

# Just Beer-illiant

## SCENE

**GREENWICH** Gallery, normally associated with photographic displays, broke a 10-year tradition to host Nilla Beer's Modern Mythmaker exhibition, her latest, exciting work. Drawing upon legends such as the Satyr & Minotaur, Nilla brings these myths into the modern world combing the human figure with animals that today we hold dear to our hearts as pets.

The opening was officiated by Royal Borough of Greenwich Mayor Angela Cornforth, a long time fan of Nilla's, commenting that "for too long fantastic artistic talent has laid hidden in the cellars of the Royal Borough of Greenwich and it's our responsibility to bring it into the light". The Mayor was also deeply disappointed upon finding that the two paintings that she favoured most were already sold, not bad for the exhibition's first day.

Using her method of 'Human Clay' Nilla literally sculpts the paint onto the canvas, shaping and texturing the contours of her subject and breathing life into a static display that seems to draw the viewer in and never let them go.

The exhibition is on until Sunday September 29 and is a must for those who favour local talent. Nilla lectures at the University of Greenwich, and takes delight in being humoured, even sometimes a little disturbed, by this feast for the eye.

*Greenwich Gallery, Linear House, Peyton Place, London SE10 8RS, open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 12 to 4pm*

**'HUMAN CLAY':** Nilla's unique methods make for impressive results

**Local artist Nilla Beer brings her latest work to the Greenwich Gallery...**



**JACK DEE:** The Bromley-born comedian headlined

## Jack Dee-lights

A LAUGH out loud night of stand up featuring some of televisions best-known faces on the comedy circuit, featured at Up The Creek, Greenwich for a Charity Special show.

It was a sell out night at The Creek, and for just a fiver you can understand why. The intimate show featured the likes of Jack Dee (Lead Balloon, Shooting Stars) and Jack Whitehall (Fresh Meat, Bad Education).

Stealing the show though was local lad, Rob Beckett. The south east London-born comedian had the audience roaring with laughter at his gags about his colourful upbringing as part of a big family. Combined with his high-tempo, charismatic style, Rob showed why critics were identifying him as one of the best new talents on the circuit.

Josh Widdicombe (Stand Up For The Week, 8 Out Of 10 Cats) opened the show with his brand of hilarious observational comedy. Fellow blonde-haired comedian, Sean Walsh took the stage after Widdicombe in what was a loud and in-your-face set that was met with real applause from the younger audience.

Romesh Ranganathan then took the mic for what was a humorous cynical look at family life. Jack Whitehall was tasked with closing the first half of the seven-act show before the interval and did so in style. His trademark energetic and charismatic comedy has seen him quickly become one of the country's most successful young comedians.

Beckett warmed up the stage after the break for headline acts Jack Dee and Terry Alderton. Bromley-born comedian, Jack did what he does best and had the audience hanging on his every word awaiting the excellently executed punch-lines to his grumpy story-telling.

Closing the show, and a million miles away on the comedy spectrum to the brand of Jack Dee, was Terry Alderton. Terry's performance was an eccentric, adrenaline-fuelled spectacle. The comedian and television presenter from Essex, utilised music and the front row of spectators in his physical performance.

The show was endlessly funny and a big success for the venue on Creek Road, Greenwich, which hosted the event to raise money for the Ian Makardo High School in Bromley.

9/10

Simon Banks

For more information and bookings visit [www.up-the-creek.com](http://www.up-the-creek.com)

## Photo history of the heath

**THE BLACKHEATH** Society will be celebrating a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund with a special exhibition on the story of the heath.

It'll be held in the last week of the month in Blackheath Halls entitled the Story of the Heath.

The exhibits, drawn from the society's extensive photographic archive, will cover different themes involving the heath over the ages.

A time line, ending with the 21st century, will run round the displays bringing some of the

historical events on the heath to life.

Local schools have been involved in the project and juniors at Blackheath High, John Ball and St Margaret's primary schools have carried out their own research projects with some of their material featured in the exhibition.

It was due to start yesterday (Monday September 23) with a preview for teachers from the schools. Then the public can visit from today until the exhibition closes at 5pm on Sunday September 29. Entry is free.

Last November the society won a £7,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a new digital archive called The Story of the Heath. A team of volunteers has been digitising 1,500 images of the heath from its total archive of 15,000 images and maps.

The exhibition is just one way of making the photographs accessible to the public and a dedicated archive website is also being

launched so people can browse all the images of the heath.

Also planned for the autumn is a new guide about heath walks called Walking the Heath – an introduction to its history compiled by local historian Neil Rhind and society committee member Roger Marshall.

The 86-page fully illustrated publication covers more than 1,000 years of recorded history of the heath.

Society member John Bartram said: "We hope to create mobile exhibitions of the images of the heath to be shown in local schools and churches and at the library in the newly re-opened Age Exchange centre in the village. Winning the heritage grant brought the society's 75th anniversary year to a fitting end."

For more information on the event visit [www.blackheath.org](http://www.blackheath.org) or call 020 8297 1937.



**HISTORY LESSON:** A very different Blackheath Village