



Westcombe NEWS

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October 2013 Issue 8

40th Year

A community newspaper commended by the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies

Monthly newspaper of The Westcombe Society: fostering a sense of community

Raw deal for rail users

In 2014 trains will have been running for 150 years between Charing Cross and Greenwich.

Unfortunately, it may also be the last year as, from January 2015, there are plans to stop all direct trains to Waterloo East and Charing Cross from the four stations on the Greenwich line, including Westcombe Park and Maze Hill, with all services being diverted into Cannon Street.

Even worse, for three years until the beginning of 2018, it will not even be possible to change trains at London Bridge for a Southeastern service to these stations.

This is all a consequence of the Thameslink programme, a £6bn Government-funded scheme to improve capacity on the Thameslink route through the re-building of London Bridge.

This programme means that from January 2015 until August 2016 no Charing Cross trains will call at London Bridge.

No direct trains to the West End

Then from August 2016 to early 2018 no Cannon Street trains will call at London Bridge, meaning that when you get on a London-bound train from Westcombe Park and Maze Hill it will whisk (or trundle) you non-stop from Deptford to Cannon Street but nowhere else.

There will be alternative routes, but all have disadvantages in time and/or cost. Many may be tempted to use the Underground from North Greenwich instead, but that line is already crowded in the peak hours.

Once the work is complete, it will once again be possible to change at

London Bridge, but there will be no physical track connection that will enable trains to reach Charing Cross.

So, after 150 years, the West End will no longer be reached by direct trains from Greenwich.

The Greenwich Line Users' Group was formed this year, with the support of the Westcombe Society, to represent the interests of all passengers who use the Greenwich Line. Whilst we recognise that the work at London Bridge will bring about many improvements for passengers generally, it will disadvantage users of the Greenwich Line.

**Mike Sparham,
Convenor of the
Greenwich Line
Users Group**

Our objective is to remove that disadvantage. Insufficient thought has been given by the Department for Transport to the impact on Greenwich Line users and the

possible ways in which direct Charing Cross services could be maintained.

Cannon Street is a fine station for the City, but hopeless for getting to and from the West End: and on Saturdays there isn't even a Tube connection.

The Group will be lobbying the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Southeastern trains for a service that meets the needs of South East Londoners.

The Group has been invited by SE Trains to make an input into the service provisions currently being negotiated with Department for Transport for the period 2014 – 2018. We will be doing this and focussing on ways to mitigate the impact of the London Bridge re-development as well as the longer-term service that local rail users want to see.

The Users' Group are happy to receive any comments and can be contacted at greenwichline@outlook.com



PHOTO: Jack Kay

The next dog show organised by the Friends of Mycenae Gardens with The Dog Society Greenwich and Blackheath is on October 13th. Winner of last year's fancy dress event was Batman and Robin, Harry Mackessy, 6, and his dog Henry, also 6. Please see the story on page 3.

Can you spend 20 minutes a month helping with the *WN*?

A lot of people are involved in producing and delivering your favourite local newspaper, the *WN*. The paper is delivered, free of charge, to every household in the area, in the belief that the Society exists not just for its members, but for the whole community.

However, the time has come to call on new volunteers – to write for and produce the *WN*, and also to deliver it.

Currently, our Distribution Manager, Myles Dove, ably assisted by Barbara, does a wonderful job of "counting out" bundles, street by street, and ensuring the different bundles are delivered to our splendid team of deliverers. Myles and Barbara greatly appreciate the help of all who help them in this process.

However, one problem is that Myles Dove and Barbara Henley, who have been doing this job for the last 21 years, are no longer car drivers, and they are taking round the bagged-up copies by

pedal cycle. This is clearly not an ideal situation!

We are asking for volunteers either to take turns doing the counting out, and/or delivering the bundles to the deliverers (and to a few other outlets such as public libraries), say once every three months or so.

"Counting out is a fun job," said Myles. "We get to see advance copies of the *WN* – and when three or four people set about the job, it becomes quite an enjoyable social occasion!"

"We could also do with more street-deliverers," he adds. He points out that the average time per round is only 20 - 30 minutes, depending on the number of copies. Only once a month!

More volunteers are needed to help out when regular deliverers are ill or on holiday or decide to move away.

Willing to help out from time to time? Please give Myles a ring on 8853 3740.

< NEWS BRIEFS >

Why not send in YOUR news? Write to: wnews@westcombesociety.org

View our new web site!

The Westcombe Society has created its new website - www.westcombesociety.org/. Have you viewed it yet? One treat – you can read the *Westcombe News* in colour!

New Blackheath Guide

Planned for the autumn is a new guide about Heath walks called *Walking the Heath* – an introduction to its 1000 year history compiled by our local historian, Neil Rhind, and Society committee member Roger Marshall, a long-standing member of the Westcombe Society.

Congratulations to

Age Exchange, which celebrated its Thirtieth Anniversary in September with a Teatime Reception in the House of Commons, hosted by MPs Nick Raynsford and Heidi Alexander.

Congratulations also . . .

To all our young people on their examination results. Des Malone, head of Johan Roan, said they were delighted with this

year's exam results. At A level there was a 96% pass rate and 96% of students who applied to university got in. Those who did not have decided to take a gap year and re-apply next year.

"At GCSE 95% of our students achieved at least 5A*-C, and 64% got at least 5A*-C including English and Maths." There were many exceptional individual performances including:

Thomas Schlanker 3 straight As at A level; and, at AS level, Wing Chow 5 straight As, and Rosa Baxter 4 As. At GCSE level: Nina Law (11 As or A*s) Nimesh Subedi, Uswa Ahmed, Ella Statham all got 10 As or A*s, and Eleanor Rawnsley got nine. "In a year greatly disrupted by our building programme, all these results are particularly pleasing," said Des.

Blackheath High School also celebrated another year of superb academic achievement, bucking the national trend with an increase of 7% in the top A* and A grades. 69% of the grades were A*/A and 60% of the students gained A*/A grades in at least 8 subjects.

Food banks

There are three Food banks in Greenwich. The nearest one is at The Boys' Brigade Hall, Reynolds Place, open on Thursdays from 11.30 am - 2.30 pm. To use Foodbank you need a voucher from your social worker, GP or headteacher. To donate food or toiletries, items can be taken to the Hall at the above times, or to St John's Church or Sunfields Church. For information and shopping list: greenwich.foodbank.org.uk

Attacked by a dog

A lady waiting at a bus stop in Westcombe Park Road was the victim of an unprovoked attack by a dog. The dog's owner, said sorry, and walked away. A friend called an ambulance, and today, four weeks later, her leg is still heavily bandaged. The dog was grey; it looked like an English Bull terrier.

Ottie and the Bea

Our local toy shop has just celebrated its third birthday of successful trading with a free Okido workshop – and coverage in the *Independent*. Well done Julia!

The Westcombe Society

Quiz Night

Main Hall of Mycenae House on Friday, Nov. 1st at 7.30 for an 8.00 pm start.

Teams of 6. Get a team together or come on your own & help make up a team.

Please book in advance:

Members £5.00 per person; Non Members £6.00.

Fish 'n chip suppers – or simply chips – can be ordered when booking.

Please ring Caroline on 8853 0948 to book your place/table and any meal(s).

Complimentary nibbles provided, & the Bar will be open. Raffle. Prizes! Bookings close Friday 25th October.

Dickensian Christmas Bazaar

This very popular event is on 23rd Nov. from 11.30am to 4pm at Blackheath High School for Girls. Many delightful craft stalls and entertainment for children including Santa's Grotto.

Gifts Wanted....

Any unwanted gifts, toiletries or bottles that can be donated as prizes in the tombolas or raffles gratefully received! Please call Marilyn 020 8853 1312

COMMUNITY NEWS

WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Neville Grant, The Editor
wnews@westcombesociety.org
Tel. 020 8858 8489

ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:
wnews@westcombesociety.org

Deadline for November: 16th Oct.
News Editor: Geoff Garvey
Environment Editor: Sarah Winterbottom
Reporters: Denise Scott-McDonald

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Emily Norton All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2756
environment@westcombesociety.org

DISTRIBUTION
Myles Dove & Barbara Henley
Jean-Jacques and Maureen Aune
Volunteer distributors please phone 020 8853 3740, we need your help!

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Marilyn Little, 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 020 8853 1312
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Westcombe society membership

please send this membership form to:
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The Westcombe Society Members' Party



Our annual members' Party went with its usual brio, helped along by Dave Silk (double bass) and Phil Mead (piano).

Members enjoyed a delicious meal. Many thanks to J-J and Maureen Aune, Caroline Owens, Joanne Lucas, Patricia Slade Baker and Tessa Cross for helping to organise the party.

Chairman of the Society Marilyn Little thanked members for their support, and made a special plea for more volunteers to come forward to help out at events. She emphasised that the duties were not onerous and were a very good way of making new friends.

She also urged all to look at the society's new website.



Marilyn then introduced Sharon Brokenshire, who runs the South London Special League. This provides sports facilities and events for disabled and disadvantaged players. Sharon then spoke about the work of the SLSL, particularly the Specialist Sports Camp, an exciting project that offers unique opportunities for

these young people. SLSL is the Westcombe Society's Charity of the year and we will be funding their Specialist Sports Camp to be held next February.

Marilyn said that we all looked forward to our next big event, the Christmas Bazaar, on November 23rd, which would be raising funds for the SLSL.

South London Special League

Sharon Brokenshire



The South London Special League (SLSL) is a successful, independent charity that exists solely on contributions, grants and public funding. The SLSL encourages the participation in regular and competitive sport by disabled children and adults.

The SLSL began with football, but now includes sports such as cricket, Powerchair Football, table cricket, Boccia, New Age Kurling, and, recently, archery. It also offers opportunities for disabled young adults to pursue coaching qualifications.

In ten years the South London Special League has evolved considerably: it has won several awards and continues to lead the way in terms of sports development for disabled people. Over 5000 disabled players have played for SLSL in that time.

We believe that sport is the greatest leveller whatever one's background or ability. We are here to enable people to access sport appropriately and safely. Our coaches and volunteers are highly qualified, and have been selected specifically for their experience and understanding of the needs of disabled people.

It became increasingly apparent to me that disabled youngsters are excluded from sport. Mainstream sports clubs, although willing, are not set up to deal with the special needs of our users.

Our Specialist Sports Camp is held at the Waterfront Leisure Centre, Woolwich. It is designed to ensure that everyone feels confident, successful and valued. It is important that there is no cost for this sports week, as we want to ensure there are no barriers to inclusion.

We adapt sports to ensure our young



players can enjoy playing them, and reap the benefits of fitness from taking part in sporting activities. Emily, a girl with cerebral palsy, and a keen sports woman, told us that she loved the sports Camps because it made her feel so "normal" *Next year South London Special Year will be celebrating its tenth anniversary with "Special World Cup 2014" at London Marathon Playing Fields, 304 Shooters Hill Road. Dates to be announced.*

Letters to the editor

From: Keith Townend Stratheden Rd.
Thank you for including in September's *WN* the splendid article on Anna Townend. Anna shrinks from promoting herself, and you have done her, and her causes, great service.

From: Janet Sweet Westcombe Park
I refer to Zoe Cooke's letter in the September issue. Personally, I am delighted that the Heath and surrounding areas are saved from NIMBY. I feel sure I am not your only reader to hope that this happy state of affairs continues.



Marilyn greets Sharon See below.

Calling all astronomers

There's lots going on at the National Maritime Museum. For example, the Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition and exhibition continues to showcase incredible images from amateur astro-photographers all around the world.

The awards ceremony took place on the 18th September at the Royal Observatory, to celebrate all the entries, but you can view them all for yourselves until 23rd February.

Then there is also a unique range of opportunities for those who wish to study astronomy. The Royal Observatory offers courses for beginners alongside GCSE Astronomy & Foundation Astrophysics. Students at the Observatory have access to unique resources, including the Observatory's state-of-the-art digital planetarium and a historic 28-inch refractor telescope.

For those interested in porcine pleasures, a musical pig that played a tune for children as the Titanic sank, has sung its tune for the first time in living memory thanks to x-ray technology.

Find out more at rmg.co.uk



Apple day

Join us at Woodlands Farm for a celebration of British apples on Sun. 13 October 2013, from 11.00am to 4.00pm. This is an opportunity to discover and buy many different types of traditional British apples. There will be a variety of activities including traditional crafts such as making corn dollies, a treasure hunt, archery, apple pressing to make delicious juice, stalls selling local produce, including our own honey and home-made jams and cakes. Try some Kentish Cider, too! A great day out for all the family. Entry is free, but donations are welcome and go towards the running of the Farm.

The Woodlands Farm Trust
331 Shooters Hill

Corrections: September's *WN*

Apologies to Gabbie Marston and the residents of *Coleraine Road* for renaming it *Coraline Road*.

In the article by Angela Burr on Anna Townend, a gremlin destroyed the last sentence, which (literally) lost its way: the last word should be *way*, and the whole sentence should have been:

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

LOCAL NEWS

All serene in Seren Park

The fiasco of the locked gate between Maze Hill station and Seren Park is finally over.

When residents first moved into flats at Seren Park, they were promised direct access to the station. However, the gate remained locked for four years, and the residents either faced a long detour – or a short cut through Tom Smith Close.

A result at last – but only after many months of nagging Network Rail, who promised, in February 2012, that the gate would be open "within a few weeks".

The bone of contention: who would foot the £30,000 bill for an Oyster Card reader. Nick Raynsford and local councillors joined forces to press for a result.

"Then incredibly, and quite wrongly, Network Rail claimed they needed to get the council's consent to allow the gate to be opened!" says Cllr Alex Grant.

"They also claimed that approval was needed from the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) – a layer of bureaucracy that readers won't want to know about.

The feeling was mutual: the ORR did not want to know about this little local problem... In the end, Southeastern agreed that the gate could open before the Oyster Card reader was put in place.

So, common sense has finally prevailed and the path was opened on September 3rd.

Reports Cllr Brighty: "I was there at about 2.00pm to take a look and the gate had indeed been opened and some residents were already using it."

Just in time, he added, as the Council has now replaced the boundary fencing with Tom Smith Close, with more robust materials. So this long-running saga has at last been resolved.

Memories of the Great War 1914 - 1918

Age Exchange in Blackheath Village is appealing to relatives of those who fought – or indeed refused to fight on conscientious grounds – in the Great War, as well as those who served in the ambulance corps, in munitions, or on the home front.

Age Exchange plans to assemble a collection of family stories and mementos as part of the "Children of the Great

War" project which will involve a travelling exhibition and theatre production; the material would then go into an archive to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the war

Anyone who would like to share photographs memories or memorabilia is invited to call into Age Exchange, 11 Blackheath Village or email greatwar@age-exchange.org.uk

Waiting for the beat

The London Marathon is a great and joyful national event, and raises a lot of money for charity, and no one complains about a certain amount of inconvenience.

The same does not apply to the Run to the Beat event which this year involved 19,000 runners in a circular route beginning and ending in Greenwich Park. Like the Marathon, the event should be fun.

But for many local residents, it was a run too far – although individual runners may get sponsorship for charity, it is not in itself a charity event, and the Council is paid £10,000 for making its streets – our streets – available. (Next year the sum is set to be raised to £20,000).

This is chicken feed for the amount of inconvenience caused, say local critics, who also claim that there was little or no local consultation on how it should be organised, or what route causes the least mayhem.

This year, the complaints came not only from residents, but also from the



Jessie-J: Worth waiting for!

runners: many were brought to a standstill four miles into the course, at a bottleneck in Artillery Barracks in Woolwich. Many runners complained that their timing was wrecked – and some suffered from cramp as a result of running, and then waiting, before starting to run again. Not best practice!

Others were not be very keen on the coconut water they were given. The final stage of the course – up hill in Greenwich Park – meant that wheelchair runners had their front wheels upended!

One consolation: those that made it back to the park were greeted by a concert from Jessie-J; amazingly, despite their exertions, many started dancing!

*Don't say: Let's go for a healthy run!
Do say:
Shall we dance?*

More canine capers

David Hall



PHOTO: Jack Kay

Last year's champ: Teddie: Winner of the Mercury Puppy Award 2012

Following last year's successful event the Friends of Mycenae Gardens with The Dog Society Greenwich and Blackheath will hold an afternoon of canine capers: fun and activities for dog owners, their families & their pets, from 12 to 4.00 pm on Sunday 13 October.

New for 2013 will be the Dogs Trust, offering free microchipping for dogs, as well as vouchers for free health checks and free neutering.

This year Grumpiest Dog joins the ranks of the other popular competitions for waggiest tail, best act by dog and owner,

best fancy dress (see front page, last year's winner!), and the dog that looks most like its owner, as well as regulars for obedience and good looks.

People get free admission and the dogs get a chance to shine for just £2 a contest. Details, and entry forms to download and bring along, are at <http://www.mycenae-gardens.org.uk> and via www.thedogsocietygb.wordpress.com

A 'batty' footnote to add to this 'dodgy' story... The Friends of Mycenae Gardens had a successful pilot bat walk in August and is making plans for other similar events.

New Community Garden Gordon Baker

This is a project that has developed out of the community pain clinic that I have been running at Vanbrugh HC since 2009," says Dr Ellen Wright, GP Partner in Vanbrugh PMS Practice, Vanbrugh Hill Health Centre.

The pain clinic was established as a pilot with the aim of treating patients with chronic pain in a community rather than a hospital setting, so providing both more holistic and cost-effective care.

"I was most fortunate to be approached by Dr David McGavin, of the Kairos charity," says Dr Wright. "David is a specialist in anthroposophic medicine."

Anthroposophic medicine is based on the philosophy of Rudolph Steiner, that particularly seeks to value and integrate the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of the human being.

The approach is particularly appropriate for patients suffering the complex effects of long-standing chronic pain, particularly

isolation and mental distress.

Dr McGavin has set up a successful pain management service based on these principles in Maidstone and wanted to develop a similar concept in Greenwich.

Patients receive anthroposophic treatments (including eurythmy movement therapy and massage) which may be combined with social projects (such as gardening, craft making and a choir). The garden is much admired by visitors and patients.

Says Dr Wright: "The garden is open to all patients and the local community, and we are keen to encourage all who wish to participate."

The pain clinic is NHS-funded. You need to be referred by your GP – anyone registered with a Greenwich GP is eligible.

The charity, Kairos, works together with the pain clinic but anyone interested in the alternative and social therapies they offer can also contact them directly via: Ingrid Hermansen 07712 810108

Well done Greenwich

The Royal Borough of Greenwich's anti-poverty policies have been praised by the Government for being among the best in the country at helping local families turn their lives around.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, and Louise Casey, the head of the troubled families programme, visited Greenwich last month, and met local families who have had their lives transformed.

The Royal Borough's 'Families First' programme helps people who have a range of issues which may include involvement in youth crime or anti-social behaviour, high levels of truancy, health concerns or an adult out of work.

The successful scheme provides each family with a dedicated support worker. New figures show that a £650 million programme has turned around the lives of 14,000 of Britain's most troubled families.

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FEATURES



There are so many opportunities for volunteering both locally and nationally: and those who take part find the experience enriching. The Westcombe Society regularly gives financial and other support to numerous local charities, all of which depend heavily on the support of volunteers.

However, if you have an urge to volunteer to support your local community here in Westcombe Park, you need look no further than the Westcombe Society.

On the face of it, we are not short of volunteers: ten times a year, more than sixty people take part in producing or distributing the *Westcombe News*; and there is a good turn out for our big event of the year, the Christmas Bazaar.

However, there is a shortage of volunteers when it comes to running other events, particularly the Children's Nearly New Sales (twice a year), Quiz Nights, the tea parties for senior citizens (twice a year), the Macmillan Coffee morning, the Summer Picnic ...

Often, it is the same small number of people (some of whom are beginning to show their age!) who help out on these occasions.

In June, the *Westcombe News* included a

Yes, you!

photograph of some of the founder members of the Westcombe Society: when the society started back in 1973, these same people would have been quite young.

Times have changed, and people these days are under great pressure in many ways. Many of us simply do not always have a great deal of spare time that can be devoted to volunteering.



So here is the good news: volunteering need not be a burden – indeed, it is an opportunity: to make new friends, and to develop interests, or to feel good about oneself and one's community. It does not involve writing a blank cheque (with hours rather than pounds as the currency); so when you see an event coming up – the Daffodil Tea for Senior Citizens, for example, an hour or so making sandwiches, or coming along to pour out the tea, means a lot, both to those who enjoy attending these events, and those who organise them.

Willing to help out on occasion?

Please ring Joanne Lucas on 07709

571777, Caroline Owens, 020 8853 0948; or Marilyn Little, 020 8853 1312

The Urge to Volunteer

Mary Spence

This summer's Olympic anniversary was marked by legacy laments focused on sports participation, economic growth and volunteering. The urge to volunteer, it seems, didn't last. As someone who volunteered for both the Olympic and Paralympics, plus a small stint as a London Ambassador, I feel inspired to respond.

The bad news is that there is no "urge to volunteer". For people to work without pay they need good reasons. Here are three: to be part of something bigger than themselves, to use a part of themselves that gives satisfaction and pleasure, to make a contribution that is appreciated.

70,000 people joined the Olympics because they wanted to be part of something big, famous, unique, and on their doorstep.

This wasn't just about sport. The Olympic brand was already strong and 2012's marketing made it stronger. Thousands wanted to say "I was there". The very title used – "gamesmaker" – exuded productivity and contribution.

We were told that we would make the difference between a good enough Olympics and a great one. We were also told that we would be one of the most important factors in the overall experience of both athletes and spectators. We believed it – and it turned out to be true.

From the beginning, the media played a positive role. We were heroes (and heroines). People spoke to us in bus queues. We benefitted from and contributed to the general Olympic feel-good ambience. Being an Olympic volunteer was not a hard road to travel.



But back to the real world. Could anyone possibly want to volunteer in more mundane contexts? Of course they do. People work in schools, sports clubs, community centres, music and arts venues, in any area that piques human interest. They write newsletters, deliver leaflets, run databases, tend bars, mentor and teach others, work on committees, anything that required skills and gives satisfaction.

My advice? If you have any spare time keep your eyes open for an organisation that you value and want to be part of. Look for activities that would give you pleasure or satisfaction. If you're chatty, work front of house. If you want to keep your computer skills up, volunteer for a computer task. And if you need exercise, deliver leaflets. The main thing is to have a look, and when you find a fit, put your hand up.

Editor: You could do worse than play your part in your local community organisation – the Westcombe Society!

Trinity Laban's Prokofiev Festival

The Prokofiev family has had a long-standing connection with Blackheath Halls. Sergei's widow, Lina, lived in Blackheath during the 1980s, and his son, Oleg, was a supporter of the Halls.

Lina Prokofiev had a rich and colourful life. Once an operatic soprano, she loved to recall her encounters with Marlene Dietrich and Coco Chanel. Abandoned by her husband, she survived eight brutal years in Soviet labour camps, and was released only after Stalin's death in 1953. She was finally allowed to emigrate to England in 1974.

Lina Prokofiev spent a lot of time in

Blackheath where her younger son Oleg, resided. This festival features an exhibition of Oleg's paintings and sculpture and Sergei's grandson, Gabriel, hosts a special club night: Nonclassical Meets Trinity Laban @ Blackheath.

There will also be individual recitals and performances, talks, and an enchanting shadow puppet theatre production of *Peter and the Wolf*. A highlight is a lecture by Simon Morrison, Professor of Music History at Princeton and a leading authority on Sergei Prokofiev.

Please see Page 5, What's on.

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In September, the Blackheath Society celebrated a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund with a special exhibition from the Society's extensive photographic archive called the Story of the Heath in Blackheath Halls. The Society also hopes later to create mobile exhibitions of the images of the Heath to be shown in local schools and churches and at the library in Age Exchange in the Village.

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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY, St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath 4th Thursday of every month, 2.00 for 2.30. **Next meeting: 24th October Rosalind Whyte Mad Tracey from Margate: a look at her wide-ranging work and at why Emin faces antagonism.** Non-members £5 on the door. www.artsinblackheath.org.uk or ring 83187550

GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, the University of Greenwich **NEXT LECTURE: Mon. 14th October titled "The Genius of Stradivari" by Tony Faber.** 8852 7873 Non-members £8.00

BLACKHEATH ART SOCIETY
Open daily: 10.00am - 5.00pm. Until 1st November: "Impressions of Greenwich and Blackheath" Blackheath Art Society Exhibition at Discover Greenwich (upstairs gallery), ORNC, Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich SE10.

THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE GALLERY Queen Anne Court, ORNC, University of Greenwich **Until 24th Oct. 'And the River Flows'** Inaugural exhibition by Focus Finder members and photographers Sandra Marques, Jennifer Appiah-Phillips and Goretti Pereira. Interpretations of what it means to live and work in London. Mon - Fri 10.00 am - 5.00 pm Sats: 11.00 - 4.00 pm

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
Don't miss the exhibition of the work of Yinka Shonibare MBE, best known for 'Nelson's Ship in a Bottle' which greets visitors to the NMM. Yinka Shonibare shows off new work in The Queen's House as part of the NMM's Contemporary Arts Programme. **Until 23rd Feb.**

CHILDREN

GREENWICH THEATRE
Wed. 30th Oct - Sun 3rd Nov. WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT Ages 2+ **Wed-Fri 11.00 am & 2.0 pm Sat & Sun. 10.00 am, 12.30 and 3.00 pm SAT 2nd Nov. COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS 6.00 pm £7.00 adult, £5.00 children Ages 6+**

BLACKHEATH HALLS
Sat 12th Oct. 3.0 pm Recital room. **OLD McDONALD & THE THREE PIGS** A comical version of the 3 pigs with mime, participation, and a big book. Ages 4 - 9. Tickets: £7.00

PETER AND THE WOLF Saturday 26 October | 3pm | Recital Room Ages: 4+

WOODLANDS FARM 331 Shooters Hill. Tel. 0208 319 8900 HALF-TERM EVENTS:
Wed. 30th Oct. Tremendous Trees Any time from 1.00 pm -3 .00 pm **Free!** Learn about trees, and collect some seeds for our tree nursery.

Thurs. 31st Oct. Horrible Hallowee: Enjoy a spooky evening 6pm-8pm £2.50 per child. **Wear fancy dress and make a lantern before we go on a night walk** Booking is essential: 8319 8900.

Fri. 1st Nov. Super scarecrows 1.00 pm-3pm £2 per child Drop in anytime between 1-3pm SE LONDON DADS GROUP DADS ALERT: Regular stay-and-play for dads and children under five @ Sherington Children's Centre, 14 Sherington Road every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30am. Contact: www.SELondonDads.org.uk or email: info@selondondads.org.uk

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
School holidays 28th Oct - 21st Nov. Come and explore "Nelson, Navy, Nation" Wide range of activities. Supported by ArtFund.



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COMMUNITY

Westcombe Society Dates for your diary:

Friday 1st November. Quiz Night, Main Hall, Mycenae House
Sat. 23rd Nov. Dickensian Christmas Bazaar, Blackheath Girls High School, Mycenae Road

CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH The next fund-raising luncheon is on **Thursday 3rd October** at the Clarendon Hotel, Blackheath from 12 noon to 2.30pm. The cost is £8.50. Our guest is Maria Louisa, Belly Dancer. Lunches can be booked by telephoning Wendy on 8265 0335 by Monday 30th Sept. latest.

BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road. Meetings begin at 7.45pm. Visitors are welcome, and requested to donate £ 3.00 to Society funds.

Oct 18th Astrobiology Dr Lewis Dartnell from UCL Many organic molecules have been detected in space and in meteorites that have landed on Earth. How were they formed? Did they become the precursors of life on Earth (or elsewhere)?

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
15th October Pieter van der Merwe 'Artists and Thames shipyards' Meetings are held at The Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, SE3 (at the back of Age Exchange Shop. There is no on-site parking – please use the car park behind the station. Meetings start at 7.30 and non members are charged £1.

BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB welcomes all players to duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon. & Thurs. 7.15 pm & on Wed. at 1.15 Tel. 8851 2609

WESTCOMBE WRITERS' CIRCLE 1st. Thursday each month, 2.30-4.30 at Mycenae House. Ring Joan Paice on 8305 1652 or Rosemary Gill on 8858 5088

BLACKHEATH FLOWER CLUB Meets third Friday of every month at 1.45 pm at Mycenae House

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: First Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm at Sunfields Methodist Church, Old Dover Road, SE3 8SJ eileenflanagan194@btinternet.com

GREENWICH MERIDIAN CHOIR (formerly SECOND CHANCE CHOIR) If you are interested in joining the choir as a regular member, (rehearsals are Thursday evenings during term time), contact **Jean Valsler at 0208 8527548 or email brook-jean@btinternet.com Or Susanna Gadd at 36457596 or email susannagadd@yahoo.co.uk.**

LIVE JAZZ - AT MYCENAE HOUSE
Candlelit jazz, special featured guest each month. Occurs on the second Friday each month. Bar & Food available. 8pm. £10/ £8

ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC 9.00 pm every Tuesday at the Lord Hood pub, Creek Road; main-stream jazz every Thursday.

BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
Friday lectures at 7.45pm Mycenae house, 90 Mycenae road, SE3 7SE Visitors are welcome at all meetings, and are requested to donate £3 to the Society. **Next meeting: Oct 18 Astrobiology**

Dr Lewis Dartnell, University College, London Many organic molecules exist in space; how did they probably contribute to life on earth?

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
is holding an International Art Auction in the hall of Mycenae House on Saturday 16th November. Pictures from five continents to be auctioned, plus a "silent auction" of smaller items. Viewing 1.30, auction starts 2.00 pm. Entrance by catalogue £4.00 includes free drink. Lucky numbers on catalogue to be drawn at 4.00 pm. In aid of refugees in Middle East.

BLACKHEATH QUAKERS: 50 YEARS
FREE TALKS Fridays 7.30 Quaker Meeting House, Lawn Terrace, SE3 9LL Booking: blackheathquakers@gmail.com or 07582 729 185

Fri. Sept.20th. Peace & Reconciliation

TERRY WAITE Conversations with Idi Amin, Revolutionary Guards, General Gaddafi, Hezbollah

Fri.Oct. 18th. Affluent city, austere times

JUDITH MORAN: Quaker Social Action Londoners struggling on low incomes

Fri. Nov. 15th. Drone warfare: convenient killing?

MARY DOBBING researcher DW, UK

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THE GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755

Tues 1st - Thurs 3rd Oct. ADVICE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART Eves 7.30pm Mats, Wed & Thu, 1.30pm £15 Concs £10 Educational groups £8.50 Matinees: All tickets £8.50 Ages: 14+

Fri 4th - Sat 5th Oct. ROMEO & JULIET Eves 7.30, Sat Mat. 2.30 pm £15 | £12.50

Wed 9th - Sun 27th Oct. BARE The Rock Musical Tues - Sun. 7.30 Sun Mat. 2.30 pm £20 | £15

GREENWICH COMEDY FESTIVAL Sun 3rd Nov. 8.00pm ALEXEI SAYLE £17.50 £12.50

THE ALEXANDRA PLAYERS
Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Avenue, SE7 7HX
Thurs-Sat Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 & 2 8.00 pm

The Alexandra Players present GOOD THINGS by Liz Lochhead. Finding love in a charity shop £8 (£7 Concs). Box Office 07867 627 987

THE PRIORY PLAYERS
THE ACCRINGTON PALS by Peter Whelan
Thurs. 10th. - Saturday 12th Oct.at 7.45pm at The Progress Hall, Admiral Seymour Road, Eltham, SE9 1SL £7.00/£6.00 concs at the box office 07502 450983 or tickets@theprioryplayers.com

THE SPACE 269 Westferry Road London E14 3RS 0207 515 7799 Nearest stn: Mudchute (DLR)
1st - 5th Oct 7.30 pm PVT WARS 5th Oct 2.00 pm £13.00 | £10.00

12th Oct 7.30 pm GONE WITH THE WIND
The East London Chamber Choir perform with a programme of film music £10.00 | £8.00

15th Oct - 1st Nov. GRAND GUIGNOL 7.30 pm
The birth and death of a Montmartre theatre £14.00 | £10

MUSIC

BLACKHEATH HALLS Tel 020 8463 0100

Fri 4th Oct. 6.00 pm TRINITY LABAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA play Rachmaninov Symphonic Dances, Op 45 **FREE**

MEANTIME JAZZ 7th, 14th & 21st Oct. 7.00 pm

BLACKHEATH HALLS ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS 6, 13, 27 Oct.; 3, 10 Nov, 2:30pm - 5:30pm, Sun. 17 Nov. 2.00 pm - 5.00pm
Subscription: £57 | concs. £51.00

BLACKHEATH GOES GOSPEL REHEARSALS
Come and join our Blackheath Halls Gospel Choir. No previous experience necessary. Rehearsals: Mondays 7, 14, 21, 28 October; 4 Nov. 7:30pm - 9:30pm Performance: Fri. 8th Nov. Subscription: £57 | £51 conc

Monday Lunchtime Recitals

The Friends of Blackheath Halls fundraising recitals in the Recital Room and start at 1.10pm. A light lunch is available prior to the recital. Admission is free with a retiring donation to Blackheath Halls.

Mon. 7th Oct. Jenna sherry violin
Anyssa Neumann pianist
Mon 21st Oct Leto Ensemble
Mon. 28th Oct. Bobby Chen piano
Mon. 4th Nov. Rika Zayas piano
Mon 11th Nov. Olga Stezhko piano
Mon. 2nd Dec. Rie Kosaka voice and harp
Mon. 9th Dec. Linos Piano Trio

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Labour:
Cllr. Alex Grant
Tel. 8855 7292 E-mail Alex.grant@greenwich.gov.uk
Surgeries: 1st. Friday of each month, 7.00 - 8.00 pm, Mycenae House; 3rd. Saturday of each month, 3.30-4.30 pm, St James Church Hall, Kidbrooke Park Rd.

Conservative:
Cllr. Geoff Brighty
Tel. 8921 5663 (Town Hall) or 8858 9731 (Home) geoffrey.brighty@greenwich.gov.uk

Cllr. Alex Wilson
Tel. 07783 611607
Email: alex.wilson@greenwich.gov.uk
Surgery: 1st Monday of the month 6 - 7.00 pm
Blackheath Library, Old Dover Rd.



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MON 21 OCT 13.10h LETO ENSEMBLE

Free

WED 23 OCT 18.00h CHAMBER MUSIC
£5

WED 23 OCT 20.00h LECTURE BY SIMON MORRISON: THE LOVE AND WARS OF LINA PROKOFIEV.
£10 (includes a glass of wine)

FRI 25 OCT 13.05h Piano sonataa
The Chapel, ORNC Admission free

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FEATURES

All Aboard!

STORM SMITH-SUCKOO and SUZY COOPER of John Roan describe their experiences on the Tall Ships Regatta



Brian Aldrich Photography

Storm and Suzy proudly announcing the Tall Ships Race from Falmouth to the Isle of Wight in 2014. Also on board: Cllr Peter Brooks, and waving the flag of Cornwall, Malcolm Bell, Head of Visit Cornwall

We both sail at a local sailing centre called The AHOY centre in Deptford – a local sailing charity which has its doors open to all.

We are part of the centre's youth sailing scheme and have enjoyed taking part for the last seven years. The Royal Borough of Greenwich offered the charity two ambassadorial roles for the tall ships race which finishes in the Royal Borough late summer 2014.

Tall Ship

As a part of this role we took part in a voyage where we would crew on board the beautiful tall ship *Astrid*. We started the voyage in Southampton on 14 July and from there we enjoyed a whole 10 days of crewing on board the Tall Ship. As part of the crew we learned new skills such as team work, communication and navigation – to name just a few.

We made our way around the English coast stopping off in lovely resorts like Weymouth and Penzance. Sadly we had to finish the trip early in Kinsale, on the south coast of Ireland, as the *Astrid* developed a few engine problems.

We had a great experience which we would gladly do again, and we will be taking part in the Tall Ships regatta next year which will finish in Greenwich.

Local schools

We will be visiting local schools and centres in the hope of attracting young

people into the sport of sailing – and also to take part in the next tall ship regatta alongside the two of us. We will be speaking to young people all over Greenwich with the aim of having 50% of the crew on the 40 ships under the age of 25. With this in mind, Greenwich hopes to engage lots of young people for this excellent opportunity which we would like to share with others.

Press Launch

We were involved in the 'One Year to Go' celebrations which took place in Woolwich and Greenwich at the start of September, with nine tall ships running passenger voyages from Woolwich to Greenwich or Tower Bridge. This was a great event, finishing with fireworks each evening. The press were there to cover the celebrations, and also to publicise the event "Sail Royal Greenwich". It was a great experience which finished with a tour of the *Cutty Sark*.

This is a once in a lifetime event and we would like to thank Royal Greenwich and the AHOY Centre for giving us this wonderful opportunity. We cannot wait till next year and will hopefully see some of you there with us.

If you are aged 16 or over and would like to try sailing for the first time on board a magnificent tall ship – for more details including how to register, visit: www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/tallships

Blackheath Halls Art exhibition: Cristiana Angelini

BELOW:
Passing Clouds 2 (Oil)

Cristiana Angelini is primarily a landscape and still life artist, her favourite mediums being oil and pastel. Her traditional techniques were developed during her training at the School of Art in Carrara, Florence where she attained a Diploma in Fine Art and Art History.

After moving to England in the sixties, she was overwhelmed with love for the lush, green English country-



side and her passion for painting landscape began. "Looking back on my days as a student, I remember the incredulity we all shared on seeing black and white prints of Constable trees, so high they seemed to touch the clouds. I count myself fortunate to witness how right he was."

Over the years Cristiana's paintings have been exhibited widely and have enjoyed much success. Her paintings have been accepted at the Royal Academy, Whitechapel Gallery and the Twentieth Century Art Fair. In 1990 her work was awarded first prize in The Laing Collection Exhibition for London and the South East and in 1995, her work was selected for inclusion in the world-renowned Bridgeman Art Library collection.

Cristiana's exhibition runs from 3rd - 28th October in the Cafe Bar of Blackheath Halls. Open 10.00 am – 5.00 pm

Also still on display until November 1st: 10.00 am to 5pm. "Impressions of Greenwich and Blackheath": Blackheath Art Society Exhibition at Discover Greenwich (upstairs gallery), Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich SE10. This annual exhibition gets better every year!

All change for the Second Chance Choir

The Second Chance Choir has been renamed the Greenwich Meridian Choir. The choir's musical director, Virginia Rushton, has left to follow new interests in North Yorkshire.

Virginia has led the choir through ups and downs and thick and thin for nine years. Many members of the choir have appreciated her kindness and empathy in times of personal crisis, and she will be very sorely missed.

The new musical director will be Hilary Campbell, assisted by Richard Harker.

Hilary is an experienced and accomplished choral conductor and performer, who has appeared on television and been heard on the radio. Recent solo performances include Mozart's *Requiem*, Bach's *Magnificat*, and Haydn's *Nelson Mass* under the direction of Sir David Wilcocks. She has been singing with

various ensembles for over a decade, including the Royal Academy of Music Chamber Choir and Trinity College of Music Chamber Choir, among others.

Richard Harker, a freelance choral conductor and accompanist, is musical director of Landmark Sound and Teatime Opera and assistant conductor of Dulwich Chamber Choir. He is also chorus master for Harrow Opera.

Under Hilary's direction the choir will embark on a new, very varied repertoire, which will include traditional folk songs, world music, the works of some famous classical composers, and much more.

If you are interested in joining the choir as a regular member, (rehearsals are on Thursday evenings during term time), please contact Jean Valsler at 020 8852 7548 or email brookjean@btinternet.com Or Susanna Gadd at 36457596 or email susannagadd@yahoo.co.uk



Spoilt for choice

Dancing is definitely good for you, however old or young. We are lucky to be spoilt for choice in Greenwich. Here's a selection of what's on offer:

1 GREENWICH DANCE

The beautiful 1930s Art Deco Borough Hall is the perfect setting for a vintage afternoon of social dancing. Live music features a range of styles. A cup of tea and a slice of cake is included in the price. No need to book!

Saturdays: 19th Oct., 16th Nov., and 14th Dec. Time: 2.00 - 4.30pm

The Borough Hall, Royal Hill, London SE10 8RE Price: £8 (£6 concessions) Info: 020 8293 9741

2 AGE EXCHANGE in Blackheath Village.

DJ Jeff & Jo's Boogie Woogie Waltz foxtrot, quickstep, tango, and more! Come and join in – or just watch, and enjoy the music.

£3.00 includes tea, cake, and chat. Every 3rd Friday, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

3 GREENWICH W. COMMUNITY CENTRE 141 Greenwich High Road Flamenco Classes:

Mondays 7.00 - 9.00pm : Absolute Beginners & General Technique Tuesdays: Children. Beginners, Improvers & Low Intermediate Call Emma: 8305 6888

4 BLACKHEATH HALLS

Sequence dancing, quickstep, cha cha etc, with Mr Wonderful Dancing.

Wed 23rd Oct. 2.00 - 4.30 pm Tickets £5 include light refreshments. Phone: 8305 9300 or 8463 0100

ALSO:

Concert and dance:

Tango Baile D'Buenos Aires Sunday 20 Oct, 5.00pm - 6.30pm followed by a social dance till 10.30pm

The modern architecture of Greenwich

The annual Greenwich society lecture is to be given this year by Prof. Alan Powers of University College, London.

Greenwich always evokes thoughts of Christopher Wren and Inigo Jones, but what about 20th Century architects?

Our 2013 Lecturer, Alan Powers, is a distinguished architectural and cultural historian who is widely regarded as a leading authority on British architecture and design in the 20th century. He is the

author of the standard work *Modern: the Modern Movement in Britain* and has been Chairman of the Twentieth Century Society.

The Lecture takes place at the National Maritime Museum lecture hall at 11.00 am on Sunday 3rd November. Tickets are £10 and include a glass of wine. They are available from Jackie Hicks 60, Greenwich Park Street SE10 9LT hicksjackie60@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENT



Planning applications can be viewed in the library, or at the Woolwich Library on the lower ground floor of the Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington St. They may also be viewed on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning

Locals rally around our Foot Tunnels

Ian Blore & Francis Sedgemore

The River Thames foot tunnels at Greenwich and Woolwich owe their existence to that remarkable Victorian working class hero, and son of Poplar, Will Crooks: trade unionist, Fabian, London County councillor and later MP for Woolwich. Crooks' vision was of a free passage under the Thames for people commuting to work in the docks and factories on the north bank. And not only work; the tunnels were ever popular with north bank residents looking to sample the cultural delights of Greenwich.

In 2013 the pattern laid by Crooks over a century ago remains. Around a thousand people walk every day, each way, through the Greenwich tunnel, many to work in Canary Wharf. At the same time, day trippers, some local and others from further afield, flock southwards to enjoy the splendour of maritime Greenwich.

The Woolwich foot tunnel is less well used, owing in large part to competition from the Woolwich ferry. Still, it is surprising how many people walk the Woolwich tunnel following the demise

of the docks. The Woolwich tunnel is especially appreciated by night workers employed in the new transport industries based north of the river in Newham.

In 2008, Greenwich Council proposed to refurbish both tunnels, and there was widespread local enthusiasm for the plan, given the appalling state of the tunnels and their access points. New lifts, lighting, cupolas and a thorough clean were all part of a refurbishment project which received £11.4m funding from the Department of Transport's Thames Gateway project.

Many's the slip . . .

Work on the tunnels began in 2009. They were supposed to be ready in time for the London Olympics, but it all went horribly wrong when the pot ran dry, and contractors Hyder Consulting, Dean & Dyball Civil Engineering, and Sweett were dismissed in December 2011.

There was no attempt by Greenwich Council to keep the public informed, with delays being blamed first on "hidden structures", or "non-drying paint". There has been no response from the council to repeated calls for a detailed explanation, and the legacy today is more of vandalised gems than rejuvenated heritage.

For more than a year now no further work has been carried out, and both of the new lifts at Greenwich are prone to failure. There are no new lifts at Woolwich.

In October 2012, the Royal Borough of Greenwich commissioned an inquiry into the tunnel debacle, but the report of inquiry chairman John Wilmoth has yet to be published, despite repeated calls from local people and other stakeholders.

Who is responsible for the tunnel debacle? Financial supervision of the project was moved from the Homes and Communities Agency to the Greater London Authority, but until February of this year City Hall denied that it had any responsibility for the tunnels. The GLA now admits only that it must "continue to monitor the position through regular liaison with the Borough".

We hope that this latest action on the part of the GLA will speed a resolution to the problem of these one-time glories of Greenwich. The work that remains to be done will no doubt be expensive, but nowhere near as costly as any of the new cross-river links currently under consideration. Whatever the merits of new river

crossings, let us preserve and improve what we have inherited from our visionary forefathers.

Local people have now taken the initiative, recently launching a Friends of Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnels group (FOGWOT). On

5th September, more than 50 people from both sides of the river packed an upstairs meeting room at the 10 Centre in Greenwich.

Action stations!

There they not only formally established the FOGWOT community group, but in an enthusiastic brainstorming session, with a strong consensus of opinion between pedestrian and cyclist users of the tunnels, came up with a list of ideas for the group to pursue.

At this meeting, industrial historian and outgoing councillor Dr Mary Mills was by acclamation elected chair of the group, whilst Ian Blore was chosen as secretary, John Phillips treasurer and Dr Francis Sedgemore press officer. Four other individuals, including residents of Woolwich and Poplar, were also elected to the FOGWOT committee.

As a first step, FOGWOT demands that the remaining works be completed to the same high standard as that of the south cupola at Greenwich, which is a shining complement to the renovated Cutty Sark ship. That said, behind the fine facade of the south cupola we are presented with boarded up stairwells and a still dilapidated tunnel. The Greenwich tunnel must be fixed, and work on the Woolwich Tunnel completed, with new lifts installed.

Join us in FOGWOT, and help preserve the transport heritage of Greenwich. You can follow our activities through the web-site www.fogwoft.com, and Twitter feed: @fogwoft. For information: Ian Blore – email: louiseatbeadles@yahoo.co.uk Francis Sedgemore – email: francis@sedgemore.com

PHOTO:
Neville Grant



Still beautiful . . .



One of this year's brood of sparrowhawks raised in Westcombe Park was killed on what appeared to be its first day away from the nest. The inexperienced young bird flew into a large window and died instantly from the impact.

The accident happened shortly after two youngsters were observed careering around the trees in Mycenae Gardens, vociferously demanding food from a parent. The other youngster was later observed around the area for a few days until it learned to stop screeching.

PHOTO: David Hall

Christopher's column

Moving on...

Last year the RHS reminded us that Autumn is the traditional, and best, time to plant gardens.



Although the subsequent lengthy winter may have decimated some newly planted items, they are right. Autumn is also the best time if you need to move plants, and perhaps the only sensible time to relocate shrubs. Deciduous shrubs can be moved relatively easily once they shed their leaves and are dormant (usually November, depending on temperatures), but evergreens are trickier. They should be lifted slightly earlier, while they are still growing, to enable them to send out fresh roots in their new location before the temperature drops.

Water any plant you plan to shift very thoroughly a day before you lift it, then plant into a hole which has also been soaked. Add some slow release fertiliser and water well for several weeks.

Herbaceous perennials need the same treatment but are easier to move or just divide. Large clumps may be tough to dig out, though, and its best to replant smaller pieces and discard old woody roots.

It's also time to consider bringing in a few new varieties – about now, nurseries should be filling up with relatively inexpensive small pots of all sorts of perennials.

My favourites over the last year were *echinacea* (in a range of colours - but watch out for slug attacks) and *nepeta* (catmint) varieties. The latter is best in full sun and cutting back hard mid Summer gives more flowers later on. Pale yellow *Nepeta govaniana* is an unusual upright variety, which goes well with *agastache* and *monarda* – all of them insect friendly and good for cutting.

It will soon be bulb planting time and for me, dwarf iris 'Purple Gem' was a success, flowering in January. I also liked unusual varieties of the ubiquitous *muscari* (grape hyacinth) - for Valentines Day, 'Cupido' and the two tone *M. comosum latifolium* is easy.

There's also a yellow, highly scented *M. comosum* 'Golden fragrance'. All of these will flower indoors in a cool light spot, best crammed in quantity into a clay pot.

Happy planting!

Christopher Raven



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