

THE NEWSPAPER CAMPAIGNING FOR AN EVEN GREATER GREENWICH

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Greenwich
Host Borough for London 2012

Horses for courses

MANE ATTRACTION: Year 6 pupils from Ealdham primary get friendly with Selica, an eight-year-old Egyptian Arabian



Woolwich weapons sweep success

A HAMMER, a knife and a pointed double-edge blade were recovered in the latest crackdown on knife crime in the borough.

The weapon sweep took place in Woolwich earlier this month as part of Operation Blunt 2 - set up by the Metropolitan Police to tackle serious youth violence across the capital. The morning exercise saw officers sweeping the ground for offensive weapons. Safer Neighbourhoods teams were also out on high visibility patrols carrying out stop and search operations and using scan arches and search wands. One person was stopped using stop and search powers and received a fixed penalty notice for a drug offence. Another male was also arrested for money laundering and drug dealing. Police seized £1,100.

Brian Cherek, superintendent for Safer Neighbourhoods, said: "The police and partners are committed to reducing serious youth crime and have been carrying out specialist operations to make Greenwich safer. Knife crime or any form of violent crime will not be tolerated and the message from police and partners is clear - drop the knives and stay clear of violent crime."

By Hilary Bryan

PRIMARY school pupils are saddling up for the ride of their lives in the run up to the London Olympic Games.

The Year 6 pupils are having horse riding lessons as part of a project to raise the profile of riding as Greenwich looks forward to hosting the equestrian events in 2012. Children from Ealdham and Horn Park primary schools got on their high horse for the first of ten hour-

Turn to Page 2

Riding lessons for pupils as borough prepares to host Olympic horse events

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In my opinion

Cafe one day!



SUMMER has flown by almost unnoticed! But your incredible feedback has not. What an amazing community we have here in Plumstead. Greenwich Council has heard you and is aware that the area has potential for something extraordinarily special as we campaign for a cafe/community centre to bring the area gloriously to life. Were you at the first great live music evening in June at the rugby club on the Common? Or did you read all about it in GT? There was such a fantastic response about the cafe idea that it just had to happen again. So... the 'Oneday' Cafe is returning, this time the local church opening its doors to offer St Mark's Church Hall, Old Mill Road, on Saturday, September 27. The day starts at 2pm with a space for locals to exhibit and sell their arts and crafts alongside tea/coffee. At 5pm Dominic will lead an exciting drumming intro/workshop (all ages welcome at only £3). The evening will kick off at 7.30pm with the Rowland Sutherland Trio, a superb flute-led

ensemble featuring Phil Dawson on guitar and Davide Mantovani on bass, performing a fascinating collection of jazz originals and arrangements with influences from Brazil, Caribbean, Africa and the UK. The artists can all be found on Google under their names with links to Myspace. This will be a unique evening (£7 on the door, half price for concessions/children welcome. The hall has no bar, so bring your own! We are going to have a very large table for a spread of food to share, all contributions gratefully accepted, anything from a loaf of bread to a home-made curry. And we've been kindly invited back to the rugby club for an event before Christmas - what a perfect setting for jazz on a winter's night. Please come and join us and get to know YOUR community. Also email me (rosiejane47@yahoo.com) with your ideas, enquires and any amount of enthusiasm. The only way is forward for Plumstead Common.

Jane Fenton

'He went very slowly and it calmed me down'

From Page 1

long riding sessions last week. The first-time riders went to Willowtree Riding Centre in Lee where they rode around an indoor stable and learned about grooming.

Ten-year-old Ealdham pupil Josh said: "At first I was scared because I've never been on a horse before. But it was good fun and I can't wait till next week - I really want to do it again."

The young sports fan who enjoys football, swimming, basketball and tennis, said: "I love football but I can play that anytime - I don't get the

chance to go out riding on a horse so I really wanted to have the lessons."

Ten-year-old Megan from Horn Park primary said: "I soon got used to the horse - he went very slowly and it helped to calm me down. I'd



HORSE SENSE: the young riders

like to do riding and keep it up as a hobby."

Ealdham classmates Sophie and Kai, both 10, both fell in love with Santa, a ten-year-old Shetland pony. "I've never been on a horse before but it was fun," Sophie said.

Jan Massey, proprietor at Willowtree, said: "This project means children from inner city areas are given valuable experience and knowledge about horses.

"It's wonderful that the Olympic equestrian events will be in Greenwich - we're all for it and we'll be supporting it as much as we can."

The project is funded by the Greenwich Sport

Partnership and the Emile Faurie Foundation, a charity launched to give inner city children the chance to enjoy equestrian sports.

Cllr John Fahy, Greenwich Council's cabinet member for culture and the Olympics, said: "This project is a fantastic way of raising the profile of riding as the borough prepares to host the Olympic equestrian events.

"It's giving children a taster of the sport and helping to raise awareness that horses can be accessible to everyone by breaking down some of the perceived images of riding as a middle class sport."

It's all Llewellyn good in Greenwich

Laurence just loves the easy-going borough

By Dean Beadle

LAURENCE Llewellyn-Bowen found fame as the flamboyant interior designer on the smash-hit BBC makeover series "Changing Rooms" back in 1995.

He is also well known for presenting "Holiday", "Britain's Best Home and Garden" and starring in his own Living TV reality series "To the Manor Bowen".

However, he is less well known as a long-time Greenwich resident. "I lived in Greenwich and Blackheath for nine years," says Laurence, 43. "I now live in the Cotswolds but I do miss the easy-going bohemian lifestyle of Greenwich.

"I think it is somewhere that has begun to flourish as a cultural experience, much like downtown New York. I enjoyed the vast majority of the time I lived there."

Laurence undeniably left his mark on Greenwich, designing many restaurants including Inc, Spread Eagle and the Power Monkey. He also has fond memories of the pubs in the area.

He said: "My favourite pub was the Cutty Sark Tavern, which is up by the old power station on the river. The interior is incredible. It's like a film set."

Interiors are something that Laurence is of course an expert on. His design compa-

Me & my borough

"It attracts a wide mix of people who all rub together brilliantly"

ny, Llewellyn Bowen and Associates, have designed interiors for everything from hotels in Thailand to show homes. However, it's refreshing to know that a lot of Laurence's furnishings came from local suppliers. He said: "I have furnished most of my homes from things I have found in Greenwich market over the years, and I have bought a lot of things from

INTERIOR MOTIF: Laurence



Minerva antiques as well".

It's therefore no surprise that Laurence is popular with local shop owners. "Shop always asked me to mention their stores in articles, which I was glad to do," he said, adding that he was a fan of the market too.

He said: "I loved the way that Greenwich became a market town at the weekends, almost like Brighton or

Devizes. Also, my daughter Hermione loved the Cutty Sark, so we used to go there a lot".

Did walking around Greenwich prove difficult for him? "I was spotted a lot, but that was never a problem," he said. "People would say hello to you but that was always nice because they were so easy-going".

Laurence's connections to the area are still strong. "I revisited recently, to film for my episode of Who Do You Think You Are? We used the Royal Naval College archives for a lot of our research.

"I loved walking through the Naval College. The Painted Hall and the Chapel are truly world-class architecture. I think that architecture is Greenwich's best-kept secret and it should be preserved and protected."

When asked to sum up Greenwich in a word

Laurence chooses 'community'. "It's always been a very family orientated place", he said "It attracts such a wide mix of people who all rub along together brilliantly. I love the fact that Greenwich has always been a very individual town in its own right - separate to London but yet a part of it at the same time".

LAURENCE traces his family tree on Who Do You Think You Are? on BBC 1 on the October 1. For more information, visit www.llb.co.uk

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