

Winners of GT wedding competition unveiled

It's a date!

by Simon Banks

A LOVED-UP couple are getting the wedding of their dreams after winning a competition in Greenwich Time.

Luiz Demenicis and fiancé Lydia Wharf won the prize of a wedding at Charlton House on Valentine's Day next year.

GT was inundated with entries from love birds explaining in 300 words why they should be the chosen ones.

Lydia wrote how she met Luiz in Brazil seven years ago, and that her children call Charlton House the 'magical castle at the top of our road'.

Lydia said: "I always read Greenwich Time and I saw the competition. Charlton House is a really beautiful place and really stylish - it's perfect."

The couple have daughters Paloma, aged four and Gisele, three.

"I entered the competition as I wanted us to get married for a long time but because of the girls it couldn't be the highest thing on our list. I'm really looking forward to it," said Lydia.

● **More info on Charlton House and its events at: www.charlton-house.org**

Whale of a time at library

PHILIP Hoare, author of *Leviathan* and winner of the Samuel Johnson prize visited West Greenwich Library last Tuesday night to talk about his new book 'The Sea Inside'. The author, who has a lifelong interest in whales, took his audience on a journey looking at different species of whales. They learnt about the songs of the Humpback Whale being like 'Top of the Pops', the plight of the Orca Whale, the origins of the Sperm Whale and the history of the Blue Whale.

The library is also displaying images of the Tide and Time - Great Greenwich Whale programme. There are pictures of the beached whale that was on display at the Old Royal Naval College, poet-in-residence Lemn Sissay and authors Sally Grindley and Philip Hoare. In addition, Lemn Sissay's poem 'Whale Translation' has been recorded by Lemn and is being played through a sound shower in the library.

Foster support

FOSTERING advisers are visiting community and faith groups to help raise awareness about private fostering. They aim to reach people who are looking after someone else's child in a private arrangement - whether they are a relative or close friend. Private foster carers have a responsibility to inform Children's Services at least six weeks before they start to care for someone's child. They could also be entitled to advice and support from the royal borough.

● Details on 020 8921 3172 from 9am to 5pm, Mon-Fri or visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/fostering



VOCU dismantle drug gang

From Page 1 C

wipes were among signs left behind by the drug dealers and users.

The 15 were arrested as part of a London-wide operation last September and were all charged with conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin.

Last Friday seven men were jailed for a total of 30 years while seven juveniles received Youth Referral Orders between 12 and 18 months. Another juvenile will be sentenced at a later date.

The court heard how the young people were sent out on the streets to face the risk of conflict with rival dealers, or arrest, while gang leaders remained in the background directing operations.

DCI Mike Balcombe said: "We continue to work tirelessly, together with Greenwich Council, to ensure that we divert young people involved in drug dealing away from it. We have a wide support network that allows us to remove young people from criminality whilst offering them a chance to start again".

Councillor Chris Roberts, leader of the royal borough said: "Many congratulations to all those involved in bringing about

these very significant convictions. They are the result of many months of hard work, professionalism and a clear determination to dismantle serious and violent criminal activity where it exists in our communities. We can be confident that these convictions will have made a serious dent in criminal activity across Greenwich."

The royal borough has provided £2.7million in funding for the VOCU since 2008, which has contributed to major falls in serious and violence crimes at a greater rate than in London as a whole.

So far this year, the dedicated unit has recovered £17,000 from criminals together with a large amount of class A and B drugs amounting to a total street value of over £700,000.

The unit has also made a total of 301 arrests in 2012/2013, with 182 suspects charged.

Cllr Roberts added: "We can be proud that the royal borough's decision to fund the VOCU team has helped bring about many hundreds of arrests, successful court convictions and taken many criminals, weapons and large quantities of illegal drugs off our streets."

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Marking Dickie's sacrifice

A MEMORIAL commemorating the life of a Battle of Britain hero was unveiled last week on Blackheath.

The stone monument was erected at The Point, a small park just off Blackheath Hill, where Flight Lieutenant Richard 'Dickie' Reynell's plane crashed during an assault by the German Luftwaffe on September 7 1940.

The Australian pilot was attacking a formation of Nazi bombers when he was caught in a hail of enemy bullets.

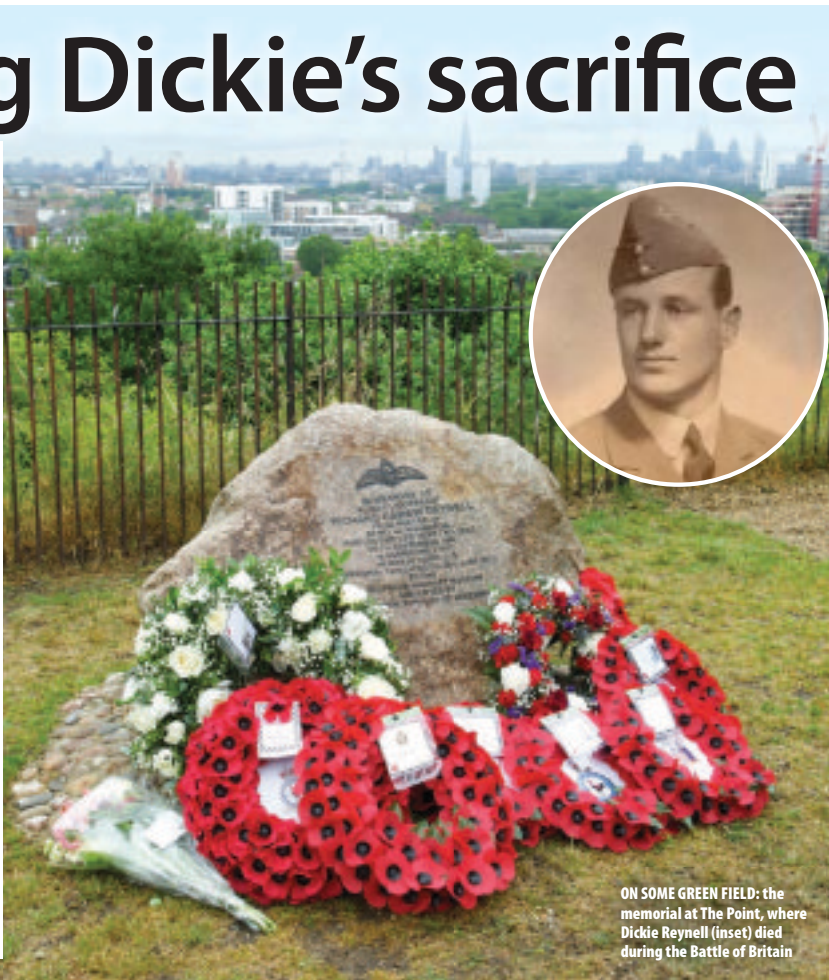
He bailed out but his parachute never opened, and he was found dead 100 yards from the flaming wreckage of his Hawker Hurricane. He was just 28 years old.

A minute's silence was marked at the ceremony on June 28, and a solitary bugler blew the Last Post.

Reynell's great nephew, David Caillard, a retired RAF vice marshal was in attendance with his wife, Margaret-Ann, alongside army cadets from Woolwich and Mayor of Greenwich, Cllr Angela Cornforth.

Blackheath child of WW2, Alan Lee Williams - who penned the memoir *A Couple of Duffers Go To War* - was also present.

The engraved stone is part of the Shoreham Aircraft Museum's RAF memorials project to honour fallen Battle of Britain pilots within a 10-mile radius of its Kent HQ.



ON SOME GREEN FIELD: the memorial at The Point, where Dickie Reynell (inset) died during the Battle of Britain



DR Tayo Adeyemi, 48, died after a short illness on June 30

Passing of church leader

THE founder of the New Wine Church, Dr Tayo Adeyemi has died.

Dr Adeyemi, a borough dean, passed away on June 30 after a brief illness. He was 48 years old. The former medical doctor set up the church in 1993, and built the congregation to more than 5,000.

He went on trips to Papua New Guinea, South Africa and India, where he founded a leper colony and supported 55 families.

He provided support to disaster relief efforts to victims of the Asian tsunami, the earthquake in Pakistan and in Haiti.

Pastor Michael Olawore, from the New Wine Church said: "We mourn the loss of Dr Tayo Adeyemi, an inspirational and irreplaceable leader, loving husband, father and friend.

However we celebrate the impact of his life, work and are challenged to follow his example of dedication, courage, humility and unforgettable servanthood. Our prayers are for his wife, three sons and the family of New Wine Church."

Details of the funeral are yet to be announced.

6-a-side league starting Monday 29th July 2013

The Summer Greenwich Invitational 2013

Prizes up for grabs include:
Mini Ipad, Tickets to watch CAFC, JD Sports Vouchers

Please register your team, by Friday 26th July, at www.young-greenwich.org.uk/events/greenwichinvitational

All teams must be pre-registered, no teams will be allowed to register on the day

Venues:
Thameswood FC - Mon 4pm-8pm
Samuel Montagu Youth Club - Tues 4pm-8pm
Charlton Park - Weds 4-8pm
St Pauls Academy - Sat 4pm-8pm

The tournament is FREE of charge
and open to 10-19 year olds

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