

St Alfege fundraising on target

REPRESENTATIVES from Greenwich organisations gathered to mark the end of a fundraising drive for St Alfege's church last month.

They included the royal borough mayor and representatives from the World Heritage Site and the Bishop of Woolwich who joined councillors, supporters and donors, in a Choral Service of Thanksgiving at the church on September 28.

The service marked the close of an appeal to raise money for the restoration of the East Portico of the church at the front of the building facing on to the High Street. The conservation of the stone drums and railings was completed in March 2012 and works are currently underway at the upper levels to the East Portico. It follows efforts to raise £456,244 over a period of nearly three years. The work is due to be completed by Christmas.

The Revd. Chris Moody said: "This has been an exciting journey in which we have made many new friends and partners in the local community and beyond and had a lot of fun together. We are so grateful to all who have helped us achieve this magnificent result."

Supporters included: Viridor Credits Environmental Company, J. Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust, Richard Upton and The Cathedral Group, The Mercers Company, Dame Susan Morden Charity, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Heritage of London Trust, The Allchurches Trust, The Hobson Charity, Greenwich Hospital, the Greenwich Society and the Mayor's Office.

Leader launches programme to help firms capitalise online

Making business so E-asy



PROSPER: Cllr Denise Hyland at the launch

A FREE new E-Business support programme designed to help firms make the most of online working and promotional tools was launched by Cllr Denise Hyland, the Council Leader, last Wednesday.

Run by South East Enterprise, who are based at the Royal Arsenal Gatehouse in Woolwich, the scheme is funded by the council and will support at least 600 businesses in the next three years.

It teaches skills such as accessing the workplace desktop remotely to be more efficient and improving website and social media skills to boost trade.

Cllr Hyland addressed representatives from 40 businesses, about half who had used the scheme since it began in May.

She said: "The royal borough's existing 7,000+ small businesses have a crucial role to play in creating and sustaining a strong and vibrant local economy.

In many regards, their performance will determine the borough's future prosperity.

"The programme offers a package of extremely flexible and bespoke support that can meet the needs of any business that needs help, regardless of size, sector or technical expertise."

The programme's success, she added: "will be measured through improved skills and knowledge; improved business performance such as increased sales or turn-over, jobs safeguarded or created and an increase in local supply chain activity/multiplier effect."

The borough has almost 1,000 businesses in the information, technology and communications sector, generating £350 million Gross Value Added to the Greenwich economy, she said.

"This sector will continue to grow and the council intend to bring forward a digital economy and smart cities strategy

in the coming months, which will set out our plans for to help support this sector further.

"But as the Greenwich e-business programme shows, it is just as important for us to help businesses from other sectors embrace digital technologies and social media, to ensure they can compete and prosper in this digital age.

"Those who do, I believe will have a far better future. The council values our businesses and wants to see you prosper."

Tony Goldstein, managing director of South East Enterprise, said he had received many positive Tweets after - and during - the event. He added: "People might have a website and don't think this is going to make any difference, but as anyone who has used our programme will vouch they will soon change their tune."

● **For more information visit www.seenterprise.co.uk/, email info@seenterprise.co.uk or ring 020 8305 2666.**



Building works have started on the new Greenwich Birth Centre, which will open at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in early 2015.

Staffed entirely by midwives, the new facility will have four en-suite birthing rooms, complete with luxury birthing pools, double beds and wireless internet access to create a truly home-from-home environment.

To find out more or refer yourself to one of our friendly midwives, please call **07887 991 823**.

www.lewishamandgreenwich.nhs.uk

