Mycenae House is hosting a training and meeting session on Thursday 6th May.
**Summer in Greenwich**

**Great to be in Greenwich!**

Never a dull moment this summer, in Greenwich! The summer is packed full of wonderful events:
- Greenland Film Festival
- Greenwich Dance
- Greenwich World Cultural Festival
- Greenwich Music Festival
- Parksfest

**Letters to the editor**

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

**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?

**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 harvest 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 Dush (savory or main course) to share — very much in the style of the original members’ evenings which were always so very much enjoyed. A good time 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, GFMA, in collaboration with Charlton House and Charlton Triangle Houses, 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 face, 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

**Great to be in Greenwich!**

**Heart Space Therapy**

**Child and Adolescent Counselling**

Are you worried about your child or teenager? Counselling may help.

Children and adolescents have many pressures in 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 depressed or troubled they may express their unhappiness in a number of ways including with 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.

Clinic in Blackheath

heartspacetherapy@gmail.com
07411 16911

Westcombe News July/August 2015
**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 Fair 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 at NipNip choose to equip our commuter bikes with this super-durable fix-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.

**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 lot 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 Flagstaff Gardens. The Centre is open regularly for a ‘Drop In’ on the last Saturday of the month from 10am to 4pm (1pm 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 8588 2688) for details.

The new Nature Trail and Dee Hide overlooking the Dee 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.

Meet us up at the Wildlife Centre. If you have not done this before and want to know more, please contact Sue Bates on 020 8662 1760.

**Call for all businesswomen!**

1230 TWC is for businesswomen 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 here in Blackheath I’m delighted to be part of this hugely successful networking organization for businesswomen throughout the UK. I know how beneficial it is for those of us who 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.

Meet us up at the Wildlife Centre. If you have not done this before and want to know more, please contact Sue Bates on 020 8662 1760.

**Getting into hot water**

Most of the buildings in the town of Drammen in Norway are heated by water, the temperature of which is just above the boiling point. So how can they generate heat - hot water from water that is so cold? The answer is: by using heat pump technology.

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

How does it work? River water (temp. 8 – 10°C) is passed through a grid of pipes full of antifreeze solution. The heat extract

The gas is then released 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%.

**Calling all businesswomen!**

**What’s on in the park**

**1230 TWC**

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Photography as an art-form

W hat makes a great photograph? Who knows? Perhaps catching a particular moment. Ambiguity helps. Certainly it’s not just composition. Take this one, above, by Robert, 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.

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

The propietor 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.

Tony Othen has been running the Greenwich gallery for over six years. Located in Pepton Place, just off Royal Naval College, it’s a small, intimate gallery that has hosted more than 50 shows. It is the perfect place for 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 know 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 Fun Museum, The Greenwich Gallery is at the epicentre of creative Greenwich.

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

W hat 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 Picassos’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 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 Friend, The Home of the Surrealists, Roland Penrose the Friendly Surrealist and The Boy Who Rode 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 £50.00 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

T he 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 pro-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 Volar de los Voladores. The production includes a new ensemble of talented dancers, Shetcher Junior, and the UK’s aerial dance company Wind 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 come FREE Standing access on-the-day

T.S. Eliot with Robert Fawcett

R obert Fawcett gave a most interesting talk on T S Eliot at Ed and Irena’s ‘Made in Greenwich Gallery at Farley Farm House in late 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 90th 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 showed 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

Launched 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 Mycenaean House to present this extraordinary exhibition in Mycenaean Gardens Sculpture by the late Brian Taylor (FBBS FSPS) From Thursday 2nd July – 31st October at Mycenaean House & Gardens 90 Mycenaean Road, SE1 3TE

The role of local electrical services companies in ensuring homes are safe from fault finding is vital. We CAN DO IT ALL, We are NICEIC approved and a member of the Electrical Safety Register. For a free quotation, please call or email and we’ll be happy to help.

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Children & Family

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
ENGLISH: THE LIVES OF LOOKING BY
DYNEN GOODWIN Until 26th July.
This acclaimed controversial series returns its first
long feature film, plus his drawings. Free.
BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS
SOCIETY: St Mary's Church Hall, Crosswall Park.
Blackheath, SE3 8HS (020) 8694 1505
2.00 - 2.30. Next meeting 23rd July.
James Anson A Builder and Patron of the Arts.
Saturday 10th May.
SHERINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE
Annette Catherall, teacher, will present a talk on
EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Free admission.
Grimm, SE9 7QE (020) 8894 1014.

COMMUNITY

SHERINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE
Advance booking essential on rmg.co.uk/tickets!
Tuesday, 25 August David Wood's Storytime - THE
BREAD MAN, set on a Welsh Dresser, featuring Herr
much-loved play/book/tv series THE GINGER-
MAN. 74 FOYLE RD. INSTAL FRONT RAILINGS AND GATE.

The theatre this summer.

WATERING STATION

Floods of Ink Free Roof Garden
Saturday 1st August, 1pm & 2.45pm
UP IN THE
TWO GUITARS. Two guitarists playing solo and
enjoying a variety of different styles.

INDEPENDENT HISTORY
SOCIETY 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
Every month (except August & December)
every month (except
AGENCY EXCHANGE
BOOK SALES, on the second Saturday of every month (except August & December)
10.00 am - 4.00 pm.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS
The last Wednesday of every month from 1pm to 1.30pm. In Trinity Laban's main auditorium.

Blackheath Hall

Blackheath Halls presents its ninth community opera: ELYSIA, GFL 15, £4 under 12s

TRINITY LABAN AT ST ALFEGE CHURCH

Friday 3rd July, 7 & 8pm
ONE SUMMER GARDEN
A Summer set of selected pieces from the Summer's Festival, One Summer features solo performers in costume.

SAGE BROWN - TBA. Aug 21st
Linda Clatworthy - TBA.

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Bicyclists beware

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.

Alleluia! Help is at hand! Just beyond the zebra crossing, a cycle lane beckons!

1. 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.

2. 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. Spell it for choice? Why don't you just cycle across? Um, better dismount. Hope the traffic stops!

3. 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?

4. Oh pooh, 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.

5. 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.

6. 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 left into St Johns Park, crossing Stratforden 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.

7. 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.

asks J-J. Aune

Out with the old . . . Better?

Friday 12th June was a nostalgic day for users of The Arch 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 frequently used by school groups but it is of Olympic dimensions. The main pool is 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. There is an excellent showering area, before entering into the pools, as well as one 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 flames will go to the Waterfront over in Woolwich.

Many 'regulars' from The Arch will regret losing those lovely lavender-coloured, changing cubicles along the side of the pool. They 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 available.

The main entrance foyer leads to the new library on one side and to a cafe area on the other. The swimming pool 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 one 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.

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T

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 passers 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 nearby 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 awaited their response. NOTE: The next stage of the consultation process is predicted for the Autumn.
Focus on Trees
ANNE ROBBINS

The leafy nature of the Westcombe Park area is one of its great assets, and trees need a large factor in this. Whether planted before the housing stock was developed, like the great oak of Beaufield 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, 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 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 removal.

The rules! However, there are quite strict rules on tree pruning and felling, particularly in conservation areas such as the 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 one such place, if your tree is more than 75m in diameter (or 235m around the trunk) in height, then you need to notify the council that you intend to prune or remove it.

It is also not so simple.

A tree might have multiple stems, like the sumac; how can you tell if intend to prune or remove it.

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 saying you wish to carry out, and Debi tries to deal with these quickly. Often she will give the householder’s response within a month, if the request is to prune.

It can take a little longer to process requests to fell trees 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 any case, you must apply for permission, and the council must review your application 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 work to remove 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 £200,000.

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 tree felling 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 should check the council’s website to see if the council has given 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.

To contact Bob Charlton, email bob.charlton@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or phone 020 8921 5477.

To reach Sam Bateson, email sam.bateson@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or phone 020 8921 4112.

The Affordable Housing Crisis

A report 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 Earl’s 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 case of one of its exempt, as they need pruning every year to keep them productive.

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*www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05vzysp

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