



# Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops

April 2014 Issue 3

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

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

## Outline permission for IKEA store

MAGGIE GRAVELLE

The room was packed with people sitting on every available surface, and standing in the spaces in between. This was the meeting of the Planning Board on March 3rd to discuss whether to give outline planning permission to build a new IKEA store on the Sainsbury's site.

As usual, the planning officer described the application. It was then open to the public, including members of the Westcombe Society, to raise their concerns and objections.

The speakers on this occasion were passionate, articulate and well informed. No member of the public spoke in favour of the scheme. Two Labour councillors spoke against the scheme – Cllrs Mary Mills and Alex Grant. The latter called for an independent review of IKEA's travel plan, in order to prevent gridlock if the development does go ahead. Among the issues raised were:

- \* the increase in traffic and the consequent congestion and pollution;
- \* the inadequacy of the parking arrangements which, it was suggested, had been calculated on inaccurate figures;
- \* doubts about the suggestion that a large proportion of people would use public transport to access the store.
- \* the nature and extent of the catchment area: there are fears that people would converge from a very wide area – including Kent, and north of the river – and would cause massive traffic problems.

### The iconic building

Other speakers talked about the design of the building, which it seemed would be a massive, 'blue box', which is in stark contrast to the existing Sainsbury's building.

Some people urged the Council to delay making a decision pending an application to English Heritage by the 20th Century Society to have the building listed.

It was argued that this is an exceptional, iconic structure, short-listed for the Stirling

prize and given several prestigious awards, and that it should be protected.

The Twentieth Century Society has said that the current building is Britain's "most innovative retail store." It set standards for sustainability when it was opened in 1999, and included such innovations as solar panels, wind turbines, a glass roof – and six-metre mounds of earth designed to cut energy bills.

### But the Council said . . .

For the Council, planners supported the application, claiming that the site was a "sustainable out-of-town centre location."

*"I can't see many people carrying Billy Bookcases on a 108 bus."*

Ikea also claimed that they would create 400 jobs, and that 35% of customers would use public transport.

But David Gardner, (chair of the Charlton Society) questioned this, saying that the Croydon store – which lies adjacent to a tram line – only had 28%.

One local resident commented: "I can't see many people carrying Billy Bookcases on a 108 bus." Another, a resident of Greenwich Millennium Village, said: "Common sense tells me this will be a nightmare for the area if it goes ahead. We're not an out-of-town shopping centre, we're a thriving community."

Both Conservative councillors on the board opposed the proposal. Blackheath Westcombe councillor Geoff Brighty called the traffic predictions "laughable."

Members of the Planning Board added their own comments and then voted: in this case, the vote was 5 – 2 in favour of granting IKEA outline planning permission, subject to a number of conditions such as approval of a detailed car parking management plan, and of traffic analysis with subsequent changes to traffic management as necessary.

A Greenwich council spokeswoman said: "This will support the continued growth of Greenwich Peninsula."

### Shooters Hill proposals

Transport for London has launched a consultation on proposals to improve the junction of Shooter's Hill Road (The A2), Stratheden Road and Prince of Wales Road on the northern side of the heath.

TfL's proposals include installing new cycle lanes, removing the 'sheep pen' in the middle of Shooter's Hill Road and making the pedestrian crossings there straighter.

Curiously, TfL also propose to put a new island in the middle of Prince of Wales Road, narrowing the left filter lane so only cycles will be allowed to turn into the A2: cars would no longer be able to turn left.

Naturally, this is opposed by residents living on the slip road on the south side of Shooter's Hill Road: they would have to drive via the Standard or Blackheath Village to join the A2 towards London. There are hopes that this idea will be abandoned, as it would increase traffic flow, but do little if anything to improve safety.

There is no doubt that improving safety for pedestrians on this busy road is long overdue. Local residents will recall an accident in 2002: a motorcyclist jumped the lights, and knocked down a pupil of Blackheath High Prep School, who was returning from school with her mother. She had to be taken to hospital by air-ambulance.

## Due for Demolition?

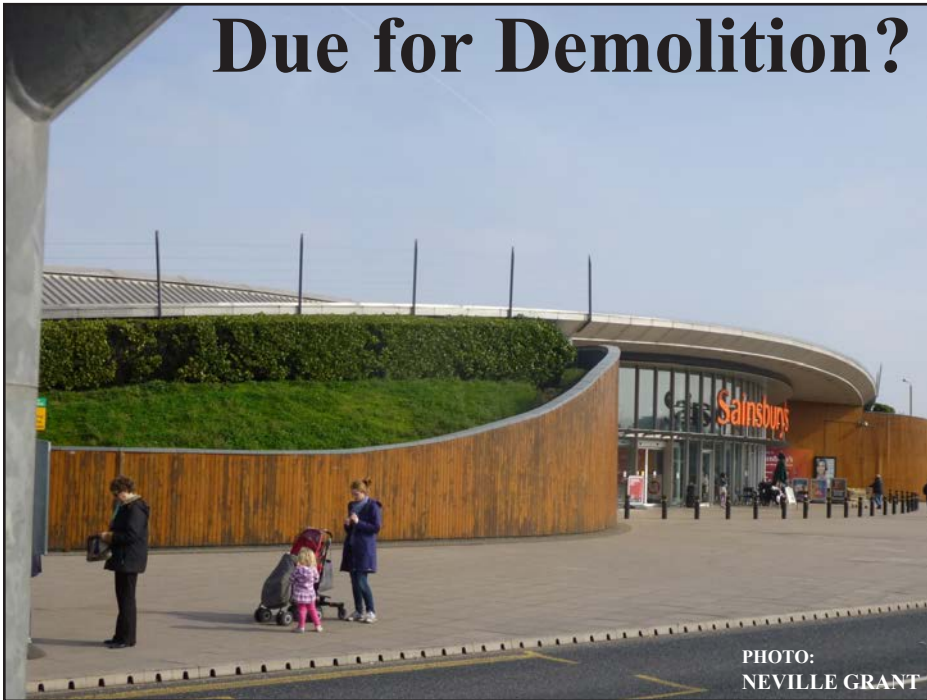


PHOTO: NEVILLE GRANT

If Sainsbury's has its way, this pioneering low energy store is to be demolished just twelve years after it was opened in 1999 by a very young Jamie Oliver. When it was opened, Sainsbury's Chief Executive, Dino Adrino, heralded the building as "a watershed in supermarket architecture."

The Sainsbury's store was the first British building to achieve an "Excellent" rating from worldwide sustainability assessor BREEAM. It also won a Royal Institute of British Architects Journal Sustainability award, and was nominated for RIBA's Stirling Prize for architecture in 2000. Within the first year of trading it achieved the highest Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) score of any Sainsbury's in the country. A spokesman for Sainsbury's said: "Our new store [already under construction] will be fitted with modern sustainable technologies."

So why are Sainsbury's moving on? It seems they have outgrown the building; their new development half a mile or so to the east is almost three times the size, and will sell a much larger range of non-food items as well as providing a base for online shopping.

Do we really want to buy clothes, electrical goods and other consumer durables when doing our food shop? Sainsbury's seems to think so. But many of us don't really think that bigger is better: the present building with its High CSO score is quite big enough, thank you ....

## Support Zoe and RDA in the Marathon!

**Jane Warren, of Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled, writes:** Our wonderful Zoe has been dedicating hours of early morning training sessions come rain or shine (but mostly rain so far) in order to compete in the London Marathon which takes place on Sunday 13th April.

We've set up a Just Giving page at <http://www.justgiving.com/Run-For-Tom-2014> and urge you all to give what you can, and do your best to inspire friends and

family to support Zoe's marathon feat.

All money raised will go straight to Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled, a charity staffed solely by volunteers. It is one of the last RDA centres in London to offer free riding lessons to special needs children. It is a place that is full of love and laughter and one where our Tom had some of the best times of his short life, which is why we continue to support it in his memory. *Marathon Travel: See p.2.*

<

<

## News briefs

>

>

### Well done Greenwich

Greenwich's integrated system of health and social care – which is helping reduce hospital admissions while making services more responsive to local people – has scooped Gold in a national award ceremony to promote innovation in the public sector.

Royal Greenwich Coordinated Care - developed by the Royal Borough of Greenwich, NHS Greenwich CCG, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust and the local voluntary sector – has already won praise from within the care and health sectors, from Government ministers and from healthcare experts.

### Charlton Lido and Lifestyle Club

The Club, at Hornfair Park, Shooters Hill Road London SE18 4LX, reopened on March 28th.

### Pub closures

Research conducted by CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, shows that 2 pubs a week were converted to supermarkets during 2012 and 2013. CAMRA accuses supermarkets of specifically targeting pubs for redevelopment, often despite the outcry of local residents. CAMRA identified 208 pubs which have been converted to supermarkets since January 2012. The research also shows that Tesco are by far the most prolific pub converters. *The latest casualty: The Swan in Charlton. See page 6.*

### Half-time oranges

A recent survey on half-time eating habits carried out for Jaffa fruit found almost half (45%) of kids eat crisps, chocolate, sweets or biscuits at half time during a match. 43% drink fizzy or high sugar drinks during sports. Teams in London are being asked to bring back half-time oranges to kids' football. Visit [www.halftimejaffa.com](http://www.halftimejaffa.com)

### Woolwich Road roundabout

In April, TfL is to publish details of new measures to make the Woolwich Road roundabout (under the A102 flyover) safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

It is hoped TfL will also do something to screen those living near the A102 from noise and pollution. Income from the adverts erected at the Sun-in-Sands roundabout could cover the costs.

### Hustings on Tuesday May 13th

Candidates from the main parties have been invited to take part. Let us know if you are standing as an independent, so your voice can be heard too!

**With deep regret, we announce the death on March 6th of our News Editor, Geoff Garvey. We extend our deepest sympathies to Diane and the family. Obituary Page 4.**

## Westcombe Society

**Quiz Night Friday April 4th**  
**Main Hall of Mycenae House at 7.30 for 8.00pm £5.00 entry per person for Members & £6.00 for Non Members.**  
**Please ring Caroline on 8853 0948 for a belated chance to join in.**

**Easter Egg Hunt Sat 19th April 2 - 4pm in Mycenae Gardens.**  
**£2.50 per non-members' child. £2 members. ADULTS go free!**  
**Bar will be open for refreshments. Squash is provided for the children & cakes will be on sale. Prizes for best Easter Bonnet and Basket**

**Hustings Tues. May 13th. 7.30 pm at St George's, Glenluce Road.**  
**A chance to meet your candidates!**

**AGM – Friday 16th May 7.30 pm**  
**Elect your committee, air your views. All members welcome, light refreshments will be served.**



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WESTCOMBE NEWS

**ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**  
**Neville Grant**, The Editor  
wnews@westcombesociety.org  
Tel. 020 8858 8489

**ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:**  
**wnews@westcombesociety.org**

**Deadline for May 2014:**  
16th April

**News Editor:**

**Environment Editor:** Maggie Gravelle

**Reporters:** Denise Scott-McDonald

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Emily Norton** All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2756  
environment@westcombesociety.org

### DISTRIBUTION

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

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

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

All adverts 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.*

*To access back-numbers (in colour) go to:  
www.westcombesociety.org/westcombe-news/  
Westcombe Society's Blog:  
http://westcombe.blogspot.com*

### Westcombe society membership

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

**Name.....**

**Address.....**

**.....**

**tel.....**

**e mail: .....**

*Please enclose payment as appropriate:*

<b>Family membership</b>	<b>£12</b>	<b>   </b>
<b>individual membership</b>	<b>£8</b>	<b>   </b>
<b>senior citizens/unwaged</b>	<b>£4</b>	<b>   </b>

## IT SUPPORT

For ALL your home & business needs  
Call now for FREE advice



**020 8858 2002**  
www.theheadstart.com

## Tea time!

Some forty senior citizens attended the Westcombe Society's annual Daffodil Tea, which was much enjoyed by all.

Tea, delicious sandwiches and cakes were followed by a quiz organised by J-J, who later distributed raffle prizes. Many thanks to Caroline for helping to organise things, and to our hostesses – Maureen, Tessa, Pauline, Joanne, and Patricia.

One of the guests said: "I really look forward to these teas organised by the Westcombe Society. A nice cup of tea, and a good natter – what more could you want?"

The Westcombe Society wants to update its list of those living in the area who would like invitations to our teas, so please ring Joanne on 07709571777 if you would like to be invited in the future if you are not on the list already.

## Friends of Mycenae Gardens

David Hall, outgoing chair of the Friends of Mycenae Gardens, reports that excellent progress has been made.

The entrance to the gardens has been made more welcoming, with helpful signs, and thanks to Mycenae House Community Centre, the Westcombe Society, and Greenwich Steiner School, and the Friends new seats and picnic tables have been installed. The Council also provided an extra weather-proof bench.

We have also confirmed the popularity of the annual dog show, Canine Capers, among the dog-owning community of Greenwich, who last year supported our event strongly despite atrocious weather



PHOTOS:  
Neville Grant

**ABOVE:**  
**Did you put the kettle on yet?**

**RIGHT:**  
**"Go easy on the sandwiches – leave room for the cakes!" says Patricia.**



The entrance to the grounds sports a new weather-proof noticeboard donated by Wates – the building firm that has been creating the new John Roan School.

One problem has been, in a way, the gardens have been victims of their own success. There were signs that the grass was beginning to suffer from overuse, and Greenwich Steiner School tackled these concerns by moving half the classes on to the heath for their outdoor activities, thus halving the wear and tear since September.

This promises to make a significant contribution to conservation. In addition, after consultation with the Friends and the Westcombe Society, the council has laid a

protective mulch over the roots of the major trees. It has also introduced natural low-level barriers on the west side of the gardens to guide users away from the undergrowth and rough woodland to reduce disturbance to wildlife.

Talking of which, two bat-walks were led by Bee Twidale to try to find clearer evidence of bats in the gardens, with one walking successfully finding two species. David Hall reports that the Friends might try putting up some bat roosting boxes.

And by the way, said David, "Bats are completely harmless to people and in the open air are always able to make sure they avoid getting tangled in people's hair."

## Letters to the editor

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

**From: Maggie McWhirter**

Thank you so much for writing a short feature on Art Exhibition by Greenwich Open Studio Group at Discover Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College in the most recent Westcombe News. Your support for local artists is very much appreciated by all of us.

**From: R.G. Marston Coleraine Road**  
**To: Trevor Allman c/o The WN.**

Trevor Allman asks "How would you like to adopt a fox cub?" My answer: NOT at all. Mr Allman says "... whilst you won't get an actual fox, as much we'd all like one ..."

On what basis of evidence does he make this statement? Is there research to back it?

I bought the Fox Project's booklet "Unearthing the Urban Fox" (£4.95 inc post & packing) with the sole aim of learning as much as possible about urban foxes so that I could effectively do everything possible to keep them out of my garden, and the paths near the house.

Foxes are fine in the country; the urban fox is vermin, like rats, and should be culled. Unfortunately, the Council no longer provides this service.

**From: Trevor Allman Coleraine Road**  
May I take the opportunity to reply to Mrs Marston via the *Westcombe News*?

Firstly, Mrs Marston is correct. I do not have any empirical evidence that we would all love to adopt a fox cub. I suppose I should have written that any person with an ounce of compassion would like to assist a defenceless wild animal in distress and at risk of injury and/or death. I trust Mrs Marston is not one of those people.

Mrs Marston wrote - "Foxes are fine in the country. The urban fox is vermin like rats and should be culled. Unfortunately the Council no longer provide this service."

Less than 200 years ago, the Westcombe Park area was farm and heath land – the "country", as Mrs Marston refers to it. It is not foxes that have encroached on man's urban sprawl, but man who has invaded fox territory. Foxes are not "vermin", a purely subjective term about certain wild animals, just as "weed" is subjective about certain plant life. But as far as state authorities are concerned, neither

DEFRA, nor its previous government counterparts, have ever listed foxes as vermin.

Thankfully the London Borough of Greenwich ended its fox-killing policy when I was a Councillor (1986-90), and very few, if any, councils now kill foxes. It was a policy that was inhumane and a total waste of tax payers' money, as any vacant territory is merely incorporated by another fox into its range of activity.

Needless to say, I don't expect Mrs Marston will be voting for me and the Green Party in the elections on the 22nd May!

**From: Christopher Peters SE3**

Mid-afternoon on one Wednesday in February, south-bound traffic heading for the Blackwall Tunnel was backed up nearly to Bow. Why do not more people use the bus and tube?

Easier said than done. One partial solution might be an "Express" bus from Bromley to North Greenwich. Later, on a Thursday, the north-bound Tunnel was closed for up to four hours causing mega delays all round the area and with a knock-on at the Dartford Crossing. If there was ever a case for pushing on urgently with another crossing this is it.

Meanwhile, on the trains, ill-mannered passengers continue to dump their feet on the seats. Some years ago there was a splash of publicity that staff would travel on the trains to curb this sort of behaviour.

## HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL?

**Peter Bowyer, Professional Will Writing Services**

(Member of the Society of Will Writers and the Institute of Professional Will Writers)

Single/Double Wills  
Powers of Attorney  
Professional Insurance  
Home Visits

**0800 389 7387**  
**www.londonwills.com**

## London Marathon Road closures

The Virgin London Marathon on Sunday April 13th. will inevitably have an impact on local residents' travel arrangements.

It will also affect parking: if you live on a road used by the route, you should ensure that your vehicle is removed before 0700 hrs on the Sunday. That is when vehicle removals across the whole route will start, so you have been warned.

Among the roads affected are Shooters Hill Road, Woolwich Road, Charlton Way, Vanbrugh Park, Old Dover Road and St John's Park. As in previous years, the three starting points are Charlton Way (adjacent to the park), St John's Park and Shooters Hill road.

Exit points from Westcombe Park are:

From 1045 am traffic will be allowed southwards from Maze Hill across Charlton Way and into Shooters Hill Road (westwards.)

Until approximately 0900 hrs, vehicles will be allowed to cross Trafalgar Road/Woolwich Road from Vanbrugh Hill and Blackwall Lane.

Until 0900 hrs, and after approximately 1130 hrs, traffic can exit from Kensing Road and from there access the A102 (M).



# LOCAL NEWS

## Running for charity

Running in the London Marathon for the 999 charity: Annette Perry, Louisa Snow and Val Kirkman. Let's hope they manage to keep smiling!

PHOTO: Jack Kirkman



Annette, Louisa and Val have been tasked with raising £3000 between them as they run in the London Marathon – the beneficiary: the 999 club. The 999 club offers support, comfort, respite and advice to homeless people in South London. With two day centres (one in Deptford and one in Downham), the 999 club reaches out to the most isolated, excluded and lonely people in our society. People can walk into the centres, 'no questions' asked, and are given a warm welcome, company, clothing and a hot drink and food. Other services include an on-site nurse to help with minor health issues and injuries; advice and counselling services; and advice on benefits and housing.

Every winter they open a night shelter to house people during the coldest weeks of the year. To read more about what they do, please visit [www.999club.org](http://www.999club.org). Said local resident Louisa: "We are really keen to try and smash that target for such a deserving cause. Any donations, no matter how large or small, will be very welcome and gratefully appreciated. We urge people to spare a thought for the small, local charities who are invisible compared with other massive charitable organisations. The 999 club is an incredibly worthy cause and we are all extremely proud to be running for them." **The link to the fundraising page is:** <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/999club>

## Next: the Mini-Marathon

On Sunday 27th April Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice is hosting its second Mini-Marathon fundraising event. Two weeks after the London Marathon, the Mini-Marathon is a fantastic opportunity for children aged between 7 and 16 to challenge themselves to a 2.62 mile sponsored run around Royal Greenwich Park. It is also a wonderful way for kids to get involved with fundraising for their local Hospice. Registration is £7.50 per child and all runners will receive a special Mini-Marathon medal at the finish line. The first 250 children signing up for the MiniMarathon will also receive a Frankie & Benny's \*Kids Eat Free voucher, which is valid for one year. (\*Valid for under 11 year olds only.)

All runners raising over £100 in sponsorship will be entered automatically into our free prize draw with the chance to win fantastic prizes, including two top price tickets to see the amazing Charlie & the Chocolate Factory show at the Theatre Royal, Waterfront Leisure Centre gym memberships, and a £75 family meal voucher for Frankie & Benny's restaurant in Greenwich. We are hoping to sign 500 runners up to this year's Mini-Marathon and raise £25,000, which will help us to continue providing our FREE specialist care to local people living with life-limiting illnesses, so sign your child up now! **Visit:** [www.communityhospice.org.uk/fundraising-events/163-2014/4659-mini-marathon](http://www.communityhospice.org.uk/fundraising-events/163-2014/4659-mini-marathon) & **Click on Book Now**

## Right Place Right Time

### Photographs by Jack Kay

Iconic 70's and 80's images from the Express Newspaper's Award Winning Sports and Celebrity Photographer



**Mycenae House** 24 April - 31 May  
90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, SE3 7SE [www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk) 02088581749

## New Community Centre



It's a definite trend, whether we like it or not: first, the Royal Mail. Some of us thought that it was supposed to be a public service, but the powers that be decreed that it was a business, and had to be privatised. The NHS may be heading in the same direction ... Now it's the turn of local government. Following new legislation, local government is being required to put local services out to tender with commercial outfits. Councils are now required to ask for tenders for managing/opening new Community Centres: outline plans have already been received for constructing a new Community Centre on Batley Park. Pictured above is the proposed new Community Centre, which has an uncanny resemblance to the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park.

Plans have been submitted by the US company Baltimore Funfactory Inc, (BFI) which specialises in investments in the entertainment industry. BFI hopes to get away from Morris Dancing, Bingo and Cricket and popularise a number of American cultural activities, such as American Skiffle, and American Football – they hope to start a new team called the Blackheath Blackshirts. A spokeswoman for BFI, Ms Apryl Foole-Hardie, says: "Diversifying into community centers is a new venture for us, and BFI are proud to be associated with their majesties the Royal Boro of Greenwich, England. A real honor!" "Batley Park Community Center is in an attractive location, and though a few trees will have to be cut down, we plan to plant two lovely rhododendron bushes."

## Shop for Mental Health

The Mental Health Activity Trust was set up in 2012 in to help and support people with mental health problems, providing employment combined with clinical, practical and emotional support. The BBC radio presenter Danny Baker cut the ribbon at the official opening of its new shop premises in Delacourt Road on 29th March. This event was to honour Mark Katnoria, who sadly died last year. But this event was one of joy rather than sorrow, and the Blackheath Rock Choir was there to help launch the proceedings, and there were fun activities for

children, too. "The new premises in Delacourt Road are the Trust's first shop" said Toni Hale, the director. "What we would like you to do today is reach out and help someone who is struggling with their mental health problem – let them know they have a friend in you!" **Contact:**  
**MHA Trust Shop/Head Office**  
**15 Delacourt Road, Blackheath SE3 8XA**  
**Tel. 0207 564 3087 Mob: 07786895799**  
**Email: [MHATrust@live.co.uk](mailto:MHATrust@live.co.uk)**  
**Web: [www.mhatrust.webs.com](http://www.mhatrust.webs.com)**

## AHOY there, me hearties!

The Royal Borough of Greenwich has joined forces with the AHOY sail training centre to offer a free opportunity for young people in the borough who want to try their hand at sailing. The AHOY centre is offering free sailing taster sessions for 15-24 year olds from the borough during the Easter school holidays. The sessions will be of particular interest to any young people in Greenwich considering signing up to go on a Tall Ship during the Tall Ships Regatta, which is coming to London this summer. **Anyone interested in signing up to the sessions should call 020 8293 5355 or email [katy.mcardlecastle@cact.org.uk](mailto:katy.mcardlecastle@cact.org.uk)** **MAYDAY! MAYDAY!** Following the success of 'Creeside Ahoy', Art Hub Gallery in Deptford has launched a second Postcard Exhibition & charity auction.

Last year almost £2,400 was raised for the Ahoy Centre in Deptford, and the exhibition proved popular with artists and visitors. This year they are aiming to make the event even bigger to raise funds and awareness for two local charities, The Ahoy Centre, and The Deborah Ubee Trust – a Centre for Emotional Wellbeing founded last year and based in Greenwich. Event organiser Sarah Durham, Art Hub artist and Westcombe Park resident for 20 years is looking for professional, amateur and student artists to take part. It is free to participate and the closing date for entries is April 23rd. **Visit [www.arthub.org.uk/home](http://www.arthub.org.uk/home) for more details about the show and how to submit. 'Mayday! Mayday!' will take place 2-5 May at Art Hub Gallery, 5-9 Creekside, Deptford, London SE8 4SA**

### MEND YOUR ENGLISH

or  
What We Should Have Been Taught At Primary School

Ian Bruton-Simmonds

### Its focus on the BBC is unique

£9.99 from the British Library Bookshop or other good bookshops. Also available at Nicky's News in Old Dover Road



# FEATURES

## Right Place, Right Time

An exhibition of iconic 70s & 80s images by Jack Kay, Express Newspaper's award winning sports and celebrity photographer – and former Westcombe Park resident.

**COLIN FANCY reports on a new exhibition of photographs by Jack Kay in Mycenae House.**

**M**ycenae House has curated a unique photographic exhibition by one of the area's most colourful and engaging characters.

A local resident and long-standing user of Mycenae House and Gardens, Jack Kay has become known as a great bar room orator, sharing stories about his love affair with sport and the many personalities he met over the thirty years as an award winning journalistic photographer. His most iconic pictures are shown alongside snapshots of some of his most interesting stories.

For more than three decades Jack Kay was an award-winning Fleet Street photographer.

Yet from the age of eight, Jack wanted to be a reporter. At 16 he applied to his local paper, the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph*, for the post of Junior Reporter but was instead offered the job of Junior



Photographer despite never having taken a photograph in his life.

Jack says the Editor was working on the theory that "a little knowledge is dangerous" and he wanted to train young Jack his way. The Editor had recognised Jack's journalistic eye for a story. However Jack nearly proved them wrong. On an early assignment at the Blackburn Town Hall, the 17 year old arrived to spy the Mayor wearing his chain and pushing his Rolls Royce, which had broken down. Jack's reaction? To put down his cameras and help the Mayor push. Jack says it was the rollicking (response) he received back at the newspaper when he told them which made sure he "always took advantage of being in the right place after that!"

When asked how he always seemed to be in the right place at the right time, Jack replied, "It's about not being in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you get one in a hundred you're lucky."

Jack started in Fleet Street covering Showbiz, then News and finally, from

1979, his first love, Sport – Cricket and Boxing being his absolute favourites.

In the early 1970's Jack went to photograph Keith Moon, drummer with The Who, at his mansion in Surrey. Dressed as a country gent, the legendary wild man welcomed Jack with glasses of five star brandy on a silver tray. After photographing "Moon the Loon" amongst all the cars he had wrecked, Keith drove Jack around the estate in his milk float.

All the time Jack was matching Keith drink for drink, until they floated down to the local pub, sat together at the bar and the next thing Jack remembers is waking up at home in Chelsea. Jack's proud to say they'd both fallen off their stools at exactly the same time. Just one of many many colourful stories.

Of all the showbiz stars and sports personalities that Jack met and photographed he singles out Muhammad Ali.

"He is the most lovable man in the world. He could walk into a darkened room and everything would light up, he



generated his own electricity. Without doubt the greatest person I ever met in my life."

Looking back on his career, Jack talks of "the joy of enjoying your work. If you enjoy your work, put everything into it and it will pay you back. I loved my job."

A long-term resident of Westcombe Park, Jack is an old friend of Mycenae House, where he has enjoyed many pints and chats in the bar, and walks in the grounds with his dog. Jack has since moved down to west Somerset but will be back at Mycenae for the exhibition and a pint of London Pride in the bar.

**The exhibition at Mycenae House runs from April 24th to May 31st 2014. Mon – Fri 9.30am – 10.30pm. Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, London, SE3 7SE 020 8858 1749 [www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)**

## Geoff Garvey 1943 – 2014

**G**eoff Garvey, a reporter I enjoyed working with for several years on the Sunday Mirror, has died aged 70.

Enjoyed? Yes, because Geoff's face was almost always wreathed in a big smile unless, of course, he was arguing about why his story had not got the prominence it so obviously deserved.

He was a passionate, hard-working reporter who lived to break news stories and, over the years, broke many of them.

For 30 years, he ran one of Britain's most successful freelance operations, the Ferrari Press Agency, now based in Sidcup, Kent, while maintaining his Sunday Mirror casual shift every Saturday.

He was chief crime correspondent on the *London Evening Standard* for much of the 1990s, and was responsible for breaking the story about a former director of public prosecutions being arrested for kerb-crawling.

Geoff was a mentor to many keen young reporters. They found his training invaluable – the reason that so many went on to obtain staff jobs.

He normally worked with just one or two young trainees, encouraging them to learn their trade covering court cases, tribunals and the crime beat.

Colleagues recall that among Geoff's greatest assets were his optimism and persistence, traits traceable to his childhood.

Raised by his mother in Chatham, he secured a place in 1959 at Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, a grammar school for boys known as the Rochester Maths School.

Described as a shy and quiet boy at school, friends were surprised when, aged 16, he was offered a trainee reporter's post on the *Chatham News*.

The paper would not accept him until he turned 17 so he took a six-month job with

British Rail as a clerk in a Gravesend goods depot.

While at the *Chatham News*, he dabbled with music management by setting up a talent night at the Rochester Casino Rooms. One night a friend turned up with his band, hoping to persuade Geoff to manage them.

But he pulled the plug on them halfway through their first number. "Sorry," he explained to the friend, "you were awful. And if I were you, I'd get rid of that singer." The singer, so it is said, was David Bowie.

After completing his indentures, Geoff had his first spell at Ferrari Press Agency, known ever since as Ferrari of Dartford, and run by Lino "Dan" Ferrari (the news editor of the *Daily Mirror* in its golden era).

After a spell at the *Kensington Post*, Geoff joined the Press Association as a reporter. And in 1969, he was offered the opportunity to buy the Ferrari agency. It brought him huge success and satisfaction in the following decades.

In 1990, Geoff took what he called a "proper" job by accepting an offer to be the Standard's chief crime correspondent. He relished having a byline on his stories at last. But in the mid-1990s, after being diagnosed with a heart condition, he reluctantly resigned.

He returned to freelancing and made contact with the Australian magazine *Woman's Day*, which hired him to read through the first editions of the British national papers each night.

His contact in Sydney was Diane Blackwell and, after flying to Sydney to visit the magazine, he fell in love with her. They married in 1997.

Geoff's health deteriorated in 2012. Despite lengthy spells in hospital he



ensured that his mobile phone and contacts book remained by his side.

He died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich on 6th March. He is survived by his wife Diane, children Antony and Sue, and four grandchildren.

**Roy Greenslade**  
**Many thanks to Geoff's Ferrari Agency colleagues for providing this material. This obituary first appeared on [www.theguardian.com/media/NevilleGrant](http://www.theguardian.com/media/NevilleGrant) adds:**

*As editor of the Westcombe News, I really valued Geoff both as a friend and colleague (he was the News Editor of this paper.) I could always count on him for good advice and support, and he got me out of trouble a couple of times . . .*

*In spite of his health issues in recent months, he remained fully engaged, with a restless curiosity about everything imaginable. And only a few days before he died, he turned in a long article – to appear in the May issue of the WN – describing how he reinvented himself in a new career as a brilliant tour guide, sharing his love of travel, and fascination with foreign places, with very lucky groups of tourists, all over Europe.*

*We shall all miss him greatly here in Westcombe Park. We extend our deepest sympathies to Diane and all the family.*



### 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)



**FREE TRIAL CLASS BOOK NOW!**

## Learn Mandarin Chinese

学

中

文

Story telling

Dancing

Drawing

Singing

\*much more...!

Call 020 3411 0350

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

**CHINESE VIEWFINDER**



# WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

**NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM**  
**War Artists at Sea Until February 2015**  
**From April 16th: GUIDING LIGHTS:** marking the 500th anniversary of Trinity House  
**BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY**, St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath 4th Thursday of every month, 2.00 for 2.30. **Next meeting: 24th April Elizabeth Rumbelow: Diaghilev's Ballet Russe**, a Synthesis of Excellence? Non-members £5 on the door.  
[www.artsinblackheath.org.uk](http://www.artsinblackheath.org.uk) or ring 83187550  
**MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY**  
**April 2nd: Graham Fawcett brings Ovid to life**  
[www.madeingreenwich.co.uk](http://www.madeingreenwich.co.uk)

## CHILDREN & FAMILY

**EAST GREENWICH PLEASAUNCE**  
**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** run by The Friends of East Greenwich and the Bridge Community Centre on Sunday 6th April 3.30 - 5.30.  
Meet at the Bridge in the top right hand corner of the park which has entrances in Chevening Road and Halstow Road, Greenwich SE10 0LB.  
For £2 per child each child gets an Easter Egg whilst stocks last. There will be two hunts one for under 5s and one for over 5s. Plus Avant Gardening will be running a workshop and a photographer in the Bridge is doing portrait sessions. There will be tea and coffee, a lovely cake stall and of course the café will be open.  
**See the website [www.fegp.org](http://www.fegp.org) or [www.thebridgegreenwich.co.uk](http://www.thebridgegreenwich.co.uk)**  
**GREENWICH THEATRE** Crooms Hill, Greenwich Box office: 020 8858 7755.  
**7th-9th April 11.00am & 3.00pm KIDNAPPED** 6+  
**12th - 13th April varied times DINOSAUR ZOO**  
**Sun 13th 4.30 pm PIRATE GRAN**  
**BLACKHEATH HALLS 8463 0100**  
**Sat 26th April 3.00 pm ALICE & THE WHITE RABBIT** Rehearsal Room £7.00  
**SE LONDON DADS GROUP DADS ALERT:**  
**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: [www.SELondonDads.org.uk](http://www.SELondonDads.org.uk) or email: [info@selondondads.org.uk](mailto:info@selondondads.org.uk)**  
**WOODLANDS FARM TRUST, Shooter's Hill**  
**Sun 6th April** All are welcome to our Lambing Day from 11am-4.30pm. See our new-born lambs, and enjoy the chance to buy quality local produce. Relax in our café, enjoy the treasure hunt or get involved in craft activities. Entry £1 50p for children  
**EASTER AT WOODLANDS FARM**  
**Booking is essential, to book call 020 8319 8900.**  
**Wednesday 9th April** – Make a willow snail 11am and 2pm £2 per child Weave your own willow snail to take home to sit in your garden. .  
**Thursday 10th April - Guided Farm Tours** 11am and 2pm Free Meet our new born lambs and there will be a chance to stroke our chickens and get up close to our guinea pigs Leah and Tandil.  
**Friday 11th April – The Woodlands Farm Easter Egg Hunt** 10.00 am-2.00 pm £1 Find all the eggs hidden around the farm. Find them all & you will get your own chocolate egg to take home. This is a drop in activity so pop in anytime between 10am-2pm.  
**THE GEOFFREY WHITWORTH THEATRE**  
Beech Walk, Crayford, DA1 4NP 01322 526390  
[bookings@the.gwt.org.uk](mailto:bookings@the.gwt.org.uk)  
**THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE**  
Thurs 10th - Sat 12th April

## THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

**Easter Egg Hunt Sat 19th April**  
**Hustings Tues. May 13th.**7.30 pm at St George's, Glenluce Road A chance to meet your candidates!  
**AGM – Friday 16th May** 7.30 pm Mycenae House  
**Summer Picnic – Saturday 12th July,**  
**Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning**  
**Friday 26th Sept.** 10.00am to 2.00pm main hall  
**Children's Newly New Sale Saturday 27th Sept.**  
**Members' Evening – Saturday 11th October –**  
**Chrysanthemum Tea Saturday 25th October**  
**Quiz Friday 7th November** – evening, main hall

This proposed calendar of events is dependent upon helpers. Please ring Joanne on 07709 571777 if you would like to help out on any of these events!

## COMMUNITY

**CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH**  
**Thursday 3rd. April** at The Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath SE3 0RW  
To book lunches call Wendy Templeman on 020 8265 0335 by Monday 3rd March Cost £8.50.  
**BLACKHEATH HIGH** host their first Car Boot Sale on **Sunday 27th April** from 9.30am to midday at Mycenae Road. Admission £2 for adults, children FREE. Food, refreshments and FREE craft activities for children also provided; all profits go to the school.  
**BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY**  
Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road. Meetings begin at 7.45pm. **April 11th Firefighting in Tall Buildings** Mr Adam Carter, London Fire Brigade  
**INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**15th April. Julian Kingston. Build the Lennox** Meeting at The Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, SE3, Please use the car park behind the station. Meetings start at 7.30 and non members are charged £1.  
**BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB** 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 Rosemary Gill on 8858 5088  
**BLACKHEATH FLOWER CLUB** 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)  
**GREENWICH MERIDIAN CHOIR** Interested in joining as a regular member? Rehearsals Thursday evenings during term time, contact **Jean Valsler on 0208 8527548** or email [brookjean@btinternet.com](mailto:brookjean@btinternet.com)  
**GREENWICH & BEXLEY COMMUNITY HOSPICE: MINI-MARATHON** for 7 - 16 year olds – **Sunday, 27th April** starting at 10am from the bandstand at the top of Greenwich Park  
**LIVE JAZZ AT MYCENAE HOUSE**  
Candlelit jazz, special guest on the second Friday each month. Bar & Food available. 8pm. £10/ £8  
**ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC 9.00 pm every Tuesday** at the Lord Hood pub, Creek Road; jazz Thursdays  
**GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS Free work-shops** Fortnightly Tuesday & Friday evenings 7.30 - 8.30 at Mascalls Meeting Rooms off Victoria Way  
Charlton SE7 7TT: Tai Chi. Singing, Drumming, Writers' Group, African Dance Info: 020 8858 9497  
**PUB QUIZZES**  
“The best pub quiz in Greenwich” every Monday at 8.30 pm at the Vanbrugh, Colomb Street. **Entry £2.00**

**BLACKHEATH ROCK CHOIR** meets every Thursday in term time at 8.00 pm at The United Reform Church, 112, Bramshot Avenue, Charlton, SE7 7HX. All welcome. Come along for a free taster session!

## THEATRE & OPERA

**THE GREENWICH THEATRE** Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755  
**MOMO Tue 1 - Sat 5 April** Musical version of Michael Ende's fantasy novel is a thrilling fusion of dazzling songs, puppetry and storytelling.  
**CONNECTIONS Mon 14th - Wed 16th April and 12th - 14th May** 6.00 & 8.00pm Each year the National Theatre invites ten writers to create new plays for young people to perform.  
**CELL Thurs 17th - Sat 19th April** Puppetry is used to explore a physically degenerative disease.  
**AVENUE Q Wed 23rd April - Sun 11th May** A laugh-out-loud musical by SellaDoor company

**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  
**HAMLYN 22nd April - 9th May**, 7:30pm £14/£10  
In the search for the truth, who do you trust?  
A beautiful city glitters ... but at night the rats emerge.  
A powerful man is accused of an amoral relationship with a young boy from a disadvantaged family.

**THE GEOFFREY WHITWORTH THEATRE**  
Beech Walk, Crayford, DA1 4NP 01322 526390  
[bookings@the.gwt.org.uk](mailto:bookings@the.gwt.org.uk)  
**THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE**  
Thurs 10th - Sat 12th April  
**THE CEMETERY CLUB** by Ivan Menchell  
Sat 3rd - Sat 10th May “Funny, wise and witty”

**LONDON THEATRE** 443 New Cross Road, Outer London, Greater London SE14 6TA (Near New Cross Station) Opens April 8th: **PACKAGE DEAL GUNSHOTS INCLUDED:** Side-splitting farce involving a holdup at a travel agency

**THE THOMAS TALLIS SOCIETY** invites you to a performance of: John Tavener – Svyati for choir and solo celloPoulenc – Mass in GMacmillan – Tenebrae Responsaries On Sunday 6 April at 7.30pm  
St Alfege Church, Greenwich Tickets £12, £10  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/ttstsv](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ttstsv)

## AGE EXCHANGE

**BOOK SALES:** Second Saturday of every month (except August & December) 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.  
**LUNCHTIME CONCERTS** on the last Saturday of every month by Trinity Laban students. Free, but there is a retiring collection in aid of Age Exchange & Blackheath Village Library. Next concert: Wed 20th April 1.00 - 2.00 pm  
**CHILDREN OF THE GREAT WAR**  
In association with Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice. Visit Bostall Hill, Abbey Wood for its public Open Day on Wednesday, 9 April 11am - 4pm for this London-wide reminiscence and creative arts project.  
Members of the public are invited to share their family stories, passed down through generations.  
**To find out more about the project, please visit [www.age-exchange.org.uk](http://www.age-exchange.org.uk).**

## TEA DANCES

**BLACKHEATH HALLS:**  
**Tues. 15th April 2.00 - 4.30 pm £5.00**  
**TEA DANCE (& light refreshments)** Come and spend a magical afternoon in the friendly atmosphere of a Blackheath Halls tea dance where you get the chance to dance in our majestic Great Hall.  
**BOROUGH HALL, ROYAL HILL, SE10 8RE** 020 8293 9741 / [info@greenwichdance.org.uk](mailto:info@greenwichdance.org.uk)  
The beautiful 1930s Art Deco Borough Hall is the perfect setting for a vintage afternoon of social dancing. Sat 26th. April 2.00 - 4.30pm £8 |£6 concs  
**CANCER RESEARCH** keep fit & in shape plus Line Dancing at Kingswood Hall, Kingswood Place, off Dacre Park SE13 Donation £5.00 for Cancer Research Every Wed. 10.00 - 12 noon

## 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)

## LOCAL COUNCILLORS

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



**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

la Lizban s t  
blackheath, London se 3 8s s  
t el: 020 8853 2268

e mail: [dave@trojanpress.co.uk](mailto:dave@trojanpress.co.uk)  
[www.trojanpress.com](http://www.trojanpress.com)

## MUSIC and DANCE

**BLACKHEATH HALLS** Tel 020 8463 0100  
**Fri. April 25th 8.00 pm HEIDI TALBOT** from Co Kildare sings with instrumentalist John McCusker & guitarist Ian Carr £17|£15 concs.  
**BLACKHEATH SUNDAYS**  
Next concert: Sun 27th April 11.00 am Recital room: Gonzalo Acosta violin & Caroline Jaya-Ratnam piano play Mozart, Debussy, Bartok, Beethoven etc. Tickets: £14 | £12 concs.  
**Lunchtime Recital:** Mon 14th April 1.10 pm  
Recital room Matthew Schellhorn piano plays Ian Wilson: *Stations*  
**ST ALFEGE'S**  
Every Thursday Trinity Laban recital 1.05 pm

## SPORT

**Tues 8th April FOOTBALL** Charlton Athletic versus Yeovil 7.45 at the Valley  
**Sat 19th April FOOTBALL:** Charlton vs Bolton at the Valley  
**Sat 26th April FOOTBALL:** Charlton Athletic versus Blackburn at the Valley  
**Sat 26th. April RUGBY** Blackheath RFC versus Doncaster Rectory Field

## WORSHIP

Every Sunday 11am Parish Communion with Children's Church  
**Sunday 13th April** is Palm Sunday  
**Thursday 17th Maundy Thursday** - 7.00pm Re-enactment of the Last Supper  
**Friday 18th Good Friday** - 12 noon - 1pm  
Church open for quiet reflection  
1.00 pm People of the Passion  
2.15pm Good Friday for All  
**Sunday 20th Easter Day** Everyone is welcome to come and join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



- 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.

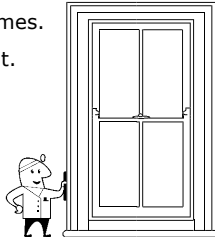
## SASH-WINDOW DOCTOR

**FENSA** registered member of a [www.trustatrader.com](http://www.trustatrader.com)

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

- Installation of double glazed sashes into existing frames.
- New for old – like for like – full box sash replacement.
- New bespoke doors and casement windows.
- Draught proofing.
- High standard finish on all products and services.
- Free diagnosis and estimate.

Contact Peter Denney on **07855 858 184** Email: [Peter@sash-doctor.co.uk](mailto:Peter@sash-doctor.co.uk)



## The Pointer School (Blackheath)



- First class examination results
- Organic food
- Breakfast club and after school care (8am–6pm)
- Christian Evangelical in ethos
- Numerous extra-curricular clubs (Archery to Horse Riding)
- Large variety of outdoor and PE activities
- *The Brazilian Kickers* – teaching football the Brazilian way
- Holiday Club (Christmas, Easter, Summer and half-term)

OFSTED: OUTSTANDING IN ALL AREAS

T. 020 8293 1331

E. [secretary@pointers-school.co.uk](mailto:secretary@pointers-school.co.uk)

W. [www.pointers-school.co.uk](http://www.pointers-school.co.uk)



# FEATURES

## The hidden work of art – on our doorstep

Westcombe residents know that trains from their local station pass through Abbey Wood en route to Dartford. 177 and 180 buses also serve that town.

However the most useful link of all is hidden underground in the form of the Southern Outfall sewer which conveys Westcombe waste to the Thames Water Sewage Treatment works at Crossness, Abbey Wood.

Let us wind the clock back to 1850. The usual means of disposal for human waste was by means of a cess pit in the yard or cellar where the waste was simply stored until carted away by ‘night soil’ men.

Human and horse waste in the streets mixed with rainwater and found its way into London’s rivers. In the case of SE London the Ravensbourne, Quaggy, and Peck rivers became polluted before they discharged into the Thames.

As the population of London increased so did the quantity of waste. During the 1851 Great Exhibition for the first time many visitors were able to ‘test drive’ one of the flush toilets set up in Hyde Park.

These ‘water closets’ were instantly popular and sanitary merchants, including Thomas Crapper, became wealthy in satisfying the new demand. However, the effect was an enormous increase in the quantity of liquid waste for disposal.

In 1858 during a particularly hot summer the smell of waste products, dubbed ‘The Great Stink’, coming from the Thames outside the Houses of Parliament drove MPs to declare that Something Must Be Done. Parliament voted to raise £3million to pay for a comprehensive sewage scheme by an increase in rates.

Enter our hero in the form of Joseph William Bazalgette, Victorian engineer and contemporary of Marc Brunel. Bazalgette set to work to design and install a sewage system to take the sewage downstream to the remote rural area of Crossness where it was discharged untreated into the Thames.

His scheme included the construction of large diameter pipes parallel to London’s river to intercept the small tributary rivers before they ran into the Thames. Millions of bricks and seven years later the sewage system was complete.

The problem of ‘The Great Stink’ was solved by moving the polluted waste downstream from London.



The completion of Bazalgette’s plan had another beneficial effect in keeping drinking water apart from waste matter. 22000 Londoners had died of cholera between

### ROGER TAYLOR

1831 and 1849, but once the sewage scheme was introduced the quality of drinking water improved and cholera was overcome.

Opened in 1865, the Crossness works included four enormous steam-powered pumps to allow sewage to be taken out to sea on the receding tide. Some years later sludge boats were introduced to take the semi-solid waste for dumping at sea off Foulness Island in Essex, but this was outlawed by an EU directive in the 1990s.

The buildings were designed to be ornamental as well as functional. The interior was decorated with wrought and cast iron of the highest intricacy and quality.

The original function of the Victorian sewage works came to an end in the 1950s to be replaced by more advanced treatment methods on the adjacent modern site.

Luckily for us the original Victorian sewage works still exist and many of the original features are intact, having been lovingly restored by volunteers.

The restored ‘Prince Consort’ beam engine is one of the largest of its type still surviving in the world and on Open Days it is fired up. Visitors can experience the power of the huge machines and learn more of how Crossness played a key part in sewage disposal for the whole of South London.

**No, not the Royal Albert Hall! Roger Taylor is a trustee of the Crossness Engines Trust.**

#### Visiting days in 2014 are as follows:

**Sunday 6 April with local history fair**

**Sunday 22 June with model engineering**

**Sunday 27 July transport theme**

**Sunday 31 August local history**

**Sunday 12 October local history**

**Admission times are 1030 – 1600. Adults**

**£6, 5-16’s £2, under fives free.**

**Cash or cheque only, sorry no cards accepted.**

**No booking required. Flat shoes and trousers recommended.**

**Facilities: refreshments, shop, large free car park.**

#### How to get there

**Address: Thames Water, Belvedere Road, Abbey Wood SE2 9AQ. By car we suggest you approach on Bostall Hill heading away from Plumstead. Brown direction signs may be found from the junction of Bostall Hill and Knee Hill.**

**The walk from Abbey Wood station takes 50 minutes. The nearest bus stop on the 177 route is Newacres Library and from there the walk is 30 minutes.**

**Few visitors fail to be impressed by the exuberant cast iron decoration of the ‘Cathedral on the Marsh’ and the giant size of the beam engines. We look forward to seeing you. Prepare to be amazed!**

**For more information visit**

**[www.crossness.org.uk](http://www.crossness.org.uk)**

## 20 years of patient care

**Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice celebrate their twentieth year**

Twenty years ago this month, the first people came through the Hospice doors to use the Day Hospice; they were greeted by the smiling co-founders, Pat Jeavons and Don Sturrock (pictured centre below) and their brand new team.

Pat and Don as well as all the other amazing people involved in those early days would be very proud of how the Hospice has grown over time to become the vital service it is. Three of the people shown in the photograph are still playing an important part in delivering the best possible care and support to Hospice patients and their families.

Maria Ford, Lyn Williams and Carla Rattigan still carry on the tradition of care established by Pat and Don.

Carla said, “The Hospice has changed a great deal in the time that I have been here, but the ethos of care and compassion that Pat and Don had in the early days continues to be shown by both staff and volunteers today. It is a privilege to have been involved in the care of so many local people.”



**The Hospice relies on community support. You can donate online using your credit/debit card. Make your donation quickly and securely at [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) Or Post a cheque or postal order to: Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice FREEPOST LON15994 London SE2 0BR**

## Save our pub!

The White Swan pub in Charlton Village has been put up for disposal, suitable for alternative use, by Punch Taverns. Punch is the pub company which has recently taken to leasing pubs directly to Tesco for conversion to supermarkets.

A group of people are hoping to buy the White Swan for the Charlton community by raising money through a Community Share offer and preserving the pub for future generations, and turning it into a pub fit for 21st century purpose.

Charlton Society recently applied to Greenwich for the pub to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. Until this is granted in five weeks or so, the pub is vulnerable to being bought by a developer and converted to alternative use.

Assuming the worst will not happen, once ACV status is granted there will be an opportunity for the local community to develop the business case and raise the finance needed to make a realistic commercial offer to buy the pub.

**Anyone interested should contact Mark Dodds on [mdodds58@gmail.com](mailto:mdodds58@gmail.com)**

### Grant Saw Wealth Management Limited

**INDEPENDENT PERSONAL and CORPORATE FINANCIAL ADVISERS**

**Investments - Pensions - Estate Planning**

**2 Charlton Road. Blackheath Standard**

**London SE3 7EX (T) 020 3417 9760**

**email: [enquiries@gswealth.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gswealth.co.uk)**

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

**HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR FUTURE**

*Grant Saw Wealth Management Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority*



### Westcombe Park Dental Practice



#### Treatments Available

Zoom Tooth Whitening

Dental Implants

Invisalign

Smile Makeovers

Tooth Colouring Fillings

Anti-Wrinkle Treatments & Dermal Fillings

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

## Children’s Opera

For the second year running Blackheath Halls will be staging a children’s opera, this time in April 2014. This year Benjamin Britten’s *The Little Sweep* has been chosen.

Come along and watch this exciting production featuring local children and adults performing alongside professional opera singers. The performances are suitable for all the family.

A member of the audience commented on last year’s children’s opera: “An absolutely fantastic performance, bringing opera to everyone.”

Please contact Rose Ballantyne at [r.ballantyne@trinitylaban.ac.uk](mailto:r.ballantyne@trinitylaban.ac.uk) for how to get involved in similar projects.

**This project is generously supported by The Hearn Foundation**

**£10, £5 (for under 12s) Great Hall**

**Sat. April 12th 2.00 & 6.00 pm**

**Sun. April 13th 2.00 & 6.00 pm.**





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)

**CHRISTOPHER PETERS** presents this handy summary of the SE train services from January 2015 for all those who still feel confused.

## SE Train Services changes in 2015

This is an edited version of the Southeastern website info dated 18 October 2013. Please check again as the critical times approach: there is still time for changes . . .

The Thameslink Programme includes the complete redevelopment and upgrading of London Bridge station and improvements to track and signalling around the station. This will affect services on the Greenwich line including Greenwich, Deptford, Maze Hill and Westcombe Park, as well as services from New Cross and St Johns.

This means from January 2015 trains on the Greenwich line are unable to continue on to Charing Cross and Waterloo East, and will go to Cannon Street instead. For all passengers from January 2015:

- \* for nearly 20 months, services to Waterloo East and Charing Cross will not stop at London Bridge. Cannon Street services will, but currently cease earlier than the CX services, and there will be none on Sundays.

From January 2015 onwards, Greenwich line passengers are affected as follows:

- \* Charing Cross services will be diverted

to Cannon Street (change at London Bridge for CX)

From January 2015 onwards, passengers from New Cross and St Johns will be affected as follows:

- \* Waterloo East and Charing Cross services will not stop at New Cross and St Johns

For all passengers from August 2016:

- \* for 16 months no Cannon Street trains will stop at London Bridge

SETrains say that they realise these changes are disruptive, and are trying to reduce the impact by sharing alternative travel options in advance.

The alternatives include using the DLR, London Underground (Jubilee line) and buses. Ticket acceptance on different types of transport or different routes for all services: guidance on this will be provided from early 2014.

***Don't forget you can keep up to date by signing up for email updates on the Southeastern website or by following on @TLProgramme.***

***Responses from the Westcombe Society and the Greenwich Line Users Group (GLUG) can be found on the Westcombe Society website***

## Musical chairs on Blackheath

EMILY NORTON

It seems that residents of areas near Blackheath will be regaled with music this summer. Lewisham Council has agreed to two large 2-day music festivals on the heath, the Jimmy Mizen Foundation Good Hope Festival (GHF), and a commercial event called OnBlackheath.

Both applications were scrutinised by the Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) who look at the likely effect on local residents and the fabric of the heath which, along with the Park, is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation because of its rare acid grassland.

The two events are much longer than other large events on the heath, so the BJWP recommended that only one event be held in 2014. They chose the Jimmy Mizen Foundation because of their excellent presentation showing detailed plans and a willingness to work with the BJWP to adapt their plans to mitigate concerns about noise, road closures and damage to the fabric of the heath.

OnBlackheath's presentation seemed to be the same sketchy plan produced for their first application two years ago which caused huge concern at the time.

Lewisham officers, however, have overturned the BJWP recommendation, arguing that both these events will fit with their duty to provide a variety of good value events for their citizens. Lewisham have promised to work with the BJWP and Greenwich Council to ensure that nuisance to residents and risk to the fabric of the heath is kept to a minimum.

Conditions have been set to help protect rare acid grassland: numbers attending each day will be limited to 15,000, noise will be limited to 70db, (5 db above the official recommendation for outdoor concerts in urban areas), and events will finish at 10.00pm. (The Good Hope festival is already committed to a 9.00pm finish). Environmental officers from both Councils will monitor noise levels closely.

Both organisations have licences in perpetuity. The GHF licence was recently awarded despite requests from Greenwich

residents, Councillors and Officers for a reduced noise level. The next stage is for organisations to submit Event Management Plans covering safety, traffic and crowd management plans, at least three months before the planned event, to be scrutinised by bodies such as the emergency services and TfL who have the power to pull the plug if they are not satisfied.

Lewisham has made it clear it regards these festivals as test events, and promise a thorough review in the autumn before any further similar events are approved. The Westcombe Society, through BJWP, will be contributing to that review.

***All residents are invited to submit their comments on these events to their local Councillors or local amenity society.***

### What is the BJWP?

The BJWP is a consultative body concerned with all aspects of the Heath including Events. The BJWP includes representatives of the Westcombe, Blackheath and Greenwich Societies, Blackheath Traders, Councillors from Wards bordering the heath and the teams responsible for Parks and Open Spaces in both Greenwich and Lewisham. BJWP discussions have led to the installation of bunds – raised earth barriers to stop parking on verges, widely admired for the wildflowers planted on them; and a wider appreciation of the natural habitats of the heath, and its uncommon heathland flora and fauna.

### 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**



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)**

## Woodlands Farm

In March, Woodlands Farm, Shooters Hill, opened a new education centre. The 89-acre Farm has provided education and conservation resources since 1996.

The education unit at the farm provided for visits from 4,000 school pupils last year, in addition to providing a thriving toddler group and adult education in subjects such as making hedgerow liqueurs, hedge-laying and bee keeping.

The building for the new education centre is pre-fabricated and cost £130,000 in total. The principal funders were Natural England, the Government Agency for Conservation and Wildlife Education, and other sources. The Project Manager at Woodlands Farm, David Jones, said "The new building will enable us to offer a wide range of experiences in conservation and farming for the local community."

## Christopher's Column

### Line and field

Pattern is everywhere say the latest style magazines – and it certainly is in these parts.

Having eschewed authentically-retro fabric and wallpaper (think Festival of Britain) on cost grounds, I decorated out my new den-cum-office in non-matching patterns and colours (from charity shops). This 'look', it seems, is highly fashionable. Many of the patterns are abstract and some have floral motifs – sari 'silk' all paisley & leaves – and some just stripes.

It works, to my mind (and eye), because I have tweaked the proportion of one pattern against another, and taken care with which colours sit together

The same considerations apply when planting even the smallest garden – consider the balance of repetition and pattern, and your patch will work. Our eyes and brain seek out patterns – even where there are none – and find them soothing.

The 'spotty' effect is typical of gardens with one of everything – a 'riot of colour' if you will (plantaholics prone to random shopping, take note).



We need a mix of plants to attract bees birds and butterflies, but there should always be a foundation of strong shapes and colours to offset the rest.

In the canalside gardens of the 2012 Olympic site – now open again – the design team used block or mass planting ('line') and mixed meadow-type planting ('field') within the same areas. Each was carefully proportioned, using repetition and contrast to create subtle effects – in the 'field' areas, I recall they calculated how many plants they needed and then planted fairly randomly once the mix was right.

On a domestic scale, you can mix lots of different plants together provided you have enough neutrals or repetition to balance them out. Blocks of paving and lawns act as a foil or a 'frame' to the floral tapestry – and a group of similar pots will give you a strong graphic shape. (I'm saving up for the wallpaper...)

For more thought provoking ideas about the interplay of pattern and form, visit the exhibition 'Fashion & Gardens' at the Garden Museum on the South Bank till April 27th.



**Christopher Raven**



