

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

/1981

WHAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DID

Glebe Estate

The Committee noted that a campaign to save the Estate from being sold may well be the main issue for the Society in the coming months. The Committee voted to send word of our full support to the Glebe Estate residents' group, and to write to the Prime Minister on the issue. (See separate article).

Correspondence

The Committee agreed to write to Ashfield Council in support of the Heritage Council's plans for the preservation of the Federation style housing of Haberfield.

A letter of congratulations was sent to the Council, and to Mr James Colman, on the Report on Objections to the 1979 Planning Scheme.

Pabeo Site: 150 Wigram Road

A report was presented from Alan Robertson on the proposed development of this site. The original plans for the site were challenged by Council and the Society, but an agreement has since been reached on plans which include provision for public and private open space, and a contribution of \$26,000 to Council for the purchase of other open space.

Town Plan

The President reported on a weekend seminar held to discuss the Report on the 1979 Planning Scheme. Representatives of Council and of the Department of Environment and Planning were present, as well as interested residents, including five members of the Glebe Society. A full report will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Blackwattle Bay Park

The Committee heard a report on a meeting between a representative of Parkes Development, aldermen, and members of the Society. For the outcome of this meeting see separate article in this Bulletin.

THE GLEBE SOCIETY'S TWELFTH A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Glebe Town Hall on Wednesday 12th August at 7.30pm.

At the last Management Committee meeting, I proposed a resolution to be put to the A.G.M. which reads "That Alan Robertson be given Life Membership of the Glebe Society for his services to the Society in the causes of open space, waterfront parks and town planning." I will speak to the motion at the A.G.M.

I would like to note that I will be standing down from the Management Committee after the A.G.M. After four years I feel it is time for some new and more energetic blood to be injected (or perhaps shed.) The next Bulletin will include a nomination form for positions on the Committee, and I hope to see a good response to the call. Committee work is not easy but can be very satisfying, particularly when causes we fight for are won. Every lull in pressure on Glebe is shortlived; barely have we resolved one problem but, like the heads of Hydra, others appear. The good swordsmen and women of Glebe are invited to continue the struggle against the modern-day Goths and Vandals (if I can mix my metaphors) at the A.G.M.

John Hoddinott



YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE BY 30th JUNE

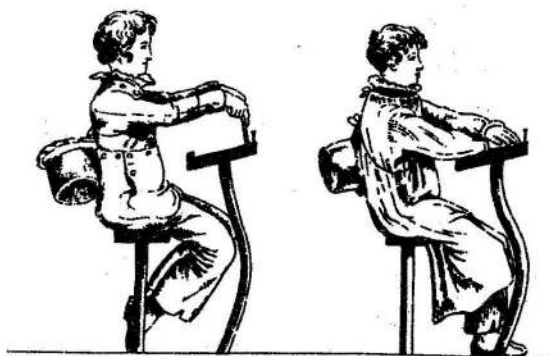
New members who have joined since April 1st have had their subscriptions automatically renewed to 30th June 1982. However, subscriptions from all other members are now due. Please complete the enclosed subscription form and return it to the Hon. Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Below is a summary of information sent to us in recent weeks on topics of interest to The Glebe Society.

1 A Museum at Glebe Primary School

A museum of the history of education in Sydney and a resource centre for the local history of Glebe and Annandale has been established at Glebe Primary School in Derwent Street. Highlights of the education museum are a recreated classroom of the 1880s and the Department of Education's centenary photographic exhibition. There are also rooms containing photos, maps, documents and objects illustrating the life and development of Glebe. Enquiries and tours are welcomed.



2 Glebe Drug Referral Centre, 303 Glebe Point Road

Information and counselling services are offered to anyone with a question or difficulty related to drugs or alcohol. Many clients are self referred but referrals from professionals such as solicitors and doctors are welcome, as are contacts by concerned friends and family members. The centre also uses volunteers to help clients, and 12 week training courses are available for those who want to assist in this work.

3 The Treasury Building, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Tony Katsigiannis has written to The Glebe Society trying to organise public opposition to the State Government's proposal to build a 26 storey hotel on the site of the Colonial Treasury building. Anyone interested could contact Mr Katsigiannis at 502 4806 (preferably between 6pm and 7).

THE GLEBE ESTATE: A MATTER OF URGENCY

The Federal Government has given notice of its aim to dispose of the Glebe Estate. If the State Government and/or Leichhardt Council are unable to buy it, at "market value" (more than \$40 million), the intention is to sell it to private enterprise. The latter currently seems the more likely course, as the State Government is unlikely to have funds available immediately for such a major project.

The Management Committee has unanimously passed a resolution deploring the Federal Government's declared intent and a letter has been prepared outlining the Society's views. Members should be aware that the Society played a very active role in the inception of the Estate as a Commonwealth responsibility when it became obvious in the early seventies that the Anglican Church was prepared to sell its title to the 750 properties.

I urge members to write to the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, protesting against the intended sale. Letters are most important. In the hands of private developers the Estate would have an uncertain future; many of the pensioner and low-income residents would be forced out, and plans for the rehabilitation would come to naught.

If possible, a copy of any such letter should be sent to several other politicians. I can supply the names if you ring. Please consider voicing your protest. The loss of the Glebe Estate would mean a major blow to all Glebe residents.

John Hoddinott

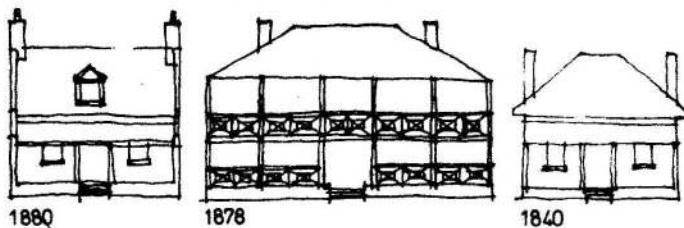
BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

Since the last Bulletin, Council has advised Parkes Development "that Council, having considered the two landscaping proposals dated June, 1980 and December, 1980 ... has decided that a new design scheme should be prepared; the new plan to take into account the views of local residents..." The resolution went on to list ten requirements for the new plan.

The Glebe Society has advised Council that it intends to assist in the development of the new plan through a small committee convened by Bob Armstrong. If you have any specific proposals to put to this committee please put them in writing and include a diagram if appropriate. Send your proposal to:
Bob Armstrong
2 Leichhardt St,
Glebe 2037

John Buckingham

HISTORY



In the February issue of The Bulletin we published Max Solling's notes on tracing family history. In this issue Max gives us advice on uncovering the history of domestic buildings.

Domestic Buildings: In investigating the history of a building the sort of things which may be consulted are infinitely varied but broadly they may be divided into three main categories:

- a) written documents
- b) plans
- c) visual material

Written documents: The most important documentary evidence are rate books, title deed and directories.

Rate Books: The local Council rate book contains a rich lode of documentary material. It provides the names of land owners, the size and assessed annual value of the allotments, a brief description of houses and the names of the occupants. However, it must be added that they are often difficult to interpret. Their obscurity is often greatest during the early years of the building of a new street which is also the time their evidence is most valuable. Wide gaps exist between the different ranges of houses in an uncompleted street and many early occupants only remain for a short time before moving elsewhere. The assessment figures can sometimes be used to help sort out these difficulties, but they often fluctuate too and the problems of interpretation are occasionally insoluble.

The first material gathered by rate assessors in Glebe occurred in 1844 when the district came within the jurisdiction of Sydney District Council. The assessment sheets prepared at that time are preserved in the Mitchell Library. After the failure of the District Council system, there was no authority controlling residential development in Glebe from about 1848 until the area was proclaimed a Municipality in 1859. No information for rating purposes was compiled in Glebe from 1859 to 1867, probably because inadequate legislation prevented Council from enforcing payment of rates at law. Glebe Municipality was carved into four wards and the earliest rate books surviving for the various Glebe wards are Outer (1868), Bishopthorpe (1868), Forest Lodge (1872) and Inner (1876). Outer Ward was an area bounded by Bay Street, Broadway, Glebe Road and Mitchell Street while Inner Ward was the residential neighbourhood north of Bridge Road.

Some 70 Glebe Ward Rate Books from 1868 to 1925 survive and are now preserved in the Archives Office of NSW, where it is necessary to obtain a Readers Ticket to have access to them.

Title Deeds and Plans: The records of the Registrar General's Department are also valuable for research at the local level. Lithographs prepared by auctioneers, series of plans provided by surveyors Armstrong, Norton & Wells, miscellaneous, roll, deposited and primary application plans provide a ready means of access to the departmental records of land held under Torrens Title and Old System title. While tracing a chain of title deeds is an exceedingly laborious method of research, it nevertheless unearths a mass of documentary evidence not available elsewhere.

The General Register of Deeds is a veritable mine of information. Although deeds and instruments affecting land do not usually give a reference to the construction of buildings and other improvements, it is often possible to determine whether, and at what period, buildings were erected on a particular allotment by comparing the consideration shown in a conveyance with that shown in a preceding conveyance. Conveyances also usually record the occupation or designation of the parties at that time. Recitals in deeds relating to insolvencies, family histories and facts about the surrounding district are very detailed and comprehensive, often providing missing links vital to a chain of historical research.

Dealings with land under the other major system of registration of title, the Torrens System, are also of value to the historian, but entries on the Certificates of Title in the Register Book do not contain the wealth of historical evidence found in Old System conveyances. Other useful aids that should not be overlooked are Water Board sewered area sheets, the Australian Gas Light Company's plans of gas connections, Richardson & Wrench's contract books and boxes of suburban subdivision plans lodged at Mitchell Library.

HEREFORD HOUSE

The NSW College of Nursing, with headquarters at Kerribree, No 55 Hereford St, has bought the large house next door, and it will be restored, at least externally, over the next few months. The Glebe Society is very happy that "Hereford House" has at last found a secure future. Members will remember our concern at the house's possible demolition, as mentioned in the first Bulletin of 1981.

John Hoddinott

NEW MEMBERS

Betty Sumner
 Pat Willie
 Paul Brown
 Jill Foster
 Ms C. Powell
 Toni and Christopher Barry
 Michael Beeber
 Trevor Purvins
 John and Margaret Blake
 John Bloxham
 Margaret Collins
 Judith McDonald

HELP WANTED

1. We need a Bulletin distributor for the area around Hereford Street (Forest Lodge). It involves delivering about 15 Bulletins. If you can help, please ring Doris Sharpe, 660-6636.

2. The Glebe Community Care Centre, 184 Glebe Point Road, needs volunteers to help in its work with elderly residents of Glebe. It need not take much time and involves tasks such as doing a little shopping for house-bound elderly people. For information contact Barbara Sutherland on 660-5455.

HOUSE AND GARDEN INSPECTION

Sunday, 1st November, has been set as the date for the Glebe Society's Biennial House and Garden Inspection. The date will be confirmed soon to ensure that it does not clash with any other resident action/conservationist event.

Please consider the idea of opening your house. The state, size, shape, age, colour are not important, as the aim of the Inspection is to present a variety of typical dwellings in the Glebe/Forest Lodge area.

About fifty people are needed on the day, each to put in a two-hour house-minding shift. In exchange you will be given a free ticket. We will ask for volunteers closer to the day, but please help out on this job.

Put the date in your diary, tell your friends, and if you would consider opening your house ring Alan Robertson (660 6149) or John Hoddinott (692 0071).

VENETIAN TWINS THEATRE PARTY

There has been a dismal response thus far to the opportunity to see the preview on Wednesday 8th July at the Seymour Centre, at 8pm. I have arranged for the cast and musicians, as many as can make it, to come back to 30 Wigram Road after the show for a glass of wine. It will be pretty boring for them if they outnumber Glebe Society members.

Adults \$8.50, concessions \$5.50, cheapest seats in town for the show. Bookings, accompanied by payment to the Glebe Society must arrive as soon as possible, but absolutely no later than Wednesday, 3rd June.

John Hoddinott

Management Committee

President	Tony Larkum	660-7030
Sen. Vice Pres.	Bill Nelson	660-0038
Jun. Vice Pres.	John Buckingham	660-7780
Secretary	John Hoddinott	692-0
Treasurer	Mike Reynolds	660-0790
Bulletin Editor	Jan Macindoe	660-0208
Committee	Diana Sharpe	660-4392
	Kemp Fowler	660-5258
New members' representative	Gideon Rutherford	692-0239
Bulletin distribution	Doris Sharp	660-6636
Minute secretary	Betty Wright	660-1875

For your diary

Friday, 29th May, 7.30pm

Under 35s barbeque at 120 Bridge Rd. Bring your own meat, and other food will be provided. Two dollars per head. Reservations essential. Phone Peter Vester 660-1875.

Sunday, 14th June, 11am

Coffee and wine morning at the home of Eve and Neville Holmes, 78 Forsyth St.

Monday, 15th June, 6-7.30

Drinks at the Rowing Club. Come along and have a chat and drink with the Committee.

Wednesday, 8th July, 8pm

The Venetian Twins theatre party, at the Seymour Centre. Book now with John Hoddinott. (See article this issue.)

Wednesday, 12th August, 7.30pm

A.G.M. at Glebe Town Hall.

Sunday, 1st November

Biennial House and Garden Inspection.

SOS - BIRTHDAY PARTY

While we have come to use the Rowing Club for our annual Christmas Party, the Society's mid-year Birthday Party is traditionally held at a member's home. May we renew our last month's appeal for a venue, in July, for the 1981 celebration.

The usual attendance is 50-60 people. Catering is organised by the social committee, (in consultation with the host or hostess).

Betty Wright 660-1875
Janette Knox 660-7781
or Doris Sharp 660-6636
would still be delighted to hear from a volunteer.