



# *The Dulwich Society*

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TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

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*Newsletter 64*

*APRIL 1984*



Planning:- the Sub-Committee was keeping in close touch with the projected development of the Hambledon House site: increased interest in conservation was projected, as was the updating of maps of Dulwich and the register of listed buildings in the area, and new members plus information from all members were most urgently needed.

Traffic:- reacting to information received from residents, the Sub-Committee had been instrumental in the marking of 'Keep Clear' road signs at a parking 'black spot' in the Village: the situation at the Hambledon House site was being closely watched regarding potential traffic problems: 'Keep Left' bollards were to be positioned in Alleyn Road and Alleyn Park to reduce the speed of traffic: speeding in Turney Road was being discussed, as was the main junction in the Village, and political developments on the possible change of use as a trunk road of the South Circular Road were being closely monitored.

Wildlife:- the Chairman of the Sub-Committee had resigned after many years' work, and thoroughly endorsed the election of her successor: the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, had given an excellent lecture: the proposed summer walk in the grounds of JAGS would include study of the habitat reserves there, and members were reminded that the accumulated efforts of individuals built up a national awareness of wildlife in the UK.

Horticulture:- changes in the Sub-Committee had added an expert on pelargoniums: the Chairman of this Sub-Committee expressed gratitude for the efforts of willing workers and the Register for Garden visits, maintained by the Sub-Committee's Secretary, was still open.

## Treasurer's Report 1983

The audited Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1983 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended that date are shown in full in this issue.

The increased income reflects the first full year at the new subscription level of £2 p.a., although there are still many bankers orders to be amended.

The additional tax recovery on deeds of covenants will not be reflected until 1984, as the commencing date of new covenants cannot be back dated before the date of signature.

The main item of expenditure was, of course, the production of the quarterly Newsletter, together with the History Supplement No. 2, and broadsheets to inform and attract new members.

The extra postage and printing costs reflect the very considerable amount of correspondence necessary to bring subscriptions, bankers orders and deeds of covenant up-to-date, and it is not anticipated that this figure will be so high in 1984.

The small surplus of £131 brings the Accumulated Fund to £3,395, most of which is invested in Savings Bonds or on Deposit Account.

Appreciation is expressed to all those members who have responded to my letter in the January 1984 Newsletter by paying subscriptions and returning deeds of covenants promptly, so avoiding much additional cost and correspondence, not forgetting the notes of thanks for all the research and work in producing the Newsletter. To hear from a member in North West Scotland about the many chaffinches there, makes a refreshing bonus when collecting £2 subscriptions! Are our Tawny Owls there as well? (Newsletter 63, page 9 refers).

May I remind those who have not paid for 1984 that membership ceases when subscriptions are 6 months in arrear and that the Newsletter cannot be sent thereafter.

There are many members whose old bankers orders for £1 were not cancelled by their Bank when the new ones for £2 were implemented. If you have any query on this point, please let me know so that I may remedy the position.

THE DULWICH SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1983

1982	INCOME		1983
928	Subscriptions Received	1,764	
30	"    Corporate Members	50	
55	Tax Recovery - Deeds of Covenant	68	
302	Interest Received	274	
15	Donations and Sundry	-	
1,591	261 Surplus on Social Events	19	2,175
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
1,233	Newsletters, Broadsheets and History Supplement	1,292	
197	Printing, Stationery and Publicity	243	
119	Postage and Telephone	201	
46	Hire of Hall, Meeting Expenses	207	
	Subscriptions and Donation	67	
1,595	Bank Charges	34	2,044
£ (4)	Surplus for year (1982 Deficit)		£ 131

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1983

1982	NET ASSETS		1983
	<u>Investments</u>		
1,700	British 9½% Savings Bonds	1,700	
2,769	1,069 Barclays Bank Deposit Account	1,631	3,331
561	Cash at Banks	190	
473	Less: Sundry Creditors	67	
48	Subscriptions in Advance	127	
521		194	
66	455 Deduct: Sundry Debtor	68	126
495			64
£3,264			£3,395
	<u>Represented by:</u>		
3,268	Accumulated Fund as at 1st January 1983	3,264	
(4)	Add: Surplus for year (1982 Deficit)	131	
£3,264			£3,395

*J. H. H. H.*  
CHAIRMAN

*A. J. Davis*  
TREASURER

Report to the Members of The Dulwich Society that the above Accounts show a true and fair view of financial statements and results for the year ending 31st December 1983.

14th February, 1984.

*K. A. Jeffries*  
K. A. JEFFRIES  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Newsletter:- the Chairman tabled the Editor's apology for absence and noted an interesting family connection had been established - the second Editor of the Newsletter in the mid-1960's had been the present Editor's father: the need for members to feed Newsletter material in good time to the Editor was again emphasised.

After a warm welcome and congratulations from the Chairman for his tireless efforts, the Treasurer was delighted to open his report with news that his long-fought battle over Bank Charges, levied on a particular account, had been won. Members were told the Income figure of £2,175 reflected the new £2 subscription level: the Expenditure figure of £2,044 reflected a full year of Newsletter, Broadsheet and Supplement printing and increased work on Deeds of Covenant: the 9½% Savings Bonds were to be redeemed this summer and re-invested in a Savings Investment Account yielding interest at 11%.

The Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December were unanimously approved.

The Chairman, all Officers, and Mrs Sheila Low, in absentia, were warmly thanked by the Secretary for their help and much-needed support, and members' attention was drawn to activities of neighbouring Societies, some of whose literature was on display.

The Officers of the Society and the Hon. Auditor were elected, or re-elected: their names are listed in the centre-fold of this Newsletter which should be detached and kept for reference.

The Chairman detailed the arrangements for the Annual Dinner and these are noted separately

in this Newsletter. He also referred to two goblets on display which were to be presented to Mr and Mrs Low with the Society's gratitude for their many years of hard work on its behalf.

Unusually - this being an unusual occasion - the meeting ended with a presentation to Mrs Gillian Wyatt on the occasion of her own and Captain Wyatt's 21st Wedding Anniversary. The meeting closed at about 9.30 pm and members were photographed by the local Press at a cake-cutting ceremony performed by Mrs Wyatt and other Ladies of the Society followed by a celebratory glass of wine for which a 'silver collection' was made.

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

April 5th	Wildlife	Mr F Booth will talk on 'Nature Reserves of the Kent Trust' St. Barnabas Hall
	8 pm	
May 3rd	Traffic	Mr Geoffrey Morant will speak on the 'Story of Local Public Transport'.
May 25th	As announced at the AGM, the Society's Annual Dinner will take place at the Dulwich Golf Club (see enclosed details and application form).	
June 7th	Local History in conjunction with the Trees Sub-Committee have arranged a house visit to Belair with an additional trees walk in the grounds (see over for details).	

July 5th	Trees	Dulwich Trees walk around the Farquhar Road site of the Ecological Parks Trust. Details will be given in the next issue of the Newsletter and will also appear in the Dulwich Villager nearer the time.
	7.30 pm	
July	Wildlife	Walk around the Memorial Garden at J.A.G.S. To be arranged.
October 4th	Horticulture	Meeting to be arranged
November 1st	Local History	Meeting to be arranged
December		Meeting to be arranged

The dates of these meetings will be announced in subsequent Newsletters.

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#### TREES SUB-COMMITTEE

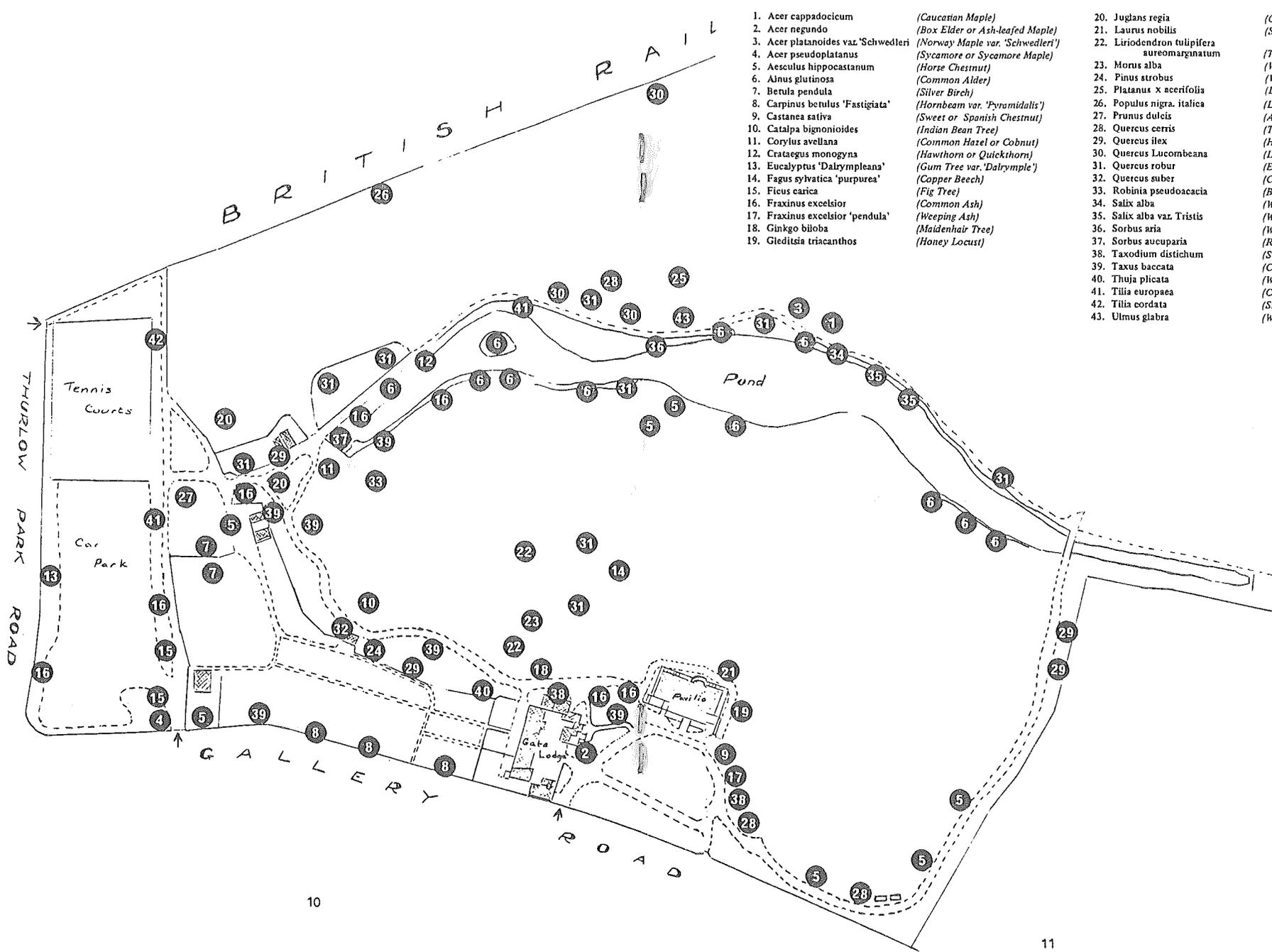
##### Dulwich Trees Quiz - 2nd February 1984

The Quiz was held in St. Barnabas Hall and members and guests were asked to identify 34 different species of Trees from slides taken in Dulwich. The results, with numbers of correct answers were as follows:-

1. Mr E. Matthes 25
2. Mr A Welwig 24
3. Miss G Pye-Smith 21

Mr G Gent also scored 21 correct answers but kindly conceded his place. Small prizes were awarded to each of the winners.

# BELAIR TREE TRAIL



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Acer cappadocicum</i><br>(Caucasian Maple)                                 | 20. <i>Juglans regia</i><br>(Common Walnut)  |
| 2. <i>Acer negundo</i><br>(Box Elder or Ash-leaved Maple)                        | 21. <i>Laurus nobilis</i><br>(Sweet Bay or Port's Laurel)                              |
| 3. <i>Acer platanoides</i> var. 'Schwedleri'<br>(Norway Maple var. 'Schwedleri') | 22. <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i><br><i>aureomarginatum</i><br>(Tulip Tree)           |
| 4. <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i><br>(Sycamore or Sycamore Maple)                    | 23. <i>Morus alba</i><br>(White Mulberry)  |
| 5. <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i><br>(Horse Chestnut)                             | 24. <i>Pinus alba</i><br>(Weymouth Pine)   |
| 6. <i>Alnus glutinosa</i><br>(Common Alder)                                      | 25. <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i><br>(London Plane)                                     |
| 7. <i>Betula pendula</i><br>(Silver Birch)                                       | 26. <i>Populus nigra italica</i><br>(Lombardy Poplar)                                  |
| 8. <i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'<br>(Hornbeam var. 'Pyramidalis')         | 27. <i>Prunus dulcis</i><br>(Almond)   |
| 9. <i>Castanea sativa</i><br>(Sweet or Spanish Chestnut)                         | 28. <i>Quercus cerris</i><br>(Turkey Oak)  |
| 10. <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i><br>(Indian Bean Tree)                            | 29. <i>Quercus ilex</i><br>(Holm Oak or Evergreen Oak)                                 |
| 11. <i>Corylus avellana</i><br>(Common Hazel or Cobnut)                          | 30. <i>Quercus Lucombeana</i><br>(Lucombe Oak)   |
| 12. <i>Crataegus monogyna</i><br>(Hawthorn or Quickthorn)                        | 31. <i>Quercus robur</i><br>(English Oak)  |
| 13. <i>Eucalyptus 'Darrympleana'</i><br>(Gum Tree var. 'Darrymple')              | 32. <i>Quercus suber</i><br>(Cork Oak)   |
| 14. <i>Fagus sylvatica 'purpurea'</i><br>(Copper Beech)                          | 33. <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i><br>(Black Locust Tree or False<br>White Willow)        |
| 15. <i>Ficus carica</i><br>(Fig Tree)  | 34. <i>Salix alba</i><br>(Weeping Willow 'Babylonic<br>Whitebeam')                     |
| 16. <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i><br>(Common Ash)                                    | 35. <i>Salix alba</i> var. <i>Tristis</i><br>(Weeping Willow 'Babylonic<br>Whitebeam') |
| 17. <i>Fraxinus excelsior 'pendula'</i><br>(Weeping Ash)                         | 36. <i>Sorbus aria</i><br>(Rowan or Mountain Ash)                                      |
| 18. <i>Ginkgo biloba</i><br>(Maidenhair Tree)                                    | 37. <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i><br>(Swamp or Bald Cypress)                                 |
| 19. <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i><br>(Honey Locust)                               | 38. <i>Taxodium distichum</i><br>(Common Yew)  |
|  | 39. <i>Taxus baccata</i><br>(Western Red Cedar)  |
|  | 40. <i>Thuja plicata</i><br>(Common Lime)  |
|  | 41. <i>Tilia europaea</i><br>(Small-leaved Lime)                                       |
|  | 42. <i>Tilia cordata</i><br>(Wych Elm or Scotch Elm)                                   |
|  | 43. <i>Ulmus glabra</i>  |

### Trees Quiz, continued:

The Quiz was not intended to be easy and the scores were excellent; in fact they were better than we on the Trees Sub-Committee were able to achieve on a trial run.

The evening was designed primarily for enjoyment but it is hoped it also stimulated increased interest in the variety of magnificent trees we have in Dulwich. We believe this is the first Quiz organised by the Society and we would like to thank all the competitors for making it such a success. Thanks go also to Christopher Benwell for providing most of the slides, Brian Jones for supplying and manning the projector and to the members of the Trees Sub-Committee for their assistance and support.

### Belair Tree Trail

On June 7th the History Sub-Committee of the Dulwich Society are organising an evening in Belair. The Trees Sub-Committee will also be participating in the evening to arrange walks round the grounds of Belair. It is therefore an opportune moment for the Belair Tree Trail leaflet to be published in our magazine.

The last Trees Walk at Belair, organised by the Dulwich Society, was in July 1980 and was the occasion on which this leaflet was first released. It was also a celebration of a happy and fruitful co-operative effort between the Parks Department of the Borough of Southwark and the Dulwich Society since the Borough had invited the Society to participate in the work to produce the Tree Trail.

We are hoping that a representative of the Parks Department of Southwark will be able to join us on June 7th, particularly as Belair is emerging resplendent from a thorough overhaul.

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### LOCAL HISTORY SUB-COMMITTEE

#### Visit to Belair, 7th June at 7.45

This summer will see the third in a series of visits to important local houses of interest. Members will recall the popular evenings at Kingswood House and Bell House. The evening will take the form of a 'double bill' ! Whilst some members will be listening to a lecture on the history of the house at the first 'sitting', others will have the opportunity of taking part in the Trees Walk around the grounds of Belair, conducted by the Trees Committee. At approximately 9pm the groups will change over.

The lecture on the house's history, pre-history and resid-ents will be given by members of the History Committee. The Committee will be investigating in some depth the many aspects of this beautiful house which was built in 1785. It is their hope that they may prove or disprove the theories that the house's architect was Robert Adam and that the stretch of water in the grounds is a branch of the new underground River Effra ! Last year they were able to add considerably to the known history of Bell House when they confirmed that its builder, Thomas Wright was Lord Mayor of London and that Edwin Lutyens had made a number of alterations to the building during the occupancy of Baroness Lucas.

Similar investigations at Kingswood House ensured that the house's colourful past has been recorded. The amount of work done by John L Johnston (Mr Bovril) is now detailed and of course much of it survives and may be seen today - the house was once nicknamed 'Bovril Castle' ! Its subsequent use as a convalescent hospital for wounded Canadian soldiers in World War I and the occupancy of Lord Vestey has also been recorded. Full histories of both houses will shortly be deposited at the Southwark Local History Studies, John Harvard Library, The Borough, S.E.1.

How well do you know your local history?

If you are interested in Dulwich, its roads and former residents, its trades and schools, poets and writers, artists and actors, then a visit to the Southwark Local Studies Library would be well worthwhile. In addition to many books on its history, the library also has a collection of prints, maps, rate books and other documents dating back centuries.

Recently the Local History Sub-Committee of the Dulwich Society deposited with the Local Studies Library, the log books, registers and history of the Wardens Air Raid Post 60. At the same time as the Parochial Church Council of St Barnabas deposited the complete records of the Dulwich Local Charities. The Dulwich Local Charities were established in 1861 and its principal role was the management and support of Dulwich Infants' School. There were other charities which benefitted however, including a savings bank, sick club, children's shoe and clothing club and a Sunday School.

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HORTICULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

All members of the Dulwich Society are invited by the N.C.C.P.G. to visit the Garden of The Grange in Grange Lane on Saturday, 26th May from 2.00 to 5.00 pm when they plan a garden opening with refreshments available. Entrance fee 50p for that Conservation Society's funds.

Members may like to know that the Tradescant Trust is holding a Plant and Garden Spring Fair at St. Mary's Church, Lambeth again this year on Sunday, 29th April from 11.00 am to 4.30 pm. This was a very successful event last year and although our Sub-Committee is not taking a stand this time, many important societies are.

We are very glad of this opportunity to express our very sincere thanks to the Hosts and Hostesses of the sixteen gardens which were opened for members on the Horticultural Register last year and for the care taken in making their gardens so attractive, also for their welcome and all their hospitality. They gave so much pleasure to so many of us.

We have already sent out the first instalment of our invitations for this year and would be so glad if any keen gardeners, who have not yet opened their gardens, would get in touch with a member of the Sub-Committee so that we could discuss this scheme. Our stand is the decorative table on my right at the back of the Hall.

Members of the Horticultural Sub-Committee will be visiting the garden of Captain and Mrs. Denys Wyatt at 148 Thurlow Park Road, SE21 on Sunday, 20th May from 5.00 to 7.00 pm. Any proceeds therefrom will be donated to the Childrens' Country Holiday Fund, whose centenary it is this year.

### Daffodil Foliage

Long term trials at Wisley Gardens have shown that cutting down the foliage of daffodils too soon will destroy the future flowering potential of the bulbs.

When the flowers are spent, they should be pinched off and the stem and leaves left for six weeks. In this area that will generally be until about the second week of June. Thereafter the foliage may safely be cut to the ground. It is thought that tying up the foliage is just as debilitating as cutting it down too early, since the sunlight cannot get to the leaves.

Many experts have found that two or three sprays with a foliar feed during this six week period are very beneficial.

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### WILDLIFE

In the very wet spring of 1983 I had begun to clear the tangled and overgrown gardens in front of St. Barnabas Parish Hall. To my amazement out of the wet grass jumped a frog. I'm a bit squeamish about squamous things but in my clumsy gardening gloves I attempted to make it jump into a cardboard box that I was using for weeding. I grabbed: the frog jumped: all round the garden it led me in ungainly pursuit. Eventually in desperation it made a false leap. Quickly I covered it with a plastic bag and rushed the box in my car to the park. I released my prisoner near water where it cowered in the grass, panting horribly. A line of verse came into my head:-

"A lily-white duck came and gobbled him up"

I did hope not, but he was beyond the fence so I had to leave him there.

Not long after this another frog gave me a fright. I had nearly 'done it in' with my spade. Frogland was being destroyed and there are tarmac roads beyond the gardens. Poor frog. I repeated my trapping process but, to my dismay, Frog II took a flying leap out of the box and disappeared under my spare wheel.

I drove to the park meditatively and stopped beside a lady sitting on a park bench. "Excuse me", I said, "Can you help me? I've got a frog in my boot". She did not even blink. "Let's see", she said. I removed the spare wheel and she calmly picked up Frog II and took him to a pond where he swam away with joyous kicks, looking just like Jeremy Fisher (by Beatrix Potter). Composedly the lady returned to her seat. I said "Thank you" and returned to my gardening. I hope she reads this.

Since then the gardens have become tidier and drier and I've encountered Frog III. I worry about this frog and am glad when it rains. I'm thinking of digging in an old washing-up bowl behind the notice board. I'm told that there used to be a pond in those parts.

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### THE DULWICH CONNECTION

Once upon a time, in the Los Angeles of the 30's and early 40's, there was a tough but honest Private Investigator. Philip Marlowe was the name - Marlowe, a man you could trust because he couldn't be bribed by the rich, suborned by gangsters like Eddy Mars or

intimidated by the police (not even the notoriously corrupt "Bay City cops"). A man with too much private honour to make any money. A man made famous to millions by just seven novels, a number of previously-published short stories (in some of which he appears as an earlier prototype named Dalmás) and a handful of films, none of which has quite captured the quality of the written word.

There is no evidence that Marlowe ever heard of Dulwich.

But Dulwich should perhaps remember him, because his creator and author is one of the few world-famous writers with strong Dulwich connections.

Raymond Chandler was born in America in 1888, of American Quaker and Irish parents. He was seven when his parents separated, came back to Britain with his mother and lived here until he was twenty-four. He was educated at Dulwich College until 1905, and as the formative years of any writer are so important, Dulwich must have had a considerable influence on his character and work.

Success came quite late in life. Chandler's first ambition was to be a "literary" writer and indeed he did work in London as a critic and essayist.

During the first world-war he enlisted in the Canadian army and eventually found himself in California, where he became, amongst other things, an accountant and an oil-company executive.

His first effort in the direction for which he became so famous was "Blackmailers Don't Shoot", published in Black Mask magazine in 1933, when he was already forty-five - about as unlikely a starting point for a literary genius as it is possible to imagine.

His background and his whole style made him unusual among "pulp magazine" writers, and anyone who reads his novels will see that he towered over them. Where they wrote almost entirely for a living and to create a brief sensation, he used the medium of the crime story as a personal comment on life and morals. His hero, Marlowe, is a lonely Sir Galahad figure - and one with perhaps the quickest and wittiest repartee either before or since.

It can easily be argued that it was the coming-together of two influences which created Chandler: the Los Angeles sub-world of the gangsters, the new-rich and the downright weird with the established classical education of Dulwich.

Together they produced an outcrop of literary brilliance. Read some of his works (if you haven't already) and see what you think.

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