



# *The Dulwich Society*

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TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

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*Newsletter 71*  
*January 1986*

JANUARY 1986

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Telephone: 693 1713.

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YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU

If you really value the work of the Dulwich Society we appeal to you now for some urgently-needed help of the simplest and easiest kind.

Keep your eyes and ears open for new members.

You may not have time for regular Society activities, but this is something that every member can do, and it is something very important.

Like any local amenity society, the Dulwich Society can work effectively only if it is the voice for a large number of local residents. Its voice only has authority if its membership is large.

Like any local amenity society, the Dulwich Society's membership must be kept up. The natural course of events can be relied upon to cut our numbers relentlessly every year. It takes constant and positive effort to increase or maintain those numbers.

Your Committee's problem is to spot new members in sufficient numbers, and this is where you can help so much and so easily.

Simply keep alert to new arrivals whenever they come to your attention, then tell us about them. If you see a "For Sale" sign, give us the address when the sign comes down and we'll deliver a Broadsheet. If you meet (or hear about) newcomers in your immediate neighbourhood, let us know: and ask yourself if any of your present neighbours couldn't be persuaded to join.

If you're ready to be a little more active, keep some Broadsheets (with Application Form) yourself. Then go out and do some recruiting.

The people to get in touch with are:-

Jeremy Webb  
Chairman, Membership and Publicity Sub-Committee  
107 Woodwarde Rd, SE22 8UP: 693 7297.

Jim Davis  
Treasurer,  
38 Stonehills Court, SE21: 693 1713.

Alternatively, please contact anyone whose name appears inside the front cover of the Society's Newsletters.

Please help us! The Society is here to look after the interests of local residents. It needs their backing.

Jeremy Webb.

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#### A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME

The Dulwich Friends of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund held their 4th Annual Exhibition of art and pottery in the Great Hall of Dulwich College in October.

Once more, the Exhibition was very well attended, and proved to be a great success both socially and financially. Over £4500 was raised for Cancer Research, and we are pleased to report this was £1000 more than was raised last year.

We feel that it is now becoming a very popular Dulwich event, and one which we hope we will be able to continue presenting annually.

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#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The official notification and Agenda are printed in accordance with the Society's Rules. We hope very much that you will be able to be present.

THE DULWICH SOCIETY: Notice is hereby given that the 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the DULWICH SOCIETY will be held at 8.00pm on Thursday 6th March 1986 in St Barnabas Hall Dulwich Village.

#### AGENDA

1. MINUTES of the 22nd Annual General Meeting held on 7th March 1985 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 and Executive Committee members for 1986-87:-
  - (a) President.
  - (b) Vice-Presidents.
  - (c) Chairman.
  - (d) Vice-Chairman.
  - (e) Secretary.
  - (f) Treasurer.
  - (g) Executive Committee members.
6. Appointment of Auditor.
7. Any Other Business.

Note: Nominations for election as an Officer or member of the Executive Committee must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee by two members not less than fourteen days before 6th March, and must be endorsed by the candidate in writing (Rule 9). Nominations may be sent by post to the Hon. Secretary.

Robin Taylor  
Hon. Secretary

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

February 6th 8pm St Barnabas Hall	Trees Sub-Committee	Illustrated lecture on "Caring for Trees" by Mr W Matthews, Past Chairman of the Trees Council, and present Technical Advisor to 'The Men of the Trees'.
March 6th 8pm St Barnabas Hall		23rd Annual General Meeting.
May 1st 8pm St Barnabas Hall	Wildlife Sub-Committee	"Our Garden Ponds, above and below the surface". Showing of slides taken during the survey of Dulwich Ponds: followed by BBC Film "The Water Walkers" with commentary.

## OTHER EVENTS

Wednesdays March 19th April 16th May 21st 7.30pm Horniman Museum	World Wildlife Fund - Dulwich Group	Series of film and lecture meetings. Further information may be obtained from the Group Organiser, Ruth Day 18 Zenoria St. SE22 Tel: 693 4259.
April 26th Saturday 10.30am *	Norwood Society	"From French's Field to Knight's Hill" - a voyage of discovery led by Geoffrey Manning. For further details please phone 670 6048. * Meet at "The Paxton" - junction of South Croxted Rd and Gipsy Hill.

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## LOCAL HISTORY Sub-Committee

### The latter days of Court Farm and the early days of Dulwich Park.

The autumn meeting of the Society arranged by the Local History Sub-Committee took place in St Barnabas Parish Hall on Thursday 7 November, and was attended by 80 members and visitors.

The opportunity was taken to commemorate the Centenary of the opening of Dulwich Park in 1885. Mr Jerry Tester, the present Park Manager, brought along an exhibition of photographs and press cuttings which had originally been mounted for the celebrations in the Park in September: this enhanced the audience's enjoyment of the talk, on the history of the site now occupied by the Park, which was given by Brian Green and accompanied by slides.

Brian Green told us of Dulwich Court, the substantial house which was built some time between 1538 and 1603, and which Edward Alleyn may have occupied while the Chapel, College and Almshouses were being built in the Village nearby. From the time of Alleyn's death in 1624, Dulwich Court and 129 acres of the surrounding farmland tended to be leased as an investment by prosperous London businessmen, who then sublet to local Dulwich farmers. We learnt of one such main tenant, Edward Le Neve, who leased Dulwich Court from 1691 to 1738, and who sublet the farmland to two well-known Dulwich farming families, the Budders and the Bowens. A descendant of Edward Le Neve, Miss Josephine Le Neve Foster, had supplied Brian Green with valuable information, and was able to attend the meeting.

The history of Court Farm during the 19th century is dominated by the figure of Colonel Constable, who farmed the estate and a number of adjacent fields - in all about 200 acres - from the 1820s until 1867. After this date, the Farm steadily contracted in size, but the farmhouse - which may well have incorporated part of the old Dulwich Court - and several fields continued to exist until 1923. The major reduction in size was of course due to the gift of the Estates Governors to the Metropolitan Board of Works of 72 acres (not all of it Court Farm land) to form the future Dulwich Park.

Bill de Baerdemaeker concluded the evening by showing a sequence of slides relating to the history of Court Lane, the Farm and the Park, which deepened the audience's appreciation of the talk. Brian Green pointed out that old field boundaries are still preserved in the major pathways and the surviving tree-

lines in the Park. Many of us felt we would now find a stroll through the Park a matter for greater interest and discovery than ever before.

Hilary Rosser.

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*If there be righteousness  
in the heart, there will be  
beauty in the character.  
If there is beauty in the  
character there will be  
harmony in the home. If  
there is harmony in the  
home, there will be order  
in the nation. When there  
is order in each nation  
there will be peace in the  
world.*

*Very old Chinese Proverb.*

#### THE BICKNELLS of HERNE HILL (PT. 1)

In 1937, approval was given for Anstey Road near Loughborough Junction to be renamed 'Bicknell Road' and, on older maps, a row of shops on the crest of Herne Hill is known as 'Carlton Parade'. These are the only reminders of the large and interesting family who once lived on Herne Hill. Few people know much about them now, despite the entries of Bicknell and one of his sons in the "National Biography": the fact that another son founded a Museum: that Bicknell and yet another son wrote books on the flora of the Mediterranean which are still used for reference purposes by the Royal Horticultural Society: that another son was one of the first Englishmen to climb the Matterhorn, and that the family vault is on the West Norwood Cemetery Tomb Trail.

Elhanan Bicknell was born in Southwark in 1778, the son of a schoolmaster. After short periods working as an assistant teacher at his father's school in Tooting, and training to be a gentleman farmer, he entered into partnership with a cousin in a business with interests in shipping and the Pacific sperm-whale industry. In a later census he is described as "shipowner and merchant". Certainly by 1818, at the age of 40, he was successful enough and wealthy enough to purchase land on Herne Hill, next to the Casina House Estate, and there build the substantial 'Carlton House'.

His estate covered most of the present Danecroft Road to Frankfurt Road, opposite No.28 Herne Hill, the first home of the Ruskin family. He married four times and had thirteen children. By the time he was 37 he had lost two wives, but his third marriage lasted 21 years and he and his wife had eight children. I think his third wife, Lucinda, was the love of his life, for it was she who was transferred from the catacombs to lie with him in the family vault in West Norwood Cemetery, although she had died eleven years previously and he had been married for ten years to his fourth wife.

Besides being a very successful businessman, Bicknell was a collector of modern English paintings, drawings and prints, many of which were bought directly from the artists. He was friend and benefactor to artists and connoisseurs, among them Turner, David Roberts and Ruskin. When he died, at the age of 72, Bicknell's art treasures were sold at Christies. His oil paintings, sold on the first day of the first three-day sale, realised £58,600, a very great sum in 1863. The third sale, of the contents of 'Carlton House', was held at the House, and interest was so great that in

the time running up to the sale Herne Hill was blocked by crowds, and there was a row of carriages a mile long.

Not only was the appreciation of art encouraged in the family; there was also a fine library, and there were scientific instruments such as microscopes and telescopes, and musical instruments. The lighter side of life was not forgotten. There was a full-sized billiard table, and a very fine cellar. The house was certainly very comfortably furnished, with carpeting throughout, including the servants' quarters. At some time there must have been an invalid in the household for two invalid carriages were mentioned in the sale catalogue.

In common with other substantial properties in that era, Bicknell's estate was largely self-supporting, with its own dairy and small herd; its carpenter's shop, green-houses, stables, chickens and a beautiful garden, with a gardener living in a house on the estate. In addition, he had what I think was a kitchen garden in Poplar Walk where pigs were also kept.

Elhanan was very conscious of the need for his children to be well-educated, and being a Unitarian, his sons went to various Universities abroad and at home but they, and the girls, were taught privately in the first instance, for there was always a governess resident in the household.

Elhanan worshipped at the Unitarian Chapel in Essex Street, The Strand, although from time to time he probably attended the Effra Road Chapel, Brixton, for he is reported to have been a substantial contributor to the foundation of that Chapel. His funeral service was conducted by the Minister of the Essex Street Chapel, as were those of other members of the family. The family vault at West Norwood is in unconsecrated ground, as are the graves of David Roberts, Spurgeon and Henry Tate, all non-conformists. However, it would seem that at least two of Bicknell's sons were members of the Church of England, for his eldest son's funeral service was conducted by Matthew Anderson, first Vicar of St Paul's, Herne Hill, who was a very near neighbour and, probably, a friend, and the grave is in the consecrated part of the Cemetery. His youngest son, Clarence, took Holy Orders at Cambridge University and later became Curate at St Paul's, Walworth. Eventually, Clarence migrated to Italy, and it was he who founded the Museum Bicknell at Bordighera, Italy.- Recently, descendants of Elhanan went to Italy to commemorate the centennial

of Elhanan's book "Flowering plants and ferns of the Riviera and neighbouring mountains".

Elhanan Bicknell is largely forgotten locally as is Henry Bessemer. They both deserve better. They played significant rôles in their particular fields of interest: Bessemer in the scientific and industrial worlds; Bicknell in the early Victorian art world, for he compiled one of the largest private collections of British art in the country, and helped many a struggling artist by his support and friendship. There is not even a mention of the House, or of the Bicknells in "Ye Parish of Camberwell" by Blanche.

Patricia Jenkyns  
Chairman - Historical Sub-Committee  
Herne Hill Society.

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#### TREES Sub-Committee

We are very glad to announce the lecture "Caring for Trees", on February 6th, will be given by Mr W Matthews who is the present Technical Advisor to the Men of the Trees. He was previously both Chairman of the Trees Council and President of the Arboricultural Society.

The Men of the Trees' is an international organisation founded by the late Dr Richard St Barbe Baker OBE for the planting and protection of trees. It has 33 branches, some in England and others overseas in countries such as Australia and Kenya: altogether, members in 48 different countries are involved in the planting of trees. The organisation is at present particularly concerned with the situation in Africa, and hopes to send trained volunteers there for tree-planting projects.

This lecture, given by an expert, will give us an opportunity to look beyond the horizons of Dulwich to places where trees are a matter of life and death.

Stella Benwell

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WILDLIFE Sub-Committee

BEL AIR

There has recently been some discussion amongst naturalists about the lake in the grounds of Bel Air, and the possibility of enhancing it scenically and of encouraging wildlife.

Proposals have been put forward to Southwark Council by Mr Keith Corbett, who is an authority on Pond Management and Conservation. Members of the Trees and Wildlife Sub-Committees have discussed his ideas, have visited the lake with him and have given him the Society's support.

The proposals emphasise the need to let in more light and to clean up the decaying leaves and other matter, and to introduce water plants, such as marsh marigolds, purple loosestrife, lesser reed-mace and similar plants, and oxygenating plants to encourage wildlife in the water.

The Society wrote to the Council supporting the proposals, and it has already received confirmation from the Council's Parks Department that an estimate is being obtained for the cost of the work involved.

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DULWICH WOODS

The Estates Governors have obtained the help of the Flora and Fauna Preservation Society to begin the restoration of the pond in Dulwich Woods. This pond is shown on maps of 120 years ago. A working-party has already started removing the silt, and it is hoped that further help will be forthcoming.

The Governors are currently considering how the Woods should be managed, and how the frequent vandalising of gate-locks and fencing can be prevented.

Marjorie Campbell

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## SIGHTINGS

And so the season changes with the departure of the last summer residents and the arrival of our winter visitors.

House martens were last noted on 9th October and, at about the same time, the first fieldfare was seen. Earlier, a swallow had flown south over Griffin field and a kingfisher, the second of this autumn, graced the park lake. At 1.30pm on 12th October a buzzard was soaring above Gilkes Crescent. Following a comment on the lack of green woodpeckers, one resident reports reassuringly that two visit his lawn regularly.

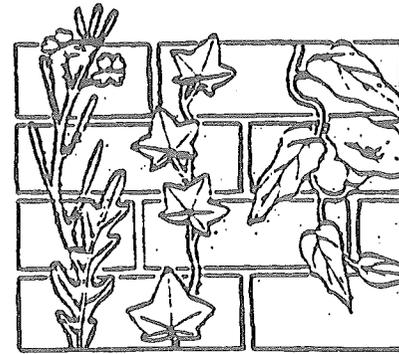
Pyracanthus may have been stripped already but yew and other berries abound for feeding birds. Our common birds have yet to show the effects of hard weather save in the singing of thrushes, tits, wrens and dunnocks, all of which perform desultorily. Even the robin is subdued.

The past summer has proved a setback for toads, late development leaving them too small to hibernate successfully. A number of small toads were gathered in the garden of one resident and taken indoors where they are being fed on live crickets. Each toad can eat up to 30 crickets daily!

Please ring 693 1666 with news of your sightings.

Donald Freshwater

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## THE ECOLOGICAL PARKS TRUST

### Progress Report on Dulwich Upper Wood

As most of you may already know, Dulwich Upper Wood (DUW) is a 5-acre mixed deciduous wood owned by the Estates Governors and managed by the Ecological Parks Trust (EPT).

Since the wood's official opening on May 11th, the most notable change is that the previous Warden's 'hut' has been replaced by more spacious accommodation which, as most people will agree, is far less conspicuous. The hut was obtained from the William Curtis Ecological Park, previously situated near Tower Bridge, and now closed to make way for a new river-side development. The hut will provide office space for the Warden, teaching facilities and an area for displays. Already, we have had several successful visits from schools, and it is hoped that the educational role of the wood will continue to develop. Unusual events so far have included a visit from a local Beaver Colony (pre-Cub Scout group) and a Teddy Bear's Picnic for 3½-to 4-year-olds!

Following recent surveys in the wood, a number of new species have been recorded. The Fungi Survey has added 5 new species to the present list of 70. Additional to the Bird list is a redpoll. 7 species of spiders have been seen, and 3 butterfly species more commonly found in gardens and other grassy areas, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Large Skipper. The most numerous additions were those of moths. We appreciated the helping hand of Colin Plant, Chairman of the London Natural History Society, during a moth-trapping night in July, when 42 species were caught, 35 new to the wood. A fox spent 20 minutes sitting next to one of the moth-traps, and a bat detector recorded the presence of pipistrelle bats flying round the tree-tops.

Hedge-planting around the perimeter fence has progressed well: around a thousand whips were planted, and, once established, it is hoped that the hedge will enhance the appearance of the wood, increase habitat and species diversity, and discourage the occasional dumping of rubbish. The hedge is a mixture of hawthorn, blackthorn, dogrose, hazel and fieldmaple.

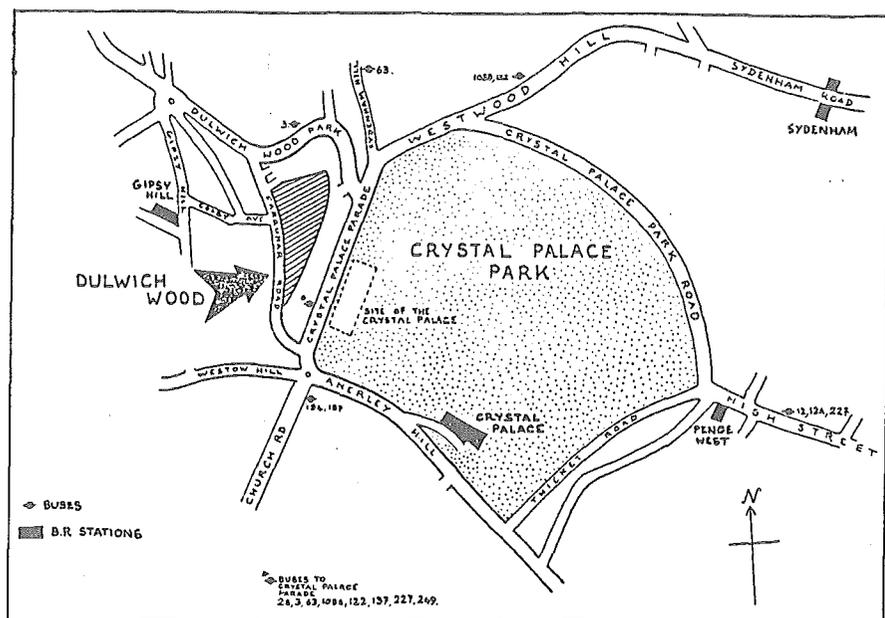
The tree nursery has proved to be very successful:

all last year's transplants have survived and are now being distributed to other EPT sites. We currently have a policy of rescuing saplings which would be unlikely to survive, due to the excessive shade of the older trees and the wood's many sycamores. It is hoped that the nursery will be adopted by local schools who will become involved in its management, from the initial collection of seeds to the final planting-out.

The wood is open 7 days a week. The Warden is present on weekdays from 9am to 5pm. A number of pamphlets and posters are available from the hut, including the new DUW Trail leaflet, and the EPT Annual Report with details of the Trust's activities.

If you have any queries please contact the Warden, Andrew Loan, at the site on 01 - 761 6230.

How to get to Dulwich Upper Wood.



Andrew Loan

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## HORTICULTURAL JOTTINGS

Potting-on plants with spreading rosettes of fleshy leaves such as African violet can damage the plants. Cacti and other plants with thorns or needles can damage the potter! Use a moist compost and pot-up an empty container of the size of that in which your subject is growing. Carefully remove this smaller pot from the compost, knock out your plant, drop it in the hole you have made, give the whole a sharp rap on the bench to settle the plant and the job is done.

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It is sometimes difficult to decide whether poor germination is a result of deficiencies in the seed or the sower! This autumn, a member had occasion to obtain hand-pollinated polyanthus seed from two sources. One was imported Tasmanian seed, the other was English seed from a specialist nursery. Both batches were sown in the same compost on 8th September and given identical treatment thereafter. From three packets of imported seed 18, 13 and 0 seedlings appeared. From the English seed the average germination was 46, the least successful packet producing 38 seedlings. The difference? Freshness. The English seed was guaranteed new season's stock, harvested and packed in August. The Tasmanian seed was, of necessity, older and had been kept in less-than-perfect conditions. Hand-pollinated and F1 seed is expensive; obtaining fresh seed from a reliable source is an economy.

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Professor Arthur Bell, Director of Kew, has instituted a programme to screen his vast stock of plant material for potentially useful substances. As part of this programme, scientists at the Biology Department of Kings College have isolated an extract from a common West African tree which is poisonous to slugs and snails. Initially the thrust of the research is directed towards the control of the mollusc that is an essential host in the life-cycle of the fluke that causes bilharzia. The next stage of the experiment is the controlled release of minute concentrations of the material in watercourses in Egypt. It would seem, therefore, that this is a much more specific molluscicide than the noxious baits at present in use and that we might all benefit from this recondite research in Half Moon Lane.

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White fly is a debilitating pest in the greenhouse and conservatory which is difficult to eliminate. The knock-down sprays available kill the adults but have no effect on the larvae. Repeated sprays at frequent intervals are therefore necessary to make any long-term impact.

Scientists working for the United States Department of Agriculture have found white fly is attracted by colour. They have demonstrated that 12"-square boards painted orange/yellow (the most effective colour, though the precise shade is not critical), coated with a sticky substance and suspended amongst growing plants provide a lasting, effective, non-chemical control of greenhouse white fly. The boards should be suspended at the same level as the plants because the white fly tend to move laterally rather than vertically.

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The dubious proposition that talking to plants is stimulating to them (as well as therapeutic for the gardener) is well-known. From America (where else?) comes the news that we should become even more intimate; we should caress our plants - and that is not as ludicrous as may appear at first blush.

Seedlings germinating in their native habitats are ruffled by the wind, and it has been shown that this action, in combination with good light, helps to make the young plants sturdy and short-jointed. It is suggested that if we trail a hand very gently over the pots and boxes of seedlings, in the greenhouse or frame, the effect of a light breeze is simulated to the benefit of the developing plants.

Bill Hale.

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## THE DEVELOPMENT of the LOCAL SEWERAGE SYSTEM

The first of the two phases of the construction of the Effra Storm Relief Sewer is now complete between Clapham North and Half Moon Lane, bringing relief from severe storm flooding to the previously susceptible areas of Herne Hill. The second phase of this scheme is to construct a further sewer from Gipsy Hill to West Dulwich. Work is expected to start in early 1986 and take about 12 months to complete.



The new Effra Storm Relief Sewer under construction during the first phase.

Historically the Effra has played an important role in the drainage of South London, and the size of the river can be judged from reports that it was navigable as far as Brixton.

The use of rivers as a means of disposal of waste has long been a cause for concern, and Acts of Parliament were passed as long ago as 1388 in an attempt to clean up the waterways. To prevent the spread of disease, rivers were bricked in, thus forming the framework of to-day's sewerage system. The introduction of piped water supplies made possible the widespread use of the WC from the late 18th century, and completed the transformation of sewers from rivers to a means of disposal of waste water.

The pollution of the rivers into which the sewers discharged, and the River Thames in particular, increased dramatically as a result of this transformation which culminated in a number of cholera epidemics in the mid-1800s. In 1855, under pressure as a result of these epidemics, the then Metropolitan Board of Works ordered their Engineer, Joseph Bazalgette, to put works in hand to prevent sewage entering the River Thames. He designed and constructed a number of interceptor sewers, flowing eastwards, which, as their name suggests, intercepted and collected sewage from the original sewers and discharged it into the Thames on ebb tides, downstream of London, through outfalls at Thamesmead and Barking. The system was developed by the later addition of further interceptor sewers, and by the construction of sewage treatment works at the outfall points.

Meanwhile, the population increased rapidly as did the use of water for domestic and commercial purposes. In addition, and possibly of greater significance, the density of built-up areas increased which meant that water that had previously percolated into the ground was now being redirected into the sewers from houses, factories and roads, resulting in flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.



A sewerman in the brick-built South West Storm Relief Sewer.  
At times of peak storm, this sewer flows full.

The next phase of the development of the sewerage system was therefore the construction of storm sewers to relieve the local sewers during such periods, and to carry the excess flows direct to the Thames. One such sewer, the South West Storm Relief sewer, was constructed in 1926 from West Norwood to Vauxhall to relieve those locally in Tulse Hill, Dulwich, Herne Hill, Brixton and Stockwell.

The following 50 years saw an escalation in the use of domestic and commercial water which resulted in an increase in the 'normal' flow in sewers, and a consequent decrease in the capacity for accommodating storm flows. This has given rise to areas such as Herne Hill and Dulwich being flooded during peak storm times.

The most successful system for dealing with these flows has been the development of the 'tank' sewer, designed to store excess water generated during peak storms, and to discharge the stored water when the flow in the local sewers has abated.

The Effra Storm Relief Sewer is such a tank sewer, which connects and discharges into the South West Storm Relief Sewer.

Robin PJ Clarke

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#### FOOTNOTE

Robin Clarke is a Senior Engineer (Construction) with the Central Division of the Thames Water Authority. Those who went to hear the first lecture of the Dulwich Forum's 1985/86 season will remember him for two reasons. First, he was standing-in at short notice for that evening's speaker, and second, there were gremlins at large in St Barnabas Hall that evening!

He gave us a clear, concise and very well-illustrated lecture laced with amusing asides. He then agreed to provide us with this article, which gives historical- and an atom of visual- relevance to an account which was given in Newsletter 67 of the activities of some denizens of the (earthy) deep this year, and which they will repeat under our feet next year.

We are most grateful to him.

Robin Taylor

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Letter from Christopher Wren to a lady -  
Faith Coghill who later became his wife.  
She had dropped her watch in the Sea, and  
sent it to Wren for him to get it repaired.  
This letter was written when he returned  
the watch to her.

Madam,

The artificer having never before mett with a  
drowned Watch, like an ignorant physician has been  
soe long about the cure that he hath made me very  
unquiet that your commands should be soe long  
deferred; however, I have sent the watch at last  
and envie the felicity of it, that it should be soe  
neer your side, and soe often enjoy your Eye, and  
be consulted by you how your Time shall passe while  
you employ your hand in your excellent workes.  
But have a care of it, for I put such a Spell into  
it that every Beating of the Ballance will tell you  
'tis the pulse of my Heart which labours as much  
to serve you and more Trewly than the watch; for the  
watch I believe will sometimes lie, and sometimes  
perhaps be idle and unwilling to goe, having received  
so much injury by being drenched in that briny bath,  
that I dispair it should ever be a Trew servant to  
you more. But as for me (unless you drown me too  
in my Teares) you may be confident I shall never  
cease to be,

Your most affectionate, humble servant.

"Chr. Wren."

## DESIDERATA

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what  
peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender  
be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and  
clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too  
have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are  
vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you  
may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and  
lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as  
your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble;  
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise  
caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.  
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons  
strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be  
yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical  
about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is  
perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, grace-  
fully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to  
shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself  
with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.  
Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are  
a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you  
have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no  
doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace  
with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your  
labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace  
with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it  
is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

*(Found in Old Saint Paul's Church, Baltimore - Dated 1692)*