



Lewisham

# Sydenham

Autumn  
2017

[www.lewisham.gov.uk/localassemblies/sydenhamassembly](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/localassemblies/sydenhamassembly)

# London Borough of culture

**LEWISHAM IS COMPETING TO BE LONDON  
BOROUGH OF CULTURE IN 2019 OR 2020 AND LEAD  
A GAME CHANGING CULTURAL PROGRAMME**

London's culture is the DNA of our city. It helps to create a city of which we can be proud. The programme will draw on Londoners' creativity to build stronger, more resilient communities. It will highlight how arts and culture can be a catalyst for change.

Inspired by the UK City and European Capital of Culture Programmes, London Borough of Culture is an opportunity for us to put culture at the heart of our Lewisham community, celebrating the unique and distinctive creativity, character and diversity of our people and places.

Come along to Sydenham Assembly on 5th September and let us know what being the London Borough of Culture would mean for you in Sydenham. Visit London Borough of Culture, follow @LDN\_Culture and #mylocalculture.



## Assembly Fund Opens on 5th September

The Sydenham Assembly Fund 2017/18 opens to applications for projects by local groups that meet our priorities, on 5th September at the Sydenham Assembly.

### Priorities for 2017/18

- Clean and Green – helping to keep streets clean and appealing
- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety
- Vibrant High Street
- Bringing the Community Together – Intergenerational and Intercultural projects

Come to the Assembly (details in sidebar) to hear about some of the projects funded last year.

**To apply:** Download the application form available from September 5th at:  
[www.lewisham.gov.uk/localassemblies](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/localassemblies)  
email [laura.luckhurst@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:laura.luckhurst@lewisham.gov.uk) Tel: 020 8314 3830

### ASSEMBLY MEETING INFORMATION

The Assembly is an open community meeting that takes place four times a year. Anyone who lives, works or learns in Sydenham is invited to attend. Help shape our future!

**Next meeting**  
**Tues 5th September**  
**7pm - 9pm**

**Free entertainment from**  
**Markus Michelucci**  
[www.soundrefugemusic.com](http://www.soundrefugemusic.com)  
**from 6:45pm**

**The Sydenham Centre**  
**44a Sydenham Road**  
**SE26 5QF**

Buses 75, 202, 194, 450

Next meeting: Saturday 2nd December

### ON THE AGENDA

- Lewisham Borough of Culture consultation
- Assembly Fund Launch – find out how you could apply and hear about projects funded last year
- Learn about how Dementia Friends can support family, friends & others
- News and updates from the community including local schools

### YOUR COUNCILLORS INFORMATION

#### Cllr Chris Best

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020 8676 9516

#### Cllr Liam Curran

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020 8314 6937

#### Cllr Rachel Onikosi

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020 8314 9957

If you have any questions you can get in touch: email [laura.luckhurst@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:laura.luckhurst@lewisham.gov.uk)



# Green Sydenham

*In the Your Sydenham Survey, you told us you wanted more initiatives to help "green" Sydenham. Here's what Lewisham Council and the community are doing to create, protect and develop the use of our green spaces in and around Sydenham.*



*Green Spaces Walk*

## **Sydenham Garden Celebrates turning 15!**

As Sydenham Garden grows as a charity so do the number of fun annual events! This year to mark our 15th birthday we are introducing a 15K fundraising walk through all of our local parks and green spaces and would love for anyone who is interested to join.

Over the past 15 years Sydenham Garden has been a "Growing Community" in all senses of the word. With 2 centres, activities for over 200 people a week and events that attract up to 400 people, we are close to becoming the busy hub the original group dreamed of. We face the same challenges – funding cuts, increasing costs – as many do in the current age. However, if we have learned anything from these 15 years, it's to trust in the human spirit. To believe we can and will overcome, and continue to grow. Read more about our incredible 15 year journey, and find out more about how to join the fundraising walk by going to [sydenhamgarden.org.uk](http://sydenhamgarden.org.uk)



*Plant sale in Sydenham Garden*

## **Greener Homecroft Planters**

On a sunny Sunday in the spring, a couple of dozen Homecroft residents gathered to drill holes, smash up polystyrene boxes (thanks to Fresh and Fruity on the high street!), wheel a tonne of compost up and down the road, do tea runs, and finally put the plants in place.

We were lucky to have a retired garden designer in our midst who has an eye for good plant combinations, and knew where the best-value plants were to be found.

It's a nice feeling walking past the planters, especially at this time of year when they're in full bloom, but we hope even on a dank night in November too – because it was a real group effort.

There have been some positive by-products too: lots of us have met more of our neighbours through the planting, it's sparked plans for a street party soon, and we've also set up a Facebook group for the road which is proving really useful for sharing information, requests and other street news.



## **Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group**

Take a stroll along the Green Chain Walk and visit Sydenham Wells Park. One of the prettiest in Lewisham, it sits on remnants of Sydenham Common and edges of The Great North Wood, and the site of the Wells which give it its name. In 1898 the LCC and Lewisham bought the land and the park opened in 1901, landscaped with small lakes, bridges, band-stand, ornamental plantations and plenty of gardeners!

Today it boasts a sensory garden, and a huge array of trees and wildlife including glorious oaks, elms and hornbeam, dragonflies and newts by the ponds, over 30 species of birds, stag beetles and bats swooping around at dusk. Families are well catered for with the 2 playgrounds, water play and picnic tables, and newly refurbished Tennis Courts on offer.

Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group have an annual programme of events to help people make the most of their park, including a fund-raising plant sale, Bat Walk in May and an under 12s funfair in August. Bus 202 stops outside with 450 and 122 stopping nearby. Visit [sydenhamwellsark.org](http://sydenhamwellsark.org) to learn more.



*Sydenham Wells Park*

## **Grow Mayow and Sydenham Artists Trail**

Grow Mayow Community Garden in Mayow Park cares for the environment, soil, plants, water and wildlife. It offers people access to green, breathing space, for relaxation and leisure and demonstrates practical ideas for healthy living: growing food and recycling waste using organic principles.

These lovely gardens were used by eight artists during the two weekends of the Sydenham Arts Artists Trail. Nick Richards, a painter, and Simon Farnhell, a digitally manipulated photographer, showed their art in a barn where Nick also sketched portraits; Shelly Woodnutt (Spring and Twine) demonstrated her furniture rejuvenating skills; photographer Ky Lewis ran a number of Cyanotype/Lumen/Chemigram printing workshops; Dave Evans (who carved the seats and book motifs at Sydenham Community library) carved bowls and spoons; Bruce Harrison showed how to repair a broken leaded glass panel; Liz Pearson (AngelHeart) exhibited her eclectic and individual collection of jewellery; Jacqueline Pennell (who elevated a house in Recreation Road in 2015 and floated mirrors on the pond in Dacres Wood Nature Reserve last year) created a living drawing using reclaimed tiles; and Angela Wright (who installed the christening robes for the recently restored bells at Southwark Cathedral last year) created an installation of flowers using black and white felt in one of the polytunnels.

It was a wonderful experience for artists and visitors, many of whom didn't realise the magical space at Grow Mayow existed. With its 10th anniversary this year it is well worth a visit. Go to [www.growmayow.org](http://www.growmayow.org) and [sydenhamarts.co.uk/artist-trail](http://sydenhamarts.co.uk/artist-trail)



*Grow Mayow*

## **Great North Wood**



© Mathew Erith

## **The Great North Wood Project**

Did you know that Sydenham once sat at the heart of a mighty woodland, stretching from Deptford to Selhurst? Although the Great North Wood largely made way for the suburbs of south London from the 1850s, for many centuries before that it was vital for providing timber for buildings and ships, charcoal for fuel, tannins for leather, and grazing pasture for livestock.

Place names across the area echo the old wood, such as Penge ('edge of the wood'), Westwood Hill, Forest Hill, and Honor Oak. Fragments of the old wood still survive today, though many suffer from pressures such as fly-tipping, trampling and erosion.

London Wildlife Trust – who manage Sydenham Hill Wood – will be working to conserve and promote the Great North Wood, thanks to a £699,000 grant from Heritage Lottery Fund, and further support from the Greater London Authority, Veolia Environmental Trust, Dulwich Estate and Dulwich Society.

Over four years, a dedicated Trust team working with volunteers, and partner organisations will revive and reimagine the Great North Wood as a home for nature and people. Our aim is to reconnect people with the natural wonders in their local woodlands and encourage them to explore, enjoy and value them. There will be opportunities for practical conservation volunteering, wildlife surveying, guided walks, children's holiday activities and school sessions. To find out more about the project please email [emalins@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:emalins@wildlondon.org.uk)

[www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood) or follow us at Twitter: @GreatNorthWood.

*Residents of Longton Avenue, Longton Grove and Knighton Park Rd planted trees with funding from Sydenham Assembly. This one (right) looked particularly gorgeous in its Spring finery!*





## Changes to your rubbish and recycling collections

In October we will be introducing free weekly food waste collections for people who live in a house or a flat in a converted house.

From then we will empty your black bin every two weeks. Your black bin is for rubbish that can't be recycled in your green bin or food waste bin.

We will collect your black rubbish bin, green recycling bin and silver food waste bin on the same day. If you subscribe to the garden waste service, we will also collect this on the same day. Between now and October you will receive your new food waste bin along with a collection calendar showing your collection day and your fortnightly rubbish collection dates.

If you have your own rubbish and recycling wheelie bins (mostly people who live in a house, or a flat in a converted house), you will get the new food waste service and your black bin collections will change to fortnightly. If you live in a block of flats and use communal bins there will be no change.

For more information, and to find out how to reduce the amount of rubbish you produce, visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk/my services/wasterecycle/waste](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/my services/wasterecycle/waste)



## Sydenham Film Club

We start our new season in our new venue, the Sydenham Centre, on Thursday 28 September, with a very special screening of the acclaimed British documentary, "Notes on Blindness", featuring a "Heightened Soundtrack" for people with visual impairments and with a Q&A with the filmmakers Peter Middleton and James Spinney! For our October screening of Thursday 26th, we have another British film, this time a popular classic from the "Free Cinema" movement of the 60s, John Schlesinger's "Billy Liar".

Sydenham Centre, 44a Sydenham Road, SE26 5QF 7.30pm, last Thursday of each month  
For more info go to [sydenhamfilmclub.org](http://sydenhamfilmclub.org)

## Greyhound update

The owner has told us that his application for the fit-out of the pub has now been accepted by Lewisham Council. He hopes to be on site in early to mid September starting work on the refurbishment. With any luck, by Christmas, this splendid new venture should be up and running!

## St. Christopher's Hospice 50th Anniversary 2017

St. Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. They have a full programme of events including a conference on Hospice Care Evolution running over 5 days – you can still catch the two final dates for this which are 15th September and 24th November. View their 50th Anniversary Video and see more details at [www.stchristophers.org.uk/50years](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/50years)

You can also check out their fantastic concert series: 7th September, 5th October and 2nd November; visit [www.stchristophers.org.uk/events/calender](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/events/calender) for details.

The popular *Moonlight Walk for Bereavement Services* runs on 21 October 2017 from 8pm. Register online by 1st September.

## Open House at Beckenham Place Mansion

As part of Open House London, on 17th September, Beckenham Place Mansion and stables are holding an open event. Take a tour round the old stableyard and have a look at the buildings as they are now pre-restoration, enjoy period music, participate in making a community sampler and learn about life in the early 1800s with a re-enactment group in the park. For more information on the event, including getting involved as a tour guide or steward, contact [mansion@beckenhamplace.org](mailto:mansion@beckenhamplace.org)  
The Mansion, Beckenham Place Park, BR3 1SY.

## Halloween event!

Autumn seems a long while off, but it's never too early to start planning your Halloween costume! Look out for posters and flyers in Sydenham High Street with full details of the event, meanwhile save the date – Tuesday 31st October from around 3pm on Sydenham Road – trick or treating, dressing up and a prize for the best costume!



## Sydenham Library

Borrowing books and use of our computers isn't the only thing going on at the library!

Autumn Fair Saturday 9th September, 11.00 – 4.00 pm with books, bric-a-brac, raffle, tombola.

Tuesdays and some Thursdays (weather permitting): library pop-up shop sells jewellery, home decor items, aloe vera and books.

Our Assembly sponsored Tuesday Rhyme Time, and Crafts for Adults, re-start in September. Please ring the library on 0208 778 1753 or see our Facebook page for start dates.

Little Folk Nursery Rhymes with Cat and her guitar, Thursdays at 11.45 from 14th September.