

## Slade Green Schools - Decision awaited

*Julia Walsh from Bexley Council writes:*

London Borough of Bexley and Haberdashers' Aske's Federation are still waiting to hear back from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families over proposals to bring the Slade Green Infant and Junior Schools together and to make them part of the Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy. It is unlikely that there will now be a decision from the Secretary of State until after the General Election.

If the Secretary of State agrees the proposals can be taken forward, there will be a full consultation process with school governors, staff, parents and the local community.

If following that consultation the merger goes ahead, London Borough of Bexley would provide new buildings for the schools, some of which could be used by the wider community.

## Do you run a local group?

The Forum is planning a Public Meeting to allow local groups who provide a community activity or service to let each other and the community know what they are doing and what future plans they have. (This will be held in July unless the schools issue - above - gets to the stage of needing a public consultation by then).

Please contact the Forum if your group would like to be represented - contact details inside, bottom of the page. Your participation can be a short talk about your plans, a demonstration or a display, and if you wish we can give you some space on [www.sladegreen.org](http://www.sladegreen.org) too.

## Children's events at Slade Green Library

CHILDREN aged seven to 11 can learn how to make paper at Slade Green Library's Chatterbooks meeting on Saturday 15 May 2010. Call 0208 303 7777 for session times and more details.

UNDER 7s are invited to join in Slade Green Library's half term story and craft event on Wednesday 2 June 2010. The fun gets under way at 2.30pm.

*Slade Green Library can be found in the Howbury Centre on Slade Green Road (entrance nearly opposite Bridge Road).*

# Around the Green

The Newsletter of the Slade Green Forum  
Spring 2010



## Howbury site future

Have you had your say on the future provision of community facilities in Slade Green?

Residents have until 30 April 2010 to tell the Council what they think of the suggested plans for the Howbury Centre site.

Leaflets feeding back the results of the previous consultation on community provision were delivered to homes in North End ward with the March issue of the Bexley Magazine.

The leaflets also contain a questionnaire asking residents if they agree with the feedback and the facilities that the Council thinks it could provide in a new community building.

The questionnaire can also be completed online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/Sladegreencommunityfacilities](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Sladegreencommunityfacilities) with copies of the feedback leaflet available on [www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyfirst](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyfirst).

It's intended that a purpose-built community building would replace the Howbury Centre, which is currently housed in ageing buildings that are costly to maintain.

The buildings also currently house Council offices, which are unlikely to be needed beyond 2015.

Suggested facilities inside the new community building include a new library, dedicated youth space and a learndirect and adult education space. Outdoor facilities include two multi-use games areas and a street gym.

The new community facilities are part of a larger regeneration plan for the Howbury site, which will see new and affordable homes built.

*~ Julia Walsh, Bexley Council*

The Forum will hold a meeting on 29th April at 7.30 pm at Slade Green Christian Fellowship (corner of Elm Road and Slade Green Road) at which you can also have your say about the consultation, and at which you can also complete a consultation form.

## Slade Green Remembers Dance 17 April 2010

The dance was held as a fundraiser for the Commemorative Plaque Appeal to honour the volunteers who on that same evening in 1941, fought a fire in the Slade Green railway yard that had the potential to destroy several homes. The fire was started during an air raid with incendiary bombs igniting six wagons close to the station containing anti-aircraft shells and naval depth charges and it is our intention to ensure that the heroics and the tragedy are remembered by the community.

The dance this year was something special, in that a live eighteen piece big band playing many Glen Miller favourites and was held in the Slade Green Community Centre. It attracted approximately 150 people, some in 40's dress and helped push the fund to just under £1170. However to do the men and their families justice we'd like at least a further £2500. To raise this amount will not be easy, especially in one year, and the organising committee working on behalf of the Slade Green Forum are already making plans for further fundraising activities. Appeals will be going out to the local business community as well applications for grants.

Next year is the big year, it will be the 70th anniversary of the air raid and we'd like the plaque to be up and ready by then. If we don't reach our target a far more modest plaque will have to go up and perhaps reduced celebrations on the day.

In addition to the money we also urgently need reliable information regarding what took place that night. So far the information received has been enthusiastic but sketchy, particularly about a second event that occurred in North End sidings where volunteers drove a train with burning wagons to where the fire could be put out under a water pump. It is a good story and one that Slade Green residents can be proud of. The Forum's contact details are below.

If you'd like to donate to the remembrance plaque, donations can be sent to the Forum at the address below or to 101 Lincoln Road, 20 Hilden Drive or 8 Forest Road. Any cheques should be payable to Slade Green Community Forum, and please include a note of your name (or company) if you want to be included in the list of donors associated with next years events (donations can also be made in memory of a loved on - just say 'In memory of ... [their name]' on any note to us).

*'Around the Green' is published by Slade Green Community Forum, registered charity 1097246, and sponsored by Bexley Council. Temporary contact for the Forum - tel.. 07968 288212 (checked weekly) - our normal 'phone is (still) out of action - or email [info@sladegreen.org](mailto:info@sladegreen.org). Postal address 12 Plantation Road, Slade Green, Kent. DA8 2JB.*

## North End Children's Centre Outreach

North End Children's Centre will be introducing a new Young Parents Group at Orchard House in the Residents Lounge, which they will run together with Orbit Housing. The group will meet for the first time on Tuesday 27 April from 1 - 2.30pm.

Also at Orchard House, every Wednesday from 1 - 2.30 pm they have the very popular **Coffee, Stay & Play** group for parents and carers with children aged 0-4. There is a baby play area and for the older children aged 2 - 4, starting on Wednesday 28 April, there will be Stories & Rhymes with Margot, with lots of activities such as arts and crafts and singing!

The Children's Centre also support the "Little Treasures" Baby & Toddler Group - who meet every Tuesday and Friday 10.30am-12.30pm (term time only) at Slade Green Christian Fellowship Church Hall, Elm Road entrance, Slade Green. Contact Janet McLaren on 01322 345683 for more

## Community Events

Friday 25th June - 'Safety Day' event at Slade Green Christian Fellowship (corner of Elm Road and Slade Green Road.)

Friday 30th July - Community Fun Day on Whitehall Lane Open Space.

Check on [www.sladegreen.org](http://www.sladegreen.org) for more details closer to the above dates.

### **Slade Green Community Forum General Meeting**

Thursday 29th April 2010,

registration from 7.30pm

at Slade Green Christian Fellowship  
(corner of Elm Road and Slade Green Road).

#### **Agenda**

1. Explanation of Howbury site consultation document
2. Group discussion(s) about Howbury Centre site & community facilities in Slade Green.

*Forum membership is open to all residents of North End ward aged 16+ and teachers in local schools.*