



Westcombe NEWS

40th Year

Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops

Dec. 2013/Jan. 2014 Issue 10

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

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



Preparations for the Christmas bazaar on Friday evening were in full swing: getting the tree up was a major exercise. INSET: Oops! Nearly fell over! Dave saves the day! We've heard of tree-huggers but this is ridiculous . . .!



Westcombe Society Carol singing

Starts outside Mycenae House at 7.00 pm on 16th December. The route: Westcombe Park Road to Combe Mews/Avenue, Coleraine and Webb Roads, Station Crescent, then up to Beaconsfield Close. Thence to mulled wine at a mystery location! Do join us - and bring an instrument, if you can! Monies to SLSL. If anyone wants to join us en route, pl. ring 07709 571777



Support our charities

Over the years, the Westcombe Society has donated over £100,000 pounds to local charities, on the basis that charity begins at home – but doesn't end there!

This year the Westcombe Society is proud to support the South London Special League as its Charity of the Year, and the Dickensian Christmas Bazaar is a big part of the Society's fund-raising efforts.

"Fund-raising? Yes, and fun-raising too!" says organiser Marilyn Little. "We are very pleased by the amount of public support that our bazaar receives every year, and pleased too that many of our stall-holders come back every year.

"It is also very good to see how many people

come to help out before, during and after the bazaar. It makes it a genuine community effort. We are also very grateful to all the local businesses and traders who donated prizes, and to Mrs. Lisa Laws, for allowing us to use Blackheath High School for our venue."

The charity this year is the South London Special League, a successful community-based project that enables young players with disabilities to take part in sport. Since 2004 for example, over a thousand boys and girls have experienced the fun of playing football.

The project is run by Sharon Brokenshire and has won awards for excellence. The SLSL recently received an award at Buckingham Palace. (See page 3)

LEFT: The children had a great time – Punch and Judy, Santa's Grotto, face painting, art work – and were fascinated by Geoff Felix's dancing puppet. Great music from Clanjamfray & the Grove Choir. BELOW, LEFT: The stalls were full of the Christmas spirit – especially the bottle tombola!

Many thanks for their donations:

SPONSORS & BIDS

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Westcombe Dry Cleaners
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Adappt
Greenwich
Communications Centre

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DIY Standard
Blackheath Pet Supplies
Apple & Orange
Blackheath Cooks
Precious Skin care
B Brown
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Bella Hairdresser
Pares Shoe Shop
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Picture House Greenwich
Right Angle
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Kevin's Charlton Pharmacy
Waitrose, Greenwich
Sainsburys



ABOVE: Simon sets up the roasted chestnuts ready for the start.



ABOVE, RIGHT: Dominic Coleman opens the bazaar

BELOW: Santa goes walkabout with Mr and Mrs Pilgrim and their lovely pipe organ.



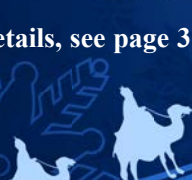
ABOVE: The Mayor and her consort do some shopping

BELOW: The stalls did a roaring trade



The Live Nativity comes to
The Blackheath Standard
14th December at 3pm

For details, see page 3.



a street drama with music,
live animals, and free refreshments

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL The Inn Crowd

by Roger Jones

Sat. Dec 7th at 4.00 pm
at St George's Church
Glenlue Road SE3 7SB
Tickets £4/£2 concs. Family £10.00
Contact: 8858 7756
Proceeds for homeless



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

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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!

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Marilyn Little, 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 020 8853 1312 (marilyn.little@btinternet.com)

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please send this membership form to:
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Name.....

Address.....

t el.....

e mail:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family membership	£12	[]
individual membership	£8	[]
senior citizens/unwaged	£4	[]

IKEA - Good Idea here?

Comet has already closed and Sainsbury's on Greenwich Peninsula is planning a move. So, what next? IKEA is proposing to open a store on the site and recently held an exhibition to provide information and invite comments from the public. The Swedish furniture giant presented three very positive arguments in favour of the new store's location.

First, while the new store would mean the demolition of Sainsbury's award-winning building, IKEA claimed that as part of their 'sustainable development' ethos, the store would be constructed from 'sustainable' materials with a minimal carbon footprint, and with extensive use of solar panels.

Secondly, the new store would create 400 jobs locally, from managerial positions through to more junior posts, with additional work during the construction phase.

The third advantage presented by IKEA was based around accessibility. According to the company the location will "deliver IKEA's most accessible store in the UK for customers visiting by public transport. The

site is close to underground and rail links and is also served by six bus routes." However, no evidence was presented as to the likelihood that customers will use public transport.

In fact there was tacit acknowledgement of the importance of the car in the next statement: "Car-borne IKEA customers will be able to use the existing 1,000-vehicle parking spaces on the site which would be shared – as is the current situation at Sainsbury's – with B&Q and Odeon customers."

The location of the store on the Greenwich Peninsula is likely to attract customers from North Kent.

They, and many others, will travel by car. With congestion levels already high in this area during the weekend, parking provision and traffic flow are clearly a consideration for any new store. So, while many would welcome an IKEA closer to home, more work needs to be done on the question of access and traffic flows.

*More details can be found at
http://www.ikea.com/gb/en/campaigns/greenwich_store.html*

Maggie Gravelle

< < News briefs > >

Charlton Toy Library: Good news . . . !

In the past, the Toy Library has received help from the Westcombe Society. Sarah Roseblade told the *WN* some good news:

"We have been awarded a grant to fund our Outreach programme over the next three years. This means we will be visiting 4 womens refuges and 4 HomeStart groups in the borough, taking toys and books and equipment to those who are in need and can't otherwise access our service.

Information: 07779 024226

International Art Auction

This event, organised by the Blackheath and Greenwich United Nations Association on Nov. 16th, raised £1,414,00 for UNHCR's work with refugees from Syria and elsewhere. The pictures came from many parts of the world, including China, India, Egypt, Africa, the US and Europe. Many thanks to the donors, and all those who helped to organise the event, and to Mycenae House for providing the venue.

Information: 0208 858 8489

Letters to the editor

Any views expressed are those of the writers only, and are not necessarily those of the *WN* or the Westcombe Society.

From: Ann Dingsdale

I was delighted to see the article in the *WN* this month on women's suffrage in the area after 1910, and with its much deserved mention of Mary Stott and Jane Grant.

I don't know if you realise that in fact the very beginning of the campaign for the vote had its birth in Blackheath in 1866. The petition collected then was presented to Parliament by J S Mill, MP living in Blackheath Park, and was delivered to him at the House of Commons by Elizabeth Garrett (went to school in Blackheath) and Emily Davies (elected to the Greenwich School board in 1870) and 17 interesting women signed in the area. At this time the idea was completely outrageous, so they were very brave. Since 1990, I have been researching all the 1,499 women who signed (for my PhD and beyond). The women supporters in this area range from a jobbing governess to a ship owner's wife. One family is in the actual *WN* area connected with the architect of buildings in Vanbrugh Park, but all are from Charlton, Lee, and edges of Lewisham, broadly in the area 'Blackheath' There are some good stories!

Helen Taylor, John Stuart Mill's step daughter living in Blackheath Park, was subsequently invited to stand as a parliamentary candidate long before the vote was won. . .

Also the Headmistress and several teachers at Blackheath High School came out publicly in support of the campaign in the 1890's.

From: Dr David Frank Senior Parkside

I refer to the article in last month's *WN* by Cllr Grant. The real issue is overabundance of people who are unable, or do not wish, to pay a market rate for their housing. This would be true however much 'affordable' housing was built.

The situation would be eased if 1 million people living in the country illegally were removed. Nick Clegg helpfully said before the election this was not possible because we do not know where they live.

My understanding is that welfare is there to provide support for people who are too ill or too old to work. Also for people who are unemployed through no fault of their own.

It is not there to provide an alternative income to those who have made socially destructive lifestyle decisions. There is a limited supply of Rolls Royces and Ferraris. Citizens who are unable to afford one are quite happy to drive a second hand Mondeo and not whinge about it. But when it comes to housing, the concept of entitlement is introduced.

'Everybody is entitled to a roof over their head' irrespective of the decisions they chose to make. I have a spare room in my house. I am happy to pay for it. I do expect any one else to pay for it.

The welfare system provides a series of perverse incentives to people to make socially destructive decisions.

The main one is to produce children they cannot support. Free school meals is a signal for the parents that they have produced offspring they cannot afford to feed.

I benefited from a good state education and am happy to pay taxes to pay to educate children. I am less enthusiastic about having to pay to feed them. This group of the population are more likely to become clients of the NHS and the Criminal Justice System. They are also less likely to trouble the Higher Education System.

This pattern is self perpetuating from generation to generation. The dependence on the state provides a client base for the party that Mr Grant represents.

From: Trevor Allman Coleraine Road

I would like to say how informative Sarah Winterbottom's article in November's *WN* was on the "Say No to Silvertown Tunnel" meeting.

I also attended the meeting in my capacity as Green Party candidate for Blackheath Westcombe Ward in 2014 (The Green Party are opposed to the tunnel, along with Greenwich Liberal Democrats), and as a resident of Coleraine Road for 40 years, who wants to live here many more years without suffering a premature death due to a respiratory disease.

As pointed out, we already have some of the highest air pollution levels in London without attracting even more traffic. Having lived with an asthma sufferer (my late Mum) and had nursing experience, I know only too well how debilitating respiratory dysfunction can be.

As well as the air pollution, Blackheath Westcombe Ward has also historically suffered from being used as a "rat-run" by traffic, which will only be increased by the Silvertown tunnel.

What the article didn't mention though was how the political parties who are currently in situ on Greenwich Council have reacted to the Silvertown Tunnel proposal. Given the negative impact it will have, you would have thought that those who are supposed to be acting in our best interests would oppose the project. Sadly not.

Both parties on the Council have actually come out in support of the Silvertown Tunnel. Greenwich Council leader, Cllr Chris Roberts, who was invited to the meeting on 16 October to explain why he was supporting the project, did not respond. The three councillors in attendance kept a low profile and said nothing.

Whilst on my way to the meeting, I met a prospective Conservative Party candidate for Peninsula Ward, Mr Terry Wheeler, whom I know personally, who was busy in the Gurkha's Inn

Fraudsters and criminals warning

Over the weekend of the 16th November 2013 the ATM's at the NatWest Bank on Old Dover Road were targeted by persons fitting "Lebanese Loops": fraudsters insert devices which consist of a strip/sleeve of metal or plastic into the bank machines card slot.

When the ATM tries to eject the card, a 'lip' at the end of the loop prevents the card from being ejected, and the machine draws the card back in, leaving the victim to believe that the card has been retained.

One of the fraudsters will often then appear and offer to help, watching victims as they re-type their PIN. The victim then walks away assuming their card has been retained – leaving the fraudsters free to recover it and, using the PIN, withdraw money using the card. The police are obtaining posters of the suspects to circulate around the Neighbourhood Watches.

Burglars in action

The *Evening Standard* has warned that criminals are leaving tiny stickers purporting to come from locksmiths on the front doors of people's homes, marking them as possible targets. The police believe that "scouts" leave them on properties that are considered easy to burgle.

The telephone number on the label does not exist. In any case, it would be foolish to hire a stranger to fix new locks.

A reader warns that streets in this area have been targeted. Rip off the labels, ring 101 to tell the police - and be vigilant!

restaurant, across the road from the meeting venue. He told me there was no point in attending as his party supported the idea of the Tunnel "with modifications". Such is the lack of concern that some of those who will be seeking election in 2014 have for the future health and well-being of people in our community.

From Jenny Pickles Collins Cleaners

I just wanted to thank you for allowing us to put a thank you in the *WN*. Also for taking the trouble of rewriting it for me so well. I was honestly very touched you had gone to so much trouble.

We had our last day at Collins in October, and for David and me it was the end of an era that started 40 years ago. It was a sad day but I know it's being left in safe hands. This whole experience has been very surreal, but we are looking to the future with positive minds.

I will never forget the kindness and support everyone has given me, and both David and I will miss you all in Blackheath.

From: Terry Wheeler

It was very pleasing to see the council have decided to review the pavement tax. It was disappointing though, that despite having accepted it had been brought in without any proper consultation or debate, and that they had not got it right, it was not scrapped entirely, as the Conservatives had wanted.

Also, it is shameful that the East Greenwich library building has been neglected and allowed to fall into disrepair, and the works promised years ago have never been properly completed.

Finally, the council should reconsider the position over the Greenwich Community Law Centre, whose funding it stopped. This has left a huge gap in the advice service in this area: many clients are disabled, or suffer mental health problems.

From: Richard Gilpin

As a Westcombe Parker who played cricket with Les Dodson for a number of years in the 1990s, I was greatly saddened to read in the November issue of *WN* that his innings is now over.

He was indeed a demon bowler, as I found out on a number of occasions in the nets. As a bowler myself, I was never quite sure how he did it! Although members of opposing teams must have been distinctly unhappy to have their wickets shattered by Les, he was much loved by fellow members of the Westcombe Parkers.

This was a neighbourhood team largely inspired and organised by Tony Othen; our sporting ethos was that cricket was a game in which we would always try to play our best, but we would never take things too seriously. I would urge all other Westcombe Parkers who played alongside Les to cast their minds back, remember him as he was in his prime, and be grateful to have known him.



New social enterprise

Toni Hale is working for the Mental Health Activity Trust (MHA Trust), a new social enterprise in Greenwich set up to help people with a mental illness get back into paid employment. At present there are over 2000 people in Greenwich unemployed due to mental illness.

Toni told the *WN*: “We will in the new year, after which we will be opening another 39 shops in the borough to help people get back into work.

“This does not just stop at helping people who suffer with a mental illness but this helps the community, local businesses and stops this shutter syndrome, where businesses are closing down and left empty for long periods. The aim is to help people to have a sense of self worth and give back

to society while helping our economy.

“At present the Trust has funded three people through University, and placed 7 people in employment with other organisations who have agreed to work with us as long as we provide the support. These are career jobs where people can reach Directorship if they so wish.”

The MHA Trust are having their first annual fundraiser event on Dec 6th at 7.30 pm: a Turkish evening, with a Turkish Band, & belly dancer, at the Sun In The Sands Pub, 123 Shooters Hill Road SE3 8UQ.

The tickets cost £20 each: this entitles you to as much Turkish food you can eat, a complimentary drink on arrival plus a chance to win £50 on the night.

The day the fly-tippers came

Residents of Rumber Road were greeted by an ugly sight when they

woke up one morning to find a vast fly tip in the road – it was the length of about 6 houses. The good news, said Cllr Mary Mills, was that the Council staff came within an hour of it being reported. They photographed it in the hope of tracking down the perpetrators, and then removed it – they had to come back twice with the truck!



PHOTO: Ruth Cracknell

Lawrence Smith OBE 1939-2013

Lawrence Smith, who died on 15th October, did not merely “Think Globally and Act Locally”, as the phrase goes: he thought, and acted, both globally and locally: combining all this with a very full and loving family life.

Locally, Lawrence was the leading light in the Local History Group, and, since 2004, played a key role on the Westcombe Society’s Environment Committee. He played a major role over a range of issues affecting the local community, seeking to preserve and enhance the local environment.

Lawrence demonstrated a range of characteristics which made him very effective. They included his encyclopaedic knowledge of relevant rules and regulations, and of the detailed history of the issue being dealt with.

He was extraordinarily thorough, and also displayed a willingness to accept trenchant criticism, and even sometimes unpopularity, if that was the cost of sticking to the committee’s agreed policies. In this he gave the Society some real backbone.

Lawrence also had a unique sense of humour, as seen by his thank you card for the presentation he received from the Westcombe Society on his resignation this summer – Rembrandt’s *The Anatomy Lesson*, which he said represented the Westcombe Society examining a dead Council policy!

Lawrence was a modest man, and not many local people were aware of his very distinguished international career: after Cambridge (where he was known as ‘Leftie’) he worked at the Bank of England, where he met Judith.

With periods on loan to the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC and later to the British Embassy in Tokyo, together with his years as Bank of England Senior Advisor on Eastern Europe and then the Middle East, Lawrence travelled the world as a consummate financial diplomat, giving outstanding service to his country.

Finally, he was appointed Resident IMF Adviser to the Palestine Monetary Authority where he fulfilled his duties in the midst of turmoil and recurrent danger with exemplary coolness, tact and quiet persistence.

He was a man of commitment and principle, as seen for example by his support for the Palestinian cause, and by his membership of the United Nations Association: a true world citizen, in fact. Lawrence will be much missed. We send our deepest condolences to Judith and the rest of the family.



Keeping children safe

Young people in the Royal Borough of Greenwich have helped to devise a new website which helps children at risk get expert help and advice.

The information-packed website – launched in October at www.greenwich-safeguardingchildren.org – is aimed at both parents/guardians and children. It tells people what to do if they think a child is at risk, and includes advice for individual young people on many issues.

It encourages young people in the borough to speak out about any problems they may be experiencing, from bullying and sexual abuse to alcohol and drug misuse.

Advice specifically for children and young people includes bullying, forced marriage, e-safety, running away and going missing, violence at home, abuse, drugs and alcohol, gangs, guns and knives, racism, and sexual exploitation. There is

information for parents and carers, too.

The website lists contact numbers for the borough’s children’s services team for anyone concerned about a child’s safety or well-being. They are 020 8921 3172 during office hours, and 020 8854 8888 for emergencies. But if a child is in immediate danger, people should always call the police on 999.

7 DELACOURT ROAD, BLACKHEATH, SE3 8XA
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Sharon and Steve at the Palace

In October, Sharon Brokenshire and Steve Johnston, of the South London Special League went to celebrate the FA’s 150th anniversary at Buckingham Palace.

“It was a great day!” said Sharon who runs the SLSL, the Westcombe Society’s Charity of the Year. “The President of the FA, Greg Dyke, and Prince William made presentations to 150 organisations who have made a positive difference to Grass Roots Football: Grass Roots Heroes!

“We then watched a football match between the two oldest teams in London, the Civil Service 11 and the Polytechnic 11. A unique experience. Never before has a football match been played in the grounds of Buckingham Palace!

“I was able to talk to Greg Dyke and invited him to our Tenth Anniversary celebrations next year; The Special World Cup 2014, to be held at London Marathon Playing Fields, Shooters Hill Rd on Thursday May 22nd.”



ABOVE: Sharon presented with the award

RIGHT: Sharon and Steve in the palace garden



John Bolland 1942-2013

Born in 1942, the eldest of five children, John came to Greenwich when he was seven years old. There he met Daphne, who was in the same class at Christ Church Primary school.

Going their separate ways to secondary school, John spotted Daphne at the bus stop, and told himself, “One day, I’m going to marry her”. And so he did, eventually, in 1962.

Above all, John was a family man. As a child, each time another sibling was expected, he would gather his toys together to share with his younger brother. However, only four sisters arrived, and, perhaps feeling the need for some male company, he joined the army. For twelve years he served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers before returning to live in Greenwich.

The love of all things mechanical still interested him, but jobs as a tank mechanic were hard to come by, so he worked with the Met Police, tinkering with their transport. He loved gadgets of any kind: he was one of the first to have a home computer, one of the

first to have not one but two video recorders, one Betamax and one VHS.

John also enjoyed travel and used to take the family on camping trips – including two disastrous trips to the Peak District, where he managed to get hopelessly lost.

John loved his music and rarely missed ‘Friday Night is Music Night’ on the radio. He also had a thirst for knowledge, and he usually had a book or two on the go. He loved a good argument, and always had a story to tell, like how he cooked eggs on the engine of a tank, or how when towing a tank he nearly took out a bridge in Salisbury. Every time he told one of his stories, you had to pretend you had never heard it before!

For many years, John and Daphne delivered 200 copies of the *Westcombe News*, and everyone here loved and respected him.

We offer deepest condolences to Daphne and all the family.



Follow the star

St John’s Church is putting on the December 14th ‘Live Nativity’ event advertised on page 1 of this issue.

Jane Beswetherick told the *WN*: “We see it very much as an event by and for the local community. Local choirs are singing, local traders and residents are some of the actors, one shop is making lanterns, we will have a live donkey plus 2 live sheep from Woodland’s Farm in Shooters Hill...”

“It starts at 3.00pm outside the church with the beginning of the Christmas story, and then “follows the star” to the British Oak Pub. Here we tell a bit more of the story and then move down Old Dover Road to the library to tell more of the story before finally arriving back in St John’s. It will last about an hour and a quarter, ending in mince pies and hot drinks!”

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FEATURES



ANNE ROBBINS looks at . . .

Some Christmas Treats

. . . on our doorstep




With the holiday season fast approaching, shopping for presents starts to look like a chore. But there are plenty of shopping choices within the Westcombe Park area. With much less effort than going online or up West, we have a great supply of gifts locally, from stocking fillers to big purchases. There are plenty of possibilities, including gift vouchers from a number of shops, including the hair and nail salons; and edible treats from Apples 'n' Oranges, Well Bean and Moca.


Don't forget local pharmacies, which stock plenty of beauty and grooming aids.

Shopping on our doorstep has an added bonus: by supporting smaller independent shops and local makers, you will help the area's economy and the money we spend will continue to circulate nearer home.

Here is a brief survey of some of the items that caught my eye – and that can bring plenty of cheer to Christmas, to help make your shopping easy.

 Starting in the Old Dover Road, **Passion Flower** is more than a florist. For gardeners, it has a great range of hand creams, including Gardener's Hack Wax, an intensive repair aid for cracked skin (£9.95). Remember summer? You can bring it back with glycerine soaps scented with carrot, cucumber, and tomato leaf (£2.99). Wooden dibbers, to help planting, will bring thoughts of the coming spring (£3.50).

There's plenty for indoors, as well. The shop has lots of choice in tea-light holders, for instance, including seasonal ones with images of snowflakes or winter stags. There's a wide choice of very pretty jewellery, too, featuring semi-precious stones in silver and gold-plated settings. A cheerful bracelet of blue beads features a red heart-shaped charm (£10); amber and silver pieces look sophisticated and include earrings (£25) and more. Passion Flower is also a great place to find ribbons, to add that extra something when wrapping gifts.

 **Ottie and the Bea** is a treasure trove of presents for children. From hair grips to temporary tattoos, bubble makers in novel shapes to beading kits, card games to books, you can find all you need to keep kids happy and occupied over the holiday.


There are colourful badges (80p), clever androids and animals made of wooden blocks with moveable arms and legs (£2.99) and iron-on clothes patches with great kitsch appeal – themes include rock 'n' roll and disco culture (£8.50).

Ottie and the Bea has placed particular emphasis on buying from local designers, too. Red Urchin tee shirts, made in Charlton, are an architect's take on using pattern to design images on children's clothing. These include dinosaurs and robots and dolls, with beads for the eyes (£16.95).

Beadoir have held workshops here; their beaded bracelets for small wrists sparkle

nicely (£5.50). Also locally-designed, Little Titan tights are stripey, with clever coloured knee inserts (£14.99).


Particularly usefully, they feature silicon spots on the feet, allowing kids to play shoeless and yet avoid painful slips on hard floors.

 We shouldn't forget to treat pets at Christmas. **Blackheath Pet Supplies** has plenty to keep animals, wild and domestic, from feeling left out of celebrations. What dog could resist hand-made biscuits in turkey and cranberry flavour (£3.75)?

Even more enticing are the doggie Christmas tarts, mince pies and carob Yule logs (from £2.75). They look for all the world like human food but contain nothing that could harm pets: remember that chocolate does dogs no good at all.


For cats, Dreamies treats come in Christmas packages (£1.60) and feature turkey or salmon flavours. And there are ready-made present bags for both cats and dogs, with treats and toys like a squeaky ball disguised as a Christmas pudding (£3.50).

For wild birds in your garden, a bright red peanut feeder looks very festive (£2.99), and the shop also stocks plenty of food treats to help them through the cold weather.

 For keen cooks and less-experienced ones, **Blackheath Cooks** has plenty of gift ideas. Colourful items abound, from a rainbow-like silicon whisk (£7.50) to bowl scrapers in tropical shades (£1.50). Stripey paper drinking straws are an old-fashioned way to avoid plastic (£1.50). There are more grown-up drinking accessories, including jokey bottle stoppers (£2) and Vacu-Vin corkscrews (£10). Ultra-sharp graters for cheese or lemon zest could make any cook feel more skilled (£12).


Less technical but very appealing is a

range of china embossed with words using old type-setting fonts, including cute milk jugs (£6) and much more. And any cook needs something to wipe their hands on: Blackheath Cooks has a range of aprons for children and adults by Hither Green-based Made by Marianne. In chef-style checks or more homey florals, these can also be customised to order, with different patterns and embroidered names (from £10).


 Across the Green from Old Dover Road, Merriel Hawkes at **Pegga-Stores** has forty years' experience of finding Christmas gifts. 'Flying out of the shop', she says, are Royal Greenwich calendars for 2014 (£5.99). These have evocative pictures of the area, perfect for sending to friends to remind them to visit.

Notebooks and diaries feature covers based on historical book bindings or pretty Art Nouveau designs (from £5.99), while bejewelled jotting pads have glamour (£2.99). Pegga-Stores has soft toys, based on favourite children's books such as Eric Carle's *Little Caterpillar* (£3.99).

Merriel also carries Woods of Windsor room fragrances and eau de toilette in classic scents such as lavender and lily of the valley (from £6.99). And the shop is also a useful place to find wrapping paper and ribbons to suit any taste, and has plenty of cards to accompany presents. It's a great place to find thank you notes, too!

 Down the hill and around the corner from Westcombe Park Station in Humber Road, **Susan Clark Interiors** has items of home decor, and much more. Anyone would feel warmer with a soft heathery Irish wool scarf (£26), let alone the larger throws or vintage blankets. The shop has beautiful

colour-toned and with plenty of texture from velvet to nubby linen (£35). Any stocking could accommodate the lip butter from Korres (£9.95) or skin lotions (£15), made in Greece using all natural ingredients and scented of wild rose or fig. Susan also has a fine range of scented candles. Small botanical candles (from £10) will smell of summer – think geranium or camomile – or the tropics. But the most enticing are made locally and poured in Blackheath. These candles are inspired by history, and the indulgent pleasures of London in the eighteenth century (£35).

 Finally, who doesn't like to be given a book for Christmas? There may not be a bookshop in Westcombe Park itself, but it's worth venturing as far as **Waterstones** in Greenwich for Alan Williams's novel *The Blackheath Séance Parlour* (£9.99).

The book is set in the 1840s, with historical references to many favourite sites such as the Ranger's House and to real people such as James Glaisher, pioneer meteorologist at the Royal Observatory. Yet it's also a work of real imagination. Two sisters, in drink-fueled desperation, turn their failing chocolate shop in Blackheath Village into something altogether more mysterious: a séance parlour, where people flock to try to communicate with their lost loved ones. There are all sorts of twists and turns to the plot. At points both spooky and funny, it also has some sharp observations of human nature and the vagaries of local life.

So, if you're dreaming of a spooky Christmas, this is the book for you!

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The London Federation of Small Businesses is running a Keep Trade Local competition from 30th November to 7th December across London. All you need to do is purchase one or more items from a local small business, and register your purchase either online or by completing an application form.

You will be in with a chance of winning either a first prize of £500, a second prize of £300 or a third prize of £200.

More information about the competition can be found at <http://www.fsb.org.uk/london/keep-trade-local-challenge>.

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WHAT'S ON



ARTS

BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY, St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath . Next meeting **23rd January 2014: John Fisher** on Creative spaces: rooms where major works of art literature and music of our time have been created Non-members £5
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, the University of Greenwich **NEXT LECTURES:** 9th. Dec 2013: **Merrily on High - The History of the Christmas Carol** Talk by Peter Medhurst.
13th January 2014: Twentieth Centuray Actors: by Frances Hughes. 8852 7873 Non-members £8.00
ART EXHIBITION Our own Jan Barnett is showing her work in an exhibition entitled "Serenity" at the Gallery, Ruby & Norm, 266 Lee High Road SE13 5PL from 22nd November - 20th December
MAGIC OF BUGSBY **MAGIC OF BUGSBY:** a new exhibition by local artists in the West Greenwich Library, Greenwich High Rd. SE10 2nd - 31st Dec., during library hours. Greenwich and its river
MADE IN GREENWICH www.msdeingreenwich.co.uk
December exhibition: etchings, drawings, prints.
January exhibition: Close-up. Plus Laura Matthews in-focus weekend 25/26 January

CHILDREN

GREENWICH THEATRE
THURS 21st Nov. - Sun Jan 6th PUSS IN BOOTS Andrew Pollard is back!
BLACKHEATH HALLS
Saturday 14th December 3pm | Recital Room
Jungle Book Duration: 50 minutes Ages: 4+ £7.00
WOODLANDS FARM
331 Shooters Hill. Tel. 0208 319 8900
SUNDAY 1st December 11.00 am - 3.00 pm :
CHRISTMAS FAIR! FREE - but donations are welcome. Santa's Grotto, Carols, Crafts
Sat 14th Dec. 2.00 pm Bird-watching walk £2.00
Every Thursday Toddler Club 10am - 12pm £2 per adult, children free
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



Save The Children Christmas Concert

Sunday 8th Dec 7.00 pm

at the Old Royal Naval College Chapel
With the Old Royal Naval College Chapel Choir, James Grainger (Organ), and Brass
Directed by Ralph Allwood

Readings by:

Christopher Godwin, Illona Linthwaite, Sylvestra Le Touzel and Owen Teale

Tickets £20, £18 and £15
Box Office Blackheath Halls
23 Lee Rd, SE3 9RQ Tel. 020 8463 0100
Monday to Friday 10.00 – 17.00
Some tickets may be available on the door (cash or cheque only) from 6.30 pm.

Monday Lunchtime Recitals

The Friends of Blackheath Halls continue the series of fundraising recitals in December. All concerts are 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. 2nd Dec. Rie Kosaka voice and harp
Mon. 9th Dec. Linos Piano Trio

COMMUNITY

MYCENAE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE closes at **1.00 pm** on **Saturday 21st Dec.**, and re-opens at **9.00 am** on **Saturday 4th January.**
THE STEINER SCHOOL, 90 Mycenae Road
Winter Fair & Craft Market: Sun. 1st Dec. 11.00 am - 4pm
CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH
Thursday 5th December at The Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath SE3 0RW
Subject: *A Christmas Medley* featuring Sian, Doreen, Anthony and Mary. Cost £8.50. To book lunches telephone Wendy Templeman 020 8265 0335 by Monday 2nd December 2013.
HORNIMAN MUSEUM & GARDENS
Sat 7th & Sun. 8th Dec. CHRISTMAS FAIR: carols, mulled wine, and family activities
BLACKHEATH HALLS
Sun. 8th Dec. 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm TEA DANCE with Mr Wonderful Tickets £7.00
MYCENAE JAZZ & CURRY CHRISTMAS PARTY at MYCENAE HOUSE, 90 Mycenae Rd. **Fri 13th Dec. Hosted by DAVE SILK.** Featuring the sound of Indonesia with **Luluk Purwanto**, as well as Bob McKay, Paul Taylor, Nostalgia Steel Band & Special guests. Bar opens 8.0 pm, £10.00 door, £10.00 curry Booking not reqd.
Fri 13th Dec. JEREMY HARDY British comic and BBC Radio 4 regular performs live at Blackheath Halls Tickets: £16.00 £14.00 conecs. £5.00 - benefit recipients (proof may be required!)
BEXLEY & GREENWICH COMMUNITY HOSPICE Christmas Fair For more information please visit www.communityhospice.org.uk, call 020 8319 9240 or email info@gbch.org.uk
Sat. 14th Dec. 2.00 - 4.00 pm Christmas Fair at the Hospice with, at 4.30, **Hospice Light up a Life** outdoor service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road. Meetings begin at 7.45pm. Visitors are welcome.
Dec 20th AGM and Members Evening Short Talks & Exhibits of Scientific Interest by Members
Jan 17th Owen Bush talks on Damascus Steel: Reviving the ancient art of making Steel Swords.
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
21st. Jan. Neil Rhind talks on On great engineers resident in Blackheath The Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, SE3, Please use the car park behind the station. Meetings start at 7.30 and non members charged £1.
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB 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 Rosemary Gill on 8858 5088
BLACKHEATH FLOWER CLUB 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 If you are interested in joining the choir as a regular member, (rehearsals are Thursday evenings during term time), contact **Jean Valsler on 0208 8527548**
GREENWICH SOCIETY
18th January 2014 Quiz night at the Greenwich Tavern. Enquiries Jackie Hicks, 60, Greenwich Park Street SE10 9LT hicksjackie60@gmail.com
BLACKHEATH QUAKERS: 50 YEARS FREE TALK series continue. Quaker Meeting House, Lawn Terrace, SE3 9LL Booking: blackheathquakers@gmail.com or ring 07582 729 185
Fri. 24th Jan 7.00 for 7.30 pm
Restorative Justice talk by **Marian Liebmann**, What happens when offenders meet their victims?
Feb 28th 7.00 for 7.40 pm Robin Stott talks on **Health and Climate Change**

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St Alfege Church, Greenwich
From Nov. 4th. 11.00 am - 4.00 pm.



THEATRE & OPERA



THE GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755
PUSS IN BOOTS (Andrew Pollard strikes again!)Thurs 21st Nov. 2013 - Sun Jan 5th 2014. Times vary. Tickets £20, £26, Concs. £18, £24.00
CHURCHILL THEATRE, BROMLEY
CINDERELLA Fri 29th Nov - 5th January 2014
BROADWAY THEATRE, Rushey Green, Catford Fri 13th - Tuesday 31st December
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MUSIC

BLACKHEATH HALLS
Tel 020 8463 0100
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Friday 20 December 2013 7.30pm
Great Hall Get into the Christmas spirit with this ever-popular event.
TICKETS: £14 | £12 concessions | £5 under 12s
Includes a glass of mulled wine and mince pie
STEINBERG DUO Sun. 8th Dec. 11.00 am
Louisa Stonehill violin | Nicholas Burns piano play
Sawyer's Violin Sonata No.1, Ireland Sonata No.2 in A minor for violin and piano, Sawyer's Violin Sonata No.2, & Elgar's Violin Sonata in E minor, Op.82 Tickets £14.00 | £12.00 conecs.
Fri. 13th Dec. 7.30 pm Trinity Laban Opera Scenes Under the direction of Toria Banks, final year undergraduate vocal students present the culmination of an intensive week as a small company working on opera scenes. Recital Room. FREE.
Wed 29th Jan. 7.00 pm Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Artists Recitals Series The Halls are delighted to be hosting another series of recitals by members of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme Tickets £7.00



WORSHIP

St George's Church, Glenluce Road

Every Sunday 11am Parish Communion with Children's Activities

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL:

Sat. 7th Dec. 4pm 'The Inn Crowd' - a Christmas musical by Roger Jones Tickets £4, £2 (concs), £10 family - all proceeds to '999 club' a local charity offering support to the homeless, desperate and lonely. Contact Julie Mason, 020 8858 7756, masonmj_3@hotmail.com

Wed. 4th, 11th & 18th 12 noon Advent Prayers
Sun.22nd Dec. 6pm Carol Service - a traditional service of readings and carols
Christmas Eve 2.30pm and 4pm, Crib Service - an informal service for children of all ages
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist
Christmas Day 10.30am Family Communion Service
Sunday 5th January 11.00 am - Epiphany Service

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NON-CLASSICAL MUSIC EVENTS

BLACKHEATH HALLS

Sun. 1st Dec. 8.00 pm UNIQUE! Come and join **IRIE Dance Theatre** and **The Midi Music Company** and celebrate the talents of local young people. The two Lewisham charities will be hosting an evening of dance, spoken word and music showcasing the best the borough has to offer. From classical to hip hop this promises to be a truly 'unique' event.
Tues 3rd Dec. 7.30 pm BEATS IN THE BAR
Sat 7th Dec. 8.00 pm THE BLUES BAND
Wed 11th Dec. 8.00 pm BERNARDINE EVARISTO "The Loverman" £10.00
Sat. 14th Dec. 8.00 pm GLENN TILBROOK Tickets: £18.00 in advance, £20.00 on the door.
Sat 21st Dec. 8.00 pm NORMA WATERSON AND ELIZA CATHY WITH THE GIFT BAND: Mother & daughter sing traditional songs Tickets £18.00 £16.00 conecs.
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
See <http://www.jazznights.co.uk/>
ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC 9.00 pm every Tuesday at the Lord Hood pub, Creek Road; mainstream jazz every Thursday

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Conservative:
Cllr. Geoff Brighty Tel. 8921 5663 (Town Hall) or 8858 9731 (Home)
E-mail: 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.
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 Road.



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Conductor - James Burton Leader - Simon Smith

Handel's Messiah

St Alfege Church, Greenwich
Sunday 8 December at 7.00pm

Tickets available online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ttsmess

or at the door
Ticket prices: £18, £10
www.thomas-tallis-society.org.uk

Paula Sides - Soprano
Frances Bourne - Alto
John Bowen - Tenor
Nicholas Merryweather - Bass

FEATURES



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

The rebirth of a ship



PHOTO: Myles Dove

For a few days in mid-October an unusual craft could be seen anchored on the river Thames downstream from Greenwich Pier. A long wooden hull stood upright, cradled in supporting struts on the deck of a floating barge.

The battered hull you can see above is part of a clipper ship built in Sunderland: the *City of Adelaide*. Five years older than the *Cutty Sark*, after many years at sea and in docks, she had been brought down from Scotland for a special re-naming ceremony. And for a short time the last two clipper ships remaining in the world lay, like old comrades, within hailing distance of each other.

The *City of Adelaide* was first launched in 1864. She was specially fitted out with cabins to take emigrants across the oceans to South Australia, then a convict-free-colony of settlers.

She was a fast ship: on one run, she took just 65 days from Plymouth to Adelaide. For the return trip, she would take on passengers as well as copper ore, wheat and wool. She made 23 of these voyages, there and back, before the end of 1887.

As steam began to replace sail power, her role changed. The *City of Adelaide* became a hospital ship first, and then, in the 1920s, she was bought by the Admiralty for use as a training ship. She was towed from her berth in Southampton Water up to Scotland for use by the RNVR (Clyde Division) and her name was changed to *HMS Carrick*.

Eventually, in dock in Glasgow in 1991 she was accidentally submerged for nearly a year. Then, transferred to a slipway in the

Scottish Maritime Museum, she was in danger of being broken up.

The ship was saved by CSCOAL (Clipper Ship City of Adelaide Ltd) and their supporters. This group of volunteers in South Australia has been able to arrange the transfer of the ship's hull to Port Adelaide. There she will be restored in the years ahead to her former glory, with masts, rigging and decks.

Over the years, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh has given active support to this project, and on the afternoon of 18th October he came to Greenwich to attend the re-naming ceremony. By tradition among mariners, going back thousands of years, this ceremony had to include the purging of the previous name and the appeasing of the gods of the sea and the four winds.

Led by marine engineer Andrew Chapman, one of whose forbears had sailed on the *City of Adelaide*, a piece of paper bearing the word *CARRICK* was torn up and scattered on the Thames, thus removing its name from the Ledger of the Deep and from Neptune's memory.

In turn, each of the four winds (given classical names) had a glass of champagne poured out as a libation, to be cast in the appropriate direction, carefully avoiding honoured guests (including royalty!)

At last the *City of Adelaide* regained her original name, and, the following Sunday, born again, she slipped away down river on her cradle, heading for Chatham and then Rotterdam for further checks before being transported overseas to the port bearing her name. We wish her good luck, and Bon Voyage!

Myles Dove

Art in wood

HELEN OTHEN

Art in Wood: Wood Turning Exhibition and Sale at The Greenwich Gallery, Linear House, Peyton Place, Greenwich, SE10 8RS 7th – 24th December 2013 Monday to Friday 9.30–5.30. Saturday and Sunday 12 – 4. Free admission

Mike Maisey is a wood turner – he takes a chunk of wood, looks at the grain, the shape, and the colour of the piece and then imagines what it could become. He may have at the back of his mind that he needs to make a jug, bowl or tray for a commission that is outstanding; but do not believe that production is as straightforward as that!

The wood always has the last word. There may be an unseen crack or knot that will only be revealed whilst cutting and turning the wood. When this happens there are two choices: abandon the project, or modify the design to incorporate and develop a final piece that pays homage to the reality of the wood.

So it is that Mike can end up with a stunning bowl with a huge gash in it – a piece with reduced practicality but with enhanced and celebrated beauty as he has responded to the *fait accompli* that the wood has offered him: a flaw becomes a beautiful feature.

Wood turning is a craft with an immensely complex regime that requires resilience and dedication of time and spirit.

The freshly hewn wood needs to be rested for several months to dry, and to relax into its new shape. After these further



PHOTO: Tony Othen

Mike Maisey in action

months of shelf storage he will inspect the piece and envision the final outcome. The craft journey continues, guided by artistic inspiration.

The Greenwich Gallery is showing Mike Maisey's work from 7th -24th December All proceeds will be donated to the charity Freedom from Torture underlining Mike's generous nature and his commitment to achieve a beneficial outcome. Contact: Tony Othen – 020 8465 5968



In Memoriam . . .



The Second year anniversary memorial for the victims of WWII in Sunfields Place took place on Saturday 30th November at 2.00 pm in Sunfields Place, round the memorial tree planted last year.

"We had our first event last year which went extremely well," said local campaigner Toni Hale. "However, we would like to let more people know, as it rekindled old friendships from the past. We are also looking for someone who would like to provide a plaque to go with the tree."

So what really happened on that fateful night on November 30th 1944?

It was around one in the morning when a V-2 rocket hit Sunfields Place, killing nineteen people, including four children. Most of the bodies were never recovered.

The picture above shows the extent of the devastation. One local resident who survived the blast said the street – Victorian terrace dwellings facing each other on either side – became a sea of mud.

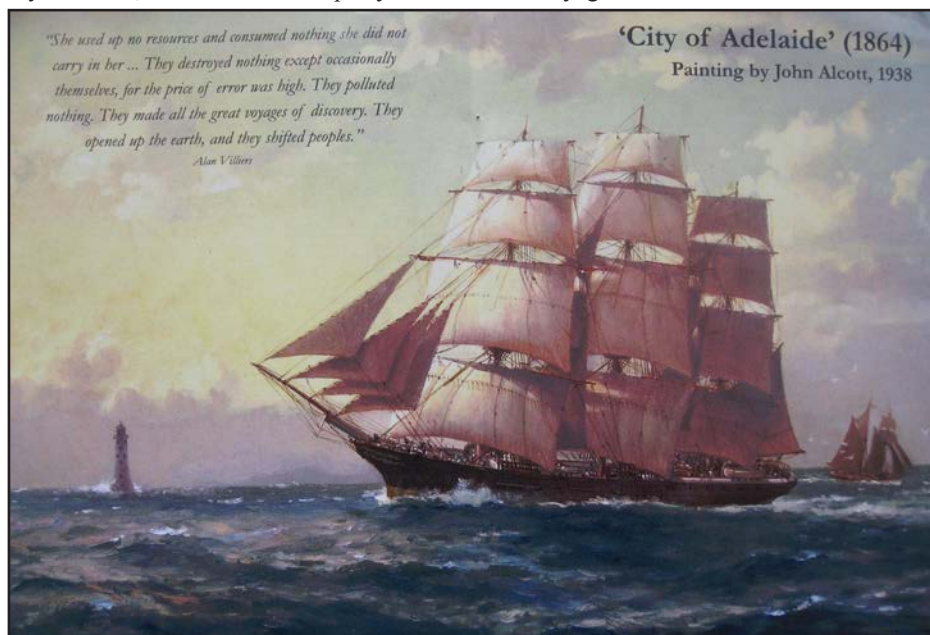
Today, there is a green space punctuated by trees where the houses once stood, and new housing has replaced the ruins of the old street. But memories linger on: and last year, one of the trees, the brainchild of local campaigner Tony Hale, was specially planted as a memorial to the nineteen victims. Local residents lay flowers and tie nineteen purple ribbons to the tree, in memory of the nineteen local people who lost their lives 69 years ago.

Contact Toni Hale at:
capconsultancy@live.co.uk

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John Alcott's painting shows the clipper in her heyday. The renaming ceremony was not without controversy: the Sunderland City of Adelaide Recovery Fund (Scarf) wanted the vessel to return to the port where she was built on the river Wear, to be the centrepiece of a maritime heritage centre. The group unveiled a banner in London reading "Bring Adelaide home to Sunderland". The consortium from Adelaide, South Australia, beat the group of Sunderland enthusiasts in a competition to secure the vessel in 2010.

MARKET PLACE

Please send ads for the Market Place with payment by the 10th day of the preceding month to:
Marilyn Little, 163, Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP
020 8853 1312 marilyn.little@btinternet.com
ALL classified adverts 30p per word. Please make cheques payable to The Westcombe Society

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Contact 0208 305 2202 or 07710433994

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Wednesdays: Preschool 9.30 -11.30 (2-6 years) at Montessori House. **Baby Montessori** 1.30-2.30 (pregnant-1 year) **Toddler Montessori** 2.45-3.45 (1-2 years) Both at Montessori House

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(See also <http://www.westcombesociety.org/>)

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37 VANBRUGH PARK ref 13/2738/F

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TREE WORKS

16 VANBRUGH PARK ref 13/2805/TC

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27 ULUNDI ROAD ref 13/2884/TC

Crown reduce blue Atlantic cedar by 30% in rear garden

67 MAZE HILL ref 13/2873/TC

Fell tree in front garden

70 COLERAINE ROAD ref 13/2584/TC

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In the dog-house

The *WN* is in the dog-house (again!), this time for referring to *Batley Green* instead of *Batley Park*. The Royal Borough of Greenwich website has this entry:

“Batley Park comprises the Royal Standard roundabout and a larger triangular piece of land adjacent to it. Mature trees grow on the site, affording shoppers a shady place to sit.”
So, Batley Park it is. Ed

Seasonal greetings to one and all!



Luke Striffler as Sam, Alim Jayda as Puss, and Kate Malyon as Princess Petit Filou in the Greenwich Theatre's production of *Puss in Boots*.
See page 5, What's On.



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community centre

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Dec 13 **Jazz & Curry Special**
feat Luluk Purwanto, Bob McKay, Paul Taylor
Dec 14 **Diddi Dance Christmas Party**
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