



## The new tunnel – what do YOU think?

Transport for London has now launched yet another new consultation – this time on proposals for a new Silvertown Tunnel to ease traffic flows across the river. If you want a copy of the consultation leaflet, ring 0343 222 1234. The consultation runs until 19th December.

The argument for another tunnel seems very compelling. On a normal day, it can take half an hour or even more to get through the Blackwall Tunnel during peak times.

If there is a hold up, such as an accident, or a lorry that is too high, the result can be disastrous, with huge knock-on effects for the whole area. TfL claims that in one recent year alone, there have been 1100 such incidents, causing significant disruption, from Stratford to Eltham, sometimes lasting for hours.

A second tunnel would help to mitigate the results of such situations. And, with the projected increase in road traffic – and the ever-increasing population of London – TfL reckon that the current situation will certainly get worse unless some action is taken.

### A no-brainer then?

Well, no, at least, not according to a local campaigning group, No to the Silvertown Tunnel (NOST) which is strongly against the scheme.

“Once again, Transport for



London is pushing its toxic tunnel with no evidence to back up its wild claims that it will reduce traffic congestion or boost our economy,” says NOST’s Darryl Chamberlain. “TfL and the mayor think this is a done deal: we’ll fight this mad plan all the way.”

### Toll charges

The cost of the scheme (£763 million) would be funded by a toll – to use either of the tunnels. The cost of passing through the tunnels would be about the same as those for the

Dartford crossing. However, toll charges might deter drivers from using the tunnels, so that other routes on both sides of the river would then experience much heavier traffic.

### Congestion

Darryl Chamberlain argues also that the surrounding roads in Greenwich, Newham, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets could not cope with a doubling in capacity.

“So why add to them?” he asks. “The Lower Lea Crossing won’t be able to cope, the A206 won’t be able to cope, and nor will the A2 a couple of miles south of the tunnel.”

NOST also argues that Southbound queues on the A102 are horrendous in rush hours. There is already plenty of evidence to show that even worse queues – and worse congestion – would make life miserable for residents on both sides of the Thames.

### Air pollution

“Air pollution is a killer north and south of the river,” argues Darryl.

The problem of air pollution is serious. In September, the *WN* warned that London is facing fines from the EU for exceeding air pollution limits, and pointed out that legislation dating back to 2011 made London boroughs – not the government – responsible for any fines that would be imposed.

(cont. on page 3)

## Seasonal greetings to all our readers



**Holby City comes to Blackheath!** The Westcombe Society were delighted to welcome Bob Barret aka Dr Sasha Levy of *Holby City*, to open the Christmas Bazaar. This annual event was as popular as ever, and the profits this time will go to the society’s Charity of the Year, Deptford’s 999Club. See also pages 2 and 8.

## Christmas Nativity



Last year, St John’s Church mounted a Christmas Nativity with over 700 members of the local community either taking part or watching.

By popular demand, we are putting it on again this year – on Sat. 13th Dec at 3.00pm.

It’s very much an event for the local community. Three local school choirs are singing, local traders and residents are some of the actors, and we even have a real donkey plus three sheep from Woodland’s Farm in Shooters Hill ...

We start at 3.00 pm outside St John’s church with the beginning of the Christmas story. Like the three wise men (or the three Kings) we then follow a ‘star’ to the British Oak Pub. The choirs will sing

at each stop.

As we arrive at the Oak, the current Landlady will come out to let us know there is no room in the inn, just as it occurred in Bethlehem.

We then process to the Blackheath Library, and tell more of the story, as angels, shepherds and kings appear on the balconies above the shops.

Finally, we process back to the church – and there, allelu-jah! is a stable scene with a live Mary, Joseph and baby! The whole event lasts about an hour: a wonderful way of ushering in the Christmas season.

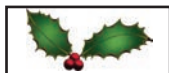
Children especially are warmly welcome to come dressed up as an angel, king, sheep etc.

Jane Beswetherick

### STOP PRESS:

The Westcombe Society is hosting a **Public Meeting**

at 7.30 pm on Wed Dec 3rd in Mycenae House to discuss the issues.



## < < News briefs > >



### Railway incidents

Police are making enquiries about a fight on October 30th on a train between Greenwich and Charlton involving a mixed-race woman, a black man, and a white boy aged about 12. Anyone with information is asked to contact British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40, quoting SSUB/B1 of 10/11/14.

In a separate incident, a pair of passengers who were arguing on a train at Westcombe Park caused an hour of disruption about 3.00pm on Nov. 13th.

Anyone with information on this incident should contact the BTP on 0800 405040, or by text, on 61016, quoting reference 300 of 13th. November.

### Police warning

We are heading for the yearly peak in burglaries, warn the Met Police. Over the past year, burglary rates have fallen by 8% – the lowest level in 40 years – but this a peak time for break-ins. We are advised to ensure windows, doors and side-gates are properly locked and valuables kept out of sight.

### Fire at Sun Ya

The Standard went into gridlock when three fire engines arrived to put out a fire at Sun Ya Chinese restaurant in November.

### Congratulations

are due to Margaret Mizen MBE, the mother of schoolboy Jimmy Mizen murdered in 2008. She was given an honorary doctorate by the University of Greenwich. She has become a champion for young people, families and communities, and the award recognizes her work in public service at local and national level.

### Nancy Davies RIP

We are sorry to record the death on October 20th. of Nancy Davies, a long-time member of the Westcombe Society.

### Congratulations

to the “Old Brigade” for a convincing win at the Westcombe Society’s popular Quiz Night

### Christmas at the Standard

The Standard’s shops are taking part in Small Business Day on Saturday 6th Dec. with special offers & events. For more details see p. 3.



### Attacked by a dog

The *WN* was very disturbed to hear that while walking down Maze Hill a visitor was attacked by a large dark-coloured dog. The incident took place at around 10.30 pm on Nov 6th. near a cul de sac. The dog bit the man through three layers of clothing above one of his elbows. The owner came out, said, “Very sorry, it escaped!” and the dog ran back inside a nearby house. The police called an ambulance; the *WN* has learnt that the MET’s dog unit would be seizing the dog following a court warrant.

### TfL’s website

Drivers can obtain up-to-date road information by accessing TfL’s 24-hour live traffic Twitter feed, @TfLTrafficNews

## Getting Together this Christmas

Your Invitation to a Social Event for Users, Friends and Neighbours of Mycenae House.

**Friday 12 December 2014 – 7.00pm onwards**

Please join the staff, trustees and other friends of Mycenae House for a celebration this Christmas, for chatter, some live music, and a chance for us to get your feedback and test some ideas for the future. We’ll provide the venue, the drinks, the food and the music and you provide the company. Call for details.

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### Addicted to draws

Congratulations to Charlton for breaking a record – of a kind: at time of writing the Addicks managed NINE draws in a row. The good news: they didn’t lose any of the matches; the bad news: they didn’t win them, either! So, full marks go to the defenders: but what about the strikers?

### Carol singing

The Westcombe Society Carol Singing is on Monday Dec 15th. Meet up at Mycenae House at 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Musicians with instruments are particularly welcome. The session will end with mulled wine and mince pies. All proceeds go to the Westcombe Society’s Charity of the Year, the 999Club. (See page 2)







# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WESTCOMBE NEWS

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*Volunteer distributors please phone 020 8853 3740, we need your help!*

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

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### Westcombe society membership

**please send this membership form to:**  
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**se 3 7Dr**

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**Address**.....

.....

**t el**.....

**e mail:** .....

*Please enclose payment as appropriate:*

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<b>individual membership</b>	<b>£8</b>	<b> </b>	<b> </b>
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## The Westcombe Society Christmas Card



This Westcombe Society Christmas card, measuring 8"x 6" (A5) has been reprinted by popular demand. Profits from the sale will be donated to charity. The price of the card is £4.90 for a pack of 5 large cards, with envelopes, bearing the message 'With Season's Greetings'. They may also be purchased individually for £1.30. Please let Caroline Owens know by email on r.c.owens@btinternet.com or phone (020 8853 0948) if you wish to purchase any cards.

## The Westcombe Society's Charity of the Year

**ANDREW MITCHELL** describes the work of the 999Club



The 999 Club is quite simply about offering comfort, respite, advice and guidance to the most isolated, excluded and lonely people in society who we call our members.

Our 5,000 members suffer multiple problems, and have chaotic lifestyles, often the result of rotten childhoods, resulting in any combination of being homeless, addicted, ill (both physically and mentally ill), ex-offenders, and victims of crime and abuse. We look after the elderly, as well as adults and vulnerable children from local families. If not already homeless, all of our members are at high risk of becoming so.

We operate two day centres in two of the four most deprived neighbourhoods in the London Borough of Lewisham, namely Deptford and Downham.

In Deptford, we operate a small nursery for vulnerable children, and a temporary winter night shelter. 200 hundred people visit each day and 4,000 per annum.

Our members include people who are rough-sleeping in Greenwich, and other vulnerable adults. They are able to receive food and clothing, the expertise of our advice and advocacy workers, and access to the many Health and Well Being agencies that maintain a presence in our centre.

Our connection with Greenwich goes beyond those that access our services. Since 2009, residents of Greenwich have been

volunteering in our night shelter and cooking and delivering the evening meal. At first, the cooks were members of the congregation of St Alfege's, but now other churches such as St John's Blackheath and Greenwich Vineyard are involved, as well as residents of other faiths or no faith.

A team of about 50 volunteers cooks for the night shelter. They welcome guests in the evening as well as providing breakfast in the morning. Many now work in our day centre, too, and St Alfege's have just raised money through Woolwich Mission to help to extend our volunteer co-ordinator's role throughout the year.

Many people in Greenwich donate to us, or work as volunteers or fund-raisers. For example, this year, three residents of Greenwich (two from Westcombe Park) raised funds by running the marathon.

Many supporters live in Westcombe Park, as does our Deptford Centre Manager. We presently have multi-year funding from the Balcombe Trust, based in Blackheath, and last year Greenwich Hatcliffe supported our work with the elderly. We receive donations of goods from Greenwich Foodbank and Emmaus Greenwich. Greenwich University students also do placements in our nursery, so it's a genuine community effort.

Last year improvements to our Deptford centre included the building of a shower room. This is a much-valued facility for the

homeless and it is used by about 15 people per day, rising to over 40 at peak times.

The problem is that with domestic machines we cannot simply wash and dry the towels quickly enough, so it is difficult to provide a fresh supply of towels and allow other members to launder clothes.

So the grant on generous offer from the Westcombe Society will be going towards the purchase of some industrial laundry equipment, so that we can process larger loads and at a faster rate – not just for towels: we also run a much-valued laundry service for the homeless and struggling families.

Many thanks, then to everyone in the Westcombe Society for your support!  
**The 999 Club, 21 Deptford Broadway**  
**Deptford SE8 4PA www.999club.org**  
**Tel. 8691 7734 Email: office@999club.org**

### Westcombe Society Open Meeting

**What do YOU think about the proposals for a new tunnel?**  
**Come to an open meeting organised by the Westcombe Society to discuss the proposals. We will look at what they might mean to our area, and collect your views so we can represent members for our response to the consultation.**

**Wednesday December 3rd, 7.30 at Mycenae House**

## Letters to the editor

**Any views expressed are those of the writers only, and are not necessarily those of the W/N or the Westcombe Society**

**From: Marilyn Little**

**Westcombe Hill**

Our editor asked me about my own experience of the OnBlackheath event, which I attended with a friend. [See also page 6.]

We noted that until you were quite close to the entrance there was little evidence of the event in terms of noise, although the World Wide Stage was in full swing. We were early, and I have to confess I was wondering what we were going to do to fill the time until the Main Stage came into action at 3.30pm but I needn't have worried. After a quick tour of the site which included a very popular Fun Factory for children, it was obvious that this was a truly family day. There were many young families who were enjoying the various activities together.

We decided on a cookery demo and were entertained along with quite a large crowd by Carl Clarke whose culinary efforts could have been sampled in the chef's club thereafter. There was a rather annoying NEFF presenter but as they were the sponsors I suppose he was entitled express excitement by their slide-away oven door and removable control knob!

You could have eaten your way round the world at the many concessions and the queues that formed were all good-natured. The punters' other needs were well catered for. There were loads of Loos and many bins - but very little litter.

At around 4/5 o'clock the demographics of the attendees subtly changed and became more concert-goer based. The main stage had been going from 3.30 and the acts on offer all had their fans.

For me the highlight of the evening was Grace Jones. With amazing costumes she strutted her stuff, smacked her very tight backside and hula hooped her way around the stage for what must

have been ten minutes at one point. Certainly the star of the show for me, a true entertainer.

Massive Attack had obviously attracted a large following and their backdrop was a telling montage of current world troubles. It was an electronic performance interspersed with vocal numbers, and they were very well received by their fans.

It was all over by 10.30 and dispersal seemed to happen quietly and swiftly. All in all, I felt it was a well-run family event.

**From: Trevor Allman Coleraine Road**

November's W/N asked whether the Tall Ships Festival was a "vanity project" Well of course we all know it was, and of course it was not the only one under the reign of the "Dear Leader", Cllr Chris Roberts.

We have also had the rebranding of Greenwich as a "royal borough" which cost council taxpayers untold money on new signs, headed paper etc, just so Roberts could demonstrate his devotion to the unelected head of state, Elizabeth Windsor.

Given the way he ran the Labour Group with an Iron Fist and his clear contempt of democracy, I guess this devotion shouldn't be a surprise. But it should not have been done at the expense of residents of this borough, who have had no tangible change to their quality of life by this rebranding.

I certainly cannot disagree with anything that Unite's Onay Kasab said. At a time when cuts are being made in essential services, the Council should not be frittering away council tax money on vanity projects, but should have been raising the wages of its lowest paid workers, and trying to alleviate some of the hardship to the poorest and most vulnerable in the borough caused by the

Government's Social Security cuts.

Whilst I'm sure some will counter this argument by saying there was increased revenue brought into the borough, I personally don't know of any businesses who noticed an increase in either footfall or income during the Tall Ships Festival. I'm sure that the cafes, bars and restaurants did make some extra money, but given many of them are chains, that money would not stay and benefit the borough, as it goes toward corporate profits.

Left Unity hope that the Labour Group will not waste any more money on vanity projects,

**From: James Scotton**

**Milwaukee**

Lots of good stuff in the latest W/N. What, the Tall Ships not worth it? Balderdash!

**From: Terry Scales**

**Greenwich**

Many thanks for your mention of my show *London City of Music and Other Delights* at the Blackheath Concert Hall. Quite a few people mentioned that they read about it in the W/N. I'm so glad you were able to squeeze it into your excellent paper.

**From: Nicola Bruton Upton Cheyney**

Thank you for sending my piece on singing in November's W/N. I was interested in the feature about the Tall Ships Festival. My son did a trip on a tall ship (the *Malcolm Miller*) when he was about 17. He had a wonderful time. Better still, from our point of view, he went away a bolshie teenager and came back a very pleasant young man.

**From: Jane Richards**

**Greenwich**

Many thanks for the excellent coverage of Cards for Good Causes in the latest issue of the W/N.



## Charlton's Chess Champ

A ten-year-old schoolboy from Charlton has spear-headed his chess team to 2nd. place in the under-14 National Championships.

Aryan Narayan, from the Pointer School, represented Kent in this prestigious tournament. Aryan's team was up against thirteen other sides who had all won through seven rounds of heats to reach the final.

His side beat both South Wales and Leicestershire before narrowly missing out on the top spot to Sussex. He has only been playing chess

for two years, having been inspired by his father, and by his school coach, Mr Madan Augustin.

Also from Pointers School, ten-year-old Ilia Zyp has won through to the national finals in the Butterfly event in London's prestigious Olympic Pool in Stratford in January. Well done, both!





## John Roan official opening

[RIGHT] The Headmaster Des Malone, Baroness Estelle Morris, and Patrick Cooper, Chair of the Governors



November 3rd. saw the official opening of both sites of the newly re-built and refurbished John Roan School, already heralded in the *WN* in October this year. The ribbon at the Maze Hill site – a Grade II listed building – was cut by 90-year-old Alan Weir, who first went to the school in 1937.

The plaque celebrating the opening was unveiled by Baroness Estelle Morris, the former Labour government's Education Secretary. Also in attendance were Nick Raynsford MP, the Mayor of Greenwich, Cllr Mick Hayes, and the Chair of the Old Roan Association, Hilary Haslan.

Among some distinguished old boys of the school present were broadcasters Steve

Rider and Asad Ahmad, who, along with Alan Weir, buried a time capsule – not to be opened until the year 2077, the 400th anniversary of the school.

The headmaster Des Malone, said it was a landmark moment for the school, with outstanding buildings fit for the 21st century. "We are all immensely proud to be part of the continuing history of our very special school."

Both sites have wireless technology for computer-aided learning; the facilities include a new sports block, drama and recording studios, and a new basketball court and gym. The school is one of five Greenwich schools to benefit from the previous government's Building Schools for the Future programme.



[RIGHT] Fans queued up to be photographed with Steve Rider, the TV sports presenter. Here he stands next to Bethan Francis, Year 11, Age 15. [LEFT] (Bethan is the school's Head Girl.) On the right is Megan McIntosh.



PHOTO: Colin Stevenson

## Roll-up for Small Business Saturday!

Small Business Saturday is on 6th December – this is the day when businesses across the country promote the theme of shopping locally – and it's your chance to show your support for small businesses at The Standard.

It'll be a fun day with music and carol singers, stalls, raffles and special offers. This is the day when local businesses say a great big THANK YOU to all our loyal customers and hopefully to say HELLO and WELCOME to new ones!

On five lampposts there will also be some Christmas Lights purchased by the members of the Royal Standard Business & Trade Association (RSBTA) through both membership subscriptions and fund-raising over the past 2 years. Each light costs just over £600.

Greenwich Council have kindly agreed to pay for the electricity. Our fundraising continues so that next year we hope that we will be able to increase the number of lights – volunteers will be shaking collection boxes on the day.

On the right you can see a list of the events that individual shops are having, and special offers.

For more information, visit Susan at Blackheath Pet Supplies or email Marilyn at mallense3@aol.com.

**Blackheath Pet Supplies:** £25 free raffle gift to spend, free samples, name the dog game.  
**B-Brown:** special offers on nails, spray tans and eyelash extensions.  
**Moca:** 20% discount on Christmas stock, free samples on a stall  
**Blackheath Cooks:** 10% off class bookings, and a stall outside with tastings, family baking day.  
**Passionflower:** 10% off all flowers and plants ordered on the day.  
**Blackheath Eyecare Opticians:** 10% off spectacle orders and sunglasses ordered or purchased on the day plus free cleaning cloth with purchases on the day.  
**Apple n Orange:** Free raffle ticket with a £10 + spend with a prize of a 4ft Christmas tree or a fruit and veg basket.  
**GG Sparkes Butchers:** Free raffle ticket with a £15 spend to win a six kilo award-winning turkey. Plus in conjunction with:  
**The Scullery & Standard Fish Bar:** a stall outside Sparkes with sausage-tasting and chips.  
**Bella Hair Boutique & Academy:** 20% off all colour services, demonstration of hair extensions, free consultation and free samples.  
**Well Bean:** offers on the day, stall outside with gluten-free mince pies and free samples.  
**Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice:** tombola, half-price sale.  
**Felicity J Lord:** 25% discount on selling fees if on the market in December, free mortgage consultancy, raffle prize.

## All change at Age Exchange



PHOTO: Neville Grant

**Pictured: Sir Ian Mills (outgoing Chair of the Trustees) Rebecca Packwood (CEO), Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham, and incoming chair Kumar Jacob**

At a recent farewell party, Age Exchange said goodbye, and thank you, to Sir Ian Mills, OBE, the outgoing chair of Age Exchange, the UK's leading reminiscence charity.

The charity uses memories and arts to bring people together, to make their lives better, to learn from and value each other and to build stronger families and communities. It provides training to help NHS staff transform the treatment of older people, particularly Alzheimer's and dementia sufferers. It was originally founded by Pam Schweitzer, MBE.

Under Sir Ian's leadership, it has also

become a public library operated largely by volunteers, and a thriving community hub in Blackheath Village.

In a farewell address, Sir Steve Bullock praised Sir Ian Mills for his dedication and energy, and his "can do" approach. He had demonstrated great powers of leadership, and astonishing fund-raising skills.

In his farewell speech, Sir Ian thanked all the staff at Age Exchange, particularly Suzanne Lockett, and the many friends of Age Exchange who had done so much to support the project. He wished his successor, Kumar Jacob, and Rebecca Packwood well as they carried the operation forward.

## Never give up



Many readers may have felt bemused by the campaign to "Keep the Green" in Creek Road spearheaded by Edward Hill. Surely, a forlorn hope?

It now appears that the alley from Creek Road was "inadvertently included in Land Title 929946." The *WN* now learns that, after a detailed investigation by the Land Registry, and on the basis of legal advice from Planning Aid For London, "Keep The Green" has now inserted a hoarding access door to Greenwich Green. This is to enable the public to enter where a strip of land across the site is not owned by Family Mosaic. A big headache for Family Mosaic which plans to build on the site, including affordable housing.

You can visit Made In Greenwich (324 Creek Road) to check the latest situation, and to pick up the key if you want to use the door to the Commons.

In November, five black sheep were placed in a pen at the site in a gesture of protest. Activist Edward Hill tweeted: "City Farm on Greenwich Green? Last week 5 beautiful Hebridean sheep Grannie & 4 lambs. All safe back home now" @edhillled



## Silvertown Tunnel Consultation

(cont from page 1)

Darryl Chamberlain of NOST added: "This is the traffic equivalent of moving the deckchairs on the Titanic. TfL is deluded if it thinks the Silvertown Tunnel will cure congestion. There's nothing in this for locals – it'll just encourage car commuters to drive to Canary Wharf.

"This £753m waste of money needs to be binned – and the money put towards proper crossings for public transport, walking and cycling instead."

**For information about the campaign go to: <http://www.silvertowntunnel.co.uk>**  
**No to Silvertown Tunnel (NOST) is an independent campaign founded by residents who live near the affected Blackwall Tunnel approach roads.**

**For more information, call Darryl Chamberlain on 0797 100 3039 or Nikki Coates on 07739 554 603.**

## Train timetable changes

Train services were not supposed to be changed radically until 15th January. Think again! Southeastern Trains now tell us that some alterations are taking place in December. From December 22nd - 24th, morning peak trains to Charing Cross will not stop at London Bridge between 07.54 and 09.01.

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# FEATURES



## Giving a book for Christmas?

Here are some suggestions.

***Grey Daggers and Minotaurs in Greenwich Park* - Memories of a London Schoolboy Naturalist in the 1940s by John F Burton. Clio Publishing, 2014.**

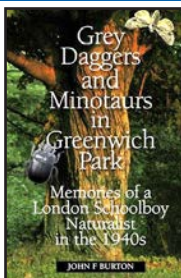
*Grey Daggers and Minotaurs* is based on extracts from the author's diaries he wrote as a schoolboy in the 1940s.

Although Greenwich Park features strongly, there are numerous accounts of other sites he visited in South London.

John Burton's observations of nature (particularly birds, plants, and butterflies) form the bulk of the book, but there's plenty for other readers, such as those who are interested in Charlton Athletic's heyday.

Anybody interested in life in the 1940s is also well-served. For example, there is a hair-raising account of the author's narrow escape from a Nazi bomb in Greenwich and the tragic loss of his friend in Charlton who sadly wasn't so lucky. These reports are all the more poignant to readers who know well the places he refers to.

He also gives his account of conversations with German prisoners of war who



were put to work in Greenwich Park (surely one of the luckier groups of POWs in those days), even befriending one man and surreptitiously passing him chocolate bars!

Blackheath was used by the military in the forties, and the author recounts how this actually helped wildlife to survive, as the trampling feet of casual visitors were much reduced. Back then several pairs of Skylarks, Yellow Wagtails and even Wheatears nested on the open Heath – something difficult to imagine these days.

The author's passion for wildlife comes across vividly, enhanced by his own diary illustrations and grainy photographs. Burton gives lively descriptions of other sights that seem incredible to those of us who know the area today – a Sand Martin colony in Charlton, Tree Sparrows in Greenwich Park and Redshanks and Lapwings nesting on Plumstead Marshes (lost when Thamesmead was created).

Burton also comments about our increasing disconnection from nature, but suggests that Greenwich Park is in many ways better for wildlife today – as is the Thames which holds more wetland birds and fish than for a very long time indeed.

**Joe Beale**

## They played with Bobbie Moore

Local sports writer Tim Crane of Westcombe Hill has concluded an 18 month journey tracking down and interviewing no fewer than 89 West Ham United players who played with England's finest ever captain, Bobby Moore.

The 374-page hardback book includes over 500 photographs from the players' personal collections as well as 250,000 words recalling the Bobby Moore era.

Tim Crane adds: 'Every attic, shoe box and suitcase has been explored to ensure a visual feast for the reader.'

Never before have the unpublished photos and memories of every West Ham player between 1958/1974 been showcased in one book. In a foreword, Sir Geoff Hurst describes Moore as: 'Simply the greatest. The player to look up to. The best captain West Ham and England has ever had . . . but Bobby will never be replaced

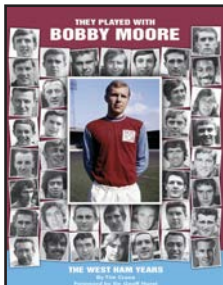
... we will never see another like him ... The level of research in this book is a vital piece of the Bobby Moore story.'

Also featured are other notable Hammers – Brooking, Lyall, Peters, Redknap, Best. . . the list goes on.

'When I set out on the journey,' says Tim, 'I knew that Bobby Moore's 89 West Ham team mates were out there somewhere but it has been quite a challenge finding and interviewing them all.'

A real labour of love ...

*Available at a discounted price of £20 (rrp £25) to readers of the WN. Tim welcomes anyone to collect in person from his home at 183 Westcombe Hill, Blackheath, London SE3 7DR. Or, send a cheque to Tim Crane (include £3 UK p&p). Paypal/ credit card payments can be made via [www.bobbymoore89.co.uk](http://www.bobbymoore89.co.uk)*



## The Spectacular Tale of Peter Rabbit

Emma Thompson and Peter Rabbit, the nation's favourite actress and rabbit, are back in an adventure of SPECTACULAR proportions . . .

It was high summer in the local village, and a travelling fun-fair had arrived . . .

Peter Rabbit and Benjamin were forbidden to attend. But even the best-behaved rabbit can't keep away from a fun-fair; and Peter is far from being the best-behaved rabbit. With Benjamin at his side, Peter sneaks into the fair where a roller-coaster

ride of an adventure begins...

Amid the crowds, Peter finds himself scooped up by a rather grumpy little girl and, separated from his cousin, he is helpless and very afraid. It takes the determined bravery of Benjamin to rescue Peter from the frightening hurly-burly of shouting stall-holders and whirling rides. The book is beautifully illustrated by Eleanor Taylor. Discover Emma Thompson's other Peter Rabbit adventures:

*The Further Tales of Peter Rabbit* and *The Christmas Tale of Peter Rabbit*



## Westcombe Park Dental Practice



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Tooth Colouring Fillings  
Anti-Wrinkle Treatments & Dermal Fillings

In another in our series on local schools, STEVE GARVEY looks at

## The Pointer School



PHOTO: Julie Middleton

Purple and green are the colours which are more associated with the leafy surrounding of Wimbledon than with the buzzing neighbourhoods of Greenwich.

Yet if you head towards the edge of Blackheath you'll be assailed by this colour scheme as it makes up the uniform of one of London's most successful Primary schools.

Hot on the heels of the October edition of the Westcombe News, which reported that Greenwich Schools excelled in recent Government statistics, we now have a school which has itself won over the inspectors. The Pointer School in Stratheden Road was visited by a team from the Independent Schools Inspectorate just as the children got back to work this Autumn. A team of four carried out a vigorous scrutiny of everything that goes on in the school, and awarded top marks in every single category.

As one of the teachers who had to work through the four days of investigations, I can confirm that it can be a daunting prospect. And once it was over many staff felt like half term couldn't come soon enough!

The inspectors split themselves between the two impressive buildings as they trawled through a mountain of paperwork, visited a host of lessons and interviewed staff, pupils and parents to find out what we all thought of the school. Exam results were checked and student's work was examined.

The inspection team commented that pupils' achievement in class and activities at Pointers is excellent; attainment is



Morning assembly: school spirit is strongly encouraged

excellent and students have well-developed literacy and numeracy skills. They were impressed with the pupils' behaviour, saying that they were both polite and confident. They concluded that the governance was also excellent with good leadership throughout.

For Head Teacher, Mr Higgins, it was a successful end to a long process. The school had been anticipating an inspection for the last twelve months and was well-prepared. He told the *WN*: "The report was testament to the hard work put in over a number of years and the excellent relationship between the school and our parents."

**The Pointer School in Stratheden Road was established in 1950 and comprises 341 pupils from age 3 to 11.**



[RIGHT]  
The school playground. Just the place to let off high spirits. But how did that hula-hoop get up that tree?



PHOTOS:  
Steve Garvey

### Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice Christmas events

**Eltham Carolthon** 3rd. December, 10/00am - 3.00pm, free Passey Place, Eltham SE9  
School children sing Christmas carols

**Santa Dash – Danson Park Bexleyheath** 7th December 10.00am

Registration in advance recommended! Hundreds of Santas dash thru the Park

**Light Up A Life: United Reformed Church**, Court Road, Eltham, SE9 5AD

10th. Dec. 7.00pm Traditional church service

**Bexleyheath Carolthon, Broadway, SE6** 11th. December 2014, 10.00am - 3.00pm, free

**Light Up A Life: Christ Church**, Victoria Road, Erith, DA8 3AN 12th. Dec. 7.00pm, free



# WHAT'S ON



## ARTS

### BLACHEATH ART SOCIETY

*Imagine* is an exhibition of new artwork on show in the Upstairs Gallery of Discover Greenwich, running until Jan.11th, 10.00 am-5.00 pm. Entry is free. Ideal Christmas gifts! [www.ornc.org.uk/events](http://www.ornc.org.uk/events)

**Info:** [www.blackheathartsociety.org.uk](http://www.blackheathartsociety.org.uk)

### NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM THE QUEEN'S HOUSE:

#### WAR ARTISTS AT SEA Until February 2015

#### GUIDING LIGHTS 500 years of Trinity House

#### THE ART AND SCIENCE OF EXPLORATION

**1768 - 1780** Also in The Queen's House. See the Stubbs Kangaroo (and Dingo) saved by the public, and work of artists from Captain Cook's voyages

#### BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS

**SOCIETY**, St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath 4th Thursday of every month, 2.00 for 2.30. Next meeting 27th Nov. **Andy McConnell**

**Rene Lalique, The Greatest: this great glass artist, his work, and his wider impact** Non-members £5

#### GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS

**SOCIETY** King William Court, the University of Greenwich Anthea Streeter on British architecture today 020 8852 7873 Non-members £8.00

#### MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY

[www.madeingreenwich.co.uk](http://www.madeingreenwich.co.uk) 324 Creek Rd SE10

Until 31st January **OLD AND NEW:** Art on the themes of childhood, change and renewal.

**10th Dec. 7.00pm:** **NEVADA STREET POETS**

#### GREENWICH PRINTMAKERS

**1a Greenwich Maket SE10 9HZ**

[www.greenwich-printmakers.co.uk](http://www.greenwich-printmakers.co.uk) **020 88581569**

Magical display of original hand-made prints in their seasonal show of Christmas gifts. The perfect present to suit every pocket. **Special exhibition: Until Dec.**

**7th** featuring the work of artist Joanna Irvin

#### MAZE HILL POTTERY Open Studio 6th -7th Dec

**The Old Ticket Office, Woodlands Park Rd,**

**London SE10 9XE 020 8293 0048** Come celebrate

20 years of Maze Hill Pottery with Lisa Hammond

[mazehillpottery.co.uk](http://mazehillpottery.co.uk) [lisa-hammond-pottery.co.uk](http://lisa-hammond-pottery.co.uk)

## CHILDREN & FAMILY

### BLACKHEATH HALLS

**Sat 6th Dec. ALADDIN** The colourful tale from the Arabian Nights – a large-scale contemporary shadow puppet theatre

**TICKETS: £7** Suitable for ages 4+ 50 minutes

**GREENWICH THEATRE** Crooms Hill,

**Greenwich** Box office: 020 8858 7755.

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** Thu 20th Nov. -

**Sun 11th. January 2015** Tickets £27 cones £21.00)

All children's tickets half price

### THE HOLDALLS CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

**5th - 24th Dec.** Most mornings, some afternoons, varying times. **Our pop-up theatre space is aimed at children aged 3+.** £13.50 Concessions £8.50 (£12.50 & £7.50 tickets plus £1 booking fee)

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

See also /[www.westcombesociety.org/](http://www.westcombesociety.org/)

**57A WESTCOMBE PARK RD** ref 14/3149F

Demolish art deco house and replace with 8 flats (3 to 4 storeys)

### TREE WORKS

**26 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD** ref

**14/3335/TC**

Crown reduce trees

**120 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD** ref

**14/3328/TC**

Crown reduce leylandii hedge by 30%

**49 VANBRUGH PARK** ref 14/3354/TC

Crown reduce trees by 30%

## COMMUNITY

**CAROLS, MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES** at Sue Clarks Interiors Shop, Humber Road on Dec 5th

7-8pm. Donations for Riding for the Disabled.

### CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH

**Thurs. 4th December** at The Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath SE3 0RW Prize draw & Raffle. To book, call Wendy on 8265 0335 by **Mon. 1st December.** £8.50.

### GREENWICH HERITAGE CENTRE

**Exhibition: Empire, Faith, War: the Sikhs in WW1** Dec 3rd - Jan.3rd. **Free**

### GREENWICH ECOLOGY PARK

[www.greenwichecologypark.com](http://www.greenwichecologypark.com)

### THE AHOY CENTRE Borthwick Street SE8 3JY

The AHOY Christmas Awards Dinner is on **6th Dec.**

Just time to book: £15.00 adult, £7.00 for under 18s.

To book, visit: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ahoy-2014-christmas-awards-dinner-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ahoy-2014-christmas-awards-dinner-tickets)

### Sun. Dec 7th ANNUAL WINTER FAYRE

**Family fun - and meet Mr Fox!**

**Fri 19th Dec. 8.00 pm** Comedy in Mycenae House with **IAN STONE** £10 | £8.00

### INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**13th January 2015 David Ramzam on Three**

**Greenwich-Built Ships** Meet at The Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, SE3, Please use the car park behind the station. Meetings start at 7.30: non members £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 & 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](mailto:eileenflanagan194@btinternet.com)

### LIVE JAZZ AT MYCENAE HOUSE

Candlelit jazz, special guest on the second Friday each month. Bar & Food available. 8pm. £10/ £8

### GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS

**More details:**[www.globalfusionarts.yahoo.co.uk](http://www.globalfusionarts.yahoo.co.uk)

**Free workshops** Fortnightly Tuesday & Friday evenings 7.30 - 8.30 at Mascalls Meeting Rooms off Victoria Way Charlton SE7 7TT Info: 020 8858 9497

**Thurs. Dec 11th WASSAIL NIGHT** with local folk capella band Morrigan. Charlton House, 7.30-10.00pm £8.00/£7.00 cones.

**Fri. Dec 12th & Fri 30th Jan. WORLD CINEMA NIGHT** Grand Salon, Charlton House, 7.30pm £3.00

**THE CLARENDON HOTEL, Montpelier Row, Blackheath** Tel. 8318 4321 Jazz at the Row very

Wednesday from 7.00 pm in the bar!

### THE BRIDGE, East Greenwich Pleasaunce

Including stay-and-play baby and toddler sessions, pre-school and after-school club; adult yoga sessions, exercise and gardening groups are also offered. **Our AGM is on Sat Jan. 15th** at 8.00 pm. And we need more volunteers please!

## DANCE

**CANCER RESEARCH** keep fit & in shape plus Line Dancing at Kingswood Hall, Kingswood

Place, off Dacre Park SE13 **Donation £5.00 for Cancer Research** Every Wed. 10.00 - 12 noon

Please ring Rosalie Vexter on 8852 7127

### GREENWICH DANCE

in the beautiful Borough Hall, Greenwich

**Fri 5th Dec. 7.30 pm** JUST US DANCE THEATRE

Hip-hop, contemporary dance, spoken word & Djin.

**Sat 6th Dec. 8.00 pm** **THE BALL** A night of ball-room and swing with live music from Kai's Cats

**Sat 13th Dec. 3.30 & 7.30 pm** **SILVER LINING**

Explosive new circus show to delight all ages

## THEATRE

**THE GREENWICH THEATRE** Crooms Hill,

**Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755**

**Nov 20th - Jan 11th. JACK & THE BEANSTALK**

**THE GEOFFREY WHITWORTH THEATRE**

**Beech Walk, Crayford, DA1 4NP 01322 526390**

[bookings@the.gwt.org.uk](mailto:bookings@the.gwt.org.uk) **6th - 13th Dec. The**

**Ladykillers** by Graham Lineham

**LONDON THEATRE** 443 New Cross Road, Outer

**London, SE14 6TA (Near New Cross Station)**

**Box office** 0208 694 1888

**Tues 2nd Dec. - Sun 7th Dec. 8pm (5pm Sunday)** A

**Chunk of Chekhov: The Bear & The Proposal**

**THE TRAMSLED, WOOLWICH**

[WWW.GLYPT.CO.UK](http://WWW.GLYPT.CO.UK) Tel. 020 8854 1316

**Saturdays & Sundays 2.00 & 5.00 pm 1st - 21st**

**Dec: ROBIN HOOD** From £10 | £7.00 cones.

**THE SPACE** 269 Westferry Rd, London E14 3RS

**Email:** [info@space.org.uk](mailto:info@space.org.uk) Tel: 020 7515 7799

**4th - 6th Dec. 7.30 pm** Rosencrantz & Guildenstern

are Dead by Tom Stoppard £8.00 | £6.00

## WHAT'S ON AT BLACKHEATH HALLS

**Box office:** Tel 020 8463 0100

### DECEMBER

**Mondays - Fridays 3rd - 15th Dec.**

**Cards for Good Causes** From 9.30am

**MONDAY 1st Dec.** Music Appreciation 10.00am

**Lunchtime Recital:** BelVil Trio 1.10pm

**Meantime Jazz:** Course 2 7.00pm

**Blackheath Halls Chorus** 7.30pm

**WED. 3rd Dec.** Turning of the Year 7.15pm

**THURS. 4th** Turning of the Year 5.00 & 7.15 pm

**FRIDAY 5th Dec.** Blackheath Halls Orchestra

**Chamber Music Night** 7.30pm

**Sat 6th Dec. 7.30 pm** Sinfonia Tamesa perform

**BEETHOVEN AND A BIRTHDAY WORLD PRE-**

**MIERE** of Matthew Taylor's Concerto, written for

us and for the BBC Symphony Orchestra's principal

flautist, Daniel Pailthorpe. £10.00 | £8.00

**SUN. 7th. Dec.** Use Your Voice 2.00pm

**MON. 8th.** Blackheath Halls Chorus 7.30pm

**TUES. 9th** Trinity Laban Postgraduate Opera

**Scenes 5pm & 7.30pm**

**THURS. 11th Dec.** Trinity Laban Concert

**Orchestra** 7.30pm

**FRI. 12th Dec.** Trinity Laban Undergraduate

**Opera Scenes** 7.30pm

**SAT. 13th 7.30 pm** Haven't Stopped Dancing Yet!

A fabulous night of 70s and 80s soul, funk and disco

featuring DJs Lords Ant & Hula, Da'Lynne. Dance

line-ups throughout the night to get you into the

groove. Glam up! – prizes for the best outfits.

**TICKETS: £15 in advance | £18 on the door**

**10% of profits to Cancer Research UK**

**MON. 15th. Dec.** 1.10 pm Ensemble Iberia

**7.00 pm** Use Your Voice & Meantime Jazz

**7/30 pm** Blackheath Halls Chorus

**Wed. 17th Dec.** 2.00 pm Christmas Tea Dance

**THURS. 18th Dec.**

**Lunchtime Recital:** Blaze Ensemble 1.10pm

**Blackheath Halls Chorus: Dress Rehearsal** 7pm

**FRI. 19th. Dec.** Christmas Concert 7.30pm

**SATURDAY 20th. Dec.** 8.00 pm Seann Walsh

Sean is a charming and charismatic natural-born

observational storyteller with a frighteningly preco-

cious comic talent £16 | £14 concessions

**WED. 21st Jan.2015** Jette Parker Young Artists:

**Lauren Fagan, soprano; Samuel Dale Johns**

**AGE EXCHANGE** lunchtime concerts on the last

Wednesday of every month by Trinity Laban students.

Free, but there is a retiring collection in aid of Age

Exchange & Blackheath Village Library.

## Pantomime Time!



Some performances of Greenwich Theatre's pantomime this year – *Jack and The Beanstalk* – have already sold out and the panto season has been extended by a week to meet an unprecedented demand.

The panto, again written, directed and starring Andrew Pollard, will now run until Sunday, January 11, 2015.

"We have sold far more tickets now than we had at the same point last year," said the theatre's executive and artistic director James Haddrell, "and if anything tickets are now starting to sell even faster. I think it's because ours is a truly traditional pantomime that doesn't rely on TV celebrity but on quality writing and performance."

## CHORAL

**BLACKHEATH HALLS ORCHESTRA and CHORUS: TURNING OF THE YEAR**

**WED 3 DEC 19.15h THU 4 DEC 5.00 & 7.125 pm.**

An evening of chamber music - and a massed choir! Free, with a retiring collection in aid of Blackheath Halls Orchestra. Promoted by Lewisham Music Hub.

**TICKETS: £3 (5,00 pm) | £4 (7.15 pm)**

**BLACKHEATH CHOIR & St PAUL'S SINFONIA**

perform Handel's **MESSIAH** at St Margaret's

Church, Brandram Road, Lee on Sat 6th Dec. at

7.30 pm. Tickets £12.00 in advance ((£15.00 on the

door) Tel. 020 8858 6325

**OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL**

Tel. 8269 4799 E: [boxOffice@ornc.org](mailto:boxOffice@ornc.org) [ornc.org](http://ornc.org)

**Sat 6th Dec 7.30 - 10.00 pm** **J S BACH's**

**CHRISTMAS ORATORIO** £20.00

**Thur 11th Dec. 7.00 - 10.00pm**

**A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS** Carols &

**Readings** in support of Demelza Hospice Care for

**Children** £12.00 (£6.00 for children)

**Booking:** [demelza.co.uk](http://demelza.co.uk)

**Fri 12th Dec. 7.00 - 10.00 pm** **CHRISTMAS**

**CONCERT & SUPPER** with Audience carols

**Concert in chapel: only: £20.00** Concert & supper

**(in Painted Hall) £49.00**

**FAURE'S REQUIEM**

**Performance: FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER 7.30pm**

This popular Christmas concert will be led by young

conductor Chris Stark



## Learning is fun

St Olave's is a Prep School in New Eltham for boys and girls aged 3-11 years

- Broad, child-centred curriculum
- Excellent results in the 11+ selection
- Clubs, outings and residential trips
- Excellent pastoral care
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[www.stolaves.org.uk](http://www.stolaves.org.uk)



## Charlton United Reformed Church

**Protestant Evangelical** - [www.charltonurc.org](http://www.charltonurc.org)

109a Bramshot Avenue, Charlton SE7 7HX

**Sunday Service  
and Sunday School**

**11:00**

## MEND YOUR ENGLISH

or

What We Should Have Been Taught At Primary School

Ian Bruton-Simmonds

***Its focus on the BBC is unique***

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## SASH-WINDOW DOCTOR

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# FOCUS ON GREENWICH

The University of Greenwich's new library and academic building is a state-of-the-art building that Heneghan Peng Architects somehow had to fit into the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Greenwich. The *WN* asks:

## Carbuncle, or masterpiece?



PHOTO:  
Neville Grant

The new School of Architecture and Construction and library for the University of Greenwich is a state-of-the-art building that Heneghan Peng Architects had to fit into the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Greenwich.

Its profile is at its highest in Stockwell Street, but goes down in steps to fit in with surrounding buildings. On the roofs there are fourteen interlinked "teaching gardens" which cover an area of about twelve tennis courts, making it, probably, Europe's largest teaching and learning green roof.

The entrance to the library on the corner of Stockwell Street, opposite Hawksmoor's St Alfege's, is slightly set back from the street, and this, combined with the way the rest of the building on Stockwell Street is divided into segments, results in a building that is satisfying to the eye while not being too obtrusive.

Apart from a new library, the building includes TV studios, an exhibition space, lecture theatres, roof gardens, and a cafe.

The building has been criticised by some who claim that it is "completely out of keeping with historic Greenwich."

But to our minds, the clean lines of the

building could justly claim to make it a powerful, yet sensitive, addition to 21st Century Greenwich.

For those who are interested, our former councillor Alex Grant has a blog\* which goes into some detail about the development. In his blog, Alex attacks Oliver Wainwright's claim in the *Sunday Observer* that "Too many cooks" had spoiled the new building, which "feels like a punch that has been propelled through a vat of heritage syrup, emerging on the other side with a fraction of the force". Wainwright argues that the building is a "beige compromise" thrashed out by "the committees of Unesco World Heritage, the International Council of Monuments and Sites, English Heritage, the planners of Greenwich and the GLA".

Alex Grant says he had no hand in either the planning or approval process, but concludes: "The new Stockwell Street building is one of the best new buildings in Greenwich town centre, and granting it approval was one of Greenwich Council's better planning decisions, in decades." But what do our readers think?

\* <http://alexgrant.me/2014/09/27/>

## Music and Painting

We are spoilt for choice this winter! GSFAS's sister organisation, the Blackheath Decorative and Fine Arts Society is hosting another very interesting event on January 22nd.

Peter Medhurst's lecture, *Paintings Inspired by Music and Music Inspired by Painting* spans centuries of cross fertilisation in the arts, bringing together the music of Martinu with the frescoes of Piero della Francesca and even Mondrian's Broadway Boogie Woogie with the piano playing of Albert Ammons.

Peter Medhurst's work as singer, pianist and lecturer-recitalist has taken him all over the world: in the last few years he has toured New Zealand, Australia (twice) and South Africa (four times), and made frequent tours in Europe with performances in Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, Salzburg,



Brussels, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Paris and Spain. Closer to home, he has presented events at the Barbican, St John's Smith Square, and the Royal Festival Hall on Beethoven String Quartets, Mozart Operas, Vermeer's Music Lesson, The Twelve Days of Christmas, The Golden Age of Vienna, and 18th Century Venetian Art and Music. He has also directed presentations at the Wallace Collection, the National Gallery, the NPG and the V&A, linking the visual arts with the world of 17th & 18th century music making.

*His lecture is on Thursday January 22nd St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath, 2.00 for 2.30. Non-members are welcome to attend. Tickets: £5.00*

## British Architecture Now

Greenwich Decorative and Fine Arts Society hold meetings at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich on the second Monday evening of every month at 8.00 pm, (except in April and August).

On December 8th, Anthea Streeter gives a talk on the state of British architecture today. Architecture has been experiencing an unprecedented period of vibrancy and international recognition. The variety of new buildings designed by British architects in the UK and abroad is putting the country at the forefront of architectural innovation.

This lecture addresses Neo-Modernism, Deconstruction and Biomorphic architecture and, at the other end of the scale, a look at the little-known classical country houses produced by Quinlan Terry and other leaders in classical design.

Anthea Streeter studied Fine and Decorative Arts in London and continued her studies at Harvard University. It was while at Harvard, where there was great enthusiasm for American Design, that she became interested herself in 20th Century architecture.

Since returning from America she has taught on courses in Oxford and London, lectured on the Country House Course in Sussex, and for several private groups around the country. Anthea has a special interest in the architecture and design of 20th century.

*The lecture on British Architecture Now is at 8.00 pm on Monday Dec. 8th at the Old Royal Naval College.*

*Annual membership of GDFAS costs £60 but you can come as a visitor to see what the lectures are like.*

## Did OnBlackheath pull it off?

As part of the licence conditions, a meeting took place to review the OnBlackheath event. MARILYN LITTLE summarises proceedings

The meeting was attended by three members of the production team, Cllr Kevin Bonavia, and around 25 residents.

The organisers were happy with the event. Their target of 25-55 year olds was met and the majority of the tickets had been sold to people living in SE postcodes. Most attending had either walked to the event or taken public transport. 13,000 attended on Saturday and 8,000 on Sunday.

A review with Lewisham Council, stakeholders and the emergency services had revealed no issues or incidents. All the conditions imposed were met. There was no visible damage to the heath, and there were contingency plans had the weather been wet.

The Concert has been nominated in five categories of UK Festivals and the organisers had supported the Beyond Blackheath Beach at the Conservatoire (16,000 users) and the Trestle Trust (food banks).

The main issues addressed at the meeting were noise, transport and siting.

There had been no noise issues with the Main Stage. Organisers admitted that complaints made in respect of Stage 2 were a result of the speakers facing backwards. This would be corrected for 2015. A number of residents from the Orchard area were very concerned about the noise and asked if the siting of the venue could be changed to the centre of the heath.

There were also concerns expressed regarding the removal of the bus service. The bus service had to be re-routed for

health and safety reasons due to the nature of the site construction. A replacement shuttle service had been in operation but not many people were aware of it. The organisers also recognise the need for a footpath towards Lewisham and this will be facilitated next year.

The organisers admitted that their communication to local groups and residents was late and their website was not up to speed, mainly due to unexpected conditions being raised. This will be addressed in time for next year's event.

The current Licensing Act licence that OnBlackheath have relates to the siting (near the TA building) and timing of the event (in the second weekend in September). There have to be compelling reasons for revoking this licence and one of the reasons for the site chosen was its proximity to Lewisham station.

LBC decide permission for the event to be held and is guided by the Events Policy and advice from the BJWP (Blackheath Joint Working Party). For instance the numbers allowed and hours of operation were both reduced for this year's concert.

The meeting finished with a question and answer session chaired by Kevin Bonavia. One question could not be answered by those present, and that was about the finances of the event.

*The Blackheath Society has carried out a survey and recorded 'overall satisfaction but strong local opposition.' It can be read on their website [www.blackheath.org](http://www.blackheath.org)*

## Peter Kent exhibition Helen Othen

The December Show in The Greenwich Gallery is a bumper display both of original art works and prints by Peter Kent – including his unique depictions of both past and present celebratory events.

Peter is a much acclaimed marine and topographical artist whose work is immediately recognisable. Peter's artistic approach and style is unique – his pen drawings are full of historical and often personal anecdotal comment, with details picked out in colour wash. The whole is often viewed from a specific aerial angle for maximum effect and detail.

This year his work has traced the Tall Ships' journey to Greenwich; a celebration of the Quincentenary of both Trinity House

and the Worshipful Company of Watermen and Lightermen, and includes individual drawings of lighthouses and lightships around the British Isles. All will enjoy the joyful detail and unique take on Peter Kent's world.

Also on show will be, inter alia, his series of historic depictions of sea ports around the world, and the 2012 Jubilee celebrations. This will also be an opportunity to purchase original work at a variety of price levels, as well as prints and postcards. Turn up at lunchtime on Saturdays and Sundays, and you can meet the artist! *Linear House, Peyton Place, SE10 8RS 4th - 24th Dec. 09.00 - 17.30. Weekends: 12:00 - 16:00 Tel. 020 8465 5968*



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Wednesday 9:30-11:30 Preschool, 1:30-2:30 Baby

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The Christmas Bazaar was a great success, though thanks to the weather we didn't have quite the same numbers as last year. Our stall-holders reported that they did well – no surprises there, as this was the perfect time for buying Christmas gifts. Many thanks, as always, to all those who helped out in so many different ways. We will be sending a big fat cheque to our Charity of the Year, the 999 Club.



**ABOVE: Face-painting: was very popular.**  
**LEFT: But some chose to do their own thing.**

**PHOTOS:**  
**Neville Grant**



**The Grove Singers added Christmas cheer as they sang under the Christmas Tree. We are grateful to Westcombe and Collins Cleaners for their continued sponsorship of the Christmas Tree**



Many thanks to the stalwart team of volunteers who added culinary delights to the proceedings. Mmm! That soup looks (and smells!) DEE-LIC-ious!

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