

SYDENHAM SOCIETY

NEWS

Autumn 2010

SAVE SYDENHAM LIBRARY!

Sydenham Library is under threat of closure following a proposal by Lewisham Council officers to close five of the Borough's twelve libraries in an attempt to save £830,000. As well as Sydenham, New Cross, Crofton Park, Blackheath and Grove Park libraries also face the axe. The proposals were announced in early August and the Council is conducting a public consultation before mayor Sir Steve Bullock makes a decision on the issue on 17 November 17.

Unsurprisingly, a vociferous campaign against the proposed closure is under way. The Save Sydenham Library campaign was launched after a public consultation on 19 August. Campaigners point out that Sydenham Library is more than just Library; it is a much loved and well-used community asset and hosts a number of activities apart from lending books. As well as reading groups for seniors and people for whom English is a second language, it is also used by four local primary schools, which will not be able to avail themselves of alternative libraries in Forest Hill or Lewisham.

The Library is situated on the edge of Home Park, which has been the focus of a community led regeneration project by Friends of Home Park. In an effort to combat anti social behaviour and crime, FHP have secured £60,000 of funding over the past two years to build an outdoor gym, outdoor classroom, adventure playground and a community garden. FHP feel that closing the Library will seriously undermine those efforts and comment that the area is set for an increase in its population with the residential development at Bell Green.

The Save Sydenham Library Campaign has launched an online and paper petition and is asking people to write to the Mayor to show the depth of public feeling against the proposed closure. The issue has dominated the Sydenham and Perry Vale Assemblies and that of Bellingham on 20 October, whose residents are also served the 106 year- old Library.

In the relatively short space of time since the Save Sydenham Library campaign was launched it has gathered momentum and garnered widespread support. The people of Lewisham are sending a loud and clear message to the Mayor; hands off our Library!



IN THIS ISSUE

**New Syd Soc website • Sydenham Road improvements • Sir August Manns • Profile: Barry Milton
Sydenham Library special • East London Line pub/restaurant reviews • Forest Hill Pools**

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 many local 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.

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Community Police Teams

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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**

The deadline for articles for the next newsletter will be Friday 28 January.

New Sydenham Society website launches

We are constantly looking for ways to communicate with our members more effectively. Our quarterly Newsletter remains an eagerly awaited source of information about news, happenings and activities in SE26. And for the past two years we have supplemented this with a regular e-newsletter which is emailed to approximately 600 members and has now become an essential reminder of all that is going on locally.

The third element of our communications strategy has been to update and redesign the Sydenham Society website. At the June meeting of the Executive the decision was taken to invest in an upgrade of our existing site. Working with local web designer Dan Stevens, over the summer we have come up with a new-look site which we hope will be attractive to our members and enticing to those who may be interested in joining their local Civic Society.

Visit our new website at www.sydenhamsociety.com and you'll see a crisp, well-designed site which is easy to find your way around. The front or "home" page contains items of current interest ranging from information about the Sydenham Art or Music Festivals to reports about local transport or news of a new business in Sydenham Road. There are links to recent Newsletters, a page where you can sign-up to receive the e-newsletter, Steve Grindlay's popular local history articles and a "contact us" box. Local school student Joanna Hall has very kindly agreed to help run the site.

A unique feature of the site is an interactive calendar in which we aim to gather together information about as many events as possible in Sydenham, Forest Hill and neighbouring districts. We believe that this will become the essential place to find out what's going on locally.

But we need your help to make the website work and to keep it fresh, accurate and interesting. If you'd like to contribute an article, let us know about an event – or point out any mistakes or corrections – don't hold back. We want to hear from you. You can use the contact us box on the site or you can email me directly at this address:

barrymilton@myriadbooks.co.uk

Barry Milton



Would you like to join the Roads and Transport Committee?

If you use public transport, or are interested in Sydenham's bus and train services, or the management of our roads, you might like to join us. We meet about every two months at a member's house. Recent campaigns have included ensuring that Overground made Oyster readers and ticket barriers available on both platforms of Sydenham Station, and asking for later train services from London Bridge. We were

involved in the successful campaign for improvements to Sydenham Road. We work with transport providers and the Council to ensure that local voices are heard.

If you would like to join the committee, or attend a meeting to see if the committee is for you, please contact Ilse Towler at iandj.towler@btinternet.com

Lewisham's Green Credentials 2010

Clean and Green Schools

In its ninth year, 25 Lewisham schools enthusiastically participated in the Clean and Green campaign programme, designed to raise awareness of green issues and encourage young people to respect their local environment. A Sustainable Food category was introduced and 12 schools either started a new vegetable garden, or resurrected a forgotten one. With encouragement to grow their own vegetables, the children can understand where their food comes from and take pride in their own produce.

The highlight of the day was the well-deserved award to Kelvin Grove School who received the Clean and Green, Distinction, Gold Award, plus a cheque for £600 for their excellent progress in all the campaign categories.

Green Flag Awards

Lewisham hosted a nation-wide flag flying ceremony for this year's Green Flag awards held during national Parks' Week at Manor House Gardens. Lewisham is top of the South London boroughs in receiving Green Flags, the national recognition for parks and outdoor spaces, with Deptford Park and Hilly Fields being added to the list of Bellingham Green, Blackheath, Brookmill Park, Chinbrook Meadows, Ladywell Fields, Manor House Gardens, Manor Park, Sydenham Wells Park and Telegraph Hill Park. Green Pennants were retained for Devonshire Road and Grove Park Nature Reserves.

These accolades would not be possible without the support of Lewisham's Parks Friends' and User Groups and the hard work of officers from Green Scene and Glendale.

London in Bloom

Held this year at the Guildhall, on behalf of Lewisham, I was proud to accept the prestigious Silver Gilt award for the 4th year running, a great achievement for all involved and the highest award level for the London Boroughs, with the judges had assessing Lewisham in terms of horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation. Their comments after their "concise, friendly and well organised" inspection tour in July were very complimentary and encouraging. Lewisham was also awarded runner up for the London in Bloom Capital Growth award.

Cllr Susan Wise, Cabinet Member for Customer Services.
Tel: 8699 6520.

Cllr_Susan.Wise@lewisham.gov.uk

Feedback from the Sydenham Assembly

The Sydenham Assembly received a presentation on the significant cuts in public services resulting from the crisis caused by irresponsible bankers who gambled with our future. Based on the 25% central Government target Lewisham Council's officers estimate savings totalling approximately £60 million will need to be made over the next three years to keep a balanced budget. No decision has yet been taken – the Mayor will make this once we know the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the 20 October.

Following the Our Lewisham Our Say presentation there were round table discussions where residents were asked which council services they value most, what they think the Council could do less of, and where they think they could do more themselves to ease the pressure on public services.

Proposals affecting Children and Young People include:

- Review of early years service including closure of one of the four Early Years Centres
- Reduction in fostering costs
- Reduction in services following cuts in Central Govt grants eg Connexions Contract

Proposals affecting Community Services include:

- Reduction in budget for PCSOs and neighbourhood safety teams
- Proposed closure of Sydenham library and four other libraries
- 25% reduction in Locality and Mayor's Fund as well as running costs
- Increase charges in adult social care for example Meals on Wheels; increased maximum charge for social care services from £290 per week to £395 per week or full cost

Proposals affecting Customer Services include:

- Cease night team refuse collection service and Sunday sweeping service in Sydenham
- Charge £20 plus admin and delivery for replacement wheelie bins
- Stop week spraying on streets and pavements

Proposals affecting Regeneration include:

- Cease the two days a week Town Centre Management including events in Sydenham
- Close Opening Doors at Sydenham library

This is a difficult time for Lewisham and the Mayor is working with other boroughs to try and find ways of making further savings by collaborative working and making sure that we save as much as we can from so called "back office" services.

Where cuts to the front line are made they are done fairly and in such a way as to protect the most vulnerable of our residents and ensure that Lewisham remains the dynamic, vibrant and inclusive society that it is today.

Chris Best, Councillor for Sydenham Ward.

Chair of the Sydenham Assembly and Sydenham Town Centre Steering Group.

Tel: 8659 6445 Cllr_Chris.Best@lewisham.gov.uk

Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005

On April 7 2005 the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill received Royal Assent following a successful passage through Parliament to become the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

This act should deal with many of the problems affecting the quality of our local environment through anti-social behaviour, vandalism, disorder and levels of crime. It is intended to provide local authorities with more effective powers and tools to tackle poor environmental quality and anti-social behaviour. Part 4 of the Act deals specifically with graffiti and fly-posting.

The following photographs show the amount of fly posting removed from the core shopping area of Sydenham Road (between Cobbs Corner and Mayow Road) on the morning of 15 June.

Featured are the ubiquitous shop front and roller shutter stickers, peeled off a reel and stuck, willy-nilly, on practically every shop door and shutter along the length of the road. It would appear that these shop front businesses consider they have every right to fly-post throughout the area and, although some were removed, many remain, and have been added to in the interim, as the adhesive is of a very strong type.

Also shown is the mish-mash of other fly-posting which had been stuck on lamp posts, railings, telephone boxes, any old spare space seems to do. To add to the general fly-posting are the sad tales of much loved, but lost pets. Did Betty ever get found? We shall never know, because the owners of missing Betty (or the Yorkshire Terrier or the friendly black and white cat) having stuck their pleas for help to our street furniture never return to remove them.



Finally, on virtually every lamppost can be found the heavy-duty plastic ties that once held public authority notices – the notices get removed eventually, but the ties remain tightly bound to the lamppost and very difficult to cut through to remove.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act is there to help protect our environment but is rarely used by the local authority and is therefore to a large extent ineffectual with regard to lesser offences. It also begs the question are we so used to seeing fly-posting everywhere we look that eventually we no longer see what is defacing our neighbourhood, thus leaving it in situ in perpetuity. Are we prepared to continue to let this happen?

Pat Trembath

Forest Hill Underpass

Just what is happening about the Forest Hill Underpass?

The Forest Hill society share our concern about Network Rail's slowness in making the underpass pleasant and safe to use. Apart from removing the side handrails on the steps (why?) and applying a coat of white paint earlier this year there is no sign of the improvements promised at joint meetings between Network Rail and Lewisham, initiated by previous Deputy Mayor, Heidi Alexander. Lewisham's Mayor chaired the last meeting of the consultation group, on 19 January this year, when John Steed, Asset Protection, Network Rail, indicated that the underpass would be refurbished after installation of the station footbridge within the 2010-11 financial year.

The subway has belonged to Network Rail since 1880, and they are responsible for drainage and flooring. Guttering along the subway walls is frequently blocked by litter. Panels were to be installed to prevent this, and on 8 October,

Darien Goodwin, then Head of Transport at Lewisham, suggested "urgent officer discussion" between Lewisham and Network Rail to get the work underway. Lewisham ensure that the subway is swept, and have some responsibility for the lighting. They also monitor the CCTV, so their staff have a good view of commuters and others paddling their way across this dingy eyesore.

Cllr John Paschoud has submitted questions about the subway to the Full Council Meeting being held on the 23rd September. The Sydenham Society has been campaigning on this issue for six years. The Forest Hill Society joined them at the end of 2009. Isn't it time we had some firm dates from Network Rail? And even some action?

Ilse Towler
Chair Roads and Transport committee

Sydenham Road Pedestrian Improvements

Ring-fenced capital means that the long-awaited improvements to Sydenham Road between the roundabout and Mayow Road can still go ahead. Designs are currently being finalised and work on the scheme will begin in the New Year.

Fourteen trees 3m tall, with a maintenance contract, will be planted along the high street and in the planned pocket squares at Venner and Queensthorpe Roads and the ridiculed wobbly roundabout will be re-profiled to minimise its slope (and greened, we've been promised).

The areas of the pocket squares, outside the Naborhood/Sydenham Centre and Station Approach (also in the pedestrian improvement plan) will be paved in York stone, whilst the rest of the high street will have reinforced concrete pavoids. The area around the Post Office and the Naborhood/Sydenham Centre will also be re-modelled to sort out the changes in the various levels.

Lamp columns have been chosen and these will carry the road signs, traffic signals and other street furniture where possible and dis-used phone boxes will be removed. The large circular advertising column will go but other Deceaux advertising panels will, in some cases, be relocated but, because of a longterm contract, cannot be permanently removed.

Puffin (**P**edestrian **U**ser **F**riendly **I**ntelligent) crossings will be installed at the Greyhound, Venner and Queensthorpe Roads. These can detect both waiting and crossing pedestrians and adjust the timing of the lights accordingly. Traffic light controlled crossings will be in operation at Newlands Park and Mayow Road, allowing a pedestrian phase on all roads. Detailed modelling of before and after traffic movements indicate, by using an adjustable linked system of traffic control, journey times on the main road will be 15% faster than currently.

Network Rail has given permission to demolish the low wall next to the estate agents office on the bridge and the toilet block will also be removed. Approaches will be made to Transport for London to see if a toilet facility can be made available within the station building. There will be an undercover bin store built for residents of the flats in Station Approach thereby removing one of the most unattractive aspects of the area greeting visitors to Sydenham.

Lewisham has made a bid to TfL for funding for Phase Two of the Sydenham Road improvements for that part of the road between Mayow Road and Bell Green. The outcome of this bid is awaited.

Crystal Palace Park Public Inquiry outcome

On 22 July, 12 months after the public inquiry was held into the planning application for the Masterplan for Crystal Palace the Secretary of State for Communities (SoS) ruled in favour, in principle, of the approval of the application. The decision has yet to be finalised as there is a reserved matter to be tidied up in a legal manner, i e the £12m match-funding from the permitted development of residential units at Sydenham Gate and on Rockhills, Westwood Hill.

Because of the phasing of the Masterplan, significant work will need to have been done in the park, before the 180 flats can be built to provide an estimated £12m to invest in the park. The SoS therefore requires the reformulation of the S106 agreement to take this into account. Eight weeks has been granted for this to be completed and a further 3 weeks for any comments to be made specifically about the reformulated planning obligation. A final decision approving the Masterplan is due on 6 October.

While the Masterplan was for a full permission there is still a long period of further detailed planning applications to cover the seven areas of the park which form the whole. This includes the residential areas, the top site including a museum building and a viewing tower, the terraces, boating lake etc. A lack of funding could mean significant delays before any work on transforming Crystal Palace Park takes place. No funding is contained within the LDA budget for 2010-11, and it is believed there is no funding to have been set aside by other organisations for these purposes. The LDA now wants to sit down with Bromley Council and the other boroughs bordering the park to discuss

funding the £67m regeneration scheme at a time when the boroughs are being forced to slash tens of millions of pounds from their yearly budgets.

Management of the park will need also to be arranged as the LDA, originally planning to take over the park in 2008 is being subsumed into the GLA. Bromley will not want, nor has the funds to continue ownership of the park. The local boroughs may be interested in buying into the National/Regional Sports Centre (a possibility which has been floated) but are not likely to be interested in becoming part of the governing body of the park. A similar problem is likely to arise with the Lea Valley Park being developed through the LDA. It could therefore be years before any significant work starts.

Good news on the National Sports Centre

Fortunately for sport and for local residents over the past eighteen months the LDA has continued to fund the refurbishment of the National Sports Centre, threatened with closure in March 2004 before the successful London Olympic bid. The swimming and diving facilities, are now to 21st century specifications for international swimming, if not to Olympic standards which require 8-lane swimming, and were re-opened in May last year. Further work has ensured there is now a state of the art gym, refurbished tennis courts, a toddlers' soccer facility and toddlers' gym and recently a climbing wall has been completed. These first class facilities are open to local residents and are not expensive to use. Membership details can be found at <http://www.gll.org/membership/>

A brief history of Sydenham Library

When the Lower Sydenham Public Library (its official name) was opened on 24 September 1904 it was not only the first of five Carnegie libraries to be built in Lewisham, it was one of the very first Carnegie Libraries to be built in England. By 1904 Carnegie Libraries had been built in the USA and Scotland but of more than 100 libraries to be built in England almost all were opened between 1905 and 1909.

The disgraced Mayor of Lewisham, Theophilus Williams (bankrupt, fraudster and suicide, but that's another story) announced proudly at a council meeting on 18 June 1902 that after two months of negotiations he had persuaded philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to donate £9,000 to build two new libraries, one at Crofton Park and one in Lower Sydenham.

Scottish born Carnegie (1835-1919) migrated to the USA in 1848, founded a steel works and eventually became one of the richest people in the world. He believed that those who acquire great wealth had a duty to return it to the community. He also believed that working people and others who wanted improve their situation should be supported and encouraged. An avid reader, Carnegie knew that books were an essential part of providing the opportunities for people to improve their situation so he chose to redistribute much of his wealth by founding libraries in those parts of towns and cities where people would most benefit.

Carnegie also believed that the community itself should contribute something towards their library. He paid for the building but the Council, using local taxes, had to find a suitable site, buy books and employ experienced staff (important, as they offered the knowledge and advice to support their readers' needs).

Local builder Dorrells offered a site in Adamsrill Road. The Council readily accepted, but local people were unhappy; the site was not central and was too distant from the small terraces of houses at Bell Green whose occupants were expected to be its main users. A petition with 1,200 signatures was handed to the Council opposing the Adamsrill Road site. The Council responded. The Trustees of Sir George Grove, who died in 1900, were prepared to sell part of his estate

and in March 1903 the Council bought the land between Grove's house and Home Park.

They then invited six local architects to submit plans for the new library.

Albert L Guy, who lived in Lewisham Park, was chosen. Of the 31 builders who submitted

quotes Perry Brothers' was the lowest, and they were appointed.

At the opening ceremony the mayor was slightly apologetic at the amount of fiction (nearly 3,000 books compared with just over 1000 on art and science and only 398 on theology). He added that a few had objected to the library because it would "help to disseminate betting news and harmful fiction" but that risk was "far outweighed by the educational and moral advantages".

During the 1960s, following concerns about the safety of the entrance from Sydenham Road, the Council decided to build a new entrance on the Home Park side of the library. The work included opening up the ground floor and replacing the original smoked oak furnishings with new furniture and bookshelves. The Mayor opened the refurbished library, with its new side entrance, on 20 July 1963.

Of the five libraries in Lewisham that Andrew Carnegie provided one has been demolished, two are used for other purposes and two are under imminent threat of closure. In other parts of the world (particularly the USA) and other parts of this country Carnegie Libraries are cherished and protected. It is such a pity that in Lewisham, it seems, they are not.

Should Sydenham Library close the probability is that the building will be boarded up and forgotten. It will certainly not become a library again. Instead we will have a small, probably temporary, facility in an inappropriate location with few books and no staff. Sydenham will, in effect, no longer have a library.

Steve Grindlay



Jim Dowd MP helps celebrate Sydenham Library's centenary in 2004.



SAVE SYDENHAM LIBRARY

The proposal to close Sydenham Library was first made public in the Minutes of the Council's Public Accounts Select Committee meeting on July 13th. Council officers presented councillors with a 42-page list of proposed cuts designed to save £60 million over three years and, on page 13, proposed the closure of five libraries; Sydenham, Blackheath, Crofton Park, Grove Park and New Cross. The proposal said a consultation with users and other stakeholders would take place and that: "Service co-location, community management and asset transfer are all being considered as part of these proposals." The officers calculated that the proposed closures would yield savings of £830,000.

As far as Sydenham is concerned the public consultation took place on 19 August at the Grove Centre, some five weeks later. The packed hall heard from Lewisham Council's Steve Gough, Director of Programme Management & Property, and Aileen Buckton, Executive Director Community Services. Hilary Renwick, Head of Cultural Service, and Antonio Rizzo, Director of Library Services, were also present to answer questions.

Steve Gough said the Library would need around £250,000 spent on refurbishing its fabric, a figure that was hotly disputed later, and revealed the reason why the five libraries were selected for closure was because they all needed some major investment in coming years, whereas the remaining seven had recently had large sums spent on refurbishment. This point was conceded later as the council acknowledged that Sydenham Library had been chosen for closure because of previous neglect.

Ms Buckton, implied that the closure was purely motivated by the need to cut the Lewisham Library Service staff budget and conceded that the library was a "well used and much loved" resource, but use wasn't the issue; costs were.

Questions were then invited from the floor. There was immediate criticism of the time and venue of the consultation; it was being held in the school holidays, despite the fact that four local schools used the Library, and the consultation was being held in Upper Sydenham whereas the Library is in Lower Sydenham. It was also pointed out that the Library also serves Bellingham and Perry Vale wards, yet they were apparently not being consulted. This last point led Cllr Best to say that the issue would be discussed at the Bellingham and Perry Vale Assemblies.



Councillors and Council officers were left in no doubt as to the sentiment of those consulted and were given the very strong message: "hands off our library!"

After the meeting a large number of angry people repaired to the Windmill Public House and the Save Sydenham Library campaign was founded. An online petition was immediately started (see www.sydlib.com) and paper versions were printed. A campaign group was established with Friends of Home Park chair, Anthony Scully, elected Chair.

Anthony Scully said: "Sydenham Library is well used and a much loved facility that has served this community for over 100 years. It is used by four local primary schools and offers activities for seniors and families with young children, two groups who would find it difficult to travel to Catford or Forest Hill Libraries, as the council's offered alternatives. It also hosts a regular reading group for people for whom English is a second language and meetings for number of community groups. To close it would rip the communal heart out of Lower Sydenham."

He added: "We have been working hard over the last couple of years to combat crime and anti social activity and make the adjoining park and surrounding area a welcoming place to visit. With the help of the Bellingham and Sydenham Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Lewisham Council, local volunteers have built a community garden, procured funding for an outdoor gym, new play equipment and an outdoor classroom. The Library has been, and continues to be, central to the regeneration of the Park and its proposed closure feels like a kick in the teeth to all those who have worked so hard."



CAMPAIGN



Anthony Scully's comments encapsulate why the campaign against the proposed closure has garnered such widespread support; to the people of Sydenham, Sydenham Library is so much more than a Library. And to the people of Lower Sydenham it is at the heart of a community that feels neglected.

According to Lewisham Council's own statistics Bellingham ward is one of the four most socially deprived wards in the Borough, and in the bottom 20% of the most socially deprived wards in the country. According to BBC commissioned research carried out by Experian, Lewisham is ranked 244th out of 324 local authorities in terms of its resilience to public spending cuts and is characterised by a "high proportion of people vulnerable to long term unemployment, a low level of social cohesion, a high crime rate and high proportion of people claiming unemployment benefits."

Sydenham Library also hosts Opening Doors, which offers practical help to people seeking employment by way of free internet access, free phone calls to potential employers and one-to-one advice. Opening Doors is itself under threat as its central government funding is being cut and Lewisham Council's financial support is under review. The diversity of users of the Library service; from mothers and toddlers to seniors and people for whom English is not their first language promotes social cohesion. Clearly the closure of the Library would see the area slide further down the Experian resilience scale and inhibit Bellingham Ward's efforts to drag itself out of the most 20% socially deprived localities in the country. And this after over £60,000 of public money has been spent on the initiatives in the neighbouring park described by Mr Scully above.

As well as gathering petition signatures the Save Sydenham Library campaigners have submitted a question to the mayor, to be answered at meeting of the Full Council on 23 September :

"What steps has the Mayor taken to consider the social implications of the proposed closure of Sydenham Library with particular regard to:

- (i) the Council's statutory duties under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964;
- (ii) the Library's role as a community hub in one of the poorest parts of the borough;
- (iii) the Council's existing significant financial investment in the area for regeneration purposes with approximately £60,000 for Home Park alone;
- (iv) the substantial housing developments planned for the Lower Sydenham area?"

The Save Sydenham Library Campaign is also asking for people to write to the Mayor, who ultimately holds the fate of the fate of the Library in his hands. He can be emailed at steve.bullock@lewisham.gov.uk or by the library's internal post system to Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham, Town Hall, London SE6 4RU.

The campaign has gathered substantial support in an incredibly short space of time drawing together a group of

people as diverse as those who use the Library. Groups backing the campaign include Friends of Home Park, the Sydenham Society and Sydenham Community Radio. The dynamism of the campaign shows how community organisations can join together to protect valuable community assets. Apart from pre-existing community groups, the way that many Sydenham residents have independently joined the campaign shows that community spirit is alive and well in SE26 and, on this occasion, says loud and clear: "HANDS OFF OUR LIBRARY!"

Simon Banks

Ed: As a footnote to the above a public meeting to discuss the threatened closure has now been arranged by Lewisham Council. It will be held on Monday 11 October at 7pm in the Livesey Hall.



Lewisham Unison is completely opposed to the proposed cuts in jobs and services.

Our public services should not be cut to bail out the banks. Libraries are at the centre of communities, providing books, information, IT access and support. A proper library service serves the young, the old, the homebound, the employed, the unemployed.

Library work is varied and complex and library staff use a wide range of skills and experience to provide a quality service, a library needs a certain critical mass of books and other stock to be a real library.

You cannot substitute volunteers for paid, trained and experienced staff without massively damaging the service. A few trolleys of books cannot be called a library.

Lewisham Unison Library Stewards

Barry Milton

Barry Milton is a member of the Roads and Transport Committee.

When I suggest to Barry that he is 'formidable', he agrees readily. "It's true", he says, "I have a clear idea of what I think is right and wrong, and I'm prepared to put up a fight". Unafraid of controversy, Barry is a tough opponent and a fearless advocate. Believing in absolutes there is no self-interest here, and fight indeed he has from vigorous support for the Sydenham Road improvements and the new residential scheme at Bell Green to unwavering promotion of the long-awaited East London line, now called the Overground; along the way the fight to keep the upside gate open at Sydenham station, and support for the Greyhound redevelopment scheme.

Barry grew up in the north east of Scotland, and came south by way of Swansea University (where he met his partner, Annabel). A stint in teaching Geography in Coventry and then in London persuaded him to pursue a career in publishing, and he and Annabel now run a publishing business from their Sydenham home. They publish photographic books of different parts of Britain; apparently the best-selling titles are aerial views of football and cricket stadiums! Barry is a keen sportsman, a member of the Sydenham Lawn Tennis club and plays racketball or tennis most days.

In the late 1970s the proposal for a dual carriageway through Sydenham, and the campaign to defeat this, fired Barry's interest in transport links. To date Barry has notched up an astonishing twenty-three years on the Society's Roads and Transport committee, and his passion and commitment is evident to all. He is especially proud of the new East London Line, twenty-five years in the making, and considers our train network now to be as good as in any part of London. Barry pays tribute to Pat Trembath for making the Society what it is

today. He believes the Society is the backbone of local events, and it has become, in his words, "the most effective campaigning group in the region".

Changes have started to happen in Sydenham in the last few years, improvements not seen in fifty years. He cites the transformation of Mayow Park, and the proposed £3.5 million regeneration for the High Street. Barry believes the big battles are over, but he is not complacent. He says it is important to remember what a mixed area we live in. We need to reach out to those residents who are under-represented, those in short-term renting, the so-called 'transient population' and become more inclusive. Community is what we all want to work towards and, in Barry's view that is what the Society actually does best. The dictionary defines formidable as 'difficult to defeat'. Whatever fights remain to be fought, let's hope Barry Milton is on our side.



Formidable (adj) **1** arousing or likely to inspire fear or dread. **2** extremely difficult to defeat, overcome, manage etc: **3** tending to inspire awe or admiration because of great size, strength or excellence.

Sue Grindlay

This is the seventh in a series of articles on members of the Sydenham Society. If you would like to be featured in this series, or know someone whose views would be of interest to other members, please contact Sue Grindlay on 020 8699 6398 or sue.grindlay@gmail.com

Dear Editor

WHAT A DUNCE!!

Sixty-three years ago I stood in a waste paper bin in the corner of a classroom at Adamsrill Primary School because I had mis-heard the teacher's instructions to draw a squirrel. I was convinced she had said scribble. So I did! My penance was the said bin complete with the conical shaped hat with a large 'D' in bright red prominently displayed on the front. Funny the odd things that stick in one's brain.

I lived on the cusp in those days. Priestfield Road was strictly Forest Hill and Adamsrill Road, Sydenham. But Adamsrill was my chosen school. I recall the school to this day, although doubtless things have changed. Down the back stairs every week to see nurse and the steel comb dipped in vile smelling liquid which was scraped across one's scalp. The 'tuck' shop on the corner of Adamsrill and Perry Rise – run by Florie?– besieged at the close of school by urchins hunting for a penny bargain. Should we go straight home down the back alley into Lescombe Close where I might catch sight

of my sweetheart Marcia or along to the Gas Works at Bell Green and sneak past the gate and into the world of hissing pipes and strange smells? In those days at 5 or 6 years old we made our own way to and from school.

I spent many happy hours in the Children's Hospital as I had a penchant for falling off walls and broken limbs were part of growing up. Home Park was the football stadium; Mayow Park was for cricket. Like Gwen Anstey in your Summer edition I, too, recall rolling down the grass at the side of the pitch. Was that really you, Gwen??

Weekend excitement took me, and good friend Micky, on a 194 bus to Croydon Airport or on a 108 through Blackwall Tunnel. Oh, the excitement of waiting for a newly painted bus to arrive before boarding. We would stand for hours just waiting for the right bus. Criterion Ice Cream Parlour – a free cornet for helping push the guy with the cart up the hills of Lescombe and Priestfield into Houston Road; the Granada in Sydenham or the Capitol at Forest Hill for Saturday morning pictures. And so on. They called them the Good Old Days and they were.

David Scrivener

Sir August Manns

August Manns was Musical Director of the Crystal Palace from 1855 to 1891, and made two very important contributions to English music. One was his role in bringing to the fore the vital contribution to music performances by the orchestral conductor. The other was to introduce the works of Schumann, Brahms, Dvorak, Schubert, Sir Arthur Sullivan and many others to sceptical English audiences.



When in 1854 Queen Victoria opened the rebuilt Crystal Palace on Sydenham Hill, Henry Schallehen, a German ex-military bandmaster, was appointed Musical Director. In turn he appointed August Manns as assistant-conductor and clarinetist. The first performance took place in front of the Queen at the opening ceremony.

Unfortunately, when August Manns was asked to compose something special for a Grand Fete to raise money for widows and orphans of troops fighting in the Crimean Schallehen claimed it as his own, and this created a rift between him and Manns resulting in Manns being dismissed. Understandably, Manns reacted strongly to the injustice and gave the matter well-deserved publicity in the press arousing such passion that Schallehen was dismissed and Manns was given his post, which he held for many years.

August Manns was German, and grew up in a large family that cared very much about music, and helped the children to play instruments. In 1857 Manns married Sarah Ann Williams, and the couple moved to 135 Knights Hill in West Norwood (which survives), where their only child, Auguste Kate Frederica, was born. Over the next years they moved to 174 Kirkdale, Sydenham (which also still survives), Balham High Road, Dulwich Wood Park and Central Hill, Upper Norwood. They finally settled at Gleadale, 4 Harold Road, Upper Norwood in about 1891.

In 1903 Manns was knighted and was made an honorary Doctor of Music in recognition of his services to music. In 1906 he and his wife made a last move to White Lodge, Biggin Hill, where he died in 1907. Sadly none of his descendants survived in England. When Manns lived in Kirkdale he was very close to St Bartholomew's Church where his friend Sir George Grove

worshipped. In 1893 Manns collaborated with Dr Frederick Shinn, the organist and choirmaster of the church, in producing 'A catalogue of the Principal Instrumental and Choral Works performed at the Saturday Concerts (1855-1895)' and 'Forty Seasons of Saturday Concerts at the Crystal Palace: a retrospect and an appeal' (Crystal Palace Company, 1896).

On Manns' 70th birthday in 1895 Sir George Grove paid him the following tribute:

'We have to express our gratitude for your efforts at the head of the Crystal Palace orchestra by which the works of many of the great composers have been introduced to England, in a manner well worthy of the fame of those great men. No Englishman could have given more encouragement to our native school than you have given by your cordial behaviour to our composers and performers, by the extraordinary pains you have bestowed upon their works, and the careful and brilliant performances by which you have introduced them to the public.

As your first friend in this country, I may be permitted to acknowledge the honour and gratification which I have felt at working by your side for many years, and the pleasure which our uninterrupted friendship has given me.'

A fitting tribute to a man who gave so much to the world of music.

Steve Grindlay



Ed: A much longer article about August Manns, written by Steve Grindlay, is available on the following link: <http://sydenhamforesthillhistory.blogspot.com/>

Crystal Clear – Music at Crystal Palace – the story of Sir August Manns is on 9 October at 7.30pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill. Tickets on sale at Kirkdale Bookshop £10/£8 concs

Sydenham Arts Festival 2011

As the 2010 Summer Season finishes plans are already underway for the 2011 Sydenham Arts Festival which will take place between 1 and 17 July, next year. If you would like to get involved in any way please contact Festival Director Jonathan Kaufmann (07904 505923) or Assistant Festival Administrator Pat Trembath (8659 4903).

IT'S NOT GRIM UP NORTH

Ed comment: Great minds think alike, or so the saying goes. Within a couple of weeks of the opening of the new East London Line I was approached separately by Neil (real ale and pub guru) and Jonathan (a real foodie) with ideas about writing a series of introductions to the pleasures of drinking and eating out in the newly accessible area of East London. Here is the first of a series of articles, beautifully crafted, which I hope will tempt local residents to hop on the Overground and try pastures new at personally recommended hostelries and eateries.

A Guide to Some of the Pubs on the Northern Stretch of the East London Line...

Sydenham pub-goers, often less than thrilled by the pubs on offer locally, can find a feast of new pub experiences to enjoy, now the recently re-opened East London Line goes all the way to Dalston Junction. There are good pubs to be found near all the stations along the line and this article, the first of a series, begins by looking at Dalston, the end of the line.

The previously-uncharted (at least by a southern softy like me) territory of Dalston is a goldmine for those who enjoy the endlessly fascinating architecture of London's Victorian suburbs, in particular the faded grandeur of our capital's purpose-built nineteenth century pubs. And, a bonus for real ale lovers, all of the following serve traditional cask-conditioned beer by hand-pump.

Emerging from Dalston Junction station one is immediately confronted by the sad sight of two impressive Victorian pubs having seen better days. Slightly to the right is the Railway Tavern – a William Hill betting shop – and to the left of the main crossroads the Crown and Castle – a noodle bar. Look up and see the evidence of the former glory of both pubs.

A short walk west takes you to the **Duke of Wellington** (119 Balls Pond Road). This handsome Victorian corner pub displays, magnificently, an old Watney's sign outside. The original Victorian features inside have been sympathetically retained by the current licensees, including old dark wood and etched-glass screens and the floor of one entrance retains the name of the pub in original Victorian mosaic tiling. A selection of real ales is offered and kept in excellent condition and one can sample beers from Sambrook's, a small and relatively new London brewery based in Battersea. Food is offered daily - see their web-site for more information: www.thedukeofwellingtonl.com.

Other worthy pubs within walking distance of Dalston Junction include the **Scolt Head** (107a Culford Rd), an elegant Victorian corner pub; the **Stag's Head** (Orsman Rd, Hoxton), a splendidly traditional 1930s back street boozier, included in CAMRA's inventory of London pubs with interiors of special interest; the **Prince George** (40 Parkholme Rd.), a pleasingly traditional pub; and the **Prince Arthur** (95 Forest Rd.), just a couple of minutes walk from the Prince George and architecturally another good-looking Victorian corner pub.

Neil Pettigrew, Pub Preservation Officer for the South East London branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale).



A Medieval Christmas

Sunday 5 December

Sydenham Music is promoting a medieval musical celebration and 3-course dinner at the Dolphin PH. Medieval Christmas Carols and Folk Music will be played between courses and after dinner by the amazing medieval group Joglaresa www.joglaresa.com. Medieval dress may be worn. A full range of medieval drinks including beer, cider and mead, will be available at the bar, but are not included in the ticket price. Numbers limited and tickets (£36) must be bought in advance from Kirkdale Bookshop or the Dolphin.

Practical Action Group Open meetings

At the Friends Meeting House, 34 Sunderland Road
Wednesday 6 Oct. 2010 – 7pm – “Where’s the catch?” a talk by Dr Ian Dunn on developing fisheries and fish farming in poor countries. Free entry.

Wednesday 1 Dec. 2010 – 7pm – a talk on “William Morris and the Artisan” by Dr Jane Ennis of the William Morris Society. Free entry.

All welcome! More details from: 8693 6774, email paselgroup@yahoo.co.uk. To find out more about the charity visit www.practicalaction.org.uk Coffee, tea, etc. home made preserves, Christmas gifts and cards on sale.

IT'S NOT GRIM UP NORTH continued

And a Guide to Some of the Restaurants...

It took me 35 minutes. Dalston Junction is the last stop on the shiny new, open plan Overground train from Sydenham. It's not that we have nowhere good to eat locally, but the East End has now opened up and those with an adventurous spirit should make that trip.

It took me 35 minutes. Dalston Junction is the last stop on the shiny new, open plan Overground train from Sydenham. It's not that we have nowhere good to eat locally, but the East End has now opened up and those with an adventurous spirit should make that trip.

Turning left out of Dalston Junction station takes you to the junction of Balls Pond Road, North is Kingsland High Street; south, Kingsland Road takes you back to Haggerston. I want to take you up Kingsland High Street and show you what's on offer.

I had a late brunch in Dalston Superstore, at 117 Kingsland High Street, a 5-minute walk past Dalston Kingsland station. It's a very chilled bar in the day with American diner style 2-seater leather benches and high tables. Mannequins and puppets hang on the walls, a roof window keeps it airy and bright.

The tiny kitchen produces quick tasty dishes. I had the French toast with streaky bacon and maple syrup. Simple and tasty with fresh thick cut bread. The Portobello and Paris mushrooms on toast with garlic and parsley sauce was excellent, too. With freshly squeezed juices and "Square Mile" coffee, it's perfect for brunch. It is also the kind of place you can lounge all day and a DJ brings the place alive in the evening. There is a great cocktail list (£8.50 each) and what is described on the drinks board as Fancy Wine at £4.50 a

glass. Skinny jeans are the trend but the Dalston Superstore welcomes all.

Just next door at 115, is Evin, a friendly, cozy Turkish restaurant. Open all day and with free wifi it attracts the locals to surf and sip coffee and graze meze. Before 5pm, a lady sits by the window, making fresh Gozleme, a wonderfully light and tasty Turkish pancake: thin and toasted. Tables turn around quickly, though you can sit there all evening if you want. The humus and grilled aubergine puree with tahini and yoghurt was perfect with the freshly made pancakes. Choosing a kebab from their choice of 13 was tricky – I loved the grilled minced lamb meatballs on a skewer which came with rice and grilled peppers. Fresh, authentic Turkish food with plenty of choice and lots of vegetarian options. Try the Turkish red. Trust me.

As you walk back towards Dalston Junction you pass the Rio Cinema at 107, Kingsland High Street – £8.50 for a full price ticket. They have all the new releases but also quirky daytime and weekend alternatives. Over 60's have a free matinee on a Wednesday. The Vortex Jazz Club, part of the Dalston Culture House complex, just off Gillett Square is a great place to lounge in the day-time – and listen to music in the evening.

Jonathan S. Clarke

Dalston Superstore: 020 7254 2273

www.evincafe.co.uk: 0207 254 5634

www.riocinema.ndirect.co.uk: 0207 241 9410

www.vortexdownstairs.co.uk: 0207 923 9532

Sydenham Mosaic Project

Following comments on the design for the mosaic at the Sydenham Assembly in June the Mosaic Committee agreed with the Artist, Oliver Budd, on a design called 'Spheres'

The Project took part in the Visual Arts Trail organised by Sydenham Arts Festival. Approximately 75 people viewed examples of Oliver's work, especially the new 'Spheres' design. They were invited to comment on the possible content of the 'Spheres' Sydenham's history and achievements. Oliver has been working on a mosaic for the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in West London but is now free to begin working on sketches for the 'Spheres' taking into account the comments that have been made.

The Project's latest fund raising activity for the redecoration of the Naborhood /Sydenham Centre, the Thorpes Attic Sale on 12 September, raised in excess of £1500, the final sum is not available as we go to press.

Valerie Kelly, Robert Side 8778 4775

Geoffrye Museum visit

Friday 26 November

Sydenham Society organised trip to the exhibition "400 years of seasonal Christmas Traditions in English Homes" followed by lunch at the Museum. Recapture the magic of Christmas with a visit to *Christmas Past*. Each year, the museum's eleven period rooms are decorated in authentic festive style, evoking some of the rich and colourful traditions and celebrations of Christmases past which are often forgotten amid the hubbub of the modern festive season. From feasting, dancing and kissing under the mistletoe to playing parlour games, decorating the tree and throwing cocktail parties, *Christmas Past* illustrates how Christmas has been celebrated in English middle-class homes from 1600 to the present day. A feast for the eyes and the soul.

Meet at Sydenham Station at 11am.

Mayow Park News Summer 2010

In March we welcomed Gilles, our new park keeper, and his presence has been much valued. Not only does he pick up litter and trim the grass edges by the paths, but he also keeps a watchful eye on activities in the park and chats to people who are interested in the park.

A bird walk round the park in May let people watch birds flying to and from their nests to feed their young, including a woodpecker and some parakeets.

Sunday 18th July 2010 was The Big Lunch, with people bringing food to share while socialising in the sunshine. The Community Garden continued to show off its visual and edible delights throughout the summer with bees flying around the flowers and courgettes growing abundantly. The cricket square was constructed at the end of August and is now fenced off to allow grass to grow. Due to strong winds, three mature trees lost limbs at the end of August and these fallen branches were left on the ground.

The Friends of Mayow Park would have liked to write about progress with building the older children's play area. However, our plans are on hold as the Government has recently clawed back Playbuilder funds from the final year of the scheme, except for projects where work has already started. The Friends are rather dismayed, having put much time and effort into consulting young people, holding a competition to design a sign and drawing a plan for the site. FOMP members are now considering other ways of raising funds so that the momentum will not be lost. The Friends are also hoping to raise funds towards a modern drinking water fountain, which would be located in the vicinity of the ornamental Victorian fountain, near existing drinking water supplies.

Alona Sheridan and Hilary Jarrett

News from Sydenham Wells Park

In May we met up with Ashley White from the conservation department from Wild London who did a Bat walk with full knowledge of different variety of Bat. There was a very good turn out and with the bat meters we were able to identify four species, the Common Pipistrelle, the Soprano Pipistrelle, the Daubenton's bat and the Noctule bat. It was a good evening and the bats gave us a wonderful display. We have a local neighbour who has very kindly made some bat boxes which have still to be erected.

Last autumn we unfortunately lost several trees in the park due to high winds, some silver birches including a few other species. The handkerchief tree which died a while back has been finally taken down and we are now in need of some more trees to replace the ones that have fallen or died. The bird cherry tree planted by Pat Trembath and Longton Avenue Residents Association's gingko are doing well.

The wildlife corridor planned by local resident Annette Elliott-Dunn has taken off very well and there have been several planting up sessions.

In July The London Bubble Theatre came with performances of the "Sirens of Titan" which, as usual, was a real fun production with great atmosphere as dusk drew in and their lights and candles were used

Green Chain have provided us with a bench at the top of the park and a sign post to direct the new Green Chain extension out to walkers.

Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group meets four times a year and is open to interested local residents who meet with council officers and Glendale to discuss the planned management of the park. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 23 November at 6pm in the hut at the Wells Park entrance.

Monika Mitchell

Chair, Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group

Beckenham Place Community Trust

The newly-formed 'not for profit' Beckenham Place Community Trust is one of two bidders shortlisted by Lewisham Council for the restoration and management of the historic Grade 2* listed mansion in Beckenham Place Park.

The Trust was formed by members of the Friends of Beckenham Place Park and the Lewisham Environment Trust coming together with several other parties with a wide range of experience and qualification including architects, historic buildings' experts, retired entrepreneurs, journalists, historians – who have joined those who have spent many years working voluntarily to promote the public use and enjoyment of Beckenham Place Park.

If successful the Trust aims to restore the mansion to the standards required by English Heritage and then manage it so as to ensure that it is used for public and community activities

with public access fully restored. The Trust's aims include educational, leisure and recreational uses for the mansion – with a focus on community and 'regional' activities.

David Hansom, Chair of the Trust says, 'Everything we know about Beckenham Place Park tells us that it is not only much-loved but that park users see the Mansion as its focal point. They value the fact that it is there and that they can use it on a daily basis. They have been increasingly saddened by the state into which the building has been allowed to descend in the last 20 years. Everyone we have spoken to has supported our proposal to bring it back to its proper state. We receive messages of support every week at our Visitor centre in the Mansion.'

It is believed that the other bidder is a private enterprise that wishes to use the Mansion for commercial events.

Dates for your Diary

If you have a suggestion for a Syd Soc event please call Jackie Aldridge on 8778 5455.

Saturday October 9 – 7.30pm at St Bartholomew’s Church, Westwood Hill. Crystal Clear – a concert to celebrate the conductor Sir August Manns, organised jointly by the Sydenham and Norwood Societies and the Crystal Palace Foundation – £10/£8 concs. Tickets available through Kirkdale Bookshop.

Monday 11 October – 7pm at Livesey Hall, Bell Green. Public meeting to discuss threatened closure of Sydenham Library organised by Lewisham Council.

Tuesday 26 October – 7.30pm. Club 26 meets to eat at Trattoria Rafeale. Phone: 8778 6262 to reserve your place, mentioning you are part of the 26 Club. After the meal it is proposed that those who wish can pop next door to enjoy Jazz at the Golden Lion PH.

Saturday November 6 – a walk over the Surrey Hills from Woldingham to Oxted. Meet at Sydenham station at 10.10am (for full details see p.13.)

Friday 26 November – Club 26 will visit the Geoffrye Museum to see its exhibition “400 years of seasonal Christmas Traditions in English Homes” followed by lunch at the Museum. Meet at Sydenham Station at 11am – (for full details see p.12).

Thursday 30 December – Post Christmas stroll – Meet at 11am at the entrance to Low Cross Wood Lane, opposite the Dulwich Woodhouse, for our annual stroll through Sydenham Hill Woods, this time finishing at the Harvester on Dulwich Common for a seasonal drink and maybe some food. The woods can be muddy so stout footwear is essential. Contact Iris (8693 9525) or Jackie (8778 5455) for any further information.

Wednesday 26 January – Club 26 - meet at 11am at the end of the Spine Road, by Sainsbury’s at Bell Green, to walk along the Pool River to Catford for lunch at the Broadway Theatre.

Tuesday 8 February – 7.45pm at the Golden Lion PH – Sydenham Society’s quarterly Quiz Nite in aid of a local charity. Contact Jackie (8778 5455) or Pat (8659 4903) if you would like to take part.

Dulwich Picture Gallery autumn and winter exhibitions

15 September – 28 November – Salvator Rosa (1615 – 1673) “Bandits, Wilderness and Magic”. Salvator Rosa was one of the boldest and powerfully inventive artists of the Italian 17th century.

15 December – 27 March – “Norman Rockwell’s America”. One of America’s best loved illustrators and best-known for the 322 covers he created for the Saturday Evening Post.

January – December 2011 “Masterpiece of the Month, Presiding Genius” – every month during the Gallery’s bicentenary year a spectacular masterpiece will hang on the end wall of the Gallery’s enfilade. Paintings will be borrowed from major institutions with which Dulwich has a special relationship or historic link.

For example December 2011 Domenichino’s “Adoration of the Shepherds” originally belonged to the Dulwich collection but was sold to raise money in 1971. Other artists range from Velazques to Hockney, and from Rembrandt to Constable. Further information about exhibitions see www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Woldingham to Oxted Walk

Saturday 6 November

A walk in wooded countryside over the North Downs to the pleasant town of Oxted, with lunch at The Old Bell (lunch deal £4.95 with a starter or dessert just £2 extra). After lunch return from Oxted station or continue for a further mile and a half past Oxted Mill to catch the train at Hurst Green station. The walk is approximately four miles and is almost entirely off-road using quiet well-established footpaths. There is a gentle but steady uphill slope on the first stretch before the descent down to Oxted; stout shoes essential. Please note that there are no “comfort stops” between East Croydon station and Oxted!

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

Forest Hill Pools – A new leisure centre approved for Lewisham

A new 2-pool leisure and fitness centre, to replace Forest Hill Pools on Dartmouth Road, was approved by Lewisham Council Planning Committee on 22 July 2010.

The facility is Lewisham's fourth new leisure centre development to be approved in recent years. A new leisure complex was opened in Downham in 2007, and an additional 25-metre pool was opened at Wavelengths Leisure Centre in Deptford in 2008. A third leisure centre is currently being built in Lewisham Town Centre to replace the leisure facility at Ladywell.

A building contractor for the development will be appointed before the end of the year and the Council aims to have the new leisure centre in public use by late-2012.

This new planning application for Forest Hill allows for the alteration, part demolition and refurbishment of the existing Forest Hill Pools building to provide a new pool and leisure centre behind the existing Victorian frontage which will be retained. Demolition and ground preparation has commenced.

The existing frontage will be refurbished to form the main entrance and reception to the building as well as providing a changing area on the first floor. The majority of the facilities will be provided in the proposed modern additions.



Facilities in the new building will include a 25-metre pool, a 16.7-metre learner pool, fitness gym, 2 studios, community room and a café. The new development will include facilities and access for those people with disabilities. There will be disabled parking, bicycle and motorcycle parking and a drop-off area for vehicles.

A new "pocket park" is also to be landscaped around the new building and extended along Dartmouth Road to provide a public open space.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Janice Brooklyn

Mr D S Burne

Alexandra Carter

Nat & Olga Moser

Christina Rannert

Kelly Rust

Dennis A Smith

Robert Smith

E-NEWSLETTERS

These are emails sent approximately once a week 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 email 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.

I will shortly be contacting members whose 2010 subscriptions are outstanding. Please check with me if you are unsure as to whether you have paid.

Roger Feather Tel: 8778 4318

Email: membership@sydenhamsociety.com

