

# *update*

The free newsletter of the St John's Society

## St Johns Society AGM

The Society's held it's AGM in January 2004. Many thanks to the departing Chairman, Mr Ray Pennell 1998-2003 for all he has done for the St Johns Society and the local area.

New members are always welcome to meetings and invited to participate in the Society. The Society is run on a voluntary basis by residents in the area.

We are especially keen to recruit people to provide articles for inclusion and to deliver the 'Update,' particularly from the following roads: Strickland St, Clandon St, Bolden St, and Cranbrook Road.

If you feel that you can help in this way, please ring the number at the back of this issue or email us.

## Next St Johns Society Meeting

8pm Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2004, at Tanners Hill Residents Association, Pearson Avenue at corner with Tanners Hill.

Guest Speaker: Chris Coode, the Education Co-ordinator of Thames 21, to publicise the next river clean up in Brookmill Park and to tell us more about their work.

### **Be Safe In Your Home**

There have been a number of burglaries in the St Johns area in recent months, please see inside this issue for some useful tips gathered from a number of advisory services.

### **Next river clean up**

In Brookmill Park will be held: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May'04. A fun day for all the family as well as giving the river a much needed Spring clean! Everybody welcome to help. Please put these dates in your diaries and spread the word so that we get a good turnout for both the events.

**Sponsored by Deptford Challenge Trust**

## Make your home less vulnerable

*Most crimes are opportunistic: ensure your home is not a sitting target.*

**Invest** in your safety: 71% of burglars are most likely to target doors. The Metropolitan Police recommend that both front *and* rear doors are strong, solid 44mm thick (entry was made via the rear of the home in 46% of domestic burglaries)

**Even** small, inexpensive measures can make your home a more difficult target. Door locks (5 lever mortice locks manufactured to BS4737 or EN 501431 are best), hinge bolts, window locks, spy holes, door chain, timers for lights are just a few ideas.

**If** you do not own your home remember that the landlord has some responsibility to protect the property

**More** substantial security measures (alarms, grills etc.) may even lead to a reduction in your household insurance payments. Alarms should be to BS4737 (or EN 50131) standard if professionally fitted or BS6707 for self fit alarms.

**Put** desirable items out of sight (eg keep computers and hi fi equipment in cabinets or hang blinds or net curtains)

**Is** your letterbox your Achilles' heel? Can someone see inside your home? Could they reach inside and unlock your door? Consider obscuring their view with door curtains or boxes and positioning letterboxes well out of reach of locks.

### Sources:

British Crime Survey 2000; Metropolitan Police: Working for a safer London CD, edition 2.

## Don't let this happen to you!



## Dos and Don'ts

**Do** lock doors and windows (even the small ones) when you are out of your home (yes - even if just for a short while!): 21% of burglaries are committed via unlocked doors

**Do** get to know your neighbours and look out for each other (*how about coming along to St John's Society meetings?*)

**Do** check to see if you need planning permission for security grills or changes to walls or windows

**Do** make sure your security measures wouldn't hinder your escape in the event of a fire. Install fire alarms and keep door and window keys close to hand when at home.

**Don't** leave spare keys to your home "hidden" beneath door mats, in flower pots etc. Thieves know where to look! Instead ask a neighbour to keep a spare set for you in case of emergencies

**Don't** keep car keys or purses etc. within sight or reach of your windows or doors – they can be gone in an instant

### For further information:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)  
[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)  
[www.safe-community.net](http://www.safe-community.net)

[www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/crime/prevention](http://www.bbc.co.uk/crime/prevention)  
Crime Prevention Officer tel. 020 8284 5005

## Did you know that ...

Lewisham Library hires out CDs, videos, DVDs and computer games for less than your high street hire shop?

You can report non-urgent minor crime at [www.online.police.uk](http://www.online.police.uk). Instead of at the local police station.

There is a national lost and found property database at [www.virtualbumblebee.co.uk](http://www.virtualbumblebee.co.uk)

## Letters of complaint

It would be helpful to the St Johns Society if all correspondence written to the Council and others when complaining, lobbying etc on behalf of the St Johns area were copied to: [enquiries@st-johns-soc.org](mailto:enquiries@st-johns-soc.org)

This enables us to keep a file of what people are complaining about and we will try to support where possible.

Dear St Johns Society

Just to say thank-you for organising such a lovely event this Sunday. I know it takes a lot of hard work to get things like this going so I just wanted to say it is much appreciated. All the residents of St Johns probably heard my son screaming in protest when it came to washing his spiderman face off!

**Thanks again...**

*Name and address supplied*



## BBQ for hire

Suitable for big parties or community events.

£5.00 per day, £10 weekend

Tel. 0208 691 0298

## Tree Surgery



Our tree-lined streets are an integral part of what makes St Johns a special place to live. So when another tree disappeared from Albyn Road – it fell over in the wind – it left the street looking decidedly bare. After some enthusiastic leafletting from a concerned resident, Lewisham's tree department received several letters about the sad demise of our trees. And during the coldest snowiest day of the year Albyn Road got four new lovely trees. It took a while but it did happen, so if you would like a tree replaced on your street contact the nice man in the tree department, Mr Henry Walker at Wearside Service Centre, Wearside Road, Lewisham, SE13 7EZ Tel. 020 8314 2089.

sebastian▶roche

**Sales, Lettings and Property Management**  
**Free market appraisals**  
**Competitive Sales and Lettings Fees**  
**Knowledge of the local area!**

**020 8690 8888 Lewisham Office**  
**020 8291 9441 Forest Hill Office**

**Useful Numbers:**

Community Beat Officer (PC Craig Knight) .....	020 8284 8553
Anti Social Behaviour Officers .....	020 8314 6233
Noise Nuisance (daytime) .....	020 8314 9035
Noise Nuisance (5pm on) .....	020 8314 6000
Abandoned Cars .....	020 8314 2057
Graffiti .....	020 8314 2019
Housing issues/neighbour disputes .....	020 8314 6923
Confidential Drugs Hotline (24 hrs) .....	020 8314 3656
St Johns Society .....	07010 700 610

If you wish to advertise your business in future issues of this newsletter then please telephone 07010 700610 or e-mail us at: [newsletter@st-johns-soc.org](mailto:newsletter@st-johns-soc.org)