

The Dulwich Society

TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

Newsletter 40

April 1978

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

JOHN ROGERS

Members of the Town Planning Sub-Committee were deeply shocked by the sudden death on 27 February of their Secretary, John Rogers. John had been a knowledgeable, helpful and much valued member of the Committee for a number of years, and both as colleague and as friend we shall all miss him greatly. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Pauline and his two sons.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held in St Barnabas Hall on Thursday 2nd March 1978 with Mr Roger Low in the chair in the absence of the President: 46 members were present on a cold and very wet night.

The minutes of the previous AGM on 3rd March 1977 were approved subject to a number of typing errors which were corrected.

The Chairman spoke briefly on events of the past year which, on the whole, had been a successful year for the Society which had maintained its membership at around the 1000 mark and continued to be in a sound financial state. This enabled the annual subscription to be maintained at the low level of £1.00 per household, it is hoped for two or three years in the future.

After paying tribute to the members of the Executive and Sub Committees for all the hard work they were doing, the Chairman remarked that this meeting marked the 15th anniversary of the Society, a suitable moment to take stock of our present situation and an appropriate time to look to the future of the Society in the local community. He was sure that the present efforts of the Society were achieving a beneficial effect on the local amenity which, although still pleasant, was subject to pressures - housing, road development, traffic etc - on many sides. Some changes are certainly inevitable but it must always be the aim of the Society to ensure that nothing is done without every possible consideration of its effect on the people living in the area, and this is something which the Society is especially well equipped to achieve with its reasonably large membership and good relations with local authorities. In this respect the recent statement by the Dulwich Society on the Mid/South Southwark District Plan (printed in the January newsletter) was an important and well thought-out contribution.

The Chairman concluded by remarking that the existing officials of the Society were not getting any younger and would have to be replaced in due course by younger members so he would be very pleased to hear from volunteers prepared to take any active part, in any capacity, in the Society's activities.

Reports were then received from Chairmen of the various sub-committees, the main points of which have been covered in this and previous newsletters under their particular headings.

Officers of the Society were then elected or re-elected and the present office holders are listed in the centre-fold of this newsletter. These pages may be detached if necessary and kept for future reference.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Social Sub Committee provided welcome refreshments and the meeting concluded on a pleasant social note.

SOCIETY MEETINGS - SUMMER 1978

- 20 April Planning 8 pm St Barnabas' Hall, Dulwich Village
'Planning policies in the new GLC' by Councillor H.H. Sandford, Chairman of the Central Area Planning Committee.
- 21 April THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER
7.45 pm in the Dining Hall of Dulwich College. There may be a few tickets left, so ring Mr L.J. Sequeira, 693 7779.
- 4 May Wild Life 8 pm The Great Hall, Dulwich College. Film Show.
'A garden for growing birds' introduced by Mr Ian Dawson, the well-known Surrey naturalist who gave such an interesting talk to the Society three years ago.
- 1 June Trees 8 pm St Barnabas' Hall
'The Effect of Trees on Property' by Mr Peter Bridgeman recently Head of Arboricultural Studies at Merrist Wood Agricultural College and now Principal of the newly formed Arboricultural Consultancy Service.
- 6 July Trees Walk 7.30 pm in Horniman Gardens. This year's trees walk has been kindly arranged by Mr R.E. Pudney, the newly appointed Park Manager at Horniman Gardens.
The rendezvous is at 7.30 pm at the front of the Bandstand situated in the approximate centre of the Park. Cars can be parked without great difficulty in Sydenham Hill Rise opposite Museum and Tennis Courts.

Details of meetings in the Autumn and Winter will be included in the next newsletter, but there will be no meeting in August.

THE DULWICH ARTS FESTIVAL

We mentioned in the last Newsletter that the Festival would be held from 19-24 May 1978 and gave some early information about it. We are now able to print a more detailed timetable of events from which you will see that the original conception has been expanded somewhat. Watch out for posters and press announcements giving the official details, but here is a preliminary view of the main events:

- Mon 15 May Exhibits to be delivered to St Barnabas' Church
- Wed 17 May Selection of exhibits confirmed
- Thur 18 May Flower arrangements commence
- Fri 19 May Flower arrangements continue. Individual flower arrangements to arrive in the early afternoon
8 pm Opening of the Exhibition at St Barnabas Church. Concert by Alleyns School Orchestra and Lower School Choir
- Sat 20 May 2.30 pm Country dancing display in the grounds of the new Infants School (or in Turney Hall if wet)
8 pm Concert by the Dulwich Orchestra in Alleyns School Hall
- Sun 21 May 9.30 am Flower Festival Family Communion Service in St Barnabas' Church
Tree planting by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners
Afternoon Gingerbread Fair in the Old Grammar School grounds
8.30 pm Arts Festival Evensong
- Mon 22 May 1 pm Arts Festival Luncheon at the Crown & Greyhound
8 pm Dulwich College Orchestra plays in the Gallery
- Tue 23 May 2.30 pm Dulwich Ladies Choir - concert in Turney Hall for the elderly
8 pm Music Hall in the Crown & Greyhound
- Wed 24 May 2.30 pm Children's Concert in Turney Hall
8 pm Choral Concert in St Barnabas' Church
- Thur 25 May 8 pm Concert in Kingswood House
- Fri 26 May 7.30 pm Arts Festival Ball in the Great Hall of Dulwich College

We remind you that the Festival Director is Mr A.R. Chandler and correspondence should be directed to the Dulwich Institute Office, Dulwich Infants School, Dulwich Village, SE21 (Tel: 693 0383)

THE LAMBETH SUMMER FESTIVAL '78

Dulwich is not the only place that will be running a festival this summer. Lambeth is having one too. This one is from 16 June to 23 July and is described by the organisers as "A Borough-wide Festival of Fun packed with events for the whole family - the summer Festival of Lambeth is your Festival". Here are some of the festival events:-

- The Country Show
- The Festival of Sport
- A Season of 3 Sundays at the Old Vic - Gilbert & Sullivan
- A Regatta on the South Bank
- Big London Jogging from Hyde Park to Clapham Common
- International Food Festival
- Four weeks of plays at the Grass Theatre on Streatham Common
- Real Ale Festival

There will be many others, and the organiser of all this is Michael Heyland, Festival Administrator, 14 Knights Hill, West Norwood, SE27. If you want to take part, ring him on 761 1931 ext 62 or 57.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Dr. Ian Mackenzie TD, MD, FRCP

Dear Sir,

I was most interested to read in Newsletter 37 about Dr George Webster because, although living at this address for what is now 21 years, I had never heard of him or his fountain although I had of course passed by it thousands of times.

As a member of the BMA I was interested in your reference to this and looked it up to find that there is a grain of truth but by no means the whole truth in what you wrote.

You may be interested in what I discovered.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Mackenzie

19 Alleyn Park, SE21

In our July 1977 article on the Memorial Fountain in the Village we wrote "As well as being a prolific contributor to medical and literary journals he (Dr Webster) was the instigator of the first British Medical Association of which he was President for fourteen years ...". Dr Mackenzie's notes below make the situation much clearer.

Editor

DR GEORGE WEBSTER AND THE BMA

The British Medical Association of today had its origins in the Provincial Medical & Surgical Association which was founded in 1832 by Charles Hastings in Worcester.

So great was the impetus given by the inauguration of the Society to the discussion of those matters which most nearly touched the profession that other medical associations with more or less similar aims were soon started, generally in friendly rivalry. Within nine years of the first meeting at Worcester the delegates of eleven such associations, besides those of the Provincial Association, attended a Medical Conference in London in February 1841 convened by one of them which had assumed the title of the British Medical Association and claimed to represent the medical practitioners of the whole of the United Kingdom.

This body had its origins amongst practitioners in Camberwell and Southwark in 1836 in opposition, it would seem, to the 'Provincial Medical Club' and it was of this British Medical Association that Dr George Webster was chairman throughout its existence.

However, in 1844 the Medical Times published the following report:

'The British Medical Association ... met in the person of Dr George Webster on September 28th 1844. The Secretary was absent and the resolutions appear to have been moved by the President, seconded by the President and carried by the President. He was the whole meeting.'

The association struggled on for a year or so but became defunct in 1846. Some unrest in the Provincial Association came to a head in 1855 when amongst other things a change of name was proposed and in November 1855 at a Special Meeting in Birmingham Dr George Webster who, in addition to being the former permanent President of the original British Medical Association, had also long been a member of the Provincial Association was one who voted in favour of the Provincial Association changing its name to the British Medical Association. At the ensuing Annual Meeting in 1856, also held in Birmingham, the name of the Association became the British Medical Association in which, however, Dr George Webster does not appear to have held any high office.

WILD LIFE

The South London Botanical Institute at 323 Norwood Road, SE24, arranges lectures throughout the year on topics of wild life interest, as well as excursions in the south-east. There is also a useful library available to members (minimum subscription £1.00 a year). The Institute has offered to talk to interested Dulwich Society members about its work on Saturday 3 June 1978 at 2.30 pm.

Would anyone who would like to come to this informal meeting please get in touch with one of the members of the Wild Life Sub-Committee for further information.

You may remember that we printed some general information about the Institute in Newsletter 38 last October.

Bird Sighting Report for 1977

Those of us who are not enthusiastic bird watchers will be surprised and interested to know that so many different species of birds are to be seen in Dulwich as the following report shows:

During the year a total of 87 different species of birds were seen in Dulwich. This total which includes the 13 common species which are not specially recorded (viz. Blackbird, Songthrush, Dunnock, Starling, House Sparrow, Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Wren, Domestic & Wood Pidgeon, Jay & Magpie) is listed below:-

Blackcap, Bullfinch, Canada Goose, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Carrion Crow, Coot, Cuckoo, Collared Dove, Stock Dove, Turtle Dove, Tufted Duck, Fieldfare, Firecrest, Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, Goldfinch, Goldcrest, Little Grebe, Greenfinch, Greenshank, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Black Headed Gull, Common Gull, Heron, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Linnet, Mallard, House Martin, Meadow Pippit, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Tawny Owl, Pheasant, Pochard, Redpoll, Redstart, Black Redstart, Reed Bunting, Redwing, Common Sandpiper, Shoveller, Siskin, Skylark, Tree Sparrow, Stonechat, Swallow, Swift, Teal, Mistle Thrush, Coal Tit, Long Tailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Tree Creeper, Yellow Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Garden Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler, Wheatear, Whimbrel, Whinchat, Common Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker and Yellowhammer.

The following which were reported in 1976 were not seen in 1977:-

Brambling, Little Owl, Lesser Redpoll and Woodcock.

Butterflies in Dulwich

Old records from Alleyn's School (1955 & 1956) have given us a valuable insight into the wildlife of the area 20 years ago. Records of thirteen kinds of butterflies (large and small garden whites, red admiral, speckled wood, wall brown, meadow brown, small skipper, painted lady, small tortoiseshell, brimstone, peacock and peach bordered fritillary) seen in these years have kindled our interest and the Wildlife Sub-Committee would like to have current records for comparison. At a meeting of the sub-committee and friends recently, Mr and Mrs Kimmins of Beckenham gave an illustrated talk about those species we might expect to see in Dulwich, as well as advice on how to look for butter-

flies and how to encourage them in our gardens by providing suitable plants and access to water. Mrs Kimmins advised that we should look for the following:

Large skipper (margin of woods)
Holly blue (eggs on holly, caterpillars on ivy)
Small copper (caterpillars on dock and sorrel)
Meadow brown (in fields and edges of woodland)
Speckled wood (shady lanes, woodland rides)
Green veined white (woods and leafy lanes)
Comma (caterpillar on hedge garlic)
Painted lady (a migrant from North Africa)
Red admiral (caterpillars on nettles and also from North Africa)
Peacock (caterpillars on nettles)
Small tortoiseshell (also on nettles)

Most museums have displays to help identification and there are some useful guides such as T.G. Howarth's "A colour identification guide to British butterflies" (Waine and Co., 1973). At least one Dulwich Society member has already been stimulated to set up a butterfly farm stocked with suitable plants (docks, thistles, nettles and caterpillars!)

NEW RAIL SERVICES

As we go to press, British Rail announce that from 8 May 1978 there will be a completely revised timetable on the Central Division (the lines serving East and North Dulwich, and Gipsy Hill). For passengers travelling away from London, there will be some major improvements.

The trains from London Bridge calling at East and North Dulwich will operate a circular service via Streatham, Wimbledon and Sutton (and, on Saturdays, West Croydon as well), half-hourly in each direction. There are connections at Wimbledon or Sutton to most stations in Surrey.

Trains from Holborn Viaduct via Herne Hill and Tulse Hill will run half-hourly to West Croydon via Streatham and Thornton Heath, although rush-hour trains from Holborn Viaduct will run to the Wimbledon and Orpington lines as at present. Holborn Viaduct remains closed on Saturdays and Sundays, and North and East Dulwich on Sundays.

There will be a completely new service from London Bridge, once each hour, calling at Peckham Rye, Tulse Hill, Crystal Palace, East Croydon, Purley and all stations to Gatwick Airport and Three Bridges. Passengers from North & East Dulwich and Gipsy Hill will have to change at Tulse Hill and Crystal Palace respectively but only a few minutes' wait should be involved and the new service offers not only a direct link to Gatwick Airport but connections at East Croydon to most stations in Sussex and to every south coast resort from Portsmouth to Hastings.

Services to and from London are unchanged in essence, with a basic fifteen minutes service except Sundays from North and East Dulwich to Peckham Rye and London Bridge with connections forward to Waterloo and Charing Cross; a fifteen minutes service (half hourly on Sundays) from Gipsy Hill to Victoria; and a half-hourly service, Mondays to Fridays only, from Herne Hill to Holborn Viaduct. There will be a service from Gipsy Hill to London Bridge only in the peak hours.

All the times will be different; members may recollect that when timetables were altered in July 1967 chaos gradually developed during the first day and it was more than a week before the services 'settled down', as the General Manager euphemistically put it.

THE DULWICH SOCIETY KALENDAR: 1978

Please keep these four pages carefully for reference.

OFFICERS OF THE DULWICH SOCIETY

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Roger V. Low, 41 College Road, SE21 693 2953
Vice Chairman: Peter F.J. Lawson, DA, FRIBA, FI ARB, 41 Village Way, SE21 733 2646 Chartered architect; representative on the Southwark Conservation Areas Advisory Committee
Secretary: Lt Col R.M.S. Maude, BA, 19 Oakfield Gardens, Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19 670 7963
Treasurer: R.C. Low, FCII, FCIB, 88 Alleyn Road, SE21 670 1609 Company director
Geoffrey Hall Clark, 23 Gilkes Crescent, SE21 7BP 693 3003 Lawyer; Chairman of Legal Sub-Committee
I.H. Lightman, 22 Walkers Croft Mead, SE21 670 4743 Civil servant; Chairman of Town Planning Sub-Committee
W.A. Alan Barnard, 18 Dovercourt Road, SE22 693 6487 Chairman of Trees Sub-Committee
G.C. De Baerdemaeker, 110 Woodwarde Road, SE22 693 4017 Purchasing officer; Chairman of Local History Sub-Committee
Mrs G.D. Howells, PhD, FIBiol, 7 College Road, SE21 693 7226 Chairman of Wild Life Sub-Committee
R.H. Adams, TD, MA, FSA, 108 Dulwich Village, SE21 693 1161 HM Inspector of Schools; Chairman of Traffic Roads and Transport Sub-Committee
Mrs K.M. Evans, MA, 22 Dulwich Village, SE21 693 3522 School governor
John Cran, 28 Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19 670 4105 Press Officer and Chairman of Membership and Publicity Sub-Committee
P.G. Gallichan, 108 Burbage Road, SE24 274 5728
L.J. Sequeira, 156 Court Lane, SE21 693 7779 Chairman of Social Sub-Committee

MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

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B.St.J.C. Carr, 8 Burbage Road, SE24 733 9055
M.V. Carey, MA, 2 Frank Dixon Way, SE21

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Stuart Valentine, 157 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent 778 1922
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Cllr M. Dalton, 172 Burbage Road, SE21

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Miss G.D. Johnson (Secretary), 75 Stradella Road, Herne Hill, SE24 274 5780

B.C. Leach, 97 Court Lane, SE21 693 1076
A.H. Rich, 63 Court Lane, SE21 693 5332
G.H.T. Shrimpton, CBE, TD, 24 Walkerscroft Mead, SE21 670 5346

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Members:

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Mrs Welwig, 14 Frank Dixon Way, SE21 693 2787

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Mrs G.C. De Baerdemaeker, 110 Woodwarde Road, SE22

Miss Gill Couper, 37, Rosendale Rd. SE21. 761.2803.

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

Secretary: G.C. De Baerdemaeker, 110 Woodwarde Road, SE22 693 4017

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Miss G.M. Pye-Smith, 9 Breakspeare, SE21 693 8341
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J.W. Toler, 127 Sydenham Hill, SE26 693 6854
Dr D.R.C. Kempe, 75 Woodwarde Road, SE22 299 0601

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

Members:

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J.R. Webb, 107 Woodwarde Road, SE21 693 7297 (Posters)
John Lane, 135 Rosendale Road, SE21 670 3682 (Distribution)

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Mr John Lane, 135 Rosendale Road, SE21 670 3682

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

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

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

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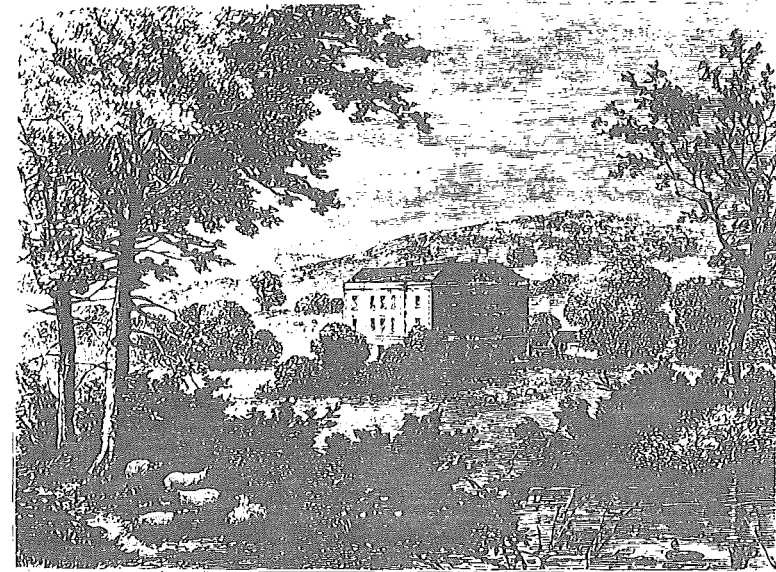
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Crescent Wood Rd, Peckarmans Wood, Sydenham Hill (1-110), Rock Hill,
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Zone F: Mrs R.M.S. Maude, 19 Oakfield Gardens, Dulwich Wood
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Grenville, Raleigh, Marlowe Courts, Oakfield Gardens, Rouse Gardens,
Linley & Whitfield Courts, South Croxted Rd, Tylney Avenue, Drake
Court, Dulwich Wood Park, Giles Coppice, Kingswood Drive, Rockwell
Gardens.

Zone G: Mr J. Westwood, 13 Tarleton Gardens, SE23 699 0820
Little Brownings, Sydenham Hill (111 upwards), Sydenham Rise,
Frobisher Court, Tarleton Gardens, London Rd, Thorpewood Avenue.

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



WEST DULWICH IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. The illustration shows Lord Thurlow's stately house, Knight's Hill, which was built in the 1780s on the site of Knight's Hill Farm, which was probably in the vicinity of the West Dulwich end of Norwood Cemetery, and not in the area of Knights Hill allotments. The new house was surrounded by 59 acres of grounds. Lord Thurlow was Lord Chancellor. While his new house was being built he lived at Dulwich Grove (in the house formerly known as the Green Man, and now the site of the Grove Tavern). While superintending the building, Lord Thurlow used to take the path from The Grove past the Common over a track which later (in 1860) became Thurlow Park Road. He never in fact occupied the new house.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF DULWICH - KING EDGAR'S CHARTER

Sir Frederick Everson, a Vice President and former Chairman of the Society, has for some time been conducting an investigation of the charter of King Edgar (959-75) in which our village is mentioned for the first time. We are grateful to him for permission to print the following historical notes on the subject.

DILHWIS

Histories of Dulwich start with the charter of King Edgar, dated AD 967, in which Dulwich is first mentioned, in the form 'Dilhwis', but they tell us little about it.

The text of the charter is found in two chartularies of Glastonbury Abbey, one in the library at Longleat and the other in the Bodleian. They follow the same order but the first has a few later, additional entries. The first was the Abbey's copy and the other, designated the "Secretum Domini", was a copy made for the private use of the Abbot.

These chartularies are vellum books in which were inscribed deeds in the possession of the Abbey, presumably all the deeds the Abbey had at the time. All the documents concern land or offices held by or of the Abbey, except the one charter with which we are concerned. Those who have studied these chartularies have been unable to explain why this one was included.

The text of the "Dulwich" charter (it is convenient to call it so although it does not mainly concern Dulwich) is typical of land grants of the period. The text is mainly in Latin with abbreviations, some of them puzzling, to save space, for vellum was expensive, but a paragraph at the end gives the boundaries of part of the grant in Old English because the place names are English. The charter starts with an invocation to Almighty God, there follow particulars of the grant, next comes a curse upon whom-ever may try to upset it and finally we have the executory clause with the seals of the grantor, King Edgar, and witnesses, but of these only one was named by the scribe, Archbishop Dunstan.

Here is a translation of the text:-

Charter granted by King Edgar to Earl Alpheg and his wife Elswite of Merton

In the name of the Most High Almighty God who created all out of nothing and Who conceived the first-formed man, Adam, whom Thou didst lead into the Heavenly Jerusalem and whom, when cast down by eternal seduction, Thou didst by boundless mercy and holy predestination raise up to the culmination of angelic beatitude, redeemed by Thee, granting those miserable sinners that fall again into sin that they may by eternal light achieve blessedness.

Now of a truth it is needful for all men that, so long as they shall endure this mortal life, of all their goods they shall deserve to have a part for ever as it is in truth said, "Give and it shall be given unto you".

Therefore I, Edgar, King of all Britain, have bestowed in perpetual inheritance as a gift in recognition of his devotion on that faithful earl of mine, Alpheg, whom you of this land know to be noble, and his wife, Elswite, that piece of land, to wit twenty hides, in the place which is well-known and called Merton, and in another place which is called Dulwich five hides and that piece of land, saltmarsh, next the river which is called the Thames, that the earl shall have it in accordance with his wish for his life with all the appurtenances of that land, meadows, woods, pastures, and after his life's end to whomever he may wish freely to leave it, as his heirs.

Also let the aforesaid land be free of all territorial servitudes except three, namely military service and the repair of bridges and castles.

If anyone, consequently, should wish to alter this our grant in any particular as we have constituted it, he is to be deprived of membership of the Holy Church of God, and be cast into the doleful fires of the eternal abyss and be punished with Judas, Christ's betrayer, and his accomplices if he do not restore satisfactorily what he shall have done in detraction from our decree.

The aforesaid land is encompassed by these boundaries.

These are the landmarks. First at Stonham and at the East marker on Hide stream and then West at the enclosure in the dell, Southward then at Bernanberwe, then at Tydmere along the ride North by West then over the marsh on the right at Ruanmere and then East by Wimbledon and there over Northwards by Braden ford on Hide stream and then South along the stream by the Mitcham market then East at the marker.

This charter was written in the Year of the Incarnation of Our Lord 967; these witnesses consenting whose names are noted below

+ I Edgar king of the English agreed + I Dunstan archbishop witnessed; with many others.

The historical background

After the long struggle with Danish invaders during the reigns of Alfred (871-899), his son, Edward the Elder (899-924) and Athelstan, his son, (925-939) these kings of Wessex had extended their dominion over the whole of England and those who followed enjoyed peaceful reigns down to the death of Edgar (959-975), so much so that he was called "The Peaceful".

It was the practice of the king to reward his collaborators who served him well with grants of land and several charters making such grants survive, even if not usually in original. It was not uncommon for women to be named. We may assume that they were persons of importance in their own right, perhaps daughters of important men or heiresses.

It is tempting to regard the lands so granted as manors, but the term "manerium" comes in with the Normans. However, the English economy was moving towards organisation on manorial lines well before the Normans arrived, though there were no manorial courts before the conquest. It may be supposed that Merton, with its well-defined boundaries, constituted something recognisable as a manor in organisation. It seems less likely that Dulwich was so far advanced.

The dating of the chartularies

The "Secretum" is mentioned elsewhere between 1341 and 1375 and, according to Dom A. Watkin's study in the Records of the Somerset Record Society, may be dated to 1338-40. The Longleat version should be earlier, but not much. The hand has been independently dated to the first half of the fourteenth century. Dates in the documents confirm this dating; there are a few later additions but they are in a different hand.

The details of the charter

Nothing is certainly known of the recipients but there was an Ealdorman (Governor) of Hampshire named Alpheg, appointed 955, who died in 971. He is the sort of person to whom such a grant might have been made.

Some of the boundary names, besides the obvious ones, Wimbledon and Mitcham, have been examined by E.M. Jowett in his Illustrated History of Merton and

Morden, without leading to much in the way of firm identifications. The names we recognise are important because they verify that we are concerned with Merton in Surrey and not one of the several other Mertons or Martins in the country.

The areas given in Latin "cassatos" are fairly certainly equivalent to Anglo-Saxon hides. Partial confirmation of this can be derived by comparing areas given in hides in the Domesday Book for places for which areas in Cassatos are found in extant charters of earlier date. The area of a hide is uncertain; it was the area which could sustain a family or could be worked with one team of eight oxen and it may have varied with the quality of the land. The hide is usually taken as 100 acres, more or less, so that the grant at Merton would have been of 2,000 acres and that at Dulwich of 500 acres. It seems possible that 500 acres would have been the extent of usable land at Dulwich at the time; the estates of Allyn's College of God's Gift comprised about 1,500 acres before the Leasehold Reform Act took effect. The area of saltmarsh granted is undefined. Perhaps that land was of so little value that it was not thought worth delimiting; the whole area between the clearing at Dulwich, at the foot of the great wood on the hills, and the river Thames may have been tidal marsh. In other words, perhaps Alpheg was getting title to the borough of Southwark!

The Dunstan who witnessed the charter (with many others, as the scribe summarises it) was the famous St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 960-988.

Dulwich and Glastonbury

It is puzzling to find our charter in the Glastonbury collection. It does not, like other documents in the chartularies, concern Glastonbury Abbey in any way. It is entered in the books immediately after another charter relating to Damerham and Martin in Hampshire, the latter spelt "Mertone", and immediately before another charter of 949 about a Mertone which cannot be identified. The scribe has put together three charters about "Mertone" without realising that they related to different Mertons. The "Dulwich" charter must have been there for him to copy, though the original cannot now be found. Why? We cannot tell. The only link between Dulwich and Glastonbury runs through Bermondsey.

The Priory of Bermondsey was founded by Alwin Child in 1082. In the Annals of Bermondsey we read that in 1127 Henry I gave the Priory Rotherhithe, "Dilwiche", hidum de Southwerke We need not be surprised at Dulwich being in the possession of the Crown. William the Conqueror and his followers treated Harold as a usurper. William claimed to be the rightful heir of Edward the Confessor. In Domesday Book Harold is referred to as Earl, not King. Anyone who had supported Harold or taken part in subsequent resistance to the Normans was a rebel and his lands forfeit. We may suppose, too, that the Normans were not particularly nice in their enquiries as to whether an English landholder was or was not contumacious. Whether the land reverted to the Crown in this way or in some other the charter could have passed in a bundle of documents of title to Bermondsey. And then? Well, in 1189 Prior Henry of Bermondsey became Abbot of Glastonbury.

It is a wild guess to suppose that he could have taken our charter to Glastonbury and he would have had no obvious reason to do so but we know of no other link that could have brought the Dulwich charter to the cell of the Glastonbury scribe.

The rest of the story is well known. At the dissolution of the monasteries (1537) the possessions of Bermondsey Abbey were released by the Abbot to the Crown and then Dulwich was sold by the King to the Caltons who, two generations later, sold it to Edward Alleyn.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer wishes to remind members who have not yet paid that the £1.00 subscription for 1978 is now overdue.

We publish below an abridged statement of the Society's accounts for 1977 for the information of those who were not able to attend the AGM.

Corporate Members are now as follows:

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

Abridged Accounts for Year Ending 31.12.77

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>£</u>
Subs	976	Newsletter & Broadsheet	563
Tax Recovery	69	Postage & Printing	177
Interest	221	Meetings Expenses	116
		Amenity Improvements	300
		Miscellaneous	53
		Surplus	1,209
			57
	1,266		1,266

BALANCE SHEET

Investments	2,400	Balance 1976	1,864
Debtors and		Surplus 1977	57
Cash at Banks	125		
	2,525		
Less Subs in			
Advance and			
Creditors &			
Provisions	604		
	1,921		1,921

FRIENDS OF THE DULWICH COLLEGE PICTURE GALLERY

We are glad to reproduce the following letter addressed to all our members from the Friends of the Gallery. If you are interested in becoming a "Friend" please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to Mr Banwell.

Dear Member of the Dulwich Society,

March 1978

THE HERITAGE OF DULWICH

Question: How many people resident in Dulwich have a Rembrandt original on their walls?

If you are one of those who have not, be consoled. The privileged residents of Dulwich have not one, but three, Rembrandts, not to mention the Poussins, van Dycks, Gainsboroughs ... etc. on permanent exhibition in the delightful Dulwich College Picture Gallery on your very doorstep.

The Gallery is, as many of you will know, open to the public, and is maintained in excellent condition by Dulwich College, out of the limited funds available for the purpose. The Friends of the Dulwich College Picture Gallery seek to bring the Gallery to the notice of a wider public, and to raise funds for specific projects which improve the amenities and assist in the maintenance of the Gallery and its collection.

Are you a Friend? Many of you are, and you know the pleasures of the programmes of evening functions at the Gallery organised by the Friends - concerts of piano and other chamber music, illustrated lectures by distinguished authorities on the pictures and related subjects, Saturday noon "promenade" recitals and so on.

If you have not yet become a Friend of the Dulwich College Picture Gallery, please do send in the form and join us now. A covenant will enable us to recover the tax on your donation, and will greatly increase the value of your gift, at no extra cost to you. A donation, which should preferably be not less than £5 per annum, will cover membership for husband and wife if required, including season tickets for free entry to the Gallery.

Please contact our committee or the Treasurer for more information if you wish. We are very much indebted to the Committee of the Dulwich Society for allowing us to write to you.

Yours sincerely,

The Membership
Sub-Committee

Jeremy Gotch
E.H. Reynolds
Arnold Scott
Jean Wells

PUBLIC MEETING, 20 APRIL

Finally, may we remind you that Councillor Herbert Sandford, who is Chairman of the GLC's Central Area Planning Committee and a member of the Council's Planning and Communications Policy Committee, has kindly agreed to address a public meeting organised by the Dulwich Society on 'Planning policies in the new GLC'.

The meeting will be held at St Barnabas Hall at 8 pm on Thursday 20 April. Councillor Sandford's address will be a first-class opportunity to hear an authoritative statement of the recently-elected GLC's approach to planning and communications matters, and we very much hope that the 'full house' notices will be up at St Barnabas Hall on 20 April.

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FRIENDS OF THE DULWICH COLLEGE PICTURE GALLERY

D. G. Banwell, Esq., Treasurer,
Dulwich College, London SE21

I would like to become a Friend.

Please send me a covenant/bankers order form/further information.

I enclose my cheque for £..... to make me a Friend for a year.

My name and address is: (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Mr/Mrs/Miss.

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Date: Signed:
