

## BVRG DECEMBER 2005 UPDATE

Dear Neighbours,

It's been a busy year with all the licensing activity and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in 2005. Have a wonderful festive season and all our best wishes for a happy 2006.

The BVRG Steering Group

**BLACKHEATH STATION CAR PARK** We have learnt from one of Lewisham Council's consultation papers that Network Rail regard the station car park in Blackheath as "under-utilised" and "brownfield". They apparently favour its redevelopment for high-density housing and decked car parking. **This is a consultation paper and not a planning application at this point in time.** BVRG, The Blackheath Society and BVTA have written to object to this proposal and will resist it strongly if it proceeds any further. We feel that removal of parking to the village, increased traffic, the loss of our Farmer's Market and the effect on surrounding properties would be extremely detrimental to the village. If you would like to make your views felt on this initial proposal, please write to LBL Planning information service: 5th Floor Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4SW Tel: 020 8314 7400 E-mail: [planning@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:planning@lewisham.gov.uk)

You can also contact our local councillors – we have given you their contact details at the end of this newsletter.

**LICENSING UPDATE** The 24 hour licensing act came into existence on 25<sup>th</sup> November after a flurry of applications from local pubs in the village to extend their hours. London Borough of Lewisham are progressing with the Saturation Zone so hopefully this will be in place early 2006.

**THE PRINCESS OF WALES** had applied to extend its hours but unexpectedly **withdrew** its application at the hearing.

**O'NEILL'S** was applying to extend its hours but **withdrew** its application just before the expected hearing.

**THE CROWN** had applied to extend its hours and unexpectedly **changed their application and brought their hours back down** before the hearing. This was a direct result of the huge number of objection letters received from local neighbours. They were still applying to open for alcohol sales from 10 am on Sunday mornings. At the hearing, they were allowed an additional 10 minutes drinking up time and were told they could open at 10am on a Sunday, but only for non-alcoholic refreshment. These changes were only allowed subject to the following conditions: Prominent notices at all exits requesting the patrons to leave the premises and area quietly / Doors and windows to be closed at all times of live public entertainment / To have an inspection by the council's Environmental Health Department / To keep consumption of alcohol within the licensed area and not spilling out on the street / To install CCTV outside the premises to help combat the unacceptable level of urination, vomiting and other anti-social behaviour from patrons of this pub. The Crown lodged an appeal but we have just found out that this has just been **withdrawn**.

**THE RAILWAY** achieved its extension of hours and is now open Thurs-Sat until 1am and Sun-Weds until midnight.

**THE HARE AND BILLET** achieved its extension of hours and now opens Thurs-Sat until midnight.

The key differences with those that were granted their extensions seem to be that the objections from local residents were fewer than for the other applications. The objections also did not present the same level of evidence or represent as many residents in the immediate vicinity of these premises. However, the overall picture for the village is much more positive than it was looking 12 months ago and the enormous number of objections from BVRG and local residents have prevented many of the late opening times from happening and made a huge difference to our quality of life. We've really proved this year that local people can change things. Many thanks to everyone for all your efforts.

### USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS FOR FUTURE OBJECTIONS

#### Local Councillors:

Andrew Brown email: [cllr\\_andrew.brown@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:cllr_andrew.brown@lewisham.gov.uk) tel: 020 8691 7951

Gavin Moore email: [cllr\\_gavin.moore@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:cllr_gavin.moore@lewisham.gov.uk) tel: 020 8699 0769

Alex Grant email: [alex.grant@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:alex.grant@greenwich.gov.uk)

There is a councillor's surgery at the Village Library on the first Saturday of the month.

#### London Borough of Lewisham's Licensing Department

Laurence House 2nd Floor Laurence House 1 Catford Road Catford SE6 4RU Tel: 020 8314 6400

E-mail: [licensing@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@lewisham.gov.uk)

#### Lewisham Borough Council's Community Safety Unit (CSU)

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/CommunitySafety/form.asp>

#### Police

The local station numbers are: 020 8690 1212 (Lewisham) 020 8855 1212 (Greenwich). Please remember that if immediate police attendance is required, you should always dial 999.

**BVRG'S 2<sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY** will be held in late Feb / March 2006. Details and tickets to be available in January.