The Royal Borough of Greenwich has introduced a new policy relating to the licensing of “forecourt trading”. If you are a business you will now need a licence to place tables and chairs, or have shop-front displays and other amenities such as heaters and planters on the public highway. This is known as “forecourt trading”.

If you wish to sell items from a trader, stall or any receptacle in a street, you need to obtain a street trading licence from the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Food traders must also be registered with the Royal Borough’s Environmental Health office. Subject to certain conditions, you don’t need a street trading licence if you:

* are a market trader operating at a licensed market venue
* are a news vendor selling only newspapers and periodicals.

So the Big Issue seller doesn’t need a licence - but if you want to place a table or chair outside your cafe, or place flowers or other items on the pavement outside your shop, there’s a bill to pay. And it’s not cheap: cover one square metre, and it will cost £700 a week - £364.00 a year. Local traders could easily have to pay two or three times that sum.

Cafe-owners and florists in particular will be hard-pressed - and flowers - like to sit in the open air, especially during the summer.

Traders will have to pay £35.00 for the privilege of a visit from a council assessor, and are very unhappy about the imposition of what they call a pavement tax.

The Federation of Small Businesses say that hard-pressed businesses will suffer unless the Council thinks again. Chandra Sharma, Chairman of SE London FSB Branch, says: “The Council needs to pursue policies that encourage business rather than damage it.”

One trader in Old Dover Road (who did not wish to be named) described it as the “last straw” at a time when high street trading conditions are becoming more and more difficult.

“It is a pity if the Council is placing a further burden on our hard-pressed traders,” Cllr Geoff Brighty told the BN. “Given the relatively small number of businesses at the Standard using pavement area, the potential revenue seems unlikely to swell the Council’s coffers much. We need to be supporting our independent shops, not making life more difficult.”

Forecourt-trading: “the last straw”...

F ouring the horrific murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in Woolwich on Sunday, May 26th, we continue to have extra officers on patrol across the borough to provide a highly visible reassurance measure.

“We’re colleagues from the Counter Terrorism Command are working on a complex and fast-paced investigation. In the meantime, I have been meeting with police leaders and superintendents who are on the frontline of this investigation. It is important that we work together as a team, who managed to investigate and provided vital information which may be useful should call the Metropolitan Police 101 or 999.”

Anyone who witnessed the events can contact the Metropolitan Police 101 or call 999. Unfortunately, we cannot confirm the information provided by the BN.

F orce Commander, Richard Wood, said: “Our colleagues from the Counter Terrorism Command are working on a complex and fast-paced investigation. In the meantime, I have been meeting with police leaders and superintendents who are on the frontline of this investigation. It is important that we work together as a team, who managed to investigate and provided vital information which may be useful should call the Metropolitan Police 101 or 999.”

T he Westcombe News has learnt that “NIMBY”, which was given a licence “in perpetuity” by Lewisham Council, has withdrawn its application for a two-day, two-stage music festival in September this year.

The concert organisers, OnBlackheath, made the decision after interrogation of their application revealed a number of issues ranging from appropriate consultation with residents, road closures, a clash with the Race for Life, and questions over the amount of money set aside for remedial work to the heat post event.

This is the third year that OnBlackheath has had to cancel. OnBlackheath.co.uk - please include your name and contact details, which will be treated in strict confidence. Anyone who may have such material is asked not to delete it after sending it in.”

< NEWS BRIEFS >

M acmillan Walk
A walk around Regents Park on August 31st! If you are interested in walking to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care, or would like to sponsor the Westcombe Society Team, please contact Caroline on 020 8853 0948. For walkers there is an entry fee of £10, so even without sponsorship, you can contribute to the invaluable work of this wonderful charity.

Congratulations Carol! Carol Storey, Director, Legal Aid Practitioners Group and member of the Cutty Sark’s 135th Birthday Honour list for services to legal aid.

Greenwich Square
M ichelle Baker of Hadley Mace, who markets the square, now officially represents the area. She has been described as a dedicated team of police officers who will investigate every lead. We will do all we can to bring offenders to justice.

“I would like to thank all of you who have written to us, helped with the initial investigation and sent in vital information - we are grateful for your help and the support we have received so far.”

“Anyone who has been involved with the investigation and would like to be added to the list of contacts please call the Metropolitan Police 101 or call 999.”

Third NO for NIMBY

W hen a query was made by a local resident if NIMBY, which was given a licence “in perpetuity” by Lewisham Council, has withdrawn its application for a two-day, two-stage music festival in September this year.

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In June, the Westcombe Society celebrated its Fortieth Anniversary with style, or at least a smile (through gritted teeth), as rain nearly stopped play. Some still braved the rain to do a bit of shopping and jollification in the stalls outside in Mycenae Gardens, helped by the odd glass of Pimms (with Caroline acting as barmaid) and a delicious cake from Jenny’s cake-stall. Here, at the St George’s stall, everyone’s having a laugh.

Wonder what the joke was ... For more, please see page 2.

More scams!

O ne day you are telephoned by someone who claims to be from your bank. You are alarmed to hear that’s a problem: your card has been used at the Apple Centre in Regent Street, or wherever, and your account compromised.

You won’t be born yesterday, and you remain unconvincingly: so the caller advises you to call a genuine number - such as the number on the back of your bank card.

However, the suspect keeps the phone line open and so the call goes straight back to the fraudster who convinces you of their authenticity. So you then reveal your bank details and secure information - mother’s maiden name, and so on - and, unless you are very vigilant, your PIN number.

Sometimes they tell you your bank card must be collected: a carrier arrives to collect your card, armed with your PIN number; the fraudsters are in business - at your expense!

The average loss is £4,000. This type of fraud is on the increase; it even happened to a member of the BN team, who managed to escape unscathed, but who said: “The dialling tone sounded strange, and I queried it, but they were VERY convincing...”

The police advise everyone: NEVER under any circumstances reveal your PIN, and if you are a victim, ring 101.

Race for life
O n Sunday July 7th Cancer Research UK UK will again be holding their annual Race for Life on the Heath and they will be closing the following roads:

Prince Charles Road 5 am - 5 pm Geffers Road 9 am - 5 pm Talbot Place 9 am - 5 pm Hare and Billet Road 9 am - 5 pm Duke Humphrey Road 9 am -12.30 pm Royal Vale (north) 9 am - 12.30 pm

The village will be kept open to traffic. The PA system on the Heath will be at its loudest from 09:50 until 10:50 am and from 11:30 until 12.40 pm. If you find that the noise levels unacceptable, you should contact the organisers on 07757578253.
Letters to the editor may be edited for length of space. Views expressed are those of the writers only, and are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the editor.

To: Tom and Dick Allard

From: Neville Grant

Subject: AHOY Centre parking

Dear Tom and Dick,

Whilst as a republican, I'm opposed to the idea of conferring the Freedom of the Borough, I do believe that it was appropriate to award Anna a life peerage, recognizing the work of Anna Townend. They are not heroes (and some of the group are not even close to being anything like that), but you have to do something to honor this woman for her public service.

Neville Grant
Could you design a racing car?

These girls can! Blackheath High School’s Teams win places in Jaguar’s ‘Maths in Motion’ National Final.

Corrine-Jane Rafferty reports

In July last year, the FSB London Business Awards 2013 hosted by the Royal Borough of Greenwich said: “This is a fantastic way to explore the iconic Thames-side views of this unique and historic area. Last year we saw more than 12,000 people join us and we’re really looking forward to building on that success this summer.”

All cruises will sail past the O2 Arena, Canary Wharf, Old Royal Naval College, Queen’s House and the Observatory. The ships will pass through the Thames Barrier and cross the Greenwich Meridian Line. The VIP Thames Tall Ship Cruise is a longer cruise all the way to Tower Bridge and back (snacks included.) In the evening there is a spectacular fireworks display on the river exclusively for the Tall Ships.

Offshore, Westcombe Park Station will welcome the Tall Ships back for another matter of Life and Deaf

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The Royal Borough of Greenwich is set to welcome a spectacular flotilla of Tall Ships to sail Royal Greenwich returns for a second season. Running from August 28th until September 1st, this stunning fleet of Tall Ships will sail the Thames and offer visitors unforgettable views of iconic maritime Greenwich.

The Royal Borough is delighted to welcome the Tall Ships back for another year after the success of the first festival, hosted during last summer’s Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Passengers will pass some of the very best sights the Royal Borough has to offer including the Old Royal Naval College, the Queen’s House, the Royal Observatory, the Thames Barrier, The O2, the Meridian Line and The Cutty Sark.

Cllr Chris Roberts, Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich said: “Our aim is that Sail Royal Greenwich becomes a regular fixture on our calendar, attracting a growing number of visitors, both domestic and international.”

Laurens Winkel of Sail Royal Greenwich said: “This is a fantastic way to enjoy the iconic Thames-side views of this unique and historic area. Last year we saw more than 12,000 people join us and we’re really looking forward to building on that success this summer.”

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And so inspiration and excitement by the girls so inspired and excited by the Maths in Motion Maths Challenge.”

Matilda Marcus, aged 11, said: “I feel much more confident with maths now. It’s really increased my interest in maths and engineering and it’s also lots of fun!”

Ed: Educators point out that Mr Grog’s plans to remove Design and Technology from the National Curriculum will mean our youngsters may have to go to private schools to pursue their interests in D&T.

The Junior “A” TEAM

Susan Clark Interiors has just opened up

100,000 pupils, making it the largest maths competition for 12 and 13 year olds. It is open to any school in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, with 100 teams. The competition is divided into four age groups. Blackheath High School’s Teams win places in Jaguar’s ‘Maths in Motion’ National Final.

Corrine-Jane Rafferty reports

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The Junior “A” TEAM

Head of Blackheath High Junior School, Sarah Skevington, is delighted with their efforts. She commented: “It is a joy to see the girls so inspired and excited by the Maths in Motion Maths Challenge.”

The FSB London Business Awards 2013


In 2012, the short film created by deaf children, That’s not all of me, was the Ritter Sport award at the ZEBRA International Poetry Film Festival in Berlin and was screened at the Southbank Centre, IndigO2, the Barbican and national and international film festivals. From 8th – 24th July, the Life & Deaf Association will carry out a nationwide tour, taking the film and other deaf awareness materials created for and by deaf young people around the country in a ‘VW camper van called Heidi’. From 12.00 - 4.00 pm on the 8th July, the tour will be launched at a festival within the grounds of the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich featuring live performances of poetry in British Sign Language (lifeanddeaf.co.uk/events).

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well done Westcombe Woodlands

The Friends of Westcombe Woodlands were recently awarded a £600 grant by the Mayor of London under the Capital Clean-Up Community Scheme, enabling the purchase of hand tools to maintain and improve the habitat and also some more bird boxes.

One was quickly snapped up by a first-time buyer – a blue tit! PHOTO: Joe Beale

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The ‘Maths in Motion™ Challenge’ was established by Jaguar in 2000 and has this year attracted entries from more than 100,000 pupils, making it the largest maths competition for 12 and 13 year olds. It is open to any school in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, with 100 teams. The competition is divided into four age groups. Blackheath High School’s Teams win places in Jaguar’s ‘Maths in Motion’ National Final.

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FEATURES

My Dad – unsung war hero!
Malcolm Tremain

Jim Tremain was born in Stepney, where his father ran a fish and chip shop. Jim has been a resident of the Westcombe Park area for over 40 years. Now 92 years old, he was a veteran of RAF Bomber Command, and has just received his Bomber Command clasp award in recognition of his service during the war.

As a member of 466 squadron, which was one of the Royal Australian Airforce squadrons, he was a gunner aboard a Halifax heavy bomber. He flew 41 bombing missions between 6th March and 5th August 1944 – a very busy period of missions, most crews flew between 20 to 30. He is the last surviving member of his crew of seven – five Australians and two British.

Jim is second from the left, front row. A memorial in Green Park was unveiled by the Queen on 28th June 2012 to highlight the price paid by the aircrew of the 125,000 aircrew, 45,973 were killed in action; some 18,000 were wounded or captured.

Work experience at Blackheath Pet Supplies  
Paul Horlock-Brown, a student at Thomas Tallis, reports

Over the past year Blackheath Pet Supplies at 7, Old Dover Road has had work experience children from schools in the local area.

When I was looking for work experience, I hoped to find work for a business that would teach me valuable skills – and Blackheath pet supplies did just that.

The owner of the business, Susan Donnelly, taught me many such things as Visual Merchandising, stock control, health and safety and with and around food and finally ordering stock by phone or internet.

The opportunity of working with the public has given me a lot more confidence. I am amazed by how many different products there are for both domestic and wild animals. I am very thankful for this work experience and I hope I will be able to use these skills in the future.

Susan Donnelly the owner of the business says: “I myself did 900 hours of unpaid work experience whilst training to be a hairdresser and found the opportunity very rewarding. "Moving from the classroom to obtain inside knowledge on how hairdressing businesses work was a revelation. Yes I had to clean and sweep the floors and make the coffee, but this gave me the chance to interact with customers and build up my confidence. Even though I was a mature student, I have taken the skills with me in regard to running my own pet shop business. “Paul, from Thomas Tallis School, worked with me for two weeks. He worked very well, and was a very good team player. He really had a great attitude towards the job in retail, and was a very good time keeper – and his customer care skills have been excellent. Overall he was excellent, a hairworking, friendly and self-motivated individual and I wish him well for the future.

“Hopefully more businesses can give the youth of today a real opportunity to get that crucial ‘Work Experience’.”

Coping with welfare reform

Most people seem to agree that the government needs to carry out welfare reform – the laws of unexpected consequence. The aim of the bedroom tax was to get people “under-occupied” social housing, and let in people from more cramped homes. To achieve this, housing benefit is reduced by 14% a week for one spare room, and 25% for two or more.

As widely predicted, most people are understandably reluctant to leave behind the networks of family and friends, and to disrupt their children’s education. Nor is it easy to find one- or two-bedroom flats. The result has been stress and misery in many parts of the country. Big increases in rent arrears were forecast by councils and where their children go to school.

The aim is to prevent local families from being uprooted by enabling them to stay in the place they have ties, support and where their children go to school. A Council spokeswoman said: “We want local families to be able to remain in London where long term they have a better chance of employment, and so they can keep their children in local schools.”

All Aboard for Drama!

Greenwich Theatre in association with Powderkeg are embarking on a new venture – a play combined with a free boat trip!

Jennifer Skelark and the Seagull’s Handbook is about a girl who accidentally finds herself on a giant ship destined for Australia. As the story unfolds, she acquires a number of weird and wonderful companions to help her on her way...

The play is being put on at Trinity Buoy Wharf, 64 Orchard Place E14 OYJ from Sat 27th July to Sunday 11th August (not Wednesdays) at 21.00 am, 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm, and is good family entertainment, suitable for children of 8+.

Every day I learnt something new, and I have taken the skills with me in regard to running my own pet shop business. “Paul, from Thomas Tallis School, worked with me for two weeks. He worked very well, and was a very good team play. He really had a great attitude towards the job in retail, and was a very good time keeper – and his customer care skills have been excellent. Overall he was excellent, a hairworking, friendly and self-motivated individual and I wish him well for the future.

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Community Opera at the Halls: Verdi’s Macbeth

Blackheath Halls Opera gives the local community an opportunity to part take and see inside a fully-staged opera. Over 100 singers and instrumentalists from the local community perform alongside local primary school children, students from Trinity Laban and a cast of professionals to create a production of great energy and originality as well as high artistic worth. This year, Blackheath Halls Opera is presenting its seventh fully staged community opera, Giuseppe Verdi’s Macbeth – in celebration of the bicentenary of the composer’s birth. It is to be staged from 9th – 14th July. Please see page 5 for details.

If you would like more information about Blackheath Halls Opera or you think you might like to participate in the future, then please contact Rose Ballantyne. “There can be few more worthy uses of Arts Council England grants.” Graham Rogers in The Stage.

“Blackheath Halls Community Opera annually brings together local children and adults, students from Trinity Laban and a handful of young professionals in one of the calendar’s most heartening events.” Anna Picard in The Independent on Sunday.

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WHATEVER...
A homeless woman known to many residents of Greenwich and Blackheath simply as ‘Rose,’ passed away this spring. She was hit by a cement mixing truck as she crossed a passageway in Blackheath Village. My husband and I first met when we lived along Tranquil Passage, the pedestrian passageway in Blackheath Village. Rose, most recognizable as a pale round face peering out from layer upon layer of coats and blankets, read (read possibly asleep) sitting upon one of the benches in the Village. This bench was her evening spot, and my husband and I along with many other residents of Blackheath, would bring her cups of tea and food. We would also bring her our finished books. Rose was always reading.

My husband and I would see her reading in Greenwich Park. ‘Always sitting on the same bench in the Rose Garden under an umbrella in the rain or slightly unfurled from her layers when the sun was out. We understand from the park gardeners that is how she came to be called Rose.’ Rose was a kind-hearted young woman. After she passed away, people who knew her or I don’t know her – and also one given to her by this community because in fact, she was a member of our community. Rose is like our homeless Thomas, the older bearded man in Blackheath Village or Kevin with his paintings outside of Shepherd’s or the South Asian chap who sells the Big Issue some days near the train station.

However, we do not want to become involved, get too close. We could offer tea, not time. But we gave Rose a name. She had both a name given to her by her family – a name I don’t know – and also one given to her by this community because in fact, she was a member of our community. She was a member of our community.

Age Exchange

If you’re passing by but why not drop into Age Exchange? The Thornbury Arms is on Regent Street, designed and revamped interior, and the volunteers who staff it, create a very welcoming ambiance, and it is a good place for morning coffee, or a pleasant lunch, and a chat with friends.

Your get a pleasant mix of people there – from senior citizens having a quiet cup of tea and a chat, to young mums. The library downstairs is an added attraction, where one can browse even if one does not want to borrow a book.

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Here is a check-list of Age Exchange’s regular events:

- **Mondays:** 12.30 – 2.30 pm Drop-in session for people with dementia and their carers. There are creative activities and special events throughout the year.
- **Wednesdays:** Swimming group – free transport and swimming for Lewisham residents 60+ – (Bad luck for those of us living in the wrong side of the border). A Stitch in Time knitting group, beginners welcome

Age Exchange

**Let your talent shine!’ says Ben.**

This year you’ve got talent, do you want to share your talents with a new audience? If so then Ben Gelding wants to hear from you and to get you a showcase for your artistry. The Charlton based writer/producer now puts on several ‘open mic’ shows locally including The Railway in Blackheath village, The Morden Arms in Brand Street, Greenwich as well as The Belvedere Hotel in Belvedere.

‘The venues are all great. The Railway is loud, busy and great for building up your showmanship whereas the Morden Arms and The Belvedere Hotel are a bit more intimate and quiet, really good for developing your skills as an artist.’

Ben kicks off the sessions with a couple of his own songs, then it’s open house. Folk, blues, pop and jazz – you name it and you can perform it. The opportunity is all there! There are sometimes as many as twelve different artists playing. ‘It’s really straightforward,’ says Ben. ‘The acts just get in touch with me to book up a slot in advance, or if they’re a little nervous they can just turn up on the night and see if they feel courageous enough to give it a shot there and then, no pressure!’

Ben says he’s always been really impressed with the talent. ‘It’s incredible to get some of the best singer songwriters and vocalists coming along to share their music, it’s a real privilege to be involved.’

The Railway - Open mic evenings

16 Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LE

Every Wednesday at 8pm to 10.45pm - Free admission -

**What’s on at the Rose Garden?**

The Rose Garden, Greenwich Park was closed, Rose moved to the Cator Park was closed, Rose moved to the Cator memorial to her life.

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**What’s on at the Rose Garden?**

The Rose Garden, Greenwich Park was closed, Rose moved to the Cator memorial to her life.

After she passed away, people who knew her or I don’t know her – and also one given to her by this community because in fact, she was a member of our community. Rose is like our homeless Thomas, the older bearded man in Blackheath Village or Kevin with his paintings outside of Shepherd’s or the South Asian chap who sells the Big Issue some days near the train station. The library downstairs is an added attraction, where one can browse even if one does not want to borrow a book.
The devil is in the diesel

I n a recent meeting on air pollution conducted by the London Forum, Dick Allard from the Westcombe Society’s Environmental Committee heard how many roads in our locality continue to breach the European Commission’s air quality standards. While exhaust fumes are generally invisible, on a sunny day you can actually see the haze over the city when standing high up in Greenwich Park.

Dangrously high pollution levels are associated with poor health, particularly when it comes to respiratory diseases – one of the seven stated health priorities in the Royal Borough of Greenwich’s Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2010).

Material presented by the keynote speaker, Dr Ian Maudlin, lecturer in respiratory toxicology at King’s College London, clearly demonstrated how while diesel produces much better than other fuels with respect to CO2 emissions, it is far worse in terms of nitrous oxides and ‘particulate matter’ – tiny particles which according to the organisation Healthy Air can be up to 100 times thinner than a human hair and which lodge themselves into the lungs and impact respiratory function.”

“While I was aware of the general issue of traffic’s major contribution to the high levels of pollution, I was unaware, in addition to traffic emissions, there is also a lesser but nonetheless significant contribution from tyre wear and braking,” commented Dick Allard following the meeting.

To find out how to reduce your contribution to air pollution and get a free guide to pollution-free plants, visit www.healthyair.org.uk

Our Oak Tree

Five years ago, I moved into Beachwood Close in Westcombe Park, a friendly 1950s housing estate built around a towering, ancient oak tree.

Our neighbourhood would be a very different place, much poorer, without this amazing, resilient oak, and I want to find out and share more about its history so that we continue to value and protect what I think of as a grand lady. It takes four people, arms outstretched, to circle its trunk, which puts its age at roughly 400 years, at a guess. This incredible tree has survived the development of residential Greenwich, World War II bombing and – only just – the great hurricane of 1987, and no doubt much more.

Local people have saved her in the not-very-dis- tant past, and it would be good to believe we would, if necessary, do so again – but if we know her story, we’ll be more likely to.

So I’ll be blogging at www.beaconfieldgreenwich. wordpress.com as, with help, I try to piece together the story of our great oak. And I’d welcome blogs from others – for if this becomes a collective project, it will be much better.

I would really like to hear from anyone who knows more, who has memories or stories of the oak, who wants to share photographs or artwork of ‘elders’ or adults’, who has pointers on whom I should speak to; or anyone who would just like to say what this tree means to them.

I’ll also welcome anyone putting me straight if they feel that I’ve got facts wrong.

GAVIN MCGREGOR

Meeting our Councillors

On June 5th, the three councillors for the Blackheath & Westcombe Ward met members of the WR Environment Committee, to discuss planning issues.

Geoff Brighty, Alex Wilson, and Alex Grant are our immediate representatives making decisions, than central government, elected, representatives making decisions, than central government, which will not know

The councillors all referred to the fact that the local elections in May 2014 will likely see changes to the composition of the Council. Locally, there will be at least a new councillor, and already the parties are getting ready to develop their campaigns. Whatever happens, it will be hard to match the dedication of the current set of councillors to helping residents in Westcombe Park.
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