



Westcombe NEWS



Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops

July/August 2015 Issue 6

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

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

Mycenae Soup!

Have you got a great idea for a project that would benefit the local community? Need funds and resources to get it going? Read on!

Mycenae House is hosting an innovative, fun, community micro-granting dinner called 'Mycenae Soup' on the evening of October 2nd based on ideas gained from the BBC documentary *Detroit Soup* * You're all invited!

We are inviting local people – community groups, users of Mycenae House, small charities, entrepreneurs, arts and sports projects and individuals with an interesting, small, start up or extension project idea they wish to fund, to submit project proposals by September 15th.

A great opportunity! The best eight proposals will be chosen; if you are one of the lucky eight, you will be invited to present your proposal at the micro-granting dinner on October 2nd.

All the ticket money, and any donations, will go to fund the winning project proposal.

We want to make this a fun social event for members of the community to come along and enjoy. On offer will be music, entertainment, soup and salad plus other donated food.

We are delighted that Mason's Catering has agreed to sponsor this event; we are also looking for other food or general sponsors so we can provide the event costs outside of the price of the tickets.

Tickets will be charged at a minimum donation of £7. We hope you will put the event in your diary, spread the word and help us get a large audience for this special, fun, social community dinner where you can meet friends and neighbours and cast your vote for the most interesting proposal. The bar will be open and a guitarist will be on hand to entertain you.

Mark Johnson-Brown

Had a brainwave? How do you send in your proposal?

Proposing a project is easy, submit on e-mail mycenaesoup@gmail.com or by hand to Barbara Ward/Anna Mars at Mycenae House by Sept.15th. Your proposal should give brief answers to these four questions:

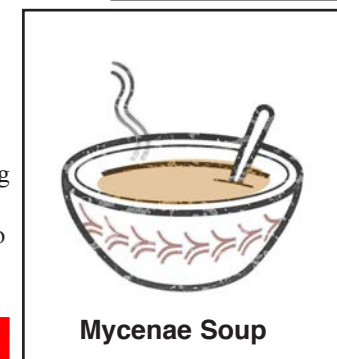
- 1.What is your project?
- 2.How does your project benefit the community?
- 3.What is your time frame for the project? (We will be asking you to report on progress and completion at a later date)
- 4.How will you use the money raised from SOUP?

If your project is chosen to be one of the eight, you will have the chance to come in before the event, if you wish, to be given some help on how best to present your project.

We are open to any project ideas you have and we don't wish to limit possible ideas in any way. For those of you who need inspiration, projects could be almost anything.

Here are some examples:

- any community project – social or entrepreneurial,
- a product of benefit to the community that you would like to make and sell
- an artistic or creative project (music, drama, art, dance) you would like to put on,
- a project that encourages "social connection" – e.g. a 'pop up' dinner for local older people, or a project for children or younger people
- a bike repair group for young people
- a project designed to help people become employable
- a gardening or allotment project



Logo design by Paul Hodge
mail@phodge.info

- a workshop for community mentors to assist interview skills
- a community entertainment, project (eg a singing group or event)

As long as your project benefits the local community we will consider it (a project may include children, but for this event an adult must be involved and submit the proposal)

We look forward to hearing from you, if you would like to submit a proposal or have any questions about the proposal process. Please contact us on mycenaesoup@gmail.com or call Anna Mars / Barbara Ward on 0208 858 1749. Look us up on twitter under @mycenaesoup for more information.

A great chance to put local people's ideas into practice for the benefit of the community!

Barbara Ward
For Mycenae House



PHOTO: Roger Marshall

Commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo concluded with a re-enactment of the way news of the allied victory reached London. A horse-drawn chaise post retraced the route taken in 1815 from the Old Royal Naval College, in Greenwich, to St James's Square, where the news from Belgium was delivered to the Prince Regent.

Mycenae Soup? Where did this idea start?

The idea originated in Detroit. "Detroit Soup" started off quite small – but it has been going for five years! The idea was to get members of the local community to put forward their ideas to a local audience on a project, any project, that could benefit the local community, and needed some start-up money. An evening of fun, over a drink or two and a bowl of soup, ensued, while those submitting their ideas took turns to "sell" them to the audience.

The winning proposal got the money! Yes, win win win, all around!

Detroit Soup was featured in a recent BBC documentary.

For more information, visit www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05h3g98.

To local businesses who would like to be a sponsor

Looking for a worthwhile community project to sponsor?

Mycenae Soup is your way in! Mycenae Soup identifies worthwhile local projects, and gives each one a chance to get off the ground by giving it a platform at the dinner on October 2nd. We already have donors giving soup, fruit, cakes etc. but could do with more to make the evening really enjoyable – and of course bring in a good audience!

Please contact us on mycenaesoup@gmail.com or call Anna Mars or Barbara Ward on 0208 858 1749

To members of our local community:

Interested in finding out about local community projects – and helping to decide which one you think should be supported?

Buy tickets to the Mycenae Soup dinner at 7.30 pm on October 2nd in Mycenae House – and come along to enjoy the fun! There will be music and entertainment – and you will also hear about proposed local community projects – and enjoy a bowl of soup and other delicious food items donated by our sponsors. The money raised at the dinner – via tickets and donations – will go to the winning project. Win, win all round!

FOR MORE DETAILS, visit:
www.mycenaesoup.wordpress.com
[Twitter: @mycenaesoup]



Sunday 20th September 2015

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< < < < Newsbriefs > > > >

Well done and thanks

to all who welcomed visitors to their gardens that weekend in June for the Open Gardens Festival in support of the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice.

Millennium Primary School

at Greenwich Peninsula is celebrating after being ranked as 'outstanding', just two years after inspectors from Ofsted judged it as 'requiring improvement'. The

news means that more than nine out of every ten primary schools in Greenwich are now officially ranked by Ofsted as 'good' or better – the best ever overall performance by the borough's schools.

FIFA Film breaks records

A film about the glorious history of FIFA, released shortly after the latest debacle, has made history – but not in a good way. On being

released on its first weekend in the US, it grossed a miserable total of £387.00, and has now been pulled from US cinemas. The film cost many millions to make.

It wasn't all bad news for FIFA however: in Russia, so far it has made \$158,000 despite its (Sepp) Blatternt unctuousness. No news yet of how successful it has been in Nepal, from where many of those slaving (and dying) on the stadia in Qatar have come.

Support Cancer Support

The Westcombe Society hopes that a good contingent from our neck of the woods will take part in the Macmillan Cancer Support London Bridges Walk.

Family Fun Day

On the afternoon of Sat. 18th July the Westcombe Society is organising a special Family Fun Day in Mycenae Garden. A great day out for the whole family. See page 2.

Summer in Greenwich

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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ADVERTISING MANAGER
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DISPLAY: Single column 6cm x 6cm: One - four issues £35, five-plus issues £30 each. Other sizes: please inquire.
Classified Ads (Market Place) 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. An email/web address = 3 words.) Deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month

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*To access back-numbers (in colour) go to:
www.westcombesociety.org/westcombe-news/
Westcombe Society's Blog:
http://westcombe.blogspot.com*

Westcombe society membership

please send this membership form to:
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se 3 7Dr

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Address.....

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tel.....

e mail:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family membership	£12	
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Family fun day

Another date for your diary: Sat 18th July. That afternoon, the Westcombe Society is organising a special Family Fun Day in Mycenae Gardens.

There will be games and crafts for children, a face painter, a jazz band, a barbecue and a variety of stalls. A good afternoon out for the whole family in a lovely park! Why not bring a picnic?

Family Fun Day runs from 2.00 - 4.30 pm on 18th July.

Westcombe Society Members' evening

The Westcombe Society's Members Evening took place on Saturday, 27th June in Mycenae House and Gardens: as always, an occasion to meet fellow members, residents and friends in the area.

Complimentary wine and soft drinks were served all evening, and a harpist provided live musical entertainment. The bar at Mycenae House was also

open. As always, the friendly staff of Mycenae House were much appreciated.

This year, in accordance with former tradition, members were asked to Bring a Dish (savoury main or dessert) to share – very much in the style of the original members' evenings which were always so very much enjoyed.

A good time was had by all.

Joanne Lucas

Community Day in Charlton

Global Fusion Music & Arts (GFMA) holds regular musical and other events in Charlton House, usually featuring music from ethnic minority groups.

Now, GFM, in collaboration with Charlton House and Charlton Triangle Homes have put together a programme for the Charlton Community Day on Sunday 19th July. The event runs from 1pm to 5 pm with children's fun racing, a dog competition, stalls, children's fun fare, stalls and live bands including the Greenwich Swing Band and an exciting new band from the Congo, Congo Latino.

There will also be workshops in drumming, dance, mask making, jewellery making, massage and yoga.

If you are interested in taking part or would like to have a stall please phone: 02088589497 Email: info@globalfusionarts.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: Talitha Smith
Wall to Wall TV
I hope this will be of interest to Westcombe society members. I'm writing from Wall to Wall Television (www.walltowall.co.uk) – one of the country's leading independent television production companies. The company's output includes *Who Do You Think You*

Are? The Voice and *The Gift* for BBC One and *Long Lost Family* for ITV.

We are looking for a London-based family who will immerse themselves this time in the leisure and entertainment habits of decades past. We are looking for families with a minimum of two children aged 10+ who are available to film

in July and August 2015.

The family should have thoroughly modern leisure habits – turn to modern technology for entertainment and leisure time and enjoy weekend shopping and cinema trips. In the previous series we filmed at the family home and local businesses and amenities so it may be of interest to those who live in the Westcombe Park area. **Any interested families should simply email leisure@walltowall.co.uk to express an interest. ASAP, please!**

From: Vivien Davies
Now the dust has settled from all the excitement after the BBC Rambling programme with Clare Balding, I just wanted to say a huge thank you from me and Jo for the splendid coverage of our Rambling walk in the WN last month.

This gives our group Greenwich Parent Voice fantastic publicity and hopefully we can reach parents locally who may benefit from joining us or just knowing we are there. We are so grateful.

Great to be in Greenwich!



Parksfest Sun. 31 May – Sun. 26 July

A programme of free summer events across local parks in Royal Greenwich. Residents and visitors can enjoy live music concerts as well as electrifying dance performances.

Greenwich World Cultural Festival

Date: 12th July 2015

Greenwich Dance and Greenwich Theatre bring together professional artists and local community performers to transform the wide open spaces, secret hideaways and historic gardens of Eltham Palace. The whole family can enjoy this celebration of dance, theatre, circus and music from around the world.

Greenwich Music Festival

Until March 2016, Greenwich Music Festival offers a series of public performances, including staged work, dance, chamber music concerts, film, lectures and educational outreach programs. Cost: A range of free and ticketed events

Never a dull moment this summer, in Greenwich!

The summer is packed full of wonderful events:

Greenwich Film Festival
Fri. 19th– Sun. 21st July

A brand new film festival showcasing new films by up- and-coming directors along with films that are due to be released this year in independent cinemas. The festival offers both free and ticketed events

Greenwich+Docklands

International Festival (GDIF) June 26 - July 5

London's leading annual festival of free outdoor performing arts (theatre, dance, and street arts). Streets, parks and public spaces across Royal Greenwich and East London will be transformed.

The festival offers a range of free and ticketed events in a wide range of locations. Events include The Four Fridas (see page 4) and Kori Kori from one of France's outstanding street theatre companies. And FREE entry.

Heart Space Therapy Child and Adolescent Counselling

Are you worried about your child or teenager?

Counselling may help.

Children and adolescents face many pressures in our modern society. Most do fine but some find it difficult to cope or do not get the support they need to feel safe, happy and confident. If your child is feeling distressed or troubled they may express their unhappiness in a number of ways including withdrawal, depression, self harm and eating disorders

If you would like an opportunity to discuss your child's needs in confidence please contact me to book a consultation
Ages 5 - 25
Clinic in Blackheath

heartspacetherapy.co.uk

07411 116911

heartspacetherapy@gmail.com

LOCAL NEWS

Ending puncture misery

A puncture is every cyclist's nightmare. And punctures always seem to happen at the wrong time and place.

Now there is hope: Nip Nip Smart Cycling offers cyclists puncture-proof tyres. Based in Southwark, they will ship the tyres in the post to all areas of the UK.

Nip Nip is the sole online retailer of the Tannus puncture-proof tyres. Biking brothers David and Matthew Farr are keen cyclists, and have built London's first full-service cycling company.

Said Matthew: "We're so behind the tyre and the technology that all of us here at NipNip choose to equip our commuter bikes with this super reliable fit-and-forget, puncture-proof tyre."

Until today, solid tyres have weighed two to three times as much as standard air tyres. Tannus tyres use polymer technology to terminate the heavy feeling of solid tyres of the past.

Tannus has made a featherlight solid tyre a reality – yet the grip it provides is similar to top-end tyres – in the dry and wet. And these tyres are very durable.



The Tannus tyre is designed for those journeys when the last thing you want to deal with is pumping flat tyres up, getting punctures and worrying about what roads or even off-road paths you might be taking.

You can expect to see up to 9,000 miles on these tyres. Which can be up to 4 years of carefree cycling for some users who average 10 miles per day. Providing you aren't skidding at every opportunity.

Pedal note: *Halfords are now selling the Visijax Commuter jacket. These are motion-activated jackets that signal with flashing lights when a rider is turning right or left. You raise an arm, and amber LEDs flash for 5 seconds.*

Calling all business women!

www.1230.co.uk



1230TWC is for businesswomen in Blackheath who value and want to grow their business – and it had its inaugural meeting in Blackheath in May.

The Women's Company started in 2002, and is now approaching its 13th birthday. The continuing growth of the organization reflects the genuine need for businesswomen to meet regularly in a relaxed informal and productive environment.

Local businesswoman and 1230 TWC Host Elaine Pooke says "As 1230 TWC

Host here in Blackheath I'm delighted to be part of this hugely successful networking organisation for businesswomen throughout the UK. I know how beneficial membership is of 1230 TWC, and I'm looking forward to meeting the many other businesswomen in this area".

1230 TWC Blackheath & Greenwich meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Chapters, Blackheath. All businesswomen are welcome.

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Getting into hot water

Most of the the buildings in the town of Drammen in Norway are heated by water, the temperature of which is just 8C: the waters of the fjord are too cold to swim in!

So how can they generate heat - hot water - from water that is so cold? ? The answer is: by using heat pump technology. Thousands of businesses and homes in London could be heated by the secret energy stored in the cold waters of the river Thames.

? If Drammen and Battersea can do it, why can't Greenwich?

The developers of Battersea Power Station have announced that they would look at installing water source heat pump technology. It could provide 65,000 homes and businesses with clean energy.

How does it work? River water (temp. 8 - 10C) is passed through a grid of pipes full of antifreeze solution. The heat extracted from the water brings the solution to boiling point, and the resulting gas is compressed: this causes its temperature to rise dramatically.

The gas is then passed through another heat exchanger to warm up water that can be used in domestic and business hot water systems. The technology can cut energy bills by 50%.

What's on in the park

For many of us, the park is somewhere to stroll in, to feed the ducks, to view the deer, and to see how many squirrels our dogs cannot catch. But there's lots more to it than that! Here's an overview:

The Wildlife Centre

The Wildlife Centre is near the south end of the Lake in the Flower Gardens. The Centre is open regularly for a 'Drop In' on the last Saturday of the month from 10am to 3pm (4pm in the summer). Members of the Friends of Greenwich Park Wildlife Group are there to promote an interest in wildlife in the Park, to answer questions and to exchange information with visitors. Wildlife-related children's activities are provided. The Wildlife Centre can also be booked for children's parties. Contact the Greenwich Park office (Tel: 020 8858 2608) for details.

The new Nature Trail and Deer Hide overlooking the Deer Park are also open for guided tours on Drop In days.

Nature Trail Dig-In

Over the last couple of years a group of volunteers has helped with removing unwanted invasive species in the Nature Trail and planting appropriate native specimens. This is a continuing project. The last Friday of the month at 9.30am has been chosen to get on with this work. If you have not been involved before, do come along. Equipment is provided as well as refreshments. We normally work until about 12.30pm, but you can arrive later or peel off early if need be.

We meet up at the Wildlife Centre. If you have not done this before and want to know more, please contact Sue Yates on 020 8692 1760.

The Queen's Orchard

The Queen's Orchard is open to the public on Sunday afternoons during the Summer from 1 pm to 4 pm. The Queen's Orchard, opened in 2013, is in the northeastern corner of the park. The aim was to create a garden with educational value, to show people how to grow a wide range of vegetables and also to grow older varieties of fruit trees to reflect the historic nature of the site. There are ornamental and wildlife ponds, a long lavender bed and a mound in the centre with an old mulberry tree. Soon four beehives will be added at the far end of the Orchard, with plans for beekeeping demonstrations.

The Field Studies Council will be working with local schools on the vegetable plots whilst anyone who would like to volunteer to work on the plots can just come along at 1.30pm on the Wednesdays listed on the website.

Music in the park

If you missed the wonderful Midsummer Jazz Concert in June, you can still enjoy the Sunday bandstand concerts, sponsored by the Friends of Greenwich Park. They all start at 3.0 pm, and are free!

- Sun. 5 July** Incredible Sax Band
- Sun. 12 July** National Youth Jazz Orchestra Academy band
- Sun. 19 July** Belvedere Concert Band
- Sun. 26 July** Lewisham Concert Band
- Sun. 2 Aug.** The S. London Jazz Orchestra & the South London Lindy Hoppers
- Sun. 9 Aug.** Greenwich Concert Band
- Sun. 16 Aug.** London Gay Symphony Winds
- Sun. 23 Aug.** Silver Ghosts (with swing-time dancers)
- Sun. 30 Aug.** Southwark Concert Band

St George's

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Sundays at 11.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesdays at 8.30 am Morning Prayer
Wednesdays at 12.30 pm Soup Lunch and Fellowship
Wednesdays at 7.45 pm Pilgrim Course on the Eucharist Meets at 3 Hardy Road

Special July Events

Wed. 8th July 7:30 pm Filmshow: "Son of Man" (A film from South Africa: Christ reappears in Soweto!)
Sunday, 12th July 6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Revd Robert T (Tim) Yeager, Team Vicar
Tel. 07804 614245

Website:

<http://www.st-georges-westcombe-park.org.uk/>

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7:45 - 9:15 Hatha/ Akhanda Yoga	7:45 - 9:15 Hatha/ Akhanda Yoga	8 - 9pm Gong and meditation. <small>Beg 4th Sept 2015</small>

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tariniyoga@yahoo.co.uk
07411116911

Summer Holiday Courses 2015

- **Just Two's Nursery** (2 - 3.5 year olds)
Monday 20 July - Friday 14 August 9.30am-12pm
- **Miss Libby Rose Sewing Clubs** (7 - Adults)
Monday 20 July - Friday 24 July various times
- **Children's Painting Workshop** (8+)
Monday 27 July - Wednesday 29 July 9am-3pm
- **Music Maestros** (singing & musicianship 7+)
Tuesday 4 August - Thursday 6 August 9am-3pm
- **West End In Greenwich** (performance course 7+)
Monday 17 August - Friday 21 August 9am-3pm
- **Children's Sculpture Workshop** (8+)
Monday 24 - Wednesday 26 August 9am-3pm

More information on our website
020 8858 1749 www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

FEATURE: THE ARTS

Photography as an art-form



What makes a great photograph? Who knows? Perhaps catching a particular moment. Ambiguity helps. Certainly it's not just composition.

Take this one, above, by Romeo, winner of the On Our Streets Photo Competition. Who is this man? What is he carrying? Why is he looking over his shoulder? What effect do those shadows have? Does he seem a villain – or a victim? Perhaps a great picture doesn't tell a story: it encourages the viewer to imagine his or her own story.

Romeo, an architect, was the winner of the On Our Streets photo competition held earlier this year in association with the award.io photo contest web site. His prize was a two week exhibition here in the Greenwich gallery in Linear House, Peyton Place, Greenwich, in June.

The proprietor of the gallery, Tony Othen comments: "What I like about Romeo's pictures is the strong graphic element combined with social irony which is often

what street photography is all about."

Tony Othen, a former chair of the Westcombe Society, is himself no slouch as a photographer. If you missed the last exhibition in June, be sure to catch up on the new exhibition of Tony Othen's photographs in July.

Neville Grant

Tony Othen has been running the Greenwich gallery for over six years. Located in Peyton Place, just off Royal Hill, it's a small, intimate gallery that has hosted more than 50 shows. It is the perfect place to show thought-provoking work to local residents and visitors alike.

The Gallery forms the entrance to Linear House which is a hub of businesses, many of which are well known in the Arts sector, providing creative digital capture and processing services.

Adjacent to the Greenwich Dance Agency, a few hundred yards from Greenwich Theatre and the Fan Museum, The Greenwich Gallery is at the epicentre of creative Greenwich.

Picasso, Man Ray & Max Ernst through the eyes of Lee Miller & Roland Penrose

What did Picasso, Man Ray and Max Ernst all have in common? Of course, they were three of the key artists of the 20th century. And they were also close friends of the Surrealist photographer Lee Miller and the Surrealist artist Roland Penrose.

In July, you can hear the hidden story of a unique friendship which spanned the Surrealist movement and the last 30 years of Picasso's life.

The story is told by Antony Penrose, the son of Lee Miller and Roland, who visited the artists in their homes and recalls when they came to the Penrose family home of Farley Farm House in Sussex.

It is told using the words and images of the artists and those around them with extensive use of photographs by Lee Miller. For the past 30 years Antony Penrose has conserved and disseminated the work of his parents, Lee Miller and Roland Penrose.

Antony Penrose is the director of The Lee Miller Archives and The Penrose Collection at Farley Farm House in Sussex and has seen his parents' work featured in



Picasso. Photo Lee Miller

major exhibitions at the V&A, the National Portrait Gallery, Manchester Art Gallery, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the Whitworth.

Penrose has lectured at museums and universities around the world, and made documentaries for TV. Publications include *The Lives of Lee Miller*, *Lee Miller's War* (editor), *The Angel and the Fiend*, *The Home of the Surrealists*, *Roland Penrose the Friendly Surrealist* and *The Boy Who Bit Picasso*.

Thanks to Greenwich Decorative and Fine Arts Society, we have a unique opportunity to meet, in the flesh, a very personal link with a historic period in 20th Century Art History.

Antony Penrose is giving a lecture at 8.00 pm on Friday 13th July on the third floor of King William Court at the University of Greenwich, on the site of the Royal Naval College. There is a lift available to the lecture room.

Membership of Greenwich Fine Arts and Decorative Society costs £80.00 a year. Lectures are open to non-members at a cost of £8.00

Greenwich + Docklands International Festival

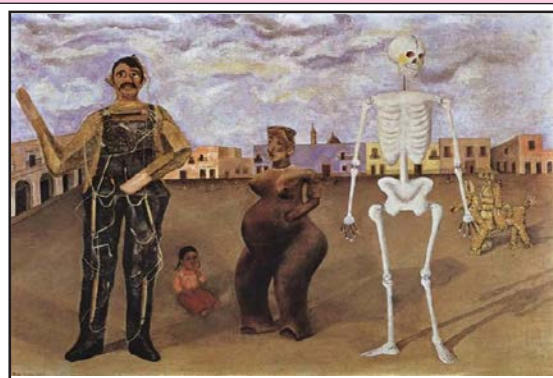
The Four Fridas: Frida Kahlo comes to Greenwich

The Four Fridas is a large-scale outdoor theatrical spectacular celebrating the life and work of the legendary Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

The play is an exploration of the ideas behind her famous surreal painting *Four Inhabitants of Mexico*. In this extraordinary work, she depicts four personalities, a Judas, a pre-Columbian symbol from Nayarit, a skeleton of the sort that Mexican kids like to play with on the Day of the Dead, and a straw man riding a donkey.

In this painting, Frida depicts herself as a young child on the ground sucking her finger. What is she feeling? Who knows? *The Four Inhabitants of Mexico* is like an awful dream, rich in implied meanings.

Taking inspiration from Frida Kahlo's lifelong empathy with indigenous Mexico, *The Four Fridas* features a rare opportunity to see the breathtaking ritual flight of the Voladores. The production includes a new ensemble of talented dancers, Shechter Junior, and the UK's aerial dance company Wired Aerial Theatre.



Audiences have a visually thrilling experience, integrating elements of ritual, music, narration, contemporary dance and aerial choreography, played out against stunning video projections in the sky.

Details of the the performances of *The Four Fridas* can be found below. There will be both paid seating available in advance and substantial free promenade access available on the day. Tickets for reserved seating on sale now.

The Four Fridas Wed 1st - Sat 4th July, 22:00 at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, SE18 Presented by GDIF. Reserved seating tickets: £15, £12 concs FREE Standing access on-the-day

T.S.Eliot with Robert Fawcett

Robert Fawcett gave a most interesting talk on T S Eliot at Ed and Irena's Made in Greenwich Gallery on 23rd June. He told the *WN*: "This is a new lecture which I completed in early January of this year and have given to warm and enthusiastic audiences in Lewes, Farnham, West Bay (Bridport) and Padiham (Lancashire – at the T S Eliot Festival of the North 2015).

"I thought it appropriate to offer a T S Eliot Night during 2015, given that there are great year-long celebrations under way to mark the 50th anniversary of his death and the passing of exactly a hundred years since Eliot's 'The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock' made its first appearance . . . In 'East Coker', the second of his *Four Quartets*, Eliot declares that the poet has to discover what

*"by strength and submission, has already been discovered
Once or twice, or several times by men whom one cannot hope
To emulate – but there is no competition –
There is only the fight to recover what has been lost
And found and lost again and again . . ."*

"Eliot's prose and poetry transparently show that he could not have done it alone. In fact, I have recently been picturing him, on arrival in England, going down some imaginary red channel for those carrying cultural affiliations picked up in other countries. But which names will he declare, when they ask him to open his suitcase?"

The sculpture of Brian Taylor

Lauded by his mentor Henry Moore, the celebrated figurative sculptor Brian Taylor studied sculpture at the Slade, where he won most of the student prizes.

He worked all around the world but lived and worked in Greenwich for the last 20 years of his life. His wife has been working with Mycenae House to present this extraordinary exhibition in Mycenae Gardens ***Sculpture by the late Brian Taylor (FRBS FSPS) From Thursday 2nd July - 31st October at Mycenae House & Gardens 90 Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE***

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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

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THE QUEEN'S HOUSE
UNSEEN: THE LIVES OF LOOKING BY DRYDEN GOODWIN Until 26th July. This acclaimed contemporary artist creates his first full length feature film; plus his drawings. Free.
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 23rd July James Bolton An ideal partnership: Lutyens and Jekyll Non-members £5
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, the University of Greenwich Mon. 13th July: Picasso, Man Ray and Max Ernst through the eyes of Lee Miller and Roland Penrose 020 8852 7873 Non-members £8.00. Annual membership £60.
MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY 8293 9823 www.madeingreenwich.co.uk 324 Creek Rd SE10. A changing display of local artworks, cards and poetry books
July 10th - 19th Blackheath Textile Artists
August 1st -13th Tideline Art - art objects made of glass and ceramic fragments found on the banks of the Thames, plus a 'Mudlarking Museum'
August 14th - 31st Ann Hillary and other Blackheath artists
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GREENWICH GALLERY, Kinear House, Peyton Place SE10 8RS Tel. 020 8465 5968
June 8th - June 21st Romeo photos
Mon-Friday 9.30-5.30 weekends 12-4pm. Free.
August: Exhibition of photographs by Tony Othen

CHILDREN & FAMILY

GREENWICH THEATRE CROOMS HILL, LONDON SE10 8ES BOX OFFICE 8858 7755
Sunday, 19 July MIRROR ME
What if you could swap places with the person in the mirror...?
Wed. 5th - Sun 23rd August PINOCCHIO
Originally produced at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, a new musical adaptation of the classic children's story will receive its UK Premiere here at Greenwich Theatre this summer.
Tuesday, 25 August David Wood's Storytime - THE GINGERBREAD MAN David Wood, actor, author and playwright, presents a storytelling version of his much-loved play/book/tv series THE GINGERBREAD MAN, set on a Welsh Dresser, featuring Herr Von Cuckoo, Mr Salt, Miss Pepper, The Old (Tea) Bag, the ever-hungry Sleek the Mouse and, of course, The Gingerbread Man!

THE SPACE WESTFERRY ROAD
Saturday 1st August, 1pm & 2.45pm UP IN THE-ATTIC Presented by the Half Moon Theatre and Floods of InkFree Roof Garden
Three children on an unforgettable bedtime adventure: a journey through the attic
NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
Until 31st August AGAINST CAPTAIN'S ORDERS Exciting new show for 6 - 12 year olds. Advance booking essential on rmg.co.uk/tickets!
SHERINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE
DAD'S STAY AND PLAY session every Wednesday 9.30-11.30 Sherington Childrens Centre, all Home Dads welcome. Address: 14 Sherington Road, Charlton SE7 7JW (0208 853 0900). Continues even in school holidays and half-term. **Contact Dan Hall on daniel.hall1985@hotmail.co.uk for more details.** www.selondondads.org.uk

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Sat 18th July 2.00 - 4.30 pm Family Fun day in Mycenae Gardens Games and crafts for children, face painter, jazz band, barbecue and stalls.
Sun 20th September Three Bridges Walk for Macmillan Cancer Support
Fri 25th Sept Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning
Sat 26th Sept Nearly New Sale
Sat 10th Oct. Chrysanthemum Tea
Fri 23rd Oct. Quiz Night
Please ring Joanne on 07709 571777 if you would like to help out on any of these events!

COMMUNITY

CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH
Thurs. 2nd July at The Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath Prize draw & Raffle. To book, call Wendy on 8265 0335 by **Mon. 29th June.** £8.50.
MYCENAE HOUSE
Fri 10th July JAZZ NIGHTS featuring Domic Ashworth & Laura Iacovini Candlelit musical event occurring on the second Friday each month during 2015. Backed by the Phil Mead Trio hosted by Dave Silk. For info contact Dave on: 01689875683 or visit www.jazznights.co.uk
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
21st July Terry Powley on Origins of Youth Clubs and London's Expansion Meeting at The Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, SE3. Please use the station car park. Non members £1.
BLACKHEATH FLOWER ARRANGING SOCIETY Meets third Friday of the month in Mycenae House. Next meetings: **July 17th.** Kathy Stangaard – TBA. **Aug 21st** Linda Clatworthy – TBA Contact: siancaroline@googlemail.com.
WESTCOMBE WOODLANDS For the remainder of the year the volunteer dates are as follows, 4th July, 2nd August, 5th September, 4th October, 7th November and 8th December.
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon. & Thurs. 7.15 pm & on Wed. at 1.15 Tel. 8851 2609
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
GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS.
Free workshops Fortnightly Tuesday & Friday evenings 7.30 - 8.30 at Mascalles Meeting Rooms off Victoria Way Charlton SE7 7TT: Tai Chi. Singing, Drumming, Writers' Group, African DanceInfo: 020 8858 9497
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Tickets £10. Book online in advance: <http://www.steinbergduo.com/events/categories/greenwich/>
Sun 19th July 5 6.00 pm: The programme is:
Schubert Sonata for Violin and Piano in A, D.574 "Duo" Brahms Sonata No.3 in D minor, Op.108, Glazunov Meditation
ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC 9.00pm every Tuesday at the Lord pub, Creek Road; jazz
BLACKHEATH HALLS
WED 29rh. JUL 2.00 pm
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AGE EXCHANGE

BOOK SALES: on the second Saturday every month (except August & December) 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.
LUNCHTIME CONCERTS: 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.

THEATRE

THE GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755
Thu 2nd July 7.30 pm GERMAINE GREER: THE DISAPPEARING WOMAN A unique chance to ask all those burning questions you have been longing to throw at her – serious or light-hearted.
Mon 6th - Tues 7th July TITUS ANDRONICUS
Wed 29 July - Sun 23 August THE WHO'S TOMMY Based on the iconic 1969 double album rock opera, The Who's Tommy is an exhilarating story of hope, healing, and the human spirit. The story of the pinball-playing, deaf, dumb and blind boy who triumphs over his adversities has inspired, amazed and puzzled audiences for more than 40 years.
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Thursday 6th August, 7pm ODYSSEY
Free Roof Garden Theatre One actor. One hour. One man's epic quest to reunite with his family and seek his bloody revenge.
Sat 8th August 2.00 pm MOONSHINE'S ENTIRELY NECESSARY ADVENTURE Free Roof GardenThe story of Moonshine, a girl of thirteen with silver skin, as she journeys through a magical world to find out what it means to be yourself.
Thursdays and Fridays 16th – 24th July, 7pm
Saturdays 18th and 25th July, 2pm THE ROYAL NUTSHELL Free Roof Garden Celebrate the arrival of the newest Royal Princess with a recap of the entire British Monarchy ...
Thursdays and Fridays 2nd – 10th July, 7pm
Saturdays 4th and 11th July, 2pm CREATURES OF PROMETHEUS Free Roof Garden
15th - 19th July 8.00 pm DRIVING ME ROUND THE BEND Written & Performed By Nigel Fairs and Louise Jameson George and Georgina Best are driving to their daughter's on Christmas Eve. The atmosphere is tense; even the Sat Nav has her own agenda! £12.50 | £10.00

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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Then on Saturday 11th July at 3.00 and 6.30 pm, there is the Children's Creative Dance Classes Summer Show, again at the Laban theatre, at which children perform a mixed bill.
On Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July, Trinity Laban's Centre for Advanced Training performs an exciting programme of diverse and dynamic dance, featuring vibrant group pieces by award-winning guest choreographers, as well as additional selected student choreographies.
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TUE 14th, Wed 15th, Fri 17th, at 7.00 pm, and Sun 19th July at 4.,30 pm
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GREAT HALL, BLACKHEATH HALLS
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TRINITY LABAN at St ALFEGE CHURCH
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THU 23rd July 13:05h Masters Student Recital Free
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Bicyclists beware

Neville Grant

1 It's rush hour and you're cycling along Vanbrugh Park Road. It's a narrow road, and you are sorely tempted to cycle on the pavement as the traffic edges past you, inches away. As you approach the Standard, you wonder how you are going to get across to Old Dover Road. Alleluiah! Help is at hand! Just beyond the zebra crossing, a cycle lane beckons!



2 Oh dear! The cycle lane comes to an abrupt halt. But what have we here? Parallel broken white lines – what do they mean? It looks as though you and your bike are being invited to turn right, in front of the very traffic you've been dodging.



3 Sure enough, yes, there is a route to that traffic island, where the railings are. Which lines to cycle between? There seem to be three lines. Spoilt for choice! Why don't you just cycle across? Um, better dismount. Hope the traffic stops!



4 You made it! Great, the cycle line is back again (below), a welcome, warm green in colour. It seems to be going round the corner. Where does it lead?



5 Oh good, the open road beckons, there's Old Dover Road in front of you. Thank goodness one doesn't have to cycle round the Standard. Oh dear, crossing in front of traffic again. Hope the cars see you as you go past those trees on the left.

6 Um, better think again, perhaps. The cycle lane has changed from green to grey. Look at all those white dotted lines. An awful lot of traffic coming from the left. Who has right of way? Oh, cyclists I think. If you cross, will the traffic stop? Maybe it would be best to wait until pedestrians cross the Zebra Crossing over there to the left. Or you could chance it, perhaps . . .



7 Last year, Greenwich Council published a natty little folder, a useful map you could open up to view recommended cycle lanes in the borough. Vanbrugh Park Road is not highlighted on the map: instead, it is suggested that cyclists should turn off into St Johns Park, crossing Stratheden Road, and continuing along St Johns Park to that bit of Langton Way running parallel with the A104 – the road leading to the Blackwall Tunnel: in this way avoiding the Standard altogether. So why this complicated, confusing and dangerous new scheme in the Standard? One resident speculated: "They had some money left over in the budget, and wanted to spend it before the end of the financial year."

Readers' comments welcome.

Out with the old . . . Better? asks J-J. Aune

Friday 12th June was a nostalgic day for users of 'The Arches' leisure centre. This iconic building has served the population of Greenwich for over one hundred years.

In its time it has gone through many transformations. At times in the past the pool has been covered over to provide a floor for roller skating and dances. Many residents have learned to swim there and, more recently, have enjoyed the activities provided by the various classes as well as the gym, fitness and leisure pools.

Regular users of the fitness pool were always warmly welcomed by the staff, all of whom have had to reapply for their jobs at the new baths. Many will be sadly missed and I am sure that they deserve thanks for keeping this facility going through the difficult times when the budget was cut and the facilities came in for occasional criticism.

As the 'regulars' ploughed or poodled their way up and down the swimming lanes, on the last day, they were faced with the large green slogan 'BETTER'. Many, indeed most must have wondered if the new pool at Greenwich Square would be better.

So on to the new facilities. There is an impressive forecourt that is well planted



and has an attractive wave shaped roof. In the centre of the forecourt there is a sculpture with relevance to the Royal Borough. It would be interesting to have a plaque giving details of the maker and explaining its significance.

The main entrance foyer leads to the new library on one side and to a cafe area on the other. The swimming pool is on the lower level and can be accessed by a lift.

The changing area is well supplied with lockers and large changing cubicles. There is an excellent showering area, before entering into the pools, as well as some individual shower cubicles including one equipped for users with impaired mobility.

There are two pools. One is a small pool for learners, and another has six lanes of Olympic dimensions. The main pool is frequently used by school groups but it is hoped to keep at least four lanes for general use.

However, there is no leisure pool: it is hoped that children wishing to use slides and flumes will go to the Waterfront over in Woolwich.

Many 'regulars' from The Arches will regret losing those lovely lavender-coloured changing cubicles along the side of the pool. It required a certain degree of organisation to use the showers and then access the lockers when wet!

However, on the plus side, the new pools are bright and clean and there is a lift to lower disabled people into the water.

Time will tell whether the new pools are 'Better'.

Rail users unite – you have nothing to lose but your trains
Emily Norton reports


The Greenwich Society recently invited representatives from the Westcombe Society to join them and members from the Greenwich Line Users Group (GLUG) and Charlton Rail Users Group (CRUG) to a meeting with David Statham, Managing Director, South Eastern.

This gave a unique opportunity to voice the specific concerns of Greenwich Line Users about the problems with rail travel on the Greenwich Line during the London Bridge rebuild. Topics discussed included:

- the need for the users of Westcombe Park, Maze Hill, Greenwich and Deptford to be treated as a special case with regard to mitigation for the inevitable major disruption caused by the redevelopment of London Bridge Station.
- the lack of information and satisfactory alternative services during the frequent (and unexpected) weekend closures of the Greenwich line
- alternative routes to London Bridge between August 2016 and January 2018 when trains on the Greenwich Line will travel straight to Cannon Street without stopping at London Bridge
- alternative ticketing arrangements needed to ensure alternative routes do not leave passengers out of pocket – we requested the inclusion of local buses to alternative stations
- the needs of those less able to use alternative routes both for day-to-day travel and for access to London hospitals near London Bridge and Waterloo
- overcrowding on trains
- facilities at London Bridge

South Eastern do not have control of all of the above but they can voice our concerns to those such as Network Rail, TfL and the Dept of Transport who make the decisions. We await their response.

NOTE: The next stage of the consultation process is predicted for the Autumn.


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

Focus on Trees

ANNE ROBBINS

The leafy nature of the Westcombe Park area is one of its great assets, and trees are a large factor in this. Whether planted before the housing stock was developed, like the great oak off Beaconsfield Road, or more recently as street enhancements and garden adornments, trees punctuate the skyline with greenery and provide a home to wildlife.

And of course trees help to improve our air quality. They help by removing CO2 from the atmosphere and, as a by-product, they return oxygen back into the atmosphere. They also help to remove other gaseous pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulates from vehicles (especially diesel).

However, trees can also be a nuisance, sometimes self-seeding in the wrong place or outgrowing their site, with roots that can damage walls or drains.

Like all plants, they have life cycles, and can become ill through pests or virus. And they can be damaged, themselves, with high winds or building work. In these cases, they may need pruning or removing.

The rules!

However, there are quite strict rules on tree pruning and felling, particularly in conservation areas such as ours in Westcombe Park, and householders should know these rules before calling in the tree surgeons.

The first step is to check the planning pages of the Royal Borough's website, which set out the main points to do with trees in conservation areas. In brief, if your tree is more than 75mm in diameter (or 235mm around the trunk) at 1.5m height, then you need to notify the council that you intend to prune or remove it.

It's not always so simple. A tree might have multiple stems, like the sumac; how can you tell if something is a tree or a shrub?

And edible fruit trees are generally exempt, as they need pruning every year to keep them productive. The Planning Department's Tree Officer, Debi Rogers, is very helpful, and she encourages anyone in doubt to phone or email her with questions. There is no charge for her services.

The process of applying to do treework is quite straightforward, usually. The web page on trees, in Greenwich's planning department pages, has a link to the national planning service called the Planning Portal.

Here, you can download the form and print it, or fill it in and submit it online. There is plenty of helpful guidance on what you should include to support your request. You can find definitions of different types of pruning, for instance.

If you prefer, you could ask the Greenwich planning office to send you a form. Your tree surgeon may also be able to make an application on your behalf.

In most cases, the application is a simple notification of works you wish to carry out, and Debi tries to deal with these quickly. Often she will give the council's response within a month, if the request is to prune. It can take a little longer to process requests to fell a tree, as neighbours may need to be consulted.

Tree Preservation Orders

In some cases, the tree may be considered a key asset to the area. It may have a tree preservation order (TPO), or the council may wish to consider whether it should be given this status.

In this case, you must apply for permission, and the council must review your application more carefully. Debi may want to make a site visit, for instance, and to check that you are using reputable tree surgeons. And please remember that you should not do tree work at all in spring and early summer, to avoid harming birds

and animals rearing their young.

If a tree has become unsafe, died or been damaged, for instance by being hit by a car, it may need to be removed in a hurry. You can give the council a five-day notice with a full professional report, so a tree which has become dangerous can be dealt with quickly.

In many cases, the council will ask you to replace the tree, with a more suitable species, perhaps, or in a more appropriate location. It's also worth remembering that the council can fine anyone removing a tree without permission. The penalty for destroying a tree with a TPO can be up to £20,000. Debi says 'it depends on what the tree is, its significance in the area, and where it is, for instance if it is in a prominent position'.

She advises those applying for treework to be patient and wait for the council's decision. And, she says, she would much rather talk to people before they carry out work than have to impose penalties!

If you are concerned that a tree in your neighbourhood has been pruned or felled and you want to know the circumstances, you can check on the council's website to see if the work had permission.

Street trees come under a different area of the council, so if you have questions about these, you should contact the council's specialist, Bob Charlton. And if you are a council tenant, Sam Bateson is responsible for trees in your garden.

To reach Debi Rogers, email debi.rogers@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or phone 020 8921 5661.

The Planning Department page on the RBG website is here: <http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200074/planning>

To contact Bob Charlton, email bob.charlton@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or phone 020 8921 5477; for Sam Bateson, email: sam.bateson@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or telephone 8921 4112.

The tale of a tree



PHOTO: Dipesh Silwal

It is estimated that the oak tree in Beaconsfield Close, above, is over 400 years old. This tree has quite a history. It stood in the garden of Fairfax House, where a former mayor of Greenwich, Mr Dence, lived until he died just before World War II.

The house was taken over by the RAF, and 30 - 50 WAAF girls, who were manning the barrage balloons on the heath, were billeted there.

Then, tragedy: a German bomb destroyed Fairfax House, and two other houses nearby – and killed most of the girls. Local resident Albert Gearing recalled (in *WN*, Oct. 2005) that his sister, one of the WAAF girls, who lived locally, broke the rules and went home to sleep, and escaped the bombing.

Miraculously the tree survived; new blocks of flats replaced the houses, and the tree stands there to this day.

But having survived the war, it only just survived the bureaucrats of Greenwich council, who threatened to fell it "for health and safety reasons."

The Westcombe Society (led by Anna Townend) campaigned hard to save the old oak tree. There was a huge protest when the Council's Highways Department stated that because one not particularly big branch fell, it was dying and unsafe.

Without consultation they brought in their street trees team to remove it.

Caroline Owens commented: "The matter was resolved by Anna who negotiated a moderate reduction in overall size; the tree has flourished ever since."

In 2012, the tree was hit by a big lorry, which ended up tilted at 25 degrees, with the driver trapped inside the cab.

Again, it escaped unscathed. As did the driver.

The Affordable Housing Crisis

WN reporter

As reported in June's *WN*, Greenwich has taken a step forward by ensuring that in the future, so-called "viability reports" by building developers will no longer be confidential.

A programme *The Affordable Housing Crisis* on BBC Radio 4* looked at the issues. It featured the Earls Court development, where there is currently NO affordable housing at all; and at the Knight Dragon developments on Greenwich Peninsula.

There, the developer argued the council's target of 35% affordable housing had to be reduced to 21% as "viability" was affected by the need for decontamination. But as Matt Penycook MP pointed out, this had already been paid for by English Partnerships in 2004.

In the programme, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism also queried the land valuations cited by Knight Dragon: KD said that the

land values were between £521 and £671 per square foot, and that the values were declining. This is not the case – they went up by 6% in 2013, and a further 7.5% in 2014.

Reducing the percentage of affordable housing could not be justified on these figures. Knight Dragon has now applied to extend the number of housing units on the Peninsula to 15,500 . . . We await the outcome.

According to a Council spokesperson, "we assess viability by using an independent consultant, Christopher Marsh & Co Ltd."

Until now, where a scheme is not policy compliant, for example not providing enough affordable housing, officers have requested a (confidential) financial viability assessment of the scheme.

The consultant then makes an assessment and advises the Council on the validity of the viability information provided. This may involve, especially for more com-

plex schemes some discussion/negotiation on aspects of the assumptions behind the viability model, and the developers 'final' offer on affordable housing and other planning obligations.

A summary of the consultant's advice is included in the report put before the Planning Board.

The Council is obliged to take financial viability into account in determining planning applications and developers can and will appeal if they feel due consideration has not been given. The spokesperson added:

"With the near total withdrawal of Government subsidy in the form of housing grant to fund affordable housing, there are more and more schemes coming forward that cannot meet our requirements for 35% affordable housing."

Ed: The mayor of New York has made affordable housing "mandatory" in any housing development. Are you listening, Boris?

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