J. Sequeira using the
application slip on the back of this newsletter.

4 May

8 pm The Great Hall, Dulwich College - Wild Life
A film show 'A garden for birds' introduced by Mr Ian Dawson.
Some may remember Mr Dawson's excellent films on squirrels
and owls which he showed to a packed Society meeting in May
1972.

1 June

8 pm St Barnabas' Hall - Trees
An illustrated talk by Mr Peter Bridgeman on 'The effect of
trees on property'. Mr Bridgeman has for the past nine years
been Head of Arboricultural Studies at Merrist Wood Agricultural
College and is now running a trees consultancy organisation.

6 July

Trees walk in Horniman Park and Gardens. The rendezvous and
time for assembly will be notified in our next newsletter.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The official notification and agenda are printed in this newsletter in accordance
with the rules of the Society. We hope that you will be free to attend this
meeting and to hear what the Society has achieved in the past year and hopes to
achieve in 1978. Light refreshments will be served to revive you after the
business is concluded.

We are sorry to have to announce the resignation of a long standing member of the
Executive Committee, Mrs K.M. Evans, Chairman of the Social Sub-Committee. You
will be hearing a proposal that Mr L.J. Sequeira of 156 Court Lane be elected to
the Executive Committee in her place.

We would remind you that other nominations for these vacant positions on the
Executive Committee may be received by the Chairman, Secretary or other Committee
member up to 14 days before the 2 March, 1978.

THE DULWICH SOCIETY

NOTICE is hereby given that the 15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
DULWICH SOCIETY will be held at 8.0 p.m. on Thursday 2 March 1978,
in ST BARNABAS' HALL, DULWICH VILLAGE.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held on 3 March
1977 to be read and approved.
2. Chairman's report, including reports by the Chairmen of
Sub-Committees.
3. Treasurer's report.
4. Secretary's report.
5. Election of Officers for 1978/79.
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice-Chairman
 - c. President
 - d. Vice-President
 - e. Secretary
 - f. Treasurer
 - g. Executive Committee.
6. Appointment of Auditor.
7. Other Business.

Note: Nominations for election as an officer or as a member of the
Executive Committee must be submitted in writing to the Executive
Committee by two members not less than fourteen days before the
2 March and must be endorsed in writing by the candidate (Rule 9).
Nominations may be sent by post to the Hon. Secretary.

R.M.S. Maude
Hon. Secretary

15 January 1978

THE DULWICH ARTS FESTIVAL

An Arts Festival is to be held in Dulwich from 19-24 May 1978 and we have some preliminary information from the organising committee.

It will be divided into two sections:

1. An exhibition of Arts, Crafts and Flowers
2. A programme of various events taking place at different venues in Dulwich

The Exhibition will be housed in St. Barnabas' Church in Calton Avenue and will consist of about twelve sections, some of which will be sub-divided according to age. Items will be submitted by individuals and institutes or schools and selection will be made. Prizes or certificates will be awarded in each section.

Sections will include :

Arts	Metalwork
Soft crafts and toys	Photography
Needlework and embroidery	Jewellery
Pottery	Flower arrangements
Basketry	Printing
Handicrafts (wood)	Poetry

The outline programme of events is as follows:

Friday	19 May	Reception and opening of the exhibition
Sat	20 May	Exhibition open to the public 8.0 pm Concert by Dulwich Orchestra
Sun	21 May	9.30 am Flower Festival family communion in St. Barnabas' Church 3.0 pm Country Dancing 6.30 pm Arts Festival evening service
Mon	22 May	2.30-4.30 pm Tea and concert by Dulwich Ladies Choir for the elderly 8.0 pm Musical Evening by Dulwich College
Tue	23 May	2.30 pm Concert for Children 8.0 pm A people's concert
Wed	24 May	8.0 pm Arts Festival Ball

The Dulwich Adult Education Institute is acting as the coordinating body for the Festival and all correspondence should be sent to Dulwich Institute Office, Dulwich Infants School, Dulwich Village, SE21 (Tel: 693 0383). The Festival Director is Mr A.R. Chandler.

Planning is still in progress and more details will be available later.

THE ESTATES ACCOUNTS

As has been previously observed in this Newsletter the accounts of Alleyn's College of God's Gift are open to public inspection. A member has sent us the following summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 March, 1977.

(All figures have been rounded off to the nearest thousand pounds).

<u>1975/6</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>1976/7</u>
£ 000.		£ 000
<u>Income</u>		
216	Rack Rents	239
110	Ground Rents	99
18	Tolls	18
<u>1</u>	Other	<u>1</u>
345	Total rents etc.	357
74	Investment income	172
<u>10</u>	Other "	<u>4</u>
429	Total income	534

Expenditure

117	Estate expenses	138
68	Management	82
<u>39</u>	Various	<u>50</u>
224	Total expenditure	271
<u>204</u>	Surplus available for distribution	<u>263</u>

The expenditure includes £11,553 (£16,191 the previous year) for tollgate expenses and £11,384 (£11,099) for the scheme of management.

The tollgate produced a surplus of £6,102 which was credited to the Repairs Fund (Roads and General). Expenditure from this fund included £1,756 on diseased elms.

The surplus was distributed as follows:-

99	The College	127
14	Alleyn's school	17
6	Picture Gallery	11
55	James Allen's Girls' School	71
<u>30</u>	Other beneficiaries	<u>38</u>
204	Total	263

TREES

Mrs Esther Blackburn

We are very sorry to report the death of Mrs Blackburn who had been a valuable member of the Trees sub-committee for several years. She was an active member of the Society and her work covered a wide range of matters relating to tree surveys for both botanical and planning purposes. The newsletter has often carried her reports and this year she worked with Miss Rosa Davis on the survey and production of the excellent Jubilee Trees Walk, an item that has won acclaim from many members of the Society as well as the congratulations of the Parks Departments of both the GLC and the London Borough of Southwark.

Members may like to know that two Norway Maples are to be planted in Grove Meadow (near Love Lane) in memory of Mrs Blackburn, the cost being borne jointly by the family and the Society.

Belair Trees Walk

Many will recall with pleasure the interesting Trees Walk at Belair last July led by Mr Bradbury and his assistant Mr Brooks. This meeting was so successful that it was suggested that a printed record of the walk be produced, on the same lines as the GLC publication for Dulwich Park and our own Jubilee Trees Walk. Mr Bradbury has recently informed us that scale plans of Belair are being produced on which the most interesting trees will be plotted.

Dulwich Schools - Trees Surveys

Some time ago we had the good luck to be provided with an excellent list of trees in the grounds of James Allens Girls School. More recently Messrs Davidson and de Baerdemaeker of the Trees sub-committee were able to give some technical help to one of the boys at the Preparatory School who has now completed an excellent survey of the grounds of Brightlands boarding house on the corner of Gallery Road and Dulwich Common.

The Dulwich Zelkova

The Zelkova is a comparatively rare tree and the one at the junction of the South Circular and College Road is well known. It is about 200 years old and dominates the crossing - in fact rather too much so as it has recently shown dangerous tendencies to lean over the road with possible danger to traffic if any part of it should fall. It is a very large tree and Mr Scott, the Estates Bailiff, has been keeping a close eye on it for some time.

It was recently decided that something would have to be done, so on Sunday morning 13th November some fairly drastic pruning was carried out to take a substantial weight from the side overhanging the road and large branches were cut back and painted over.

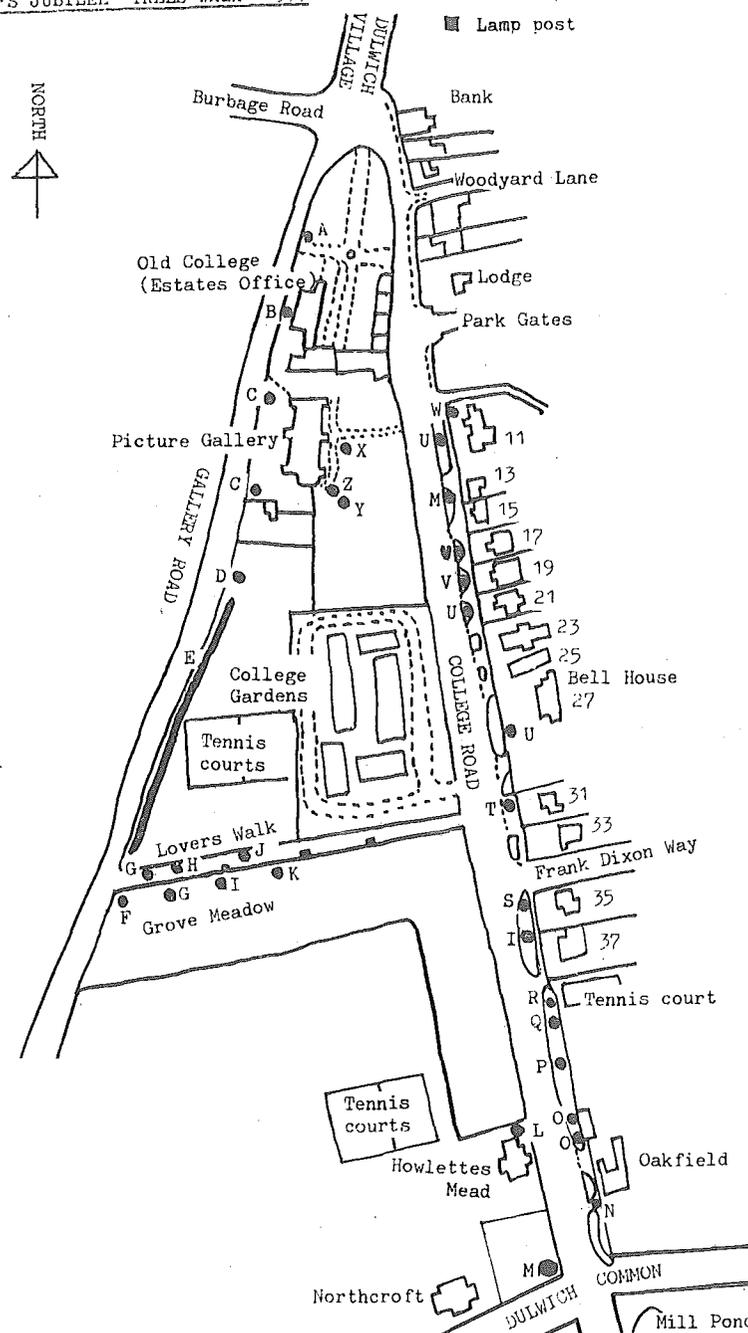
It needs great expertise to decide where to cut branches on so large a tree and how best to do it. We think that a really good job has been done here and we hope that the result will be that the tree stands safely for many years to come.

Trees Please

We now have a number of copies of a leaflet published by the Blue Circle Group entitled 'Trees Please'. This gives simple advice to the layman on selection, planting and care of trees and would be useful for anybody who is thinking of new planting in the garden. Copies may be obtained from Alan Barnard at 18 Dovercourt Road, SE22 (693 6487).

The Dulwich Society QUEEN'S JUBILEE 'TREES WALK' 1977

- Trees marked A to Z on the map (descriptions follow overleaf)
- Lamp post



DULWICH SOCIETY

QUEEN'S JUBILEE TREES WALK 1977

(Refer to map on page 9)

- A. Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*). The flat-topped Cedar referred to in the Bible.
- B. Purple-leaved Plum (*Prunus Pissardii*). First discovered as a sport by Mons. Pissard, gardener to the Shah of Persia. Much planted in roads and parks.
- C. Dawyck Beech (*Fagus Dawyck*). A formal tree with upright branches named after Dawyck, near Peebles, Scotland.
- D. Common Oak (*Quercus robur*). A large, long-lived tree. Particularly note the long stalks of the acorns because the most common Oak in Dulwich is *Q. petrae* which has no stalks to its acorns. Not one on this walk.
- E. English Elm. (*Ulmus procera*). Healthy (subsequently showing 'dying-back') young growth of the diseased Elms which have been cut down.
- F. Lucombe Oak (*Q. Lucombeana*). A hybrid Oak raised in an Exeter nursery in 1762 by Mr. Lucombe.
- G. Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica 'purpurea'*).
- H. Common Lime (*Tilia europaea*). This tree has sweet-scented flowers and is often recognised by its suckering habit.
- I. Pyramid Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'*). Quite narrow as a young tree but broadening as it matures.
- J. Purple Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus 'purpureum'*).

(continued on pages 15 and 16)

(continued from page 10)

- K. Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). Many planted in Dulwich because it was Edward Alleyn's favourite tree.
- L. Cappadocian Maple (*Acer cappadocicum*). Attractive trunk and beautifully coloured leaves in Autumn.
- M. Caucasian Elm (*Zelkova carpinifolia*). A rare tree characterised by scores of stems.
- N. Plane (*Platanus hispanica*). A fine specimen of a tree much grown in towns because the bark flakes off, helping it to tolerate pollution.
- O. Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Two fine trees - particularly note the compound leaves.
- P. Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*). Leaves deeply divided and sharply lobed with pin-pointed ends.
- Q. Cut-leaved Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus 'Incisa'*). Some of the leaves are like the Oak and others like the Hornbeam. Often thought of as an Oak growing on a Beech.
- R. Single-leaved Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior 'Diversifolia'*). Rare. Compare with the common Ash.
- S. Chestnut-leaved Oak (*Quercus castaneifolia*). A rare tree with leaves like the Sweet Chestnut.
- T. Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*). A most distinctive tree.
- U. Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Distinct-shaped leaves and attractive tulip-like flowers.

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- V. Scarlet Oak (*Quercus cocconea*). One of the finest trees for autumn colouring.
- W. Variegated Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus variegatum*).
- X. Judas Tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*). A member of the pea family; the rosy-pink flowers often develop before the leaves.
- Y. Deciduous Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). A tall, narrow tree with leaves appearing late, good autumn tints.
- Z. Black Mulberry (*Morus nigra*). A long-lived tree with blackish red fruit.

If you wish to follow the Trees Walk, pages 9, 10, 15 and 16 may be removed together from this Newsletter for ease of reference

R.D. and E.J.B.

May, 1977

TRAFFIC IN DULWICH VILLAGE

The pedestrian crossing in the narrow part of the Village which was laid at the end of October has been a considerable help to pedestrians. It is well lit for dark evenings. Motorists will know that parking within the zig-zag lines at either side of the crossing is illegal, and it is to be hoped that at any rate no members of the Society will face prosecution.

The proposal for the experimental traffic roundabout in the area of the newly restored Fountain was an inevitable casualty of the economies of the current financial year, but there is reason to hope that it will be put into operation when funds become available. It is intended that there shall be convenient crossings for pedestrians at the junctions of Burbage Road, College Road and Gallery Road.

The object of both these measures is to make the Village a safer place by reducing the speed of traffic.

PLANNING

The Southwark District Plan

As many of you will be aware the London Borough of Southwark has been holding a series of consultative meetings in the Borough to get the views of local people and Societies on their plans for future development of the Borough. The part of the plan affecting Dulwich and its surroundings (the Mid/South Southwark District Plan) was discussed at a public meeting in Kingswood House on 6 October 1977 at which the Dulwich Society was well represented. The object of this meeting was to identify planning problems and opportunities.

As a result of this meeting, and subsequent discussions in the Society's Executive Committee and Planning Sub-Committee, the Dulwich Society has submitted a considered statement to the Borough. Since this is an important document which represents the fruit of much discussion and consideration, it is reproduced on the following pages for the information of all our members.

MID/SOUTH SOUTHWARK DISTRICT PLAN
STATEMENT BY THE DULWICH SOCIETY

Introduction

Largely as a result of the influence over development exercised by the Estates' Governors for many years, Dulwich is quite different in a number of respects from the areas that surround it. A remarkably high proportion of open space in an area so close to central London and a particular kind of residential population more akin - both in terms of private and local authority housing - to that of a small town than to a centre of urban population have enabled Dulwich not only to be a pleasant place in its own right in which to live but also to serve a positive function in relation to the borough as a whole. Thus, Bel Air park (bought by the Borough of Southwark to serve local needs); Dulwich Park (given by the Estates' Governors to the London County Council); the Scout Training ground in Grange Lane serving Scouts in the whole of South London; the Dulwich Art Gallery; the multitude of playing fields in the area serving Southwark institutions; the Dulwich Village Conservation Area and the many fine trees which beautify the district; and (we hope for the future) Lapse Wood and its surrounds: all of these provide amenities and recreational facilities for Southwark as a whole and should be treasured.

It is against this background, and with the philosophy expressed in the Greater London Development Plan (GLDP) in mind, that the following contributions to the preparation of the mid-South Southwark District Plan are offered. The main headings are those used in the London Borough of Southwark's own Stage 1 consultative document "Problems and Opportunities".

A Living in the Area

Traffic: Use of local roads

Our attitude towards this reflects the statement in the GLDP (para 5.6.18) that:-

"Local roads should provide:

- i for local traffic
- ii access to buildings
- iii access to secondary roads, both for vehicles and for pedestrians

Their use by traffic having no need for access in the locality will be restricted"

The last part of this statement is particularly important, and although the Society recognise that the South Circular Road, Croxted Road and (on the boundary) Lordship Lane are, despite their manifest inadequacies, major through routes, they regard it as of the first importance to the maintenance of the position of Dulwich as a valued amenity for the borough and indeed for South London generally, that through traffic should be discouraged from the area by appropriate traffic management measures. These might include the maintenance and improvement of public transport facilities, carefully considered parking restrictions and other measures of restraint of the kinds discussed in sections 5.7 and 5.8 of the GLDP.

Freight traffic

The use of such major roads as the area possesses by heavy through freight traffic is a particular irritant (all of these roads are also residential) and this problem can only in the end be ameliorated by action to "redispose heavy freight generators advantageously in relation to the main road net work or to the railways and to secure efficient freight handling and distribution" (GLDP 5.7.4)

Off-street car parking

It is often suggested that off-street car-parking should be provided at local B.R. stations. Leaving aside the fact that at most local stations (West Dulwich, North Dulwich, Herne Hill) acceptable sites are difficult to find, the provision of such facilities would in the Society's view simply encourage commuters from areas to the south to use their private cars for part of the journey to work and to treat the Dulwich stations as interchanges on the route into central London. This runs clean counter to the policy (adequate car parking at outer-area stations, rail-bus interchanges in Inner London) expressed in para 5.5.19 of the GLDP, which the Society endorses.

Parking policies generally

There is need for the provision of car parking at and around local schools, community halls, playing fields, evening institutes and the like. However, these are all situated in residential areas, and both the provision of car parking and indeed restrictions on parking in such areas and elsewhere in the area where speeding, congestion etc

cause problems require very careful consideration in the light of the particular circumstances of each case. It must also be borne in mind that Dulwich is an area of high car-ownership and poor public transport. The Society will be giving further thought to these problems and will make further representations in due course. Conversely, the Society will expect to be consulted as a matter of course about the traffic and parking policies of the local authorities.

Open spaces

One open space in the area whose future is still in question is Lapse Wood; that is, the woodland extending from the Sydenham Hill ridge down to the bed of the former railway. The Society's view on this is that

- a A 'single-skin' fringe of housing should be allowed along the top of the site; such development should not however break the skyline as seen from the London side.
- b The remainder of this woodland should be retained in its wild and natural state with limited access for educational purposes.
- c That the railbed be put into use as a public footpath, linked at one end with Low Cross Walk and at the other with a pathway to Sydenham Hill.

In the same general area it would be possible without heavy public expenditure to provide further pedestrian routes (for example by extending Grange Lane and skirting the edge of the woods), and by providing limited car parking at appropriate points to build upon the present skeleton network of pathways and pedestrian walks. This would enable the potential of the Sydenham Hill ridge - identified as an area of special character on page 66 of the GLDP - as a recreational area for Southwark to be realised while minimising the danger of saturation and destruction of the amenities. At the same time, the several copses in the area should remain accessible to keyholders only (free access would create problems of maintenance and control) although the right to purchase keys might be made more widely available.

Conservation areas

- a The Society consider that the existing Dulwich Village conservation area should be extended past the College Road tollgate up to and

including St Stephen's Church.

- b The north end of Alleyn Road features a sweep of houses on the west side which are individually of little architectural merit. Taken as a group, however, and coupled with the houses (nos. 1-15) on the east side which the London Borough of Southwark has already included in its own lists, these properties contribute greatly to the character of the area. They are vulnerable to piecemeal redevelopment, and the Society considers that a further Conservation Area would be justified here.

Street furniture

The atmosphere of an area such as Dulwich - where replicas of ancient finger-posts have been placed on a number of original sites - can be severely affected by insensitively sited and obtrusive street furniture (much of it made necessary by the intrusion into the area of traffic that does not belong there). This needs special care and attention.

B Working and Workers

Public transport

The Society would resist the intrusion of full-size buses into the village and its immediate surroundings. However, the mini-bus running between the village, Brixton and Forest Hill has been a success. Other experiments of this type - with the improvement of north-south communications within the borough, and the improvement of services between the more isolated parts of the area and surrounding shopping centres, in mind - should be considered.

The Society considers that the extension of Underground routes from the present terminus at Brixton into the area should not be rejected out of hand. It also urges the London Borough of Southwark to emphasise in its discussions with the GLC and British Rail the critical importance of present surface railway services to commuters living in the area and to resist reductions in the frequency of such services, the length of trains and increases in fares beyond those made unavoidable by inflation.

Employment

The Society does not in general see Dulwich as an employment-providing area on any significant scale. However, there are in and (more frequently) on the borders of the area a number of small enclaves providing small-scale employment in services and the like. The Society would not wish these to be arbitrarily rejected.

C Shopping and shoppers

Although the Herne Hill and Gipsy Hill roundabout shopping centres are, strictly speaking, outside the immediate area served by the Society, they are nevertheless used by residents in the area and are among its amenities. Both, but Herne Hill in particular, lack parking facilities, and the imposition of on-street parking restrictions has made matters worse. Reconsideration of this problem is needed in order to arrest the decline of these valued services.

D Community services

The area is already well provided with parks, open spaces, community halls and other such services. However, there are one or two points that might be made under these headings:-

a Play facilities for children are still lacking in and around some developments and force children on to the streets.

b Trees are very much a 'service' to the community and a cherished feature of the district. Their existence, and the need to maintain their numbers, itself precludes high-density building developments, and it is also essential that

i the Council should be ready to make Tree Preservation Orders wherever a threat emerges, and

ii conditions to planning permissions aimed at protecting trees should be carefully considered and rigorously enforced.

The Dulwich Society
December 1977

THE DULWICH DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

It is possible that some of our members may not be aware of the activities of the Decorative and Fine Arts Society, the local branch of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies (NADFAS).

The Society provides lectures and study groups on a wide variety of subjects concerned with the arts and also aims to help in the conservation of our national heritage. The parent body, NADFAS, has organised a voluntary conservation corps, VCC, on a national basis and their help is given in country houses, museums, churches and libraries. The local group of VCC members works at the Horniman Museum as well as being able to take part in such activities as guiding in London galleries, organised by NADFAS headquarters.

The Society holds monthly meetings in St Barnabas' Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 8 pm and also organises outings and study groups. Visits this year are being made to the Dulwich Gallery on 14 March and the Workshops of Gold and Silversmith, Gerald Benney, near Reading, on 18 May.

The membership fee is £3.75 p.a. for adults, £2.00 for students and £6.00 for married couples.

The Secretary is Mrs E. Wilson of 143 Gibson Hill, Norbury, SW16 (670 5208) who would be pleased to hear from interested members of the public, and who can give full details of all the Society's activities.