Local people have alleged that cars awaiting sale are often parked in the street, sometimes six or more. This would significantly diminish opportunities for shoppers to stop and shop.

If this is true, then there is clearly a breach of the planning condition, and Council enforcement action is required.

Whose side are they on?
That is the question local traders are beginning to ask – parking is just one issue. However, another gripe, business rates, is not down to the Council: they are laid down by central government, and the local council has no control over them; but, as a London Council, report we are.

In June, local Councillor Geoff Brighty asked the Council for an up-date on the outstanding parking application in Old Dover Road. It is now part of a Borough-wide review of parking which is due to report ‘sometime’ – but seems to have been kicked into the long grass.

So the parking problem continues, compounded by a problem identified years ago by the Westcombe Society Environment Committee: at that time they strongly opposed a planning application for a second-hand car-dealership in Old Dover Road on the grounds that it would contribute to serious traffic congestion. The borough approved the planning application, in its wisdom: and, sure enough, there is serious traffic congestion in Old Dover Road. Looking through the files, the WN discovered that the planning application was granted on a number of conditions, including:

“No loading or unloading of vehicles arriving or departing from the premises shall be carried out except within the curtilage of the premises, and all activities associated with the business shall be confined to the curtilage of the premises.”

The Council points out that all local authorities bar one in London are making use of the local London Local Authorities Act 2007 “to facilitate and manage the trading in question. The fees charged in the Royal Borough are pretty well the lowest in London. . . . The square metre charge is £7.00 per week, with each additional square metre charge at £1.50.”

“Injured fox cub
In July, Marilyn Little heard that there was an injured fox on Westcombe Hill, and called out Eddie from Willow Wildlife Rescue – a local charity supported by the Westcombe Society.

The fox was little more than a large cub but had obviously been hit by a car and had what seemed to be a broken leg. It had settled itself down by the roadside but unfortunately just before Eddie arrived it was scared by the traffic and ran down the road, dragging its leg. “The amount of traffic we couldn’t see where it went,” said Marilyn. “Eddie had a good look for it but couldn’t find it. I apologised for the unsuccessful trip but he was only too happy to try. So we are making good use of our donation”

Ed: If anyone manages to locate this fox cub, please ring Eddie Williams at Willow Wildlife Rescue on 07963 472 204.

Whose side are they on?
How many times have you driven along Old Dover Road, planning to do a bit of shopping, only to find there’s no place to park? And then driven home . . .

Our news editor, Geoff Geary, asked this question in February 2012, and 18 months later, the answers still remain EXACTLY THE SAME.

At that time, we reported that in January – 2012 – the Royal Borough’s Highways Committee decided “to do further consultation.” Even though the council was presented with a petition signed by 14,000 people demanding fire but controlled parking, no decision has been made. 18 months later, we still await results.

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COMING NEWS

WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Neville Grant, The Editor westcombecouncil.org Tel: 020 8858 0489

COMMUNITY NEWS

Neville Grant views the Westcombe News’s new website: http://www.westcombecouncil.org

Have you ever hit on a website, and got the idea: ‘they should have done this!’ No choice with our new website! It is extremely user-friendly, the designers have been constructive and informative, and we should all give our grateful thanks to Emily Norton, Anne Robbins and Marilyn Little for their hard work in setting it up. The Westcombe News also should also play to Dave Riddle, who has for years placed the Westcombe News on a site hosted by Goldsmiths. I understand that all the back numbers of the Westcombe News included the Planning and Environment sub-committee environment@westcombecouncil.org http://www.westcombecouncil.org

DISTRIBUTION
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One - four issues £35, five-plus issues £30

Society or of the Editor.

The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor. We take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of our readers by ensuring as far as possible that none of our advertisers but cannot accept any responsibility for them. Any complaints should be addressed to the advertiser.

To access back-numbers (in colour) go to: http://www.westcombecouncil.org/westcombe-news/Westcombe-Society’s-Blog http://westcombecouncil.blogspot.com

Letters to the editor may be edited through lack of space. Views expressed are those of the writers only, and are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or the WN.

Letters

From: Zoe Cooke Zoe I have lived in Westcombe Park my whole life. It is a beautiful area and as a community it celebrates and somehow how lucky we are to live in. I was however, somewhat disappointed that this issue (issue 6 for July/August). On the front page in your piece on the Race For Life, you rejected a fantastic opportunity to show how great an area the fundraising event Race For Life is. There was no detail about how to get involved or participate at all, and the majority of the column was devoted to how to complain about the potential noise. It was incredibly disappointing to read. I hope that after the event you use as a column inches the chance to see how people can donate. Further to this, with the triumph with which you uplifed the area, you then just disregarded the fact that you cannot. Such events are great for the area and for all together, creating a sense of community, and frankly, are a lot of fun. Surely that’s what the Westcombe Society should embody.

Ed: Thank you. The paper belongs to the readership not the publishers. So if you think what is printed is what is wanted in the paper, then maybe you should get involved! Life came straight from a cutout deliveried to some dwellings close to the Heath by the organisers, and this letter gives an additional information about what happened or how to register for it. If you wanted to publish Boulevard as the main story you could have written in: We make a point of publicising the work of local charities, but cannot claim to be comprehensive! Also, I wonder if perhaps we can expect to receive some column inches in the WN for this paper in yours, too? L. Nadine. There was absolutely no mention of the event on this issue. That said, the urgent issues seem to be "the way Lewisham has granted a commercial licence "in perpetuity"; a particular arrangement, I think!". The incompetence shown so far by the organisers: 10 - 30 families cannot be disappointed by not point out by the WN, but by the organisations who could not get together! An illuminating figure for the Blackheath Joint Working Party adds: "Disappointing stop off because of the O2. Where there will be noancies to local residents and the delicate exac- tness of our logistics in need of this grand capital will not be damaged." From: Gabi Marston  Coraline From: Gabi Marston  Coraline

"The government has considerable public support for attempts to reduce the welfare bill with "benefit caps", and one strategy adopted has been "the universal credit". Unfortunately, research by the respected Joseph Rowntree Foundation has shown that many on benefits are little better off. For example, the Brussel Trust has revealed that since benefits were cut, three times more house- holds are turning to food banks. MARY ANDREWS describes what local people are doing to alleviate the problems.

"Don't let's sit here moaning……." It was these welfare reforms – briefly alluded to in last week's edition – that provided the meeting, hosted by the Greenwich Borough Deans (who represent local church leaders to the Council) which included representatives from local charities and voluntary organisations as well as Eileen Edmondson, the voluntary sector and authority’s Welfare Response Team. South West London CCG also provides to 3,577 Greenwich households – including 2,000 children – affected by the Housing Benefit reduction (the ‘bedroom tax’) with free support from the Total Benefit Cap. Mervi emphasised CAP’s holistic approach to tackling both debt and poverty, including mediation and support for local initiatives such as Street Pastors and the Greenfield Foodbank. The second speaker, Marva Millwood, was a local debt counsellor with national charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP), which is ‘passionate about lifting people out of debt and poverty through its award- winning debt-help service and money management courses’. CAP provides a free service to 100 clients each week, which is “unequivocally impoverished by relationship breakdown, unemployment and benefit cuts”, like the 45% who are not paid class attendance at the ‘bedroom tax’ for two years. The Westcombe News.

Letters

From: Tony and Deana Roe A couple of related and curious incidents occurred recently at our house. On our return from Spain on the 27th July, we were slightly disincentivated to see that our house had been sold to a couple from Wales. The Westcombe sold sign to our front gate was apparently put up in error, it should have been at 25 Boswell Close, not Road. This we could just about understand, although the neigh- bours were rightly concerned at the unannounced departure. However, the defendants now two Council parking bay suspensions signs outside our house. They both read Closed on a Monday for Boswell Close Road. I could suppose another error and the remedies refer to that property but I think we will see them anyway around the back of the 1st, just to be on the safe side! From: Helen Othen You may have heard of the new website of the Greenwich marine artist, Peter Kent, now has a blog site, www.peterkent.com and we are delighted to be able to post this we could just about understand, although the neigh- bours were rightly concerned at the unannounced departure. However, the defendants now two Council parking bay suspensions signs outside our house. They both read Closed on a Monday for Boswell Close Road. I could suppose another error and the remedies refer to that property but I think we will see them anyway around the back of the 1st, just to be on the safe side! From: Helen Othen You may have heard of the new website of the Greenwich marine artist, Peter Kent, now has a blog site, www.peterkent.com and we are delighted to be able to post this
The volunteers who created and now care for the community orchard of apples, pears and plums in the East Greenwich Pleasance have renamed themselves Pip!, which stands for Planting in the Pleasance.

While keeping the fruity theme central, the new name also takes account of the other work the local residents have been doing in the area, including wildflower sowing, planting to boost biodiversity and other, future activities to support local food growing and wildlife.

As well as going by the name @pip-greenwich on Twitter, the group also has a page on the brand new website of the Friends of East Greenwich Pleasance – to go to www.fepgp.org/pip, where you can read their mission statement, join the Facebook group and find out about events and opportunities to get involved.

Pip Pip Hooray!

Gavin McGregor

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FEATURES

Rock with Felix!

Felix’s School of Rock (FSOR) is a Greenwich based music charity for children. It was established in 2004 by Felix Glenn, a local teacher.

The organisation has been teaching children to ‘rock’ in band formation on guitar, bass, drums, keyboards and vocals, plus a wide range of other instruments including brass, strings, harmonica and ukulele.

An energetic and community focussed charity, in their 9 years, they have tutored over 3000 children from over 70 schools, and hosted over 150 community music events including Lewisham Peoples Day.

FSOR has an independent bursary fund to assist single income families plus a fantastic bursary scheme for Thomas Tallis School kids; they can do FSOR for just 10% of the full cost!

The philosophy at FSOR is Self-esteem through music. “We’re here to bring out the best in them, and make their dreams come true,” says Felix.

They use a four day experiential programme during half terms, Easter and summer holidays, where age-grouped kids are banded together with experienced tutors and musicians (plus a technical assistant for each band) to prepare them for THE GIG on the final day.

Playing to a heated crowd of enthusiasts, parents, grandparents plus brothers and sisters is always a winning combination!

As a small, self-funded charity, FSOR relies on the good-will of parents and tutors and the sale of tea, coffee and cakes at the gigs, plus small donations by local organisations. THE GIG is a real spectacular feast of live rock and pop performances by talented young musicians, often with very little experience. THE GIG costs just £1 for kids and £2 for adults.

The next gig is on Thursday October 31st at 5.30pm at Thomas Tallis School, Kidbrooke Park Rd, SE3 9PX

The next FSOR School is Half Term Mon 29th – Thursday 31st October

www.fsor.org.uk

Call Felix on 07888 717 605 for more information.

Meet your neighbour: Anna Townend

In his letter to the RV in July this year, I was pleased to see that Trevor Allman shares my view that Anna Townend deserves a medal for her forty year contribution to local and national issues.

He is right, she does ask awkward and frequently annoying questions, but often pertinent and insightful ones. She has over the years put up the backs of many local nobbies – not just Greenwich Council. But those who denigrate her often know little of her rationale or contribution.

Born in Bethnal Green, Anna is a lifelong and enthusiastic promoter, both globally and locally, of environmental and ecological issues, and is still an active campaigner. Her motto: ‘thinking globally, acting locally’.

Anna believes that there needs to be a balance between the built and natural environment around us. The built environment of cities needs to be balanced towards providing spaces for nature.

She has particularly campaigned for the importance of nature to be integrated into community awareness and borough planning procedures. She has also channelled her green perspective to planning issues through her involvement in the Greenwich Conservation Group.

Often questioning and becoming a thorn in the flesh of local council planners and developers, Anna was one of the Oxleas Nine’ who helped save off the motorway through Oxleas Wood in the 1990s.

Anna was a founder member of the Westcombe Society, and is also a member of many local environmental groups, such as the Greenwich Society, the Friends of Greenwich Park, and what is now the Greenwich Wildlife Advisory Group.

Anna is a founder member and current convenor of Greenwich Environment Forum through which she has channelled her concerns about environmental issues. She was one of the first, in a letter in 1996 to Virginia Bottomley, to suggest the creation of the Millennium Village on the Peninsula.

The dwarf orchard

Much of her energy has been devoted to the Queens Orchard formerly known as the Dwarf Orchid in the north east corner of Greenwich Park. Anna first visited the site in 1969. She later joined it into an ecologi-cal garden (one of the first in London), wildlife reserve and educational centre for local children, and provided for a number of years work experience for unemployed teenagers and released offenders.

Initially unofficially, and officially from 1981, she carried on this work until it was returned to the Council in 2008. She set up Greenslands in Trust to manage it with much support from the Park Superintendent, Mr Murray. The children picked the seeds and they were planted in the Park greenhouses, and later transferred to the Dwarf Orchard.

Anna is still an active campaigner. Her letter to the RV in July this year, I was pleased to see that Trevor Allman shares my view that Anna Townend deserves a medal for her forty year contribution to local and national issues.

Anna in her beloved Dwarf Orchard

Aspects of nature, and encouraging them and their parents to be aware of and appreciate the natural environment.

She also invited local and national speakers to give talks on environmental issues under the umbrella ‘Wildlife City’. These Wildlife City events took place over a period of nearly twenty years, with the support of Greenwich Community College.

In 1979, during National Tree Week, she organised a “Plant trees for children” campaign, with much support from the Park Superintendent, Mr Murray.

The children picked the seeds and they were planted in the Park greenhouses, and later transferred to the Dwarf Orchard.

A plump property development site

On a number of occasions over the last thirty years Anna, with community support, has had to fight off attempts to turn the garden into a housing site. It was only when she confirmed through her research that the outer wall of the garden was the original Tudor wall that, with public support, she got it listed, thereby ensuring that the site became permanently safe.

Given her years of uninterupted work for environmental issues, and the manner in which Anna has worked tirelessly to protect and enhance the magic of the Dwarf Orchard, it is particularly unfair to consign her to oblivion and write her out of its history, as has happened in so many newspaper reports.

Isn’t it time that Greenwich Council and the Royal Parks searched their consciences and recognised her contribution in some way?
WHAT'S ON

Theatre & Opera

THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Grosvenor Hill, Greenwich. SE10 8ES 020 8858 7750 Tues 17th - Sat 21st September  MOVY DICK: a romp through Melville’s classic tale

Girls: 7.30pm Sat 21st Sept

Price: £17.00 (Concession £13.00)

Music

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Your Local Trafalgar Road Institution and Induction of Rev’d Margaret Cave as Team Rector of the Parish of East Greenwich

Sat 14th. London’s 1st ever Ride & Stride a national event where people are sponsored to walk or cycle between places of worship. Over 100 faiths are taking part.

More info at www.heritageoflondon.com

St George’s Glazebury Road is open for this event 10 am - 11 pm with refreshments, books & crafts nearby, near step free entrance.

For more information contact Corinna on 0208 8855 2883

Music

BLACKHEATH HALLS: Tel 020 8436 8100

BLACKHEATH HALLS ORCHESTRA

REHEARSALS & Performances 10am - 5pm. Tel. 020 8436 8100

Other dates: Sunday, 22nd September, 2pm - 3pm. Thursday, 26th September, 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

FREE TALKS

Friday 4th October 1:30pm - 2:30pm

FRIDAYS: 7.30 pm - 10.30pm

MUSIC APPEAL WITH MATTHEW TALYOR

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) Mondays 9.30am - 10am No previous experience. 1st Monday 5th September, 2nd Monday 12th September, 3rd Monday 19th September, 4th Monday 26th September

BERNARD'S 2nd Tues 17th - Sat 21st September  MOBY DICK: a 200 year old adaptation of Herman Melville's novel

Nights: 28th Sept. 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Performances: 7.30pm - 10.30pm

CHARNEL HOUSE: £8.00 each, £15.00 for group of 6 or £20.00 for group of 10

Music: 7.30pm - 10.30pm

WESTMINSTER CHURCH: £12.00 and £10.00 on the door. £5.00 concessions

TUESDAYS: 7.30pm - 9.00pm

MARKET HALL: 60 fairs a year, for all ages and interests!

SATURDAYS: 9.30am - 4.00pm

THE SPACE: 28th September, 7.30pm Shakespeare’s COMEDY OF ERRORS 21st Century version £14.00

TABLE: 21 - 23rd Sept 7.30pm

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• Reasonable cost:
Clossick.   All welcome!

at 3.00 pm  on Sept 22nd with mathematician
Post Avant-Garde Marginality at the gallery
(8465 5968) from Sept 13th - 28th.

the Society’s new show at Discover
exhibition in the Blackheath Halls,
Studios.  After a recent successful
annual exhibitions and Open
work around the Royal Borough in
makers and crafts people show their
This active group of painters, print-
ishing!
the Blackheath Art Society is flour-
Greenwich and Blackheath".

on the theme: “Impressions of
niques, modes and interpretations
will see a broad variety of tech-

MYTHMAKER is an exhibition of paintings
by Natalie Ballantyne at the Greenwich Gallery
Greenwich gallery at 324 Creek Road,
SE10.  Open:
10am to 5pm.

Above: Catwoman

MYTHMAKER

Catwoman by Vanamla Beer

public outcry and thousands of letters and
emails from theatre supporters dismayed at
theatre’s closure.

Above de Sousa, Greenwich Playhouse’s
award-winning artistic director said: “There
is in Greenwich no shortage of budget hostel
accommodation. There is however a pro-
found lack, following the closure of the
Greenwich Playhouse in April 2012, of quali-
ty theatre entertainment.”

The search for an alternative venue con-
tinues – one suggestion: the West Greenwich
Library might be a possibility.

publicity

Sad news for theatre goers

F

The Centenary Company invites us all
to an evening of words and music,
(cabinet and classical) in and of Action
Against Hunger. The Centenary Company
is well-known for its entertaining produc-
tions of Gilbert and Sullivan.

This fun event is on Monday 23rd
September, 7.30 for 8.00 pm, at
the Nelson Room of the Trafalgar Tavern, Park
Row, Greenwich SE10 9NW.

The magnificent Nelson Room, upstairs
at The Trafalgar Tavern, overlooking the
Thames at Greenwich, provides a wonder-
ful setting for this event.

Doors open at 7.10pm with seating at
tables of 10.  Book early for this fun
evening – tickets at £12 a head are avail-
able in advance. Early bird offer: buy a
whole table by 13th Sept. for £10!

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Autumn Concert

The Centenary Company invites us all
to an evening of words and music,
(cabinet and classical) in and of Action
Against Hunger. The Centenary Company
is well-known for its entertaining produc-
tions of Gilbert and Sullivan.

This fun event is on Monday 23rd
September, 7.30 for 8.00 pm, at
the Nelson Room of the Trafalgar Tavern, Park
Row, Greenwich SE10 9NW.

The magnificent Nelson Room, upstairs
at The Trafalgar Tavern, overlooking the
Thames at Greenwich, provides a wonder-
ful setting for this event.

Doors open at 7.10pm with seating at
tables of 10.  Book early for this fun
evening – tickets at £12 a head are avail-
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The Arts

The Blackheath Art Society are pleased to be invited
to show this year by the Old Royal Naval
College to show recent work by its
artists in the upstairs gallery at
Discover Greenwich.

Visit the exhibition any day from
2 September to 1 November to see
and varied work by this tal-
ented group of local artists. You
will see a broad variety of tech-
niques, modes and interpretations
on the theme: “Impressions of
Greenwich and Blackheath”.

66 years since it was launched, the
Blackheath Art Society is flour-
i...
All in good time?  

M.A. Qavi

All Saints Church clock has fallen on hard times once again, an iconic feature on the Heath fell victim to benign neglect from 1994 onward before its restoration in time for the Millennium at the urging of village traders and residents. For example, in 2011 the Observatory, was supposed to have been restored to its pristine condition. The frequent breakdowns and malfunctions experienced recently suggest it has not been so. For example, in 2011 the clock was comatose for months on end: banners appeared in the Village and outside the Church before it started ticking again. Then, sadly, the glorious experience of the London Olympics enjoyed by the thousands in the Washerwomen's Bottom and Church Field parts of the Heath was marred by the sight of the Church Clock which had come un-stuck on 3rd August. On Marathon day, which was some three weeks after we reverted to British Summer Time, the Church Clock was showing GMT. Last May the clock got stuck, at quarter to eleven, and in July three of its four faces went out of sync with the fourth. Each and every malfunction takes weeks and months to rectify.

The health of this clock matters because of its landmark situation on Blackheath. The church authorities claim no knowledge why it keeps malfunctioning so often. Perhaps readers can help in devising a strategy for the maintenance of this clock.

Christopher's column

Now that the butterflies’ gone

In Barbara Kingsolver’s latest novel, Flight, the unsung heroes (or victims) are the King Butterflies - not as you might have thought a rook- ing blue-bird from Grenoble, but the small insect given to the Monarch butterfly - a reference to its orange colour, and William of Orange, who shared the throne of Protestant England in the late 17th. In the novel, the butterflies are seriously endangered because of climate change - thus making it a highly relevant today - No surprises then, sadly, to read that given the late cold Spring, and the gloom brought about by last year’s summer’s butterlies may be in a worse state than ever before. They emerged weeks later than last year, but unseasonally, the picture seems better in places, after the late summer’s hot weather

Walking through rough unmown grass in Hyde Park (Black Hill – the sound of grasshoppers was astonishing), there were many butterflies, faunas, hard to distract actually SAT ON MY SHOULDER! This is a patch in full sun, and as hard to

replicate in many gardens - but why not have a go? Min flat-topped flowers like sedum and yarrow, with simple daisies and slight, unpre-
tentious, grasses such as chickbresis (or you could just simply fill your lawn ‘go’ in patches and see what you get).

Spread the joy of nectar with elwes, evening primroses and lavender, and for next year add some early bee food like comfrey (earliest is euphyllum grandiforum, good ground cover in summer).

Doing your small bit will make a difference and you might get to love a slightly shaggy patch with a fuzzy feel. Soon, you would have the result of the ‘citizens scientist’ Big Butterfly Count*, but hopes are high that the number might be better than for the few past years.

Insect ‘hotels’ too are very fashionable (and expensive and elaborate), but just adding some logs or chunky branches to your insect-friendly patch with a buzzy feel to it.

Some will advise including some of the ‘citi- zens scientist’ Big Butterfly Count*, but hopes are high that the number might be better than for the few past years. Insect ‘hotels’ too are very fashionable (and expensive and elaborate), but just adding some logs or chunky branches to your insect-friendly patch with a buzzy feel to it.

Christopher Raven

The big butterfly count is a nationwide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment. It was launched in 2010 and has rapidly become the world’s biggest survey of butterflies.

In the same year, the butterfly count was organised into the Hot Spot, a place where butterflies and other insects can be seen. In 2012, the count was expanded to include urban areas and the results were published in the Town and Country Planning Journal. The count was repeated in 2013 and 2014, with similar results.

Solar-panel update

ANNE ROBBINS

“Even on a spring day, not very warm and somewhat overcast, it is possible to draw on the power of the sun…”

As I come upstairs, towards my airing cupboard, I can see a low hum. It makes me very glad: the sound tells me that my solar panel is working, and heat from the sun is being transferred to my hot water tank.

We installed our solar thermal system (not to be confused with a photovoltaic sys-
tem, which makes electricity from sunshine) at the end of 2008, after a tuition over planning was resolved. The regulations have been relaxed since then, but conditions apply for conservation areas such as Westcombe Park, and for locally or nationally listed buildings. It’s worth checking with local plan-
nng officers, and you can get advice from the govern-
ment’s Planning Portal.

In addition, solar panels must comply with building regu-
lations, to ensure that a addition, solar panels must comply with building regu-
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call for the boiler.

Solar thermal systems like ours consists of a col-
lector, with pipes inside through which fluid runs, a pump for circulation; and a large cylinder with two coils in it, one for the gas heating and one for the solar. The collector is set on our south-facing roof, and catches the sun’s rays from morning till late afternoon. As it does, the liquid picks up heat and the pump – which makes that happy hum - circulates it into the hot water cylinder, where the heat transfers into our domestic supply.

Even on a spring day like today, not very warm and somewhat overcast, it is possible to draw on the power of the sun. Just

now, the collector is at 50º, and the temperature at the bottom of the cylinder 24º. Whenever the collec-
tor is more than 2º warmer than the water in the cylin-
der, the pump starts up, and heat makes its way from the roof.

At the top of the tank, the water is 42º, and later the gas boiler can con-
tribute to the raise the tempera-
ture to 55º, in time for evening showers, washing-
up, and so on. In summer, the water can reach up to 70º just from the solar input, so there is very little call for the boiler.

Anyone who has tried to work out their gas and elec-
tric bills will recognise how dif-
cult it is to quantify energy use in terms of cost. It’s a similar conundrum with solar thermal.

Our control unit tells us how many hours the pump has run (6,489 in the 4½ years) and the kilowatt hours, or energy use, for that. But the heat transfer like the sun, isn’t shown. And it would be almost impossible to quantify the solar power that the sun is being transferred to. Anybody who has tried to work out their gas and elec-
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