

# update

The free newsletter of the St Johns Society

## The old Seager Distillery

The site owned by Galliard Homes is to be the site of a 30 storey skyscraper with a 4 storey rising to a 10 storey block of flats attached. Planning permission has been granted. Galliard Homes then submitted revised plans to make it a 4 storey rising to 17 storey wall of flats which Lewisham planning committee refused. Galliard Homes were to appeal to the Independent Planning Inspectorate but they now say they are happy with 10 storeys. Apparently they seem to think that they are doing the local community a favour with this scheme.



What do you think?

**Stephen Lawrence Building** was opened 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 by the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone to a blaze of publicity and advertising its benefits to the local population. They were immediately embroiled in a scandal involving vandalism which was assumed to be racist in nature. I was invited by VAL (Voluntary Action Lewisham) to attend a conference "Building Bridges" at this new centre on 1<sup>st</sup> May. It was an opportunity for a member of the St Johns Society to get into the building to look around. Certainly it was an impressive site with a wonderful view of the St Johns Conservation area and Brookmill Park from the terrace. It is still very new and appears not have got up to speed with their admirable venture. I left with a feeling that there was much potential if they can tap into it.....we will update you when we get more information. *Litsa Breingan*

**St John's Society** is a voluntary organisation formed by local residents who care about the area in which they live and the small amount of money raised is used entirely to the benefit of the community. All residents are encouraged to attend meetings and are invited to contribute to the work and focus of the Society. New input is always welcome. If you feel that you can help in this way, or would like to make any suggestions please ring the number at the back of this issue, email us or attend our next meeting (TBC)

# *Letters*

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.

What is printed does not necessarily represent the views of the 'Update' team

## **Dear St Johns Society.....**

**This is a copy of the letter that was recently sent to The Mercury and Independent Planning Inspectorate.**

"The Seager site developers, Galliard Homes, are appealing to the Independent Planning Inspectorate, for the development in Deptford to be increased in size. We are very concerned by this appeal. Galliard Homes have already been granted planning permission for a 30 storey tower block with a huge block of flats attached to it. The new proposal will make the block rise to 17 storeys and the whole development will be a massive wall of glass, seen from many miles around and affecting the lives of thousands of Londoners.

We live in the St Johns Conservation area and this monstrous development driven by money and greed, with no consideration for anyone, will be a blight on our lives for many years to come.

No thought has been given to the 15 objections made by Lewisham council. Galliard Homes arrogance rides rough shod over Lewisham Councils decision to refuse permission for the amended plans and has completely ignored the objections of hundreds of local residents."

Yours sincerely,

Mr Fred Aylward on behalf of the Brookmill Action Group.

"Dear Update,

I am 12 years old and live in St Johns. Can I say as a young person, I find the Stephen Lawrence building which I have started calling 'The Cheese Grater' is quite insulting to the surroundings. It does not blend in with the Victorian Conservation area, therefore looking ridiculous. When I go down to the park with my friends, it does not have the same authentic effect as the Water Board building but stands out looking ugly.

Someone told me it was for young people. I haven't seen what sort of things I can do there yet, neither have I seen any young people near it. Pity they didn't ask young people about it!

Can I ask why it was built in glass? As it is obviously easily broken. Could someone answer all these questions for me?"

(Name and address supplied)

## ***Solar Powered Bollards***

*Lewisham are currently replacing road bollards (see Brookmill Road) with solar powered bollards in an attempt to reduce the borough's carbon footprint. They are lit by LED powered by a solar panel and therefore do not need an electricity supply.*

## **Park User Group**

The Brookmill Park user group has reformed and met on the 1<sup>st</sup> April with representatives from Glendale in the park keepers hut. We walked over to Broadway Fields and saw the work being done there, which included a ball playing area as well as tree planting and landscaping. The project is well under way and should be open soon. On the way back to the park keepers hut we saw bats flying over head as we walked by the river at dusk. There are also three herons in the park as well as kingfishers and wagtails on the river Ravensbourne. The next park users' meeting has yet to be confirmed but look out for posters in park. Fred Aylward.

## **Music concerts**

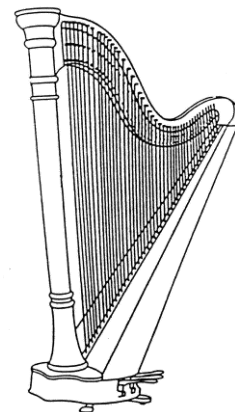
**St Johns Consort- a group of local professional musicians**

**St Johns Church, Lewisham Way**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June – 7pm**

*Music for harp, recorder, piano and voices. Suitable for all the family. All welcome.*

*Free – Collection at end on behalf of the St Johns after school club*



**Hilly Fields  
Midsummer Fayre  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June  
2008**

**12 – 5pm**

*For more information:*

[www.brockley.com/brocsoc](http://www.brockley.com/brocsoc)

**London Dockland Singers  
Proms 2008 From Russia with Love  
All Saints Church, Poplar E14  
7.30pm**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Tickets: £10, £8**

**Box Office & Information:**

**020 7538 3176**

## **Safer Neighbourhoods – Local Police, Local knowledge**

*A number of residents met on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008 outside St Johns Station with the local police to discuss community issues and problems. They are very keen to stay in touch and are happy to visit your property and advise you on security and any other issues of concern.*

*Ring: Brockley Safer Neighbourhoods Team – 020 8649 3599*

*Email: [Brockley.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:Brockley.SNT@met.police.uk)*

## **Ashmead School**

*At long last the pre fabricated Ashmead School buildings have been demolished to make way for the custom built new school. Children and staff have meanwhile been decamped to the Mornington Centre in New Cross and we look forward to the new school due to be completed late 2008 early 2009. We wish them all the best and look forward to the new school opening.*



# sebastian roche

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

## **WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE US**

1. **Value for money:** We will beat any written fee offered
2. **Exceptional customer service:** So much so that we are recommended by current clients to neighbours, family and friends
3. **Qualified and competent:** Members of various recognized industry watchdogs
4. **Comprehensive marketing:** Far reaching advertising targeting over 40 million unique visitors per month!
5. **Registered buyers and tenants who ready to move**
6. **Accurate valuations:** we will provide current comparable evidence to get you the best buyer at the best price

Please visit [s-roche.com](http://s-roche.com) for more information on us or use us to read latest property news.

020 8690 8888 Lewisham Office

020 8291 9441 Forest Hill Office

[www.s-roche.com](http://www.s-roche.com) e-mail: [info@sebastianroche.com](mailto:info@sebastianroche.com)

## **Useful Numbers:**

Community Beat Officer .....	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
Planning department at Lewisham .....	020 8314 7400
Fly Tipping / Environmental helpline.....	020 8314 7171
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)

\*mobile rates may apply