

## BVRG UPDATE MAY 2006

### BVRG'S 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next AGM is on **Wednesday 12th July at 8.00pm in The Old Bakehouse**, (entrance in Bennett Park, behind Age Exchange). Please stay after it finishes and have a drink and chat.

Membership of BVRG continues from year to year at the moment so if you signed up 2 years ago, you are still a member and have voting rights. It's a great opportunity to catch up with the steering group and other members after what has been a very busy year! - *Barry & Ann Rosen, BVRG Steering Group*

### 2<sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY

The BVRG's 2nd birthday party on 25<sup>th</sup> March was enjoyed by nearly 80 of you. After a welcoming glass of Buck's Fizz, guests mingled and chatted, pausing only to buy raffle tickets and visit the very competitively priced bar. A superb buffet supper prepared us all for an educational and amusing talk on the architectural development of Blackheath Village from Neil Rhind. To round off the excellent evening, raffle prizes from our generous Village traders ensured what seemed like all of us went home with something! We are donating £100 each to the selected local charities (Greenwich MIND and The Ahoy Group). The remaining amount for BVRG will ensure that photocopying, printing and venue hires will be covered for the coming year. As chair, I would like to thank every one of the members and friends who attended - and I would like to encourage you to attend next time if you haven't yet seen our social events. Blackheath is made up of broad spectra of social groups and age ranges - and so are our parties! - *Nick Sales, BVRG Chair*

### LICENSING UPDATE

After a lull in applications during the winter, there have been several new ones so far in 2006. Your Steering Group was disappointed that Lewisham Council failed to make good on their undertaking to make Blackheath Village a Saturation (cumulative impact) Zone. This would have meant that any new applicant for later hours would have had to prove that this would NOT have an impact under the 4 licensing objectives, whilst under the current regime it is for objectors to prove that later hours WOULD have an impact.

The main licensing applications were:

**THE HEATH** - an application was submitted by Glendale, who manage the heath for the councils, which on the face of it would have permitted events with up to 60,000 people every day of the year. BVRG objected, and a sensible solution was found by discussion between all the parties before the application got to the Licensing Committee. All proposed events now have to be approved by the council or, if there is an objection, by the full licensing committee. We believe that this will mean "business as usual", but shall continue to monitor the situation.

**DAVITO'S** - applied to serve alcohol/be open until 11.30. We made no objection to this, since we consider these to be reasonable hours balancing the interests of diners and residents.

**KHAN'S** - applied to serve alcohol until 12.00, and be open until 1.30. We objected to these late hours and, following discussions with Khan's representative, they agreed to match the hours of Davito's.

**CAFÉ ROUGE** - applied for supply of alcohol 0.00 Mon-Wed, 00.30 Thu-Sat, 23.30 Sun, closing 1 hour after these times. This application was granted.

**CAVE AUSTIN** - applied for alcohol licence 02.00 Sat & Sun, closing 02.30 on those days. BVRG objected to this as we have members who are already complaining about nuisance under the current licensing hours. A meeting was held for interested parties at Cave Austin where residents exchanged views with Neil Norman, the owner of Cave Austin, and his colleagues. No agreement was reached, so this is likely to be decided by the Licensing Committee.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the police and/or Lewisham Council as appropriate and copy BVRG if you can. LBL Licensing Tel: 020 8314 6400 E-mail: [licensing@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@lewisham.gov.uk)

LBL Community Safety Unit (CSU) <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/CommunitySafety/form.asp> Police: 020 8690 1212 (Lewisham) 020 8855 1212 (Greenwich). **Please remember that if immediate police attendance is required, you should always dial 999.** The more "evidence" we can collect, the easier it is to oppose unreasonable licensing applications. - *Richard Senior, BVRG Deputy Chair*

## CHANGE OF COUNCILLORS

The three Labour councillors in the Blackheath ward were replaced by three Liberal Democrat councillors in the recent local elections. BVRG is a non-political organisation and works with councillors of all political parties. We would however like to give a particular thank you to one of our outgoing councillors, Andrew Brown, who has been a fantastic support to the BVRG over the last two years. He has been tireless in his attendance at licensing meetings to support the residents of Blackheath and we wish him well with his future career. We will be meeting our new Blackheath councillors ASAP and are hoping to build up a strong relationship with them in the future. - *Vicky Penner, BVRG Steering Group*

## BLACKHEATH STATION CAR PARK

At the end of last year, we learnt from one of Lewisham Council's consultation papers that Network Rail regarded their car park in Blackheath as 'brownfield' and 'under-utilised'. They apparently favoured its redevelopment for high-density housing with some decked car parking. This unsurprisingly triggered a large number of objections - from the BVRG, our members and other residents individually, the Village Traders, the Blackheath Society and all our local Councillors. We have been pleased to see that Lewisham and Network Rail have now signed a new five year lease to continue the present arrangements. This means that the heavily used parking spaces will continue for the benefit of the social and commercial life of the Village and also that the Farmers' Market will continue to thrive on Sunday mornings. - *Frank Smith, BVRG Steering Group & Chair of The Blackheath Society*

## BLACKHEATH SOCIETY DEVELOPMENTS

The Society has just re-launched its website - [www.blackheath.org](http://www.blackheath.org) It now has some special features - you can even check whether your train from Blackheath Station is running on time by going into the Transport section and clicking on the live departure board link! The Society has also recently produced a *Blackheath Village Trail and Guide*. From an original idea by Neil Rhind - who spoke entertainingly at our Party last month - the Trail is designed to encourage individuals and groups of all ages to discover and further research Blackheath's very rich and diverse history. It has been distributed to schools, libraries and the public at large. If you haven't received one, you can request it by going to [www.blackheath.org](http://www.blackheath.org) and clicking on the Publications section. It is free.

- *Frank Smith, BVRG Steering Group & Chair of The Blackheath Society*

## REQUEST FOR NEW HELPERS

As members are aware, BVRG is an entirely voluntary organisation and members give their time for free when they work on BVRG business. The BVRG steering group is working harder than ever and from time to time it seeks BVRG volunteers who are interested in joining the committee, or helping with specific tasks. At the moment, BVRG is looking for new volunteers for the following roles:

**STEERING GROUP MEMBER** - The role is broad-ranging, with members normally having their main responsibility in a major area of BVRG activity, such as licensing or police liaison. Some months are busier than others but you would need to be available for the regular steering group meeting on the first Monday of each month.

**WEBSITE DESIGNER / ADMINISTRATOR** - This is a new role and we are looking for a volunteer willing to contribute a few hours a month to the establishment and maintenance of the BVRG website

**EVENT HELPERS** - If you are interested in helping with the preparation and staging of the BVRG events, please let us know - these are great fun, and you will be contributing to a uniquely successful Blackheath evening!

Please email us on [bvrgroup@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bvrgroup@tiscali.co.uk) or call us on 020 8355 6701 if you would like to get involved.

- *Nick Sales, BVRG Chair*

### Blackheath Village Residents' Group Limited

Chapman House, 10 Blackheath Village, London, SE3 9LE. [bvrgroup@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bvrgroup@tiscali.co.uk) Tel: 020 8355 6701.

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