



# *The Dulwich Society*

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TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH

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*Newsletter 83*

*Winter 1988-89*

WINTER 1988-89

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All contributions for Spring issue, please, by end of February.

EDITORIAL COMMENTTHE GOVERNORS ON TRIAL

As many readers and members will remember, the growing chorus of dissatisfaction with the Dulwich estates governors finally surfaced, thanks to the society, at a public meeting last February. In its way, it was a momentous meeting: for the first time on such a scale the governors came face to face with their critics and had to respond to them on the spot, in public and with several hundred witnesses present.

Although there were many critics, and many individual criticisms, the fundamental direction of the protests was easier to summarise. It lay in the feeling that the governors constituted a kind of invisible oligopoly, a self-perpetuating, undemocratic and unresponsive cabal whose interests - exemplified in their apparently obsessive urge to cover parts of Sydenham Hill Wood with bricks and mortar - seemed increasingly at odds with the interests and wishes of the vast bulk of people living in Dulwich.

It was, inevitably, an angry meeting. It was, for many of those present, both illuminating and exasperating. It was probably too short. From the floor came a bombardment of complaints of letters left unanswered, jobs left unattended, promises repeated many times yet still unfulfilled. From the governors there came an acknowledgement of the strength of feeling of their critics coupled with an admission that their performance had not been up to scratch and an assurance that it would improve.

Has that assurance been borne out? Have things really changed?

The society has embarked on a further major exercise aimed at finding out. Among the aims of the public meeting was the discussion of a bulky dossier of complaints forwarded to the governors by the society and based on carefully compiled surveys of estate residents. We now want to repeat the exercise. This issue of the Newsletter includes a questionnaire asking if action has been taken on problems raised last year. Please, if you are affected, help by replying. Only by detailed fact-finding can we underpin the case for improvements in the way the estate is run. And only with all its members' help can the society get at those facts.

The next stage of the exercise will be a second public meeting, again organised by the society and again to be held at St Barnabas Hall. The date is 23 February. It will begin at 8pm. Estates governors' representatives will again be present - unless, that is, they decide to decline the invitation. For anyone concerned with the future of Dulwich, it should prove an event not to be missed.

By the time it is held, and with members' information at our disposal, we should all be much better able to assess whether things have indeed changed for the better - and to put those conclusions to the governors. But it has to be said that the omens, at the very least, are mixed.

Other articles in this issue of the Newsletter assess why. Patrick Darby examines constitutional changes over the year - the mechanisms by which local residents make their views known to the governors - and concludes that, albeit halting and undramatic, there have been tangible gains. Reg Collins and Kate Hoey - the latter both a society member and an estates governors - discuss the saga of Beechgrove and Sydenham Hill Wood and come to a rather bleaker conclusion.

The preservation of Sydenham Hill Wood as woodland is probably the biggest single test of the governors' commitment to the overall well-being of Dulwich in recent years. They have failed it dismally.

Worse, they appear incapable of learning the lessons of that failure. They appear to see nothing amiss in the spectacle of the overwhelming bulk of local opinion being ranged against them time and time again. Nor can they apparently appreciate just how flimsy their defence of the woodland development proposals, by reference to the Charity Commission, seems to anyone with a modicum of political nous. Moreover, each successive defeat merely appears to whet their appetite to do further damage: one begins to feel they will not rest easy in their beds until they have chopped down at least an acre or two of woodland.

The truth of the matter is that if they were a representative body - a democratically elected organisation, for example - they would not get away with it. For ignoring local aspirations and needs so flagrantly, they would be thrown out of office and replaced with others for whom bone-headed intransigence was not one of the cardinal virtues.

Sydenham Hill Wood is a marvellous, prized, precious place which should be left as it is. Dulwich needs it - all of it - because it is like nowhere else for miles around; and because without it, and places like it, cities would scarcely be worth living in. It is, of course, much more than a wood. It is a park, a playground, a classroom, a wilderness. It is a reserve and a refuge - for both people and wildlife. It is somewhere to go sledging, berrying, exploring, walking the dog. It is somewhere to remind oneself, and teach one's children, what autumn and winter and spring are like. It is a unique asset, an invaluable resource. Yet it is treated by the governors like real estate.

Sydenham Hill Wood is the litmus test for the estates governors. If they get it wrong we are all the losers. And the process set in train by last February's meeting, whatever else it may achieve, will not be a success until they get it right. We can only hope they will.

David Newson



## NEWS

THIRD TIME LUCKY?: Local residents and conservationists have won an historic victory to protect a piece of woodland from the threat of residential development. On Wednesday 21 September Southwark Council planning sub-committee rejected a further application from the Dulwich estates governors to build houses on Beechgrove, part of the Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Wood complex and adjacent to London Wildlife Trust's 20-acre Sydenham Hill Wood nature reserve. Local residents turned out in strength at the meeting to oppose the plans. Objectors included the society, the London Wildlife Trust, local amenity groups, Gerald Bowden, MP for Dulwich, and Kate Hoey, local Labour parliamentary candidate and one of the estates governors. John Archer, the trust's Southwark field officer, said: "Southwark Council is to be congratulated on standing firm over Beechgrove. We are particularly pleased that the sub-committee also made a firm commitment to seeking designation of the whole of the Sydenham Hill Wood complex as a statutory local nature reserve. Any development on Beechgrove would cause irreparable damage to the rest of the wood".

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MIND RECORD: The Southwark MIND shop in East Dulwich last year attracted hundreds of customers and made £43,000, more than any other shop in the MIND network. Its organiser, Jane Watts, said: "Our success is largely due to an excellent team of helpers and their response to the customers". The shop has an interesting collection of bric-a-brac, books and small items of furniture, as well as clothes. Prospective volunteers should contact Jane on 299 4101. Southwark MIND is at 96 Grove Vale, Goose Green, SE22.

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PARK PLANS: In 1989-90 Bromley Council is to spend £12,000 on heating its Crystal Palace Park park depot, £120,000 on a waterfall pumping station to aerate the lake and avoid health hazard, £150,000 to resurface the coach park and £45,000 on drainage.

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PLAYERS' PRODUCTIONS: "Pack of Lies", by Hugh Whitmore, directed by Wilfred Taylor, is the Dulwich Players' January production. A quietly respectable suburban couple and their teenage daughter are suddenly caught up in a web of deceit and intrigue and have to wrestle with problems of loyalty and betrayal when a major spy scandal involves their friends and neighbours. Based on the Kroger spy case of the 1960s, the main events of the play are true. Performances are on Friday and Saturday 20 and 21 January at 8pm in St Barnabas Hall. Tickets are £2 and £1 from the box office manager, Mrs Merrill Spencer, 7 Pond Cottages, SE21 (tel: 693 2043) and the Art Stationers, Dulwich Village, SE21. The Players' spring production in April will be "Abigail's Party" by Mike Leigh. Full details will be given in the Spring Newsletter.

NEWS

**GREENWORK THREAT:** Bodies like the London Wildlife Trust and the Trust for Urban Ecology, which run Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Upper Woods, have long relied on the Government's community programme for much of their manpower. Interesting sites need a large and constant workforce. The community programme has given the unemployed work experience on projects of great social benefit. Both trusts, and also the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, were helped to grow by the programme. Now, despite bidding jointly for places on the new training scheme, they are to lose funding altogether.

TRUE will be able to use workers from the new scheme although the emphasis on training may compromise the conservation work on their sites. LWT, however, will be losing over 40 people, many of whom work on site. A skeleton force will be left and so reliance on volunteers will increase. With LWT relying on so few people, stagnation will replace expansion. There will be little chance of further sites being taken on in the foreseeable future. BTCV in London lose 30 out of 45 staff which will mean an end to their work in schools.

Nationally, 28 per cent of people coming off CP schemes found jobs. The conservation movement has managed a much higher success rate, trusts such as LWT claiming over 50 per cent. The change is bad for conservation and bad for employment. The last few years has seen a huge expansion of interest in wildlife and their habitats in London. Workforce changes will frustrate the confidence in those remaining unless the potential of commercial sponsorship comes to fruition and volunteer recruitment drives are successful.

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**TREASURER APPOINTED:** The executive committee is very happy to announce that S Daya Moonesinghe has joined the committee as the society's new treasurer. The society is well known to him since he became a member shortly after coming to Dulwich 11 years ago.

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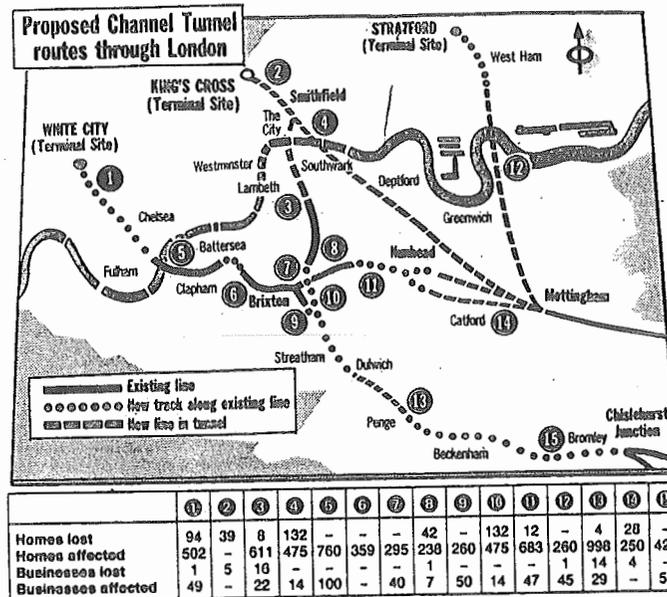
**SUCCESS FOR SET:** In the 1988 Business and Industry Environment Awards the Southwark Environment Trust, a corporate member of the society, received a commendation for the restoration of the Denmark Hill station building, its conversion into the Phoenix and Firkin pub and for the general improvements to the whole station area. The assessors visited the station in July and were impressed with the pub and with the new railings which have just been put in by the trust the whole way along the Champion Park frontage. There were over 80 entries. Only five major awards and 11 commendations were given.

At a special ceremony at the Royal Society of Arts on 23 September Jeremy Bennett, chairman of the trust, received the certificate on behalf of all those involved in the restoration project from Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

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NEWS

**HIGH-SPEED HORROR:** A report on British Rail's proposed high-speed train link between London and the Channel Tunnel has detailed the likely impact on South London. The routes under discussion are blighting nearly 6,500 homes and 500 businesses in London. The report warns of road bridges severing communities and a danger of subsidence to listed buildings. It details 350 homes that could be demolished and warns of up to 6,100 more facing a visual or noise impact from the high-speed trains. In addition, 42 businesses could be lost and 458 affected. Darlink, the Dulwich action



against the rail link group, is leafleting homes and seeking the support of Margaret Thatcher, whose house is a quarter of a mile from one of the routes. "All the noise so far has been made by people in Kent," says Dick Monteith, spokesman for the action group. "But a high-speed train with overhead electrification will have a greater impact on far more people in London. We have to fight for the democratic right to scrutinise the proposal and test it in public." The London advisory committee, a capital-wide planning forum set up after the abolition of the GLC, says: "BR presents a facade of democracy by going to public meetings, but its decision will be on operational and business grounds."

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**PARK PROTECTORS:** The Dulwich Park Users' Association, a new group set up by David Freeman and Caroline Swash, scheduled a public meeting in September. Ms Swash said: "The Association has been formed to safeguard the amenities of the Park and to work in partnership with Southwark council who run it". For more details contact Caroline Swash on 693 6574.

**PRIVATE EYEWASH?:** Mr John Wylie, general manager and secretary of the estates governors, has criticised the Newsletter for inaccurate reporting and says he now treats it with amusement and contempt. He also defends the erection of a fence in Dulwich Woods along Low Cross Wood Lane, attacked by a nearby resident in the last issue of the Newsletter (see Stop The Fence). In a letter in reply to Mr Bill De Baerdemaecker, of the society's local history and wildlife sub-committees, who wrote supporting the governors' position (see elsewhere in this issue), Mr Wylie says: "I am sure that we would all far rather that it were possible to leave the lane unfenced. However, it is for the security not only of the users of the lane, but also of those people whose houses back on to the adjoining sections of the wood, that it has been necessary to replace the fences. Had the woods remained open, it is undoubtedly true that the vistas would have appeared more attractive. However, those vistas would have been enjoyed by very few people, particularly at quieter times of day and in the evening, because of the personal risks involved."

"I was particularly sorry that your society chose to publish in its Newsletter the letter of complaint from a local resident. Not only did the society choose to ignore the reply which we had written to that person, but it also failed to include a comment that not only your own sub-committee's but also your tree sub-committee had agreed with our action. I find it a matter of great regret that the Newsletter should publish such a critical letter, without stating - in addition to that item - the position of the society itself."

"On an earlier occasion, I had suggested to the society that, where an item critical of the estates governors was to be included, the editor might wish to mention the fact to us, in advance, so that an additional item, stating the estates governors' position, could be included in the same issue. The society regarded that as censorship (an extraordinary use of the word) and my suggestion was summarily dismissed. The view amongst the board and within the office is that the Newsletter is, nowadays, a publication to be treated in the same way as one treats Private Eye - with a mixture of amusement, entertainment and contempt, but not a source of accurate, objective reporting. I believe it to be a very sad state of affairs for what was, until very recently, a most respected local publication, from what is - still - the most respected of the local amenity societies."

**Editor's Note:** The Newsletter attempts to reflect the views of its readers whether they conform to "policy" or not. The estates governors continue to have a standing invitation to contribute views, comment or reaction - as the above item indicates. Sadly, the invitation is rarely taken up. Censorship scarcely enters into the idea of submitting items to the governors before publication: it is merely highly impractical. If Mr Wylie can cite instances of inaccurate reporting, we would be glad to examine them.

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**GARDEN LECTURE:** The horticultural sub-committee's autumn lecture was given, not by Dr David Barker, but by his son, Aubrey, managing director of Hopleys Plants at Much Hadham in Hertfordshire. His talk was admirably illustrated by slides of choice plants and he provided a good deal of first hand information about the growing conditions and the strengths and limitations of each.

**WILD RELEASES:** Two unlikely visitors have been thrust into the wild at Sydenham Hill Wood. During April the local beat officer found a dead female badger by the side of the South Circular road opposite Dulwich Park. The badger had been fatally wounded by a passing vehicle. It was not resident to the area as there was no evidence of any badger sett in use on the golf course or in the Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Wood complex. According to Bob Young, warden of Sydenham Hill Wood: "It appears that the found badger was introduced by some misguided individual. The



released badger would have been unfamiliar with the area, therefore confused and bewildered with little chance of survival."

A few weeks later another incident occurred when Mr Young spotted a polecat being set upon by two dogs. He immediately pulled the dogs apart letting the polecat escape. Polecats are not resident in lowland Britain and the animal was found dead a few weeks later. Mr Young adds: "Both these incidents are currently under investigation to discover who was responsible for the introduction of this pair. This could have been an illegal act under the law which is designed to protect such wild animals from unnecessary suffering and - usually under these circumstances - death."

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**LEASERS' RIGHTS:** The London Housing Aid Centre has published a revised and updated version of the Leaseholders' Rights Guide. It is entitled Owning Your Flat, A practical guide to problems with your lease and landlord, and is available from the publications officer, SHAC, 189a Old Brompton Road, London SW5, £2.50 postage paid.

**PALACE NIGHTMARE?:** Bromley council's plans for the building of an hotel and conference centre on the site of the Crystal Palace have been attacked as a wilful travesty and a pale imitation of the original. Writing in The Independent magazine, architectural writer Gavin Stamp urges Bromley to rebuild the palace using the original Paxton designs. He says of the plan for rebuilding on the site: "At long last the barren site of Paxton's structure is to be occupied by a building which pays it homage. Unfortunately, however, that homage is a perfunctory one". Stamp, who was born in Bromley and raised in Dulwich, attacks Bromley for accepting the Kuwaiti-backed bid to build the Holiday Inn, without having even discussed the concept put forward by New Crystal Palace Ltd for a giant theme exhibition, crossing the idea of the 1854 palace with an Indian maharajah's palace from Mysore. "All this", he says, "would be rather vulgar, but it would be in the tradition of the old palace, with its Egyptian courts and other entertainments".

Stamp suggests that important buildings from the past should be recreated, just as many European cities have arisen from the ashes of the last war. He says that when a building really matters to a nation it should be rebuilt as it was. The palace was a great landmark for Victorian London and it was reconstructed in 1854, so it could easily go up again. The plans are all in existence and the standard arched, cast-iron sections can be seen in the former Midland railway station at Oxford. The present plan, he suggests, will not be a replacement of the palace for the people. It will be a poor imitation of the palace and nothing more than a hotel.

Lambeth council has also objected to Bromley council's plans to build a hotel and leisure complex. It is understood that the original reason for Lambeth's objections was that it thought the proposal to include an item in the London Local Authorities Bill (necessary because the Crystal Palace Act does not permit the proposal) was to circumvent the planning process. This is not correct and has been pointed out to Lambeth. However it is apparently still objecting. If Lambeth does not withdraw its objections, Bromley council will promote a separate Bill.

Bromley is still negotiating with Al Houda Hotels and Tourism company. There are four main areas under discussion:

- \* The requirement to form a UK company with adequate funding or a UK guarantor.
- \* The overall management of the scheme during and after construction.
- \* The operation of the leisure facilities.
- \* Deletion of the offices.

Progress is being made and a detailed planning application is to be submitted in January.

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**GALLERY GARDEN:** Advice and practical help in the garden of the Dulwich Picture Gallery has continued to come from the horticultural sub-committee. Mr Jack Brooker has given a sturdy young Judas tree which will replace the elderly tree, finally devastated by the hurricane, and Mr John Robinson provided three tree peonies which have established well. Shrubs planted in the summer have all rooted and the first flowering of the witch hazels should coincide with the publication of this Newsletter.

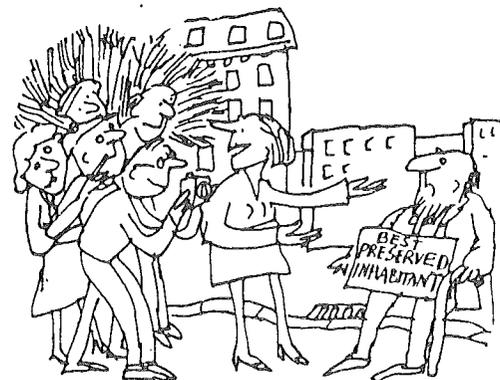
**DULWICH ARTS:** The Dulwich Decorative and Fine Arts Society is holding a series of illustrated lectures at St Barnabas Parish Hall, Dulwich Village. These include: 12 January, Dutch genre painting; 9 February, The Viennese secession and expressionists; 9 March, Furniture with a secret; 13 April, Hill towns of Italy; 11 May, The great exhibitions and world fairs 1851-1951; 8 June, Delusions of grandeur - the rise and fall of the Victorian and Edwardian country house; 13 July, The designs of William Morris and William de Morgan Tiles. The annual subscription for membership, which runs until 31 December 1989, is £12 for an individual, £20 double and family and £2.50 for a student. Anyone interested should contact the membership secretary, Mrs Pamela Freshwater, on 693 1666.

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**MAZE REOPENED:** On 1 July the famous maze at the Crystal Palace, which originally dated from about 1870, and which had been carefully restored by Bromley council, was formally reopened by the mayor of Bromley. The maze, claimed to be London's largest, is 175 feet in diameter. It is easily reached from the newly re-established Fisherman's Gate on Crystal Palace Park Road.

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**TRUST PLEA:** The Civic Trust is trying to boost the circulation of its magazine, Heritage Outlook. Launched seven years ago, the latest colour editions are impressive, but the circulation remains relatively static. The trust says: "Designed primarily for the officers of our registered societies, its content and presentation would, we are sure, be of interest to many of the members of local amenity societies. If every member could be provided with a copy their knowledge of what is



happening in many parts of the country to improve our environment would be greatly enhanced. They would have the opportunity to increase their knowledge of planning and legislation and to gain the kind of information which would make them more able to be of help in running your society. It could also be the means by which the whole amenity movement could become more influential". However, the society has turned down the trust's request for a list of its members for mailing shots.

GOVERNORS CONGRATULATED: A leading member of the Dulwich Society has praised the estates governors for their installation of vandal-proof fencing in Dulwich Woods. Mr Bill De Baerdemaecker, of the society's local history and wildlife sub-committees, has written to Mr John Wylie, general manager and secretary of the governors, commenting: "You can please some of the people some of the time but you can't please all of the people all of the time". Mr De Baerdemaecker adds: "It never occurred to me that anyone could object to the new, hopefully vandal-proof, fencing in the wood until I read in The Dulwich Society Autumn Newsletter a report of a letter sent to the governors by an irate member who felt that the wood should be left open and unfenced. I, for one, offer congratulations to the governors on what is obviously a very expensive effort to combat vandalism in the wood. What the estates do with their money is their business but to have set aside such a large amount in the interests of the wood and public safety is, I feel, highly commendable."

"When I walked up Low Cross Wood Lane after all the old fencing had been removed I was immediately struck by the thought that this must be the first time for at least 200 years that this view of the ancient footpath winding its way through the unfenced wood had been seen. Luckily I had my camera with me so was able to take a number of photos of this phenomenon to add to my Dulwich collection. In conversation with a young lady, who lives in Crescent Wood Road, exercising her dog in the lane and armed with a shillelagh for protection I mentioned that I would like to see the wood unfenced all the time. She very quickly took me up on this saying that when the old broken fencing was in place muggers would hide behind the trees and pounce on people struggling up the hill from the station late at night and that only recently there had been a rape in the wood. She and other local residents must be very pleased to see what has been done. At least, being of the open paling type, the fence has hardly restricted the view into the wood".

"One hundred and thirty years ago all the so-called Sydenham Hill Wood was enclosed by high closeboard fencing. Since it was part of the gardens of the Sydenham Hill mansions so was about half of the East Peckarmans coppice: the other half was open to keyholders only. Today so much more of the wood is open to the public. This may be a good thing although, speaking purely personally, I would like to see the new fencing erected from Peckarmans to the Cox's Walk gate. Once its vandal-proof qualities have been proved over a trial period, the keyholder policy should be reintroduced, with nature allowed to take its course and only the original main paths attended to annually by your estates staff. But I have a feeling that this would not be a popular move!"

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GALLERY AWARD: The education department of Dulwich Picture Gallery has won the prestigious Sotheby Award for the best fine art museum. Gillian Wolfe, the driving force behind the gallery's educational activities, was at the ceremony to receive the £1,350 prize from Mr James Bishop, editor-in-chief of the Illustrated London News group, sponsors of the awards. The education department, an ILEA-funded scheme established in 1984, uses the gallery's magnificent picture collection to build bridges between the fine arts and bring them into the lives of hundreds of London schoolchildren by



British Petroleum presents a cheque for £8,000 for the 1988-89 education programme at the gallery.

offering a varied and innovative programme of Gallery events.

This is not the first prize-winning honour for Gillian. In June 1987, among 78 other contenders, she won the first prize of £5,000 in the National Art-Collections Fund Awards for her services to education.

Sir Hugh Casson, president of the judges' committee of the Museum of the Year Awards, praised Gillian for brilliantly exploiting "every conceivable way of de-mystifying art for the fortunate schools in her area, at every stage from primary to first year art students from Camberwell. Interestingly, each group coming to the gallery sets up a return visit, in which the gallery goes to the school and interaction between them becomes a matter of deliberate continuous policy". Sir Hugh described the gallery's educational service as "something truly special - indeed, one of the most inspiring entries we have had in the past few years".

Reg Collins, chairman of the society's planning sub-committee, examines the latest rejection of the estates governors' plans to build on part of Sydenham Hill Wood.

The decision on 21 September by Southwark council's Area 3 planning sub-committee to overturn its officers' recommendation that it accept an outline planning proposal by the estates governors to build three houses and garages on the Beechgrove site was largely due to a solid front of objectors. These were led by the London Wildlife Trust, represented by John Archer, who outlined the conservation principles involved. He was followed by the Dulwich Society, the Sydenham Society and the Dulwich Village Preservation Society. Gerry Bowden MP and Kate Hoey (an estates governor) both opposed the development. There was also a strong statement on the damage to the birdlife inherent in the scheme.

There was then a prolonged discussion between members of the committee and their officers and each other and finally each member gave his views and indicated his decision. Four were in favour of rejection (including the chairman) and two were in favour of acceptance. There was great jubilation in the crowded public gallery at the decision.

It might be as well, however, to retain a sense that all is not yet won. The estates governors can lodge an appeal or come forward with other plans. We still have to be vigilant.

One development which might meet with favour is an endeavour to interest the Woodland Trust in the concept, always put forward by the society, that the whole area of woodland, which would involve the Lapsewood and Fernbank sites as well as Beechgrove, be converted into a nature reserve to be run by an ecological organisation such as the London Wildlife Trust for educational and amenity purposes.

One thing is certain. I am sure we have not heard the last of this matter. My thanks go out to all those members who so enthusiastically supported our efforts at this meeting.

Editor's note: The December issue of the magazine Southside reported the news as follows: "Southwark council's decision to turn down Dulwich estates governors' second application to build on the Beechgrove site next to Sydenham Hill Woods has been greeted with relief by locals. But what, one wonders, will be the governors' next move? Rumour has it they're considering yet another application for building on this site as well as looking at other freehold sites within the conservation area. The Beechgrove story was recently featured in Time Out and Private Eye. The Eye's last article about the 'goings on' of Dulwich estates governors was headed 'Village Idiots'. Need one say more!"

By Kate Hoey

As a member of the estates governors of Alleyn's College of God's Gift, I see my role as ensuring that a balance is achieved between responsibility to the beneficiaries of the estate and the need to preserve and care for the amenities and quality of life in Dulwich. The case of the two attempts of the estates governors to build on the Beechgrove site of Sydenham Hill Wood is an obvious example where conflict can arise.

Before being appointed to the estates governors I had campaigned successfully with the London Wildlife Trust and local amenity groups to prevent Southwark council building on the Fernbank area of the woodland. I also appeared at the public enquiry which heard the appeal from the governors when they were refused permission to build 36 flats on the Beechgrove site.

When early in 1987 the inspector overruled the appeal, the Trust was delighted and wrote immediately to the general manager to suggest a meeting to discuss proposals for them to manage the Beechgrove and Lapsewood site as part of the Sydenham Hill Wood nature reserve. Having lost an appeal, at great expense to the estate, any reasonable person would have presumed that no further attempt to build on the site would be attempted.

Nearly a year later a new application was submitted to Southwark Planning to build three large houses on the site. This time a caveat was offered. It permission was given the governors would allow Southwark to lease the lower part of the Beechgrove site for use as a nature reserve and would also amend the terms of the lease on the Lapsewood site. The planning committee held to consider the application on 21 September at Kingswood House was open to the public. All the amenity groups made their opposition known and after lengthy consideration, the councillors voted 4-2 against the development.

Will this be the end of the story? Rumours abound. The estates governors could appeal again - leading to another long expensive public enquiry with, probably, the same result, especially now that environmental issues have moved firmly centre stage in the political arena.

A further application for one large house could be drawn up by the estates architects, again at great cost. It is sad that a charity can appear to be acting in the same way many developers do, coming back time after time, until they get what they want.

A third option which I would urge the governors to consider would be to accept the views of overwhelming public opinion and drop their efforts to build on this site. They could recognise its importance in treating the entire woodland as an entity and allow the Trust to manage it in the long-term interests of the people of south London. I have no doubt that the Charity Commissioners would look favourably on a request to do just this.

The Beechgrove issue has already cost far too much, not just in monetary terms but in terms of increasing the unhappiness which many people have about the way the estate is managed.

Kate Hoey is a member of the society and a former Parliamentary Labour candidate for Dulwich.

JIM DAVIS

In our last issue we reported with profound regret the death of our treasurer, Arthur James Davis, known to everyone as Jim.

Jim was a man of many talents and many facets, as exemplified by the fact that the service of thanksgiving for his life held in St Stephen's church on 21 September was packed out with representatives of his many and varied interests.

Jim was the honorary treasurer of the Dulwich Society for five years. He kept and presented meticulous accounts which earned praise not only from our own honorary auditor but even from the Inland Revenue. More than that, however, he revolutionised the system and recording of the society's membership of over 900, most ably helped by his wife Joan. He made personal contact with members, existing and new, very much part of his life. Their appreciation remains apparent.

In committee he was a stalwart provider of wise counsel, more often than not put forward with a gentle humour and a wry smile. Even when unwell he drove himself to continue to work for the society.

It is no overstatement to say that all of us who knew Jim were and remain enriched by the experience. We can do no more than thank God for his existence and offer to Joan our share in her sorrow.

Denys Wyatt

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My family and I would like to thank all those members of the Dulwich Society who so kindly sent messages of sympathy at the time of Jim's death. They have been a source of great comfort.

Joan

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GARDEN VISITS: WARM WELCOMES AND COOL DIPS

By Brian Jones

The 1988 season of garden openings began with another visit to Mrs Maureen Springbett, this time to see spring flowers. Dr and Mrs James Birley showed us their garden on Easter Saturday. This is very much a plantsman's garden and visitors warmed to Dr Birley's knowledge and enthusiasm. Mrs Spooner's plant sale at St Faith's Church was well supported in spite of a biting wind and the sun smiled for the opening of Mrs Rosemary Toler's garden: last year her highly successful plant sale attracted so much material and so many purchasers that it was difficult to see the garden. Mr and Mrs Sparkes were not so well favoured with weather but the colour in their garden seemed undimmed by cloud and rain.

Dr Lawson Dick and Mrs Morley opened two smaller gardens on the same afternoon and, again, we saw a number of less commonly seen plants. Finally, Mr and Mrs Michael Rich invited us to their spacious garden in the village. This seems to have become an annual event and many of the visitors took advantage on a warm afternoon to cool off in the swimming pool.

All our hosts and hostesses put themselves out a good deal on our behalf. True, we support the various charities for which

each collects and we give our sincere and warm thanks to them all for enabling us to see their gardens.

Members who indicated that they wished to continue to receive notices of the garden openings should have the 1989 list in their hands before Easter. Any members not on our distribution list are invited to contact Miss Jacqueline Galer at 16 Lovelace Road, SE21 8XJ.

Brian Jones is chairman of the horticultural sub-committee.

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GOVERNORS GO MATCH-MAKING

By Rosa Davis

In November 1986 a mandarin drake appeared on the mill pond in College Road. Nobody knew his origins. At first he was very shy and did not mix with the other birds when they were fed but stayed some distance away. After a while he became bolder and fed on the bread and grain provided twice a day by Joan Saunders. He was not often seen on the water, preferring the shelter of the overhanging plants.

Mandarin ducks from the Far East were introduced to ornamental lakes in this country and did very well, spreading and successfully breeding on lakes including Virginia Water. The drake is particularly handsome and distinctive when in full breeding plumage: his highly coloured upstanding orange 'sails' on wings and chestnut side 'whiskers' made him stand out. It seemed a shame therefore that this specimen had no mate.

Happily this solitary state of affairs is now remedied. A partner was purchased - by the estates governors - from the Arundel Wildlife Park. In August I collected her. She was unconcerned about the journey in a cardboard box and arrived fast asleep with her bill tucked under her wing. She is rather drab compared with her mate: she is greyish brown with a white eye stripe. The pair are now virtually inseparable. Sometimes they sit under the alder tree near the road.

A nest box is being constructed which we hope they will use next Spring.

Rosa Davis is a member of the wildlife sub-committee

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LIVING SCIENCE: A science expert-in residence made the "Chemistry of Art" come alive during the Autumn Term, 1988 at the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Using a specially designed display, put together by an artist's colourman, Philippa Abrahams demonstrated how artists made their own paints, and how the correct construction of a painting was essential to its survival. Practical drawing sessions followed, with suggestions for school-based follow-up activities. The gallery described it as a "fascinating and gentle way into the complexities of basic chemistry and its intrinsic relation to painting". The programmes were designed for three age groups: 7-11, 11-16 and over 16. The programme was free to ILEA schools and was sponsored by British Petroleum. It formed part of the gallery's art-science alliance scheme.

## DULWICH WOOD STAYS OPEN: GOVERNORS RESPOND TO SOCIETY

By Stella Benwell

Anyone walking in Dulwich Wood this autumn must have thought what a lovely place it was and how lucky we were to have somewhere like it in the middle of south London. As readers will know the trees and wildlife sub-committees submitted proposals to the estates governors in 1986 on the future management of the wood and these were printed in the October 1986 Newsletter.

A number of our suggestions have been adopted. The wood is remaining open to the public and iron railings have been installed. We recommended this because the wooden fences were so easily broken. The iron railings have a much longer life and have the added advantage that the wood can be seen through them. They are necessary because the woods are still private property, although open to the public. People using Low Cross Wood Lane complained of the danger of attack without a fence: they also discourage the dumping of rubbish. Dulwich Upper Wood, run by the Trust for Urban Ecology, has adopted a similar solution.

We suggested barriers against motor bikes and these have been installed at the top and bottom of Low Cross Wood Lane. We have now asked if one could also be installed at the entrance in Cox's Walk.

As visitors to the wood know, the hurricane caused the loss of a large number of trees. The dangerous ones had to be removed and the paths cleared but it was agreed to leave the rest of the trees because some will regenerate and the dead wood is valuable for wildlife. Now that this major job is complete we hope that the main paths will be reinforced with some kind of hardcore to make them usable in all weathers.

The pond has been a problem for a long time. Owing to the amount of leaf fall it has never maintained any wildlife and it only attracts rubbish and vandals. So we have now suggested that the existing channel is wider and a drain provided under the path so that the area remains marsh, but does not fill up with water.

Lastly we would like notice boards at the entrances stating that the wood is a nature reserve and should be treated accordingly.

Our aim is simply to preserve the wood as it is now and we do not consider that any other major action is required at present. Half-a-dozen volunteers from the tree committee spent three weekends in October digging out Japanese knotweed which is beginning to spread in the wood and would eventually take over if not stopped. We do not imagine we have completely eradicated it but we have stemmed the tide. I should be glad to have the names of anyone in the Society who would be willing to help us with this kind of job in future. Please let me have your names and addresses. Contact me at 38 Dovercourt Road, SE22 8ST (tel: 693 1447). The sycamores present a similar problem and help may be required with the paths.

A warden, not necessarily full time, would be a great asset to the wood and we have again asked the estates governors to consider the possibility of asking the London Wildlife Trust to share one, or for the governors to provide one from their own staff.

Stella Benwell is chairman of the trees sub-committee

## GRAPEVINE

**FITNESS SOLO:** One-to-One is a new service in the Dulwich area run by Anne Patterson. It offers an individually designed exercise programme for men and women. Twelve years experience as an army PT instructor means that Anne is well-qualified to help people who want to keep fit, lose weight, body-build or tone up their muscles. The benefit of a one-to-one course is that your teacher is with you throughout your training, monitoring your progress. Anne's clients range from 20 to 65. One has even had a by-pass heart operation. Safety is an important part. "Before we start training, I carry out a thorough personal analysis which includes monitoring the person's heart beat and blood pressure and taking any medical history into account", she says. Anne also gives tuition in clients' homes as well as keep-fit classes for companies and private groups. 'Phone 769 2554.

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**FAST FISH:** A book written by Dulwich resident Kate Whiteman - Microwave Fish Cooking - applies the speed of the microwave to the natural goodness of fish. Kate has been writing about food for over 14 years and is an inspector for The Good Food Guide. Recipes range from everyday meals like fish pie to gourmet dishes for dinner parties. The book also contains recipes using unusual fish like snapper and swordfish. Kate says: "These shouldn't be difficult to find. We've got some good fishmongers locally and Brixton market is always worth a visit". Microwave Fish Cooking was published by Macdonald Orbis in July at £8.95.

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**PAPER RECYCLERS:** A local newspaper collection has been set up by Southwark Friends of the Earth, who will also supply copies of the Southwark Recycling Guide. Contact Southwark Friends of the Earth, c/o Flat 4, 34 Kennington Road, London SE1 7BL. For information on the local newspaper collection, contact Ron, 29a Barry Road, East Dulwich, SE22 0HR (tel: 299 2423) or a local scout group run by Ken Andrews (tel: 274 5196). If anyone wants to start a collection, they need a site, volunteers to supervise the collection point, a waste paper merchant to collect the paper and pay for it and publicity. FOE warns prospective recyclers to "watch out for tricks in the price and weighing methods". Local merchants include: A E Chapman & Sons Ltd, Timbermill Way, Gauden Road, Clapham, London SW4 (tel: 622 4414); and Chapman & Coombs Ltd, Valentia Place, Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, London SW9 8PJ (tel: 733 3341).

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**BUSINESS BRAINS:** A valuable 'brain picking' forum for local business people is being provided by Southwark Designs, a voluntary venture affiliated to Southwark Chamber of Commerce through informal lunchtime meetings at Pilgrims Wine Bar, Chapel Court (off Borough High Street) SE1 between noon and 2pm every first Monday. Those attending share practical ideas, common-sense advice and information and contacts relevant to their business life.

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS - 1988

Heron were seen throughout the year. There were three garden records and 15 flight records, of which 14 were in the direction of Brockwell Park. Up to six shelduck were seen flying in June, and at the lake in the park may have been feral. A drake mandarin at Mill Pond was first spotted in February and was later presented with a duck through the good offices of a member and the estates governors. Four shoveler drakes and one duck, seen at the park lake in January, had left by April.

The few records suggest that a sparrowhawk maintains a presence in Dulwich Woods whence it forages at least as far as the hedgerows skirting the gardens of Turney Road. There have been frequent records of kestrels. Several include mobbing by crows and smaller birds. There is no note of breeding sites.

In January two fluttering parties of birds briefly glimpsed flying south-west over Griffin grounds may well have been lapwings. The cuckoo has also been heard.

Several tawny owl notes were heard during the year around Great Brownings and College Road. On 23 March one flew over cars in Village Way and Dulwich Village.

A kingfisher was observed in August by the lake off Dulwich Common. Skylarks were seen on 10 and 20 October flying west. There was a swallow over Court Lane on 29 April. Twenty were seen during September and October over the allotments and the village. A total of 26 meadow pipits were recorded, one on 28 March, the remainder between 17 September and 11 October. A redstart was spotted during September in Mount Adon Park. A whinchat was seen on 27 August. Two wheatear, male and female (not together), were observed on 18 April and one more seen on 8 September. All three were on allotments. Redpoll were present in low numbers throughout the year. The Burbage Road recording of a fledgling on the lawn being fed by an adult is the first record of breeding in our area.

The foregoing is an arbitrary list. The bland weather of the year to date has helped to maintain the status of our resident garden and woodland birds. Also worthy of mention are a blackcap in January, and addition of garden warbler and common whitethroat to our annual crop of warblers, and the arrival of winter visitors - fieldfares (seen early September), then redwings, siskins and goldcrests adding to our small resident population.

The few records submitted for mammals suggest that no change of moment has occurred this year. It would, however, be interesting to learn whether rumours of rabbits are well founded. Frogs seem widespread but, apart from one breeding pond, toads are scattered thinly. Invertebrate records, even butterflies, are almost zero. It was a quiet year for the stag beetle.

Thanks are due to those who kindly sent or telephoned sightings. Apologies to those who feel that many other species should have received a mention. An index, mainly for birds, is held by the writer who will answer members' queries to the best of his ability.

Don Freshwater (tel: 693 1666)

Anyone present at last February's public meeting with the estates governors might now be wondering what has happened. Since that meeting, marked by a good deal of sound and fury, things seem to have fallen suspiciously quiet. Was it all for nothing? No, says, PATRICK DARBY, who below reports on some of the arguments and constitutional changes of the last few months.

One of the main decisions of the public meeting on 29 February 1988 was the setting-up of a coordinating committee representing the Dulwich Society, the Dulwich Residents' Association and the Dulwich Village Preservation Society. This was established, has met regularly since its inaugural meeting on 9 May (four times to date), and may be said to have done a considerable amount of useful work. At the time of writing, in mid-November, this work has yet to be translated into identifiable achievement, but progress has been made.

Each of the three amenity societies were invited to nominate two individuals to serve on the coordinating committee. From the outset; the two representatives of the DVPS have been their president, Professor Peter Whiteman, QC, and chairman, Paul Harman. The DRA have been represented by their chairman, John Chilcott, and latterly also by their vice chairman, John Aldwinckle. Our chairman, Captain Denys Wyatt, felt that it would be more appropriate for him and our vice chairman, Peter Lawson, to maintain their positions on the advisory committee, but for two other persons to be appointed to the coordinating committee, and it was therefore decided that the lot should fall to Reg Collins (most appropriately, as chairman of our planning sub-committee) and myself. I am grateful for the privilege of being allowed to serve on what I think has turned out to be a more significant body than any of us first thought it would be.

As an ad hoc committee, with no formal constitution or, on the face of it, any power to make decisions binding on its three constituent member organisations, the new committee initially had to treat somewhat warily. Meetings were arranged on neutral territory (the Old Grammar School, to which these days the word 'neutral' is about the kindest adjective one can apply). The chair for each meeting was to be taken in rotation (each chairman to arrange a minutes secretary for that meeting), and since it was important that we should try not to antagonize any of our respective member organisations and at the same time be seen to present a united front, the committee's resolutions should, if possible, be unanimous.

Having established these basic ground-rules, I think we were all pleasantly surprised by the common ground which, as soon became apparent, existed between the three societies. There has, I think, been a regrettable tendency to exaggerate our differences in some quarters. It cannot be denied that differences exist - each of the three societies displays a different emphasis of interests within its membership - but we all share the objective of preserving what is best in Dulwich for the benefit of all its residents, and in pursuing this there should be no place for petty jealousies or jockeying for position.

This was amply illustrated at our first meeting, chaired by Reg Collins, when the most pressing item on the agenda was the application by the DVPS for admission to membership of the advisory committee. This had previously been rejected by the estates governors. The coordinating committee resolved unanimously that since the DVPS fulfilled reasonable requirements as to strength and breadth (geographically) of membership, its application should be supported. This was reported to the estates governors and was followed by correspondence between Reg Collins and the chairman of the estates governors, Mr Marshall Field, over the proposed size of the advisory committee, assuming the DVPS were admitted to membership of it.

The coordinating committee's view was that the amenity societies should be allocated six members, two from each organisation. When the board of governors met on 6 August, it agreed to the admission of the DVPS but, for reasons which remain unclear - but which may have had something to do with available manpower among the governors - it resolved that the representation of the amenity societies should continue to be limited to four, with one representative from each of the three societies, but with the fourth place "nominated" (in the sense of "proposed, for approval by the Estates Governors") by the coordinating committee.

Unfortunately this decision caused some avoidable confusion and required the coordinating committee to devote a considerable amount of time and effort in seeking to clarify the situation.

To explain this problem briefly, the advisory committee is the body set up under the scheme of management established by virtue of the Leasehold Reform Act 1967. The "managers" - the estates governors - "form" the committee, to meet not less than twice a year, which shall consist of equal numbers of representatives of the managers and representatives of such local residents' and amenity societies as are approved by the managers. The number of places allocated to each such society is to be decided by the managers. There must be a minimum of four each "side" but no maximum is stated. Once an amenity or residents' society has been "approved", and allocated its number of places, it is for that society (not the estates governors, still less a working party such as the coordinating committee) to nominate the individuals who will represent it, in accordance with its own rules.

Because of these procedural difficulties, the formal advisory committee meeting scheduled for 4 October had to be replaced by an ad hoc meeting (to which two representatives of each of the three societies were invited) to discuss the constitution of the advisory committee itself. Another meeting of the advisory committee was called for 15 November, and although this was threatened by the same procedural difficulty, the problem was resolved by the chairman, Mr T H Peace, again extending an invitation to the three amenity societies each to send two representatives. The board of governors was due to meet on 10 December and was expected to ratify an increase in the size of the advisory committee to six-a-side and to lay down some permanent formula for allocating places on it. The advisory committee should again be on a proper footing.

The advisory committee is, at present, a "consultative" committee. The managers are obliged to supply representative members of it with notice of all applications made or notices served under the relevant sections of the scheme of management, principally the so-called "licence applications" relating to properties subject to the scheme (usually enfranchised freeholds), and to "have regard" to any representations made to them by members of the advisory committee on these, "or otherwise concerning the amenities of the estate". The estates governors are under no obligation to act on these representations. Actual decisions on licence applications are taken by the trees and surveys (estate) committee, which is a sub-committee of the board of estates governors to which the board has delegated its powers.

Without going into too detailed an explanation - although the subject really requires it, to be fully understood - the estates governors' duties, on the one hand as trustees (for the beneficiaries of Alleyn's foundation), and on the other as managers (to preserve the amenities of the estate for the common benefit) face them with a potential conflict of interest. There are differing views as to the extent of this conflict and the seriousness of its effects, and whether the problem should be solved radically or by a process of amelioration, and the subject has been a matter for hot debate on the coordinating committee.

Suffice it to say that on 17 October the committee passed a resolution, by a majority of five to one (reservations were expressed by the DRA), that the advisory committee should assume the decision-making functions of the estates governors' own trees and surveys (estate) committee, as far as those functions relate to licence applications and notices under the scheme of management. A related resolution, passed unanimously, said that meetings of the advisory committee, and its agendas and decisions, should be made public. These resolutions, and another one, again passed unanimously and designed to assist the estates governors in improving the efficiency of the estates office, were tabled for discussion at the advisory committee meeting on 15 November, at which the Dulwich Society was represented by Denys Wyatt and Reg Collins.

There have been reports that some of the estates governors regard these resolutions, quite wrongly in my view, as a vote of no confidence in the board, and designed to provide a check on its powers. One influential estates governor has even indicated that, if the advisory committee were to become an "executive", decision-making body, the estates governors would no longer wish to administer the scheme of management.

There can be very few Dulwich residents who would wish such a decision, which might be regarded as petulant, to be taken. The governors may have mistaken the forceful manner in which the coordinating committee's views have been expressed as a desire for confrontation. On the contrary, they should be regarded as seeking a means of re-establishing and strengthening confidence in the estates governors, whilst ensuring that local residents have, and are seen to have, a say in preserving the amenities of the estate for the common benefit. The governors would be under no obligation to submit proposals to develop properties of which they retained the freehold to the advisory committee. Still less would the committee have any power to veto such proposals, although members of it would, as now, have the right to make representations if such proposals came to their attention. In any event, the

governors should not overlook the fact that they would still have equal representation on the advisory committee and, in the event of tied voting, a casting vote.

The coordinating committee, however, has by no means confined itself to this one topic of the composition and powers of the advisory committee. It has been actively considering other matters. Problems specifically concerning leaseholders have been raised, at the instigation of the DRA. Although it now seems generally accepted that the advisory committee should be concerned with all residents, and should not permit special pleading or representation by any one category, whether leaseholders or freeholders, the idea of a separate committee, similar if not identical in composition to the advisory committee, to deal with exclusively leasehold questions, now seems likely to be accepted by the estates governors, one of whom suggested it.

The coordinating committee's remit from the 29 February public meeting included exploring the possibility of setting up a "Dulwich Assembly" of residents' and tenants' associations. A possible constitution for such an assembly, principally designed as a forum for the exchange of information and views between the smaller residents associations, but with possibly wider powers and objectives, was on the agenda for our meeting in December.

A Dulwich Assembly might ultimately become the principal vehicle for expressing opinions by residents on all local matters, whether involving leaseholders, licence applications, or amenities generally. Each of the organisation affiliated to it would continue to preserve its autonomy, and pursue its own special interests. Certainly such a body would carry more weight with the estates governors and also simplify their dealings with local organisations. At present these have to be carried out, at the very least, in triplicate. The estates governors have quite enough to cope with at the moment. We should do what we can to enable them to administer the Dulwich estate more efficiently, if not more democratically.

Patrick Darby is a local historian and member of the society.

Postscript: At the advisory committee meeting on 15 November, attended by six representatives of the amenity societies and four estates governors, the coordinating committee's proposal to transfer those scheme of management powers exercised by the trees and surveys (estates) committee to the advisory committee was voted on. The result was six in favour and three against. The other resolutions, the first concerning the administrative efficiency of the estates office and the second seeking to make the advisory committee more public, were not put to a vote, but were due to be reported to the board of estates governors when it met on 10 December.

#### CHILDREN AND PAINTING

Dulwich Picture Gallery has for the last four years helped to make art a bigger part of the lives of Southwark and other London schoolchildren. Our pictures show (right) Michael Croker, artist in residence, and (below) Gillian Wolfe, education officer, together with lots of children, lots of paintings, lots of pens and paper, an easel, an empty tub of Flora and - hopefully - lots of future art-lovers. See also the News item on the gallery's prestigious new award.



## JOHN ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR

John Alexander-Sinclair, who died on 27 October 1988 after a short illness, was a well-known figure in Dulwich village where he settled after retirement in 1963.

Born in India in 1906, his early life was spent in Italy where he and his brothers were brought up by their Scottish grandmother. He left Charterhouse at 16 to work in the marble quarries of Tuscany. He then worked in South America and Spain before returning to university in Germany in preparation for the entrance examination to the diplomatic and consular service. He was posted to Peking and the following 12 years, when he held various consular posts, gave him a lifelong understanding and affection for China and its people.

After internment in Shanghai he was posted to Washington, served with UNRRA in London and Paris and in 1946, 1947 and 1948 served as First Secretary to the UK delegation to the United Nations in New York. He was first vice-chairman of UNICEF in 1946-47.

In 1950 he was seconded to the United Nations and began the second phase in his career where his international background and command of languages stood him in good stead. He was appointed director of the Office of the High Commission for Refugees in the early 1950s, later becoming High Commissioner's representative in Rome.

His work for the United Nations ended in 1963 when he returned to London to devote himself to a wide range of activities from the promotion of human rights (he was vice-chairman of the Anti-Slavery Society), animal welfare and copyright for artists. His life was marked by a singular degree of variety and energy and he was a long-time supporter and member of the Dulwich Society.

**GOVERNORS' VETO?:** John Aldwinckle, a member of the society for many years and vice-chairman for the past two years of the Dulwich Residents' Association, has criticised the estates governors over their "veto" of the Dulwich Village Preservation Society's membership of the governors' advisory committee. Mr Aldwinckle, who as a DRA representative has taken part in talks this year with the governors on new consultative machinery, adds: "The information contained in the Newsletter 82 news item entitled "Governors Veto" was correct, as far as we knew, at the time of going to press. It turned out that the estates governors, at their board meeting on 6 August, recognised the DVPS as an appropriate society - entitled to nominate one or more of its members as its representatives on the advisory committee - but refused to increase the size of the committee above its statutory minimum of eight persons. The board also failed to meet its obligations to determine the number of representatives of each such society, ie each of the three amenity societies now declared appropriate. The co-ordinating committee was later informed that the board had no view as to how the four places allocated to the three amenity societies might be allocated between those societies." The result of this nonchalant attitude was to waste a lot of time and effort by the co-ordinating committee and to disrupt the proceedings of the advisory committee itself, which was obliged in the course of two 'ad hoc' meetings, on 4 October and 15 November, to spend most of its time in discussing the constitution and future functioning of the advisory committee. It is difficult to reconcile this attitude of the governors with the friendly spirit of cooperation which was called for at the public meeting held on 29 February 1988."

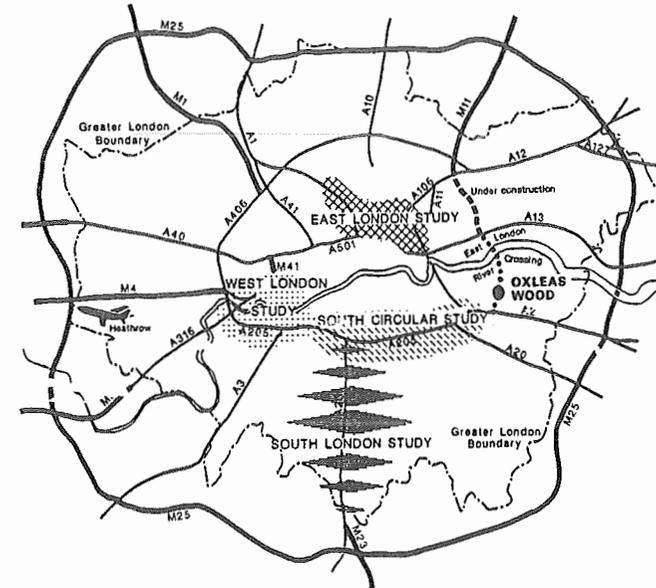
London's greenspace is under serious threat on a range of fronts, from road-building to property development, new housing and infill. Sydenham Hill Wood and Shakespeare Road, Brixton, home of the bee orchid, are just two of dozens of places threatened. Below we look at the source of some of the new development plans.

Oxleas Wood, an ancient woodland in Greenwich, is to have a four-lane motorway driven through it to link the new planned East London River Crossing with the South Circular.

Oxleas Wood, and Shepherdleas Wood which is also affected, are about 8,000 years old and, together, are classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest by the Nature Conservancy Council.

Thousands of people enjoy the wood, not only as an open space, but because of its special character. The variety of trees, plants, birds and animals is extremely unusual.

In December 1986 a public enquiry into the road ended. It was the longest ever hearing into a proposed road scheme in Britain,



lasting 16 months. Having received 99 representations supporting the road and 8,300 against, the inquiry inspector recommended the go-ahead.

He also recommended that the road should cut through the wood but then be covered over into a tunnel. The reason for this was to give the wood some chance of recovering. In fact it will never be the same again. The tunnel will affect the water table and the complex ecology of the woodland will be lost.

The Department of Transport has now formally approved the road but have demanded a straight cut instead of the cut and cover tunnel. Most local people think that this is unfair because Ealing Common, a plain grassy area, is to have a cut and cover

tunnel when the North Circular is built through it.

The Oxleas supporters don't think anyone would dare build a road through Hyde Park or Hampstead Heath. Their ecologically important woodland, however, suffers from being less well known.

The decision does not bode well for other parks and woods, particularly near the South Circular, which may have a road built through them if possible road plans come to fruition.

With major new highways being considered in an attempt to reduce London's traffic congestion - an attempt which is almost certainly doomed to failure unless many other traffic control measures are taken - Oxleas may not be the only victim, however. Four studies in north-east and west London, the South Circular and the A23 south London corridor have shown that Londoners want less cars and more public transport.

In spite of this, recent reports by consultants commissioned by the Department of Transport include options involving new highways. The combined worst scenario would result in the loss of 5,000 houses and many green spaces. Next September Londoners will have a chance to say what they think about such proposals.

Now that the East London River Crossing has the go-ahead, the possibility of major widening or even a new South Circular is much higher - even though all studies show that new roads generate more traffic, not relieve it.

Meanwhile, as the list below shows, open space is under threat from other sources.

|                                 |                |                             |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Oxleas Wood                     | Greenwich      | Stoke Newington             |                |
| Rainham Marshes                 | Havering       | Filter Beds                 | Hackney        |
| Crayford Marshes                | Bexley         | Stoke Newington             |                |
| Walthamstow Marshes             | Waltham Forest | Reservoirs                  | Hackney        |
| Kempton Reservoirs              | Hounslow       | Eardley Road Sidings        | Lambeth/Merton |
| Deptford Wharf                  | Lewisham       | Scrubbs Wood                | Hammersmith    |
| Bricklayers Arms Sidings        | Southwark      | Scratch Wood                | Barnet         |
| Elm Farm                        | Wandsworth     | Plumstead Common            | Greenwich      |
| Arrendene Open Space            | Barnet         | Beckton Gasworks            | Newham         |
| Lot's Ait                       | Hounslow       | Chelsea Creek               | Hammersmith    |
| Gillespie Park & Sidings        | Islington      | Freezeland                  |                |
| Beddington/Mitcham Sewage Farm  | Croydon/Sutton | Covert                      | Hillingdon     |
| Barn Elms Reservoir             | Richmond       | Ickenham Sewage Works       | Hillingdon     |
| King George V Reservoir         | Barnet         | Border of River Crane       | Hounslow       |
| Welsh Harp Reservoir            | Barnet         | Hounslow East Station Rough | Hounslow       |
| Hither Green Railway Embankment | Lewisham       | Neasden Sidings             | Brent          |
| Neasden Hospital                | Brent          | Ickenham Common             | Hillingdon     |
| Friern Barnet Hospital          | Barnet         | Seething Wells              | Kingston       |
|                                 |                | Wenlock Basin               | Hackney        |
|                                 |                | Strathleven Road            | Lambeth        |
|                                 |                | Shakespeare Road            | Lambeth        |
|                                 |                | Queen Mary Hospital         | Sutton         |

The list represents only some of the open spaces under threat. These are sites, often of great ecological value, but not necessarily formally recognised, which provide an interesting and stimulating alternative to flat grassy areas.

Others, such as city farms and community gardens, provide a local focus for the surrounding area and a valuable education



resource for children in the city. Open space of this sort helps mitigate some of the ills of the city too. Trees and shrubs shield open areas from traffic noise and filter fumes.

Two major reasons exist for the threat. High land values lead to huge development pressures. Major developers waxes on their fifth application to build in Osterley Park set aside £1m to fight their case - indicating the huge profits gained by success!

Privatisation of public services such as British Rail and Water Authorities also leads to sell off of surplus land for immediate profit. British Rail alone forecast £748m of land sales over the next four years.

By Norah Young

Refurbishing my kitchen recently, I decided to dispose of a very old iron saucepan which my mother had cherished since we moved into Dekker Road 60 years ago.

It was a one-pint, long-handled, enamel-lined milk saucepan in which my mother always boiled eggs. My dear mother foolishly imagined that eggs boiled in any other utensil never tasted the same!

On the base of this pan was (etched, embellished, stamped?) the maker's name and address: J & J Siddons, Hilltop, West Bromwich. Whilst enjoying my 80th birthday celebrations with relatives in Warwickshire in June, I looked in the local directory and found J & J Siddons were still in business. On my return to London, I wrote to them asking if they would be interested in having the saucepan.

The following morning, I had a call from a Mr Siddons, the 78-year-old chairman of the company, who was simply delighted to hear I was still using one of their old products. They have been ironfounders since 1846 but have not made domestic utensils since 1950. They would, he said, be delighted to have my old pan and their south of England representative would collect when next in the area.

I had a most delightful meeting with Mr Ronald Shadbolt, and his wife, when they collected the saucepan and presented me with a most beautiful bouquet of flowers.

The saucepan I purchased to replace it lasted just two weeks, when the handle came off. On taking it back to the shop I was told: "It is only a cheap pan, made in Taiwan." (It cost £4.50.) I wonder how much my mother paid for the old iron pan in Camberwell 60 years ago?

Miss Young is a founder member of the Dulwich Society.

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JOHN ORR

Although he had no Scottish accent, John William Orr was born of Scottish parents who had emigrated to England. He was trained as a structural engineer, and during the last war was in a reserved occupation, but applied for a commission, was seconded to the Royal Engineers as a lieutenant and sent to India, returning as a major.

His main interests were singing - he had a splendid tenor voice, and sang in the Chapel of God's Gift for many years - and Scottish dancing. When age stopped him from pursuing these activities he turned his interest to gardening and gardens, and until illness prevented him (he was bronchitic, and suffered considerable pain after an operation for a smashed hip) he greatly enjoyed visiting the various gardens opened by members of the horticultural section. He was grateful to the owners for the work they did and the pleasure their handsome gardens gave him and his wife.

He died, aged 86, of a stroke, and those friends who knew him well will greatly miss his kindness, courtesy and interest in the affairs of others. His charm and goodness were frequently mentioned in the many letters of sympathy received by his widow. The Dulwich Society is much the poorer for the deaths of Dr Theo Frankel, Gerald Fairlie and John Orr.

From Mr J P Aldwinckle

Dear Mr Nicholson-Lord,

I was most disappointed that the Autumn Newsletter did not contain any mention of the advisory committee meeting held on 26 April, not even a word of explanation as to why Reg Collins' report (in the previous Newsletter) on a meeting that was "full of abrupt differences of view and extraordinary decisions," had failed to materialise.

Since the only official channel of communication between members resident on the Dulwich College estates and the estates governors is via the advisory committee, it is surely most important that the society's representatives at these biannual meetings should be free to report back to their members as to what matters were discussed, what recommendations were made to the board of governors or what decisions have been reached by the board. As things stand at present, representatives of Dulwich amenity societies are not free to report on the proceedings, nor can the official minutes of an advisory committee meeting be circulated to the society's executive committee. Why is this?

Firstly, because all papers circulated by the general manager and secretary contain the following caveat: "All recipients are asked to ensure that all papers, including agendas and minutes, relating to the proceedings of the estates governors are treated as confidential." Secondly, regarding the advisory committee and whether the minutes of the meetings should be made generally available, it was agreed in 1986 that "the minutes should be regarded as confidential in principle, but that individual members of the committee were free to use their discretion as to the extent to which the decision or discussion on an individual item might be released to third parties."

In this connection, the co-ordinating committee of the three Dulwich amenity and residents' societies has formally requested the estates governors to implement the following reforms relating to the advisory committee from 1 January 1989:

- that the agendas for, and minutes of, meetings of the advisory committee should be made available to the public; and that meetings of the advisory committee should be held in public and that members of the public should accordingly be entitled to make oral representations at, or written representations prior to, such meetings.

These resolutions, which were passed unanimously by the co-ordinating committee at its meeting on 17 October, together with several others concerning licence applications and other applications under the scheme of management, were to be considered by the board of estates governors at their meeting on 10 December.

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Editor's Note: The views expressed by correspondents do not necessarily the policy of the society.

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I am not at all sanguine as to the outcome. I have attended several meetings of the advisory committee and read a mass of correspondence on the subject since the public meeting called by the Dulwich Society on 29 February. The governors - or at least the hard-liners among them who appeared to hold the majority at their last board meeting on 6 August - clearly regard the scheme of management as sacrosanct and are obsessed with the concept of confidentiality. In my opinion there is little hope of achieving either 'glasnost' or 'perestroika' in 1989!

Yours sincerely

John P Aldwinckle MA  
76 Farquhar Road  
London SE19 1LT

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#### DULWICH SOCIETY EVENTS FOR SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

Below is a brief summary of the main events and meetings scheduled by the society for the coming year. It may be useful to members in planning ahead. Further details will be published in the What's On section of forthcoming Newsletters.

- 6 April: Planning meeting.
- 4 May: Wildlife meeting. Illustrated lecture on mammals and insects of our woods.
- June: Local history meeting.
- June: Wildlife meeting. Guided walk through Battersea Park reserve led by Brian Mist. Date to be fixed.
- 6 July: Trees walk.
- 5 October: Horticulture lecture - speaker and subject to be arranged.
- October: Executive committee. Social meeting for distributors in Belair. Date to be fixed.
- 2 November: Local history lecture and speaker, to be arranged.
- 7 December: Christmas event, to be arranged.

With the exception of walks and possibly the local history event in June, all meetings take place at 8pm on the first Thursday of each month in St Barnabas Hall.

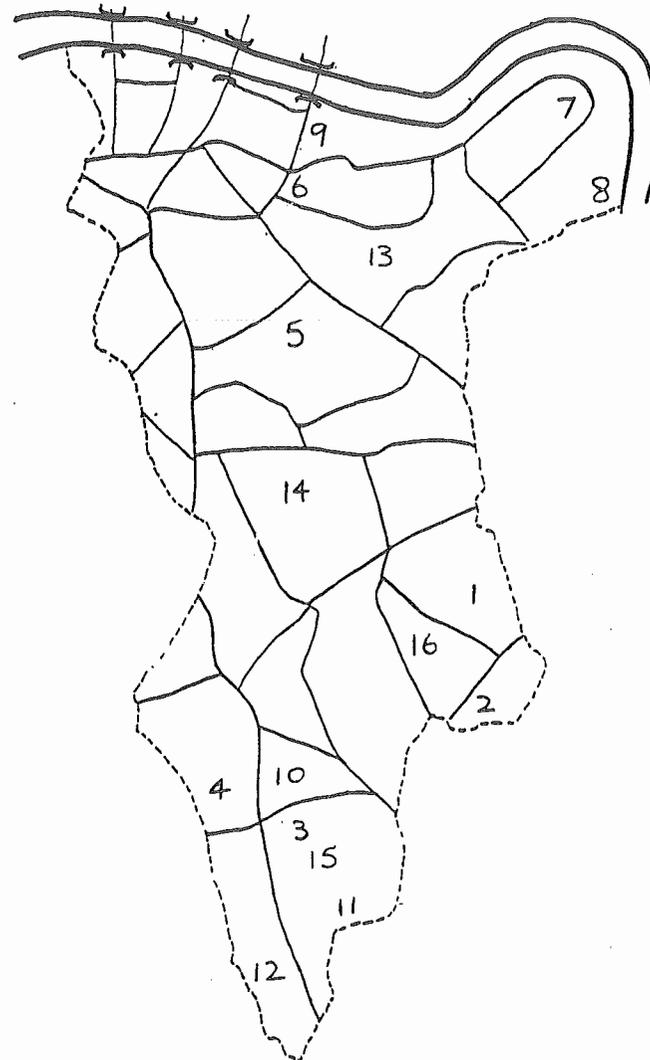
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**STOP PRESS:** The Dulwich estates governors are pressing ahead with their attempt to develop Beechgrove. On 10 December they decided to appeal against the refusal of planning permission.

#### WILDLIFE SITES IN SOUTHWARK

Wildlife occupies a great diversity of habitat in the city, ranging from reservoirs and cemeteries through wastelands to specially created nature parks. Below is a guide and map to some of the most interesting. Those with alphabetical references belong to the Association of Southwark Nature Gardens, set up 18 months ago.

ALSCOT ROAD, SE1. Tenants of the Vaubam Estate have a grandstand view of the self-established vegetation of the site. Contact: Julie Donavon on 231 0916 (A).



GOLDSMITH ROAD, SE15. A meadow and a new pond next to a pickle factory! Contact: Gary Grant on 670 6080 (B).

McDERMOTT ROAD, SE15. A mini-woodland and meadow on former prefabs. Help is needed to repair the pond. Contact: Angela Daskell on 639 3081 (C).

WARWICK PARK, SE15. A "weed" site used by local school. Contact: Gary Grant on 670 6080 (D).

ASPINDEN ROAD WOOD, SE16. A sycamore wood is being opened up for use by local schools. Contact: John McCarthy at Southwark planning on 703 6311 (E).

BENHILL ROAD, SE5. Southwark's first nature garden. Cowslips and vipers' bugloss are amongst the many attractions of its meadow. Contact: Lucy Neville on 733 1136 (F).

LETTSON GARDENS, SE5. There is a good variety of trees on this wooded site. (G).

SNOWFIELDS AND LEATHERMARKET, SE1. Much buddleia and a new pond. Contact: Fran Rowe on 403 3536 (H).

MARLBOROUGH GROVE, SE1. Woodland just off the Old Kent Road. Contact: Eveline Lowe School on 237 2554 (I).

PLOUGH LANE POND, SE22. A small but beautiful frog pond. Contact: Gary Grant on 670 6080 (J).

NUNHEAD CEMETERY. Secondary woodland of borough importance. Part is managed by the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery who also arrange guided tours (1).

ONE TREE HILL. Park managed with wildlife in mind. Spectacular views (2).

DULWICH GOLF COURSE. Some fine pollarded oaks. Plenty of hedges provide nesting sites for a variety of birds (3).

BELAIR PARK. The London Wildlife Trust (LWT) has been suggesting ways to improve the lake for wildlife (4).

BURGESS PARK. Enormous potential for encouraging wildlife here. Why not visit and make suggestions to the council? (5).

SOUTHWARK PARK. Again a formal park with enormous potential (6).

LAVENDER POND. Managed by the Trust for Urban Ecology (TRUE), formerly known as the Ecological Parks Trust (EPT), provides environmental education for schools. A totally man-made wetland (7).

NORWAY DOCK. To be surrounded by new housing. Will become a wildlife refuge no doubt attracting water birds (8).

ROTHERHITHE ECOPARK. Another TRUE site. Has been planted with native species in order to create a wildlife habitat from scratch. Also contains a heathland! Adjoins Russia Dock Park, a new park with numerous trees and a series of ponds (9).

DULWICH PARK. Victorian park with numerous shrubberies full of exotica (10).

SYDENHAM HILL WOOD. LWT reserve. Ancient oak/hornbeam woodland. Adjoins Dulwich Wood - a private section of the wood (11).

DULWICH UPPER WOOD. TRUE site. Warden will be pleased to show visitors around. Phone: 761 6230 (12).

BRICKLAYERS ARMS. Former goods depot. LWT has proposed a nature reserve on part of this site which has been colonised by a fascinating array of plants and animals (13).

GROVE PARK SIDINGS. Secondary woodland and scrub under threat of development (14).

DULWICH WOOD. Ancient woodland of metropolitan importance. Owned by Dulwich College estates (15).

PECKHAM RYE. Formally marshy ancient common with some farm land. Now drained and managed like a park (16).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr Alec Crawford

9 November 1988

Dear Sir,

What a heartening letter from Douglas Jordan of the Crouchmans Close residents' association. It shows that, if the estates governors are approached in an organised way, great benefits may be achieved. It makes me think as well that there are many ways in which residents, on their own initiative, in a private way and without reference to the governors, can foster the amenities and special ambience of Dulwich.

How about the following selection:

- \* Keep Sunday completely free of noisy outdoors DIY, lawn mowing, bonfires and clothes on clothes lines. Why can't summer lawn mowing be done on a weekday evening or morning before going to work?
- \* Occasionally sweep the pavement in front of our houses, especially those of us with gravel drives whose gravel spills on to the street and needs to be swept back again.
- \* A front fence creosoting or staining campaign? Individually this would be so quick to do. Communally it would be so startling in effect.

Incidentally, the litter in front of the Dulwich shops, at the St Barnabas end, is often a disgrace. The litter bin provided is too small and the shopkeepers seem happy to watch the litter blow about in front of their noses all day. Why doesn't the Dulwich Society fund its own litter bin - with a logo on it - and place it in this strategic area?

Yours faithfully

Alec Crawford  
12 Court Lane  
SE21

From Mr S J Kennmar-Gledhill

17 November 1988

Dear Sir,

I noted with interest and surprise the letter from the secretary of the newly formed Crouchmans Close Residents Association extolling the virtues of the estates management in resolving problems speedily and effectively.

Sadly, I am sure I am not alone in experiencing the sedentary and less than helpful attitude of the estates managers.

Despite numerous telephone calls and correspondence for over a year the college has, despite repeated promises of action, failed

to make the necessary repairs to its own boundary fences between Sydenham Rise, Little Brownings and Tarleton Woods.

In September both I and the residents' association reported that a substantial retaining wall between 49 and 51 Sydenham Rise was in need of attention because of cracks and that overgrown trees were the cause. After last year's great storm the wall became obviously dangerous but only after repeated requests was the wall finally reduced in height to make it safe. Since that time to the present the necessary remedial works to make good the damage have not been carried out nor have temporary cosmetic measures at least to improve the appearance of the ragged ugly remains. Each time it rains surplus soil is deposited on path and drains. Weeds are now covering the earth and the original fence is held on by a prayer.

Requests to ascertain when the problem will be resolved have met with indifference. To date I am given to understand that no plans have even been made to make good the damage. When registering my concern to Mr Read (principal building surveyor) I was told: "You're lucky. These matters can go on for 10 years. We might be able to start repairs next summer".

I certainly don't feel lucky!

I wonder whether the residents of Crouchmans Close are living on the same Dulwich Estate and if Mr Jordan would consider taking my residents' association under his wing.

Yours faithfully

S J Kennmar-Gledhill  
49 Sydenham Rise  
London SE23

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#### LORD SILKIN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

I had the honour and pleasure of representing the society at a memorial service held in the Temple Church on 29 November for Lord Silkin of Dulwich, the society's late president.

The order of service, arranged by Lady Silkin and the family, set the scene with Albinoni's Adagio. Tributes and readings given by members of the family and friends from Lord Silkin's legal and political life and from Dulwich told us that the instincts of the good samaritan guided his dealings with others and that conversations between himself and his late brother, John, resembled (hypothetical) encounters between Edward Lear and Gerard Hoffnung.

They also told us that the meticulous care and thought given to his writings on legal matters could not always be matched by the spoken word, and that, for him, socialism was not a need but a way of life.

As we left, to Sibelius' Karelia Suite, we knew we had lost a warm, unassuming and very thoughtful man.

Robin Taylor

30 Walkerscroft Mead  
Dulwich  
London SE21 8LJ

Dear Dulwich Resident,

A year ago the Dulwich Society conducted a survey amongst the residents of Dulwich, following a general expression of disquiet concerning the preservation of local amenities and the operation of the estates office. Although the survey could not be considered comprehensive, it did result in returns by some 300 residents, in which specific complaints were made, many of them supported with evidence. Thanks to Brian Green and Barry Warrener, the returns were analysed, and the original dossier of complaints, which was so bulky that the cost of duplicating it would have been prohibitive, was delivered to the general manager and secretary of the estates governors.

The society now wishes to find out what degree of action has been taken in response to those complaints of a year ago by the estates office, and compile a progress report. If you, as an individual, submitted a return then, or if you did not but have some new ground for complaint, it would be a great help to us if you would complete and return the form on the reverse of this page to me as soon as possible. If you know of any neighbours who submitted returns, who are not members of the society, please copy these two pages for them to make a similar return.

On 29 February 1988 the society arranged a public meeting at St Barnabas Hall, at which the content of the dossier of complaints was discussed. Wider issues were also raised, including proposals to strengthen the advisory committee established under the scheme of management, and to set up a Dulwich Assembly to provide a forum for the exchange of views between, and a more effective voice for, the various residents' and tenants' associations on the estate. The estates governors, who were represented at the 29 February meeting, indicated they would welcome public meetings on a regular annual basis.

The society has arranged a further public meeting for Thursday 23 February 1989 at 8pm at St Barnabas Hall, when all these matters will receive a further airing. Please make a note in your diary, and attend if you can.

Mrs R F U Taylor  
Hon Secretary  
The Dulwich Society

SURVEY OF DULWICH RESIDENTS, JANUARY 1989

Please tick relevant boxes. If there is insufficient room on the form, please attach a continuation sheet. If your original return referred to a number of substantially different complaints, please copy the form and complete a separate form in respect of each complaint.

An asterisk \* indicates "please give details".

NAME (Please print):.....

ADDRESS:.....

MEMBER OF: Dulwich Society ( ) Dulwich Residents Association ( )  
 Dulwich Village Preservation Society ( ) Other ( )\*

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT:

- (1) Under the scheme of management:  
 Questionable extensions/Loft conversions ( )  
 State of roads/footpaths (a) Private ( ) (b) Public ( )  
 Non-rectification of breaches of the scheme ( )  
 Deterioration of other amenities ( )

\*.....  
 .....

- (2) Leaseholders (where EGs responsible as lessors):  
 Maintenance of common parts:  
 (a) Lack of ( ) (b) Inadequate ( )  
 Inadequate supervision/inspection of maintenance work ( )  
 Apparent failure to obtain competitive quotations ( )  
 Estate office's response to letters/telephone calls:  
 (a) Failure ( ) (b) Unacceptable delay ( )  
 Other ( )\*.....

.....  
 .....

Has your original (main) complaint been dealt with  
 Very satisfactorily ( ) Satisfactorily ( )  
 Unsatisfactorily ( ) Not at all ( )  
 NEW COMPLAINT (IF ANY): \*.....

If generally you think the estates governors and their employees are doing a good job, whether (a) as managers under the scheme of management, or (b) as lessors, please indicate, giving specific examples if appropriate.....

Please sign below:

WHAT'S ON

|                                     |                         |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 20 & 21 January<br>Fri & Sat<br>8pm | St Barnabas Hall        | Dulwich Players "Pack of Lies" by Hugh Whitmore (see News).   |
| 2 February, Thurs<br>8pm            | St Barnabas Hall        | Effects of the hurricane at Kew Gardens, illustrated talk, by Matthew Biggs.  |
| 4 February, Sat<br>11.30am          | Dulwich Picture Gallery | Promenade concert, Ian Bostridge, tenor, Jeremy Silver, piano   |
| 7 February, Tues<br>8pm             | Dulwich Picture Gallery | The childhood and youth of Queen Victoria, lecture by the Countess of Longford.   |
| 23 February, Thurs<br>8pm           | St Barnabas Hall        | Public meeting to review and discuss progress with the estates governors since the public meeting on 29 February 1988.. Gerald Bowden MP may chair the meeting (see article). |
| 2 March, Thurs<br>8pm               | St Barnabas Hall        | Annual general meeting of the society, marking its silver jubilee (see notice and News).  |
| 16 March, Thurs<br>8pm              | Dulwich Picture Gallery | British Artists in Rome, lecture by Nicola Kalinsky, Keeper at the gallery).  |
| 18 March, Sat<br>11.30am            | Dulwich Picture Gallery | Promenade concert, Doris Garton and Hazel Skinner, piano duet.  |

**HERITAGE HELP:** In addition to grants for conservation areas, historic buildings and ancient monuments, English Heritage also runs an extra scheme, known as "London Grants", for Greater London. Under these it can give grant to any worthwhile project affecting historic places or buildings. English Heritage says: "We expect repair work which we aid to be sympathetic to the character and importance of the buildings in question, and to be done to a standard which will ensure durability and value for money. We can provide full technical advice on these matters". It adds, however: "Do not start work before we have offered a grant unless you have obtained our written approval to do so. We do not pay grant for work which has already been carried out". If any members are considering such a project, they can obtain further information and application forms for any of our grants available for London buildings by contacting English Heritage, London Division, Chesham House, 30 Warwick Street, London W1R 6AB (tel: 734 8144 Ext 83 or 137).

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with the society's Rules, the notification and Agenda for this year's AGM are given below.

The occasion effectively marks the society's Silver Jubilee.

For 25 years, many hundreds of past and present members have persevered to preserve and conserve the health and well-being of a small and unique area of London. If, for the next 25 years, present and future members can work effectively with present and future Estates Governors, it should be possible for perseverance not to 'go with a whimper' but to go on with a 'bang', and so turn the pessimism of TS Eliot on its head!

THE DULWICH SOCIETY: Notice is hereby given that the 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the DULWICH SOCIETY will be held at 8pm on Thursday 2 March 1989 in St Barnabas Hall Dulwich Village.

## AGENDA

1. MINUTES of the 25th AGM held on 3 March 1988 to be read and Approved.
2. RESOLUTION to elect a new President.
3. Chairman's Report and Reports from Sub-Committee Chairmen.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. RESOLUTION to Approve, with effect from 1 January 1990, an increase in the annual subscription for individual and family memberships from £3 to £5, and for Corporate memberships from £10 to £12.
6. Secretary's Report.
7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee members for 1989/1990:-
  - a. Vice-Presidents
  - b. Chairman
  - c. Vice-Chairman
  - d. Secretary
  - e. Treasurer
  - f. Members of the Executive Committee
8. Appointment of Hon. Auditor.
9. Any Other Business.

After the Meeting, members are invited to enjoy a celebratory glass of wine and accompaniments. Members are asked to contribute 50p towards costs.

NOTE: NOMINATIONS for ELECTION as an OFFICER or MEMBER of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING to the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BY TWO (2) MEMBERS NOT LESS THAN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS BEFORE 2 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