Clare Moram, the Mayor of London, became Police and Crime Commissioner for the capital in May last year. A key part of the Mayor’s role is to produce a Police and Crime Plan, which sets out the crime reduction strategy for London for the next four years, and explains what the Mayor and other agencies should be doing to tackle crime in the capital.

From January, the Mayor of London’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) will be consulting with anyone who lives, works or visits London, and has already drawn up a draft plan.

The final Police and Crime Plan will be published by April 2013. Quoting from the Mayor’s mission statement:

“When you need us, we need you to produce a plan that will improve crime prevention.

- hold the police to account for cutting crime & boosting public confidence, whilst

- giving Londoners better value for money.

- Ensure other agencies work better to deliver effective justice, better service for victims and improved resettlement to cut re-offending.”

Tackling teams” – which some observers fear may mean more centralisation, less neighbourhood policing, and officers who would be increasingly remote from the communities they serve.

Police numbers

Those present at the meeting were quite surprised to hear Mr Greenhalgh claim that overall police officer numbers would be increased by 65 in Greenwich, with officers in SNTs going up from 50 to 128 – though he added that PCSO numbers would be cut further to 70. (In 2010, there were 120 PCSOs.)

Clare Grant, who was present at the meeting, said:

“Claims that police numbers will increase are misleading, as they compare 2011 figures with the projected number for 2015: conveniently forgetting that there was an earlier round of cuts in 2010. An examination of the figures for 2010 shows that police numbers are actually falling and are set to fall still further – from a total of 601 officers in Greenwich in 2010 to a “promise” of 615 officers in 2015.

“The numbers of officers in each Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) may be reduced from six (one sergeant, two PCOs and three PCSOs) to a minimum of just two (a sergeant and a PC). In fact these cuts have already started: Blackheath Westcombe Park Ward has already lost its Sergeant with the neighbouring Kidbrooke Hornfair ward – so one sergeant has to cover an area stretching from Kidbrooke Hill station to the South Circular Road.”

The attenuation of SNTs

The proposal to reduce the SNTs to a minimum – one sergeant and one PC – came as a shock to many at the meeting. Those in attendance expressed incomprehension about the plans: there were strong reservations about the reduction in police stations, and the attenuation of SNTs. Clare Moram (MPSA also present) denounced the plans as “rabble”!

It was argued that Greenwich Police Station on Rurney Street has a key role as the home to the SNTs for two wards (Greenwich West and Peninsula) – and there is currently no need for public consultation for an alternative base for them – though that could change. However, if the new plans are adopted, this long history of a police presence in the centre of Greenwich could be about to end.

The draft plan being consulted on is at http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-and-crime/community-engagement.

The consultation runs from 7 January 2013 – 4 March 2013. Town hall meetings in every London borough were run throughout January and February. Readers’ views welcome.

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

March 9th Daffodil Tea – 2.00 pm

Teas served from 1.15 pm. Invites were sent out in February but if you did not receive one or are new to Westcombe Park and would like one, please ring Carol at 020 8553 0948.

March 16th Children’s Nearly New Sale

Meycane House 2.00 – 4.00 pm

Table and rails can be booked from Joanne please ring or ask at 07709 571377 or ring 020 8293 3429 for details

March 30th Easter Saturday Egg Hunt

2.00 – 4.00pm

Two hours of fun hunting for eggs in Meycane House Gardens

Entry £2.00 (non-members £2.50)
Adults go free (unless they want to hunt!) Entry for under 7’s is free

Join us for a special Easter Egg hunt

Cake stall and raffle.

April 28th Quiz Night

Meycane House

Why not get your team (of six) ready for this popular event? You can reserve a table by calling Carol at 02085530948.
Westcombe Society Party

We were happy to see many of our volunteers at our party in February despite the cold weather. It was a small event, but the Chairman, warmly thanked them for their contributions to the Society’s work, and urged them to involve neighbours and friends in the work that they do. A number of new residents to the area were also warmly welcomed.

It was a truly happy event and we were very pleased to see a number of displays by local charities. At the end of the evening Marily Little thanked the events committee for organising the event so efficiently – as usual!

[LEFT] Barry Gray of ‘Your Charity of the Year’ (Woodlands Farm Trust) received a cheque for £3,000 from Marily Little (Chairman of the Westcombe Society).

At the party, the Trust showed a presentation about their work which illustrated the good use they would make of our donation.

(EDITORIAL) Joan Jacques Aune (Deputy Chairman) presented a cheque to Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled; these funds will provide a saddle for their newest pony, Tiny Tim. They now have four ponies and are able to take even more children with special needs at the centre.

[RIGHT] A bicycle made for two: a surprise gift of a tandem to Billed Independent Greenwich! B.I.G. were delighted by this donation from Gill & Andy Masselbourn. The tandem was served by the Society and presented by Henry Burford by Marily Little.

Letters

Letters to the editor may be edited through lack of space.
Any views expressed are those of the writer only, and are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or the Editor.

Dear Westcombe Society,

Please send this membership form to:

Mrs Margaret Ellis, 4 Inglebourne Grove
London SE3 7PH

Name:

Address:

Tel:..........................................................

Email:..................................................

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family Membership £12 | Individual Membership £6 | Student Membership £1

The Greenwich Gallery, Linear House, Poynton Place, Greenwich, London SE10 8RS

Saturday 2nd March 2013 to Sunday 3rd March 2013

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Tuesday/Saturday 12 - 4pm

http://www.thegreenwichgallery.org

Come and join us!

The Westcombe Society Environment Committee and the Rivers Group made up of volunteers of differing backgrounds who work together with the local authority and organisations to care for the local environment and Conservation Area.

At present the team consists of eight people, chaired by Dick Allard.

If you have an interest in the Westcombe Park environment, or in planning issues and are interested in finding out more, our new email address is environment@westcombesociety.org – we’d love to hear from you.

What do we do?

We scrutinise planning applications both big (e.g. the Olympics and the John Roa School) and small and sometimes submit comments. In some cases we attend planning

meetings and address the Council to support residents’ concerns or put forward our comments.

We also help organise working parties for large developments, e.g. John Roa, to feedback between all parties involved. We also comment and lobby for improvements to transport and parking. We work closely with a number of other organisations such as the Greenwich Society and the Blackheath Society.

With the reduction in bridge work on the London Bridge, we are currently helping to set up a local Rail Users’ Group. (See page 7)

Our group is sought by the Council with regard to local planning strategy and we have good working relations with all our Ward Councillors.

We help to promote and protect green areas and trees, and actively monitor and comment on proposals for large events (e.g. the London marathon and our annual firework display), local developments and other applications that affect residents.

We also manage the Westcombe Society Blogspot.

Westcombe Park’s Public Spaces

McYean Gardens and Woodlands Dell, both in McYean Road, are popular local green spaces. Many of the footpath and tree seats are much-loved green spaces. However, the Friends of McYean Gardens has concluded that the sites need some help to cope with the needs of local residents.

The Friends of McYean Gardens, whose annual general meeting on Thursday 14 March is open to all, have been working up a management plan to help develop the area in line with its heritage and taking into account the needs of its varied users, from children playing games and dogs owners and their dogs, and people just enjoying the quiet open air, as well as the wildlife.

Current demands on McYean Gardens have led to serious work on the open grass which last year’s re-seeding hasn’t fully tackled. At the same time the Dell, which in which the memory of residents was a delightful play area for nearby children, is hard to access, except by leggy walkers eager to allow their pets some quick relief.

The Committee has been assessing options as it develops a plan to propose to the Council for finding ways of continuing to maintain the site, and to consider ways of avoiding or minimising the character of the site.

To find out more or to put forward ideas, contact the AGM at Greenford, Steiner School, Woodlands, 90 McYean Road SE3 7SE at 8.00 pm on 14 March 2013.

The AGM will be welcomed by members who can vote. Membership is free via www.mcyeanag.org.uk/Friends/
Singing: Opportunity Knocks!
Singers here are spoilt for choice. Blackheath Centre for Singing offers several different choices; and the Second Chance Choir (see the box below) is another good option.

Nearly a year has passed since Blackheath Centre for Singing started meeting at Mycenae House, and its choirs are as busy as ever. A hub of community music making in Blackheath, it offers three choirs and individual tuition to adults of all musical abilities – from the complete beginner to the advanced singer.

In Finding Your Voice choir is ideal for newcomers to singing, offering the opportunity to sing in a relaxed environment without the need to read music. The repertoire ranges from Jazz and Folk, through to music of the Renaissance.

In addition, the Singing for Pleasure choir (intermediate singers) and Chamber Choir (advanced singers) present both formal and informal concerts every term, usually focusing on a single, large work for choir, such as a recent exciting performance of Carmina Burana in Greenwich.

Blackheath Centre for Singing has a number of highlights on the horizon, including a performance of Brahms’ German Requiem at 7:30pm on 9 March at St. Alfege's, Greenwich. Tickets for this concert are available in advance (contact details below) or on the door.

New members are always welcome in each of our choirs, and free taster sessions are available on request. Blackheath Centre for Singing will soon offer singing opportunities for younger musicians too. Details of these courses are also available on request.

Rehearsals take place weekly at Mycenae House, SE13 7NE.
More information can be found at: www.BlackheathCentreForSinging.com
Further details: info@BlackheathCentreForSinging.com
Tel: 07986 5828 44

The Second Chance Choir
The Second Chance Choir has organized a workshop entitled “Introduction to singing”. If you have been thinking about joining a choir, but have been concerned about doing an audition, or being unable to read music, or not sure whether you can even sing, then this workshop may be just about perfect for you.

Jesse Maryon Davies will lead the workshop on Saturday in Park Path, at 2.00-5.00 at Sunfilds Methodist Church, Old Dover Road, Blackheath (near the Standard). Jesse is an experienced and lively musician who directs the Clapman Community Choir, and has directed various musical events around London.

The workshop will consist of warm up, singing games, lots of songs, and of course refreshments.

The Second Chance Choir was set up about 18 years ago to encourage people to come out to learn in a supportive group.

New singers, or those returning to singing after a break are all very welcome.

If you are unable to attend the workshop, come along for a taster session at one of our regular sessions on Thursday evenings.

SHEILA ARMSTRONG
To register for the workshop with the Second Chance Choir, at a cost of £18.00 (including refreshments) contact Susanna Gudat at:
email susannagudat@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 02081645 7596
or you would like to know more about the Second Chance Choir visit our website at www.thesecondchancechoir.co.uk or speak to Jean Vallier at 0208 852 7548 or David Sprackling at 07978 6587 61.

Calling all start-up entrepreneurs
NEVILLE GRANT
Lorraine Turton (right) recently invited Jackie Groundsell, founder of 1230 The Women’s Company, to give a presentation and workshop on “Effective Networking for Effective Business people”. Even in the world of websites and social media sites, 75% of successful business contacts come through “word-of-mouth” and net-working, so the associated skills can be vital, said Jackie. PHOTO: Clive Seymour

Following on from the success of its Jobhunters Club, social enterprise, Lorraine Turton, founder of the Greenwich Communication Centre, and Chairwoman of the East Greenwich Business Association, launched the Greenwich Enterprise Club (the GEC) in September last year.

The Greenwich Enterprise Club is a free support and networking group which helps budding entrepreneurs to get started in their own business.

The GEC will provide the opportunity for enterprises to network in a co-operative and relaxed environment, and complements the support offered through the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA).

“For people who are eager to start their own businesses, the time has never been better,” says Lorraine Turton, founder and trustee at Greenwich Communication Centre. “The Greenwich Enterprise Club is our latest initiative to help people who are out-of-work and are planning on a future where they will run their own business.”

“The weekly support meetings will enable business-minded individuals to meet to discuss ideas, network with fellow entrepreneurs, collaborate with possible partners and receive support from experienced entrepreneurs and advice from business advisors.”

“In addition, our business centre has excellent facilities to support start-up businesses including IT Support, access to mac and windows computers and a Wi-fi lounge with superb broadband.”

All those who are keen to start their own business are invited to join the group and participate in the meetings which take place twice a month.

For further information, to become a member, or to reserve a place at one of their upcoming meetings, please get in touch as soon as possible or if you are a skilled speaker, visit http://www.meetup.com/The-Greenwich-Enterprise-Club or email: enterpriseclub@greenwich.com.

Artful dodgers
Priced in Greenwich have recovered an original Banksy artwork after being alen- ted of a fraud by an aspiring art collector. The artwork - the original of ‘Wong War’ and a signed print of ‘No Ball Games’ - were purchased by a customer in Plumstead for a total of £12,990 in January this year.

Two weeks later, the art dealer was told that the cards used did not have the author- isation of the cardholders and therefore both payments were being cancelled.

The dealer reported the matter to the Met. Greenwich CID investigated and on Feb 6th arrested a 25-year-old man in Plumstead. Officers searched an address in Chalfont where they recovered ‘Wong War’. The art- work ‘No Ball Games’ was also recovered after a member of the public was suspicious.

One of the cards used in the transaction is registered to a card holder in Arizona.

Free Will Week
Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice in Abbey Wood, SE London has teamed up with 11 solicitors across the region to offer their services free of charge to make or update a standard Will, if you leave a gift to your Will to Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice.

All you have to do is make an appoint- ment with one of the participating solicitors to re- cive your Will written during Free Will Week (4th - 30th March, 2013).

Free Will Week provides an opportunity to get your affairs in order, have your Will written or amended at no cost, and at the same time help to secure the future of the Hospice.

For further information call 020 8319 9243, email legacy@gbch.org.uk or visit www.communityhospice.org.uk

Ca s'ecrire comment?
On 5th February, six girls from Blackheath High School will go head-to-head with pupils from other Girls’ Day School Trust schools (GDST) in the regional semi-finals of the GDST Foreign Language Speaking Bee.

This regional heat will be taking place by video conference and is one of four tak- ing place across the country, including 21 schools and over 370 pupils.

Pupils will be tested on the spelling and pronunciation of 90 words, in rounds, in five different languages- French, German, Spanish, Latin and Mandarin.

Those in the regional heat have already won a round at their schools, where they were tested on 40 words. Since then they have received 50 new words to learn for the semi-final competition.

The winning teams will go through to the final at Howell’s School in Cardifl on 5th March, where they will be tested on 140 words in each language.

The competition is one of a series of activities to mark the Girls’ Day School Trust’s 140th Anniversary which is being celebrated this year.

Currie-Jane Rafferty

Live Jazz Gem in Mycenae Road
Once a month some world class live jazz occurs at Mycenae House in the main hall.

Fri 8th March, distinguished Portobello musician Earl Okin is featured, along with local top-line jazz guitarist Dominic Ashworth.

8pm. £8 door. Bar. Food avail. www.jazznightz.co.uk

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FEATURES

Memories are made of this... CAROL KENNA

THE CHARTON PARKS REMINISCENCE PROJECT (CPRP) has been exploring local history by talking to people about their memories of the parks (which were once part of the Maryon-Wilson Family Estate), researching their history and topography, and collecting stories and reminiscences about each one: Hornfair, Charton, Maryon Wilson and Maryon Parks, Gilberts Pit and Barrier Park.

These parks have been given by or purchased from the Maryon-Wilson Estate, and are maintained for the benefit of the people of the Royal Borough of Greenwich by the Parks and Open Spaces Department of the Borough.

After two years in the making, The Charton Parks Reminiscence Project is now complete and can be visited online at www.chartonparks.co.uk.

There you will find stories and photo-graphs looking at the history of the parks and their importance to local people over the past hundred years. You can listen to scores of interviews, with people talking about everything from wartime jazz at Maryon Park bandstand to looking after the deer and other animals in Maryon Wilson Park. There are memories of swimming at Hornfair lido to clambering around Gilbert’s Pit plus many more stories featuring Hornfair, Charton, Maryon Wilson, and Maryon Parks, Gilberts Pit and Barrier Gardens Parks, all featured on the website.

To accompany the website a CPRP Book has been produced including extracts from each person contributing to the project, together with wonderful photographs of the parks. The book has been available FREE from borough libraries, Greenwich Heritage Centre and Charton House since late January 2013.

DIY Gilbert & Sullivan

PATTY HAMMOND tells you how

you can become a singing star!

THERE are always many opportunities and new developments at the Centenary Company. Since the end of last year we have been raising funds to support our next production of HANDYSIDE’S THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE to be performed on 13th March at the Lyceum, London SE13 1BX.

The Pirates of Penzance is presented at 7.30 pm and we are encouraging audiences to bring a friend and to support this new production. Tickets can be booked by calling the box office on 020 8778 8088 or visit our website or Facebook page. We are also planning to have a gala evening to celebrate the end of the production and to raise further funds for our activities.

The Centenary Company is an amateur theatre company dedicated to performing musical theatre and opera, and we are always looking for new members. The company has a string of successes throughout its history and we are always on the lookout for new members.

Westcombe Park

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Westcombe News March 2013
FEATURES

Bringing History to life

Last month, the HWY reported that the Blackheath Society was awarded a grant of £7,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its exciting project to develop a new digital archive called ‘The Story of the Heath.’

The images in the archive, which is led by volunteers from the local community, focus on the use and development of the Heath next to Blackheath Village since the 19th century. The project will also enhance the Society’s growing digital archive and could lead to national publicity on BBC television.

The Blackheath Society is asking its members, and the general public, to search their attics for any interesting photographs of the Heath which could supplement the images already in the archive.

The plan is to create mobile exhibitions of the images of the Heath to be shown in local schools and churches, at the library in the newly re-opened Age Exchange in the Village, and at the Blackheath Concert Halls.

Other plans include using the project to update and reprint local historian Neil Rhind’s Heath trail guide and putting a rotating selection of the images on the Society’s website.

The grant brings the Society’s 75th anniversary year to a fitting end. Commenting on the award, the Society’s Chair Howard Shields said: “We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are confident the project will encourage Blackheath people to become more involved in their local heritage. The grant will also greatly enhance our archive of local photographs.”

A woodland glade – on our doorstep!

Frank Smith

The Friends of Westcombe Woodlands have certainly not been hibernating in the winter months! We now have formal recognition from HM Revenue & Customs as a charity, so we can claim Gift Aid on the donations, grants and subscriptions we receive. This enabled us to finalise and print our membership leaflet (below) giving information about us and the woodlands and with a form for people to fill in to become members. We have started putting the leaflet through letterboxes locally.

We have also launched our website (www.westcombewoodlands.org) which contains more information.

The website also includes a brief and fascinating history of the site, written by Alex Grant (with advice from our local historian Neil Rhind) and news. By the time you read this, our calendar of events for 2013 should have been posted.

We have updated our Management Plan, building on that developed by Trees for Cities, the environmental charity which gave us invaluable help when we were starting up.

We held our first Volunteer Day of the year on Sunday 2nd February, when we prepared the ground to plant some fruit trees (apples and pears) – in the past there were orchards on the site.

Responding to comments from our volunteers, our Volunteer Days will this year be on the first weekend of each month.

Joining the Friends of Westcombe Woodlands

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To secure the preservation, protection and improvement of the Westcombe Woodlands
- To educate the public in the history, natural history, ecology and biodiversity of the woodlands and to promote the work of volunteers to achieve those objectives
- To promote high standards of conservation in the woodlands

Why join?

- Your subscription will advance the practical work of the Friends
- You will have the opportunity for volunteering in the woodlands and for limited visits
- You can join in our bird and bat surveys
- You can contribute ideas for the protection of the woodlands and their improvement, while maintaining their unique wild quality
- You will receive email updates and newsletters
- You will be involved in local community activity with an environmental purpose

Come and join us

westcombewoodlands@hotmail.co.uk
westcombewoodlands.org


**At what cost, Silvertown? SARAH WINTERBOTTOM reports**

His research makes grim reading. Air pollution caused by traffic, particularly by fumes from diesel engines, has a negative impact on both lung growth in infants and lung function in older children and adults. Dr Madway displayed slides which showed microscopic particles of metals, including lead from diesel fumes, embed- ded into human lungs. Attendees, including several Greenwich councillors, were reminded that London is non-compliant with the EU’s recommended levels of NO2. Many roads in the Greenwich area, including the Woolwich Flyover, are already air quality black spots.

Dr Madway went on to talk about the economics of poor air quality both in terms of the health costs associated with chronic and acute respiratory illnesses as well as the cost in terms of lost working days due to poor health. Traffic related air pollution has been shown to increase mortality rates and we were reminded of the Great Smog in 1952 which saw florists run out of flowers and undertakers run out of coffins with 4,500 people dying in just one week. Those most affected were babies under 12 months and adults aged between 45 and 75.

**The pollution problem**

Dr Madway’s presentation was potentially more troubling. Currently involved in a project in Tower Hamlets, his team is looking at the relationship between traffic-related air pollution and retarded lung growth in infants in this, the most deprived area in the UK.

Dr Madway ended by painting a gloomy picture. “Unless the government supports the planning of a new rail route, which traffic engineers are convinced is needed, we’re looking at the possibility of another Great Smog.”

According to Jamie Baker, Sainsbury’s regional property development head, the new site is set to be “another flagship environ- mental store”. He described the credentials which will be, at a minimum, on a par with those of its predecessor. It is unclear what will hap- pen to both the old Sainsbury’s building. It is however certain that traffic levels will increase on what is already a very congested road system. But catching a bus is not easy, a number of them stop at the old site. So may be advisable to make use of the internet delivery service which is also one of the new Sainsbury’s.

Sarah Winterbottom

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**Rail-users unite – nothing to lose but your trains!**

Over the next few years all trips by train to and from London on the Greenwich line are due to suffer severe disruption while London Bridge station undergoes major redevelopment to accommodate the multi-million-pound Thameslink upgrade. Things are set to get very much more complicated than simply changing at London Bridge to get to your destination. In fact, many trains are not scheduled to stop at London Bridge – at all – while the works are carried out.

In 2015/16, Charing Cross trains will be passing through London Bridge station with- out stopping. Furthermore, during 2017, Cannon Street trains will not be stopping at London Bridge. Thus for the whole of the three year period, Greenwich line passengers will have no rail access to Charing Cross.

The problems won’t stop once the all-new London Bridge station is completed: under current plans, there will be two more direct trains to Charing Cross on the Greenwich line at all. None of these are to go to Cannon Street.

“While 2015 may sound like a long way off, we need to get organised now,” says Dick Allard, chair of the Westcombe Society’s Environment Committee (WSSEN). He continues: “For some functions a group is essential if our voices are to be heard during this time of significant upheaval, and beyond. And so WSSEN is now joining forces with the Greenwich Society whose longer journeys will also be adversely affected, to promote the formation of a ‘Greenwich Line Rail Users’ Group’ (GLRUG).

All rail users and other interested parties are therefore being asked to attend a meeting to discuss the needs of Greenwich Line users, and to set up a Greenwich Line Users’ Group at 7:00 pm on 26th March in the downstairs bar at Da’s Wine Bar, 161 - 1, Greenwich High Road, SE10 8JA.

Mr Allard said the first meeting will include, xxx, founding member of the Charlton Rail Users’ Group (CRUG) – an already established group CRUG has already been successful in lobbying Network Rail, the train operators South Eastern, as well as the Royal Borough of Greenwich, from the Olympics to the removal of pub- bids in the station, CRUG can claim many successes to date. Also speaking is Dick Allard, the WSSEN Chair.

**Keen to help protect our train service? Then contact WSSEN at wsessen@gmail.com for more information.**

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**Environment**

**R**educe congestion? Speed up journey times? Stimulate economic growth? All laudable reasons to support the pro- posed extension of the Silvertown Tunnel across the area – including a new tunnel to Silvertown. However at a recent public meeting, hosted by the Friends of the Earth, expert speakers gave a very different view. Air pollution expert, Dr Ian Madway of Kings College London was joined by transport expert, John Elliott a transport consultant and civil engineer who worked for the GLC at the time when they were considering proposals for the Thames Gateway East London river crossing.

**New roads create new traffic**

Elliott presented evidence which clearly demonstrated that rather than easing con- gestion, new roads create new traffic. And with the Blackwall Tunnel carrying some 3,000 cars per hour each way during peak times, it has been estimated that a new tunnel would bring it with it additional 2,000 vehicles per lane. The implications for the A102 which would also feed the new Silvertown tunnel are significant. He then went on to show how tolls are ineffective in reducing traffic over the medium term.

The problem presentation was potentially more troubling. Currently involved in a project in Tower Hamlets, his team is looking at the relationship between traffic-related air pollution and retarded lung growth in infants in this, the most deprived area in the UK.

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**Sainsbury’s on the move**

Plans approved by the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) will see Sainsbury’s up sticks and move 400m down the road to a larger site on Gallows Road – tak- ing the place of Dreams, and the now closed Wickes supermarkets. The new supermarket, due to open later this year, will be three times the size of the current store.

Opened in 1999 by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver with its very own wind turbine and solar panels, the Bug’s Way’s store’s car- bon footprint is far from creditable. Indeed it won the Royal Institute of British Architects’ Sustainability Award for its use of multiple energy-saving technologies.

According to Jamie Baker, Sainsbury’s regional property development head, the new site is set to be ‘another flagship environ- mental store’. This regional credentials will be, at a minimum, on a par with those of its predecessor. It is unclear what will hap- pen to both the old Sainsbury’s building. It is however certain that traffic levels will increase on what is already a very congested road system. But catching a bus is not easy, a number of them stop at the old site. So may be advisable to make use of the internet delivery service which is also one of the new Sainsbury’s.

Sarah Winterbottom

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**Site for sore eyes**

Construction of the Greenwich Maritime Museum on the old District Hospital site on Trafalgar Road is well underway. Excavation for the 7 metre deep basement – which will house a new swimming pool and gymnasium – has commenced and is almost completed. Work on the structural concrete frame block on block 1 on the northern boundary of the site was completed by the end of February. The structure, including the roof, is seven floors high. Further works to this structure will commence in March.

The retaining wall to support the new internal road to the south of the site has been completed. The footpath of Vanbrugh Hill will be reopened as soon as work in that corner of the site has been completed.

Local jobs for local people The new chairman of the Greenwich Council at the end of May, should be able to make the necessary decision to support a broad range of jobseekers.

Employment Development Office, Jo Fender is the first cont- act for Heart of Greenwich Development. She is based at GLAD’s Work & Learn Centre, 3 Green Place, SE10 8JA. Jo Fender can be reached on 0208 385 3581 or email johanna.fender@greenwich.gov.uk

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**A dog’s life**

Under plans aimed at cutting the number of species, all dog owners in England have to microchip their animal by April 2016. Tiny microchips, with a code containing the contact details of the owners will be fitted to dogs. Owners who fail to comply with changes to the Animal Welfare Act could face fines of up to £500. The government is also considering closing a legal loophole, so that owners could be prosecuted if their dog attacks on private land.

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**Park springs back to life**

Wrapped up warm on a freezing day in January, the Westcombe Society’s chair, Marilyn Little, joined a group of stakeholders invited by the Royal Parks to see just how the reinstatement work post- Olympics is shaping up.

Royal Parks management, Graem Deat, explained that in total some 35,350 square metres of turf from Romney Marshes are in the process of being laid. While the main equestrian arena was on stilts, due to the archaeological importance of the site, the grass underneath had died, so after aerating the ground, removing the dead grass, and treating the surface with a hortow, the soil was tacked by hand before laying the turf. The turf should have been laid by the end of February. Areas of acid grass (a rarity in London) fenced off during the Games, e.g. Crossoms Hill, have prospered and attracted more wildlife, including butterflies. However, the slope leading down from the former Wolfe catwalk, argue the “best sledging site in East London”, shows signs of wear and tear from the snowfall.

Seeding plans are in place.

The Park’s paths, roads and gates are also getting a make-up (while the snowfall). For more information read Graham Dear’s blog entry on the Royal Parks blog: http://www.royalparks.org.uk/blog

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**Planning applications can be viewed at the library, or on the Woolwich Library on the lower ground floor of the Woolwich Centre, 30 Wellington Street. They may also be viewed on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning**