The Tall Ships Festival may already be just a distant memory – but many had their eyes caught by an announcement levelled at the Council by the head of the Unite Trade Union, Ocan Kasab. Announcing a strike during the festival by council parking attendants, Mr Kasab said: “I will be frank – rather than a Tall Ships Festival, which is a vanity project, the majority of my members just want fair pay.”

“Maybe, then, our councils could actually afford a ticket for a ride on one of these vessels – rather than being taken for a ride as far as pay is concerned.” Mr Kasab may well have a point about how low pay – but does that mean Greenwich should never have organised the Tall Ships Festival?

Business booming

The number of all ages we saw lining the river banks, queuing up to go on board trips, taking part, whether crewing ships as volunteers, sailing, or rowing, or just enjoying the many shore-based activities, would disagree.

In Greenwich, many of the shoemakers, street traders, restaurateurs and pub landlords said they did very well – much better than during the Olympics. Councillor Denise Hyland, Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, said: “The last five days have been absolutely fantastic for Royal Greenwich and I thank each and every one who helped make this festival a wonderful success.”

“After hosting the London 2012 Olympics, the borough has proved once again that we make the perfect location for a large-scale event – Like the Olympics, it has cemented our reputation as a leading destination and has played a part in our strategy for economic growth.

Cllr Hyland added that the festival “has showed how our waterfront is a real draw. The economic benefits of our tourism industry are clearly seen. It creates jobs, helps our local businesses, and gives us a firm footing on the global stage. “This won’t be the last time we see Tall Ships in Royal Greenwich and I look forward to welcoming these glorious vessels back in the future.”

Strong visitor economy

The Conservative councillors on Greenwich Council seem to agree with Unite: they say it became known as a vanity project.

The Tall Ships Regatta was continued under the current leadership of Cllr Denise Hyland, who, according to a piece in the Mercury, said that the cost to the Council is unknown,” commented Cllr Geoff Brighty.

“Given that local government budgets are under pressure, and the cuts being a phrase that is constantly on Cllr Hyland’s lips, it is surprising that she doesn’t appear to know the real cost.”

Cllr Geoff Brighty added: “However, a cost of £2.5m to the Borough has been widely quoted and many will wonder why, if money is tight, it isn’t being spent on maintaining essential Council services. “The Council claims that the event will boost the Borough as a visitor destination, but a walk around Greenwich on almost any day of the week shows it is already a must-visit place. The Labour-controlled Council’s priorities have to be questioned.”

He may have a point about numbers: it is estimated that 18m people visit Greenwich every year. So the estimated 1.8m people who came in September is what about could be expected anyway. But who knows if these figures are reliable?

Provisional costs

The RN has tried to establish what the actual costs were: it seems £2.5 million may be very wide of the mark. A council spokesperson informed the RN: “We made provision for a contingency to meet additional costs above normal budgets, and taking account of overmanning and income from sales. “We are currently collating final information on all of these and will then publish information on the actual costs.”

The spokesperson added that the Council’s strong financial position and ability to invest in projects which boost the local economy is a result of its long-term financial strategy and sound financial management – which have been commended by the Council’s external auditors.

Tunnel of Love – or Haiti?

TFI are asking for our views on the proposals for a new tunnel under the Thames at Silvertown. The proposal from the developers includes changing options for the Blackwall and Silvertown Tunnels, when the Silvertown Tunnel opens in the early 2020s. This includes including a lot of road-based locations, and to have your say please visit getac-silvertown-tunnel.com. This consultation will close on Monday 19th December.

Quiz Night

Did you sign up for the Westcombe Society’s popular Quiz Night on 8th November? If you didn’t, you probably too late: booked closed on November 7th. If you didn’t, you probably too late: booked closed on November 7th. But you might try just turning up on the night ...

Ottie and the Sea

We all enjoy seeing old John Thornton, Asad Ahmad, the BBC news presenter, in action. In September, he came back to his home patch in order to interview Julia Manners of Ottie and the Bea. Asad asked Julia about the problems of running a small business. She said she did not how any small business could survive in the West End because of the exorbitant rent and rates, and she was very glad to be running a business off the street in the community it served.

The Battle of Creek Road

La Luna Continues for Hill over the Greenwich Years into Creek Road, an issue highlighted in August’s WN. He has asked the developers, Mosaic, to remove part of its hoarding to allow access to “common land”. Mr Hill argues that there is a right of way from an old covenant. Mosaic do not agree. Looks like the lawyers at least will have a field day...

PUBLIC APPEAL

Jan Barnett told the WN that Hattie has sold the business to Phung and is taking a rest/buyout. Phung assured her that it will be business as usual, with the same suppliers and the same delightful gits. We wish them both well for the future.

Dog show

Well done, Sophie Spencer and friends for organising a fun dog show in Mycenae Gardens early last month. Thank goodness it didn’t rain.

Christmas Bazaar

Put it in your diary: November 22nd

Mycenae Gardens early last month. Well done, Sophie Spencer and friends for raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

“Let them eat cake!”

Do say:

Christmas Bazaar

We wish them both well for the future.

Other: Hattie has

In Memoriam

There are 888,246 ceramic poppies, each one representing a British military fatality in the war. The best view is from Tower Hill and along the path overlooking the moat. Ceramic poppies are being sold to raise funds for six service charities.

In this issue, we go to westcombe.org/westcombe-news/
**Westcombe News**

**ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Neville Grant, The Editor wnews@westcombesociety.org Tel: 020 8853 0848**

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

**Deadline for the December issue: 16th November**

**News Editor:** Environment Editor: Maggie Granville

**Reporters:** The community - that means you!

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE Emily Norton All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2786**

**environment@westcombesociety.org**

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**Volunteer distributors please phone Brian Carroll, Roger Kidley, Joanne Lucas and Patricia Slade-Baker.**

**environment@westcombesociety.org**

**Letters to the Editor**

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**Trustees wanted**

**DAVID HALL**

From: Wendy Higgs Belmont Road

I have an alternative view of the property in Woolwich. St. Vincent's, vilified as “a carbuncle”. The problem with architectural comfort is well

another building is a building to be seen purely in “artistic” terms? And in any case, isn’t beauty in the eye of the beholder? There are many reasons why

* The new Tesco in Woolwich is valuable and functional for those who work in the area and its surrounding area. It is valued for its role in the community.

* The Centre also leads directly into the very popular new library. This MAJESTIC HOUSE is buzzing, growing, essential for a thriving community hub. Woolwich like and appreciate its presence. It has brought business and community vibrant.

* Improving access, upgrading facilities, and all essential for a thriving community hub.

* The building’s design, location and presence is in the surrounding area. It is valued for its role in the community.

* From: Ian Tribe Tel: 0882 3905

Blackheath Flower Club are a local Flower Club that celebrated its 55th anniversary in October. We meet on the third Friday of the Month from 1.45-4pm at Mycenae House. A guest Demonstration arranges 5 designs, to be won in a raffle. Our club is part of a National Flower Arranging group called NAFAS.

* Any transfer to the management committee are always in demand. It could be anyone who gets a lot out of Mycenae House, or simply a neighbour who wants to keep the community vibrant.

* From: Caroline Owens, the organiser of the coffee morning. The event was very well attended:

* Stuke’s Players present a Cabaret Produced by Gwen Zammit IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, The Village, Charlton SE7

SAT 29th Nov. 7pm for 7.30pm

SUN 30th Nov. 6pm for 6.30pm

Tickets: £12 (£7 children) (incl. FISH & CHIP SUPPER)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The Macmillan Coffee Morning

A warm welcome awaited the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Councillor Mick Hayes, and the Lady Mayors, Mrs Hayes, at the Westcombe Society’s Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. In the pictures (EY) are: Marilyn Little, the Chairman of the Westcombe Society, J-Aune, Deputy Chair, and Caroline Owens, the organiser of the coffee morning. The event was very well attended: and the children particularly enjoyed the Scrumpet Cakes . . .

[RIGHT] The Coffee morning became a bit of a family affair, as Mums (and some Dads) turned up to sample the simple sandwiches, cakes and sauces - and enjoy the rafts.

**LETTERS FROM OUR READERS**

**Letters from the editor**

**Letters from the editor**

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**The Macmillan Coffee Morning**

The final total raised at the Coffee Morning in raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support amounted to £900, our highest figure so far. The final figure for the London Bridge Walk was not yet known. Local resident Judy Spencer, who is in Macmillan Area Fundraising Manager South London, writes:

“I would very much like to say how much Macmillan appreciates the amazing effort of the Westcombe Society and the local community, not only in raising sponsorship for the London Bridge Walk, which is being done this year in aid of Macmillan, but also in bringing so many together at Mycenae House for Macmillan’s World’s Biggest Coffee Morning in September.

“Each year the Society raises well over £1,000 for Macmillan for which we are extremely grateful. This is a great achievement for a Macmillan nurse for 37 hours providing invaluable support to cancer patients in our local community and ensuring that they do not face cancer alone. Macmillan could not support all the people they do without your help, so thank you.”

**Letters from the editor**

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Children in Need award for local autism charity

South East London charity Montessori Education for Autism (MEA) has been awarded £10,000 by Children in Need towards their new ‘Teenage Transitions’ project. The project will support young people aged 11-14 years as they transition to secondary school, and will be an after-school nurture group.

Wendy Fidler, MEA’s Director said, “The new project is an extension of our existing free-of-charge after-school nurture group for primary aged children with autism and other special educational needs. As the children reach the end of their primary schooling it is clear they need more support than most to negotiate the transition to secondary school.”

“We are currently seeking a local secondary school to host the group which will run as a Friday Club after school during term time – we already have skilled staff. The group is for young people who are having various difficulties at school because of their autism.”

The charity aims to match-fund the Children in Need award by continuing its successful ‘Me-NEA Campaign’. Schools are invited to join the campaign by raising £100 for the charity. Many local schools and some colleges and universities have already signed up!

To find out more, please contact MEA: 0208 305 2202, 97710453994
www.montessorieducationforautism.com

Blackheath Art Society

Imagine is an exhibition of new artwork on show in the Upstairs Gallery of Discover Greenwich, running from Nov 1st to Jan 11th, 10.00 am-5.00 pm. The work ranges from local views to abstracts, 3D pieces, craft-work and photography. Entry is free and our artists will be happy to discuss the artwork with you. The work is for sale: ideal Christmas gifts!

Info: www.blackheathart.org.uk www.arne.org.uk /events society/Italian-Arches by Valerie Warren RBSA (details)

Cards for good causes

The Cards for Good Cause Charity Christmas Card Shop opens again as usual this season in St Alfege’s Church, from Monday November 3rd until Friday December 19th, between the hours of 10.30am - 4.30pm every day.

The shop sells cards and many other Christmas essentials for more than 25 charities. They will also be opening every Monday and Friday morning at Blackheath Halls between 9.30am and 2pm - from Christmas essentials for more than 25 of 10.30am - 4.30pm every day. However, many, many more.

Competitors include dedicated regular racers to fun rowers and paddlers, ranging from teenage Scouts to national champions. They were striving to win the Challenge Trophy of The Company of Watermen & Lightermen of the River Thames (celebrating their 500th anniversary), awarded to the first boat over the line, to figure in one of the 33 other classes or simply to finish and collect a much-prized participation certificate. The Race is run on a ‘closest away first, fastest last’ pursuit handicap basis, meaning the last boat away has to make up an hour to win.

Most rowers were raising money for charity, including the Race’s official charity this year, the Royal Benevolent and Educational Fund for Watermen and Lightermen.

Memories of our theatre

Back in the sixties, with a direct theatre on its doorstep, a young actor named Ewan Cooper campaigned for its restoration. In response to his initiative the Greenwich Theatre reopened on the 21st October 1969, with Ewan as its Founder and first Artistic Director. He will be in reminiscence with David Cameron at the Greenwich Society’s Annual Lecture at 11.00 am on Sunday 16th Nov.

Past productions will be recalled along with performers such as Mia Farrow, Irene Handl, Susan Hampshire, Glenda Jackson, Barbara Windsor, Eileen Wilkie, Steven Berkoff, Derek Griffiths, Alfred Marks, Andrew Rodgers, and Robert Stephens.

Not forgetting Max Wall: it was Ewan’s encouragement of the latter to create his critically acclaimed annual pantomime. A number of these past productions will be recalled along with performances of some of the great song and dance numbers from the golden age of jazz and the masters of swing and bebop. A talented group of young instrumentalists and vocalists will take you on a nostalgic journey through the 30s, 40s, and 50s.

To book tickets and for more information, contact The Blackheath Society on 0208 305 2202 or email office@blackheath.org.TICKETS: £35 | £80 for table of 10 includes a glass of sparkling wine on arrival and light supper. Proceeds go to Blackheath Halls

Georgian fun

The Friends of Blackheath Halls and The Blackheath Society join together once again to bring you their annual celebration - Rhythm and Swing. Meet up with friends, enjoy a light supper and some of the great song and dance numbers from the golden age of jazz and the masters of swing and bebop. A talented group of young instrumentalists and vocalists will take you on a nostalgic journey through the 30s, 40s, and 50s.

To book tickets and for more information, contact The Blackheath Society on 0208 305 2202 or email office@blackheath.org.TICKETS: £35 | £80 for table of 10 includes a glass of sparkling wine on arrival and light supper. Proceeds go to Blackheath Halls

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Georgian fun

A as part of the 300th anniversary celebrations of the Old Malthouse, visit Georgian London at the NMM, with a Georgian gin and tonic, per chance to design your own wig, play Georgian parlour games, frolic to Georgian music - and take part in a Georgian Pub Quiz:

Venue: National Maritime Museum
Date: 13th Nov. Time: 6.00 - 9.00 pm
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STORM SMITH-SUCKOO describes what it was like Aboard Dar Młodzieży

This year, once again Suzy and I were given another opportunity to go Tallship sailing. Last year we embarked on our first trip, which was a nice leisurely sail from Southampton to France, stopping off in Ireland and other seaside towns on the way.

However this year we got to take part in the Tall Ships Race from Falmouth to the Isle of Wight, followed by a cruise to Greenwich. This trip was special to us as it finished in our home-town, Royal Greenwich, to take part in the Tall Ships Festival.

We sailed on the largest tall ship taking part in the regatta, the Dar Młodzieży which is 110m long. While on board we took part in all the day-to-day activities from hoisting sails to making the brass took super shiny.

Back in 2007 was the first time that I ever thought of sailing as I went on a taster day at the AHOF Centre, from then on I have sailed there nearly every Saturday. It took a few weeks before I could go to bed after sailing and not feel that rocking sensation, but it has been a fantastic experience and learning experience going from an absolute novice to being trained up to Instructor level.

Every day onboard the ship started with hoisting the Polish flag onboard the boat, this was done from the back deck... otherwise known as the poop deck, at this time we were briefed by the captain on what was going to happen during the day.

My watch was from eight till twelve both AM and PM: we worked on a basis of four hours on watch followed by an eight hour rest.

It took a little while to get into routine, which normally consisted of a little power nap during the afternoon to set me up for the evening. On board the ship we had different roles as a collective as we were on Watch Three. Any time sails needed setting during the day, we would set the sails on the mizzen mast, which is the one closest to the stern.

However during our evening watch we had to set the sails on all three masts. But when we sailed on the same course for a long time it was very rare that the sails needed to be reset.

While on board my favourite job was climbing the mast and edging along the Yards to untie the sails. The first time you climb the rigging is of course slightly scary, but once the adrenaline kicks in you get a great buzz out of climbing up. On the Dar the masts were 50 metres high, so the phrase “don’t look down” really did run through my mind. When steering (aka helming) the ship it gives you a great sense of responsibility that you have control of a 110 metre tall ship.

On our ship there were two steering wheels, one on the bridge, where the captain and the officers are with all the charts and navigational equipment, the other is just outside the bridge.

Sadly, we navigated from inside the bridge and so couldn’t use the big wheel, which is a bit like the ones you see on Pirates of the Caribbean. Steering a boat is a bit weird to get used to at first, as sometimes it doesn’t respond straight away, but then you also have to straighten up before you’ve reached your target or you’re meant to be following, because it always takes a little time to respond.

I have sailed in bad weather both on a tall ship and in a small dinghy, and it can be a very exhilarating experience, but after a while if the conditions start to worsen then it can get scary.

Last year when I went tall ship sailing, we sailed into some bad weather where the visibility was reduced and the winds blew 30 mph or more, this caused the boat to heel over to one side, which was how I was awoken... nearly falling out of my bunk!

However, they have all been great experiences and I would do it all again in a heartbeat. The people you meet on board become friends for life, it’s an experience you will never ever forget.

Tea and IHT at Mycenae House

DAREN WALLBANK

No one wants to leave their loved ones with a huge tax bill when they die. But that’s what many homeowners will be doing if they don’t act now to address the amount of inheritance tax that their families will have to pay. IHT is no longer a tax for the super-rich. Zoopla find out how, pop along to

At Mycenae House on 26th November to hear Daren Wallbank discuss what it was like onboard Dar Młodzieży. Daren Wallbank (DipPFS) is an FCA-regulated wealth manager & owner of Ginkgo Financial.

The Dar Młodzieży is a Polish sailing training ship. Launched in 1982 in Gdansk, it was specially built to train the cadets of the Polish marine and to win a lot of Tall Ship Races. Her name means “The Gift of Youth”, which is appropriate to the cadets that was partly financed by the gifts of young school-children.

Vital statistics:

- Height: 34.6 m. long
- Beam: 6.2 m. wide
- Draft: 3.151 m. deep
- Displacement: 16 tons (sail)
- Crew: 40 (+ cadets)

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Men of Conscience – or Cowardly Shirkers?

ROGER MARSHALL

Most people in Britain welcomed the news of the declaration of war in August 1914 with patriotic fervour, and there was a rush to join the army. It is difficult now to imagine the blind jingoism that caused people to believe that it would all be over by Christmas.

This view was fuelled by a campaign of propaganda posters, and such movements as the Order of the White Feather, when women presented men who were not in uniform with this symbol of cowardice just like internet trolling today. Those who did not volunteer were judged too cowardly to do their bit for King and country.

This view was to erode significantly by mid-September 1914, over a quarter of a million men had joined ‘Kitchener’s Army’, but this rate was not sustained. As a result the Military Services Act was introduced in March 1916. For the first time ever for England, Scotland and Wales conscripted all bachelors between the ages of 18 and 41; this was delayed in May to married men, and in 1918 the age limit was increased to 51 years.

The Act allowed for exemptions on various grounds, including conscience, although, pragmatically enough, ministers of religion were excluded from conscription. To be successful the conscientious objectors (COs) had to convince a Military Services Tribunal of their sincerity. These hearings were often perfunctory, lasting as little as 10 minutes with the Military Representative asking such unsubtle questions as ‘What would you do if a German soldier was about to rape your sister?’ or ‘Do you think you are cleverer than your general officer? Where would you like to be posted?’

The No-Conscription Fellowship, formed at the start of the war by Fenner Brockway, Bertrand Russell, and Herbert Morrison amongst others, offered COs some support. A prominent supporter was Dr. Alfred Salter, who was born at 23 Greenwich South Street in 1875 and went to the John Roan School before becoming a doctor and later MP in Bermondsey. His pamphlet ‘Faith as a Pacifist’ sold over a million copies.

As a result of 16,000 men were registered by these tribunals as COs during the course of the war, with Quakers, traditionally pacifists, forming largest, and Harold Morris to do nationally important’ civilian work such as farming; some men joined as non-combatants, acting for instance as stretcher-bearers and first aiders within the Royal Army Medical Corps.

A further group of about 600 men known as Absolutists refused to help the war effort in any way. These Absolutists suffered every harsh treatment, receiving prison sentences often with hard labour and with periods of solitary confinement in military prisons. 17 of them died in prison from maltreatment, and a further 73 died elsewhere.

In May 1916 one group of thirty-five were particularly badly treated: they were taken to France, court-martialled and sentenced to death as this was judged to be at the front line and their action therefore deemed to be an act of cowardice; however, fortunately this sentence was commuted to penal service for ten years.

Idiosyncratically midway between the absolutists and the non-combatants was the Friends Ambulance Unit, which was set up by the Religious Society of Friends (the Quakers) in 1914. These volunteers were not part of the military, did not wear a military uniform, and were thus not firing-up others for military work. They were treating the injured and ferreting from the tendrels to special hospitals in France and Belgium. Some 1,100 COs, not all of them Quakers, served in this unit during the war.

COs were not immediately set free at the end of the war in 1918, and were only released in April 1919. But this was not the end of their problems as they still faced widespread hostility: for instance job adverts in the Times Educational Supplement had clauses saying ‘NO CO need apply’ and the Absolutists were disenfranchised for a further ten years.

Nevertheless, their stance did lead to a more tolerant society and the 60,000 conscientious objectors in WW2 were on the whole treated with much more understanding.

Conscientious objection around the world and for all wars is remembered each year on May 15th with International Conscientious Objectors Day. In London this year white carnations were ceremoniously placed around a stone memorial in Tavistock Square by over fifty relatives of the courageous WW1 individuals who defied public opinion and refused to kill.

When's what at the Connaught Marie

A wide range of music classes is in full swing at the Blackheath Conservatoire - but it's too late to sign up for other ones: including:

Showstoppers - exploring musical theatre Sat 1st Nov. 2.00 - 6.00 pm

Klezmer workshop Sat 15th Nov 2.00 - 6.00 pm Klezmer is a traditional music of Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe, but has evolved considerably, especially in the US.

A Brief History of the Symphony 5th - 26th Nov. Starting Wed 5th 12.30 - 2.30pm, with John Andreou. John also continues his series on Music that changed the world: Shostakovich Symphony No.5 Thurs 6th Nov. 7.30 - 9.00 pm

Handel’s Messiah on Dec 4th

As luck would have it, there are plenty of opportunities for singing locally. See page 5.

You, too, can sing

I felt like a child on a bicycle realising the steadying hand behind the saddle is no longer there. I faltered, wobbled and crashed. We began again, and gradually I managed three verses and choruses on my own.

‘I don’t mind if you get it wrong, but I’m delighted when you get it right,’ Heather said, nodding and smiling every time I hit the right notes. Licence, approval and praise! I was dizzy with euphoria. My car became my very private concert hall. No-one could hear my uneven attempts. I hummed and laughed, and cautiously, I sang. I couldn’t wait for my second lesson.

Two years down the line, I can move up and down the scales and I have a repertoire of songs and, yes, that includes Happy Birthday. Hey, I can sing.

As I now have a born-again zeal to tell my good news. I am discovering fellow sufferers: grown men and women who, like me, were told to mouth the words and have done so ever since their schooldays.

Have a go, I urge them for I know they will experience not just the joy of making a tuneful noise, but a surge of energy and joie de vivre. This is not a coincidence. These songs are designed to be a deep and regulated way that takes more oxygen into your system.

No wonder I feel more awake. Better still, singing is reckoned to help to release serotonin, the happy hormone, into the brain. Every song can give a feeling of well being.

It’s a tale worth telling – or singing.

Ed: Luckily, there are plenty of opportunities for singing locally. See page 5.
ANN ROBBINS looks at where the councils have got to in their thinking

Proosed new Woolwich ferry

The Westcombe Society responded to this, and Greenwich says that a new ferry might bring marginal benefits and improve resilience, but would not help improve air quality or congestion. None of the coun-

cils support a ferry at Gallions Reach.

A new bridge?

Instead, Greenwich is strongly supporting the idea of a bridge at Gallions Reach, connecting Thamesmead with Barking. It also wants improvements in public trans-

port here, and improved Overground rail links connecting with Cudmore.

It also wants the proposed bridge to support local travel but not long distance road transport. The danger is that long-

haul drivers including heavy lorries could find this bridge attractive, and Greenwich notes that this could have serious effects on local road systems.

Lewisham, meanwhile, supports the Gallions Bridge proposal, in principle, as it would take some of the traffic off the

heavily used A2 and A102. (Lewisham has deep reservations about the proposed Silvertown Tunnel proposal).

The proposal is that this tunnel thus need to be attractive to local businesses, but not to long-haul traffic: a difficult balancing act. If TfL were unable to restrict its use to local drivers, it could mean feeder roads would have to be built, endangering much-loved Oxleas Wood.

Further east?

Further to the east, TFL’s proposals include a bridge between Belvedere, and Rainham, Essex, at the A13. This is strongly sup-

ported by Bexley, which also supports a rail crossing here as well. It is opposed by Lewisham, which sees a stronger case for a Gallions Reach crossing. Greenwich would only support this if crossings at Gallions were built first.

How would any of this be paid for?

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ported by Bexley, which also supports a rail crossing here as well. It is opposed by Lewisham, which sees a stronger case for a Gallions Reach crossing. Greenwich would only support this if crossings at Gallions were built first.

This tolling would also be used for the proposed Silvertown crossing. Greenwich complained that the Silvertown proposal should have been included in this round of consultations, so that everyone could see the full array of possible road crossings. Moreover, Greenwich also asked that the Blackwall Tunnel be toll-charged.

The Westcombe Society’s response?

The Environment Committee took a neutral stand on all but the Woolwich Ferry, which we would like to see retained. The response on our website; we would welcome comments. The next consultation is on the Silvertown Tunnel crossing (see page 1), so we would like to hear our members’ views.

Please call Frank Smith on 8852 6390 or 07989 445 057 with any queries you have on the day. If you have any other queries, please email westcombewoodlands@hotmail.co.uk. And if you haven’t already done so, don’t forget to sign up to become a Friend of Westcombe Woodlands! You can find a joining form on our website www.westcombewoodlands.org. Friends will be invited to our second Annual General Meeting on the evening of Wednesday 12th November. FRANK SMITH