

SYDENHAM SOCIETY

NEWS

Summer 2011

The future of Sydenham Library

I am happy to report that Lewisham Council, after many difficult months, is working with Darren Taylor from Eco Computer Systems to ensure that from 29 May a community library service will be running at Sydenham Library.

At the December Sydenham Assembly meeting Darren talked about his proposal to run Sydenham Library based on his own business model run from Pepys Resource Centre. The Social Enterprise specialises in rebuilding, repairing and recycling computers and other IT equipment some of which is then sold commercially to support community and charity projects.

Darren and his team were present at the Community Interest Event which took place on 12 April at the Town Hall and talked about Eco Computers' commitment to mixed-use community hubs that include a professionally managed library service fully integrated with the borough's library service. As well as income generated by sales of recycled IT equipment there would be income from training, a community café and other activities. Darren wishes to provide a very welcoming space for residents to meet and run other activities that include the Sydenham Film Club and Sydenham Community Radio.

Darren is proposing that Sydenham Library will be staffed by a mixture of paid staff and volunteers so that the library opening hours will be doubled from the present 26 hours to 52 hours a week. Sydenham Library will have a steering committee comprised of local organisations and other active citizens on a voluntary basis.

Lewisham Council is granting a 25-year full repairing and insuring lease on a nil rent and will provide one-off transitional funding for the self-issue technology. The Council will provide outreach staff from Forest Hill Library and is agreeing the best way to ensure access to ICT and wifi within the building that reflects the needs of local residents and complements other activities taking place in the building. In addition to Lewisham



maintaining the library stock held within the building local residents will have access to over 5 million items through the London Libraries Consortium which can be reserved in any library and online.

Lewisham's Library Service will build on its experience of developing community capacity and existing projects that encourage children to read such as Chatterbooks, Bookstart, Bookcrawl and the Summer Reading Challenge; reading groups for all ages and communities of interest; School class visits and Homework clubs; Author visits and readings and the many other activities that take place at Sydenham Library.

The cuts in funding from central Government are very challenging over a wide range of services and in looking at different solutions I trust that Sydenham Library will become a vibrant community hub.

Cllr Chris Best, Sydenham Ward and Cabinet Member for Community Services

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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD VOICE

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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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Peter Fookes John Getgood Katherine Bance

SOUTHWARK COUNCILLORS

Town Hall Peckham Road SE5 8UB
7525 5000

College Ward

Helen Hayes Lewis Robinson Andy Simmons

OTHER CONTACTS

Community Police Teams

Community Police contact non-emergency numbers for Lewisham have all changed to **0300 123 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 5 August.

Syd Soc members – visit any National Trust and English Heritage property for free

Dear Society Member

The Society is now a member of Civic Voice – the national charity for the civic movement with Griff Rhys Jones as its president – which has been extremely effective in campaigning nationally on our behalf.

I'm delighted to pass on to you a fantastic benefit which comes courtesy of our membership of Civic Voice. This means that Sydenham Society members can enjoy free entry to both a National Trust and an English Heritage property per annum.

This offer includes you and your partner and could save you up to £50 in entry fees. And if you're already a member of the NT, you can transfer this offer to friends and family. Not a bad deal for the annual £5 or £6 fee it costs to belong to the Sydenham Society!

Here are the details of the offer:

National Trust: a free National Trust pass is available to download by members at the following link: www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer. This pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family if you are already a member of the National Trust.

English Heritage: the free English Heritage pass can be used between 1 April and 30 June and between 1 September and 31 January 2012. It is available to download at the following

link: www.civicvoice.org.uk/englishheritagepartnership. This pass is not transferable.

If you don't have internet access either or both passes can be obtained on request by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ. Please include your contact details and state that you are a member of the Sydenham Society. If both you and your partner are members of the Society, just apply for two passes using the instructions above.

National Trust properties within easy reach of Sydenham include the Red House (Bexleyheath), Sutton House (Hackney), Morden Hill Park, Carlyle's House, Old Soar Manor, Ham House and Petworth House & Park.

English Heritage properties include: the Ranger's House (Blackheath), Eltham Palace, Kenwood House, Apsley House and Wellington Arch, Down House, Lullingstone Roman Villa and Eynsford Castle.

You'll be delighted to see on page 13 that our hardworking Events Committee has already organised a group visit for Society members to Eastbury Manor House in Barking on July 26. Why not join them and take advantage of free entry to this important brick-built Tudor gentry house.

Annabel McLaren, Chair, Sydenham Society

Planning revolution – now you decide what's built in your neighbourhood!

Always complaining about what's being built around Sydenham? Want to see a different range of shops and businesses in SE26?

The government's Localism Bill, which is currently going through Parliament and is timetabled to achieve Royal Assent in November 2011, might change all that. The aim is to turn local planning on its head, take powers away from developers and local councils, and hand them over to the community.

Sounds too good to be true? Well not if you read the main provisions of this Bill which aims to ensure that communities come together to decide what their area should look like, where new shops, offices or homes should go and what green spaces should be protected.

The Bill envisages that a Neighbourhood Forum will draw up a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This plan covers all areas of local planning except for those drawn up by strategic planning authorities such as the London Mayor or the Department of Transport/Network Rail. If local people vote in favour of the Development Plan in a local referendum, Lewisham council will have to adopt the plan and the local planning committee is compelled to adhere to that plan when considering planning applications.

"Pre-determination" will be at the heart of Neighbourhood Development Plans. If a developer wants to construct something in an area then the onus is on that developer to persuade

the Neighbourhood Forum of the value of the proposed development at an early stage. Developers will be allowed "without prejudice" to have pre-application talks with Forums to ascertain their attitude to any proposed development. The developer has a duty to provide full details of the development with drawings and should seek to persuade local people of the value of proposed plans before starting work on an application.

In some cases, a developer may draw up plans in conjunction with a Neighbourhood Forum. Such a "site specific" plan will be known as a Neighbourhood Development Order and will not require planning permission.

To discourage nimbysism, neighbourhoods will benefit directly from extra money for their locality (known as a Community Infrastructure Levy in the jargon) coming from any sizeable planning application which they approve.

Clearly, this Bill has a long way to go before it becomes law and many issues have yet to be clarified but it does point the way to a very different future where local people are in charge of what is and isn't built in their neighbourhood.

If you want to find out more about the Localism Bill and how it is intended to work, come along to the London Forum meeting which will be held at The Gallery, 75 Cowcross Street, EC1, near Farringdon station at 6pm on July 5. The speaker will be Tony Travers of the London School of Economics, an expert on the governance of London and the Localism Bill.

Sydenham Buildings Locally Listed

Sydenham is celebrating Lewisham Council's decision to add 50 more structures to its List of buildings of special historic or architectural merit.

While systems have been in place for the Statutory listing of buildings in England and Wales since 1947, it was only in 1973 that Lewisham first drew up its own "local" list.

Locally listing a building doesn't afford the same amount of legal protection – or impose the same restrictions – as Statutory listing, but it does raise the profile of our local heritage and a locally listed building can expect to receive extra protection from inappropriate development.

The latest listing features commercial, public and domestic buildings. It highlights some of the precious assets in our area – some of those jewels on our streets that are often taken for granted or passed unseen.

offering to support an associated community project (they will be looking for ideas here) and willingness to attend local amenity society meetings if invited.

Some gems from the treasure chest:

Kelvin Grove Adult Education Centre (Kirkdale Institute)

- Opened by Sir Joseph Paxton in March 1861 as the Sydenham Public Lecture Hall.
- Paxton designed the building, the plans being modified by Henry Dawson.
- Extended c.1905 by architect William Flockhart.
- Materials used include red, black and grey brickwork, slate, rough-cast render.
- Three impressive chimney-stacks.
- Tall, arched windows flood the interior with light.
- Flanking the entrance to the site are two historic dressed gate piers, one of which retains a glass lantern light.
- Not merely a monument to the importance the Victorians placed on education and improvement for the workers, the Centre has remained a hub of Education for Sydenham residents ever since. It's been a school and is now the home of Adult Education in Sydenham.
- A campaign is underway to save the Centre as a place for lifelong learning.

Sydenham Library

Opened in 1904, Lower Sydenham Library was one of the first Carnegie libraries to be built in England. The newly formed Borough of Lewisham had campaigned hard to persuade philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to donate the £9000 necessary to build two new libraries: one at Crofton Park and one in Lower Sydenham. Though Carnegie paid for the building of the structure, the site, stock and staff were all paid for from local taxes.

Local architect Albert L. Guy designed the fine building, which was erected on part of what had been Sir George Grove's garden.

Carnegie's libraries were empowering. They were the first to allow ordinary people to browse the stacks of books for themselves, rather than having to approach a librarian.

For over a century, Sydenham library has provided entertainment, education and hope to local residents.

- Mainly single storey and built of red brick with stone detailing.
- Twin gables frame the original grand entrance, which retains its original stone columns and portico, surmounted by the Coat of Arms of the Borough of Lewisham and the words "Public Library". (The library is now accessed via a side entrance.)

Fox & Hounds Public House (Now Fox's), 150 Kirkdale

Somewhere to stop off when you're thirsty and footsore from your tour of the Local List!

- There's been a licensed pub on this site since 1826, with the current building being built in the early 1890s to a design by Thomas Haliburton Smith.
- Particularly interesting are the first floor oriel windows.
- The local protection is especially welcome for Fox's as the adjacent Queen Anne style buildings at 134-146 Kirkdale are Grade II English Heritage listed.
- This terrace is called the "High Street Buildings". It was so named because the section of Kirkdale that runs between Wells Park Road and Dartmouth Road, was actually called "High Street, Sydenham" until 1936. This parade was Sydenham's main shopping centre.
- Do look up at the very dramatic roofline!

Residential housing is also included in the new Local List and includes:

48-56 Lawrie Park Gardens

- Proof, if any were needed, that you don't have to be a trained architect to design homes that people would want to live in.
- These fine houses are the work of prolific local builder Edward (Ted) Christmas and were built between 1929 and 1931.
- Ted was inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement and, as a trained carpenter, gave great attention to the detail in his designs.
- Examples of "Christmas Houses" can be found all over Sydenham and Forest Hill, including in Thorpewood Avenue, Perry Vale and – also newly added to the local list Round Hill.

Lewisham's Local List will soon be available online ... watch this space for further information.

English Heritage's searchable database of Statutorily listed buildings can be found at <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/>

Mary McKernan (with thanks to Steve Grindlay)

Sydenham Arts Festival 2011 Friday 1- Sunday 17 July

The third fantastic Sydenham Arts Festival is coming this July. Open to everyone and with many events completely free, seventeen packed days of quality arts entertainment, exhibitions, performances and workshops promise to transform this summer, here in Sydenham.

An exciting line-up includes Sir Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate from 1999-2009, who will be appearing at Sydenham School on the opening Saturday, and BAFTA-award winning playwright Roy Williams will be leading a free playwriting workshop for young people at Forest Hill School. Also on Saturday, 2 July, Laban Dance Centre will run dance workshops for all ages – just one opportunity to participate yourself!

One of the many free events and a highlight this year is Arts in the Park & Family Fun Day in Home Park on Sunday 3 July – five fun-filled hours of music, dance, theatre, clowning, poetry and more. An open-air screening of the original Italian Job in Mayow Park; a wonderfully lively Street Celebration on Sydenham High Street; and the innovative Pop Up Theatre Project, transforming empty shops into urban theatre spaces, give a flavour of the open-to-all experiences that will be on offer.

And, of course, the ever-popular Visual Arts Trail returns, running over two weekends, with artists opening their homes and studios throughout the SE26 and SE23 area.

And that's not to mention the forty or so brilliant events

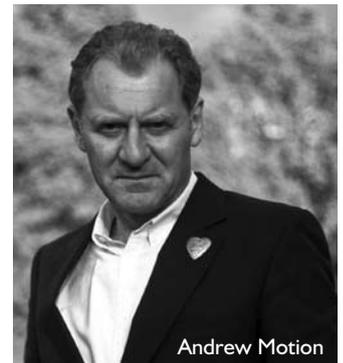


happening throughout – Balalaika, Alex Carter, Wind in the Willows open-air, Breakthrough Battle of the Bands with special guests The Woodentops, jazz, blues, Lambeth Wind Orchestra, London Flute Ensemble, cello concert, Raise the Roof Choir and Sydenham Sings! poetry, jewellery-making and stage combat workshops, Edinburgh preview comedy shows upstairs at The Hob, and two exhilarating opening and closing events: Lorna Marshall Soul Night and Vocaliberation with vocal percussionist Randolph Matthews. Indeed there is something for everyone.

Look out for the free brochure, listing programme details at local libraries, shops, pubs and cafes from early June onwards. And check out the Festival website www.sydenhamartsfestival.co.uk for regular updates, as well as programme information and online booking.

Sydenham Arts Festival 2011 has received a great deal of support and generous assistance with funding from Lewisham Council, Arts Council of England and Property World, as well as many local advertisers and sponsors, including the Sydenham Society, all of whom are listed in the brochure.

Further support has been offered by many local businesses and organisations in the form of free venue space for many of this year's events, as well as time offered by a volunteer team of local residents. Sydenham Arts Festival 2011 really is about coming together as a community to celebrate creativity in all its guises.



Andrew Motion

From a recent Daily Telegraph article by local resident John Gibbons:

"...The Apostrophe Protection Society (www.apostrophe.fsnet.co.uk) also exposes the guilty (dozens of horrendous examples caught on camera) and gives simple guidelines for the doubtful.

And as a sub-editor on The Sunday Telegraph, I seemed the right man for the job. I didn't have three months and a continent to explore, but even a few hours in London yielded some splendid sites for typo eradication, and some charming encounters.

I started near my home in south London. You could not ask for a bolder blunder than that of The Two Half's, a pub in Sydenham Road. Jacqui Jennings, its manager, has only been there a few weeks, so she couldn't tell who was responsible for its stridently inaccurate sign.

The Half's used to be a furniture warehouse; it was given its name when the pub chain Jack Beard's took it on about 10 years ago, and it has always been f-apostrophe-s.

Has anybody pointed out that the spelling is wrong? "Only my daughter, Alivia," says Jacqui. Alivia is 10.

Almost across the road from the pub stands Wear Abouts, which sells "Childrens Wear". It is frantically busy with back-to-school trade, but Mohamed Khamboo, the proprietor, gladly spares a few minutes. "Who designed the sign? I'll tell you who it was – the man who came up with the slogan 'Beanz Meanz Heinz'...."

Visit to Faversham – Weds 24 August

An opportunity to visit one of Britain's finest medieval towns, established before the Romans invaded Britain. Faversham was the cradle of the UK's explosives industry and the first gunpowder plant was established in the 16th century at Chart Gunpowder Mills, which was the centre of this country's explosive industry for over 400 years and are the oldest of their kind in the world. Gunpowder was made there for Nelson at Trafalgar and Wellington at Waterloo. In peacetime their product blasted the routes for our network of railways and canals. Chart Gunpowder Mills were restored by the Faversham Society, members of whom will provide a guided tour of the Mills in the morning and a walking tour of the town after lunch (about 1 ½ hours).

Contact Jackie (8778 5455) by Monday 1 August if you are planning on coming so a place can be reserved for lunch. We will all visit the Gunpowder Mills, but please confirm whether you will be joining the guided walk after lunch.

Update on Perry Vale Assembly

Perry Vale Assembly goes from strength to strength since its inaugural meeting in June 2008.

We regularly average around one hundred residents at each meeting, even in the depths of winter, and our five Assembly priorities are the environment, activities for young people, roads and traffic, antisocial behaviour and crime and, finally, activities for the whole community. Last November the Assembly agreed funding from the 10/11 Localities Fund for the following projects;

Ageing Well in Lewisham/ Lewisham Churches Care Ferrules for older clients with walking aids; Lewisham Thunder Basketball Club Family to Family; Forest Fest one day community arts festival to be held at Forest Hill School July 2011; a traffic survey in Huston Road; Rockbourne Youth Club for equipment and workshops; the AHOY Centre Shipmate Youth Programme.

And in February the Assembly agreed funding for the following projects from the Mayor's Fund;

Ageing Well in Lewisham for transport services for older people within the area to provide access to community services; Rockbourne Youth Club to provide a summer scheme and weekly activities for young people; Kilmorie School Gardens to enable the Friends of Kilmorie to make improvements to the existing school garden.

One of the projects the Assembly is proud to fund is Rockbourne Youth Club, based in Perry Vale, which provides activities such as cooking, dancing, games, pool, sports and Wii to young people between the ages of 13 to 19 years. In the past, the Assembly has agreed funding of £10,000 to create an IT suite at the club, which is why Ward councillors were pleased to attend the Open Day on 7 May along with users and the Friends of Rockbourne, held to celebrate the development



and renovation of the club through £250k of funding over the past two years, secured through partnership with Aiming High.

The creation of the IT suite complements the new entrance, double glazing, heating system, outside sports area and new roof. Most importantly, a new ramp provides essential wheelchair access, and the installation of a personal care room ensures facilities for disabled youngsters so that they can continue enjoying their visits to Rockbourne Youth Club. The AGM of the Friends of Rockbourne Youth Club is on 20 June at 41a Rockbourne Road SE23 2DA and will provide an opportunity for local residents to see the club's transformation. A further round of funding applications will be considered at the next Perry Vale Assembly.

Cllr Susan Wise, Councillor for Perry Vale ward and Cabinet Member for Customer Services., Tel: 8699 6520.

Cllr_Susan.Wise@lewisham.gov.uk

Sydenham Assembly – Saturday 11 June at 11.00am

Our next Sydenham Assembly meeting will start with a report back on the decision on Sydenham Library as well as updates on the improvement works to the high street and the outcome of the consultation on the closure of Kirkdale Learning Centre.

Kirkdale has been a centre of learning for 150 years most recently providing courses for adult education. Community Education Lewisham is faced with a 25% reduction in central Government funding and proposes to close one of the four centres and relocate the Kirkdale courses to the other centres at Brockley Rise and Granville Park. During the meetings residents have asked what would happen to this locally listed building and because of the shortfall in primary places the next door school, Kelvin Grove, would like to use the building to expand to a three form entry.

The rest of the meeting is to be taken up with presentations and voting on this year's Sydenham Assembly Fund of £15,000 – this will be by ranking your preferences. We have some exciting proposals for local projects and below is the summary of recommendations from the Coordinating Group:

Priority 1 and 2 – More activities for young people and tackling anti social behaviour

Forest Hill School Kickz Music	£4,000
Kelvin Grove School Teambuilding Day	£ 895

Priority 3 – Vibrant high street and an inclusive community

Sydenham Town Toilet scheme	£3,200
Sydenham Mosaic	£3,000
Sydenham Music Outreach work	£1,600
Eco-Computers – IT training	£3,157
Spontaneous Productions at the Dolphin	£1,000

Priority 4 – Environmental improvements for a cleaner and greener Sydenham

Grow Mayow "Sow it, Grow it"	£3,880
Sydenham Town greening and Xmas lights	£2,000

As you can see the project bids total £22,732 so your vote will count on deciding which projects are funded in 2011/12.

Chris Best, Councillor for Sydenham Ward and Chair of the Sydenham Assembly

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

Sydenham & The King's Speech

At the Academy Awards this year "The King's Speech" won four Oscars including best film, and best leading actor for Colin Firth as George VI. The film tells the story of how speech therapist Lionel Logue helped Prince Albert, later George VI, overcome a speech defect that made public speaking difficult and embarrassing. The screenplay, which also won an Oscar, was based on the recently published book "The King's Speech: how one man saved the British Monarchy". That man was Lionel Logue and for much of the time that he was working with the King he lived on Sydenham Hill.

Logue was an Australian, born in Adelaide in 1880. He and his wife Myrtle paid a brief visit to England in about 1910, leaving their youngest son, Laurie Paris Logue in the care of Myrtle's mother. The trip was partly funded by Lionel's uncle Paris Nesbit. Paris Nesbit's cousin was Edith Nesbit, author of "The Railway Children", and while in England Lionel and Myrtle visited her at Well Hall, Eltham (Edith previously lived in Lewisham and Grove Park).

In 1924 Lionel and his family came to live permanently in England. Shortly after they arrived Lionel leased a consulting room in Harley Street and set up in practice as a speech therapist. Apparently he charged higher fees for his wealthy patients to subsidise his poorer ones.

Lionel, Myrtle and their three sons moved to Beechgrove, 111 Sydenham Hill in 1932. The house was large and imposing; when it was put up for auction in 1921 it was described as having "10 bed and dressing rooms, two bath rooms, four reception



Lionel and Myrtle in 1906 on their engagement

rooms, electric light, 'phone, 4_ acres with tennis lawn, woodland etc". In a letter to his brother-in-law in 1941 Lionel said the house had 25 rooms and 5 bathrooms". The house was clearly extended during the inter-war years.

According to Myrtle, the house became "a calling point" for visiting Australians, and Australian servicemen were billeted there during the war. One recalls: "...three of us went to a doctor and Mrs Logue. She was a wonderful lady and he was a wonderful person... a speech therapist helping the King. He was quite a fellow. They lived down at Sydenham and we hopped in the tram... spent quite a few nights with them... that was when we first heard the air raid sirens go and hustle down into the basement of the house to wait till the all clear". Logue served as an air raid warden during the war.

Although there was an oft repeated rumour that George VI visited a house on Sydenham Hill for speech therapy it seemed unlikely that a reigning monarch would deign to travel to south London for such purposes. However, from their first meeting Logue insisted that any treatment would only work if he and the future king met on equal terms. This meant that all sessions would take place either in Logue's consulting rooms or his home. Although Lionel was highly discrete about his dealings with George VI, Myrtle was less so and on one occasion she told an interviewer that "His Majesty frequently comes to our house [in Sydenham] – he is so charming".

During the war Beechgrove, like so many other houses, was proving difficult to maintain. Lionel wrote: "Beechgrove has been terribly hard to keep going as there is no labour". They had to get a sheep to keep the lawn under control.

Myrtle died on 22nd June 1945. Lionel lived at Beechgrove for a further two years but the house was too large and held too many memories. He sold the house in April 1947 and moved to a flat in Knightsbridge. He died on 12th April 1953.

Sydenham's links with "The King's Speech" do not end there; Michael Gambon (George V) lived in Sunderland Road during the 1970s and Timothy Spall (Winston Churchill) still lives in this area.

"The King's Speech" by Mark Logue and Peter Conradi (Quercus, 2011)

Steve Grindlay



Lionel Logue CVO

Beechgrove



Beechgrove was built about 1862. The first occupant, William Patterson, was an East India merchant and he called his new house "Singapore". After a couple of years he decided "Beechgrove" was more appropriate. Patterson lived there until his death in 1898.

The next two occupants have entries in the Dictionary of National Biography. By 1911 Samuel Herbert Benson had moved from London Road, Forest Hill to Beechgrove. Benson had been invited by John Lawson Johnston (another local person) to become the advertising agent for Bovril. He is regarded as the originator of modern advertising campaigns by using advertisements to engage potential buyers rather than merely informing them. His company was eventually absorbed by Ogilvy & Mather who were, allegedly, the inspiration for the advertising agency in the television series "Mad Men".

Benson was followed at Beechgrove by Sir William Watson Cheyne who lived there from 1919 to 1921, a distinguished surgeon who was assistant to Joseph Lister and, later, President

of the Royal College of Surgeons. During his time at Beechgrove he also served as an MP.

In 1922 Frederick Aubrey Norris moved into Beechgrove. He was an engineer whose firm, F A Norris & Co, made iron staircases, particularly fire escapes. In 1930 Norris moved to Eliot Lodge, Kirkdale and Miss Rose Ellis moved into Beechgrove. She had moved out by 1932 when Lionel Logue and his family moved in and it remained, owned by Logue, until April 1947.

The house seems to have been unoccupied until, on 17th June 1952, it opened as Beechgrove Home for the Aged Sick, run by the Red Cross to provide nursing care for patients who had been discharged from hospital but still needed medical care. When the Home closed in 1960 the house remained unoccupied again until it was demolished in 1983.



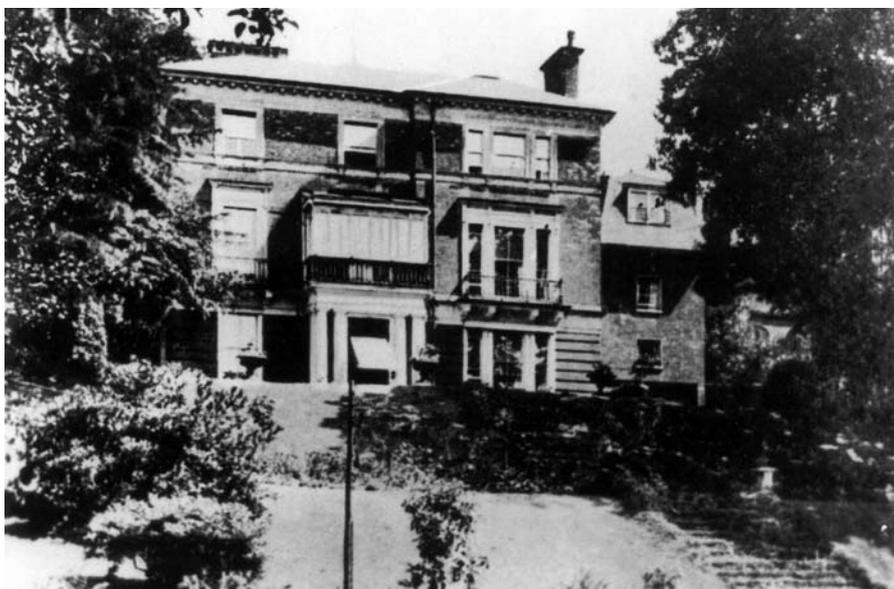
Folly in Sydenham Hill Woods

Several sources suggest that the folly in Sydenham Hill Woods was once in the grounds of Beechgrove. This was not the case. It was in the grounds of Fairwood, the house

immediately to the south of Beechgrove. Fairwood was built in about 1862 and the first occupant was Alderman David Henry Stone, Lord Mayor of London. Shortly after moving to Fairwood he commissioned James Pulham & Son to build the folly. Pulhamite garden ornaments are now highly regarded and a number have been listed by English Heritage. There are at least two other surviving examples hidden away in gardens along Sydenham Hill.

Beechgrove now is little more than an overgrown pile of rubble although a section of the garden wall survives to its full height along the boundary with Fairwood and remains of the greenhouses can be seen along the boundary with Lapsewood to the north.

Steve Grindlay



Beechgrove and the threat to Sydenham Hill Woods.

The “Save Sydenham Hill Woods” and “Save Sydenham Hill Woods again” Campaigns

Throughout the 1980's there was a continual threat of development by the Estates Governors of Dulwich College on former, very large, residential sites along Sydenham Hill, the gardens of which backed onto and were subsequently incorporated into Sydenham Hill Woods.

In the Christmas 1986 edition of the Sydenham Society newsletter there is a report, that following a Planning Inquiry Inspector's decision (in January 1985) that proposed residential development on the site of Fernbank and Lapsewood was unlawful, the Estates Governors of Dulwich College, owners of the former Beechgrove convalescent home site, are to appeal to Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment (SoS) against a decision by Southwark Council to refuse permission to the Estates Governors to build 36 flats on the site. Local societies, including the Sydenham Society, and residents are called to man the barricades once more against the threat of development.

The SoS decision against development, following another Public Inquiry, stated “The need to preserve areas of existing natural woodland within urban areas is of as much importance in preserving our heritage and improving the quality of the environment as that of preserving the countryside. The appeal site, whilst not forming part of Sydenham Hill or Dulwich Woods, is an important peripheral buffer for those areas in terms of visual impact for residents in the locality and forms of habitat for wild life. To permit the development as proposed, would protrude development into the woodland causing loss of trees and natural habitats and thereby conflicting with policies of the adopted Local Plan.”

In the autumn of 1988 the Newsletter reports that the Estates Governors have again applied for permission, this

time to build 3 houses on the Beechgrove site. In September 1988 a Planning Committee was held at Kingswood House in West Dulwich and objectors arrived and noted with dismay Southwark planning officers' recommendation to approve the application. A tense and uphill battle ensued, with the London Wildlife Trust, the Sydenham Society, the Dulwich Society, Gerald Bowden MP, and his opponent at the previous election, Kate Hoey, all arguing strongly against the proposed development.

When the members of the committee came to give their decision, views had shifted and opinions were divided. The application was defeated by two votes, the last one of which was the Chairman's, who said that he had been persuaded by the meeting and would be looking for support from the objectors for any fall-out that might ensue. (NB If the Chairman had voted in favour, he would have then used his Chairman's casting vote in favour of the development – a nail-biting and memorable moment for all the objectors present, including the writer of this article!). The Estate Governors' unsuccessful appeal against this decision was heard at yet another Public Inquiry in September 1989.

The Estates Governors flexed their muscle one more time early in 1990 by applying for planning permission for one house on the site of a disused lodge (now demolished), which was rejected by Southwark. Again there was an appeal against the decision and, again, this came to naught.

The saga eventually ended on 30 November 1991 with Southwark Council issuing a legal declaration. Quoting the National Parks and Countryside Act 1949, it declared that “all that area of land known as Sydenham Hill Woods” is to be “held and designated as a Nature Reserve.”

News from Friends of Albion Millennium Green

English Oak planted by Holy Trinity School

On 4th April, 2011, pupils from year 6, Holy Trinity Primary School on Dartmouth Road planted an English Oak donated to the school by London Zoo. The planting was followed by a tour of the Green and an attempt to spot foxes and other wildlife.

Teachers at the school hope that the school tree planting will become an annual event. Next year they are hoping to add more trees to the Community Orchard.



Syd Soc Member Profile:

Iris Humphries

Iris is a long-term member of the Sydenham Society and member of the Events Committee.

Anyone from our area who has walked the streets of London must, at some time or another have fallen in step with Iris Humphries. Iris is an inveterate walker and joined the Youth Hostelling Association and the Ramblers from a young age. She has led rambles for the Sydenham Society, St Philip's Church and the Holiday Fellowship, and, at the age of 80 is still regularly walking 4 miles without demur. She is proud of having walked the length of the Thames from Letchlade to Erith but, she adds, "Not in one go!" Ten years ago Iris was introduced to Jenny Budd, Lewisham's Healthy Walks Coordinator, and became a Walk Leader. The walks, every Tuesday around Wells Park, regularly attract around fifteen participants, and can be at varying pace. Last year Iris won an award as a Leisure and the Arts Community Champion from Lewisham's 'Make a Difference Awards', and the award, inscribed with her name, sits proudly on her sideboard.

Iris grew up in Bromley and moved to a flat in the City of London when she married in 1957. She lived on the 11th floor of a block she calls the "poor man's Barbican" and had a bird's eye view of St Paul's, which may have fostered her love of London. However, with a young family in the early 1960s, she jumped at the chance to relocate to Lammas Green, a City of London site and part of the Bridge House Estates on Sydenham Hill. Iris relished the community living and became involved with the Residents' committee. In 1972 she moved to a larger house in Otto Close, where she lives to this day.

A long-standing member of the Sydenham Society, Iris has served on the Conservation committee, and is now on the Events committee. She loves Sydenham, which she describes as "a secret corner of London we all love", and cites the woods and the transport links to London which have kept her here. She has a keen interest in local history and remembers going to the Crystal Palace as a little girl to see 'dirt track racing'. She stood too near the track and got covered in dust!



Iris has attended St Philip's Church in Wells Park Road since she came to the area, and she has also been involved for twenty years with a Reminiscence Group that meets every Monday in the Grove Centre. She says, somewhat disparagingly, "We just talk", but Iris would be the last person to denigrate the importance, to those members of that community outreach initiative of 'just talking'.

Iris has two grown up sons, both London-based, one a scene painter at the National Theatre, and a granddaughter at Cambridge. Reminiscence on Monday, Healthy walks on Tuesday, to Guy's on Wednesday to listen to music in the atrium, and Saturday - rambling with the London Strollers. Iris does not see herself slowing down any time soon. She says, "Once you get going... I just love my week, the little benchmarks". There's no doubt that Iris Humphries is a person who is hard to keep up with.

www.londonstrollers.org.uk
Lewisham Healthy Walks Coordinator Jenny Budd
020 3049 3485

Sue Grindlay

This is the ninth 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

Sydenham Film Club

A standing room only occasion for the first Sydenham Film Club event greeted the formation of Sydenham's newest cultural activity, the Sydenham Film Club, which is supported by the Assembly's Mayor's Fund. Mayor, Sir Steve Bullock, attended its first event, a showing of the 1957 classic "Funny Face", starring Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn.

A pop-up film event at Indian restaurant Garam Marala ("Monsoon Wedding" is on the menu) is planned for 16 July, during the Sydenham Arts Festival and from September a monthly film night is planned. An eagle eye on the Sydenham Film Club website is advisable www.sydenhamfilmclub.org



The Mander and Mitchenson Theatre Collection

Many local residents will remember a bust of Shakespeare in the window of the house in Venner Road where Raymond Mander and Joe Mitchenson lived. The collection was built up over many years after the two actors met in a production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in the 1930s. It has now more than 2000 archive boxes and files on major British actors and actresses as well as theatre paintings, programmes, magazines, artefacts, costumes, prints and pottery figures.

Ray Mander died in 1983 and Joe Mitchenson in 1992, and, after their deaths, the collection was housed in the Mansion in Beckenham Place Park, originally with a view of creating a theatre museum there. Work must have started as several rooms were refurbished and a brochure was produced, with a foreword by Sir Lawrence Olivier. However, although there was a charitable trust, the museum scheme did not materialise. The collection remained in the Mansion for about 15 years being catalogued and growing in size until, in 1999, a new manager could not access many areas of the Mansion due to the storage of the collection and he arranged for its removal to temporary premises in the Salvation Army Headquarters in the City.

In September 2001, assisted by a generous grant from the Jerwood Foundation, the collection became part of the Jerwood Library of the Performing Arts at Trinity College of Music, and found a permanent home at the Old Naval College in Greenwich.

In December it was moved again to become part of the University of Bristol Theatre Collection. The Bristol museum will now house one of the world's largest theatre history collections as a result. The Noel Coward Foundation and the Mackintosh Foundation both helped fund the transfer and the collection is scheduled to be accessible early this summer. *(original article published in The Friends of Beckenham Place Park Spring newsletter)*

Sydenham Community Toilet Scheme

Sydenham Town Centre Steering Group is bidding for £3200 from the Mayor's Fund to set up a joint venture with businesses in Sydenham Road to establish a Community Toilet Scheme - very important with the imminent demolition of the loos in Station Approach when the Sydenham Road/Station Approach improvements begin in September.

These schemes, originally introduced by Richmond Council, and widely adopted elsewhere, including Lambeth and Bromley, pay local businesses to make their toilet facilities available to those in need, without the need to become customers. For this facility the businesses would be paid £800 p.a. They will display easily recognised signs in their windows, and will be listed on the Council's website.

At the time of going to press four businesses have indicated they may be willing to take part in the scheme.

Greyhound update

Gerry Dowd, Managing Director of Purelake the developers of the Greyhound site, says, " Site progress is good. Antic has exchanged on the pub and is due to complete the purchase later this month, but has not indicated when work will commence. Purelake will still be funding the tiled artwork on the rear wall."

Betty Wilson

The death on 21 December 2010 of one of Sydenham's oldest residents, 93 year-old Betty Wilson brought to an end an 88 year-long friendship between Betty and 94 year-old Eileen Franks (Sydenham's longest continuous resident). The two women became friends and classmates, aged 5, at Sydenham Hill School – now Kelvin Grove Primary School – when they started school together in 1922. Incredibly, the two women, who started school together would, 85 years later, both find themselves residents of the Rookstone Salvation Army Home in Lawrie Park Crescent.

Betty was born Elizabeth Harris on 28 February 1917, just a few months after Eileen, and grew up in Sydenham Hill Road – now the upper part of Kirkdale – living in the small row of shops and houses which used to stand between Kelvin Grove and Panmure Road, which were destroyed by a World War II bomb, sadly, no photos are known to exist of them. Her father Charlie was a policeman at the old Sydenham Police Station in Dartmouth Rd.

Eileen & Betty remained friends through primary school and went to the same secondary school, Forest Hill Central School in Dalmain Road, later to become Dalmain Primary School. The two friends would meet at the top of Dartmouth Road near the Woodman pub and would walk to school, looking up when they got to the Forest Hill Station clocktower to check that they weren't late. The clock was also destroyed in WWII, although the remains of the tower survived until 1972.

When Betty left school she worked as a seamstress at Frederick Liddles, Ladies Tailor at 57 Sydenham Road, now The Linen Shop. Betty was bridesmaid at Eileen's wedding (Eileen was first to marry) and made hers and all the other bridesmaids' dresses.

At Rookstone Nursing Home, Betty & Eileen were always pleased and interested when I brought in old Sydenham photos and street directories to show them. Betty's eyes would light up when I mentioned the shops and shopkeepers in Sydenham Hill Road, especially Wiffens General Store, her local sweet shop. She loved to talk of how, as a girl, she'd go to watch her father play cricket for the Police in the local cricket league at Mayow Park, taking a picnic with her, in those far off summers of the 1920's.

Obvious though it may seem, it needs reiterating that when Eileen & Betty's generation are no longer with us, their memories of Sydenham of the 1920's will also be gone. Their recollections need to be preserved and acknowledged.

By Michael Viner (With thanks to Eileen Franks)

Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group

Unfortunately we didn't get the bursary that we applied for from Readyforte, but thank you to everyone who supported our bid by voting for us, as this support may spur some action from Lewisham to do some urgent repairs, particularly to the water-play area as the sensory pads are not working.

We are waiting for news about our Big Tree Plant drive, we will learn about this later in the year.

Green Flag news is normally known by the summer, and we hope that we will once again be awarded prestigious Green Flag status.

We have learned that due to Budget cuts that the Ranger service in Sydenham Wells Park is being reduced. The park will be un-manned on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Peter, our long time Park keeper, has relocated to Beckenham Place Park. However a new park keeper will be in post shortly.

The next SWPIG meetings will be held in the Keepers' Hut in the Yard by the Wells Park Road entrance at 6 pm on 6 Sept and 22 November and are open to anyone interested in working to improve the park

Monika Mitchell, Chair - SWPIG

News from Friends of Home Park

**Arts in the Park Family Fun Day, Sunday 3 July – 1 pm to 6 pm
(Under the umbrella of Sydenham Arts Festival)**

An all day event planned to bring together our local community, and invite the wider community into our park to enjoy summer activities.

There will be various organised sports and fun activities throughout the afternoon and the focus will be on families and young children enjoying 'arts in the park'.

Food stalls/craft and gift stalls, a fully equipped multi-media vehicle supplying creative activities, face painting and a stage with various drama, music, dance and poetry acts throughout the afternoon. Millwall FC Community Bus will provide organised sports based fun activities. There will be Police horses and a fire engine and inflatables and games for children. Fresh produce will be available from the Home Park community garden. There will be an Interfaith exhibition in Sydenham Library and Lewisham's Young Mayor will be present throughout the day and will participate in the opening ceremony.

For information on work of Friends Of Home Park please visit: <http://www.homepark.wordpress.com/http/>

Anthony Scully, Chair of Friends of Home Park

Friends of Mayow Park

The hard winter seems a distant memory in Mayow Park as sunny days draw park users to enjoy this open space. The past few months have seen a lot of work in the park.

In March two diseased trees were felled and other trees had major surgery to remove dead limbs. Some people were upset by the tree felling so the Friends of Mayow have asked for advance notice when possible to reassure concerned park users of the purpose of the work. Also in March there was a bird walk at 7am on a cold Sunday morning when 12 people turned up. Fifteen different types of bird were seen.

The creation of Pavilion Triangle began in April - a community garden developed by park users for park users. Located between the Pavilion and the new bowls club accommodation, this project grew out of the 'Introduction to Permaculture Design' course held at Grow Mayow in October 2010. A course participant, Ruth Robinson, developed a design with fruit bushes and edible herbs, seating and a meandering woodchip path. After modifications the design was displayed in the park notice board, providing opportunities for comments. In April, two workdays with Nature's Gym volunteers ensured the design became a reality. This is still a 'work in progress' with suitable plants being donated, and people volunteering for weeding and watering duties, helped by our helpful park keeper, Tunde.

The older children's space is being completed and will include a table tennis table, various pieces of equipment for active play, some seating and a woodland walk. A drinking water fountain is proposed, to be located near the ornamental Victorian fountain, which, sadly, cannot be restored to its original use.

There have been many requests for the Pavilion to be turned into a community cafe. Lewisham's parks department is looking this into but there are a number of barriers that need to be overcome.

The next Friends of Mayow Park meeting will be on Tuesday 14 June in the Bowls Club from 7 – 8.30pm

Alona Sheridan, Chair, Friends of Mayow Park

Brazilian Olympic squad choose Crystal Palace Park Sports Centre

Time Brasil (pronounced Team Brazil) has chosen the refurbished National Sports Centre in Crystal Palace Park as its Olympic Training Camp for 2012.

The athletes will move into the Athletes' Lodge and the houses in the park between 7-10 July next year in order to acclimatise before their events in the Olympic Park. From the NSC they will move into Brazil's allocated accommodation within the Olympic Village a day or so before their own event, compete, and return to stay in Crystal Palace Park until the closing ceremony – a period of 4/5 weeks overall.

There should be considerable media attention in Time Brasil as Brazil has won the right to stage the 2016 Olympics.

St Christopher's Hospice new 'Social Programme' 2011

All events are open to patients, carers, family members and friends, staff, volunteers and the general public

Venue: The Anniversary Centre, St Christopher's Hospice
51 – 59 Lawrie Park Road, London SE26 6DZ

NO BOOKING NECESSARY – JUST COME ALONG AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

The St Christopher's 'Social Programme' aims to bring together those who use the hospice and members of the local community. Many people are afraid to visit a hospice and do not feel comfortable talking about death and dying. We believe that we all have a responsibility to change this and these events are planned in order to offer social opportunities to dispel myths and change perceptions of both St Christopher's and the people who use the services that the hospice offers. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

MONDAY EVENINGS 7pm – 8.30pm

St Christopher's Community Choir

Come and have fun singing a mixed repertoire of songs from different cultures, styles and ages in a relaxed, informal way. No Auditions, anyone can join, all ages welcome (including children). Dates – 6, 13, 20 27 June and 4, 11, 18 July with a performance to family and friends 8.00pm on 25 July.

Gardens open for St Christopher's

This year's Open Gardens Festival in aid of St Christopher's Hospice include a number of gardens in and around our part of south London.

On Sunday 5 June there are three gardens open in Dulwich Village (from 2 –5pm) – 102, 103 and 105 Dulwich Village featuring a variety shrubs and water features, fruit and vegetable gardens and old-fashioned roses. A great afternoon out for all garden lovers. It is suggested that a donation of £4.50 with free entrance for children. Refreshments and plants will be on sale and there is partial access for wheelchairs. Sorry, no dogs.

On Sunday 12 June 111 Alleyn Park in West Dulwich (from 1 –7pm) featuring box parterres and sculpture in the herbaceous borders with a wild woodland at the end of the garden. Entrance is £5 and there will refreshments available. There is no wheelchair access.

Saturday 16 July (from 1-6pm) 9 Jews walk in Sydenham is open and visitors are invited to enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles while looking around the garden. Refreshments and plants will be on sale and there will be a raffle. Entrance is £2 and there is wheelchair access.

Other gardens open in aid of St Christopher's are in Orpington, Keston, and Manor Way, Beckenham and full details can be found at www.stchristophers.org.uk

TUESDAY EVENINGS 7pm – 9pm

St Christopher's Curry Night

Come and socialise and enjoy a good curry for a reasonable price. A varied menu and good company! From time to time there will be a Quiz Nite.

Bring your friends and put together your own team! (We do not have a license to sell alcohol, but you are welcome to bring your own)



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7pm – 9pm

'A Stitch in Time' Quilting Group, supported by the Dulwich Quilters

A quilting group offers a unique social experience where people can work independently and collectively to create something beautiful, practical, or symbolic. Fragments of cloth holding memories, or are pleasing to the senses, can be pieced and stitched together in order to create something meaningful.

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Dame Cicely Saunders Concert series - now in its second successful year!

A range of highly skilled professional musicians from around the world plays a variety of exciting programmes. Please contact St Christopher's for an up to date concert brochure and to reserve seats, or visit our website for listings. Tickets are £12 includes wine and canapés during the interval.

SUNDAY LUNCH AT ST CHRISTOPHER'S – 12pm – 2.30pm

Visit to Eastbury House Barking July 26

Important brick-built Tudor gentry house, completed about 1573, little altered since. Early 17th-century wall-paintings showing fishing scenes and a cityscape grace the former Great Chamber. Evocative exposed timbers in attic, fine original spiral oak staircase in turret, soaring chimneys, cobbled courtyard, peaceful walled garden with bee boles. Admission £3, £1.50 concessions



It's Not Grim Up North. Part 3:

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

Part 3 – Whitechapel: A Tale of Two White Harts

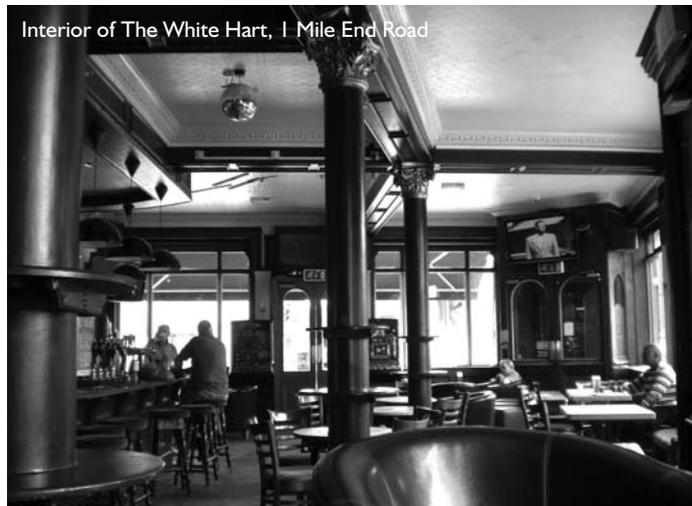
In this third look at pubs which can be easily reached on the East London Line, we travel to Whitechapel. It's a mere 20 minutes from Sydenham and is another area of London that is packed with places of architectural and historical interest.

Many of the area's pubs have been lost in the last twenty years, and the streets are full of 'dead' pubs, i.e. once-proud purpose-built Victorian pubs that are now used as shops, offices, restaurants, etc. The white working-class population that once characterised the area, and which filled the pubs, has been largely replaced by immigrant populations for whom pub-going is not a part of their culture. But pub enthusiasts still have plenty to enjoy.

As you emerge from the station on Whitechapel Road, look up and to your left and you will see the faded pub sign of the Lord Rodney's Head above what is now a shoe shop. After silently paying your respects, walk east a few more yards and you come to the legendary **Blind Beggar** (337 Whitechapel Rd, E1 1BU). Photos of Reggie and Ronnie Kray adorn the walls of this still-traditional 1894 pub with an opulent arched and pillared frontage.

For food and drink, however, you may be better served by walking east a further fifty yards to **The White Hart** (1 Mile End Rd, E1 4TP), another grand building, this one topped with a flamboyant cupola tower. A good selection of real ales is matched by a good pizza menu in here.

Retrace your steps west along Whitechapel High Street and you will come to another pub called **The White Hart** (89 Whitechapel High Street, E1 7RA). Much smaller than its grander namesake, this is a deliciously traditional pub that



is well worth a visit. Pubs that have not been modernized or turned into restaurants are a rarity today, but here is fine example of one that has had the courage to stay true to its roots. The beer is good too.

Head a few minutes south to Leman Street and you will find two more pubs which, while less interesting than the two White Harts, are still worth a visit. **The Old Dispensary** (19a Leman Street, E1 8EN) is housed in a grand early 19th century building although its multi-roomed interior has been given a modern refurbishment. Just around the corner is **The White Swan** (21 Alie Street, E1 8DA), a smart and traditional pub owned by the brewer Shepherd Neame.

Neil Pettigrew

Horniman Art Exhibition

Sat 9 July, 10am to 5pm. Sun 10 July – 10am to 4.30pm

The Friends of Horniman announce their 20th annual Art Exhibition which will be held in the Conservatory in Horniman Gardens. Admission is free.

New and established artists will be showing their most recent paintings, prints and sculptures in what has become one of south London's biggest and most popular art exhibitions.

During this weekend Horniman will be offering lots of activities for all the family and further information can be found on the museum website at www.horniman.ac.uk



Fuchsia - Barbara Sutcliffe

Cinema approved for Crystal Palace

Bromley Borough Council has approved the change of use for the building at the junction of Anerley Hill and Crystal Palace Parade. The Grain and Grape pub (formerly The Sportsman and prior to that part of the Crystal Palace Hotel and car showroom will be redeveloped as a two-screen cinema, cafe and bar.

It is reported that Peter Hall of Future Projections was "delighted it's gone through. This is something we've been wanting to do for years. What we want to do is create a mix of the Electric Cinema in Notting Hill and the Everyman in Hampstead, with more of a neighbourhood feel. Ninety-nine per cent of the art cinemas in the UK were made by us, including the Clapham Picturehouse. That's what we're looking at for Crystal Palace."

EVENTS

Dates for your Diary

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

Tuesday 26 July – Club 26 visit to Eastbury Manor House, Barking (a National Trust property). Meet at Sydenham Station at 11.00 for 11.11am train, once again exploring the delights of north and east London using our wonderful Overground line! (see p?? for details)

Wednesday 24 August – Club 26 Meet at Penge East Station at 9.30 to catch 9.41 train, changing at Bromley South and arriving at Faversham at 11.09am. Lunch will be booked for 1.00pm at a local restaurant. (See p?? for additional details)

Tuesday 6 September 7.45pm– Quiz Nite at Golden Lion. Entry £2 with all proceeds going to a local charity Teams of 4-6 players, individuals welcome and scratch teams can be made up on the night. Contact Jackie (8778 5455) or Pat (8659 4903) if you would like to take part.

Friday 23 September – Catch 9.38 am train from Sydenham Station to visit Chiswick House (entrance £4). This visit is combined with a Club 26 lunch in Chiswick House Cafe. Contact Jackie 8778 5455) so that places can be reserved. Full details in our next newsletter.

Please note that there are no Sydenham Society events planned in June and the first half of July due to the Music and Arts Festivals taking place – see Sydenham International Music Festival and Sydenham Arts Festival programmes for details of their events.

BIG LUNCH at Grow Mayow Community Garden, Mayow Park Sunday 5th June 2011, 12.00 noon

Bring food and drink to share. Musicians welcome too. Bring your own bunting. Volunteers needed to set up tables, chairs and BBQ from 10am.



The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to have lunch with their neighbours once a year. A Big Lunch can be anything from a few neighbours getting together in the garden or on the street, to a full blown party with food, music and decoration. At Grow Mayow we are planning one of the full blown parties – come and join us!

Since it began in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all kinds of communities and the best part of a million people have taken part each year. A record number of people right across the country are expected to take part in 2011

Beating the Bounds

Beckenham Place Park – Sunday 29 May. Meet on the Mansion Steps at 2pm.

The traditional annual perimeter walk of the park coinciding with national local events to mark parish boundaries, rights of way and cherished public open spaces. The circuit is 4,25 km and may be completed in a leisurely 1_ hours. It takes in parts of the park less frequently visited and a variety of wooded and open scenery, flat and hilly terrain and the river – a delightful afternoon's walk in a piece of London's countryside.

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 – 21 February – Ground-breaking day!

This was a great success, signifying the commencement of building works. The ceremony hosted by Willmott Dixon Construction, and was attended by the Mayor, Sir Steve Bullock, Cllr Chris Best and members of the stakeholder group representing the local community.

Provided with a commemorative spade to mark the occasion Sir Steve Bullock and Chris Best, with Mark Tant, Managing Director of Willmott Dixon, officially "broke the ground".

Willmott Dixon Construction had been on site since the beginning of January and in that time they had made a great start to the programme. The first few weeks were dedicated to enabling works, which included extending the hoarding line, carrying out remedial works to Louise House and setting up welfare facilities for the staff. By the end of January approval

had been received that all the pre-commencement conditions from Lewisham Planning Department had been complied with, which allowed Willmott Dixon to commence building works.

Construction work began in early February with ground excavation and levelling, using crushed material from the demolition of the pool halls to form a 'piling mat', a temporary surface to carry the weight of heavy machinery such as the piling rig.

By the end of February Willmott Dixon had excavated and removed approximately 2,500m³ of soil to be re-used on another site, and piling works (piling 22 metres below ground level), in preparation for the new building's foundations had commenced.

The development is ahead of schedule and it is hoped the new Leisure Centre will be open for business in September 2012.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Jennifer Armitage
Anna Baghari
Scott Bentley
Joanna Chipping
Fiona Collett
Alice Corble
Tony Cregg
Sally Daley
Chris Fay

John Freshwater
Jenny Holland
Ulli Jaeger
Mary King
Daniel Stevens
Mark Tilley
Joyce Treasure
Susan Walker
Fay Watson

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2011 are now due.

Roger Feather Tel: 8778 4318

Email: membership@sydenhamsociety.com

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

After what must be at least a decade of taking the responsibility of ensuring a speedy delivery of the Sydenham Society Newsletter to our membership, Hilary Jarrett has decided that the time has now come to hand over the reins.

On behalf of everyone in the Society I would like to thank her, and John, for taking over and organising this important task. Hilary will continue to be a sub-deliverer around the Lower Sydenham area.

Pat Trembath is taking take over the distribution of the newsletter beginning with this current issue. She hopes the takeover will be seamless! She would like to set up another two or three sub-delivery rounds in the area. Please get in touch with her on 8659 4903 if you think you may be able to help.

Annabel McLaren, Chair, Sydenham Society