

# Haircut-row boy off school for two months

**SCHOOL SEARCH:** Sheldon Nelson, 13, sporting the controversial hairstyle, with his mum Susan Wallace



A BOY remains out of school more than two months after his mum and headteacher disagreed over his haircut. Sheldon Nelson, 13, a pupil at Blackheath Bluecoat School in Old Dover Road, Blackheath, was sent home from class on September 22 and has not been back since. The school said the shaved line behind his hairline breached its pupil dress code. His mum refused to accept the view and took him home after the headteacher Jeffrey Risbridger insisted the boy be kept in internal isolation until he had a new haircut.

Sheldon has spent the time at his home in Catford while his mum Susan Wallace, 49, tries to enrol him at a new school in Lewisham. She said: "We are trying to enrol him in a school in Lewisham borough but it takes time because they need to get a reference for Sheldon from Greenwich. "Children should be encouraged to express themselves. There was nothing in the school rules about his hairstyle." "The schools we have visited since have said Sheldon's haircut is fine." Blackheath Bluecoat School declined to comment.

# Take tips from drummer Who jammed with James

## MUSICIAN HOLDS WORKSHOP FOR POP-UP PARTY

By KATE GOULD

A MAN who has provided rhythm for The Godfather of Soul will be hosting a drum workshop at an event held to celebrate and promote local businesses.

Dominique Pizzinat sat in with James Brown at an impromptu concert in Beirut in 1997.

Mr Pizzinat's band Free Spirit were in the Lebanese capital to play at the grand opening of the Baccarat nightclub at Casino du Liban.

Mr Pizzinat, who runs the School of Rhythm in Forest Hill, said it was a very special gig.

He said: "I was in Beirut touring with my band at the time and James Brown had been flown over to play at a wedding."

"He heard what we were doing and just asked me to play with him and the rest of his band."

"It all happened very quickly and we did a set of about 30 to 40 minutes playing all the greats, including Sex Machine."

"It was amazing, incredible and very moving as I love his music but I was incredibly nervous."

"However, he was very kind, very nice to me and it was a magical evening for me - one of the best of my life."

Mr Pizzinat is hosting drumming lessons at the so-called pop-up event in Forest Hill on Thursday evening.

Organised by entrepreneur Hugh Dames with the Forest Hill Society,

- South London James Brown Hit Parade**
- Papa's Got A Brand New Cross Bag
  - I Got You (I Feel West Nor-good)
  - It's A Syden-ham's, Man's, Man's World
  - Say It Loud, I'm Proud
  - Blackheath And I'm Proud
  - Give It Up Or Tooting Bec

the evening of events will take place in empty and unoccupied shops in the neighbourhood.

So far interest in the event has exceeded Mr Dames' expectations with more than 50 activities taking place in 20 locations.

Among them will be creative writing, tips on making cocktails and mulled wine, Christmas card and decoration making, dancing and yoga.

Businesses including shops, pubs, cafes, estate agents and barbers, and owners of empty shop premises - including the old post office building on Dartmouth Road that is set to become a restaurant - will serve as venues.

Mr Pizzinat said: "I think it's fantastic people are getting together to increase the profile of Forest Hill."

The main programme will take place from 6pm to 9pm and there will be pop-ups for kids on boxing, dance and art, kicking off

**SOUL MATES:** Dominique Pizzinat with James Brown in Beirut and, inset, in his drum studio



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from 3pm.



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Visit [www.popupforesthill.wordpress.com](http://www.popupforesthill.wordpress.com) or email [hugh@social-capital.co.uk](mailto:hugh@social-capital.co.uk) for more details.

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# Brass bands join pupils for hospice fundraiser

YOUNG brass band musicians will be taking part in a Christmas charity event on Saturday. The youngsters from Lewisham Schools Brass Band will be at St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill, in Sydenham, to raise money for

a local hospice. The eight- to 15-year-olds will be joined by the Crystal Palace Band and the Crystal Palace Progress Band at the benefit gig for St Christopher's Hospice based in Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham.

The schools' band conductor Simon Suter said: "We are delighted to be joining the Crystal Palace Band for their concert this year. "We hope as many people as possible will be able to come along and help support the excellent work St

Christopher's carries out." The Christmas Brass Extravaganza starts at 7pm. Tickets cost £5 and £2 for concessions and are available on the door. Visit [www.lewishammusic.service.org](http://www.lewishammusic.service.org) for more information.

## News IN BRIEF



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**CAMPAGN:** Clir Crada Onuegbu, left, with volunteers who helped at the stand

### Stand aims to tackle domestic violence

LEWISHAM: A borough played its part in efforts to stamp out domestic violence.

White Ribbon Day is an international campaign which works to end assaults in the home. The council ran an information stand at Lewisham Shopping Centre in Lewisham High Street on Thursday as part of the campaign, with the help of Lewisham Domestic and Sexual Violence Forum and The Body Shop.

### Mums set to hear skatepark decision

TELEGRAPH HILL: Parents campaigning for skate park ramps to be built in Lower Park off Peys's Road will find out tomorrow night if it is to get the go-ahead.

Four New Cross mums started the Telegraph Hill Skate Park Action Group last summer and have received backing from politicians and youngsters.

The opinion of nearby residents is split on the proposal, with some claiming it will be too noisy. Lewisham council will make its decision on the park at a mayor and cabinet meeting at the town hall in Catford tomorrow night.

### Comedian to switch on village lights

BLACKHEATH: A stand-up comedian will switch on the town's festive lights on Saturday. Kevin Bridges will turn on the lights at the Blackheath Village Christmas celebrations at 4.30pm ahead of his appearance at Blackheath Halls in Lee Road at 8pm.

A Salvation Army brass band will play at 3pm and the Blackheath Halls Community Choir will follow at 4pm. There will also be a fun fair on the Heath over the weekend from noon until 6pm.

### Over-60s sought for all-age show

DEPTFORD: Older folk are needed to help a theatre group realise its ambition of producing an "all-age" show written by drama students. Anyone over the age of 60 is invited to join Montage Theatre Arts stage its musical The Rhythms Of Life at the Albany in Douglas Way. The show will feature a cast of 100. Director Judy Gordon said: "We need their experiences and skills to make it a truly all-age show."

For more information email [office@montagetheatre.com](mailto:office@montagetheatre.com) or call 020 8692 7007.