

# THE UNLOCK LONDON WALK NO.23

**SATURDAY 29th APRIL 2006 9AM TO 5PM**  
north greenwich - charlton - blackheath - lewisham



Unlocking real life stories of urban people  
Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ  
Releasing life changing skills & confidence



Registered Charity: 313454

Whilst every care has been taken in the design and compilation of this map & notes, Unlock cannot accept any liability arising from any inaccuracy within any part of this document or for any injury sustained whilst doing the walk.

## HOW TO GET THERE

The area is well served by tube, bus and train.

### BY TUBE

Jubilee Line to North Greenwich, from Baker St, Waterloo, London Bridge and Stratford

### BY RAIL

South Eastern Rail to Lewisham, or St. Johns, or Blackheath, from Charing Cross, London Bridge, or (from east) Dartford. Or Westcombe Park, similarly, but on separate line. Docklands Light Railway to Lewisham terminus

### BY BUS

Many routes, including

**188** (Russell Square to North Greenwich)

**47** (Liverpool St. to Lewisham)

**261** Bromley Common

**208** Orpington, (both to Lewisham)

NB. 108, (North Greenwich to Lewisham) is part of the walk.

## ROUTE INFORMATION YOU MAY NEED

### For wheelchair users 110w to avoid hills!

Blackheath is approached by long hills from both North and South. We advise all but the most sturdy wheelchair - pushers to avoid them.

**If you are proceeding from South to North** follow the route to check points Holy Trinity; The Tabernacle and St Saviours Catholic Church. Then return to the bus depot at Lewisham station and catch the 108 bus which goes up Belmont Hill. Get off at St. Margarets (CIE) - see map- and go on your way from there.

**If you are proceeding from North to South** Catch the 108 bus after visiting the Ecology Park, near the junction of 'John Harrison Way' and 'West Parkside'. Get off the bus at 'Westcombe Hill' near 'Siebert Rd' and take the short cut (marked on map) under the Tunnel Approach. You emerge at Bramshot Rd. Go to the U.R.C. Church there and then go on your way. By doing all this, you may miss a few things, but you will not miss any church check-points.

### Smelly Rubbish

This is a reminder of the dirty industries which covered Greenwich Marsh until the wasteland was decontaminated and developed as part of the project celebrating the Millennium.

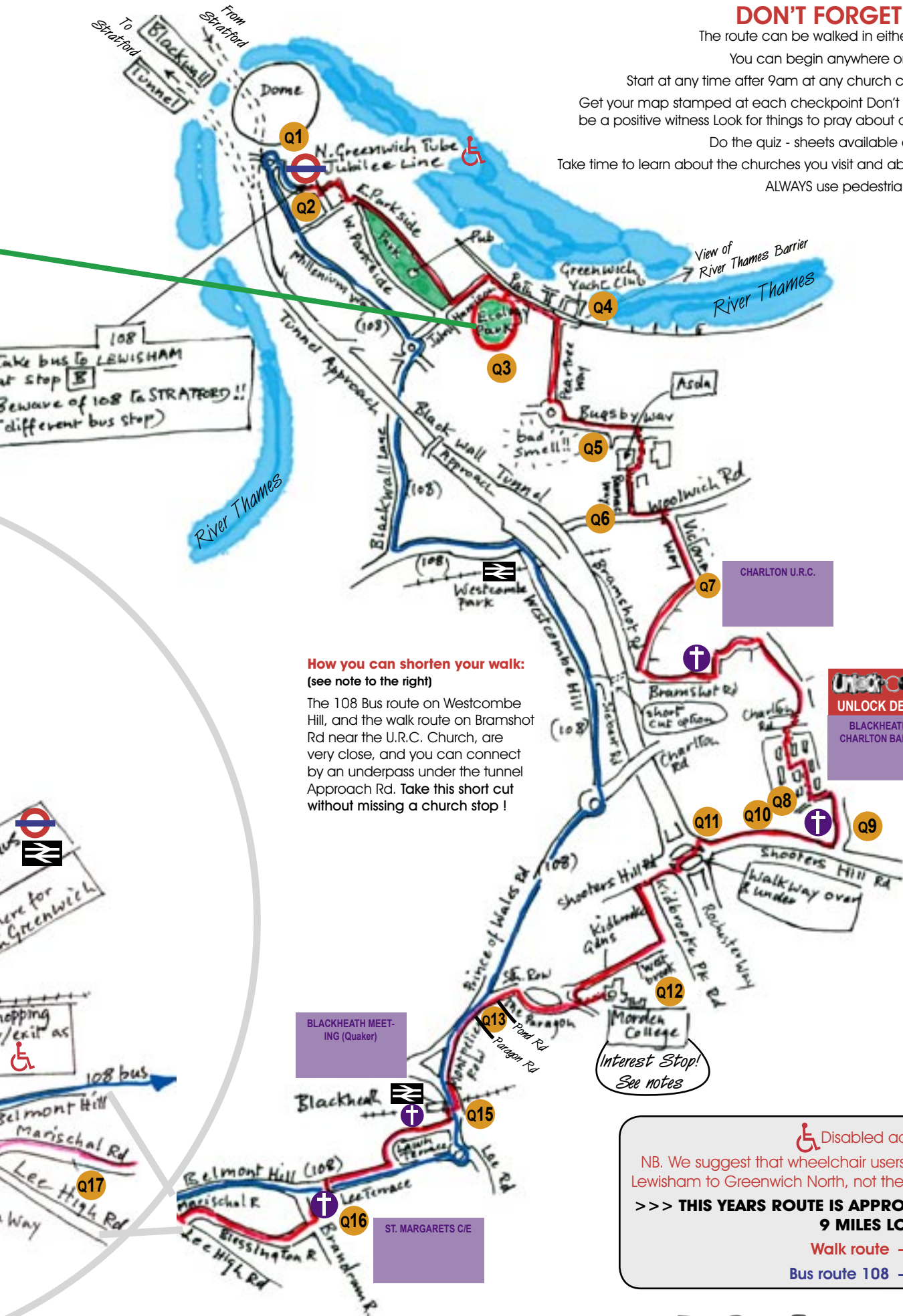
### New Development between Elmira Rd and the Lewisham bypass road

This is an interesting route, but if the development is too obstructive by next April, we may need to use Elmira Rd /Loampit Vale. We will supply notices if needed on the day.



## DON'T FORGET >>>

- The route can be walked in either direction
- You can begin anywhere on the route
- Start at any time after 9am at any church check point
- Get your map stamped at each checkpoint Don't drop litter - be a positive witness Look for things to pray about as you walk
- Do the quiz - sheets available on the day
- Take time to learn about the churches you visit and about Unlock
- ALWAYS use pedestrian crossings



### How you can shorten your walk: (see note to the right)

The 108 Bus route on Westcombe Hill, and the walk route on Bramshot Rd near the U.R.C. Church, are very close, and you can connect by an underpass under the tunnel Approach Rd. Take this short cut without missing a church stop !

**UNLOCK**  
UNLOCK DEPOT  
BLACKHEATH & CHARLTON BAPTIST

BLACKHEATH MEETING (Quaker)

ST. MARGARETS C/E

Interest Stop!  
See notes

Disabled access toilet  
NB. We suggest that wheelchair users walk from Lewisham to Greenwich North, not the other way  
**>>> THIS YEARS ROUTE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 MILES LONG >>>**  
Walk route   
Bus route 108

# 2006 UNLOCK WALK No. 23

## North Greenwich – Charlton – Blackheath – Lewisham

(London Boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham)

### The Thames Barrier and the Millennium Dome

Two grand scale architectural wonders, or at least London landmarks. High water level at London Bridge has risen about 2½ feet per century, and the main possible cause of flooding is surge tides, originating in the North Atlantic, which are occasionally blown into the North Sea, so sending millions of tons of extra water up the Thames. The barrier which was opened in 1984 and took 10 years to build, has saved London from flooding on several occasions. The Dome is built on the site of South Metropolitan Gasworks – it was the largest in Europe and operated from 1889 to 1985, and at its peak employed 3,500 people. It contaminated the area with toxic sludge so badly that that for years it was thought that the land could never be used. A huge clean up operation took place as part of the dome project.

### Transport sites

**Blackwall Tunnel** – when opened in 1887 it was the longest underwater tunnel in the world.

**North Greenwich Tube** – A cavernous station capable of handling around 20,000 passengers an hour for the Dome.

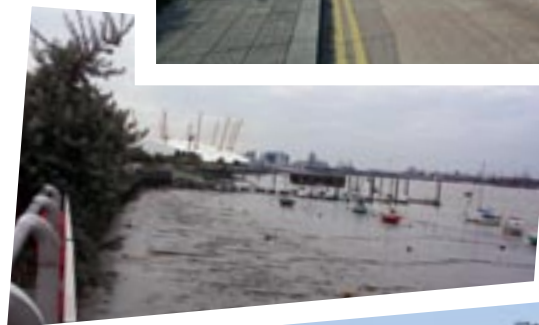
**The River** – The Pilot Inn and the cottages around it are the oldest remaining buildings on the peninsula, dating from early 19th century. The pub was named after William Pitt, the Pilot who weathered the storm. At this time most of the less than 500 strong population were working in market gardens, although the name of the public house suggests links with riverside trades. 'Execution Dock' just above the low tide mark, was used for hanging river pirates. They would be hanged on gallows surrounded by a wire cage and left there until 'three tides had passed over them'.

### Greenwich Peninsula Ecological Park

This is run by TRUE - Trust for Urban Ecology, and has seven main habitats: lakes, marsh, shingle beach, shallow pools, wildflower meadow, willow beds and alder carr. Wild flowers, birds and insects all thrive there. There are bird hides, wildlife displays and children's activities.

### Greenwich Peninsula

The previous name for the Peninsula was Greenwich Marsh. The earliest references to the area date back to 918 AD when the Marsh was owned by Alfred the Great's daughter. It was walled and ditched some time in the Middle Ages and used for grazing. The impact of humans on the local ecology mushroomed as industry expanded out of Deptford Creek area. A walk along the riverbank by the Dome reveals many interesting bits of industrial heritage. The central section stayed occupied by cows, market gardens, and probably smuggling and explosives testing, for many years. The Blackheath charity, Morden College, was until quite recently a major landowner.





## Charlton

Is one of London's oldest residential districts and had a British settlement during the whole of the Roman occupation. Charlton is home to two major football clubs – Blackheath Football Club and the premiership Charlton Athletic. The former is reputedly the oldest rugby club in the world (see the notes on Blackheath) and the Walk passes close to their ground at Rectory Field on Charlton Road just by Cherry Orchard Estate. The latter play at The Valley, built on the site of one of Charlton's sand pits.

## Blackheath – a dark name

Contrary to popular belief, Blackheath – the area's name since at least 1160- has nothing to do with the Black Death (1348-1351). Rather it comes from the colour of the soil (darker than the green fields beside the Thames) or is a derivation of 'Bleakheath' because of the bleak environment at that time. There's little evidence that the heath was a burial ground during the plague, but it was the final resting place of hundreds of Cornish men after their march on London (to protest at high taxes imposed by Henry VII to fund his war in Scotland). They pitched camp on Blackheath and were defeated in the Battle of Deptford Bridge in 1497. In 1381 it was a rallying point in the Peasants' Revolt, a protest against the first Poll Tax (a tax on peasants as well as landowners to fund the Hundred Years War.) The Heath was one of the open air preaching venues of Wesley and other evangelists. A high assembly point for many gatherings, Wat Tyler's Mound, named after the leader of the Peasant's Revolt, was renamed Whitefield's Mount, after the 18th century preacher.

In recent years it has been the start point for the London Marathon, and regularly hosts kite-flying competitions.

## The Paragon

Blackheath contains many fine examples of substantial Georgian and Victorian houses - most notable of which is Michael Searle's Paragon Crescent, which was completed in 1807.

## Morden College

Founded in 1695 by Sir John Morden, a wealthy merchant, for gentleman merchants who had fallen on hard times. There is a legend that Sir John himself had been bankrupted at one stage, but there is no truth in this story. These well-preserved buildings, including a chapel with its original furnishings were erected in the style of Christopher Wren, and has features such as early sash windows. The College now provides a home for many elderly people, and includes a hospital wing.

## Blackheath – First in Sporting Tradition

The Royal Blackheath Golf Club was founded here in 1608 making it reputedly the world's oldest. Blackheath also lays claim to the oldest hockey club, and modern hockey may have evolved from golf which was played on the heath.

Blackheath is most famous as the home of the Blackheath football Club, founded in 1858, the first Rugby club without restricted membership. The Blackheath club used the Princess of Wales pub as their headquarters and changing rooms, and hosted the first rugby international, which was between England and Scotland in 1871.

## The rich and famous

Although fairs and sports were held on the heath (and still are), it could also be a very lonely place. Stagecoaches travelled across the heath en route to north Kent and the Channel ports, and on the muddy tracks uphill they often went very slowly. During the 17th and 18th centuries the area became a notorious haunt of highwaymen, including the famous Dick Turpin. Shooters Hill Road still follows the course of the road the Romans built from London to Dover over the top of Shooters Hill. The summit of the hill (432 feet) is one of Greater London's highest points.

Modern day famous residents of Blackheath include Gabrielle, Jools Holland, Danny Baker and Terry Waite.

London's first purpose-built concert hall is on Lee Road, a few hundred metres south of the walk route. The beautiful buildings designed by William Webster date from the 1890s and are still in use today.

The Age Exchange Reminiscence centre celebrates the ordinary and everyday rather than the rich and famous. It is located in a charming old fashioned shop dating back to the 1920s opposite Blackheath train station.

## Lee and St Margaret's

'Leah', Old English for 'clearing in the wood', was mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book as being a separate manor from Lewisham, consisting mainly of farmland. Wealthy merchants built large country houses here in the 17th and 18th centuries. The coming of the railway meant Lee's farmland presented an ideal place to house London's rapidly growing workforce and most of the area was built up by the First World War.

St Margaret's Church (well to the north of the present Lee) dates from before the railway. Special features are pre-Raphaelite murals, beautiful stained glass, an impressive organ, an ornate lych gate, and much of interest in the Old Churchyard.

## Lewisham

The name derives from 'Leofham' – 'ham' being an ancient term for a village and 'Leof' being an Anglo Saxon person – but it is not known whom.

Lewisham is a major transport hub of south east London. It lies on the ancient London to Dover Road (now called the A20). It has a bus station, mainline railway station and is the southern terminus of the Docklands Light Railway.

Loampit Vale's name betrays its past as a site for potteries and tile and brick making, which ceased in the 1880s.

Lewisham was seriously hit during the Second World War. A plaque outside the shopping centre (South east London's biggest and opened in 1977) commemorates the bombing of the town centre in 1944. Below the market stalls outside are a series of air raid shelters which provided some safety for shoppers and residents. The Blitz and post-war development led to the juxtaposition of architectural styles which is such a feature of the area today.





## Lewisham High Street

Straddling the busy high street, the north end of which was pedestrianised in 1994, is the colourful daily Lewisham Market, which consists of up to 64 stalls mainly selling fruit, veg., salad and flowers.

The Diamond Jubilee Clock Tower was built from funds raised by local people to mark Queen Victoria's sixty years on the throne.

The police station, opened in 2003, is reputedly one of the largest in Europe. As well as being home to Lewisham Borough Police, it houses the Serious Crime Directorate, the Mounted Branch and their horses and the Forensic Science Service.

There is a campaign for a statue of comedian and writer Spike Milligan to be erected in the High Street. Spike lived in the borough. He said "I'd like to go to heaven, but if Jeffrey Archer is there I'd rather stay in Lewisham".



## River Ravensbourne

The river, which is channelled and covered along much of its course, runs 11 miles from Caesar's well in Keston (near Bromley) to the Thames at Deptford Creek. Brookmill Park (at the far end of the Unlock walk when we touch on Deptford) has a rare naturalised section of the river, which offers new habitats for wildlife including kingfishers. The Domesday Book recorded 11 corn mills on the river in the 11th century. John Evelyn, the 17th century London diarist bought one of the mills – Brook Mill – in 1668 for 'grinding colour'. The park is where the mill (demolished in the 1850s) was located, and has a local history display board.



## To Deptford

Holy Trinity Centre is actually in Deptford. This often neglected area of London is full of heritage and vibrant culture, but alas it would have made the Walk far too long had it been included. Deptford was the site of Henry VIII's Royal Dockyard and London's first passenger railway. Christopher Marlowe, the Elizabethan playwright and poet, was murdered in a Deptford tavern and is buried in a local church. It also has a busy market, a great theatre, good restaurants and great river views.



Unlocking real life stories of urban people  
Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ  
Releasing life changing skills & confidence

# UNLOCKING

## WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? HOW? WHY?

Anyone in cities who wants to share or explore their Christian faith and tell their story, particularly those who feel excluded by traditional approaches to learning about faith.

Real life stories of urban people, the Good News of the Down to Earth Christ, life changing skills and confidence.

Anywhere where people struggle to engage with faith exploration but with a particular concern for those who live in Britain's Urban heartlands.

For the last 30 years, Now, and into the future.

By training, resourcing, and employing workers, in cities, who use Unlock's methods to help others explore their faith in their own way in their own place.

Because Jesus said 'You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.'  
And,  
'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'



Unlock's work is funded entirely by voluntary donations, much of which are raised through the annual sponsored walk

If you want to know more about Unlock's work, resources or methods

please check the website [www.unlock-urban.co.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.co.uk) or contact the office on 0114 276 2035

*In a world of constant changes, regeneration is at the heart of the Gospel. As well as enjoying the walk and raising sponsorship money, take time to learn more about how the churches you visit are breaking down barriers and building bridges into their local communities. Also make sure you spend time at the Unlock checkpoint to learn what you are enabling with your efforts today.*

### don't forget >>>

- A-Z map of London (if you have one)
- A small donation for each church (min 30p)
- A snack (food is also available on the route)
- We walk whatever the weather
- Pray as you walk



Further details & more copies of this map:  
Unlock, 336A City Road, Sheffield, S2 1GA  
Telephone: 0114 276 2035