

# 150 new jobs created

More than 150 new jobs will be created in Lewisham after the Council secured almost £1m funding from the Government's Future Jobs Fund scheme.

Forty-nine jobs will be with the Council and the rest will be in partner organisations including Age Concern, Lewisham College, Phoenix Community Housing and The Albany theatre, Deptford.

The new employment and training opportunities will be in a wide range of roles, including administration officers, insulation fitters and assistant home energy advisors.

The jobs are primarily for young people aged between 18 and 24 who have been claiming Job Seekers' Allowance for six months. Eligible candidates should make an appointment to talk to a Job Centre Plus Personal Advisor.



The jobs will be in a wide range of roles

**i** To find out more about the Future Jobs Fund visit [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

## CASHIERS AT TOWN HALL

The Cashiers at Lewisham Town Hall is open weekdays from 9am to 4.30pm (5pm on Fridays) but not on Saturdays. As an alternative to paying in person, you can make your payments by direct debit. To set up a direct debit mandate call the following numbers:

**Council tax** 020 8690 9666  
**Rents** 020 8314 9311  
**Business rates** 020 8314 6150  
**Debtors' accounts** 020 8314 3633

You can also pay at the Post Office, PayPoint, via the Council's website at [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk) or by using the touchtone telephone service on 020 8690 8707.

**i** For further information, call 020 8314 6786.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE

Lewisham's Youth Offending Service (YOS) is looking for volunteers to help run its Community Panels.

The panels are for young people between the ages of 10 and 17 who have committed an offence and received a Referral Order from the Court. The young people are required to attend a panel meeting with a parent or guardian. The meeting is run by volunteers and an officer from the Youth Offending Service is on hand to offer support and advice.

The panel meetings are held in an informal setting and give young people the opportunity to talk about their actions and understand the effects of their offending behaviour. The Community Panel Members (CPM) work with the young person to decide on an activity that the young person must undertake in order to make amends and benefit the community at the same time.

Volunteers need to be over 18 years old, reliable and have an interest in working with young people. Full training is given.

**i** For information about this and other volunteer opportunities within the YOS please contact Rita or Brenda on 020 8314 7520 or simply text PANEL to 07710 387 862. See next month's Lewisham Life for a feature on Community Panels.

## FREE SWIMMING FOR YEAR 6s

During the February half term, Year 6 Lewisham school children will be offered a chance to improve their swimming skills with free lessons from Saxon Crown Swimming Club at Ladywell Pool and Downham Health & Leisure Centre. If you have a Year 6 child, just call Laurie Hanlon on 07985 631641 to book the lessons.

More free swimming lessons will be offered throughout the year – just ask

at your local pool for details.

And don't forget that swimming in Lewisham is free for people aged over 60 and those aged 16 and under – all you need to do is show your library card at the pool.

**i** For more information about great swimming offers, and where your local pool is, go to [www.lewisham.gov.uk/sport](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/sport) or call 020 8314 9274.



A Dance Ability student at Laban

## LABAN AWARDED £24,000

Deptford-based dance centre Laban has received a grant of £24,000 from BBC Children in Need to support its Dance Ability class over the next three years. Laban dance specialists work with disabled children, aged 5-12 years old, and their families. The programme welcomes any child with learning difficulties or physical disabilities.

During the classes children are encouraged to explore their movement through guided exercises and imaginative play. There are many benefits: each child can discover their creative potential, build upon their motor skills and form new social relationships. By learning and refining new skills, and through working with others, children build confidence and independence.

The funding will also allow Laban dance specialists to evaluate the programme more formally, widening industry knowledge of this field. This will help teachers, learning support assistants and community practitioners working with those with disabilities.

**i** For more information see [www.laban.org](http://www.laban.org)

## TOP LOLLIPOP MAN

Lewisham lollipop man, Arthur Kendall, has been named London's favourite lollipop person after being crowned the regional winner of the Kwik Fit Insurance Lollipop Person of the Year awards 2009.

Arthur has been helping children cross the road outside Gordonbrock Primary School in Brockley for 16 years and is a popular character in the local community. The children of Gordonbrock Primary School put a great deal of effort into their submission, painting pictures and writing poems, and even made dolls of Arthur carrying his lollipop.



Arthur Kendall with his trophy

# SEE THE MOON UP CLOSE

★ Local astronomer John Griffiths is organising another free event at the Ringway Centre in Grove Park to give people a chance to see the moon up close. You'll have a chance to look through powerful telescopes and see an

amazing amount of detail, such as craters and mountains, and you may even get a glimpse of the red planet, Mars. The event on 24 February begins at 5.30pm and everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be provided. Dress warmly and bring

your camera as you'll be able to take your own photos of the moon. The Ringway Centre is at 268 Baring Road SE12.

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**i** For more information, visit John's web site [www.casalazarza.co.uk](http://www.casalazarza.co.uk).

## NEW BIRTH CENTRE

★ A new Birth Centre led entirely by midwives is due to open its doors to mothers-to-be at University Hospital Lewisham this spring. The centre will have five en-suite birthing rooms (three of which will be equipped with fixed birthing pools) and all rooms will have aids such as balls, support slings and bean bags to encourage an active birth experience. The Centre is designed for women who expect to have a straightforward pregnancy and birth.

The Centre will complement the hospital's existing maternity facilities, which include 10 delivery rooms, a post-natal ward with 31 beds, and an operating theatre. These facilities will continue to offer obstetric-led care for women in labour.

Work has now started on the new building and any woman who is due to give birth after mid March 2010 can talk to their midwife about giving birth in the new Centre.

**i** For more details, contact Shirley Peterson on 020 8333 3000 x8713 or via email at [birthcentre@uhl.nhs.uk](mailto:birthcentre@uhl.nhs.uk)



Children are well served in Lewisham

## TOP MARKS FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

★ Lewisham Council has been rated 'excellent' by Ofsted for its services to children and young people, one of only ten local authorities in England to achieve this standard. Ofsted gave Lewisham 4 out of 4 and judged the Council to be performing excellently.

The new Ofsted children's services annual rating looked at children and young people's services in 152 local authorities in England. It covered schools, childcare, child protection and a range of related services.

Welcoming the rating, Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham, said: 'Staff who work for our children and young people in Lewisham deserve all our congratulations for getting Ofsted's top grade. You couldn't find a more dedicated workforce, whether they are school or college staff, social workers, health workers, youth workers, Children's Centre and early years staff or others who work day in and day out to ensure our children get the life chances they deserve.'



Toddlers at Ladywell Gymnastics Club

## LEWISHAM SPORTS AWARDS

★ Ladywell Gymnastics Club has won Club of the Year in the Lewisham Sports Awards 2009. The awards honour and recognise local clubs for their work in the community. Affiliated to British Gymnastics, the club works with young people in the borough and its members compete at regional, national and international level. Lewisham Thunder Basketball Club came second and Sabina Netball club came third. The awards were presented by Mayor Sir Steve Bullock and Double Olympic Gold Medallist James Cracknell at an event held at the Broadway Theatre.

Other clubs that received nominations included Saxon Crown Swimming club, Tiger-sharks Disability Swimming Club and Kent Athletics Club. This was the original training ground for Conrad Williams, who last year won a silver medal at the 2009 World Athletics Championships in Berlin.

**i** If you're interested in sport and are looking to join a club, contact Laurence Hickmott on 020 8314 6288 and he will direct you to a club that is right for you. For more information about the sports clubs in the borough visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk/sport](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/sport)

## CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

★ Lewisham Council's Public Service Team has been awarded a government Customer Service Excellence Award (CSE) and is one of the first local authority divisions in the country to do so. The CSE tests 57 different criteria with particular emphasis on delivery, timeliness, information, professionalism and staff attitude. The award is valid for three years and Lewisham's Public Service departments will be assessed annually to ensure its high standards are maintained.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Battery and bulb recycling

Sainsbury's Savacentre, in Southend Lane, Sydenham, now has a collection point for recycling old batteries and energy-saving light bulbs. The scheme is a partnership between the supermarket and recycling specialist Recolight. There is also a recycling point for energy-saving light bulbs at the recycling plant at Landmann Way in New Cross and battery recycling points in all Lewisham libraries.

### Regeneration plans for the borough

A document that sets out the Council's regeneration plans for Lewisham, Catford, Deptford and New Cross is now available for comment. To have your say, visit <http://consult.lewisham.gov.uk>.

### Adult social care

If you have a query about adult social care in Lewisham, call 020 8314 7777 and speak to an advice and information officer. If it's a complex problem, they will get a social worker or occupational therapist to call you back. You can also contact the team by emailing [SCAIT@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:SCAIT@lewisham.gov.uk), faxing 020 8314 3014 or writing to Adult Social Care Advice and Information team, 4th Floor, Laurence House, Catford SE6 4RU.

### Event cancellation

Please note, the **Celebrating Retirement** event, scheduled for 23 March (as advertised in *My Life* magazine), has been cancelled.

# A decade of mentoring

★ The Lewisham Mentoring Project began in 1999, recruiting mentors for young people who were leaving the care system. In its first year, the project recruited 25 members, and over the past 10 years has recruited over 700.

The success and effectiveness of the project over the last decade has been recognised by many organisations. Accolades include the Department for Children, Schools and Families Best Practice Award from 2002 to 2006, the Partner of the Year award twice from The Prince's Trust, and becoming an approved provider through the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation in 2008.

To add to this success, the Children in Care Council was recently launched, which is made up of looked-after children and young people. The Council will ensure that every child and young person in care has the opportunity to have their say on issues that matter to them and influence services available to them.



The Lewisham mentoring project has been a huge success

**i** To find out more about becoming a mentor and for further information about the Children in Care Council, contact the Lewisham Mentoring Project team on 020 8314 8083 or email [infomentoring@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:infomentoring@lewisham.gov.uk).

# MAKING MUSIC

★ Lewisham Music Service has launched a new Saturday Music Centre at Prendergast Ladywell Fields College. This is a merger of their two former Saturday Centres – Deptford Music Centre at The Albany and Lewisham Centre for Young Musicians at

Sedgehill School. It provides the most extensive range of out-of-school musical opportunities for young musicians anywhere in the borough including wind bands, string groups, an orchestra, a choir, rock and jazz bands, chamber music groups, and theory and musicianship classes. The Saturday Music Centre is open to young people aged seven years and above who are learning a musical instrument, and who attend a Lewisham maintained school or live in the borough. There are places available for new children to join. See our interview on p35 with Peter Hayward, head of the Lewisham Music Service.



One of the ensembles at the Music Centre

**i** To find out more, call 020 8692 4446 ext 240 or visit [www.lewishammusiccentre.org.uk](http://www.lewishammusiccentre.org.uk).

# GARDEN WASTE

★ The Council's garden waste scheme, which ran from July to November last year, collected a whopping 98,180kg of garden waste from 3,746 visits to the four sites around Lewisham (at Riddons Road, Girton Road Car Park, Laurence House Car Park and Kitto Road). Following this success, the service will be resumed in March.

Residents can still take their garden waste to the Reuse & Recycling Centre at Landmann Way, or continue to purchase green garden waste bags from libraries and arrange collection through Call Point on 020 8314 7171.

# RUN FOR LEWISHAM

★ The Virgin Mini London Marathon is for runners aged between 11 and 17 and takes place on 25 April 2010. Lewisham Sport and Leisure Service, in partnership with Kent Athletics Club, is holding trials to select young people to represent Lewisham in the race.

The trials are being held at Ladywell Arena, Silvermere Road, Catford SE6 at 9.45am on Saturday 6 March 2010. So, if you are aged between 11 and 17 years old and think you can run 2.8 miles, pick up an application form from your local library or leisure centre, download one at [www.lewisham.gov.uk/sport](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/sport), or call 020 8314 9274.



If you're aged 11 to 17, you could run for Lewisham

Applications must be returned by 5pm on Wednesday 3 March 2010 and be signed by a parent or guardian. Please return applications to Lucy Mansbridge, First Floor, Town Hall Chambers, Catford SE6 4RU.

# FOCUS ON FILM

## The Albany, Douglas Way SE8

**URBAN SCREEN** 10 February, 7.30pm  
Feature films, shorts and live music. Tickets £5.  
Call 020 8692 4446, [www.thealbany.org.uk](http://www.thealbany.org.uk)

## The Brockley Jack film club, Brockley Road SE4

**Soul Power (12)** 8 February 7.30pm  
A documentary of the 1974 music festival in Kinshasa, Zaire with James Brown, BB King and other stars. Tickets £3 members/£6 non-members.  
Box office: 020 8699 6685, [www.brockleyjackfilmclub.co.uk](http://www.brockleyjackfilmclub.co.uk)

## Café Crema, 306 New Cross Road SE14

**Sweet Thursdays film nights**  
Doors 7.30pm, films 8.15pm, £6. Ticket includes polenta or cake and a glass of wine. Call Chris on 07905 961876 or Kiri on 07950 552571 or email [admin@cafecremaevents.co.uk](mailto:admin@cafecremaevents.co.uk)

## Deptford Film Club, The Bird's Nest, 32 Deptford Church Street SE8

**Les Ddemoiselles de Rochefort (PG)** 17 February, 7.30pm  
Musical homage to Minnelli, Donen and MGM, with Catherine Deneuve and Gene Kelly. Entry is free. [www.deptfordfilmclub.org](http://www.deptfordfilmclub.org)

## Downham Library film club BR1

Mondays 7.30pm, Sunday from 1pm. Call 020 3049 1980.

## Forest Hill Library Film Club SE23

Thurs 5.30–7.30pm, Sundays 1.30pm. Call 020 8699 2065.

## Manor House Library Film Club SE12

Saturdays 2.30pm, Sundays 1pm. Call 020 8852 0357.

Visit [lostdogkit.org.uk](http://lostdogkit.org.uk) and [lostcatkit.org.uk](http://lostcatkit.org.uk) for an easy to follow four stage process for finding your lost pet. You can also call our Lost Dogs & Cats Line on **0901 477 8477\***

## Would you know where to look if you lost your dog or cat in Lewisham?

\*Calls cost 60p per minute from a BT landline, other networks may vary. Open 9am to 6pm.

