

Borough BRIEFS

Circus themed book challenge

Roll up! roll up! Children aged four - 12 are in for a circus treat as part of this year's Summer Reading Challenge at borough libraries. The theme of this summer's reading challenge is 'Circus Stars' and youngsters stand to receive circus themed stickers and cards for making the most of books at their local libraries. Borrow and read six library books of your own choice during the summer holidays, and they can receive five Circus Munglers Trump cards and Circus Stars stickers after each one. When they've finished reading their sixth book, they'll receive a certificate and a medal. Local libraries are also hosting a range of activities and craft events throughout the summer. Details are on posters in your local library or ask your friendly library staff how you can get involved.

- To find out more also visit www.circusstars.org.uk

Time to renew tax credits

THE DEADLINE to renew tax credits passed on Sunday July 31 - but it's not too late if you act now. That's the message from Greenwich Council, which has been helping residents to renew their claims before last Sunday's deadline. Even if you missed the deadline, you can still get help by ringing the Tax Credits Helpline on 0845 300 3900 to renew your claim (0845 300 3909 for textphone users). The helpline is open from 8am to 8pm and the best times to get through more quickly are at the beginning and end of the day. To renew your claim you need to check that the information used to work out last year's award was correct. You must also tell them about any changes to your personal situation and your current income.

- Contact the council's Welfare Rights Service on 020 8921 6375 (or 18001 020 8921 6375 for textphone users) if you would like advice about your situation.

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for
TGB

Help cut council costs by recycling

HELP the council to reduce costs by recycling as much as you can. That's the message at the heart of the borough's GreenBlueBlack campaign. Thirty-five per cent of an average Greenwich bin contains garden and food waste that could be composted while 42 per cent of the bin contains materials such as glass, paper and plastic which could be recycled. Green top bins should contain food waste (such as cooked and uncooked food including fruit, veg, rice pasta, bread, teabags and coffee grounds as well as plate scrapings). All plastic packaging must be removed from food products as it is not compostable. Garden waste such as grass cuttings, leaves, weeds and flowers can also go into the Green top bin. The Blue top bins can take mixed dry recycling such as cans, cardboard, paper, glass and plastic. Food waste and nappies should not be put in Blue top bin as they cause problems at the recycling facility. If it

helps, residents can keep it simple by just recycling their newspapers, glass bottles and jars as every little helps! Nappies, sanitary wear, polystyrene, pet waste, vacuum bag contents and other household waste not suitable for the Green & Blue tops can go in the Black top bins. Residents are reminded that their Green, Blue and Black bins are

emptied weekly. Textiles can be taken to a local recycling bank or collected free as part of the bulky collections service.

- Find out more about the council's waste and recycling services at www.greenwich.gov.uk/recycling, email contact-centre@greenwich.gov.uk or call 020 8921 4661.

August Bank Holiday recycling collections

Usual collections dates	Holiday collection dates
Monday August 29	Tuesday August 30
Tuesday August 30	Wednesday August 31
Wednesday August 31	Thursday September 1
Thursday September 1	Friday September 2
Friday September 2	Saturday September 3

Golden pond

Park Friends lead waterway restoration

A MUCH-LOVED park pond is set for a facelift thanks to the efforts of a park friends group.

The Friends of Eaglesfield Park have secured £50,000 from the Community Spaces Programme, which is part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces initiative. It's also secured additional funding from Greenwich Council to restore the old Lilly pond and make other improvements to Eaglesfield Park, Shooters Hill.

The friends have made it a priority to restore the pond when they formed in 2005 and they got the views of more than 200 residents and park users as part of a local consultation in 2009.

Now work is set to start on a makeover of the pond next month after they won Big Lottery funding back in June.

Plans include clearing large willow trees around the sides of the pond to increase light and reduce leaf fall into the water. The felled trees will be chipped on site and used on park flowerbeds and for log piles for insects to live in.

Once silt has been removed, the pond will be lined with a Geosynthetic Clay Liner' to keep it watertight while pipes that connect the pond to the water main will be replaced. The pond which is approximately 25m x 24m and will be designed to a depth of 1m when completed.

The makeover will also include a new pond dipping platform, a wildlife garden

by Hilary Bryan



and an outdoor study area for schools and youth groups.

The chair of the Friends of Eaglesfield Park, Bridget Imeson said: "Work to restore the pond will be completed by the autumn when it will once again become a valuable asset for the local community, providing a focal point to the park where visitors to enjoy the water feature and the wildlife it will attract."

Additional works at the park will include new paths and signs funded by Greenwich Council. The council will also be consulting residents on design proposals for a trim trail in Eaglesfield Park.

The Friends group is working closely with the council to establish a management plan for the pond and wildlife area and to recruit volunteers and park users who can help with planting, guided walks and talks, pond dipping and raising awareness.

- To find out more about the Friends of Eaglesfield Park, become a member or get involved email: foepse18@hotmail.com or visit www.foep.org.uk



POND LIFE: the beautyspot in Eaglesfield Park and left, the lilly pond as it was around World War I

