

# The Dulwich Society

TO FOSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE AMENITIES OF DULWICH



Newsletter 84

Spring 1989

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Spring 1989

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All contributions for Summer issue, please, by end of May.

### STOP PRESS

The Golf Club wants part of Dulwich Wood.

Although there has been a lot of development around Dulwich Wood the heart of the wood has remained untouched. Now the Golf Club want to lease the whole of the area which adjoins the Golf Course. This would deprive walkers of a quarter of the wood and of the Cox's Walk entrance. This is an appalling idea just when the Estates Governors are doing so much to improve the wood. If the Club are troubled by intruders they only have to put up a fence along their present boundary.

If the Estates Governors know how much we value the wood they are more likely to refuse this request.

So please will everyone who cares write to Mr. Wylie, the General Manager at the Estates Governors Office, Gallery Road, SE21 and protest against any such encroachment.

Stella Benwell.

**Beechgrove Alliance** - Tactics to resist the Estates Governors' plans for building on Beechgrove, in Sydenham Hill Woods, are being co-ordinated between the society, the London Wildlife Trust, the Sydenham Society, the Dulwich Residents' Association and the Dulwich Village Preservation Society. They will be stressing at the public inquiry the importance of ecological and environmental concerns over the woods: support for this approach has come from Southwark council. At the public meeting in February the Governors' representatives showed no signs of relenting from their position that they are obliged to go ahead with development plans for Beechgrove to fulfil their requirements under Charity Commission rules, although they agreed that the commission has not instructed them to develop Beechgrove or barred them from leaving it as woodland. The Governors did say they had received communications from the commission on the subject of Beechgrove but declined to disclose the contents. They did not respond when it was pointed out by Brian Green, chairman of the local history sub committee, that they had already handed over another site, Bell Meadow, for amenity use.

Kate Hoey, a governor and Society member, said at the meeting that there were many sites owned by the Governors which they were not developing: why was Beechgrove the exception? The Governors' position is that because part of Beechgrove was formerly housing land, it must always be so - a stance to which several objections have been pointed out. Firstly, have the Governors forfeited planning permission by demolition? And secondly, do 'change of use' provisions not apply to Dulwich? If, for instance, land which was once built on could never be anything other than built on, many of London's best parks and green spaces would not now exist. On the same logic, are the Governors obliged to propose the building of a railway through the middle of the woods on the ground that a track once existed there? The Governors' position appear to accord planning regulations the same force as the Mosaic tablets.

In the Sydenham Society's newsletter, the society points out that the Governors' application was to build three large detached houses. It adds: "This is on a site valued at some £800,000: one can only conjecture what the selling prices of the houses would be and who could afford to buy. The development would drive a wedge into the heart of the woodland, suburbanising and diminishing what at present feels like a piece of real country. It must be resisted, and we are glad to be able to say that our own society is working in complete accord with other local amenity groups in opposing it."

**Roads Proposals** - Nearly 50 options for improving London's transport systems were announced last summer in a major review of the capital's increasingly congested road and rail networks. Of particular interest are the suggestions for improving the South Circular Road and the A23 corridor through Brixton and Streatham. Suggestions for the South Circular include road and public transport improvements; or a £500m toll relief road to the north of the South Circular running from Clapham through Brixton, Denmark Hill, Peckham and Lewisham along existing railway lines; or a £400m relief route running through Tooting, Streatham, Norwood, tunnelling under Crystal Palace to Penge and Eltham. The A23 improvement suggestions also include new road building, some linking up with the proposed South Circular relief road, but extensions to the underground and extensive light railway systems are also suggested. None of the options has been decided upon yet and many will be expensive and environmentally devastating. Anyone who wants a synopsis of the options should contact Travers Morgan Consultants on 836 5474 (South Circular Study) and Mott, Hay Anderson 686 5041 (South London Assessment Study).

**Station Trees Lost** - The area of the garden centre beside North Dulwich station has been extended, with some trees removed. The society is concerned that the extension may have breached the limits of the lease.

**Teachers Framed** - *In the Frame*, a Thames Television series on London art galleries was due to feature on March 17 the work of the education department at Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Three films analysed the differing approaches adopted by leading galleries - the National Gallery, the Tate, the Whitechapel, and Dulwich Picture Gallery - to attract more visitors and to ensure they come again and again. With an exciting and progressive education department, Dulwich Picture Gallery was an obvious choice to represent education as a step to gallery-going. The gallery commented: "The education department's success can be quantified by its awards (National Art Collections Fund Award for Outstanding Achievement in 1987 and one of the Museum of Year Awards, the Sotheby Award in 1988) and by the same London children coming back again and again." Dulwich has a unique collection of seventeenth-and-eighteenth century European art with an international reputation. Using this resource Gillian Wolfe, the gallery education officer, makes children aware of different aspects of visual art, such as the chemistry, portraiture and composition. She aims to give children from very different backgrounds an enjoyable experience

and one which engenders appreciation and an ongoing commitment. The programme is run by a team of freelance specialists and qualified volunteer teachers. There are courses for primary, secondary and higher education age groups with additional programmes for special schools. The Science/Art Alliance Programme and GCSE art projects are sponsored by The British Petroleum Company plc. The Special Schools and Inner City School Programme is sponsored by Marks and Spencer.

**Sparrow Plans** - Southwark Council will be using *The Sparrow* Newspaper to publish notices of planning applications. This is an attempt to save money and to reach 107,000 people. People who live in Southwark and are not getting *The Sparrow* regularly should contact: The Editor, Southwark Sparrow, Town Hall, Peckham High Street, SE5.

**Infill Warning** - The Sydenham Society has spoken of "dark and difficult days" for those concerned with conservation and planning matters. Apart from the threat to Sydenham Hill Woods big developments are being considered on The former Forest Hill Sports and Tennis Club, Queenswood Road, for 129 houses, and at 61 and 63 Mayow Road, for a total of 22 flats. The Queenswood Road application follows a series of attempts to develop derelict or unused sports grounds in the borough, including a large one at Rutland Walk, Catford. The society adds: "Faced with an apparently insatiable demand for houses, developers who stand ready to appeal at the drop of a hat to a very lenient Department of the Environment, and evidence that these sports facilities are now little used, there's little the council, or we, can do to stop these schemes going ahead. What we can do, though, is to insist that they're done to the highest possible standards - of design, of building materials, and of landscaping."

**Rail Railings** - A major improvement carried out by the Southwark Environment Trust has been to replace the unsightly wire fencing along the Champion Park frontage of Denmark Hill station with fine Victorian-style railings. About 220 metres of railings were installed and the work was completed last Spring. The result is a fine display of ironwork and a very elegant view of the station from the south east, particularly enjoyed by commuters walking to Denmark Hill Station, people waiting at the bus stop on Champion Park and visitors to the William Booth Memorial College.

The trust commissioned Ian Sime of architects Sime Baillie Lane to produce a design for new railings which would be similar in character to the originals and to have them installed. It says the tall, black, spear-headed railings "provide a powerful effect as they slope gently down the

hill towards Denmark Hill". At regular intervals the railings carry the emblem of the Southwark Environment Trust - the green tree, in this case, against a circular black background edged in red.

**Advisory Committee** - For the first time since the scheme of management was conferred on the Estates Governors in 1974, the advisory committee is to meet four times this year, on April 11, June 27, September 26 and November 28.

The chairman and the vice-chairman have been nominated by the executive committee to attend these meetings, not merely as representatives of the Dulwich Society, but - more importantly - to represent the views of all our members on the Dulwich College Estates. These members, whether or not they are "enfranchised owners" (the term used in the scheme of management to denote freeholders) are invited to submit any matters relating to the scheme or the general management of the Dulwich estates, to the chairman or vice-chairman, with the request that they be brought to the attention of the advisory committee at its next meeting.

The advisory committee will only function effectively with the active support and participation of all members on the Dulwich estates, and it is worth a reminder that "the rights and powers" conferred on the Estates Governors in 1974 were for "the purpose of enabling them to preserve the amenities of the estate for the common benefit".

**Phoenix Owners** - The Phoenix and Firkin at Denmark Hill has new owners. David Bruce has sold his famous Bruce's Brewery chain to Midsummer Leisure plc, a group that has successfully taken over and run the pubs formerly operated by the Campaign for Real Ale.

**Healthy Cities** - Over 80 people crowded into the hall at Southwark Institute on November 23 to hear about promoting better health. The meeting was held in the historic building in St Mary's Road, Peckham, built in the 1930s for the world famous Peckham Experiment which pioneered ways of cultivating good health. Former members of the experiment, Pam and Harold Elven, with the help of fascinating old slides and film, described life in the 1930s and 1940s in Nunhead and Peckham, and how the project had helped local people to live much more healthy lives. Dr James Witchalls, chairman of the pioneering health centre, said that the experiment had demonstrated very clearly the need for doctors to help people to cultivate good health rather than simply to treat sickness. Dr Ruth Wallis, senior registrar in community medicine at Kings College Hospital, and Don Luke, Southwark environment health

officer, emphasised the need for a wide range of actions to be taken into account in promoting good health. Also at the meeting were local GPs, complementary practitioner, school teachers and ILEA representatives, social workers, local residents and many others. All agreed that a new approach to health was urgently needed, and it had to involve people across a wide range of interests working together.

A local healthy cities network was formed to help to develop links across all the different interests. Piers Corbyn, chair of the Southwark public services committee, invited the group to meet the council's health services sub-committee.

Eileen Conn, who organised the meeting for the Peckham Society, said: "This event has shown how much interest there is in a different approach to health - one which cultivates good health, and which recognises that healthy living and working conditions are an essential part of this. Interest in the lessons from the Peckham Experiment is going everywhere, and it is exciting that we can start again in Peckham to apply them." Anyone who would like to contribute in any way to cultivating good health in Southwark and neighbouring areas should contact Eileen Conn, 60 Nutbrook Street, Peckham, London SE15. Tel: 01 639 1591.

**Open Line** - Efforts by the Peckarmans Wood Association and Crouchman's Close Residents Association resulted in the installation of a payphone at Sydenham Hill station. Since the booking hall in which it is housed was locked by the staff at about 7.30pm, however, it was not available during the evening hours when its use was most needed. British Rail has now given an assurance that the booking hall will not be locked in future until about 10pm. Travellers will at least know that they must telephone from town in advance of their journey if they need to be met after this hour.

**Conservation Ruling** - Residents in a north London conservation area recently won a High Court action to prevent a development within the area. The ruling is of special significance for local amenity societies. An application by a developer to build a two-storey house on a derelict site in the middle of Torriano Cottages, a row of mainly nineteenth century houses in Kentish Town was turned down by Camden Council but won an appeal by the developer. However, a well-organised campaign by local residents resulted in an appeal to the High Court in which the judge ruled in favour of the residents. The Town and Country Planning Act 1971 says that a local planning authority has a duty "to exercise special control of development in conservation areas to preserve and enhance the

special character of the area". This requirement was central to the evidence prepared by Sheila Thompson, a local architect, to support the residents' case against the proposed development. The application has now been sent back to the Department of the Environment for reassessment.

**Plant Sale** - A sale of plants is to be held by the horticultural sub-committee in May. Proceeds will go to the fund for plants for the Dulwich Picture Gallery Garden. The sale will be held in the gallery grounds on May 20 at 10.30am. This is the gallery open day. Members with plants are invited to telephone 693 3698.

**Euro Slides** - Gillian Wolfe of the Dulwich Picture Gallery, has been invited to give the opening lecture in a series launched by the European Museum of the Year Association and sponsored by Christie's. On April 17, in Christie's Amsterdam saleroom, Gillian Wolfe and Sophia Yalouraki, recognised as two of Europe's most progressive and innovative gallery educators, will give illustrated presentations, explaining their achievements to an invited audience. The directorate of education and culture of the Council of Europe has invited Gillian Wolfe to Strasbourg at the end of March 1989. She will be advising on the planning of an international symposium on museum and gallery education to take place in Vienna in 1990. In October Gillian will be attending the European Museum of the Year awards ceremony in Basle.

**School Junior** - Rosendale Junior School in Turney Road celebrates its 90th year in 1989. To mark this event, Mervyn and Chris Bramley have published a short history from 1897 to 1935 entitled *The Early Years of Rosendale School*. It is not only a fascinating social history but also a detailed examination of the architecture features of the school, and in particular its central staircase and bell turret. Copies can be obtained from the Bramleys on 670 8974.

**Canal Parkland Threatened** - Canal head open space at the back of Peckham High Street is threatened with being built over by a government-created body. Canal Head was formerly a derelict area and an eyesore in the heart of Peckham until Southwark council and the GLC laid out the land in 1986 as an open space with grass, trees, seats and decorative paving. The open space forms the southern end of the Surrey Canal linear park, which links Peckham town centre with Burgess Park and forms a welcome green "lung". However, much of the area was originally owned by the GLC. When the GLC was abolished the

government set up the London Residuary Body to take over its remaining assets, including land and buildings, and dispose of them. The LRB intend to auction off the Canal Head end of the Surrey Canal linear park to the highest bidder. Southwark Council is seriously concerned about the scheme, not least because, with the GLC, it spent a total of £130,000 cleaning the derelict land of the former canal and having it landscaped as a park. The money would be wasted if this area is now sold off privately. Furthermore, the LRB does not seem to have taken into account the benefit this park provides for local residents, or the possible future consequences of their actions. Any buyer is likely to want to develop this land, or at least fence it off, and restrict public access. A safe area for children to play or for people to walk their dogs will be lost, and a direct link between Peckham and Burgess Park could be broken.

There is still time to alter the LRB's mind. Southwark Council wants this land handed over to it so that it can be kept for the benefit of local people. Resistance to the sale from local residents may make the LRB change its mind.

The LRB recently intended to sell off an open area and BMX track at Bird-in-Bush Triangle off Commercial Way for housing development. An outcry from local residents and objections from the council meant that the LRB did a U-turn and is now handing his land over to the council to keep it as it is. Perhaps the LRB can be made to change its mind over the Canal Head. If you wish to make any comments on this sale, please write to Ray Wright at: Borough Development Department, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JA who will make sure your views are passed to the LRB.

**Brighter Bridges** - Southwark Environment Trust has launched a campaign to get four prominent railway bridges in Southward re-painted. Local amenity societies were asked for nominations. Bermondsey and Rotherhithe nominated the bridge on Tower Bridge Road just south of Tower Bridge. This must be one of the finest in London, with its classical details. But it presents a shabby contrast to the splendidly restored and floodlit Tower Bridge immediately to the north. Camberwell Society nominated the bridge on Camberwell New Road just beyond Camberwell Green. To complete the spread of bridges, SET have included the Queens Road bridge in east Peckham and the Walworth Road Bridge just south of the Elephant and Castle.

**Allied Campaign** - After a successful campaign by David Rimmer, a local architect who has been writing to Allied Carpets for over a year, Allied has landscaped the area in front of its Brixton store and agreed to prevent litter from accumulating. Additional planting was done in July 1988. The Herne Hill Society commented: "This shows that we, the public, can take positive action for our neighbourhood and get results."

**New Residents' Group** - Residents of Woodsyre and Rockhill have decided to form their own association. The chairman of the new association is Dennis Burgess, 2 Woodsyre. The secretary is Pru Lightfoot, 20 Woodsyre.

**Dulwich Players Production** - The Players will be presenting "Abigail's Party" by Mike Leigh as their April production. The Players describe the plot as follows: "Abigail is having a party and doesn't want Susan, her mother, there. So Beverley and Lawrence invite her to meet Angela and Tony, who have just moved in, though Tony isn't very keen on being there and Lawrence has a lot of business to do. However, Beverley is determined that Susan and Angela enjoy themselves, but do they....?"

Performances are on Friday and Saturday April 21 and 22 April at 8pm in St Barnabas Hall. Tickets are £2 & £1 from the Box Office manager, Mrs Pat Evans, 39 Little Bornes, SE21 (tel: 670 0936) or from the Art Stationers, Dulwich Village.

**Annual Dinner** - To round off modest celebrations at the end of the society's Jubilee year, we hope Alan Mason, founder-chairman and Mrs Mason will be able to accept an invitation to join us as our guests at this year's dinner on June 16.

Peter Lawson, recently retired vice-chairman and newly elected vice-president, has accepted an invitation to 'sing for his supper' as guest speaker. As he is a walking encyclopaedia on matters Dylwyssian much light may be shed on the past.

The executive committee decided, after a degree of huffing and puffing, to return to the Dulwich and Sydenham Golf Club as the venue once more. Those who attended the dinner there last year will remember the company was excellent, but the newly installed private catering management was nowhere near the mark. So why return?

Firstly, information filtering through from members of the club, who hold decided views on such matters, has indicated the present new catering management works to considerably higher standards. Secondly, the new chef exudes a sense of vocation, with enthusiasm for and an affinity with the "tools of his trade".

## NEWS

So with what is hoped will prove an imaginative meal, congenial surroundings and a magnificent panoramic view of London to the west - why not return? Bring the wine of your choice with you, or buy on the spot by sampling the club's cellar. Practical details and ticket application slip are given in the insert to this newsletter.

*Robin Taylor.*

**Tomb Tours** - On May 20 the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery are holding their annual open day. Its aim is to promote one of the great nineteenth-century cemeteries, not only for its historical value, but also as an important environmental and ecological resource since a large part of the cemetery has been designated a nature reserve. The programme includes genealogical searches, guided tours, an information stand, a nature trail and insect identification. The cemetery will be open to the public at 11am ending around 5 pm. There will be a refreshment stand. Entrance - main gate, Linden Grove, Nunhead. An invitation is extended to local societies to join them on the third Saturday in May in Nunhead.

**Field Foray** - A visit to the site of a possible medieval field system between Gallery and College Roads, where the Museum of London are to carry out an exploratory dig will take place on June 7. Following the visit, a talk will be given on recent archaeology in south London, including the Barkseels site with its theatrical connection with Edward Alleyn, given by the museum's field archaeologist Harvey Sheldon. The talk will be in the Old Library, Dulwich College (by kind permission of the master). Assemble in Lover's Lane (footpath joining Gallery and College Roads) opposite Pickwick Cottage (College Road) at 7.45pm. Admission by ticket only £2 (including wine) from the Art Stationers, 31 Dulwich Village, London SE21.

**1989 Subscriptions** - We note with regret that some members have not yet paid the subscription for 1989 which fell due on January 1 1989. Would they be so kind as to pay the subscription now and help to avoid the cost and inconvenience of having to send individual reminder letters.

Many thanks for you support.

*Treasurer.*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AT THE JUBILEE AGM

It is a great sadness, not only to myself but to all of us, I am sure, that I have to open our Jubilee annual general meeting by asking us to remember for a moment our great loss during the year of our president, Lord "Sam" Silkin, and of our treasurer Jim Davis. I think that all that could have been said or written has already been said and written but for all that we cannot but feel deprived at the loss of their support, companionship and wisdom.

I must also mention the deaths of two distinguished and well known members of the society - Mr John Alexander Sinclair known world-wide for, amongst other things, his work on anti-slavery, and Mr Eric Ponsford Fisher whose beautiful garden was visited by the Queen Mother. I would also add that Mr Evans one of our founder members, is reported to be in hospital.

On a happier note, may I remind you, if you need reminding, that this is our Jubilee year. The society was founded 25 years ago to foster and safeguard the amenities of Dulwich.

The society owes an enormous debt to Mr Michael Pich QC for his work in setting up the scheme of management in 1964, which imposes obligations upon the Estates Governors to help us and to keep Dulwich rich in heritage, a beautiful place to which to belong.

You will be hearing reports from the chairmen of our sub-committees, without which the society could not possibly operate. But before that, there are one or two points I would like to mention, keeping them as brief as possible so that we may all join together in a glass of wine at the end of the meeting.

Firstly, I am very glad to announce that Sir Frederick Everson, previously chairman of the society, has kindly agreed to stand for election as our president - this will be the subject of the first resolution this evening.

Second, Mr Peter Lawson, a founder member and vice-chairman of the executive committee has decided that the time has now come for him to stand down, but I am delighted to say that he has agreed to stand for election as a vice-president and is prepared to continue to give the committee his advice and to carry on his invaluable work with Southwark council and others on conservation matters.

There are a few other matters I would like to touch upon.

**Darlink** (Dulwich Against the Rail Link) - Your executive committee invited me to become our representative on the committee of Darlink and I was elected vice-chairman. The possible high-speed rail link is a real threat to our area and indeed house prices are already blighted by this threat. On February 13 I attended a meeting at British Rail

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AT THE JUBILEE AGM

Headquarters with a member of their management board and Mr Malcolm Southgate whom many of you will remember from the public meeting in Dulwich Baths. It was pretty clear to me, although they did say it was not so, that they had already made up their minds on their preferred route. They will publicly make an announcement on March 8 or 9 after which there will be a consultative period until November when their private bill comes before Parliament. A mass of petitions has been collected, and these will be lodged in due course; but in the meantime a mass protest is planned for this Saturday, March 4, meeting at the Crown and Greyhound at 12 noon when a bus shuttle service will take us to Camberwell Green to join with Southwark, Walworth, Herne Hill, Camberwell, Nunhead and Peckham to walk to Waterloo to demonstrate the solidarity of our opposition to any overground scheme.

**The Advisory Committee** - At their board meeting on December 10 1988 the Estates Governors at last accepted propositions we had put to them that our representation on the advisory committee should be "six and six" two representatives from each of our society, the Dulwich Residents Association and the Dulwich Village Preservation Society. The estates governors have also agreed that the tiresome label of "confidential" to the deliberations of the advisory committee may be interpreted more liberally to allow for publication at our own discretion. This will have to be in our *Newsletter* as the other two societies do not have one. It was also agreed that the advisory committee would meet four times a year, instead of twice as hitherto.

**The Newsletter** - Perhaps not surprisingly, we have received a number of complaints about the Winter 1988 *Newsletter* but I have to say at the same time that there have been plaudits as well as flak. There is one thing I would like to make clear. The newsletter is not subject to censorship, by decision of the executive committee. The committee has laid down certain guidelines for the benefit of the editor, and it has been agreed that the copy will be seen by me before it goes to print but only as a check on accuracy of fact, not of opinion. It is a matter of great regret that the Estates Governors remain unwilling to take up their standing invitation to offer their own contributions in the interests of "glasnost".

**Sub-Committees** - You will remember that a few years ago it was decided to merge together the planning and transport sub-committee because of the overlap of interest in their functions. The executive committee has now decided that because of the overwhelming volume of work imposed upon the planning sub-committee, the duties should now

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AT THE JUBILEE AGM

be separated and a transport sub-committee be reintroduced.

May I take this opportunity to thank the chairmen and all members of the sub committees for the immense amount of work they do, and I must mention here in particular our honorary secretary, Robin Taylor. I must also thank all those who work behind the scenes, our voluntary helpers, without whom the Society could not operate.

Finally, we are planning a Jubilee dinner in June this year. Details will be announced in the forthcoming newsletter.

*Denys Wyatt*

## THE HORNIMAN

by **Bill De Baerdemaecker**

On one of those glorious days last February I decided to walk over to Forest Hill and while passing the ancient hawthorn hedge along the base of Sydenham Hill plague pit I saw something glinting in the sun high up on the slope of Horniman Gardens. On investigation this turned out to be the newly gilded weather vane forming the pinnacle of a gleaming white Victorian conservatory of stunning proportions.

I have seen advertisements in glossy magazines recently by offshoots of double glazing firms for white PVC covered conservatory frames and very good Victorian imitations they looked. But this was too grand to be any mere imitation and so it turned out.

My enquiries revealed that this impressive cast iron construction was originally installed by Frederick Horniman, the famous tea merchant, M.P. and naturalist, in the grounds of his residence, Coombe Cliffe, in Croydon in 1894. In 1982 the house was taken over by the GLC and the conservatory, being in a very bad state of neglect was dismantled and stored by the GLC in the grounds of the Crystal Palace. Owing to its past association with the Horniman family Mr. Boston, director of the museum, was asked if he could suggest a scheme for its transfer and renovation adjacent to the museum. It was planned that a musical instrument gallery should be added to the north-west corner of the building on top of which a terrace would be built against the slope of the gardens. The conservatory would be reconstructed on this and used as a tearoom - which seemed appropriate in view of Mr. Horniman's business. All this would be very costly so had to be scrapped on the abolition of the GLC. However, it had been listed as a Grade II building and thanks to the involvement of English Heritage the present modified plan was put into action.

Last October the traditional builder's "topping out" ceremony took place when Mr. Michael Horniman, grandson of Mr. Frederick, officiated. The erection of the large and ornate weather vane containing Mr. Horniman's coat of arms in colour - a red lion recumbent beneath a green palm tree above his family motto "Esperance en Dieu" - symbolised the end of the major work. Completion is expected this spring but before it can be opened to the public the problem of sufficient funding for the interior work and for landscaping has to be solved.

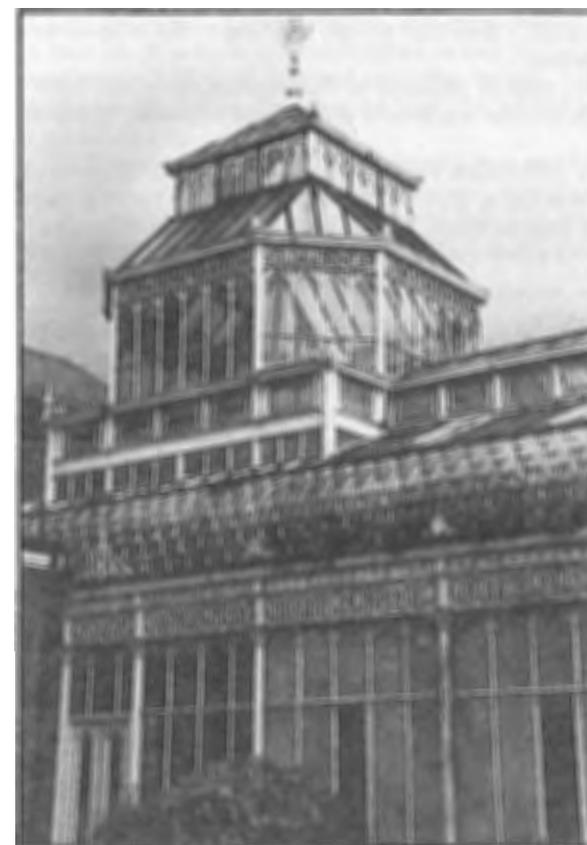
The forthcoming abolition of the ILEA which at present administer both the museum and its gardens will present further problems although I understand that after much debate in the House of Lords and Parliament a trust might be set up. Meanwhile Friends of the Horniman was formed last year to celebrate the centenary of the museum and is doing sterling work in organising social and other fund raising events.

## THE HORNIMAN

Certainly the museum and its gardens would be a great loss to the whole of South London. This can be judged by the swarms of young school children to be seen - and heard - in the museum daily during term time.

Not being a museum person myself I have to admit that I only go there for the best cup of coffee to be found in Forest Hill but the gardens are a delight with breathtaking panoramic views of the metropolis on clear days from the brow of the hill. I have no hesitation in saying that they are the tidiest, most litter-free and best kept public pleasure grounds around the Dulwich area. Old Mr. Horniman would be proud of them!

Bill de Baerdemaecker is member of the local history sub-committee.



## GOVERNORS CITE PROGRESS IN MANAGING ESTATE

*Marshall Field, chairman of the Dulwich Estates Governors, reported improvements in the management of the estate to the public meeting called by the Society in February. His address is printed below.*

First, as on the previous occasion, I start by welcoming the opportunity for me, and for a number of my colleagues on the board, and for John Wylie, and for members of his staff, to meet and to talk to so many of the residents of the estate. It is a valuable opportunity.

In my statement of last year, I explained the nature of the responsibilities of the Governors, how we are constituted and how we see our duties. I also referred to the scheme of management and the advisory committee. I think that I do not need to go over that ground again tonight although I note that a topic relating to the scheme arises later on tonight's agenda.

Last year, and in relation to the dossier that had been compiled, I referred also to some matters of widespread concern. These were:

- \* The difficulties experienced over a number of years and the efforts being taken to remedy matters in the operation of the estates office. These were at the heart of many of the items mentioned in the dossier.
- \* The situation in College Road as regards the surface and parking.
- \* The state of the Old Grammar School.
- \* The maintenance of Dulwich Woods.
- \* The Governors' responsibilities over applications for alterations and extensions.

I can report progress on all these matters.

As regards the estates office, staffing and accommodation problems still persist, but we will, and at last, be fully staffed in all the key positions within a few more weeks and, in spite of these difficulties, steady progress is being made in the task of catching up on arrears - the programme has not slipped.

It remains, of course, our wish to establish and maintain good relationships with the many residents' associations, as this is by far the best route to keep the properties in a proper state of repair. I believe the situation in this regard is improving and I hope that questioners this evening do not try to press questions which are properly dealt with between residents' association and the office staff as this could easily undo much of the progress being made.

## GOVERNORS CITE PROGRESS IN MANAGING ESTATE

As regards College Road, the parking problem at Sydenham Hill Station was resolved when the posts and chains were positioned. I note, however, that a few stray cars have found their way back and, when the current work on Low Cross Wood Lane and on the new houses is completed, we must press for further action to be taken by the police.

As for the road surface, you will have noticed that the section in the hands of Southwark is being attended to. The Governors' section, as regards both the surface and the drainage, is being researched and will be the subject of consultation within a few weeks.

Sadly, the Old Grammar School looks no better than it did one year ago. However, considerable progress has been made. The lease of this property is now in the hands of the governors and the task of extensive repairs can now proceed. Unfortunately, the legal aspects were not completed in time for this work to be completed before the onset of winter and so the programme had to be deferred until this spring. I can add that the new agreements are being drawn up so that the former usage of the building can continue.

Dulwich Woods, perhaps naturally, presents a multi-branched problem. Jeremy Gotch, chairman of the trees and surveys committee, has spent much time on the several aspects and has had meetings with your own excellent trees committee. Peripherally, I would mention, so as not to be charged with ignoring them, the questions of the substitution of railings for the fencing and the situation at Beechgrove.

As to the former, I think that most would agree that fencing was an unsuitable solution. When the fencing was taken away I was impressed with the great improvement in appearance and suggested that Low Cross Wood Lane should be left open permanently. It was pointed out however that this would easily render the lane highly vulnerable to muggings as, without any barrier, it would be so easy for an assailant to hide in the woods. I believe the railings, now that they are painted, are not unsightly and are a great improvement on what went before.

Turning to Beechgrove, the situation is virtually where it was a year ago. The development has not been approved and the whole site remains in limbo. Suggestions abound, most of which involve courses of action that are beyond our powers but we are currently trying to set in motion discussions that might lead to a solution. Perhaps we will talk more of this later in the meeting and I will say no more now than to draw attention to the difference between being charitable (with a small 'c') and administering a charity with defined purposes.

Finally in my progress report, I come to applications for extensions and alterations. The volume of work does not diminish and we have reorganised our meetings so that the task can be accomplished properly

## GOVERNORS CITE PROGRESS IN MANAGING ESTATE

on a two-month cycle of meetings. It was pointed out to me that, as a result, a Governor who attended all the meetings of all the committees and sub-committees would be involved in nearly thirty meetings a year.

As I say, the workload on the board and on the staff is heavy. Last year there was some concern at instances of incomplete consultation and some varying of standards. We are trying to avoid these situations and believe that we have succeeded as regards consultation and we have also improved the timing of the notification of decisions. Applicants are now advised during the week following the committee meeting, but, during this rather hectic period, no comment can be made to anyone as to decisions. When the applicant has been notified, other interested parties can inquire of the office and will be told what decision was taken but we have had to recognise that we cannot undertake, ourselves, to inform, as part of the procedure, everyone who might wish to know - the initiative must rest with the interested party.

Since last year, two new problems have arisen. The first is the threat of running the channel tunnel rail link through Dulwich. The main thrust of activity is through Darlink and the Governors are supporting that initiative actively - as also are the amenity societies. The decision as to the recommended route is to be announced shortly and we can hope that proper account will have been taken of the cost of compensation of bringing the line above ground through Dulwich and Walworth.

The second is the advent of satellite television and the prospect of an eruption of dish aerials. It has been stated in the Press that dish aerials of the smaller type now being used do not require approval from local authorities. That may be so, but, in the case of leasehold properties, the Governors' approval is required and, in the case of properties under the scheme of management, they do constitute an erection requiring the approval of the managers. This is, therefore, an area where much confusion could exist and we have in preparation a leaflet, for distribution to every property on the estate, pointing out the special position in Dulwich and setting out guidelines for approval.

## A JUBILEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

by Robin Taylor

As AGMs go, the Jubilee AGM went well, for several reasons. An attendance of 99 - double that of the last five occasions at least - included brand-new members, notable among whom were the (proud) new owners of "Grove House". It is more than gratifying to know that planning, by helping in the fight against demolition of the house followed by proposed gross over-development of the site, helped ultimately to make the purchase possible for them.

Secondly, anticipation was doubtless roused by the sight of tasty bites, serried ranks of glasses and a superb edible creation by Jill and Sandy Alexander of the society's hall-mark, the Bewick Swan. It floated serenely on an 18in by 18in board, almost defying anyone to cut into it! Portions have since been taken to a founder-member unable to attend at the last moment, and to another older member. "Realisation" for those present was also somewhat delayed!

Lastly, the success of the society's extensive involvement in local affairs this year led to necessarily lengthy reports. Although more members were able to raise issues than before, it became apparent that yet more time should be made available to them. The suggestion that changes could be made in the future organisation of AGMs can only be constructive.

Congratulations to Jill and Sandy were followed by a few moments of silent remembrance for Lord "Sam" Silkin, president, and Jim Davis, treasurer: also for John Alexander Sinclair, known world-wide for his fight against slavery, and Eric Ponsford Fisher, whose beautiful garden had been visited by the Queen Mother.

A popular election was that of Sir Frederick Everson KCMG as president. Chairman from 1970-75, his wise counsel and support will be invaluable. The election of D.A. Fenner, headmaster of Alleyns School, and Peter Lawson, retiring vice-chairman, as vice-president was also warmly received. Peter has worked tirelessly for the society for 25 years: his encyclopaedic knowledge is to remain available to us through his continuing contact with the Southwark Conservation Area Forum.

Officers and executive committee members elected for 1989/90 and sub-committee members are listed in the pull-out calendar in this newsletter.

News of a protest march by supporters of Darlink together with other similar groups in Southwark on March 4 contrasted with proposed spring and summer walks in St James' and Battersea Parks and Dulwich Woods, and a lecture to come on "Gardens on the Roof of the World". Then - exciting stuff - research into the history of the tollgate, requested by the Estates Governors, to mark its 200th anniversary - with, perhaps,

## A JUBILEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a flock of sheep being driven through for a toll of a few pence in celebration?

And a small "dig", approved by the EGs, for an archaeologist from the London Museum to try to establish whether medieval fields lie under Howletts Meadow.

Sterling work by the co-ordinating committee since last February has resulted in agreement by the EGs to two members each from the society, the DRA and DVPS, meeting with six EGs to form a more open advisory committee. The committee is to meet four times a year instead of only twice, and the tiresome "confidential" caveat is to be waived sufficiently to allow discretionary reporting of its deliberations in the society's newsletters - the only available outlet. Many more members do appreciate the thankless task facing the Governors and John Wylie, general manager and secretary, though they are still impatient with poor supervision of work-in-hand and failures to seek adequate quotations for that work.

After Darlink will come the South Circular Road, a subject on which meetings have already been held with the consultants, Travers Morgan, and for which, inevitably, financial commitment will be necessary. After large outlays in support of Darlink, and a further public enquiry on Beechgrove to come, finances have been stretched. Agreement was unanimous that individual/family subscriptions should rise from £3 to £5 and corporate memberships from £10 to £12. Previous non-payments of subscriptions would have financed a *Newsletter* issue! The response in "catching-up" by these members has been tremendous.

Proposals from membership and publicity to increase the membership are in the pipeline, and our new treasurer, Daya Modjesinghe, who has been a member of the society for 10 years and who paid a glowing tribute to Jim Davis, also has ideas for increasing the membership.

Wanted - a membership secretary, and history enthusiasts interested in research!

Thanks to the efforts of Sue Ford from the publicity committee and Butler, Cornfield, Dedman - a London Design Consultancy - this issue of the newsletter is being given a trial run in a new format, and constructive reactions from members are essential. Please note the Bewick Swan continues to "lord" it on the cover! It became apparent that reactions to the editorial in the last issue were fairly evenly balanced amongst those present. The editor had personally received accolades from a number of readers, including the first editor of the *Newsletter*.

"Realisation" came for patient members when the meeting closed at 10.17pm. The swan came into its own - it was delicious.

In 1989, the society is perhaps beginning to recapture the campaigning image apparent at its inception in 1964.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Alan Mason February 3 1989

*Dear Editor*

*A brief note, first to congratulate you on the vigour and breadth of Newsletter 83 and, secondly, to wish the society continuing success over the next quarter century. As the founding father and first chairman, I had thought the society was formed in 1963, with a meeting held in Dulwich Library, which to my relief was surprisingly well attended. In those days there was not the same concern for amenity and environment and we all lived in some awe of the mysterious Governors: the general reaction to my attempts to whip up support for the concept of a Dulwich Society was "What can you hope to achieve?" But the robust success of the society today, as reflected in your columns, justifies my original, often uncertain, optimism. The plodding delivery of handbills and the postcards in local tobacconists have proved enormously worthwhile in the end!*

*I was chairman for only two years - my career took me far from Dulwich - and I know from the Newsletters, which I continued to receive in remote areas of the world, that the society at times tottered on the brink of collapse. But clearly these days are past and it can only go from strength to strength.*

*Right from the start Peter Lawson collaborated enthusiastically and knowledgeably and I am delighted to see that he is still vice-chairman.*

*Yours sincerely*

Alan Mason  
Tregunter  
Charlcombe Lane  
Lansdown  
Bath BA1 5TT

Note by chairman : Peter Lawson has infact stood down from the vice-chairmanship but has kindly agreed to become a vice-president so that we shall still have the benefit of his skill and experience.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From R T Reed February 27 1989

Dear Sir,

*I know I am not alone in feeling unhappy about the tone of the editorial in the last issue. Editorials - unless there is a disclaimer to that effect - are usually taken to represent the general views of the society.*

*Such a strongly worded, not to say opinionated article, ought surely to have included a statement that your views do no necessarily represent those of the society. They are certainly not mine.*

*I am glad to say that, at the public meeting on February 23 many of us felt that there still exists a spirit of co-operation and goodwill that has long been evident between the society and the general manager and the Governors.*

Yours sincerely

R T Reed  
2 Court Lane Garden  
London SE21 7DZ

From Michael and Benita Coleman February 1 1989

Dear Sir

*Are we imagining it, but isn't Dulwich becoming engulfed in litter since Southwark council disbanded its regular street cleaners? Along the South Circular, particularly this portion of Thurlow Park Road, it blows up and down all day. No matter how often you go out and sweep the front pavement (as Alec Crawford suggests in the last Newsletter ) the litter is soon back.*

*Some of it comes out of passing traffic but most, obviously, is dropped by residents and school pupils - the main culprits here being Dulwich College and Kingsdale Comprehensive.*

*The source? It can only be the popular sweet/provisions shop, The Nook (formerly Tuck Shop) at West Dulwich station. As evidence, examine all paths radiating round, especially the station's footpath and its embankments. There is enough garbage to sink the Bismarck. If left, it attracts more litter. And more.*

*What to do? Litter bins from the society would be visual and might gently remind people that the remedy lay in their hands. They might also be vandalised. A team of us might sally forth one favourable day and clear the whole lot up and noisily pass the message round. (About 10 years ago a work project squad from Dulwich College swooped on the*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*station and did this, painting odd bits too). Appeals to Southwark council and British Rail to erect anti-litter signs or better litter bins at the source? (BR could certainly seal up the "self-cleaning" platforms it installed in 1985 when the station was reconstructed).*

*Any ideas out there?*

Michael and Benita Coleman  
138 Thurlow Park Road  
London SE21 8HN

From Mr E Alan Gildersleve February 5 1989

Dear Sir,

*I would like to say how much I agree with Alec Crawford regarding Sunday noise. This is one thing I have been most careful about. An old lease had clauses prohibiting it and also hanging out of washing after 12pm on Saturdays until Monday morning! When people have had a busy week in the office they are entitled to a peaceful Sunday if they so desire. If they don't desire, then common decency demands that they consider those who do!*

Yours sincerely

Alan Gildersleve  
2A Dovercourt Road  
London SE22 8ST

From Mr J L Brooker February 8 1989

Dear Mr Nicholson Lord,

*I'd like to complete the kind notice you made in Newsletter 83 of my Judas tree: when I offered a fur to Mr Ronnie Reed for the Gallery Garden I had mostly in mind that a seedling from the original tree would be acceptable.*

*I must say that when I picked up a handful of seedpods in 1978 and sowed them I did not expect more than a few would germinate and indeed few did, but enough.*

Yours sincerely

J L Brooker  
14 Stonehills Court  
London SE21 7LZ

## GRAPEVINE

**Westwoods Westward** - Margaret and John Westwood left Dulwich in 1982 after several years of keen interest in Copse Wood and trees generally. (John made the first-ever fully detailed survey drawing of all the trees.) They continue these interests in Streatley, an area of outstanding natural beauty, in Berkshire, where they now live. All their amenity adrenalin began to flow again, when motor cycle scrambling began on the wooded hills of the beautiful Goring Gap near their home. The organiser of these events had to be taken to the High Court before he could be finally stopped. It took seven years. There was great rejoicing by the local residents when the National Trust agreed to purchase the whole area which at 100 acres is three times the size of Copse Wood and those who already know the trust properties at Larden Chase and Lough Down, with their wonderful views of the Thames Valley, will soon find the new adjoining territory open to explore. If you see reference to "The Holies" (not Hollies), that is the name of the new trust area. It includes chalk downland with rare wild flowers, and hanging woods with yew and other trees. The Westwoods have other interest too. John Westwood is also publisher and editor of "*The International Meccanoman*" which brings him contacts with adult model builders in 23 different countries, while Margaret is involved with the Society of Friends and other organisations.

**Parent Network** - A group aiming to help parents explore the pleasures of family life and offering ways of coping with its ups and downs has been set up in the Dulwich area.

Susan Vickery, who started the Dulwich group, trained with national Parent Network, an organisation which helps improve relationships within families. "I try to help parents experience the positive changes that the parent link programme has brought about in my own life," she says. Meetings are held in East Dulwich and are open to all parents. For details phone 693 3544.

**Laughs** - There is to be a new theatre in South East London from January. The Off The Tube Theatre - so called because it caters to everyone who is - will be located above the East Dulwich Tavern, 1 Lordship Lane, SE22, and is being launched to cater for all theatre and live entertainment lovers, with events including professional companies and the best of the thriving South London cabaret circuit.

The organisers, five local actors and agents, hope to encourage local talent and thereby attract local audiences. On January 2 a gala cabaret evening was due to be held. For further information phone 693 9318.

## WHAT'S ON

Saturday April 29	11.30am	Dulwich Picture Gallery Promenade Court. The Dulwich Ensemble.
Sunday April 30	2.30pm	Walk through the Church Road and proposed Crystal Palace triangle conservation areas with John Yaxley of the Norwood Society. Meet, Beulah Spa Hotel.
Thursday May 4	8.00pm	St Barnabas Hall Illustrated talk. Brian Jones and Ruth Day "Mammals and insects of our woods". (Wildlife sub-committee).
Saturday May 6	11.30am	Dulwich Picture Gallery Promenade Court by Sian Carys Allen (soprano) and Alvin Moisey (piano).
Sunday May 7	2.30pm	North Dulwich Station The Old Village of Dulwich - guided walk led by Brian Green. Suitable for wheelchairs - two hours gentle stroll.
Thursday May 18	8.00pm	Dulwich Picture Gallery The York Piano Trio.
Wednesday June 7	7.45pm	Visit to archeological dig Gallery Road. Led by Harvey Sheldon of the London Museum, followed by lecture in the Old Library, Dulwich College. Meet Lover's Lane - opposite Pickwick Cottage, College Road. Entry by ticket only - £2 including wine from the Art Stationers Dulwich Village SE21.
Sunday June 4	2.30pm	The Grove Tavern (corner of Lordship Lane and Dulwich Common) Highwaymen, Gypsies and Murder - guided walk led by Brian Green. Not suitable for the disabled - 2 1/2 hour walk through Dulwich Wood.
Tuesday June 6	8.00pm	Dulwich Picture Gallery Opera Miniatures present "Cosi Fan Tutte" (Mozart).

## WHAT'S ON

Saturday June 10	11.30am	Dulwich Picture Gallery Promenade Court. Cello recital.
Friday June 16		Annual Dinner, Dulwich and Sydenham Golf Club. For details see News and Insert.
Thursday June 22	6.00pm	Battersea Park Nature Reserve Guided walk by Warden Brian Mist. Meet Rosary Gate by Queens Circus roundabout Battersea.
Tuesday June 27	8.00pm'	The mystery of the Crystal Palace Underground Railway'. Roger Morgan will give an illustrated talk on the experimental pneumatic railway built in the grounds of the Crystal Palace in 1864.
Saturday July 1	11.30am	Dulwich Picture Gallery Court by boys from Dulwich College Preparatory School.
Sunday July 2	2.30pm	Belair Car Park, Gallery Road. Spies, Traitors and Fine Houses - guided walk led by Brian Green. Suitable for wheelchairs - a gentle 2 hour stroll.
Thursday July 6	7.30pm	Bottom of Low Cross Wood Lane, opposite Sydenham Hill Station. Walk through Dulwich Woods led by Dr Sue Swales, of the GLC Ecology Unit.
Sunday July 23	2.30pm	A 'nature' walk through Crystal Palace Park with its fine trees and other features. Leader: Tom Maxwell. Meet at the new entrance at the top of Anerley Hill near the Crystal Palace roundabout.

**Please note:**

All of Brian Green's walks are circular. A small charge of £1.50 for adults and 50p for children and OAPs is made. All proceeds go to the St Barnabas "Little Barn" appeal.

## TREASURERS REPORT 1988

In December last year I accepted the position of honorary treasurer of the society which fell vacant owing to the demise of Mr A J Davis. I wish to place on record my appreciation of Mr Davis for the excellent way he had maintained the financial affairs of the society.

The audited accounts of the society are shown in full in this issue. The increase in rate of subscription together with some savings on expenses has helped the society to turn the deficit of 1987 to a modest surplus in 1988. Once again, investment income has helped the situation. The forecasts show that we are not likely to enjoy a surplus in 1989.

The Dulwich Society, formed to foster and safeguard the amenities of Dulwich, has much to offer the residents of this community. There is a great deal of enjoyment to be had by joining the special interest groups. I believe that more residents of Dulwich could join the Dulwich Society and partake in the activities it has to offer.

Existing members can assist by introducing the society to their friends and neighbours who might not be members at present. Further information about the society can be had from either Mrs Robin Taylor our honorary secretary, or myself.

We have serious administration problems in handling payments of subscriptions made by cheque or cash. Members often forget to send in their subscriptions. This year we had to write 227 letters to members who had either forgotten to send their subscriptions, or sent an incorrect amount. The process is expensive and time-consuming.

Unless there are serious personal difficulties, I should be grateful if members would kindly pay their subscriptions by standing order. A standing order form with instructions to commence payment on January 1 1990 will be sent to every member with the Autumn issue of the *Newsletter*.

I take this opportunity to thank all those members who have generously sent donations towards the work of the Society.

S.D. MOONESINGHE, F.C.C.A.

# THE DULWICH SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1988

	1988	1987
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Projector at cost	421	
<b>Investments</b>		
National Savings investment account	5,034	4,151
Barclays Bank plc deposit account	4      5,038	4      4,155
<b>Current assets</b>		
Sundry debtors	195	
Cash at bank	286	387
<b>Deduct current liabilities</b>		
Sundry creditors	683	476
Subscriptions in advance	217	123
Specific donation for new projector		100
	900	699
<b>Net current liabilities</b>	(419)	(312)
	5,040	3,843
<b>Represented by</b>		
Accumulated fund 01.01.1988	3,843	4,222
Surplus(deficit)for year	597	(379)
	4,440	3,843
Specific donation for new projector	100	
Legacy - Estate of the Lae Gerald Fairlie Esq	500	600
	5,040	3,843

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1988

<b>Income</b>			
Subscriptions	2,554	1,963	
Tax recovery - deeds of covenant		115	
Interest received	483	503	
Donations and sundry	30	29	
Sale of books	55	44	
Social events	54	3,176	2,654
<b>Deduct Expenditure</b>			
Newsletters and broadsheets	1,959	1,664	
Local history booklets		443	
Printing, stationery and publicity	245	272	
Postage, telephone and sundry expenses	205	254	
Hire of hall and meeting expenses	60	260	
Subscriptions and donations	105	59	
Bank charges	5	5	
Social events		2,579	3,033
Net income(expenditure) for year		597	(379)

*Denys Wyatt*

Denys Wyatt  
Chairman

*Daya Moonesinghe*

Daya Moonesinghe  
Treasurer

### REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DULWICH SOCIETY

The above accounts show a true and fair view of the financial state of the society and the results for the year ended 31 December 1988

*K.A.G. Jeffries*  
K.A.G. Jeffries  
Chartered Accountant

February 1989