

The Dulwich Society

TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

NEWSLETTER 26: OCTOBER 1974

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College Road, SE21 7LT. 693 8125

Vice Chairman: Peter F.J. Lawson, 41 Village Way, SE21. 733 2646

Secretary: Edgar Brady, 79 Burbage Road, SE24. 274 7941

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AUTUMN TINTS

After the long wet Summer we have returned with renewed vigour to take up the affairs of the Society again. We must admit that this October issue is a little late in reaching you but this is because of recent events culminating in the General Election on 10 October.

The next few meetings and social gatherings are mentioned below, and we are now in the process of distributing a leaflet to all households in the area to encourage new members to join. Since it is easier to

arrange a general distribution of this sort separately from the newsletter you will probably get a copy of it even though you are already a member. We have no doubt that the person responsible for your local distribution will be glad of any help you may feel able to offer. You will find the appropriate name and address in the centre pages of the last newsletter, No. 25.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

7 November 1974 - 8.0 p.m. St. Barnabas Hall:

Representatives of the Metropolitan Police led by Chief Inspector Thornton will talk about the organisation of police work in the Dulwich area and will be glad to answer your questions.

5 December 1974 - 8.0 p.m. St. Barnabas Hall:

This will be a joint meeting with the Dulwich Choral Society who will entertain us to a programme of specially selected items before the interval, after which we shall all join them in singing Carols and seasonal songs. Wine, soft drinks and cheese will be available during the interval at a cost of 50p per head. Since the ladies responsible for the catering will need to know roughly how many are coming please apply for tickets in advance to Mrs. K. M. Evans, 22 Dulwich Village, SE21, and not later than 28 November, enclosing the appropriate remittance (please bring the whole family) and a stamped addressed envelope. ^{693 3522} Cheques should be made payable to the Dulwich Society.

2 January 1975 - 8.0 p.m. Kingswood House:

A discussion arranged by the Planning Sub-Committee entitled 'Moving offices from London' by Dr. Goddard of the London School of Economics.

6 February 1975 - 8.0 p.m. St. Barnabas Hall:

A talk on Pedestrian Precincts by Mr. David White, Chairman of the Southern Area Board GLC. Organised by the Traffic Sub-Committee.

6 March 1975 - 8.0 p.m. St. Barnabas Hall:

The Annual General Meeting. Light refreshments available.

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Mr. E.D. Morley, Conservative Candidate for the constituency of Dulwich, has accepted our invitation to be a Vice President of the Society.

Mr. Edgar Brady of 79 Burbage Road, SE24, (271 7941) has been co-opted as Secretary of the Society in place of Captain D.S. Wyatt, OBE, RN., who has had to give up the office on being posted away from London.

Mr. R.H. Adams of 108 Dulwich Village, SE21, (693 1161) has taken over the Chairmanship of the Traffic Sub-Committee in place of Mr. C.R. Seaton who has moved to the Manchester area.

Mr. Brady and Mr. Adams have been co-opted as members of the Executive Committee.

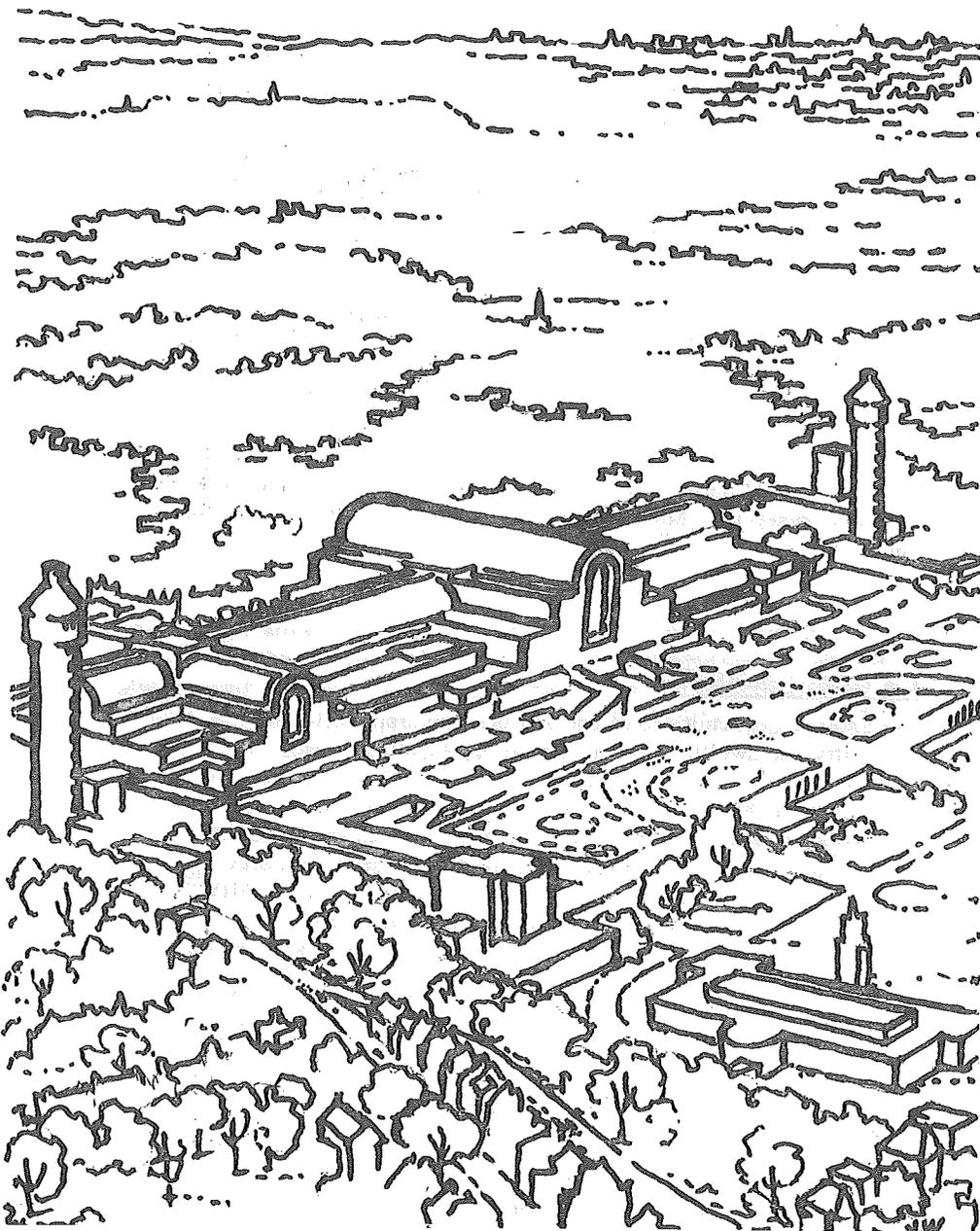
Mr. Veryan Herbert and Councillor Brian Hoskins have resigned from the Traffic Sub-Committee and Miss C. D. Johnson and Mr. Richard Hill have joined it. Miss Johnson has become Secretary of the Sub-Committee.

A BUILDING PROJECT

The Estates Governors have put in a planning application to erect fifty one dwellings on the site at 87/9 College Road. This is an approximately rectangular plot of land with a frontage of some 80 or 90 yards to College Road, and a depth of some 170 yards, an area of 3.69 acres. It lies between the Woodhall estate and the playing field formerly used by Johnson, Matthey and now by the College. On it stand a red brick Victorian villa and a modern bungalow, a tennis court and a sports pavilion. All these would go but the bowling green beyond would be retained.

The land has been zoned for housing at least since 1951. The Governors propose to put up seven blocks comprising flats on the ground floor with two maisonettes over each flat, a total of three storeys. Parking would be provided under the blocks on the north side where the level is lower. The buildings would be rather similar to those in Constable Walk.

The Executive Committee has decided to enter into consultation with the residents affected by this proposal.



CRYSTAL PALACE FORUM

The Crystal Palace Forum has just completed its first annual cycle of meetings. It had its inaugural meeting on 31st January primarily to settle its constitution and method of working, and two further working meetings were held on 21 May and 17 September. The purpose of the Forum is to advise the Greater London Council's Arts and Recreation Committee "of local feeling on matters relating to and affecting the future of the Crystal Palace and its grounds". Its Chairman is a member of the Arts and Recreation Committee. The membership comprises representatives of twelve local associations covering Dulwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, Penge, Anerley, and Sydenham, the Dulwich Society's representative being Mr. R. N. Burton, a member of our Planning Sub-Committee. Officers of the GLC and of other local authorities concerned also attend. The meetings are held at St. Aubyn's Hall, Church Road, SE19, and are open to the public. Members of the public have at the last two meetings also been allowed by the Chairman to speak on matters of special importance.

So far a considerable range of proposals has been put by the GLC to the Forum. Generally, the local representatives have expressed sympathetic interest about proposals aimed at further developing the area for recreational and related purposes such as the children's play facilities and the children's zoo. The main theme, however, has been their concern, expressed in a variety of ways, about the Council's seemingly haphazard and piecemeal approach to the development of the site as a whole. In view of this, the representatives have particularly sought to oppose the construction of the proposed Youth Service Conference Centre and Hall of Residence or Hostel for students, and have expressed unease about the suggested development of the High Level Station Site for housing. Their view, briefly, is that the Crystal Palace site is unique in London and the South-East, that its great potential for social and recreational use could be eroded by a series of unrelated and ad hoc developments, and that the GLC should therefore give priority to formulating an agreed policy for the future use of the site as a whole and on that basis prepare a comprehensive or master plan against which all future proposals can be assessed.

Since no satisfactory answer to these doubts could be given by the GLC officers, exchanges of views took place outside the Forum between some of the local representatives. The prime mover in this process was the Norwood Society—though our own Society was also strongly active in support—and as a result, the resolution set out below, proposed by the Norwood Society representative and seconded by our own representative, was put to the meeting of the Forum on 17 September.



SITE OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE IN 1852

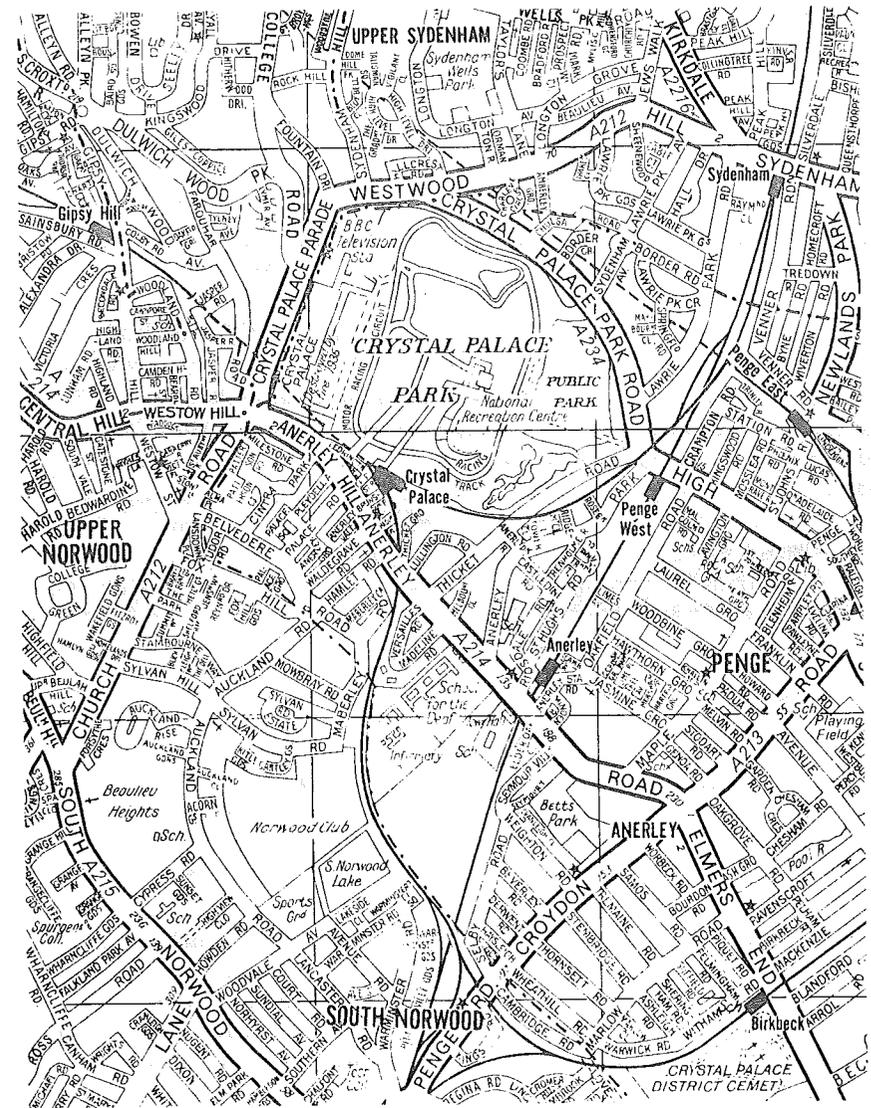
There was a lengthy discussion, during which members of the public as well as Forum members spoke, and no dissenting view was expressed. The Chairman, and even those officers who commented, also expressed sympathy with the general terms and aim of the resolution. The result was that the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The terms of the resolution are as follows:

"The GLC is asked to adopt the following policy:

- (a) Set in motion discussions to establish an agreed overall policy for the future use of the whole of the Crystal Palace site.
- (b) When this has been established and agreed, prepare an overall master plan for the future uses and development of the site.
- (c) In the interim, not to proceed further with the proposals for the Hostel and Conference Centre, or release the High Level site for permanent Housing—as this may be needed for other uses within the overall plan."

The next meeting of the Forum is due to be held, again at St. Aubyn's Hall, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 14 January 1975. At that meeting, it is expected that the GLC's official response to the resolution will be given by the Chairman of the Forum.



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

What happens to the rent, or ground rent, that you pay to the Estates Governors? What do they do with the money?

Anybody may find out by inspecting the accounts which are available at the Old College as well as at the Charity Commission. The accounts for the year ended 31 March 1973 show that the Governors had a surplus of £161,000. The accounts for the last year have been delayed by a reorganisation; the surplus was substantially lower owing to increases in expenditure.

The Estates Governors' income comprised rents (£276,000) and other receipts, mainly dividends on investments, (£37,000). From this income the Governors meet the costs of managing the estates—salaries, fees, office expenses, maintenance charges over and above what they recover from residents—and make an allocation to an "Estate Development Fund". The remainder is the surplus available for distribution.

The distribution is determined by Acts of Parliament and schemes made under them which replaced the dispositions of Edward Alleyn's Deed of Foundation. In the year in question the distribution was as follows:

	£000:
The College	78
Alleyn's Boys School	12
James Allen's Girls' School	43
St. Olave's and St. Saviour's	5
Central Foundation Schools	18
Other	5
	<u>161</u>

The Estates Governors are under the obligation to do their best for these institutions. It is unfortunate for them that in this period of runaway inflation their expenses, which are mainly wages and salaries, outstrip income from rents and investment which is either frozen or limited to small increases.

Those of us who regard the schools as a Dulwich amenity should sympathise with the Governors' efforts to increase the surplus available for distribution. The Balance Sheet which is part of the accounts is of little interest as the estates are not valued. It shows investment at £434,000 plus debtors and cash, set against sundry capital funds plus creditors and the surplus for the year.

TREES

We are grateful to Tony Welwig of the Trees Sub-Committee for the following notes on Autumn tints:

It is often deemed good policy in parks and gardens to remove fallen leaf litter from the ground in order to give a neat and tidy appearance to an area. However, special note must be made of the fact that leaves provide nutrition in the form of base materials for absorption by the roots of trees; the organic matter from the rotted foliage taken under ground by earthworms, helps to build up and maintain a good soil texture. Both the above facts provide reasons for leaving fallen leaf litter especially in places which are surrounded by shrub barriers where the eyes of the public cannot really penetrate. Of course, the presence of this material in open flower and shrub beds can be aesthetically displeasing to some people, and the harbouring of insects and fungal diseases amongst the layers is a known fact; in such cases, this removal can be justified provided the ground is fed artificially and cultivated yearly to compensate for the loss.

If one takes a look at deciduous trees in the streets during late Autumn, it can often be noted that isolated branches nearest the light source of lamp standards are still in the leaf stage, while the rest of the canopy is devoid of foliage. This is attributed to the fact that trees take advantage of the extra available light in order to assimilate an additional supply of food reserves. Artificial illuminants pour forth various colours of the spectrum and foliage retention largely depends on the availability of certain colours in the source of the light spectrum that can be absorbed and made use of. The blue/green colour of the spectrum is that which is taken in by the green chlorophyll pigment for photosynthesis and is the most important. (White light contains the colours red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet). The other parts of the spectrum are used to a very minimal amount in green foliage by the other different coloured pigments.

Under natural light conditions in Autumn when the intensity is low and the temperature drops, leaves of deciduous trees become inefficient as the green chlorophyll dies and the food manufacturing process, called photosynthesis, virtually stops. Other pigments in the leaves start to show through because they are not overpowered by the green colour; hence we get our Autumn tints. While all this is going on, a cork layer forms at the point where the leaf joins the twig; this automatically stops all water and food supplies from reaching the leaf, which then becomes weak and consequently breaks off. The cork then seals the scar and

prevents infection of diseases. This, then completes our autumnal leaf fall process.

Autumn frost does great damage by attacking shoots and buds that have been developing during the active growing season, before they have had time to harden off. Because of the extra length and width the shoots have grown by since Spring, the damage is more severe than that of Spring frost. Shoots and buds will suffer considerably especially if such trees are found to be in frost hollows, valley bottoms and so on.

In a nursery or garden it is imperative to try and stop the growth as early as possible. This is done by adding potash fertilizer to the soil to induce good cell formation; avoid applying a fertilizer with a high nitrogen content as this will encourage active cell growth. Damage to saplings can be very worrying to the grower as diseases can set in between Autumn and Spring when cell growth is virtually at a standstill and no healing processes are activated.

The following trees are grouped together in relation to Autumn frost susceptibility:

Very susceptible: Beech, Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Walnut and Ash.

Evergreens: Sitka Spruce, Norway Spruce,
Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock and Thuja.

Moderately susceptible: Horse Chestnut, Sycamore, Poplar and Serbian Spruce.

Hardy: Scots Pine, Birch, Hornbeam, Lime, Hazel and Cupressus macrocarpa.

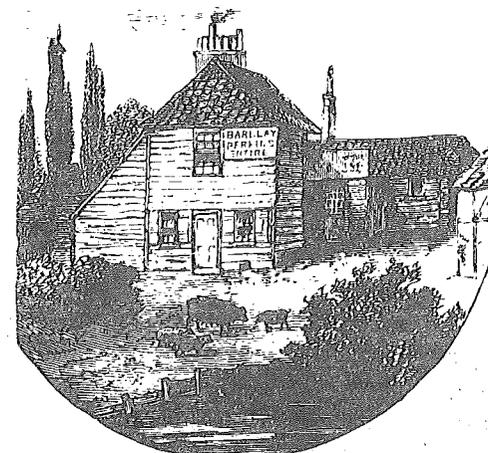
Aesthetically, Autumn is a most colourful time of year carrying with it a richness that no other season can match up to.

We shall include, from time to time, notes on interesting varieties of trees to be found in the Dulwich area. We are grateful to Miss R. Davis for the following:

ALDER *Alnus glutinosa*

The Alder is one of only thirty-five indigenous trees in this country. The leaves are roundish and, when young, sticky; hence the name *glutinosa*. It is not a very large tree, compact, fairly quick growing and usually found near water. It can be seen in Dulwich at the Mill pond in College Road and Belair. It is prone to sending up root suckers and there is a good example of this at the Mill pond near the cross roads, where one was blown down a year or so ago. The catkins appear in the Spring and the cones ripen later in the year and are

conspicuously black. The seeds are the favourite food of redpolls and siskins. The wood is very hard and was at one time used for making clogs, for turnery and for tanning; it can stand immersion in water and the piles supporting the Rialto at Venice and many of the buildings in Amsterdam are supported by alder wood.



Plough Inn, Lordship Lane

LIVESEY MUSEUM

This museum is at 682 Old Kent Road and is normally open from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m., Mondays to Saturday. At the moment it is showing an exhibition called 'The Changing Seasons — The Wildlife of Southwark' which includes a number of items from the area of Dulwich. Miss Pye-Smith, Chairman of the Wild Life Sub-Committee has been invited to take a party to visit this exhibition on the evening of 12 November between 6.30 and 8.30. If you would like to go please get in touch with Miss Pye-Smith at 9 Breakspere, College Road, SE21, (693 8341).

WILD LIFE

The committee had very little response to the question 'are there too many foxes in Dulwich?' No precise information about any damage was received although one or two members felt strongly enough to write about the anxiety and inconvenience they may cause. We conclude that, as we suspected, foxes are welcomed by most people or at least are not thought to be a bad thing. Of course the committee will continue to welcome interesting information about foxes or any other unusual animal life.

The following interesting sightings have been made in the Dulwich area this Summer:

Birds: herons, Canada geese, pied flycatcher, nesting swallows, kestrels and coots, young whooper swans, marsh or willow tits.

Mammals: two pipistrelle bats.

Insects: stagbeetles, two species of dragonfly, large skipper, smallheath, meadow brown, peacock and red admiral butterflies.

TRAFFIC

Mr. Willis Walker of 121 Burbage Road, SE21, (274 3276) who is a member of the Traffic Sub-Committee asks us to let you know that he has the special responsibility within the committee for cycling in Dulwich. He would always be glad to hear from anyone with suggestions, comments, or queries concerning the safety or convenience of cyclists. He is in touch with the local Police who organise safety training for young cyclists in the school holidays usually at Kingsdale school.

DULWICH CHORAL SOCIETY

A concert is being given in Southwark Cathedral on Saturday, 30 November 1974 at 7.30 p.m. when there will be a performance of Haydn's Nelson Mass and Bruckner's Requiem. Tickets (70p) can be obtained from the Secretary (DCS), 26 Knoll Court, Farquhar Road, SE19 1SP (670 9758).