

Putting
Parents at
the Heart
of Waterloo

Waterloo Parents & Carers Network

Www.waterlooparents.net

Winter 2007

Special Dates
for your diary

- 7th DECEMBER 2007—Waterloo Parents and Carers /Coin St Parents Meet Up
- 8th December 2007. Archbishops Park Christmas

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Waterloo Children perform 'Mermaid Rap' for the Queen

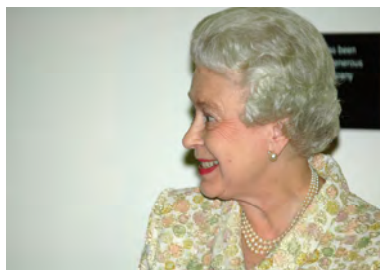


‘Please to greet you Ma’ a m ...’ were the first words J o s h u a Panda spoke

to the Queen when he was asked to introduce a group of Waterloo parents and children performing at the Royal Festival Hall.

The children were all members of Poetry Explorers, an after school club at the Royal Festival Hall Poetry Library. They were asked to perform for the Queen as part of the opening for a new Learning and Participation Centre called the Spirit Level below the Ball Room.

Children aged five and six performed the ‘Mermaid Rap’ with their mums and dads, Joshua who was the oldest at eleven was picked out to give the Queen a mini tour of the Spirit Level. The Queen also looked at the story sacks made by the Poetry Explorers at CLPE in Webber Street



earlier in the year. All the children and parents enjoyed the performance despite some nerves. The Queen was radiant on her visit to re-open the Hall after its £115 million two-year-long refurbishment.

Pictures courtesy of South London Press

Editorial



Fran Newman
Editor

Hi!, I am Fran, your friendly local parent and editor of the WPCN Newsletter. Yes, if you are asking, I *have* used an overly flattering picture of myself, but I'm the editor and I reserve that right! - Also, I want you to all think I have perfect skin and only one eye.

Christmas is coming! and we Waterloo Parents are very excited. The last two months have been busy ones as the WPCN establishes ourselves. We have been working steadily towards securing funding and the future looks bright for 2008.

The network has now been together for some months and we are finally finding our feet and discovering who 'we' are. And it's quite simple really.. We are all Parents (with a Big P!) who want to help other local parents who feel cut off since entering the world of parenthood.

Isolation is something that all new parents experience on some level regardless of personal circumstance, but together we can create a supportive community in Waterloo that fully takes advantage of our fantastic location. What's not to love?

With this in mind we urge you all again to get involved in your local area, especially with Christmas coming it is a good time to have a look again at what is on offer.

Our next **Waterloo Parents Meet Up** will be held on **7th December**, in conjunction with Coin St and is a good opportunity to learn more about the WPCN and the new facilities at Coin Street. It will also be a chance to air your views on new proposals for the area, such as the redevelopment of Ufford Street Park. We really hope to see some new faces - the more members we have, the greater chance that that we are providing for the needs of a greater cross section of our locality.—That means You!

Living in London it is easy to lose any Christmas spirit in the crowds—so why not forget the shopping and come celebrate with the Friends of Archbishop Park who are holding their Christmas party on the 8th December.

Baby & You Group

1.30-4pm Wednesdays at the Buffer Bear Nursery.

For Parents with babies 0-18 months run by two local parents.

A chance for your baby to socialise and for you to relax with other new parents in the area.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help run the group—please email waterlooparents@hotmail.com



Cody and Bridget's top ten favourite FREE things to do on Lower Marsh

Lower Marsh is fantastic for shopping with more variety and character on offer than most of Oxford Street. It's not expensive and there are lots of great things which my six year old daughter and I enjoy for free.

These are our top ten:

- Peeking through the Thai shop window to see the kitten.
- Having mini cappuccino's in Scooter-Works.
- Sitting in Crockatt and Powell looking at the children's books.
- Hanging out in the Library.
- Spotting any left over Banksy Rats .
- Stroking the cat in Coopers.
- Looking at the Carnival display in the Health Centre's window.
- Smelling curries.
- Bumping into friends.
- Looking at model trains in the railway shop.

Keep this in mind when planning your Christmas Shopping, stay local and you will find value and free entertainment, plus no one will step on your toes. *Bridget Virden*

Update—WPCN News

The winter months have started but this has not held us back at WPCN. We have made three applications for funding to continue our activities, one of which is an application for a part time project worker to help co-ordinate the work of the WPCN.

WPCN has continued to grow and now membership is 260 families across the Waterloo



area. We have also been busy getting involved in local planning groups such as SOWF, which represents the Southbank cultural providers and have also joined the Coin Street Children's Centre Planning Group and hope to represent our members' views on the future development of the Children's Centre. To the west of Waterloo we have now also linked up with West Bermondsey Children's Centre. They have been helping us support the setting up and running of two Parent and Toddler Sessions at Mint Street Adventure Playground on a Monday and Tuesday (9.30-11.30).

Our Cinema and Theatre-tastic membership clubs have also been very busy this month (go to www.waterlooparents.net to download a Tastic membership form). We have had several free showing at the NFT, including Ratatouille. We were also given 30 tickets for Looking for JJ at the Unicorn Theatre in October. Between now and January we have available to Tastic members over 100 free tickets from the Unicorn, Young Vic and the LPO.

On the 15th November we were able to arrange a free Sound Bytes performance by three members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) at Mint Street Adventure Playground. The performance was very well attended by 60 people, including 32 children under the age of 5. We would like to thank all the Friends of the Mint volunteers for helping to run and organize the event for us.

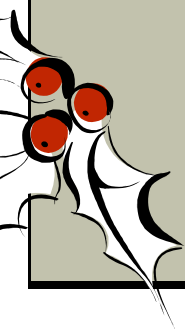
2007 DECEMBER EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Sat 1st	Sure Start Parent Toddler Group Open to all—A chance to meet local parents and children. 10am–12.30pm, Bermondsey Village Hall, Leathermarket Gardens SE1 FREE
Sun 2nd	Morley Winter Festival A winter art fair, with Family Art Workshops, music from Morley Accordions, mince pies and mulled wine for sale. 11am–4pm. Entrance Morley College Main Building FREE
Thurs 6th	Celebrate Christmas in Waterloo An evening of free festive fun including the Christmas lights switch on; live Oompha band The Bavarian Strollers, Outdoor food and drink and activities with the Children's Country Holiday Fund 5-7pm FREE
Thurs 6th	Tiny Tots at the Tate The Tate's Gardening club for parents and under 5s.10:30am–12:30pm, Tate Garden FREE
Fri 7th	WATERLOO PARENTS AND CARERS PARENTS MEET UP in association with Coin Street Children's Centre, including a Raffle with great prizes including a trip on the London Eye A chance to meet other WPCN members and find out more about what the WPCN and Coin Street do. Other local providers will also be there including the new midwife team at Coin Street, Uni4U, Friends of Archbishop Park and Friends of the Mint. FREE STORYTELLER TO ENTERTAIN THE CHILDREN AND WALKING BUS TO THE EVENT FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS. Coin St Neighbourhood Centre, Stamford Street. 4-6pm FREE
Sat 8th	Archbishop's Park Christmas Party 2-4pm Food, crafts, competitions and entertainment, ADI, FREE
Sat 8th	Farmers Market at Lower Marsh All Day Farmers Market with a Christmas Twist plus live entertainment, Lower March FREE
Sat 8th	Community Gardening at the Tate 10:30-12:30 Come and help lay the garden to rest for the winter, followed by a winter celebration at 12:30-2pm, Tate Garden, FREE
Fri 14th- Sun 16th	Bankside Frost Fair —Over 70 arts and crafts stall, ice sculptures, husky do sledge rides, street theatre, music and entertainment- Just part of this fantastic winter fair. 12 noon–6pm. Bankside—All along river between Tate and Globe FREE
Sat 15th	Stay 'n' Play Christmas Party Party games and Christmas decoration making are all part of the fun at the Coin St Stay 'n' Play Party. 2-5pm. £2 suggested donation
Thurs 20th	Hullabaloo's Christmas Party Come and see Santa! For babies and toddlers at Christ Church and Upton Chapel (opp Lambeth North Tube) 10:15-11:45am £1
Sat 22nd	7 a-side Tournament For under 10s, 11's and 13s. 10am -6pn, held at Kennington Astro Pitch. For more information call 07948 289424 or visit www.stopu.org.uk



What's On In Waterloo - A Weekly Guide for Parents

Every Week	Breakfast Club 7:30am–School Start £3.90 per session	All Weekdays Term Time Only Age 4-11 includes light breakfast and Walking Bus to school. Coin St Neighbourhood Centre, 108 Stamford St, London SE1 Contact helpdesk 020 7021 1600.
	Day Nursery Fees Payable 8am-6pm	All Weekdays 3 months–5 Years. Coin St Neighbourhood Centre, For information and to register your child call 020 7021 1600
	After School Club 4-6m £7.75 per session	All Weekdays Term Time Only 4-11 year olds–includes light tea prepared by the children Coin St Neighbourhood Centre, contact helpdesk 020 7021 1600
	One O’Clock Club 1pm–4pm FREE	All Weekdays Indoor/Outdoor Play Dropin Geraldine Harmsworth Park Contact Anita Forse 020 7820 9724
Mondays	The Ozone 4:30-5:30pm FREE	Term Time Only 5-11 year olds will be using the fantastic resources at City of London Boys School for a variety of activities–places are limited so please contact Laura Cowell on 020 7620 1622
	Jazz Dance Class 10:30–11:30am £2	Get fit and learn some new moves. Women only class. Babies are welcome. Limited crèche space, please call 020 7021 1600 to book, Colombo Centre, Colombo St, SE1
	Contact a Family 10am–12pm FREE	8th October–10th December Support for Families and Children with disabilities Rahi. Coin St Neighbourhood Centre as before 0207 5932910
	Baby Group 1:30–3:30pm FREE	Drop-in for parents and babies under 12 months. Blackfriars Settlement, 5 Rushworth St, SE1. Call 0207 928 8915
	Parent and Toddler Group 9.30-11.30am 50p	Play activities for toddlers run by local parents with visiting health professionals. Term Time Only Mint St Adventure Playground, Southwark Bridge Rd, SE1
Tuesdays	The Chipper Club 10:30am-2:30pm 50p	Mini Gym–10:30am–12:00p, Free Play Arts and Crafts–1- 2:30pm
	Parent and Toddler Group 9.30-11.30am 50p	Play activities for toddlers run by local parents with visiting health professionals. Term Time Only Mint St Adventure Playground, Southwark Bridge Rd, SE1
	Professional Advice & Skills Development 10am-1pm Free	Support and guidance for a range of issues- personal empowerment, conflict resolutions, parenting skills. Waterloo Job Shop, Lower Marsh. Contact Rahi 020 7593 2910





What's On In Waterloo



Tuesdays (Cont)	Bengali Women's Group 10am-12pm 50p per child	1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Help and advice sessions. Rockingham Community Centre, Falmouth Rd, SE1 Contact Nurjahn on 020 7357 0623
	Southside Kidz Football Training 7.30-8.30pm FREE	Training for the new SE1 premiership involving all youth clubs in SE1. At Hatfields Astroturf Pitches, Colombo Centre.
	Girls Club 7-9pm 50p	For girls aged 14-19. Come along and take part in a fashion project as well as themed workshops covering important issues. Coin St Neighbourhood Centre
Wednesdays	Parent & Toddler Group 10am-12pm £1.50	Term Time Only Drop In-The Play Space. Includes healthy snacks The Living Space, Coral St, SE1
	Sure Start Somali Toddler Group 10am-12pm 50p per child	St Matthew's, Meadow Row, SE1 Contact Hodane and Sanab on 07958 025461
	The Chipper Club 50p	10:30am-12pm-Music and Movement 1- 2:30pm-Free Play Arts and Crafts
	Bangladeshi Mother & Toddler 12-2:30pm FREE	Waterloo Action Centre 14 Baylis Road Meena 020 7261 1651
	WPCN Waterloo Baby & You Group 1:30-3:30pm FREE	Local parent led baby group offering coffee, cake and a chat. Parents and carers with children 0-18 months Buffer Bear Neighbourhood Nursery 21 Frazier St, SE1
	Youth Club 6:30-8pm 50p	Term Time Only Activities-offering young people a programme of youth-led activities and a safe, friendly environment to hang out. Coin St Neighbourhood Centre, As before
	Library Opening for Families 2.30-5.30pm FREE	Enjoy Books and Stories Workshops, including story telling, after school sessions for parents and primary-aged children and select and sharing books with young children. At the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, Webber St, SE1. 020 7401 3382
Thursday	Toy Library & Bookstart 9:30-11:30am 50p	The Chipper Club, The Rainbow Building, Crosby Row, SE1



What's On In Waterloo



Thursdays (cont)	Hullabaloo! Mother & Toddler 10:15–11:45am FREE	Imaginative Play, crafts and singing in a safe friendly space Christchurch and Upton Chapel (opp Lambeth North Tube) Becky 020 7633 2090
	Bengali Parent & Toddler Group 10:30am-12:30pm FREE	Come and join this play session and participate in discussions hosted by health visitors on child health. St Matthew's, Meadow Row, SE1. Nurjahn on 020 7357 0623
	Family Drop-in Sessions 1:30–3:30pm FREE	Different topics covered each week at these informal support and networking sessions for families with preschool age children. Coin St Neighbourhood Centre
	Library Session 12:30–2:30pm FREE	Term Time Only Activities, Stories and Songs. Opportunity to take out books and story sacks and meet with a variety of visiting professionals. John Harvard Library, Borough High St, SE1
Fridays	Play and Stimulation Group 10-11:30am FREE	New Born–2 years Kennington Park Children's Centre, SE11. Call Maria 020 7411 5679
	The Chipper Club 10:30-12:30pm 50p	Free Play, arts and craft with a Sensory Room session for babies, 10:45–11:15 am—stretch'n'grow from ages 2-5 The Rainbow building, Crosby Row, SE1
	Surestart Somali Toddler Group 1-3pm 50p per child	Rockingham Community Centre, Falmouth Road, SE1. Contact Hodane and Sanab on 07958 025461
	Family Badminton 5-6pm FREE	Just turn up and play. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Colombo Centre, as before
	Southside Street Dance 6-7pm FREE	Aimed at 8-16yr olds. Learn street dance and get to perform at these sessions. Separate sessions for 8-12yrs and 12-16 yr olds. Colombo Centre as before.
Saturdays	Gingerbread Waterloo 12:30-2:30p, FREE	Activities and outings for lone parents Archbishop Sumner School, Reedworth St, SE11 Arifa 020 8556 3385 Contact before attending
	Stay & Play Club 2-5pm £2 (Donation)	Term Time only. 0-7 year olds with parents or carer Coin St Neighbourhood Centre—As before
Sundays	Soccer Tots 10am–12pm £1	10-11am—Ages 3-5 years 11-12pm ages 6-7 years Hatfields Astroturf pitches, Colombo Centre, 020 7261 1658

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Look ! - A
Christmas
Party! And
You
are invited!



Friends of The Archbishops' Park



Not heard of us? Well read on.....We are a group of Park users, many of whom like you have children and use the space to get away from it all.

We care about what happens here, how it's developed, how we can involve local people, especially kids and are keen that they have the opportunity to use the space to learn about wildlife, gardening and nature and above all have fun. You may wonder what we've done and looking at the Park you may not realise that we worked with WCDG to raise funds to install a great new playground and made new gardens with Putting Down Roots, a scheme for homeless people which provides gardening skills.

We've bought new seats and planted over 400 bulbs and are raising money for a new sculpture. And what about the future? We're working with South Bank Mosaics to create 4 seasonal mosaics with the children from Evelina's Hospital, Johanna School and Coin Street Family and Children's Centre which will be part of a refurbishment of the shelter near the playground. We want to install more things into the playground - a sandpit, rockery, more planting and seats. We'd like a kiosk where you

can buy a hot drink or a lolly....we like hearing about new ideas and suggestions.



Like to come and celebrate with us? We're having a **Christmas party on 8th December at the ADI, 2.00- 4.00, 212 Lambeth Road, SE1**. Food, crafts, competitions and entertainment. All welcome. *Helen Lees Chair—FOAP*

To join us please contact helenb.lees@btinternet.co.uk, 204 Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7JY.



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