

# *update*

*The free newsletter of the St Johns Society*

## ***Ashmead School Official Opening***

Ashmead School had its official opening on Friday 27th March 2009 attended by local councillors, Major Steve Bullock, other local VIP's and the press. It went through a total rebuilding programme last year, whilst the staff and pupils were decamped to the Mornington Centre in New Cross moving back last November.

The new school was designed by Bouygues UK and has 1,500 square metres of modern primary learning facilities for the 260 or so children attending the school. It has a new ICT suite, improved staff and admin areas, large airy classrooms overlooking the play area at the back of the school. Part of the brief was to retain as much of the old, much loved playground with its varied levels, areas and established trees, whilst on a practical level giving space for the much needed multi-sports ground.

Much thought has been put into the design and construction of a new school in a confined inner city conservation area. We think that they have done a superb job and wish the staff and pupils much joy and good learning!

The children put on a special musical performance and look as though they have settled in very well. We wish the staff and all the pupils of Ashmead School the very best.

### ***Stephen Lawrence Centre***

The Stephen Lawrence Centre was open during Open House weekend and I had a very interesting look around at the studios there. They have recording studios and two computer suites and run courses for young people. It is well used by local students and a number of educational courses as well as an architectural design course are on offer.

### ***Creekside Centre***

The Creekside Centre had its first meeting for Friends of Deptford Creek and it raised a number of concerns about the developments along Deptford Creek and the River Ravensbourne. The height of the new buildings and the adverse effect on the ecology of the creek and the river were discussed. A lot of the creek will be overshadowed by these buildings. Plants and creatures living in the creek and the river will struggle to survive without the sunlight. The Creek itself will disappear into a huge canyon of tall buildings. A number of boat dwellers will be affected by overbuilding along the waterside; and Lewisham College are planning a 13 storey building on their present site on Deptford Broadway. What will the knock on effect be on our part of the Ravensbourne?

If you are interested in the next meeting please send your email to [fredaylward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fredaylward@yahoo.co.uk) or leave your details at 19 Admiral St, SE8 4HJ - Fred Aylward

**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.

We recently received a copy of a letter sent to Joan Ruddock by residents of St Johns expressing concern about the dramatic increase in frequency and noise of air traffic since last summer and our apparent exclusion from the decibel contour maps currently being published in illustration of the impact of the proposed third runway at Heathrow.

If you feel that you would like to be included or add to this campaign or find out more, please email us your thoughts and we will pass them on to the residents who have brought this issue to our attention.

## Burglaries

*There have been a number of burglars working in the area in the past few months. We know of at least 5 in area of Lind St and Albyn Road alone.*

*We understand that there are some residents who would like to set up a neighbourhood watch group in the street. If you would like to start one up in your road and need help starting up, drop us a line and we will try to link you up with someone who can help.*

*We have Jon who is willing to get one started in Lind St. If you are interested please ring Jon on 07790 017390 or email him on: [jon.d.field@gmail.com](mailto:jon.d.field@gmail.com)*

*If you see, or suspect any activity that may lead you to believe a crime is being committed, please call 999 immediately.*

**If you require help with security advice you can call:**

**Lewisham Crime Prevention Officers** on 020 8284 5005 *and they should be able to help you with your security concerns*

## Restaurant Reviews

We would like to add a review of local restaurants in the St Johns Update with a view to producing a leaflet about the area. Is anyone out there interested in taking on this project for nothing?? Do get in touch.....

**Phoenix Restaurant:** Lewisham College, Lewisham Way SE4 1UT [www.lewisham.ac.uk](http://www.lewisham.ac.uk)  
Tel: 020 8694 3294

This is cheap contemporary dining delivered by the students on the catering course at Lewisham College. Its opening hours are limited to term time only. Lunch is Tuesday – Friday 12-1.30pm and Dinner 6.30 – 9pm (last Wednesday of the month). Lunch, without drinks, can cost from as little as £5 a head. 3 courses can be about £10 a head. If you work from home or want to meet up with friends during the day knowing that you can drink and not have far to walk home and also not break the bank– this is the place to go! Booking in advance is advisable

**The Deptford Project Cafe:** 121-123 Deptford High St SE8 4NS [www.thedepfordproject.com](http://www.thedepfordproject.com)  
Tel: 07525 351656

Join the 'Love Train' and have breakfast on possibly the most unusual but refreshingly fun venue in SE London opened on Valentine's Day last year. It is a 35 tonne South East train that has landed in the middle of Deptford. (If you want to see the clip of it travelling to its final destination at 2 miles an hour – go onto their website)! The food is wholesome, homemade and is a welcome stop from your Deptford High St shopping!

Open Mon – Sat 9am – 6pm Sunday 11am – 4pm

Menu includes full English breakfast, soups, sandwiches, baked potatoes, hamburgers, chips, salads and fantastic looking cakes! All at reasonable prices.

**Chai's Garden Thai Restaurant:** 1 Kitto Road, SE14 5TW  
Tel: 020 7207 7134

This is a hidden gem in Brockley. Hiding behind Skehans pub on the corner of Kitto Road and Gellatly Road, Chai's Garden is a quiet, Thai restaurant that also serves Take Away.  
Open 7 days a week. Ring for opening times.

## Parking

We have received a number of complaints from local residents regarding parking issues in the area. We agree that something should be done, but we are very aware that any isolated complaints to Lewisham Council might result in Parking restrictions that we might all end up paying hugely for and yet remain with the same problems that we currently have or perhaps even worse.

Please email us with your views on the subject and we shall try to co-ordinate a campaign to get the parking restrictions that the majority would be happy with at the minimum expense. We do not promise any miracles but through the 'Update' we might be able to influence the council's ultimate decision in our favour.

## Park User Group

The Park Users Group met in October and Glendale announced that work had been completed on Brookmill fields and is now open and very well used by various groups, including teenagers. People have been playing basket ball and tennis there. They have started work on Friendly Gardens around the old paddling pool area and low level climbing structures are being introduced, made from wood and stone, for younger people to play on.

*Fred Aylward.*

## The Sunflower Centre

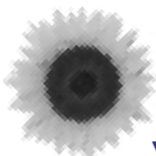
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**020 8694 2714**

81 Tressillian Road, Brockley, SE4  
[www.thesunflowercentre.co.uk](http://www.thesunflowercentre.co.uk)

## Music concerts

*Elm Singers- a group of local  
singers and musicians*

*St Johns Church, Lewisham  
Way*

*Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June – 7.30pm*

*Suitable for all the family. All welcome.*

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

The June concert will be especially remembering the music of two composers who were based in London: the German Handel, who died in 1759, having spent most of his adult life here, and Purcell, born in 1659 and one time organist of Westminster Abbey.

The Choir will be joined by a small orchestra for one of Handel's anthems for the Duke of Chandos: "O come, let us sing unto the Lord". If you enjoy "Messiah", you will also like this!

In addition, there will be unaccompanied music from the Choir (Elizabethan madrigals and Victorian partsongs) and some solo items.

## Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre

*Saturday 20th June 2009*

*12 – 5pm*

*For more information: [www.brockley.com/brocso](http://www.brockley.com/brocso)*

Fayre Enquiries: 07714 084 296



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Tel: 07523 071 525

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\*mobile rates may apply