

SYDENHAM SOCIETY

NEWS

Autumn 2015

Sainsbury's names Sydenham Arts as its local charity partner of the year 2015/16

Sydenham Arts will receive a year's worth of fundraising and awareness support from the store's colleagues and customers. After a successful weekend of fundraising at the beginning of August, there will be more to follow throughout the year. The scheme has raised over £7m to support local charities since 2009.

In early July Sydenham Sainsbury's announced that Sydenham Arts are their Local Charity of the Year. This was a very significant achievement for Sydenham Arts who only entered the register of charities in May 2015.

Sainsbury's local charity scheme, now in its seventh year, offers fantastic support for community based charities such as Sydenham Arts.

This year for the first time, customers got the chance to vote for their favourite charity in store and online. Following huge support from the community, Sydenham Arts will now receive a year's worth of support through fundraising and awareness support in store.

This is an exciting venture for Sydenham Arts' largely new Board of Directors who are building on the excellent foundations laid by the work of Jonathan Kaufman who successfully developed the annual Summer Art Festival over many years.

*Paul Miller, Store Manager Sainsbury's Sydenham, said:
"As a store we are excited about working with our
new charity partners, Sydenham Arts.*

*In my opinion, our customers have chosen a great charity
and we look forward to supporting them."*



David Smurthwaite, Chair and Board Member Tom Tootal, Board Member, (front) Helen Goward, Managing Director, (rear) Jan Stockwell Board Member, John Clark, Board Member, Barbara Morse, Board Member, Isabel White, Board Member

The launch of the partnership took place in the first weekend of August. Representatives from the charity joined Sainsbury's colleagues in raising awareness of Sydenham Arts events and volunteering opportunities with the charity. Sydenham Arts seized the opportunity to infuse the Bell Green store with some creative entertainment and were delighted by the shoppers' responses to the steel band and children's entertainer who joined them.

*Helen Goward, Managing Director of Sydenham Arts, said:
"We're absolutely thrilled to be chosen as Sainsbury's
Sydenham's Local Charity Partner. We can't wait to work
together and raise the profile of our charity over the next year.
We would like to say a big thank you to all the local people who
voted for us - your support is much appreciated"*

Look out for future fundraising events and the Charity of the Year display board at the store where you can find out about both previous and future work and this autumn, look out for the launch of a Friends of Sydenham Arts scheme.

If you would like to find out more about Sydenham Arts, you can:
visit their website at: www.sydenhamarts.co.uk
find them on Facebook: Sydenham Arts Festival
follow them on Twitter: @Sydsartsfest

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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

Keep informed about news and events in SE26 – sign up for the SydenhamSociety e-newsletter by visiting

www.sydenhamsociety.com

Send us your email address and you'll 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
Helen Hayes MP for Dulwich and Upper Norwood
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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

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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 30 October 2015

Public in-convenience in Station Approach



They say a picture paints a thousand words...

These photos taken over the past year tell the story of the public lavatory near the station in Sydenham.

On 14 August 2014, Lewisham Council began the demolition of the old public toilet block in Station Approach, however work was stopped the same day by officers at Network Rail who were not satisfied with the paperwork.

The paperwork was eventually approved and the demolition was finally completed in October, with work on the pavement and rear brick wall beginning in December.

In February the new unit was delivered, but, 12 months since work began, the toilet still needs to be connected to an electricity supply and is currently unusable.

In addition to being non-functional, it is also not visually appealing. The appearance of the all-singing, all-dancing, 'no touch' flush toilet finished in black, is in stark contrast to the promised softer green design.

The placement of the loo, with the door facing uphill, is logical when considering that it is DDA compliant.

We want to see the toilet open without further delay.

Lewisham's Highways Department, responsible for the installation, is fully aware of the dissatisfaction of local residents.

Maybe our next newsletter will carry the final photo in the series – the grand opening of the new Station Approach toilet!

Pat Trembath

Goodbye and thank you Julia Welcome Jody

After eight years of laying out the Sydenham Society News, **Julia East** has stepped down from her position as the newsletter's volunteer Graphics Queen. Now living in North London and working full time she feels the time has come to hand over the reins to someone else.

Julia's positive attitude has made working with her a real pleasure and, although she is no longer a near neighbour of mine, we have developed a lasting friendship over the years. She would like to keep up with the local Sydenham gossip so will continue to look forward to receiving her copy of Sydsoc News when it arrives through her letterbox. On behalf of all readers I'd like to thank Julia for all her work since Autumn 2007, which has taken the Sydenham Society News to award winning heights.

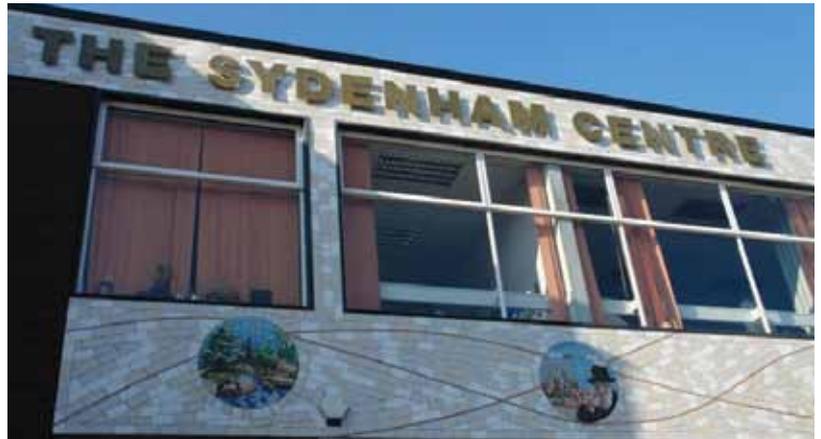
Jody McLeish answered the call in our summer edition for a new volunteer graphic artist. He has always worked in design and is fully versed in the technicalities of print production and has a few ideas in developing the style.

This is the first edition which he has laid out and so members reading it may already notice one or two changes to the previous format. It is great to welcome Jody to the editorial team and we are looking forward to working with him.

Pat Trembath

A Centre for Sydenham's Community

We are now familiar with the mosaic on **The Sydenham Centre**. This initiative was championed by Valerie Kelly and was intended to enhance the high street. The mosaic, an installation by Oliver Budd, was completed in the spring of 2013. Valerie and her partner Bob have continued to keep a close eye on this spectacular addition, ensuring it was cleaned and restoring the façade to its original splendour.



We are now creating a new Community Centre for Sydenham in the building itself. We want this to become a vibrant community space in the heart of Sydenham. It will feature a mix of local organisations including Sydenham Arts, SEE3, Sydenham Film Club and a core offer focussed around dance and physical movement activities including pilates and yoga. The kitchen can become a café with an opportunity to develop a healthy eating programme.

We imagine a welcoming public space to draw the local community and users together. There will also be a shared activity space and selected areas for office workers, people with learning disabilities and their service providers. The building would initially be managed via Lewisham's Community Premises team with a range of voluntary and community organisations based there to ensure that a user friendly and

inclusive environment is created. If you are interested in the use of the building please let me know and we will have a local meeting to discuss the future of the space. This will be a topic at the next Sydenham Assembly meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 17 September at the TNG in Wells Park Road. I hope to see you there.

Chris Best

Councillor for Sydenham Ward and Chair of the Sydenham Town Centre Steering Group and SEE3

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Lark in the Park brought to you by the Perry Vale Assembly

Saturday 18 July was a hot and sunny summer's day and brought many people to Mayow Park for our inaugural "Lark in the Park" assembly community event. During the event, 500 visitors took advantage of our lovely park and investigated the tables run by community groups and it was covered by the local press.

Many community groups took part, including the Young Lewisham Project, selling restored furniture and bird boxes made by the young people to raise funds for their youth club, whilst also offering free bicycle maintenance and safety checks to cyclists. Our event focussed on a healthy lifestyle, with HealthwatchLewisham in attendance offering advice and information, and asking for comments on local NHS services. Healthy food was provided by Iris Till and her fruit kebabs, courtesy of the Nutrition Partnership, with 84 visitors enjoying their own customised kebabs. Rise Up to Shine offered advice and support to young people, and I Life encouraged people to "live more and live well". Jacq Paschoud provided a children's quiet time with her stories that adults were not allowed to hear, and many of those enjoying the stories were decked out in colourful face-paintings created by London and Quadrant Housing Association.

The recently restored cricket pitch enabled cricket lovers to watch our Mayow Park resident team Caribbean Mix, led by



Captain Jim Ferguson, play Old Wilsonians in a 40 over match, and the sunshine meant that our newly opened Brown and Green café was full of customers, the children's play areas were packed, and the tennis courts were full of aspiring Wimbledon stars. Perry Vale's Safer Neighbourhood Team PCSO, Andrea Woolrych, provided a friendly face from the police. She was recently awarded a well deserved Asquith Gibbes award for her outstanding work in our community. Friends of Mayow Park's Alona Sheridan provided information about the park and encouraged support from visitors for the park.

The event was very successful, and I must thank Sarah Lang, the Perry Vale Ward officer, for helping to make my idea for a Mayow Park community event come to life.

Susan Wise

Councillor for Perry Vale Ward

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Kirkdale High Street road improvements

Lewisham Council is conducting a feasibility study into significant improvements to Kirkdale High Street, from the junction of Peak Hill to Fransfield Grove. The council has issued outline proposals after consultations with local councillors and key local stakeholders last February.

These consultations aimed to uncover the main issues and aspirations for the area – see Summer 2015 newsletter for a recap.

The main objectives agreed from the consultations are to:

- Support the introduction of a borough-wide 20mph speed limit, reducing vehicle speeds and improving safety at junctions.
- Control illegal parking.
- Help the local economy by improving the overall appearance and accessibility of the street through upgrading the paving and planting street trees.
- Make the street more pedestrian friendly and encourage sustainable travel modes.

The main proposals now on the table are to:

- Narrow the available carriageway width to 6.2m through the high street section and widen footways.
- Identify the high street as a distinct part of Kirkdale through the use of high quality materials and a shared surface approach.
- Introduce a raised table (a higher road surface) for the high street from Jews Walk to the mini-roundabout. This will improve safety by reducing vehicle speeds and provides a better facility for pedestrians to cross, especially at courtesy crossings, where vehicles cross over the footways and pedestrians have priority.



- From Jews Walk to Peak Hill, narrow the available carriageway width to 8m including a central median, which allows the widening of footways and provision of parking on the eastern side. The medians help keep vehicles in their respective lanes but can be overrun to pass stationary buses or other obstacles if necessary.
- Increase the number of available parking spaces outside the shops. All parking would be in designated bays on the footway.
- Plant street trees interspersed with parking bays to help make the street green and to visually break up the line of parked vehicles.

This project is partially funded by Transport for London through the borough's Local Implementation Plan Programme. The current work aims to develop ambitious plans to attract further funding and set a high standard for the streetscape in key places across the borough.

Projects may be revised according to available funding, or may need to come forward for detailed design and delivery in phases. Once the feasibility work has concluded and a fully funded proposal is developed, there will be a further full consultation as part of the detailed design process.

Sydenham Community Library

Sydenham Community Library is celebrating the arrival of local resident Moreline, to run the library café. Moreline's other café, My Front Room, nearby at 341 Sydenham Road, is developing a strong following for her delicious cakes, coffee, and cosy ambiance. The library café will offer her homemade cakes and a daily lunch menu when it is fully established. Look out for the café sign on the Piazza and for tables and chairs when the weather permits.

The tables, chairs and parasols have been bought with the last of the "Awards for all" funding. This grant also provided the power supply at the far side of the Piazza, the wooden benches including the circular bench around the plane tree, and the story chair. People now frequently sit there on their way across the park, to eat and chat or just to relax and look out across the green space.

The library runs a full range of activities for all ages. Please see our facebook page and our website at www.sydenhamlibrary.wordpress.com/

The number of people using the library has increased. There are regularly over 4,000 users of the building per month, this includes a large proportion of regular users and many people who just use the computers and wifi.

Over a hundred children have already enrolled for the Summer Reading Challenge, which is open to those aged four to eleven. Children read six books during the summer holidays, tell us about them and get small prizes throughout with a certificate to their school and a medal if they finish.

Apart from Chrissie the manager, the library is staffed entirely by volunteers. As it is open four days a week, with two late evenings till 7pm, this means a lot of volunteer hours. We'd really welcome more people to join us.

Please call the library on **020 8778 1753** to find out more.

Winter is coming and we are concerned about our astronomical fuel bills which still leave the building cold. We have a quote for over £5,000 to replace the boiler, so any donations or suggestions for fundraising would be welcome. A fundraising dinner is planned for September.

Portas Pilot

the story so far!



Following retail guru Mary Portas' independent review of failing high streets in December 2011, the government and the GLA made £2.7m available to run a series of pilots to trial her recommendations.

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers, Sydenham, Forest Hill and Kirkdale's joint bid for up to £100k of government funding won one of 15 Portas Pilot grants in the second round of bidding.

Having narrowly missed out in the first round, the initial bid for approximately £80k funding was fine-tuned and enhanced by £100k of matched funding towards town centre improvements for Sydenham and Forest Hill.

The £100k was held by Lewisham as part of the planning agreement with the developers of the Bell Green retail park - £50k for Sydenham and £50k for Forest Hill to counter any loss of trade to the local high streets. Lewisham also allocated £15k from the High Street Improvement Fund for bringing empty shops back into use.



The Portas Review identified the need to put the heart back into the centre of Britain's high streets. The intention was to re-imagine them as destinations for socialising, culture, health, well-being, creativity and learning, as well as places that could nurture and sustain new and existing markets and businesses.

According to Mary Portas, "high streets should become places where we go to engage with other people in our communities, where shopping is just one part of a rich mix of activities".

So began the front page of the autumn 2012 edition of the Sydenham Society News. So what has happened in the intervening three years?

Landing the award was great news - but the volunteers had to act fast. A company limited by guarantee (not for profit) - SEE3 Ltd - was set up to provide governance and to handle the funding, appoint directors, a Town Team Manager and open a bank account. Councillors from both Sydenham and Forest Hill wards, as well as council officers, were joined by representatives from the



Sydenham and Forest Hill Societies, local traders and others interested in taking forward various initiatives that had formed the basis of the funding bid.



In Sydenham the empty shop at 27 Sydenham Road (now Cherry + Ice) was rapidly transformed into a community hub. Named Jill, it opened on Saturday 1 December 2012 and became a multi-purpose hive of activity. Some of the uses included a gallery for local artists and craftspeople, a centre for creative community engagement with inspirational art installations and drama productions, the location for business workshops, pop-up events and a base for the Town Team.

Landlords of empty shops in and around Sydenham Road and Kirkdale were approached and several agreed to host pop-up shops in their vacant premises as a "meanwhile use", providing would-be tenants with an opportunity to test the market. As a result of the re-opening of five of these shops in Sydenham, and by upgrading the electrics and giving them a coat of paint, other tenants have come forward in the last three years and all are now on their way to be, or indeed already are, trading again.

The big launch day was a bitterly cold crisp day in December 2012 and a Christmas market was held in Sydenham Station Approach.

It was such a success that a monthly market is now a regular event in the Sydenham calendar. SEE3 invested in 20 market stalls and now uses the pocket parks at the end of Venner and Queensthorpe Roads as the venues. Slow at first, painfully slow in fact, and dogged by bad weather, the Sydenham market has now become a popular monthly feature taking place on the second Saturday of the month from March to December.

With a small sum of money from the Sydenham Assembly towards entertainment, "High Street Happenings", presented by Sydenham Arts, is now a popular monthly event in the market showcasing local musicians, singers, dance groups and other entertainers.

The Portas Pilot in Sydenham, Forest Hill and Kirkdale has made an enormous difference to the three high streets.

- In Sydenham shop vacancy rates have been massively reduced with investment from a range of new businesses – there is now only one shop currently being marketed on Sydenham high street
- There has been an expansion of places to meet, socialise, eat - and drink!
- New signage in Forest Hill and Kirkdale
- The Forest Hill Fashion Week continues and Jack-in-the-box (the Forest Hill community hub) attracted more residents to get involved with initiatives such as the popular street piano and the day-long Forest Hill charette involving local planners and architects looking at how the town centre could be redesigned to improve the local environment
- Further funding of over £100k has been awarded to Dartmouth Road to enhance the space outside the library, Louise House and Forest Hill Pools and will integrate with the planned road improvements

And there is more planned...

The Portas Pilot Town Team meets quarterly and meetings are open to all - from local residents who love their locality, to budding entrepreneurs, aspiring market stallholders and local traders. Particularly welcome are those with experience in bid-writing who can help forge SEE3's next phase of development - building on the success so far and helping to shape our vibrant area for the second half of the decade. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3 September in the Community Room at Forest Hill Pools from 7-8.30pm.

One of the main agenda items will be the presentation of the latest designs for the frontage of the library, Louise House and the space outside Forest Hill Pools in Dartmouth Road. Come along and join in!





While Sydenham has fewer pubs than other local town centres, many that we do have are currently in a state of flux.

The Greyhound

The Greyhound is looking better than it has for several years. The current stage of works is going a little more slowly than had been anticipated, but this is due to the complexity involved in the chimney and roof reinstatement works. Building Control and Conservation officers from Lewisham Council have been regularly inspecting the works. Purelake are using Shaw Stone, specialists in pointing and their work is considered to be of a very high standard.

They have been successful in visually tying together the original historic and reclaimed brickwork used to rebuild the pub. There has been a good brick match for the parts of the building which have been rebuilt, notably the chimney and gables to the front. A few brickwork repairs that involved cutting out the brick and re-inserting replacement bricks in the historic front elevation are also of a good standard. Building Control has advised that the developers intend to remove the floor once the overall structure is sufficiently sound to allow this.

An application for the conservatory and outside staircase has been received, although there are questions about the need for the outside stairs at the back of the building in the narrow passage way. The railings will obscure part of the decorative tiling on the rear wall and, while the railings may meet building control requirements in terms of stability and height, they may still be a hazard given the depth of the proposed well.

A higher railing would make even less of the decorative tiling visible. The stairwell would reduce the gap between the pub and shop fronts from about 4.15m to about 3.3m. The staircase also appears to duplicate an internal staircase which at ground floor level starts at the rear door, and which is wider (about 1.1m) than the proposed staircase (about 0.8m).

We anticipate the completion of The Greyhound by September, but we still don't know who will run it, or when it will open for business.



The Alfred

The Alfred (formerly The Prince Alfred), having undergone a major refurbishment three years ago, is currently up for sale for £850,000, along with a large residential area above the premises.



The Wood House

The Wood House (formerly The Dulwich Woodhouse) has finally re-opened following a major refurbishment. The pub has undergone a complete transformation and now features a conservatory style extension with a new restaurant space. The bar has been restored to its original location at the front of the pub with a whole host of new spaces for customers to enjoy. The large garden has also been completely overhauled and now includes Paxton's Potting Shed - a new outside bar, along with a Burger Shack (pictured left), as well as a number of heated huts, which are perfect private hire spaces for small groups throughout the year.

The Talma

The Talma, the last of the seven public houses that used to trade in Wells Park Road and closed in 2013, is still looking for a new owner and the asking price has been reduced to £495,000. A planning application to add an additional floor has been submitted, but has yet to be approved.

5 Kent House Road

The news that Late Knights, a Penge micro-brewery, was keen to open a small licensed premises in Sydenham was greeted with pleasure by many local residents keen on craft beer. However the alcohol licence granted by Lewisham's Licensing Committee is extremely restricted. It does not allow them use of the front curtilage at all, or any use of the garden at the rear after 6pm, due to the proximity of the neighbouring residential properties. This begs the question whether Late Knights will open for business at all in 5 Kent House Road.



The Golden Lion

The Golden Lion reopened on Thursday 23 July after a refurbishment.

The floor of the main bar has been stripped and sanded and the walls are painted in a neutral colour.

The old tables and chairs have gone and have been replaced by high tables, low tables, sofas and armchairs – however this is still a work in progress.

The smaller front bar has been completed, and the rear garden, always a mass of colour is, as usual, a welcome sight.

The kitchen has now opened and food is being served.



The Windmill

The Windmill in Kirkdale, subject of a local campaign to retain the premises as a pub and designated an Asset of Community Value (ACV) by Lewisham Council, has been sold to Antic who have submitted a planning application to Lewisham which, we understand as we go to press, is to demolish and rebuild as two commercial units at street level with residential above. Sydenham Society's Planning and Conservation Committee will meet Antic to discuss its plans, in view of the fact that any rebuild will need to take account of the ACV designation.



Spontaneous Productions announces...

Believe it or not, it's nearly eight years since this Sydenham based theatre company began producing its unique and well-loved style of community theatre.

We would love to hear your thoughts about what you'd like to see us do next.

Following its smash-hit open-air shows – *The Remarkable Race of 1913*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Three Musketeers* & *The Importance of Being Earnest* – the company is now planning to bring regular open air theatre to the bowling green in Sydenham's Mayow Park, starting in the summer of 2016.

To help us make this venture a really successful and popular one, we are inviting our subscribers to complete a short online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JM6SLHF> If you have any further questions or thoughts, please contact Creative Director Jonathan Kaufman at jonathan@sptheatre.co.uk

(Spontaneous apologises that they are having a few problems with the survey, and it may not be possible to tick more than one box on some questions - please add your comments in the 'other' box if this is the case.)

Photograph - Ann Pownall

New church in town

Grace Church Sydenham is a new Anglican church in town. We are independent but hold to the Bible-based traditions of the Church of England. We are a group of people from a variety of different backgrounds united by our common beliefs. We meet in the TNG Youth Centre on Wells Park Road every Sunday morning from 10.15am.

We're about the local community: everyone is welcome. We love to have visitors and we want to help our community as much as possible, young and old alike. And we're about good food and drink: we serve coffee, tea and cakes before and after the service. We're about good music: we like to make some noise and sing something joyful – no medieval dirges here! We're about family: we cater for kids of all ages from a crèche to our Sunday night youth group. And we're about being a family: we have lunch together once a month after church, sometimes a picnic over the road in Wells Park.

We open our homes, have people round for dinner, have fun and share our lives together. But most of all we're about opening the Bible together to learn more about God's son, Jesus. The main event on a Sunday morning is hearing what the Bible has to say.

Visit National Trust properties FOR FREE

As a Sydenham Society member

Sydenham Society members continue to benefit from free entry to many National Trust properties thanks to our membership of Civic Voice.

Sydenham's location in south-east London puts us in striking distance of a wide range of the finest NT properties in Kent, Sussex and Surrey – many of which can be reached by public transport (but check details first at www.nationaltrust.org.uk before setting out!)

The passes are valid until **31 May 2016** and the offer includes you and your partner. If you are already a member of the National Trust you can pass the offer on to friends and family. However, due to re-organisation, English Heritage passes are not available this year.

You can collect your free NT passes at all Sydenham Society events (public meetings, trips and quiz nights) and at the Sydenham Society stall at the monthly SEE3 market (now on the second Saturday of the month) in Venner Square.

Alternatively, you can have the passes posted to you by emailing chair@sydenhamsociety.com

Thanksgiving service & community open day

On Sunday 20 September at 10.30am we're inviting everyone to our special Thanksgiving service – our opportunity to give thanks for being a church here in Sydenham.

From 1-3.30pm we'll be having our first community open day, with a bouncy castle, live music, face painting, food, refreshments and more family fun for the whole community.

For more information about the open day and Grace Church Sydenham in general, visit our website www.gracechurchsydenham.org or find us on Facebook or Twitter. Better still come and visit!

We're at the **TNG Youth Centre** on Wells Park Road every Sunday from 10.15am. We've told you about us, now we'd like to hear your story.

Tim Iles (Revd.)



Murder in the Cathedral by T.S. Eliot

**Wednesday 11 November
to Saturday 14 November at
St. Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham**

The Dulwich Player's production of T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* will bring the dark and dangerous world of medieval England to St. Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham. Candlelight and live choral music will provide the atmospheric setting for Eliot's verse drama that dramatically tells the story of the assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170.

Thomas had clashed with Henry II seven years earlier and fled into exile. Now, returning to England he knows he will almost certainly be killed and struggles with the temptation both to avoid martyrdom and to embrace it for the wrong reasons, before facing the accusations and physical brutality of his death at the hands of four knights.

The play is held together by the Chorus of women who, as in Greek drama, reflect on the unfolding tragedy in some of the play's most beautiful and searing language. Music arranged and composed especially for this production will also bring a vivid and emotionally enriching layer to the drama.

Written originally for performance in Canterbury Cathedral, against the backdrop of rising Fascism across Europe, the play provides a compelling call for resistance in the face of intimidation and holds much that is relevant to the 21st century.

For further information contact: **Gillian Daly**, Director: gilldaly@virginmedia.com www.dulwichplayers.org.uk

The SABRE appeal

Programmes for the *Murder in the Cathedral* production will be sold in aid of the St. Bartholomew's Restoration Fund, SABRE, which is currently seeking to raise between £600k and £700k for urgent repairs.

The fund now stands at £134k and is climbing. Passers-by looking at the tower may wonder where the clock hands have gone. They are tucked away in storage for safe-keeping, but look closer and you'll see the faces themselves are just replicas; the heavy slate ones have also been safely removed for later restoration and re-instatement when the main building work has been done. They are currently stored on the North Aisle roof inside the church.

Large restoration projects like this inevitably take time, but we hope that patience will pay off as we continue to gather together all the information and costs necessary to make the best possible case to the funding bodies.



Part of the process now is to identify exactly what we want to do with the finished church; in other words, just what enhancements are we looking for and to what purpose? We know we want to restore heritage features such as the original pinnacles and rare clock mechanism. But what do you think we should do with this building to increase our outreach? Getting it right at this stage will enable us to make sensible choices as we pore over architect proposals for the crypt, internal gallery, lift, toilets and stairs.

You can really help us in this with your suggestions. If we are to offer the best and fullest service possible to the community, we need to understand the needs and desires of that community. What new facilities would you want us to be able to offer? Do you know of community groups for whom it is difficult to find affordable premises? What would your priorities be for this building?

Any feedback would be extremely welcome.

Contact us through our website:

www.stbartschurchsnydenham.org and click on the building restoration link in the right hand column, or email gilldaly@virginmedia.com with your ideas and comments. Thank you.

About St Bartholomew's Church

St. Bartholomew's is a Grade 2* listed church designed and built in 1832 by Lewis Vulliamy. Painted by Camille Pissarro in his 1871 'The Avenue' (in the National Gallery), it contains many features of great heritage value including a clock mechanism by the architect's brother, Benjamin Vulliamy, clock-maker to the Crown, and an Arts & Crafts reredos by Henry Wilson. There is also a wonderful collection of stained glass, both original and (following war damage) more recent by Francis Spear. Even the organ was inaugurated by Queen Victoria's own organist and her eldest daughter planted a tree that still grows in the churchyard.

Vandalism at La Petite Bouchée, Wells Park



We were very shaken to find La Petite Bouchée vandalised in two separate attacks.

The windows had been shot out with an air rifle and there were several pellet marks.

It's been a relatively slow process replacing certain pieces of glass as she's a vintage vehicle. We've been totally overwhelmed by the love, support and practical help we have received.

The community police have been absolutely fantastic, as has every single passerby in the park. There has been genuine sadness for what has happened and everyone has said such lovely things.

We are in the process of crowdfunding to raise money for increased security such as steel shutters and CCTV.

Thank you so much, everyone.

Horniman Museum and Gardens

The days are getting shorter and the nights are drawing in but there's plenty to see and do inside the museum and outside in the gardens at the Horniman this autumn.

As part of Open House London our Head of Horticulture, Wes Shaw, is taking visitors on a Behind the Scenes Tour of the Horniman Gardens on Saturday 19 September. The tour covers the history of the gardens, how they are related to the Museum's collections, future projects and takes a look behind the scenes at the nursery where all our plants are grown. Tickets are free but spaces are limited so please go to our website to book online.

September also sees the second birthday of our ever popular Farmers' Market, offering a range of locally sourced produce every Saturday between 9am and 1.30pm outside on the Bandstand Terrace. There'll be birthday celebrations on 26 September so come along and join the party.

Inside the museum local photographer Max A Rush's South London Landscapes will be on display until 20 September. The collection features atmospheric photographs of south London parks, open spaces and natural areas – including the Horniman Gardens. Edward Chell's Bloom, a series of painted plant silhouettes inspired by plants in the Horniman's Gardens and historic collection, will feature in our Natural History Gallery until 6 December.

There's a last chance to explore the wonderful world of plants on a massive scale, with a visit to our family friendly

Plantastic exhibition, which closes on 1 November. You can also see the three specially designed and themed outdoor displays in the gardens inspired by it.

On the weekend of 31 October and 1 November join us at the Horniman Halloween Fair for spooky storytelling, creepy creatures, arts and crafts markets, fiendishly fine food stalls plus lots more. Visitors are invited to dress in their favourite Halloween costume and join the Halloween parades taking place in the gardens throughout the weekend.

Thanks to the generous support of art lovers in south London and further afield, a unique exhibition of Mark Fairington's paintings will be on display from 28 November. Collected and Possessed was funded via the Art Fund's crowdfunding platform Art Happens and features works by Mark, alongside taxidermy specimens from the Horniman stores that inspired his paintings.

And don't forget to join us in the Music Gallery on the last Tuesday of each month for Hear It Live! a live performance on our 1772 Kirckman harpsichord as part of our At Home With Music display.

For further details about these and other events taking place at the Horniman this autumn, please go to www.horniman.ac.uk. If you are interested in supporting the Horniman, please go to our website for further details about our membership and benefactors schemes, www.horniman.ac.uk/get_involved.

Crystal Palace Park

Following the demise of the ZongRong plans to rebuild the Crystal Palace, Bromley has now announced that plans for a new form of governance and long term improvements in Crystal Palace Park are underway. These plans will include the production of a regeneration plan to improve the park, bringing to fruition aspects of the Masterplan, while creating a sustainable business model for the park's future.

Councillor Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council said
 "We have been working alongside local residents for many years now and this proposal has always been part of our vision. There are many considerations which need to be examined and naturally, finance will be part of this. The Masterplan proposals will need to be carefully assessed to ensure that a viable plan comes forward. Improving and sustaining this much loved park remains at the very heart of what we are looking to do and the long term governance proposals are part of this."

Community representatives have welcomed the formation of a community led governance and management model for the park.

Martin Tempia, Chair of the Crystal Palace Park Community Stakeholder Group, said,

"This is very good news for the Park. After the uncertainty caused by the ZhongRong proposal we now have the opportunity to plan for its future. It is in recognition of the hard work by community organisations and other stakeholders, that Bromley council has agreed to a new form of independent governance for the Park and provided funds to establish it. The organisations have shown their ability to undertake and deliver regeneration projects in the Park and they will play a leading role in its future."

The first round of community grant fund applications has now been completed and the applications are currently being assessed. Grants of up to £20,000 are available for community and resident groups to deliver specific projects and activities in the park. These initiatives will build on the momentum established by the £2.4m improvements currently being delivered in the park which are being funded in partnership with the Mayor of London.

St Christopher's Will writing week 7-11 September

Currently 22% of St Christopher's income comes via gifts in people's wills.

So why not sort out your affairs, get peace of mind and help St Christopher's Hospice at the same time?

We are holding a **Will Week** from **7 to 11 September**, when volunteering solicitors will draw up wills in return for a small gift to St Christopher's Hospice. (£150 for a simple will, or £200 for a pair of simple mirror wills).

Of course, if you choose to support us with a larger amount, we will be very grateful.

If you are interested in participating, please visit www.stchristophers.org.uk/willweek for a list of participating solicitors.

Please contact them directly, mentioning **St Christopher's Will Week** to set up an appointment.

We would like to thank these generous local law firms, who are kindly donating their services to St Christopher's.

If you have any queries, please contact **Anna Somerset** on **020 8768 4573** or email her at a.somerset@stchristophers.org.uk.

Picture Quiz No. 6

Where is this?



Answer to Picture Quiz No 5



This photo shows the roofline of the Cake Store, formerly Slatter's, at 111 Sydenham Road.

The shop Owen's Bakery began trading here before 1906 and was still there in 1940. Around 1971 Tom Slatter opened his bakery on the site. Although rebranded as the Cake Store around 2000, it is still run by the same family.

The gable on this building is more elaborate than those further up the street. Also, on the corner of the roof was a dome and a cupola (see picture taken around 1910) but this disappeared sometime in the last century. If anyone knows the reason for its disappearance and the date it went, please let us know.

For more information about this High Street store, see Michael Viner's article on page 12 of the Spring 2012 newsletter.

Steve Grindlay

Sydenham Wells Park News

We have a new cafe in the park. **What's Cooking** is brought to you by Sarah and her team every Tuesday to Sunday.

See their menu on twitter: **@WhatsCookingVan.**



Our healthy living walks continue every Tuesday, meeting at the pond at 11am. The main flower bed is looking fabulous and the tennis courts have been a real success this year.

In September our focus will be improving our pond. We will be applying for grants to carry out repairs and buy some more equipment.



Our next meetings are on **Tuesday 8 September** and **Tuesday 17 November** at 4pm in the staff hut by the main gate in Wells Park Road. If you are interested in what goes on in Wells Park please just come along.

Monika Mitchell

Chair, Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group

News from Albion Millennium Green

A beautiful map of Albion Millennium Green and the surrounding area drawn and painted by a local resident will be presented to the people of Lewisham on Saturday 7 November. The painting will be unveiled by the Mayor of Lewisham at Forest Hill Pools at 12pm. The short ceremony will follow the annual general meeting of the Albion Millennium Green Trust, to which everyone is welcome.

We have had a quieter summer on the green this year without any theatre performances, but general visitor use

has increased with more families enjoying the sunshine in this peaceful setting. A local secondary school will be conducting an environmental project on the green next term and another Little Ecological Arts Festival will be held next year.

Extra assistance is always needed to help the Friends' group with maintenance and plant development. So, whatever your skills, there is plenty to do on the second Saturday of every month, any time between 10.30am – 2.30pm.

See more details at: www.amgfriends.org.uk or contact us at: secretary@amgfriends.org.uk or on **0783 1676587**.

Dulwich Picture Gallery exhibitions

Pierre-Paul Prud'hon: Napoleon's Draughtsman until 15 November

Timed to coincide with London's commemorations surrounding the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, the first UK exhibition devoted to Pierre-Paul Prud'hon (1758-1823), a painter and draughtsman who, through his distinctive and unconventional vision, emerged as one of the most exceptional talents working in post-Revolutionary Paris.

Ravilious until 31 August 2015

This is the first major exhibition to focus on the watercolours of celebrated British artist Eric Ravilious (1903-42).

Well known for his iconic work for Wedgwood, he was also one of the finest watercolourists of the century with a prolific career spanning peace and war.

Over 90 watercolours will be on display, including famous works such as Train Landscape and The Westbury Horse, as well as rarely seen works from private collections.

Although he died at only 39, Ravilious was largely responsible for the revival of English watercolour painting.

The Amazing World of M. C. Escher 14 October 2015 – 17 January 2016

14 October 2015 – 17 January 2016



This exhibition is the first major UK retrospective of original work by the great Dutch graphic artist Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972). It offers a rare opportunity to rediscover a giant of twentieth century art and master of illusion and paradox.

Escher created some of the most popular images in modern art despite operating quietly at the fringes of the art world. His name instantly conjures up images of hands drawing hands, impossible staircases and distorted self-portraits in mirrored spheres.

He succeeded in transforming his observations of reality into fascinating worlds, seducing and enchanting the viewer with drawings and lithographs that, over the years, have become part of our visual language – adorning teenagers' bedrooms and appearing on famous LP covers. Often classed as a graphic illustrator, this mesmerising exhibition of original drawings, iconic and lesser known prints, lithographs, woodcuts and archive material will highlight his supreme skill as a master draughtsman and unparalleled technical ability.

NHS
Blood and Transplant

Shared your organ donation decision yet?

Join the Register, share your decision, save lives

organdonation.nhs.uk

EVENTS

Sydenham Society Events

One important aspect of the Sydenham Society is its social side. The Events Committee organise a full programme of varied daytime and evening events throughout the year, giving our members an opportunity to get to know other Sydenham residents on a social basis.

We have Club 26, which is held one evening a month, around the 26th of the month, to eat in (and support) a local restaurant. We hold a quarterly Quiz Nite at the Golden Lion with money raised for local charities. We also have several talks throughout the year with topics on local interest or history.

In addition we arrange visits and/or guided tours to places of interest, which are sometimes only available to organised groups. This past year, we have enjoyed private tours of the Freud Museum and The Wallace Collection. We have also recently visited the Museum of Childhood and the Geffrye Museum, the latter we combined with a Club 26 meal. In late August we will have a Club 26 outing to Devil's Dyke and Brighton using public transport.

We have lots of ideas for other trips and tours but we're finding that increasingly, private tours and talks now require a minimum number and payment to be made in advance. We need you to help keep these events going. Please do come along, join in and let us know if you have any requests for future events.

Jackie Aldridge *Chair, Events Committee*

Syd Soc Events: Dates for your diary:

Bethlem Bombs and Belgians – How the citizens of Bromley lived with war 1914-1918 Wednesday 16 September at 10am: A return visit to the Museum of the Mind, Bethlem Royal Hospital. Meet at 10am at the bus stop outside Our Lady and St Philip Neri Church in Sydenham Road to catch the 356 bus.

We visited this fascinating museum four years ago. This year Bethlem Museum of the Mind has moved to larger premises in the Hospital's former administration building. Its displays offer unparalleled resources to support learning about the history of mental healthcare and treatment. There is no charge for entry. The museum cares for the archives of Bethlem Royal Hospital,

the Maudsley Hospital and Warlingham Park Hospital, and there is a collection of historic objects and art, including works by former Bethlem patients such as Jonathan Martin, Richard Dadd and Louis Wain.

Club 26 goes to Sugahill cafe, at Cobbs Corner on Saturday 26 September at 7.30pm. Yasmine and Chris (owners of Sugahill) have invited members of the Sydenham Society to enjoy their own traditional Turkish home cooked food. £25 per head, soft drinks available but bring your own alcohol. Space is limited so book early for what should be a real treat at this popular cafe.

Club 26 meets to eat at the ever popular Gurkha's Restaurant at 67 Sydenham Road on Tuesday 27 October: Call 020 8778 3222 mentioning you are a member of Club 26, to reserve your place.

Quiz Nite at the Golden Lion: Tuesday 10 November at 7.45pm. Sydenham Society's popular Quiz Nite returns in aid of a local charity. £2 a head to enter. Contact Jackie on 020 8778 5455 or Pat on 020 8659 4903 to book a table for your team (max. 6 people). Individuals welcome as scratch teams can be formed on the night.

Visit to the Royal Opera House at Thurrock for a tour of their costume and scenery workshops. Friday 20 November, minimum 10 people at £7 per head. We will travel by public transport. Full details to follow but confirmation and full payment will be required by 17 September. Contact Jackie at: jacquelinealdridge@gmail.com or on: 020 8778 5455 to register your interest.

SEE3 Community Meeting: Thursday 3 September from 7pm to 8.30pm, Community Room, Forest Hill Pools. We will present the latest layout on the frontage of the library, Louise House and outside Forest Hill Pools in Dartmouth Road.

Local Ward Assemblies

Forest Hill Assembly: Saturday 17 October, venue tbc.

Perry Vale Assembly: Tuesday 6 October at 7pm, venue tbc.

Sydenham Assembly: Thursday 17 September at 7pm in the TNG on Wells Park Road

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

2015 Summer Festival



For the 7th year, the start of July saw the streets, pubs, churches, parks and cafes of Sydenham come to life for a week of art, thanks to Sydenham Arts and their annual summer festival.

This year's festival saw performances from a range of artists including the **Queen's Six**, performance storyteller **Xanthe Gresham** and local talent and festival regular **Alex Carter** with her brilliant new show **Coco Boheme**.

New additions to the programme included the Festival in the Forest and the Sydenham Comedy Festival. Both events brought high profile acts to the area, and were a real treat for all that attended.

Highlights included the free open air screening of the **Wizard of Oz** in the perfect setting of Mayow Park's Bowling Green. Families, couples and groups of friends came together on the beautiful balmy summer evening to enjoy the classic film which ended with audience members being enchanted by a candlelit pathway leading them out of the park. Secret Opera not only entertained us with The Magic Flute, it also gave local people the chance to sing and perform alongside professionals. They also introduced younger audiences to opera with a children's performance and interactive workshop.

Sydenham Arts commented:

"We have to thank all of the local businesses who sponsored and hosted events, and the volunteers who gave their time both before and during the festival. Without all of this local support the festival wouldn't happen."

Fear not if you missed out, there will be more events from Sydenham Arts later this year including the monthly High Street Happenings on the second Saturday of each month, to accompany the Sydenham Market.

If you would like to find out more about Sydenham Arts, please visit their website: www.sydenhamarts.co.uk
Find them on Facebook: **Sydenham Arts Festival**
Follow on Twitter: **@Sydsartsfest**



Photographic credits - Top *Jamie Plummer* Above L - R *Mark Drinkwater, Jamie Plummer, John Russell, Paul Grace, Mark Drinkwater, Ian Thomas*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Kumari Ariyawansa	Sam Corry	Professor & Mrs Hale	Francesca Robbins
Frances Beaty	Stefanie Danevoy	Winsome Lee	Stuart Robertson
Grace Bowman	Deborah Garvey & Stephen	Freda McCabe	Ewan Smith
Aglae & Richard Brazenor	Palmer	Clare Petty	Tracy Sorkin & Nathan Davies
Shirley Britton	Helen Goward	Mr M A Qavi	Edgar Stankus
			Susie & Joel White

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2015 are now overdue. Many thanks, **Roger Feather, Treasurer.**

Tel: 020 8778 4318 Email: membership@sydenhamsociety.com