



Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops

May 2014 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

No longer fit for purpose?

WN
reporter

The Thames Barrier has been protecting London for more than 30 years. But how long will it remain fit for purpose, as sea levels rise?

The barrier has played a vital role in protecting the capital. Twice a day, the freshwater Thames meets the incoming tide from the North Sea, making water levels rise and then fall by seven metres in the Thames estuary.

The ten giant steel gates of the barrier – each weighing around 3,300 tonnes – can be raised at mid-tide, as necessary. The barriers can then be lowered again when the tide goes out.

The main threat to London is the storm surges that often roll in from the North Sea: without the barrier, much of London could be swamped.

The Thames Barrier was built following the devastating floods of 1953, when a North Sea surge killed more than 300 people. Around fifteen per cent of all properties in London are built on the floodplain. If the 520m barrier had not been built near Woolwich, huge areas of London would be at risk from flooding.

In December last year, following the biggest North Sea storm surge for 60 years, the Environment Agency published a map showing the probable effect on central London if no barrier had been in place. More than a million people, and property worth more than £200bn, would have been affected by flooding, including the Houses of Parliament, the Canary Wharf business district, and much of the Underground.

The Environment Agency reports that the barrier has been raised over 170 times since 1982, but the need is becoming more frequent. It was closed more than 100 times since 2000 and 13 times in January alone. Since the beginning of this year, it has closed an unprecedented 50 times. During the 80s, it closed just four times.

The barrier has now reached the recommended annual limit of 50. A worrying report by the quango on the future of the barrier said that exceeding the target could

see it "failing to unacceptable levels". The more it is used, the more likely it is to run into mechanical problems.

It's worth noting that the Barrier is only part of our flood defences along the Thames: there are more than 36 industrial floodgates in place, and 380 smaller, moveable defences. These include barriers at Barking, the Royal Docks – and the Gallions Flood Defence Gate.

In today's money, the Thames Barrier cost around £1.6 billion and it has paid for itself many times over in the last 30-odd years. However, the extreme weather of recent months, and the fact that the Thames has risen – in some parts to its highest levels in 60 years – has raised serious doubts about its future.

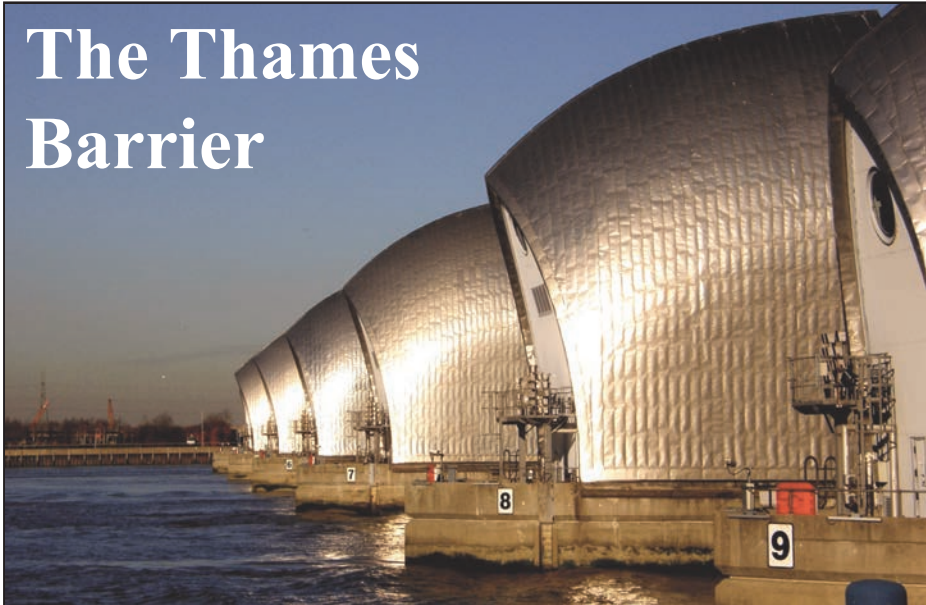
The frequent closures in recent months suggests that the barrier may be operating close to the limits of what it can do. Calls for a replacement barrier, bigger, and built downstream, near the site of the M25 crossings at Dartford, are becoming louder.

According to Baroness Jenny Jones, Green Party member of the Greater London Assembly, the need to consider whether London needs additional protection is urgent. "It takes 30 years from inception to completion and we cannot afford to leave it that long," she says. "The sort of weather we have been having is the new normal, it's my view that climate change is getting faster and faster. We must start looking at this now."

The honourable Baroness needs to pay attention: Denise Scott-McDonald reported in the *WN* in 2011 that plans were indeed in train years ago. Addressing a meeting of Blackheath & Greenwich United Nations Association in April 2011, Sarah Lavery of the Environment Agency was quoted as saying "Already plans are being laid to replace the barrier with a bigger one downstream – and this barrier is only one of many lining the river."

The target date for a new barrier is at present 2070: only time will tell whether these plans are moving fast enough.

The Thames Barrier



The Thames Barrier: completed in 1982, it is one of the largest movable flood barriers in the world. The barrier spans 520 metres across the River Thames near Woolwich. At a cost of less than two billion pounds (today's prices), for over thirty years this beautiful structure has protected 125 square kilometres of central London from flooding caused by tidal surges. It employs eighty staff, and costs around £6 million a year to maintain. Money well spent. Brunel would have been proud of it.

G'Day, Blossoms . . .

. . . as Barry Humphries/Edna Everage might have said! The blossom this year has been outstanding.

But has this cherry tree in the Standard had an identity crisis – pink or white? The answer: the white blossom is of course the result of a graft.



PHOTO
Anne Raynsford

Council leader resigns

Greenwich Council leader Chris Roberts' sudden decision in April to quit altogether at this month's council election has left the Labour group stunned.

Roberts was first elected to the council in the 1990s. He became leader of the Council in 2000. He had previously announced he would stand down as leader but seek re-election in Glyndon ward.

In his letter of resignation, he said: "I believe the presence of a previous leader in the new administration would be unfair on any successor."

In recent months he had been bogged

down in accusations of bullying, notably made by local councillor Alex Grant; and last year this website first revealed a threatening message left on the voicemail of his cabinet colleague John Fahy.

The *WN* understands that Roberts also resigned as a director of council company Meridian Home Start after disagreements about the firm's role.

In his blog, Cllr. John Fahy commented: "Whatever may be written about him, now or in the future, no one can ignore the enormous contribution he has made to the Borough as Leader of the Labour Group."

< <

News briefs

> >

Make a date with the London Barrier

The Barrier is operated every month for test and maintenance purposes. Once a year it is tested at a high tide, usually in September or October. Our readers may be interested in seeing it close or reopen – or just seeing it completely closed. It is after all a structure of which Isambard Kingdom Brunel would have been proud.

It may begin to close and reopen the gates up to an hour before the times listed below. On occasion, an operation may be cancelled at short notice – telephone the day before to check (020 8305 4188). The next two dates are:

Thursday 8 May 2014 – 13.20 to 15.50
Monday 16 June 2014 – 09.55 to 12.35

Geoff Garvey

The funeral of Geoff Garvey, former News Editor of the *WN*, took place at All Saints' Church, Blackheath on March 20th, and was attended by a large number of friends and family. Less than a week before he died, Geoff was asked to write a piece about how he reinvented himself, changing from being a journalist to an international tour guide. Within a day, he turned in the article, and shortly afterwards he was admitted to hospital for the last time. His article appears on page 4 of this edition. Thank you, Geoff.

Marathon cancelled by water shortage

The rumour that the London Marathon had been cancelled for health and safety reasons because of a water shortage had of course no basis in fact!

The *WN*'s source Deep Throat tells us that the reason why the Sheffield Marathon was cancelled was because the organisers had failed to pay for the water to be supplied. Hats off then to the organisers of the Virgin Money London Marathon for an efficient operation; and salute the volunteers who lined the route to distribute water supplies – and of course the runners raising money for charity, among them Zoe, Annette, Louisa and Val. See p.3

Moggie menace

Experts have warned that cats are spreading a potentially serious parasite to an estimated 350,000 people each year.

Advisors to the Food Standards Agency say the micro-organism can cause serious symptoms in pregnant women and people with impaired immune systems, such as the elderly and those with cancer or HIV. Toxoplasmosis is spread through contact with cat faeces, usually directly by handling cats, cleaning out litter trays or while gardening.

A new scare has also emerged: cats can also spread TB. The British Veterinary Association, says there is an ongoing risk from infected animals.

Not a member of the Westcombe Society?

If so, isn't it time you joined, and got involved? It's a great way to meet people from the local community – especially if you are a newcomer. Members can take part in members-only events, attend other events at a reduced rate, and can take advantage of the Buy Local scheme (details on page 8). Membership application forms can be found on page two.

Our shrinking brains

Those who took part in the Westcombe Society's latest quiz night may be reassured by hearing that, according to Prof. Bruce Hood, the human brain has apparently shrunk by 20 per cent since the end of the last Ice Age. So has the brain of every species of mammal domesticated by humans.

But why? Professor Hood discusses this in his book *The Domesticated Brain*. In this book he explains the evolution of brain mechanisms that enable us to co-exist by co-operation. Just like the Westcombe Society?

Farewell Alex and Alex - and thanks

Two of our councillors - Cllr Alex Grant (Lab) and Cllr Alex Wilson (Con.) are standing down, and we thank them for the service they have given to the community, in Alex Grant's case, for sixteen years.

Westcombe Society

Hustings Tues. May 13th.
7.45 pm at St George's, Glenluce Road.
A chance to meet your candidates:
The candidates in Blackheath/Westcombe Ward are:

Conservative: Geoff Brighty
Laela Pakpour Tabrizi
Thomas Turrell
Trevor Allman
Green: Paul Morrissey
Labour: Cherry Parker
Damien Welfare
Liberal Democrats: Michael O'Keefe

AGM – Friday 16th May 7.30 pm
in Mycenae House.
Elect your committee, and air your views! Please see the Agenda on page 2.
All members welcome.

Light refreshments will be served.
After the meeting, Mark Johson-Brown manager of Mycenae House will give a talk on the new exhibition featuring Jack Kay's iconic photographs.

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 June 2014:

16th May

News Editor:

Environment Editor: Maggie Gravelle

Reporters: The community!

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:

Family membership	£12	
individual membership	£8	
senior citizens/unwaged	£4	

IT SUPPORT

For ALL your home & business needs

Call now for FREE advice



020 8858 2002

www.theheadstart.com

Our April Quiz



Congratulations to the winning team, who called themselves The Teenagers. (shome mishtake? Ed.) PHOTO: Neville Grant

The Westcombe Society held yet another highly successful Quiz Night in April in Mycenae House. Ten teams competed to answer questions with great good humour on subjects as diverse as Science, Films, Airports, Women in Politics, and of course General Knowledge. The Teenagers won, with a score of 98 points, just beating the Little Players by half a point! Many thanks to the question master, J-J, and Caroline, Maureen, Patricia and Joanne – and to those who donated raffle prizes. The money raised goes to charity.

Egged on . . .

We lost count of the number of eager egg-hunters who turned up for the annual Easter Egg Hunt in Mycenae Gardens on April 19th – and the prizes for the best Easter Bonnet and Basket were hotly competed for.

Everyone seemed to have a jolly good time! Many thanks to Emily, Jody and Laura, who have brought a breath of fresh spring air to the event, and well done, the winners!

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: Tommy Mizen Festival Director

As many of you are be aware The Jimmy Mizen Foundation were successful in obtaining the licence for The Good Hope Festival, and we are grateful for the public's support.

The Jimmy Mizen Foundation has after much thought decided to move the Festival to the August 2015 – but plan to launch it on 2nd August this year on Blackheath. This will be an open event for the community and our partners to hear all about the Good Hope Festival.

Due to the tight time-frame, we feel that by moving it to 2015 we will give ourselves more time and a greater opportunity to work with the community, festival partners, and supporters to ensure that the festival will be a success. We understand there are many concerns surrounding The Festival and feel that with more time, we will be able to address these concerns.

Our fantastic team have worked hard to get us to this point and we will continue to work hard to promote Peace, Hope and Change.

Over the next year and a half, the work experience and 'Festival Friends' programme will continue to run, creating even more opportunities for our young people.

We will of course keep you all updated on progress and look forward to working closer with the community as we work towards 2015.

From: Kate Fowler Animal Aid

Spring is here, and that means wild animals will be searching out safe, warm, dry places to nest and raise their young.

Inevitably, this means some will come a little closer to people than they might like. There is no need to panic and call in pest controllers.

There are simple measures that can be taken to encourage unwanted guests to leave without harming them. No one wants pigeons in their eaves or lofts! Animal Aid has a series of free information sheets that give useful tips on deterring birds, squirrels, rodents and foxes.

Readers can order these by calling 01732 364546 or from info@animalaid.org.uk

From Janet Sweet, Blackheath

In reply to Christopher Peters (WN April), I would mention some of the many 'solutions' to local traffic problems that I have seen, such as the second Blackwell Tunnel, the Rochester Way Relief Road, the Dartford Tunnel and the QEII Bridge.

All relieved congestion for but a short while: traffic soon surpassed the previous level. If Mr. Peters thinks another Thames crossing will miraculously solve present and future congestion, he is more optimistic than I am.

From: Peter Dunmore Westcombe Park

I wholeheartedly agree with G. Bailey's letter concerning Trevor Allman's rant against "the Windsors." The Queen is an elderly lady who has dedicated her whole life to the service of her country, and I found Mr Allman's comments distasteful. He is entitled to his views, but they would be better kept to himself.

If Mr Allman wants to live in a republic, I feel sure that he could find one to take him in. If he were really lucky, he may end up under President Balir!

I believe Mr Allman is standing for election in this ward for the Green Party. His republican views seem more extreme left wing than Green, and I hope that the Greens – and especially the electorate – realise exactly what they are letting themselves in for if they vote for him. Here is one voter who will not be prepared to assist him in his aspirations to join Greenwich Council!

From: Mrs G Evans Westcombe Park Road

I was very pleased to see your coverage in a recent issue of the WN of the WI's wonderful new cookbook. I have already tried out several of the delicious recipes therein. I was reminded of an issue of the WN dated January 1978 with its review of the *Westcombe Society Cook Book*. I cannot resist reproducing the review here: *What an excellent job Hilary Patrinos and friends have made of "Bring a Dish", the Westcombe Society cookbook. Lots of contributors, plus illustrations by Claire Budd, Gilly Budd, Jean Cooke, R.A., and Emma Kay.*

It ranges from the sublime to the ridiculous with many genuine delights and good ideas sprinkled with occasional jests such as elephant stew ("Cut elephant into small, bite-size pieces. This usually takes about two months ...")

How about a fazzi chicken, fasolatha, frikadella, goacamole or Swabian liver noodle soup? Or Doris's snacks, Nan's pud, Yanno's potato salad and Aunt Nelly's mint jelly ...?

Baked potatoes in rum, idiot biscuits and nibbles for weight-watchers are among other ideas in the 63 page book which costs 50p to members and 60p to non-members.....

I believe that copies are still on sale at the Christmas Bazaar. An ideal stocking filler?

From: Teresa Griffith Greenwich Cyclists

Since 2012 London Cyclists have been identifying bits of their boroughs where local councilors could use their influence to make cycling safer and more pleasant. Click on the link below to add your postcode and email your candidates for local elections about their "ask": <http://action.space4cycling.org/>

The Westcombe Society AGM Notification

The Notification of the Westcombe Society's Annual General Meeting is printed below along with the Agenda. Copies of the Minutes of the 2013 AGM and of the Constitution can be obtained from the Secretary if required prior to the meeting. Please contact the Chairman Marilyn Little on 020 8853 1312 or email Secretary@westcombesociety.org

Dear Member

The 2014 Westcombe Society Annual General Meeting takes place on Friday, 16th May and will be held in the main hall at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road, SE3. The AGM commences at 7.30pm. We hope you can attend.

The agenda appears below. If you are unable to attend, and you have a question, or would like to nominate someone for the Committee, please contact the Secretary at the above address in advance of May 16th. After the formal business of the Annual General Meeting light refreshments will be served.

AGENDA Annual General Meeting 2014
Friday 16th May 2014 at 7.30 pm at Mycenae House,
Mycenae Rd, London SE3

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Approval of and matters arising from Minutes of 2013 AGM
- 3) Reports from the Chairman, Events Sub-Committee, Environment Sub-Committee, & Editor of the WN.
- 4) Treasurer's Report and presentation of audited statement of accounts for the year ending 31.03.2014
- 5) Election of Officers
- 6) Charity of the year
- 7) Any Other Business
- 8) Talk by Mark Johson-Brown, manager of Mycenae House, on the new exhibition featuring Jack Kay's iconic photographs.
- 9) Light refreshments

Marilyn Little Chair Jan Barnett Hon.Sec.

VESNA DOMANY visits

The Kairos project



Passers-by or the patients of the Health Centre on Vanbrugh Hill might have observed a pleasant change: the neglected courtyard next to it has been turned into a flourishing garden-cum-allotment.

If they stop to enquire, a board at the entrance informs them the transformation has been achieved through the team work of patients of the Centre, and the Kairos Project in partnership with Feel Good Greenwich.

The work in the community garden is seen as a part of pain cure. Everybody is welcome to participate, be it by helping themselves to the organic vegetables – or, better still, by planting some.

The Kairos Garden Project (as well as the choir) are run by a team of doctors, medical staff and volunteers led by Dr. David McGavin, who is a specialist in pain management working with the Blackhorn Trust. The approaches used are based on the Steiner 'antroposophic' concept: this means that health and illness need to be seen as teamwork by patient and doctor relying on the often unrealised inherent wisdom and talents we all have.

If interested please contact

Ingrid Hermensen ,

Kairos Rehabilitation Vanbrugh Health

Centre Tel: 0771 2810108;

gepainservice@gmail.com;

www.kairosrehabilitation.org.uk



Not just a race - a massive community effort!

It's almost a military campaign: you have to get organised. Betsy lays out all her kit in preparation - her running number, T shirt, IPICO Sports Tag timing device, red kitbag, map, you name it . . .



Checking in at the start



The numbers say it all: 36,000 runners, 10,000 volunteers, 650,000 spectators - and 15 million pounds for charity. . .

Yes, the London Marathon was here again, and you could sense the feel-good factor was as warm as the sunny Spring day that we all enjoyed on April 13th.

A number of local residents helped out, as stewards, as water distributors . . . They even took part as hosts, as the scheme got under way whereby competitors from far away - Durham, Devon, Dundee - gave a donation to a charity (Greenwich Cystic Fibrosis) - and in exchange, local residents gave them Bed and Breakfast.

Sacha Bright, who told the *WN* about the B&B scheme in our March issue (page 4 *Why not host the Marathon?*) was very pleased with the take-up.

Sacha (who is the new secretary of the Blackheath Society) said that the charity was trying harder than ever to find a cure

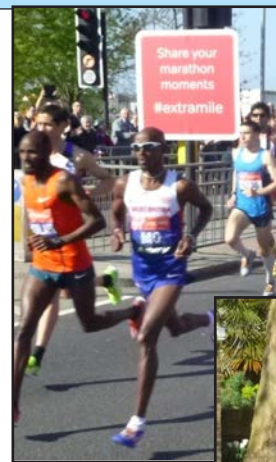
for this dreadful disease, and the B&B host scheme was win-win all round.

"I hope we can get even more people to take part next year!" she said.

For example, Betsy, from Nailsea, near Bristol, exclaimed: "Without a friendly local billet, just getting to the Marathon in time would be a marathon in itself!"

Marilyn, one of the hosts, said "It was so interesting to have a competitor as a guest, and help to psyche them up for the great event!"

All were impressed - but not wholly surprised - that Kenya and Ethiopia dominated the top table; but it was pleasing to see other nations (including two from the Ukraine, who in these troubled times got a lot of support from the crowd) represented as well. But this event is not simply about winning: it's about taking part, creating that famous feel-good factor - and raising money for charity!



RIGHT: In St. John's Park, meanwhile, the crowd cheered a different kind of hero . . .

PHOTOS: Neville Grant

LEFT: Wait, just a MO - the traffic light's red! Oh well . . . Eighth wasn't bad, Mo, given who you were up against. . .



In the Van of Progress



The Life and Deaf Association, based in Humber Road, has won a prestigious award for their campaigning work to develop deaf children and young people's ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings about being deaf.

The association is a team of volunteers who work mainly in their own time. Jane Thomas and Katie Ford are specialist speech and language therapists. Between them they have worked for 25 years with deaf children & young people, mostly in Greenwich. Local resident Helena Ballard is an experienced teacher of the deaf who has worked in Greenwich for 15 years.

The aim of the association is to use poetry and the arts to help deaf children explore their identities and develop communication skills and emotional literacy; our overall aim is to improve the mental health of future generations of deaf people.

The Association won the Award for their innovative campaign to raise awareness by driving a poetry-wrapped VW-camper van across the UK teaching people how to sign 'Good Morning' as a gesture of inclusion. (Find out how by visiting the

website www.lifeanddeaf.co.uk, and watch footage of the tour on the webcast.)

The van stopped at schools each morning and deaf young poets delivered an assembly, performed signed poetry and discussed their feelings and experiences.

As a result of the campaign, schools pledged to add deaf young people's poetry to the curriculum, to set up poetry corners for self-expression, and to use poetry alongside behaviour management and counselling.

In the afternoons, the camper van went to Tesco car parks to reach a diverse cross-section of British communities. Deaf-awareness information was distributed and some 20,000 shoppers were taught how to sign Good Morning.

The awards - the SLCN (Speech, Language and Communication Needs) Innovation Award at the 2013/14 Shine a Light Awards - took place in March in London and were hosted by Anne Diamond. The awards are run by Pearson Assessment and The Communication Trust to honour those who have excelled in their support of young people's communication.

Community cuppas

The Hospice are inviting us to tea - and inviting us to invite others to tea to raise funds for the hospice. They are asking us to put the kettle on to support the hospice and to host a great big community cuppa between 12th and 18th May.

By hosting a tea party at home, or a coffee morning with colleagues at the office, or by running a local community event, you will be helping the Hospice to provide high quality care for local people at a time when they need it most.

GBCH are providing a free Community Cuppa Supporter Pack. To obtain a pack, call 020 8319 9230 or email info@gbch.org.uk

Fostercare fortnight

8,600 new foster families are needed across the UK in 2014 alone. Foster Care Fortnight™, the UK's biggest foster care awareness and recruitment campaign is taking place between Monday 12th - Sunday 25th May. The campaign will help to find homes for some of the UK's most vulnerable children.

The Council holds regular meetings at The Woolwich Centre, Wellington Street, Woolwich SE18 6HQ where you can find out more.

The dates of the next meetings are:

Sat. 24th May 2014 -

10.00 am to 12 noon

Tues. 24th June 2014 -

7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Sat. 26th July 2014 -

10.00 am to 12 noon

Comedy Club

Katherine Ryan
John Robbins & Tiernan Douieb

Canadian star as seen on *Live at the Apollo*, *Mock the Week* & *8 Out of 10 Cats* plus 2 great standups

Friday 23 May 8pm £8

Andrew O'Neill
Heavy metal - A History

Comedic brilliance from Star of *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and *Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle*

Sat 21 June 8pm £8

90 Mycenae Rd, Blackheath Standard, SE3 7SE 400yds to Westcombe Park Train Station Free Parking

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk
02088581749

Supported by

MEND YOUR ENGLISH

or

What We Should Have Been Taught At Primary School

Ian Bruton-Simmonds

Revised Edition

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

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

Re-inventing oneself

GEOFF GARVEY described his successful career change a few days before he died on March 6th.

For years I was the crime correspondent of the London Evening Standard. I covered the rise and fall of the Kray and Richardson gangs; the race riots in London, and the IRA attacks in the capital.

All heady stuff indeed, but after 30 years or more it was becoming rather depressing with the constant calls to Scotland Yard to check on the progress of murder inquiries and crime in the capital.

Eventually I decided to call it a day, but I wasn't ready for retirement. So what instead?

Well, they often say new opportunities are staring you in the face and here I was aided by my wife Diane.

She knew of my love of travel, history, trains, food and meeting people. So she realised there was a new opening that was obvious – I re-invented myself as a tour guide.

First I studied as a Greenwich tour guide and qualified to take people on paid-for tours around our lovely town.

I then wrote to a company called Great Rail Journeys, which specialised in organised trips by rail around Europe.

This wasn't for the anorak steam train brigade, but people who couldn't fly for health reasons or simply because they wanted to see the scenery.

I contacted the firm in York and they

told me that, with the opening of St. Pancras for continental trains, they were setting up a subsidiary company called Treyn Holidays.

After a training course in York I set to. The job involved heading groups of up to 40 people, and escorting them on some fabulous journeys.

We'd meet at St. Pancras and travel on to either Paris or Brussels where we'd change trains.

I saw so many marvellous places, like Lake Garda in Italy, and The Swiss Alps, on amazing trains like the Glacier Express, which runs the length of Switzerland and is billed as the slowest express in the world! It takes eight hours on its 180 mile journey and with glass topped roofs to the carriages you can enjoy the splendid panorama of the mountains.

There were spectacular excursions from Lucerne, which involved taking a wonderful paddle steamer across a lake and then changing to the world's steepest cog railway which climbs at an incredible gradient of up to one in two up the side of Mount Pilatus.

Remarkably, there's a hotel at the top which was built before the railway, so, after a bowl of warming soup you can descend by cable car to the other side of the mountain and catch a bus back to the centre of Lucerne.

There were the big cities like Vienna, Berlin, and, of course, Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, with its hearty mid-European food, huge castle, ancient cathedral and fascinating Jewish quarter.

Vienna was a not-unexpected eye opener. Despite being badly damaged during the Second World War it has been rebuilt to its former pristine glory with its exotic Baroque buildings.

Berlin proved dramatic. One is always mindful of the wars that rocked Europe but Berlin bulges with new buildings.

There's the rebuilt Reichstag; the amazing main railway station has trains running

Geoff's led tour groups to many parts of Europe mainly by train. This photo shows a TGV speeding through the Swiss mountains.

Geoff's tours were organised by Treyn Holidays, based in York. "Great Rail Journeys" PHOTO: Courtesy of Treyn Holidays



in all directions, one of the world's largest department stores – but no free samples in the food section!

There are bars and cafes galore and canals that you can cruise along. And in the former East Berlin there are enough vintage trams to delight the most ardent transport fan.

But despite the delights, there can be some mishaps. In Turin, one of my passengers was walking along when he tripped and fell and crashed his head on the pavement. I happened to be with him and called the emergency services on my mobile phone, and he was rushed to hospital.

Now I wasn't sure how efficient the Italians were with urgent hospital treatment, but I need not have worried.

When I returned to our hotel ready for us to take our next train, the passenger was already back.

He told me the hospital staff explained to the other waiting patients as he was wheeled in; "we've got an English patient here . . . make way" – and they did.

Now it was important for passengers to let me know if they had a mobile phone with them. One passenger got parted from her husband and when I tried to call her to find out where she was, she eventually turned up and said she had hadn't got it with her as it was too heavy.

Then there was the case of another woman who got separated from husband in Verona. She vanished into the huge square around the Roman arena and we searched for her in vain.

Eventually she turned up – and it transpired that she'd literally been swept away in a huge tidal wave of Japanese tourists sweeping through like a plague of locusts.

So all in all it was a wonderful change of career – and I got paid for having a great time doing it!



Making a difference in Musoma

On May 10th, 3pm - 8pm the small independent charity 'Go Make A Difference in Tanzania' will be hosting a fundraising fete to raise awareness and funds for the charity.

The family fun day will be at St John's Church, Blackheath, SE3 7TH. There will be music, a barbecue, market stalls, lots of games for the children (and adults) plus a short presentation from the founder of the charity, Graham McClure. All are welcome!

Go MAD in Tanzania is a local charity with offices in Blackheath founded by the McClure family. It all began in 1994 when St John's Blackheath helped finance, design and build a Cathedral for the Anglican Diocese of Mara, in the town of Musoma.

After the cathedral was opened Graham

felt driven to help the people of Mara and so began to invite teams of volunteers out to help with various community projects, and eventually 'Go MAD in Tanzania' was born. The charity has been partnered with Tearfund Transform for five years. In the last twelve months over 100 volunteers have travelled to Tanzania with Go MAD and Tearfund.

Go MAD work in remote rural villages near Musoma in an area stretching from Lake Victoria to the Serengeti. They help local farmers, people living with HIV and AIDS, orphans, pastors and their congregations.

Common problems include little access to a good education, clean water, inadequate sanitation and providing affordable health-care. Visit gomakeadifference.co.uk

From the archives

Early issues of the *Westcombe News* are full of invective against the noise of traffic that came with the increasing car-ownership of the public.

Nor were buses seen as an acceptable solution; Mr Clifford Graham of Westcombe Park Road was quoted in the September 1977 issue of the *WVN* stating: "We object to any proposal to introduce a full regular bus service going the whole length of Westcombe Park Road: we feel that this would be one of the worst things that could be done to the district."

Mrs A E Graham even got up a petition against the use of buses: she said that no one in her family had a car, and they did not live near a bus route, but they wanted to extend "peace and tranquillity" to more of the roads in Westcombe Park "in order to recover the former 'Woodlands' atmosphere." Transport problems, she thought could be solved by the Westcombe Society's "good neighbour scheme" and family support.

Such statements produced an ironic riposte from Ben Baker of Combe Avenue the following month. In a letter headed "Don't Panic, Chaps" he adopted the tone of Clive Dunn (Cpl Jones in *Dad's Army*), mixed in with a bit of *Private Eye's* Dave Spart, when he wrote to the *WVN*:

"It's no good for the saintly residents of Westcombe Park Road writing to the *Westcombe News* describing the traffic problem as 'ghastly', 'appalling', etc nor is it any good waving rolled up copies of the *Daily Telegraph* at noisy juggernauts ...

"Instead what we all must do is sit this one out, patiently. We must adopt the old wartime attitude. We must remain Cool, Calm and Collected. Above all, we must not, on any account, PANIC.

"We can soothe our shattered nerves by playing Scrabble, our morale can be saved by listening to Vera Lynn singing. Anything to stop this menace beating us. We must not lose. Finally we can only hope and pray that the deafening roar and the choking smogs that have plagued us for the past few months will go away.

"Until then, we can only look forward to the day that the sound of tinkling tea-cups, and the gentle click of croquet balls can once again be heard around the stately homes and plush lawns of Westcombe Park Road."

The Editor of the *Westcombe News*, John Petty, encouraged readers' letters on the subject, and the problem ran and ran in the columns of the *WVN*: there was even a suggestion to erect a No Entry sign at the Western end of Westcombe Park Road! The residents of Humber Road and Vanbrugh Park Road would certainly have appreciated that . . .

Sadly, most of us have since become resigned to the age of the motor-car, even though traffic is still a live issue: as has been witnessed by the number of recent articles in the *WVN* about air pollution in Greenwich, caused by traffic.

Laptop Labs @Mycenae house



Come along and find out looking after your digital device, web surfing with confidence, getting creative and more...

Tuesday Mornings 10.30 - 12

If you require more details, please call Paul on 07958 251 448, or visit www.soulchip.co.uk



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



The SIXTEEN

The Choral Pigrimage perform

The Voice of the Tyrtle Dove

Three exceptional Tudor composers:
John Sheppard, William Munday & Richard Davy

at the Old Royal Naval College
on 7th May at 7.30 pm.

Tickets: Ring 0870 608 2000

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
War Artists at Sea Until February 2015
Until January 2015: GUIDING LIGHTS: 500 Years of Safety at Sea marking the 500th anniversary of Trinity House. A new free display showcasing the invaluable work of the Corporation of Trinity House in helping mariners navigate safely at sea. Explore rarely-seen objects and discover stories of the heroic and the extraordinary from the organisation's history.
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: 22nd May Ian Pickford Silver and Social Customs. Includes looking at the significance of such things as being above or below the salt, and the sudden popularity of forks in the 17th century.** Non-members £5 on the door. www.artsinblackheath.org.uk or ring 83187550
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, the University of Greenwich **NEXT LECTURE: 12th May MICHAEL TOOLEY** talks on **The Restoration and Conservation of Gardens of Historic Interest** 8852 7873 Non-members £8.00
BLACKHEATH HALLS
Fri 2nd May - Wed 28th. May 10.00h - 17.00h GRAHAM HIGH The starting point for the 'shore-line' paintings is the coast of north Norfolk. Free
ART HUB GALLERY 5 - 9 Creekside, Deptford presents **IMPRINT** by John Jones 10th – 25th May Thursdays - Sundays 1.00 - 5.00 pm Open Thursdays to Sundays 1 - 5pm
ART HISTORY AT AGE EXCHANGE
The Bakehouse Theatre, Age Exchange, 11 Blackheath Village SE3 9LA
ArtyFacts @ Blackheath: Five Art History lectures by NADFAS-accredited lecturer, Rosalind Whyte. From 13 June to 11 July, 10.45 - 12.45. £15 per week. Each week will cover a different type of painting: Seascapes, Landscapes, Portraiture, Genre Painting and History Painting. **Contact Rosalind Whyte on 020 8318 9906 or email info@artyfactsltd.com**

CHILDREN & FAMILY

GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich Box office: 020 8858 7755.
Sat 24th May – Sun 1st June ALICE IN WONDERLAND
BLACKHEATH HALLS
Sat 17th May 3.00 pm
LITTLE RED ROBIN HOOD A merry mix up in the forest involving glove puppets, false teeth and a frying pan. Two classic tales are interwoven in a fast and funny family show. £7.00
Sun 18th May 3.00pm THE MAGIC VIOLIN £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 or email: info@selondondads.org.uk**



AGE EXCHANGE

BOOK SALES: Ssecond Saturday every month (except August & December) 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.
LUNCHTIME CONCERTS Last Saturday of every month by Trinity Laban students. Admission free, but there is a retiring collection in aid of Age Exchange & Blackheath Village Library.

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Hustings Tues. May 13th. 7.45 pm at St George's, Glenlue 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 September - 10.00am to 2.00pm, main hall
Children's Nearly New Sale Saturday 27th Sept. Members' Evening – Saturday 11th October
Chrysanthemum Tea Saturday 25th October
Quiz Friday 7th November – evening, main hall
Please ring Joanne on 07709 571777 if you would like to help out on any of these events!

COMMUNITY

CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH
Thursday 1st May at The Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath SE3 0RW
To book lunches call Wendy Templeman on 020 8265 0335 by Monday April 28th. Cost £8.50.
BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road. Meetings begin at 7.45pm. Visitors are welcome.
May 16th. Pharmacology of Natural & Synthetic Drugs Dr Ralph White, PPMLD Ltd.
Next meeting: October
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
20th May Jackie Skipper on the history and geology of the **Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnels** 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
GREENWICH MERIDIAN CHOIR
If you are interested in joining the choir as a regular member, (rehearsals are Thursday evenings during term time), contact **Jean Valsler on 0208 8527548** or email brookjean@btinternet.com
AMNESTY BOOK SALE
Sat. 21st June 9.30 - 4.30 pm. Book sale at the Church of the Ascension, Dartmouth Rd, Blackheath. Bargains galore on a wide range of books on many different subjects
LIVE JAZZ AT MYCENAE HOUSE
Candlelit jazz, special guest on the second Friday each month. Bar & Food available. 8pm. £10/ £8
GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS
Free workshops 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**
ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC
9.00 pm every Tuesday at the Lord Hood pub, Creek Road; jazz Thursdays



THEATRE & OPERA

THE ALEXANDRA PLAYERS
Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Avenue, SE7 7HX
Thurs. to Sat. May 29 - 31 The Alexandra Players present **A FOOT IN THE DOOR**, hilarious comedy by Richard Harris 8 pm Tickets £8 (£7 Cons) Box Office 07867 627 987 alexandraplayers@gmail.com
THE GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755
AVENUE Q Until **Sunday 11th May** A laugh-out-loud musical by SellaDoor company
CONNECTIONS 12th - 14th May 6.00 & 8.00pm Each year the National Theatre invites ten writers to create new plays for young people to perform.
Thu 15th.-Sat 17th May THE LAST FIVE YEARS Musical by the acclaimed Jason Robert Brown about two New Yorkers who fall in and out of love
THE SPACE 269 Westferry Road London E14 3RS 0207 515 7799 / www.space.org.uk
Nearest stn: Mudchute (DLR) Buses: D3, D7, 135 HAMLYN Until 9th May, 7:30pm £14/£10
A beautiful city glitters but at night the rats emerge. A powerful man is accused of an amoral relationship
THE GEOFFREY WHITWORTH THEATRE
Beech Walk, Crayford, DA1 4NP 01322 526390
bookings@the gwt.org.uk
3rd May - 10th May THE CEMETERY CLUB by Ivan Menchell “Funny, wise and witty”
31st May to 7th June Proof by David Auburn
LONDON THEATRE 443 New Cross Road, Outer London, SE14 6TA (Near New Cross Station)
Fri 9th May 8pm IDA STENMARK 'I FOLKED UP' IDA is a vibrant folk singer with an international following & sang at the Alamenda Festival in the US
13th - 18th May WOYZECK by Georg Buchner
Tues 20th - Sun 25th May 8pm (Sun 5pm)
MEDEA by Euripides
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH students: BATHWAY THEATRE, WOOLWICH:
1st - 2nd May LOVE AND INFORMATION by Caryl Churchill
15th-16th May ROAD by Jim Cartwright
22nd-23rd May RED NOSES by Peter Barnes
GREENWICH THEATRE:
3rd - 4th June RHINOCEROS by Ionesco
Tickets: £6 | £4 from bathwaytheatre@gmail.com

TEA DANCES

BLACKHEATH HALLS:
Tues. 11th May 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.
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

DANCE

GREENWICH DANCE AGENCY
BOROUGH HALL, ROYAL HILL, SE10 8RE
020 8293 9741 / info@greenwichdance.org.uk
www.greenwichdance.org.uk
16th May / Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm
A DARKER SHADE OF FADO Nuno Silva and an international team of dancers and musicians for a fado themed cabaret of sensual dance and song
FAMILY CABARET
17th May / Doors Open 3.00pm Start 3:30pm
£10| £7.50 Enjoy bite-size bits of dance, circus and music for all ages. Dress up or down Sit at a table with friends. Order drinks whilst you watch. Bring your own food!

**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 or call 020 8378 2836.



TROJAN PRESS

Printing in Blackheath since 1978

FROM YOUR IDEAS OR ARTWORK WE CAN PRINT AT A REASONABLE COST:
• BUSINESS CARDS
• INVOICES • LETTERHEADS
• BOOKS • BROCHURES
• FORMS • INVITES
• WEDDING STATIONARY

la Lizban s t
blackheath, London s e 3 8s s
t el: 020 8853 2268
e mail: dave@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.com

MUSIC and DANCE

BLACKHEATH HALLS Tel 020 8463 0100
HEIDI TALBOT
Sun 4th May Mon 5th May 1830 hrs
Blackheath Halls Orchestra 1430 hrs A Pastoral weekend - Beethoven's 6th. Great Hall. £28 | £24 concs. **Contact Rose Ballantyne on r.ballantyne@trinitylaban.ac.uk**
BLACKHEATH SUNDAYS
Next concert: Sun 11th May 11.00 am Piers Adams and David Wright play S17C music
Tickets: £14 | £12 concs
Mon 12th May 3.00 pm Early Music Competition
Peacock Room, King Charles Court Students perform a programme in a historically informed style, playing on modern or period instruments. FREE
Tues 13th May 1.05 pm Trinity Laban Harps and Friends Old Royal Naval College Join our popular harp department for a feast around the world with harp, wind and string instruments. FREE
Tues. 13th May 2.30 pm Viola Mssterclass: Peacock Room King Charles Court Roger Chase, soloist and viola professor at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University in Chicago leads the Peter Fuller Holden Viola Masterclass.
Tues. 13th May Blackheath Halls Beats in the Bar
Thurs. 15th May Beats in the Bar Oliver's Jazz bar, Greenwich
Monday Lunchtime Recitals:
Mon 12th May 1.10 pm Recital room
Mon 19th May 1.10 pm Recital room
Fri 16th May Kate Rusby Folk singer from Yorkshire £22 | £15 under sixteens
Sat 17th May Cara Dillon from Derry £21 | £19

FOLK FUNDAY!
Sunday 18th May
£25 | £17.50 gives you a pass for all three folk events, starting 3.00 pm with the children's event “THE MAGIC VIOLIN”
4.30 pm BRING YOUR OWN FIDDLE for a workshop! £8 | £5
6.00 pm FOLK JAM Free
8.00 pm STEFFI DYKES, TANDEM & JOE TOWNSEND & FRIENDS Folk meets Fusion
£16 | £10 conc.

WRISTWORTH HEATING & PLUMBING

Installation - Servicing - Repair
Tel: 07725 008280
Email: wristworth@hotmail.co.uk



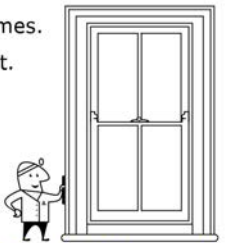
Check Out Our NEW Website: wristworthheating.weebly.com

SASH-WINDOW DOCTOR

FENSA registered member of a 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

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
W. www.pointers-school.co.uk

FEATURES

Adding a touch of Rock to your life

by two Blackheath Rock Choir members

Rock Choir came to the Blackheath area four years ago and gave anyone who loves singing the opportunity to learn great harmonies fast in weekly sessions. Those of us who went along to the evening taster session earlier this year at The John Roan School quickly realised that choir leader, Michael Fricker could magic beautiful sounds out of totally untrained south east Londoners!

It's better than a work out at the gym or a session with a therapist. Members arrive weighed down with the day's stresses and leave uplifted. Rock Choir featured on ITV's 'The Choir that Rocks' and showed, over three weeks, the tremendous impact singing together can have on our sense of wellbeing: a recent study found preliminary evidence that regular singing exercises may benefit people who snore.

Rock Choir has become a huge national success story over the nine years it's been going, but essentially its heart lies in local communities. The weekly singing session might be all you're looking for, but there are also opportunities to perform at community events. New members are always welcome – we'd love to meet you.



'Rock Choir is the UK's largest contemporary choir, with more than 16,000 members in over 300 local communities. There are no auditions and no requirements to read music or have any previous singing experience.

Rock Choir members get together each week to attend fun, friendly rehearsals where they are taught specially arranged pop and rock songs. There are lots of exciting performances throughout the year and many of them help raise money for charity.' Rock Choir Head Office

For a free taster session or for more information about times go to www.rock-choir.com or call 01252 714 276.

From Westcombe Park to Kathmandu

BENJAMIN MOUNTAIN



Ben (14) is kneeling, second from the right, in this photo at a function at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, where the Deputy Chief of Mission for Nepal [left] wished them "Bon voyage" and presented their international scarves. Behind: a Gurkha stands guard!

On a fairly typical Thursday evening, I found myself informing my parents of one of the most exciting things I could possibly imagine. Despite their reluctance to pause 'EastEnders', the news was just as exciting for them when they heard it.

The news was this: my plan to go on a three week expedition to Nepal. With 36 Scouts, six leaders, over 100 local guides and porters and 4,500 miles from home being the scale of this journey, I was more than overwhelmed.

The only thing more overwhelming than the trip itself was the price tag: £1,800 – not including kit and spending money.

As those figures sank in, I started to doubt whether this trip was realistic. However, with that in mind, I set to work, to raise funds:

I ran a stall at Lewisham People's Day, walked over 21 miles on a sponsored walk (with half the money going to The Jimmy Mizen Foundation), bag-packed seven times at three different local stores and helped various neighbours with their gardening. We also held a quiz-night, a race night and a raffle. These events were all a key part of our journey, each one providing

a different experience for future life.

Looking back, it makes me smile to think that this expedition has brought about so many unexpected experiences in their own right. I must say, all that time ago, on a typical Thursday evening – I never thought that I would have done so much without even stepping foot in Asia.

Now, however, the trip has begun. It feels bizarre to write that, actually, seeing as I'm sitting in my front-room in the warm in Westcombe Park, with Nepal still seeming like a million miles away. By the time you read this, I'm up a mountain somewhere, sharing a glass with the Yeti...

Yes, we boarded the Oman Air jumbo jet to Kathmandu on the 31st of March. But the journey began long ago, with one very long walk, one stall at People's Day, one training week-end, one practice hike, seven bag-packs and numerous green-fingered afternoons to now. Next stop: Nepal... The foothills of the world.

Ben, son of local driving instructor Tim Mountain, is a member of the Lewisham North District scout troop, a leader of which is local resident James Fenwick. We look forward to hearing how it went!

Oak, or old Chestnut?

Among the enduring myths that the residents of Greenwich so much enjoy is that, in 1519, Henry VIII had danced beneath the branches of Elizabeth's Oak in Greenwich Park with Anne Boleyn, the second of his six wives; and that Elizabeth 1st had played within its hollow trunk as a child.

It is however unlikely ever to have been Anne Boleyn's Oak, for she did not come to court until 1521 (though no doubt she could have frolicked beneath the tree later); more likely it was Mary Boleyn who cavorted with the King in Greenwich in 1519 – or indeed shock, horror, the two sisters' mother.

William Peto, the leader of the Observant Franciscans of Greenwich, averred that he had told the king "ye could never marry Queen Anne for that it was said that ye had meddled with the mother and daughter." *

Be that as it may, more shock, horror later ensued with the claim that the oak tree is not an oak tree at all, but a chestnut. (Is this the origin of the idiom embodied in such phrases as "That is an old chestnut", meaning, that is an old story that is no longer believable?)



PHOTO:
Liz Coyle

No wonder then that people were lining up to attend the Friends of Greenwich Park's Annual Lecture in February, given by Dr Jane Siddell, the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments for London, to report on her scientific findings as to the nature of Elizabeth's Oak.

The answer it seems lies with the medullary rays– the lines one sees in objects made of oak. Sweet chestnut does not have them. So yes, it is indeed an oak – or rather, it was – it died probably some time around 1830 -1840. It bravely stood for another 150 years, held up by ivy, before it finally fell in 1991. Research showed that it was mature even in 1569, and probably began life around 1300.

An amazing veteran among trees, then, and even for an oak unusually long-lived: and still treasured by us all today, even as it lies recumbent in our local park. N.G.

* See *Anne Boleyn: Fatal Attractions* by G.W Bernard. Yale University Press 2010 p. 22.

The legal aid crisis CHRIS MINNOCH

In April 2013 the government introduced a range of swingeing changes to the legal aid system. Whole areas of law were removed from the system and others were restricted to just a few of the most precarious cases.

Some areas of law became subject to conditions that create additional barriers for those needing advice. For example, access to family law experts is now restricted to clients able to prove that they have recently suffered domestic abuse.

The changes coincided with significant reforms of the welfare system, generating an upsurge in demand for legal advice at a time when advice charities and solicitor firms were struggling to adapt. Other local and central government funding streams have been withdrawn or reduced, further exacerbating the problem.

So how is this affecting local residents? The changes severely restrict the ability of local residents to get advice on critical issues such as housing, homelessness, welfare benefits, debt, immigration, education and employment problems.

While the local Council has maintained financial support for a range of local advice charities, those charities have been forced to cut staff and reduce services in response to the legal aid changes.

What does this mean?

On a day-to-day basis this means that

* There is often **no one** for disabled residents to turn to for help challenging an incorrect medical assessments by the DWP.

* Employees who are unfairly dismissed or bullied at work can **only** get legal aid if they can show discrimination.

* There's often **no one** to advocate for a student excluded from school and for a family struggling to cope with mounting debt and

* A wife wanting to divorce an abusive husband will **struggle** to get legal advice unless her doctor or another professional can provide evidence of the abuse. Where does this leave the thousands of victims too afraid to speak to their families let alone their GP?

The recent closure of Greenwich Community Law Centre provides a stark example of the impact of the funding reductions. Law centres in Bexley and Bromley

have also closed their doors in recent months and many more have closed across the country. The law centres supported many thousands of local residents each year and their advisers had a great deal of expertise which is now lost to their local areas. These law centres fought discrimination and injustice and contributed to the local economy by lifting their clients out of extreme poverty or by helping them back in to work.

Demand sky-rocketing

Demand for advice has sky-rocketed for those agencies able to keep their doors open. The number of clients approaching Greenwich Housing Rights increased by 40% in 2013, partly fuelled by changes to the housing benefit system and partly by the closure of other local housing advice services.

More residents are seeking advice at court when their landlord or lender is trying to evict them, with over 500 more residents needing help with housing emergencies in

2013 compared with 2012. Most of the residents facing eviction are behind with their rent or mortgage, but this is almost always due to a range of related legal or social problems. Without the advice services to help with the underlying problems, more people will face eviction and homelessness.

Big Lottery funding

Four local advice charities have obtained Big Lottery funding to try to address these issues. Similar projects are in place in Bromley, Lewisham and the majority of other local authority areas nationwide.

The Greenwich-based project, Community Advice Greenwich (CAG), is a partnership of Greenwich Housing Rights, Greenwich CAB, Plumstead Law Centre and Meridian Money Advice. CAG aims to bring together a wide range of local charities supporting residents with legal, health and social problems.

While the funding is limited we're hopeful it will help create sustainable services that cater for the needs of local residents.

Contact: Chris Minnoch, Manager Greenwich Housing Rights 36 Wellington Street, Woolwich, London SE18 6PF 020 8854 8848 general@grhr.co.uk www.grhr.co.uk

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

ENVIRONMENT



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



Wendy Shelton, outgoing secretary of the Blackheath Society, reports: “Thirty volunteers, plus one seven-year old and one dog turned up to clear litter from the Heath on a Saturday afternoon in March. The result: this waist-high pile of black plastic bags under the bike in the front of this picture.”

Pavement tax consultation

The Westcombe Society’s Environment Committee responded to the Council’s recent Consultation on their new policy of licensing forecourt trading.

Owners of cafés and shops now need a licence to place tables and chairs or display goods on the pavement outside their business. The fee is £7 per week for up to one square metre, and an extra £3.50 for each additional square metre.

The Committee’s view is that, provided there is no safety issue or obstruction, being able to sit outside a café can add to the enjoyment of a meal or refreshment.

Furthermore, the shopping environment is more attractive and appealing if flowers

or goods are displayed on the pavement. This view is also shared by the Council.

The Committee, however, disagrees with charging a licence fee for small shopping centres like the Standard where shopkeepers are already paying high rental charges (typically £12,000-14,000/year at the Standard).

Tables and chairs outside cafés are particularly helpful for disabled customers and families with buggies who often find it difficult to navigate through awkward or narrow entrances.

The costs – to the shopkeepers, and to the Council in terms of administration – surely outweigh any possible benefits.

Heads in the sand? DARRYL CHAMBERLAIN

That dust – sand from a sandstorm in the Sahara a month ago – all too visibly added to air pollution in London and elsewhere: but by far the biggest air-borne hazard is man-made pollution – vehicle exhaust emissions.

Politicians in Greenwich and Newham need to “get the sand out of their eyes”, and accept that building new roads will only make air pollution worse, says the No to Silvertown Tunnel campaign

Children, walkers, joggers and cyclists eager to enjoy the welcome spring warmth and sunshine were advised to stay indoors, but no politician had the courage to warn people against driving in London during the latest pollution incident. Contrast this with Paris, which imposed temporary driving restrictions to protect the population.

London mayor Boris Johnson, supported by borough councils in Greenwich, Newham and Bexley, is enthusiastically backing plans for a Silvertown road tunnel linking Greenwich and the Royal Docks.

The proposed tunnel will bring yet more traffic to the already highly-congested Blackwall Tunnel approaches and Lower Lea Crossing, blighting local communities, and worsening the quality of life in areas all over East and South-east London.

A wealth of studies has shown that roadbuilding tends to increase traffic levels

and congestion rather than smooth existing traffic flow. Increased air pollution then follows, and as a result we all suffer, with our children experiencing the worst of it. Their bodies are still forming, and are thus more susceptible to the environmental toxins in motor vehicle exhausts.

Other London boroughs, including Lewisham and Tower Hamlets, have expressed grave concerns about the effect of a Silvertown Tunnel. However, Greenwich and Newham councils are strongly in favour of a new road tunnel.

The No to Silvertown Tunnel campaign says locals should be quizzing candidates in this month’s council election about whether they back a road-building project which will blight their neighbourhoods.

No to Silvertown Tunnel spokesman Darryl Chamberlain says:

“Nobody is addressing the root cause of air pollution. That is motor traffic. Instead, local politicians want to make matters worse by building a new road tunnel, even though there is not a shred of evidence that it will bring real economic benefits. A Silvertown Tunnel will only add to traffic congestion which is already unbearable.

“Politicians need to get the sand out of their eyes. The Silvertown tunnel is no solution to our pollution.”

What do readers think? Ed.

TIM BARNES, chairman of The Westcombe Woodlands, provides this

Woodland Update

The Friends of the Woodlands have continued to make good progress during the monthly volunteer days.

The glade area which has been accessed from the rear of Nick Mountfield’s house in Maze Hill, now has 8 fruit trees at its heart to complement the fine old pear tree which is currently in full blossom.

We have sowed the soil round the trees with a mixture of grass and wild seed which is now beginning to show through, and are extending the cleared area towards the back of the Maze Hill gardens. The proposal is to create a pond at one corner of the glade, and an application to the Capital Clean Up Fund for that purpose has recently been made.

We have secured the agreement of those responsible for the Seren Park development to allow us to install a gate in the wire fence marking the boundary between the Car Park and the woodlands. This will provide the main access point to the woodlands, and we are re-instating a path from the new gate to the glade.

We planted large crops of native bluebells along the path to the glade and they are about to come into flower. We hope to plant more wild flowers elsewhere.

The mound area toward Tom Smith Close is also being transformed. Large numbers of hazel and other whips have been planted to stabilize the slope and create an attractive feature. The sowing of the slopes with rough grass and wild flower mix last autumn may have to be repeated in view of the heavy rains we had.

At Lasseter Place we are extending the cleared path to the top of the hill where we hope to mark the view with a bench, and some attractive planting of native species; We are always conscious of the unique attractions of these woodlands.



PHOTO: Frank Smith

We will not be holding an Open Day until the autumn. So the only chance of seeing the woodlands any earlier is to join in one of our volunteer days. (4th May, 7th June and 6th July) .

Details of the times and assembly points are provided on our web-site. One of our objectives is to increase the number of Friends this year, and all signed up members (and their families) will be invited to a summer party on 28 June. So do join us. **Friends of Westcombe Woodlands, Chapman House, 10 Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LE. Email: westcombewoodlands@hotmail.co.uk**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS <http://www.westcombesociety.org/>

93 COLERAINE RD ref 14/0811/F
Construct single storey front infill extension
17 KIRKSIDE RD ref 14/0759/CP
Alter windows and doors. Install roof light

TREE WORKS

BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL
ref 14/0960/TC Fell Lawson Cypress
1 INGLESIDE GROVE ref 14/0949/TC
Fell holm oak and conifer in front garden
9 WESTCOMBE PARK RD ref 14/0875/TC
Fell ash tree in rear. Reduce eucalyptus by 25%
69 BEACONSFIELD RD ref 14/0871/TC
Fell maple in rear garden and reduce overhanging branches of maple, cypress, plane and oak
68 VANBRUGH PARK ref 14/0948/TC
Crown reduce robinia by 30%



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

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@gswwealth.co.uk
website: www.gswwealth.co.uk.

HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR FUTURE
Grant Saw Wealth Management Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



MARKET PLACE

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

ACCOMMODATION

GOOD RELIABLE HOST FAMILIES wanted for foreign students. For more info. please contact Lynne on 01732 822649 or email sesgreenwich@aol.com

ROOMS FOR HIRE

ROOMS FOR HIRE FOR MEETINGS, meditation, music, movement. Quaker Meeting House close to Blackheath Station. Reasonable rates. Contact Sue 07908 587695 quakerhall@aol.com
FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE
Blackheath area, up to 150 people, Bar, disabled access. Tel 07940 296290

GARDENING

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 04 367443
NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS
The Georgian House. Delightful period house in charming Pickering market town. Sleeps 10. http://www.thegeorgianhouse.co.uk/ Tel: 07876 385189
HOUSE TO RENT
Sole Rose is a charming and beautifully furnished period house in the popular seaside town of Southwold, Suffolk. Situated within easy walking distance of the High Street, beach and pier. Sleeps 4/6. http://www.solerose.co.uk 07876385189
SWAP GREENWICH FOR UMBRIA
Building work at home in SE3 means we need alternative accommodation in SE London this summer. In exchange is offered lovely little 2 bed property with terrace in pretty Umbrian village. Prefer exchange period of at least 1 month but open to offers. Contact Phillip 07740249200 for details. No time wasters please.

PERSONAL CARE & THERAPY

BLACKHEATH HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICE. COUNSELLING, ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE, YOGA tel: 020 8858 5969 /1991, www.bhhs.selondon.co.uk
PILATES CLASSES AT MYCENAE HOUSE.
Thursday's 2.00 - 4.00 pm. All levels welcome, mats provided. Please contact Hilary for further details on 07970 290818

SERVICES & TRADE

LADDERLESS GUTTER CLEANING, up to 40ft, inspection camera. Local-guttercleaner.co.uk Tel. 07791 465052
T.TA ELECTRICS NICEIC approved installer, professional & punctual. Free estimates, pls call Tony on 07961 509403 or 020 84887425.
ALL WORKS GUARANTEED. www.ttaelectrics.co.uk
PIANO TUNER Prompt friendly service from an experienced, fully qualified tuner technician. For tuning and repairs call Jim Kimberley 0208 305 0033
MALCOLM TIERNEY, CARPENTER
Specialist in refurbishment, repair and replacement of sash windows. 0777 5657371
PHONE/BROADBAND SOCKETS.
Improved Broadband speed plates, Fault Finding Repairs, New Extensions, Tidying of cables. 25 yrs BT, Insured. 07845-705900
TOM ELLIS BESPOKE CARPENTRY Kitchens, Alcove units, bookcases, wardrobes, dressers and tables. Happy to quote. 85198947 (m) 07540579027
TALLGABLES PICTURE FRAMING
All works undertaken at very reasonable prices. Contact Emily on 07787 524254, @tallgables or Tall Gables via Facebook
SIMMONDS HANDYMAN
Property and maintenance services. Electrical, decorating, telephones, general repairs. 079 4198 2895
LOCAL CARPET CLEANER Specialist in cleaning Carpets, Upholstery & rugs. Competitive rates. M: 07828503132 Email: adam@carpetcrew.co.uk http://www.carpetcrew.co.uk/

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. Est, 25 years. References available. Phil McNamara 8857 5480, mobile 07814 360862
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
ARCHITECTURAL INTERIOR DESIGN
Architectural interior design for internal and external projects. Concept through to planning & build. Contact : info@lilzbulldesign.com or 07739 903752 for information.
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.
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, and new work is 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 07547 468459/0203 092 0684 - **New number!** pubble-plastering@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 new work 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
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
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@gjhanjeearchitects.com
C.S. CARPENTRY/JOINERY
Decorating and all building work undertaken. Joseph McNamara 02088575480, mobile 07947155366
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.
* Domestic Electrical work.
* Plumbing-taps, showers,radiators and external.
* Garden revival and maintenance
If you need help with any of these please call Tony: 0208 856 9398 M: 07961 540836
http://www.tonysdiy.com/
TRAINED CHIMNEY SWEEP & STOVE INSTALLER
Fast, friendly Happy to work! Call Anthony on 07772649577 or email: chimneymaintenance@gmail.com
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

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
PEST CONTROL SERVICES
All types of pests dealt with. Call John 0208 3003496
TYPING/SECRETARIAL/ADMIN/BOOK KEEPING services available – using Microsoft Word + Excel @ very reasonable rates – please ring to discuss your requirements. Carol (m) 07790 003 037
ELECTRICIAN / ALARM ENGINEER No job too small TMIET registered. Call 0787 9011792
ANDREW FLETCHER
Painting, Decorating & Tiling services. Over 20 years' experience, fully insured. References available. Call 07702 094382
A MAN AND A VAN
Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917842

TUITION

NEED HELP WITH YOUR COMPUTER? Local technician provides home technical support & tuition. No job too small, all in your own home. Glenn 84734091
ITALIAN TUITION Native Italian teacher offers lessons at all levels. Preparation for GCSE, A-LEVELS courses, Grammar, Conversation Tel 07788 743371
MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION and preparation for 11+ and independent school selection tests by qualified and experienced teacher.marystuition.com Mary Bauckham 07709089838 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 Helin Halliday BA(Hons), PGCE on 020 8858 7704 / 07928 017762 to discuss how I can help.
MULVIHILL ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE
Adult and Child Irish Dance Classes available in the Blackheath area. Come along for a fun-all-in-one workout. For more information call Rachel on 07707 100521
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.co.uk
MAZE HILL POTTERY A working Studio pottery 20 Years teaching pottery to Local People Evening classes: Mon - Thurs 7.00 - 9.30 pm Beginners and intermediate. For further Info : www.mazehillpottery.co.uk

WANTED/SWAP

WANTED: 1-2 bedroom flat for purchase by local resident. Please call Eva 07957 855175 or email eva.oxford2012@gmail.com
SWAP: Good Quality J.Lewis Oak Hideaway Bed in v.good condition inc Sprung Mattresses for similar quality Double Bed. dfaird@yahoo.co.uk
See also Holiday Accommodation.



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



Childcare for ages 3 months – 5 years



I can see a great nursery from here

If you're looking for a nursery that will help your child to grow and develop – choose Zoom Nurseries.

At Zoom every child enjoys an individual Learning Journey. A record that tracks their daily progress through our fantastic fun-filled learning environment.

It's just one of the tools we use to keep our parents up-to-date with their child's achievements, as well as their personal, social and emotional development. It's an important tool, one that helps us ensure that when they leave Zoom to start school, they leave as independent learners and thinkers, ready for the challenges ahead.

With nurseries in **Eltham**, **Hiither Green** and **Blackheath**, that between them have three Ofsted 'Outstanding' judgements, and places available, you don't have to go far to give your child a great start.

To find out more and arrange an informal visit please call **Ann Briley, Assistant Childcare Director** on **020 8318 1133** or email **annbriley.zoom@gmail.com**



Or visit our website for more details **www.zoomnurseries.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

Go Easy Self Drive Hire

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

Cars From £19.95




Vans From £21.95



2 Doors Cars, 5 Door Cars, Transit Connect, Short Wheel Base Transit, Long Wheel Base Transit and Luton with tail lift available.
£200.00 Security Deposit
100 Miles included per day
Liable Excess of Collision Damage up to £500.00 we do offer a waiver
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