



NEWSLETTER ■ WINTER 2021

## SOCIETY RENEWS ACTIVITIES AFTER DIFFICULT YEAR

What a difference a year makes. Unwinding the pandemic restrictions since the summer has enabled the Society slowly to resume in-person events, and to continue the alternative ways of communicating with members we have developed over the last 18 months, *our chair Paul Watts writes.*

One of the first was the annual cricket match with the Greenwich Society in the Park, which ended in a rare tie.

We were also pleased to have finally been able to hold a Kite Day on the Heath in early October. This was well attended despite early rain, although we had rather less wind than was desirable for such an event. We will be repeating the Kite Day next year.

We held numerous Walks & Talks, in person and online, as well as our Meet and Eat events in pubs. Upcoming events are on page 3.

We have been pleased to welcome nearly 70 new members since December 2020 and we have also met some of you at our new members' welcome evenings.

Thank you all for joining, and we look forward to hearing more from new and existing members about your ideas and the ways you can help, as we go from strength to strength on many fronts.

We rely on the time and expertise of many volunteers and are always looking for more to join our various groups to assist with the valuable work the Society does in planning, local history, the archives, the Heath, the Village, events and in other areas.

I was honoured to be re-elected as Chair by the management committee for a second term from October. As mentioned in previous *Newsletters*, the Society has been undergoing an organizational review and I am pleased to report we have now registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO),

the Charity Commission's preferred structure, as opposed to being an unincorporated entity.

The transfer starts on January 1 and, apart from having a new charity number, we hope it will be seamless, although we may need to update some gift aid information. We will advise what action, if any, is required from members in due course.

I urge all of you deciding on Christmas presents to consider gifting a Society membership, as we continue to look to increase our numbers.

An annual gift subscription remains at £20 for your household and includes a free copy of "*Guardians of the Heath*," the history of the Society and its past battles, and of the *Blackheath Preservation Trust 1938 - 2016*.

I would like to conclude with my thanks to our volunteers, to the Management Committee, and particularly to our Secretary Sacha Bright for her continued hard work during a challenging year.

## KITE DAY GREAT SUCCESS DESPITE LACK OF WIND

The Blackheath Society's Kite Day, the first held on the Heath in 12 years, was a joyous reunion of the community after the bleak months of Covid isolation.

The event, postponed twice because of the pandemic and held on Sunday October 10, was such a success that we will be repeating the event in 2022.

Hundreds of local children and adults, plus kite-flying enthusiasts from Kent, converged on the Heath for music, food, kite sales and, most enjoyable of all, the chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. Botton's Family Funfair put in an extra weekend appearance to coincide with the festivities.

The uncooperative weather did not stop play. The day started with mists so thick that volunteers marking out the area could barely see each other. Then drizzle set in and, most unhelpful of all (and highly unusual for Blackheath), there was almost no wind. But the sun came out and the gentle breeze was just enough to lift the lighter kites. *Some of the photographs are below.*

The lack of wind meant the Kent Kite Flyers, an enthusiasts club who kindly made the trip from the coast for the day to offer their help, were unable to fly their spectacular demonstration kites. An arena had been roped off, complete with giant sandbags for anchorage, but the giant kites were unable to lift off.

But the Kent enthusiasts didn't seem too disappointed

and said they were delighted to be back at Blackheath. The last Kite Festival on the Heath was a publicly-funded, international event in 2009.

Stars of this year's show were, according to many, the children of Grinling Gibbons Primary School, Deptford, who put in a wonderful performance with their steel pan band. Their rendition of *Let it Be* was very moving, and the children's skill, seriousness and concentration was impressive. We are very grateful to the children, their parents and teachers for coming on a Sunday.

The Society would also like to thank the Botton family, owners of the under-12s funfair, for all their help, including free rides for the young musicians after their performance. The Mir family delighted the children by giving away traditional paper kites, and J Hearnden Skip Hire generously provided and delivered the giant sandbags. Thanks to Tescha Daley and family for their delicious Caribbean street food and the local schools that took part in kite making.

Lewisham's contractors Glendale were very helpful, as were the many Blackheath Society volunteers, friends and families who assisted on the day. You can view an aerial video of the event from Blue Sky in My Pocket on <https://youtu.be/HkC2uzMLfel>.

Sunday October 9 next year is the date to note for the repeat performance and we'll all be keeping a weather eye on the long-term forecast, hoping for some seasonal wind, as well as sunshine.



## SOCIETY'S EVENTS LIST CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Please reserve your place for the events, either through [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com) (blackheath society) or on the Society's website at [www.blackheath.org](http://www.blackheath.org) where there are clickable URL links. The Walk & Talks are free but a donation of £5 for the Society on joining is appreciated.

### WALK & TALK: SUNDAY 9 JANUARY Soho Past & Present

Meet at 10.45 am at the Charles I statue in the centre of Soho Square (*below*) and join Paul Wright for a walk around the lively area of Soho. Clubs, coffee bars, royal residents and cholera - the area has a colourful history. Please note this is not suitable for children.



### ZOOM MEETING: TUESDAY 18 JANUARY

The Blackheath Society Archives at 6pm. Allan Griffin, the Society's industrious archivist, will unlock their mysteries. No other amenity Society has an archive to match ours, as it contains over 41,000 images centred on this small but very special area of London and is freely available online at [www.blackheatharchive.org](http://www.blackheatharchive.org) or through [www.blackheath.org](http://www.blackheath.org). Allan will talk about the foundation and origins of the archive, how it has developed over the years with the help of volunteers and is now available as a free online resource.

He will show how to find your way round it and highlight some of the most interesting, and surprising, contents. *Seen below is an archive photo of the circus arriving in Blackheath in the 1960s.*



### MEET & EAT: WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY

Chase away the January blues by joining other members for a drink and lunch at the Princess of Wales

pub. Meet at 12.30. There is no need to book. Just come and we will be pleased to see you.

### ZOOM MEETING: TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Local History in Five Objects from The Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre, Greenwich. At 6 pm Matthew Cahill and Richard Sylvester, both wonderful story tellers, will share five objects from the diverse collection at the new collections store of The Maritime Museum, in Kidbrooke, giving a special taste of their treasures. Members will be invited - no need to book.

### MEET & EAT: TUESDAY 15 MARCH

12.30pm join Society members for a drink or lunch at the Princess of Wales.

### LIVE TALK: WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL

"You should go to Blackheath First." Talk by Roger Johnson in the Old Bakehouse Theatre, 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 through Eventbrite. Roger, a Sherlock Holmes expert, will share the many connections between Blackheath and Conan Doyle and his famous fictional detective. He will explain why Conan Doyle came to Blackheath first.



### MORE EVENTS ARE PLANNED

As the details are fixed, these will be posted on the Society's website and via our Mail Chimp. Be sure your membership is up to date and that the office has your email address, so that we can keep you in the loop.

They may include: a Zoom meeting on the Courtauld family of Eltham Palace; an architectural visit to the Town House, Kingston University, by Grafton Architects, winner of the Sterling Prize, possibly in January 2022; an architectural visit to the John Morden Center, Morden College, by Mae Architects, in March. *A view of the John Morden Centre is shown above.*

A new Architecture Group is joining the Society from the Friends of Blackheath Halls and you can read more details about this in the stories on pages 5 and 11. It will focus on architectural heritage and promote social outings and gatherings for members.

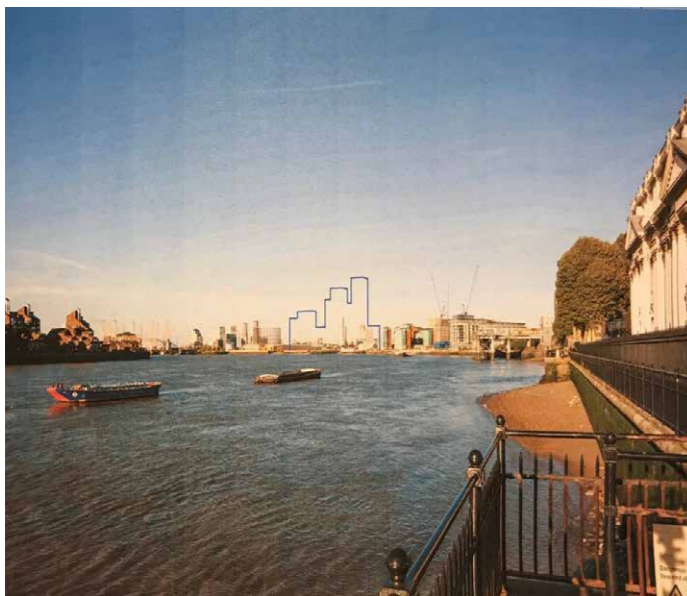
The Society has its 85th anniversary on January 18 next year and we plan to mark this notable moment at various events throughout the year.

## SOCIETY WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH PLANNING

The Society planning effort is carried out by a small group of volunteers and, while some have professional experience, most are amateurs. Our common attribute is enthusiasm for preserving and enhancing Blackheath and we are always pleased to hear from any member interested in joining this important work.

In terms of sheer scale and long-term impact, the most significant planning application the received our attention was for Morden Wharf on the Thames in Greenwich (*seen outlined below*), less than a kilometre from the Naval College World Heritage Site.

We supported the Greenwich Society and residents in objecting to a massive scheme, including a 36-storey riverside tower, for 1,500 dwellings. We argued that this represented gross overdevelopment and a serious precedent in a site very poorly served for transport, which could cause harm to the aspect of the World Heritage Site.



The Greenwich Planning Board agreed that harm would be caused. But, by virtue of the chair's casting vote, it narrowly decided this would be offset by achieving a big step towards housing targets, no doubt mindful that a rejection would probably be overturned by the Mayor or the Government. It is ironic that the developer seems now to have been taken over since this decision.

Staying with major developments, we also continued to scrutinize the story of the Tesco site development at Lewisham station, where a complex, with its 34-storey tower, is well under construction. This site illustrates the common phenomenon of an agreed development being taken over by another developer who then seeks to optimize its benefits, something that will almost certainly happen with the Greenwich case.

In this case the nature of the development is changing to rental rather than sale and the materials proposed are changing significantly. We argued this should warrant a reassessment of the economics, and the benefit to the community - for a plan with limited affordable housing. We feel we did our job in holding the system to account but, again, we did not succeed.

However, in terms of our considerable efforts on many plans within the Conservation Area, we can be pleased with the results and with the engagement we have with officers on buildings and, increasingly, on trees.

We were particularly pleased with a prompt rejection of plans in Corner Green, which seriously threatened some important trees. Also, the outcome of the plans to convert the empty Barclays Bank at Blackheath Standard to a microbrewery proved a good example of working with neighbours and the Westcombe Society to achieve an acceptable outcome, and it was approved with significant conditions.

Blackheath Hospital submitted plans for a significant change to its frontage. We objected, considering that they did not do justice to the site or the Conservation Area. After a rejection the scheme has returned, in a much more acceptable form, which is a good outcome.

An important application to develop land at the rear of Tranquil Vale remained unresolved as we went to press. We did not object to the principle of development, but to the detail of its impact on neighbours, the lack of attention to the major issue of how construction could take place for such an awkward site, and to granting parking rights, contrary to Council policy.

Planning Committee members refused by a large majority to approve the proposal and, rather controversially, agreed to defer it pending legal advice.



The Tesco tower starts to rise next to Lewisham station

## HALLS FRIENDS GROUPS RE-ESTABLISHED BY SOCIETY & AE



The architecture and theatre groups of the Friends of Blackheath Halls are being re-established after what the Friends called a move to take themselves in-house and allow the Halls to expand its fundraising activities.

The Blackheath Society will take on the activities of the former architecture group, founded in 1989 at the Halls. This was wound up in July and then re-emerged under new management in the autumn.

The theatre group is due to become part of Age Exchange, and both moves are expected by the end of January.

In a mailing to the Friends, the Trustees Chair Dame Joan Ruddock referred to difficulties in replacing trustees and said their administrator is also leaving at the end of this year. The Friends mailings and events, including recitals and literary evenings would continue.

In a statement to the Society, she said: "The Friends organisation has existed for many years as an independent charity, but like many comparable groups, we trustees decided to enter discussion with the Halls about an in-house Friends - not least since all but one of us had served maximum terms on the Friends' Board"

"Although it does not directly involve the former Friends Architecture Group Committee, I am delighted

to learn that an initiative from BHS members has established a new in-house Architecture Group. I know that this will be of great interest to members of the Friends who have missed the many opportunities offered in the past."

The Friends became a charity in 2014 after merging with the original Blackheath Halls Trust, set up when local people rescued the Halls from bankruptcy, and over the past eight years it contributed over £250,000 to the Halls.

In a statement the architecture group said that the Covid pandemic had made it more difficult to arrange visits. It would now be able to broaden the range of its cultural activities under the Blackheath Society, with a focus on architecture and heritage, while promoting social outings and gatherings for members.

The theatre group said it was sad to be leaving the Friends but delighted to have found a new home where it would still be booking top productions and organising stimulating post-theatre discussions.

The Society now looks forward to a continuing strong engagement between the Halls, the local community and the Society following the re-launch of the Friends.

This reflects the long history of close links, as well as the earlier crucial involvement of the Blackheath Preservation Trust and the Society in saving and supporting the Halls.

The winter photograph at the top of page 1 of the Folly Pond by the gates of Greenwich Park was taken by our member Dusty Gedge and we thank him for it.

## ELTHAM LODGE BOOK REVEALS GOLF CLUB HISTORY

With Christmas around the corner it is time for making lists of gifts and here is a splendid book which should please most, especially those interested in local history and golfers, as the two topics are combined in one splendid volume.

It is a lavishly illustrated, full-colour history of Eltham Lodge, the splendid mid-17th century mansion and headquarters of the famous Royal Blackheath Golf Club.

Blackheath people have always been pardonably proud of our suburb's long and interesting history from Roman times, and none more so than the sportsmen. We have the oldest sporting clubs in England, covering golf from the mid-18th century to football by the Rugby Union rulebook, the Hockey Club, Blackheath Harriers and a tennis club dating back to the 1870s.

But one is special, and we can recognise the Royal Blackheath Golf Club from the 1760s - not 1608 as some have claimed - as one of the most important in the UK. In addition, it has the most splendid club house of any sporting society - the Lodge at Eltham.

Eltham is not Blackheath but, however you measure it, you can recognise Eltham Lodge as ours because Royal Blackheath, still

playing on the Heath during the Great War, merged with the Eltham Golf Club in 1923. In return for Blackheath's history, medals, trophies and fame, Eltham handed over the lease on its club house in Park Lodge, on lease from the Crown since the 1880s. The merger was a happy marriage and has remained so.

No one who visits Eltham Lodge, as a club member or guest, will fail to have been struck by its majesty and architectural importance, recognised this year by the publication of a definitive monograph of the house by the club's past captain, retired diplomat John Bunney.

There have been at least three histories, but none has given the club house the full recognition and detailed history it deserves, and Bunney has produced one. Built in the grounds of Eltham Palace in the 1660s for banker Sir John Shaw to the designs of the great British architect Hugh May, the Lodge was home for the Shaw family until 1839, and various family members either enhanced or seriously neglected it.

Most country houses suffered difficulties but, unlike its neighbour Gregory Page's Wricklemarsh House at Blackheath, it survived. Eltham Park Lodge was a Crown property, subject to a lease with obligations to repair and maintain the fabric.

The Shaws did this, but not with

the same dedication between the generations.

After 175 years the Shaw family lease reverted to the Crown and Eltham Lodge was let in 1839 to Benjamin Wood. His widow took as a companion her niece Mrs Kitty O'Shea, the lover and subsequent wife of MP and Irish Nationalist, Charles Stewart Parnell. The story of that coupling has been told often and the Golf Club recognises this by naming one room the O'Shea. Mrs Wood died in 1889 and left her estate to Kitty. Inevitably, there was a dispute over the will, but Eltham Golf Club struck a deal with the Crown for the by-then empty mansion and its extensive parkland.

It acquired the house, its upkeep and repair and the great Park, laid out as a golf course. The next step came in 2017 when the Blackheath Golf Club took on the freehold of Eltham Lodge and the golf course.

But John Bunney's book is about the early history of Eltham Lodge. The more modern narrative can be found in other volumes concentrating on the later annals of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club. *Eltham Lodge: A unique Restoration Building* by John H Bunney from Impress has 256 pages and is priced at £40. Copies are available in local bookshops and directly from the Royal Blackheath Golf Club, Eltham Lodge, SE3 5AF.

NEIL RHIND



## NEW BOOK DETAILS WARTIME LIFE IN BLACKHEATH

A new book, edited by Katie Oakley, reveals the harsh realities of daily life on the home front in Blackheath during the Second World War.

Produced in an impressive format, the 270-page paperback called *Yours, La* contains letters written by Katie's grandmother Ruby Janet Oakley to her son, and Katie's father John, between 1943 and 1945 while he was serving with the Reconnaissance Corps in North Africa, Italy and Greece.

Their story is unusual because most such books cover letters written home by the soldiers, but this gives a picture of home life during the war.

John's letters were only discovered after his death in 2004, tied with string in neat bundles with his medals, badges and bullet-riddled beret.

La was the nickname her family

gave Ruby. She wrote to John twice a week from 36 Beaconsfield Road, covering military matters, music, books and films as well as the hardships of daily life.

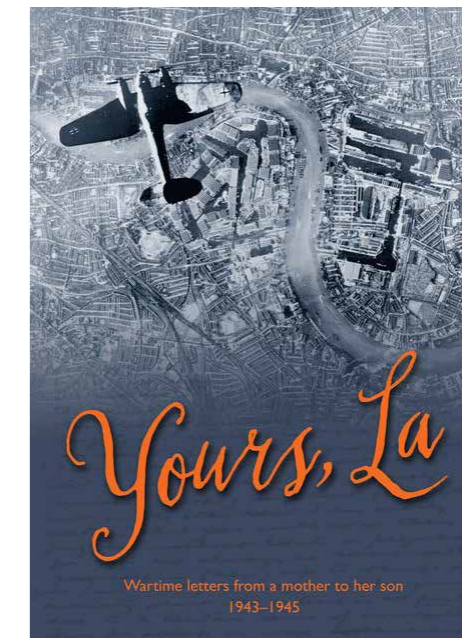
Only one of his letters to his mother has survived, and this is also included. He was wounded early in the war and was later awarded the Military Cross and promoted to Captain. His MC citation says he showed coolness under fire in an action near Civitella, Italy, in July 1944 and adds that his actions "were a fine example of courage and devotion to duty."

Anyone interested in buying the book can email their request to [sharmaeditions@gmail.com](mailto:sharmaeditions@gmail.com) and it will be sent on receipt of £11.98 (book price £9.99 plus postage).

Katie can take payment by bank transfer, via PayPal to [paul@paulsharma.com](mailto:paul@paulsharma.com) and by cheque payable to Katie Oakley and sent

to 11 Clifton Park Avenue, London SW20 8BB.

The book has recently been added to the [waterstones.com](http://waterstones.com) website and is now also available at their shop in the Village.



## QUAGGY PLAYING FIELDS FRIENDS SEEK SUPPORT

The friends of Quaggy Playing Fields would like to add a history page to their website and are looking for people who have stories about their experiences with the fields.

These are on Manor Way down to the River Quaggy, Bowring, Weigall Road, Blackheath Wanderers, Crofton Albion, David Lloyd and also the field in between. Organiser Catherine Ashcroft told the *Newsletter*: "We would love to hear your anecdotes and memories of past events such as the Silver Jubilee party. If you have

any photos and scans or links to newspaper articles relating to these fields, those would be wonderful too. In an ideal world, and bearing in mind that these are designated as sports fields and Metropolitan Open Land, how would you like to see them used?"

"Please let us know and do contact any people who have moved away, as we welcome as much input as possible." You can email her at [friendsquaggyplayingfields@gmail.com](mailto:friendsquaggyplayingfields@gmail.com) and more information is available on their website at [www.friendsquaggyplayingfields.com](http://www.friendsquaggyplayingfields.com).

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jane Grimshaw  
Donna Bamford Pringle  
Amy Boshier  
Sarah Buckley  
Nicky Collins  
Rachelle & Nick du Rocher  
Marie-Alice Excousseau

Denise Hubble  
Lars Jeppsson & Asanda Koza  
Samantha Kenny  
Suzy Layfield  
Stephanie Lester  
Miles Lidsey  
Ben Maguire

Sue Newte  
Aleksandra Niemczyk  
Michael Pape  
William Robley  
Louise Rogers  
Anne Severson  
Sally Smith

## AGE EXCHANGE APPOINTS RAJ KAPOOR NEW CEO

Age Exchange has appointed Raj Kapoor to succeed Rebecca Packwood as its new Chief Executive Officer.

He has held a number of senior roles during the past 20 years and his background is in commercial training and consultancy.

Between 2001 and 2020 he worked at a number of organisations, including as Head of External Training with the National Housing Federation, Head of Commercial Services with Mind and Head of Training & Consultancy with Alzheimer's Society.

At the Alzheimer's Society Raj managed a national team responsible for delivering dementia training across all industry sectors, so he brings a strong subject and commercial knowledge to his new role.

Raj is married, has a 13-year-old daughter and is also a carer for his mother who lives with dementia.

Rebecca left Age Exchange at the end of October after 7-1/2 years to take up a new role as CEO of the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association.



### The fatal accident in the Blackheath Railway Tunnel

London Daily News - Tuesday 4 September 1860

Yesterday afternoon an inquiry was held by Mr. C. J. Carttar, Coroner for West Kent, at the Railway Tavern, adjoining the Blackheath station of the North Kent Railway, on the body of John King Charles, aged 22, the young man whose body was cut in two in the above tunnel on the night of Friday last.

Mr. Robinson, from the office of Mr. Rees, solicitor to the South-Eastern Railway Company, attended on behalf of the company; and Mr. Fletcher, solicitor of Stepney, appeared for the widow of the deceased. From the evidence, it appeared that the deceased, who resided at 12, Hatfield-street, Goswell-street, St. Luke's, followed the occupation of superintending the posting of advertising bills for the proprietors of several London newspapers, and was a passenger from Woolwich to London by the 5.26 p.m. train. He was seated in a second-class compartment next the box of the head-guard, a young woman being the only other passenger with him.

According to the statement by the guard, George Abbott, on the train leaving the Charlton Station he observed the deceased and the young woman romping together, and after entering the Blackheath tunnel he observed other acts between them which induced him to make known that he was witnessing by knocking at the carriage window with a key, and shaking his finger. On the train leaving Blackheath Abbott missed the deceased from the carriage,

and conjectured that he had alighted at that station. The young woman in question, when her ticket was demanded at New-cross, remarked that she had none, but that her friend (the deceased) had it, and she would wait for his arrival by a subsequent train. This she was allowed to do, and left at 6.50 with a person who got in at New-cross, she giving up a third-class return ticket from London to Woolwich. When Abbott, the guard, arrived in London with the train, some of the passengers called his attention to a severe jolting which was felt on the train coming through the tunnel, in consequence of which a search was made, but nothing was then discovered.

Shortly before ten o'clock the same night, Mr. Chapman, the station-master, not feeling satisfied at the search which had been made, directed three of the porters to walk through the tunnel with lights, and on reaching a distance of about 300 yards they found the body of the deceased cut in two, the upper portion, from the waist, lying between the up-line of metals, and the feet and legs near the wall, against which it is supposed the deceased struck while endeavouring to get from one carriage to another, to avoid any complaint being made against him by the guard. At this stage of the proceedings the inquiry was adjourned for a week. As no doubt the case would obtain publicity, the young woman might feel it right to come forward and give evidence in the case, the coroner said.

## CHARLTON UNVEILS MOSAIC IN MEMORY OF SUPERFAN SEB

Charlton Athletic has unveiled a mosaic at its ground in memory of their superfan Seb Lewis of Blackheath, who died aged 39 of Covid-19, just as the pandemic started to spread in the spring last year.

Seb attended 1,076 consecutive fixtures, which was every game that the club played home and away for 23 years between February 1998 and the moment when the Covid outbreak led to the pause of all professional football matches in England.

The mosaic, paid for by Charlton supporters in his memory, and pictured below, was unveiled by his father and Society member Lionel Lewis before the Addicks' home game against Portsmouth on 25 September, just 18 months to the day after he died.



The supporters raised over £10,500 for the permanent tribute with hundreds donating to the fundraising campaign. Other statues and memorials to the club's famous players already exist, but this is the first memorial to a fan. *Seb is also seen on the right.*

Lionel told the *Newsletter*: "Seb was known and revered wherever he went. His determination not to miss a match led him to choose a career as a freelance driving instructor under the name "Seb Driving", where he was free to choose his times to follow the team."

"He overcame many early learning difficulties but remained a loner who could entertain his followers. He was the supporter of the year and became the subject of the crowd call 'There is only one Seb Lewis' and this is still sung today."

The Charlton supporters group said: "Seb was always there with his flag greeting the team and doing his best to look for positives in every Charlton performance. Not every fan knew him, but almost everyone knew of him. He would exchange a broad smile after a win, or a resigned shrug after a defeat."

"Continuity has been in short supply in recent years at the club and there was something very reassuring knowing that, whatever the weather or fortunes of the team, Seb would be there. He was without any doubt a unifying figure."

In a statement when he died the club said: "Seb was the heart and soul of the Charlton family. We are truly devastated to hear of the passing of one of Charlton's most dedicated, loyal and popular supporters."



## LEWISHAM'S KOFI WINS AWARD FOR SWEEPING CLEAN

Lewisham street cleaner Kofi Anderson retired last month aged 66, after 36 years cleaning its streets, including Blackheath. He was showered with praise on social media

and presented with an outstanding contribution award by the Council.

Web tributes included: "So pleased to hear this, Kofi so deserved recognition for the happiness

he brings to the lucky Lewisham residents on route; delighted for Kofi, he is super fabulous, amazing; he radiates good will and positivity; he deserves an award for saving the council money by using the same broom for over 20 years."

## MORE NEW BUSINESSES ARRIVE IN BLACKHEATH

A welcome addition to Blackheath is the new food and drink outlet “**SNACK HEATH**” owned by local resident, Nadine Hector. She and her partner own other food retail outlets in South East London but she says this one is her baby.

“I came up with the name myself and got really positive feedback. We also have our own sign company which designed the logo.” She is now looking for local producers, such as someone making artisan honey. “We’ve received a very warm welcome in Blackheath. I’ll respond to local needs and stock local produce where possible,” she told the *Newsletter*.



### GLAM CARS

Blackheath again has its own family run taxi company with the opening of Glam Cars next to Blackheath station. Debbie Jessop has taken over the site and, after a full renovation, is operating a family-orientated business. The old Blackheath Cars was run for many years by the Collins family. After Shaun Collins died in 2018, it was purchased by Data Cars.



Debbie worked at Blackheath Cars for over 15 years and is now proud to take over the business. “I want to support the Blackheath community and put women’s safety first, which is why I’ve created a waiting room where women can be safe indoors before getting their car.”

Customers can create an account and the company is children and pet-friendly. Glam Cars also supports the Ask For Angela campaign to help women who feel unsafe in bars, and will give women priority when

required. Bookings can be made on 0208 318 6893.

### ASK FOR ANGELA

Ask for Angela is a campaign that started in England in 2016. It is used by bars and other venues to keep people safe from sexual assault by using a code word to identify when they are in danger or are in an uncomfortable situation. Anyone who believes they are in danger can ask for Angela, a fictitious staff member.

All the pubs and bars in Blackheath are participating in this campaign and posters can be found in various parts of their buildings. Most importantly, staff are fully briefed to help anyone in need of help.



### JUDGE & PRIESTLEY

Although new to Blackheath, Judge & Priestley solicitors were founded in 1889 by Eugene Judge and Horace Priestley. Still a family business, this is their third branch after Bromley and Beckenham. They merged with Cunningham Blake and have moved into Spencer Yard in the centre of Blackheath. *Their staff are shown in the photograph below.*

Keen to have a shop front, they have also taken over the Simon Carter store which, after renovation, will be opening soon. Marketing manager Nita Newsome said: “It’s important to be able to offer face to face contact for our Blackheath clients. We provide legal expertise in residential conveyancing, family law, wills & probate and private litigation” The firm has grown to 20 partners and 180 employees and can be contacted at [info@judge-priestley.co.uk](mailto:info@judge-priestley.co.uk) T: 0208 290 0333.



## SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW ARCHITECTURE GROUP

The Society’s new Architecture Group is looking to encourage friends interested in architecture to join the Society and benefit from access to their events.

It will arrange visits to places and buildings of interest, often to those not normally open to the public. These will regularly include a talk by the project architect, or by a member of the design team, and a guided tour of the building.

The group seeks to cover a wide range of the latest new and remodelled buildings in and around London as well as historical buildings, landscapes and parks, development areas, engineering and industrial archaeological sites.

Any member of the Blackheath Society can attend the architectural events. However, as these are specialist events, there will be a flat charge of £15 for each one when you book through Eventbrite.

Its first events are expected to be a visit to The Town House, Kingston, on January 25 and to the John Morden Centre in Blackheath on May 19.

The Town House is Kingston University’s new landmark



building and the winner of this year’s RIBA’s Stirling Prize, with a striking open colonnade facing the street (seen above).

The John Morden Centre is the award-winning new day care centre for residents of the Grade I listed College. Its new center refers to its historic context in its colonnade, roofscape and brickwork and brings together facilities currently spread across the College.

## FAN MUSEUM REOPENS WITH UPDATED DISPLAYS

After an extended closure, the Fan Museum in Greenwich reopened in November with updated ground floor displays, featuring a fan painting by the post-impressionist artist Paul Gauguin and modernist masterpieces by fan maker Sylvain Le Guen.

The first-floor galleries will host an exhibition of the Museum’s finest lace fans from the winter to early spring. Titled *The Allure of Lace* and curated by the Museum’s founder Hélène Alexander, it will feature over 70 European fans incorporating handmade and

machine lace leaves dating from the 18th century to present day.

It is the only UK museum devoted to the history, culture and artistry of fans and is open 1100 to 1700 from Wednesday to Saturday until December 23.

General Manager Ross Chandler said it would like to hear from anyone interested in volunteering in its front of house team. For more information see its website [www.thefanmuseum.org.uk](http://www.thefanmuseum.org.uk) or contact him on [r.chandler@thefanmuseum.org.uk](mailto:r.chandler@thefanmuseum.org.uk) or 0208 3051441. The museum can be found at 12 Crooms Hill in Greenwich.



# SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGNED BY LOCAL ARTIST



Our Christmas card this year was designed by local artist Kit Boyd and is available at £5 for a packet of 10 cards from the office or at Selectric in the Village.

Kit told the *Newsletter*: "I work from my studio overlooking the Thames Barrier and show locally at Greenwich Printmakers and the White Box Gallery in Blackheath. I follow in the British romantic tradition, am inspired by particular places and artists, and have worked for English Heritage on a series of paintings of ruined monasteries."

"I am currently creating posters for the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership for stations between Sevenoaks and Swanley, including Shoreham, where my hero Samuel Palmer, the British landscape painter and printmaker lived and worked in the 1820s. I will have a solo show at White Box Gallery, Hare and Billet

Road, from next March 29 to April 13 and you can buy my work at [www.kitboyd.com](http://www.kitboyd.com)."

Our publications by local historian Neil Rhind also make ideal gifts, and include *Walking The Heath*, *Walking The Village*, *Blackheath & Environs Volume III* and *The Paragon and South Row*. We have a special offer to purchase *Blackheath & Environs Volume III* and *The Paragon and South Row* together for £40 (normally £45).

On page 1 our chair Paul Watts urges members to consider gifting a Society membership as a Christmas present. You can do this by emailing [office@blackheath.org](mailto:office@blackheath.org) with your request or by phoning our secretary Sacha at the office on 020 8297 1937. New members will receive a free copy of "*Guardians of the Heath*," the history of the Society and its past battles, and

of *Blackheath Preservation Trust 1938 - 2016* which describes the organisation that saved many buildings in Blackheath. We will also include a card for you to write a personal message.

Subscriptions to the Society are £20 and are due on January 1. A standing order or online payment is very much preferred in order to avoid significant bank charges and this can easily be made to:

The Blackheath Society  
Sort code: 30-90-89  
Account No: 00905733.

Please put a reference to the surname and postcode. If you already pay by standing order, may we ask you to check that the amount is £20, as many people overlooked the increase in January 2018 and did not adjust this with their bank. Many thanks.

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SECRETARY: Sacha Bright EDITOR: John Bartram DESIGNER: Pippa Stanton

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