The real community effort

The Biggest Coffee Morning in the World, which took place in September in Mycenae House, was a roaring success. It proved to be a fantastic event (five a day, yes; yummier cakes, yes. But many more than those above stayed on for a delicious sandwich lunch, too. Dessert? Yes, more cake!), the hubbub of chatter, all the tables and chairs were occupied by people happily munching on the delicious homemade cakes or enjoying a sandwich lunch. Soon it was time to go, the cake stall had sold out early and there was only the raffle to draw. The First Prize of £50 was won by ticket 607 (Wendy) who generously donated it to Macmillan.

In the end a worldwide £700 was raised for the charity Macmillan Cancer Support.

Special thanks must go to Maureen, Tessa, Marilyn, Joanne, Mary, Dina, Emily, Shirley, Cathy, Henrietta, Jan, Lisal and James who made the cakes and sandiwches to make the event a success.

The No to Silvertown Tunnel Campaign has had more traffic congestion on local roads, with drivers flocking to use - or grasp - the tunnel. And charging may seem an unwellcome burden to many drivers, who may decide to use the Rotherhthule Tunnel, via Greenwich town centre. The proposal can be reviewed online, using TfL’s website, or on paper at the Woolwich Centre on weekdays from 10.00am - 4.00 pm. You can also talk with TfL consultation staff and see more details on the plans at several roadshows: Tuesday November 10th noon-7pm, at the Forum in Tufalgar Road; Saturday October 31st noon-5.00pm and Thursday November 26th noon-7.00pm, at the Charlton Community Centre at Charlton House. There are other opportunities north of the river, too.

And please do come to the Westcombe Society’s meeting on Nov. 18th, 7.30 at Mycenae House. We’ll be giving a short presentation of the plan, and getting your views so we can reply to the consultation for the Westcombe Society.

Mycenae Soup: a roaring success

The Mycenae Soup event in October in Mycenae House was fully subscribed - people had to be turned away. Next time, book early, and book often!

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Thanks to the sponsor, Masons Catering, Simply Food, Coriander Restaurant, and Marks & Spencer, it wasn’t only soup that was on offer!

There were eight presentations by local projects. They were reportedly all "excellent", and those in attendance had a hard time deciding on the winner.

The eight projects were:

Trash to Treasure Micheline Blackledge's up-cycling workshops making something out of (almost) nothing drilled wood, sea glass, boxes, newspapers etc.

Mental Health Activity Trust Toni Hale helps people with mental health problems get back to health with a gardening project

Meridian Radio This transmits people to be conpetent radio presenters – as well as cheering on the patients at QEH.

Caroline Owens

Health of the heath

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

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

Anne Robbins

The health of the heath is an issue of concern for many local residents with news that the plans for the new building will be delayed for a year. Marilyn Little, chair of the Westcombe Society, comments: "We note the change in time-scales and that the demolition of the current store is due to take place in January 2016; and that steps will be taken to secure and make safe the site. We also welcome news that the ecology park at the rear of the building will be maintained for the foreseeable future.”

"We very much appreciate the assurances that on their arrival of Franklin Robbins, born at Dover Road, aged 69. We are very sorry to announce the sudden death of Mr. Robbins. Our deepest condolences to his family and friends."

Anne Robbins

The real community effort

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Letters to the editor

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

Cllr Geoff Brighty
Blackheath Westcombe Ward

I read with great interest the WNS article about the proposed cruise liner terminal at Elthurst Wharf. A member of the Council’s Planning Board, I attended the meeting which approved the scheme though I spoke and voted against it. As you report, the potential effect on local air quality was a major issue and at the meeting in July I argued for deferring the decision to allow more research into the environmental implications, but this was rejected with six votes against and five of us voting for deferral. After excellent contributions from residents and a lengthy discussion by members of the Board the final decision was six in favour with three against. There were two abstentions. Of course, a cruise liner terminal could provide jobs and increase tourism, as argued. However, on balance, I voted against the plan not only as I shared concerns on local air quality but also because of the density and scale of the development required to support the scheme which includes three tower blocks of 23, 26 and 31 stories.

From: Gillian & Julie Wood
Durnborough Close
Our Mum’s funeral took place on Thursday 17th September. We would very much like to record our praise, and thanks, for all the local services who assisted on the day.

Clare from St Cross’s Convent

talks about a “Bites & Bling” project to bring fun and music into the lives of elderly people.

My view is that we should not allow it. I can guarantee that people of all ages would benefit from such a project.

From: Peter Dempsey
Hardy Rd
I greatly enjoyed going to the On Blackheath event - it had a real family vibe - but on the Saturday it was way too loud, audible right over in the Westcombe Park/Standard area.

From: Roger Marshall
St. Germans Place.

I have been doing the same for the last ten years. I see no problem with what is proposed.

From: Alan King
Speaking up

It is heartening to hear that people are getting together to offer our praise, and thanks, for all the local services who assisted on the day.

From: Peter Dempsey

Perhaps I missed letters about it, but on 1 and 2 August there had been an event called Magic of Thailand, the noise levels from which were far worse. I went and spoke politely to them, but to no effect. I also wrote to the organisers, but they didn’t even respond. I hope that the Council do not give them a permit again.

Perhaps the real issue here is that the Council (or Councils, both Greenwich and Lewisham?) are selling out: they get nice fees from these events, so they are prepared to allow excessive noise.

We meanwhile, have boy racers with "enhanced" exhaust systems regularly using the A102 and surrounding areas as racetracks until up to 2:00am, but nothing is done about that either. I started noticing it ten years ago.

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We meanwhile, have boy racers with "enhanced" exhaust systems regularly using the A102 and surrounding areas as racetracks until up to 2:00am, but nothing is done about that either. I started noticing it ten years ago.
A pioneering co-operative, SELondon Community Energy, has teamed up with an eco-friendly primary school to launch its first ‘community share offer.’ SELCE launched their community share offer at Eco-Schools Green Flag award winner Mulgrave Primary School in Woolwich on Wednesday 30th September with the Mayor of Royal Greenwich, Cllr Falty, Martyn O’Brien from Lewisham Council, Governors of the School and 25 children who are members of the school Eco Team. The not-for-profit organisation aims to raise public money to install solar panels on four local schools.

SELCE’s community share offer aims to raise £250,000 for the schools’ solar panels. SELCE Directors intend to provide those who buy shares with a 100% interest payment of 4%, and their equity would be returned to them after 20 years. UK tax payers should be eligible for the Enterprise Investment Scheme to receive 30% of their investment back via tax relief in the first three years.

Speaking at the launch Dr Dixon, Headteacher at Mulgrave Primary School, said he was delighted to be working with SELCE. “The team behind SELCE are all volunteers and they have spent over 3000 hours preparing the ground for the launch of the share offer. “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is at the heart of Mulgrave’s ethos and we are extremely grateful for SELCE’s support in moving our sustainability forward.”

SELCE’s founding director, Dr Guillaume Atherton said the community share offer is a first for South East London. “There is a growing wave of community groups all over the UK who are using renewable energy to develop locally-based green economies.”

She added: “This is an interesting investment opportunity, it provides financial returns as well as environmental and social ones. Everyone benefits from this kind of community initiative: the schools will together save approximately £358,000 over 20 years by getting clean green low-cost electricity, and at the same time investors get a better interest rate than most high street banks or savings schemes.

Our financial surplus will be used to develop effective education on reducing fuel poverty in this part of London. Over 20 years we will be cancelling £90,000 into fighting fuel poverty in SE London.”

SELCE has already secured separate funding from EBICO Trust to run a weekly ‘People Power Café’ offering support and advice to those struggling to pay their fuel bills. Woolwich Common Community Centre and the Green Man Hub hosted the first of these in October. The offer is open to anyone over 18 and runs for six weeks. The closing date of the share offer is midnight on Wed. Nov. 11th.

More information can be found on SELCE’s website: www.selondonce.org.uk or from the Microgenius sial investment platform: http://www.microgenius.org.uk/project/south-east-london-community-energy-39

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Flexible work for parents

A recent survey of stay-at-home parents in SE London showed that just over half (51%) of respondents weren’t working, not by choice, but because childcare options were too inflexible, the cost of childcare was too prohibitive, or they couldn’t find a family friendly job.

More2childcare, a new social enterprise in Greenwich aims to help remedy the problem. The co-founder of the Bridge in East Greenwich Pleasaunce (Eve Daniels, Kelly Salamabasis and Glenda Alexander) have introduced a pioneering new concept to Greenwich: permanent flexible nursery care for under 5s alongside hot-desking on site with many working from home.

More2childcare will be based at the Forum on Trafalgar Road, East Greenwich and has three spaces: some rooms in what used to be Christchurch Primary School, and two outdoor spaces. The work hub is onsite so parents can spend lunchtime with their child being looked after in the nursery. More2childcare has been founded with children and parents needs at its core. Parents can choose highly flexible hours— perfect for parents who work on freelance contracts or work in shifts.

Two free launch events outlining what’s on offer will take place for parents on December 8th in Lovel’s Hall at the Forum. The first is from 10.00 am -12 noon with a free crèche for those bringing their children along: the second from 7.00-9.00pm. Places should be reserved in advance by contacting us at Lovel’s Hall, The Forum Trafalgar Rd SE10 9EQ.
November.e$S_WN.QXD  26/10/2015  11:30  Page 4

**“What's your favourite poem?”**

Asks the poetry performance group Live Canon

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**Desert Island Poems**

But then, our two-week link to memory, to public and private moments of immense joy and sorrow – poetry. Who could forget John Hannah reciting Auden’s “Stop the clocks...” in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*?

So it seems fitting that Live Canon has decided to take the question – what poems would you take to a desert island? – and turn it into a performance/art poems in a reading during the MIG and Greenwich Gallery on 3rd December.

**Another poetry project**

Asks the poetry performance group Live Canon

---

**Hearing the great and good, the notorious**

Dame Judi Dench mused that to the staff. NJ Hynes then continued as a supporter of Cromwell, he managed to switch allegiance to Charles II, and was personally involved in the Restoration.

He also lived through four wars against the Dutch, in one of which the Medway was invaded by a Dutch fleet (a detailed description of which is documented in his famous diary.)

Peeps’ Diaries are essential documents for any historian of the second half of the Seventeenth Century. They document both public events such as the Great Fire of London in 1665, during which he moved the Navy Office to Greenwich, as well as, of course, the Great Fire of London in 1666 (when he moved his wife to Woolwich). However, he managed to survive the London during both these events.

The diary also documents less remarkable episodes of his life, his wife Elisabeth unfortunately had to cope with, many of which are written in code.

We are very lucky to have the National Maritime Museum on our doorstep, where we can enjoy a new exhibition about Samuel Pepys. It opens on 20th November, and continues until March 25th 2016.

**NMM Special Exhibitions Gallery**

**12.00 Adult, £10.00 concs, £6.00 Child**

**Picture: Portrait of Samuel Pepys by John Hayls (1666). National Portrait Gallery.**

**Stipple engraving by James Thornhill, after John Hayls painting.**

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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY: St Mary’s Church, Charlton Park, Blackheath 4th Friday of every month, 2.30 for 3.00. 23rd Nov. Andrew Davies: The rise and fall of the English music hall. Social history, architecture - and great songs. Non-members £3

GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY: King William Court, the University of Greenwich. Mon 3rd Nov at 8.30pm. Caterina 1939: Jeweller of Genius by James Russell

BLACKHEATH HALLS: 14 Sherington Road, SE7 7JW (020 8853 0900). Continues even in school holidays and half-term. DAD’S STAY AND PLAY: SHERINGTON CHILDREN’S CENTRE

SUNDAY 21ST NOV 3.00PM THE ELVES AND THE PANTOMIMEAT GREENWICH THEATRE with Andrew Pollard marks his tenth anniversary of performing at the theatre. See page 4.

DANCE

SUNDAY 22ND NOV 1.00PM - 4.00PM A spectacular take on the classic fairy tale... The Magician’s School for Boys in aid of Age Exchange. See page 4.

FINANCE

SUNDAY 22ND NOV 10.30AM - 4.30PM WESTCOTE CHRISTMAS FAIR

FOOD

SUNDAY 22ND NOV 10.30AM - 4.00PM The Westcombe Community Centre Christmas Lunch. CLARENDON HOTEL

FOOTBALL

SUNDAY 22ND NOV 6.30PM & SUN 29TH NOV 6.30PM THE CASE FOR RADICAL CHANGE

This report was prepared by the PER Group to send to the political parties in May. It has forewords by Antony Green, Richard Harris and Frank Farnell.

You can buy it post free if you receive The Westcombe News for the special price of £5.00 by sending money or cheque, payable to PER Group, to:

The PER Group c/o PO, Box 16916, Blackheath, SE3 7WS

Estate agents & surveyors, established in 1975. Branches in Westcombe Park, Blackheath, Greenwich & Lee, along with branches serving Kent, South East and London.


Found • Set of golf clubs

Southwark

WANTED

The Westcombe Society needs a new Membership Secretary. For more information please, ring 0208 3132.

Estate agents & surveyors, established in 1975. Branches in Westcombe Park, Blackheath, Greenwich & Lee, along with branches serving Kent, South East and London.


Set of golf clubs found in Glenreay Road a few weeks ago. Contact, info westcotesociety.org

Finding

The Westcombe Community Centre

The Westcombe Community Centre: Meet on Monday Night Home £7.00. In aid of Greenwich Night Shelters

COMMUNITY

The Westcombe Community Centre: Meet on Monday Night Home £7.00. In aid of Greenwich Night Shelters

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In aid of Age Exchange

Sunday, 8th Nov. RUBY WAX - Sane New World

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electronic products,  preferring traditional film based products,  preferring traditional film based products.
In Memoriam

"We will remember them ..."

But how do we recover information about them? EMMA SNEAD tells us how we can uncover the secrets of the past at Greenwich Heritage Centre

Greenwich Heritage Centre are inviting the public to use the extensive archives held at the centre to uncover the secrets of the past.

Carolyn Acres, Heritage Project Officer told the FN, “Anyone can contact us to request an initial search. We recently assisted a Dutch man who contacted us to find out information about a British pilot whose aircraft had crashed during an air raid, and who is buried in the town of Winderholm in Holland.”

Mr Ribeberg told Carolyn that the town had similar memorials to the grave of Pilot Charles Frederick Marshall, and that each year local residents and school children place flowers in remembrance.

Thanks to the work of Greenwich Heritage Centre volunteers, they were able to find out previously unknown information about his family and his parents’ life in Plumstead.

Carolyn said, “Charles’ father was a local man, who worked as a clerk at the Royal Arsenal and joined the Royal Field Artillery in August 1914. It is possible that the ancestors of Charles Marshall still reside in the Greenwich area and I am sure they would be interested to find out more about their ancestor.”

For additional information please contact: RGHT Chief Executive Tracy Stringfellow on 020 8563 3951 or email tracy@rght.org.uk

Above: the grave of the aircraft in which Sgt Marshall flew

Below left: Sgt Marshall’s grave in Winterswijk: still tended by the local people

The Greenwich Heritage Centre’s archives include a great mass of material: historical records, photos and information about local businesses, residences, and people and their knowledgeable team are able to assist anyone who wishes to find out more.

About Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust

Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust is a new charity, registered in May 2014. The Trust and its team of volunteers aims to help people find out about the heritage in our care and the wider history of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, through the built assets and collections we hold. Bringing the heritage of the Royal Borough to life through working with community partners is also at the centre of the Trust’s work and there are a number of projects planned for the future. These will include community events and new exhibitions. Both Charlton House and the Greenwich Heritage Centre are open to the public and available for corporate and community hire.

St George’s Garrison Church, Woolwich

Bombed in 1944 by a V1, the church is the VC Memorial for the Royal Artillery, who recorded 65 VC’s over the years. Heritage of London Trust Operations is restoring the fine mosaics. It is hoped the church (which is roofless) will become a memorial garden for the local community.

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The Merchant Navy

As we remember the First World War, the history books are dominated by the land operations (mainly in Europe) and to some extent the war at sea. But almost forgotten is the part played by the Mercantile Marine.

The National Maritime Museum’s research guide (C9) explains how to use the facilities of the Caird Library at the NMM to research the crews and vessels of the Mercantile Marine in 1918. It also provides details of the principal relevant records held at The National Archives (TNA) and elsewhere.

Partly in recognition of the war service of the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust to research the crews and vessels of the Merchant Marine in 1918. It also provides details of the principal relevant records held at The National Archives (TNA) and elsewhere. The Trust and its staff and volunteers aims to help people find out about the heritage in their area and to remember the war service of local people.

Frederick Daniel Parslow VC

Among the stories one can unearth from the NMM and The National Archives is that of Frederick Daniel Parslow VC. A Master in the Mercantile Marine, he was the first from that Service to be awarded a Victoria Cross.

Parslow was master of on the bridge of HM Horse Transport Anglo-Californian, en route from Montreal to Avonmouth. On board were some 900 pack horses that were destined for the Western Front.

The Anglo-Californian was 90 miles south west of Queenstown (now Cork), where Frederick Parslow and 8 of his men were destined for the Western Front. The Anglo-Californian was 90 miles south west of Queenstown (now Cork), where Frederick Parslow and 8 of his men were destined for the Western Front.

The convoy system for Merchant ships was not introduced until May 1917, so not only was Parslow’s ship unarmed, it was unescorted too. However, Parslow gave the U-boat a run for its money. He called for emergency full speed, 14 knots, and instructed the wireless operator to try to contact any nearby Royal Navy vessels.

Capable of 16½ knots on the surface, the U-39 began to gain. Informed by his own wireless operator that the Anglo-Californian had contacted a Royal Navy ship, the German skipper opened up with his 88mm deck gun.

Parslow now cleared the open bridge of all the crew, save for the second mate, his son, at the wheel. Parslow faced aft and ordered a zig-zag course, staying stem-on to the submarine.

By 0900, the U-39 had closed to 1½ miles, its firing becoming more accurate. Parslow ordered the crew below and his son now stood fuzzy. By 0900, the U-39 had closed to 1½ miles, its firing becoming more accurate. Parslow ordered the crew below and his son now stood fuzzy. He died two days later in Grimsby hospital, aged less than 16 and a half. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross – the youngest person ever to have won the VC.
Residents of Seibert Road have long complained that the boundary between property curtilages and the A102 did not provide an effective barrier to sound from the Blackwall Tunnel Southern Approach Road (BTSA). I was pleased to read that Matt Pennycook has raised the issue with TfL and that my fellow-councillors have contributed. They are the most recent in a long line of local representatives – including Alex Grant and myself – who have been trying to get something done.

The petition

The petition – a request for installation of noise and pollution barriers along the A102 containing 231 signatures, was presented by Cllr Paul Morrissey and referred to the Director of Community Safety & Environment for investigation.

The Council responded that Transport for London (TfL) are responsible for the A102 and would need to approve the installation of measures to reduce the impact of noise from the road on adjacent properties. For years the Council has brought those concerns to the attention of TfL, and their predecessors.

In June 2013 the Council wrote to Transport for London (TfL) on behalf of the Residents of Seibert Road and in response to an enquiry, from me, raised on their behalf.

TfL’s past responses

A letter from the Council in June 2013, elicited this response from TfL:

- TfL accept that traffic noise levels on the Transport for London Road Network can be high at certain times in certain areas
- The fencing which TfL are responsible for along the A102 is in good order
- Unfortunately, TfL has no funding to provide noise barriers as mitigation against road traffic noise; nor are they obliged to provide mitigation
- At such future times as highway maintenance requires, TfL may use low noise surface materials on the A102 as the most effective feasible measure available
- TfL may consider this location as well as others for government funding (DEFR) from the Government to act upon, but there is no commitment to this.

Next consultation

The Greenwich Conservative Group’s response to the consultation on the new proposed tunnel (see page 1) has also drawn attention to the need for pollution and noise mitigation measures.

They suggest that these issues should be addressed as part of the proposals – though of course, the problems need to be addressed whether or not Silvertown Tunnel goes ahead.

It is of course unclear what impact if any the next round of consultations, which ends on Nov. 29th, will have on TfL’s plans, but the residents of Seibert Road are not holding their breath...

Consultation documents can be found in Public libraries; or visit:
https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/
rivercrossings/silverton
http://www.silvertonn tunnel.co.uk/

Rail trouble

More disruption to train services at London Bridge is scheduled from 24th December until 4th January. Although services from Charlton and Blackheath can be diverted to other London termini, this is not the case with services from Westcombe Park and the other stations on the Greenwich line. Mike Sparham, Convenor of the Greenwich Line Users’ Group, said “It is simply an unacceptable level of service that a blockage of London Bridge also means a blockade of the Greenwich line.

Although there are ticketing arrangements in place, there is no compensation for the extra journey time and inconvenience.”

When there are no train services, the Users’ Group has been successful in getting train ticket acceptors installed on local bus routes from the Greenwich lines stations to Blackheath, Lewisham and Charlton, but with further blockades inevitable until 2018, the Greenwich Line Users’ Group is pressing Southeastern to keep the line open to/from Deptford when London Bridge is closed.

Southeastern have also admitted there will be further disruption from August 2016 until January 2018....

Watch this space for further details...

Open letter

From J-J Aune

The Westcombe Park community will have become accustomed to the posters that are displayed around the area to advertise forthcoming events. These are usually put up a fortnight before the event and taken down very soon after. All the profits made at these events are donated to local charities or used to fund projects that will improve the local environment. The exception to this is the MacMillan Coffee Morning and the MacMillan Bridges Walk.

Posters for both of these events were displayed locally, but on two occasions they were all taken down. The same things have happened to other recent events.

Whilst we realise that a multitude of posters can make the area look untidy, we are careful not to display them where they might cause problems, and always remove them after the event. We also remove the plastic ties which are used to attach them to railings where placed there.

We have checked with our local street cleaner and the council who all say they are not responsible for their removal. So the question then is, who is removing the posters?

The same thing is happening to other posters put up by local groups. The work of the Society is undertaken by volunteers for the benefit of the locality and we hope that we can rely on the support of the folk living and working in Westcombe Park.

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