



The independent voice of the borough

# Southwark News

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Now recruiting! See page 29

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## Neighbours could get a 'guerilla gardener' rebate

► **Council looking to refund work by volunteer**

By Stephen Eighteen

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**RESIDENTS IN Elephant and Castle may soon be celebrating a £9000 payout if the council allows a resident 'guerilla gardener' to green his block.**

Richard Reynolds has made a name for himself by travelling the country and creating green enclaves in neglected spaces.

Yet his biggest project has been at Perronet House, where he has lived for three years.

In that time Mr Reynolds has been in constant conflict with the council for taking it upon himself to spruce up the area in front of the block in London Road.

Southwark argued that he was not



employed to undertake the work so he had no right to do it.

Yet it looks as though they may finally let him get on with it and backdate the previous two years' charges to tenants and leaseholders.

One hundred households may be

given over £90 each for the previous two years' gardening that he did voluntarily. Southwark has sent letters to each resident asking what they think of the proposal.

Mr Reynolds said: "I have not been given a contract but the council has sent letters out to every resident saying they will give them money and that I will do the gardening from now on.

"My guerrilla gardening has finally resulted in what I would call a victory."

When he arrived at Perronet House in 2004, Mr Reynolds claimed that its frontage was "an overgrown shrubbery".

"It was full of litter and I have been gradually tidying it and greening it. People now comment on how attractive it has become.

"One of the council's contractors told me that they had forgotten it was here and it was an example of how things can get lost in Southwark Council bureaucracy.

"But they were continuing to charge each flat £45 per year for a service they weren't getting.

"Now I will carry on treating it as if it was my own garden and nobody will have to pay for it."

A council spokesman said: "The council is currently consulting with residents at Perronet House on a proposal to recognise the work done by a resident, who, as a passionate gardener, has planted and maintained a section of the estate to a high standard for a number of years."

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Bede House Association

Responding to the changing needs of the local community

Bede House - Working for the local community in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe

### Trustee Vacancies at Bede

Bede has been working with the local community since 1938 to make life better in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. Each year over 2,000 people come to Bede to take part in youth clubs, education, training and community events, or to receive help with personal problems or learning disabilities.

Recently we've won a national volunteering award, we've helped re-open the nature garden on Aspinden Road and we've opened our new youth club at Bede Centre.

We've got strong links with Clare College, Cambridge and work in partnership with Southwark Council. We plan to do a lot more in the future, but we need your help!

We currently have a small number of vacancies on our Council of Management (the group of trustees which voluntarily governs Bede House Association's affairs) and we would welcome expressions of interest from Southwark residents who:

- Want to use their skills and experience to help Bede fulfil its role in the local community
- Can contribute to the governance of the organisation by helping Bede Council work strategically
- Can help promote Bede to potential funders, supporters and policy makers
- Can devote an average of two hours a month to Bede, including our seven evening meetings of Bede Council and our AGM.

Full details of the Trustee's role are in the Jobs and Volunteering section of our website at: [www.bede-house.org](http://www.bede-house.org) or call us on 0207 237 3881 for an information pack.

If you are interested, please write to us, giving details of your interest in Bede, your skills and experience and how you feel you can contribute to our work as a Trustee. Letters should be addressed to The Chair, Bede House Association, 351 Southwark Park Road, London SE16 2JW.

If you would like a preliminary discussion to find out more, then please call our Director, Nick Dunne on 0207 237 3881, or email him at: [nickdunne@bede-house.org](mailto:nickdunne@bede-house.org)  
Closing date for written expressions of interest is Monday October 1, 2007.

Bede House Association is a registered charity number 303199.

