

# update

The free newsletter of the St John's Society

## Railtrack, Connex and all that!

### Vandalism at St John's

Some residents may remember back in January when a slip of paper came through the door announcing that work on St John's Station would take place during the nights between 15.1.00 and 27.2.00 - basically the station was being 'regenerated'. Unfortunately the 'improvements and maintenance' slipped a bit. A second notice came through in February stating that the improvements will not be completed until 10 March 2000 - so now it's complete. The old roof has been removed, the guttering stripped and many near residents have suffered nights of noise and disruption - we can now sit back in wonder at how incompetent a job was accomplished by Railtrack contractors to the extent that St John's Station is now completely wrecked - a roof that doesn't fit; new stair grips becoming loose; a new water jump as you come down the steps to the

platform; a new dumping ground at the entrance to the station; the remains of a gutter that spews rain over waiting passengers and all this in 'maintaining and improving the premises'! No wonder everyone is looking forward to the proposed works re Thameslink 2000! Oh, and by the way, it's now Lewisham Council's fault!

#### Connex

Lewisham and St John's have a new Connex station manager, David Burch. Connex are keen to communicate at the moment and with respect to St John's station they seem eager to address a number of issues some of which have been previously mentioned: communicating with Railtrack on their recent "improvements"; addressing graffiti on the station and the road-bridge; improving lighting in the station approach and installing CCTV (which hopefully won't be stolen before it's operational!) We look forward to seeing some progress...



John's Church

Next Meeting: 8.00 pm on Thursday 14 September at St

## Thameslink 2000

A number of people will have received a new response from Railtrack re the Thameslink proposals. The response has been quite detailed that they have addressed the issues raised in our objection - yet again Railtrack have been kind enough to provide stamped addressed envelopes (SAEs) and a standard letter for us to withdraw our objections. Our advice is don't withdraw them - if anything use the SAE to restate the objections - and perhaps a reference to the St John's Station improvements we have seen might make them understand why people have little faith in Railtrack being able to keep their promises!

By all accounts the objections further up the line at Borough and London Bridge may lead to a rethink on the proposed route - who knows?

## Committee Nominations

Over the last year some members of the committee have moved leaving vacancies. If anyone is interested in joining it please contact us Tel: 07010 700610

e-mail: stjohns-soc@hotmail.com  
Cranbrook Road Post Office or at the meeting on 14 September.

## NEXT MEETING

8.00 pm on Thursday 14 September  
at St John's Church

### Agenda

1. Broadway Fields
2. Parks
3. AGM

If you have any positive contributions to make to the next newsletter then please bring them along to the next meeting or phone 8469 0165.

## Brookmill Road Conservation Area

Did you know you're in a Conservation Area? Does that make us special? How does it affect me?

Apart from the fact that your house or residence will be more desirable here are some interesting facts and guidance re: living within a Conservation Area.

Brookmill Road Conservation Area was designated in 1972. It consists of the streets bordered by Friendly Street, Albyn Road and Brookmill Road, and represents a good example of a mid to late 19th century residential development. Its qualities are the cohesive character of the groups of buildings, expressed in their architectural and historic features, and the grid iron layout of the streets

The area was developed as part of Deptford New Town by the Lucas family to provide homes for Deptford's expanding population and for residents commuting to London once the railways were established after the 1840's. Building plots were sold on 70 year leases to local builders but the layout and design were controlled by the freeholders to ensure a high quality of design and construction.

In order to protect these special qualities, planning permission is needed from the Council before changes can be made to the appearance of the houses. Residents who are thinking of carrying out any building works, including installing a satellite dish, are advised to contact the Council's Town Planning Service (tel 020 8314 8533) for further details and advice.

### Philip Ashford

Conservation and Urban Design Manager

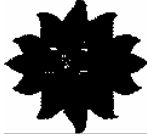
## Roads

Are you concerned about rat-running in St Johns, road safety, crumbling road surfaces, pot holes? Greenwich residents have turned the Ashburnham Triangle into a car free play zone. Could Lewisham Council use St Johns as a pilot for a similar scheme? If you are interested please contact the St Johns Society or send us an e-mail with your ideas.

St Johns Society, Deptford, London SE8 6JG  
E-mail: stjohns@stjohnsociety.org.uk

Saturday 19 August

## FRIENDLY GARDENS FUNDAY



The New Cross project is organising a funday with games, face painting, refreshments, activities, exhibitions and information stalls (including one focusing on local parks and recreational open spaces). St John's Society will be running a bric-à-brac and cake stall, so if anyone has anything to donate or wants to get involved, please ring Sarah (8691 3197) or Judith (8694 2551).

## BROADWAY FIELDS

The Deptford Discovery Team - which has been running a youth consultation process on this site over the last year - will be addressing our next meeting. They need some involvement from interested members of the community who may be prepared to sit on a steering committee. Funding for the development of the site in the near future is a real possibility. More information - by flyer < will be distributed soon.

## Park News

Event in Brookmill Park - Thursday 24 August - Watch out for flyers with details! Members of the park user group have been discussing setting up a gardening club for kids; there are also plans for a ranger-led nature trail and a graffiti art workshop. In addition to the events in the park on 24 August there is a general litter-pick, clear-up and trolley removal by anyone interested. We hope that this clean-up will be the start of a regular monthly clear-up.

### OLD GRIPES

**Fountain:** Park users will have noticed that this is still broken (after a year) despite repeated requests to the authorities to get it



fixed. Glendale have been unable to get any response from Mowlem

## Deal's Gateway Development

A new 15-block development is planned for this site resulting in 459 residential units (including live work units). The blocks range in size from 2 storeys to 8 storeys. For detailed information ask at the Lewisham Reference Library (Ref: DC/00/46437)

## Seager Buildings

A summary of a DRAFT planning brief has been received for the above site. The Council's preferred options for this development are:

- employment - development of floor space suitable for office or light industrial use
- hotel - it is close to DLR, Greenwich, the Thames and the A2
- live-work units

*We would like to thank John at Cranbrook Road Post Office for allowing us to use the shop again as a collection point for all your tear-off slips.*

re fixing it, so have called in pump specialists - they are expecting a report from them by the end of July.

**Children's Playground:** This is shut for 2 reasons -

- 1) the seesaw is dangerous and has to be removed;
- 2) the rubber-crumb 'safety' surface has been breaking up and settling beneath the surface has resulted in large dips which are considered hazardous.

In the long-term the playground may be moved to a more suitable position within the park. In the short-term the Lewisham Parks Regeneration Officer is contacting Mowlem to see what repairs can be made so that the play area can be used safely.

We wait and see ... but can't help feeling that the standard of workmanship from Mowlem wasn't exactly high. Let's hope they did a better job on the DLR...

# Calling all St John's Conservation area home owners

Your houses and conversion flats are amongst the most sought after in London

If you are thinking of selling or letting your property in the near future, or your property is already on the market and has not been sold, please call our Brockley office on 020 8694 2999 for a free, no obligation market appraisal.



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I cannot make the next St John's Society meeting but I want to be kept informed of future meetings

The issues I would like to raise are:

Name

Address

Please cut off this slip and send or leave at Cranbrook Road Post Office

*If you wish to advertise your business in future issues of this newsletter then please telephone 07010 700610 or e-mail us at: [stjohns\\_soc@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohns_soc@hotmail.com)*