Save your children from air pollution

S

hould children be walking between Blackheath and Charlton? Are they having to endure air pollution levels more than twice the national average? Are they at risk of thousands of premature deaths a year and cost the NHS billions of pounds? It is estimated that over 20,000 people die prematurely from air pollution each year. Any increase in air pollution levels over the 20μg/m³ limit would cost the UK £500 billion over the next 60 years.

The Devil is in the Diesel

The RBN has repeatedly highlighted the issue – and has pointed out that “The Devil is in the Diesel.” Air pollution health experts warn that diesel engines in buses, vans, cars and trains may be responsible for tens of thousands of premature deaths a year and cost the NHS billions of pounds. Government figures for 2013 reveal that 19,000 people die prematurely from air pollution each year. Frank Kelly, professor of environmental health at King’s College, London, believes that diesel fuel could be responsible for around one in four of all air pollution deaths.

The message is getting through: in May, Boris Johnson called for an increase in road tax on diesel-fuelled vehicles. However, it’s not just diesel. Plans to build the Silvertown road tunnel between Greenwich and the Royal Docks are likely to add more pressure – because more road capacity encourages more traffic.

The No to Silvertown Tunnel campaign, together with the Don’t Dump on Deptford’s Heart group, monitored air pollution levels at over 140 locations from Rotherhithe to Bexleyheath in January.

Local air pollution figures

The results revealed horrifying levels of air pollution. They include:

• Children at Windrush Primary School, Welling, Bexleyheath, Canning Town, as locations in Lewisham, Catford, Charlton Village had 43 µg/m³. Levels of 43 µg/m³ were recorded outside Sherington Primary School.

In May, it was Christian Aid Week for Churches all over the country, and St George’s in Greenwich Road celebrated with a fundraising dinner attended by over 300 people, who enjoyed an amazing five course meal served by three generations of the same family.

In October 2011 the RBN published the news that the government criticised Greenwich and Tower Hamlets Councils for publishing Council-owned local newspapers such as Greenwich Time.

In May, 2013, Eric Pickles, Minister for Communities & Local Government, added his voice, calling such papers “Praedas” that peddled “propaganda” and that the press were not a monopoly. It was estimated at the time that Greenwich Time cost around £600,000 a year – paid for by local taxpayers.

Now the issue is coming back, with a vengeance. Mr Pickles has repeated his accusations, and expressed concern that local authorities have tried to ban bloggers and Twitter users from covering council meetings. The Camerunian Journal reported that the blogger and campaigner Jacqui Thompson was arrested, handcuffed, and then detained at a police station for two hours. All she had done was to film a public meeting of CARMARTHENSHIRE Council on her camera-phone.

Mr Pickles said: “It is scandalous that bloggers have been handcuffed for tweeting from council meetings, whilst propaganda on the tills drives the local press out of business. Only Putin would be proud of a record like that.”

His argument is that Council newspapers “only print one side of every story”, that they cost taxpayers’ money, and that they compete with the commercial press.

The counter argument is that the Councils’ papers contain vital information about local services such as housing, and planning applications; and that commercial papers (such as Greenwich Mersey and News Shopper) only achieve 50% circulation, if that, among local residents.

Greenwich Time claims to achieve 100% circulation, though whether its readership is 100% is debatable . . .

Mr Pickles says Greenwich Time will now face legal proceedings for breaking the publicity code for local authorities – part of the Local Audit and Accountability Act passed in January this year.

The Westcombe Society

in conjunction with St George’s Church/Parish of East Greenwich

Summer Picnic

Sat. 12th July 1.00 to 4.00pm

Mycenae Gardens

Entrance £1.00 adult members/£2.00 non members. Children enter free

Bring a picnic or enjoy a ploughman’s lunch and a cream tea. Licensed bar, live music, home-made cakes, charity stalls, raffle, children’s activities and traditional teas.

Come and spend a few hours in the lovely gardens of Mycenae House and join in this family community event.

Charity of the Year

It was agreed at the Westcombe Society’s AGM that the new Charity of the year 2014-2015 would be the 999 Club in Deptford, which provides a Drop-in Centre offering social and practical support for the homeless and those with alcohol, drug, and mental and physical health problems; but smaller grants would be given to other worthy candidates for specific needs.

The Chairman’s report at the AGM can be found on page 7 of this issue.

Don’t miss this exhibition!

Following the AGM, Mark Johnson-Brown, the manager of Mycenae House, took members of the Westcombe Society on a guided tour of the exhibition of the same name by Terry Kay, who lived on Westcombe Hill until his death in July 2012. The exhibition was a big hit and is now on until the end of June. Don’t miss it!
The Westcombe Society’s AGM

I must again thank all those people who sat aside time to assist the society in so many ways. But begin by saying that we have lost some valuable supporters of our society this year. Lawrence Smith who was an enthusiastic and committed member of the Environment Committee, Geoff Gavaye a valuable contributor to the Westcombe News and Lex Dodson and John Bolland who were both founder members of the Society. We acknowledge the commitment they made.

I have to thank the Executive committee who oversee the running of the Society and the Environment Committee who work hard to ensure our area is kept in good order. Westcombe Park and surrounding areas are protected, maintained and improved in many different ways. We work with other groups including the Greenwich, Charlton and Blackheath Societies, the BWF, The Royal Parks, the Safer Neighbourhood Team Panel, and we also support GLUG in their attempts to improve the effects of the London Bridge rebuild on our area.

I should also like to thank the support that we have given our Ward Councillors on many local issues.

We also have to thank the Events Committee who have a very full calendar of social events. They provide entertainment for young and old. Most of the events are held at Mycenae House or in the Gardens and are very well supported. We are reliant on a host of other volunteers in the form of Cake and form makers and tea pourers etc. The Events Committee also have links with many local charities and we are happy to help when needs are made known to us. Joanne the chairman of the Events committee will add further details as well as mentioning new volunteers.

The committee are only part of the story. We are very grateful to all our helpers, our deliverers of the Westcombe News, our graffiti busters and all the volunteers who help at the Bazaar and other events every year. Note that our volunteers have been helping for years so it must be quite enjoyable and not too onerous! So if you have the odd afternoon to spare do let us know – we are grateful for any assistance.

The Westcombe News continues to be a very popular read covering both local and national issues that affect our area. We have many long standing advertisers. We much appreciate our editor Neville Grant and the time that he spends in ensuring our magazine is as professional as possible.

The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor. We take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of our readers by ensuring as far as possible the bona fides of our advertisers but cannot accept any responsibility for them. Any complaints should be addressed to the advertiser.


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Letters to the Editor

All views expressed are those of the writers only and are not necessarily those of the BWF or the Westcombe Society.

From: Maurice Old Dover Road

I noticed two pieces in recent issues of the BWF. One was the piece about Greenwich Park. Both pieces I found rather pathetic. I couldn’t care two pence what the tree was an oak or a sweet chestnut.

All I see there now is a rail-off area with a notice saying that it is under offer. But there is no tree, just a pile of fir wood! I am sure.

I have always passed and walked my dog there slowly during late autumn. It would have been a simple matter to prop up the trunk, injecting it or coating it in resin to prevent it. It infuriates me now to see the remnants of that historic landmark.

The Fairy Oak in the gardens of Quornmore has been preserved, it’s still standing, preserved and remodelled. Why couldn’t the people who have responsibility for Greenwich Park have done the same thing?

From: Sharon Brookeshire

Many thanks to everybody in the Westcombe Society who voted for South London Social League as their chosen charity of the year.

The money spent on funding our highly successful and inspirational Specialist Sports Camp that empowers the most disabled young people in the community through sport.

Please see the story on page 4.

From: The Blackheath Wine Co

The works in Lewisham mean a significant detour for pedestrians to Lewisham Station. This could be mitigated by the re-opening of the gate to Platform 4 of the station, a campaign which we supported incredibly several years ago.

There is a petition in favour of the re-opening of the gate which you may wish to sign.

The link is as follows: https://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/south- eastern-railway-give-platform-4-at-lewisham-railway-station-all-day-every-day-and-add-standalone-oyster-readers-to-it

From: Caroline Owens Brancosfield Road

We wish to hold a Competition to Design the Westcombe Society’s Arms. We are publishing this now, as entries need to be submitted by the beginning of September.

Full details is attached - we shall be looking for some-thing that the entrant believes to be both sea-faring and the need to engage people in political debate – and the need for parking issues to be addressed.

All present agreed on the importance of local involve-ment and the need to engage people in policy debate – a process nurtured by a very successful meeting.

Maggie Gravelle
A bridge too far

Transport for London has just put up ugly temporary fences on both sides of the Old Dover Road and Charlton Road bridges over the A102 – without consulting or notifying residents or councillors. TFL can’t even say how long the fences will be up, what work is to be carried out behind them, or how high the bridge’s railings will be once the work is complete. According to one nearby resident, the new fences “look ugly, look scary, ruin the view and make you feel that you are in prison”. Another resident describes them simply as “hideous” and says “on to end do what to do. TFL is not a good neighbour to those living by the A2/A102 monorway: while TFL refused to put up higher fences to protect residents of Siebert Road and Westcombe Hill from noise and pollution, TFL is happy to deal with the traffic headaches for huge advertising screens on the Sun-in-the-Sands roundabout despite their refusal by the Council.
Why can’t TFL actually talk to the council and local people about what it wants to do, and why?

UPDATE:
TFL have told Labour GLA Member Len Grant Saw Wealth Management Limited
INDEPENDENT PERSONAL and CORPORATE FINANCIAL ADVISERS
Investments - Pensions - Estate Planning
2 Charlton Road. Blackheath Standard London SE13 7EX (T) 020 3417 9760 email: enquiries@gswealth.co.uk website: www.gswealth.co.uk
HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR FUTURE
Grant Saw Wealth Management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Better safe than sorry

Remember those five chihuahuas stolen from a dog-breeder’s house in Liss? The dogs, including Crafts champion Xena, were abandoned 150 miles away, hungry, thirsty, tiny, alive and being too hot to handle. The moral: always micro-chip your champion chihuahua!
Dog-theft will become a thing of the past as microchipping will soon become compulsory for all dog owners in England. Get your dog micro-chipped and you can be assured that should it be lost (or stolen), it is more likely to be returned to you and sound.

Working in partnership with the Dogs Trust, Blackheath Westcombe Safer Neighbourhoods team are to hold a FREE Dog Microchipping event on Saturday 14th June, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm at Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road.

Free bike-marking event

Free bike-marking event on Saturday 14th June, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm at Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road.

Theft of pedal cycles is a common crime throughout the UK. The police have noticed there has been an increase in thefts locally. The Blackheath Westcombe Safer Neighbourhoods Team are offering advice on how to keep your cycle safe over the coming months.
We have found that a high number of the stolen pedal cycles were left insecure, and others had poor quality locks or they were poorly fitted. Sometimes they were simply left unattended, without locks. You should protect your bicycle by following some simple steps:
• Always lock your bicycle even if you think it is secure
• Always lock it in a convenient place
• Buy a good quality lock. We recommend a high quality D-lock
• Lock your bike to something immovable like a bike rack
• When leaving your unbolted, lock back wheels and remove detachable items like lights
• Lock your bicycle away in a secure shed or garage

The campaign was launched at HS2 in Britain.

The West Coast side signals flash by in a blur, driver Numbers doubling again within four years.

These trains run at up to 250km/hr (160 mph) and can halve journey times. When H2S2 in Britain.

Blackheath Scientific Society about high-speed trains, but awareness of the needs of children with autism.

The charity runs a free-of-charge after-school and evening club for children who are having difficulties, including behavior and interaction, at school because of their autism. Blackheath High School is the first school to sign up.
A free-of-charge after-school autism support group is held at Mycenae House in Blackheath.

To find out more, please contact
MEFA: 0208 105 2202 07714639994

with a free bike, insist on proper ownership, and check the bike frame number at BikeRegister.
Cyclists are urged to keep a record of their frame number, the make and model of their bike, and any other unique marks that could help to identify it. You can register your frame number on these websites:
• www.bikeregister.com
• www.immobilise.com
This will enable the police to check databases, and inform you if your bike has been found.

For more information please contact
Alex Grant, Grant Saw Wealth Management Limited

Microchipping your dog has a number of benefits – it deters dog thieves, it reduces the number of strays, and enables vets to contact dog owners for emergency procedures. It also enables identification of dogs in emergency situations so that dogs and owners can be moved and reunite more quickly.

When buying a new bike, insist on proper ownership, and check the bike frame number at BikeRegister.

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FEATURES

Instilling the love of learning

An overview of Greenwich Steiner School by NEVILLE GRANT

The first in an occasional series on local schools

A classroom in action: the teachers say that the circular lighting system in most of the rooms helps to develop a sense of calm and inclusiveness.

The Steiner School in Mycenae Road has come a long way since it started 23 years ago in St George’s Church in Glenlucie Road. At that time it was almost like a parents’ co-operative; it relied heavily on the involvement of parents – supervising play on the eccentric hillside on which St George’s site, painting walls, donating equipment, raising funds.

In today’s Steiner School, parents still play a crucial role, as they do in all Steiner schools, which have always regarded education as a partnership between parents and, of course, the children.

But today, the school is now on a real professional basis – well-staffed and equipped; the school has adapted the Steiner Waldorf curriculum, and provides an all-round education for some 150 children aged 3 -14 years. Some kindergarten classes still continue in St George’s, but most are happily ensconced in the excellence and beauty of Woodlands House.

A building that once housed John Julius Angerstein, merchant, Lloyds underwriter, and patron of the arts whose collection has come a long way since it started 23 years ago in St George’s Church on which St George’s sits, painting walls, donating equipment, raising funds.

“Who’s right? “A greater emphasis on structured learning is the answer” – Sir Michael Whilshere, Chief Inspector, Ofsted

“Don’t rush to formal learning too early” – Beatrice Merrick, The British Association of Early Childhood Education

“Receive the child with reverence. Educate them in love. Send them forth in freedom.” – Rudolf Steiner

The main focus of the kindergarten is play: children learn through play. Play takes place both inside and outside and includes activities such as cooking, painting, and handicrafts, for example, sewing, knitting and weaving. These activities develop social skills, and psychomotor skills – these are the “hands” part of the curriculum. Music and movement, too, play an important part – and the children also take in turns to do chores: sweeping the floor, washing up, and so on.

“What of “the head”?” The main building block of literacy – oracy – is highly developed in these early years, and counting rhymes and memory games play an important role in cognitive development.

Numeracy also features in important ways: many activities such as sorting, counting, weighing, playing shop, post office, folding napkins, setting places at the table, etc., help to give numbers and measurement meaning in real life.

The later years

With a firm basis laid in the kindergarten, the children learn, seemingly effortlessly after their sixth birthday: and I was surprised – impressed – to see the quality of written work produced by eight year olds, producing well constructed sentences in “joined up” writing. The work in maths is also of an outstanding quality: no science neglected – there is even a mobile chemistry lab.

Look through any child’s Lesson Book (written and illustrated by the child, Steiner doesn’t encourage textbooks) and you will see work on Native Americans, World War One, photography, bees, healthy diet, bread-making, poetry (written by the children) … no doors are closed to the inquisitive mind. Ask any child about what they have been learning, and they will respond fluently, and confidently.

Creative activities such as songs, story-telling and rhythmical verses, also play an important part in the children’s education

A cello class: music plays an important part in the children’s education

This year there are over twenty artists taking part in the annual Open Studios event in the Westcombe area. Among them are Colin Boothman and Felicity Moss (The Studio in Mycenae House), Nicola Corrigan and Laura Matthews (5 Maze Hill), Jane Jones (5c Charlton Road), Maggie Learmonth and Maria Silva (40 Hardy Road) and Ann Dennisdale (10 Hardy Road). A little further afield, Carol Kenna and Stephen Lobb display their work at The Trafalgar Rowing Centre 13-16 Crane Street (off Park Row). For full details of all the artists, and a map please visit the website. Dates: 14th/15th & 21st/22nd June From 1.00 to 6.00pm. Visit: http://www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk

Blackheath Art Society

A busy month for art lovers with Blackheath Art Society’s Summer Exhibition also on in June, with exciting work from established local artists young and old. Their work can be seen in Blackheath Halls Thurs 5th - Sun. 29th June Mon - Fri 10.00am - 5.00pm, and 1 hour before performances.

Finally, at the Made in Greenwich Gallery 324 Creek Road SE10, Terry Scales and Cristina Angelini’s exhibition “Observing the Familiar” is on from June 3rd - 15th from 10.00 am - 5.00 pm.

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Call 0800 0157775 for a free survey or visit www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk

A cello class: music plays an important part in the children’s education

important part – perhaps one could say that these were part of the “heart” part of the curriculum.

Other elements of the curriculum are not neglected: every child for example, learns at least one musical instrument, they all do gardening activities, and they all learn French and German – and, in one case, Spanish. There are regular outdoor games – in the grounds of Mycenae Gardens, and on the heath.

A question every parent wants to ask concerns the interface between Steiner and mainstream schools. What happens at 14? Already research is being carried out on this question, but the evidence so far is very positive: Steiner children have inculcated into them a love of learning that enables them to cope easily with GCSE and A levels, and can only stand them in good stead throughout the rest of their lives.

Time for art

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JUNEWN_WN.QXD  27/05/2014  11:24  Page 5

ASHBURNHAM TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION
July 1st at 7.00 pm: Graham Fawcett on Ted
June 4th 7.30 pm poetry evening with Patrick

EXHIBITION in Blackheath Halls:
BLACKHEATH ART SOCIETY SUMMER
2014 14/15 AND 21/22 JUNE 1.00 -6.00 pm

COMMUNITY
Friends of AGE EXPRESS
AGM Thres 12th June 6.30 pm (Complementary drinks for those 60+) in Clarendon House SE3 5ND
Friends of GREENWICH PARK:
AGM is on 5th June 6.30 p.m. in The Theatre, Blackheath High School for Girls

BLACKHEATH ART SOCIETY SUMMER EXHIBITION in Blackheath Halls:
The 5th-8th June Mon-Fri 10.00-5.00 pm
MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY
www.madegreenwich.co.uk 324 Creek Road SE10 June 8th- 20th Terry Scal East and Cristina Angeli exhibit: 'Observing the Family' Jan 3rd-31st, poetry evening with Patrick
Early and Matt Beasly 0208(409)4nc to the Sidewalk on 5th June at 7.00 pm: Graham Fawcett on Ted Hughes as part of his World Poets tour. £10.00 to inc.

CHILDREN & FAMILY
BLACKHEATH GREENITH CROSSE HIR. MUMS AND DADS MEETUP
Every Monday from 11.00 am - 1.00 pm
Meet at the entrance to the Scout Centre, at 17 Mycenae Rd, 8pm on the last Friday of each month.

COSTUMES
Their book

RENTED
THE CENTRE COMPANY  020 8585 8100
Sunday 15th June 6.30 pm THE GONCILDES by Gilbert & Sullivan (founded by Seaford Artists)
GREENWICH HIGH HALL
King William Place SE10 1BD
Tickets £10.00
THE GREENWICH TOWN CREEK HALL,
Greenwich, London SE10 8ES  020 8585 7755
Tues 3rd - Wed 4th June RHINECROCroSs by
Josephine by students of the University of Greenwich
5th June: THE JABBERWOCKY by OSCAR WILDE
Mon 16th - Tues 17th JUNE KILENIG ROGER
20th-24th June MURDER ON THE CORINTHIAN
THE SPACE: 260 Westbury Road London E14 3BS  400 573 579 www.spaceatwestbury.co.uk
Nearst one: Walthamstow (DLR) Bus: 17, 47, 135 THE INNER LIFE OF SOPHIE TAYLOR: 3-nd
20th-24th June. Various times. 7.00pm £10.00
JOHN HENRY 26th - 29th 2012 ONAT METHYSAIR AS Brian Blackett £11.00 £10.00
25th 26th - 29th June ESC - REHEARSALS READING FESTIVAL
THE GEOFFREY WHITEWORTH THEATRE
Brockley, BAX TM SP 020 5259 0820
Until 7th June: Proof by Harold Pinter
26th June to 5th July Oh What a Lovely World by
Joan Littlewood and Charles Chilton at LONDON THEATRE 441 New Cross Road, Outer London, SE10-STA (near New Cross Station)
Box office: 020 3094 1988

TRANSITIONS DANCE COMPANY at the Latham Theatre
Wed 4th June & Fri 6th June 19.30 Transitions Dance Company will perform specially
commissioned works
Squall/Stefanie Battran Batted
A full company dance work with strong theatrical flavour
Hold on, let me dog his Kemel Hill Project
This dark and twisted project revealed by the worst or best get together that you never went to
A place between Ikky Maas
Set to a vibrant Handel score we think you will enjoy
2nd Cat from the Councils for £1.00.

THE WEST ONE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Mo 23rd 4.30 pm
Sinfonia Orchestra play Brahms, Bizet, and
Thurs. 19th June  7.30 pm  Trinity Laban
coming operas  6.00 pm  Free
Tues 17th June CO-OPERATION: Meet the Production Teams for the two up-
various times 7:30pm £12/£8 concessions

THE CENTRE COMPANY  020 8585 8100
Sunday 15th June 6.30 pm THE GONCILDES by Gilbert & Sullivan (founded by Seaford Artists)
GREENWICH HIGH HALL
King William Place SE10 1BD
Tickets £10.00
THE GREENWICH TOWN CREEK HALL,
Greenwich, London SE10 8ES  020 8585 7755
Tues 3rd - Wed 4th June RHINECROCross by
Josephine by students of the University of Greenwich
5th June: THE JABBERWOCKY by OSCAR WILDE
Mon 16th - Tues 17th JUNE KILENIG ROGER
20th-24th June MURDER ON THE CORINTHIAN
THE SPACE: 260 Westbury Road London E14 3BS  400 573 579 www.spaceatwestbury.co.uk
Nearst one: Walthamstow (DLR) Bus: 17, 47, 135

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Welcome to The Scullery

DIANE BLACKWELL

As a lad, Colin Woolven used to pop into Gambardella’s Café at 48 Vanbrugh Park for a snack on his way home from school. Now the chef to royals, politicians, business tycoons and London’s social set has realised a dream to call this historic eatery his own. Late in April The Scullery opened its doors with a simple ethos: traditional bakes, modern food.

Colin has kept the interior almost exactly as Gambardella’s left it with its vibrant 1950s style fittings and fixtures, many taken from an old Lyons tea house. The outside of the café however looks crisp and modern with pot plants courtesy of Colin’s wife Karen, a florist.

Colin grew up in Woolwich and Ladywell. He did his chef training at the South East London Technical College, then set to making up an impressive CV. He worked as head chef for an oil company, then mastered the art of Nouvelle Cuisine at the Historic eatery. His own. Late in April the 2012 Olympic Games, oh and a mere 1000 strong guest list for the reception after Baroness Thatcher’s funeral. He also cooked at Hever Castle, and for Lord and Lady De L’Isle at Penshurst Place.

Colin moved on to the heady heights of working for an “events” company based at Canary Wharf. We’re talking state dinners, a big party for 2500 politicians and athletes after an “events” company based at Canary Wharf. We’re talking state dinners, a big party for 2500 politicians and athletes after the 2012 Olympic Games, oh and a mere 1000 strong guest list for the reception after Baroness Thatcher’s funeral. He also cooked at Hever Castle, and for Lord and Lady De L’Isle at Penshurst Place. However, Colin’s dream was to run his own restaurant, and when Gambardella’s was up for grabs, he saw his chance. The focus at The Scullery is on fresh food from local and near-local suppliers: meat from Sparks, fruit and vegetables from Apples ‘n’ Oranges, coffee beans from Daltwich, jams from Bromley, ice-creams from Borough Market. Produce also comes from allotments Colin has started. As well as breakfasts (the full English job comprises organic sausages, dry cured bacon, free range Kent eggs, slow roasted tomatoes with herbs) and brioche, twice a month there’s an evening ‘Supper Club’ when customers can bring their own wine. “The Parlor” at the back of The Scullery is devoted to business meetings, coffee mornings, afternoon teas, children’s parties – you name it. Colin’s also talk excitedly of his “Scullery at Home” concept – catering for garden parties, small dinner gatherings, birthday parties and the like. Thanks to a local boy made good, a Blackheath institution is reborn.

Sharon Brokenshire MBE is founder and Project Manager of the South London Special League. Here she reports on an event that the Westcombe Society helped to fund

The South London Special League is a successful independent community charity that makes a significant difference to the lives of disabled people.

The Specialist Sports Camp in the Easter Holidays in April was extremely successful. It was sponsored this time by The Westcombe Society whose generous funding also went towards the purchase of some new much-needed equipment. This included a New Age Kurling set, and a new Boccia set.

We were based in the 5a-side hall at the Waterfront Leisure Centre, where 15 young people attended on each day.

To make the week more accessible for the young disabled people, on this occasion we invited siblings to attend. This made life a lot easier for the families involved.

Rhea Mackennon was responsible for the successful independent community charity that makes a significant difference to the lives of disabled people.

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The Royal Standard Business and Traders Association is looking at how to market the shops better, with help from the council’s Business programme, and a new Shopwatch scheme has been set up to help traders work together to prevent crime. The Royal Standard is on the up, and long may it thrive.

Learning is fun at St Olave’s is a Prep School in New Eltham for boys and girls aged 3-11 year.

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Priory Players

Any of you will be familiar with the film The Odd Couple starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. Not many people are aware that Neil Simon also wrote a female version of the same story and it is in this version that the Priory Players, Eltham, are putting on on June 5th - 7th. As usual with Neil Simon the play is full of sharp dialogue and deft characterisation but this female version, to many people, seems so much funnier. The venue: The Priory Players, Admiral Seymour Road, Eltham, SE9 1SL. Time: 7.45. Box Office: 07502 450983.

Raising the Standard!

Alex Grant adds:

Run by Colin, the Scullery Café’s interior is almost exactly as Gambardella’s left it. ... it’s great to see the historic interior survive a change of operator (see the write-up the Classic Cafes website gone to Gambardella’s a few years ago.)

Gambardella’s had always been one of my favourite meeting places in Blackheath but it usually closed at about 5. The Scullery now has an evening licence so will be opening for supper, with wine served (currently the only places at the Standard serving evening meals are the Royal Standard pub itself, and the legendary Sun Ya Chinese restaurant).

The Scullery is just one of several exciting new businesses to open at Blackheath Standard in the last few years – others include the chemist next door, Masa Interiors & Coffee Shop on Westcombe Hill, and over on Old Dover Road the children’s toy and bookshop Otto’s on the Sea, the cookshop Blackheath Cooks and Moca Café (in what used to be Fosters, and reviewed on the Blackheath Coffee Shops blog). The Royal Standard has done well to survive the recession and the slow recovery since without any shops standing empty for long. It has cemented its reputation as the place to go to for the sort of distinctive, independent shops and cafés which are becoming rarer in Blackheath Village and Greenwich town centre because of rent rises – by contrast, the council has frozen shop rents on Old Dover Road ever since 2008.

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Open Gardens Festival
Hélène Martin

Please try to find time to visit some of the 25 gardens open to the public over the weekend of 14-15 June 2-5.00 pm in aid of your local Hospice. There will be clusters of garden participants in Greenwich, Charlton, and Blackheath, so within easy reach. The gardens are very varied – some horticultural perfection, others more of a ‘wilderness’, but all are of interest: some have plants for sale, some offer home-made refreshments. Look out for flyers and posters which will be posted locally and full details can be found on the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice website – Open Gardens Festival. It is an excellent cause and as the NHS only covers a third of its costs, the Hospice needs everyone’s support. Some of the other gardens listed below:

West Greenwich Cluster:
30 Hyde Vale, London SE10 8QH Saturday 14th Only the garden of an 183s teasaddy house. Refreshments: Tnts & Cakes
34 Hyde Vale, London SE10 8QH Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th A south facing walled garden, with terrace, lawn and upper level. Refreshments: Teas & Cakes
14 Crooks Hill, London SE10 8ER Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th A very large recently renovated The Manor House, Crooks Hill, SE10 8HG Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th The north-facing garden has been framed by a church spire and huge yew screen Refreshments: Teas & Cakes
The White House, Crooks Hill, SE10 8HH Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th Walled garden to the house of former Astronomer Royal. Refreshments: Teas & Cakes
Ham House, 14 West Grove, SE10 8QT Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th The south facing garden is in a state of transition full of visual surprises – a wonderful space for children to escape in. Refreshments: Teas & Cakes
Prior Street Allotments, Prior Street, London SE10 8SF Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th Allotment holders will be on hand to answer all your horticultural questions. Refreshments: Teas & Cakes

Greenwich Park

The PV has received (and published) several letters from Edward Hill that are critical of Greenwich Park and the impact on it of the 2012 Olympics. To most of us, the Park appears to be more beautiful and better managed. Moreover, the vast majority of people the PV has spoken to say how much they enjoyed the Equestrian events in the park, and how pleased they were to share it with the world. I think it is now time to move on and appreciate the Park in all its glory. Efforts are being made to improve the biodiversity beyond that which existed before, and improvements made post-Olympics have added to most people’s enjoyment of this beautiful place. The herbaceous border, which is currently undergoing replanting, will I am sure also look amazing when it is completed. It is surely now time to look forward and enjoy what is one of the most beautiful places in London. Most of the community in Westcombe Park community appear to share this view and so far as the PV is concerned the cor- response is closed.

Christopher’s Column

Adapting to conditions

Tender species like fuchsia started putting out leaves in March and after a few blooms for a couple of months we have had osteospermum and (overwintered) nas- turtiuas in full flower from April. To counteract this annual need for the nitrogen boost this year – I applied a shot of tomato food to keep the flowers coming. It works on lavender to spread the flower- ing shoots, or simply to slow them down. It may also be viewed on www.greenwichnews.co.uk

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

Christopher Raven

Jazz Concert

The Friends of Greenwich Park’s popular midsummer jazz concert takes place on Sunday 22nd June in the Observatory Garden. The Phoenix Dixieland Jazz Band will be performing. It is an event for the whole family: Tickets are only £5.00, with under 16s free. (On the gate, £7.00.)
The Garden will open at noon. There will be a bar, run by Dave’s of Greenwich, and an ice cream stall. BYO lunch.

Tickets: Please ring 8552 9540

An open letter to Boris

We attach a letter for your attention in relation to a proposed new IKEA store for which Greenwich Borough Council granted outline planning consent on 3rd March 2014. We understand that you are in charge of ratifying this proposal which we consider is in breach of the London Plan, in particular:

- Quality of life (page 7 of the London Plan)

- Providing a London’s living places and spaces (including historic) (p. 206)

- Protecting London’s Open Landscapes and Natural advantage and air pollution (p. 215)

We believe that the Council’s decision to grant outline planning consent to IKEA is also in breach of the Greenwich Urbanity Development Policy TC16 and The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. The Council has recklessly chosen not to exercise a key power to protect local residents’ interests: the right and duty to conduct its own Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”).

The developments qualifies for an EIA on many grounds, including that the proposed new store will be more than 0.5 hectares in size, in an area in which the environmental quality standards laid down in EU legislation have already been significantly exceeded. Greenwich is an Air Quality Management Area (AQMAs) with emission levels almost twice as high as the limit imposed by your air quality management strategy (current emissions recorded at 75 micrograms, compared to a limit of 40 micrograms).

We also consider that the development would significantly undermine the Site Management Plan for the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Greenwich. Paragraph 3.1.2 of the Site Management Plan expressly recognises that “traffic is the single greatest problem affecting Greenwich Town”. Around 10 million visitors come to Greenwich every year. The world average number of visitors to an IKEA store per year is 2.2 million. This would represent an increase in visitors of in excess of 20%, arriving with vans and estate cars to collect flat pack furniture. The GLA is one of the agencies responsible for monitoring this Site Management Plan.

IKEA claims it has chosen this site for its connectivity to public transport and its sustainability, yet its business model depends on people arriving in vehicles to collect ‘self-service’ flat-pack furniture. A full size store and warehouse will bring traffic chaos and increased pollution to an already congested area with illegal emission levels. Please do not put the health of local residents and the future of the delicate and beautiful protected Unesco Heritage site at risk by allowing in furniture giant. Never before has IKEA been granted permission to build in such a congested inner city area. Please do not allow Greenwich to suffer from such an ill-considered experiment.

Yours sincerely,
Michael & Sophie Howard, Humber Road

John Payne

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

Contact the Westcombe Park branch on 020 8858 6101
In the image provided, there is a colorful page with various advertisements and listings, including services such as pest control, cleaning, and architectural services. There are also listings for accommodations and holidays in different locations. The text is dense and includes contact information, rates, and services offered. The layout is typical of a classified ad page, with a mix of fonts and a variety of service providers listed in an organized manner.

To summarize, the page features a range of services and accommodations, with details such as contact numbers, rates, and descriptions of the services offered. It is a typical page from a classified ad section, providing information for potential customers to make inquiries or book services.