



## **The Dulwich Society**

**Annual Report for the year  
1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022**

**Registered Charity number 234192**

## Objectives and Activities

### Purposes

The Dulwich Society is an unincorporated association registered as a charity on 1 May 1964. Its constitution was adopted on 12 March 1964 and was last revised on 7 May 2019. A revision is due to be approved in 2024.

The Society's objectives are to foster and safeguard the amenities of Dulwich, both in the interests of its residents and the wider local community of which it is a part, and to increase awareness of the varied character that makes the area so special.

The Society represents all parts of Dulwich, North, South, East and West in the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth.

Further details of the Society's aims and objectives are at:

<https://www.dulwichsociety.com/society/about-the-dulwich-society>

### Main Activities

In planning their activities, the Trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The Society has several Sub-committees which actively seek improvements in public transport infrastructure and traffic (for car drivers, cyclists and pedestrians), architecture and planning, licensing, trees, gardens, wildlife habitats and nature/species conservation, and understanding of local history.

The Society comments regularly on local authority planning applications and is also a consultee for the Dulwich Estate <https://www.thedulwichestate.org.uk/> on all changes to properties within the Estate's Scheme of Management. We encourage change, and welcome good design appropriate to its setting, but actively defend Dulwich against the pressures of inappropriate development. In 2022, the Society has been working with the Dulwich Estate on its Green Strategy.

The Society has a policy of supporting additional tree planting on streets and in public open spaces and organises regular local history talks and walks. The Society has successfully submitted project ideas for using Southwark Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) funds <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations/grants-and-funding/cleaner-greener-safer> to enhance the Dulwich environment and improve local safety, securing Council funding to assist in local restoration projects.

### Policy on Grant Making

The Society's resources allow it to make small grants to local projects which meet its objectives, for example improvements to the paths in local woods and parks and funding of trees, benches and information boards. The Society's Policy on Grant-Making is here:

<https://www.dulwichsociety.com/info/funds-for-local-projects>

## **Contribution made by Volunteers**

Volunteers play an essential part in the running of the Society. There are over 80 volunteers who sit on various Sub-committees and deliver the Journal which is issued 4 times a year.

## **Main Achievements**

### **Membership**

Membership at the end of 2022 was 1,189 households. Our membership for Dulwich represents approximately 20% of all households. We gained 71 new members and lost 58 during the year.

During 2022 we set up a system whereby new members could join directly via the website using direct debit, without the need for a form to be completed and sent to the membership secretary. Almost all new members have used this method since it was introduced. There is now also a facility so that existing members can renew online by direct debit and we invite any members not already on the Direct Debit scheme to consider changing from their standing order or other method of payment to renewal by direct debit via the website.

For the financial year 2021-2022 £2,447.05 was claimed from HMRC for gift aid.

The eNews is sent to almost 80% of our members on a monthly basis and is very well received, keeping members up to date on important issues affecting Dulwich (such as planning or transport proposals from Southwark) but also lets people know about events and activities in the area which cannot be included in the quarterly Journal. We are actively encouraging the remaining 20% of members to sign up to eNews and members can request to be added to the circulation by emailing the Membership Secretary.

### **Donations**

During 2022, the Dulwich Society made grants and donations of between £100 and £5,000 to the following projects:

- Installation of a defibrillator in the Dulwich Village phone box.
- £5,000 towards London Woodland Trust's Green Match Fund Appeal for path improvements in Sydenham Hill Wood.
- Relocation of a path and gate in the wildlife conservation area of Dulwich Park to avoid the removal of three 250 year old oaks.
- Joint funding of a project with Dulwich Park Friends to save 8 iconic veteran oaks.
- Various memorial plaques, benches and information boards

## **Links and Partnerships**

The Society works closely with local councillors and relevant officers of the London Borough of Southwark and with the Dulwich Estate.

Whilst maintaining a neutral position on Southwark's traffic proposals, the Society is a key stakeholder in the discussions on public realm developments that the traffic plans entail.

During 2022, the Society was represented on the Advisory Committee of the Dulwich Estate's Scheme of Management by James Thompson (Chair) and Jeremy Prescott (Trustee). Jeremy Prescott's tenure on the Advisory Committee ended on 31 December 2022 and he will be replaced by Penny Stern (Trustee). Society Officers meet with representatives of the Dulwich Estate regularly on non-Scheme of Management matters.

The Society also has links with a number of other third party organisations, including:

- The Police Safer Neighbourhoods Panels (a Society representative attends each of the Ward Panels)
- The Safe Routes to School Group
- Friends Groups of local parks (Dulwich Park; Belair Park).
- London Wildlife Trust
- Dulwich Festival Committee
- Local Residents Associations
- Dulwich College Archive
- Dulwich Picture Gallery
- The London Forum
- Royal Horticultural Society (affiliated society membership)
- Local Schools, e.g. Dulwich College; Alleyn's; Charter School
- Aquinna, developers of housing in Dulwich Village, (to implement a permanent home for the historic Stocks Stone in the Dulwich Village Burial Ground)

## **Awards**

In May 2022, two members of the Executive Committee, Ian McInnes (former Chair) and Brian Green (Journal Editor) were honoured with the Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell at the Southwark civic awards ceremony in Southwark Cathedral in recognition of Ian's period as Chair of the Dulwich Society and Brian's editorship of the Journal.

## **Media and Communications**

We use our media outlets to communicate with our members, to disseminate information from other organisations and to improve the amenities of Dulwich.

Our website, printed Journal and digital eNews are our main forms of member communication and all have excellent feedback. [Our website](#) is now regularly updated and is

seeing higher visitor numbers. We added nearly 200 pages in 2022 not including the huge project to upload the historical court rolls: <https://www.dulwichsociety.com/local-history/the-dulwich-estate-court-rolls-1333-to-1880>. Now that it is more attractive and easier to navigate we find that visitors come to our site directly and then navigate around it, rather than using a search engine. Following our update, search engines had to re-index our webpages and Bing wins the award for quickly indexing over 2,000 of our pages. Google is slower but has now indexed around 1,500 of our pages. Our website is cookie free: we have never used cookies inappropriately and while they are not bad in themselves, making our site cookie free demonstrates our commitment to upholding visitor privacy.

Our three Twitter accounts highlight local issues and allow us to engage with the community. The main Society Twitter account (@DulwichSociety) has 3,144 followers, up 19% on the year. It highlights Dulwich Society and local community activities and relays information from Southwark Council, the Dulwich Estate and central government. Our local history account (@DulwichHistory) has 3,232 followers, a 25% increase from last year. Our gardens account (@DulwichGarden) has 417 followers, up 20% year on year. We are also active on the East Dulwich Forum where we answer enquiries and publicise our activities, while on Instagram we support local events, our local shops and our small businesses.

The Society's talks reach a growing number of members, other Dulwich residents and we have even had online attendees from Europe and the US. Bell House <https://www.bellhouse.co.uk/> facilitates the online platform for us, nearly everyone gives their time and expertise for free and all ticket proceeds go to local good causes.

## **Local History**

The Local History Sub-committee has had an active year. As usual the group participated in the Dulwich Festival, with Brian Green (Journal Editor) giving a talk on the WW2 history of the Dulwich Picture Gallery and Ian McInnes (Chair of the Local History Sub-committee) leading two walks on the mid-century modern estates. Patrick Darby (member of the Local History Sub-committee) continued with his translation of the medieval court rolls and more articles on them appeared in the Journal. They are now on the Society's website (see link above) which is linked to the National Archive's Manorial Documents Register.

Working in conjunction with Bell House, group members continued the monthly Zoom talks on a variety of local history subjects ranging from Royalty in Dulwich, Dulwich's 'Greatest hits', Republicans, Suffragettes and Pacifists in Dulwich, to Georgian houses and farming and sports fields. They remain popular with a regular audience.

The group also contributed several nominations to Southwark Council's consultation for an expanded local list of important local buildings.

The Southwark Council CGS funded stretcher railings information board on the East Dulwich Estate was installed in February and a dedication ceremony was held attended by local councillors and many Society members. We have also received further CGS grants covering the costs of two additional information signs. One will go on the fence next to the Dulwich Library foundation stone while the other will go next to the Dulwich Battalion War Memorial at the junction of Lordship Lane and Dulwich Common.

Further information is added regularly to the Society's website. Recent additions include maps showing all the local blue plaques and the boundary marker locations. The group

attended a Southwark blue plaque unveiling ceremony on 4 September at 76 Farquhar Road for Helene Aldwinckle, code breaker at Bletchley Park in WW2. It also took part in the installation of the memorial plaque to Francis Peek in the Francis Peek Centre in Dulwich Park which took place on 15 October.

The local history Twitter account (**@DulwichHistory**) continues to bring Dulwich's local history to a wider audience. It regularly receives around 155,000 'impressions' (an indication of the how effective tweets are) per month. It also links to articles in the Journal and on the Society's website, helping to drive traffic there. Group secretary, Sharon O'Connor, gave an interview to a student journalist for South London Lines (online news website) about the DSLHG Twitter account.

We continue to receive regular enquires covering a wide range of local history subjects, from the house where folk song collector Cecil Sharp was born in, an old BBC film on St John's School on Northcote Road, to the names of the victims of the WW1 bombing raid on the former covered courts on College Road.

## **Gardens**

The Gardens Sub-committee supports gardening and related activities in Dulwich, a green oasis bejewelled by its gardens, parks, trees and woodland.

Each Spring we publish a comprehensive brochure "*Dulwich Gardens open for charity*", with details of local gardens that are open to the public during the year. This is compiled by Ann Rutherford (Gardens Sub-committee member) with copies going to all members of the Society as well as being distributed to local garden centres and other outlets. We publicise garden openings through the brochure, the Society's monthly eNews and selected Tweets.

Our Spring Garden talk was by Fergus Garrett, the head gardener (and much more) at Great Dixter, by Zoom. Bell House hosted the talk for us as in 2021. There were over 150 guests and the surplus on the talk went towards the thriving, volunteer-led garden activities at Bell House.

In April we had an enjoyable visit for 30 members and friends to see the spring display at 51 The Chase in Clapham (2,000 tulips enhanced by camellias, tree peonies, irises and lilacs). The net income from the ticket sales went to the National Garden Scheme at the garden owners' request.

In June we organised a successful coach trip (with Covid, the first since 2019) to Wisley, the newly extended pride of the Royal Horticultural Society, and the National Trust property and gardens at Polesden Lacey in the Surrey Hills.

We liaise with the Dulwich Estate, the London Wildlife Trust (which looks after Sydenham Hill Wood, and also works in Dulwich Wood and Low Cross Wood) and the Society's Trees and Wildlife sub-committees on green matters. The Dulwich Society contributed £5,000 to match fund an appeal by LWT for path improvements in Sydenham Hill Wood, much needed with the far greater use of the wood since Covid "lockdown" and heavy rain. We also helped publicise the appeal which raised £35,000.

## **Travel and Environment**

Whilst perhaps the most salient travel and environment issue in Dulwich in 2022 was the traffic proposals and changes at the heart of Dulwich Village, even to the extent of being the major campaigning issue of one of the parties in the local elections, the Dulwich Society has maintained a firm neutrality position on the matter (in line, inter alia, with its non-political stance). Accordingly, the Travel and Environment Sub-committee (T&E) has refrained from entering that debate and has concentrated on other matters. Key areas of focus have included the following:

**Public transport:** the Sub-committee brought its expertise to bear in monitoring trains closely, as these returned approximately to a pre-Covid level of frequency, including engaging with Southern Rail. The matter of disability access at North Dulwich Station has also been raised with the T&E emphasising its importance to politicians. The Society was also interviewed by Southwark News about the value of the new Elizabeth Line to Dulwich residents with an easy connection at Farringdon Station. As for buses, the Sub-committee addressed the review conducted by Transport for London and was pleased to see the number 12 saved. The issue of rented e-scooters and the recent trial thereof in Southwark has also been discussed.

**Active travel:** the Sub-committee has sought to explore the expansion of Santander Cycles to Dulwich following news that they would be coming to Herne Hill. A guest speaker also addressed the Sub-committee on using e-bikes for freight and as a taxi alternative. The issue of e-bikes being inconsiderately parked on pavements has been discussed, as has good reliable pavements. The Society has raised concerns about inconsiderate parking of ebikes with Southwark Council who are making plans for the future of e-bike and e-scooter parking.

**City Airport Consultation:** submissions were put in, with the help of the Sub-committee, on the proposed City Airport Expansion.

Looking forward, the Sub-committee is currently planning to look at matters such as traffic safety and how Dulwich might contribute to the fight against the Climate Crisis.

## **Planning and Architecture**

The Dulwich Society Planning & Architecture Sub-committee have continued to review applications to the Dulwich Estate Scheme of Management. The number of new projects has fallen back slightly to just over 200 (from 231 schemes in 2021), ranging from minor alterations, solar panels and garden rooms through to new houses. In addition to this, we have commented on proposed revisions to some sections of the Scheme of Management Development Guidelines, which continue to evolve over time. If you are considering making an application, please consult the Dulwich Estate website for the current version - changes this year include the sections on extensions and solar energy panels.

The Group continues to monitor planning applications across Dulwich. Some of the major applications which we have reviewed and commented on include:

- Applications for 5G masts
- Herne Hill Velodrome Trust
- Beltwood House, Sydenham Hill
- Land to the rear of Lydenhurst, Village Way
- 9 Fountain Drive

The Society has maintained a close relationship with Soane Place developers, Aquinna Homes, to ensure that the constructors minimise impact on local residents' amenity.

The Southwark Plan 2019-2036 was formally adopted in February 2022.

Southwark Council adopted a new Statement of Community Involvement and Development Consultation Charter in December 2022, covering both council-led and private developments. These require the developer to consult the local community on all projects with more than 10 new homes (or, in the case of council schemes, one or more new homes) or over 1,000 square metres of commercial floorspace. We have yet to be approached on any new schemes and would be grateful if members would notify us by email of schemes they become aware of (please email [planning@dulwichsociety.com](mailto:planning@dulwichsociety.com))

## **Wildlife**

The Wildlife group has continued to meet on a two monthly basis. A regular census of the birds in Dulwich Park is continued in Spring and Autumn and monthly in Sydenham Woods, indicating population trends from year to year. Records and sightings from Society members are gratefully received for the journal and now also wildlife messages are being passed on to the monthly eNews and the society website.

The concerns this year continued to be around the perceived effects of climate change and particularly the prolonged drought of the summer with the exceptional high temperatures of July. It was noted that many familiar insect species appeared to be absent or infrequent and rock hard soil inhibited underground invertebrates. The knock on effect is affecting our small bird populations, some more than others as indicated by our Autumn count.

Wildlife recovery in an urban setting is slow and the Wildlife group would like the Society to prioritise efforts to preserve our nature. This will mean allowing more space for nature, gardening for wildlife, less paving and not putting astro-turf on to good ground.

## **Trees**

The Trees Sub-committee met in January 2022 for the first time since before the pandemic, and again in October. The Sub-committee has continued to promote the planting, maintenance and enjoyment of trees in Dulwich. An article on a tree-related topic was published regularly in the Society's Journal.

A fungi-themed tree walk, led by Daniel Greenwood, was held in Dulwich Park on 23 October 2022 (the first tree walk since 2019).

Plans were made to plant a tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. This will now be a tree to commemorate her reign.

Two long-serving members, Judy Marshall and John Hughes, retired from the Trees Committee. We are most grateful for their valuable contributions.

Last year's annual report noted that Sub-committee had continued to follow the campaign to save two oak trees near the Cox's Walk footbridge. The campaign has been successful: the



trees were made subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Southwark Council plan to refurbish the footbridge without the need to remove them.

We continue to be available to advise residents on their tree problems via the email helpline [trees@dulwichsociety.com](mailto:trees@dulwichsociety.com).

## **Licensing**

The Society receives regular notifications from Southwark Council Licensing Department of all premises licence applications for bars, restaurants and events in Dulwich Village and adjacent Wards. A small group of members examines each application and recommends to the Society's Executive Committee as to whether the Society should make a representation to the Licensing Department. We also attend Consultation Meetings about outdoor events and also Licensing Hearings, now usually held on-line, for applications which are contested. The number of applications grew in 2022 after the end of the pandemic and amongst those on which the Society made representations were local hospitality venues and major local festivals and events.

Details of new premises licence applications can be found in the Society's monthly e-News.

## **Financial Review**

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are due to be approved at the Society's Annual General Meeting on 24 April 2023, follow this report.

Overall, the Society showed a deficit of £8,689 for the year, compared to the previous year's surplus of £1,798.

Income was £24,210 in 2022 against £25,859 in 2021.

Expenditure was £22,523 in 2022 against £19,711 in 2021.

Donations and grants made in 2022 were £10,376 against £4,350 in 2021 plus an additional £2,500 accrued to 2021.

## **Accumulated Funds and Reserves Policy**

The accumulated funds at 31 December 2022 totalled £36,717, mainly represented by bank and deposit balances. The annual expenditure of the Society depends in part on the cost of projects that are undertaken and grants made or committed in that year, with an underlying surplus in recent years before such expenditure. Given the wish to fund worthwhile projects as they arise and the uncertain nature of the advertising income which partially funds the Society's quarterly Journals, it is the Trustees' policy to hold, as reserves, 12 months normal expenditure (currently some £23,000) together with a further £10,000 to cover unplanned major projects. These amounts total circa £33,000. Reserves at 31 December 2022 were in excess of this, and the Trustees continue to seek out worthwhile projects that meet the Society's aims.

## **Principal Sources of Funding**

The Society's principal sources of funding are subscriptions (£11,752 in 2022), Gift Aid (£2447 in 2022), advertising (£5,766 in 2022) and gardens open for charity advertising (£2,280 in 2022).

## **Investment Policy and Objectives**

The Trustees seek to produce an acceptable financial return on the Society's assets within an acceptable level of risk.

The Society's Investment Policy, which is reviewed annually, can be found at:

<https://www.dulwichsociety.com/pdf/investment-policy.pdf>

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Dulwich Society is administered by an Executive Committee, comprising the Officers, (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), Sub-committee Chairs and other roles such as Membership Secretary and Journal Editor, which meets every two months. Matters of detail are delegated to Sub-committees: Planning and Architecture, Travel and Environment, Local History, Trees, Gardens, Wildlife and Licensing, which report to, and whose chairs are members of, the Executive Committee. All members of the Executive Committee are Trustees of the Dulwich Society on appointment.

In addition to the Executive Committee, the honorary office of President is elected at the Society's Annual General Meeting. The President is not a Trustee.

All members of the Executive Committee are elected annually and must be nominated by two members of the Society. Any contested election is determined by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee has the power to fill any vacancy occurring in between Annual General Meetings.

All members of the Executive Committee, Trustees and members of the Sub-committees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

The Society is governed by a set of Rules which can be found here:

<https://www.dulwichsociety.com/pdf/dulwich-society-rules.pdf>

During 2022, the Society began a review of its Rules. At an SGM held in September 2022, recommended changes to update the Rules and enable more processes to be managed online did not achieve the two thirds majority required to enact them. Further work has been undertaken on the Rules review, which will be subject to consultation with members during 2023 and potential adoption at the AGM in 2024.

### **Policies and Procedures**

During 2022, the Complaints Policy, Privacy Policy and Investment Policy were reviewed, and a Code of Conduct and Termination of Membership Procedure were adopted.

### **Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

New Trustees receive Charity Commission documentation and regular updates to help them understand their obligations as Trustees.

### **References and Administrative Details**

Charity name: The Dulwich Society

Registered Charity Number: 234192

Charity's principal address: The Dulwich Society, c/o 94 Underhill Road, London, SE22 0QU

## **Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>
James Thompson	Chair	
Susan Badman	Vice Chair	
Heather Stubbs	Secretary	
Russell Lloyd	Treasurer	
Diana McInnes	Membership Secretary	
Brian Green	Journal Editor	
Ian McInnes	Chair Local History Sub-committee	
Penelope Stern	Chair Planning and Architecture Sub-committee	
Harry Winter	Chair Travel and Environment Sub-committee	
Peter Roseveare	Chair Wildlife Sub-committee	
David Beamish	Chair Trees Sub-committee	
Jeremy Prescott	Chair Gardens Sub-committee	
Patsy Bramble	Chair Licensing Sub-committee	

### **Honorary President**

Kenneth Wolfe

The Honorary President is not a Trustee

**Name and Address of Independent Examiner**

Sally-Anne Jeffries  
K.A. Jeffries and Co  
18 Melbourne Grove  
London SE22 8RA

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank  
28 Rye Lane  
Peckham  
London SE15 5BS

**Declarations**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	James Thompson	Heather Stubbs
Full name (s)	James Thompson	Heather Louise Stubbs
Position	Chair	Secretary
Date		