

## Message from the St John's Chair - Litsa Breingan

Hello! My name is Litsa and I took over as Chair of SJS in February 2019. Despite pandemic, lockdown and anything else you could throw at us, the St John's Committee continue to work hard to bring some colour and joy into our lives, as well as supporting the less fortunate, where we can. You can **get in touch** with me anytime directly here:

**chair@st-johns-soc.org**

Along with those featured in this newsletter, here are some of our achievements since 2019:

- Greening Fund applied and got for St John's Garden. And we are supporting Friendly Gardens to do the same.
- Supporting local groups, like Florence Rd Resident's Group.
- Supporting the removal of fly-tipping and discouraging anti-social behaviour (Lucas St, Tanner's Hill, Florence Rd, Lewisham Way) in collaboration with local councillors, Lewisham Enforcement Team and local residents.
- Supporting our local food banks (Kath's Place and St John's Church)
- Setting up Station user Group with MP, Vicky Foxcroft, as Chair with a focus on improving accessibility
- Taking part in The Brockley Society Front Garden Sale
- Supporting the campaign to keep Wavelengths Pool open

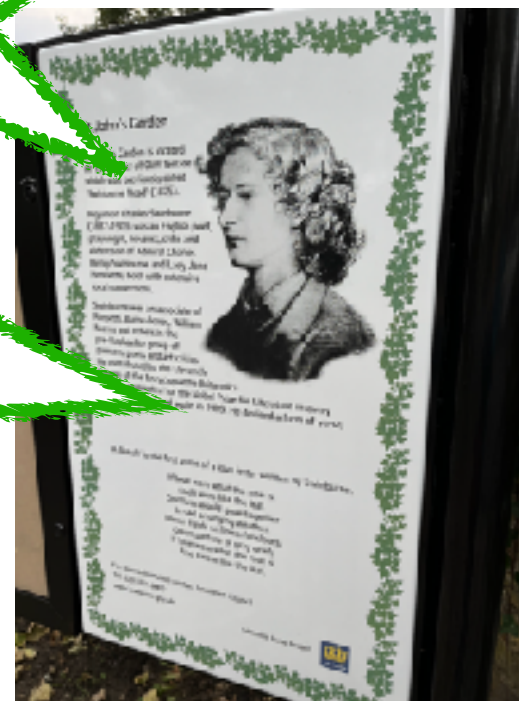
The list goes on.

We have many more ideas and plans but most importantly **we would like to hear your plans and ideas**.

It has been a great pleasure working with such a skilled and talented committee and meeting so many positive residents who share my enthusiasm for living in such a wonderful area with wonderful residents.

We got a new sign to make the naming of **St John's Garden** official

The other side of the sign to be used for the needs of the St John's community



## Keare Pearce-Downey Chairperson of Friends of Friendly gardens says:

We have made lots of plans for the play park equipment to be updated/repaired as soon as possible. But are waiting (patiently!) for an update from Lewisham council re: Thames water approving our request for a drinks fountain, and all the other requests.

We plan to hold flower planting events happening mid year, will continue to join the litter picks and cannot wait to hear if we gained the Greening Fund.

Please do **get in touch** with me by email [friendsoffriendly@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffriendly@gmail.com) or on our social media accounts.

# St John's Society Newsletter Winter 2022

You are getting this through your letterbox or in your inbox because you live in St John's. And as someone who lives in this area you are an automatic part of **The St John's Society**. Lucky you!

Open to anyone (from the age of 14 upwards) we get together every few months to work out ways to make our area better, easier, more beautiful, safer, more ecological & also fun for us all.

Once a year we normally get together at the pub to talk about what happened last year and what we want to focus on this year. This year that annual meeting will be on Zoom and we really hope you will join.

What do you want us to focus on this year? What do you want for the St John's area or people? ...for us, The St John's Society, to do for or with you in 2022?

**Join our Annual General Meeting to have your say...**

**8pm on 7th of February 2022**

**Zoom: 99734759528**

## What lies ahead for St John's Society in 2022?

- **Lewisham's Borough of Culture** - We are entering a minimum of 6 ideas into the cultural mix for grant funding. If you have something you want to do that needs support from an organisation please do get in touch.
- **Monthly litter picks** will start again in April, supported by Lewisham council to supplement the weekly street cleaning which is a huge undertaking for just one, excellent, person.
- **Street Party** - We will be applying for permission and funding for a street party across the area and have brilliant, inclusive, ideas for events for the day. If you would like to be a part of this please do get in touch **chair@st-johns-soc.org**
- We are joining the councils' **Recycling education** - teaching people what they can recycle in the bins and what needs to go elsewhere.
- Did you know that street lighting is one of the best ways to combat crime? Local Councillor Stephen Penfold has sent in a request about the installation of an **additional street lights** in Lucas St to light the dark corner of Friendly Gardens. He is awaiting a response.
- The sub-committee formed to focus on **Greening** within St. John's believe that local communities will need to embrace a green agenda in order to thrive. We are formulating a method for how to do this and welcome thoughts and ideas from all St. John's residents in 2022 at meetings and discussions in the Brookmill pub.

VISION: St John's SE8 as a contributing part of a greener, more liveable world

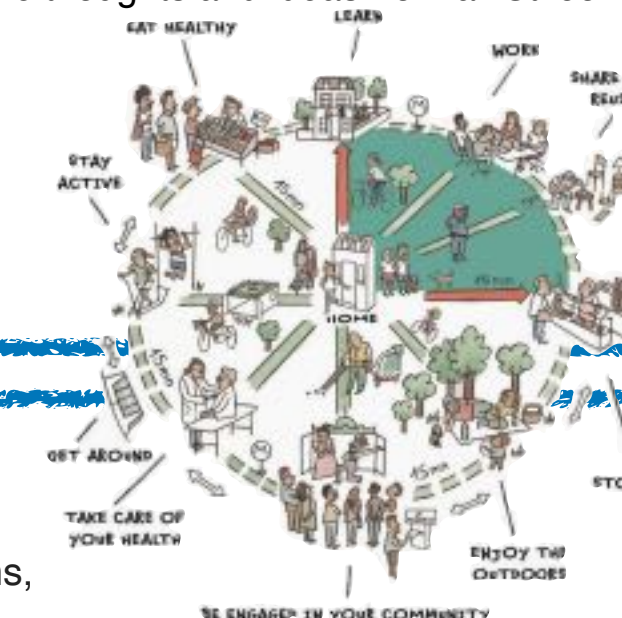
OUR MISSION: to find ways to share green visions with as much fun as possible

OBJECTIVES: to secure necessary funding and support to accomplish this mission

STRATEGY: to build working relationships with relevant groups and societies

INITIAL APPROACH: to agree viable terms of reference via open meeting/s

TACTICS: to welcome many different vision statements for a greener St John's



## Need advice on planning?

Once a month St John's Society has a group of planning gurus who meet to review applications in the area. In 2021 we reviewed around 15 planning applications, providing formal feedback to Lewisham council.

The team continue to offer support and advice to local residents looking to submit applications to improve their homes. Do get in touch if you are struggling to understand how to jump through the complicated hoops.

The gurus also contributed feedback and ideas to local policy, including the Lewisham Local Plan and the Small Sites SPD.

## Fly tipping & anti-social behaviour

**Fly tipping** remains an area of concern for many in the area. Residents should continue log concerns on the **Love Clean Streets app**, that will lead to them being cleared away. But if you want the council to investigate whodunnit do please also report it to the Environmental Crime Team to [enviocrime.enforcement@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:enviocrime.enforcement@lewisham.gov.uk). The best way to do this is to send time stamped photographs of any bagged or boxed fly tipping along with evidence of anything that may contain details of the perpetrator. NB Do not report anything with tape surrounding it or on it, as this is already being dealt with.

Any further concerns about **anti-social behaviour** need to be reported to [CER@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:CER@lewisham.gov.uk) and/ or [licensing@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@lewisham.gov.uk).



This newsletter is sponsored by Source the Area which is a pioneer search engine to aid the masses in choosing the right location to live in. The site was founded in 2019 to fill a gap in the market and provide potential homeowners with the reliable information they need to make a decision about their next local neighbourhood.

**Source the Area**

<http://www.sourcethearea.co.uk>



# What did we do in 2021?



## Deptford X

We offered up spaces across St John's for artists to use to display their work as part of the festival.

Three artists chose to use the newly christened St John's Garden as their open air gallery. And more than 600 visitors registered passing by our amazing mural bridge (which was part of the walking tour).

## Spring / Summer Litter Pick

In April 2021 we started a monthly litter pick. With more than 100 bags filled the Lewisham council (thank you Stephen Penfold) decided to support us with litter pickers and bags.

We'll be starting again in April 2022. Keep an eye out for notices. We rely on amazing volunteers to make it happen!



The **mural** on the south side of our bridge joined the mural already completed opposite, both designed by local artist, Alma Tischlerwood. The colour scheme is inspired by the rainbow banners of the NHS and Black Lives Matter, reminding us that colour invites creative celebration and positive thinking. Funding for the mural was secured by the St. John's Society from Network Rail.

**Advent windows** More than a dozen nights of singing and togetherness and mince pies lit up the path to St John's Christmas 2021, organised by us!



## What is St John's Society?

Find out more on our website - <https://st-johns-soc.org/>

Twitter - @stjohnsse8

Facebook - thestjohnssociety

Sign up to our (very infrequent) email list:

<https://st-johns-soc.org/#contactus>

Join our Annual  
General Meeting  
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