



Westcombe NEWS



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September 2015 Issue 7

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

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

Enderby Wharf: another source of air pollution

WN
reporter

Plans for a cruise liner terminal at Enderby Wharf, East Greenwich, were approved by Greenwich Council's planning board in July. The terminal will enable cruise ships that can carry roughly 3,000 people to dock in Greenwich.

However, controversy surrounds this decision. Critics claim that for up to 200 days a year the ships will be generating their own power, using much dirtier fuels. A cruise ship can burn 700 litres of diesel an hour – equivalent to 400 idling lorries.

EU directive 2012/33/EU says large ships should use shore-based electrical power because of the pollutants they emit:

"Air pollution caused by ships at berth is a major concern for many harbour cities when it comes to their efforts to meet the Union's air quality limit values."

Calls on the Council to insist that visiting cruise ships should be plugged into shore-based mains electricity supplies when moored – as they are, for example, in Amsterdam and New York – were ignored by Greenwich Planning Board.

Reportedly, providing the necessary connection to an electricity supply would be "hugely expensive", and, it is claimed, few cruise ships are equipped to connect with shore-based electricity supplies.

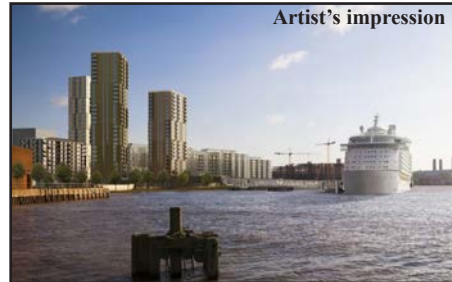
However, critics are wondering how Greenwich can possibly satisfy EU directives on air quality given the level of air pollution already recorded.

Local MP Matt Pennycook told the **WN**: "A cruise liner terminal at Enderby

Wharf has the potential to make a positive contribution to Greenwich by boosting tourism, creating jobs and supporting local businesses but I was deeply disappointed that the council's Planning Board approved the proposals without modifications to protect local air quality.

"Despite reductions in the number of airborne pollutants over recent decades, levels of Particulate Matter (PM10), Nitrogen Oxide (NO2) and Mono-Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) across London, including parts of our Borough, are still unacceptably high. Shipping emissions, in the form of NOx, NO2 and Sulphur (SOx), are a major source of air pollution and the Mayor of London's 2010 Air Quality Strategy has made clear their impact on air pollution in hotspots across the capital, including Greenwich. I remain concerned that the terminal will have an adverse effect on local air quality and convinced that more needs to be done to mitigate its impact."

Dan Hayes, Chairman of the East Greenwich Residents Association, has written to Mayor Boris Johnson asking him to overturn the decision.



Artist's impression

Look out: fraudsters about

Royal Greenwich Trading Standards are warning residents about a scam where fraudsters are cold-calling and emailing people claiming to be from Action Fraud and the National Fraud Authority (NFA). The NFA was shut down in 2013.

The fraudsters are cold-calling from withheld numbers and contacting victims from actionfraud999@gmail.com. They operate by:

- Telling victims that they can obtain a refund from a previous fraud because the suspect has been caught.
- Telling victims their IP address was being used as part of fraud overseas and "remote access" to one's computer was needed to

rectify the issue.

- Cold calling and claiming that victims are entitled to refunds and bank details were needed to transfer the money. Action Fraud are not affiliated with these scammers and would never under any circumstances request information such as this.

It is easy for fraudsters to set up an email address like gmail.com and we must be aware that scammers can change this at any time.

If you receive a call or email that is suspicious and you want to verify the identity claiming to be from Action Fraud you can call 0300 123 2040 or email contact@actionfraud.police.uk

< < Newsbriefs > >

Farewell to Marnells ...

We are sorry to say goodbye to Seamus and Mark, the two brothers who since 1976 have run Marnells hardware shop in Old Dover Road. The shop closes in September when their lease is up. Said Seamus: "We decided long ago that we would leave when our lease was up. We've been here for nearly forty years, and it's time we had a rest!"

... and to Blackheath Cooks

Sorry, too, to say goodbye to Amanda at Blackheath Cooks, the innovative cookery school and cookware retailer in Old Dover Road.

Amanda Keyzers writes: "After 4 and a half years of helping people discover and create amazing food we will

be closing our door on 14th August. We are very proud of our customers that have rallied around Blackheath Cooks and have been inspired by their culinary journeys."

Blackheath Cooks was a finalist in The Housewares Innovation Awards, and the 2012 British Cookery School Awards.

Minding the store

First impressions of the new Sainsbury's superstore in Charlton are that it is HUGE, and accordingly seems to stock everything – clothes, garden materials, electrical and household goods, and of course food. But locals mourn the award-winning ecological store it has replaced: many still think it was a bad idea.

Westcombe Woodlands

The Friends of Westcombe Woodlands are holding an Open Day at the woodlands off Vanbrugh Hill between 10.00 and 4.00 pm on Sunday 4th October – a rare chance to look round this special green area in Westcombe Park. NB Not suitable for those with mobility difficulties and children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Robert Gomme

We are very sorry to record the death in June of Robert Gomme, a long-time member of the Westcombe Society. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Helen and the family. The funeral took place in Devon

Remember the summer?



PHOTO: NG Photo Agency

The Greenwich+Docklands International Festival went off with its usual panache and brio. And the food stalls round the Cutty Sark did a roaring trade.

Hackney opposes the Silvertown Tunnel

Labour and Liberal Dem. councillors in Hackney have united to demand that the Silvertown Tunnel road scheme under the Thames be axed – adding pressure on London's mayoral candidates to pledge to abandon the controversial road scheme.

A motion put before Hackney Council on July 22nd called for the £1bn tunnel, between Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks to be scrapped. The motion argued that it would increase traffic and air pollution across east London.

"You cannot build your way out of congestion," the motion read, adding: "The additional road capacity would lead to a significant increase in motor traffic in Hackney and would significantly worsen air quality in this borough."

The tunnel, proposed by current mayor Boris Johnson and Transport for London, would increase capacity for traffic from Kent into east London – including HGVs, which are banned from the northbound Blackwall Tunnel.

Other Westcombe Society Events

Children's Nearly New Sale Sat 26th September 2-4pm at Mycenae House – support it or lose it! Bargains galore! ***If you would like a table, please call or text Joanne on 07709 571777. £10 members of the Society, £12 non-members. No rails available but, if you want to bring your own, please do so, but space is limited. Entrance 30p members/50p non-members. Coffee bar open for refreshments.***

The Chrysanthemum Tea for senior citizens on 10th October 2.00-4.00 pm at Mycenae House. ***Invites will be going out from 21st September. If you don't get an invite or are new to the area and would like to attend, please contact Caroline Owens on 020 8853 0948.***

Quiz Night 23rd October 7.30pm for 8.00pm start at Mycenae House. ***Please book your team of 6, or your place on a team, by calling Caroline Owens on 020 8853 0948. Chicken/fish 'n chips may also be ordered.***

Mycenae Soup

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

Reserve places for the Mycenae Soup dinner at 7.30 pm on October 2nd in Mycenae House – and come along and enjoy the fun! There will be music and entertainment – and you will also hear about, and vote for, some 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 your donations – will go to the winning project. Win, win all round!

Reservations for the event can be made from 28th July by calling Mycenae House on 8858 1749, minimum donation £7. See also page 3.

Macmillan Cancer Support

Friday, 25th Sept.

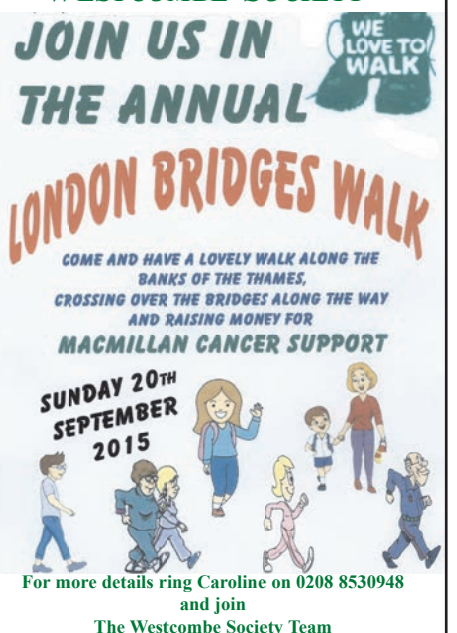
10.00am - 2.00pm



Once again the Westcombe Society is participating in the Biggest Coffee Morning in the World with our usual feast of cakes and sandwiches at Mycenae House to eat there or to take home.

Come and join us!

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY



WESTCOMBE NEWS

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Reporters: The community - that means you!

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

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Advertising@westcombesociety.org

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Costs:

DISPLAY: Single column 6cm x 6cm:

One - four issues £35, five-plus issues £30 each. Other sizes: please inquire.

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www.westcombesociety.org/westcombe-news/
Westcombe Society's Blog:
<http://westcombe.blogspot.com>

Westcombe society membership

please send this membership form to:
peter Lewins, 221 Westcombe hill,
se 3 7Dr

Name.....

Address.....

.....

tel.....

e mail:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family membership	£12		
individual membership	£8		
senior citizens/unwaged	£4		

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The Westcombe Society's Summer Fayre

EMILY NICHOLS



July 18th saw another successful Westcombe Society Summer Fayre in association with St George's church. What better place to spend a summer's day than Mycenae Gardens?

The splendid weather encouraged all to enjoy enthusiastically what was on offer whilst listening to the fantastic jazz music by Dave Silk and his fellow musicians.

This year the traditional games welcomed the addition of "Smack a Rat" – handmade by Jody Prentice. This complemented the

coconut shy and the sack races and the egg and spoon races.

St. George's provided tasty preserves and a tombola, while Julia Scoble from Creation Station did the craft-making, and Maddy was the face painter. Thanks also to Jo Berry for bringing the beautiful garments made by Crafty Pear, and to Marilyn Little for running the Pimms stall – perhaps one of the toughest jobs out there.

Please join us again next year for further fun and more tug 'o war competitions!

PHOTOS:
Laura Rowley



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.



Bas Swarthoogt (a Dutch reader)
Parkside

Normally I'm not too overwhelmed by the cycling policy of the council and Transport for London, but the cycle path which shortcuts the journey from Vanbrugh Park to Old Dover Road is to be welcomed. I used to take this shortcut anyway, and now it is legal.

To be honest, I don't see any danger. Some cars stop, some give way. Just a matter of mutual understanding – often based on eye contact - which is so often lacking in the relationship between car driver and cyclist on the English roads. My question would be: why are cars allowed to park on Vanbrugh Park?

The only reason I can think of is to slow the traffic down, but it is a misery for cyclists.

From: T. Allman Coleraine Rd

I have to admit I don't go into Greenwich Park that often, despite the fact it is so close to my place of residence, so you can imagine how aghast I was when I went to have a "Jimmy Riddle" to find that the Royal Parks have introduced a 20p "stealth tax" to do what comes naturally.

I immediately thought this was just taking the p*ss. I later found out that this stealth tax was introduced on the 23rd March 2015.

Given my righteous indignation

at being asked to pay again for something I have already paid for via taxation, which was raised even higher by the fact I'm a Socialist Republican and this mugging was taking place in a Royal Park, a supposedly public space I obviously was not going to pay, so went into nearby bushes to help water the plants.

I have since been informed that if you wave a bag or an item of clothing on the other side of the toilet barriers, you will trigger the sensor and gain free entry. and thus



not be mugged by the company operating the toilet.

Of course, if this does not work, I will take to the bushes again. So if you hear rustling in the undergrowth, don't look too closely, as you may not spot the kind of wildlife you were expecting.

From: Tim Price Mycenae Road

I am very concerned about the branches and debris which have collapsed from the vacant land opposite the station near the Nepalese restaurant.

There are sharp ended broken branches suspended at a height over the pavement which would be dangerous for anyone hurrying to the station and at head height to a young child running down the road. The danger is concealed by a bend in the road. I hope that the council will do something about it.

From: Scott Bailey

Thank you for your coverage of the new leisure centre at the 'Heart of Greenwich', which mentions "Olympic sizing."

Having visited the centre, I am disappointed to report that the configuration of the pool bears no relation to Olympic standards being

only 20 metres long with two shallow ends. It also has an uncomfortable 'changing village' which makes changing a quite a tricky performance. But, very sadly, the pool is too small for adults who are trying to exercise – or for people training for sports.

I would love to know exactly how we ended up paying for such a pointless facility. It's practically useless for adults and competition swimming generally.

From: Anne Jeffrey Humber Rd

What a great idea Mycenae Soup is! There are so many local community initiatives that deserve our support. I do hope it gets maximum support from the community.

Sadly, I am unable to attend the event on October 2nd, but will be

others will follow suit.

From: Ivy McGeorge Vanbrugh Fields

In 1948 my brothers and sisters took me to see a film called *No Room at the Inn*. For those of us who had an unhappy experience of War time Evacuation it was a brilliant film.

In late September the Community Cinema will be showing this classic film, long thought to be lost. I would encourage anyone who was an evacuee, or teachers interested in World War II to join us to see it. Community Cinema happens every Wednesday at Mycenae House at 8.0 pm.

Details can be found on the Mycenae House web page <http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk/ev>

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

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? Time is running out for applications, so act now!

As the *WN* announced in July, Mycenae House are inviting local people to send in their proposals for projects that would benefit the local community.

Send in your idea - and you could get funding. But you need to send it in by September 15th.

It could be anyone – it could be you: community groups, users of Mycenae House, small charities, entrepreneurs, arts and sports projects and individuals ... anyone with an interesting, small, start up or extension project idea they wish to fund. A great opportunity! We floated a few ideas for possible projects in August's *WN*, but the ball is in your court!

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 money raised from the evening,

including donations, will go to to fund the winning project proposal.

Proposing a project is easy: send it in or bring it in by hand to Barbara Ward or Anna Mars at Mycenae House; or if you prefer, e-mail mycenaesoup@gmail.com

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?

Mark Johnson-Brown
Manager, Mycenae House

JOIN US FOR MYCENAE SOUP

Mycenae House is inviting you to an innovative, fun, community micro-granting dinner called 'Mycenae Soup' on the evening of Friday 2nd October at 7.30pm. We'd love for you, your friends and family to join us.

This will be a fun, social event - dinner will be provided, the bar will be open, and you will be entertained by singer songwriter and all round good egg, Rob Aldridge with support from local poet Rosie Johnston

So, here's the basic idea: You, amongst friends and others will pay for a great night out at Mycenae House. The food, entertainment and the venue have been gifted or paid for by generous local companies, so that all the moneys raised can go directly to a local project that will benefit the community.

The winning project will be chosen by you and those attending by a simple vote, following a short presentation from each of eight projects during the evening.

As I write, local charities, community groups, initiatives and social entrepreneurs, are busy proposing projects to us and the best eight will be chosen to present to you on the night.

More information about the project and its inception can be found at www.mycenaesoup.wordpress.com

So what's not to love - A Great Night Out, A Good Meal, and the Support for mutually beneficial community projects.

Make your reservation now with a minimum donation of £7 per person. (we hope you can give more!) Companies may book a table of six for a minimum donation of £100.

Please call us on 0208 858 1749 or email info@mycenaehouse.co.uk to reserve places now.

Sponsored by Masons Catering, Marks and Spencer, the Coriander Restaurant, and Simply Food.



Doorstep scams

The Council warns that scammers are again targeting houses in Greenwich. Recently, two men wearing hi-visibility tabards knocked on the door of a local householder claiming that his chimney needed repairing due to a damp problem.

One of the men took the resident into the garden to look at the chimney, while the other went into the house and sprayed water in a corner, in order to lend credence to their claim.

The pair asked for a £4,800 deposit – but when he said that he did not have that kind of money, they offered to arrange a personal loan of £2,00.

Suspicious, the resident called the Royal Borough's Trading Standards neighbour-

hood response team, who arrived in time to intervene, contact the police and scotch their plan.

Trading Standards officers installed a 'True Call' device to cut down nuisance phone calls and presented information on the council's What Trader? scheme, which gives details on local reputable traders.

In another case, a resident who was the victim of a series of scams was tricked into spending more than £50,000 over a period of some 26 years. It seems that fraudsters shared her contact details with other fraudsters.

If you think you may have been scammed, contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 034 5404 0506, or ring the Trading Standards Response Team on 8921 8223.

Watch those windows & doors

The police report that there have been a number of daytime burglaries in basement properties, many of which have sash windows. This has occurred in this area over the last few weeks. The problem is especially serious in hot weather when we all like to open a few windows.

The police advise that all ground floor windows, and any that an intruder could reach by climbing, should be made secure by fitting key-operated window locks.

Windows should always be locked when there is no one at home, or when the room is unoccupied. Whenever you go out, you should close all the windows.

Locks to suit all window types are available from locksmiths and DIY stores. Anyone who has DIY skills can fit them to most wooden frame windows. Do not rely on the existing sash features.

Fit key-operated sash stops to the upper window. The maximum window opening should be 130mm (5").

You may need a qualified locksmith, or the installer, to fit locks to replacement PVC or metal frame windows.

Use glazing mastic, not putty, to bond replacement glass to the wooden frame for strength. All windows an intruder could reach should be fitted with laminated glass.

Footnote: Doors secured by just one lock are not safe: in this area recently, an intruder broke through a door secured by just one Yale lock.

For further Security and crime prevention advice please visit www.met.police.uk

Blackheath Westcombe SNT
0208 721 2635 07920233828

Blackheath.Westcombe.SNT@met.police.uk
Emergency 999 Non Emergency 101

Don't worry - be happy! Daren Wallbank

As a new father, I often marvel at my daughter's ability to sleep soundly in buzzy restaurants, through the drone of the Hoover or the shriek of sudden sirens.

Somewhere in middle age, many of us lose this ability, regularly tossing and turning through the small hours. It's worry that keeps us from sleeping like a baby. Worry about getting old, money, our health, or what will happen to our loved ones when we're gone...

Well the best way to deal with these night-time fears is to start planning now. Planning for later life is a complicated business, so good, clear information is critical. That's why I'm dedicating my next seminars to this complex topic.

Farewell, Des

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Des Malone, head of John Roan School. This comment by a Year 13 student, Katie Cuddon, in the 2013 issue of *The John Roan News*, says it all:

"As a school, I have watched John Roan undergo a considerable evolution. This has only been possible due to Mr Malone, the senior leadership team and the staff.

"I strongly believe that we have received so much more than just a very good academic education. Ours is a genuinely comprehensive school, and the harmonious way that students and staff from diverse backgrounds and cultures, strive and thrive together is something the school should be hugely proud of. The new buildings, I think, will only add to the brilliance of John Roan."

SEE ALSO:
www.mycenaesoup.wordpress.com
and: Twitter:
[@mycenaesoup](https://twitter.com/mycenaesoup)

Siebert Road

Cllr. Cherie Parker has told the *WN*: "Senior Officers have now met with TfL and have re-iterated the council's and residents' concerns about noise on Siebert Rd. As a result, TfL agreed to undertake noise surveys in July with a view to looking into the feasibility of installing a noise barrier or other mitigation."

She adds:

"We expect to have the results of the feasibility study later this summer, and will then discuss with TfL whether improvements can be made as part of the proposed Silvertown tunnel or another project."

Residents are giving this news a cautious welcome: they have been campaigning for years on this issue, so far to no avail. Other issues – such as the damage to property caused by the heavy traffic that passes every day, and air (and visual) pollution) – remain unresolved.

Mycenae House & Gardens present

Sculpture by the late Brian Taylor

FRBS FSP

July 2 - October 31

Works in the Garden & House



Mycenae House & Gardens 020 8858 1749
www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath Royal Standard, SE3 7SE

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk
02088581749

Supported by



Mycenae House Community Centre is limbering up for a busy autumn! Among the events on offer are:

10th September - Bach to Baby family concert - 4pm

11th September - JazzNights feat. Paul Taylor - 8.30pm

18th September - International Day of Peace music event by Global Fusion Arts - 7.30pm

25th September - Westcombe Society MacMillan Coffee Morning - 10am

25th September - Icarus Acoustic Club feat: Cadbury Hicks - 7.30pm

FEATURES: THE ARTS

Pre-Raphaelite Revival

The parish church of St Margaret of Antioch, Lee, built between 1839 and 1841 in a simple early Victorian style (by the Norwich architect John Brown), with lavish interior decoration carried out between 1875 and 1900, is regarded as one of the best preserved examples of a decorated gothic revivalist interior in London.

Where better, one might ask, for a Pre-Raphaelite display?

A new joint venture to promote the visual arts across the Borough of Lewisham, particularly amongst teenagers, will open its first exhibition in September using stunning state-of-the-art light box technology.

This free Talk About...Art (TAA) exhibition features the Pre-Raphaelites and will run in the nave of St Margaret's Church, Lee, from 12 September to 23 October in partnership with pupils and staff of nearby St Matthew Academy.

A series of future art exhibitions, are also planned, involving more schools.

The first exhibition takes a fascinating journey through the paintings of Rossetti, Millais, Hunt and other artists inspired by the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, a group of English painters, poets and critics they founded in 1848

Nine 2m by 2.5m light boxes will display a wide selection of images in 18 panels, each containing a dedicated Quick Response code giving information about the paintings depicted and captions that provide a brief summary of the date and provenance of each one.

Selected panels displaying a Layar logo can also be scanned, giving access to some Augmented Reality video footage provided by pupils of St Matthew Academy.

The exhibition is open between 1000 and 1400 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, stewarded by St Matthew pupils and visited by local schools, and between 1030 and 1630 on Saturdays when the schools will not be involved.

Up to three exhibitions a year are planned, covering photography and design, as well as painting and sculpture from the Pre-Renaissance masters to contemporary artists such as Tracey Emin and Banksy.

Project Convener and Director Sir Ian Mills said: "We want to demonstrate how local people of all ages and backgrounds can work together with ambition to professional standards on a creative, educational and fulfilling endeavour at a time of unprecedented austerity."

The joint venture partners are the Borough of Lewisham, St Matthew Academy, St Margaret's, St Laurence, Catford, and leading members of the Blackheath community. Follow their activities on www.talkaboutart.co.uk or on Twitter #TalkAboutArt and on and Facebook at Talk-About-Art.

Blackheath Halls Community Opera in July – its ninth – was possibly the best yet. As usual, children and adults joined professional singers in a fully-staged performance of Mozart's *Idomineo*.

Ever since the first community opera mounted at the Halls – *Carmen* – local audiences have come to expect the best, and were not disappointed this time.

Idomineo is generally regarded as the first of Mozart's great operas, displaying a maturity, and a passion, that enchanted audiences ever since it was first performed in January 1781 just after his 25th birthday. It was received with acclamation. In the words of the Elector of Mannheim, Carl Theodor, "who could believe that such great things could exist in so small a head?"

Without going into the details of the plot, the opera highlights, in the aftermath of the Trojan war, two love stories: the love between Idamante and Ilia – but more movingly, the love between father and son.

Another operatic triumph

Mark Wilde (Idomineo), Sam Furness (Idamante) Rebecca Bottone (Ilia) and Kirstin Sharpin (Electra) gave brilliant sung (and acted) performances, backed up by William Johnstone Davies (Arbace) and Pauls Putnins (the voice of Poseidon.)

Their performances were enhanced by Blackheath Halls Opera Chorus (with additional volunteers) as well as a faultless performance by Blackheath Halls Orchestra, directed by Nicholas Jenkins.

Opera "in the round", as this production was, is always a challenge to designers and set creators, and designer Rachel Szmukler and her team displayed great creativity in rising to this challenge.

It was also a joy to see pupils from Greenvale Mulgrave and Beecroft Garden Schools, and Charlton Park Academy playing an enthusiastic part in a production that I am sure they will remember for the rest of their lives. Well done, Blackheath Halls. N.G.

Markson Pianos come home: to Mycenae House

Mycenae House is delighted to announce a new sponsor and partner, Markson Pianos, who have generously gifted a magnificent Danemann 9ft Grand piano to the Blackheath community centre and cultural venue.

Markson Pianos, the UK's leading and most reputable piano supplier, have long historic connections with Greenwich. It was founded in Woolwich in 1910 and ran their business from there until the 1970s.

Simon Markson, grandson of founder Louis, has been looking for the right way to re-engage with South East London and to honour his family's commitment to the area lasting over a hundred years. He says he is delighted to be working with Mycenae House to support the development of its live music programme and educational work.

Now based in Central London, Markson sell, maintain, restore and hire the finest pianos around

MARK JOHNSON-BROWN reports

London – including Concert Halls, West End theatres, TV and film studios and to a wide range of customers including Joolz Holland, The Royal Albert Hall, the BBC, National Theatre and Arsenal Football Club.

I recently visited the workshops of Markson Pianos to see the 9ft piano being prepared

International Day of Peace

Global Fusion Music & Arts (GFMA) will be celebrating this year's International Day of Peace with an exciting evening of music at Mycenae House 90 Mycenae Rd, London SE3 7SE on Friday 18th September 7.30-10.30.

Topping the bill will be the legendary guitarist John Etheridge, John rightly enjoys a glowing reputation throughout the jazz world and beyond and has been described by Pat Metheny as "one of the best guitarists in the world."

He is a prodigiously gifted and creative player whose approach to music can only be described as 'eclectic' as he refuses to accommodate or even acknowledge artificial musical boundaries. John spent years of touring and recording with the iconic Stephane Grappelli – and with the legendary jazz-fusion group, The Soft Machine.

John has played with John Williams, Yehudi Menuhin, Dizzie Gillespie, Herb Ellis, Mundell Lowe, Nigel Kennedy, and countless others. John is also an outstanding composer and audiences often demand that he plays more of his own material.

Starting the evening off with style will be local folk artist Chris Harrison who will be performing songs from his new album 'Carols from the Coalfields Volume 2', released on the GFMA record label and following on from the great success of his first album last September.

The songs from both albums have been written by Chris from the poetry of his Great, Great, Grandfather Joseph Skipsey, a miner and poet in Northumberland. Carols from the Coalfields was the title of a collection of poems published in 1886 by Joseph Skipsey (1832-1903), a self-educated coal miner who became known as 'The Pitman Poet'.

GFMA Project Manager Louisa Le Marchand said, "This year we have been putting on events all over the borough and this will be our first event in Mycenae House, so we have chosen two amazing artists to perform."

Ticket price £10 available on www.wegottickets.com £9 concessions available on the door from 7pm

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Our community channel

We're delighted to announce that The Greenwich Show be transmitting its second series, dubbed #Series2MadeBy You, on Community Channel.

The first episode was aired on Sunday 23rd August. The other programmes will be on at 7.30pm on the three following Sundays and repeated on Wednesdays at 9.00 and Fridays at 4.30pm.

This new series (with the tag-line 'Made by You') of the community-made programme will feature more people, more stories and more episodes than last year's series.

The Greenwich Show presenter, Robert Gray, said: "Not only are we including more businesses and local people in this new series, but we've also increased the numbers of community reporters, camera operators and filmmakers in our voluntary team"

"The passion of everyone, in-front and behind the camera, to promote all that is good about Greenwich, through creative filmmaking, really shines through, but we really couldn't make this series without the contributions from local residents."

Community Channel is the only channel for communities, charities and local stories, owned by charity Media Trust. Patrick Hurst, the Channel Manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be broadcasting The Greenwich Show. It is very important to us that local communities are given a voice, and that is exactly what The Greenwich Show does."


More details of the episodes will be released in the coming weeks.

CONTACT: Twitter: @GreenwichShow #greenwichshow Tel.07751 235 414

Web: www.thegreenwichshow.co.uk

Community Channel broadcasts on Freeview HD 63, Sky 539, Virgin 233, freesat 651 with catch-up through our website, YouTube, BT TV, TVPlayer, TVGuide, and BBC iPlayer.

You can see 2014's episodes on our website www.thegreenwichshow.co.uk and our YouTube channel.



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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

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 **24th September DESIGN AT THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN** Non-members £5 **GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY** King William Court, the University of Greenwich Next lecture: Mon. Sept 14th. 8.00 pm "Mirrors of Stone: The Art of Greek & Roman Mosaics", to be given by Dr Paul Roberts. 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 Open 11 - 5.30 Tuesday - Sunday and Bank Holidays 7.00 pm **FREE** **GREENWICH GALLERY** Peyton Place SE10 8RS Mon-Friday 9.30-5.30 weekends 12-4pm. Free. **BLACKHEATH HALLS** 2nd - 29th Sept. **AT THE WATERS EDGE** Exhibition of oils & pastels by **Christiana Angelini** Monday - Friday 10.00am - 5.00 pm

CHILDREN & FAMILY

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

AGE EXCHANGE

BOOK SALES: on the second Saturday every month (except August & December) 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Next book sale: Sat 12th Sept. **St CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPICE** Friday 18th Sept. 1.00 - 3.00 pm Speaker: Anna Somerset Free for Friends of AE. £5.00 for guests. Refreshments inc. **TRIP: PENSHURST PLACE & HEVER CASTLE** 8.45 - 6.30 pm Coach from Age Exchange **LUNCHTIME CONCERTS:** the last Friday of every month by Trinity Laban students except July August & December. Free, but a retiring collection in aid of Age Exchange & the Village Library. Next concert: Friday 25th Sept. 12 noon.

SPORT

Sat 12th September Football: **CHARLTON v. ROTHERHAM** The Valley 3.00 pm
Tues. 15th September Football: **CHARLTON v. HUDDERSFIELD** The Valley 7.45 pm

LITERATURE

BLACKHEATH HALLS 020 8463 0100
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THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

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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

BLACKHEATH SOCIETY
Sat 19th & Sun 20th Sept. Neil Rhind's historic walk of Blackheath, part of the Open House weekend **INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY**
15th Sept. Neil Bennett on the Merryweathers of Greenwich The Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, SE3. Parking in the station car park. Non-members £1. **BLACKHEATH FLOWER ARRANGING SOCIETY** Meets third Friday of the month in Mycenae House. Next meeting: Sept 18th Iris Shaw talks on – **FACETS OF MY LIFE** Contact: siancaroline@googlemail.com. **WESTCOMBE WOODLANDS OPEN DAY** Sun. Oct. 4th 10.00 am - 4.00 pm All Welcome! Entrance: Next volunteer date: 5th Sept. **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** 8858 9497 **Free workshops** Fortnightly Tuesday & Friday evenings 7.30 - 8.30 at Mascalls Meeting Rooms off Victoria Way Charlton SE7 7TT: Tai Chi. Singing. Drumming, Writers' Group, African Dance **FRIDAY 18th Sept. Global Fusion concert** to celebrate **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE** Mycenae House 7.30 pm **ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC 9.00pm every Tuesday** at the Lord pub, Creek Road; jazz **MYCENAE HOUSE** Second Friday every month: **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

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Tues 29th - Wed 30th Sept. **A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**
THE CHURCHILL THEATRE High St, Bromley, Kent BR1 1HA 0844 871 7620
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Tues Sept 7th - Sat 12th. **COMEDY AVENUE Q**
Tues 15th - Sat 19th. **PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ**
Sun 20th Sept. **THAT'LL BE THE DAY**

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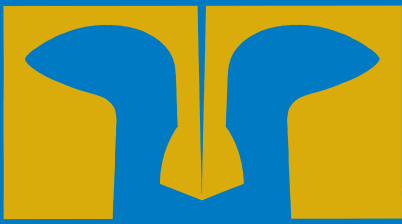
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FEATURES

Help out at the dell!

Volunteers are sought for the Woodland Dell Clean-up **Tim Hoe**

The Woodland Dell is part of Mycenae Gardens – the woodland area just north of the gardens. It is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance but it has become neglected and the local community are largely unaware of its nature conservation status or the wildlife within.

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens have been awarded a Capital Clean-up grant to change attitudes towards this woodland space and make it loved, respected and valued as a wildlife habitat and to improve its biodiversity. We can only do this if we have the active support of the community.

There will be three volunteer days in September. Do do please join in!

Who is organising the work?

The work is being organised by The Friends of Mycenae Gardens, in consultation with the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This will be a friendly and constructive way to meet with others and to share the work.

What is involved?

We will be clearing the perimeter path of dog mess, brambles and nettles. We will also be improving the entrance area by preparing the



ground along the entrance wall for autumn planting of native hedgerow shrubs – and replacing the existing waste bins. The plan is to make ready the ground around the Beaconsfield Road and Mycenae Road entrances for spring bulbs and woodland plants.

We also intend to provide an illustrated information board of wildlife commonly seen in the Dell as a guide for visitors.

When is the work taking place?

We are looking for volunteers on all or any of the days listed below – and look forward to sharing refreshments with those who volunteer!

Sunday 13 September
from 10:00 - 15:00

Sunday 20 September
from 10:00 - 15:00

Sunday 27 September
from 10:00 - 15:00

How to volunteer

Please register on the web-page below.

You can choose to volunteer on any day and can attend just part of a day if you prefer.

<https://speedvolunteer.london.gov.uk/opportunities/efdb-c0fb-2573-4cd3-931c-4108445b09da>

or send an email or enquiry to friendsofmycenaegardens@gmail.com



The entrance from Mycenae Road **PHOTOS: Tim Hoe**

Thinking of developing your basement?

Basement development (and extension) has become a hot issue in some parts of London. In central London, basements are being turned into swimming pools and living accommodation, and there are complaints that such developments are having a deleterious effect on adjoining properties – particularly when they extend beneath the street.

There are concerns that such issues are becoming relevant in Greenwich.

Cllr Cherie Parker made enquiries on this issue, and received the following reply from a council spokesman:

“The current situation is that Policy DH1 of the Core Strategy states that all developments, which includes basement development, must provide a positive relationship between the proposed and existing urban context by taking account of existing character and townscape including topography, landscape, architecture, established layout, scale, height and bulk of the existing townscape.

“This policy along with policy DH(a) provide enough steer for planners to assess and take decisions on applications for basements, either as part of new build development or as extensions.

“Planners are also able to condition planning consents to resolve a range of concerns with basement developments.

“In addition, a Residential Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), is currently being prepared. Once this is adopted, it will provide further guidance on basements, including in conservation areas and listed buildings.

“Finally the Council has been carrying out a consultation on the local information requirements for planning applications. Subject to the outcome of this consultation which closed on 22nd June, the list will require further information to be provided at the application stage in order to validate a planning application.

“A basement assessment would need to be provided which would need to consider the impact of the development on flooding, ground water, stability and structure. The Langton Way Association will of course be consulted on the Residential Extensions SPD...”

Cllr Cherie Parker told the *WN* that the outcome of the Local Information consultation will be presented to the Cabinet in September.

OnBlackheath

Over the weekend of 12th and 13th September the OnBlackheath festival promises a celebration of music, food, magic, and arts, and a vast array of entertainment and activities for families and friends.

The line up on Saturday includes Elbow, Manic Street Preachers, Anna Calvi and Jack Savoretti. Sunday's line-up includes Seun Kuti, Madness, Kelis, Eska, and Laura Mvula.

On Sunday too there is a special performance from the cast of Sunny Afternoon, the hit West End musical that tells the story of The Kinks.

Tickets are available for the whole weekend, or for just the Saturday or Sunday, and those aged twelve and under get in free.

East Greenwich library

Now the library in Greenwich Square at the foot of Vanbrugh Hill is in operation, the old East Greenwich Library near the big intersection with the A102 has become redundant.

The council is planning to sell it to the highest bidder. Any purchaser will be required to respect its Grade II listed building status in future plans. The Friends of East Greenwich library are protesting against the sale of the building.

“We think this building should be used for the benefit of local people to whom it was gifted by Andrew Carnegie,” says Terry Wheeler, speaking on behalf of the association.

He argues that numerous community organisations could find a good use for it.

The campaign is supported by the Greenwich Society, the East Greenwich Residents Association, the Greenwich Pensioners Forum and a large number of local residents.

Jonathon Chandler of the Greenwich Society told the *WN*: “In support of both More2 childcare and the Friends of East Greenwich Library, we have nominated



East Greenwich Library to be considered by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value.” It is not clear what legal force this has, but the building is in a very poor state of repair, so anyone buying it would have their work cut out.

A spokeswoman for the Council said that the TitleDeeds confirm that there are no restrictions on future use. Terry Wheeler told the *WN* that it would appear that there was a covenant preventing the sale of the building, but the council have been unable to locate this.

“Therefore they think this gives them the right to sell this lovely building.”

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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

The Silvertown Tunnel: to charge, or not to charge?

Controversy continues over whether or not a new cross-river tunnel should be constructed to ease congestion in and around the Blackwall Tunnel. Some argue that it will ease congestion, and therefore pollution; others argue that more roads always mean more traffic.

In the discussion below, readers might think that the Silvertown Tunnel is “a done deal.” However, the Silvertown Tunnel is not inevitable. Government sometimes seems like an unstoppable monolith, and many already feel powerless, for instance following the IKEA outline planning decision. But there is the statutory consultation yet to come, and the planning application itself, and a London mayoral campaign for May 2016: so there is quite a strong chance of being able to influence decisions on road crossings for East and South-East London. Following consultation with Westcombe Society members, the WS has expressed serious doubts about the wisdom of building the Silvertown Tunnel, unless various conditions were satisfied (such as reduced pollution).

A new tunnel is certainly going to be expensive, and one proposal is that there should be a toll charge like that for the Dartford Crossing. Dick Allard and Mary Mills argue the case for and against:

The case for the toll

Dick Allard writes:

The primary reason for having a toll is that if the Tunnel is built without charging, the additional capacity is likely to generate a lot of additional traffic.

This would mean that although the terrible morning congestion on the A102 might be much reduced, there will be increased congestion over many other parts of the road network, including local approach roads. In particular, the evening southbound queues could get very much worse, as traffic from two tunnels converge. Thus the overall level of congestion, and the accompanying air pollution, will most likely get worse, although somewhat redistributed.

The primary purpose of charging is therefore to ensure that there is no significant increase in overall traffic levels so that the potential benefits of additional capacity to reduce congestion (and pollution) can be fully realised. In particular, this will allow a huge improvement in the reliability of affected bus services, and encourage the introduction of a range of new cross-river routes, thus making the alternatives to car use more attractive.

The most obvious, though subsidiary, reason for charging is to pay for the building of the new tunnel. This is particularly the case given the current restraint on other central and London government funds. A further advantage of having an independent source of funding is that it increases the chances of arguing for some public money to fund improvements in pedestrian, cycling and public transport links.

The arguments relating to long-distance traffic may seem valid – but how do you cut traffic which is coming from a distance? Whatever method you used, would it make enough difference to deal with the morning congestion?

Arguably the best solution would be to accept charging for the Tunnel as part of a more widely-based system covering both tolls on other crossings and more general congestion charging over the wider London road network. But whilst limited charging for other local crossings is still a possibility, anything more substantial must surely be a long way off.

Many observers have long argued that an extension to the congestion-charge zone is inevitable in the longer term: in which case, one would hope that toll-charges would be included . . .

The case against the toll

Mary Mills writes:

The main reason not to accept tolls on our tunnels to north of the river is that such tolls are wrong – and I will explain why later. But another reason is that they cannot achieve a good result.

I would have thought it was generally accepted that traffic which uses the Blackwall Tunnel needs to be regulated. I would also have thought that most people would agree we need to cut the heavy lorries and we need to reduce long-distance traffic using the tunnel as a through road. Tolls will not discourage them.

Transport planners need to think more about creatively controlling them – instead of proposing the Silvertown Tunnel which will encourage them! Large heavy-haulage companies will pay the tolls as will long-distance travellers. But tolls will hurt and discourage small local businesses on marginal costs, local people wanting to visit family or leisure events, and people who HAVE to drive to get to work or to do their job. They will hit the small and local traffic – and encourage the unwanted through traffic.

Of course we should also encourage more public transport – and TfL need to take their heads out of the sand as far as more flexible bus routes are concerned – they are currently saying they can’t put more buses on, to provide a public transport alternative, because too many people are using their cars! How about sorting out the buses instead of another tunnel which will add even more traffic – and they could add a proper rail link from the Dome to Charlton, while they are at it.

However, tolls are just wrong – and unfair. In the nineteenth century most bridges over the Thames in West and Central London had tolls on them. This was thought to be wrong and the City of London paid to buy the tolls from the owners so that bridges were free. They also said this was unfair to east London – we should have free crossings too – so the London County Council provided our Free Ferry, and built the Rotherhithe, the Blackwall and the two foot tunnels, all to be free. They built them to high standards for the people of East London – and have we all forgotten the concept of public provision for the public good?

You could – I suppose – put all the tolls back on all the bridges in central London – don’t let TfL wriggle out of it!! If they argue against tolls on bridges – remember they could apply the same arguments against tolls on tunnels here.

Woodlands Farm

Woodlands Farm is situated on Shooters Hill. With 89 acres, it is the largest city farm in the UK.

Hannah Forshaw, the farm’s Education Officer, told the *WN*: “We are part of the Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. Our education programme attracts visitors from pre-school to third-age groups. The Trust aims to involve a wide range of people in the community in farming and conservation, helping to bridge the current town-country divide.”

Many people enjoyed Woodland Farm’s “bat walks” in August. There is one more chance to enjoy a bat walk on September 3rd, starting at 7.30 pm.

“This is a great opportunity to find out more about bats,” said Hannah Forshaw. “You will need sturdy footwear, suitable outdoor clothing and a torch. This activity is not recommended for children under 6.”

£5 per adult and £3 per child. Booking is essential. To book call 020 8319 8900. For more information, see our website or contact Hannah Forshaw on

education@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org

Woodlands Farm is open 9.30am-4.30pm, Tuesday-Sunday (except Christmas Day). There is no entry charge except for special events, though donations are always welcome. Nearest tube: North Greenwich Nearest station: Welling Buses: 486 and 89

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Support our Heritage Emma Snead

The Friends of Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust are pleased to announce the success of their first public event – an evening with renowned architectural historian Dr Claire Gapper, held at Charlton House.

Dr Claire Gapper told the audience “Charlton House contains some of the best early Jacobean plasterwork to survive. Nothing survives from the royal palaces of the time so a courtier house like Sir Adam Newton’s shows us how magnificent they must have been”

The Friends of Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust are dedicated to

supporting and raising funds and public awareness about the Trust and its conservation work and plan more public events such as this.

Tracy Stringfellow, Chief Executive of Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust said “Dr Claire’s talk was a huge success, and generated a great deal of interest in the building. We also received a number of enquiries from members of the public who wish to become members”

Friends of Greenwich Heritage Trust is currently recruiting new members. For an application form contact info@rght.org.uk.

Green Flag for Ecology Park

Greenwich Ecology Park has won a “Green Flag” award from Keep Britain Tidy. The Park is made up of four acres of freshwater habitat and is home to a fascinating array of wildlife. Since 2002 the Ecology Park has been open to the public and has become an established and bio-diverse urban wetland.

Ecology Park Gatehouse, Thames Path, John Harrison Way, SE10 0QZ Tel. 020 8293 1904

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