Traffic hotspots: time to act

There are continuing reports of a great deal of disillusionment with mainstream politics in the UK. The result: the growth of minority parties such as the SNP and UKIP.

How to counter this trend? Well a good start may have been made this year with the brave proposal for plain-paper packaging of cigarettes.

Another good way to restore some of this faith, is to seize the dying days of the present Parliament in a way that would benefit not just Greenwich, but London, and every city in the country.

Listers were distrusted to hear that in 2015, so little legislation was planned that MPs were being advised to return to their constituencies on Wednesdays – presumably to prepare for battle in the forthcoming General Election. This is however one of those legislations that is currently to be passed. It’s controversial, and not that straightforward, and would save a lot of money.

This is legislation to clean up our cities.

Death by diesel

Drivers of diesel-fuelled vehicles have been encouraged to buy them by well-meaning but ill-informed legislation: the idea was to make diesel cheaper in an effort to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

However, up to 60,000 people die each year from disease caused by air pollution – including the NO2 gas emitted mainly by diesel vehicles. As the Mayor of London quite rightly warned, “the devil is in the diesel.”

A recent report by a House of Commons cross-party environmental audit committee is very concerned over the major public health issues caused by air pollution. Evidence given to the committee indicates that diesel vehicles produce 22 times as much particulate matter and four times as much NO2 gas emitted mainly by diesel engines. As the Mayor of London quite rightly warned, “the devil is in the diesel.”

The committee also recommends that the Mayor of London should lead a national drive to cut down the use of diesel vehicles. However, ‘cutting down’ could mean anything from the immediate banning of diesel vehicles to a gradual phase out of diesel vehicles over the next 50-60 years.

The impact on children

“Children growing up near busy roads with high NO2 (nitrogen dioxide) and particle emissions have stunted and impaired lung development,” she added. “Over 1,000 schools are only 150 metres away from major roads. Protecting children and vulnerable people in the worst affected areas must be a priority.”

A number of schools in our area are very near traffic hot spots, and should possibly be made a priority.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, has announced radical measures to ban diesel cars from the French capital by 2020 as part of an anti-pollution drive. If Paris can do it, why can’t London?

Are you listening, Boris? Or are you tied by Westminster?

Traffic watch

St John’s Park was hit by a number of attempted shed thefts/ break-ins, on both sides of the street, late last year.

A man known to the police has since been arrested. Advice from the police is obviously to keep your shed locked, and if you have bikes in these sheds, then to padlock them to something, if your keys are lost.

In December, jewellery was stolen from a property in Westcombe Hill, and a woman was mugged in Langton Way. Anybody with information about incidents at the Nature’s AIM machines in Old Dover Road should contact the Police immediately.

The tunnel: “part of a strategic travel plan”

The latest consultation on the detailed proposals for a tunneled, tolled Thames crossing between the Greenwich peninsula and Silvertown in process is - the deadline for representations from the public ended in December.

The proposed new tunnel could bring major changes to traffic patterns of the area. Levels of air pollution and road noise are also likely to be affected if the plans are carried out.

The Westcombe Society held a public meeting on December 3rd to gather views of its members. A report on this meeting can be found on page 7.

The questions now being raised concern how genuine this consultation can be? The RNW has learnt from reliable sources that the tunnel is regarded as part of a strategic national transport plan, and even if the Council opposed it, it would be likely to go through in any case. The RNW can do no better than quote ex-Cllr Alan Grant...

…you have to admire the chutzpah of the Westcombe Society in opposing the proposed new tunnel on the basis that it would harm the environment. The RNW has given the Council’s proposals a fair hearing, and has reached the conclusion that the proposed new tunnel is in the best interests of the local community.

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The Christmas Bazaar

The Dickensian Christmas Bazaar is the Westcombe Society’s main fundraising event of the year. It seems a long time ago now, but people are still feeling the benefit of it, today.

The Westcombe Society’s Christmas bazaar and carol sing-along operation raised over £2,500 for the society’s charity of the year, the 999 Club.

The money has been used already to go towards the purchase of industrial laundry equipment. The people who attend the 999 Club in Deptford, many of them homeless, can now turn up, have a shower, get their clothes washed and dried, eat a square meal, and emerge refreshed and clean to face the world again.

“It makes such a difference,” said Andrew Mitchell. It seems that cleanliness may not mean the next thing to Godliness; but it makes a huge difference to some one’s confidence and self-respect.

Westcombe Society’s assistance to the numbers of those who can benefit from the 999 Club will be far more. Opening the bazaar, Holly City actor Bob Barrett (aka Dr Sasha Levy, pictured above) said he was most impressed by the Westcombe Society’s activities.

The Westcombe Society’s activities span all ages, and we are tremendously grateful to Blackheath High School for Girls for allowing us to use their premises for the event.

She also said how much the society appreciated the support of many local traders and businesses to the local bazaar, a list of whom appears on page 3. Without them, and the terrific team of volunteer helpers, the bazaar would never have been able to get off the ground.

Meat-free Mondays campaign launched

Greenwich and Blackheath Leegroup launched the local “Meatfree Monday” campaign on Monday 19th January at The Crisp at Agecroft.

Meat Free Mondays is about helping people to have one day a week free of meat. It doesn’t have to be a Monday! Lintoning more vegetables is a good both for the planet. The UN’s top climate scientist Rajendra Pachauri states “People should consider eating less meat as a way of combating global warming. UN figures suggest that meat production pens more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than transport.” There are lots of other reasons too, visit http://www.meatfreemondays.co.uk

Letters to the editor

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

From: Christine Godwin
I hope the Westcombe Society and others will strongly oppose the planning application to demolish the art deco house at 57a Westcombe Park Road. This house has been neglected for a very long time, even when inhabited, and it has now been empty for at least two years, 020 8853 3740, we need your help!

Central government has failed to move on. Animal Aid has produced a series of factsheets to help local residents, deter squatters and rodents from moving in as well as foxes, squirrels, moles and birds from their gardens.

I am a doctor and Eirona was a friend of mine for many years. We are very sorry to record the death on January 21st of Yanno Patrinos. Our deepest condolences to his family.

From: Kate Fowler Tonbridge
We are very sorry to record the death on January 21st of Yanno Patrinos. Our deepest condolences to his family.

From: Christine Harrison
I found your newsletter on line and wondered if you could help me with a matter regarding the following.

In 1901 Bridget Robinson (nee Costello) was living at 60 Division Road, Greenwich with four children still at home. Age 40, she was widowed and worked as ‘Police Station Woman’ at Westcombe Park Police Station where her husband had been a Policeman.

In 1919 she was still working as the station matron but living at 14 Combemale Rd. Greenwich. She died in 1931, address 55 Combemale Rd. According to family stories she was given a full police funeral – this is what I wondered if you could help me as I have searched on the web but found nothing at all.

She was my husband’s great-grandmother. Ed: Can any of our readers help?
Many thanks to all our donors and sponsors

Our Christmas Bazaar could not succeed without the support of local businesses and traders. With their assistance, the Westcombe Society raised over £3,000 for the charity of the year, the 999Club.

Sponsors/Bliss:
David Lloyd Kidbrooke
BurlingFines
John Cockcroft
Blackheath & Greenwich Conservatoire
Cluttons
Felicity Lord
Westcombe/Collins Cleaners
Raffle
Apples n Oranges
B Brown
Blackheath Cooks
Blackheath Gallery
Blackheath Pet Supplies
Cote
Cook
Days of Greenwich
Fergus Noon
Frame of Mind
Framing on the Heath
Go West
Greewich Theatre
Laicorn
Premier Shop
Poppa Stones
Passion Flower
Piggies
Piggies Superstore
Piggies Superstore
Pluckers
Gifts/Bottles/Hampers:
Goldings
Sparkes Butchers
Sue Clark
Village Deli
Marks & Spencer
Well Bean
Mamels
Mini Market

Montpelier
Neval Yard
Nowagant Westcombe Hill
Nickys’s News
Oldrids
Pravin Supermarket
Premier Shop
Sunderbys
Standard DIY
Standard Post Office

FEBRUARY 2015

Is it a village, or a town?

The Blackheath Society argues that the New Kidbrooke Village

Master Plan proposals are still unacceptable

In the last couple of months of 2014, Berkeley Homes submitted to the Royal Borough of Greenwich a series of planning applications seeking approval to intensify development in three areas of the Kidbrooke Masterplan Area - Phase 3 (Village Centre), Phase 5 (Meridian Gate) and Phase 6 (Blackheath Quarter).

In summary, the developer is seeking to increase the number of dwellings in the KMA as a whole from an approved figure of 4,000 new homes to a proposed figure of 4,782 new homes, which would increase significantly in height. Strong views were expressed at a public meeting in December. Despite the site being designated a Strategic Development Location in the Mayor of London Plan – and therefore a suitable area to provide the shortfall in housing provision – it was felt that the supporting public transport infrastructure was inadequate. The building densities and heights envisaged were not acceptable.

The anxieties expressed over this new development echo a more general concern: that there are areas of Greenwich where development is taking place, willfully, without consideration of transport and other infra-structure, and green space: an issue which is causing increasing concern.

Success for Tena

The Croatian playwright Tena Stivicic lived on Shooters Hill Road while studying for her MA in Creative Writing for Performance at Goldsmiths College, Vanessa Donnany demays the WN. Tena's play 'J Winters', currently on at The National Theatre, depicts a family living over four generations in Zagreb.

The family dynamics subtly mirror Croatian history and politics. Although now living in Islington, Teresa says: 'I think of Tena Blackheath and Greenwich as some of her favourite places in London.

Renewing your Freedom Pass?

The trials are being carried out by GATEway (Greenwich Automated Transport Environment), a consortium led by Transport Research Laboratories (TRL) – originally the highly respected Road Research Laboratory founded in 1933. The trials are to start this year; however, eventually, by 2018, it is hoped that these electric vehicles will offer a shuttle service, taking people to and from various attractions in Greenwich.

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O ther readers really value their Freedom Passes, not so much perhaps for the money that they save, as for the convenience. Four months short of the expiry of his Freedom Pass, local resident Malcolm Hardy was informed that it was no longer possible to renew a Freedom Pass in a post office, "presumably because Royal Mail wants too much in payment to maintain the service." He decided to renew online – and was totally frustrated by repeated and unsuccessful efforts to complete the procedure. He says: "It involves scanning documents to attach in JPG format. But the website refused to accept files as attachments – and rejected my post code as not being a London postcode.

I am 74 years old but quite computerate, so I fear that a great many other pensioners will have to deal with more and more difficulty in making the application. Mail the other applicants to go to the trouble of mailing the application, with photo-copies of the required documents."

The #FoVP contact Mr. Nick Raynsford, and got an almost immediate response from the Chief Executive of London Councils, John O’Brien. Mr O’Brien said there was a specific problem in Mr Hardy’s case involving several computer errors. He pointed out that some 850,000 Londoners are due to renew their passes by 31st March 2015. All Freedom Pass holders were given the option of returning their paper form or renewing online. He said that the Freedom Pass website was tested rigorously with older users to deal with any problems, so far the online process is working “reasonably well!” for most people, he said. London Councils have taken on extra staff to cope with the workload, and give telephone assistance to those who need it. If you do need to renew your Freedom pass, don’t panic! Thanks to Malcolm Hardy, Nick Raynsford MP and Mr O’Brien for raising and dealing with these issues.

Renewing your Freedom Pass?

Malcolm Hardy comments: I find it difficult to accept that the problem was specific to me alone and only because I tried to correct my name and address that had been wrongly scanned. With the increasing use of scanners, I’m also very wary of the mistakes that OCR system can make. It would be interesting to hear if other people have also had problems; also how many people have depended on younger members of their family to cope with the online application.
A high old time in Old Dover Road

It’s the 6th of December – “Business Saturday”. This is when the local shops in the Old Dover Road and around the standard show-case themselves, with special deals and Christmas discounts, raffles, free samples etc in an attempt to attract more custom.

My son Micah, living near the Standard, ever community-minded, is playing key-board outside Moca, the Italian delicatessen and café, so I decide to check it out…

I’ve lived in the Old Dover Road for over twenty five years. I’ve seen many changes. H. Hirst & Son the bakers’ shop is giving out gluten-free mince pies. But Blackheath Cooks has become Mini-marts. Moca经理 and East Asian heritage at the National Maritime Museum and Queen’s House, Greenwich have a number of Family Events to celebrate. There is a full programme of events for children and family visitors.

Celebrate Chinese New Year and British East Asian heritage at the National Maritime Museum and Queen’s House, Greenwich have a number of Family Events to celebrate. There is a full programme of events for children and family visitors.

The Alexandra Players’ new shows

The Alexandra Players are putting on two one-act comedies from Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st February 2015. The double bill looks interesting:

Cinderella - The Untold Story and The Flesh Game.

As usual, performances take place at Alexandra Hall, Blessington Avenue, Charlton SE7 7HX.

The performances on February 19th and 20th start at 8 pm, on February 21st they are at 2.00 pm and 6.30 pm. Both plays are suitable for children and adults.

The Flesh Game

The Flesh Game is about a mother battling a baby who slips down the plug! The owner of Pet Supplies in a red tanic and Santa Claus hat joins in as a rendition of Jingle-Bells: for a moment Old Dover Road has become the Russian steppes and the 366 is a one-horse open sleigh; and Christ, there’s Julie Christie all wrapped in furs – while we’re freezing our butts off. But Moca manageress Lucia Levoci forti-fies us with hot chocolate; a great, great Tooth Coloured Fillings

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FEBRUARY 2015

ARTS

NATIONAL MASTOBIT MUSEUM

THE QUEEN’S ROYAL BULLETIN

WAR OF 1812 AT SEA

Until February 2015 A new display showcasing the very best of the sea- son’s art and maritime history, presented in the Ministry of Defence’s Royal Naval Museum. A look at the First World War and the role of the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy. The exhibition is free to enter, and is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF EXPLOITATION

700 AD - 1700

This exhibition explores the complex interactions between science, technology, and society in the ancient world. Through interactive exhibits, visitors can explore the history of mathematics, astronomy, and medicine, and learn about the contributions of ancient civilizations to our understanding of the world.

BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

THE CROWN IN THE CROWN

April 25th 2015 - June 14th 2015

The exhibition features works by over 200 artists from around the world, showcasing a range of styles and techniques. The show is free to enter, and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

CHILDREN & FAMILY

GREENWICH THEATRE, Queen’s House

Sat 15th Feb 14.00 (2 p.m.)

Explore the farm with our welly trail. £1 per child.

Wed 18th Feb, 10.00am-12.00pm & 1.00pm-3.00pm

A Stickman Adventure!

3.00pm A Stickman Adventure!

Thurs, 19th Feb West End Theatre, Queen’s House

Welly Wander 1.00 - 3.00 pm

Corky and the Three Sisters Theatre

Fri 20th Feb 11am – 1pm and 2pm-4pm

Get to know the farm animals and enjoy a 1 hour theatre performance.

COMING UP

VENUE HOUSE

Fri 6th Feb, 8.00 pm

PAKE THEATCRE

John Waterson presents the words and songs of music from the 17th century to the present day.

Fri 13th Feb

JAZZ NIGHTS, Charlecote Park

Backed by Phil Mead Trio hosted by Dave Silk £10.00 per ticket, £15.00 per table.

Fri 20th Feb

RICHARD GRIERSON LECTURE

The real battle is just beginning: the war of the sexes. £10.00 per ticket, £15.00 per table.

Feb 27th - Sat 6th Feb

THE FORBIDDEN DOOR

Don’t open that door! As soon as the rule is laid down, we know it will be broken. Once the door is opened, what’s advertised? All of a love’s good side, and this is a wonderful one for a family. £10.00 per ticket.

FLY ME TO THE MOON

Travel to Kenya and follow in Handa’s footsteps as she journeys to see her best friend Akeyo, 2.30pm, 4pm

THE QUEEN’S HOUSE: IN MYCENEAN HOUSE

February 2015

The exhibition features works by over 200 artists from around the world, showcasing a range of styles and techniques. The show is free to enter, and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

THE WESTCOUNTRYM

2nd Sat 24th Belgravia & Newmarket Parties. 2nd Sat 5th March Driftwood Tea

2nd Sat 15th March New Salo

6th April Easter Egg Hunt Mycenae Gardens

27th April - 5th May

ACY: Dates to be confirmed

27th June Summer Barbecue

25th Sept Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning

5th Oct Chrysanthemum Tea

19th Nov Carols & a Quiz

25th Nov Christmas Cocktail Party

3rd Dec Christmas Tea

17th Dec Christmas Party

21st Dec Christmas Lunch

1st Jan New Year

9th Jan New Year’s Day

16th Jan Valentine’s Day

13th Feb Roly’s 13th Birthday

27th Feb 10th Anniversary

6th Mar St Patrick’s Day

28th Mar London Marathon

14th April Easter Sunday

18th April Vow Re-Newing

17th May AGM: Dates to be confirmed

Sat 4th April Easter Egg Hunt Mycenae Gardens

Fri 17th April - 3rd May

JEWELL & HYDE

Wed 3rd - Sat 6th April

Robert Lewis Stevenson’s classic tale of youth and Hyde is in this modern adaptation set in an alternative London of the future, written by Jo Clifford and multi award-winning touring company Cottrell Colville & Tunnah. £10.00 per ticket.

THE SPACE

Email: info@thequeenshouse.org Tel: 020 7515 7799

20th March

THE DOMINIC EASTMENTS 10th - 28th Feb.

7.30pm £10 The touring show was a sensational comedic production. The cast got us on our feet and brought us to tears.

The Collector 3rd - 14th March

7.30pm £12/10

They say there are two sides to every story! I think that’s very true. People are always jumping to the wrong conclusion... the truth is much more complicated.

MUSIC

BLACKHEATH HALLS

020 8063 8800

www.blackheathhall.com

THE SPACE

Blackheath Hall & Pavilion

Fri 27th Feb 18.00h GREAT HALL TRINITY SCHOOL

Great Hall.

12th April

BLACKBEARD'S BASH

020 7588 8019

www.blackheathhall.com

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

on the last Wednesday of every month in Trinity Laban Music School. Free admission. £5 donation appreciated.

Wednesday 15th April

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

THE QUEEN’S HOUSE: CROSSLY BHL

020 8005 7755

www.blackheathhall.com

STRESS FREE JAZZ NIGHTS

April 2015

£10 Interested readers can call Suresh directly on 07804 614245 for more information or email: info@space.org.uk Tel: 020 7515 7799

THE ART OF FURNITURE

Taylors Recital Room, Blackheath Halls

Tel 020 8463 0100

Music

2nd February

JAZZ NIGHTS, Charlecote Park

Backed by Phil Mead Trio hosted by Dave Silk £10.00 per ticket, £15.00 per table.

Fri 13th Feb

JAZZ NIGHTS, Charlecote Park

Backed by Phil Mead Trio hosted by Dave Silk £10.00 per ticket, £15.00 per table.

22nd April

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THE FORBIDDEN DOOR

Sat 21st Feb

Don’t open that door! As soon as the rule is laid down, we know it will be broken. Once the door is opened, what’s advertised? All of a love’s good side, and this is a wonderful one for a family. £10.00 per ticket.
FEATURES

As part of our series on local schools, the W looks at
Invicta Primary School

Welcome to Invicta Primary School Main Entrance

Photo: Nicky Gott

A t long last Invicta Primary School’s plans for the go-ahead, plans for the redevelopment of the school were passed at a planning meeting in January. There were no objections.

Invicta Primary School is a great local success story. Last year it was judged as “outstanding” by Ofsted. No wonder that it received more than 200 applications for the sixty places available - the school has been growing at the rate of one extra class every year.

The school has also been supporting Bishop John Robinson School in Thamesmead – a huge vote of confidence in the head, Marie Corbett, and the other staff at Invicta. As documented in the W two years ago, it has a thriving Children’s Centre in its grounds, offering a range of services for under-fives and their parents. It is also opening on a new site in Deptford, in Benbow Road.

What is the secret of the school’s success? The head, Mrs Marie Corbett, says: “I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher of Invicta Primary School. I get the opportunity to support, nurture and encourage the development of both pupils and their families, as well as my staff.”

A parent (quoted on the school’s website) said: “I am impressed by the professionalism, approachability and commitment of staff at Invicta. They seem to have struck the right balance between discipline and care.”

However, Invicta has long been in need of better buildings. Its current building dates back to 1952, replacing a Victorian building that was badly damaged by wartime bombing, and this 1950s reconstruction was never intended to be permanent. By and large the building (apart from the sixty places available - the school has been growing at the rate of one extra class every year.)

The plans are to construct a new two-storey building at the northern end of the existing site, bordering Invicta Road, with a maximum height of 8.2 metres. This will house an entrance lobby, offices, toilets, nursery playrooms, reception and infant classrooms (all on the ground floor); on the first floor, there will be junior classrooms, a library, library resource centre and storage space.

To the west of the main building there will be a single storey building with a maximum height of 6.6 metres which will accommodate a main hall, kitchen and dining area. This building will be slightly set back from the western boundary to allow for screening by a nature trail (which will surround the whole site). The roof of the site will comprise playgrounds, amnity grassed areas, and a playing field grassed area on the southern part of the site.

As a result of these improved facilities, there will be an increase in pupil and staff numbers to 420 and 75 respectively. No change in the school’s catchment area is envisaged. The Head teacher Marie Corbett said: “Everyone at Invicta is really excited about the prospect of getting a modern new building. We can’t wait to get started!”

Local advice & drop-in centres

Greenwich Local Labour and Business (GLLaB) brings its services to residents in its local communities. GLLaB gives support and advice on jobs and skills.

Services available include:
* confidential one-to-one assessment of your skills and training needs
* a personal advisor to help you produce a Personal Development Plan that establishes the process for achieving your work aim
* specific and relevant training and work experience opportunities
* information on specialist agencies that can also offer you support, skills and experience matching to job vacancies
* job search support
* workshops and help with job applications
* assistance with work fares, childcare fees, protective clothing and tool kits
* assistance with travel fares, childcare

GLLaB has three centres across the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

GLLaB Work & Learn Centre, Chandler’s Avenue, North Greenwich, SE10 0GE Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm. Telephone: 020 8921 2440.

Woollwich Work and Learn Centre, Old Library, Calderwood Street, Woolwich SE18 6QW Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm. Telephone: 020 8921 2440.

This is why it is part of our whole school policy that all students should bring their current reading book to school every day.

The students had lots of questions following her presentation (which included a video) and greatly benefited from the visit.

Her talk will have inspired all the students to work hard and always strive to do their best and have the faith to believe that they can achieve their goals. In particular, I believe Shivon’s talk will be a huge encouragement to those students who either have difficulty with their reading and writing or who have English as their second language.

Susan Clark Interiors

At the New Year Blues? Need cheering up? Look no further! This February, Blackheath Halls have two treats in store.

First, on Thursday Feb 12th, at 8.00 pm, the Laughing Boy Comedy Club features Peter Firman, star of BBC1’s The Magicians, bringing his trademark mix of comedy and jaw-dropping magic.

Then on Sat Feb 21st, “The House of Fun” is back with Arthur Smith, promising a truly uproarious night of variety, with fantastic comedy, sparkling music, n scanty stand-up, scintillating theatre and more.

Arthur is of course well-known in Greenwich, a local boy who went to John Roan School. Apart from Arthur – “the compare beyond compare” – the evening features one of Britain’s best loved comedians, Jenny Eclair, and The MacCarrick, “two of the freshest and most energetic performers in Edinburgh this year.

Box office: 0463 00100. Tickets: £17.70 / £15.00

Want to write? Then read!

ANGIE SMITH, Literacy Leader at John Roan School, recounts the visit of author Shivon Sudesh

Y ears 7 and 8 at John Roan had the opportunity of meeting a young but very inspirational and talented author on the morning of 8th December. Shivon Sudesh’s novel Wolves Within was published in August 2014. She wrote the novel over a period of fifteen months, during her last year at school while studying for her A Levels and during her first year at King’s College, London.

Shivon arrived in this country from India when she was ten years old: she could speak no English. Within a year she was able to read, write and speak fluently in English.

When one of the students asked Shivon how she was able to accomplish this impressive achievement, her simple response was “reading”. This was music to their ears as her message to students is always the same when they ask me how they can improve their literacy skills: “the best writers in the school are those who always have a reading book on the go.”

This is why it is part of our whole school policy that all students should bring their current reading book to school every day.

Kiddbrooke Project Office & Skills Centre 85 Tadwy Road, Kiddbrooke, SE3 9YG Project Office open: Tues: 10am -12.00. Skills Centre open: Tues. 2.00 - 4.00 pm Telephone Rachael on: 07774 666 983 to arrange an appointment.

Etham Centre, 2 Archery Road, Etham SE9 1HA Information, advice and guidance service: Friday 9.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 4.30pm. Phone Hayati on: 07993 199 043 to arrange an appointment.

Work and Learn Bus The GLLaB Work and Learn Bus is an outreach resource for bringing GLLaB information, advice and guidance services to communities around the borough. Please ring 020 8921 2440 to find the latest timetable.

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REPORT

The Westcombe Society’s Environment Committee report

We continued our volunteer work throughout the last year, and planted about 300 wild flowers. The hawthorns we planted with the aid of a grant from Capital Clean-Up are thriving. The hawthorn and rose hedge planted between the glade and the Seren Park development is now well established. The glade is a lovely place at any time of the year and I do urge Friends to turn up as volunteers at one of our monthly work sessions, so as to enjoy both the surroundings and good company.

The saga of the gate from the Seren Road that divided the costs of the gate area; also to the new building which divided the meeting, were the proposals to introduce charges for both the new and the existing tunnel. TfL argue that “this is an essential element to manage demand and provide a source of revenue to help pay for construction and operation of the new tunnel at Silvertown.”

However, there was some anger that those living in west London had the free use of many bridges while we in the east face having to pay for the few crossings that exist. One person said that changing was the best way to regulate traffic flows and could be effective if it was sufficiently flexible. He argued that altering the rates of收费 was sufficient to regulate the traffic flow. A straw poll was taken at the meeting based on the questions in the consultation document to inform the Environment Committee’s response. This can be seen on the Westcombe Society website. TfL will review the consultation and publish more details from mid-2015 and there will be other opportunities to respond to their plans in the final consultation in 2015. The TfL website is http://www.tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/consultation-in-2015.

102 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 15/0153/TC
49 ULUNDI ROAD ref 15/0146/TC
73 MYCENAE ROAD ref 15/0152/TC
54 HUMBER ROAD ref 14/3694/F
117 WESTCOMBE HILL ref 14/3715/F

Construction of first and second floor extensions

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

Troubled bridge under water

O n 3rd December many local residents attended a meeting organised by the Westcombe Society about the proposed river crossings.

Transport for London are in the process of holding public consultations on a number of alternatives. The one that most affects our area is the Silvertown Tunnel which involves building a new tunnel of two lanes in each direction to the east of the Blackwall Tunnel. TfL claim that the new tunnel will join the road system close to the existing southern exit.

TfL claim that, “the Silvertown Tunnel will provide a viable alternative for some users of the Blackwall Tunnel; reducing congestion, making journeys more reliable and significantly reducing the impact of disruption.”

Many residents agreed that some measures need to be taken to ease the congestion at the Blackwall Tunnel, which at peak times can back up well beyond the Sun-in-the-Sands.

But there were concerns about the location and design of the Silvertown proposals. There were concerns also that the new tunnel would lead to an increase in traffic, and yet the changes to the road system on the south side of the river, did not appear to cater adequately for this increase.

Dispersal of traffic on leaving the tunnel was also thought to be a major problem. Will the new tunnel reduce congestion and pollution as promised? And since the new tunnel will allow larger lorries to cross, will it result in more pollution?

Some people argued that the basis for the projected modelling was unclear and lacked detail and there was not enough information about design, layout and origins of current users in order to usefully inform projected changes in journey times. It is not clear how many – if any – users of the tunnel will want to use the eastern route. TfL say the tunnel will also create opportunities for new public transport connections across the river. Anything that can affect the very high level of pollution in parts of North Greenwich was well-although public transport is only likely to be used for local journeys. Of particular concern to those of us who divided the meeting, were the proposals to introduce charges for both the new and existing tunnel. TfL argue that “this is an essential element to manage demand and provide a source of revenue to help pay for construction and operation of the new tunnel at Silvertown.”

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REAR OF 34 FOYLE ROAD ref 14/3700/F
A 3-storey maisonette extension

Construct first and second floor extensions

35 WELLINGTON ST. They centre on John Roan planning application

A meeting of the Planning Committee considered three applications with regard to John Roan School. They concerned lightweight

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REAR OF 34 FOYLE ROAD ref 14/3700/F
A 3-storey maisonette extension

Construct first and second floor extensions

END OF 34 FOYLE ROAD ref 14/3715/F
Construct first and second floor extensions
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15% Off all treatments costing £20 or more (excluding sale stock).

Royal Nepalese Restaurant
10% OFF all treatments costing £20 or more (excluding sale stock).

Meia

Montessori Weekly Family Programme (During term time) at Montessori House, 10 Westcombe Park Road, Blackheath, SE3 7OP

Tuesday 3.30-5.30pm Afternoon Nursery Group
Wednesday 9.30-11.30am Toddler Group
Thursday 1.30-3.30pm Baby Group

Call 020 8858 1531 or 07702 865 133 for more information.

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All classes are by pre-booking. Please make queries payable to The Westcombe Society.

Please send us the Market for payment with your cheque or by the following methods to:

Marlyn Little, 115, Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP

020 8853 1312 marlyn.little@btinternet.com

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