



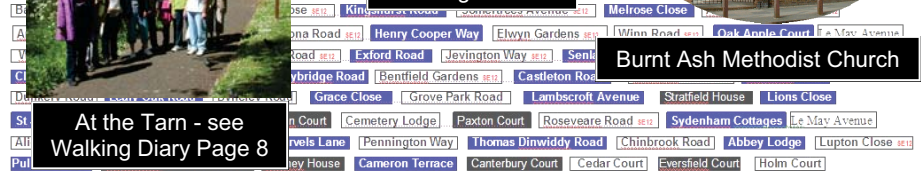
The "Summerfield"
Baring Hall Hotel
The "Crown"



Northbrook Park - Page 8
Chinbrook Meadows Café
Peace Sculpture



St Augustine's Church
Grove Park Library
Burnt Ash Methodist Church



At the Tarn - see Walking Diary Page 8

Grove Park Community Group, a registered charity, was formed in 1972 to bring together various local voluntary associations. In 1982, the Group established the **Ringway Centre** on land in Baring Road across the route of the abandoned Ringway 2 urban motorway.

This Newsletter is published by the **Grove Park Community Group**
 268 Baring Road, SE12 0DS Tel: 020 8857 7980
 Email: gpcg.ringway@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.gpcg-ringway.org.uk>
 Grant-aided by the *London Borough of Lewisham*



Grove Park Community Group Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2011 edition
incorporating

Grove Park Assembly News

sponsored by *London Borough of Lewisham*
(circulation 6,000 in the Grove Park Ward)



Registered Charity
No. 1046082



Chinbrook Meadows - Pages 6 & 10



Junior cricket pitch at Chinbrook Meadows - Page 10



The Pearly King of Grove Park - Page 13



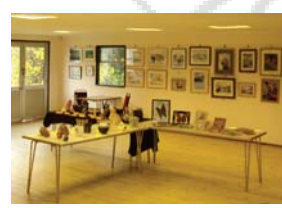
Sage Older Peoples Health & Well-Being Project - Page 10



Napier House



Air Cadets - Page 14



The Ringway Art Show - October 2011 - Page 4



Folk Workshop at the Ringway Centre - Page 5

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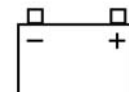
ABS Brakes



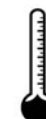
Diesel & Petrol



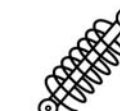
Tyres & Exhausts



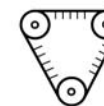
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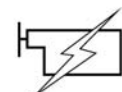
Heating & Cooling Systems



Suspension & Steering



Timing Belts & Water Pumps



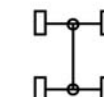
Diagnostics



Air Conditioning



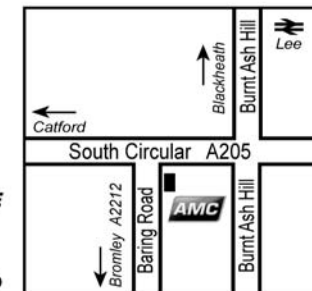
Cylinder Head Gaskets



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011/12

The Ringway Centre, 268 Baring Road, SE12 0DS

2011

Wednesday, 30th November: 10.30 am - Walk to Sundridge Park via Woodland Walk

Monday, 5th December: 7 pm - Grove Park Community Group AGM

Thursday, 15th December: 7.30 to 9.30 pm - Folk Music Workshop

2012

Tuesday, 7th February: 6.45 pm - Meeting of the Friends of Chinbrook Meadows

Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall, Burnt Ash Hill, SE12 0QD

2011

Saturday, 19th November: 11 am to 3 pm - Christmas Market

Thursday, 8th December: 7.45 pm } College Park Players' pantomime

Friday, 9th December: 7.45 pm } *Dick Whittington*

& Saturday, 10th December: 7 pm }

2012

Saturday, 11th February: 10am to 12 noon - Book Sale

Saturday, 5th May: from 12 noon - Spring Fayre

St Augustine's Church, 336 Baring Road, SE12 0DX

2011

Saturday, 26th November: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm - Grove Park Assembly Meeting

Saturday 3rd December: 11 am to 2.30 pm - Christmas Fair

Sunday, 4th December: 6 pm - Advent Organ Concert with Robert Munns

2012

Saturday, 25th February: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm - Grove Park Assembly Meeting

Burnt Ash Pond Nature Reserve, Melrose Close, SE12 0AL

2011

Sunday, 4th December: 11am to 12 noon - Open Day

2012

Sunday, 5th February: 11am to 12 noon - Open Day

L&Q Offices, 333 to 335 Baring Road, SE12 0DZ

2011



Tuesday, 29th November: The Neighbourhood Community Safety Service Surgery
between 3.30 pm and 5 pm

2012

Tuesday, 31st January: The Neighbourhood Community Safety Service Surgery
between 3.30 pm and 5 pm

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Grove Park Assembly
The next meeting will take place
on Saturday, 26th November 2011
from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
at St Augustine's Church Hall, 336 Baring Road, SE12 0DX.


Refreshments available





The Grove Park Community Group
The Annual General Meeting
will be held on
Monday, 5th December 2011 from 7 pm to 9 pm
at the Ringway Centre, 268 Baring Road, London SE12 0DS
Any resident over the age of 18 living in Grove Park Ward is eligible to vote

Refreshments available



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Michael Hill, Chair, Grove Park Community Group

Since our last newsletter we have held a very successful Summer Fair which was opened by our local MP, Heidi Alexander. There was a wide range of stalls reflecting local groups, businesses and Ringway Centre users, plus the Territorial Army, Army Cadets and Air Force Cadets.

Our refurbishment programme is well under way with decorating work having been completed in the Eric Richards Hall and we have nearly completed the Main Building. The Main Building has had new flooring to the entrance hall, all toilets and the kitchen. New cubicles have also been installed in the toilets.

By the time you read this we will have held our first Ringway Art Show (see next report). This was a success and we will build on this next year. In the spring we propose to hold a Crafts Fair to expand on the range of activities we sponsor.

I have to thank our Events Sub-Committee who have worked so hard to organise these events and who are already working on future ones.

In my last message published in the Summer 2011 Newsletter I mentioned our grant application to Lewisham Council. We were most fortunate in securing the same level of grant as last year up to September 2012, at which time our progress will be reviewed.

On the previous page you will find an advertisement for our Annual General Meeting which is to be held this year on Monday, 5th December. Any Grove Park resident over the age of 18 is entitled to attend, to vote and to stand for the committee. We are looking for new committee members, and in particular welcome applications from younger people, minorities and those residents with professional skills.

If you are elected you would be expected to attend committee meetings which are held on the first Monday of the month in the evenings. There are various sub-committees for those who want to get further involved in our work. □

RINGWAY CENTRE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



The Ringway Art Show - October 2011

by Sylvia Currey, Lewisham Society of Arts



The Art Show held at the Ringway Centre on Saturday, 29th and Sunday, 30th October was a resounding success. At the private view attended by our local MP, Heidi Alexander, and local councillor, Suzannah Clarke, the artists had a chance to celebrate their achievements.

The newly decorated hall looked wonderful filled with framed paintings, photos, stained glass, ceramics and unframed pictures in browsers.

This was an excellent opportunity to show the work of local artists. These included members of groups who meet at the centre – Lewisham Society of Arts, who meet from 1.30 to 4 pm on the first two Saturdays of the month (October to April), and the University of the Third Age (U3A) SE London Art Group (Wednesdays 1.30 to 3.30 pm) newly formed this year.

The show contained artwork of the highest standard, by skilled professionals and amateurs, as well as leisure painters of less experience. It fulfilled the mission statement of Lewisham Society of Arts which began during World War 2 to encourage and promote creativity in the local area for all. I wish to thank Grove Park Community Group for making us welcome and hosting this exhibition. We look forward to more in the future. □



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London & Quadrant (L&Q) and anti-social behaviour

L&Q has a very robust anti-social behaviour (ASB) policy and is committed to tackling and preventing ASB. All of the NSO's are fully trained on ASB and deal with all cases on a 1:1 individual basis. Their policy is explained in their leaflets on "Anti-social behaviour guidance notes" which can be obtained from their offices. □

Grove Park Safer Neighbourhoods Team

The latest (Autumn 2011) newsletter contains a wealth of information about the team's work to tackle crime in the area. On the subject of anti-social behaviour the newsletter says: "Officers tackle individuals and groups in acts of anti social behaviour by carrying out high visibility and covert patrols. The team act on information received by the public to prevent or disrupt those acting with no consideration for others. The team work very closely with local housing associations to resolve issues brought up by anti social families". The newsletter also mentions '101', the new 24/7, non-emergency, number to call to contact your local police – more information at www.met.police.uk/101. Contact phone number for the team is 020 8721 2483. Email is GrovePark.SNT@met.police.uk. Webpage is at www.met.police.uk/teams/lewisham. □

"History sold out"

John King's book, "GROVE PARK ITS HISTORY REVISITED", has been sold out for several weeks after two print runs. For those who have not read the rich history of our district, the good news is that it has just been reprinted again and is available at Grove Park, Downham, Manor House and Lewisham libraries. Priced very modestly at £4.90, it is also available in office hours at the Ringway Centre, 268 Baring Road. An ideal Christmas present for friends and relatives who may have left Grove Park. □

WARD COUNCILLORS' CONTACT DETAILS

Cllr Christine Allison:

4th Saturday of the month
from 11am–12 noon
Grove Park Library,
Somertrees Avenue,
Grove Park, SE12 0BX
Tel: 020 8314 6902
Email: cldr_christine.allison@lewisham.gov.uk

Cllr David Britton:

2nd Saturday of the month
from 11am–12 noon at the
Ringway Centre,
268 Baring Road,
Grove Park, SE12 0DS
Tel: 020 8852 2694
Email: david.britton17@hotmail.com

Cllr Suzannah Clarke:

1st Saturday of the month
from 10am–11am at
Grove Park Library,
Somertrees Avenue,
SE12 0BX
Tel: 020 8314 6944
Email: cldr_suzannah.clarke@lewisham.gov.uk

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service is divided into three localities covering all 18 wards of the borough. The south team covers, amongst other wards, Grove Park and Downham and has two officers to look after this area – Selvin Reid on 020 8314 6480 and Theresa Meades on 020 8314 6489.

The main remits are to

- Work with all sections of the community and its partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Work with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team to improve enforcement
- Offer community events and local surgeries to give advice and guidance about crime prevention
- Support victims of crime and develop plans to focus on Lewisham's Crime Reduction priorities such as youth nuisance.

Current plans involve holding surgeries on the last Tuesday of every month at the London and Quadrant Offices at 333 to 335 Baring Road between 3.30pm and 5 pm to discuss any anti-social behaviour problems. The next dates will be the 29th November and 31st January. There will be no surgery on 27th December because of the Christmas holidays.

The service only deals with private residents, as tenants from registered social landlords such as Hyde, London & Quadrant and Phoenix should have their own ASB officers, but the service is happy to speak to them and give them guidance should they turn up. □

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RINGWAY LACE AND CRAFTMAKERS

Classes in lace and other crafts are held at the Ringway Centre every Wednesday morning from 10 am to 12 noon. A range of lace-making is taught, including Needle lace, Tatting lace & Bobbin lace, also Cross Stitch, Knitting and Crochet.

All equipment is available from the tutor.

Everyone is welcome, especially beginners.

For more information please contact the Ringway Centre Office on 020 8857 7980

Folk Music Workshop at The Ringway Centre



The **Folk Workshop**, held on the third Thursday of every month in the Main Hall, is regularly attended by approximately thirty people. The format is very simple. Everyone joins in by singing or playing, and all are welcome, whatever their ability. Over the course of the first twelve months different songs have been introduced each month — songs familiar to some people and new to others. Generally a session will include some traditional music of Great Britain and Ireland, some well-known traditional American folksongs and a wide variety of other well-known songs. There is a break for refreshments halfway through the evening when everyone can have a chat, get to know one another and discuss their musical likes and dislikes. Please drop in.



Sponsored by Grove Park Locality Fund.

Other Ringway activities – a summary

Apart from the activities mentioned previously, and elsewhere in this issue, (**Bobby Dazzlers** - page 12; Sage Educational Trust's **Special Exercise Rehabilitation Class** for older adults living with a medical condition or recovering from surgery - page 10 and **Walking** - page 8), the Ringway Centre hosts a large number of activities and classes: **Keep Fit** (for the over-50s), **Zumba**, **Pilates**, **Yoga**, **Art and Philately**. University of the Third Age (U3A) classes include **Photography**, **Lip Reading**, **Travel** and **Art**, but to join you have to become a member of U3A first.

The Centre is also host to a number of faith groups and can be hired for children's parties. To hire call 020 8857 7980 or email ringway.centre@btinternet.com.

We will soon be holding drop-in **Coffee Mornings** at the Centre. Details will be posted on our website and on our notice boards which are located outside the Centre, in Grove Park Library and on the corner of Baring and Chinbrook Roads.

A full list of activities can be found on the GPCG website at www.gpcg-ringway.org.uk/Weekly_Timetable.htm.

MUSIC AND DRAMA IN GROVE PARK

We list below some of the opportunities in the Grove Park area for music and drama. Please let us know of any others for inclusion in future newsletters.

On Sunday, 18th September, St Augustine's Church, known as "Grove Park's primary concert venue", yet again lived up to its reputation, when they were hosts to the Lewisham Concert Band and the former Royal Shakespeare Company London Wind Ensemble. The concert, which was part of the church's 125th anniversary celebrations, was in memory of the distinguished clarinetist and founder member of the Lewisham Concert Band, Victor Slaymark. The concert, which played to a packed church, featured music by Schubert, Elgar, Sullivan, Vaughan Williams and

Guy Woolfenden. An organ concert by the international organist Robert Munns is scheduled for Sunday, 4th December at 6 pm. Keep an eye out for future concerts via their website www.staugustines-grovepark.com or notice board.

For those wishing to participate there is the drama group, College Park Players, which meets at Burnt Ash Methodist Church. Their next production will be the pantomime *Dick Whittington* on Thursday, 8th and Friday, 9th December at 7.45pm and again on 10th December at 7pm. For more details about the group, and how to join, go to their website at www.collegeparkplayers.com.

Then there is the group, Eldorado Musical Productions, which also meets at Burnt Ash Methodist Church. Rehearsals are on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Their last production in October was the hippy musical *Hair*. Their next production will be *Acorn Antiques: The Musical!* (book and lyrics by Victoria Wood) from 21st to 24th March 2012 at the Bob Hope Theatre in Eltham. For further information about the company and how to join, visit their website at www.eldoradomusicalproductions.co.uk.

At least one pub in the Grove Park Ward has live music – the Summerfield at 60 Baring Road, SE12 0PS (tel. 020 8857 8247). They have karaoke once a month (next one on 26th November), a DJ first Saturday in the month and live music on Sunday afternoon, but it's best to check dates and times before you turn up.

Also, don't forget the Folk Music Workshops at the Ringway Centre every month! See the notice on the previous page. □

OUR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Friends of Chinbrook Meadows (FOCM) Report October 2011 *by Anne Slater*

The new play facilities for the old paddling pool area were completed in May 2011 and have been well-used through the summer. It was disappointing that the climbing structure was smaller, and therefore less challenging for older children than we had hoped, but compromises had to be made to fit our budget.

FOCM, with support from Glendale, applied to the Local Assembly for funding to install a junior cricket pitch, and additionally FOCM applied for money for a drinking water fountain and a "Trim Track". We were very pleased to be offered money for all these ventures. We have had the water fountain installed by the under-fives play area and the cricket pitch is now installed too. The group have decided to hold off on the completion of the "Trim Track" as this can form part of a bigger application we are making to the Lottery "Community

Spaces" Fund. Showing the funders that we already have local support for our venture will add weight to our application and get the maximum benefit from our money if successful. "Groundwork" are supporting FOCM with this application which is going forward to the next stage later this year.

During the summer our Pavilion café ran a two day Arts and Crafts event for the second year, stalls sold a variety of goods including clothing, jewellery, cards and food. This annual event is developing each year and we hope to get even more stalls and customers next year.

Riverside management is an on-going concern for park users. Volunteers with "Nature's Gym" and the "Rivers and People" organisation have continued to work on the river banks regularly. There is a revised maintenance plan for 2012 which will involve more regular cuts of selected areas of riverside vegetation.

The Friends of Chinbrook Meadows are always keen to welcome new members

We run a disciplined organisation, but this comes from the cadets themselves, rather than being imposed from above by tough staff. Our enthusiastic volunteer staff – from a wide variety of backgrounds – are all trained, CRB-cleared/vetted and qualified in the activities we deliver, and the welfare and safety of our cadets is our primary concern. We do not act as a recruiting agency for the Armed Forces. Our cadets are under no obligation of service, and will not be pressured to do anything they do not wish to do.

Our cadets have already been on some amazing adventures this year – from trekking towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award qualifications, to flying low-level helicopters over Oxfordshire, and getting on target with rifle shooting. We are looking for more cadets to join the Squadron – **could you be part of something special?**

More information about the Squadron can be found on our website at www.1921squadron.org.uk, or by emailing the Squadron (adj.1921@aircadets.org) for more details. We are also happy to hear from adults who want to put something back in their community: either in a uniformed volunteer role, or as a supporting figure as part of the Civilian Committee. **What are you waiting for?** □

The Neighbourhood Community Safety Service

The Neighbourhood Community Safety Service was established in April 2011. The service was created to ensure safer neighbourhoods for Lewisham residents. The

(Continued on page 16)



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am now aware that this organisation has been revitalised and, where possible, I look forward to being involved, as previously, in this wonderful area. □

Planning & Environment Report

Most residents of Grove Park and Downham will have learnt that the closed Baring Hall Hotel was to have been demolished this summer. It did not happen following the action of the Grove Park Community Group in obtaining a temporary injunction from the High Court. This action was taken by the GPCG as it considered that Lewisham Council had acted incorrectly at the beginning of August when it agreed to the demolition of the 1882 building the day before the authority's planning committee was to consider the owner's application to develop the site. Members of the planning committee were not best pleased at this and turned down the application which they considered an over-development. It should be noted that councillors of all three parties in Grove Park and Downham wards supported the retention of this important landmark building by the distinguished architect Ernest Newton.

The issue was further considered by Lewisham at the Mayor & Cabinet Meeting in September when it was decided to Locally List the building. This is not like the statutory listing of English Heritage, but it does mean that Lewisham now regards the building as a heritage asset. The meeting also saw the Mayor agreeing to the issue of an Article 4 Direction which has given added protection. So what happens now? Several people are working hard to find a use for the building. It is unlikely that it will revert to its original format, given the decreasing demand for traditional public houses. But there is hope that the Baring Hall Hotel could become an attractive hostelry serving hot food.

In the meantime, the closed supermarket opposite the railway station has been re-opened by Sainsbury's. This is good news for the shopping area of Grove Park and it is hoped that it will help to revitalise the district; and this would not have happened but for the tenacity of Cllr Suzannah Clarke. □

Achieve YOUR sky-high potential with the Air Cadets

by Flight Lieutenant David Preece RAFVR(T), Officer Commanding

In an increasingly competitive market, with young people facing more challenges to succeed in their education and employment options, it is harder for young people to stand out and maximise their contribution.

1921 (Lewisham) Squadron is a local Air Cadet unit, offering young people across Lewisham the chance to do something extraordinary. We provide opportunities for development through sport and adventurous training, as well as offering amazing activities like flying and gliding through our association with the Royal Air Force. Our cadets learn self-discipline, take pride in their team and themselves, and find transferable skills they never knew they had – testing themselves in leadership and team situations on a regular basis under the guidance of our staff.

Our training does not rely on academic ability, but is designed to broaden the cadets as young people, and give them the chance to develop their areas of interest. Cadets are guided through a structured training programme that builds their wider knowledge and rewards effort and participation. Through this training, the cadets can obtain Edexcel-verified BTEC qualifications equivalent to 6 GCSEs, without any additional costs.

with an interest in the park. Our next meeting will be held in the Ringway Centre, Baring Road on 7th February 2012 at 6.45 pm. Contact number (via Glendale) is 020 8318 3986 □

Grove Park Nature Reserve Wins Green Pennant for third successive year!

by Mark Ingleby - Chair, Friends of Grove Park Nature Reserve.

Friends of Grove Park Nature Reserve are proud to announce that we have won our first hat-trick of the coveted Green Pennant Award – now called the Green Flag Community Award. This is an outstanding achievement in Lewisham Borough, only matched by Mayow Park (who are mainly a park rather than a nature reserve). We are hoping to display the flag on or near our new railway-traveller friendly banner at the bottom of the embankment, down from the peace sculpture, so that commuters are alerted to the achievements and opportunities of the Nature Reserve.

The quality of all our efforts and imagination are perhaps reflected in the unusually small number of recommendations for further enhancement that the judges made. They were particularly impressed by our new audio guide, which was launched on our Open Day in near rain-forest conditions on Saturday, 16th July by Deputy Mayor Cllr Alan Smith and our MP, Heidi Alexander, capably aided by a brave group of young singers from Baring School with their teachers, who celebrated the launch and their inclusion on the audio guide with some specially prepared songs for the occasion. Many thanks to our volunteers who maintained a roaring trade in teas and cakes, bird boxes and even story-telling under the canopies as the heavens poured forth.

Don't forget, the audio guide still runs 24/7 and you can access it at any time from 020 8588 1283, followed by pressing – after the beep – whatever number of the six waypoint posts you are standing by, or wish to hear. There is a slight pause before the beginning of

each presentation.

Jungle conditions of a more blackberry/bramble kind persist at the top of the 'horse meadow' land, where we have been given permission to build a wheelchair friendly path from the grounds of the Ringway Centre to the Railway Childrens' Walk entrance to the Reserve. We are grateful to the Local Assembly for voting us the required funds for this project, which will make a much easier and more pleasantly rural approach to the Nature Reserve for visitors from the centre of Grove Park, as well as increasing the use and attraction of the Ringway Centre to Nature Reserve visitors, particularly school parties and less easily mobile pedestrians. Work is planned to commence over the late autumn.

Finally, many and special thanks to our retiring Treasurer, Diana James, for all her unstinting patience and efficiency with our accounts and transactions over the last four years. □

Burnt Ash Pond - an interesting history!

by Jess Kyle

Burnt Ash Pond is one of only three natural ponds left in the London Borough of Lewisham, as well as being a feature unique to any housing development in the Borough.

The pond first appeared on the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map of 1870, when it may have been associated with a brickworks north of Burnt Ash Farm. Therefore, it may be a surviving pond from here in the days when Lee was mainly open countryside. When urban development gathered pace in the late 19th century, it became part of the garden of one of the large houses on Burnt Ash Hill. Strangely, however, the pond does not appear on the OS map from 1930.

The 'Friends of Burnt Ash Pond Nature Reserve' is a group of local volunteers who are interested in maintaining and improving the Nature Reserve. The objective of the Friends of Burnt Ash

Pond Nature Reserve is to promote, maintain and enhance the indigenous wildlife and botanical value of the Reserve and its educational use for the public.

The group has existed since 2006 and helps with the management of the site. Lewisham Council is responsible for the basic management of the Reserve itself. The activities of the Friends group rely solely on grants and donations.

We would like to extend the membership of the Friends Group in order to ensure full involvement of the community in the Reserve. Therefore if you would like to get involved, please feel free to email

jessica.kyle@lewisham.gov.uk or phone 020 8317 2119

The Pond is open on the first Sunday of every month between 11 am and 12 noon. The next open days are on 4th December 2011 and 5th February 2012. There is nothing in January because this will be New Years Day! □

Northbrook Park Community Group

Keep up to date with all the exciting developments at Northbrook Park by visiting their website at

www.northbrookparkcommunitygroup.co.uk/index.html.

WALKING DIARY AUTUMN 2011

by Sonja Aldengard

By the time you read this, Grove Park healthy walks will have been going for nearly a year, not just once in a while but every Wednesday throughout this period. The number of people walking regularly every week has remained impressively high at about a dozen, but on occasions we have been an even larger group. Some walkers come faithfully week in week out, while others turn up more sporadically. New walkers are always welcome, and the walks are FREE!

Over the year we have built up quite a repertoire of different routes which gives us great flexibility and variation. Any new footpath we discover on our walks is a potential new route. Or we make a new route by simply walking the other way round. In other words, it never gets boring or repetitious. On the contrary, the group is getting ever more adventurous, not to mention fitter.

We are by no means losing touch with the Grove Park Nature Reserve, Chinbrook Meadows, Northbrook and Horn Parks, our nearest green spaces, which we visit again and again, in isolation, or in combination. Doing local circular walks allows us to return to the Ringway Centre for a drink and chat afterwards; in fact the group has

practically adopted the Art Hut for this very purpose.

However, during the warmer months, and helped by the odd bus ride or short train journey, we have been able to do walks away from Grove Park, although we always still meet at the Ringway Centre first. Thus we have meandered along the Waterlink Way in both directions. We have covered the distance from Lee to Greenwich largely via footpaths. We have explored Scadbury Park with its moated manor, Foot's Cray Meadows with its Five Arch Bridge, Keston with its ponds and we have ambled along the boardwalks in Sutcliffe Park. These walks are not necessarily longer, but they do take more time.

If you want to join us, check out the monthly walk programme displayed on the Ringway notice-board, or just turn up any Wednesday morning at 10.30.

For information go to:

<http://www.wfn.naturalengland.org.uk/walkfinder/london/lewisham-healthy-walks>.

For inspiration go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwPsA9cGUf0&feature=related>.

LOCAL ISSUES, NEWS & NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

Grove Park Library news

by Henry Braun, Admin volunteer with Eco Computer Systems and based at Grove Park

Grove Park Library was indeed closed by Lewisham on Saturday, 28th May, and reopened as a Community Hub and Library on Tuesday, 31st May. So not a day was lost! It is now open at lunchtime and for longer in the week during these hours:

Monday 10 am - 2 pm,
Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm,
Thursday 10 am - 7 pm,
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm.

The building is now staffed by volunteers from ECO Computer Systems, a social enterprise based in Deptford which refurbishes and recycles used computer equipment as well as providing IT training and supporting a number of community projects. As well as Grove Park, ECO is also keeping open Crofton Park and Sydenham libraries.

The library books and audio books remain part of Lewisham's Library and Information Service. That means that Lewisham library cards are still honoured. Despite some gloomy rumours the book stock has been reduced only as a result of an overdue weeding-out of old and rarely-used material. Lewisham is committed to maintaining and updating the supply of books held at Grove Park Library. Reserving, borrowing, ordering and returning books are just as before.

ECO intend to open up more of the library building to public use with expanded IT facilities and a café. We can already accept donations of computer hardware at the library. The "Hub", in its new title, comes from its role as a hub of the London Community Resource Network. We are also glad to receive books which can be sold to help meet the costs of keeping the libraries open.

The library relies on the community to keep it alive, and we very much welcome suggestions for facilities, services or events that will benefit our neighbours and readers in Grove Park. And to help keep it open, do come and volunteer. □

Original Pearly King of Grove Park

by Alan Baxter, Pearly King of Grove Park

I was the Pearly Prince of Woolwich when, in 1991, I married the Pearly Queen of Blackheath. In 1994 we were awarded the title of Pearly King and Queen of Grove Park. This was with the blessing of The Original Pearly Kings and Queens Association and the Mayor of Lewisham. A full history of our aims and traditions can be found on The Original Pearly Kings and Queens website at www.thepearlies.com.

Living in the borough as its Pearly King I have always been involved in many local activities relating to fund-raising for charities and keeping community spirit alive.

In the past I concentrated a lot of my efforts working with the Grove Park Community Group. I was one of the committee helping to promote great community spirit, organising funding and manpower for three fetes each year; also a Christmas special with presents for all the children attending this Christmas get-together. I was also involved with the local Air Cadets and served as a civilian on its committee, helping to raise funds for its younger members' activities.

Although I have not been recently involved with the Grove Park Community Group, I

GROVE PARK ASSEMBLY

"As a parent, teacher and co-ordinator of Emmangel Saturday School, I believe that the project is very worthwhile and much needed in our community. We are committed to delivering on our promise 'to provide learning with a difference to local children'. Additionally, we promote other youth activities to our users to maximise their engagement in the local community in a positive way. I want to thank the Grove Park Assembly for their funding which has made it possible for us to provide up to 10 free places to local children on the project".

Gbemi - Emmangel Saturday School Co-ordinator.

Bobby Dazzlers - Over 60's Group

by Elaine Osborne

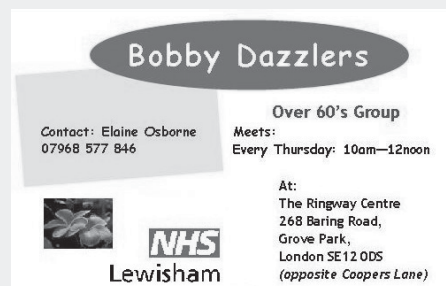
During 2009 and 2010 the Bobby Dazzlers were able to experience some wonderful outings thanks to the Grove Park Assembly funds. There are 15 active members in the group, and they have been meeting as a club since October 2002.

These are some of the things they spent the money on, visits to:

- ⇒ Lee Valley Regional Park
- ⇒ London Royal Docks, which will host the Boxing, Judo, Weightlifting, Table Tennis and Taekwondo for the 2012 Olympics
- ⇒ Viewing of the Olympic Park, and the 80,000-seat stadium
- ⇒ The site for the 2012 Canoe and Kayak events
- ⇒ Waltham Abbey
- ⇒ Blue Badge Guide for all of the above
- ⇒ Champagne afternoon tea at Rowhill Grange
- ⇒ Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley
- ⇒ A production of *Yesterday Once More*
- ⇒ Annual holiday to Hinkley
- ⇒ Lunch and visit to The Reminiscence Centre, Blackheath

As you can see we covered a very wide range of activities, and obviously the £2,000, which we gratefully received from the Grove Park Assembly, did pay for all of these activities; it surely helped as a deposit for them. Members of the group had to pay for their individual costs for each outing.

Thank you very much for making these events such a success. We were truly encouraged by the funds, to organise ourselves and do something which we all enjoyed. □



GROVE PARK ASSEMBLY

ABOUT LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

What are local assemblies?

Local assemblies are open meetings where you and others decide how to improve your area.

The assembly is your chance to:

- discuss and share what matters to you
- work with your councillors and others to shape the future of your area
- find out what is happening in your ward
- consider how funding available to your ward is spent.

How do they work?

There are 18 local assemblies in Lewisham, one for each ward. Anyone who lives, works or studies in each ward is encouraged to attend. Meetings take place up to four times a year, and are chaired by a Councillor. Each assembly discusses what the priorities are for the ward and work together to develop an action plan to improve their area. The assembly works with the Council, voluntary sector, the police, the wider community and others to make real change happen.

How can I get involved?

You can get involved by coming along to your local assembly meeting.

The next Grove Park Assembly meeting will take place on Saturday, 26th November 2011 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at St Augustine's Church Hall, 336 Baring Road, SE12 0DX.

Top priorities for Grove Park Assembly

- traffic congestion
- community communication
- neighbourhood security
- cleaner and better environment
- more activities for the young and elderly

The Assembly has developed an action plan to address these priorities, which can be downloaded from the Grove Park Assembly webpage. Go to

www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/localassemblies/Grove-Park-Assembly/Pages/default.aspx

GROVE PARK ASSEMBLY

SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Junior Cricket at Chinbrook Meadows

by Judith Simmons (Glendale)

Glendale is pleased to announce that the new junior cricket pitch in Chinbrook Meadows has been successfully installed!

The pitch, funded by the Grove Park Assembly Mayor's Fund, aims to provide junior cricket facilities for young people in the Grove Park area. It will also provide local schools with a pitch for their physical education lessons and clubs. We hope this will encourage participation in a sport that Lewisham Council wishes to develop and provide an opportunity for young people to get involved in a healthy outdoor activity. The Friends of Chinbrook Meadows have been working closely with Glendale Managed Services (Lewisham parks' contractors) to successfully deliver the project.

In addition, the Friends group is currently working with Glendale to secure further funding for cricket nets, equipment and coaching. The coaching will be run during the Easter and Summer school holidays in 2012 and also at weekends. If funding is obtained, the coaching will be free and available for any juniors wanting to take part. This is an exciting opportunity to increase community use of one of Lewisham's wonderful parks and, in particular, encourage young people to get outdoors and exercise for free.

The pitch is free for all to enjoy, but if you are interested in booking the pitch in advance for any matches or coaching sessions, please call Glendale to arrange on 020 8318 3986. □

The Sage Older Peoples Health and Well-Being Project (Grove Park)

by Ros Spinks (Sage Educational Trust)

The Sage Educational Trust is currently developing its services in Grove Park for older people. The Sage Older Peoples Health and Well-Being Project (Grove Park) is funded through the Grove Park Assembly to enable the development of services that are accessible and affordable for older people. The aim of the Sage Older Peoples Health and Well-Being Project is to provide a better quality of life for older people, supporting them to remain in their own homes and to live independently within their communities.

Through our experience we have realised that each community is unique, and we are really keen to hear from local people about the services they want to see in their area. Some of the services we have delivered in other areas include:

- Information/signposting services with home visits available for housebound older people
- A supported shopping service to enable people to continue to access shops and local facilities
- Lunch and social groups to enable people to remain connected within their communities

As the starting point of our programme in Grove Park we are delighted to have

GROVE PARK ASSEMBLY

developed a new specialist exercise class specifically designed for older adults (aged 55 or over) living with a long term illness such as Parkinson's, C.O.P.D, arthritis or other debilitating conditions. These classes are held at the Ringway Centre, Baring Road every Wednesday from 1.30 to 3 pm. Led by a highly qualified and very experienced tutor, the class will focus on gentle exercise to help with mobility, flexibility, improving strength and stamina, all in a safe and controlled environment.

The cost is £3.00 per session and the one-hour exercise session is followed by tea, coffee and a chat. So, not only do people get all the benefits of exercise, they also have an opportunity to meet new people.

If you would like to know more about the Sage Older Peoples Health and Well-Being Project (Grove Park) please contact Sage on 020 8461 4852 or 07770 635997. □

Emmangel Saturday School

Emmangel Saturday School (ESS) is supported by Grove Park Assembly funding in 2011 to provide tuition in Maths, English and Science for 6 to 16 year olds in Grove Park. Classes are taken by qualified teachers on Saturdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Grove Park Youth Club in Marvels Lane. Since its inception in January 2011, more than 20 children have benefited, and there is currently a limited number of spaces for children who live in the Grove Park area and who are on free school meals. Proof will be required. Children in other categories pay £10.00 weekly, and there is a discount for siblings who only pay £7.50 weekly.

Below are some of the comments from service users and the co-ordinator:

"My name is Juliana O., a guardian to Sarah who is 7 years old. Since attending ESS, Sarah has improved at school and now enjoys doing sums which she previously found tricky, because she has special educational needs. Sarah attends Coopers Lane School and the school has commented that she is thriving in class and enjoying her new found confidence. Thanks to Lewisham Council for this opportunity and to the dedicated teachers at ESS".

Juliana O - Sarah's Guardian.

"My brother and I get a lot of help with topics that we find challenging at school, and we look forward to learning and meeting with friends we have made in our community. It is so much fun".

Taiwo and Kehinde, Grove Park Residents – attend Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, Year 8.

"My son Isaac is 11 years old. He attended Emmangel Saturday School for several months and benefited from a free place. He is now in year 7 in a state boarding school outside London. He says he misses the cheerful and pleasant learning and social environment that the school provided. I am thankful to the assembly for their support".

Titi, Grove Park resident.

(Continued on page 12)