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The Dulwich Society

TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

Newsletter 82
Autumn 1988

AUTUMN 1988

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All contributions to the Winter Newsletter, please, to the editor by November 25.

NEWS

LORD SILKIN DIES: Lord Silkin of Dulwich, the president of the society, died in hospital in Oxford on Wednesday 17 August after a long illness. He was 70. We offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to Lady Silkin and to all the family in their loss. Lord Silkin had been a vice-president of the society for at least 20 years when his election as president, in succession to Lord Shawcross, took place at the 23rd annual meeting on 6 March 1986. His election received unanimous support. It was his 68th birthday. His death after so short a term as president represents a considerable loss to this society. An appreciation of his interest in the society and his connections with Dulwich appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.

TOLL HOUSE LISTED: The Southwark conservation areas forum has granted listed building status to the Dulwich toll house. The toll was first established in 1789 and is now the only functioning example left in the Greater London area. The house was built in 1821 when the toll was relocated in its present position, and is described as being a one-storey brick building with a gabled roof and fishscale slates. The forum has given an interesting judgment. During the course of a survey of the southern end of College Road, a suggestion had been made that the toll might be moved from its present position. If this was to happen, it is considered that the future of the house might be in doubt. The house is known to be in need of repair and a more practical consideration might be to apply to English Heritage for granting the aid.

ORCHIDS IGNORED: The fate of the site on Shakespeare Road wanted for houses by a developer and for a wildlife sanctuary by local people and Lambeth Council has been decided, two years after it was bulldozed by its owner. The orchids have lost. The inspector's report and the Secretary of State's decision have been published. The inspector concluded that in view of the nature conservation, education and recreation value of the land, and, having regard to the council's ecology policies and proposals in the adopted local plan, the acquisition (of the land) for a nature park and environmental teaching centre "would be in the public interest and necessary in the interests of the proper planning of the area". Despite this conclusion, however, the Secretary of State, Mr Ridley, went on to say that he had weighed up the balance between housing and nature conservation and decided in favour of housing and against the council acquiring the site. He decided that 50 houses should be built on the site in the interests of the proper planning of the area. The nature park was in the local plan, and had planning permission. Government circulars also say that councils must take into account nature conservation interests. Mr Ridley's decision means that another valuable area of open space in the inner city will disappear.

GOVERNORS VETO: Dulwich estates governors have rejected the unanimous resolution of the amenity societies' coordinating committee to include the Dulwich Village Preservation Society on the advisory committee. Their decision was made on 6 August. It is likely to lead to further difficulties and confrontations.

NEWS

PULLMAN THEATRE: A project has been launched to convert the former Herne Hill cinema into the Pullman Grand Theatre, a professional theatre similar to the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn. In association with the Herne Hill Society a public meeting was called in July to seek support for the project. It was held at Herne Hill Baptist Church, Half Moon Lane. The Herne Hill Cinema was opened in 1913 and is one of the oldest surviving purpose-built cinemas in London. At some point it became the Cinema Grand; a sound system was added in 1930; it was refurbished in 1932 by the distinguished cinema architect George Coles; and its name was changed to the Pullman in 1953. It closed on 27 June 1959 with "The Way To The Stars" and "The Ladykillers", and became a bingo hall. The bingo operation ceased in 1986: the copy of the News Of The World in the rubbish bin is dated 21 September of that year. In theatre parlance, the building is dark. Anyone who can help with the project should contact Robert Holden on 674 5101.

PUBLICITY TRIO: Three new people have arrived on the membership and publicity sub-committee. They are: Nigel Faren, 22 Peckarmans Wood, SE26, tel: 693 4151; Sue Ford, 9 Carlton Place, Kingswood Drive, SE19, tel: 761 1031, and Martin Heath, 47 Tulsemere Road, SE27. Please contact them if you have any ideas, suggestions, advice or complaints.

LONDON AMENITIES: In March the Civic Trust launched a scheme to promote an association of London amenity societies. At an inaugural meeting attended by representatives of 35 of the 42 societies invited (apologies received from the rest), the trust offered initial funding and some meeting facilities. It was urged that London needs a coordinated and comprehensive voice on major issues. These, it was suggested, should include: assisting the process of discussion between the voluntary sector and local government; British Telecom; planning, transport, traffic, conservation and buildings (exteriors); and "the concern for the Inner London ring road, an issue which links all of us". A steering committee of 11 members was set up. At the committee's first meeting a draft constitution was drawn up. The objects of the Forum were seen as:

- * to provide a forum for the amenity societies of Greater London on matters of common interest
- * to act when necessary on behalf of amenity societies in matters of common concern
- * to act as liaison between amenity societies and local or national authorities
- * to encourage the formation of amenity societies
- * to respect the independence of individual amenity societies within their own area

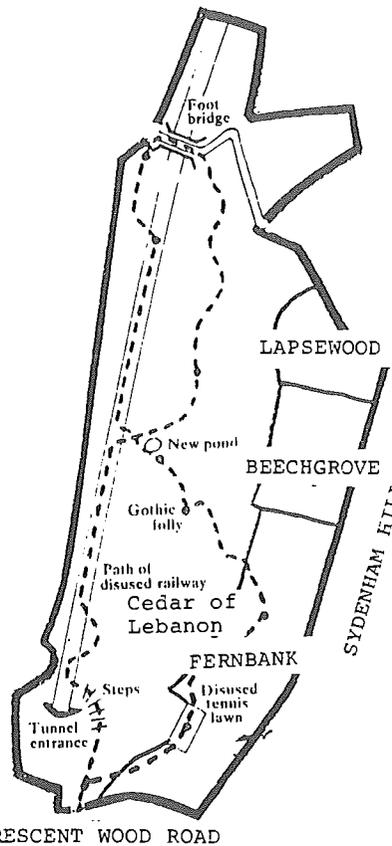
Membership is open to any local amenity society whose basic aim is to protect and improve the environment. The first draft constitution has been adopted from Tameside, a Midlands association. It was agreed that a general meeting would be held of all interested societies in early October.

NEWS

GOVERNORS DEFEATED: The Sydenham Society have criticised the estates governors over the latter's effort - yet again - to secure planning permission for the development of the Beechgrove site in Sydenham Hill Woods. The application was heard in March by the Camberwell and Walworth planning area sub-committee of Southwark Council which recommended

SYDENHAM HILL WOOD

Nature trail and housing sites



rejection. The Society adds: "When will the estates governors accept the pressure of an overwhelming public opinion on both sides of the hill and drop their efforts to suburbanise the woods? We are tired of this issue, and repeat our belief that the future of the whole wood should be as a local nature reserve leased to and managed by the London Wildlife Trust".

STOP THE FENCE: Protests have gone to the estates governors over the erection of a metal fence along Low Cross Wood Lane. Mr David Kenyon, of Woodsyre, Sydenham Hill, points out that for many years the college estate has been waging a losing battle against vandals intent on damaging the wooden fence along the lane. Recently large sections of the fence were removed by the estate. Mr Kenyon adds: "This had the effect of enabling people walking up and down the lane to enjoy the fine views of the wood for the first time. No doubt many people had wondered why a fence had been put up in the first place. It detracted from the enjoyment of the wood and did not prevent anyone determined to do so from going into the wood. There was also the question of upkeep. Large sums of money were being spent on the pointless repair of the fence."

Mr Kenyon said he was horrified when walking down the lane in June to find workmen putting in tall metal posts. In a letter to the governors, he said: "I do not know what your intentions are but having seen the enormities of which the estates governors are capable of - witness the dreadful posts now lining College Road - I fear the worst. What you appear to be set upon is insensitive and quite out of place in a wood. I do not believe that environmental destruction of this sort is in the best interests of the estate or of the people of Dulwich. I ask you to stop this work immediately and consult the Dulwich Society and other interested parties about your plans for Low Cross Wood Lane."

DIXON DOUBLE-TAKE: Residents of Frank Dixon Close agreed to a request from an independent television company to use the close as a setting for a short Channel 4 film for children. The film crew duly arrived and began setting up...in Frank Dixon Way. An irate resident speedily sent them packing.

KUWAITI PALACE: A Kuwaiti development company has proposed a major hotel and leisure centre at Crystal Palace Park. The company, Al Houda Hotels, is proposing a 150-bedroom hotel to be run by Holiday Inns International, a four screen cinema complex, a health club, indoor and outdoor tennis courts and other leisure facilities. These would be housed in a massive glass building modelled on the old Crystal Palace.

Extensive landscaping is being proposed along with 600 car parking spaces and a new bus stand.

Bromley Council, the authority responsible for the area, considered three schemes and favoured the Al Houda plans, which can be viewed at Bromley Civic Centre in Rochester Avenue and at Anerley Library. The council's recreation chairman, councillor Eric Goodman, said: "I think this is a most exciting proposal and just what we had in mind to bring life back to this vitally important, and at present derelict, site."

In 1971 Miss Norah Young, of Dekker Road, a founder-member, volunteered to organise the posting of newsletters to members who had left Dulwich but wished to retain a link with the society, and also to neighbouring societies and organisations who shared common interests. Letters of thanks sent to her by the chairman and secretary at that time are treasured possessions.

For a number of years, Norah's sister, Edith, also a founder-member, lent a helping hand until she eventually had to give up through illness. Norah nursed Edith at home for a long period before Edith went into hospital but did not falter in the distribution of newsletters.

Always cheerful and bursting with anecdotes and reminiscences spanning 60 years in Dulwich, Norah decided after celebrating her eightieth birthday recently that she would like a rest. Her 17 years at the job ended with distribution of the summer issue and a careful hand-over to her successor, Mrs Delia Hart-Wilton, of 6 Dekker Road, whom we welcome with grateful thanks for her offer to help.

Number 29 Dekker Road is being modernised and redecorated to the orders of the estates governors: we hope that Norah will enjoy her "new" flat and her second 'retirement' in peace and contentment. For cheerful and unstinting commitment, thank you Norah!

Robin Taylor

COMMITTEES DIVIDE AND MULTIPLY

Dulwich's amenities need constant care and vigilance or they will be insidiously eroded. We can see this process of erosion in insensitive new building and in the increase of traffic along our streets. To intensify our efforts to combat destruction of our amenities the society has now established two separate sub-committees: planning, chaired by Reg Collins (693 1223); and traffic and transport, chaired by Alastair Hanton (693 2618).

They are each supported by several able and committed members, but would welcome additional members. If you would like to help, please 'phone one of them.

Current threats which may concern you include:

- * Planning. Longer opening hours and bigger bars at the Crown and Greyhound. This pub already attracts huge numbers of customers by car from far and wide. Extensions would further destroy our peace, particularly late at night.
- * Traffic. The South Circular assessment study by the consultants Travers Morgan has outlined nine options. These include road widening on the South Circular itself and other measures to increase the number of vehicles using it. An active pressure group, called South Circular Alert, which is linked to the society, is campaigning on this.

If you could help fight threats like these, please get in touch. Alastair Hanton, chairman of traffic and transport, is at 8 Gilkes Crescent, Dulwich SE21. Reg Collins, chairman of planning, is at 6 Eastlands Crescent, Dulwich SE21 7EG.

ANGER IN ACACIA GROVE

The following article appeared in The Observer newspaper earlier this year, written by Stephen Gardiner, the newspaper's architecture correspondent.

There has been a surprising happening in Acacia Grove, Dulwich, the street where P G Wodehouse lived when a schoolboy at the College. Mr and Mrs Jedrosz, who own the freehold of No 4, have run into difficulties with the Alleyn's Trust over an extension they want to make. The trust has a covenant on property there, and this means that any alterations require its agreement.

This sounds a sensible arrangement when people have a way of making such a hash of additions with loft extensions and bits stuck on to sides that have no regard to design at all. In fact, it is often through numerous tiny alterations that streets of distinction like Acacia Grove become steadily vandalised and ruined.

Unfortunately, that trust's covenant has not had a constructive influence so far: three very clumsily designed houses have appeared at one end of the street in the last 10 years or so, while opposite No 4 there is a depressing block of flats in red brick (in contrast to the old houses in pale Cambridge stock); even the house next door to the Jedroszs', bombed in the war, has been badly rebuilt with the ugly addition of a garage and a carport.

It would never have occurred to Mr and Mrs Jedrosz to make an addition had not their son, now nearly five, been a victim of meningitis when he was seven months old, leaving him deaf, unable to speak or walk, a sufferer of extreme brain damage. With a view to the time when he is too heavy to carry upstairs, it was decided to make some changes to the house, one of the number of very nice semi-detached villas of the mid-nineteenth century variety that give Acacia Grove its distinction with modest classical fronts, and an interesting rhythm of large and small windows, and low sloping roofs over two storeys.

They wanted a bedroom on the ground floor for their son, looking on to the back garden and opening off the dining room. This meant an addition at the side of the house, the enlargement of the bedroom above for his parents to be within hearing distance and easy reach (via a circular stair), a downstairs bathroom and a change in position of the kitchen, all of which could be accommodated in a side addition. This was their ideal solution. Although the street is not in a conservation area, they realised, nevertheless, the importance of looking after its character, and took care to choose an architect who was intelligent and sensitive. They picked Tim Hatton, young and with a post-diploma training in the best architectural practice in the country, Powell and Moya.

Hatton was immediately aware that the requirements involved a delicate architectural problem: although the addition was, in general terms, comparatively small, the appearance of the old villas was certainly special. While each had its big, unique french window on to the front garden, each was subtly different. Each has its own sculptured animals beside the entrance (lions, dogs); upper floor windows vary in treatment, as do porches and the spaces between the pairs of villas; some houses have projections at the side. And so an addition was aesthetically possible: if the design followed the original, and was set back, it would constitute another minor variation.

The space between the house and its neighbour, greater than elsewhere in the street, was sufficient and the projection at the side suggested the solution: if this was increased, the roof structure, the critical factor in the design, could be extended naturally: the addition would pass unnoticed. As a result, the Southwark planners passed the scheme on 19 November last year and arranged for the necessary grants, all within three months. But then the Alleyn's Trust stepped in, causing extraordinary delays.

First, its surveyor said Hatton's drawings had not arrived on the appointed day, 13 November (although they had been sent on the seventh); when biked round to meet the deadline, Hatton was told they had arrived at 5.10pm, 10 minutes too late. That cost two months in time - the next meeting was at the end of January. Then came the committee's verdict - the design was aesthetically unsuitable; a small room at the front, over the kitchen, had to be omitted.

If this was omitted, the design, dependent on the continuation of the roof, would be ruined, transformed into a complex, ugly and obtrusive addition of the worst kind. Even the trust's own architect, Russell Vernon, agreed about this: he supported Hatton's scheme. After a correspondence of several months, the committee said that the whole of the first floor had to be omitted, rendering the entire project useless.

That is how matters stand today. Time is now running out on the grant (it has to be taken up within 12 months, leaving six left) and the rarity of a really good design may have been lost. That is bad enough. But the committee's verdict seems particularly inexplicable since the addition creates no precedent because it is for a child with an appalling handicap, and there is no other site in the street where a similar extension could be built. Indeed precedents have already been created by the new houses and the block of flats.

LORD SILKIN OF DULWICH

Lord Silkin, or Sam Silkin as he was more familiarly known, died on 17 August after a lengthy illness. He had succeeded another Law Lord, Lord Shawcross, as the society's president, and had shared chambers in his early days with Tom Williams (Judge Sir Thomas Williams), another Dulwich resident and also a senior law officer of the Wilson Government. He was president of the society from 1987 to 1988.

Sam Silkin served Dulwich ably as its MP from 1964-83 and took up cases on behalf of many Dulwich residents. He was instrumental in resolving problems at Dulwich Village Infants School over its new site and led the resistance against infilling in large garden houses.

He was one of the architects of the Leasehold Reform Bill, which whilst intended primarily to alleviate the hardship of Welsh miners in tied houses, also released the floodgates of enfranchisement of leases on the Dulwich College Estate. Present residents should be eternally grateful to him for this. He was less successful in his campaign to abolish the tollgate in College Road!

He was educated at Dulwich College and lived for most of his life in Dulwich. He was an approachable, sincere man who will be much missed by all who knew him.

Brian Green

BATTLE OF DULWICH

On Thursday 3 November Brian Green will deliver an illustrated lecture on Victorian and Edwardian Dulwich at St Barnabas Hall at 8pm to mark the publication of his new book on 'local history'. It will ask (and answer) questions like:

- * Why did East Dulwich develop so intensively between 1865-1882 whilst Dulwich itself largely saw development around the edge of its old manor boundary?
- * What was the battle of Dulwich and why did such bitterness exist between the Governors and the supporters of the Master?



Above: Dulwich Village, circa 1902. Opposite: Dulwich Park. Pictures from Brian Green's Victorian and Edwardian Dulwich.

- * What did people do in their leisure hours and what opportunity was there for women to express themselves?
- * What were the schools like and what subjects did they teach?
- * What kind of people lived here and did the church play a significant role in the quality of life?

Brian Green's book Victorian and Edwardian Dulwich will be published by Barracuda books in October. It is illustrated with over 200 contemporary photographs.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr R G Covey

August 25 1988

Dear Sir,

I was interested in your news item "Loft Lines" on page three of the summer issue.

I have been submitting detailed plans and writing letters to the estates governors since March, in an attempt to obtain their permission for a loft conversion on my house. Despite obtaining planning consent from Southwark council and signed letters from several neighbours stating that they had no objections to my plans, the governors eventually refused me permission at the beginning of August.

At the time of writing this letter I have still not had an explanation of why they have refused permission nor have I at any time received from them guidelines as comprehensive as those listed in your article.

This exercise has cost my wife and I £1,500 and an incalculable amount of time and frustration. I feel angry and bitter about the way that we have been treated by the governors in this matter, considering the number of precedents that have been set and the fact that no indication of their change of policy has been circulated. Furthermore, nothing in the plans which I submitted infringed any of the points mentioned in your article.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone reading this who has had a similar experience with the estates governors.

Yours faithfully,

R G Covey
75 Turney Road
Dulwich SE21

From Mr & Mrs H Welch

Dear Mr Nicholson-Lord,

We consider the so-called poem, Takeover - the Rape of Loyalties, published in the summer Dulwich Society Newsletter, to be in extremely bad taste, and something which should not have been considered for an amenity society magazine. In fact, why should a local closet poet be considered of interest and be given so much free publicity in the first place?

Yours sincerely,

Harold and Mary Welch
17 Tollgate Drive
College Road
London SE21 7LS

CROUCHMANS CLOSE: RESIDENTS BAND TOGETHER

By Douglas Jordan

The launching of the Crouchmans Close Residents Association was a leisurely affair. Those of us envisaging the formation of such an organisation continued over several months to complain to one another of matters that needed attention. Often we compared experiences of the time taken by the estates management to reply to letters. Still we procrastinated, some of us perhaps discouraged by a misapprehension that corporate representation other than by one or two well known amenity societies was something of a rarity throughout the estates.

Then came the visit of an estates management surveyor, apparently on a periodic inspection of the area. It was he who spurred us on to the formation of an association. One telling point he made is well remembered. We learned that the estates management office received some several hundred letters a week on matters such as those with which we were concerned, mostly from individual residents. Clearly approaches on a representative basis would be both more convenient to the estates management and more satisfactory for us. Thus, after an informal discussion amongst all residents, Crouchmans Close Residents Association had its inaugural annual general meeting in February this year.

The first meeting produced something of a "shopping list" of ideas, requests and complaints. It was thus with a degree of doubt that when advising John Wylie, the general manager and secretary of the estates management of our formation, we also forwarded a substantial schedule of matters for which we sought attention. Some of us wondered whether we had been too ambitious in the number of items included and whether we would be souring relationships from the outset.

To our delight Mr Wylie not only warmly welcomed our formation but suggested an early meeting on our own ground. The morning hour he chose for the meeting was somewhat unsocial but perhaps indicative of the weight of his workload. We were intrigued with his wish to hold the meeting in Crouchmans Close rather than in his office as we had suggested. We interpreted his proposal as like the need of a naturalist to study a new species in its own habitat.

The practicalities of his choice of venue became clear, however, when following a friendly and encouraging discussion he set off on a personal inspection of the area. We must express our gratitude to John Wylie not only for his encouragement in our initial stages of development but for the provision of maps, charts and the like to assist Crouchmans Close Residents Association in its work. He was gracious enough to say that our formation would not only assist ourselves but facilitate his own administration. Fine words - but as always, the proof of the pudding had to be in the eating. Happily the pudding and its eating have proved excellent in the short time we have been in existence. The meeting we had with John Wylie and the correspondence which has developed between us have resulted already in a number of improvements to our immediate neighbourhood and the prospect of others which cannot be achieved immediately.

Thus we were happily surprised to observe the arrival of several workmen so soon after our meeting who set about preparing the road surface of Crouchmans Close for repair. We were somewhat concerned when they laid down their tools as abruptly as they had arrived and disappeared from the site. Whether or not breaks in their activities bore any relationship to the proximity of a pub, we shall never know. More to the point and to our great satisfaction, the roadway was rapidly repaired and efficiently patched with attention to kerbs and edging.

Following this, other matters were dealt with in quite remarkably close succession. New fencing was provided; a damaged unsafe wall to an amenity area was given immediate temporary repair whilst permanent repair has since been completed; pruning of trees was commenced with untidy overgrown hedges severely trimmed and gaps in their ranks as a consequence of last year's gales filled; work on a new road sign suitably worded to deter parking by outsiders was put in hand. The list goes on. What the association was seeing provided every justification for its formation. Whether or not some of the items might have been dealt with in any case was really beside the point. The benefits of corporate representation were manifest and proven.

We have involved ourselves in other matters outside our own area but nevertheless of interest to our members and their enjoyment of the neighbourhood. We have established friendly dialogue with our neighbouring Peckarmans Wood Association whom we have supported, it would seem with some effect, in their strenuous long-standing efforts to obtain the provision of a payphone at Sydenham Hill Station. Not a difficult task we would have assumed - that is until, as an association, we became involved in the matter.

We could continue to catalogue things achieved in the association's short lifetime, but that is not the purpose of this article. Nor is it intended as a eulogy of the estates management. However, in reviewing our development and early months of existence, it would be churlish not to express sincere appreciation for the efforts of John Wylie and his team in helping us get off to a good start. It is our rewarding experience in these recent months which has prompted writing this account to encourage others who are not as yet organised in residents' associations. In our inexperience, we are uncertain as to how many such organisations there are within the estate. Varying numbers have been quoted. But we do know of areas where there is no representative body and perhaps our experience will be of value to them. The estates management have demonstrated they welcome such representation and with their help, we have demonstrated to ourselves the value of a corporate voice.

Perhaps in due time all such associations within the estate might prove even more effective if some loosely organised federation was developed by which they might exchange experiences. Perhaps such a federation could be a worthwhile appendage to the Dulwich Society which already represents residents of the estate in a collective but different way. But perhaps, again, that may be thought to be a suggestion based on little experience by a brash newcomer to the scene of residents' representation.

Douglas Jordan is secretary of the Crouchmans Close Residents Association.

GRAPEVINE

WIRELESS WAYS: At his home in Rosendale Road, Gerald Wells has built up an impressive Vintage Wireless Museum. The large Victorian house is home to hundreds of working wireless sets. The Vintage Wireless Museum is not a museum in the conventional sense. It is a working museum where Gerald gives advice, information, practical help and will restore your wireless. Gerald started collecting seriously in 1958 with an "Ovaltiney" set. Inspiration to start a museum came in 1958 after visiting Lord Montague's Vintage Car Museum in Beaulieu. He restored old sets from rubbish dumps, lofts and cellars. The collection is still growing. There is also a huge store of spare parts. The cellar is full of about 20,000 valves of all kinds. In the workshop Gerald and his helpers make reproductions using original circuits and components. His telephone number for those who would like to try to arrange a visit is 670 3667.

PASTORAL CARE: Members of the Association for the Pastoral Care of the Mentally Ill living in Dulwich and Forest Hill have set up a local pastoral care centre for mentally ill people and those who care for them, as well as those suffering from stress. The national APCMI was founded two years ago by Jane Lindon to provide community-based support groups, run training courses for volunteer befrienders and act as a referral and information centre. Jane, whose son was educated at Dulwich College, is delighted that the association's first London support group started in Dulwich. 'Our members will be providing a voluntary service in the area, backed up by other voluntary organisations, professional carers and neighbourhood churches'. For details about the Association or the local Drop-In Centre, 'phone 253 9524.

GALLERY KIDS: Gillian Wolfe, the Dulwich Picture Gallery's education officer, won a National Art Collections Award last year for outstanding achievements in the visual arts. Gillian has been introducing fine art into the lives of inner-city children with an innovative educational programme using costume, music, drama and story-telling. Visitors to the Gallery frequently find young children sprawled on the floor copying a picture or listening to the resident story-teller, while sixth formers attend conservation classes.

This summer saw another innovation. Two specialist teachers started work with disadvantaged and disabled children in a new scheme sponsored by Marks and Spencer. Birgit Carolyn concentrated on schools in parts of London designated educational or social priority areas, and Diana Schomberg worked with children who are physically handicapped. Elizabeth Callender of Marks and Spencer's community affairs department said: "We share the gallery's concern that the riches of fine art should be accessible to everyone, not just to the educated and able".

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PASTORAL CARE: Members of the Association for the Pastoral Care of the Mentally Ill living in Dulwich and Forest Hill have set up a local pastoral care centre for mentally ill people and those who care for them, as well as those suffering from stress. The national APCMI was founded two years ago by Jane Lindon to provide community-based support groups, run training courses for volunteer befrienders and act as a referral and information centre. Jane, whose son was educated at Dulwich College, is delighted that the association's first London support group started in Dulwich. 'Our members will be providing a voluntary service in the area, backed up by other voluntary organisations, professional carers and neighbourhood churches'. For details about the Association or the local Drop-In Centre, 'phone 253 9524.

GALLERY KIDS: Gillian Wolfe, the Dulwich Picture Gallery's education officer, won a National Art Collections Award last year for outstanding achievements in the visual arts. Gillian has been introducing fine art into the lives of inner-city children with an innovative educational programme using costume, music, drama and story-telling. Visitors to the Gallery frequently find young children sprawled on the floor copying a picture or listening to the resident story-teller, while sixth formers attend conservation classes.

This summer saw another innovation. Two specialist teachers started work with disadvantaged and disabled children in a new scheme sponsored by Marks and Spencer. Birgit Carolyn concentrated on schools in parts of London designated educational or social priority areas, and Diana Schomberg worked with children who are physically handicapped. Elizabeth Callender of Marks and Spencer's community affairs department said: "We share the gallery's concern that the riches of fine art should be accessible to everyone, not just to the educated and able".

SELLING MYSELF

I arrive at the gate; after waiting they speak to me.
They say I have little skill -
I am not worthy of what I ask -
Others are waiting; so, fearful of going away empty
I bargain and accept a lesser rate than that for which I'd hoped.
A new world enfolds me
Reluctantly at first;
Strange men speak at me
New tools and disciplines, methods
Sap my freedom
And interest.
Friday comes and payment
Compensates for much
I feared,
Though self respect
Returns a little now and then
As I buy
A piece of affluence
In life's bargain basement
Where I live.

John Marsh

HORNIMAN FUTURE: The fate of the Horniman Museum is more secure. It will survive the demise of ILEA in April 1990. The government announced during the passage through Parliament of the Education Bill that the museum would survive as an independent institution funded jointly by government, local authorities and private sponsorship. It is not yet clear how the financing will be shared out but it will have to find some outside funding to keep going in its present form.

WHAT'S ON

5 October, Wed 7.45pm	Venner Road Hall	Future of Crystal Palace Park. Patrick Phillips, senior landscape architect, Bromley Council
6 October, Thurs 8pm	St Barnabas Hall	Illustrated talk, 'The Selection of Good Perennials', Dr David Barker
19 October, Wed 7.30pm	Goodrich Institute, Goodrich Road, SE22	Local Parks, talk by John Brooks, parks superintendent, Southwark
20 October, Thurs 8pm	Dulwich Picture Gallery	Susan Anderson, mezzo soprano, David Mason, piano. Songs by Purcell, Schumann, Bridge and Granados. Tickets £5. Series tickets also available
21 & 22 October, Fri & Sat, 8pm	St Barnabas Hall	Dulwich Players production (see News)
30 October, Sun Meet 2.30pm	Bankside Gallery	Walk along Bankside, SE1
1 November, Tues 8pm	The Great Hall, Dulwich College	The Endellian Quartet with Alan Hacker (clarinet). Works by Haydn, Bartok and Mozart. Tickets £6. Pay Wine Bar available. Concert supported by S G Smith Group
3 November, Thurs 8pm	St Barnabas Hall	Victorian and Edwardian Dulwich, illustrated talk, Brian Green
9 November, Wed 8pm	Dulwich Picture Gallery	Thomas Gainsborough, lecture by Dr John Haynes, Director of the National Portrait Gallery. Tickets £4. Series tickets also available
12 November, Sat 11.30am	Dulwich Picture Gallery	Promenade concert, The Rousell String Trio with Judith Fitton, flute

WHAT'S ON

6 December, Tues 8pm	Dulwich Picture Gallery	Sing and Dance, an entertainment by children, produced by Gillian Wolfe. Tickets £5
10 December, Sat 11.30am	Dulwich Picture Gallery	Promenade concert, the Marley Wind Group, Conductor Laurence Leonard
2 February 1989, Thurs 8pm	St Barnabas Hall	Effects of the hurricane, talk
4 May 1989, Thurs 8pm	St Barnabas Hall	Mammals and insects of our woods, illustrated talk (Wildlife committee)
June 1989 (date and time to be announced)	Battersea Park Nature Reserve	Guided walk, Brian Mist

PALACE MAZE REBUILT

The once-famous Crystal Palace Tea Maze has been rebuilt this year and was due to be open to the public this summer. The term "Tea Maze" refers to the fact that it was considered fashionable during the latter part of the nineteenth-century for ladies to take light walks at about 4pm in the afternoon, and to be seen in all the "correct" places, including the Crystal Palace maze.

The original maze was opened sometime around 1870, although the exact date is not known. It was built on an area of artificially raised land known as the North Mound, 175 feet across, which was intended to be one of a pair of circular mounds planted with roses and other shrubs. The companion South Mound was completed in this way. Now grassed over, it is still clearly discernible in the sports centre complex.

The maze was laid out with circular divisions of hornbeam and an outer edge of rhododendron, holly and poplar. The inner circular path was edged with stone: it is now overgrown, but can still be identified in parts. The path surfaces seem to have been of crushed brick. Admission was 3d, paid at a timber Swiss-style chalet located in the main entrance gap. In the centre was a timber flagpole, whose flag was raised when the maze was open: this was surrounded by seven ornamental trees.

The site was commandeered for military purposes in 1939. By the time the park was acquired for the nation in 1952, the maze was in disrepair. Bromley council has rebuilt the maze exactly as it was, although without the flagpole and Swiss chalet. Exact layout plans have been found to enable the paths to be rebuilt, and 4,000 examples of the original species of hedging were planted.