



# Westcombe NEWS

40th YEAR

Est. 1973 Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops

May 2013 Issue 4

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

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

## Fit for purpose?

... asks SARAH WINTERBOTTOM

Many local residents are already mourning the impending demise of the Arches – the best place for a local swim. The Arches has been a very popular venue for people all over the Borough.

Their regret at losing the Arches is compounded by continuing doubts about the utility of the new pool being constructed by the Royal Borough of Greenwich on the Old District Hospital site in East Greenwich, the opening planned for 2014.

The new pool being built has been designed to have two shallow ends. The Council's rationale is that this will help the borough meet one of its key aquatic targets, namely to increase the number of children aged between five and nine who can swim 25 metres from 71% (2011) to 90% by 2015.

A laudable goal, and on the face of it, a pool with two shallow ends seems quite logical in terms of teaching twice as many children at one time. However, according to the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and British Swimming (the UK's national governing bodies for swimming), this is at odds with their recommendations and published guidelines.

They clearly state that: "a shallow pool works against the interests of children being introduced to the various aspects of swimming and water depth."

Teaching children to swim exclusively in shallow water does not give them the skills they need to deal with deeper water. This potentially puts them at risk when they swim in a standard public or private pool, i.e. with a shallow and a deep end. They are also ill-equipped to deal with swimming in natural environments such as the sea or a river, where water depths can vary quite suddenly.

At a recent Public Council Meeting, Councillor Chris Roberts, standing in for Councillor Kotz, was asked why the expert opinion of the sport's national governing bodies had been seemingly disregarded when it came to the design of the new pool.

He replied that he did not believe that this was the case but that clarification would be sought from Councillor Kotz. We understand from the ASA that when they reviewed and approved the design of the centre there were certain provisos; one of these provisos was the configuration of the main pool. It was made clear that the ASA does not recommend a pool with two shallow ends.

The ASA believes that this type of pool is more hazardous than a pool that has a shallow and a deep end. According to Dennis Freeman-Wright, a member of the facilities team at the ASA: "The ASA would never advocate this pool bottom configuration for two reasons."

He went on to explain: "By having two shallow ends and the deep part of the pool in the middle ... the gradient of the pool floor is doubled and increased to a hazardous gradient that can cause slips and drowning accidents. This has happened in similar pools."

"A pool that has two shallow ends and a maximum depth of 1.5m cannot be used to teach diving from the poolside. This is an important aquatic skill and lack of ability in this area is the major contributor to aquatic swimming pool injury."

According to the ASA, the RBG made the wrong assumption with regards teaching children to swim. "To increase the number of children who can swim 25m aged 11 from 70% to 90% can be achieved without a double shallow ended pool."

Apart from the inherent dangers and health and safety concerns regarding the gradient, the ASA clearly stated that they "do not support a pool which is shallow at both ends as it does not support the full swimmer journey."

While the gold standard public pool includes a movable floor (such as the one in Lewisham), according to British Swimming's published guidelines on public pools, when costs prohibit this, a pool with a deep and shallow end is recommended. (cont. on page 7)

## Our Easter Egg Hunt

PHOTOS: Patricia Slade-Baker



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt makes a great family outing – especially when there's a cake stall!



LEFT: Are two heads better than one?

RIGHT: Maybe! But working alone you don't have to share the loot!



The cold and snow flurries did not deter the intrepid egg hunters and about 50 children enjoyed an eggsciting time at our annual event – the Easter Egg Hunt, which took place on Saturday 30th March (too late for the April edition of the *Westcombe News*).

There was the added benefit this year of a gazebo in which to shelter – the hunt has only ever been cancelled once – due to snow! But weather aside, everyone had a fun and happy afternoon.

In addition to hunting for eggs, there

was a raffle, prizes for the Best Easter Basket – a difficult one to judge as they were all so good – and delicious home-made cakes to keep the hunters sustained or to take home to enjoy in the warm.

This event has become more and more popular. Mycenae House Gardens provide a safe and natural environment for young people to enjoy.

Thanks to Patricia, Caroline, Robert, Jan, Tessa and all of those parents who became under-cover egg hidiers on the day – see you next Easter!

## Don't forget our summer picnic!

Please come and join us for this special community event on June 15th - the Westcombe Society's Summer Picnic and 40th Birthday Tea Party.

We are combining this year with St George's Summer Fair so there will be stalls from St G's, Christchurch and Holy Trinity in addition to others – Riding for the Disabled, Macmillan, Boys Brigade, and Friends of Mycenae Gardens.

BBQ, Cake Stall, Cream Teas, Pimms, live music, games/races for children, Punch and Judy and pony rides. Bring your own picnic or dine out from the BBQ, finished off with a delicious Cream Tea and a cup of tea – or something stronger. Mycenae House bar will be open.

All of these activities will take place in the Gardens. Inside we are having a Senior Citizens 40th Birthday Tea Party, by invita-

tion only. If you are not on our Tea Guest List already, please contact Caroline on 020 8853 0948 for an invitation.

We are hoping that some of the founder members of the Westcombe Society will be with us to celebrate this special birthday. And come dressed in red for our Ruby Anniversary! Please put the date in your diary now.

### Macmillan Walk – 31st August 2013

A walk around Regents Park – if you are interested in walking to raise funds for this marvelous charity, or would like to sponsor the Westcombe Society Team, please contact Caroline on 020 8853 0948 for more info. For walkers there is an entry fee of £10 so, even without sponsorship, you are contributing to the invaluable work of MacMillan Cancer Care.

## < < NEWS BRIEFS > >

### East Greenwich Pleasaunce Orchard on Facebook

The community orchard in the East Greenwich Pleasaunce now has a Facebook group. Join the group to keep informed about events, volunteer opportunities, photos of the growing orchard and more. Go to <http://on.fb.me/12pJIR0> or search for 'East Greenwich Pleasaunce Memorial Orchard' on Facebook.

### Guerilla Gardeners

For years, Guerilla gardeners at Westcombe Park Station have donated time, manual labour, plants and bulbs to improve the "up" platform. Please help them by taking away your non-biodegradable rub-

bish home, or placing it in the plastic sack on the platform.

### Congratulations, Carol!

Congratulations to Carol Kendall, Chief Instructor and Trustee of Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled, for winning a Royal Borough of Greenwich Civic award for her work with RDA.

### Thieves

In March, heartless thieves broke into Charlton Park RDA and stole saddles and equipment worth £500, losses that the charity can ill-afford. (A donation and whip-round at Sainsburys has helped to alleviate the effect of the losses.)

A number of local RDAs have suffered similar losses in recent years.

Nevertheless, Charlton Park RDA continues to function and is one of *WN* readers' favourite local charities.

### Congratulations, Alex!

Congratulations to Alex Wilson, one of our local councillors, who is getting married to Victoria Chamberlin in May, in Norfolk.

### Filming in Greenwich Park

Walkers in Greenwich Park were amazed when they bumped into Hollywood star Nicole Kidman, braving the cold to film scenes for her latest movie, *Before I Go To Sleep*, based on the blockbuster novel of the same name. The film tells the tale of a woman who has lost her memory.

### Well done, RDA!

In March this year, over 280 charities entered an impact story contest organised by leading visual communications company Scriberia. The winning entry was Riding for the Disabled.

See page 4 for more on Charlton Park RDA.

### Running from the beat

Following a campaign led by Liberal Democrat councillors and Labour campaigner Annie Keys, the annual Run to the Beat half marathon (sponsored by Nike) has been rerouted.

Details are yet to emerge, but the organisers claim that fewer roads will be closed, and the events is to start and finish in Greenwich Park. Watch this space!

## Official Notification of the Westcombe Society's Annual General Meeting

Please note that this year, in order to reduce the costs involved in mailing the AGM Notification, Agenda and Minutes of the last AGM to members, the Notification is printed in this issue of the *WN*, together with the Agenda (see page 2). Copies of the Minutes of the 2012 AGM and a copy of the Constitution can be obtained from the Secretary if required prior to the meeting. Please contact the Secretary on 020 8293 3429 or in writing to 41, Glenluce Road, London SE3 7SD.

### AGM Notification

Dear Member

The 2013 Westcombe Society Annual General Meeting takes place on Sunday, 12th May and will be held in the main hall at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road, SE3. The AGM commences at 12.30pm.

Please find the Agenda for the meeting on page 2.

If you are unable to attend the AGM and you have a question for the Society or would like to make a nomination to the Committee, please contact the Secretary at the above address before 12th May.

After the formal business of the Annual General Meeting cheese & wine will be served.

We hope you can attend this AGM – which celebrates the Westcombe Society's Fortieth Anniversary.

Marilyn Little  
Chairman

Joanne Lucas  
Hon Sec.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WESTCOMBE NEWS

### ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**Neville Grant**, The Editor  
westcombenews@yahoo.co.uk  
Tel. 0208 858 8489

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

**Deadline for June:** 16th May  
**News Editor:** Geoff Garvey  
**Environment Editor:** Sarah Winterbottom  
**Reporters:** Denise Scott-McDonald

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Dick Allard** All queries and comments to: 020 8858 7305  
environment@westcombesociety.org  
<http://westcombe.gold.ac.uk>

### DISTRIBUTION

**Myles Dove & Barbara Henley**  
**Jean-Jacques and Maureen Aune**  
Volunteer distributors please phone 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) 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. An 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  
**Chairman:** Marilyn Little  
Tel. 020 8853 1312

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

*We take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of our readers by ensuring as far as possible the bona fides of our advertisers but cannot accept any responsibility for them. Any complaints should be addressed to the advertiser.*

*Back-numbers (in colour) can be accessed on: <http://westcombe.gold.ac.uk/westnews.html>  
Westcombe Society's Blog: <http://westcombe.blogspot.com>*

## Bye to Dave, our pavement sweeper!

Dave Nutley from Erith has been sweeping the Standard and Westcombe Hill for over twelve years. He is retiring on the 3rd of May. He says he will miss the summer mornings and all the friends he has made – but not the cold winter days!

The Council moved him to Greenwich town centre at one point, but local residents and shopkeepers made such a fuss that Greenwich Council had to let him come back. Tributes from local residents and businesses include:

*“Dave has done an outstanding job for many years. He is out in all weathers and never complains about what he has to clear up. Each morning, he comes along the road sweeping and tidying in his usual jovial and cheerful manner and always has time to stop and say hello, especially to the children. Sadly, it does not seem that Greenwich Council will be replacing him and he will be sorely missed. I don't think the roads around the Standard will be as clean in the future.”*

*“Dave is incredibly reliable and has been unswerving in his dedication. He has braved all weather conditions with the same upbeat approach and smile.”*

*“He will be sorely missed. It was lovely to see someone who cared about the community and who took pride and pleasure in his work. I wish him a very happy and healthy retirement.”*

*“Top man is Dave, has done a sterling job on Westcombe Hill, even when the weather is miserable he is usually to be found with a*



PHOTO:  
Marilyn Little

*cheery smile and greeting – he didn't even let it get him down when some moron set fire to his cart! A tough act for anyone to follow!”*

*“Having lived in Westcombe Hill for 14 years we have appreciated Dave's hard work. It makes a massive difference to have a hardworking and diligent street sweeper.”*

*“Rain or shine, Dave always made sure the bin at the bus stop was emptied properly and cleaned up around it. We will miss him.”*

*“I always have a quick word with Dave if I can - I can't think of a nicer guy to have in our community. Happy retirement.”*

**Happy retirement Dave, may you enjoy it peacefully, God bless.  
Siebert Road resident.**

## Quiz Night

April 20th saw another most enjoyable Westcombe Society Quiz Night, in which twelve teams took part. Well done, the winners, The Goonies, who just pipped Little's Liabilities to the post. Many thanks J-J & Maureen Aune, Joanne, Patricia and Caroline for organizing this very popular event. Great fish 'n chips too!

## Letters

**Letters to the editor may be edited through lack of space. Any views expressed are those of the writers only, and are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or the W/N.**

**From: Trevor Allman**  
**Coleraine Road**

It was with dismay and disgust that I read on Twitter, that local Councillor Alex Grant, would not be standing for re-election to the Council in 2014. This decision was reached due to the fact that he has been bullied and intimidated by fellow Labour Group members, because he deigned to question their undemocratic practices when it came to decision making.

I was dismayed, as despite us being political opponents, I have always found Alex to be a thoroughly pleasant and genuine person. I was disgusted, as having been the victim of bullying on a number of occasions in my life, I know how thoroughly distasteful this is, and the stress it can cause to the victim.

I was also disgusted to think that many of these people who have been bullying Alex will probably be re-elected, when they clearly hold the ideal of democracy in as much contempt as they hold the residents of the borough – clearly demonstrated by the so-called “consultation” process about reducing Council Tax Benefit to the poor, sick and disabled, which hardly anybody appears to be aware had even taken place.

Whilst the people of Blackheath Westcombe Ward are losing a Councillor with a proven track record of commitment to this Ward like Alex Grant, they do have the chance to re-elect another, who has lived in the Ward for 40 years, as I am standing again as a Green Party candidate.

**From: Helen Causley**  
**Kemsing Road**

I wanted to assure readers that the Council's proposals for road-calming in Halstow, Kemsing and Ormiston Roads were

brought about because of genuine safety concerns by residents in the area - and not 'change for change's sake' (as suggested in the W/N last month)

These roads are regularly used for 'rat-running' by cars and heavy goods vehicles, as shown by a traffic survey carried out by the council which looked at the amount of traffic on these roads.

Concern about traffic volume and speed on these roads is shared by a number of my neighbours who have worked with the Council on these proposals. This concern is also borne out by the positive response to the consultation where I understand a large majority have supported the road narrowing in Ormiston Road.

The traffic engineers proposed two options which together would reduce the number of vehicles using the whole area as a short cut, whilst still enabling local residents to go about their business. The Council have also promised to keep traffic flows under review. On this basis, the proposals seem a sensible solution to a very real problem.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation and to those who use our roads safely. Every day in Britain, five people are killed and 66 seriously injured on our roads (Reported Road Casualties Great Britain 2011). Perhaps by driving more carefully, and maybe sometimes putting up with a little inconvenience, we can make that number smaller tomorrow.

**From: Dr Adam T Bradford**  
**Blackheath**

Greenwich Council is to be commended for its stated commitment to preserve its conservation areas and live up to its name as a World Heritage site. It is a great shame that other groups who

claim to stand for the same principles act in a contrary way. I attended a planning committee meeting at the Town Hall recently regarding a developer's proposal to cut a single house plot in a conservation area in two and put in 10 bedrooms where there had hitherto been only 3. This was rightly challenged by the councillors present. Imagine my surprise when the Blackheath Society spoke in support of the developer, in a breathtaking display of arrogance and hypocrisy given its stated purpose to 'preserve and enhance' the area. The public need to be alerted to their behaviour.

**Wendy Shelton of the**  
**Blackheath Society replies:**

The Society most definitely did not support the proposal to demolish a detached house in Langton Way to allow for two replacement dwellings. The Society clearly told the Planning Committee that its preference was to see the existing building retained and refurbished to modern day standards, considering this to be a more sustainable approach to development.

However, the Society always considers very carefully whether any objection is worthwhile. In this case, mindful of the fact that precedents have already been set for similar proposals at three other sites in Langton Way in recent years, the view was taken that it would be neither rational nor realistic to object to the proposal. Should the application be subsequently refused by the Planning Committee following its members' site inspection later in the month, the way would be open for the applicant to appeal the decision and, given the precedents already set, the Planning Inspectorate would have strong grounds for allowing any such appeal.

## Delivering the Westcombe News

What makes the Westcombe News special is that it is a community enterprise. All those involved in producing or delivering the *WN* are volunteers, their only reward being the very positive feedback from the community. Their support is very much appreciated by both the Westcombe Society and the community at large.

However, our volunteer distribution organisers Myles Dove, ably assisted by Barbara Henley, J-J and Maureen Aune and others putting the paper into street batches, have been having a few problems.

Myles told the *WN*: “Inevitably, some of our deliverers go away sometimes – a problem that occurs particularly during Easter. It would be very helpful if our deliverers could possibly arrange for a friend or neighbour to take on their round when they are away – and let us know.”

To assist this, we list below the target publication/distribution dates for the *Westcombe News* for the rest of this year:

Issue for:	Distributed:
June	Sat. 1st June
July/August	Sat. 29th June
September	Sat. 31st August
October	Sat. 28th September
November	Sat. 2nd November
December/Jan	Sat 30th November

Myles adds: “It would be very helpful if we could have help with delivering the batches to the deliverers. Any help from car drivers would be much appreciated. Please ring 8853 3740 if you think you can help out on occasion.”

### WESTCOMBE SOCIETY AGM 2013

12.30pm 12th May 2013 at Mycenae House

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Approval of and Matters Arising from Minutes of 2012

3. Reports:

The Hon. Chairman  
Events Sub-Committee  
Environment Sub-Committee

4. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Audited Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31.03.2013

5. Election of Officers

6. Charity of the Year

7. Talk by Neville Grant, Editor of The *Westcombe News*  
“The *WN*: a good way of beginning, and ending, a career.”

8. Any Other Business



# LOCAL NEWS



Fostercare Services Ltd

## FOSTER CARERS NEEDED IN 2013

**Xcel 2000 Fostercare are looking for carers in your area**

We provide professional training, 21 days paid respite and 24 hour support to foster carers to improve the lives of children.

You need to have a spare bedroom, the skills to care for a child and a sense of fun.

Contact us for an information pack:

**0845 094 5651**

Email:

[enquiries@xcel2000.com](mailto:enquiries@xcel2000.com)

Website:

[www.xcel2000.com](http://www.xcel2000.com)



Xcel 2000 is an equal opportunity employer and all applicants are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) (previously CRB)

## Car club relaunch

The Royal Borough of Greenwich has relaunched its borough-wide car club – with a great new sign-up offer for local businesses and residents.

The car club – operated in Greenwich by Zipcar – is similar to the bike hire scheme in central London. You join up, then book out a car whenever you want from any of the 40 bays across the Royal Borough. (Nearest bays here are at the foot of Maze Hill.) Being in the car club means you can drive when you like and can avoid the cost and hassle of owning your own vehicle – you don't even have to pay for petrol. Zipcar offers flexible rates and plans so you can choose the best one to fit how often you'd use the cars.

Car sharing schemes now operate across many of the world's major cities and can save people hundreds of pounds a month spent on running a car. They really help to protect the environment too – each car shared takes at least 20 personally-owned vehicles off the road.

There are more than 40 car club cars and vans available in Greenwich, operating

## The show must go on



Yet another successful London Marathon, which again raised large sums for charity; this year, many runners wore a black ribbon to show solidarity with the people of Boston following the recent outrage.

While runners ran the Marathon, local residents still had to run the gauntlet. A number of residents have commented on the inadequate information provided by the organisers of the Marathon.

A leaflet "Local Information for residents enclosed by the route" once again omitted any advice for residents of Westcombe Park, Charlton and Woolwich.

And once again, the timing of the reopening of crossing points was very conservative. There was no warning that bus routes were likely to be severely disrupted, or whether train services were affected.

A later leaflet specifically designed for residents of Westcombe Park was issued, but unevenly distributed. As Cllr Geoff Brighty asserted, "I think local residents should have the information available on a day of potential disruption to them."

**BELOW: London takes pride in its Marathon - a triumph of organization and community spirit**



in 20 locations across the borough. Any Greenwich resident or business signing up during the launch period can claim a free £50 driving credit, courtesy of Zipcar.

Cllr Denise Hyland, Royal Borough of Greenwich Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills said:

"I really urge people to give this a go. Owning a car and driving in London can be a real challenge, not to mention a major cost. With our excellent public transport links it's really worth having a good think about whether you need to own a car.

"Being in the car club you can still use a car whenever you need to, say for a big supermarket shop, a day out – or to hire a van to move house or buy furniture. If you don't use a car every day then give this some serious thought; you really could save a lot of money and hassle. I really want our local businesses to consider joining the car club too – it's an ideal solution instead of using a company car."

**www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/carclub**



PHOTO: Richard Dinkeldein

## Soil-Mates!

Last month volunteers for the Westcombe Woodlands planted 8 fruit trees (apples & pears, all old varieties). Said Frank Smith: "The London Orchard Project ([www.londonorchardproject.org](http://www.londonorchardproject.org)) has historic maps which show there were orchards here in the 1890s, so we thought we'd try to recreate one!"

## Mid-Summer Jazz is back!

The Friends of Greenwich Park have announced that the Phoenix Dixieland Jazz Band is back in the Observatory Garden, Greenwich Park, on Sunday 16 June. This will be another marvellous event for all the family, organised by the Friends of the Park, and is open for all to attend.

The concert is from 1.00 pm 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 (telephone 020 8853 2150 or email [cnbevan@hotmail.com](mailto:cnbevan@hotmail.com)). Cheques payable to "Friends of Greenwich Park". Please enclose an s.a.e., and mark the envelope "Jazz in the Park".**

## Writing workshops

Ottie and the Bea are hosting two writing workshops. On Monday 20th May 4.00 - 6.00 pm budding Writers aged 8-12 can join inking stories and stir up a storm: they can create characters together, and then write a chapter each.

Participants receive a printed copy. Cost £10 (includes a 10% donation to Winston's Wish). Booking is required!

Then on Sunday 9th June 10.00 am - 12.00 noon Charlotte Kemp is back to run her wonderful Journalism Workshop.

Charlotte has worked as a freelance Journalist and was editor of The Weekend Magazine for The Daily Mail for a few years. All budding journalists receive a copy of the newspaper they will have helped build.

This workshop is for those aged 7+.

The cost is £15. Booking is required!

**ED: Maybe they could contribute to the Westcombe News!**

## Charlton Lido

On a wet and cold Monday morning at the beginning of April I decided to go and look at the newly refurbished Charlton Lido. Much to my surprise there were eight hardy individuals enjoying the 25 degrees of the water.

This historic 50 metre outdoor pool has been opened since Easter and the massive refurbishment aims to bring a new range of leisure facilities to the local community.

It is operated by charitable social enterprise GLL of Better Leisure Centres and is the cornerstone of the £4million Olympic legacy that is due to transform Hornpark into a multi-sport hub park with new tennis and basketball courts, and a BMX track. Future plans are to rejuvenate communal areas and provide new Health and Fitness facilities, a new gym, an exercise studio, a new reception and café and seating areas. This work is

scheduled to be completed by 2014.

In addition to recreational swimming the pool will host a range of lessons and courses and be the training venue for the Greenwich Royals swimming club.

As a keen swimmer who prefers swimming in the sea, I nevertheless enjoy the fitness pool of The Arches. It has a quiet calm and friendly staff that makes swimming both relaxing and good exercise. However swimming in the open air has many attractions and a heated pool even in the depths of winter has its own appeal.

The demise of Lidos in London and elsewhere is much to be regretted and it is therefore most pleasing to see that this facility that has been enjoyed by so many in the past will continue to bring enjoyment to future generations.

**Visit: [www.better.org.uk/charltonlido](http://www.better.org.uk/charltonlido)**

**J-J Aune writes on the delights of an open-air swim!**

## Mycenae House community centre

".... one of London's best kept secrets"

Live Music, Theatre & Comedy on your doorstep

Fri 10 May **Roll Out The Beryl** (Reid) - Comedy Theatre 7.30

Fri 10 May **Bob McKay & Guests** Jazz Saxophonist 8.45pm

Sat 18 May **Comedy 4 Kids** - Comedians for kids & families 2pm

Fri 14 June **Karl Charity & Paul Pace** - Jazz Nights 8pm

Sun 23 June **Sunday Roast & Jazz** - Lunchtime Jazz 12.30pm

Fri 28 June **Bijou Choir & Orchestra** - Choral Music 7.30pm

Tickets on the door or available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/mycenaehouse](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mycenaehouse)

**02088581749 [www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)**

90 Mycenae Rd, Blackheath, SE3 7SE  
Close to Westcombe Park Train Station, Free Parking, Bar & Cafe

Mycenae House & Gardens is a Community Hub committed to serving the communities of Westcombe, Blackheath & Greenwich



## MEND YOUR ENGLISH

or

What We Should Have Been Taught At Primary School

Ian Bruton-Simmonds

## Focuses on the BBC

ISBN No: 978-0-9546862-1-5

£9.99 from the British Library Bookshop or other good bookshops

## 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



# FEATURES

## All change for Alex?

by SARAH WINTERBOTTOM

News of Alex Grant's decision not to stand for re-election as Blackheath Westcombe ward's Labour Councillor in 2014 first broke on Twitter in March.

This was soon followed by a piece in the *News Shopper* which revealed more details from his leaked letter to the local Labour Party where he set out his reasons behind his decision. With Nick Raynsford, our local Labour MP also stepping down, was the sound of Big Ben beckoning? We were intrigued to find out more about his next move.

First elected onto the Council some fifteen years ago in 1998, at just 24 years old, Alex Grant was the youngest Labour councillor in Greenwich at the time.

"It all rather happened by accident," he explained. "I had just left university and moved back to the area, having grown up here from the age of six.

"I went to a meeting in 1996 at Mycenae House of what was then the Vanbrugh Ward Labour Party and came out of the meeting as the branch organiser for the run-up to the 1997 general election, and a year later was a candidate in the 1998 elections."

Fifteen years later, his leaked letter to the local Labour Party would have made uncomfortable reading for the Royal Borough of Greenwich's PR people who were bathing in the afterglow of being awarded the 'Council of the Year' by the Local Government Chronicle, the trade paper for councils.

Apart from simply wanting to explore other avenues after a decade and a half of public service, Grant's email cited a "bullying" culture where "decisions are made with little or no consultation with the community, the party, or backbench Labour Councillors."

He went on to talk about "verbal abuse" and "sinister threats of disciplinary action" – and is not the first to speak out about the manner in which the RBG carries out its business.

The next elections are still about 12 months off and Alex, while shying away from questions concerning his decision not to seek reselection, was keen to emphasise his personal priorities for the time he has left to serve, namely: housing; securing funding for the rebuilding of Invicta school (he is a governor of the school); and transport.

All important issues for a ward which has a very wide and diverse



community – a unique characteristic that Alex cites as one of the things that he has relished in his role:

"One of the great things about representing Blackheath Westcombe is that all human life is here – there are huge extremes of wealth and poverty – so no day is the same."

Alex cannot remember ever having had any strong political ambitions as a child and confirmed that this is still the case when he claims that he is "not putting his hat into the ring" for the gap that will be left when local Labour MP Nick Raynsford stands down.

For those who may be considering standing as a councillor, Alex describes a role which has improved over time. Remuneration is more attractive, and the position's flexibility allows for family commitments and even a second job.

However, while he feels that the job is now relatively family-friendly, he wants to devote more time to his family while his daughter is still young. "I am proud to represent the ward, not only as it was the one I grew up in and where my parents still live, but also because of the strong sense of community – epitomised by organisations like the Westcombe Society which actively seeks to bring local people together for the good of the community," he concludes.

"On the rare occasions I personally may have helped to make a difference – to improve the council's housing policies, helping to get the Gibb Memorial on the Heath restored, or getting our railway service improved – it is because there has been an alliance of the community, the council and other bodies working together to provide both funding and expertise."

We wish him luck and thank him for having worked on behalf of local residents in the area for the last fifteen years.

## The Last Walk for Tom

Walk for Tom 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 as this was a charity very close to his heart. This year's Walk for Tom is on Sunday June 23rd at 10.00 am at Charlton Athletic Football Club, Floyd Road SE7. This will be the 5th year of Walk For Tom and the team have agreed that this will be the final year of Walk For Tom as you know it, so we really want to make sure that this year's event is the biggest & bestest yet!

That isn't to say Walk For Tom will no longer exist, we shall continue to raise funds in Tom's memory through new ventures and challenges.

We hope you can all join us again: without you Walk For Tom would not have existed and not been the amazing success it has been, raising an incredible amount of money for Charlton Park RDA.

The last 12 months have seen highs & lows for the Walk For Tom Team & their families.

During the summer, Zoe carried the Olympic torch in Tom's memory. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise everything Walk For Tom has achieved, and as you can imagine, Zoe was Fabulous!

### Megan writes . . .

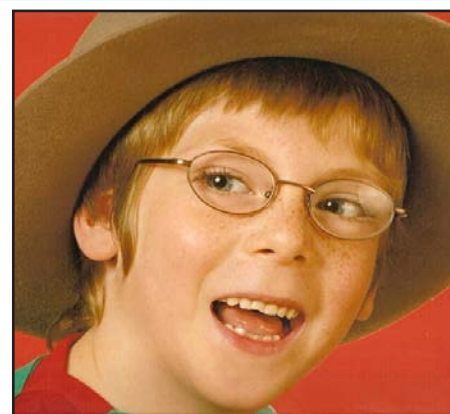
Wonderfully the legacy of what Walk for Tom is all about lives on through Megan, Tom's twin sister. Once petrified of horses, Megan has become a natural at horse riding, and spends her weekends volunteering at Charlton Park RDA.

Megan has written this piece about her time spent at Charlton Park RDA:

**Volunteering with the RDA horses**  
*On Saturdays I help out with the RDA horses. My usual day goes like this: Up and out of the house by 9.00 am - pretty early for a teenager at the weekend! I head off to the pen the horses call home in Maryon Wilson Park. Here I meet up with the rest of the gang and we get on with the not-so-glamorous task of mucking out. Once this job is done we walk Honey, Ted, Arthur and Tiny Tim through the park, across the road and into the riding school at Charlton Park. This is where we groom them and make them look pretty and clean. After this it's time to tack them up with their saddles etc, put our riding hats on and go into the sand school and ride them as they need their exercise.*

*It's really good fun and my riding skills have increased massively since I started volunteering! After that we untack them and have a drink and make their food while the horses have a bit of a chill out. Then we feed them.*

*Once they have finished, we put their rugs (coats) on if it's cold. Then we put their bridles on and make our way back to the horsey pen in Maryon Wilson Park. Finally, we give them some hay and say goodbye for another week :)*



Tom Warren . . .

In August 2012 sadly Leigh, Tom's Grandad, lost his battle against cancer. For those of you that were at Walk For Tom last year you will remember the incredible sight of Leigh's determination. After 19 laps in his wheelchair he walked the final lap of the pitch for Tom with his family at his side. Leigh crossed the finish line to cheers, applause and tears as the sun broke through the clouds momentarily.

I still think that burst of sunshine was Tom. Leigh was relentless in keeping Tom's memory alive & raising funds for Charlton Park RDA - this year we will walk in memory of Tom & Leigh.

***With two friends, Tom's Uncle Jack, ran in the Hastings Half Marathon in March in Tom's memory to raise funds for the Charlton RDA. Not too late to contribute! Visit their Just Giving page. <http://www.justgiving.com/hastings-half>***



... and Tom's favourite horse, Honey. The Westcombe Society provided a saddle

## FACT SHEET

### Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled

The group was founded in 1974 by Liz McDermott, and is the only RDA team in Greater London that owns horses and does not pay staff to care for them but depends on volunteers who also raise funds. The Royal Borough of Greenwich Council provides shelter for the horses and an area for riding lessons. Riding is provided for up to 50 disabled riders each week during term time. The group aims to provide riding for a diverse range of disabilities as long as riders meet height and weight restrictions and are medically capable. Riding can help people of varying disabilities. For the physically disabled riding can help build core muscles to improve movement, and for learning difficulties like autism it can be extremely therapeutic, calming and a great way to socialise. Some children have said their very first words while at the RDA!

**New volunteers are always welcome and will receive full training. For further information please contact Charlton Park RDA on 0208 377 1528 or Carol Kendall (Chief Instructor, & Trustee) on 07 877 320 406.**

## Westcombe Park Dental Practice



13 Station Crescent,  
Westcombe Park, London SE3 7EQ Tel. 0208 853 3304 Fax: 0208 858 1784

### Treatments Available

Zoom Tooth Whitening

Dental Implants

Invisalign

Smile Makeovers

Tooth Colouring Fillings

Anti-Wrinkle Treatments & Dermal Fillings



# 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: May 23rd Oliver Everett on** on "King George III" Non-members £5 on the door. [www.artsinblackheath.org.uk](http://www.artsinblackheath.org.uk) or ring 83187550

**GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY** King William Court, the University of Greenwich **NEXT LECTURE: Monday 13th May Shirley Smith: "Pearls and pomegranates, peacocks and pipes: the hidden language of renaissance art"** 020 8852 7873. Non-members £8.00

**WEST GREENWICH LIBRARY** *Greenwich Perspectives* by the Greenwich Open Studio group (GOS): inaugural exhibition in the new Gallery Space at West Greenwich Library in Greenwich High Road celebrating the opening of this fine new space/continues during Library hours until May 25th, – a taster for GOS's traditional open weekends in June.

**ROYAL OBSERVATORY GREENWICH**

**Until Sept 8th: Alien Revolution:** the role of aliens in science and culture, from Copernicus to the detection of alien worlds orbiting the stars. Part of the Royal Observatory's Alien Season.

**MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY**  
324 Creek Rd SE10 [www.madeingreenwich.co.uk](http://www.madeingreenwich.co.uk)

**Wed. May 1st: "PABLO NERUDA"**, a lecture-read-ing-performance by lecturer and broadcaster Graham Fawcett. 6.45 - 8.15. **May 23rd** Emily Dickinson, both at 6.45, £10 incl wine. £10 in advance from the gallery or at the door, includes a glass of wine.

**Mon. May 6th: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING DAY**

**Sunday May 12: "THE RISE AND FALL OF THE POOL OF LONDON"**, illustrated talk by local artist, novelist & historian Terry Scales 3.00 - 4.30 pm. Free

Until May 26th: New exhibition: **The Natural World** till May 26

## CHILDREN

**GREENWICH THEATRE**  
**Sun 12th May 2.30 pm THE ELEPHANT BRIDESMAID** £10.00 Children/concs £7.50  
Family ticket £28.00

**Tues 7th - Sat 11th May CONNECTIONS** a festival of new plays by young people 6.00 & 8.00 pm

**WOODLANDS FARM**  
331 Shooters Hill. Tel. 0208 319 8900

**Every Thursday Toddler Club 10am - 12pm**  
£2 per adult, children free

Meet the animals, enjoy some crafts or just play.

**SE LONDON DADS GROUP** Regular stay-and-play for dads and children under five @ Sherington Children's Centre, 14 Sherington Road every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30am. Contact: email: [info@selondondads.org.uk](mailto:info@selondondads.org.uk)

**BLACKHEATH HALLS**  
**Sat 4th May 3.30 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG**



## 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](http://www.stolaves.org.uk)



## COMMUNITY

### Westcombe Society Dates for your diary:

**May 12th AGM**, Main Hall, 12.30 pm  
**June 15th** Summer Picnic and Senior Citizens Tea Party  
**Sept 7th.** Members' Evening, Main Hall,  
**Sep 27th** Macmillan Coffee Morning, Bar/  
Main Hall Mycenae House  
**Sept 28th** Nearly New Sale, Main Hall,  
**Oct 26th** Quiz Night, Main Hall

**CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH** The next fund-raising luncheon is on Thursday 2nd May 2013 at the Clarendon Hotel, Blackheath from 12 noon to 2:30pm. The cost is £8.50. Melanie Adler (oiano) will offer musical adventures through familiar and less familiar works. Lunches can be booked by telephoning Wendy on 8265 0335 by Monday 29th april 2013.

**BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY**  
**Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road SE3 7SE**  
**May 17th 7.45 pm Dr A Hudson-Smith, FRSA on Advances in 3D: from Mapping to Home Printing, towards augmented reality** Visitors are welcome, and are requested to donate £ 3.00 to Society funds.

**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](mailto: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.**

**GREENWICH HERITAGE CENTRE**

**Free exhibitions: "This Eltham of Ours"** until 18th May (watercolours exhibition)  
"For Nike: Ancient Greece in Modern Woolwich" Until 22nd June  
"Freedom of Spirit: the Women's Suffrage Movement in Greenwich" 25th May to 31st August

**8th. June** there will be a talk on the women's suffrage movement by June Balshaw and Claire Eustance from University of Greenwich. £3 includes refreshments, book on 0208 854 2452.

**LIVE JAZZ - AT MYCENAE HOUSE**  
Candlelit jazz, special featured guest each month. Occurs on the second Friday each month. Bar & Food available. 8pm. £10/ £8 **Enquiries: Dave Silk 01689 875 683** See <http://www.jazznights.co.uk/>

**ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC 9.00 pm every Tuesday** at the Lord Hood pub, Creek Road; main-stream jazz every Thursday.

**WOODLANDS FARM BARN DANCE**  
**Saturday 25th May.7.30pm - 11pm:** Live country music by Skinners Rats. Tickets are £12 and this includes a ploughman's supper. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Booking is essential, to book call 020 8319 8900.

**MYCENAE HOUSE**  
**Saturday 18th: Comedy Club for Kids - 2.00pm**  
Tickets £7.50

**Thursday 30th: Children's Singing Workshop - 10.00am-1.00pm** run by Blackheath Centre for Singing for 7-11 year olds £15 per child



**Davy's Tastings in Greenwich.**  
**Cheese and Wine - 7.00 pm** Wednesday 8th May, Tickets £25  
**Californian tasting** with Carolyn Bosworth Davies – 7pm Tuesday 14th May, £35  
**Summer tasting and lunch – 10.30 am-1.30pm,** Saturday 8th June Tickets £47.95  
**Cheese and Wine – 7.00pm** Wednesday 12th June, Tickets £25

## THEATRE & OPERA

**THE GREENWICH THEATRE** Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755  
**Until Sun 5th May: Henrik Ibsen's GHOSTS**  
**Tue. 14th May - Sat June 1st:**  
Lazarus Theatre Company present Shakespeare's **LEAR**, and Marlowe's **DIDO QUEEN OF CARTHAGE** Eves. 8.00 pm. Wed & Sat 2.30 pm

**THE SPACE** 269 Westferry Road London E14 3RS 0207 515 7799 / [www.space.org.uk](http://www.space.org.uk)  
Nearest stn: Mudchute (DLR) Buses: D3, D7, 135  
**Until May 4th: THE SECRET GARDEN 7.30 pm** (Matinees 1.00 pm WQednesdays & Fridays)  
**May 7th - 25th 7.30 pm THE GUT GIRLS** by Sarah Daniels. Five feisty SE London women . . .  
**May 28th - June 15th 7.30 pm W. Shakespeare's CYMBELINE**  
**THE ALEXANDRA PLAYERS**  
**Our last play DAISY PULLS IT OFF** played to full houses, and people queued for returns ... So book early for our next play:  
**Thursday -Saturday May 30th, 31st and June 1st.** The Alexandra Players present **PACK OF LIES** by Hugh Whitmore, an exciting story based on a true event in the 60s. Were they really spies - or patriots? At the Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Avenue, SE7 7HX starting at 8 pm. Doors open 7.30 pm. Tickets £8 (£7 Concessions). Booking: 07867 627 987 or email [alexandraplayers@gmail.com](mailto:alexandraplayers@gmail.com)

**MYCENAE HOUSE**  
**Fri May10th 7.30 pm ROLL OUT THE BERYL:** Beryl Reid remembered: An anthology of theatre and comedy £8.50

## MUSIC

**BLACKHEATH HALLS** Tel 020 8463 0100

**Mon 6th May 2.30 pm, Sunday 12th May 1.30 pm & 6.30 pm** Blackheath Halls Orchestra: Come and play Mendelssohn Classics  
**Tues. 7th May 7.30 pm** Beats in the Bar  
**Tues 7th May , Mon 13th May 7.30m** Blackheath goes Gospel: Adult choir  
**Saturday 11th May 7.30 pm Great Hall:**  
**ELTHAM COLLEGE CHOIR AND CHORAL SOCIETY** perform **VERDI'S REQUIEM**  
**Sun 12th May** Blackheath Sundays: **MARTIN KASIK** piano plays Beethoven Chopin and Czech music £14 | £12.00 concs inc coffee  
**Wed 15th May 7.30 pm AN EVENING WITH EMILIE CAPULET**": "If music be the food of love ..."  
**Fri 17th May 8.00 pm**  
**The Icarus Club**  
**Sat 18th May 7.30 pm** London Community Gospel Choir  
**BLACKHEATH SUNDAYS:**  
**Sun 26th May 11.00 am**  
**Stephen Upshaw** viola, **John Reid** piano, **Tamsin Waley-Cohen** violin play Britten, Mozart, Beethoven & Brahms  
**Thu 30th May 7.30pm & Fri 31st May OKLAHOMA! £10 | £5 concs**  
**Wed 26 - Sat 29th June 7.30 pm**  
**TRINITY LABAN OPERA: OFFENBACH's ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD £15 | £12.00 concs.**

**BLACKHEATH HALLS**  
**ELTHAM COLLEGE CHOIR & CHORAL SOCIETY & NORTHERN LIGHTS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
cond. Alastair Tighe

perform  
**VERDI'S REQUIEM**  
**Saturday 11th May 7.30 pm**  
Tickets: £20 | £15 | £10  
Available from Eltham College email:  
[music@eltham-college.org.uk](mailto:music@eltham-college.org.uk)

**Open Workshop**  
**18 & 19<sup>th</sup> May 11 to 5pm**

Miles Campbell

**Clockmaker • Woolwich, London**

Repairs and house calls undertaken

0208 331 0201

[www.milescampbell.co.uk](http://www.milescampbell.co.uk)

## WRISTWORTH HEATING & PLUMBING

Installation - Servicing - Repair

Tel: 07725 008280

Email: [wristworth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wristworth@hotmail.co.uk)



Check Out Our **NEW** Website: [wristworthheating.weebly.com](http://wristworthheating.weebly.com)



**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 STATIONERY

1a Lizban st  
blackheath, London se3 8ss  
t el: 020 8853 2268  
e mail: [dave@trojanpress.co.uk](mailto:dave@trojanpress.co.uk)  
[www.trojanpress.com](http://www.trojanpress.com)

## SPECTRUM

Painters and Decorators  
Interior/Exterior

No job too Small  
Clean and Reliable

Free Estimates  
30 Years Experience

Call 020 8853 2759  
or 07950815412

Don't forget -  
you have childcare options!

**Childcare places for children from 3 months – 5 years**



Choosing the right kind of childcare is one of the biggest decisions that you will ever have to make.

At Zoom, we believe nursery childcare could be the best way of supporting your whole family. With the right nursery, you're able to enhance your child's development and add to your experience as a parent.

We have gone to great lengths to ensure that our well-equipped environment, exceptional team, healthy planned menus, additional classes and planned curriculum all meet and exceed you and your child's expectations.

Childcare at Zoom could be more affordable than you think. The term after your child turns 3 means you are eligible for The Nursery Education Grant. We also have access to the Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP) and Working Families Tax Credit.

Why not call us for an informal discussion, or to arrange a visit? We could be just what you are looking for! Call me, **Justine O'Hare, Manager**, on **0208 331 6703**. Alternatively, email me at [bella@zoom54321.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:bella@zoom54321.fsnet.co.uk)



We're based near to the Yorkshire Grey Roundabout, bordering Kidbrooke, Blackheath, Lee & Eltham, just off the A2

## 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](mailto:secretary@pointers-school.co.uk) Website: [www.pointers-school.co.uk](http://www.pointers-school.co.uk)



# FEATURES

## Local slimming champ!

### Before . . .



### . . . and After:

**How did Kay achieve an amazing weight loss of over 6 stone – and drop ten dress sizes?**

Kay Bunsell from Greenwich, aged 25, had suffered weight issues all of her life. After looking at a photo of herself taken at her son's first birthday party she just knew she had to do something.

She realized she could not make changes alone and that she needed support and help at the highest level. So she mustered all her courage to become a member of a local Slimming World group.

She was inspired by the healthy eating plan on which she could eat normal everyday foods freely without weighing or measuring plus a couple of weighed healthy extras and, on top of all that, a daily syn allowance. This meant that she did not have to miss her favourite treats, feel hungry or deprived. She found Slimming World has an extremely healthy and safe healthy eating plan, endorsed by the Royal College of Midwives.

As lost lbs turned into stones she found her old confidence returning, her activity levels and health improving and these, in turn, inspired her to go into the group every single week.

Kay said 'I was always a bit depressed inside, struggled hard daily not to show it, but I just knew I needed help of a special kind. Once I discovered Slimming World



the burden lifted as I was never alone.

"The help I received in the group was second to none. I now eat so much more healthily, and so does my little boy, aged 3, who eats healthy meals.

"Slimming World has, without doubt, given me my life back. I took the bull by the horns and volunteered in a local school which led to me enrolling on a college course which I am thoroughly enjoying and, after attending a Slimming World South East London Opportunity event, was accepted to become a Slimming World Consultant!

Diane, Kay's consultant, says "Kay has transformed into a completely different person. The group has seen her blossom and become happier and healthier. She has lost a fantastic 6 st and dropped 10 dress sizes. When Kay was recently voted Nesbit Roads Miss Slinky we were all so proud of her achievement."

Kay is now a consultant at the Turning Pages Community Centre, 6 Nesbit Road, Eltham, London SE9 6HS - the group meets on Wednesday at 7.30 p.m

**For further details of the Turning Pages, Nesbit Road Group you can contact Kay on 0785278493 or e mail her on: silver162005@gmail.com**

## Roden Tatham

**VESNA DOMANY HARDY  
records her memories**



PHOTO:  
Caroline Bailey

Our dear friend and neighbour in St John's Park, Roden Meaburn Tatham died on Good Friday. Although Roden never married and, as far as is known, had no children, his was a good, meaningful and interesting life.

Born in Northcourt House, Abingdon, [in a house that later became a school run by the redoubtable Miss Tatham, which was attended by your editor] Roden was educated at Eton and Balliol, where he acted with the Balliol Players.

During the war he served with the SOE (Special Operations Executive) in Burma. Because of the Official Secrets' Act he refused to talk about his war years.

However it is known that as early as 1940, the SOE was preparing plans for operations in SE Asia, where it helped to build up indigenous resistance organisations and guerrilla armies in Japanese occupied territory. However, whatever Roden knew he dutifully kept to himself: "my lips are sealed", he would say. But he did once let slip that they were all rather "a bunch of inept amateurs."

After the war he worked for the British Council for thirty years, serving in South Africa, Israel, and Tanganyika – present-day Tanzania – where (55 years ago) he met local resident Peter Greaves.

After his retirement, for many years he volunteered to work for the Citizens' Advice Bureau, believing that one should serve one's community.

Despite the infirmness of his last few years, he hardly ever complained, hopeful that the next hospital visit would solve the problem. In spite of it all, he remained lively, his mind active, and astute, with very wide interests: literature, music, art, theatre, history, politics, nature, sport.

Although he had private means and could afford to be well looked after in Morden College for the two last years of his life, he firmly believed that everybody in need should be entitled to health and social care. Frequently he would voice his anger with this or that government measure meant to dismantle the welfare state which he held dear. Until the end of his life, he generously supported many charities, which he also remembered in his will.

From the mid seventies we lived in the apartment above him in St John's Park. Roden had moved in shortly before, after retiring from the British Council. My husband and I had also known life in the British Council, so we had a great deal

in common, including mutual friends and acquaintances.

As an old style officer, Roden was beautifully spoken, always extremely kind, and a master of witty understatement. Nurtured in an old, large and well-to-do family, he had early acquired social ease and grace. Although he always voted Labour, he had a natural air of authority.

Despite this, in the local shops, or on his hospital visits he always made the staff laugh by gently teasing: they loved him, and called him 'Colonel'.

Roden would also regularly visit infirm family members, no matter how far away they lived. As he grew older and more infirm, he was unable to continue looking after his paraplegic friend, but, in turn, he became his immediate neighbours' community 'project': we took it in turns to visit him, bring him meals, or take him out on walks. He had a great love and appreciation for his godson Tim Greaves who used to play chess with him once a week.

Beside his good work he filled his life with music and travel as long as he could. His passion for music was important to him but somehow he left it behind during the last couple of years after he moved to Morden College.

Until the end he read avidly, he would complete *The Guardian* quick crossword, often with help of his dear friends Peter and Chloe, even though some unanswered clues would also serve him as a conversation items. All of us who kept visiting him – mostly unknown to each other – formed a sort of 'Roden's circle'. We were always welcomed with the same mantra: "you are so good to me!" and, when leaving "So good of you to have come!"

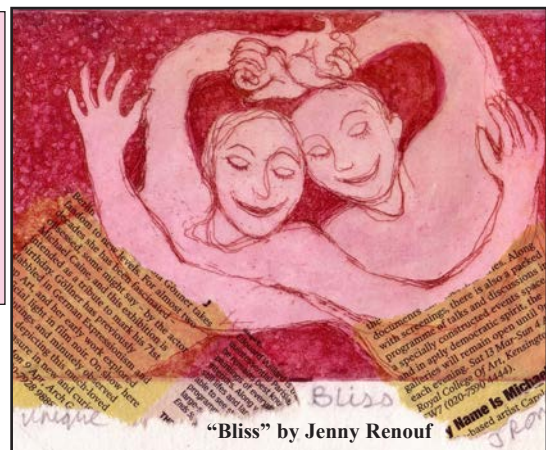
His eight nieces and nephews, his beloved sister-in law, his godson, his many devoted friends, near and far – we shall all miss our charming Roden.

*A Memorial service for (Meaburn) Roden Tatham was held on Wednesday, 17th April, at 13:15 in the chapel at Morden College, Blackheath.*

## Open Studios weekends

It is spring at last and time for Blackheath Art Society's annual Open Studios weekends! This year Ann Dingsdale is displaying her work (textiles and paintings) at her home at Everdene, 10, Hardy Road SE3 7NP. Ann is also playing host to three new artists: Althea Battams (acrylic paintings) Sylvia Curry (landscapes, still life, and figures) and Chris Francis (multi-media painting and drawing.)

Anne told the *WN*: "I am looking forward to a great show, as Althea, Sylvia and Chris all do exciting work. Do come and meet them and enjoy an afternoon of art."



The weekends feature displays of work at numerous addresses in and around Blackheath. Full details can be found in leaflets available at local libraries.

As a taster visit Blackheath Art Society's exhibition at the Greenwich Tourist Information Centre, Cutty Sark Gardens every day until 19th May.

**Open Studio weekends are 27th - 28th April and 4th - 5th May 12.00 - 6.00 pm**

### Wanted - Friendly, Welcoming Host Families

**Earn £200 + per week!**

Do you have a spare room in your home?  
Then turn it into cash by hosting our friendly, polite foreign students.

You'd be required to give breakfast, packed lunch and dinner. If you live locally or within easy distance of Blackheath Village and Greenwich please call one of our friendly team on:

**07752 868 834**

**English Elite Homestays.**

**Quince Caterers**  
Bespoke food for any occasion

- Delicious home made food delivered to your door.
- Too busy to cook for friends or family? Let us do it for you.
- As a husband and wife team, we specialise in dinner parties or food for the weekend.
- No job is too small and larger events also catered for.
- Free delivery in Blackheath, Greenwich and Lewisham.
- Please visit our website at [www.quincecaterers.co.uk](http://www.quincecaterers.co.uk) or call 020 8378 2836.

### ■ 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](mailto:admin@starkeyfinancialplanning.co.uk)  
website: [www.starkeyfinancialplanning.co.uk](http://www.starkeyfinancialplanning.co.uk)

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







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](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning)

## New Greenwich Rail Group steams ahead Mike Sparham

Following a successful public meeting in Greenwich, organised by the Westcombe Society, supported by the Charlton Rail Users Group and the Greenwich Society, volunteers came forward to form a Steering Committee for a new Rail Users Group for the Greenwich Line. This new Group, called the Greenwich Line User Group ("GLUG"), has already attended its first meeting with southeastern trains, at the Company's stakeholders forum.

The Group's immediate priority is to campaign on issues arising from the rebuilding of London Bridge station, which will have a major impact on all users of trains on the Greenwich Line from 2015. During 2015-16, no Charing Cross trains will call at London Bridge, and during 2016-2017 no Cannon Street trains will call at London Bridge.

At the meeting, Southeastern also confirmed that the link between the Cannon Street lines and the Charing Cross lines east of London Bridge will be permanently removed, thus making it impossible for trains from the Greenwich line to reach either Waterloo East or Charing Cross.

When challenged by Group representatives on this, they put the blame on the Department of Transport who allegedly said the business case for the Thameslink programme depends upon the separation of the Cannon Street, Thameslink and Charing Cross lines. This conveniently

ignores the fact that the Thameslink lines disappear down towards New Cross Gate long before the Greenwich line junction.

The Group has two immediate aims, reflecting the concerns of all users of the four stations on the Greenwich line – Deptford, Greenwich, Maze Hill, and Westcombe Park.

1. For the period when it is not possible to change at London Bridge, alternative routes should be available at no extra cost;
2. The Greenwich line should keep direct services to Charing Cross, which next year will have been running for 150 years.

A further public meeting will be held shortly to discuss this. In the meantime, the new Group will be working with the Charlton Group to prepare a joint campaigning strategy.

Mike Sparham, the Convenor of GLUG, said "Whilst the need for work at London Bridge is understood, it should not be an excuse to deprive our line of services. Patients going for treatment at Guy's or St Thomas's hospitals, holidaymakers flying from Gatwick or Luton, as well as many daily commuters, all need to change trains at London Bridge. It is essential that these needs are recognised."

*Apart from these priority issues, the Greenwich Line User Group will consider any issue of concern to users of the line, and contact details will be publicised soon.*

## Fit for Purpose? (cont. from page 1)

The question remains as to why the RBG, in partnership with their chosen leisure service providers, GLL, decided to construct a pool which clearly does not follow swimming's national governing bodies' expert opinion – and one which focuses on the needs of one section of the community above all others.

In response to complaints that the new pool could not be used for competitive swimming, Cllr Roberts pointed out: "[after consultation] the strategy was set some years ago to ensure that a range of different types of pool and facilities are available to meet the needs of different groups. Pools need to meet the needs for leisure swimming for families, for teaching new swimmers, for schools, for club swimming, for aquarobics, for diving, and

for meeting the needs of people with disabilities. Clearly no single pool can meet everyone's specific needs .... Diving and Club requirements can be met the Eltham pool and at the Charlton Lido ..."

So, once the Arches leisure centre is closed, swimmers will be expected to travel Borough-wide to access pools which meet their needs when they could have all been satisfied with a single pool with a moveable floor.

Or they can always go to Lewisham's new Glass Mill leisure centre which caters for the full range of swimming activities with two pools with moveable floors and a special boom to facilitate the entry and exit of swimmers with disabilities.

*For a review of what it's like at the Charlton Lido please see p.3.*



Students from John Roan and the Meridian School entering the gate they designed.

By Sarah Winterbottom

Locked, neglected and overrun by nature for decades, you won't be the only one who didn't even know that there was a small walled garden at the bottom of the park, close to the children's playground – let alone an orchard built for a queen. But this month Greenwich's very own Secret Garden is once again revealed.

Officially opened by the Mayor of Greenwich, David Grant, and Linda Lennon, CEO of the Royal Parks, the Queen's Orchard is opening its beautiful, specially commissioned gate to the general public every Sunday between 13h00 and 15h00 (from 21st April).

Working closely with English Heritage, the Orchard's design has been based on the oldest surviving plans which date back to the late 17th century and includes a well, two ponds and gravel paths – evidence of which were discovered during an archaeological dig in 2010 overseen by heritage advisor Mark Stevenson.

Planting has been going on for the last three years and you will find a mix of heritage fruit trees (dating back to the 1500s), including apple, pear, cherry, plum, peach, apricot, nectarine, medlar and quince, as well as vegetables and flowers in the raised planting beds.

A small group of pupils from The John Roan Secondary and Meridian Primary Schools have also been in on the secret. Local artist Heather Burrell who designed and produced the Orchard's unique metal gate and well covering, explained how drawings produced by the children were the source of the inspiration behind the new gate:

"The children, aged between six and thirteen, were taken on a tour of the Park

and then asked to draw their own designs during a two day workshop," she said.

Cast in mild steel and then galvanised, the gate took two months to make. For the casting, The Friends of Greenwich Park went to Heather's studio in Deptford.

The private walled garden where the Queen's orchard originally formed part of Queen's House became part of the Naval College when it may have provided fruit for the seaman's hospital.

It was subsequently sold off by the Hospital Trust to Greenwich Council (as was) for £70,000 in 1976. There were a number of failed attempts to get planning permission to build on the land. According to local campaigner, Anna Townend, the Orchard's survival was finally secured when the original boundary wall footings were uncovered by volunteers, contradicting the council's argument that the land had not formed part of the park. The council formally handed ownership over to the Royal Parks in 2008.

*More information can be found on Greenwich Park's website.*

### KEEP THE GREEN IN GREENWICH

**Bank Holiday Monday May 6th**

**Conserving green spaces, health, wildlife, & small businesses**

**Keeping the high rise flats out**

**Promoting anchor time vouchers**

**11.00 am -1.00 pm : Guided walks**

**2.00 pm : Neighbourhood planning meeting**

**at: Made In Greenwich Gallery, 324 Creek Road, Greenwich Town Centre, SE10 9SW**

**[www.madeingreenwich.co.uk](http://www.madeingreenwich.co.uk)**

**Opposite DLR Cutty Sark Station.**

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

See also:

<http://westcombe.blogspot.com>

**96 HUMBER ROAD ref 13/0581/F**  
**Loft conversion with two rear dormer windows and two front roof lights**

**24 MYCENAE ROAD ref 13/0652/F**  
**Install rear dormer window and two roof lights**

**104 COLERAINE ROAD ref 13/0669/F**  
**Conversion of garage into habitable room**

\*\*\*\*\*

**LOVELLS WHARF SITE, now rebranded "Greenwich Wharf" (the riverside site just north of the Cutty Sark pub) reference number 13/0657/F**

**In order to comment on (object to or support) the new application, you must now register on the Council's planning website. You can do that here:**

**<http://publicaccess.royalgreenwich.gov.uk:81/online-applications/registrationWizard.do?action=start>**

**The Greenwich Society report that the original proposal for 667 units (flats) has been changed to 913 – & much of the mixed use, community and social amenity elements of the original scheme will be discarded if this revised planning application is approved.**

## Christopher's column

### A warm front

It's the warmest day since last September, and people are sporting shorts.

Gardens are around six weeks behind and hundreds of unsold spring bedding plants are being binned. Chelsea Flower Show exhibitors are hoping *some* of the plants they need will be ready in time.

In your own patch, proceed slowly and see what happens. Cut back dead looking stems cautiously and look for signs of regrowth – in the last few days, leaves and stems have suddenly taken on a new healthy look...

The cold and dry weather will have caused some casualties but most things will recover. If you think you have lost plants, don't dig them up and throw them away for a while yet.

Pelargoniums and osteospermum may have died back to the ground, but will shoot from the base if the roots are sound, and fuchsias might do the same. When the weather reaches 10 degrees, apply a general purpose fertilizer to kick start things into action.



Sowing seeds and planting out seed potatoes will have been delayed, but covering soil with a sheet of fleece or plastic will help warm it and dry it out a little. Unless you have a greenhouse or cold frames, it may be better to buy in vegetable plants than try to raise them yourself at his stage.

If you do have losses, fill any gaps with a mix of herbs and vegetables over the summer, and choose permanent planting carefully later on.

Some really hardy flowers which have bloomed reliably and more or less on time are Hepatica nobilis (a wood anemone), Cardamines, Vinca Oxyloba and Leucojum. Wallflowers have also come through more or less unscathed.

If you want some unusual but useful hardy plants, angelica, lovage and sweet cicely are feathery leaved umbellifers which attract insects and can be used in cooking – all are well over a metre tall in flower, but otherwise compact.

Christopher Raven



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](http://johnpayne.com)**



# MARKET PLACE

## ACCOMMODATION

**GOOD RELIABLE HOST FAMILIES** wanted for foreign students. For more info. please contact Lynne on 01732 822649 or email sesgreenwich@aol.com  
**FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE** Blackheath area, up to 150 people, bar, disabled access. Tel 07940 2962  
**FLAT SHARE IN QUIET ROAD** on edge of the heath. Convenient Lewisham station, DLR. Suit single professional. £90 pw. sands@greenbee.net  
**360 sq ft NEWLY REFURBISHED OFFICE/WORKSHOP SPACE** available for rent in Linear House, Peyton Place, Central Greenwich. Managed, inclusive rent £1,166.67 pcm, available immediately. Call Helen: 07985 218559.

## GARDENING

**BORDERS, BEDS AND CONTAINERS** planned, prepared and planted by local experienced qualified gardener. Call Leslie on 0208 858 6541  
**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 121510

## HOLIDAYS

**WHITSTABLE WEEKENDS / WEEKS** Sea wall house between Oyster Warehouse and Harbour. Sleeps 5. Fantastic views. 8858 6578 or 013 0436 7443  
**NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS** The Georgian House. Delightful period house in charming Pickering market town. Sleeps 10. http://www.thegeorgianhouse.co.uk/ Tel: 07876 385189

## PERSONAL CARE & THERAPY

**SPORTS & REMEDIAL MASSAGE THERAPIST**  
For help with Sports Injuries, Back & Neck Pain, Repetitive Strain Injuries and Posture Problems. Also help with Endurance Running and Triathlon Training Programs Member of Institute of Sports & Remedial Massage (LSSMDip) Fully Insured.Home / Club / Event Visits Call Andy 8852 0834 or 07815 118887  
**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  
**BLACKHEATH HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICE. COUNSELLING, ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE, YOGA** tel: 020 8858 5969 /1991, www.bhhs.selondon.co.uk  
**PILATES CLASSES AT MYCENAE HOUSE.** Thursdays 1-2pm. All levels welcome, mats provided. Please contact Hilary for further details on 07970 290818  
**REIKI THERAPY**  
to promote healing and help reduce stress. Please call Monique on 07891 031 073.

## SERVICES & TRADE

**NEED HELP WITH YOUR COMPUTER?** Local technician provides home technical support & tuition. No job too small, all in your own home. Glenn 84734091  
**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  
**EXPERIENCED LOCAL ARCHITECT** offering full range of architectural services, including planning and building regulations applications, technical and construction drawings, full project management, and site work. Registered with the Architects Registration Board. Mob: 07853423130 Email: gj@gjanjeeearchitects.com  
**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@smarttsolutions.co.uk www.smarttsolutions.co.uk  
**BOOKKEEPER** Starting a new business? Running an established one? We offer a comprehensive bookkeeping service, without the jargon. Free up time to run your business. Call: 020 8853 8671 email: accountsdivision@outlook.com  
**DECORATOR & TILER**  
Experienced and reliable service. Free estimates and local references. David Birch 07956 264011  
**LOCAL ELECTRICIAN SPECIALISED IN SECURITY SYSTEMS** available for electrical and security jobs. No job too small (including wiring, moving sockets, CCTVs, alarms, intercoms, entry systems, telephone lines etc.). Call 0787 9011792

**FRIENDLY LOCAL PLUMBER** available for free estimates and advice. I am a family man and have always lived in the locality. I pride myself on listening to my clients concerns, and taking care that they are satisfied with all aspects of my work. I am fully insured and all of my work is guaranteed. Local references available. Call today 0777 5439121, or 0203 536 0273.  
**DECORATING, ELECTRICS**  
Plumbing and Property Maintenance. Established 25 years. References available. Phil McNamara 020 8857 5480, mobile 078 1436 0862  
**DECLUTTERING** to make more space or getting your house ready for sale? For cost-effective help from Homespace, contact Karen at www.homespace.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 CARPENTRY**  
Kitchens, Alcove units, bookcases, wardrobes, dressers and tables. Happy to quote. 02085198947 (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. 07739 903752. www.lizbulldesign.com

**HOMEWORKS**  
All-round handyman for those DIY's you have no time for! General repairs. Painting & Decorating. General Carpentry and flooring. Flat-pack assembly. Patio and deck cleaning. No job too small. Contact Matthew Barron 07903 388658.  
**HOUSES CLEARED** of unwanted items. Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917842  
**A MAN AND A VAN**  
Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917842  
**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 0788 5917842  
**MALCOLM TIERNEY, CARPENTER**  
Specialist in refurbishment, repair and replacement of sash windows. 0777 5657371  
**ANDREW FLETCHER** Painting, Decorating & Tiling services. Over 20 years' experience, fully insured. References available. Call 0770 2094382  
**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  
**CARPENTRY AND JOINERY**  
Alcoves, wardrobes, radiator covers & general household woodwork. Showroom: 0208 852 7222 www.carpentryandinteriors.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. Phone (020) 8853 8671  
**MARK CHEESEMAN, LOCAL CARPENTER AND JOINER** with 30 years experience. All aspects of carpentry and construction carried out considerably and to a high standard. Reinstatement of original Victorian/Edwardian/Georgian details, ie shutters, skirtings, plinth blocks, picture rails, cornices etc. Bespoke joinery, wardrobes, cupboards, stairs, kitchens. Sash windows overhauls. Resin timber repairs. Please call M: 07767 456131 or H: 020 8854 4028  
**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  
**EXPERIENCED LOCAL ARCHITECT** offering full range of architectural services, including planning and building regulations applications, technical and construction drawings, full project management, and site work. Registered with the Architects Registration Board. Mob: 07853423130 Email: gj@gjanjeeearchitects.com

**PIANO TUNER** Prompt friendly service from an experienced, fully qualified tuner technician. For tuning and repairs call Jim Kimberley 0208 305 0033  
**C.S. CARPENTRY-JOINERY** Decorating and all building work undertaken. Joseph McNamara 02088575480, mobile 07947155366  
**TRAINED CHIMNEY SWEEP AND STOVE INSTALLER** Fast, friendly Hapsy to work! Call Anthony on 07772649577 or email: chimneymaintenance@gmail.com


## HAVE YOU GOT THE SKILLS OR TIME FOR DIY?

Or is it all just such an effort! If that's your problem, I can solve it !  
Decorating including preparation, painting, wall-papering & special finishes.  
Re- hanging doors and putting up shelving.  
Re-laying floors-lino, wood laminates & ceramics.  
Domestice Electrical work.  
Plumbing-taps, showers,radiators and external.  
Garden revival and maintenance  
If you need help with any of these please call tony  
T: 0208 856 9398  
M: 07961 540836  
http://www.tonysdiy.com/

**PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICES** - Are you ready for RTI? Payroll Bureau from 1 – 150 employees. Monthly or weekly service to suit. Bookkeeping also available. Reasonable rates and a friendly, knowledgeable service. M: 07946 530053 Email: company.finances@gmail.com  
**CLEANING SERVICES.** A friendly and profesional service, welcoming jobs of all sizes. Specialising in the cleaning of carpets, rugs & upholstery, ovens and kitchen/bathroom areas. Contact Hugo: 07768713729 hwilliams.klean@gmail.com  
**FRENCH CHILDMINDER IN BLACKHEATH**  
Ofsted registered, 5min walk from Blackheath station, vacancies for under 5's on a full time basis. http://www.frenchchildminder.co.uk/ Ring Estelle on 0208 858 3825 or 07748 448 487

## TUITION

**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  
**ITALIAN TUITION** Native Italian teacher offers lessons at all levels. Preparation for GCSE, A-LEVELS courses, Grammar, Conversation Tel 07788 743371  
**PIANO LESSONS** Enjoy playing your instrument from the very first lesson - favourite pieces and much more - a holistic approach to teaching and learning. A.B exams taken if desired. Tel. 8856 1200  
**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 Hellin Halliday BA(Hons), PGCE on 020 8858 7704 / 07928 017762 to discuss how I can help.  
**MATHEMATICS TUTOR** For secondary level, GCSE and A-Level by qualified teacher, Tom McNamara [MMath]. £30 per hour. 07595348976 or email thomasmcnamara@gmail.com  
**SPANISH TUITION** One-to-one or small groups, all ages and levels, at your home or office. By qualified Latin-American teacher. CLTA Call Miguel 020 8305 0874 or 079 1031 8513 migansiergut52@gmail.com  
**MULIHILL ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE**  
Adult and Child Irish Dance Classes available in the Blackheath area. Come along for a fun-all-in-one workout. For more information call Rachel on 07707100521  
**MONTESSORI CLASSES** for children of all ages. Contact Wendy Fidler on 07710433994 or wendyfidler@eight29.com



# 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

GAS  
SAFE

## LOCAL COUNCILLORS

**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 6.00 - 7.00 pm Blackheath Library, Old Dover Rd.

**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.

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**  
**0208853 1312 email:marilyn.little@btinternet.com**  
*ALL classified adverts 30p per word. Please make cheques payable to The Westcombe Society*

## 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: 10% discount on all Computer Maintenance and Repairs (including Laptops!) We are 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  
**CAPITAL ROOFING**  
5% discount on any work up to £1000 Tel. 0208 858 5123  
**GARTEL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION**  
5% discount on any work up to £1000 Tel. 0208 858 5123  
**OLDSTUFF**  
10% discount on all products at http://www.theoldstuff.co.uk/

# IT SUPPORT

For ALL your home & business needs

Call now for FREE advice



020 8858 2002

www.theheadstart.com

# Go Easy Self Drive Hire

The Greenworks, 145 Nathan Way, Thamesmead, London, SE28 0AB  
0208-858-7211

## Cars From £19.95



2 Doors Cars, 5 Door Cars, Transit Connect, Short Wheel Base Transit, Long Wheel Base Transit and Luton with tail lift available.

## Vans From £21.95



100 Miles Included per day

Liable Excess of Collision Damage up to £500.00 we do offer a wavier  
Check out our website or call us for a full price list



**www.goeasyhire.co.uk**



# TOM ELLIS

KITCHENS  
BOOKCASES  
DRESSERS  
WARDROBES  
TABLES  
DESKS  
CABINETS

020 8519 8947  
07540 579027

tomellis@talktalk.net