

# SYDENHAM SOCIETY

## NEWS

Autumn 2014

### Pissarro's Church is Falling Down!

*... or it will start to fall down if we don't act now.*

**An Urgent Appeal**



St Bartholomew's church, the beautiful Grade II\* listed building dominating Westwood Hill, is suffering the signs of its advanced age, at over 180 years old. We need to undertake a major restoration project to preserve the church for the current and future generations and to make it more accessible to the wider community who enjoy the events there and appreciate its heritage.

Buildings don't tend to collapse suddenly, instead they crumble away in small pieces. This is exactly what is happening to the church from top to bottom:

- stonework is disintegrating with pieces already having fallen off
- ridge tiles are broken, allowing in water which will quickly rot the roof timbers
- brickwork needs re-pointing to keep out frost and rain
- the bolts securing the clock faces to the tower are rusting away
- the drains need overhauling to remove decades of tree roots and debris. They also need rebuilding in places to carry water away, in order to prevent dampness and further outbreaks of dry rot.

Thanks to people like you, the Parochial Church Council (PCC), have been able to carry out a lot of work on the church over the past few years. Part of the roof has been replaced, the building has been rewired, and a new boiler installed. Now we need to tackle the poor state of the rest of the building fabric. It can't be put off any longer.



We have launched an appeal under the banner of SABRE (St Bart's Restoration) to raise the necessary funds. We need around £600,000 to prevent the church falling down and we believe we can do it with the generosity of the congregation, the local community, fund-raising events and grants from organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

If you would like to make a donation, here's how:

**Cheque:** payable to PCC of St Bartholomew Sydenham. Pass it to a church member or post to: Peter Stubbs, PCC Treasurer, 7 Doctors Close, Sydenham, SE26 6DL.

**BACS:** NatWest, account name: PCC of St Bartholomew Sydenham, account 37307894, sort code 60-21-12. If you are a taxpayer we can boost the value of your donation by reclaiming the tax, please contact Peter for a Gift Aid Declaration form. *Thank you.*

Peter Stubbs, 'Saint Bartholomew's Restoration Appeal'

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## YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD VOICE

[www.sydenhamsociety.com](http://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.

## E-NEWSLETTER

Want to be kept informed about news and events in SE26? If you haven't already signed up for the Sydenham Society e-newsletter, you can do so by visiting **www.sydenhamsociety.com** and forwarding us your email address. You'll then be sent our regular e-newsletter packed with local news and information about what's going on in Sydenham and the surrounding area.

## YOUR LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

### LOCAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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

### LEWISHAM COUNCILLORS

Civic Suite Lewisham Town Hall Catford SE6 4RU  
020 8314 6000

### Bellingham Ward

Alan Hall Ami Ibitson Jacq Paschoud

### Forest Hill Ward

Peter Bernards Maja Hilton Paul Upex

### Perry Vale Ward

John Paschoud Alan Till Susan Wise

### Sydenham Ward

Chris Best Liam Curran Rachel Onikosi

### BROMLEY COUNCILLORS

Bromley Civic Centre Stockwell Close BR1 3UH  
020 8464 3333

### Crystal Palace Ward

Angela Wilkins Richard Williams

### Penge and Cator Ward

Katherine Bance Kevin Brooks Peter Fookes

### SOUTHWARK COUNCILLORS

Town Hall Peckham Road SE5 8UB  
020 7525 5000

### College Ward

Jon Hartley Helen Hayes 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 non-urgent police matters dial 101**

For environmental noise nuisance call:  
Lewisham Council **020 8314 6000**  
Bromley Council **020 8464 3333**  
Southwark Council **020 7525 5000**

The deadline for articles for the next newsletter will be **Friday 24 October 2014**

# London Bridge Station Closure

## Between 23 - 31 August 2014

Transport for London advise that some Southern, First Capital Connect and London Overground journeys will be affected from Saturday 23 August to Sunday 31 August 2014 and some other services on National Rail, London Overground, London Tramlink, DLR and the Tube will be busier than usual for this time of year.

**Southern** services will not operate to and from London Bridge and some services will be diverted to Victoria.

London Overground services will not operate to and from New Cross from Tuesday **26 to Friday 29 August** (although services will run on the Bank Holiday Monday). During this period, an enhanced London Overground service will operate between Crystal Palace and Canada Water and a replacement bus service will run between New Cross, Surrey Quays and Canada Water.

The First Capital Connect Thameslink route will not operate to and from London Bridge; services will be diverted via an alternative route between Blackfriars and East Croydon. London Bridge and the surrounding area will remain open. Southeastern services will continue to operate to and from London Bridge, and First Capital Connect and Southern services will be diverted to London Victoria or Blackfriars for you to continue your journey.

The Tube and London Bridge Tube station will operate as normal.

From **Saturday 23 August to Sunday 31 August 2014** National Rail tickets will be accepted on any reasonable route on London Overground, First Capital Connect, Southern, Southeastern, South West Trains, London Underground, London Tramlink, DLR and London Buses.

First Capital Connect and Southern services operating to and from Gatwick will not call at London Bridge.

First Capital Connect services to and from Luton Airport will not call at London Bridge.

Southeastern services will operate as normal but services may be busier than usual for the time of year. Some other National Rail, Tube and London Overground services and stations may be busier than usual for this time of year.



### Early notice of further closures over Christmas and New Year

**20 December 2014 to 4 January 2015**

Southeastern services will not operate to and from London Bridge.

Southeastern services may be altered between **Monday 22 and Wednesday 24 December**.

**20 December 2014 to January 2018**

Thameslink route services will not operate to and from London Bridge; they will be diverted via an alternative route between Blackfriars and East Croydon.

Thameslink route services to and from Luton Airport Parkway and Gatwick Airport will not call at London Bridge.

Network Rail advises that all passengers need to be vigilant about changes to travel patterns, which can occur at short notice from now until 2018 when the redevelopment of London Bridge Station is complete.

## Picture quiz

Where is this?



## Answer to the previous Picture Quiz:

This is St Antolin's Spire in Round Hill. Printer, Robert Harrild, had offices in the City of London opposite Wren's St Antolin's Church. When the spire was struck by lightning in 1829, it was replaced and Robert Harrild bought the top of the old spire for £5 and brought it to Sydenham to be erected in the garden of his home, Round Hill House. The house no longer stands but the spire remains within a small housing estate off Round Hill. The spire has now spent considerably longer on its site in Sydenham than on Sir Christopher Wren's church in the City.

Steve Grindlay



## Forest Hill Ward councillors

Newly elected Councillor Maja Hilton writes: I am honoured to be elected to represent Forest Hill Ward along with my fellow councillors, Peter Bernards and Paul Upex. Although called Forest Hill Ward, it stretches from Wells Park Road and Sydenham Hill down to Sydenham Park Road, and all the way to Honor Oak Park and Wood Vale.

We have met many of you on the doorstep over the past year, but I am pleased to have this opportunity to share my thoughts on the area.

I am often asked if living in London is lonely, because no one knows their neighbours. Well, I know many more neighbours than my other family members and friends that live elsewhere. This was the case many years before I decided to stand as councillor for Forest Hill.

There is a community spirit in the richness of the many groups within Forest Hill, that try to better the place we call home and we will endeavour to engage with these and other groups that stand up for our diverse ward. This diversity and ease of living side by side makes me call Forest Hill home, despite the fact that I grew up many miles away.

We have great assets within the ward that are well used. However we also have areas that need improvement, especially the South Circular that is here to stay! I have a great optimism that Forest Hill is improving and will continue to

improve. When I first moved here, talks of a tube connection were pie in the sky. Now people from other parts of London are moving into the area. We must make sure that we engage with everyone, so that we maintain the level of friendliness, friendship and support across the neighbourhood.

Dartmouth Road has some great and distinctive shops which need to be supported by the local community if they are to continue to flourish. Our empty shops should be filled with a mix that caters for all groups within our community. We will continue to stand up for Kirkdale and support the involvement of local businesses, professionals and residents in generating ideas for improvements. No doubt this kind of involvement will bring sustainable transformations that we can all be proud of. We may need to be patient but the vision is coming together and plans can be developed that include short term wins and long term objectives.

We want you to play your part and get involved. Why not attend the next Forest Hill Local Assembly which will take place on 16 September – a venue has yet to be confirmed, but please do get in touch.

**Maja Hilton:** [cllr\\_maja.hilton@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:cllr_maja.hilton@lewisham.gov.uk)

**Peter Bernards:** [cllr\\_peter.bernards@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:cllr_peter.bernards@lewisham.gov.uk)

**Paul Upex:** [cllr\\_paul.upex@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:cllr_paul.upex@lewisham.gov.uk)

## Forest Hill Town Centre – Design Charrette, Saturday, 19 July 2014

The last area specific vision and planning guidance for Forest Hill Town Centre was produced in 2003 and much has changed since this time. The town centre has seen a considerable increase in new businesses and new residential development over the past 3-4 years, a new swimming pools complex has opened and the Horniman Museum and Horniman Triangle attract ever more people to the area. There is also an established arts community focused on Havelock Walk and a new workspace for artists has opened this year in Louise House. With London Overground connecting Forest Hill to the Underground network, the area is in high demand to new residents. BUT at the heart of this the South Circular still passes through the town centre and has a big impact on people and spaces, in addition key streets lack coherence, some connections are poor and prominent sites are an eyesore.

The Forest Hill Society, SEE3 and members of the wider community have identified that there is a strong need for a new creative vision for the town centre and related areas, based on:

- evidence of how it works today
- a community-led vision for change and action
- creative ideas for making the town centre a better place

Achieving this will be a significant piece of work and in order to start this process off a community-led design charrette was held on 19 July in Havelock Walk in Forest Hill.

The plan was to harness the analytical and creative skills of the local community, to focus on using the skills of local architects, urban designers, landscape architects and related professionals and to run the workshops in the format of a short design charrette, or creative workshop.

Those attending comprised both invited local built environment specialists, including architects, landscape architects, engineers, planners and other specialists. Also attending were local residents, traders, community groups

and people from a range of ages and ethnic groups.

The sites and areas that have been identified for review included:

- Forest Hill Station forecourt and related sites, including the visual approach into Forest Hill from the South Circular
- Perry Vale pedestrianisation ideas and related sites, including the Perry Vale car park
- The connections between Forest Hill and Sydenham along the railway line
- Dartmouth Road spaces and pocket park opportunities

The written outcomes of this work will become supporting documents and content for further placemaking and regeneration work, to help support future funding applications and to help inform future policy guidance. The work will be presented at the next Forest Hill Assembly on Tuesday 16 September (venue to be confirmed), along with the Neighbourhood Planning group's ideas for the Kirkdale High Street area.

## Sydenham Smiles

We have just had another successful Sydenham Arts Festival and I am now thinking about community events for the rest of the year. We are hoping to provide more entertainment at our monthly Sydenham market, Halloween trick-or-treat afternoon and a number of events over Christmas. We are looking for volunteers for these events – a few hours really helps to share out the work.

The next **Sydenham Assembly** will be on Thursday 11 September, 7pm at the TNG in Wells Park Road. We will agree funding for projects based on our five priorities:

**Bringing the community together** – funding to set-up new Tenants and Residents Associations. We would like to bring together the communities on Wells Park Road so that there is a stronger voice to raise residents' issues.

**Vibrant high street** – activities that bring footfall to the high street to enhance the look and feel of the place, including a youth market. The rear wall at Station Approach needs decorating and we want to ensure there is an outside electricity supply to Sydenham Community Library for events on the new Piazza.

**Clean and Green** – jet washing hot spots where the new pavement has been marked. A number of residents are also concerned about the loss of street trees and officers will present on this topic. We would like to match-fund the replacement of street trees where residents are prepared to care for the new trees.

The other priority areas are **Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety**. We received an update on health issues at the last Assembly as well as information from the police on the tragic murder of James Hunter. We have longer term issues with **Transport** including campaigning

for the Bakerloo line to come through Lower Sydenham as well as safe cycle routes.

There have been a number of follow up actions between meetings which include The Greyhound, the licensing appeal by Zanzibar, highways completion of Station Approach and working with Skanska on the replacement street lighting. Cllr Liam Curran has been working with residents and traders to fund the resurfacing of Earlsthorpe Mews. Cllr Rachel Onikosi has been elected to join us in representing Sydenham and is the Cabinet Member for Public Realm. I am continuing to Chair SEE3, the Portas Pilot for Forest Hill, Kirkdale and Sydenham and looking at where we can bid for further funding. We have four Action Groups for anyone who wants to get involved in Neighbourhood Planning, Community & Social Capital, Enterprise & Innovation and Marketing, Communications and Events.

Sydenham is changing, so contact me for more information, to get involved and to help shape its future.

**Chris Best, Councillor for Sydenham Ward and Chair of the Sydenham Assembly, Sydenham Town Centre Steering Group and SEE3, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People**  
Tel: 020 8659 6445 [cllr\\_chris.best@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:cllr_chris.best@lewisham.gov.uk)

## Latest News from Perry Vale Assembly

**The first of the four 2014/15 Perry Vale Assemblies took place on the lovely summer's evening of 15 July at the Rockbourne Youth Club, where over 60 residents came to catch up on local issues.**

We were pleased to hold the meeting at the club, as not only is it a focal point for young people in Lewisham, but we were also able to showcase the Assembly funded new raised garden bed constructed by one of the young people and his mother, with help from the Youth Leader, Stuart Devine.

On the agenda, and attracting a lot of attention, was NHS Lewisham Health Checks, presented by Jenny Budd and Frances Fuller. The Health Check programme is a national programme, designed to raise awareness of how to prevent common diseases. The outreach programme also supports those who are deaf.

We had our regular presentation from our Safer Neighbourhood Team, led by Richard Bailey, who told us of his plans to increase resident engagement in order to supplement the successful Neighbourhood Watch programme.

We also heard from Perry Vale's Mayow Park and Dacres Wood Nature Reserve (DWNr). Alona Sheridan, Chair of the Park's Friends group, updated us on the progress of the Pavilion renovation and the café that will soon open there. Tom Weedon, from the Friends of DWNr told us how they are using funding from the Assembly to upgrade the wood

and pond. DWNr was also proud to be involved in the 2014 Sydenham Arts Festival Artists Trail.

A highlight of the meeting was a saxophone medley from Jimmy Beckley of Seniors, who showed the Assembly just how well funding for their Family Musical Fun Project had been spent.

We are approaching the next round of bids from Perry Vale Assembly funds with £12,500 available for projects that must benefit Perry Vale Ward and must be spent on one or more of our Assembly's priorities: the environment, roads and traffic activities for younger people, anti social behaviour prevention and activities for the whole community. There will be further criteria, yet to be discussed and agreed, but mainly around the maximum bid permissible. The funding decision will take place at the Assembly on 27 November and the deadline for bids is towards the end of October. If you would like more information, and to learn how to complete a bid, please contact **Paul Gale, Perry Vale Co-ordinator, at [paul.gale@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:paul.gale@lewisham.gov.uk) or 020 8314 3387.**

We will hold the next Perry Vale Assembly on Tuesday 30 September, venue as yet to be decided. One of the items on the agenda will be "Lewisham's Big Budget Challenge".

**Cllr Susan Wise, Councillor for Perry Vale Ward and Cabinet Member for Customer Services. Tel/Fax: 020 8699 6520.**  
[Cllr\\_Susan.Wise@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr_Susan.Wise@lewisham.gov.uk)

## Zanzibar nightclub

Zanzibar nightclub is appealing Lewisham council's decision to curtail its licence to 2am (it currently ends at 5am). Lewisham called a meeting with residents living close to the nightclub on 23 July to consult and ask for assistance with evidence for the appeal. Despite only 24 hours notice, twenty or so residents attended the meeting. The four-day appeal hearing will take place at Bromley Magistrate's Court from 16 to 20 September 2014. At the hearing between four and eight residents will be called as witnesses.

The Lewisham Licensing team is asking for further evidence of continuing nuisance to be supplied by local residents, and this will be added to evidence already collected by them and the Police Licensing Officer. If you would like any more information, please call 020 8314 2299 or email: [noiseandnuisance@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:noiseandnuisance@lewisham.gov.uk). If you have any evidence that is pertinent to the appeal, please send it to: [licensing@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@lewisham.gov.uk)

The new Zanzibar manager maintains the 5am license is crucial to his business and attended the 23 July meeting to tell residents of the measures in place to mitigate the nuisance, and the following facts and conclusions became apparent:

- The capacity of the club is 890 (c.300 cars)
- Larger events attract around 600 (c.200 cars)
- Smaller events attract around 300 (c.100 cars)
- Events will be held every Saturday night
- Events will be held on every other Friday night
- Additionally events will be held on Sundays during Bank Holiday weekends
- The larger events are causing issues further afield including Westwood Hill and the top of Kirkdale

## Crystal Palace Park update

The timescale slides even more. There has been no Planning Brief so the architectural competition and announcement (due in April) of the final shortlist of 3 architects to design the Zong Rong Group (ZRG) proposal to rebuild the Crystal Palace is no further forward. It is understood that one of the final six architectural practices, Rogers, Stirk, has stood its assembled team down and they are being deployed elsewhere. Negotiations between Bromley Council and ZRG over the 125 year land deal have also slowed to a halt.

Meanwhile the Greater London Authority (GLA) has announced £2.4m funding being made available for work in the park, together with £240k funding from Bromley council as match funding, this last to be made available for Community projects within the park. Bromley will also pay £60k for a condition survey on the Bromley entrance to the Subway, currently on the English Heritage At Risk register.

A recent public consultation exercise was staged in June by the GLA to seek local residents' top priorities for the park on which the £2.4m will be spent. The results of this consultation in order of popularity are:

- Conserving the dinosaurs
- Conserving sphinxes and south terrace steps

- The after 5am issues include nuisance whilst awaiting the first Overground train & 6am opening of the off licence in Sydenham Road



The following questions are being asked:

- Is the management of Zanzibar doing all it can to control nuisance?
- Is the best being done good enough?
- The key question is whether such a large club, which draws most of its customers from those leaving other nightclubs with 2 am closing times, should be located in the middle of a residential community where residents will have their sleep disturbed through the night all weekend?

The issue of Zanzibar stewards requiring evidence from residents living in adjacent roads before being allowed into their own roads was also discussed and deemed illegal and unacceptable to residents.

However the manager maintained that without this control the residents would suffer from patrons parking and other nuisance.

The decision taken at Bromley Magistrate's court in September will be immediate. The owner's only further appeal would be for judicial review.



- Renovation of the concert platform
- Return parking area in central area to parkland
- Restore existing café
- Community, wheeled sports facility (skate park)
- Conserving the Paxton fountain basin
- Removing car parking from central axis
- Removing turn-stiles from central axis

The GLA will spend the first £160k from the £2.4m on funding a feasibility study (which will also include solutions for the future management of the park), the results of which will be made known in October. Bromley is currently employing Donald Insall Associates to complete a survey on the fabric of the Subway. This will involve a technical investigation and conservation management plans to improve access and remove it from the At Risk register.

Bromley is also in a dialogue with Friends of the Subway group about a possible licence to open up the Subway on a regular basis from the Southwark side – they will be opening the subway on Open House Weekend in September. Also on display will be a working model of the Crystal Palace High Level Station, as well as an exhibition by the Inspired by the Subway Group.

# Crystal Palace Subway and Concert Platform open to the public

Hundreds of people are expected to register for a chance to visit the Crystal Palace Subway as part of the forthcoming Open House London event (20/21 September). Last year was the first time the stunning vaulted walkway had been opened for the London-wide cultural event; 1500 people took part in a ballot for supervised access and more than 500 people got to visit the site.

Chair of the **Friends of Crystal Palace Subway**, Karl Richter, said: "Last year's visitors were hugely enthusiastic and gave us very positive feedback. In the interests of everyone's safety and enjoyment, numbers have to be limited but we hope to show an extra 260 people around the subway during this Open House weekend compared to last year."

Open House weekend will also mark the culmination of a year of hard work to capture the stories of the subway.

'**Inspired by the Subway**' – the research and oral history project aimed at recording how the subway has changed over the years and what it means to local people – has attracted considerable interest. A broad range of subway users have been interviewed by trained volunteers and their stories preserved in audio or video recordings. Materials have been donated to the project ranging from personal photographs, home video, flyers and music. An exhibition of audio visual material and art works will be held at the Concert Platform in Crystal Palace Park on 20 and 21 September to accompany Open House weekend.

The Concert Platform is an iconic metal structure in the centre of the landscaped concert bowl and is another structure rarely opened to the public. Entry is completely free and everyone is welcome, so those who are unsuccessful in the Open House ballot will still be able to learn more about the subway and its unusual history. For those who have seen the subway, the exhibition will bring its history to life.

**Inspired by the Subway** Project Manager, Sue Giovanni, says: "The Heritage Lottery Fund Sharing Heritage grant could not have come at a better time with a focus on the park and its heritage over the last year. Working with such an enthusiastic and capable group of volunteers has been the perfect way to investigate the creative uses the local community has put the subway to since the fall of the Crystal Palace in 1936. The project has benefitted enormously from the variety of skills and diversity of approaches that the volunteers have brought to it."

Open House weekend also marks another important anniversary for Crystal Palace. On 19 September 1954, the very last train left Crystal Palace High Level Station and both the station and its subway were closed on 20 September – sixty years ago to the day of Open House 2014. To mark the occasion The Southwark Model Railway Club has a model of the steam engine that pulled the last train, which they will be running on their impressive 32ft model of the station and tracks. A must see for local historians, train enthusiasts and young people of all ages. The concert platform building has full disabled access.



Photo: James Balston



## How to enter the Crystal Palace Subway Open House ballot

If you would like to be entered into the ballot (closes 31 August) for a chance to visit the subway on 20/21 September you can either email: [events@cpsubway.org.uk](mailto:events@cpsubway.org.uk) or call **020 8133 0973** and provide the following information:

Your name, email/phone number, postcode, number of people (maximum 4), ages of any children being accompanied by an adult and your day/time preference i.e. Saturday or Sunday and morning (10am–1pm) or afternoon (1–4.30pm). Successful ballot winners will be notified by Monday 8 September. Please note that there is no disabled access to the subway and it is not suitable for those with mobility issues. You will need to wear a hard hat during your visit.

For more information on the Subway and the **Inspired by the Subway** project visit: [www.cpsubway.org.uk](http://www.cpsubway.org.uk) Twitter (@cpsubway) and on Facebook.



## Four new independent businesses invest in Kirkdale

In the past three months, four new independent businesses have felt confident enough to set up shop in Kirkdale High Street, and these are already bringing welcome new footfall to the area.

At 96 Kirkdale (next door to the well established Behind the Boxes) **Granny's Goodies** has a large collection of quality antique dolls, French babes, German character toys, dolls houses and miniatures in stock. Dolls' accessories such as wigs and clothes are also stocked. A worldwide Doll and Bear Hospital A&E service is available and they are also interested in purchasing all types of antique dolls, bears and automata. Brenda Gerwat-Clark opens the shop on Wednesday and Friday from 10am-4pm and Saturdays 9am-5pm or by appointment. For further information visit: [www.grannys-goodies.co.uk](http://www.grannys-goodies.co.uk) or call 020 8699 4395



Over the road at 101 Kirkdale, Isabelle Robillard has opened **Fig and Pistachio**, a new cafe selling homemade bread, cakes, sandwiches and pastries with a French influence and she is already building up a regular clientele. Isabelle is passionate about quality produce from her homeland and has just extended her hours to 6.30pm. Follow her on **Twitter: @figandpistachio**



A little further down at 151, Robert Munro, a second generation upholsterer living locally, has found it necessary to open a retail business **Munro Upholsterers** in order to cope with an increase in demand for his skills. Dealing with traditional and contemporary furniture, repairs, loose covers and bespoke furniture, his website: [www.munroupholsterers.com](http://www.munroupholsterers.com) gives an insight into his workmanship. **Tel: 020 8659 4703**



Lastly, Belinda Lester and Alex Thorp have opened **161 Food + Drink** at 161 Kirkdale. They feature a regularly changing wine list (with an emphasis on natural, organic and low-sulphur wines), beers from London breweries, Australian-style coffee and a small daily food menu. Drinks are also available to take away. Belinda says "we wanted to bring together the best elements of Melbourne cafes and French wine shops – informal, family-friendly, high quality and affordable. We're both locals, and we're proud to have joined the Kirkdale community at this exciting time, when so many new businesses are opening". Currently open from Thursday-Sunday, hours and days will be increased soon. For the most up to date information, follow 161 on **Twitter @161Kirk** and on: **Facebook.com/161FoodDrink**



# Coming soon to Kirkdale and Sydenham Road

The Adamsrill School decant building is now being erected on the site of the old Willow Way Neighbourhood Office, just off Kirkdale High Street. This will be used from the Autumn term for the Reception and Year 1 classes of Adamsrill School as temporary classrooms and ancillary facilities, while an existing building at Adamsrill is demolished and rebuilt to allow for three-form entry. This site has been the subject of a local Neighbourhood Planning group review of the future needs of the immediate area in and around Kirkdale. Ideas put to Lewisham Policy Officers to change the designation of this strategic site to mixed use were well received at the recent Forest Hill Assembly in July. Final details are being worked up prior to submission and will again be presented to the Assembly at its 16 September meeting.

278-280 Kirkdale



The new building at 278-280 Kirkdale on the railway bridge is now coming on apace. Tranquil Homes, the developers, have released a computerised graphic that shows how this welcome "moderne" building will impact both Cobbs Corner and Sydenham Road. Tranquil Homes reports that due to poor weather in the earlier part of the year, they are a little behind schedule with this site.

The shop at 18 Sydenham Road, long empty and shuttered, is being fitted out by Multi Sport Academy London, which will sell sports equipment.



Vale Enterprises Ltd has appointed Nissen Richards studio to undertake the design of a mixed use development on the existing vacant site of 22A-24 Sydenham Road. The planning application will be submitted in September and proposes to fill in a gap in the terrace of buildings on Sydenham Road, respecting and reflecting the massing and style of the surrounding buildings.



22A-24 Sydenham Road

The development comprises a flexible retail/restaurant space fronting Sydenham Road together with 18 residential units. A large communal garden in the centre of the site provides secure amenity space for all residents. The new proposals will be undertaken using high quality materials and detailing in a complementary yet contemporary manner.

Clifton Aquatics are currently fitting out 90 Sydenham Road, another shop that has been empty for some time.

Carnival Emporium has a very smart new shop front at 172 Sydenham Road, near Kent House Road. They offer feathers, frills, glitter and glamorous trinkets for decorating eye-catching outfits fit for any occasion from Notting Hill to a local fete.

**Clifton Aquatics – "It started with a fish" !**



**Carnival Emporium – outfits for every occasion!**

## Alec Johnson – Sydenham Centenarian

By a touching coincidence, the morning after watching the excellent and moving Sydenham Arts Festival WWI production *When The Boys Come Home* (pt.3) at the Zanzibar club on 16 July, I visited one of the only people left in Sydenham who has any memory at all of the Great War – 100 year old Alec Johnson.

True, he was 'only' born in 1914, but he told me one of his earliest memories is of walking with his father in Bell Green on Armistice Day. It was 11 November 1918, he was 4, and he saw a policeman riding around on his bicycle, ringing a bell telling everyone that the war was over. A brief but very special memory and one I was privileged and pleased to share. Alec remembers when Southend Lane past the railway bridge was a country lane with fields on both sides, before the Bellingham and Downham estates were built and when Perry Hill was a tree-lined walk (before Selworthy and Houston Roads were built and much else besides.)

Alec was born on 9 March 1914, one of 12 children (7 boys and 5 girls) and apart from the four years he spent as a Prisoner of War in Italy in WW2 has lived in Sydenham all his life. He grew up in the Bell Green area, a part of Sydenham woefully under-represented photographically before its major 1970s road widening/redevelopment, so there are no known photos of The Pavement, the row of shops where his father Fred had a shoe repair shop. The Pavement stood near Haseltine School, where the widened road and Stanton Way is now. Alec lived with his parents and 11 siblings above the shop, with no bathroom (just a tin bath) and only an outside toilet, as was normal then.

Bell Green was then a bus terminus and Alec's father's shoe repair shop (or 'boot menders' as they were called) was used by the bus drivers in their breaks where they used to play darts at the dartboard set up in the popular local shop. In poor areas like Lower Sydenham people couldn't afford new shoes; it was much cheaper to have the old ones mended. Alec recollects that buses used to back up in Fambridge Road and both Alec and sister Debs (Debbie) recalled the tragedy of the little girl next door, Kathleen Nash, who was run down by a bus and killed in the early 1930s.

Alec helped his father in the shop from a young age, sometimes to the disapproval of the inspector from the School Board! He remembers cycling to Greenwich to collect the leather for his father to use. Alec married his sweetheart Ivy in 1938. While courting he used to take her to the State Cinema (now the Co-op supermarket) in Sydenham Road using the



free pass the family were given by the local cinemas in return for having their advertising boards (advertising the film on at the cinema that week) outside their shop

Alec was conscripted into the army in WW2 and was captured and imprisoned in 1941, spending the rest of the war as a POW in Italy. After liberation by the US Army in 1945, Alec and his fellow POWs walked across the Alps to freedom and an eventual return to Sydenham, where his wife had received a War Office letter saying he was 'missing, believed killed' some years before, so the whole family were overjoyed to hear of his return. Sister Debs recalls that they all could have cried when they saw how ill and emaciated he was after his ordeal – "It was heartbreaking". However, characteristically, Alec recovered and in 1946 he and Ivy had their one and only child, son Paul, still the apple of Alec's eye.

In the 1950s Alec opened his own shoe repair shop right next to Sydenham Station (now a mini cab office) and lived in Mount Ash Road off Kirkdale until the early 1980s, since when he has lived in happy retirement in Sydenham Park.

The Johnson family of 8 The Pavement, Sydenham (all 14 of them) were a happy and loving family and Alec's sister, 90 year old Debs, believes that love may be the key to the family longevity; four of the family are still living and over 90 – well over 90 in some cases!

It really was a pleasure to meet and chat with Alec, a fine and true gentleman, and his equally charming and friendly sister Debs. They are brother and sister of old Sydenham, still smiling a century later.

**By Michael Viner, 2014, with thanks to Alec and Debs, and Gill Williams for the introduction**

### Dear Editor: Sapper John Martin ex-Royal Engineers 1957-58

I founded the Royal Army Medical Corps 6 Field Ambulance Association in 2011 with the aim of tracing old friends and comrades who served with me as National Servicemen at Thornwood Camp, Epping, between 1953 and 1959 when the camp closed.

So far I have found 30 old pals and another 19 who have since passed away. One of our members remembers a friend, John Martin, being seconded to 6 Field Ambulance and integrated in the smooth running of an operational army unit. John was a Sapper – a Royal Engineer skilled in maintenance trades.

He recalls that John Martin lived at number 30 or 33 Marlow Road (Penge) and they kept in touch for a few years, but have since lost contact. If John is still in the area, or maybe someone may know of his whereabouts, can they please let me know. If John has passed away I would still like to know so his name can be added to the Roll of Honour in our Association records.

**Keith Richards (formerly Corporal Taff Richards, i/c Regimental Police squad at Thornwood camp).  
Email: keithrichards1937@yahoo.co.uk**

# Ruth Locke's family commemorated in new blog

Tim Locke, youngest son of Ruth Locke, describes his new blog: <http://ephraimneumeyer.wordpress.com>

Many Sydenham Society members will remember my mother, Ruth Locke (1923–2012) long-standing committee member and eventually President of the Sydenham Society. From 1956 she lived with her husband Ronald at 2 Charlecote Grove (off Kirkdale), along with the three Locke sons, Stephen, Nic and me; I was born there. In 2013 we had the sad task of emptying the unique higgledy-piggledy family house. And while doing so we made every effort to keep her extraordinary archive of her family intact. I have now started a blog about what I am finding out about a dark episode from the past. As well as her family photo albums, Ruth seemed to have kept all her letters, and all her letters from her parents, going back to 1939, and I found a complete run of her diaries spanning 73 years.

2 Charlecote Grove



Ruth arrived in England in May 1939 aged 15 as a refugee from Nazi Germany. Her parents Vera and Hans Neumeyer were deemed Jewish enough by the Nazis to face persecution and were forced out of their house in Dachau (not that far from the notorious camp) to end their lives in concentration camps. Ruth and her brother Raimund escaped by the Kindertransport (special trains taking children to safety in England). Among the ephemera I found was her ferry ticket from the Hook of Holland to Harwich on 9 May 1939, the Kindertransport ticket itself and a scrawled account in pencil of her journey, which I have yet to decipher.

This bleak episode followed a period of spectacular prosperity for her family. Ruth's grandfather, Martin Ephraim, was a hugely rich industrial magnate who endowed public buildings, including a museum and a synagogue, to his hometown of Görlitz (now on the German/Polish border). A family visit there last May featured a world



The Neumeyer's house, Dachau 1926

Ruth and bicycle in Charlecote Grove



premiere of two chamber works by Ruth's father, Hans, who was a blind composer and teacher. I have been finding more about the people Hans Neumeyer met in Theresienstadt camp at the end of his life.

You can hear Ruth's memories on an interview with the Imperial War Museum at [www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/8002504](http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/8002504)! The interview is in two 15-minute sections and it's wonderful to hear her voice again.

I have started this blog, partly as an act of commemoration and partly as a way to organise my own thoughts on what happened to Ruth's family up until 1945. This has encouraged me to look deeper into the copious material that has been left behind and to explore the stories linked to them. Do have a look and subscribe for updates. There's a lot more to come!

**Tim Locke, Lewes, East Sussex. Email: [tim@timlocke.co.uk](mailto:tim@timlocke.co.uk)**

Neumeyers with coffee pot and bear



## Sydenham Wells Park news

The weather this summer has been a real boon to everyone, including Sydenham Wells Park.

At the end of May we held a Bat Walk led by Daniel Greenwood from The London Wildlife Trust and enjoyed by many local people and families. We saw three varieties of bats this year: the noctule, the pipistrelle and the soprano pipistrelle, which flew across the pond and around our heads so we could all get a good look!

On 8 June we held our annual Plant Sale, which raised nearly £300. The funds are going towards two picnic tables which will shortly be placed close to the top playground.

During the Sydenham Arts Festival, part four of Till the Boys Come Home took place in the neighbouring TNG centre and at the edge of Wells Park, and was very successful indeed.

The Nature Reserve is thriving well with a lot of wildlife and the path is surviving the growth of summer. We have plenty of birds, bees, dragonflies, stag beetles and butterflies. Do come and take a walk round this beautiful park.



The next Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group (SWPIG) meetings will be on Tuesday 9 Sept and Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 4.30pm in the Maintenance Hut near the Wells Park Road entrance.

**Monika Mitchell, Chair, SWPIG (Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group)**

## Albion Millennium Green discovery

This summer we are taking part in the Capital Clean-Up days which have already started to make a positive difference to the Green. It seems that we unearth something new on the Green during every Clean-Up day! In June we discovered an apple tree we didn't know we had and last month we found the remains of an old armchair. The most spectacular discovery though was made by the Nature's Gym team earlier this year with the exposed brickwork which we think was possibly part of the old canal structure or part of the reservoir which fed the canal.

Chain link fencing is buried around the perimeter of this former tennis courts site. A big patch was cleared on 12 July when the armchair emerged from the centre of a massive tangle of bramble, bindweed and chain link fence! We also spread more of the recently donated huge pile of woodchip along pathways and around the fruit trees planted as part of our community orchard. We continued with the battle of the bramble during the June and July Clean-Up days. There is a wonderful crop of blackberries again this year which offers up plenty of fruit for local people, but we have to keep the bramble under control otherwise it overwhelms everything else.

A number of family events (particularly children's parties) have taken place on the Green. The Bedlam Bunch also ran a series of performances and games for children as part of the Sydenham Arts Festival.

For more details about the Green see our website: [www.amgfriends.org.uk](http://www.amgfriends.org.uk). Find out more about the Capital Clean-Up scheme at: [http://www.projectdirt.com/project/12577/#!/journal\\_entry/29298](http://www.projectdirt.com/project/12577/#!/journal_entry/29298)

Ann Field

**STOP PRESS: Albion Millennium Green has just been awarded a Green Flag! Congratulations to all who had the vision and have worked so hard. – Ed.**

## Mayow Park

### The Pavilion

Work on the structure of the building is now complete and our cricketers are using the upstairs changing facilities. The long-awaited Brown and Green Cafe is now open (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat & Sun 10am-4pm). And with the cafe come very new public toilets!

Cricket is played most weekends in Mayow Park. The two home teams, Caribbean Mix and Streatham & Marlborough, are part of the Kent League and have regular fixtures information which you can find on the notice board in Mayow Park, directly opposite the Pavilion, as well as on the Friends of Mayow Park Facebook group and blog.

### Trim Trail And Outdoor Gym

Martin Hyde from Lewisham Greenscene has secured funding for a trim trail and outdoor gym and suitable sites for the outdoor gym have been identified. There is already the beginning of a trim trail beside the older children's play area, close to the De Frene gates. The Friends of Mayow Park have asked Greenscene to consult with regular park users before final decisions are made.

### The Orchard

The eleven orchard trees have been looked after by a team of nine orchard carers and they are already producing fruit. The Friends would love to hear from anyone who is interested in, or able to organise, orchard-specific events.

**Alona Sheridan, Chair, Friends of Mayow Park**

**Email: [friendsofmayowpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmayowpark@gmail.com)**

**[friendsofmayowpark.blogspot.co.uk](http://friendsofmayowpark.blogspot.co.uk). Join our Facebook group:**

**Friends of Mayow Park (FOMP) @MayowPark1**

There will be a Mayow Park Cricket Festival running from Sunday 31 August to Friday 5 September opening with a Community Day on Sunday 31 August. The cafe will be officially opened at 12.30pm.

Events on the Community Day will include Kwik Cricket for children aged 8-11 and a cricket match with Caribbean Ladies XI vs West Indies partners. Come along to this family-friendly day and bring a picnic.

## Sydenham Community Library

This year we took part in both weekends of the Artists' Trail, with a large display of works by children from Adamsrill and Kelvin Grove schools. We also featured some Indian crafts from Dharmesh and Manjari Dave.

During the Family Fun Day/Arts in the Park on 20 July, we had an inspiring range of events, ably compered by Erin Tierney. We began with opera and light music from Gina, followed by story-telling sessions by Ciaran Murtagh, broadcaster and children's author (author of Dinoburps, among others). We also heard songs and stories from Paul Rubinstein, the Ian Lawrence Ukulele orchestra and finally Ziloka, a French Caribbean dance, drum and storytelling group. Although it was amazingly hot in the Library, the audience of over fifty people squeezed in and enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Juliette, Ron and everyone at the Arts Festival for arranging this fantastic entertainment.

Our next big event will hopefully be the opening of the Literary Piazza outside the library. Construction should start in late September and end in October, so watch this space.

The Library is taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge and by 30 July had more than seventy children taking part. Children aged from five to eleven follow a scheme designed to keep them reading over the summer holidays. They read six books and keep a record of what they have read and whether they enjoyed each book. They also have to tell the library volunteers about each book. There are small prizes for each book read. Winners get a medal and a certificate, which is delivered to their school.

We still need more volunteers, particularly people who are happy to staff the enquiry desk, or open the library on a Saturday. If you have a couple of hours to spare each week, or even only occasionally, we are always glad of more pairs of hands. The Friends of the Library hold occasional workdays and are always looking for ways to support the library and its users. To join, please email Ilse at: [friendsofsydenhamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsydenhamlibrary@gmail.com), or leave a message at the library.

Ilse Towler

## Beacon of Hope in Terrible Times – Selina Spider's Column

It was thought at first that all the young spiders had perished in the recent Astroturf Terror Attack, but news has come in that all may not be lost. Via the SpiderWeb Network, reports reveal that small groups of spiderlings have survived by releasing themselves on the wind-currents and taking their chances. Risky though this undoubtedly is, in this case it has proved a life-saver and groups of youngsters have been seen in the Richmond and Twickenham areas, and have been made welcome in the local communities.

In other parts of the country, spiders have also reported incidents of Astroturf Terror, but have begun to put together some strategies for survival. These will be disseminated via the Spiderweb in due course. Meanwhile, "All spiders should keep constant vigilance" said Gutrail the Wise, "for we never know when such attacks might occur. Teach your younglings the ancient routes to safety, and be ready!"

I am happy to report that those spiders I treated in the First Aid Web have all made good recoveries, those with missing limbs have adapted, although they needed some physiotherapy sessions to help them. Sarna the Small, who lost a limb early in her life, proved to be a tower of strength to the injured spiders. She reassured them that it is perfectly possible to live a meaningful life without a full complement of eight legs.

Local spiders, I am proud to say, have accepted the newcomers, and there has been no bullying of any kind. I have long thought highly of my resident arachnids, but my opinion of them has risen to new heights.

The woodlice have established themselves in various locations, but suffered from predation and several lost their lives to birds as they searched for new homes. Worms, by and large, did better, as they made their way underground. "We can't live under Astroturf" said Woagawuga, "it's totally sterile – the humans even brush away any fallen leaves from it."

So, on balance, this has been a month of recovery, with some of the young spiders surviving, and the refugees made welcome. Truly this has shone as a beacon of hope. **Ceinwen Sanderson**

## Dear Editor: Butchery in the streets

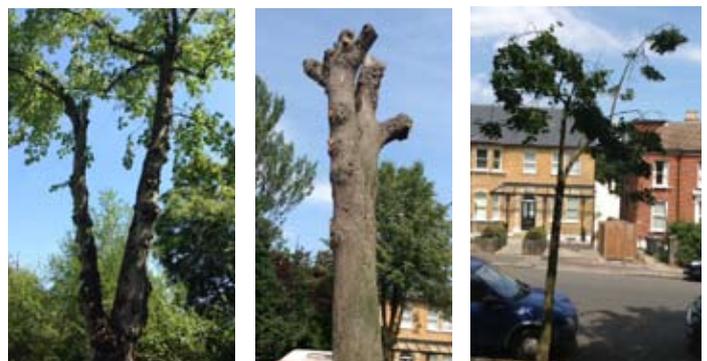
Anyone familiar with Longton Avenue and Longton Grove will know they are lined with large graceful trees, mainly lime trees, which have been resident for over a hundred years.

Two weeks ago a gang with chainsaws arrived in Longton Avenue and proceeded to carve up every tree, regardless of its size, type or condition. Even small and dying trees were sliced up without knowledge or mercy. A tall graceful silver birch outside my house with low swinging delicate branches has been turned into an unstable lollypop, all done with mine and my neighbours' cars still parked underneath it (such was the frenzy to cut it).

Lopping and topping, as this is called, is barbaric in the extreme and is now frowned upon as a form of tree maintenance. The frame and character of the tree is lost. Cutting branches close to the trunk allows in disease (the great gnarled lumps on the sides of the older trees bear witness to this); losing so much of its canopy means that the tree cannot absorb enough nutrients to sustain it through the winter and produce good growth for the following summer.

Every year we lose trees in Longton Avenue and they are almost always young trees, as they cannot withstand this degree of cutting.

Despite vigorous emails of protest from the residents, nothing was heard from Lewisham's Envirocall until the chainsaws stopped.



The email response states that diseased trees had to be cut for health and safety reasons and to reduce successful insurance claims against the council where property damage is concerned.

Was every tree really diseased? Were the trees running along the park side of the avenue really potentially causing problems to property? How is a little dead tree, now missing two of its four branches, now no longer a hazard? Lewisham Council has the worst reputation in London for its treatment of trees.

This is the pitiful mess left for us all to enjoy.

**Annette Elliot-Dunn, Chair, Longton Avenue Residents Association**

## Trattoria Raffaele

Trattoria Raffaele, affectionately known by the locals as Tratt Raff, at 94 Sydenham Road, is one of the most popular restaurants in the High Street. It was opened in 2008 by Raphael Giannandrea and Emily Berryman as the successor to the Montecassino restaurant, run by Raphael's father Dominic since 1971. Raphael was born on the premises and used to help out as a waiter from the age of fourteen.

The restaurant offers authentic Italian dishes including stone baked pizza and pasta, along with seasonal fare of meat, fish and vegetarian specials. The family pride themselves on making all the dishes from scratch on the premises, including their delicious signature pasta sauce. They source the ingredients locally wherever possible, the fish is supplied by Billings and they even grow some of the produce on the roof top garden.

Raphael said, "We are so proud of our little restaurant. In an age when most Italian restaurants on our High Streets belong to big chains that offer much of a muchness, I believe our customers appreciate that we offer something different. Being a local, family run business also means we can greet many of those coming through the door by name. Someone told me recently that coming to Trattoria Raffaele was like receiving a big hug – and that is what we strive to be; welcoming, relaxed and buzzing".

The restaurant regularly showcases the work of local artists and has welcomed a few famous faces including Honor Blackman and McKenzie Crook to sample their fare.

Raphael has lived in Sydenham all his life and loves the amazing sense of community it embodies. "I love the fact that our daughter Sophie plays in the same places I played as a kid. The restaurant motto is: we are not a chain, we are a family. And that is what Sydenham is all about."

Heather Mallinder



## From the Forest to the Sea: Emily Carr in British Columbia

1 November 2014 - 8 March 2015

Dulwich Picture Gallery presents the first major solo exhibition in Europe dedicated to Canadian artist Emily Carr (1871–1945). The show gathers together her paintings of the aboriginal settlements she encountered during her travels up the West Coast of Canada and her formidable landscapes and seascapes. This collection exemplifies Carr's life-long artistic evolution and the eventual discovery of a freedom in style that secured her position as one of Canada's best loved artists. In challenging circumstances Carr's success as both an artist and a celebrated author challenged the status quo with Georgia O'Keefe calling her

## 'Timeless' Book Review

In our summer edition we published an interview with Claire Ritchie, a young author from Sydenham. We asked for reviews of her book: *Timeless*, and below is the winning entry from David Gayle.



A helpless orphan stuck for money turns to the infamous "Fitz Hall" with her younger sister in desperate search of work, and this is the starting point from which Clare Ritchie's 'Timeless' is unravelled. The novel is divided into two sections, not dissimilar to the works of Dickens or other great writers, who perhaps inspired 'Timeless'. My journey through both stories has been frightening, emotional and often gripping, for which Ritchie must be commended.

Ann's story begins in the 1600s, and the innocent first-person narrative of the young scullery maid is quickly dominated by the 'sinister son of the master'. Our protagonist is successfully manipulated by Charles, and Ann is consequently swept into a dark world in which the dead come to life, taking her sister Lizzie with her. Ritchie is particularly good at creating vivid images and descriptions through the voice of Ann, and it is in this first story where we find the most gruesome events in the whole novel. The descriptions of a lip 'split open like a berry' were especially graphic for example. This is one of Ritchie's main strengths as a writer and is brilliantly showcased in the novel; intense description allows the reader to be fully immersed into Ann's every thought and emotion, adding to her depth as a character.

The novel then evolves suddenly into the future with Rose's story. While this second narrative appears unrelated to Ann's, Ritchie artfully fashions together a complete plot line by the end of the book, another well executed technique from a young novelist. However, while the ending was a joy to read, I often found it hard to place 'Timeless' historically when reading Ann's story at the beginning, which made the crossover a little harder to picture in reality.

Overall, 'Timeless' was a great summer read from a talented new writer; I hope we will see more work from Claire Ritchie shortly!

David Gayle



a "darling of the women's movement". A pioneer of modernism, fully aware of international movements in art such as Fauvism and Post-Impressionism, Carr was fascinated by the indigenous populations of British Columbia. She immersed herself in the people and landscape and drew upon both for inspiration and subject matter. **From the Forest to the Sea: Emily Carr in British Columbia** presents a focused selection of over 140 works and indigenous artefacts as well as the recently discovered illustrated journal, **Sister and I in Alaska**, in which Carr documented her pivotal 1907 trip up and down the Northwest Coast.

## EVENTS

**Tuesday 26 August: Club 26 visits "On the Hoof"**, the newly opened Bistro at 25 Sydenham Road. To reserve a seat phone 020 8659 7333 and say you are part of Club 26

**Wednesday 17 September, 7.45pm: Quiz Nite at the Golden Lion.** The questions will be set by Sydenham's Quiz Queen, Eileen Taylor, successful contestant on Countdown and Tipping Point. Teams of 4-6 people are invited and scratch teams can be made up on the night. If you would like to take part, contact Pat on 020 8659 4903 or Jackie on 8778 5455.

**Thursday 25 September: Club 26** meets to eat at one of our long time favourite restaurants, **Gurkha's** at 67 Sydenham Road. Telephone 020 8778 3222 to reserve your place.

**Wednesday 15 October: Day out with lunch at O2** in Greenwich via Overground, Underground, DLR and Emirates Cable Car to O2 and Thames Clipper return to central London. Meet at Sydenham Station at 11.25am.

**Tuesday 28 October: Club 26** meets to eat at the recently re-opened **Catford Constitutional Club** (formerly the Catford Conservative Club) tucked down the passageway off Catford Broadway. Bought by Antic Brewery, this forlorn and forgotten gem is being brought back to life. Shabby, but definitely not chic, "faded glamour of yesteryear" describes it well. The food comes highly recommended. Phone 020 2613 7188 to reserve your place.

**Tuesday 12 November, 7.45pm at the Golden Lion.** A talk by Sydenham Society member **Cliff Watkins** on "**Enid Blyton – the Beckenham Years 1897 – 1929**". The world-famous children's author lived in seven houses in Beckenham during these years. Cliff will also relate the Mystery of Sydenham's Maud Dyrenfurth.

### Mayow Park

**Community Day, Sunday 31 August**

Bring a picnic, join the fun!

**12.30pm:** Official opening of the new café in Mayow Park

**1pm:** Kwik Cricket Competition for children up to 11 years old

**2.30pm:** Caribbean Ladies XI vs WI Partners

### Sydenham Garden

Sydenham Garden will be holding its famous Autumn Fair on Saturday 27 September from 11am-3pm. There will be lots of apple related activities such as pressing, bobbing and pancakes along with stalls, children's crafts, BBQ, plants, jams and chutneys, music and much more! It all takes place at 28a Wynell Road, SE23 2LW. Admission £1 (50p concs).

### Local Assemblies

**Sydenham:** 11 September, at TNG in Wells Park Road at 7pm

**Forest Hill:** 16 September, venue to be confirmed

**Perry Vale:** 20 September, venue to be confirmed

### St Christopher's Midnight Walk 2014 – Saturday 11 October, 11pm

**Five mile walk: starts and finishes at St Christopher's Hospice**

Join the fun and sign up for the St Christopher's Midnight Walk around the Crystal Palace area! Raise sponsorship for our Candle Project, supporting bereaved children and young people. Entry costs £15 which includes a Midnight Walk T-Shirt.

Come and help us light up the night for our Candle Project. Candle provides vital support to children and young people suffering the loss of someone close to them and relies on voluntary support.

Please join us for this lovely event and help us reach our target of raising £50,000 for our Candle Project by seeking sponsorship. Why not get a team together of friends or colleagues from work? We are encouraging our walkers to help us light up the night in neon, sparkles or lights! Perhaps you could also ask your company if they would like to support this event? As well as walkers we also need volunteers to help marshal the route.

For more information and to register online visit: [www.stchristophers.org.uk/midnightwalk](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/midnightwalk), or contact Rebecca Kemp on 020 8768 4570 or email: [r.kemp@stchristophers.org.uk](mailto:r.kemp@stchristophers.org.uk) for paper entry forms.

Please note due to the nature of the event it is not suitable for children under the age of 11. Young people under 18 must have parental consent, and those aged 11-15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## 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)	£8.00/£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.

### Bank details for The Sydenham Society STANDING ORDER

Name of your bank/building society \_\_\_\_\_

Address of your 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. 00524410) the sum of £8/£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'.

## Sydenham Arts Festival

Sydenham Arts Festival Ltd will be announcing some very important developments in its organisation during the next few months.

Look out for Sydenham Arts, a newly constituted charity and some innovative changes to the way it promotes and delivers arts events, performances and exhibitions in the local area. This is a very exciting time for Sydenham Arts Festival, which recently staged its sixth annual event in July. Director Jonathan Kaufman and team will be unveiling the new-look organisation later this year. They will also be inviting anyone interested in being part of a focus group to identify local needs, interests and attitudes to the arts generally. For more information on this please contact Jonathan at: [director@sydenhamartsfestival.co.uk](mailto:director@sydenhamartsfestival.co.uk)

Here are a few photos from the 2014 Festival which capture the spirit of exuberance and enjoyment of the two weeks of the Arts on our Doorstep.



Street Celebrations, Ziloka dancer

Photo: Mark Drinkwater



Arts in the park concert

Photo: Pupak Navabpour



Theatre on the 202 bus. Photo: Mark Drinkwater

Tap dancers. Photo: Pat Couder



Busker. Photo: Entoptika photos

Super Heroes.  
Photo:  
Molly Webb



Till the Boys Ernie Simmonds tells his story. Photo: Steve Broh



Colourscape.  
Photo: Steve Broh

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

**A warm welcome to the following new members:**

David Baldwin  
Trevor Beedham  
Andy Beven  
Ray Bishop  
Tim Bradley  
Carol Briggs  
Eileen Brushett

Adam Cornish  
Kathleen Tara Cranswick  
Kristofer Driscoll & Emilie Biggio  
Yasemen Hussein  
Ken & Val Johnson  
Sheila Kellow & Jeffrey Higley

Vilmantas Liulevicius  
Jenny Lumley & Joe Ball  
Kate McGregor & John Allison  
Jeanette McKenna  
Eamon Nolan  
Oluwafunmbi Ogundiwin

Catherine Kitty Pluygers  
Terri Pomeroy  
Rabea Rahim & Andrew Smith  
Nicola Smith  
Michael Robinson  
Lucy Toller

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2014 are now due. Many thanks, **Roger Feather, Treasurer.**  
**Tel: 020 8778 4318 Email: [membership@sydenhamsociety.com](mailto:membership@sydenhamsociety.com)**