

# nunhead voice

A NUNHEAD COMMUNITY FORUM NEWSLETTER

Issue 20 • Winter 2009



- Nunhead Community Centre campaign update
- Community Forum Annual Review
- Seasonal greetings from business community



L-R: Advent calendar at A.G Flowers, Nunhead's very own Greengrocers, The Dream Tree Arts Week 2009, Flowers - oil on linen by Jacquie Utley

Cover image © Philippa Newland www.newlandportraits.com

## Editor's Piece

We've braved the wet November winds and can almost see the twinkling of fairy lights through the rain beaten roads and over the vast array of road works in our once peaceful village. The wind down to the festive period has begun and we're going to enjoy it!

No matter how hard you try to be virtuous the edible trappings of December are very hard to avoid. Whether it's the first of many Ayres' mince pies; the 'just the one then' Quality Street or that extra roast potato, Christmas is a guilt free month for our waist lines. So, make the most of peaceful Nunhead, wander the deserted streets on Christmas Day, soak up the festive aura and have a happy holiday.

Not forgetting of course, that it's been another eventful year for the residents of Nunhead with lots of news on local campaigns and activity. It feels like we might be close to a resolution on Community Centre issue (see Annual Review on page 3 and Letters page) and the shop keepers are as welcoming as ever (see centre spread).

**If you'd like to get more involved with the Community Forum, tell us what you want to happen in the coming year and find out how you can get more involved. For more information please contact Colin Weatherup at [colinweatherup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:colinweatherup@yahoo.co.uk)**

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### DON'T FORGET US ONLINE AT:

**Nunhead Community Forum:** facebook group

**Nunhead Arts:** [nunheadarts.blog.com](http://nunheadarts.blog.com)

**Save our Community Centre:** [nunheadcentre.blogspot.com](http://nunheadcentre.blogspot.com)

**Discuss life in London's Nunhead:** [www.nunheadforum.co.uk](http://www.nunheadforum.co.uk)



## Nunhead Community Forum Review of 2009

It's hard to believe that another 12 months have flown by so quickly and it's that time of year again when the nights are drawing in and the final Nunhead Voice of the year has been issued. It has been an interesting year for all concerned with many memorable highs and the occasional disappointing lows.

Nunhead Arts Week continued from strength to strength with the biggest and best celebrations we have seen so far. Big thanks to Howard Francis for his continued hard work and dedication to make this much-anticipated yearly event the huge success it has become and now an established fixture in the Nunhead community calendar.

Elderly residents also had plenty to celebrate recently with a fantastic afternoon of fun, food, facts, and a bit of dancing too! The Older People's Celebration Day on September 25th was another resounding success with the many elderly local residents who attended this event which, like The Arts Week has fast become another staple in Nunhead community life.

Our local businesses play a vital part in Nunhead's community life and we welcome the continued input and representation on The Forum from the Nunhead Business Association. Its fantastic summer gathering on Nunhead Green proved a big hit this year with the weather holding out for this well attended open-air event.

The Nunhead Voice has proved an essential guide to what's happening in Nunhead and the publication has seen

a slick and glossy revamp over the past year. A big thanks to the dedicated editorial team working behind the scenes to get the all the hot news in Nunhead to you each quarter.

The backdrop of the year has been the continued efforts and support of concerned Nunhead residents to get a dedicated and suitable venue which meets the many and varied needs of our diverse and lively local community. Over the last two years a local community group has campaigned tirelessly for the Nunhead Community Centre to be opened. The dream of the return of a Community Centre in Nunhead may now become a reality - BUT at what price? Southwark Council has offered a new community centre to replace the old one. The old Community Centre as well as the Nursery opposite the Green will be demolished and the land sold. Part of the profit made from this sale will be used to build a new Community Centre where the old one is or where the Nursery is opposite the Green. The new Community Centre is perhaps less than half the size of the old one although this discussion is in its early stages. So we have

reached an important decision point: do we continue to campaign for the refurbishment and eventual reopening of the old community centre? OR do we negotiate with the council on securing a suitable new community centre? The Sub-Committee will now have to take the discussion to the Nunhead community to reach a final decision.

A debate took place at the Nunhead Community Forum AGM in October between Nunhead Residents and Cllr. Tim McNally, Liberal Democrat Executive Member, accompanied by Steven Platt, Head of Southwark's Property Division. You can see the Letters page in this issue of the Voice for the resulting correspondences.

With so many fantastic things to look back on this year, it can be a daunting prospect to imagine where we go from here. It's a blank page now and the opportunity for anyone in Nunhead to have a voice and play a part in the life of your community.

**Cris Claridge**



# Ivydale kids look to the future



**The children of Ivydale Primary, in Nunhead, were invited to "Look to the future" for the school's third annual Big Draw event in October 2009.**

For one morning the whole school joined in a collaborative art project, aimed at creating a futuristic world, using recycled materials.

Some children designed eco-friendly buildings and

cars of the future and then build prototypes. Older pupils imagined futuristic clothes, making wearable paper "cyber suits" which were then modelled in a fashion show. The young ones created "litter bugs" using litter and recycled materials.

All art works were displayed in the school hall under the banner Green Town. .

The event was organised by artist and Ivydale parent Tamsin Thorne, in collaboration with the community group Arts Express and other enthusiastic parents and carers.

"It was a huge success and the children loved it," said Tamsin. "Having all the children, teachers and parents working together to create the final display for me sums up the ethos of Ivydale – everyone gets involved."

The Big Draw is a national art project championed by the illustrator Quentin Blake. Now in its tenth year, it involves thousands of events up and down the country.

**Ann Busby**

## Save Our Central London Rail Services

**The campaign to Save the South London Line continues!**

We have succeeded in getting the rail industry, Transport for London (TfL) and the Department for Transport (DfT) in particular, to agree we need direct links to Victoria. The details of that are progressing, but we have a way to go to ensure that action is taken. However there is a big battle still to conclude on the links to London Bridge. It is Network Rail and DfT who have the keys to that.

We now know that TfL puts a very high value on east-west orbital travel eg between Clapham Junction and Shoreditch (because it is their own over-ground rail service), and a very low value on our direct links to central London rail stations.

But Network Rail and DfT also seem not to care about our links to central London stations because they have fewer numbers and lower revenue than the long distance commuter trains. This rail industry alliance is really how the decision to cut the South London Line happened. This is what we have to get reversed for the sake of a sensible integrated transport strategy for our part (Zone 2) of inner South London.

Good news is that Southwark Council agreed (4th November) a cross party motion that fully and comprehensively supports the campaign. For details, visit [www.southwarkrailusers.net](http://www.southwarkrailusers.net) and click on campaign information page, and click the link there under Campaign News/Southwark Council.

To keep up to date with the campaign visit [www.southwarkrailusers.net](http://www.southwarkrailusers.net) , and join the mailing list [SRUG@southwarkrailusers.net](mailto:SRUG@southwarkrailusers.net).

**Eileen Conn,  
Southwark Rail Users' Group (SRUG)**

# Reviews...

## Frog fest 2009

The Frog on the Green Deli has been having the most amazing weekends from 21 November - 13 December between 12-5pm. There has been art, music, great food and most importantly at this time of the year - Mulled Wine! You may have been slightly confused when you have gone in to get some lovely cheese or olive bread, and have been confronted with a musician playing to an audience. Fear not this has been another festival on our doorstep. The Frog on the Green Deli, 119 Consort Road, is a must for good food and wine, but as it's Christmas, great presents too!



## Nunhead Library recommends

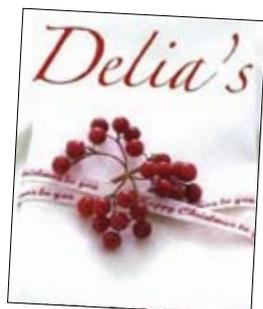
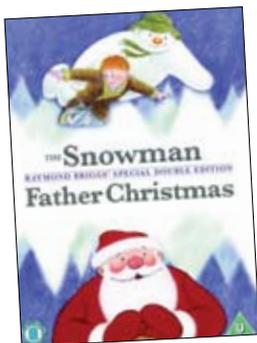


.... a Cd, DVD and book that's available from Nunhead Library.

**a film:** The Snowman and Father Christmas

**a book:** Delia's Happy Christmas

**a cd:** David Guetta, One Love.



## Twelve days of Christmas (with a Nunhead twist)

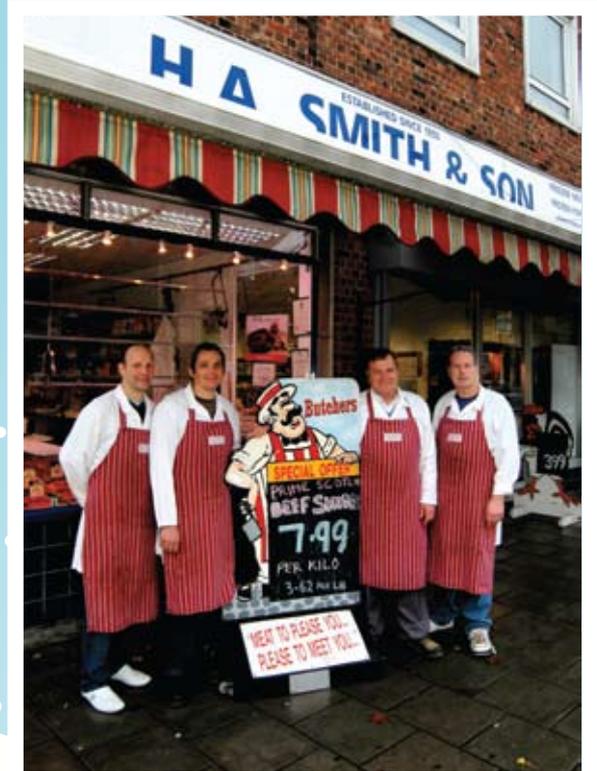
With huge apologies to all you traditionalists out there but this song has been building in my mind since the beginning of November – I have reproduced the final verse for you in the hope that this replaces the more traditional version – it's certainly got my household talking. Well, moaning to be exact but hey, what's Christmas without a family row? And I promise you, once you get this little ditty in your head you won't forget it.....remember to put the appropriate emphasis on saveloys!

On the twelfth day of Christmas  
Nunhead gave to me  
Twelve pints of lager  
Eleven stems of roses  
Ten yummy crabsticks  
Nine sprouts and carrots  
Eight mags and papers  
Seven free-range turkeys  
Six bars of chocolate  
Five Saveloys!  
Four mince pies  
Three festive gifts  
Two bookies bets  
And a Christmas tree on Nunhead Green!  
Merry Christmas from  
Nunhead Mum



[nunheadmumofone.blogspot.com](http://nunheadmumofone.blogspot.com)

# Seasonal Greetings from



# *the shopkeepers of Nunhead*



## *to the local community*



## Interview - Jacquie Utley, artist

Nunhead Open 6, a major part of Nunhead Arts Week 2009 was another successful community event. One of the people behind the Open is Jacquie Utley, an artist and previously a co-founder of the artist-led, not for profit gallery space, The Surgery (2003-2008). Here she answers some questions about why she became involved in the Nunhead art scene. ([www.surgery123.org](http://www.surgery123.org))

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### **NV: How did The Surgery start?**

**JU:** In 2002 the owner of 123 Evelina Road, Katherine McVeigh, and the artist, Theresa Bottomley, got some artists together with the aim of getting an exhibition space running on Evelina Road. I was one of those artists along with other longstanding founder members Jo McCormick, Charlotte Squire, Dido Hallett and Caroline Gregory. We learnt as we went along, often by our mistakes, but we all felt passionate about the space and showing artists work/projects at 123 Evelina Rd. 2006-2007 saw our most ambitious programme when The Surgery hosted six projects of new work with guest curators, artists and writers culminating in the publication Surgery projects 1-6. The last Surgery show took place at 123 Evelina Road in June 2008. We are currently archiving The Surgery's six years.

### **NV: Why was the gallery space called The Surgery?**

**JU:** As the space had previously been a doctor's surgery and was known as the

doctor's surgery locally we decided on the name, The Surgery. The door was always wide open when there was an exhibition on so members of the public could walk into the space direct from the street.

### **NV: Tell us about Nunhead Open 1 and how it evolved into what we know now.**

**JU:** The first Nunhead Open in 2003 was small we had about thirty artists submit work that's the great thing about the Nunhead Open it has grown steadily over the years. In 2006 The Surgery collaborated with Nunhead Community forum on the first Nunhead Arts Week the Open seemed to fit perfectly with arts week. By Nunhead Open 3 we needed more space to host the growing Nunhead Open and we began to use vacant units on the main parade of shops. It's always great to see an empty or semi derelict space transformed and the spaces we have used for the open have always acted as a focal point for Arts week.

### **NV: What was your highlight from Nunhead Open 2009?**

**JU:** It is always a bit stressful waiting for definite confirmation that we can use a vacant premises to host the open and this year was no exception. A week before the date for artists to drop their work off we finally signed the temporary licence and got the keys!! (the other team members behind the Open were Jo, Dido, Caroline and Jo Dennis) We



were delighted that we were able to use The Nunhead Community Centre and see it come back to life, this year's open was the biggest yet with nearly ninety artists entering work. It's always amazing when the artists start to arrive to drop off their work for the Open exhibition - all those images and ideas in the artists work. It's fantastic and that's always the highlight for me when seeing the artwork. Alongside the open we invited five artists to make work for five shop windows. Sarah Sparkes was our artist in residence at the centre and Lady Lucy brought the drawing exchange to the open exhibition.

*Jacqueline Utley did her first degree in Painting at Chelsea School of Art (1986-1989) and recently completed an MA in Drawing at Camberwell (2006-2008). She co-organised at The Surgery, projects 1-6 (2006-2007) exhibiting work in Pink Collar project 6. Recent group exhibitions have included Biggest and the best, Bussey building, Peckham (2008) Little things at The Parlour project space (2008) she was selected by Mark Wallinger for the Creekside Open (2009). She was an exhibition finalist in this year's fringemk painting prize in Milton Keynes (2009). Exhibitions in 2010 (March) include the APT bursary exhibition curated by Wayne Lucas.*

## Nunhead Arts Week 2009 - Thank you

Nunhead Arts Week was packed with more events than ever this year. Thank you to **everyone** who donated their time, and there was a lot of voluntary hours, as well as the Nunhead community that came out to support 'our' arts event. From the Nunhead Open through to the walk on the final day, Nunhead came alive. Keep your eyes peeled for further events that may crop up throughout the year. Merry Christmas, and you never know there may be another inpromptu moment of carol singing on the Green!

## Nunhead Community Choir

We have 25 regular members and 50 not so regular from all ages and backgrounds.

We have built up a lovely repertoire including jazz, african, welsh, folk, as well as popular music and are about to start learning some Christmas songs. We have a lot of fun and the sound is fantastic! We recommend people walk past Ivydale School about 8.30pm on a Thursday evening if they want a treat for their ears.

For further information, contact Diane Regan on 07957 131004 or email [nunheadcc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nunheadcc@yahoo.co.uk)



## Cubs - for boys and girls



Cubs is a fun club where you get to do lots of activities such as swimming, camping, performing and on pancake day you get to make pancakes. You can also earn badges such as air activity, equestrian and collector, you can compete in football tournaments and sports days and meet new friends. Cubs is for boys and girls from 8 to 10 1/2. If you are too young for Cubs you can go to Beavers or if you are too old you can go to Scouts. I go to Cubs at 34th Camberwell pack on a Monday at 6:30pm at Rye Hill Tenant's Hall, Beavers meet on the same day at 5:30pm. If you join, then after you have been invested you may get ranked up to become a Seconder, Sixer or Senior Sixer, these are the highest ranks you can get, I hope you come.

**Daniel Rudgyard**

## Free films in February



Fancy a free movie? Every Friday lunchtime in February, Dulwich Paradiso Film Society will be screening a free film at Buchan Road Community Centre, Buchan

Road Tenants and Residents Association Hall, Buchan Road SE15 (near Smith's the butchers). Films starts 1pm.

Watch out for posters in local shops and libraries with details of films. Event funded by Peckham and Nunhead Community Council.

If you have particular requests for film, or would like further details, call Neil on 020 8480 1921 or email [info@paradisofilm.co.uk](mailto:info@paradisofilm.co.uk)

Details at [www.paradisofilm.co.uk](http://www.paradisofilm.co.uk) from January 2010.

Films starts 1pm. Free tea, coffee and biscuits before and after.

### Let's talk about Nunhead @

[www.nunheadforum.co.uk](http://www.nunheadforum.co.uk)

The Nunhead Forum is a message board on the internet for you to read about and discuss what's going on in our local community. It has sections for you to browse local events, post classified ads for goods and services, and discuss local news and gossip. Pay us a visit and introduce yourself! You might be surprised at how much is going on in your neighbourhood.

[www.nunheadforum.co.uk](http://www.nunheadforum.co.uk)

# Letters



*Nunhead green community centre campaign committee Sub committee of the Nunhead Green Forum Ltd.  
An open letter to Cllr. Tim McNally, Executive Committee Member for Resources.*

Excerpts of an open letter to Cllr. Tim McNally, Executive Committee Member for Resources at Southwark Council, 14th November 2009

Dear Tim

You will be aware that over the past three years people from the local community have campaigned tirelessly for the Nunhead Community Centre to be re-opened. You said at the meeting that a sum of money has been allocated for a purpose built centre on the site of the Nunhead Nursery next to the Old Nun's Head Public House.

During the discussions we considered whether we should continue to campaign for the retention and renovation of the existing centre. Following a lengthy and robust debate, it was agreed by a considerable majority present that we should opt for a new Centre.

For some of us who remember the opening of the old Centre and the many happy events that took place there over the years there was a lot of soul searching. There was a moment of memory and poignancy when we voted for a new Centre. However we acknowledge that things move on and we need to think about the young people of the area who will use the Centre in the future.

It was also agreed that the Campaign Group would look at the possibility of raising funds to add to the development and to sustain the future costs of running the Centre.

Yours sincerely  
**Cris Claridge**

## Response to Cris Claridge



Dear Chris

Thank you for your letter of 14th November. I was delighted to come and speak to the Nunhead Community Forum and felt it was a very productive meeting. It was useful for me to re-affirm the commitment that the Council has to all communities in Southwark - including Nunhead - as well as giving me the opportunity to do some scene-setting in relation to the Council's Budget and Capital Programme. I enjoyed the discussions on the various options and welcomed the decisive vote to support a new Community Centre which will be purpose-built and easier to maintain into the future. I can confirm that I have made a capital provision, within the "refresh" of the Council Capital Programme, for the building of a new purpose-built Community Centre on Nunhead Green. I have now obtained the two design boards from the officers and will make these available via Councillor Colley.

The "refresh" will come to and be approved by the Council's Executive Committee in January and myself and officers within my Property Team will liaise with the Campaign Group and local people on the detailed design. We welcome the Campaign Group's aspirations to raise additional funds to enhance the scheme and provide for the ongoing sustainability. Thank you

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Tim McNally**  
**Executive Member for Resources**



## German Honey Spice Cookies



### Why not make some festive biscuits with the children on a cold, wet afternoon?

These delicious, spicy cookies can be made into edible Christmas decorations by cutting the shortbread-like dough into tree, star or bell shapes. After baking, decorate with ready-made icing pens, silver balls and thread with ribbons for hanging, if liked. They can be made up to month before Christmas, then frozen and decorated later.

#### Ingredients:

150g plain flour  
1tsp ground cinnamon  
1/4 tsp ground ginger  
1/4 tsp mixed spice  
85g unsalted butter  
3 tbsp clear honey

Baking sheets and biscuit cutters

Put the flour, cinnamon, ginger and mixed spice in a food processor. Add the butter and process until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the honey and process again until it comes together to make a soft dough.

Remove the dough from the processor, wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for thirty minutes, or until firm.

Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the dough to about 5mm thick. Cut out shapes using biscuit cutters. If making as Christmas decorations, use a cocktail stick to pierce a hole at the top of each shape large enough to thread a thin ribbon through it.

Arrange the shapes on the baking sheets and chill in the fridge for 10 minutes.

Bake in a preheated oven at 180 degrees C for ten minutes or until golden brown.

Leave the cookies plain or decorate with ready-made icing pens and silver balls, leave to set.



## What's happening in and around Nunhead

### IVY HOUSE

Stuart Road SE15 3BE

Try our home-made mulled wine, real ale and fine selection of lagers next to our open fire. Disco from 8pm 'til late. Free buffet. It's the place to be on **CHRISTMAS EVE – THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2009**.

### NUNHEAD LIBRARY

Gordon Road SE15 3RW

Meeting Club – knitting and chatting: Participants range from 18 to 83. Every Thursday from 2 – 4pm

### Baby/Toddler Club

For mums & dads with children under 5 years to meet and talk while their children play. Every Monday 10.30am – 12pm

### Teenage Reading Group

An opportunity to discuss books they have read and any other topic of interest. First Thursday of the month 5.30 – 6.30pm

### Chatter Books

For younger children to talk about books and to take part in quizzes. Last Thursday of the month 6.30 – 7.30pm

### THE OLD NUN'S HEAD

15 Nunhead Green SE15 3QQ

Easycome night – casual jamming session for all.

Wednesdays 8-11pm (£4/£2)

## New Business

### La Costa Smeralda Ristorante Pizzeria Italiana

A little bit of Italy comes to Nunhead in the form of newly opened restaurant *La Costa Smeralda*. The newest Nunhead eatery on the site of the former Page Two bar at 57 Nunhead Lane offers a good array of Italian and Sardinian cuisine in a relaxed and authentic atmosphere. Buon appetito!

57 Nunhead Lane SE15 3TR

Tel. 020 7732 9355

# Contacts, local groups & finally

## **NUNHEAD COMMUNITY FORUM**

### ENVIRONMENT

Shirley Sears – spitfire1481@googlemail.com

### OLDER PEOPLE & NUNHEAD AREA RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Cris Claridge 020 7639 8496 - cris.claridge2@btinternet.com

### NUNHEAD GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Ian Ritchie – 0207 639 8496 - Mobile phone after 5pm 07908 790867  
ian.ritchie2@btinternet.com

### NUNHEAD VOICE

Colin Weatherup – colinweatherup@yahoo.co.uk  
or 85 Brayards Road, London SE15 2BQ  
For details of these meetings please contact Cris Claridge on 020 7639 8496.

## **NUNHEAD RESIDENTS AND TENANTS ASSOCIATION**

Next meeting **28 January 2010** - all welcome.

## **FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

Committee meetings are held at 7.45 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, (except August)

**Venue:** Function Room of the Old Nun's Head pub, Nunhead Green, SE15.

www.fonc.org.uk

## **FRIENDS OF PECKHAM RYE PARK**

If you would like to contact them on any issues please email FOPRP@aol.com - Alternatively, you can write to them at FOPRP, P.O. Box 57803, London, SE23 3NY

*Merry Christmas and  
a Happy 2010 from the  
Nunhead Community Forum*

## **Fire in Peckham - latest updates**

*Information from Southwark's website, which is correct at the time this has gone to print.*

### **Donation of items closed**

Southwark Council would like to express its sincere thanks to all those who contributed their time and gifts. These gifts have been sent to Bells Gardens community centre, where tenants' representatives have given up their time to distribute them to people.

We now have more than enough items and we are no longer taking donations of goods and gifts.

Cash donations are not necessary, but are still welcome if people would like to support those affected.

If you would like to make a donation you can pay by cash or cheque in person at one stop shops, not by post. All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Southwark Council and crossed. Addresses are:

### **Peckham Cash Office**

19-23 Bournemouth Road, Peckham, London SE15 4UJ (cash, cheque and debit card)

### **Walworth Cash Office**

177-179 Walworth Road, Walworth, London SE17 1RW (cash, cheque and debit card)

### **Peckham One Stop Shop**

Ground Floor, Peckham Library, 122 Peckham Hill Street, Peckham, London SE15 5JR  
(cash and cheque)

### **Walworth One Stop Shop**

Wansey Street, Walworth, London SE17 1OY  
(cash and cheque)

### **Bermondsey One Stop Shop**

17 Spa Road, Bermondsey, London SE16 3QN  
(cash and cheque)