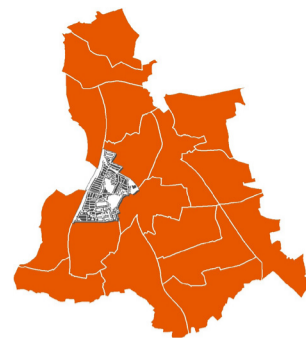


Crofton Park Library



Origin

Crofton Park Library, originally known as Brockley Branch Library, is an Edwardian public library built next to the railway station in October 1905. It is one of the 660 Carnegie Libraries built in the UK (380 in England alone) with money donated by the Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. A total of 2,509 Carnegie libraries were built between 1883 and 1929 around the world.

Architecture

The library is of an eclectic Edwardian free-style composition with an entrance facade that is dominated by a large pillared entrance, broad Dutch gable and an octagonal tower with an ogee domed roof. Its architect was Alfred L Guy, ARIBA, and it was constructed by F J Gortham of Greenwich. The building is made from red brick with stone dressings and a slate roof. Lewisham's coat of arms is carved above the door. The library building has been given Local Listing by Lewisham Borough Council, which describes it as making "a handsome contribution towards the streetscape".

Building Through Time

The building sustained damage when the neighbouring Crofton Park Station was bombed in 1940 and 1945, losing two glass dome skylights and the leaded glass in the ground floor windows. The library was refurbished in 1959-60 when it appears that the wooden floor was replaced with tiled flooring and the entrance doors modernised. Many of the original fixtures no longer survive. In 2010 the library came under threat of closure. An energetic campaign by the local community saved it from closure and reopened again May 31st 2011 and is now a community library run by Eco Computer Systems, now renamed Eco Communities.

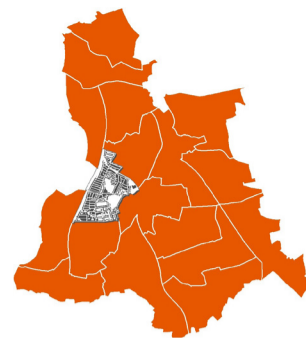
The Library Today

Today the library has become a key community hub for people living in the area with many groups using the space in different ways. In 2015 the Café was revived and now run by Green & Tasty adding an extra dimension to the use of the space.

1. Photo taken c2010 by local resident
2. Date Unknown



Blythe Hill Fields



Origin

Blythe Hill Fields stands at an elevation of 70 metres. The land where Blythe Hill Fields now stands was bought by London County Council and opened as a public park in 1935. This year (2015) Blythe Hill Fields celebrates its 80th Birthday since becoming a public park.

Site History

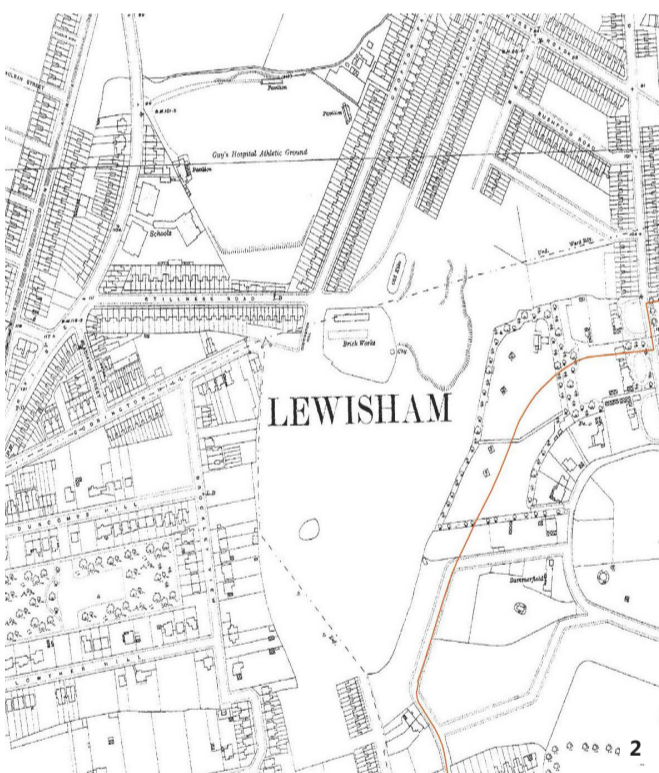
A brickworks was formerly on part of the site and a chimney remained there until 1938. The headquarters of Job Heath's brickmaking business was at his home in Holdenby Road, but the bricks were made on the spot where the brick earth was dug, in this case Blythe Hill Fields. Much of the earth in the Brockley area was suitable for brick and tile making, and was nearly all excavated before the ground was built. Blythe Hill House was built to the south in 1842 and its grounds covered a large part of Blythe Hill Fields until it was demolished in 1895.

Site Protection

Blythe Hill was traversed by the Roman road to East Sussex, known today as the London to Lewes Way and therefore benefits from its sole designation as a site of 'Archaeological Priority' (Policy URB 21). On Blythe Hill the road – which is no longer visible - turns 9 degrees to the south, and crosses the River Pool, then turns another 6 degrees southward onto the next main alignment.

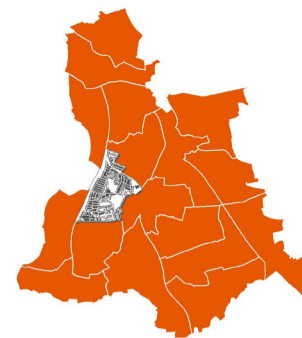
Blythe Hill Today

Today Friends of Blythe Hill Fields (FBHF) is an active voluntary community group, established in October 2003, who take the lead in promoting the increased use, access to and enjoyment of the park for local residents and other users of this essential open space. The group liaises with partners such as Lewisham Council, in order to maintain existing facilities as well as develop and install new ones.



Community Assets

Brockley Jack



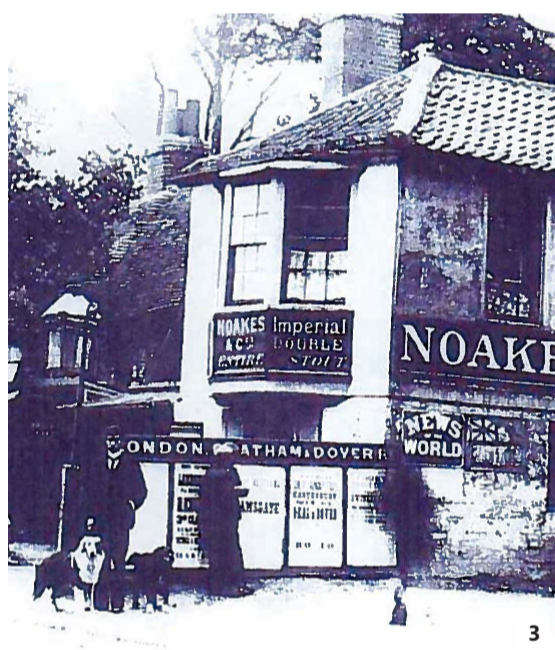
Origin

There has been a pub on this site for several hundred years, believed to date back to the 15th Century and is one of the most photographed and documented pubs in SE London. Previous names of the pubs on this site were 'The Crooked Billet' in the 1700s and the 'The Castle' in the 1800s. Like many historic pubs within the borough they were destinations for day trippers when the area was still rural and before the suburbs of Lewisham grew around. This is a local landmark building and reflects the evolution of the borough.



Architecture

The Brockley Jack in its current guise is a large and ornate Victorian public house that was rebuilt in 1898 by the Bermondsey brewer Wickham Noakes, who lived in Brockley Hall and includes a theatre built out of the former stables. It is made of yellow stock brick with rendered ground floor and a slate roof with decorative terracotta ridge tiles. The pub retains its original timber casement windows which have subdivided transom lights. There is a grand entrance porch, now used by the theatre, which has a decorative pediment and a dentiled course which runs along the entire front elevation. The is a double storey bay window which meets a substantial gabled tower which rises above the main roof ridge line and bares the date of 'AD 1898'. A representation of a whale's shoulderblade hangs on a high gable outside the front of the Jack. The real whale's shoulderblade (on which was once the pub's sign) is exhibited above the fireplace to the right of the bar.



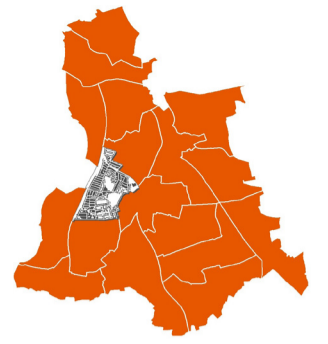
Site Protection

The building has two protection designations by Lewisham's Unitary Development Plan: It is on the Local List criteria for local architectural and local historic interest as well as marked as a site of Archeological Priority as it is located along the road originally built by the Romans where buried evidence of the original structures is likely to survive.

Brockley Jack Theatre Today

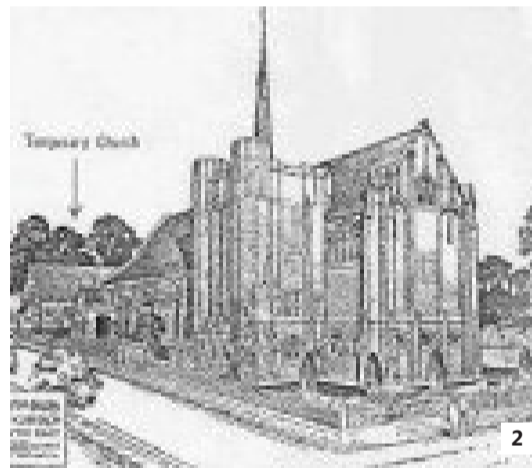
The theatre was opened in 1992 and successfully runs mix of established works and new writing, produced by in-house company Southside Arts and by visiting theatre companies.

St Hilda's Church



Origins

Designed in 1899 by J.E. Newberry and F H Greenaway, St Hilda's Church with St Cyprian was eventually completed in 1907. The needle spire as originally designed was never constructed due to the foundations having only been prepared to carry the squat transept and fleche spire. The English Heritage register describes it as 'one of best Edwardian churches in London'.



Architecture

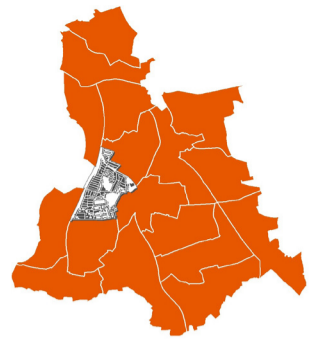
It is constructed of Crowborough brick with Chilmark stone dressings and is a fine example of Arts and Crafts ideas superimposed onto Gothic church design. The war memorial in front of the church is in the form of a granite Celtic cross and is inscribed with 141 names of the fallen. The Parish hall was built prior to the church c.1899-1900 as a mission church. The hall was later extended after 1908 to provide Sunday schools.

Protection

The church and the hall has English Heritage Grade II listed status and although suffering minor damage during the Second World War, is substantially in its original form. It was designated principally because it has architectural quality not normally associated with mission churches which were commonly built as the precursor to a parish church.

Community Assets

Name



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2

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