



NAVAL CHARITY UNVEIL PROPOSALS FOR GREENWICH MARKET

GREENWICH HOSPITAL is holding a public exhibition to give members of the public the opportunity to view regeneration proposals for Greenwich Market.

The exhibition, to be held in early October, will give details of the layout of the proposed scheme and will include an architectural model of the scheme, an artist's impression and a description of the future market facilities. Members of Greenwich Hospital's team, including Hopkins Architects will be available to answer questions and members of the public will be able to fill out comment forms and leave them in a sealed ballot box to enable Greenwich Hospital to be fully aware of community views on the proposals.

Greenwich Hospital has put forward the proposed scheme after nine months of public consultation, which has included a Key Stakeholder Consultative

Group chaired by Nick Raynsford, MP, with the business interest represented by Chamber President, Steve Nelson. The consultation website is www.greenwichmarketconsultation.org.uk.
Continued on page 3...

SOUTH EAST LONDON HOUSE PRICES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE

In a recent report commissioned by the South East London Chamber of Commerce, Chartered Surveyors, King Sturge believe that despite the crisis at Northern Rock and worldwide financial worries have so far failed to put the brakes on the robust housing market. King Sturge predict that house prices in south east London will continue to rise.
Full report on page 11...

JOINT NETWORKING LUNCH WITH SOUTHWARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

You still have time to book a place at the Glaziers Hall in London Bridge on Wednesday 10th October. Call Joy on 020 8293 3456 or email joy.besford@chamber-of-commerce.org.uk

RIVER DANCE (AND DINE)

I've had a wonderful two and a half years as President of the Chamber and so I thought it would be good to have a party to celebrate.

The bash, on Friday 16th November, will be on board one of City Cruises wonderful boats cruising upstream to Central London enjoying the views, a superior buffet and half a bottle of wine, good music and dancing provided by Dave Silk, who organises the Greenwich Riverside Jazz Festival, and a pay bar.

It would be great if you can join the party, the boat will leave Greenwich Pier at 7pm returning around 11pm. The cost for the evening will be £40.00 per person

I look forward to seeing you onboard.
Steve Nelson

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Greenwich SE10 9BL

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www: chamber-of-commerce.org.uk

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October - December Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Address	Contact	Tel No.	E-mail
10 Oct	1230	Networking Lunch	Glaziers Hall	Chamber	020 8293 3456	joy.besford@chamber-of-commerce.org.uk
26 Oct	1000	Awareness Event	Burney Street SE10	South East Enterprise	020 8305 2222	info@seenterprise.co.uk
31 Oct	0930	Creating Promotional Materials (Publisher)	Burney Street SE10	South East Enterprise	020 8305 2222	info@seenterprise.co.uk
14 Nov	1230	Networking Lunch Greenwich	Charlton Athletic	Chamber	020 8293 3456 020 8858 8850 x205	ewestcott@btconnect.com
16 Nov	1900	President's Supper	Greenwich Pier Greenwich	Chamber	020 8293 3456 020 8858 8850 x205	ewestcott@btconnect.com
20 Nov	1000	Health & Safety Policy Workshop	Burney Street SE10	South East Enterprise	020 8305 2222	info@seenterprise.co.uk
04 Dec	1000	Quality Assurance Policy Workshop	Burney Street SE10	South East Enterprise	020 8305 2222	info@seenterprise.co.uk
12 Dec	1230	Christmas Lunch	Marriott Hotel Bexleyheath	Chamber	020 8293 3456 020 8858 8850 x205	ewestcott@btconnect.com

We are going to miss you

JOY BESFORD, the Chamber's Marketing and Events Manager is to leave The Chamber to join FLR Spectron. Chamber members will still see Joy at our numerous networking events. We wish her all the very best. Joy takes up her new post on 1st November.



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Joanna MacDonald

Greenwich Market Proposals

AT LAST MONTH'S breakfast meeting held at Greenwich Theatre, members heard presentations from Martin Sands, director of the Greenwich Hospital Trust and his team of advisors unveiling their proposals for the new market. Project Architect, Joanna MacDonald of Hopkins Architects addressed the audience and outlined the various proposals that the trust had considered.

Martin Sands, Director of Greenwich Hospital, said:

"Greenwich Hospital is committed to retaining Greenwich Market and investing in its future. I am delighted that after a process of consultation with key stakeholders we are now at the point of exhibiting the proposed scheme to residents in Greenwich. I look forward to meeting Greenwich residents at the exhibition and hearing community ideas

on our proposed scheme."

After the exhibition, Electoral Reform Services, an independent market research company will analyse the feedback received from exhibition visitors. Greenwich Hospital will then use the feedback to help fine-tune the proposals.

Greenwich Hospital will send a newsletter which forms the exhibition invitation to residents in SE10, tenants, key stakeholders and all elected members of Greenwich Council.

Information presented at the public exhibition will be available on www.greenwichmarketconsultation.org.uk from 5 October 2007.

Photography by Tim Keeler 020 8852 6347



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In fact small businesses are not only working harder than ever (over 61 hours per week), almost 1 in 5 small business owners continue to wake up on more than one occasion every week worrying about some aspect of their business. [21% South East, 23% London]

Cash flow seems to play the largest part in our region's insomnia [43% South East, 51% London], closely followed by finding new customers & sales [37% South East, 50% London], employee issues [29% South East, 48% London] and then work/life balance, keeping up with regulations and business compliance.

But I'm sure, if you run your own business – none of this comes as a surprise. What may come as a surprise is that as a bank, we want to help do you something about it.

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- The award winning Barclays Business Manager & Business Essentials solutions – an all-in-one business software & services toolkit that saves you up to £2,000 on the market leading business applications & services. Easy to use and understand, you'll have the tools you need to keep control of your cash flow, beat the competition & find new business, stay compliant, manage staff with ease and develop the essential business skills you need to succeed.
- Automated Data Backup service – our own data backup service that will protect your business and livelihood in the event of data loss, theft, fire or corruption – making sure you stay open for business if a disaster or virus hits.

- Payroll services – we can also help take the pain out of paying staff with two great HMRC approved payroll solutions – saving you time, reducing the hassle and providing peace of mind that your payroll is accurate and on time. A free no obligation quote is only a phone call away.

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So, if you'd like to find out more about how Barclays can help take some of the pain and anxiety out of running your own business, call Andrew Springall, Local Business Manager at Barclays in Woolwich on 0208 218 4571 (Mon-Fri, 9.00am – 5.00pm) and he will be happy to arrange a time to meet up and discuss.

Sources: Business Use of Time report 2006, Quantum Small Business Report 2004



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THE NEW CHAMBER'S first golf day was deemed a success by all those who made up the field and the unanimous vote was that it should become an annual event.

The venue, Chislehurst Golf Club was in absolutely glorious condition and

the sunshine showed it off to it's best effect. Thank's go out to John Lenton of Thames Self Storage who is also Chairman of the Club for his invaluable assistance in making the day a great success.

The Stableford competition was won

by guest Graeme Hay and 'nearest the pin' by Adrian Leach of Workplace Creations. Your President performed to his usual quality only to be pipped to the wooden spoon by Paul Russell of Russell Associates.

magnetic
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WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS –

Charles Young gives us the low-down on LACES

SITTING IN his new office in Blackheath Road, Charles Young, a Chamber member since 2004, looks every inch the confident and purposeful executive. Which is exactly what he is these days.

As founder of LACES, the London Anti Crime Education Scheme, Charles has a busy lecturing schedule visiting schools and referral units to demonstrate to young people the stark realities of prison life.

Children and teenagers who might otherwise be tempted in to a life of crime can experience in a very real and dramatic way the sheer degradation and futility of being banged up for months and years on end.

As a younger man Charles was no stranger to the workings of HM Prison service but in 1993 he decided that enough was enough. It was time to make something of his future and the beginnings of the LACES idea started to take shape.

With little in the way of resources, the going was tough but in 1999, when local businessman Hilton Ingram saw the merit in the LACES concept, things began to look up. "Hilton provided me with the office at St Paul's Cray, including stationary and equipment and suddenly I was going places." "Having a base from which to work was a big step," says Charles. "For the first time in my life I could get up in the



Charles with some of his sponsors and supporters – Back row L to R, Dorian Silver, Steve Nelson. Front row L to R, Paul Russell, Charles Young, Hilton Ingram

morning and tell my wife and kids that I was going to the office."

More lecturing in schools followed and, with Hilton Ingram's help, Charles designed a "portable cell" that could be taken to schools to demonstrate what prison life was really like. A prison issue bunk-bed, toilet and other furniture became the backdrop to his dramatic recreations of the daily grind of prison life.

Charles often uses a volunteer to join him as a "cellmate" in his demonstrations. These performances can be quite moving not to say shocking and involve situations that are based on real events. Dorian Silver, another Greenwich business contact who has acted with Charles in these roles says, "I'm often astounded by what these children consider to be normal behaviour. Part of Charles' message to them is to demonstrate that they have other lifestyle choices. A life of crime might seem appealing but ultimately it is a waste of time – their lifetime".

Membership of the Chamber has given Charles the opportunity to spread the word about LACES to a larger and more influential audience. An instance of how this has benefited him is the recent LACES move to the new office in Blackheath Road Greenwich which was

arranged courtesy of Chamber member Paul Russell.

Paul had been following the progress of LACES since Charles joined the Chamber and after hearing him speak at a networking lunch last year, he decided that he could help by providing office accommodation.

Paul told us, "I had a spare room adjacent to my own office and I knew that this positive way of helping Charles would not only give him the room he needed to expand but also demonstrate to the business community my trust in Charles and the work that he was doing."

That trust, the gestures of goodwill and the continued support and sponsorship of the business community in Greenwich and beyond have been essential ingredients in the success of LACES enabling its education programme to progress from strength to strength.

Charles says, "Without the support of my friends in the Chamber and in South East London, none of this would have been possible. I'm delighted that I can continue to bring the work of LACES to young people where it's needed most. **If you would like to know more about LACES please contact Charles Young on 020 8691 3673 or 07931 162428. Alternatively, visit the LACES website www.laces.org.uk.**



Photography by Tim Keeler 020 8852 6347

Tin hats on...? Buckle up, it might be a bumpy ride...

WHAT A MONTH it has been for world markets! These last few weeks have witnessed turmoil caused by innovative financial engineering which has led to the 'credit bubble'.

The widespread issuance of subprime mortgages in the US is now facing its inevitable fate – home-owners defaulting on their mortgages. Lenders have tightened up their lending criteria to both consumers and institutions, hence the Northern Rock issue. This limits the much needed finance for investment, impacting global economies. City investors exposed to subprime mortgages are disgruntled and, together with politicians, are looking for a scapegoat. MP's have been grilling the authorities, and they in turn are scrutinising the role of rating agencies – have they misled investors?

There are so many questions! Should Northern Rock have been left to go bankrupt – is that not what capitalism is all about? After all, it is the banks that are responsible for this debacle by taking far too much risk! Should they be rescued when the going gets tough...but what about economic stability? Where were the authorities responsible for monitoring the activities of the companies that look after our hard earned savings? The authorities certainly need to reassess how these companies are monitored and regulated.

A US economic slowdown could further weaken the dollar and impact US consumer demand. Imports into the US will become expensive causing problems for British exporters. Some consolation was provided by a cut in the interest rate by the Federal Reserve (the Fed) – the US central bank,

which was the catalyst for main global markets to soar this week. While the dollar weakened, investors flocked to the relative safe haven offered by gold and oil which both reached record highs.

The Eurozone has started to feel the pain. A strong euro is set to impact exports as the US is a major importer of European goods. However, there is speculation of a rate fall by the ECB (European Central Bank), and this week saw a positive response in European markets to the rate cut in the US.

Asian markets were also lifted by the rate cut and growth remains robust for now, but it could be hurt as the US is the largest market for China, Korea and other Asian exporters. The Hong Kong and Chinese markets stood strong this week.

Potential new areas of business interest are offered by Israel – to change from an

emerging country to a developing one; and Turkey - economic growth has been strong and inflation has fallen.

In contrast to the tribulations elsewhere – it is business as usual in the Middle East.

So what does this mean for the British economy? Whilst the government is focusing on maintaining economic stability, can we come out of this relatively unscathed? On the upside, at least the economy was already stable before all this. Looking ahead, growth is expected to be subdued and investors will be looking for signs of contagion elsewhere. There are worries that these woes may spill over into the UK - the high street and the housing market – where we may be due a pricing correction, potentially effecting related industries. The extent of any damage is clearly difficult to predict at this stage and will be largely dependant on the US.

David Kern, economic adviser to the British Chambers of Commerce stated that recent BoE minutes signaled that due to current tighter monetary conditions and the growing risks facing businesses, a small cut in interest rates may be needed. This should give small businesses some breathing space.

In the meantime, please find a summary of the BoE's minutes which summarises the state of business conditions from over 700 UK companies between late July and late August.

www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/agentssummary/

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September's Networking Meeting

Over 100 people attended the September networking lunch held at the Bromley Court Hotel. It was also very good to see a number of new faces including local Bromley Council members. The event also enabled the Chamber to launch its new South East London Chamber of Commerce logo and re-branded Masthead.

Patrick Wall, General Manager of Bromley Court, welcomed guests and was on hand to ensure that everything ran smoothly, as of course, it normally does at our networking lunches.

Photographer for the day was Tim Keeler who can be contacted on 020 8852 6347.

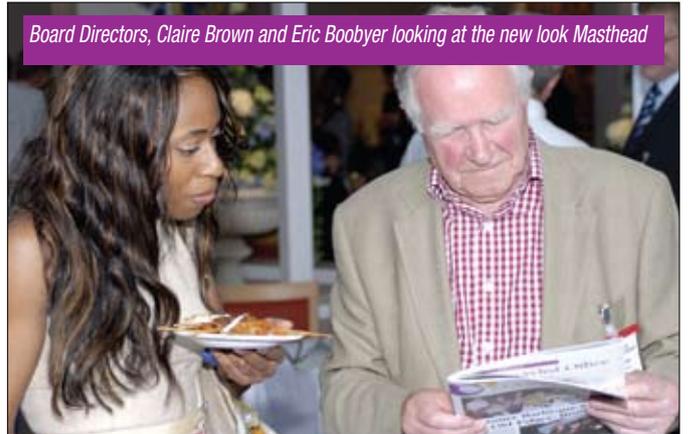
Members arriving at Bromley Court



Allyson Thackray, Fleur Stevens and Claire Dolke in lively conversation



Board Directors, Claire Brown and Eric Boobyer looking at the new look Masthead



Drinks on the Terrace



John Hayes of JCH in conversation with new member Kam Dhillion



Another great presentation from Ray Crudginton



Tristan Anderson from Elegant Presentation



Tarl Sagoo and Lorraine Turton



Clive Barker on the right, obviously enjoying the Angelotherapy treatment





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GOING FOR GROWTH IN BROMLEY?

IT IS WIDELY recognised that once businesses begin to grow beyond the micro-enterprise stage, and start employing more than a couple of people, a number of challenges present themselves, including managing and developing staff, raising finance, managing property and marketing, to name but a few.

In recognition of this, Bromley Council have teamed up with the business and management consultancy Business Focus to develop and fund support to local businesses with the ambition and potential to grow. On offer is a diagnostic session to help identify the risks and opportunities facing a business and to develop an action plan for growth. Additionally, for businesses identified as having high growth potential there will be ongoing mentoring support, including

access to specialist advice on subjects ranging from marketing techniques to intellectual property rights. There is a modest charge for these services, at heavily subsidised rates.

If you are going for growth, you could be eligible for this valuable support if your business is:

- More than 2 years old
- Employing between 3 and 20 staff
- Based within the London Borough of Bromley

To find out more how your business could benefit, call Business Focus today on 0845 466 4700 (or email: info@business-focus.co.uk).

HOOK UP TO THE BROMLEY E-BUSINESS REVOLUTION

WITH UK E-RETAIL sales up to a record high of £4.2bn in July this year (BBC / IMRG) it is difficult for anyone to ignore the massive potential of the internet as a channel for business growth. But faced with a dazzling array of choices and ever-changing technology, it is no wonder that, for many small businesses, taking the first steps in e-business can be a daunting prospect.

Enter the Bromley E-Business project – newly launched and established specifically to help SME owners in the borough to understand the technology and to develop their own e-business strategies. Funded by Bromley Council and delivered by Bromley Adult Education College, the project offers a series of short training seminars, delivered by business and ICT experts, on a wide range of topics - from a general overview of the benefits (and pitfalls) of e-business through creating a website to search engine marketing. An introductory half day session is free of charge to Bromley-based businesses with up to 50 employees. Advanced workshops, ranging from half to two days are charged at £25 + VAT per half day for eligible businesses.

To find out more and reserve your place in the Bromley E-Business revolution call Helen Hart on 020 8461 8696 or email: ebusiness@baec.ac.uk.



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CYM Consulting

CYM CONSULTING is an Eltham based company who have worked hard over the past few years to provide smaller businesses and non-commercial organisations with web and email facilities that are totally under their own control and really work for them.

The MD, Bryn McNeill says: "It is sad to see a small business spend a lot of money on a static web site, only to realise what they really need when the budget is exhausted. They usually find themselves with no way of updating the site when the project is complete. Equally, those with a successful web site are often caught out, as they had not planned their email and office organisation."

CYMC provide web based systems that publish an organisation's web site;

provide content management; report site usage; allow search engine optimisation; provide meta tag management; allow creation and deletion of web site pages and email newsletter capability. With clients all over the country, CYMC use their expertise in technology and change management to assist local regeneration within the Eltham area and publish websites for their MP, the Eltham Town Centre Partnership, Well Hall Pleasaunce and other local organisations.

CYMC's advice to any company considering developments that involve the Internet is to start with the end business result required and work backwards. To plan all that is required to achieve this goal. This style of thinking will encourage a wider thought process, and hopefully, include all the elements of development required - a website



with content management, effective email, office organisation that provides the ability to manage all processes involved.

CYM Consulting would like to help Chamber members succeed with their IT endeavours. If you need help, please contact Bryn McNeill on 020 8294 1622 or email Bryn@cymc.com

SOUTH EAST LONDON HOUSE PRICES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE

THE CRISIS at Northern Rock and worldwide financial worries have so far failed to put the brakes on the robust housing market. King Sturge predict south east London house prices will continue to rise.

The local housing market has benefited from Canary Wharf's status as the fastest growing employment location in the UK. This means that the south east area has benefited from the 'ripple out' effect of price growth from Central London markets, which themselves have been performing strongly recently.

DLR and East London line upgrades will improve the area's links to Canary Wharf and the tube network over the next 3 years.

- New apartment price growth in south east London rose by 15% in the 12 months to September, which was the strongest rate of any of the 18 new apartment markets that form the King Sturge price index.

King Sturge anticipate that London will out-perform the UK in price growth terms throughout the period to 2009. Next year London's price growth is expected to be 7%. We do not expect south east London to significantly exceed growth in the London market.

Lenders may well adopt a more cautious attitude to highly geared borrowers, as a result of US difficulties. This may constrain price growth next year, but we are still confident that UK year-end growth of 3% is achievable in 2008.

Financial service employment growth has been a strong support to pricing in south east London and the risks in this economic sector have increased in recent weeks. If there was a sharp financial downturn, south east London would not be best placed! However, we believe that such a pessimistic scenario is unlikely. A more likely outlook, is that London's reliance on the finance sector continues to be a source of strength.

South East London is relatively modestly priced compared to the overall London market (as Table 1 shows). The many new large regeneration schemes, including the £5bn, 10,000-home regeneration scheme on Greenwich peninsula should provide an impetus to growth over the next 15 years.

	Greenwich	Bromley	Bexley	Lewisham
	269,219	296,081	245,872	265,616
% of London average	79	86	72	77

Source: Land Registry

The imbalance between market demand and supply in London is not now as acute as it was earlier in 2007. This is reflected in the increased frequency with which agents refer to vendors' overly-optimistic price expectations. South East London is not immune from this process.

**Ken Deamer
Partner, King Sturge LLP (formerly James Johnston Property Agents)**



ENTERPRISE WEEK IN BROMLEY

ENTERPRISE WEEK is an annual UK-wide campaign with the aim of inspiring people to be enterprising in the broadest sense of the word, be this through education, business, sports or social activity.

Bromley Council are hosting a series of events across the borough, the climax of which is the "Enterprise Fair", taking place at Bromley Central Library on Saturday 17th November 10am – 2pm. The "Enterprise Fair" will feature an exhibition and free workshops on starting in business, run by Business Focus advisors. The workshops will cover hot topics such as 'getting started in business', 'creating and developing



a business plan' and advice on basic marketing – all essentials for those thinking of starting up in business or those looking to take that step further.

A wide range of organisations and businesses will be represented at the exhibition, including South East London Chamber of Commerce, Business Focus, Business Link, the Enterprise Zone, InBiz, HM Revenue & Customs, Education Business Partnership, local

further & higher education colleges and many others – all available to answer your business support and start up questions. Entry to the "Enterprise Fair" is free of charge.

For more information about Enterprise Week events in Bromley please contact Neil Hawkins on 020 8461 7842 or email at neil.hawkins@bromley.gov.uk

New Lights for Blackheath Village

BLACKHEATH LIGHTS LTD., the company set up to save Blackheath Village's famous Christmas lights has been successful in raising funds to provide new 'green lights.'

Non-breakable, low wattage LED lights, each with a burning power of 60,000 light hours will be strung on permanent stainless steel wires from

new wall mounts.

Chamber members, traders and residents have donated money to purchase the news lights with support from Lewisham Council. More money is needed for the £35,000 appeal. If you enjoy the lights go to: www.blackheathlights.co.uk or see them light up on Saturday 1 December.



Photograph: Tim Keeler

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Letter of the Month

Dear Editor,

I note with interest the 'make over', although I am a little perturbed by the 'photo of the winsome Mayor of Bromley leaping out at me from the front page with our esteemed President looking as if he were the audience volunteer in the 'rabbit out of a hat' routine. As I was unable to attend the barbeque, I can only use my imagination to fill in what may have followed that double act. The group photograph on the same page, clearly taken later in the evening, suggests whatever it was, pleased the majority. I've made a mental note to attend next year to discover what really goes on.

On a more serious note, the photographs appear to have vibrancy not seen in previous editions and overall it has a more professional feel about it. However, I particularly noted that the pages seemed overcrowded and when I compared it with previous editions, noted that the full width of the page has been used and the typeface size is much smaller and lighter, making it more difficult to read. It would be worth considering using the bolder and heavier typeface and the more generous spacing, all of which does make for easier and pleasurable reading, and of course, ensures that the Newsletter is inclusive.

Suggestions for the future? Perhaps a Best photo of the year - 'Most winsome looking Mayor;' 'Most photographed Member;' 'Best Networking venue;' 'Best dressed at the Christmas lunch' - the winged angel has to be a serious contender!

Keep up the good work.

John E.P. Norris
Norris Safety Limited

A New Chamber

Dear Editor,

I wish you every success in this incredibly exciting venture. I know that the new South East London Chamber of Commerce will be extremely successful, delivering the variety, quality and quantity of services to the business community of South East London that is so desperately needed.

Best wishes

Richard Lane OBE
Founder and Past President
Bromley Chamber of Commerce

More Praise for the O2

Dear Editor,

Further to previous letters regarding travel to and from the O2 I felt I must tell you about a magical evening I had there recently. My American cousin had managed to get two tickets for the Elton John concert, so we decided to make the evening even more special. After meeting at his hotel we caught the Thames Clipper O2 Express down to the arena. VIP tickets are only £18, which entitles you to priority boarding and disembarkation plus champagne all the way. Of course you can also do the same trip without the trappings for £8 return, but Elton is worth that little bit extra. What a wonderful start to an incredible evening, luxury seats on a very snazzy catamaran swishing through the waves as we quaffed our cold glasses of champagne! The sun was setting just

as we rounded the bend in the river and we were regaled by the lights of Naval College and the O2 in the background. The view never ceases to amaze me and my cousin was more than suitably impressed.

We had a wonderful time at the concert, Elton played his socks off and then it was time to leave. I found it all extremely civilised, after waving the cousin off at the QEII pier for his return trip on the clipper I hopped on a 108 bus using my beloved Oyster card and was home in Blackheath in half an hour, I even got a seat on the bus!

Marilyn Allen
Problem Solved !

Chamber Golf Day

Dear Editor,

Just a quick note to thank Steve Nelson for organizing a very enjoyable golf day.

It was good to spend some time with other chamber members away from a formal networking environment. I now know about a dozen people

much better than I did before the golf day and I am eagerly looking forward to booking onto the next event.

Those members that didn't go missed out on an excellent afternoon of golf, a wonderful dinner and some great company. I would fully recommend making the effort to go along to the next one.

Yours Faithfully

James Collins
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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Chamber.

Some names are familiar as we have already met at recent meetings, but we look forward to meeting you others in the near future. Details of future meetings are on Page 2 of this newsletter – they are traditionally arranged for the second Wednesday of each month.

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September's Champagne Winner

CHAMBER GUEST, Mair Stratton who runs her own freelance marketing company was last month's lucky winner.

Mair can be contacted on 07712 529882. Fleur Stevens from the Bromley business support agency, Business Focus, picked the lucky card from the Chamber's famous top hat.

Fleur can be reached on 0845 466 4700. The champagne was kindly donated by the Bromley Court Hotel.



A DAY OF FREE BUSINESS ADVICE, SUPPORT, TRAINING & NETWORKING IN LEWISHAM

ON 7 NOVEMBER, Lewisham celebrates the success of a two-year project which has helped Lewisham-based voluntary and community organisations to provide business advice to their local communities.

The event at the Civic Suite, Catford, is an opportunity for everyone to share in the project's success. It also provides an opportunity for business owners and people considering going into business to make use of the free business advice and support, free seminars and networking opportunities, to update their skills, spring clean their techniques and make those all important contacts.

The day, which runs from 11am to 7pm, is open to anyone in business, considering going into business, and those working in the third sector. The morning session will feature seminars in Somali, Vietnamese and Cantonese, and free one to one business advice.

The main event starts at 13:00 with keynote speakers on community-based business advice and support, and a networking lunch. The afternoon session will feature more free seminars, workshops on funding for the 3rd sector, a chance to hear from the communities who have directly benefited from the project, and continuing free one-to-one business advice and support from a range of providers. The day will culminate in cultural activities and a multi-ethnic food buffet.

The SIED (Supporting Inclusion in Enterprise Development) project developed an innovative way to deliver enterprise support within socially excluded and deprived communities. The project trained members of community organisations to provide business advice within their communities.

The project was delivered by Simple Business Solutions, on behalf of the London Borough of Lewisham, working in partnership with the Association of Community-based Business Advise (ACBBA).

"By working in marginalised communities, the project is helping to build stronger communities and enabling community members to become economically active. As a result, local people who were not accessing mainstream support services have been empowered to start their own business, find employment or take up training", says Brian Smith, director for Simple Business Solutions.

The Community Business Support Service, a legacy of the project, will continue to provide advice and training and support to Lewisham residents from its walk-in Community Business Centre at Clifton Rise, New Cross.

Event Name: Empowering Communities through enterprise
Date: Wednesday 07 November 2007
Time: 12:45 – 19:00 (main activities)
Venue: The Civic Suite, Catford, Lewisham
Contact: The Community Business Support Service - T 0208 690 2482
Booking: Online at [www. enterprisingcommunities.co.uk](http://www.enterprisingcommunities.co.uk)

