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Village voices reflect on parks' past

RECORDINGS of local people's memories, plus historical documents, photographs, and artefacts all feature in a new exhibition at Greenwich Heritage Centre.

It's all about Charlton's six parks and green spaces that enhance the Green Chain Walk as it passes through the borough from Shooters Hill to the banks of the Thames at Charlton.

The exhibition and a specially-launched website at www.charltonparks.co.uk both feature 12 months' work including more than 60 interviews recorded by 20 volunteers trained in audio recording. The volunteers included both adults and Year 10 and 11 pupils from The John Roan School and pupils from Charlton Manor, Cherry Orchard, Thorntree, Sherington and Woodhill primary schools.

Artefacts on show include a collection of local postcards dating back to the 1890s, and the minute books of the old Charlton Park Bowls Club which began in 1939 and closed down in 1990. On the website, there are dozens of photos, both historical and taken for the project and there's a special 'contributors' button so people can load new stories or photographs.

It's been organised by the Charlton Parks Reminiscence Project Steering Group, and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Sir Shane Hugh Maryon, with support from the borough's parks department, the Firepower museum and the Greenwich Heritage Centre.

Project director Carol Kenna said: "This exhibition is all about people's history, and it gives them a sense of place about where they live, and encourages them to remember their own history, look back on it positively and have respect for it."

The exhibition is open from Tuesday to Saturday each week, from 9am-5pm at Greenwich Heritage Centre until Saturday September 28

Visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/heritagecentre

SCENE

THE X-Factor is hard to come by, but Greenwich-based boy band, Plastic think they have what it takes as they bring the fun-factor to this year's show.



Judge Nicole Scherzinger is said to be in love with the Greenwich group and the former Pussycat Dolls singer is a big fan of their dance background.

Professional dancers Sam Morris, 22, and 21-year-old Lulu Smith met while dancing together, the two have also appeared in music videos. Sam even featured in X-Factor success story, Olly Murs' video for Dance With Me Tonight. The duo began singing together and later recruited third-member and fellow dancer Tom Davies, 22, from Surrey.

Sam, Tom and Lulu can confirm that they have made it through to this year's boot camp stage and will be mentored by one of the UK's biggest names in music, Gary Barlow.

"At first we were worried Gary wouldn't get us because in the past he hasn't really liked 'out there' characters, but we won him over quite quickly," explained Lulu.

Sam added: "Gary is from Take That so his background is from being in a band and he is one of the greatest songwriters the UK has ever produced so for us, as songwriters, we were so over the moon that he was looking out for the groups because his background is great and we take that seriously."

The group live together near Elverson Road and Greenwich Park has been home to the group's rehearsals over the last year.

Highs and lows of the Thames trading pool

PICTURE PERFECT: his life working on the river still provides inspiration for much of Terry's work



FORMER Docklands worker and renowned painter and novelist, Terry Scales unearths the inside story of the demise of the Thames trading pool in an illustrated talk next week.

For generations the River Thames was bustling with activity as an assortment of cargo ships transported and traded goods, providing a living to docklands workers who handled the cargo.

Former tutor of 30 years at Camberwell School of Art, Terry worked as a stevedore between 1955-1960 in the once mighty Surrey Docks and has had a fascination with the

Thames for years, inspiring his work as an artist.

Now audiences are invited to attend an illustrated talk with Terry on 'The Rise and Fall of the Pool of London'. The talk will look at a multitude of factors including the introduction of container trade, small coaster trade, the introduction of the workers union and economical reasons, thought to have contributed to the decline of what was once the greatest port in the world.

Terry said: "There is a misconception surrounding the fall of the Thames Pool with many believing container

trade was to blame for the collapse. I know from my own inside experiences the real reasons why trading dried up and cover the many issues in a story that takes you from Butlers Wharf to the Greenwich peninsula."

The talk will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions and purchase signed prints depicting the last working wharves before developers moved in.

The talk takes place on **Tues Sept 17 at 7:30pm at the Age Exchange, Reminiscence Centre, Blackheath Village**
Tel: 020 8318 9105.

Fun boy three

"It is so artistic and beautiful it's inspiring. We are always rehearsing in Greenwich Park it is where we go most to sing our hearts out and dance our lives away. At the top of the hill you can see the O2 arena, we go there and think, that is what the goal is and this is where we are now, it is so beautiful," explained Tom, a former scholar at The BRIT School.

With neon coloured hair and an equally eye-catching dress sense, Plastic confess they are not your everyday boy band and want to break existing industry moulds, bringing back the fun entertainment value of 90s music with their brand of electropop with a hip-hop influence.

The trio have already been compared to last year's diva Rylan Clark. "It is cool to be compared with Rylan, he has done very well off the back of the X-Factor, but we are a bit different, we're a group and we're songwriters," said Tom.

Sam told GT: "We can't really compare ourselves to anyone else but if we had to, I would say we are like the male version of Stooshie. I think not musically, but they have that outlandish persona and image and lyrically we are similar. We also take influences from existing artists like Lady Gaga and 90s artists, particularly the Spice Girls."

The X-Factor Live will be coming to the O2 Arena on March 21 next year. Details at www.theo2.co.uk



THROUGH TO THE THIRD ROUND: the trio are hoping to bring the fun factor into the contest

Simon Banks meets Greenwich boy band Plastic as they prepare for X-Factor bootcamp with Gary Barlow

WHAT'S ON

To enter a listing email
journ.simonbanks@gmail.com

THE LORD HOOD PUB, GREENWICH
English Folk Nights. **Tues Sept 10.**
Traditional folk music and food spread for visitors.
9pm. FREE. 020 8858 1836

OLIVER'S MUSIC BAR
JAZZ Jam Sessions live. **Wed Sept 11.**
A night of Jazz and live music at Oliver's, Nevada Street. **9pm. £5. www.oliversjazzbar.co.uk**

PELTON ARMS PUB, GREENWICH
The Icarus Club. **Thurs Sept 19**
Acoustic music played for, and by, locals.
8pm. FREE. 020 8858 0572

CHARLTON HOUSE
Royal Academy Of Music Presents. **Fri Sept 13.**
A lunchtime concert featuring flute and piano renditions. **1pm. FREE. 020 8856 3951**

GREENWICH PARK
Site-Specific Writing Workshop. **Sat Sept 14**
Try your hand at writing inspired by a specific location. **2:30 - 5pm. £10/15. 07759 177 385**

UP THE CREEK - COMEDY CLUB
BBC Radio 2 New Comedy Awards 2013. **Tues Sept 17 and Wed 18.** Recording heats 7 and 8 of new comedy awards 2013.
Doors open 7pm. £7. www.up-the-creek.com

THE PAVILLION, PLUMSTEAD
Comedy on the Common. **Sat Sept 28.**
Live comedy night featuring Dave Thompson and Phil Reid. **8.15pm. £8. 078 6060 9796**

WOOLWICH GRAND THEATRE
The Hellfreaks in concert. **Sat Sept 14.**
Live Horrorpunk band from Berlin play local gig.
Doors open at 7pm. £8-10. www.thewoolwichgrandtheatre.com

CLOCKHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE
Woolwich Singers Community Choir. **Every Wed.**
Join a happy choir singing a mixture of popular songs, something for everyone.
6.30pm - 8, £2 inc refreshments. 07812 477 775

VANBRUGH TAVERN
Open Mic Night - Something For Sunday, **Sun Sept 15.** A night of music from local talent
7pm. FREE. 0208 305 1007



OXLEAS WOOD, SHOOTERS HILL
Roost - Outdoor theatre production.
Tues Sept 10 - Sun 15.
8:30pm-9:30pm

AUDIENCES are invited into the heart of the show this week as an outdoor theatre production opens in Oxleas Wood. The frame of a ramshackle house has been built especially for the show in the middle of the wood and audiences can sit in on the action, literally. 'Roost' is a physical and interactive comedy show, brought to you from Gomit Theatre Productions, about the lives of two couples who have unknowingly moved into the same

house as they try to build their dream. Twists and turns ensue as beautifully written music aids the story-telling. "Audiences can expect a surprising, lovely, funny and absurd family comedy that is very cleverly written and entertaining," says company manager, Alice Carter. There will be food and drink available to purchase at the shows and audiences are encouraged to bring rugs or cushions along for additional comfort. Roost is showing in Oxleas Wood near the café from 8:30pm-9:30. Tickets are priced between £10-15 for more information visit www.gomitproductions.co.uk