

Sydenham Society

NEWS

Spring 2009

A Summer Feast of Music and Arts for Sydenham



SYDENHAM MUSIC



The sixth Sydenham International Music Festival begins on 24 May and runs until 21 June and the first Sydenham Arts Festival begins on 3 July and runs until the 12 July. Local residents of all ages and tastes can look forward to a summer cornucopia of culture on their own doorsteps!

The Music Festival will hold two full orchestral concerts in St Bartholomew's Church, one to open and one to close the Festival. A Children's Concert and a concert by the Endellion String Quartet are also scheduled to take place at the church.

Other concerts will be held at venues around Sydenham; one at St Christopher's Hospice will be relayed 'live' via closed circuit TV to all the wards; and there will be a third appearance of the Fidelio Piano Quartet at the Dolphin public house.

Programmes and tickets are available through Kirkdale Bookshop and www.sydenhammusic.org

Following last year's successful week of events to celebrate International Booksellers Week and the sell-out production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', bookshop-owner Geraldine Cox and locally-based theatre director/producer Jonathan Kaufman decided it was time to give Sydenham the arts festival it deserves and the idea of Sydenham Arts Festival was born.

Geraldine and Jonathan announced their plans for this project at last September's Sydenham Assembly, these were greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm. Since then many local residents have come forward to offer their expertise and help in order to get the venture off the ground.

It was recently announced that the much-loved theatre company 'London Bubble' will be headlining the festival with performances of a new mystery show in Wells Park. Throughout the week there will also be book signings and readings at Kirkdale Bookshop.

Other Arts Festival events planned include a Big Band Night, a Youth Talent Showcase, street dance in the High Street, a Poetry Slam, a Gospel Choir, an Unsigned Bands Night, Artists Open Studios, a Comedy Night, and lots, lots more. The Festival will be rounded off with a 'Picnic in the Park' in Mayow Park.

The Sydenham Arts Festival programme will be published in the spring, and the box office will open in May. If you'd like to give financial support for the Festival why not consider becoming a Sydenham Arts Festival Angel?

For more information about the Arts Festival and how you can get involved call in at Kirkdale Bookshop or visit www.sydenhamarts.com

IN THIS ISSUE

Forest Hill Pools – the 3 options • Heathrow third runway • Review of 2008 • AGM call Annual accounts • Profile: Ruth Locke • The Ivy Comedy Cabaret • Mayow Park vote

Your neighbourhood voice

www.sydenhamsociety.com

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The Sydenham Society is an independent group representing the interests of local residents. Sydenham Society News is non-partisan, non-political and non-commercial.

ARTICLES PLEASE!

If there is something you would like the society to tell everybody, or a local issue you feel strongly about, please send your article, maximum 300 words, to the editor.

Sydenham Society News is read by Sydenham residents, old and new, so please spell out all acronyms and explain anything that a newcomer might not understand. All articles are subject to editing by the Editorial team.

Email your article to the editorial team at

news@sydenhamsociety.com or send hard copy to
97 Longton Grove SE26 6QQ.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in articles are those of named contributors and should not be regarded as statements of policy of the Sydenham Society.

YOUR LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

LOCAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Jim Dowd MP for Lewisham West
Jacqui Lait MP for Beckenham
Tessa Jowell MP for Dulwich and Upper Norwood
c/o House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

LEWISHAM COUNCILLORS

Civic Suite Lewisham Town Hall Catford SE6 4RU
8314 6000

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Alan Hall Ami Ibitson Ron Stockbridge

Forest Hill Ward

Alex Feakes Philip Peake John Russell

Perry Vale Ward

John Paschoud Alan Till Susan Wise

Sydenham Ward

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8464 3333

Crystal Palace Ward

John Carvin Tom Papworth

Penge and Cator Ward

Peter Fookes John Getgood Karen Roberts

SOUTHWARK COUNCILLORS

Town Hall Peckham Road SE5 8UB
7525 5000

College Ward

Michelle Holford Kim Humphreys Lewis Robinson

OTHER CONTACTS

Community Police Teams

Forest Hill **8721 2723**
Perry Vale **8284 5287**
Sydenham **8284 5286**
Lewisham Police Control Room **8297 1212**
In an emergency dial 999

For environmental noise nuisance call:
Lewisham Council **8314 6000**
Bromley Council **8464 3333**
Southwark Council **7525 5000**

Next issue copy deadline: Friday 18 May 2009

Forest Hill Pools – the three options

On February 5 Lewisham officers presented the Pools stakeholders' group with the outcome of the feasibility study into the future of the pools. The study was undertaken at the request of the Mayor, Sir Steve Bullock, after the Council's initial plans had been derailed last August due to the listing of Louise House by English Heritage. The Council's new thinking is contained in the following three options:

Option 1

The first option is for a complete demolition of the Pools' frontage block (the Superintendent's House) and for a new building in its place incorporating a leisure centre and housing. This scheme would have an entrance facing east (towards Forest Hill station) and would be accessed via the green space in front of Kingswear House. The scheme is a variation on those submitted by HLM architects last summer and retains many of its design features. However, the officers stated that it was unlikely to gain approval as 1) it incorporates housing – and this will be difficult to 'deliver' in the current financial climate; and 2) it will be unlikely to satisfy English Heritage who will have to be consulted about any new development adjacent to Louise House (now Grade 2 listed). In addition, a review of the Forest Hill town centre conservation area is currently being undertaken and may well be extended to include the north side of Dartmouth Road up to and including Holy Trinity School.

Option 2

In this scheme the Pools' frontage block is retained and a new pools building is built behind and to the side – taking up approximately half the pocket park. Although the scheme (by Allies & Morrison) is only 'indicative' (ie. showing what is possible on the site, rather than a finished design) its features include a 'wavy' roof sloping down towards Derby Hill Crescent and skylights. The scheme does not include housing – instead, the Council are looking at their empty depot site in Willow Way as a possible site for housing which would provide a cross-subsidy to finance the new leisure centre. However, officers pointed out that in order to achieve this, the site would have to be re-designated in planning terms from 'employment' to 'residential' which could be a complex and lengthy process.

Option 3

The third option is to build a new pool on the Willow Way site. As pools and leisure centres provide employment, the land would not require a re-designation. The advantage is that the site is empty and immediately available and a new complex could be built relatively swiftly. In a scheme submitted by Pollard Thomas Edwards Architects, Louise House and the

Pools' frontage block would then be converted into housing with new housing to the rear. Dartmouth Road would be a prestigious site and would attract maximum housing receipts once developed.

The Sydenham Society's response

Having looked carefully at the three options, the Sydenham Society has decided to support Option 2 along with both the Forest Hill Society and the Save the Face of Forest Hill campaign. The Forest Hill Society has expressed its strong preference for Option 2 as it brings swimming and leisure back to Forest Hill and maintains the 'civic focus' of the Dartmouth Road group of buildings. The reintroduction of these facilities will help regenerate both Forest Hill town centre and Dartmouth Road – in serious decline since the Pools closed. Additionally, Option 2 will provide Dartmouth Road with a building informed by high quality contemporary design. As the architects of the extension to the Horniman Museum, Allies & Morrison are not only skilled at combining historic buildings with contemporary structures but they know Forest Hill and the surrounding area.

A further point made by the Forest Hill Society is that the Willow Way site could be developed for some form of employment-led mixed use, possibly in the form of live-work units (apparently these are now more commercially viable than residential apartments). Lewisham is about to consult on its Core Strategy/Local Development Framework (the successor to the UDP) and re-designation of the site to residential could be addressed as part of this process.

The Mayor will make his decision on the three options at the Mayor & Cabinet meeting on February 25.

All three options and supporting material can be viewed on Lewisham's website at:

http://www2.lewisham.gov.uk/lbl/documents/stakeholder_briefing_050209.pdf



Proposed third runway at Heathrow

The Sydenham Society has opposed the proposed third runway at Heathrow Airport for a number of years. Following the Government's recent decision to give the go-ahead to its construction there was a debate in Parliament followed by a vote on Wednesday 28 January.

The following email from Tim Lund, Chair of the Sydenham Society and Dr Ilse Towler, Chair of the Society's Roads and Transport Committee was sent to Jim Dowd MP to request that, at the end of this debate, he vote against the proposed third runway at Heathrow.

"In common with the National Trust, twenty local authorities, and an estimated fifty labour MPs, we believe that the expansion of Heathrow by the addition of a third runway and an additional terminal will be a disaster in human and environmental terms.

We believe this for the following reasons:-

(1) Carbon emissions. The government has set targets for reduction in CO₂ emissions because climate models based on standard science show, beyond reasonable doubt, that failure to act will lead to catastrophic changes to the world's environment. To accommodate airport expansion now will be a wilful trashing of the world we will leave to our children and grandchildren.

(2) Air quality. The airport is already breaching EU and UK air quality regulations. Noise pollution from the proposed increase in air traffic, including night flights, will seriously impair the quality of life for residents (and tourists) in a large area of west and central London, and impact on education for students of all ages. A third runway will make it impossible for the government

to reach its declared targets on air pollution reduction. While pollution generated by aircraft increases depletion of the ozone layer, at ground level the increase in air pollution from the airport and associated roads will increase respiratory problems including asthma, over a wide area of West London.

(3) Safety. Busy flight paths for the enlarged Heathrow will pass across central London, increasing the risk of serious loss of life in case of accidents. Heathrow is already the world's busiest international airport. The proposed expansion would increase the number of flights per year from 480,000 to 700,000. An estimated 20,000,000 extra road journeys would be made over already congested roads in west London increasing the likelihood of accidents and delays, as well as adding to the ground level air pollution mentioned above.

(4) There are better alternatives. Where the alternative of safe high speed rail travel exists, airport expansion is applying yesterday's solutions to today's problems. The government has expressed its commitment to a new high speed rail – do we really need an expanded Heathrow as well? If we need additional airport space in the short term, Heathrow is simply in the wrong place. Both Paris and Berlin have added large new airports out of the urban area. Gatwick and Stanstead have both greater free space for expansion.

The Sydenham Society urges you to vote against this environmental and social disaster."

Post Script to the above: although it was defeated by a small government majority, we are pleased to report that Jim Dowd MP voted against the Motion.

Managing the economic downturn in Lewisham

Lewisham Council recognises the enormous impact that the economic downturn is having on people living and working in the borough, and has responded with a package of measures to help and advise during this difficult time, especially when it comes to dealing with debt and reducing bills.

Currently, Lewisham Council is lending 'Smart-Meters' free of charge from our libraries. These energy monitors show how much electricity is being used around the home and what it costs. For energy saving tips, download Lewisham's 'Greener Homes Guide' from the council's website www.lewisham.gov.uk/environment/greenerhomeguide/

Lewisham is also offering a free energy audit of homes carried out by a trained engineer, which provides a report

and guidance on grants and suppliers. To find out more, call 8314 6339.

If you do have money problems there are agencies in the borough to help during these difficult times; such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, in Sydenham and in Rushey Green, who offer help with solving money problems. By joining Lewisham Plus Credit Union, a financial co-operative in Sydenham, you can also take advantage of savings and loans at competitive rates that are offered to members.

Cllr Susan Wise

Perry Vale Ward and Cabinet Member for Customer Services. Tel: 8699 6520

Cllr_Susan.Wise@lewisham.gov.uk

Planning application for the Greyhound

After seeing the photomontage of the proposals for the Greyhound published in our last newsletter members must be wondering what has happened since and why the consultation period for this application has not begun.

The formal planning application was submitted to Lewisham Council on 21 November and we have since learned that certain matters had, at that stage, not been resolved and discussions continued between planning officers and the developers.

The model of the proposals was delivered to Kirkdale Bookshop in early January to form part of the planning consultation process but it would appear that dialogue is ongoing between the parties and so the application has still not gone 'live' as we go to press.



Silverdale Hall

Currently underused, a proposal to develop Silverdale Hall (No. 8 Silverdale) as a community facility specialising in movement and exercise is presently being discussed with Lewisham council officers. Behind the hall there is a large disused playground that could, and should, be developed and once again be available for the benefit of young people, and this is also part of the current discussions.

The project is led by Redesign Youth – a Community Interest Company – with the aim of appointing a board of local people to become Trustees whose responsibility would be to manage the day-to-day operation of this new community facility.

For everyone interested in their ideas there will be a short presentation about the proposals for this site by Ray Brown and Adam Murby at the next Sydenham Assembly on **5 March at the Naborhood Centre.**

Stop Press London rail link gets green light

An orbital rail network for London has come a step closer after a £75m rail project was given the green light by ministers.

Approval for the extension of the East London Line from Surrey Quays to Clapham Junction was announced on 12 February by Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon.

It constitutes Phase Two of the expansion of the East London Line as part of a £1bn project. The expansion is expected to be completed in time for the 2012 Games.

Pedestrian improvements to Sydenham Road

By the time this newsletter is distributed the long overdue plans for improving Sydenham Road will have been reviewed by the Mayor and Cabinet. If they are approved and the funding is secured, work should begin in January 2010. The plans are designed to enhance the general environment and to make the road more pedestrian friendly.

Proposals for improvements to Station Approach when Lewisham Council adopts this road, will include improved design, paving and parking improvements as part of creating a heart for Sydenham. Lewisham has allocated funds to Station Approach and the consultation process is likely to start at the end of 2009. There will be some parking, but this will not, as now, be dominated by all day parking. The aim is to have half hour short-term parking as in the rest of the high street, together with a station drop off area.

However before any of these road improvements can be started work on renewing the gas mains, taking approximately 14 months, is due to begin throughout the length of Sydenham Road. The first phases involve laying smaller diameter pipes under the pavements (this work has started) and Southern Gas Networks (SGN) promise that access to homes and businesses will be maintained at all times.

From April SGN say they will be working in the carriageway to replace sections of the old metal mains where possible using a process called 'insertion' which involves pushing the new pipe into the old one. This method greatly reduces the amount of digging and this, in turn, reduces disruption.

Also to add to the pleasure of travelling through Sydenham in the next twelve months comes the news that at the same time as the gas mains work is in progress Thames Water will be replacing their mains west of the railway bridge at Cobbs Corner. Oh joy!

Crystal Palace Park

On 9 December 2008 Bromley Council's Planning Development Committee met and voted to recommend the approval of the London Development Agency's (LDA) Application for Outline Planning Permission for the Master Plan for Crystal Palace Park.

Since 2001 when the Multiplex cinema proposals were finally dropped the future of this once grand park has been left in abeyance. In 2004 the future of the National Sports Centre (NSC) also looked bleak as Sport England turned its back on what had once been a major international venue for sport when its forty-year lease expired and Bromley, the owners, said the complex would have to close as they had no money to bring the venue up to modern standards.

Faced with no major sporting facilities in London for our elite athletes the LDA stepped in and took over the NSC. The award of the Olympics to London focussed many minds and currently the NSC is undergoing a major overhaul and is due to reopen in late spring ready for several important international events during 2009 and to be used as an Olympic Training Camp during 2011-2012.

The run-down state of the park is a much bigger problem. The LDA appointed a team of Masterplanners, Latz + Partners, and for the past three years they have worked to produce a comprehensive scheme for the regeneration of the park. The Master Plan is large and complex and clearly does not satisfy everyone and has involved some controversy over the past few years, particularly about building on the edges of the park. By recommending permission Bromley has recognised that a start has to be made after so many years of neglect.

The Government Office for London has recently called in the application for further examination before making a decision to approve or refuse planning permission. This comes as no surprise as this is a major scheme and to implement it would involve departure from planning policy guidelines. So for the time being matters, including the issue of park governance and what organisation will seek funding for any regeneration scheme, are on hold. Bromley Council are the current owners of the park but the LDA have an option, until March 2009, to take over a 125 years lease – this option could be extended if a decision isn't made by that time.

Improving access – more mobility

From the start of January 2009 the Freedom Pass on Transport for London services is free of charge for 24 hours a day, every day of the week. This ensures that residents over 60 can get around London on buses, tube, trams, DLR, Overground and certain National Rail services whenever they want.

The Freedom Pass is paid for and run by London's boroughs and is one of the most comprehensive concessionary fares schemes of its kind in the country, giving London's older and disabled people the opportunity to live as independent a life as possible. The London boroughs have agreed a £240 million deal to provide the Freedom Pass from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

The rest of the travelling public should ensure it pays the lowest fares when using public transport by purchasing an Oystercard. From September 2009 at Sydenham Station there will be a new gate with an Oyster ticket machine and barriers on the up platform. You must touch in and touch out on a yellow reader on every journey. With Sydenham in Zone 3 an all day/anytime travel card is currently £8.60. Using an Oystercard the public will travel on the lowest fare. If this is not the case, Transport for London will refund the difference.

Pay as you go Oyster has several advantages over paper tickets:

- Oyster single fares are generally cheaper
- Credit can be used as you need it and doesn't expire
- Daily price capping automatically calculates the cheapest fare for all the journeys you make in a single day.

Sydenham Assembly

The Sydenham Assembly provides the opportunity for active participation and engagement in the life of Sydenham. The next Assembly meeting is on Thursday 5 March starting at 7pm at the Grove Centre in Jews Walk. Please contact me if you would like more information on the Sydenham Assembly or any other Sydenham issues.

**Cllr Chris Best, Sydenham Ward and Cabinet Member for Community Services. Tel: 8659 6445
Cllr_Chris.Best@lewisham.gov.uk**

Review of 2008

Last year has been a successful and productive one for the Sydenham Society. Thanks must go to all of our members, particularly those hard-working individuals who serve on the Executive and sub-committees who have helped me in my first year as Chair. I am deeply indebted to Pat Trembath who handed over the reins of the Society last year leaving an organisation that was highly effective and well-organised and without whom this year's successes would not have been achieved.

It is impossible to mention all of the activities in which the Society has been involved during the last 12 months but here are some of the highlights:

Railway improvements

Our Roads and Transport committee was heavily involved in the campaign to improve rail links and to maintain disabled access at Sydenham station. Later this year, we can look forward to the arrival of Oystercards, the takeover of our local stations by Transport for London (TfL), with station improvements and full-time staffing, together with a new ticket machine and barriers on the up platform. In September, one of four currently short-listed companies will take over a new 5-year franchise. Over the next 12-18 months there will be longer trains into London Bridge, improvements on the Victoria service and the arrival of the long awaited East London Railway, with 10 trains per hour in each direction between Crystal Palace/West Croydon and Dalston Junction in North London. There have also, in the past year, been service improvements at the other Sydenham stations. At long last, this area will have a rail service equal, if not superior, to any other in south-east England and the Society has played a major part in this achievement.

Forest Hill Pools

Early last year we learned that Lewisham Council intended to construct new pools at Forest Hill to replace the old pools which were declared unsafe and irreparable. We were, however, alarmed to hear that the council intended to demolish the frontage block of the pools and Louise House as part of the scheme. The Society believes that these two buildings should be preserved as part of the rebuild – a view that was universally endorsed at our last AGM. But despite our best efforts, Lewisham continued with their plan which was only halted, when campaign group Save the Face of Forest Hill (SFFH), applied successfully to English Heritage to have Louise House listed. We are currently working with the Forest Hill Society and SFFH to encourage Lewisham to proceed swiftly with this project by organising an architectural competition with the aim of coming up with good design and alternative proposals.

Sydenham Assembly

Set up as part of a borough-wide initiative by Lewisham to involve local communities in decision-making, the local Assembly has replaced the Sydenham Road Community Partnership. After an unsteady start and accusations of being a "talking shop", the Assembly is now coming into its own. Each Assembly has £50,000 to spend on projects over a two-year period with access to extra money from the Mayor's Fund. This should enable Sydenham to benefit from a number of projects – from the expansion of youth facilities, town centre greening and helping to fund the Sydenham Arts Festival.

Sydenham Road Improvements

The £2m TfL scheme to improve Sydenham Road initiated by the Society is about to be approved by the council. It is a great disappointment that before it is implemented, we have to undergo 12 months or more of gas repairs in the high street. Let us pray (hard!) for minimum disruption and the hope that the new road scheme can be got underway as early as possible in 2010.

Conservation and Planning

We owe a huge debt of thanks to the hard-working members of our Conservation and Planning Committee, and John Hutchinson their architectural adviser, who each year review several dozen planning applications, write objections and letters of support making our views known at local planning meetings. As we go to press, we are awaiting the full planning application for The Greyhound scheme where the developer plans to refurbish the frontage of the pub, provide a new public space linked to Cobb's Corner and build two residential blocks with commercial space below. The committee has been involved in trying to preserve local pubs and were delighted when a local resident, (a member of the Campaign for Real Ale), successfully applied to English Heritage to have High Street Buildings in Kirkdale listed – which has effectively safeguarded the Fox and Hounds on the corner of Wells Park Road.

Social and Events

Thanks are due to the Events Committee who have organised an exciting and varied programme of outings including visits to the Steam Museum at Kew and John Wesley's house in the City. Recently 'Club 26' has sprung into life with the twin purpose of supporting local restaurants and pubs as well as having a good time! Members have visited several restaurants and pubs including the Dulwich Woodhouse who laid on a wonderful Burns Night experience. A special mention must go to Steve Grindlay who has given a number of talks

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including one on the use of local historical sources which fascinated his audience at The Golden Lion. To keep the brain cells working, we have run two successful Quiz Nites with proceeds going to St Christopher's Hospice and The Sydenham Garden. One event, the unveiling of the English Heritage blue plaque for Eleanor Marx in Jew's Walk, attracted national attention. Our thanks go to Gavin Stamp, for his incisive and entertaining speech, to the residents and neighbours in Jew's Walk who put up with the invasion of their front gardens and to Jim Dowd MP who also helped the event go with a swing.

Newsletter

Members rightly say one of the best things about belonging to the Society is our quarterly newsletter. Credit is due to Julia East and the Editorial team who work hard to produce a well-designed and entertaining publication and to Hilary Jarrett and her team who brave the wind and rain (and Sydenham's hills!) to ensure that members benefit from its prompt delivery.

Lastly, I would like to include an acknowledgement to our local councillors, Lewisham's Mayor, Len Duvall AM and Jim Dowd MP, without whose help the work of the Society would be much more difficult.

Tim Lund, Chair

Annual General Meeting

The Society's 36th Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 7 April 2009 at 7.45pm at the Golden Lion, 116 Sydenham Road, and will be followed by talks on Mayow Park past and future, by Steve Grindlay and Peter Ranken respectively – see below. All members are warmly invited to attend and to join the Executive Committee after the formal meeting and talks.

AGENDA

1. To receive the 2008 Accounts and Auditor's Report
2. To elect Officers and Members of the Executive Committee
3. To appoint an Auditor
4. Any Other Business
5. Mayow Park – Past and Future: Talks from Steve Grindlay, local historian and Peter Ranken, Director of Envirowork, Lewisham.

Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

Any member can be nominated for election as an Officer or Member of the Executive Committee. Nominations in writing must be seconded and have the Nominee's consent. Nominations must be sent to arrive 7 days in advance of the AGM to Annabel McLaren, 35 Bishopsthorpe Road, Sydenham, SE26 4PA. The Society's Constitution allows for up to 12 members, plus officers. In 2008 there were 9 Executive Committee meetings. Attendance was as follows:

Tim Lund (Chair)	7 / 7
Alistair Bryan	4 / 9
Roger Feather	5 / 9
Sue Grindlay	9 / 9

Barbara Kern	8 / 9
Alona Sheridan	6 / 6
Jackie Aldridge (co-opted)	5 / 7
Julia East	8 / 9
Steve Grindlay	8 / 9
Angela Hall	5 / 9
Ruth Locke	1 / 2
Pat Trembath	2 / 2

The Society has three established sub-committees, which in 2008 were chaired by:

- Conservation and Planning: Annabel McLaren
- Roads and Transport: Alistair Bryan (now Ilse Towler)
- Events: Janet Redman

The Executive Committee would like to put on record its warmest appreciation for help over the past year from these sub-committee chairmen, and their members: Gaye Allen, Iris Humphries, John Hutchinson, Lesley Kennedy, Bryan Leslie, Rosemary Linnell, Ruth Locke, Gwyn Maysey, Mary McKernan, Patrick Moulik, Peggy Stacy, Bernie Supramanian, Ilse Towler, John Towler, Pat Trembath and Katherine Willett.

THE SYDENHAM SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st December 2008

2007		2008	
£			£
	Income		
3989	Subscriptions	4171.00	
349	Donations	399.10	
214	Interest on National Savings and Bank Accounts	204.30	
4570	Excess from functions and excursions	-	4774.40
<u>18</u>			
	Expenditure		
2000	Printing and stationery	1610.51	
184	Postage and telephone	188.53	
380	Public meetings	-	
266	Subscriptions to Civic Trust and other organisations	280.00	
40	St Bart's floodlighting	40.00	
190	Insurance	190.00	
128	Equipment and website	-	
-	Eleanor Marx unveiling	100.00	
-	Miscellaneous expenses	114.41	
250	Sydenham photographs	-	
3484	AGM	<u>91.74</u>	2615.19
<u>46</u>			
<u>1086</u>	Excess of income over expenditure		<u>2159.21</u>
	Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2008		
5722	National Savings Investment Account	6926.50	
7345	Cash at Bank	<u>2528.25</u>	9454.75
	Less		
<u>293</u>	Subscriptions in advance	<u>244.00</u>	<u>244.00</u>
<u>7052</u>			<u>9210.75</u>
	Accumulated fund 31.12.2007	7051.54	
	Excess of income over expenditure	<u>2159.21</u>	
	Balance 31.12.2008	<u>9210.75</u>	

H R FEATHER - HON TREASURER

I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet with the books and records of the Society, and have obtained all the information I require. In my opinion these financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the Society as at 31st December 2008 and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended.

M J WHEELER - HON AUDITOR

Date: 23 January 2009

Ruth Locke



Ruth, and her late husband Ron, were founder members of the Sydenham Society in 1972. She has worked assiduously for the Society since that time, and her energy and enthusiasm are legendary. The Society was formed when a group of like-minded people opposed the compulsory purchase, by the council, of houses in several roads around Sydenham. Ruth remembers that the meeting was rowdy, but the campaign was successful.

The Lockes came to live in Sydenham in 1956, and what first attracted them, as it has others, was Wells Park. When Ruth saw the house in Charlecote Grove she “knew immediately” that it was the house for her, and the features of the landscape that thrilled her then, the hills, and the view coming down Kirkdale towards the hills of Kent delight her still. She says she is within walking distance of seven parks and open spaces yet, by train, only fifteen minutes away from London Bridge.

The Phoenix Suburb by Alan Warwick

First published in 1972 and out of print for many years, this local history book about Crystal Palace has just been re-printed in a softback version. The Phoenix Suburb provides a unique taste of times past, and contains 32 pages of photographs and illustrations. For anybody interested in local history it is a fascinating tale of decline and fall, and possibly the resurgence, of a London suburb. Price £9.99.

Available from Bookseller Crow in Westow Street in Upper Norwood or directly from Anna Lines, Secretary of the Norwood Society, 38 South Vale, SE19 3BA. Tel: 8653 8768

Ruth believes that the Sydenham Society has given people a tremendous sense of community. She served on the Executive and the Amenities committees for many years, and is an active member of the Events Committee and instrumental in organising the popular ‘Over the Garden Fence’ days. She is currently the Society’s worthy President, a position held previously by her late husband.

Ruth is pleased that the Society has gained so much momentum over the years. She believes the Society was ‘a thorn in the flesh’ of the council in the early years, but now it is, in her words, “a strong voice in the community”, and the council is grateful for the Society’s input in many areas. Asked whether she considers the aims of the original Society are still relevant today she says that Halifax Street was the first conservation area created in Sydenham and since then conservation areas have been created in many other areas. The recent proposals in respect of the Greyhound show that there is now much greater awareness of the value of historical buildings in Sydenham, but she warns we cannot be complacent.

Having attended adult education classes on plants and their habitats throughout the 1980s she has a great interest and knowledge of plants, and this interest absorbs her to this day. Undertaking a tree survey in the 80s, listing the tree specimens in a square mile of Sydenham, she was especially pleased to find a cork oak. Ruth is involved with the wildflower planting in Sydenham Garden. She feels we are privileged to live so close to Sydenham Hill Wood, which has its own special character. She says that her involvement with the Society has given her a sense of purpose, and she “feels at home” wherever she goes in Sydenham. Like the cork oak, Ruth is a rather rare specimen.

Sue Grindlay sue.grindlay@gmail.com

This is the first of an occasional series of profiles of members of the Sydenham Society, both old and new.

PHOTO CORNER



Group with their ‘Snow Dalek’, Crystal Palace Park 2nd Feb 09.

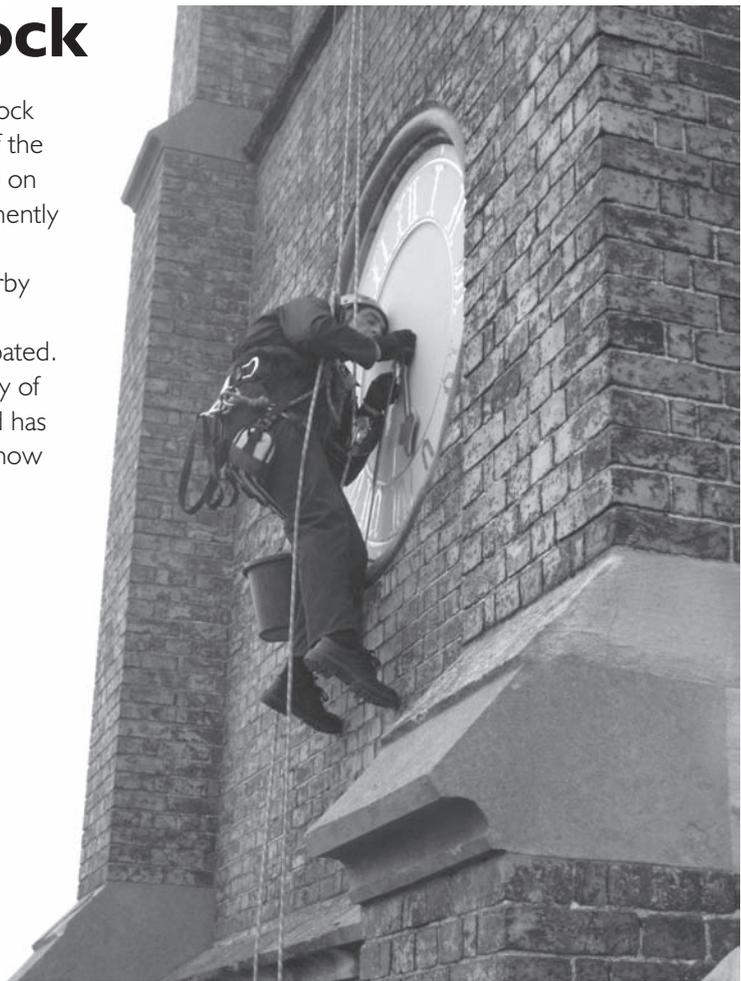
Email your local pics to news@sydenhamsociety.com

St Bart's Church clock

For anyone wondering about what has happened to the clock on St Bartholomew's Church tower – the January issue of the parish magazine 'Sydenham Life' explains that work started on the church clock in November, which had stopped permanently at 27 minutes to six sometime during the autumn.

Two employees of renowned horologists Smith of Derby made the journey to London to undertake its repair. Unfortunately the task turned out to be trickier than anticipated. The hands on the clock face had rusted and required plenty of energy to prise off. As a result it was not a one-day job and has already taken several weeks, and the bill for the work will now come to approximately £3,500.

Story and Photos reproduced with thanks to Sydenham Life magazine.



Sydenham Wells Park

Whatever the effects of a covering of snow elsewhere, for a day or two at the beginning of February the park was transformed. At times reminiscent of studies by LS Lowry, at others it became one big playground for all. Elaborate and makeshift sledges appeared as did snow sculptures – even an attempt at forming an igloo. There was much chasing up and down in short, excited bursts of energy and a lot of rolling about and laughter. In the brilliant light many simply stood and gazed about them.

On Saturday 7 March there will be the first of a series of community work parties to begin to develop the 'Wildlife Corridor'. Join us if you can between 11.30am and 2pm to help clear the ground, plant shrubs and trees and do whatever else may be required. Some tools will be available but if you can bring your own so much the better.

Expressions of interest in the new 10-year parks and Grounds Contract, to include Lewisham Homes and churchyards, but not cemeteries or crematoria, were due by 13 February. There is also a plan to include provision for a park keeper at Mayow Park.

Once short-listed a Saturday morning open meeting has been promised for as many interested parties as possible.

There will be a session for park representatives and focus groups. Invitations for the Tender are to be issued in May, followed by site visits. The award of the new contract should be made by December for work to start in March 2010.

**Alma Hunt
Chair, Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group.
Tel: 8291 7027**



A SURE THING (to bank on)?

The reliable banks of old
Could tell the real stuff from 'Fool's Gold'.

A 'banker' was a sure fire thing
On land or sea, wheel, foot or wing.
No longer perched in lofty eerie
They've succumbed to Darwin's Theory.
Wrapped in a paper chase of late
They starve with apex below base rate.

The punters cheer, stamp, clap, and stare,
As their banker shoots through the air.
But when their pick fades from first to last
They curse or shout or swear full blast
The betting shopper comes a cropper
Lead on by brief loss leaders -
Of promises of more, of money galore
But they're bait for the really big feeders.

Shop staff 'protected' by a grill,
Pass money to and from the till,
Hear threats and cusses, laughs and hisses,
As the chosen one fails and the dead cert misses.
The Stock Exchange is just the same
Its players play a 'bigger' game
They too shout loudly, and swear (and sweat)
The pound falls, oops, they lose their bet.

Experts, having made their choice,
Shout encouragement in full voice
One beast tells another what to do
Whilst the TV screen shows another view.
It hits a fence or raps a hurdle
Punters 'comment', the air does curdle
The jockey becomes a fatherless child
As expletives fly from even the mild.

Strange how expert views are so diverse
Choose between the bad and worse
Each man is an island and expert it seems
At selecting a champion for his field of Dreams
But there is only one winner who can be top
That's the owner of the betting shop....
.. or bankers whose bonuses we've paid
.. as our dreams are mortgaged and waylaid.

Peter Somers, February 2009

Long Ago and Far Away

John Holt, who was born in Sydenham in 1934 and lived with his parents in Lower Sydenham until his marriage, has published another volume of his memories and impressions of growing up in Sydenham during the war (he was not evacuated) and the post-war period.

Whereas the earlier volume concentrated on the shops in Bell Green and Sydenham Road, this is more concerned with the experiences and feelings of a child in wartime Sydenham. The book begins with one of John's earliest memories, a visit to the Crystal Palace shortly before it was destroyed by fire in November 1936, and ends when he was 13 and about to enter Alleyn's School.

John's family lived in Fambridge Road, near Lower Sydenham station. His first school was South Hill College, Mayow Road where he began his schooling in January 1940. The war, of course, made regular attendance impossible.

He had numerous uncles, aunts and cousins, most of whom lived nearby. I was particularly interested in Uncle Chris and Auntie Vi, who lived at Tudor Lodge, Kirkdale, on the site of Hassocks Close. John remembers an old mulberry tree in the garden; does it still survive in Hassocks Close? Uncle Chris (Christopher Meyer) and his brother Wallace owned the electro-platers that survived in Dartmouth Road, almost opposite the Bricklayers Arms, until a few years ago.

John describes several places where he and his friends played. The first was the Britannic Sports Ground (now The Bridge). As it was closed just after the outbreak of war they had to climb over the fence to get in. When the club-house and grounds were taken over by the Royal Marines, John and his friends had to make do with the green outside Lower Sydenham station before finding a secluded spot by the Pool River. At the end of the war John remembers the Kangley Bridge Road celebrations when they had a street party, with a bonfire on the green.

The book offers vivid memories and a fascinating first-hand account of the experiences of a young boy growing up in Sydenham during the war.

Long Ago and Far Away, by John Holt (2008) is available from Kirkdale bookshop. They may also have copies of his earlier books (*My Early Years in Sydenham, The 1940s Revisited and Recollections of the 1950s*). If not, contact the author (01843 295633).

Steve Grindlay

Sydenham Garden

Come and support us on the 9 May from 11am till 3pm and celebrate Spring in the development of our community garden. There will be all the fun of the fair, with plants, homemade marmalade and a wide range of art and craft gifts to buy. You will be able to enjoy our tasty barbeque and delicious cakes, whilst listening to great music being played by the jazz trio Belatone. For children and adults alike there will be plenty of 'hands on' activities, making it a great day out for the whole family.

Entry £1 for adults and 50p for children with all proceeds from the day going to the Sydenham Garden charity. Entrance from Holland Drive, off Queenswood Road, SE23.

To find out more email: info@sydenhamgarden.org.uk or Tel: 8291 1650

May Day revels on our own millennium green

The Forest Hill and Sydenham Societies are joining forces for the May Bank Holiday, on 4 May from 12 noon onwards. We'll be celebrating spring with a day at the hidden Albion Millennium Green on the border of Forest Hill and Sydenham.

Formerly a tennis club, the green was landscaped into an attractive informal park to mark the turn of the century under the a government scheme to develop 'Millennium Greens'. Its entrance is at the end of Albion Villas Road (park in Sydenham Park Road).

Although in need of sprucing up it is a haven for flowers and wildlife. So we'll start the day with a tidying up session and then savour the fruits of our labours with a picnic, games and traditional May Day activities for all the family. It'll be a great Bank Holiday day out – just around the corner.

The Ivy Comedy Cabaret

World-class comedy comes to South East London every fortnight on Fridays at The Ivy House pub in Nunhead, starting 6 March. Organised by Sydenham-based comedian Karl Edrik with the assistance of several Sydenham residents, each night is designed to be a complete evening of entertainment with food, live magic and music.



Nina Conti

The venue itself is a hidden gem – behind the unassuming exterior of The Ivy House pub is a micro-theatre originally created by a group of drag-queens in the 1930s! The wood-panelled rooms still retain original stained glass, plaster wall decorations and a red-curtained stage with gold lamé backdrop.

Friday 6th March is the launch night and stars ventriloquist Nina Conti, TV magician Ali Cook and comedy crooner Frank Sanazi plus support acts, and is compèred by Karl Edrik. Live music from the Julian Burdock Blues Experience (one man urban swamp blues mixed with country and funk) and four-piece band '24 Pesos' with their blend of blues, soul and funk.

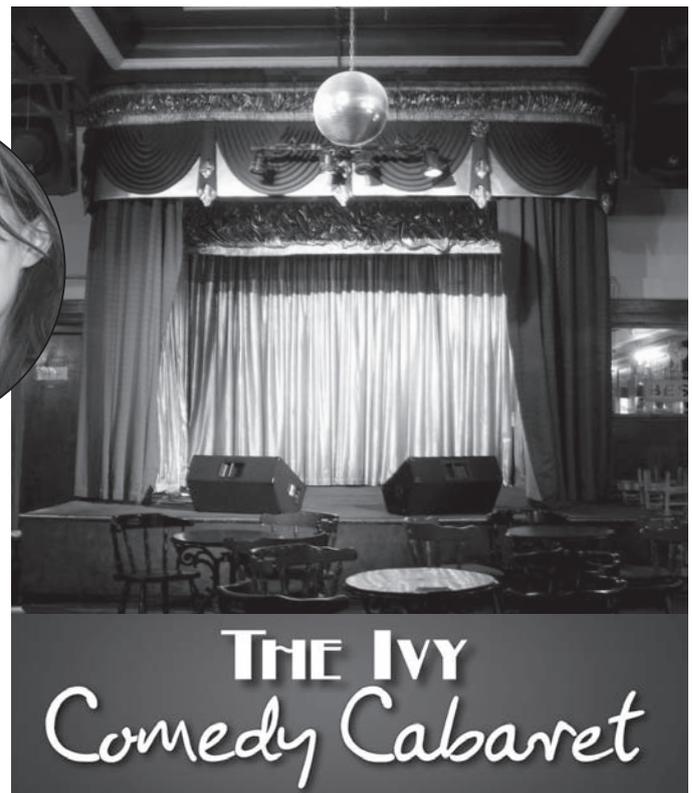
An enjoyable evening's entertainment is assured, whilst also helping secure the future of this unique local venue.

Pay on the door or buy tickets & get further info at:

www.karledrik.com

Tickets £10. Doors open at 6.30pm. Show from 8.00pm to 10.30pm. Late bar. Hot food £6.

The Ivy House, 40 Stuart Road, Nunhead SE15 3BE (near the top corner of Peckham Rye).



Friday 6 March – Nina Conti, Ali Cook, Frank Sanazi, Steve Parry, Rob Broderick.

Friday 20 March – Logan Murray, Brian & Krysstal, The Real Brian Blessed, Richard McDougal, Sarah Louise Young.

Friday 3 April – Sol Bernstein, Trevor Lock, Robert White, Chris Mayo, Andy Davies, Andy Osho.

Friday 17 April – Ava Vidal, Lewis Schaffer, The Totally Naff Tarts, Brendan Naughton, Frank Sanazi.

Friday 8th May – Papa CJ, Phil Kay, Aliens Ate My Schnitzel.

Friday 22nd May – Rob Rouse, Marlon Davis & more.

Friday 5th June – Henning Wehn, Jo Jo Sutherland & more.

Friday 19th June – Tony Law, Abi Roberts & more.

Events in Sydenham

SATURDAY 9 MAY

Sydenham Garden Spring Fair 11am – 3pm at Sydenham Garden, Holland Drive, off Queenswood Road. Plants, art and crafts, marmalade, 'hands on' activities, barbeque and music. **Entry only £1 for adults and 50p for children (further details on p13)**

SATURDAY 16 MAY

Sydenham School Reunion 4pm – 9pm in the Main Hall. All former pupils, staff and friends welcome. **Further details from Ken Devine 8699 6731 or email: devinek@sydenham.biblio.net**

LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 8pm
Live Jazz at the Golden Lion.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT is 'Blues Night' at the Golden Lion.

St Christopher's Hospice

SATURDAY 9 MAY

Open Gardens 11am – 2pm at St Christopher's Hospice, Lawrie Park Road. Relax in the gardens and enjoy entertainment by local groups as well as craft stalls and refreshments. **Entrance £1. Anyone interested in opening their garden in aid of St Christopher's, please call Belinda Kearns on 8768 4573.**

SATURDAY 31 MAY

Fun Walk in and around Keston Common. Take part in one of four sponsored walks on a fun-packed day with music, entertainment and refreshments. **Individual walkers, or teams of walkers, can obtain entry forms from any of the St Christopher's shops or by phoning 8768 4577.**

Sydenham Music Festival

To be held this year from 24 May – June 21

SUNDAY 24 MAY

7.30pm at St Bart's Church, Westwood Hill.
St Bartholomew Festival Orchestra plays Rossini, Shostakovich and Haydn.

THURSDAY 28 MAY

2.30pm at St Christopher's Hospice – afternoon tea concert featuring the Festival String Quartet playing 'miniatures' by favourite composers.

June concerts will be listed in our next newsletter.

Full details of the programme and tickets are available from the Box Office, Kirkdale Bookshop or visit www.sydenhammusic.org

Events nearby

Dulwich Picture Gallery

2 DECEMBER – 14 JUNE 2009

Neapolitan Paintings at Dulwich Picture Gallery.

This display focuses on *The Locksmith* and *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Both paintings have been conserved through the 'Adopt an Old Master' scheme and will be presented in their newly restored state for the first time.

The Ivy House (Peckham Rye/Nunhead)

FRIDAY 6 MARCH and then EVERY FORTNIGHT

The Ivy Comedy Cabaret

New fortnightly comedy extravaganza. Top comedy acts, live music, magic and food.

See page 13 for full details, & visit www.karledrik.com

Brockley Jack Theatre

10 MARCH – 4 APRIL 2009 (Tues to Sat 8pm, Sun 5pm)

Macbeth by William Shakespeare. Following their "epic and ambitious" *Richard III* with a company of 26 actors, the Faction return to the Brockley Jack Theatre to present Shakespeare's bloody and supernatural thriller using an all-male ensemble to explore the relationship of an emasculated Macbeth and an unsexed Lady Macbeth and perceived notions of masculine and feminine traits. **Box office: 0844 847 2454, Book online: www.ticketweb.co.uk (no booking fee). Tickets: £12.00 full, £9.00 conc.**

Beckenham Place Park

SATURDAY 14 MARCH – Three Parks Walk

Meet 9.30am on the Mansion steps. This walk starts at Beckenham Place Park and meanders through the woods and on to Kelsey Park and then to South Norwood Country Park. A long walk but never far from the 54 bus route which runs past Beckenham Place Park so anyone wanting a shorter walk can leave when they wish.

The Horniman Museum

THURSDAY 19 MARCH – House of Flying Daggers

(2004) Film screening in the Gallery Square.

7 – 9pm. Admission Free. To book email: marketing@horniman.ac.uk or call 020 8291 8168.

LOCAL WARD ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

Open to all local residents interested in the future of their neighbourhood.

Sydenham Ward

5 MARCH – 7pm at Grove Centre, Jews Walk, SE26

Forest Hill Ward

25 MARCH – 7.30pm at Living Springs International Church, 8-10 Devonshire Road, SE23

Perry Vale Ward

23 APRIL – 7.30 pm at Methodist Church Hall, Normanton Street, SE23

Syd Soc events

Events organised by the Sydenham Society, open to all unless stated. If you have a suggestion for a Syd Soc event please call Jackie Aldridge on 8778 5455.

SATURDAY 21 MARCH

Regent's Canal walk from Little Venice to Islington (approx 4 miles). Meet at Sydenham Station at 9.35am. There will be a coffee stop at Camden Lock and the walk will finish at Islington High Street (Angel underground station) at approximately 1.15pm. At the end of the walk there will be an opportunity to visit Chapel Street market. **Contact Jackie (8778 5455) for further details.**

MONDAY 4 MAY

Mayday Revel on the Millennium Green.
See details on page 13.

TUESDAY 5 MAY

Quiz Nite. See panel opposite for details.

TUESDAY 7 APRIL

Sydenham Society's AGM. All Sydenham Society members welcome.

SATURDAY 9 MAY

Two guided walks of about 3 miles each around Edenbridge (one in the morning, the second after a pub lunch) led by Sydenham Society member, Ian Falkner. Meet at Sydenham Station at 8.45 am to catch the 8.50 am train. Return trains leave Edenbridge Town station at .08 minutes past the hour.

Quiz Nite

Our next Quiz Nite will be held on **Tuesday 5 May** at the Golden Lion from 7.45 pm. Entry is £2 a head with all profits donated to the Sydenham Arts Festival. This event is proving very popular and there is a limit to the numbers that we can accommodate at the Golden Lion. Teams of four to six people are welcome to take part, as are individuals to join scratch teams formed on the evening. **To avoid disappointment please book your place(s) with Pat (8659 4903) or Jackie (8778 5455).**

Club 26

Club 26 was set up to encourage our members to meet socially and also to try out our local restaurants in SE26 – all within easy walking distance and on local bus routes.

Upcoming Club 26 events are listed below, please call the venue to book your place and don't forget to say you are part of Club 26 so that members can be seated together.

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY – 7.30pm at Trattoria Rafaele the newly opened Italian restaurant at 94 Sydenham Road. Tel: 8778 6262 to reserve your place.

THURSDAY 26 MARCH – 7.30pm– Club 26's choice of restaurant for this evening's meal is Gurkha's Nepalese Restaurant, 67 Sydenham Road. Tel: 8778 3222.

SUNDAY 26 APRIL – Club 26 will meet at the Perry Hill PH at 4pm for a late Sunday lunch. Tel: 8699 5076.

TUESDAY 26 MAY – 7.30pm Club 26 meets at That's Amore, the Italian restaurant in Kirkdale. Tel: 8291 2901.



SYDENHAM SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yearly cost of membership

Individual (includes partner)	£6.00 per annum
Senior Citizen (includes partner)	£5.00 per annum
Postal Member (includes partner)	£7.00 per annum

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Tel day _____ Tel eve _____

Email _____

Renewal is due in January. Postal members are those resident outside SE23 and SE26 postal areas. Subscriptions can be paid by cheque or Standing Order. Please make cheques payable to The Sydenham Society.

The Sydenham Society STANDING ORDER

Bank details for standing order

Name of your bank/building society _____

Address of you bank/building society _____

Account Number _____ Sort Code _____

Signed _____

Your Name (please print) _____

Please pay the Sydenham Society (Lloyds Bank plc, Sydenham Branch, Sort Code 30-98-42, Account no. 0524410) the sum of £7/£6/£5 (please delete as appropriate) on 5 January each year until further notice. This replaces any Standing Order in favour of the 'Sydenham Society'.

Please return to: Roger Feather, 71 Hall Drive, Sydenham, London SE26 6XL Tel: 8778 4318 Email: membership@sydenhamsociety.com

Sydenham Society News

Vote for Mayow Park!

By the time you read this it is likely that Friends of Mayow Park and all interested parties will have learnt how the largesse from the Greater London Authority will be distributed between local London parks. Two out of eight competing parks in the South East sub-region will be chosen by the size of their popular vote. Watch the website for more details: <http://www.london.gov.uk/parksvote/>

Thanks to all who voted for Mayow Park, and especially to the army of deliverers who distributed 6000 leaflets to 6000 doors in Sydenham and Forest Hill as well as larger notices to local businesses. Our foot soldiers were from the Friends and from members of the Sydenham and Forest Hill Societies, and included ward councillors. Lewisham Green Scene staff braved the early morning rush hour at Sydenham station to hand out reminder cards to commuters. We are particularly pleased by the enthusiastic response we had from schools: most spread our information via the childrens' book bags or encouraged text voting. If we do not achieve the desired result it will not be due to lack of trying: and it has raised our esprit de corps!

Last Autumn we had an open-to-all 'walkabout' in groups round the Park with landscape architects from Groundwork London, to discuss aspirations for the Park. It was a well attended event, and we await their ideas and recommendations with great interest. We are working with Council Officers to prepare a consultation with the age group 10 to 16+ to develop somewhere in the park which they will be able to call their own. We aim to enlist their help in designing the area, and hope they will feel encouraged to use the park more.

Agreement has been reached between the Council, ParkSport Lewisham, the English Cricket Board and Envirowork to prepare the cricket square in the central grassed

area of the park, for the use of local schools and sports clubs. Preparation should start in the spring. We are very pleased that this will formally restore Mayow Park's original function as a recreation ground.

Should any further funding become available, refurbishment of the bowls pavilion, repair of the paths, improving the children's playground, restoring a cafe, and providing a drinking fountain are all suggestions put forward by park users.

Hilary Jarrett, Chair
Tel: 8778 9560,
Alona Sheridan, Emma Tarling
Friends of Mayow Park



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Gavin Ashton	Lucy Morris &
Robert Bertram	Ernesto Priego
Barry & Helen Buckley	Chris Phillips
Mrs G Buckley	Raphael Giannandrea
Kieron Helsdon	Calum Watson
June Lowdell	

All members are reminded that subscriptions for 2009 are now due.

Roger Feather Tel: 8778 4318 Email: membership@sydenhamsociety.com

E-NEWSLETTERS

These are emails sent roughly weekly to all members who want them, containing brief details of forthcoming events, news and consultation exercises.

Email: chair@sydenhamsociety.com if you would like to be put on our e-list.

The use of your email address will be limited to Sydenham Society business only and it will not be passed on for third party use.

www.sydenhamsociety.com

Covering all aspects of local community matters ■ Registered with the Civic Trust ■ Member of the London Forum