

# SYDENHAM SOCIETY

## NEWS

Spring 2014

### A new beginning for Louise House

Last autumn we started talking to the community of Forest Hill and Sydenham about our plans for Louise House. This consultation is especially important since the community has been so involved in its future for so many years. We wanted to hear about your dreams and aspirations for Louise House, as it is obviously much loved. We at V22 want to build a strong community and cultural centre at Louise House and provide affordable long-term studios, to encourage the creation of new relationships and networks amongst artists and creative organisations, both locally and nationally.

We have met with local groups large and small, organisations and individuals who contribute to the exciting and busy creative scene here – there is clearly so much going on and there are still so many people we have yet to meet! Not only has it been a pleasure to meet everyone, but these meetings have also helped us to visualise and plan our summer programme. Still in its research and development phase, we will present a series of events in collaboration with artists that we have previously worked with along with local groups in the community.

It has been slow progress with the legal department of the council to finalise the lease, but helpfully they have given us a license to start carrying out works in the meantime.

We have been clearing, cleaning and evaluating the level of work needed to get the main house up and running as studios.

We have started studio viewings and the response so far has been fantastic. We have received positive feedback from visitors both local to Sydenham and Forest Hill, and beyond, and will be giving priority to existing V22 tenants and local residents.

We hope to open the studios during early spring, although there is still some building work that needs to be done before that can happen. We will be working hard to get the first activities up and running in the public space at the back of the house in time for this summer.

We are yet to gain access to the lower ground area of the old Laundry Building, but we hope this will make an excellent screening room (everyone in this part of south London wants a cinema!) and, hopefully, a space that can also be used for theatre and possibly live music.

There is work to be done on the gardens and we have some great plans for them. So although we have no definite dates for the 'start' of Louise House, work has begun. We hope to have an official opening of the new V22 Louise House in due course.

# V22

[www.v22collection.com](http://www.v22collection.com)



Illustration: Judy Farr

#### Wanted - Newsletter Sub-deliverer

The job involves about 2 hours of walking, or half an hour of driving, four times a year, delivering Newsletters to our army of volunteer Newsletter deliverers' addresses in Silverdale, Inglemere Road, Adamsrill Road, Niederwald Road, Burghill Road, Champion Grove, Addington Grove and Mayow Road. If you feel you can help please contact Pat Trembath, Newsletter Distribution, on [pattrembath@gmail.com](mailto:pattrembath@gmail.com) or Tel: 020 8659 4903.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Look back at 2013 • Sydenham Society AGM call and accounts • Update on Crystal Palace proposals  
Sydenham Society 40 year celebrations • Profile: Annabel McLaren • Sydenham Film Club • Sow and Grow

## 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

Anne Affiku Alex Feakes Philip Peake

### Perry Vale Ward

John Paschoud Alan Till Susan Wise

### Sydenham Ward

Chris Best Liam Curran Marion Nisbet

### BROMLEY COUNCILLORS

Bromley Civic Centre Stockwell Close BR1 3UH  
020 8464 3333

### Crystal Palace Ward

John Carvin Tom Papworth

### Penge and Cator Ward

Peter Fookes John Getgood Katherine Bance

### SOUTHWARK COUNCILLORS

Town Hall Peckham Road SE5 8UB  
020 7525 5000

### College Ward

Helen Hayes Lewis Robinson Andy Simmons

## OTHER CONTACTS

**Safer Neighbourhood Teams, now known as SNT South Clusters are now based at:**

### Catford Hill Police Station

Room 108, 128 Catford Hill SE6 4PS

### Sydenham Ward contact details

Email: Sydenham.SNT@met.police.uk Tel: 020 8649 3598

### Forest Hill Ward contact details

Email: Foresthill.SNT@met.police.uk Tel: 020 8721 2723

### Perry Vale Ward contact details

Email: Perryvale.SNT@met.police.uk Tel: 020 8721 2480

### 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 2 May 2014**

# That was the year that was – 2013

In the last few years, the Chair's annual report has been a story of good and bad with progress in some areas and setbacks in others. So it's great to be able to say that 2013 has brought **many** positive changes to the area and that as a community we can look ahead to the coming years with confidence. There is, however, one huge blot on the landscape: the Greyhound pub which still lies in a state of dereliction, seven years after it closed.

## Sydenham Road

The long-anticipated improvements to the high street took almost a decade to arrive. The Society's first initiative for town centre refurbishment – the Sydenham Gateway – was launched in 2005. But the wait has been worth it! The new-look Sydenham Road has restored an air of style to the area and instilled confidence in its commercial future. Plus the pocket squares and refurbished Station Approach make ideal venues for food markets, seasonal get-togethers and arts festival events. The Sydenham Mosaic, completed at the same time as the high street improvements, has not only helped to brighten up the frontage of the Sydenham Centre – it also brings a sense of pride and continuity to the area.

Road improvements are underway at Kent House Road but we won't rest until we ensure that the work continues down to Bell Green in the near future.

## SEE3 High Street Regeneration Initiative

High street improvements are beginning to pay off in terms of commercial success for Sydenham Road. Shop vacancies are the lowest they've been for many years and there are signs of new business start-ups which will provide greater breadth and variety to what's currently on offer. We particularly welcome new restaurants which will boost the night-time economy locally. It's frustrating that current planning laws stand in the way of providing a more diverse high street (resulting in a plethora of betting shops, for example) but that's the world we live in!

The work of the Mary Portas-inspired SEE3 project locally has also provided a much-needed shot in the arm for local business. Pop-up shops have turned into long-term lets and the monthly market in Venner Road/Station Approach has proved successful and has now become part of the Sydenham scene.

## Transport

We've got so used to travelling by London Overground that it's difficult to believe that the new line is only four years old in May. A service which offered uncrowded travel during the first 12 months is now packed to the gunnels particularly during rush hours and evenings. Coming to our rescue are the introduction of five (rather than four) carriage trains later this year but we continue to press TfL to bring forward their plan to run two extra services in the near future. We're certainly going to need them as the work to rebuild London Bridge station and Thameslink reaches a climax in the next three years with shutdowns to our Southern services at weekends and no trains between London Bridge and Charing Cross for 20 months starting in January 2015.

The Society holds regular meetings with TfL and LOROL (the company who run London Overground and Sydenham station) to discuss service improvements. It's good to see the increase in evening services on the Overground and that extra gates at Sydenham have now been installed.

The tragic news of cycle deaths and injuries in London in recent months has highlighted the need for safe and convenient routes for the increasing number of cyclists on the streets of the capital. We've drawn up proposals for a safe and direct cycle route linking Sydenham and Lower Sydenham stations using quiet streets running parallel to Sydenham Road. We would also like to see a new cycle path across Home Park and a shortcut via the service road at the side of the Bridge Leisure Centre to avoid the Bell Green gyratory system. We now hope to have the route formally adopted by LBL.

## Conservation and planning

Developments continue apace in Sydenham and it's been good to see the building at 255-269 Sydenham Road (opposite St Philip Neri RC church and school) taking shape. This stylish modern building replaces the Edwardian block which had been sadly neglected for many years. Work has now begun at 278-280 Kirkdale (adjacent to the railway line) where an apartment block of seven one-bedroom flats is being constructed off-site and will be craned into position; the ground floor will be occupied by a restaurant/bar with space for approximately 30 tables. Whilst development shifts up a gear, regrettably the loss of Sydenham's pubs continues – The Two Half's, The Talma in Wells Park Road and The Windmill in Kirkdale have all closed. Although The Windmill was designated an Asset of Community Value by Lewisham in December, planning policy does not provide much in the way of protection for public houses.

## Sydenham Community Library

Following long-overdue repairs to the roof, a newly refurbished library complete with its own kitchen and café reopened at the end of April. This vital local asset goes from strength to strength and in addition to its core activity of lending books it offers activities such as recycling, training, book groups, music and craft workshops.

But it's not just the library that's due for a facelift. Later this year, work will start on a £75,000 Literary Piazza at the front of the library, laying new paving and installing new benches to turn the entrance to Home Park into a welcoming, attractive and usable public space.

continued over...

## That was the year that was – 2013 (continued from page 3)

### Events, activities and communications

Our hardworking Events Committee has organised a wide range of fantastic events for us this year, ranging from a trip to the Roman city of St Albans, a visit to the award-winning William Morris Museum in Walthamstow, and an atmospheric descent underground to Brunel's Thames Tunnel at Surrey Quays. A varied programme of talks included Steve Grindlay on life in Sydenham during the Second World War and Tim Walder on the early years of St Michael's & All Angels. In the early summer members of the friends' groups from Mayow, Wells and Home Parks led us on a wonderful "Three Parks Walk", pointing out the highlights of their various patches en route. Our regular Quiz Nites at the Golden Lion continue as does Club 26 – culminating in an afternoon of delicious food at Gurkha's in January where a packed restaurant celebrated the Society's 40th anniversary.

In the year in which we celebrated our 40th anniversary it was fitting to once again receive a citation from The London Forum for our newsletter, which received the accolade of joint "Highly Commended" in the Newsletter category of the 2013 Walter Bor Media Awards.

### In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Barbara Downing, a founder member of the Sydenham Society and latterly our President. Barbara worked hard for Sydenham for many years, serving on the Amenities Committee, the Events Committee and the Executive. My thoughts go out to Barbara's family.

Annabel McLaren, Chair, Sydenham Society

## Visit to Dennis Severs' House Friday 14 March at 12pm

Dennis Severs' House at 18 Folgate Street near Liverpool Street Station is a still-life drama created by the previous owner as an historical imagination of what life would have been like inside for a family of Huguenot silk weavers. Its creator, Dennis Severs, was an artist who used his visitors' imaginations as his canvas. He lived in the house as its original occupants would have done in the early 18th century. To enter the door silently is to pass through the frame of a painting, one with a time and life of its own. This is an inspiring experience.

Cost: £12. Maximum 15 places.

Email: [jacquelinealdridge@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinealdridge@gmail.com) or telephone: 020 8778 5455 to book your place.

Cheques made payable to the Sydenham Society to 20 Tansfeld Road, by Friday 28 February. Directions and suggested travel plan to follow.

## Annual General Meeting

The Sydenham Society's 41st Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 April 2014 at 7.45 pm at the Golden Lion, 116 Sydenham Road. All members are invited to attend and to join the Executive Committee for a drink and get-together after the formal meeting.

### Agenda

1. To receive the 2013 Accounts and Auditor's Report
2. To elect Officers and Members of the Executive Committee
3. To appoint an Auditor
4. Any other business

### Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

Any member can be nominated for election as an Officer or Member of the Executive Committee. Nominations must be seconded and have the Nominee's consent. They should be sent to Annabel McLaren, 35 Bishopsthorpe Road, Sydenham, SE26 4PA, to arrive 7 days in advance of the AGM; email: [annabelmclaren@myriadbooks.co.uk](mailto:annabelmclaren@myriadbooks.co.uk)

The Society's Constitution allows for up to 12 members, plus officers. In 2013 there were 8 Executive Committee meetings. Attendance was as follows:

Annabel McLaren (Chair)	8/8	Jackie Aldridge	6/8
Roger Feather	4/8	Angela Hall	8/8
Barbara Kern	7/8	Barry Milton	8/8
Ilse Towler	7/8	Gloria Watson	5/8

The Executive has been ably assisted this year by one co-opted member, Janice Brooklyn. The Society has three sub-committees which in 2013 were chaired by:

Barbara Kern:	Conservation and Planning
Ilse Towler:	Roads and Transport
Jackie Aldridge:	Events

The Executive Committee would like to put on record its warmest appreciation for help over the past year from the sub-committee chairs and their members: Andrew Budd, Stephanie Burne, Steve Grindlay, Sue Grindlay, Angela Hall, John Hutchinson, Lesley Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Rosemary Linnell, Mary McKernan, Barry Milton, Patrick Moulik, Anthony Scully, Alona Sheridan, Dennis Smith, Peggy Stacy, John Towler and Pat Trembath.

The Executive would like to thank Pat Trembath, Emma Mallinder and Julia East for all their hard work on the editing, design and production of the Newsletter. On behalf of the membership the Executive wish to record its grateful thanks for the sterling work of Hilary and John Jarrett who, together, organised the distribution of the Newsletter from 2002 to 2013. Pat Trembath has taken over this responsibility and we thank our army of distributors for their tremendous effort in walking the streets of Sydenham and Forest Hill delivering it. We would also like to thank our hard-working Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Roger Feather together with our website manager Barry Milton.



# THE SYDENHAM SOCIETY

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2013 (Unaudited)

2012			2013	
£				£
		<b>Income</b>		
	4010	Subscriptions	4300.00	
	308	Donations	418.72	
	-	Proceeds of events (net)	115.00	
4356	38	Interest on National Savings Account	52.59	4886.31
		<b>Expenditure</b>		
	1683	Printing and stationery	2469.49	
	372	Postage and telephone	423.53	
	50	Library leaflets	-	
	568	Subscriptions including Civic Voice	568.00	
	40	St Bart's floodlighting	40.00	
	-	Insurance	140.00	
	240	Equipment and website	240.00	
	250	Sydenham Arts Festival	250.00	
	100	13 Bishopsthorpe Road legal advice (net)	-	
	50	In memory of Bryan Leslie & Jimmy Dickens	100.00	
	-	Crystal Palace underpass contribution	200.00	
	-100	Home Park Development Bid	-	
	-	Projector and screen	607.50	
	33	Miscellaneous expenses	-	
3388	102	AGM	168.60	5207.12
		<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>		-320.81
968				
		<b>Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2012</b>		
	7012	National Savings Investment Account	7064.85	
9056	2044	Cash at Bank	1846.68	8911.53
		Less		
212	212	Subscriptions in advance	388.00	388.00
7877				8523.53
		Accumulated fund 31 December 2012	-320.81	
		Balance 31 December 2013	8523.53	

H R FEATHER - HON TREASURER

Date: 31 January 2014

# Update on proposals to rebuild the Crystal Palace

The second local community drop-in event held on 1 February at Anerley Town Hall was better organised than the first one held in December. It comprised three presentations on the proposals by Jerome Frost of Arup, followed by three sessions of questions and answers, each lasting about an hour and a half, made to about 100 people at each session. Questionnaires to gauge community preferences for uses within the building and comments about the proposed scale of development were given to all who attended. Some people did not stay for the presentations, but were able to read the story boards on the walls.

Apparently there have been thirty-eight expressions of interest in the Architectural Competition announced in December from architectural firms both nationally and internationally. This will be narrowed down to between five and six by the end of February and short-listed to three by May. The winner will be announced in August and is expected to hit the ground running for the proposal to be submitted by November 2014.

Generally there is a lot of unease about the anticipated timescale with an application at present due to be submitted in late 2014 for permission in spring 2015. However, it is admitted that this timescale may well slip. There is the need to amend the London Plan, currently out for discussion, before a 125 year lease can be granted on Metropolitan Open Land at Crystal Palace, and it will also be necessary to change the Crystal Palace 1990 Act which specifically limits large scale development of this site.

At this stage it is not easy to understand how the building will be sustainable in the long term. Possible uses quoted by Arup, as agents for the Zhong Rong Group, were public Exhibition space, restaurants, observation deck, art galleries and studios, boutiques, a hotel, along with car parking for 2000 cars and servicing. It seems as though sales of art by auction may be one of the commercial ways of providing finance. Community or public space will take up 60% of the proposed building while hotel and commercial space will be limited to 40%.

How the restoration of the rest of the park will be handled has yet to be decided. The Masterplan has outline permission only. Bromley will need to obtain detailed permission for the remainder of the park and run architectural competitions for all the new buildings proposed within the Masterplan. Local residents expressed concerns about Bromley's ability to handle this and Arup agree that a solution to this problem will need to be found.

Most of the concerns expressed by local residents, apart from the size of the proposed development, relate to transport, parking and the possible need for controlled parking zones. Arup agreed that the main junctions around the park, in particular those with Crystal Palace Parade at the top of Westwood Hill and Dulwich Wood Avenue, and with the Crystal Palace Triangle are often working at near or full capacity and this would need to be addressed. At present it is assumed that public transport could cope with visitors who are expected to travel against the flow on returning empty commuter trains.

The next drop-in session will be on 1 March at the Athlete's Lodge in Crystal Palace Park, between 11am and 5pm. To keep up to date with the plans, register your interest on [www.thecrystalpalace.com](http://www.thecrystalpalace.com)



## Crystal Palace Renewed

To the Crystal Palace my friends  
For the palace needs our aid  
Before the shiny glass idea  
Turns into the Bromley Glades

To the Crystal Palace my friends  
Please be not afraid  
To fight to keep a good idea  
See you at the palisades

To the Crystal Palace my friends  
Delightfully renewed re-laid  
Tourists'll queue to get inside  
A Victorian gem remade

To the Crystal Palace my friends  
Make sure the park is saved  
No selling off for this or that  
Just the Crystal Palace saved

Peter Somers, Saturday 1 Feb 2014  
After attending a meeting today



## Crystal Palace Park – Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund

The possibility of Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery Funding of £4.5m towards the ten point plan for improving Crystal Palace Park announced at the Crystal Palace Park Conference in October 2012 has been turned down.

This, together with a £2m grant from the GLA and some £450k from Bromley would have resulted in £7m being available for repairs and restoration of a number of historic elements within the park. These repairs would have included the Subway stabilisation work, archaeological work on the Terraces, improvement of several entrances to the park, removing car parking from within the park, removal of internal

fences and repairs to the Concert Platform.

The reason given is the news of proposed plans of a multi-million pound private investment into rebuilding the Crystal Palace, including the full restoration of the park.

It is unclear at present whether the GLA grant is still available. The fifteen month Exclusivity Agreement between Bromley and the ZhongRong Group also means that any improvements carried out can only take place in the lower part of the park. It would appear that most restoration work in the park will be “on hold” until the outcome of the proposal to rebuild the Crystal Palace is determined.

## Under the Road, a Beauty Lies

A mysterious subterranean subway exists under Crystal Palace Parade Road, between the imposing TV mast and the bus terminus. This subway is a remnant from the glory days of the Crystal Palace. For years, a well-kept secret, but one of which many inhabitants of the area are now being made aware.



Opened in 1865 and closed in 1954, the subway was constructed to link the newly built High Level Rail Station to the Palace.

Known simply as ‘the Subway’, it is a smallish, fan-vaulted structure, whose sole function was to be a passenger link. As such, very little has been factually documented. For example, a common belief is that Italian builders constructed the Subway, however, so far, no documents have been found to support this claim.

The Friends of Crystal Palace Subway, established to support the community’s passion for the Subway and the desire to see it reopened, has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish a project titled “Inspired by the Subway”. The project’s aim is to research, collect oral histories, and communicate the history and impact that the Subway has had on the area.

Trained local volunteers will be conducting research and oral history documentation and two groups of local artists and after-school art groups will develop works based on the Subway. All information will be stored and will be accessible from London Metropolitan Archives.

The volunteers have been working hard since October 2013. So far they have been able to confirm that the Subway was indeed a World War II air-raid shelter, while in the 1960s it was an inspired playground. In the 1970s and 80s, ‘Subway Superdays’ were held, focusing on culture and education and in the 80s and 90s it was used in a Cadbury’s Wispa advert and Chemical Brother’s Setting Sun music video.

These findings, oral histories and art works will be presented in an exhibition during Open House London on 20 and 21 September 2014.

Anyone wishing to share their memories or any materials such as photographs, film, plans or drawings, please contact Sue Giovanni on 07956 861052 or email her at [inspired@cpsubways.org.uk](mailto:inspired@cpsubways.org.uk).



### Dear Editor

In the winter edition of the Sydenham Society News I was very interested to read about the Crystal Palace Subway Open House Weekend event. It brought back many memories of being taken to the circus, exhibitions and firework displays and other interesting events at the Crystal Palace.

We used to travel by train from Upper Sydenham Station in Wells Park Road to the High Level Station. We walked through the Subway to get into the Crystal Palace. We certainly did not travel First Class!!

One use of the Subway in the early stages of World War II was when Belgian refugees were brought by rail to Crystal Palace. We, as Girl Guides and Rangers, helped to usher them into buildings (the Canadian Pavilion, the Rotunda) in the grounds of the Crystal Palace (which, by then, had burned down) where we had laid mattresses and blankets on the floor. They didn’t know where they were – one asked if they were in America? They were given a hot meal and cups of tea. They stayed for only a day or two before being moved to more permanent shelter.

Cecily Foulger



# The Sydenham Society – the first 40 years

The birth of the Sydenham Society is well documented. It was formed following Lewisham Council's threatened demolition of Victorian villas in three different parts of Sydenham: Lawrie Park Road, Peak Hill and Trewsbury Road. Residents in all three roads quickly formed residents' associations to fight the Compulsory Purchase Orders and, becoming aware of the similarity of their problems, called a joint meeting and elected a committee to represent the local community under threat. Thus, on 17 November 1972, the Sydenham Society was born and the villas in all three roads remain today as a mark of the success of that first campaign.

Albion Villas (now Albion Millennium Green) and the site of two detached run down Victorian villas in Longton Avenue, backing onto Wells Park.

Kirkdale Green and Albion Millennium Green are now designated Local Open Land and the latter was one of only two Millennium Greens created in London at the turn of the last century. A tranquil gem, it is now run by the local residents in partnership with Lewisham Council. The site of 24 and 26 Longton Avenue was absorbed into Wells Park and now forms the Woodland Walk Nature Trail.

The future of Farnborough House on Kirkdale at the junction of Jews Walk and Wells Park Road, Sydenham's oldest house, listed Grade 2 in 1973, was secured after a Society campaign in 1984. This was launched when the owners (the local Health Authority) approached the council with a request for permission to demolish the building which had fallen into a state of disrepair. Farnborough House was saved and restored – it is now a short term hostel for young homeless people.

Following four campaigns over 16 years, Forest Hill Pools were re-opened in September 2012, having been under threat of redevelopment since 1996. The adjacent building, Louise House, also under threat of demolition was listed Grade 2 in 2009, with support from the Society, and this listing was instrumental in persuading the council to find the funds to rebuild the Pools. Louise House is currently being refurbished and will open later this year as an Arts Centre. Alongside Forest Hill Library, we now share with our near neighbours in Forest Hill three handsome Victorian heritage buildings, within which there are, or will be, superb community facilities, which we can proudly hand on to future generations.

The threat of closure of Sydenham Library in 2009 led to a public outcry and the Sydenham Society was able to help mount what became a community campaign to save one of the oldest Carnegie Libraries in London. Sydenham Community Library is now thriving and playing its part in regenerating Lower Sydenham. It will shortly have a new Literary Piazza, a performance space, the design for which will soon be published.

One very current result of work done by the Society is the Sydenham Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme which has taken place over the past year. In 2005 the Society took ideas for a redesigned Cobbs Corner, "The Sydenham Gateway", to Lewisham Council's Planning and Highways officers. Lewisham's worked up proposals were presented to Transport for London who agreed to fund a £3.5m scheme, which finally began in September 2011 following a couple of years of public consultation during which the scheme has been fine-tuned. As part of this scheme, Station Approach with new toilets should follow on this year.



Pat Trembath reflects on the last four decades...

After 40 years it is interesting to look back at a variety of other successful campaigns which have left their mark on the local community.

Among these, and probably the most important, were the two "Save Sydenham Hill Woods" campaigns in the 1980s, following efforts by the Dulwich College Estates Governors to obtain permission to develop houses and flats on a number of derelict residential sites along Sydenham Hill. The battle lasted for most of the decade and the Society took a full part in two Public Inquiries, having joined forces with the London Wildlife Trust and the Dulwich and Norwood Societies to fight the plans. Ultimately, the Estates Governors accepted defeat and Southwark Council designated Sydenham Hill Woods as Metropolitan Open Land, thus securing its long-term future.

When Lewisham Council put up several local green areas for sale to developers under the 1994 Government Asset Disposal Scheme, the Society once again launched campaigns to save the spaces. We successfully saved Kirkdale Green (formerly the Collingtree Triangle), a derelict tennis club site in



The Society is also a lobbying entity and in 2006 played its part in lobbying for the early opening of the East London Line, not due to open until 2016. We also lobbied hard for open access onto Platform 1 at Sydenham Station, making it one of the first stations DDA compliant in the local area.

A little known quirky success was that the Post Offices in Sydenham and Forest Hill were the first London Post Offices to pilot single queuing. This was due to persistent lobbying by the Society of the Post Office Workers' Union, who held out against this happening in London, although it had been introduced countrywide.

### The future?

The fight to save the Greyhound from demolition in 2007 was successful. However this building remains a blot on our local landscape since the developer, Purelake, did not comply with the planning permission as granted and all work was stopped in the summer of 2012. A new planning application was submitted in September 2012 and approved in April 2013. Despite this work has still not recommenced.

The Society, together with local councillors and other local professionals, continues to work with the council to get a resolution to the situation. We are optimistic that there will

eventually be a refurbished Public House at Cobbs Corner before long, continuing the tradition of an inn on this site since 1718.

But we will not wait for much longer as the building, such as it is, continues to deteriorate and could at any time be declared a dangerous structure. If the developer does not get on site within the next month or so to rebuild the pub, a public campaign against Purelake (who breached their planning permission and admitted in court in February last year to having criminally demolished the pub) will be mounted in the early spring if the situation does not improve. There may yet be a call to arms!

Also ahead of us is the likelihood of a planning application over the next 12 months or so for a rebuild of the Crystal Palace. How this will affect Sydenham and its environs will need serious consideration and the Sydenham Society will play its part in the community consultations which will be taking place over the next few months.

The Sydenham Society has just celebrated its 40th anniversary. It is an active society and over the past 40 years has been involved in all manner of campaigns to improve the area and is rightly proud of its achievements. Who knows what challenges the next 40 years will bring?

### The Sydenham Society's 40th birthday celebrations



Annabel McLaren and Pat Trembath with founder members Margaret Cooper and Bill and Pat Cove



## SYD SOC MEMBER PROFILE

# Annabel McLaren

Annabel is Chair of the Sydenham Society and has been an active member of the Society's Conservation & Planning Committee since 1986.

When first approached to be the subject of a profile, Annabel's initial response was to decline. Her natural reserve also came into play when Pat Trembath stepped down as Chair of the Society in 2008. For many people Annabel was the obvious successor. Although reluctant at the time to step up, mainly due to pressure of work, she has grown into the role seamlessly since her appointment in April 2010. Annabel's approach, always warm and conciliatory, has made her a popular and disarming champion for the Society.

Annabel is a true South Londoner, having grown up in Balham, the second of two sisters. She met her husband Barry whilst at Swansea University where she edited a student newspaper and they settled in Sydenham in 1979. Annabel said she fell in love with the area from the feeling you get of air and space when you drop down into Sydenham from Crystal Palace Parade. The architecture of Sydenham was an important feature too and she and Barry moved in 1989 to the Thorpes Estate where they still live.

Annabel has had a long career in publishing starting with a job as an Assistant Editor with a Children's Book Publisher. She then worked on: 'Woman', 'Woman's Realm' and 'TV Times' before moving to the education pages of the Guardian. In between posts Annabel took a postgraduate Diploma in Journalism. Finally, in 2003, Annabel joined Barry in their own publishing company, Myriad Books.

Annabel is keen on Iyengar Yoga which she has practised for 30 years. It chimes with the current interest in 'mindfulness' and Annabel says she has noticed the health benefits it confers. She also has an artistic bent - early on in her career Annabel studied Design and Typography at the London College of Printing. She has been involved for several years with the Artists' Trail in the Sydenham Arts Festival and for the last four years, she and Barry have hosted an Open House for artists to display their work.

Annabel also has an interest in antiques and has built up an eclectic ceramics collection.

In the first newsletter of the Sydenham Society in 1972 it stated: "The aim of the Society is to retain the unique qualities that make Sydenham a pleasant place in which to live". Annabel says these qualities do still exist. She cites the

conservation areas that have been created, the improvements to Sydenham Road, the public squares and the changes to Sydenham Station Approach. Annabel is even optimistic that the Greyhound will 'rise from the ashes' and be rebuilt. There is a new vibrancy in the town with the pop-up shops, the community hubs and markets and the improved signage. The Sydenham Society is attracting new and younger members which again can only make the Society more dynamic and more inclusive.

Annabel says she would now like to see improvements to the area from Mayow Road down to Bell Green come to fruition with plans underway to enhance the approach to Home Park and the Library frontage. She likes the residential development at Bell Green and considers that it complements the retail park. Annabel has other ideas which she hopes will be realised – social spaces as well as shops and an entertainment venue perhaps at Zanzibar, Sydenham's only nightclub. Sydenham's long-overdue renaissance carries on apace and, under Annabel's inspiring and upbeat stewardship, the Sydenham Society is surely in safe hands.

### Sue Grindlay

This is the twentieth, and last, in a series of articles on members of the Sydenham Society.



Photograph: Ann Pownall

## Dulwich Picture Gallery Hockney The Printmaker, 5 Feb to 11 May 2014

Timed to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the artist's first print, this show celebrates David Hockney's long and fruitful career as a printmaker. Over 100 carefully chosen works give a highly instructive and entertaining overview of the artist's graphic career and reveal the thought and technical expertise that underlies the artist's extensive print oeuvre.

Concentrating on Hockney's two main print techniques (etching and lithography) the show includes well known works such as Rake's Progress, 1961-63 and Illustrations for Six Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm, 1969 alongside portraits of some of Hockney's famous sitters and friends.

Later works will include a selection of 'Home Made Prints'

(which Hockney devised in the early 1990s using photocopiers) plus examples of 'Computer Drawings' such as Rain on the Studio Window, 2009 which was a prelude to the artist's renowned iPad works.

The exhibition is curated by Richard Lloyd, Head of Prints & Multiples, Christie's, New York.





# Update from our local Councillors

## Community Connections Programme

As a member of Lewisham's Health and Well Being Board, an important objective for me is to improve integrated working between local health care, social care, public health and other public service practitioners. This should mean that patients and service users experience more joined-up care, particularly in the transition between health and social care.

At the next assembly meeting on Tuesday 4 March we will be inviting local groups to discuss the Community Connections programme which came out of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. This aims to integrate health and social services.

Lewisham's Adult Integrated Care Programme has three key objectives:

- Better Health – to make it easier to choose healthy living
- Better Care – to provide the most effective personalised care and support where and when it is most needed
- Stronger Communities – to build engaged, resilient and self directing communities.

## Planning Issues

We have asked an officer from the Planning Department to report back to the Assembly with an update on The Greyhound as well as other planning and enforcement issues. I was joined at the Licensing Committee by Annabel McLaren and Pat Trembath to oppose the granting of a licence for a further betting shop at 89 Sydenham Road as we have already five shops in this stretch of prime retail units in the designated Core Shopping area with financial services. Unfortunately we were not successful.

A survey by the Local Government Association (14 April 2012) concluded that the toxic economy of betting shops, pawnbrokers and payday loan companies was deterring investment and stifling economic growth.

The Portas Review ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-portas-review-the-future-of-our-high-streets](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-portas-review-the-future-of-our-high-streets)), published in December 2011, had originally proposed to change the use class of betting shops from A2 to sui generis (a category all of its own). This would mean every prospective betting shop would have to apply for planning permission, thus giving the local council and local residents the chance to consider the cumulative impact of the clustering of betting shops.

If you have some time to volunteer, we are looking for more people to be part of the Sydenham Assembly Coordinating Group. You could also take part in one of the four SEE3 Action Groups developing initiatives for the coming year.

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

## Shaping Perry Vale's Future and using LovePerryVale.org

Last November Perry Vale residents came together at the Rockbourne Youth Club for the Ward assembly to decide how to allocate the Ward Assembly Fund. The assembly was laid out as a marketplace, with each shortlisted project having set out their stall with information about their project and to gain votes. Unfortunately, some projects such as the very successful Lewisham Thunder Basketball Club, and Community TeachSport were unable to attend.

### The hopeful projects were:

1. **Montage Theatre Arts Holiday Programme**, provides free classes for young people across our ward, in dance, drama and music.
2. **The Forest with the Big Hill Storytelling Events** will hold performances in October 2014 for children, and workshops for adults to improve their storytelling skills.
3. **Aspire Learning Solutions** creates the opportunity for young people to access filmmaking skills and create short films.
4. **The Duke of Edinburgh Awards** programme is run through Forest Hill School and through the open awards evening at Brent Knoll School. It aims to allow as many young people as possible to complete the award.
5. **Seniors' Family Musical Fun** offers a family orientated musical afternoon at their building in Stanstead Road. The event will be open to all, and includes a professional musician to facilitate the event and to enable the purchase of musical and percussion instruments.
6. **Dalmain Athletic Girls' Football Club** offers girls free coaching.

Perry Vale residents voted to fund projects in the following order; 2, 5, 6, 4, 1 and 3. The Assembly also gave us the opportunity to remind residents of our local social network **LovePerryVale.org** which is designed for people who live, work, learn or play in Perry Vale ward. The site is not run by local councillors, but we are active members and it is a great way to communicate with us.

**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)**

## SEE3 Sydenham Market

Working in partnership with Lewisham, the Sydenham Market will be back on Saturday 12 April 2014 from 11am to 5pm, and will take place on the 2nd Saturday of each month. If you want to book one of our 20 stalls the hire cost is the same as last year at £35 per stall inclusive of the market licence and you will need to register with Lewisham so contact [markets@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:markets@lewisham.gov.uk) now to avoid disappointment. SEE3 are planning entertainment on the day including an Easter bonnet workshop.



## From the Friends of Mayow Park

The storms at the end of 2013 took their toll on the Mayow Park trees: some were blown down and some had limbs torn off, which has added to the loss of other trees earlier in the year. But we have some good news for young children: the train in the children's play area is back! It was damaged by vandals in early 2013 and was missed by many little people.

The New Year started with a corner of Mayow Park around the Pavilion turning into a muddy building site. A deep excavation to put in a sewer is underway and may take two months to complete. Despite the disruption for park users and in particular to Grow Mayow Community Garden, these works let us look forward to a community cafe at the Pavilion, new initiatives at Grow Mayow and public toilets.

While work continues at the Pavilion, a joint work session with Glendale and park users is planned for Thursday 27 February from 10am to midday, to give some extra attention to the Triangle beds and orchard. All volunteers are welcome and there will be further opportunities to donate your gardening skills in the months to come.

The Bowls Club is no longer in existence but ideas are being considered to turn the site into a healthy living space. We are confident that Lewisham Greenscene will consult fully with park users before making any decisions.

The next Friends of Mayow Park (FOMP) quarterly



meeting will be held on Saturday 22 April at 7pm.

If you would like to get involved with FOMP, either as a committee member or as an active volunteer in the park, email us at: [friendsofmayowpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmayowpark@gmail.com), join our Facebook group: Friends of Mayow Park (FOMP), or follow us on Twitter: @MayowPark

Alona Sheridan – Chair 020 8244 4259

Tim Lund – Comms

Sue Hatchard – Secretary

## News from Grow Mayow Community Gardens

Sydenham-based community group, Grow Mayow Community Gardens, is celebrating being a winner of Skipton Building Society's 'Big 160' Grassroots Giving initiative having triumphed over nearly 1,000 other applicants across the country.

After being shortlisted in the campaign by the UK's fourth largest building society, the group's application was then put to a public vote, where it secured enough of the 20,000 votes cast to be crowned one of the 160 winners and to receive £500 in funding.

Skipton's Grassroots Giving programme was set up to support groups who show commitment to their community, who could illustrate how they plan to evolve in the future and how the funding would be used to help secure the longevity of their great work. Typically these grassroots groups often struggle to secure vital funding due to their size.

Grow Mayow Community Garden is a volunteer led project in Mayow Park, Sydenham. The group promotes health and well-being in the community, getting all age groups involved in maintaining the gardens and growing their own fruit and veg. Two volunteer gardeners work to encourage people in London to grow and eat their own produce. The group hosts workshops to introduce adults and children to food growing, as well as hosting several other events throughout the year. The funding received

from Skipton's Grassroots Giving Campaign will be hugely beneficial to the group, as it will mean the community in Sydenham can continue to learn how to grow their own foods, boosting community morale and encouraging healthy eating.

A volunteer said: "We are absolutely thrilled we've received this funding, it's causes like this which we rely on to keep us going. Our work is really important to the community in Sydenham, it's something we're really passionate about."



## Sow and Grow

### A Sydenham Garden project for people recently diagnosed with dementia.

In May 2013 Sydenham Garden started a new project called Sow & Grow. This gives people recently diagnosed with dementia a six month programme of therapeutic activities including gardening, art & craft, cooking, reminiscence and memory boosting games.

So far we have started five groups with roughly eight people in each group. Two of those groups completed in November and December 2013. The results from these two groups were very impressive. Twelve individuals showed improvements in their health, with most carers reporting numerous other improvements. In one touching moment a daughter described how her father hadn't talked to anyone one for many months. Upon completing his third visit to Sydenham Garden he started talking. He now talks with his family again, is seeing improvements in his health and wellbeing and perhaps most importantly enjoys the sessions immensely.

We are very grateful for the various forms of support we receive including financial contributions, volunteers who donate their time and visitors attending our open days. This year, along with our normal weekly therapeutic sessions, we have a programme of workshops and short courses that are open to the public and include: How to build an earth oven, Willow weaving, Bread baking and Tai Chi. We also have open days including Community Work Days (10am every third Saturday of the month at our site on De Frene road) and our amazingly Springy Spring Fair (11am on Saturday 10 May). We hope to see you soon. Follow us on Twitter: [@SydenhamGarden](#), like us on Facebook: [SydenhamGarden](#) and find out more at: [www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk](http://www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk)



Sydenham Garden session June 2013

## Nature Notes – Spring 2014

It pays to be alert. I went away for Christmas, thinking it odd that the bird feeders had not been touched for some time. On my return, the level of seed was exactly the same. When I looked more closely the reason became apparent. The rot had set in, literally. Soaked by incessant rain, the seed had coagulated into a disgusting, mouldy mess. The peanuts sprouted filaments of mould. So a cleaning operation began and now the birds are eating heartily, and I am more vigilant.

I read on Twitter that Waxwings have been seen at a Tesco's. Seems like even the birds are after cheap food these days! I buy my bird food from a mixture of places; some from Croydon RSPB meetings (2pm and 8pm monthly – recommended!) where the seed is bagged up into manageable sized amounts. My visits to the London Wetland Centre sometimes result in a large bag of sunflower seeds, or some up-market fat snacks. Spoilt, those birds are!

The Big Garden Birdwatch came and went. I didn't clock up anything special, but a flock of sparrows is always rewarding as they are a declining species. Starlings, too, are a species that the RSPB is worried about, and I have anything from four to ten land on the hanging bird-table, chivvying each other off and squabbling in the way starlings tend to do. The robin very sensibly comes when other birds are absent, and the blackbird is always an early bird and a solitary feeder if possible – I see him jabbing his bill at the starlings if they come too close.

The garden is a dreary place these days, water-logged and dark, but bulbs are spearing up into the light. Mostly bluebells, but this year I have tulips and daffs to look forward to as well.

The fox is handsome in his winter coat. Sir Squirrel comes regularly for peanuts – in fact, I started having them so he would leave my bulbs alone although the blue tits don't seem particularly interested in them. A nice addition to the bird life is the great tit, always good to hear them sing, but I hope the birds don't think spring has come yet. This time last year, the country was white with snow and it's not too late for a repeat performance.

Ceinwen Sanderson

## Stars in Jars

by **Chrissie Gittins** and  
illustrations by **Calef Brown**

Popular local poet's first major collection for children for ages 7+. A new book by Sydenham Society member Chrissie Gittins has just been released. A collection of new poems and old favourites, some funny and some serious, covers almost two decades of her best work and should appeal to anyone who loves words and what they can do. "Chrissie Gittins knows just what words can do: she makes them dance, sing, sit still for a moment and then leap across the page with joy!" – Ian McMillan.



Published by A&C Black (an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing). Paperback £6.99.



## News from St Christopher's Hospice

### Sensing Spaces

St Christopher's and the Royal Academy of Arts annual project 2014

**Exhibition, Concert and Book Launch Thursday, 27 March 2014 from 6.30pm**

2014 sees St Christopher's partner once again with the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Patients from St Christopher's are working on a selection of large scale pieces of art influenced by a current and exciting new exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts during February and March 2014. Responding to different structures, textures, lighting, scents and colours, some of the big questions about the nature of architecture are considered: How do spaces make us feel? What does architecture do for our lives?

Patients at St Christopher's, following visits to the Royal Academy and a series of workshops with Royal Academy artists and the Arts Team at the hospice, are creating their own work influenced and inspired by the current exhibition, focussing on 'space' in all of its forms. The project will culminate at an event at St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham on the evening of Thursday 27 March 2014.

All of the artworks created as part of the project will be exhibited and there will be a performance by the St Christopher's Community Choir and band. In addition, a new book 'End of Life Care – A Guide for Artists, Therapists and

Arts Therapists' by Nigel Hartley, Director of Supportive Care at St Christopher's, featuring the work of the hospice artists and therapists will be launched at the event on 27 March 2014, when there will be an opportunity to meet the author and contributors to the book. **Everyone is welcome, admission is free, wine and canapés will be served.**



### The Dame Cicely Saunders Concert Series 2014

Now in its fifth year, the Concert Series was set up as a memorial to Dame Cicely Saunders who died in 2005. It is held at St Christopher's Hospice on the first Thursday of each month from 7.30pm – 9.30pm and for just £10, not only will you enjoy music from a superb variety of professional musicians from around the world but you will receive interval canapés and a glass of wine as well.

This year's performers include Sydenham's songstress, Alexandra Carter, pianist Leslie Howard and world-renowned opera diva, Dame Felicity Lott. Music ranges from cabaret to chamber music, opera to jazz, Bengali heritage music to an evening of traditional music from the British Isles and much more beside – in fact something for everyone. **Full details on the website [www.stchristophers.org.uk](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk).**

## Sydenham Film Club spring screenings

Celebrate the arrival of spring with your local film club. Held at the Golden Lion Pub on the last Thursday of every month, it's a great way to enjoy old favourites and discover new ones.

**Where:** Golden Lion Pub, 116 Sydenham Road

**Tickets:** £5 on the door

### Thursday 27 February

**Journey to Italy** (Roberto Rossellini, Italy 1953. 86mins)

Starring Ingrid Bergman and George Sanders, Roberto Rossellini's newly restored forgotten classic is "one of the most important films you've never seen" (the Guardian). Part improvised by the stellar cast, the film follows a British couple as they visit Naples to sell off an inherited villa – where the striking Italian landscape forms the backdrop to a grinding and painful relationship breakdown.



### Thursday 27 March

**Stories We Tell** (Sarah Polley, Canada 2012. 109mins)

On the surface this profoundly personal and award-winning documentary from actor/director Sarah Polley explores her search for her biological father. But with every interview telling a different story, it quickly reveals itself to be a powerful investigation of the nature of identity, truth and perception. One of the most creative documentaries of recent years, not to be missed!

### Thursday 24 April

**I Wish** (Hirokazu Koreeda, Japan 2011. 129mins.)

A stunning study of childhood drawing to a close, this beautifully directed film follows two brothers who are forced to live in different cities when their parents separate. Not content with living apart and keen to reunite their parents, Koichi and Ryu (played by real-life brothers Koki and Ohshirō Maeda) hatch a plan they think will make sure their wish will come true.

### Want to see them all? Why not become a member!

You don't have to be a member to go to the film club, but members get free entry to all regular screenings plus an exclusive members' screening once a year – where you get to vote for the film and bring a friend for free. £25 for individual membership and £40 for two people. Limited availability. Email [info@sydenhamfilmclub.org](mailto:info@sydenhamfilmclub.org) or come to a screening.



## EVENTS

**Friday 14 March** – Visit to Dennis Severs House – see p4 for full details.

**Tuesday 18 March** (note revised date), 7.45pm at the Golden Lion – “Wartime Sydenham”. Steve Grindlay talks about life in Sydenham during the two world wars. Admission £2.

**Wednesday 9 April**, 7.45pm at the Golden Lion – Sydenham Society’s 41st Annual General Meeting.

**Wed 23 April**, 7.45 pm – Quiz Nite at the Golden Lion. Sydenham Society’s popular Quiz Nite returns in aid of a local charity. £2 per head to enter. Contact Jackie on 020 8778 5455 or Pat on 020 8659 4903 to book a table for your team. Individuals are welcome as scratch teams can be formed on the night.

**Tuesday 29 April**, 7.45pm at the Golden Lion – a talk by Finbarr Whooley, Assistant Director, Curatorial and Public Engagement at the Horniman Museum on “The History and Collection of the Horniman Museum”. Admission £3.

**Friday 16 May** – visit to the Wallace Collection, Manchester Square, W1. £8 per person to include a 75-minute ‘Highlights Tour’ – an introductory lecture about the history of the House and Treasures of the Collection. Numbers limited so reserve your place by emailing Pat on pattrembath@gmail.com or 020 8659 4903.

**Sydenham Society’s Club 26** meets to eat at 7.30pm mid-week, monthly where possible, at local restaurants. All members are welcome. Phone the restaurant on the number given to reserve your place and mention you are part of Club 26.

**Wednesday 26 February** – Club 26 will meet at That’s Amore in Kirkdale. Phone 020 8659 4903.

**Wednesday 26 March** – Club 26 visits The Lemon Tree at 144 Sydenham Road. Phone 020 8778 0146.

**Thursday 22 May** – Club 26 returns to Trattoria Raffaele. Phone 020 8778 6262

### Local Ward Assemblies

**Sydenham Ward:** Tuesday 4 March, 7pm at the Sydenham Centre, Sydenham Road, next to the Post Office.

**Forest Hill Ward:** Tuesday 11 March, 7pm. Venue TBC.

**Perry Vale Ward:** Wednesday 14 March, 7pm. Venue TBC.

### Sydenham Community Library

**Saturday 5 April, 10.30-11.30am – Writing an eBook**

Julie Day will talk about how to get your book published online and in hard copy. Julie has published a number of eBooks and also has experience of self publishing. This session is for adults.

**Saturday 12 April, 11am-4pm Easter Bunny event**

Our Easter Bunny event will involve an Easter Egg Hunt, mask making, music and face painting. Refreshments will also be available.

### Sydenham Garden Events

**Saturday 15 March** – Community Work Day at the De Frene Allotment Site. Help to clear up the area. For further details telephone 020 8291 1650.

**Saturday 5 April** – Woodland Craft Day at 28a Wynell Road, SE23 for adults and children at 10.00am. Making items using various techniques. For full details and to book your place contact 020 8291 1659.

**Saturday 10 May**, 11am-3pm – Sydenham Garden Spring Fair, 28a Wynell Road, SE23. Lots of fun activities and good things to eat, as well as the popular stalls selling plants, crafts, jams, chutneys.

**The Lovely Gallery** at 140 Sydenham Road opens on Saturday March 7 with an exhibition entitled “Work from the Summer” featuring paintings by Stella Cardew, Patrick Lovely, Lucy Owen and Bob Stone. The gallery will be open every week from Thursday-Sunday, 11am-6pm. The opening exhibition continues until 28 March.

### Sydenham Music

**Sunday 27 April at 7.30pm** – a Concert in Memory of Robert Trory with virtuoso violinist Sergey Dogadin and oboist John Anderson. Programme includes Albinoni’s Oboe Concerto in D minor and Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons. Tickets £12, £10 (concs) from Kirkdale Bookshop.

## 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.

### The Sydenham Society STANDING ORDER

#### Bank details for 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. 0524410) 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’.

Please return to: Roger Feather, 71 Hall Drive, Sydenham, London SE26 6XL Tel: 020 8778 4318 Email: membership@sydenhamsociety.com

## Sydenham Christmas Extravaganza

Christmas comes but once a year and when it comes it brings good cheer! (Along with an extravaganza of fun, food and carols in Sydenham.)



Last December we saw a plethora of delicious morsels and music in the Venner Square and Station Approach Markets, with a multitude of tantalising Christmas gifts for sale.



Santa took to the High Street, aided and abetted by the Cheeky Elf and Christmas Fairy to bring smiles to children and adults alike. More of Santa's little helpers held a workshop for the youngsters to create their own ornaments and lanterns to decorate the Queensthorpe Square tree. The day culminated with a community carol singing around the Christmas tree, which then burst into a myriad of twinkling blue lights. Even the constant drizzle of rain couldn't dampen the Christmas Spirit, but we never did find the lost reindeer!

Heather Mallinder



Photography: [www.photopact.tumblr.com](http://www.photopact.tumblr.com)

## Free Cakes for Kids!

Free Cakes for Kids Dulwich is a charity run by a group of volunteer bakers. We provide free cakes for children whose parents are unable to. We've made a huge variety of gorgeous looking cakes and received such lovely feedback that we're spreading our baking wings and expanding the areas that we bake in. We also bake for charity events, christenings and congratulations.

Would you like to find out how to request a cake, or do you know anyone who would benefit from this great charity? If so please contact Amy at [frecakesforkidsdulwich@mail.com](mailto:frecakesforkidsdulwich@mail.com), or call: 07791 189 933. (Friendly, confidential and free.)

Love community organising and would like to join? There are many ways to join the Free Cakes for Kids family. Find an existing local group or start one yourself. Learn about the joys and responsibilities that come with a being a group coordinator.

Like the idea and would like to support us? Baking is great fun, but does not come completely free. All local groups are grateful for the support of cake boxes, ingredients and organising skills. Everything helps to make a group run better.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members

Dominic Adams & Kathy Jacob  
Olive Allu  
Robert & Grainne Beeney  
Peter Boarder  
Janet Brooks  
Mark Byrne & Sophie Elliott  
Jonathan Clarkson  
Richard Eden & Isabel Battye

Queen Efemini  
Katie Ferguson  
Kicki Frisch  
Sue Frogley  
Julia Galliers  
Ms J Groves & Mr A Gosford  
P M Hind  
Chris Jones & Monica Sood

Sangita Kansal  
Delta London  
Keith & Maria Miah  
Peter O'Neill  
Chris & Clare Pitchford  
Steven Plested  
Ann Pownall  
Eileen Quirke-Fletcher

Jim Richardson  
Anna Smyth  
Mrs Avril Sydee  
Benedicte Waaler  
Rosalind Whitford  
Stacey Wilkes

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)