



Westcombe NEWS

Est. 1973 Free to 3800 homes, also available in libraries & some shops June 2012 Issue 5

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

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

The Olympics: Is Greenwich taking a running jump?

SARAH WINTERBOTTOM reports

A surreal acrobatic display in May, organized by TfL, launched its campaign to encourage us to “Walk to Work!” during the Olympics rather than use public transport.

“That should keep us fit,” said a local resident. “You couldn’t make it up!”

The display featured a ‘hop, skip and jump’ stunt, as acrobats and runners made their way from London Bridge and Monument Station. Inspired perhaps by Monty Python’s Ministry of Silly Walks?

No wonder the public are worried by the serious transport issues that remain unresolved as we go to press: after much high-level pressure from the WS and others, the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) has, at last, convened a meeting of the Olympic Transport Group Forum (OTGF), as required by the March 2010 Planning Board Decision. Why has it taken so long?

But the OTGF meeting was held on 17th May, leaving stakeholders little time to respond to LOCOG’s transport planning application. The deadline for responses was 22nd May, in time for a Planning Board meeting scheduled for 24th May.

Some observers see this as a clear indication that the RBG, LOCOG and the other agencies concerned aim to (may have to) force through a belated, and possibly ill thought-out, transport plan regardless of local opinion and interests. Current proposals on parking are not looking good (see our report on page 7.)

As reported in May’s *WN*, there are many serious issues to be resolved; it is still not clear whose hand is on the wheel. Issues include bus and train services, and Zil lanes – reserved as one local comment has it “for Olympic fat cats.”

Meanwhile, what’s going on in the park and on the heath? If you’ve been to either lately, you cannot have failed to notice that preparations are well under way for the impending Olympic events this summer.

So what exactly is happening? We

found out at a recent stakeholders’ meeting hosted by Games organisers, LOCOG.

First of all, Circus Field: currently, this is LOCOG’s main storage facility where temporary stabling tents for the competitors’ horses are being installed.

Greenwich Park closures

Temporary security fencing is being put up in phases between now and July. Posters with maps showing the planned phasing of closures are now attached to the security fencing, explaining what an area is being used for.

Pathways

Details of all path closures are to be found on all Park noticeboards. The good news is that the National Maritime Museum has agreed to keep its pathway in front of the Sammy Ofer Wing open during Park hours to give access to Jubilee Avenue, Park Vista Gate and St Mary’s Gate.

Crisis in Queen’s Field

Work had begun and the grass covered with a special steel matting. However, due to an extremely wet April, LOCOG has had a crisis to deal with: they have had to remove 15cm of topsoil to install a firm base for the spectator stands and temporary toilets, and have had to work until 10.00 pm to get the job done in time. This was agreed by the Council in consultation with the Royal Parks and English Heritage. Once completed, the grandstands will seat some 20,500 spectators.

The Avenue

Temporary safety fencing between Queen’s Field and The Avenue for the equestrian and modern pentathlon athletes’ training ground has been installed – this is set to remain in place until November.

Check out what’s going on by logging on to www.london2012.com - and choose the option ‘For Local Residents’. Click this and select ‘Greenwich Park’ to get all the latest info.



PHOTO: Liz Bull

RISEN FROM THE ASHES!

No one can fail to admire the beauty of the *Cutty Sark*, even, as this photograph shows, at night. But to see the full beauty of this wondrous vessel you need to go inside that glass bubble below, and take on board the erotic curve of her hull. It took the engineers two days to raise the ship three metres, and the intolerable pressure of the weight of the vessel on her keel has been removed.

Meanwhile, we can rest assured...

PHOTO: Roger Marshall



Rapier surface-to air-missiles, last used in the Falklands campaign, have been set up on Blackheath to help protect London 2012 from potential airborne threats this summer. Blackheath has been described by Air Vice-Marshal Stuart Atha DSO ADC as a “first class site”. Oxleas Meadow has also been selected as a site for the missile defence systems. The missiles can offer protection within a five mile radius. Protection for whom?

Westcombe Woodlands developments

There has been a great deal of volunteer activity in the Westcombe Woodlands in recent months. During the past year, the Blackheath Preservation Trust (part of the Blackheath Society) has been running a pilot project, in partnership with the environmental charity Trees for Cities.

Subsequently, BPT has been organising the volunteer activities and this has now led to the emergence of The Friends of Westcombe Woodlands group. The next volunteer day will be on Tues. 5th June. Details of others this year to follow.

On Saturday 16th June all are invited to an inaugural event on the site. It provides an opportunity to visit a unique area of ‘wild’ woodlands, to volunteer to assist in clearing, planting and other supervised

activities, to learn about making bird and bat boxes – and to sign up to becoming a Friend of Westcombe Woodlands. Children are welcome but remain the responsibility of their parents/carers.

The event will run between 1.00pm and 4.00 pm and access will be via the cul de sac near the top of Maze Hill. Some refreshments will be on offer.

If you are interested in receiving information about future volunteer days (including exact times and meeting points), please email your contact details to: westcombewoodlands@hotmail.co.uk.

If you have any questions about the Friends organisation or the Westcombe Woodlands, please call Tim Barnes on 8858 1185 or Frank Smith on 8852 6390.

< < < NEWS BRIEFS > > >

Big Jubilee Lunch

The Big Jubilee Lunch is on Sunday 3rd June at the ORNC gardens, with free entertainment. You may see some of the boats dispersing from the Royal Pageant after 4.00 pm.

If you plan a trip in central London that weekend, be afraid, very afraid. On Saturday, they are beating the retreat at Horseguards - and England play Belgium at Wembley.

On the Sunday, most bridges are closed most of the day to traffic – invited guests only on most bridges. Pedestrians can cross, but not linger on, Chelsea and Battersea Bridges.

On Monday, there is a big concert (ticketed) in the Mall; and on Tuesday there is a procession from Buck House to St Pauls and back for a service of thanksgiving (that we live in Greenwich?)

The Greenwich+Docklands International Festival

This runs for ten days from 23rd June, with many events over the first weekend in Greenwich.

Cards at Hooper & Palmer

Johnny at Hooper & Palmer in Humber Road is kindly selling, without any markup, Westcombe Society cards of Local Views in 19th and early 20th century. These A6 size blank cards are available in packs, or may also be purchased individually.

A good place too to drop in for coffee and cakes and to pick up some cards, not to mention some flowers!

Commiserations

to Cllr. Alex Wilson, who did not succeed in his bid to be voted in as a member of the GLA. His loss is our gain: he remains our local councillor!

RACE for Life

This event takes place on Sunday 1st July. If residents have any concerns, the number to ring is 0775 7758253 – only available on the day of the event.

SLAM protest

SLAM, South London Against Missiles, is mounting a walk at 2.00 pm on 9th June, at the Oxleas Wood picnic hut to protest against missiles on a residential block in East London. The route goes via Woolwich Common and Blackheath, and ends at Whitfields Mount.

New wing opened

On Thursday 17th May, the new wing of Thomas Tallis School was opened by the Rt Hon David Miliband MP, who was Schools Minister when the last Government initiated the BSF programme.



The Westcombe Society

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION - FREE!

Sat 16th June 1.00-5.00 pm, Mycenae House and Gardens.

Jubilee Tea Party for Senior Citizens in the Main Hall 2.00-4.00 pm (invitation only – these will be going out shortly).

AND, in the gardens, for all:

Punch & Judy shows, children’s races & “make your own Jubilee crown”, charity stalls, cake stall, raffle, live musical entertainment from the South London Jazz Orchestra & the Second Chance Choir, raffle, BBQ & fancy dress competition - a prize for Best “red, white and blue” costume. Bring your own picnic or enjoy our BBQ in the lovely grounds of Mycenae House, with a drink from our Pimms Bar to toast Her Majesty. The licensed bar will be open in Mycenae House and we will be serving teas and coffees too. A day to remember for young and old and in between.

Enquiries & help offers: pl. ring Joanne on 07709 571777 or Caroline on 8853 0948.

COMMUNITY NEWS

WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Neville Grant, The Editor
westcombenews@yahoo.co.uk
Tel. 020 8858 8489

ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:
WestcombeNews@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline for the July/August issue: 15th June

News Editor: Geoff Garvey

Environment Editor: Sarah Winterbottom

Reporters: Denise Scott-McDonald, Paul Carter

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Dick Allard All queries and comments to: 020 8858 7305
The Planning and environment sub-committee: westpes@gmail.com
<http://westcombe.gold.ac.uk>

DISTRIBUTION

Myles Dove & Barbara Henley
Jean-Jacques and Maureen Aune
Volunteer distributors please phone 020 8853 3740, we need your help!

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Marilyn Little, 163, Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 020 8853 1312
(email:marilyn.little@btinternet.com)

All advertisements payable in advance by cheque to **The Westcombe Society. Costs:**

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

Printed by: Trojan Press

Contact the Westcombe Society:
WestcombeNews@egroups.com
Publisher: The Westcombe Society
Chair: Marilyn Little Tel.8853 1312

The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor.

Back-numbers (in colour) can be accessed on:

<http://westcombe.gold.ac.uk/westnews.html>

Westcombe Society's Blog:

<http://westcombe.blogspot.com>

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:
Mrs Margaret Ellis, 4 Ingleside Grove London SE3 7PH

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel.....

Email:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family Membership	£12	[]
Individual Membership	£8	[]
Senior Citizens/unwaged	£4	[]

Sue Whimster

Curtains & soft furnishings
made to order
Wide range of fabrics
available
Free estimates

Phone: 0208 293 0737

Mob. 07714 215 713

7 Delacourt Road

Blackheath, London SE3 8XA

www.suewhimster.com

Info@suewhimster.com

Thanks Gordon!

At the Westcombe Society AGM, the members heard a very full report on the activities during the past year. Many members paid tribute to the outstanding work of Gordon Baker, our out-going chair.

The new committee is as follows:
Marilyn Little (Chair & Hon. Treasurer)
Jean-Jacques Aune (Deputy Chair)
Jan Barnett Hon. Sec.
Committee members:
Gordon Baker, Barbara Henley, Joanne Lucas, Caroline Owens, Patricia Slade-Baker, with Dick Allard and Neville Grant as ex officio members.

At the meeting, it was agreed that the Society's next Charity of the Year would be the Woodlands Farm Trust (WFT); a



Jean-Jacques Aune presents Gordon with a thankyou gift

close runner-up was the Greenwich Powershare FC. It was also agreed that, as before, smaller ad hoc donations would be given to Riding for the Disabled and and Clowns-in-the Sky.

The meeting ended with an address by the new manager of Mycenae House Community Centre, Mark Johnson Brown. Among his plans were a new lift, and a fuller programme of musical and cultural activities starting in September.

Wet walkies in Kent

Despite the rain and cold wind on Sunday 6th May our intrepid four (Chairman Gordon Baker accompanied by Joanne Lucas, Patricia Slade-Baker and Shirley Little) who made up The Westcombe Society Team set off to Cobham Hall in Kent for the start of the 8 mile and 3 mile country walk in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Suitably equipped for the wet weather and joined by 187 other walkers as well as the local Mayor, in city suit and with chain of office, and dogs with their chains, they set off for a moderately difficult walk which proved more arduous than expected because of the heavy and wet ground.



All completed the course and it just remains to collect sponsorship money for this very worthwhile cause.

It is not too late to sponsor the Westcombe Society Team so if you could manage to make a donation to the team efforts please ring Caroline on 8853 0948.

Gordon's end of term report

The detailed reports of this year's AGM describe what amounts to a proud record of achievement in the best traditions of the Society. Once again a small but dedicated and resourceful group of volunteers has striven hard to serve the Westcombe Park community. We have worked together successfully as a team. It would be wrong for me to single out individuals in that team for special mention: all have contributed in their own way and it is the sum total of our efforts that matters and makes a positive difference.

Our annual Christmas Bazaar remains the high point of the Society's year; the Planning and Environment Sub-Committee has been busier than ever defending the environment and character of the area we all cherish; and the *Westcombe News* has gone from strength to strength and continues to keep us all well-informed and entertained.

The Society also organizes an amazing range of other activities – teas for Senior Citizens, a Summer Garden Party, Quiz Nights, Nearly New Sales, Easter Egg Hunts, Members evenings, RentaSanta, coffee

mornings, carol singing, sponsored walks ...

Each of the many activities we promote is an important and much-valued part of our collective community effort. That effort helps to make Westcombe Park a very good and special place in which to live and work. But we desperately need new volunteers to help us keep up the standards and momentum. I urge members present at this AGM to think seriously about joining the team and encourage others to do so.

We have continued to spend a great deal of time monitoring the planning of the Greenwich Park Olympics, working closely with our colleagues from other local societies, in dialogue with LOCOG, the Royal Borough of Greenwich, and the Royal Parks Agency, and our contribution has enhanced the Society's standing.

Our relationship with the VCA and the Mycenae House community centre remains mutually supportive, and we welcome the moves to revitalize the centre and look forward to working more closely in the future.

We also welcome the initiatives that have

Marathon Lock-down

Despite last year's assurances from the London Marathon organisers that roads would be reopened "faster... than ever before" to minimise disruption for residents, most roads feeding into the Standard were still shut after midday, long after runners had passed by.

As so often happens, the leafleting informing people of road closures was patchy (to put it kindly) – but mainly non-existent: no leaflets delivered in Humber Road, Ruthin Road, Beaconsfield Road, Stratheden Road: the list goes on and on.

Indeed, even after the reopening of Vanbrugh Park and Westcombe Hill, the turning into Westcombe Park Road remained coned off until well into the afternoon. Frustrated drivers were informed by the steward on duty that the road would not open until 3pm when the race officially ended.

"According to the website, Westcombe Park Road wasn't part of the route and wasn't even scheduled to be closed," said one local resident.

Organisers have agreed to meet local residents' groups in the near future to discuss specific issues. Meanwhile, the Westcombe Society's Planning and Environment Subcommittee has written to local councillors outlining the main issues, namely road closures, and the significant damage caused this year by large HGVs driving onto the Heath.

been launched in the past year to set up the Friends of Mycenae Gardens and Westcombe Woodlands, and to promote and protect the Royal Standard and Old Dover Road business community.

As always, we are greatly indebted to those local businesses that support our fund-raising activities, especially the Bazaar, and to all those who advertise in the *WN*.

At last year's AGM I announced that I had decided to stand down this year. I have been Chairman for five highly-active years. It has been very hard work, as well as great fun. I have enjoyed, and am deeply grateful for, the support and companionship of my committee colleagues and fellow volunteers.

However, the time has come for me to stand back and entrust the Society's welfare and activities to those with fresh ideas and vigour. I send my very best wishes to my successor, to whom I pledge my full support, and my warmest thanks to all of you.

Arts & Crafts – & More!

The Woolwich and District Antiquarian Society is open to all. It campaigns for conservation in the area, and encourages interest in history. The Society organizes coach trips to places of interest. The next trip is on 26th June to The Wandle Valley - 'Arts & Crafts' & More! It includes the Industrial Heritage Museum, and Little Holland House. 25 seats available. Pick-up points in the Woolwich and Shooters Hill areas. Members: £26.00, non-Members: £28.00 **Please e-mail: the_london_piper@yahoo.com**

Greenroom Landscaping

offer a complete design and build service using the finest materials and workmanship.

Projects range from urban courtyard gardens to large contemporary spaces. Our aim is to turn your vision into a reality.

Work undertaken: Fencing and Gates, Paving, Decking, Brickwork, Planting, Maintenance, Turfing, Irrigation, Work Fully Insured

please call 07939 608 823
info@greenroomlandscaping.co.uk
www.greenroomlandscaping.co.uk

LOCAL NEWS

75 years of service

This year, the Blackheath Society is celebrating its 75th birthday. The inaugural meeting was held at Blackheath Concert Halls on 11th. March 1937.

Two months earlier a group of local people, concerned about preserving the buildings in the area, met at All Saints Parish Hall (now the Mary Evans Picture Library) to create a society "pledged to safeguard by all possible means the amenities of Blackheath."

Since then the Society, one of London's oldest and largest amenity groups, has been working to preserve local buildings and encourage good new design. All the battles it has won – and lost – are listed in *Guardians of the Heath*, published in 2009 to mark its 70th anniversary in 2007.

The Society is very active. As well as regular activities to support and preserve the Village and the Heath, new initiatives include: creating the new Hub on the Heath; supporting the new Village Library and Community Centre; launching a new digital

archive of Blackheath photographs; and promoting the Westcombe Woodlands. The society has also just joined Facebook and Twitter and is improving its Website.

There was a reception for the society's volunteers at the end of March and three other special events are planned:

* A family Picnic on the Heath on Sun.

24th. June (Midsummers Day) is open to all with free children's entertainment and unveiling the Hub to mark our 75th.

* BBC Radio 4's popular Any Questions programme is to visit Blackheath on 26th October in the Halls – again open to all.

* In November there is a Gala Event for Society members, also at the Halls. For more information about the Society's activities, please contact Committee member John Bartram on 0208 852 2322, or johnbartram75@hotmail.com. For all general enquiries please contact Secretary Wendy Shelton in the first instance on 0208 297 1937 or at blackheath.soc@lineone.net.



Welcome aboard!

GEOFF GARVEY

The Royal Navy invaded Greenwich on Bank Holiday Monday. Thousands of residents went on board *HMS Ocean*.

The Navy's largest warship was positioned off Greenwich to support police-led maritime security operations during Exercise Olympic Guardian, and will be a reassuring presence during the Games.

The town centre was packed because of the Bank Holiday and the re-opening of the *Cutty Sark* – and thousands gazed at the ominous 21,500 ton grey bulk of amphibious assault ship *HMS Ocean* as it lay moored off Greenwich.

Commander Jon Asbridge, HMS Ocean's Commander Logistics, said: "It was fantastic the number of people who visited the ship and we were proud to be able to show off the Royal Navy's largest

warship to London. Despite the poor Bank Holiday weather we had over 3500 visitors and everybody I spoke to was really enjoying their time onboard."

"The numbers were limited by the fact that they had to embark by boat. We could have probably had many more otherwise."

HMS Ocean will be moored at Greenwich during the games and will be acting as a maritime logistic hub in support of police-led maritime security operations during Exercise Olympic Guardian.

Four Royal Navy Lynx helicopters and four Army Air Corps Lynx helicopters will also operate from the ship.

During the Games period *HMS Ocean* will also provide accommodation for some of the Venue Security Force working at a variety of Olympics locations.

David Mallen CBE

Related congratulations to local resident David Mallen, CBE, on being awarded not one, but three Honorary Doctorates – from the Universities of Brighton, Bradford and (most recently) Greenwich.

A former teacher, David has extensive experience of local education authority management. He was Chief Education Officer of the Inner London Education Authority and subsequently held the same post in E Sussex.



He went on to develop his career as an adviser to ministers and civil servants on a wide range of educational issues.

He was the first chair of the Examination Appeal Board, and led the start up of London Challenge and the National Languages Programme. He was also Chairman of the Sentencing Advisory Panel for 10 years.

Walk for Tom

The Walk For Tom is now in its 4th year. It was started in memory of Tom Warren, a fun-loving, lively, cheeky and spirited 10-year-old who loved music, football and supporting Charlton FC. He had cerebral palsy from birth but rarely let the fact he was dependent on his wheelchair get him down. Tom's favourite activity by far was riding the horses at the Charlton Park Riding For The Disabled centre. His favourite horse was Honey.

Sadly Tom died in November 2008. Tom is much missed by his family and friends who want to keep his memory alive by raising money for Charlton Park RDA – a charity very close to his heart.

This year's Walk For Tom takes place at



The Valley, Charlton FC's home ground on the morning of Sunday 24th June. It's a sponsored 20-lap walk around the pitch and there will be a barbecue afterwards at the Riding for the Disabled centre at Charlton Park. **To take part, please email walkfortom@hotmail.co.uk for further information. Or you could donate to justgiving.co.uk/walkfortom.**

Mycenae Art Group

The Mycenae Art Group is pleased to announce its second exhibition. This year it will be in the Blackheath Halls from 7th June to 2nd July. The exhibition is open Monday to Friday 10. am to 5.00 pm.

The main themes revolve around botanical illustrations or landscapes, reflecting the personal work done by existing Group members. Visitors will also get a chance to buy original cards depicting various themes from the exhibition.



FROM TOP LEFT: Helen Kirk, Sheila Ormell, Paula Preston, Karolina Naimji
FRONT ROW: Anne Walsh, Jackie Harvey, Penny Stenning

Trustees wanted for the SLSL

The South London Special League (SLSL) is a unique award-winning registered charity that provides opportunities for disabled people to improve their lives through sport. By achieving this they are able to increase their opportunities to meet new people, socialise, and gain new experiences. All of these contribute towards their improved health and well-being, physical fitness, heightened self-esteem, raised aspirations and happiness.

To develop the organisation further in a highly challenging economic climate we are looking for new creative Trustees with an inspirational vision. Working as part of a team of Trustees and with the Director, you will attend quarterly Board meetings and participate in fund-raising events and meetings representing the SLSL.

We require people with high level business skills and experience in either the public or private sectors and in particular we are

wishing to bring marketing and public relations expertise to our current board.

If you feel you could make a difference and would like to know more, then contact Sharon Brokenshire on 07515539825 Alternatively, please send your CV to Sharon Brokenshire, South London Special League, London Marathon Playing Fields, 304 Shooters Hill Rd, London SE18 4LT.

Strictly come dancing!

A SOUTH EAST LONDON star of stage smash 'Riverdance' Rachel Mulvihill is the Principal of the Mulvihill Academy of Irish Dance. She has hung up her shoes and is now sharing her skills with the local community in Blackheath and Greenwich at the Mulvihill Academy of Irish Dance.

Rachel not only teaches children from 4+, but has now launched an adult class – the perfect way to socialise, keep fit and tone up in time for summer! No experience necessary. A fun exercise class for all abilities.

"I teach Irish dance in a fun, friendly and positive environment," she says. "Irish dance provides great exercise, but it also improves concentration, increases balance and coordination and promotes structure and discipline. **Full details at www.mulvihillirishdance.com**



'Its Our Best Kept Secret !'

Mycenae House

community centre

pick up a brochure to see our wide range of activities

**Healthy Living
Arts & Leisure
Learning & Children**

Cafe : Bar : Free WiFi

...at the heart of your community

020 8858 1749 www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, SE3 7SE Supported by Royal Greenwich

the glass shop

- 24hr glass repairs
- timber & upvc windows
- double glazed units
- glass & glazing
- glass shelving
- glass table tops
- shower doors
- glass & mirrors cut to size
- traditional lead lights
- glass & mirrors engraved
- picture framing

call grant on:
0798 8760269
or john on:
0797 7070076

visit us at our new shop:
277 woolwich road
london
se7 7rb

www.the-glass-shop.biz

SALSA

at Newbridge Social Club,
22 Charlton Rd
Blackheath SE3 7HG
Wednesday evenings –
CLASSES & CLUB:
Beginners & Intermediates 7:30-8:30
Improvers & Advanced 8:30-9:30
Club 9:30-11 pm
Cost: £6 one class
£8 for two classes (including club)
£4 for club only
**For further details contact
Ify Hague: 07736708048**

Hot Desk Available
Blackheath Village

Serviced office in the centre of Village with internet, 24 hour access, lovely location. Fabulous views of the heath and Wharf.
All for £250 per month
Contact: Karan Brown 020 8297 4863

FEATURES

DENISE SCOTT-McDONALD meets

Blackheath Conservatoire's new head

The Blackheath Conservatoire has served the arts world and our community for over 130 years, by refining the skill of some of this country's leading artists and instructing the public in art, music and theatre.

And it has recruited a new head! Its new Chief Executive is American-born Sydney Thornbury.

Sydney previously ran Web Play; a successful and ground-breaking arts education charity that combined drama and technology and worked with schools and children in England and across the world.

In the setting of the comfortable reception lounge, surrounded by old conservatoire posters, Victorian portraits, and both traditional and modern art work, your reporter sat down with Sydney to find out why she took the job and what she hopes to achieve.

"It is absolutely my dream job, I'm thrilled to be here," she said excitedly. When she finished her previous job at Web Play, which she did for about twelve years, Sydney did not expect to stay in the arts. But when she saw the advert. for the position, she thought it was interesting, and decided to apply for it.

She describes the job as "... almost a perfect storm of everything I have done in my career and I'd never gotten to put all those things together at the same time."

She says when she met the members and board of the Conservatoire they sounded ready for a reinvigoration of the business model and were talking about changing the organisation.

She says the idea of change and transformation attracted her to the job because she liked the challenges of transforming an organisation, and bringing people along the journey – and she added fairly confidently, that she thinks she is quite good at bringing about change too.

Some of the change is already starting to happen; the internal space of the building has been redecorated by volunteers.

"Especially if you are an arts organisation you have to project creativity and a creative vibe. And I have to have that kind of buzz around me, and I really feed off that" said Sydney, who describes the redecoration as 'one of the big things' being done.

She goes on: "It's a great way to bring



people together. If you're gonna change something people need to feel that they are a part of that change, so when people are painting the walls ... they feel that they are making that change happen."

Her enthusiasm is infectious. She also hopes to widen the music class offerings, which have mostly been classically based, and bring in a wider selection of music styles. Sydney is planning to start a Saturday school offering classes for all ages and skill sets in music, drama and art.

Sydney has a strong interest in early years work and hopes to develop a centre of excellence for early years learning between the years 0 - 5. She also wants the organisation to be more outward-looking and work with outside arts organisations and schools.

"I don't ever want people to feel like they can't walk through those doors," she says, and encourages anyone walking by to simply pop their head through the doors to find out what is going on.

Sydney was born in New York, and raised in Los Angeles. She says she had an interesting childhood that involved moving continuously between two worlds; that of the arts and of business, a situation that she was very comfortable with and enjoyed.

She says her parents were and are very bohemian, her father is a Jazz DJ for a leading L.A. non-commercial radio station and was active in the civil rights movement and her mother is a visual artist, while her grandparents ran a chemical corporation.

She studied Theatre and African American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania; which she describes as an 'odd' combination for an American white girl at that time. Sydney says that she has always been an entrepreneur at heart. When she left university she opened a very successful coffee house, called Espresso Bongo in Philadelphia.

It was the first coffee shop in twenty years for the city, and she said she was inspired to do this because she could not get a decent cup of coffee while she was a student. She has one daughter and lives with her partner in Brockley.

The Conservatoire is located in a very beautiful grade II listed red brick building on the border of the boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham, right beside Blackheath Halls. The Blackheath Conservatoire was originally two arts organisation: the Blackheath



PHOTO: (c) Shara Henderson
The reception area has been turned into a work of art (incorporating discarded musical instruments!) by artist Guillermo Monroy

Conservatoire of Music, which was founded by a local group led by William Webster in 1881, and the Blackheath School of Art, which was started in 1896.

The Conservatoire of Music and the Arts took on its current structure in 1991 with the merger of the two organisations. Some of its most notable students have included the singer Kate Bush, the singer and the actor Gary Oldman.

Other notable students have included artists Douglass Percy Bliss, Eric Gill and Fatimah Tugger, and musicians York Bowen, Harold Trucott and Sidney Torch.

Come to the Conservatoire Open Day!

Sydney adds:

"We will be having a big open day on Sunday the 24th of June called 'Café Conservatoire' – A day of taster sessions, performances and a food truck festival.

"We will be having some really fun taster sessions of many of our courses (including 'speed music lessons' – like speed dating, but with instruments!), performances by our choirs, an open studio art event with musical accompaniment and a number of South East London's hippest food trucks so that people can eat and picnic in our garden.

"The day will run from 10.00 am-6.00 pm, with the food trucks and most of the activities happening between 10.00 and 3.00. Booking will be required for some of the taster sessions."

For more information, people can log on to www.conservatoire.org.uk.



PHOTO: (c) Shara Henderson

The Triumphs of Oriana

The historic church of St Alfege in Greenwich is set to provide the backdrop for a celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with music and dance from the Golden Age of the first Queen Elizabeth. On Saturday 2nd June the Elizabethan Golden Age will be brought to life in an evening of music and dance performed by singers, dancers and instrumentalists – all in period costume.

The entertainment will be linked by a Narrator, leading us through some of the highlights of Gloriana's reign. It is very appropriate that this event will happen in Greenwich, as Elizabeth I was born at the Palace of Placentia, now the site of the Old Royal Naval College, in September 1533.

The singers are The Friends Musick chamber choir, directed by Norman Harper, with the Pastime Dancers, directed by Alison Ede, accompanied by the Friends' Musick Recorder Consort, and actor Peter Kosta as the Narrator.

This will be a beautifully presented, unique occasion in a perfect setting.

Date: Saturday June 2nd
Start time: 7.30pm
Tickets: £12 & £10
(Concessions: Seniors, Students, Equity Members, Greenwich Residents' Cardholders)
Online tickets: www.WeGotTickets.com
Also available from www.thefriendsmusick.com
Tel. 020 8467 2988
Tickets available at the door if collected by 7pm on day of performance.

Morden College Care Home – Cullum Welch Court

Cullum Welch Court is an exceptional Care Home with a CSCI '3 Star Rating'. Situated in the peace & tranquillity of the award-winning grounds of Morden College, Blackheath, it provides spacious, attractive and affordable ensuite accommodation; delivering high quality nursing & personal care for elderly people. With a wide range of activities, excursions and facilities provided to the Residents in our Care Home, they are also able to enjoy our private Chapel, Library, Clubhouse bar & Restaurant. Cullum Welch Court is able to accommodate a certain number of private respite residents and also a small number of permanent private residents.

For further information please contact:
Mrs Sharon Herd (Matron/Registered Manager)
on 0208 463 8399

National Maritime Museum

"Titanic Remembered"

To mark the centenary of the Titanic disaster

Until September

New nursery opening - early 2011

Blackheath SE3
Childcare and development
from 3 months – 5 years

How differently children see things. Things we take for granted are exciting experiences and every day occurrences are new challenges. That's why at Zoom Nurseries we look at every aspect of what we do through a child's eyes. From our environment, our exceptional team, our planned curriculum and our additional classes right through to our healthy planned menus and parental partnership programme.

We are a small nursery chain with an excellent reputation and three nurseries currently in Hither Green and Eltham.

Due to local demand, Zoom are now opening a fourth nursery at **Lee Road, Blackheath.**

For more information visit our website at www.zoomnurseries.com

Alternatively you can contact **Justine O'Hare**, Childcare Director, on 020 8331 6703 or email her at zoomnurseries.eltham@virgin.net

Working towards equal opportunities



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: 28th June Hilary Guise talks on Chariots of Fire: The Olympics.** Lecture will draw on ancient sources, vases, sculptures and texts Non-members £5 on the door. See www.artsinblackheath.org.uk or ring 83187550

GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, the University of Greenwich **NEXT LECTURE: Monday 11th Jun Rock Around - Stonehenge and British Stone Circles – the history, art and archaeology of these great landmarks - William G Forrester** see www.gdfas.org or ring 020 8852 6248 Non-members £8.00

MYCENAE ART GROUP EXHIBITION 7th June - 2nd July 10.00 am to 5.00 pm and 1 hour before evening performances at Blackheath Halls Cafe Bar, 23 Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9RQ

BLACKHEATH CONSERVATOIRE Open Studio Art and Sculpture Exhibition This continues throughout June. Mon-Fri, 9.00am - 9.00 pm and Sat 9.00 am - 5.00pm

THE BOROUGH HALL, GREENWICH DANCE, Greenwich, SE10 8RE 18th June - 7th July 8.00pm Handspring Puppet Co. production: **Ted Hughes'** **CROW** Booking on 8858 7755 Times vary

CHILDREN

GREENWICH THEATRE
Fri. 8th at 1.30 pm and Sat & Sun 9th & 10th June at 10.30 am and 1.30 pm THE GRUFFALO
Ages 3+ Adults £10, Children £7.50
Sun 1st July SWAMP JUICE Amazing puppet show. Ages 5+ 4.00 pm Adults £10, Children £7.50

WOODLANDS FARM
331 Shooters Hill. Tel. 0208 319 8900
Every Thursday Toddler Club 10.00 am-12.00 pm £2 per adult, children free
Meet the animals, enjoy some crafts or just play.

SUMMER SHOW July 1st Details TBA

GREENWICH HERITAGE CENTRE
Artillery Square, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich SE18 4DX 020 8854 2452 FREE Saturday mornings: 10.30am to 12 noon. Free art and craft activities for 5 to 12 year olds. A fun way to spend a Saturday morning, with a chance to take part in loads of interesting activities. Children under the age of five must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear suitable clothes.

MEFA MONTESSORI AT MYCENAE HOUSE
Wednesdays during term-time
9.30-11.30 Montessori Preschool (2-4 years)
10.30 -11.00 Developmental Dance (3-6 years)
13.30-14.30 Baby Montessori (0-12 months)
14.45-15.45 Toddler Montessori (12-24months)
16.30-18.30 Inclusive Montessori After-school Nurture Group (4-11years)
To register your child or for more information please call Wendy Fidler on 07710 433 994 or visit www.montessorieducationforautism.com



Learning is fun

St Olave's is a Prep School in New Eltham for boys and girls aged 3-11 years

- Broad, child-centred curriculum
- Excellent results in the 11+ selection
- Clubs, outings and residential trips
- Excellent pastoral care
- Small classes
- Specialist staff for PE, IT, Music, French and Drama
- Sibling fee reduction
- Before and after school care

Tel: **020 8294 8930**
www.stolaves.org.uk



COMMUNITY

The Westcombe Society

16th June Jubilee Tea for Senior Citizens. Can you help? Cake & sandwich makers wanted! Pl. ring 8853 0948. (Also to be the Summer Picnic)
22nd Sept – Members' Evening
28th Sept – Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning
29th Sept – Nearly New Sale
17th November – Dickensian Christmas Bazaar

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BOOK SALE
Quality books at knock-down prices 9.00 am-5.00pm Saturday 16th June Church of the Ascension, Dartmouth Row, London SE10 8BF

BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB welcomes all players to duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon. & Thurs. 7.15 pm & on Wed. at 1.15 Tel. 8851 2609

WESTCOMBE WRITERS' CIRCLE 1st. Thursday each month, 2.30-4.30 at Mycenae House. Ring Joan Paice on 8305 1652 or Rosemary Gill on 8858 5088

BLACKHEATH FLOWER CLUB Meets third Friday of every month at 1.45 pm at Mycenae House

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

SECOND CHANCE CHOIR We rehearse Thursday evenings during term time, in Blackheath. New members welcome, contact **Margery Nzerem 0208 858 3544 gery@nzerem.bbmax.co.uk**

EVENTS AT DAVY'S WINE VAULTS.
An Asian Fusion Night – 30th June at 7.00 pm. Food and wine matching with five wines and five amuse bouche asian style dishes. Tickets cost £25.

GREENWICH HERITAGE CENTRE
Join the Greenwich '48 Club We want to bring our senior citizens together with our young people to talk about what the world was like and how it has changed.If you want a chance to share memories of what life was like in those early years after the War contact the Greenwich Heritage Centre. Tel: 020 8854 2452email: 48club@greenwich.gov.uk

JAZZ IN THE PARK 17th June!
The Phoenix Dixieland Jazz Band is back in the Observatory Garden, Greenwich Park, on Sunday 17th June. The concert is from 1pm to 3.30pm and the Garden opens for picnics at 12 noon. There will be a bar and an ice-cream stall. Tickets are £5 for adults (£6 at the gate, subject to availability.). Free for youngsters under 16. **Tickets from: Friends of Greenwich Park, 52 Greenwich Park Street, London SE10 9LT (tel. 020 8853 2150 or email-bevan@hotmail.com). Cheques payable to "Friends of Greenwich Park". Pl. enclose SAE and mark the envelope "Jazz in the Park"**

PLUMBING GAS

ALL PLUMBING, BOILER AND GAS WORK. LOCAL REFERENCES.

CALL CWD HEATING

0208 856 2234
07799003545

Miles Campbell

Maker of spring & weight driven clocks

Clockmaker • Woolwich, London

Repairs and house calls undertaken

0208 331 0201

www.milescampbell.co.uk

GARTEL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Whether you're looking for traditional construction, renovation, refurbishment, specialist works, or even maintenance, we have the skills and resources to tackle any project... no matter what size.

Gartel Design & Construction Ltd
193 Westcombe Hill
Blackheath
London SE3 9EZ

T +44 (0)20 8858 5123
E info@gartel.co.uk



THEATRE & OPERA

THE ALEXANDRA PLAYERS present a play about the abdication: **CROWN MATRIMONIAL** by Royce Ryton at the Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Avenue, SE7 7HX on Thursday to Saturday June 7th to 9th at 8 p.m. Tickets £8 (£7 Conc.) Box Office 07867 627 987 or alexandraplayers@gmail.com

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
Fri 22nd June 10.00 pm **PROMETHEUS AWAKES**
Graeae Theatre Company and La Fura dels Baus FREE

THE PRIORY PLAYERS perform Ayckbourn's **ROUND & ROUND THE GARDEN** - Progress Hall Admiral Seymour Rd Eltham 14th - 16th June 7.45 pm £7.- (£6) Box office: 07502 450983

MUSIC

ST MARY'S HALL Cresswell Park Blackheath Village (one minute from the railway station) Euphonia Works present the last of the **Mozart Chamber Series** **June 9th 7.30 pm Mozart Violin Sonatas £12.00 on the door (£10.00 concs.) or email euphoniaworks@gmail.com**

CONCERT OF FRENCH MUSIC
Sat. 23rd June 7.30 pm Lewisham Choral Society, St Mary's Church, 346 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6LE Duruflé: Requiem, Poulenc: Gloria, Franck: Organ Chorale in A Min. £12, £10 (concs), £2 (under 12) from 0208 309 0439 or on the door.

BLACKHEATH CHOIR
SUMMER CONCERT Sunday July 1st 7.30pm St Margaret's Church Jongen: Mass; Shearing: Songs & Sonnets; Horovitz: Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo Tickets £12 from choir members, 020 8852 9263, or at door.

ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC
9.00 pm every Tuesday at the Lord Hood pub, Creek Road; mainstream jazz every Thursday

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Labour: Cllr. Alex Grant Tel. 8855 7292E-mail Alex.grant@greenwich.gov.uk **Surgeries:** 1st. Friday of each month, 7.00 - 8.00 pm, Mycenae House; 3rd. Saturday of each month, 3.30-4.30 pm, St James Church Hall, Kidbrooke Park Rd. **Conservative: Cllr. Geoff Brighty** Tel. 8921 5663 (Town Hall) or 8858 9731 (Home) geoffrey.brighty@greenwich.gov.uk **Cllr. Alex Wilson** Tel. 07783 611607 Email: alex.wilson@greenwich.gov.uk **Surgery:** 1st Monday of the month 6 - 7.00 pm Blackheath Library, Old Dover Rd.

JAMES REMOVALS
.com

- Fully trained uniformed staff
- Full insurance included in ALL quotes
- Prompt free estimates
- On-site containerised storage
- Discounts for long-term storage
- Well-established family business
- Pianos - our forte

Call **0800 0157775**
for a free survey or visit jamesremovals.com to request a quotation online



TROJAN PRESS

Printing in Blackheath since 1978

FROM YOUR IDEAS OR ARTWORK WE CAN PRINT AT A REASONABLE COST:

- BUSINESS CARDS
- INVOICES · LETTERHEADS
- BOOKS · BROCHURES
- FORMS · INVITES
- WEDDING STATIONARY

1a Lizban St
Blackheath, London SE3 8SS
Tel: **020 8853 2268**

Email: dave@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.co.uk

J & M RANDALL

(Established 1966)

General Builders. Roofing & Plumbing Specialists

Telephone: 0208 302 3676 Mobile: 07956 681488
Email: jmrandall@btopenworld.com

33 Lamorbey Close, Sidcup,
Kent, DA15 8BA

Plastering – Glazing – Interior & Exterior Decorating – Carpentry – Central Heating – Conversions – Bricklaying – Pebble Dashing – Electrical Installations – Paving – New roofs – Plumbing – Extensions

FREE Estimates – Fully Insured – Members of Federation of Master Builders

WARNING:

Inefficient Boilers Are Not Just Bad For Your Wallet...

They are bad for the environment too. By replacing your Band G rated boiler with a Band A rated Condensing boiler you will, according to the energy saving trust*, save an average of £235 per year and our atmosphere around 1.26 tons of CO2. For a free quotation call Stephen Wristworth on: 07725008280 Or email me at: wristworth@hotmail.co.uk



Boilers – Central Heating – Servicing – Landlords – Certification – Plumbing
*Source: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

THE POINTER SCHOOL

"Doubles in size"



- First Class Examination Results
- Organic Food
- Breakfast Club & After School Care
- Christian Evangelical in outlook
- Numerous Extra-Curricular Clubs
- Large variety of outdoor and PE activities
- 3 languages taught

OFSTED: OUTSTANDING IN **ALL** AREAS



020 8293 1331

The Pointer School | 19 Stratheden Road | Blackheath | London SE3 7TH
and also at 37 Shooters Hill Road | Blackheath | London SE3 7HS (Nursery & Reception)
email: secretary@pointers-school.co.uk Website: www.pointers-school.co.uk

FEATURES

From the silver to the diamond



PHOTO:
Neville Grant

The Greenwich Open Studios are on the weekends of June 9th and 10th and 16th and 17th, and provide an artistic finale to the Royal Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

This is a very special year for the group because it was in the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, 35 years ago in 1977, that the Greenwich Open Studios was born. A number of Greenwich artists banded together to become one of the first groups in London to open their homes and their studios to the public.

Greenwich Open Studios has constantly renewed itself and, while there are still much-appreciated members of the group

from the 1980s, there are always new faces among its 28 or so members.

Greenwich Open Studios is one of the summer's highlights for all those living in the borough who want to know what is happening in the art world – on their doorstep! This year's new faces include Rob Mills, a professional saxophonist as well as artist, in Banning Street and Hartash Dale who lives near the Dome which in that Silver Jubilee year of 1977 wasn't even a gleam in the planners' eye.

Find out more during Greenwich Open Studios, and meet the artists in their homes and studios from 1.00pm – 6.00 pm on the weekends of June 9th/10th & 16th/17th!

... and still going strong!

Among the artists displaying their work are Westcombe Society member Frances Treanor (pictured left.) Frances trained on our doorstep - at Goldsmith's - and also at Middlesex (Hornsey), and has Open Studio events at her home at 121 Royal Hill every June and December.

Local art-critic Amelia Johnson says: "Frances is, thank heaven, totally out-of-step with the malign influence of the Goldsmiths tendency, and does her own thing in a manner that delights and challenges the senses."

Frances was artist-in-residence at Greenwich Royal Park in 2006, and was nominated "Woman of the Year" by the editors of the American Biographical Institute USA. Artists participating in the Westcombe area are:

Jane Jones 5c Charlton Road
Xavier White 26 Vanbrugh Park
Maggie Learmonth, Maria Silva and Hartash Dale at 40 Hardy Road
For more information, ring 020 8858 7829 or see the GOS website, www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk.

Local park group's Tree Walks scheme

A parks group, have gained a £2,000 Lottery Grant from 'Awards for All' to develop a leaflet, website and smart phone apps to encourage visitors to get out and enjoy the trees in Maryon Wilson Park in Charlton.

"The Friends of Maryon Wilson Parks", a voluntary community group, encourages members of the general public to appreciate and use Maryon Wilson Park in Charlton, London.

It is said that the previous owners of the park, the Maryon-Wilson family, planted examples of every native British tree on their land. The Friends hope the general public will enjoy learning about the trees and that there will be an increase in the number of visitors to Maryon Wilson Park.

The Friends launched the Tree Walk and the websites on 26th May with guided



walks led by Greenwich Council's award winning arborist and tutor James Hedges.

Visitors to the park will be able to follow the Tree Walks with the leaflet or on their mobile phone. The phone-app has a compass to direct visitors to the next tree, but they had better keep looking up!

For info: Email: Anderson.tc@gmail.com Mob: 0779 163 5417 The leaflet has been published and is available at libraries etc or via the Friends of the Parks: E-Mail : FriendsofMaryonParks@googlemail.com Telephone : 07599 299934

Cabaret at the Trafalgar Tavern!

The Centenary Company is holding its summer concert "An evening of words and music, classical and cabaret featuring soloists, ensembles and choruses" at 8.00 pm on Monday 18th June in the Nelson Room of the Trafalgar Tavern, Park Row.

The Centenary Company is well known for inventive productions of G&S operas. Don't miss this chance to see a showcase of the company's multi-talented members, and help to raise funds for their staging of

Utopia Limited at Greenwich Theatre in November.

The magnificent Nelson Room at The Trafalgar Tavern overlooking the Thames is a wonderful setting for this event.

Doors open at 7.30pm with seating at tables for 10. Book early for this fun evening – tickets at £12 a head are available in advance: 07970 866034, centenarycompany@googlemail.com, or on the door on the night.

Westcombe Park Dental Practice



13 Station Crescent,
Westcombe Park, London SE3 7EQ

Treatments Available

Zoom Tooth Whitening

Dental Implants

Invisalign

Smile Makeovers

Tooth Colouring Fillings

Anti-Wrinkle Treatments & Dermal Fillings

Tel. 0208 853 3304 Fax: 0208 858 1784

Greenwich+Docklands International Festival 2012

Who'd like to be a Volunteer ?

The Greenwich+Docklands International Festival is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the festival team, to make London's annual festival of outdoor arts and spectacle a truly memorable event.

We need volunteers to act as our ambassadors at the festival, helping audiences orient themselves around the eclectic range of performances, being friendly faces for the public to approach, and helping to ensure that the festival is accessible to all. If you're friendly, enthusiastic, reliable and

passionate about performing arts – we'd love to hear from you.

If you'd like to get involved, and you are free to volunteer between 21st June and 30th June see the directions, below:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GDIFVolunteerRegistrationForm> Or just drop an e-mail to volunteer@festival.org Otherwise, please feel welcome to contact me over the phone on 020 8305 5028. For more information on the Greenwich+ Docklands International Festival please go to www.festival.org.



Estate agents & surveyors, established in 1975. Branches in Westcombe Park, Blackheath, Greenwich & Lee, alongside dedicated branches for Lettings & Commercial. Contact the Westcombe Park branch on 020 8858 6101

John Payne

johnpayne.com



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

What does the new mayor mean for the environment?

asks SARAH WINTERBOTTOM

Boris may have won the election, but is it a win for the environment? Not according to independent research carried out by Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth prior to the election.

The top four contenders' environment manifestos were evaluated on six issues: air pollution, transport, aviation, climate change, energy and energy efficiency, and green spaces. The now mayor of London's environmental pledges came last in every category apart from one - green spaces.

So what does a second term in office for Boris really mean for London's environment, and for this area in particular?

All aboard for the airport?

Being so close to City Airport we can expect to see an increase in aircraft noise and pollution, with 50% more flights if the Mayor gets his way. Added to that is the additional pollution caused by the new river crossings proposed for the area.

Not good news according to the report on the health impact of air pollution commissioned by Boris during his first term. This report concluded that more than 4,000 Londoners die prematurely each year due to air pollution.

In fact, London is facing a £300 million EU fine because of its failure to keep air pollution within legal limits. As an aside, it is interesting to note that Boris has been actively campaigning along with several other European cities to weaken air pollution laws from 2013.

Air and noise pollution levels are likely to be increased even further if 'Boris Island' – a multi-runway airport in the Thames Estuary – becomes a reality. The environmental impact of this is far-reaching and includes the potential destruction of globally significant wildlife areas.

On a more positive note, in terms of

transport, we can expect to see 600 new cleaner, and more energy-efficient buses introduced in the Mayor's second term.

Good news for bikers

There has been a 60,000 increase in the number of daily average cycle trips during the last few years, thanks in part to the success of what have become affectionately known as 'Boris Bikes'. Possibly in response to this, 500 cycle accident 'hotspots' are due to be reviewed and improved. However, currently there is no commitment to prioritise cyclist safety over other means of transport.

Green spaces

In terms of 'green spaces', where the Mayor scored highly, there is praise for work done with the London Food Link to promote food-growing spaces, as well as the provision of 50 community hives and bee-keeping training. In addition, our streets are set to benefit from some 20,000 additional trees, and 'pocket parks' have had monies set aside to care for them.

Significantly for our own area, known for its leafy gardens and grass-filled parks, there is continuing commitment to the status of these green spaces, both public and private within the London Plan.

This is something that is highly valued by Dick Allard, chair of the Westcombe Society's Planning and Environment Subcommittee, who said:

"The London Plan plays a crucial role. Alongside the more detailed Borough plans, it sets the criteria by which the Planning Board is expected to judge all development proposals, so it is reassuring that it gives green spaces protection against the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' of the Government's new planning framework."

Parking restrictions loom

Cllr Geoff Brighty, speaking at the Langton Way AGM, is reported as saying that the entire borough north of the A2 will become a temporary restricted parking zone from the beginning of the Olympics to the end of the Paralympics.

It will be known as the Residents and

Business Protection Area (RBPA), and will operate from 8.30 to 7.00pm daily, and would include public highways. Existing Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) would be included in the RBPA.

A two-hour parking restriction, with no return, is under consideration. Those affected will be contacted and will have to apply to LOCOG for the number of permits that they will need. Permits are also required for carers and tradesmen etc. Those who already have parking permits (and visitors' vouchers) are unlikely to be affected. All vehicles applying will be subject to DVLA checks. The area will be policed by borough parking wardens.

These proposals are subject to change by the Planning Board, whose decision will be communicated to residents "very shortly".

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
(See also <http://westcombe.blogspot.com/>)
167 WESTCOMBE HILL ref 12/0892/CP
Install rear and side doors and rear decking.
107 MYCENAE ROAD ref 12/0848/F
Construct first floor rear extension with balcony, roof extensions to gable, and solar panels
107 MYCENAE ROAD ref 12/0850/F
Construct single storey rear infill extension
TREE WORKS
51B WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 12/1095/TC
Fell sycamore and ash in rear garden

STARKEY FINANCIAL PLANNING LIMITED

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL and CORPORATE FINANCIAL ADVISERS

Investments - Pensions - Estate Planning
2 Charlton Road, Blackheath Standard
London SE3 7EX (T) 020 8853 7160
email: admin@starkeyfinancialplanning.co.uk
website: www.starkeyfinancialplanning.co.uk

HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR FUTURE
Starkey Financial Planning Ltd. is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority



The wettest drought for years

ANNE ROBBINS

The weather this Spring can only be described as unusual, even by English weather's normal standards – a warm dry March, followed by an unseasonably cold and wet April and early May.

With the amount of rainfall we've had recently you might wonder why we are still facing a drought and, worse still, fines of £1000 for using hosepipes in our gardens or for washing cars.

The Thames Water graph of rainfall for the 12 months to the end of March helps to show why the hosepipe ban remains in place: only three months had more than the average rainfall, while most had far below. Remember Spring 2011: we had three glorious months of sun and warmth, but with no rain to speak of, from March to May. In April 2011, the rainfall figure was -92%! Compare that with April 2012!

years of normal rainfall to replenish them.

According to the WWF, we can all make changes that will help reduce our own water usage by many litres per day:

- * avoid baths, in favour of short showers
- * and turn off pumps for power showers
- * turn off taps when brushing teeth or washing up
- * flush toilets less often, and fit a cistern displacement device to lessen the amount each flush uses
- * use a bowl, not a running tap, when washing fruit and vegetables, and empty it onto the garden

Larger changes can make a difference, as well. Having a water meter fitted can bring down your own charges, and make it much easier for water companies to identify leaks and mend them quickly

Make sure that driveways and patio

Rainfall in the last twelve months in the Thames region



It's not only the *how much* of rain that's important, it's the *when* that counts too: in Spring and Summer, it's quickly sopped up by trees, garden plants, farm produce, and weeds. What's left tends to run off into rivers, and from here it can be taken into reservoirs.

However, the most reliable source of water for our rivers is what comes from deep below the ground: these are 'aquifers', formed as rainwater and snow melt on hills slowly sinks through the soil, into the limestone beneath, until it emerges from lower ground as springs. Without these, streams dry up, river levels fall, and reservoirs cannot be filled. And the low rainfall, particularly over the autumn and winter, means that the aquifers are dangerously low on water. It could take two

areas are rainwater permeable, so garden areas stay moister and plants grow more healthily – and a water butt can collect rainwater. Many plants are happy to be watered thoroughly but less often – they can send their roots deeper. But it's also a help to keep the soil a little moist, by hand watering, so that when it does rain after a dry spell, the water doesn't just run off – it will soak into damp soil much better, and help keep the soil healthier.

Water companies themselves aren't only hoping that we all cut back: they are also updating and repairing to make their systems less leaky. But we often take our water supplies for granted. For now, and perhaps for much longer, we really need to think more carefully about how we use a valuable resource.

Christopher's column



Food for Thought

This is a year when carefully laid plans fall apart as the rain lashes our seedlings, knocks our irises flat, and shreds our tulips. Not that the tulips & irises would often be out simultaneously, but with the warm, the cold, the wet, the tiny patches of sun, everything is coming up and out at the wrong time. Tender species like fuchsias were sprouting leaves in March - warm, dry – but have either stopped growing, or shed those baby shoots and look alarmingly bare

We can tinker a bit with our feeding regime to encourage things along. Apply liquid or pelleted Growmore - equal amounts of all the nutrients - to anything you want to flower or fruit later in the year.

A dose of nitrogen (a lawn or 'miracle' type feed) will produce leafy growth on ornamental grasses and greens (cabbage, spinach, or herbs). After this initial shot, use a tomato food for everything till August - weekly (or as often as you can) for flowering & fruiting plants, less often for your 'greens'.

If any plants seem stressed by lack of water (or too much...) or infested by pests - spray or water with dilute seaweed, which seems to be an all round tonic (its chemical components are not shown on the packaging).

There are also small packs of specially

targeted feeds for potatoes, onions and cabbages, which you can get very cheaply – but use sparingly, as they are very stuff.

In the flower garden, consider the (post-) 'Chelsea chop' - taking out the tips of flowering plants to keep them bushier, produce more flowering shoots, or simply to slow them down. Not knowing what temperatures will be by the time you read this, I'd consider 'chopping' late or long flowering species like helenium, helianthus, michaelmas daisies, osteospermums and leucanthemums, then water and feed well. It's a trick I also use on lavender to spread the flowering - any stems you nip out will produce more flowering side shoots.

Christopher Raven

A & A LANDSCAPES Landscape Specialists



Free advice & estimates



Qualified horticulturalist

All aspects of soft & hard landscaping work carried out including

- * Maintenance
- * Site clearance
- * Turfing
- * Tree surgery
- * Fencing
- * Patios
- * Brickwork

Tel. 020 8318 2530

MARKET PLACE

Please send ads for the Market Place with payment by the 10th day of the preceding month to:
Marilyn Little, 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP
020 8853 1312 email:marilyn.little@btinternet.com
ALL classified adverts 30p per word. Please make cheques payable to The Westcombe Society

ACCOMMODATION

GOOD RELIABLE HOST FAMILIES
wanted for foreign students. For more info. please contact Lynne on 01732 822649 or email sesgreenwich@aol.com
HOLIDAYS/WEEKENDS IN 2-BEDROOMED MEWS APARTMENT with terrace close to Greenwich Park. £500.00 per week, weekends £300.00. Telephone 0208 293 9035/07538 080815 or email angelmediaprods@yahoo.co.uk

GARDENING

TREE SURGERY AND ARBORICULTURE
All aspects of tree work undertaken, from pruning delicate specimens through to the removal of mature giants. Contact Duncan Wright on 020 8395 2535 or 07941 890 897. email: dw@duncantrees.co.uk or visit www.duncantrees.co.uk for more information.
BORDERS, BEDS AND CONTAINERS planned, prepared and planted by local experienced qualified gardener. Call Leslie on 0208 858 6541
GOOD GARDENING . . . For hands-on gardening, practical advice, or low-maintenance planting designed for you & your garden, call Christopher Raven 020 8691 2240
GARDEN MAINTENANCE: mowing, weeding, pruning, communal garden contracts, fruit and vegetables, gardening tuition, RHS qualified, also domestic cleaning. Call John and Rachel 0208 316 0990 / 07746

HOLIDAYS

NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS
The Georgian House Delightful period house in charming Pickering market town. Sleeps 10. www.thegeorgianhouse.co.uk Tel: 07876 385189
WHITSTABLE WEEKENDS / WEEKS
Seawall house between Oyster Warehouse and Harbour. Sleeps 5. Fantastic views. 8858 6578 or 0130436 7443
ST IVES CORNWALL, IN OLD QUARTER.
Character cottage, sleeps 4/5, close to beaches, harbour, Tate and School of Painting. Very reasonable rates 020 8852 0434
NORFOLK HIDEAWAY Traditional cottage in rural hamlet - sleeps 5/6. Easy access to the coast, Burnham Market, Holt. Great location for walking, cycling, bird watching, visiting castles, stately homes. Tel 01485 528108/07768 340477

PERSONAL CARE & THERAPY

BLACKHEATH HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICE. COUNSELLING, COACHING, POSTURAL YOGA, ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE, tel: 020 8858 5969 / 1991, www.bhhs.selondon.co.uk
BLACKHEATH LOW COST PAIN CLINIC provides discounted acupuncture and Tui na massage focused on pain management. Fully qualified practitioners. Wednesday mornings.
Blackheath Complementary Health Centre
184-186 Westcombe Hill SE3 Appointments 020 8293 5380 www.healingpath.co.uk <http://www.healingpath.co.uk>
LONDON HOLISTIC COACH: Cognitive Behavioural Therapist & Life Coach; Need guidance on Relationships, Emotional Eating, Career, Confidence Building & Parenting? Call Today M: 07886088062 E: info@LondonHolisticCoach.com W: http://www.LondonHolisticCoach.com
NEED TO MAKE A DECISION?
Tarot cards will help you. Marie Claire Trespeuch Tarot and Palmistry reader. Workshops, Home parties. marieclaire@tarotgift.com 0208 293 1737

SERVICES & TRADE

SIMMONDS HANDYMAN
Property and maintenance services. Electrical, decorating, telephones, general repairs. 079 4198 2895
BLACKHEATH AND GREENWICH WINDOW AND GUTTER CLEANING Mike Smith 07791 465052 www.blackheath-window-cleaner.co.uk
FREELANCE CURTAIN TRACK FITTER.
Bay window specialist. Good quality, made to measure metal tracks used. For free advice, free quotes, phone Mike – 07930854905
C.S. CARPENTRY-JOINERY Decorating and all building work undertaken. Joseph McNamara 02088575480, mobile 07947155366

R.G. Austin

(Established 1963)



Heating Engineers,
Property Maintenance,
Electrics, Painting,
Decorating, Plumbing,
Central Heating,



Shower and Bathroom Specialists

2A Hassendean Rd, Blackheath SE3 8TS
Telephone: 0208 8858 7359
rgaustin@fsmail.net

GO EASY SELF DRIVE HIRE

BUDGET BUSTING DEALS !

- * FREE LOCAL COLLECTION & DELIVERY
 - * MILEAGE ALLOWANCE ON ALL VEHICLES 100 MILES PER DAY
- Mileage over 100 charged at £1.00 per mile.
For full price list, please contact us.
All prices quoted exclusive of VAT

Unit 3 Building 6, Westmoor Street,
Ashleigh Commercial Estate, Charlton
London SE7 8NQ Tel. 0208 858 7211

WENDY ANN'S IRONING SERVICE. Free collection and delivery. Call 8293 5786 for competitive prices.
SHOW YOUR COMPUTER WHO IS THE BOSS
Are you looking for some extra help working with your computer? Need some help with your digital photos, online shopping and the jargon? To discuss the options, call Paul on 07958 251 448 or email paul.clayton@soulchip.net

AFFORDABLE, LOCAL PICTURE FRAMER - collection & delivery possible. Happy to quote or advise. Email: frederick@fmjbotham.co.uk
DECORATING, ELECTRICS

Plumbing and Property Maintenance. Established 25 years. References available. Phil McNamara 020 8857 5480, mobile 078 1436 0862

NEED HELP DECLUTTERING YOUR HOME?

For a free appraisal or more information call 0844 846 5854 or visit www.home-space.biz

DAVIDSON PLASTERING AND DECORATING SERVICES Ceilings repaired or renovated. Artex ceilings skimmed to a smooth finish. Painting and Decorating. Insurance work undertaken. C&G qualified. Small jobs welcome. Free advice and estimates. Phone 8316 0990/07746 121510

TOM ELLIS BESPOKE CARPENTRYKitchens, Alcove units, bookcases, wardrobes, dressers and tables. Happy to quote. 85198947 (m)07540579027

ARCHITECTURAL INTERIOR DESIGN

Liz Bull Design specialises in innovative and inspirational interior and exterior design. Complete service from concept through to planning permission and completion. Services also include bespoke furniture & landscape design. Call for a free consultation. Email: info@lizbulldesign.com

Tel. 07739903752. www.lizbulldesign.com
HOMEWORKS All-round handyman for those DIYs you have no time for! General repairs. External works and maintenance. Painting, decorating. Flat-pack assembly. Light plumbing and general carpentry. Smaller works charged at an hourly rate. Contact Matthew Barron 0790 338 8658

HOUSES CLEARED of unwanted items.

Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917 842

EXPERIENCED PAINTER AND DECORATOR Interior and exterior work, wall papering a speciality. Free estimates. Fully insured. Friendly and reliable. James Leslie 07973 491 264 Email address: jwldec@btinternet.com

WESTCOMBE PARK KITCHENS AT TRADE PRICES Free design & delivery. Tel. 8305 1263 or 0788591 7842

MALCOLM TIERNEY, CARPENTER

Specialist in refurbishment, repair and replacement of sash windows. 077 7565 7371

ANDREW FLETCHER Painting, Decorating & Tiling services. Over 20 years' experience, fully insured. References available. Call 077 0209 4382

S.S.D BUILDERS LTD. Long established Building & Roofing Company available for free estimates & advice. ALL works undertaken, from guttering to Refurbishments. All works viewed within 24 hours, fully insured & guaranteed. Call us today on 07931 536533 or 020 8305 1039

PUBBLE PLASTERING Need a plasterer with excellent references? Work is of high standard. Qualified C&G. Plastering-Rendering-Plasterboarding - Repairs. Free quotes! Call Alex on 07547468459 / 0208 465 5844. pubbleplastering@googlemail.com

S.S.D PLUMBING AND HEATING Friendly local plumber available for free estimates and advice. All works undertaken, no job too small, from boilers to bathroom suites, all works viewed within 24 hours, fully insured and guaranteed. Call today on 07931 536533 or 8305 1039

SMARTT SOLUTIONS... for the jobs you don't have time for. Friendly, reliable and trustworthy handyman service for your home. £2 million liability insurance. Plumbing (not gas), electrics, carpentry, decorating. Contact us if the service you require is not listed. 07912 549 662 – 020 8858 6679 info@smartsolutions.co.uk

www.smartsolutions.co.uk
WESTCOMBE CLEANERS I'm a friendly, hard-working & organised domestic cleaner. Regular or single services. Competitive rates. Additional tasks. I love my clients to be happy Ph. 8853 8671

A MAN AND A VAN
Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917 842

MATURE VERSATILE HANDYMAN Decorating, carpentry, fencing, light building etc. Always looking for that more interesting task. Steven 8985 2922/ 07890 005 150

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Alcoves, wardrobes, radiator covers & general household woodwork. Showroom: 8852 7222 www.carpentryandinteriors.co.uk

DECORATOR & TILER Experienced and reliable service. Free estimates and local references. David Birch 07956 264011

INTERIOR DECORATOR & CARPENTER with over 20 years experience. A member of the guild of mastercraftsman. Free quotes & friendly advice on all your decorating requirements. Local references available. Tel. Ashley Greaves 8858 2981

PIANO TUNER Prompt friendly service from an experienced, fully qualified tuner technician. For tuning and repairs call Jim Kimberley 8305 0033

NEED HELP WITH YOUR COMPUTER? Local technician provides home technical support & tuition. No job too small, all in your own home. Glenn 84734091

TUITION

PIANO LESSONS Enjoy playing your instrument from the first lesson - favourite pieces and much more - a holistic approach to teaching & learning. A.B. exams taken if desired. Tel: 8856 1200

ITALIAN TUITION Native Italian teacher offers lessons at all levels.Preparation for GCSE, A-LEVELS courses, Grammar, Conversation Tel 07788 743371

MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION (aged 8-16) and preparation for secondary school selection tests by qualified & experienced teacher. Mary Bauckham 07709 089838 mary.bauckham@virgin.net

ENGLISH/PRIMARY/11-PLUS TUITION All ages welcome. GCSE, A/S-Levels, Common Entrance, Primary, etc. Fully qualified, experienced teacher. Call Hellen Halliday BA(Hons), PGCE on 020 8858 7704 / 07928 017762 to discuss how I can help.

MULVIHILL ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE Adult and Child Irish Dance Classes available in theBlackheath Area. Come along for a fun all-in-one workout. For more information call Rachel on 07707100521

MATHEMATICS TUTOR For secondary level, GCSE and A-Level by qualified teacher, Tom McNamara [MMath]. £30 per hour. 07595348976 or Email thomasmcnamara@gmail.co.uk

VIOLIN LESSONS ON VANBURGH HILL. Violin Lessons on Vanburgh Hill. Experienced professional violin teacher with 100% pass rate for ABRSM exams and over 10yrs teaching experience. www.steinberg-music.com The Steinberg School offers individual lessons at all ages and levels. Call 0208 123 7659 or email louisastonehill@gmail.com

MINDFUL TUTORING CARING child-centred approach. Experienced primary teachers. 020 8355 380info@mindfultutoring.co.uk

IT SUPPORT

For ALL your home & business needs

Call now for FREE advice

020 8858 2002

www.theheadstart.com

mousesale.co.uk

your local online estate agent!

T:0208 858 0099

Mousesale.co.uk your local Estate Agents online. A full service from inquiry to completion at a very reasonable price.

"Let your mouse sell your house"

Jack Hubert

Personal Trainer

- One to one exercise studio
- Fat loss and toning
- No obligation free consultation
- Block booking discounts available
- Perfect for beginners to exercise

39 Lee Church Street,
Lee,
London,
SE13 5SG
www.adappt.info

Telephone: 0208 318 7373 or 07599 870 523
E-mail: mail@adappt.info

Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice

OPEN DAY

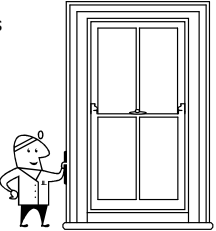
Sat June 9th
10.00 - 2.00 pm

At the Hospice:
185 Bostall Hill, Abbey Wood, London SE2 0GB

SASH-WINDOW DOCTOR

Traditional box sash window business - years of family tradition and expertise guarantees a high quality service that will preserve the aesthetic appeal and add value to your property.

- Installation of double glazed sashes into existing frames following government guidelines.
- New for old – like for like - full box & sash replacement.
- Draught proofing and sound proofing.
- Sash re-hanging and balancing.
- Victorian shutters repair.
- Free diagnosis and estimate.



Contact *Peter Denney* on 0785 585 8184. Email: Peter@sash-doctor.co.uk

BUY LOCAL!

Discounts available on production of your Westcombe Society membership card.

BLACKHEATH VILLAGE:
BLACKS OF BLACKHEATH - JEWELLERS
10% OFF purchases over £100, excluding sale goods and repairs
CACTUS PIT - TEX/MEX RESTAURANT
20% OFF for two or more, Sun. to Thurs.
CHAPTERS RESTAURANT
10% OFF lunch/ dinner for two Mon. to Thurs.
PARES FOOTWEAR
10% OFF all shoes over £20, excluding sale stock
RAFFLES DESIGNER WEAR.
10% OFF all non-sale goods
RIGHT ANGLE RETAIL - GIFTS
10% OFF special goods plus free delivery
CAVE AUSTIN WINE BAR & GARDEN
5% discount at any time

GREENWICH:
NORTH POLE RESTAURANT
12.5% OFF Meals only for two

3D DIVING
10% discount on all scuba diving courses. Offer excludes scuba diving equipment.

GREENWICH COMMUNICATION CENTRE at 164 Trafalgar Road offer 10% discount on all Computer Maintenance and Repairs (including Laptops!) Your local friendly independent computer shop!

HUMBER ROAD: BODYWORKZ - THE FITNESS CLINIC
109 Humber Road.10% OFF all treatments costing £30 or more except Chiroprody; exc.Saturdays.

ROYAL NEPALESE RESTAURANT (Station Crescent) 20% OFF meals for two or more Sunday - Thursday.

THE CURIOUS COMB
10% discount on services over £30 Weekdays 8am-10am, 2pm-4pm (excludes retail purchases).

CORIANDER RESTAURANT (Station Crescent) 25% off Sunday to Thursday. Bookings only!

THE STANDARD: COTON & HAMBLIN - OPTICIANS
5% OFF frames, sunglasses & accessories

KARAN CHEMIST 10% OFF Weds. only
MARNELLS - DIY 10% OFF Wednesdays

WELL BEAN - HEALTH GOODS
10% OFF all purchases over £20 (no credit cards)

BLACKHEATH EYECARE CENTRE
25% off 2nd pair of spectacles. (same prescription. Not in conjunction with any other offer. (Complete glasses start from £49.95 with single vision lenses).

5% off contact lens solution and accessories
GAMBARDELLA's CAFE 10% off meals from Monday to Thursday for members of the WS

TROJAN PRESS 10% OFF all quotations

WESTCOMBE HILL
A * Driving School £5 discount on the price of one x 2 hour lesson for WS members.

THE WONDER WOMEN NETWORK
Offers a 10% discount

Extensions by Mark Titman

marktitman.com 0208858 1180

TOM ELLIS

KITCHENS
BOOKCASES
DRESSERS
WARDROBES
TABLES
DESKS
CABINETS

020 8519 8947
07540 579027
tomellis@talktalk.net