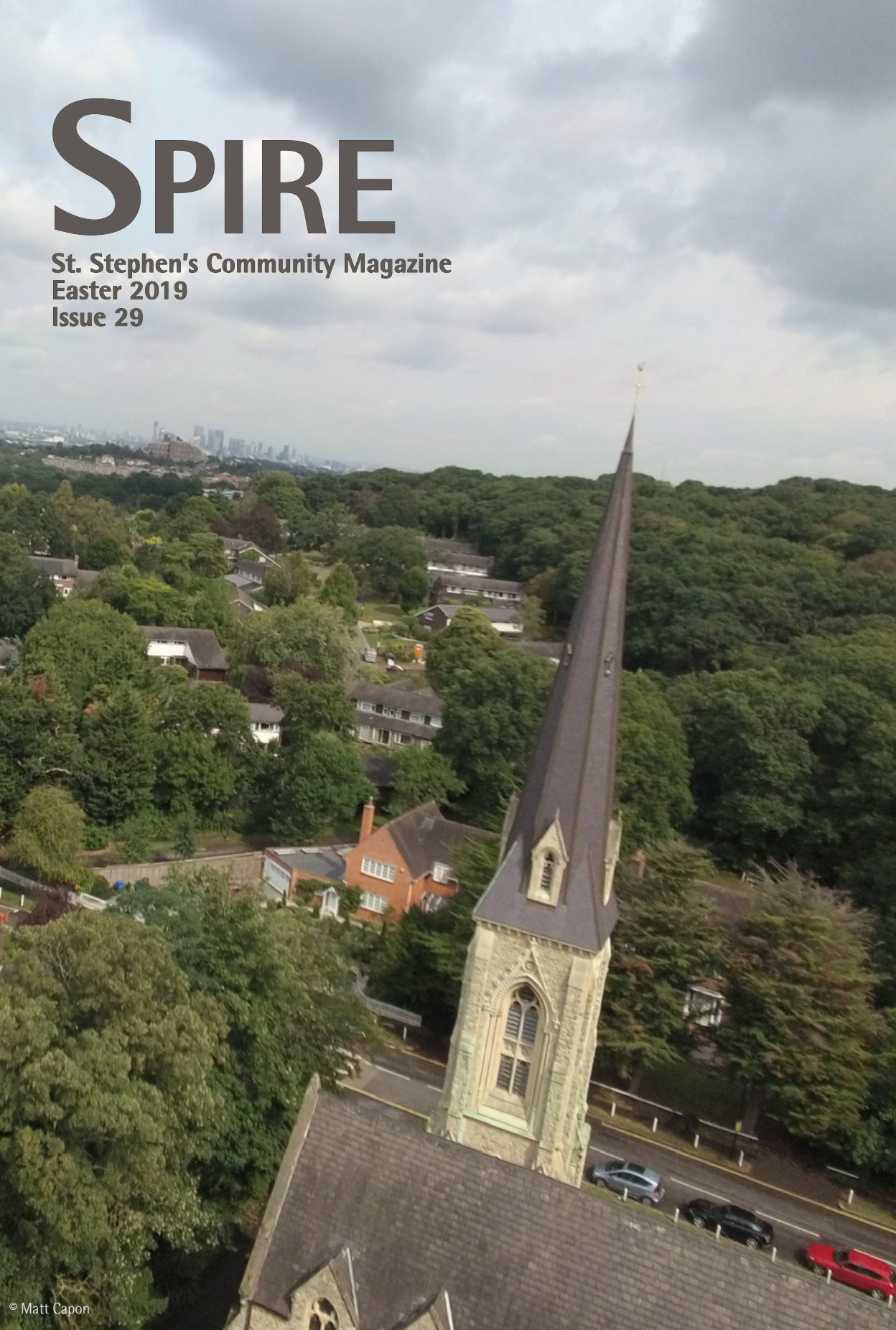
SPIRE

St. Stephen's Community Magazine
Easter 2019
Issue 29



© Matt Capon



MAGGIE'S

The Ultimate in home cleaning

01293 528879 (Answerphone)

Regular monthly, bi-weekly or weekly service to coincide with your requirements.

We also offer a spring cleaning service, a reliable window cleaning service including frames, sills and conservatories

Maggie's professionally trained team of ladies are here to dust your blues away. We are in your area now. We supply all our own materials and equipment.

Contact us:
07860 367857 or
david_phillips18@sky.com
http://maggies.cleaning/

Cleaning in Dulwich for 30 years

Roger Pope and Partners



Independent Opticians



Never Just Ordinary



29 Dulwich Village
London
SE21 7BN
020 8299 0230
dulwich@rogerpope.co.uk
www.rogerpope.co.uk/dulwich

Alton Motors
London Ltd

We are an independent garage and have been based in West Norwood since 1973. We are a limited company and member of the RMI (Retail Motor industry) Federation and ServiceSure.

We are extremely proud of our local reputation in that we give good quality, good value and a friendly service.

We have the tools to pinpoint the problem!

WE'RE NOT QUICK FIT. WE'RE QUALITY FIT

78 Norwood High Street, West Norwood, London SE27 9NW
altonmotors@aol.com 020 8670 4343 / 020 8778 5757
Monday to Friday - 8.30am to 5.30pm
Saturday - 8.30am to 1.00pm



WELCOME

Martin Knight - Editor



Spring has well and truly sprung this year, and this Easter 2019 edition of St Stephen's Community Magazine celebrates the welcome signs of new growth and renewal all around us. How lucky we are in our inner-city location, with its beautiful church and well-maintained residential areas and schools, set amid wooded hills, and surrounded by parks, playing field, and allotments, and even a Golf Course. And all this is crowned by wonderful trees, wildlife and flowers.

Our magazine reflects all this: the theme of the 'Importance of Trees in our Environment' was prompted by a recent meeting of the South-East London Council for Christians and Jews (CCJ) that was held at St Stephen's Church, and included presentations on the importance of trees in both Faiths, as well as contributions from London Wildlife Trust (LWT) conservationists who have received important funding for South London's 'Great North Wood Project', including the management of our own Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Woods.

We feature an article by Rachel Dowse, LWT Conservation Projects Officer, on 'Spring in Sydenham Hill Woods', and also one on experience of 'Volunteer work in the environment' by Dexter Bushell, a young former academic who has been working recently in the Great North Wood with Rachel and enthusiastic members of the public.

Peter Benton is a keen gardener and professional garden designer in our congregation who oversees the planting and maintenance of our Church and Remembrance Garden. Christine Murrell was invited to interview Peter in his own colourful garden in nearby Penge, and reports on a delightful early spring visit on our behalf.

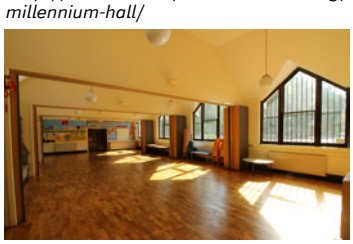
In his regular 'Vicar's Notebook', Bernhard contributes a piece on 'Trees in the Bible' based on his CCJ presentation, whilst Stephen Weil, CCJ Secretary and Convenor, introduces us to the aims and activities of a new local residential and amenity group, the Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum. I have contributed two complementary pieces of my own: one of a general nature on 'The Importance of the Great North Wood', and one extolling the virtues of 'Walking in the Woods': outlining the route and principal features of a favourite walk from Crystal Palace to Forest Hill, via Sydenham Hill and the 'Green Chain Walk'.

IGNITE: Every Friday, 7pm-8:30pm

School years 6 and up: come join us every Friday as we have food, fun, and fellowship.
Meetings at St Stephen's Church in term time. Bring your friends as we unpack the basics of the Christian faith. All welcome! For more info please email Emma Ash at: 22eash@gmail.com

---

St Stephen's Millennium Hall is available for hire from £60/hr. To book please visit http://www.ststephensdulwich.org/millennium-hall/



Music at St Stephen's

Our Church Choir is always keen to recruit new members, both adult and children: the primary requirements are enthusiasm and reliable commitment. The choristers practise each Friday in term time, and the adults join them once or twice a month and for Festivals. For further information, contact Rupert Perkins on ststephensDOM@talktalk.net, or telephone 079597 461677.



The Church has also proved to be an attractive venue for Chamber and Choral Concerts. It is a bright and beautiful building with a warm and vibrant acoustic, conveniently located next door to Sydenham Hill Station. Enquiries may be made of the vicar by email: schunemann@btinternet.com, or via the website.
Concerts are listed on the concerts page on the website.

Baptisms & Wedding bookings
Please come to the church office on Saturdays between 10.30am and 11.30am.

St Stephen's Church
College Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7HW
Tel: (020) 8766 7281
Office open on Wed 9-3, Sat 10.30-11.30
Vicar - Revd Canon Bernhard Schünemann
schunemann@btinternet.com
Reader - Mrs Trot Lavelle
t.lavelle181@btinternet.com
Director of music – Rupert Perkins
ststephensdom@talktalk.net
Churchwardens
Sandra Potter
sc.potter@hotmail.com
Irene Anin
churchwarden@ststephensdulwich.org
Parish administrator - Sarah Bucknall
officeststephens@btconnect.com

The team: Martin Knight, Bernhard Schünemann, Christine Murrell, Sandra Potter & Sarah Bucknall.

The Importance of Trees in the Bible

by Revd Canon Bernhard Schünemann



One of the great joys of being a member of the Council for Christians and Jews (CCJ) is how much I am able to learn about the life and faith of Jews who live in our city. As Christians we have for many years been in danger of thinking that we know all about Judaism without sitting down and listening to Jews talking about their faith, life and practice. CCJ encourages inter-faith dialogue by doing exactly this: listening and building friendship.

At one of our recent meetings I learnt that Jews celebrate several 'New Years'. Among them is the 'new year of the trees', an opportunity for synagogue congregations to reflect on matters ecological. In preparation for that meeting I considered the importance of trees in the Bible. The first thing I noticed straight away was that it all starts and ends with a tree. The tree of the forbidden fruit features in the oldest of the great creation stories in Genesis. Initially there may be some confusion as to whether there are one or two trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of 'good and evil'. But at any rate the temptation to eat of this fruit may be related to humans seriously confusing the meaning of the word 'subduing' and making it to mean exploiting and destroying, instead of the deeper meaning of 'being good stewards'. In the Christian gospel tradition the cross upon which Jesus dies atoning for the sins of humanity has sometimes been described as a tree upon which he hangs. This tree/cross association starts in the New Testament in the Second Letter of Peter (ch2, v24) and perhaps also in Paul's Letter to the Galatians (ch3, v13), but it really comes into its own in medieval art where Jesus is often depicted as literally hanging on a tree.

Trees have always been seen as holy places where something of the divine can be encountered. This can still be sensed in place names such as 'Gospel Oak' or, nearer to us, 'Vicar's Oak' or 'Honor Oak'. This goes right back to the Book of Genesis where Abraham receives God's promise at the oaks of Mamre (Genesis 18). These trees of Mamre feature in every single version of the icon technically known as 'Philoxenia', or Rublev's Trinity. During the dark time of the Soviet occupation of Estonia the theology faculty at Tartu University was closed to enforce state atheism. Estonian theologians responded by continuing to teach and practice theology in 'Forest Universities' protected by trees and undiscovered by Soviet occupiers and atheist spies. Forests in many countries have spiritual significance, and it now turns out if we learn to treasure them, they can help us save the planet. My favourite tree in the Bible is the so called 'sycamore tree' into which the tax collector Zacchaeus climbs to get a better view of Jesus (Luke 19); in the most ancient liturgies of the church this story is associated with the beginning of Lent.

On behalf of St Stephen's, I would like to wish all the residents of our leafy Parish of St Stephen's a blessed Easter!





Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Planning Forum



A planning forum for Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood is slowly coming to life in this unique area which shares the Ridge, its steep upper slopes, its dense woods, its residential estates set in open green spaces, and its glorious views.

It is our vision to make sure those who live, work and volunteer in this Area can have their voices about planning and infrastructure issues not only heard, but also to drive decision-making across our two, local authority (Lewisham and Southwark) boundaries.

The group has applied to Lewisham Council for formal designation. This would give it power to draft a neighbourhood plan to reflect local people's vision for the area and (if approved) carry real weight in the planning process.

You should see a series of events over the course of the year where people can share views on recent developments and development proposals on the ridge, as a first step towards drafting a plan in 2020.

There will be a guided walk on Tuesday evening 7th May 2019 around woods and green spaces on both sides of the ridge.

And you can expect to see the first Sydenham Hill Ridge Run later this year.

Local residents have been meeting and holding walkabouts since last summer to test out the level of interest locally and start to find out the issues that people might want to see in a local plan.

The number of supporters keeps increasing and their interests range from looking after the unique woodland and green space, the need for clean air, more traffic calming on Sydenham Hill road, the history and character of the ridge, public transport links in the area (including the need to make Sydenham Hill Station easier to get to and use), affordable housing, and improved signage, as well as a desire to build a more connected community on the ridge and its upper slopes.

Local planning policy is under review in Lewisham and Southwark so it's timely for a group that will support local people to set out how they see the future of their area.

Most immediately, the redevelopment of Mais House, part of the City of London's estate on Sydenham Hill Road is pending. Planning Forum members have been meeting with residents to hear their views. We are now engaged in gathering views from others in the Area.

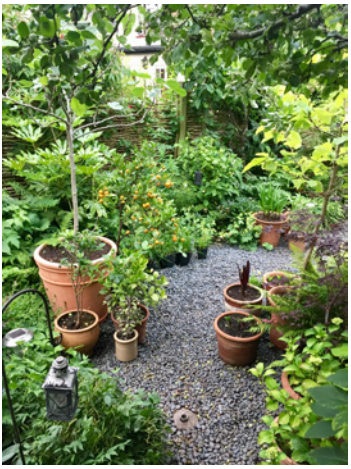
To find out more and get involved, have a look at our website, https://www.sydenhamhillridge.london/ and sign up to join the mailing list.

Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or volunteers in the Sydenham Hill Ridge area.



A Hidden Gem

by Christine Murrell and Peter Benton



There are four small roads tucked away behind the busy shopping centre of Penge bearing the names of four of Queen Victoria's children. The Alexandra cottages were built between 1866 and 1868 and have been maintained in keeping with the mid-19th century, in fact walking down them one is transported back to Victorian times. Peter Benton lives in one of these cottages and his garden and house truly are hidden gems.

Peter has his own garden design business and he also works at the Secret Garden in Upper Norwood several days a week, as well as keeping St Stephen's church garden looking tidy and flourishing.

I am met by a world of fascinating plants and marvellous fragrances as I walk through his front gate into a small front garden, and around the side of the cottage to the back garden. It is filled with interesting plants, all just beginning to bud in our unusually warm February weather. Most gardens are looking rather drab, untidy and unloved at this time of the year but Peter's is so crowded with plants that I don't know where to look first. I sit on a little stool inhaling the marvellous scent from a daphnaea placed by the door. Behind me are large lemon trees in pots, grown from seed, and further down the garden is an apple tree, magnolias, a quince and a fig tree, all with buds already starting to break. The garden is enclosed by hazel hurdle fences on which are growing star jasmine, clematis, fatshedera, jasmine and honeysuckle, and a large climbing hydrangea rambles over the cottage walls. A little pond with a water spout is nestled to one side, and all over the garden 20 different kinds of hostas thrive in pots. And pots there are aplenty, in fact over 100 sitting in the early spring sunshine with hidden treasures waiting to burst into bloom.

Peter trained as a graphic designer and illustrator and his passion for gardening started when he was a child and he helped in his parent's garden in Barkingside. He studied garden design at Capel Manor in Regents Park, but this isn't the only string to his bow. He has also been a fashion model and actor and is passionate about Argentine tango, dancing at least three times a week. He even designed a conceptual minimalist tango themed garden for a college project. The traditional colours of tango are red and black and he used imperata and nymphaea to portray the red, and ophiopogon and a raised basalt walkway to portray the black. He has also recently used inspiration from a client's Sicilian holiday photos to design a Mediterranean garden for them.

Peter enjoys visiting well-known gardens and gathers exciting ideas from the wonderful gardens that can be found in this country. For me, visiting Peter's small, hidden garden tucked away behind his Victorian cottage, made me realise that planting and growing a garden is the same process as creating lives. Mother Nature is a creative energy waiting to be born – I'm looking forward to seeing Peter's garden in the summer when the flowers and fruits are flourishing and at their peak.



HARVEY & WHEELER

ESTABLISHED 1855

Long established independent Estate Agent for sales and rentals



33

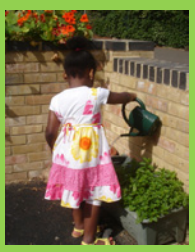


DULWICH VILLAGE
SE21 7BN

COME AND VISIT US IN OUR NEW PREMISES
OR VIA OUR WEBSITE HARVEYWHEELER.COM
020 8693 4321

DULWICH MONTESSORI NURSERY SCHOOL

M • E • A • B ACCREDITED MONTESSORI









- Well established term time Nursery School (Holiday Club available!)
- Open 8.30am-3pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-1pm on Fridays
- Open for children aged 2 to 5 years
- Montessori learning environment and qualified staff
- Forest School
- High staff : pupil ratio
- New refurbished outdoor play area

St Stephen's Church Hall, College Road, London, SE21 7HW

Tel.: 020 8766 0091, 07795 322688

www.dulwichmontessori.co.uk Email: office@dulwichmontessori.co.uk

to Sydenham Hill Wood

by Rachel Dowse

The warmer weather bringing changes almost overnight! This time of year is very busy for wildlife, with new shoots of woodland wildflowers like bluebells, sweet woodruff and cow parsley starting to appear above ground. It's especially important to keep to the paths during this time, as the delicate new shoots are easily trampled.

The new season also means a shift in the kind of work we've been doing, with the official bird breeding season starting on the 1st of March. From now until the end of August, we will not be carrying out tree works to make sure we don't disturb any nests – so no more felling of invasive cherry laurel, thinning out of over-abundant holly, or coppicing hazel until the autumn.

Instead, we'll be focusing on path and infrastructure works. We'll be using wood coppiced from hazel in the winter to make handrails, mark out path edges and repair fencing, as well as hopefully installing some new drainage on really muddy sections of path, making them more accessible. There's also the major job of trying to keep Dewy pond (the large pond with an island) relatively clear of duckweed. It always comes back, but clearing it allows some sunlight to penetrate to the bottom of the pond, at least for a while, which is important to lots of the wildlife living there.

We'll also be surveying various wildlife species around the wood. We conduct weekly butterfly surveys from April to September, counting numbers of the 30 different species which call the wood home. The earliest of these will be the brimstones – large, lemon-yellow butterflies which love the sun in the glade. They'll be quickly followed by last year's peacock butterflies, who have spent the winter hibernating (some of them in the disused railway tunnel) before emerging to lay their eggs, ready for the next generation later in the year.

This year we'll also start surveying for bumblebees once a month. Several species of these important pollinators can be found in the wood, including the ginger-coloured tree bumblebee, but they haven't been regularly surveyed before so it will be great to see what we find.

Bugs and bees aren't the only things starting to wake up at this time of year. Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Woods are home to hedgehogs, and we'll be putting up hedgehog footprint tunnels throughout their active season to check which areas of the wood they prefer. If you do see a hedgehog out in the day, call a wildlife rescue charity for advice, as daytime foraging usually means a hedgehog is ill or injured.

There'll also be pond surveys, where we pond-dip and see what is living in Dewy pond. We usually find juvenile newts (called efts), water beetles and dragonfly larvae. If we're lucky we'll spot dragonflies emerging, alien-like from their casings on the edge of the pond later in the summer.

The main way visitors can help wildlife during this busy time is to keep to the paths, and keep dogs on a lead when in the wood. As birds, mammals and insects begin breeding, even the friendliest dog or the quietest human can be seen as a threat and cause young to be abandoned. Nearby Dulwich Park allows dogs off the lead all year round, so from 1st of March to 31st August, please give wildlife a helping hand by giving it space to raise the next generation!

If you're interested in volunteering at Sydenham Hill Wood, email rdowse@wildlondon.org.uk

Keeping it Wild is a London Wildlife Trus
from backgrounds currently under-repre
Keeping it Wild, London Wildlife Trust is c
conservation, visitor engagement and m
the Sydenham Hill Wood and Great Nort







KEEPING IT WILD

st project funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, that will empower and inspire 600 young people aged 11-25, sented in natural heritage, to discover, conserve and share their experiences of the capital's wild spaces. As part of offering three-month paid traineeships for young people aged 16-25. Trainees work with trust staff to learn practical edia skills to help kick-start a career in conservation. Trainee Dexter Bushell reflects on his experiences assisting h Wood Project teams at London Wildlife Trust:

"Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy" **Psalm 96:12**


© Vic Chapman





The start to my career has been somewhat difficult. Having graduated in 2016 from a successful research Masters I was quickly accepted onto a Wellcome Trust PhD programme. After six months I realised that I didn't want a career in research. Although I was doing well academically, I wasn't enjoying the lifestyle and knew that it was only going to get harder. I decided to withdraw and move into the world of work. After a few months I was suffering from depression and anxiety, I didn't know where I fitted into the world and felt like there was nothing out there for me. Having always been a passionate environmentalist, I decided to seek solace in nature. I quit my job and decided to go on a two-month cycle trip around the UK visiting as many AONBs (areas of outstanding natural beauty) as possible.

I returned to London feeling passionate and energised. It was now my firm belief that connection with the natural world is of paramount importance to our health and wellbeing. I had seen the beauty that surrounds us in the UK and I had seen the many things that threaten it's persistence; from the sprawl of development on the outskirts of cities to the intensive industrial farming in Lincolnshire. I wanted to make a career for myself in conservation and stewardship of the land that we are so blessed with, so I applied for a Keeping it Wild traineeship with London Wildlife Trust.

I was assigned to the Sydenham Hill Wood and The Great North Wood project teams. A north Londoner myself, this was a great opportunity for me to explore some less familiar open spaces in Southwark, Lewisham and Lambeth. I visited some of the sites along the Green Chain Walk before I started my traineeship and was amazed by the "wild" quality of the areas. I'm more used to classically managed London parks with lots of concrete paths and cafés. Sydenham Hill Wood felt like a proper nature reserve, with an emphasis on the amazing plants and animals that call it home. I was really excited to get started.

I'm now half way through the traineeship and feel humbled by how much I've learnt. At The Great North Wood sites I have learnt a lot about the issues surrounding invasive species in the woods such as cherry laurel and spotted laurel. At Sydenham Hill Wood we have coppiced hazel trees, an ancient woodland management practice which has taken place in the area for thousands of years, and worked on more general site management tasks like repairing steps and fencing, constructing dead hedges and installing path edging – all vital to ensure the balance between visitors enjoying nature and wildlife having space to thrive.

One of the main things that has struck me was the amazing community of volunteers that work tirelessly on each of the two projects. On any volunteer workday you can find people from a huge breadth of backgrounds and with great depth of local knowledge. Everyone was so welcoming and I have learnt so much from all of them. I have never felt more inspired by both the environment and the people around me and I'm looking forward to my next step in the world of nature conservation.

W. UDEN & SONS

FAMILY-OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS SINCE 1881

375 Lordship Lane, London SE22 8JJ
Tel: 020 8693 1526

At your time of need, allow our family to assist your family.

Please compare our prices, our service and our vehicles.
Private Chapels of Rest in all our premises.
Pre-paid funerals available.

www.wuden.com

Branches also at Petts Wood, Sidcup, Eltham, Camberwell, Biggin Hill and Bexleyheath.

NICHOLAS & CO.

SOLICITORS

Nicholas & Co is proud to support the Spire Community Magazine. Based in the West End of London, we have been providing the best possible service to our clients efficiently, effectively and professionally since 1969. Our expertise covers a wide range of legal areas including property (commercial and residential), dispute resolution, employment, company law, family & matrimonial, Wills, Probate & Trusts. We are highly experienced in the acquisition of sites for development, the sale of developed sites, and matters relating to leases. We assist both commercial and private clients seeking a swift resolution to disputes whether involving land, contracts, construction, or negligence.

Home visits in Dulwich are available, and we can also provide Greek speaking solicitors upon request.

For more information contact:

Property matters:	Nick	– nick.nicholas@nicholassolicitors.com
Dispute resolution:	Philip	– philip.philippou@nicholassolicitors.com
Wills and Probate:	Rodney	– rodney.emmott@nicholassolicitors.com

Alternatively call us on 020 7323 4450 or visit our website: www.nicholassolicitors.com
Nicholas & Co Solicitors Ltd, 18-22 Wigmore Street London W1U 2RG
Registered in England and Wales No. 09835541
Authorised and Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority No. 626022

St Stephen's Young Musician of the Year 2019



We are delighted to announce the 2019 competition to find our Young Musician of the Year.

Sunday May 12th starting at 2pm at St Stephen's.

Entries welcome from all instruments and voices.

2 categories on the day of the competition:
Junior: 11 or under
Senior: 12-18

Prizes of £50 as well as a performance during a Sunday service, the date to be agreed with the Vicar, Rev B Schunemann.





For further information and entry form, please contact Caroline Lenton-Ward: clw@clara.co.uk

St Stephen's Church College Road Dulwich London SE21 7HW

THE IMPORTANCE OF

Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Woods

by Martin Knight



Blackbird © John Walsh

Our Parish is in celebratory mood: St Stephen's has just had its 150th birthday, Dulwich College is this year celebrating its 400th anniversary, last summer saw the completion of the Vicar's Oak Project at Crystal Palace, and local amenity groups such as the Dulwich, Forest Hill, and Norwood Societies and the new Sydenham Ridge Forum are gaining support daily (see page 5). The London Wildlife Trust has also secured new funding for its management of the ancient Great North Wood which includes our own Sydenham and Dulwich Woods (see pages 8-9).

Dulwich is well known for its variety of splendid ornamental trees (about 80 different species at the last count), but most of those best known are in parks, gardens and estates, and were introduced by wealthy residents from the 18th to the 20th centuries, often



Bluebells © James Cracknell

on land that had been cleared of its native woodland and heath centuries ago. The Great North Wood of Surrey (which gave its name to 'Norwood', and was so named to distinguish it from the High Weald of Sussex to the south) was, in the Middle Ages, a great swathe of dense oak forest which cloaked the southern part of the Thames valley in an arc from Deptford in the north-east, to Streatham in the south, and included all the high ground of the Forest Hill - Sydenham - Norwood Ridge. It was drained by the headwaters of the River Effra, and our area was the highest, widest and most empty part of the Wood. Though now shrunken and modified by centuries of use for resource development, it was mainly a place of refuge rather than settlement, and still preserves much of its original character. Under ever-increasing demand for new housing and local services (including employment and recreation), it has been a valuable environmental resource for south Londoners for over 500 years.

St Stephen's Parish is only 50% built over. The trees of Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Woods are part of a carefully managed nature reserve which makes up over 10% of our Parish. Most of the remaining 'open' land in South Dulwich used to be part of the Great North Wood until the late 19th Century, but is now mainly playing fields, allotments, and a Golf Course, but many of the ancient oak trees still survive and are protected under law.

Why are the trees so important? Quite apart from their aesthetic, sculptural and spiritual properties (see page 4), trees and plants are major elements in all the world's land ecosystems, without which life would be impossible. They regulate oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in the air, absorb pollutants, and hence reduce the incidence of the Greenhouse Effect. Trees modify local weather and climate by reducing wind speed, temperature ranges and evaporation rates, and by intercepting rainfall; they provide us with shade and shelter and



Hornbeam © Daniel Greenwood

protection from frost. Leaf litter is the main store of soil nutrients (fertility), and trees are the main means by which ground water is taken up and soil nutrients are recycled. Their roots help bind the soil together, and so reduce soil movement and landslips.

Our Woods offer vital protection and habitat for many wild plants and flowers, and for important but declining woodland birds such as woodpeckers, nuthatches, goldcrests, owls, and thrushes, and other wildlife – bats, hedgehogs, grey squirrels, foxes (and green parakeets and rats?); also, for stag beetles, purple hair streak butterflies and Jersey Hawk moths (and hornets!). In the past our Woods have also been a source of useful resources, including coppicing and charcoal-burning in Croydon and ship-building on the Thames, bark for tanneries in Bermondsey, and clean spring water for food industries, patent medicines and brewing in Upper Norwood and Forest Hill.

And let's not forget that Sydenham Hill and Crystal Palace offer some of the best views in London and south-east England (where the trees don't get in the way, of course!). So get out and enjoy our Woods - on a guided walk, or with family and friends.






The Secret Garden has a houseplant for your home

We have plants for every room. Large or small, soft or spiky, flowering or foliage, even air purifying, lots to enjoy.

The Secret Garden is a beautiful and very individual garden centre in Crystal Palace which becomes a firm favourite with all who find it.

Come and see all the treasures that this garden centre has to offer including herbs, perennials, shrubs, trees and seeds, plus of course, houseplants.

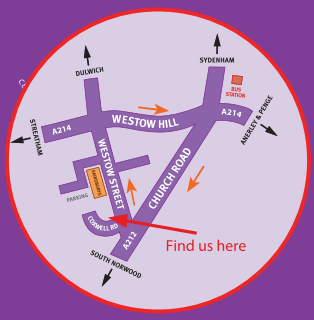
- Knowledgeable and friendly staff
- Wild bird food • Calor gas
- Delivery service
- Open seven days a week • Free parking next to Sainsbury's

It's not a home without a houseplant.

the secret garden

The Secret Garden

Your local independent garden centre



The Secret Garden, Coxwell Road, Westow Street, Upper Norwood SE19 3AF
Tel: 020 8771 8200 www.thesecretgardencentre.co.uk






The Sydenham Ridge Walk

by Martin Knight

I am a great believer in the value of regular 'Walking in the Woods' as a means of enjoyable exercise, in order to keep fit, clear the mind, recharge batteries, and reconnect with nature. Here I outline one of my favourite local walks: from the Upper Norwood 'Triangle', northwards along the Sydenham Ridge, to Horniman's Gardens at Forest Hill (see map).

The route takes in the Vicar's Oak, Joseph Paxton's huge 'Crystal Palace', Charles Barry's High Level Railway terminus and subway, several sources of the River Effra, three woodland Nature Reserves, three famous views painted by French Impressionist Pissarro, a bat sanctuary, several sites associated with Royalty and other historical figures, some lesser known gypsies, hermits, and miraculous cures for plague, along with stunning views over London and Kent – all part of a comfortable 2½ mile stroll through the Great North Wood!

The Itinerary and principal features

(Note: the numbers in brackets below refer to stops on the accompanying map).

(1) START at Sainsbury's Westow St SE19. Introduction: Great North Wood; Effra Basin, watersheds and spring lines, London Clay soils etc.

Steps behind Sainsbury's lead to Westow Park – Effra source with Slip/Slump profile, storm drain covers, spring at head of obvious valley.

Westow Street to Westow Hill – Old pubs on Crystal Palace Triangle, sheltered Secret Garden; Gipsy Hill name: Gypsies and travellers. Views down Woodland Road to London.

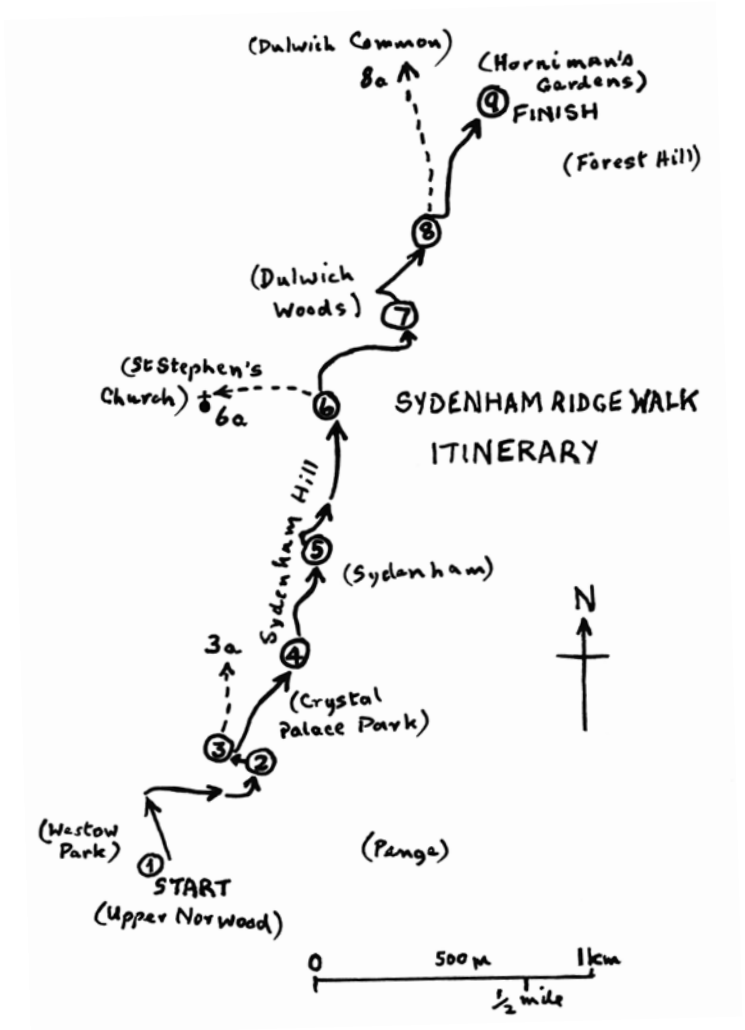
'Vicars Oak' Road Junction (2) Meeting point of 4 medieval Parishes & London Boroughs; Beating the Bounds: conflict between 'King's Men' (Battersea Parish) and 'Archbishop's Men' (Croydon). Great North Wood, coppicing and Croydon 'colliers'.

Crystal Palace Park (3) Huge site of Paxton's Palace, Water Towers, gardens, fountains, terraces. Views over Penge Common and Pool River into Kent and Surrey.

Crystal Palace Parade and High Level Railway – Charles Barry's exuberant Station and Subway. (Option 3b: Farquhar Road: 2nd Effra spring site and Tunnel Portal, and Dulwich Upper Wood Reserve.)

Left at Rockmount (Paxton's house) into Sydenham Hill (4) – Water tower, flight & balloon pioneers, Logie Baird, Lionel ... (George VI's speech therapist).

(5) Follow 'Green Chain' signpost at Bluebell Close (rt), down to High Level Railway. Wide Pool River valley below. Along wooded trackbed to second tunnel at Upper Sydenham Station site. Sydenham Wells in Park below: plague cures and local watering holes!



(6) Up steps to Wells Park Road, across Sydenham Hill at Dulwich Wood House to Crescent Wood Road - (Option 6a: down Low Cross Wood Lane to St Stephen's Church.)

(7) Along Crescent Wood Road to gate down to Upper Sydenham Tunnel exit (bat sanctuary); Ambrook (Effra) stream source, and Dewy Pond (wildlife). Dulwich Woods and Sydenham Hill Woods Nature Reserves. Trees (oak & hornbeam wood), slopes, soils, running water, and cool moist air.

Continue along former HL Railway trackbed to (8) Cox's Walk Footbridge: (Pissarro's 'Penge Station'). 'Queen' Margaret and Matthews the Hermit. (Option 8a: Down Cox's Walk to the Green Man, Dulwich Wells, and Dr Glennie's Academy - Byron's school).

Over bridge, up steps and left to Lapse Wood Walk – site of Lordship Lane Station. Springs on Horniman's Triangle (plague pit?), and from Eliot Bank beyond.

(9) Cross busy South Circular Road. (Option 8a: along Horniman's Nature Trail opposite following ditch and old railway embankment to view pond at easternmost Effra source).

Horniman Gardens – Wood Vale slopes and springs, ornamental gardens, etc; Bandstand and Conservatory. Surrey Mount at top (Frederick Horniman's house) - views north over Dulwich basin (see sunsets!), Dawson's Heights (Queen Boudicca myth!), Central London and City, also south-east into Kent (dawns!). Visit Horniman's Museum and Education Centre.

FINISH here (or at Forest Hill Overground station).


Horniman Gardens © Matt Capon

DULWICH OAKS MONTESSORI NURSERY SCHOOL






- High quality Montessori education for children aged 2 to 5 years (term time or all year school options)
- Excellent outdoor facilities, large well equipped garden
- Funded 2 year old places available
- Open 7.45am-6pm Monday-Friday (Various sessions available)
- Montessori qualified staff
- Holiday Club

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW!

St Margaret Clitherow Church Hall, 22 Dulwich Wood Park, London, SE19 1HL

Tel.: 020 8761 6555, 07795 322688

Website: www.dulwichoaks.co.uk Email: office@dulwichoaks.co.uk

Easter at St Stephen's

Palm Sunday – 14 April

8am Holy Communion (BCP - 1662)

10am Procession with donkey, brass band and singing together with other churches in the area. Assemble next to the shops in Seeley Drive ready for 10am

Maundy Thursday – 18 April

8pm The Maundy Thursday service starts in the church hall with an informal parish supper. This is followed by a commemoration of the foot washing, a Holy Eucharist, and the Watch Service until midnight. Our choir will sing for this service. Everyone is welcome to all or part of this event

Good Friday – 19 April

2pm Good Friday Liturgy with choir, sermon and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday – 21 April

5.45am Dawn Service: Vigil of readings, the lighting of the Easter fire, the blessing of the Easter Candle and the first Communion of Easter, followed by breakfast

8am Holy Communion (BCP - 1662)

10am Choral Eucharist for Easter Day

St Stephen's Lent Appeal

This Lent we are raising funds for the Kingswood Community Hub, especially the "English as a Second Language" course offered there. If you would like to make a contribution to this appeal please send your donation to St Stephen's Church in an envelope marked 'Lent appeal 2019'

Regular Services

Sundays

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Choral Eucharist with Sunday School during term time
12noon Holy Baptisms

Monday to Friday

8.30am Silent Prayer followed at
8.45am by Morning Prayer

Wednesday

9.45am Holy Eucharist