Time running out for Greenwich Time

It has been announced that Greenwich Council has agreed to stop publishing Greenwich Time, its weekly newspaper. So the last weekly issue will be in June.

Although some people may rejoice at the news, the W&N mourns the loss of any newspaper; and whatever its defects, real or imagined, Greenwich Time did provide a useful source of information on planning, housing and other issues.

That’s because, every week, the paper reached the vast majority of local homes – a task that should not be underestimated, a fact that all those involved in distributing the W&N can vouch for.

The government said that the paper was in breach of the Publicity Code laid down by the Department of Communities and Local Government. Greenwich Council had planned to go to court to defend the paper. However, Greenwich has now decided to settle out of court, and has agreed to comply with the code, which restricts local authority publications to four times a year.

A Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) spokesman said: “We have agreed that the Royal Borough of Greenwich will be fully compliant with the Publicity Code from the end of June 2016, and that the matter without having to go to court.”

Need for regular communication

A Greenwich Council spokesperson said: “We are pleased that the Department has accepted the Royal Borough of Greenwich will be fully compliant with the Publicity Code from the end of June 2016, and that the matter without having to go to court.”

Local democracy in action

Important local decisions, such as the rise in council tax this coming April, can now be viewed as they are made.

Starting from Wednesday, February 24th, all full council meetings in Royal Greenwich will be streamed live via the council’s website. This means that anyone with internet access will be able to watch as their local councillors discuss crucial issues. The webcasts are also easily viewed on a mobile phone or tablet.

People will be able to see elected members from all political sides in action as they debate and vote on major current issues.

The meetings at Woolwich Town Hall start at 7.00pm every Wednesday. To view the proceedings, go to www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/webcast

Council leader Denise Hyland said, “I am delighted that we are able to use technology to open up the democratic process to more local people, and to make our decision-making more open to everyone in the borough. It is the latest step in using technology to improve council services.”

Cllr Maureen O’Marra, the Council’s Cabinet Member for Online Services, said: “We are fast developing the council’s website to enable greater access to services at a time and place that suits our residents, and streaming live evening webcasts from the council chamber is our latest technical improvement.

One observer says: “This is very good news. Let’s hope the sound quality is up to scratch: the last time I went to a Council meeting in Woolwich, the discussions were almost totally inaudible.”

All change for London’s Trains?

The Department for Transport (DfT), which is currently responsible for awarding rail franchises, and Transport for London, responsible for Tube services, have issued a joint consultation document which proposes switching oversight of London’s urban train services to TfL.

If the proposals are adopted, the switch will come into effect as existing rail franchises expire, starting with Southeastern in 2018 (by which time the redevelopment of London Bridge should with luck have been completed – so we may actually be back to regular Sunday services!)

The most obvious impact will be on the fare structure, with the introduction of a common structure for all services under TfL oversight – so eventually for all rail fans within London.

Currently, starting from Westcombe Park, a season ticket to London Bridge or Cannon Street (both zone 1) is considerably cheaper than a season ticket through to an underground station in zone 1, but after the change-over these would become identical. Thus while it makes obvious sense to have a common structure, there are likely to be winners and losers.

The proposals state that there will be no reduction in frequency of longer distance services, there’s no such commitment for local services. Given the lack of spare capacity on lines to Cannon Street, there is therefore no prospect of any increase in service frequency, certainly during peak hours. In fact we might even see a reduced frequency.


The document sets six questions as part of the consultation process and the deadline for responding is 18th March. So it’s over to you!

Dick Allard

The Westcombe Society

Daffodil Day Sat 19th March 2.00 - 4.00 pm

The Daffodil Tea for Senior Citizens is by invitation; however anyone who doesn’t receive an invitation and who would like to come, please ring Caroline on 0208 8530948.

Easter Egg Hunt - Sat 26th March 1.30 to 3.30 pm

Two hours of fun hunting for eggs in Mycenae House Gardens £2.50 per child. (£2 members) Prizes for best Easter hat and basket. Face painting.

Quiz Night Friday 15th April 7.30 for 8.00 start.

Tables to be booked by ringing Caroline on 0208 8530948 - bring a team or come on your own - chippy suppers must be booked in advance.

The Westcombe News

Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops MARCH 2016 Issue 2

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

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

Blackwall Tunnel Closures

TfL are installing a new management and control system in the Blackwall Tunnel to allow incidents to be identified and resolved more quickly. These closures are in addition to the regular closures:

Sunday 13th March 00.01 - 0500

Tuesday 15th March 00.01 - 0500

Wed 16th March 00.01 - 0500

Northbound

Sunday 6th March 01.00 - 0800

Thursday 17th March 00.01 - 0500

Friday 18th March 01.00 - 0800

Sunday 20th March 01.00 - 0800

Thursday 24th March 00.01 - 0500

Death of the old-fashioned closures in January arrived too late for our February issue . . .

< Newsbriefs >

Congratulations

Michael Goldman, a former distinguished editor of the Westcombe News, married Susana de Picardu on 17th February 2016. Michael and Susana met through U3A (University of Third Age).

No, it is not a dating agency!

Apologies

Apologies (on behalf of the Blackheath Joint Working party) for the change in the date of their meeting: it was advertised in the W&N (and other publications) to take place on 16th February but was then changed to 23rd February. Emily Norton of the Blackheath Society’s Environment Committee said: “We did ask that the date of this meeting should not be changed when we were first told of the change. Our apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced.”

Well done

GRACE (Greenwich Refugee Aid Clothing Essentials) is a local charity that has partnered with national charity groups to collect, pack, and distribute donations urgently needed in Greece and other locations hit by the refugee crisis. See p.9.

Well done, too, the dozens of volunteers at St George’s Church in Glenlodge Road for taking part in the Greenwich Night Shelter Scheme over the winter months to help people who are homeless.

As to Louis Court, old boy of Icavica and Shirlington Schools, who has repeatedly gone to Calais to help out with the refugees stuck in “The Jungle”. His next move is as a volunteer in Ghana, before going on to the University of Leeds.

<< Newsbriefs >>

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Letters to the editor

From: G. Bailey Westcombe Park Road
I am sure that many of your readers will join you in lamenting the threat to intellectual enquiry on our university campuses. When a “safe space” becomes “unsafe”, (WJF Feb 16), In the February issue of Prospect magazine, Prof. Frank Furedi suggests that it is all the parents’ fault for “intellectualising” your young people. I take a different view: we need to take responsibility for our own actions – the first rule of being an adult. Those students who cannot handle intellectual and civilised debate on controversial issues should perhaps not be at university at all. I think the article in the WJF last month provides a strong argument for raising the voting age…

From: James Scotton Milwaukee The “safe place” controversy on university campuses is familiar this side of the pond. Here at Marquette University in Milwaukee we have had the same discussion. Fortunately, students and the university rejected the idea. I even asked my students in class about it, and the notion that instructors should avoid “trigger” words that could upset some students. My students very strongly rejected that notion. In my law classes I usually put Gloria Steinem’s words up on Power Point: “The Truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off!”

From: Malcolm Hardy St John’s Park I wonder if your readers have explored the new borough website. It is very sophisticated with excellent services. However, I can see no choice options and, inevitably, a client satisfaction questionnaire including the usual questions on ethnicity etc. and one on the uselessness of the information provided even before the enquiry has been sent.

From: Maggie Graville The Council is encouraging residents to become environmental champions. This is a voluntary neighbourhood scheme designed to improve the appearance and cleanliness of the local area.

Our “Thank you” evening for volunteers

Marilyn Little

Volunteering can take many forms: there are so many people of goodwill in our area, it would be invidious to single out any of them here, though a good many appear in the various features and news- stories contained in this issue and others. This page pays tribute to those who volunteer for the Westcombe Society in so many different ways.

What do they do? Everything from necessary committee work – for example our environment committee – to organising and helping out at numerous events, such as children’s Newly New sales, or teas for seniors. Then there are those upon whom we are dependent for help to produce and also – very importantly – to distribute the Westcombe News.

Yes, the Society has many committed volunteers who enjoy supporting our activities but we would always welcome more. In the main this is largely enjoyable work with like-minded residents who are anxious to preserve our local community. We are always grateful for new volunteers and as our Christmas Bazaar will be held again this November we would welcome anyone wishing to assist. In the meantime, this page – and the evening itdocuments – is our way of saying “Thanks, everyone!”

It was a very enjoyable party: and when Marilyn spoke in praise of Styles and Barbora for the 23 years they had spent in charge of distributing the WJF, warmly applauded. Gifts of appreciation included a minusia tree, garden vouchers and a bouquet. (Thanks, Passion Flower)

The idea is to encourage anyone who is concerned about littering, dog mess, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and graffiti to consider becoming an environment champion, and report it to the council. It is all about local people and the council working together to make Royal Greenwich a better place.

If you are interested in becoming an environment champion, call 020 8921 5618 or email: community-environment@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

From: Concerned resident For many years a beautiful magnolia has given pleasure to all who see it – except it seems to the present owner of the property in Harday Road where it stood until it was brutally cut down, in full flower, early one morning at the beginning of February. The front garden is now being paved – all potters on both counts. Perhaps it is time to remind residents that tree work in this area requires permission from the Council. It would be interesting to know if approval was sought in this case. Editor: We understand that failure to obtain planning permission when required can incur a fine of up to £20,000.

Our “Thank you” evening for volunteers

Marilyn Little

Group of people attending a event. One person is holding a flower.

Any views expressed are personal, and are not neces- sarily those of the WJF or the Westcombe Society.
Good news for EEA

Emergency Exit Arts (EEA) based in East Greenwich, have been awarded an Arts Council England (ACE) small capital grant to develop their premises, some 25 years, after becoming Greenwich’s first arts venue. The club is also providing three new services, with fully refurbished shower and locker room areas. Other changes in the club will include an adults-only area and a business hub where one can catch up on emails. The club is also providing three new services, with fully refurbished shower and locker room areas. Other changes in the club will include an adults-only area and a business hub where one can catch up on emails. The club is also providing three new services, with fully refurbished shower and locker room areas. Other changes in the club will include an adults-only area and a business hub where one can catch up on emails. The club is also providing three new services, with fully refurbished shower and locker room areas. Other changes in the club will include an adults-only area and a business hub where one can catch up on emails. The club is also providing three new services, with fully refurbished shower and locker room areas. Other changes in the club will include an adults-only area and a business hub where one can catch up on emails. The club is also providing three new services, with fully refurbished shower and locker room areas. Other changes in the club will include an adults-only area and a business hub where one can catch up on emails. The club is also providing three new services, with fully refurbished shower and locker room areas. Other changes in the club will inclu...
Local people are asked to help shape future development in the Royal Borough by sharing their ideas and views in a new consultation. The council will use the consultation to identify those sites in the borough that could be developed in the future.

The council has proposed some sites that could be included as part of the site allocations local plan. It welcomes views on these sites as well as suggestions for other sites that could be developed.

Drop-in sessions have been arranged: the next one takes place on February 27th between 2.00pm and 5.00 pm at the Greenwich Centre; and at the Woolwich Centre between 4.00pm and 7.00pm on March 3rd. The consultation closes at 5.00pm on March 29th.

Cllr Danny Thorpe, the Council’s Cabinet Member for Regeneration said: “The consultation for the site allocations local plan is an ideal way for residents to have their say on future developments and help shape what the Royal Borough will look like in the next decade and beyond.”

“A number of proposals have already been outlined as part of the plan and local people can tell us what they think about the sites and what the land should be used for. They can also let the council know if there is a site near them that might be suitable for development – or in need of protection.”

If you can’t get to one of the Drop-in sessions, you can take part in the consultation, and make your views known. Residents can also get further information and view an interactive map of all of the proposed sites at: www.royal-greenwich.gov.uk/siteallocations

There are also online questionnaires where residents can leave their views on the proposals and suggestions.
ARTS
NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
SAMUEL PEPPY: plague, fire, revolution
Open daily until 24th March. Explore the turbulent history of Stuart London - the most ever exhibition about the great disaster, social and rural movement will also be discussed and positioned on the right.
BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY St Mary’s Church, Cresswell Park
4th Thursday of every month, Thurs 24th March 2-3pm for William Lunn - Behind the scenes at the Art Gallery’
Non-members £5.00 www.sm-stmarysblackheath.org
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, University of Greenwich
MAN & THE MUSIC: Member society: scenes at the Art Gallery’
5.30pm (Until April 6th, an exciting mixed exhibition entitled ‘Texture and Text’
FAN MUSEUM, 12, Crooms Hill
IMAGINARY MENAGERIE
Enfants Terribles tour with their silliest, funniest kids and small grown-ups £13.50 / £11 children
Mon 28 (1.00pm, 3.30pm) & Tues 29 (11.00am, 1.00pm, 3.30pm)
FUNdraiser for St John’s Kent Hospital Trust
Comedy Club 4 Kids
£11/ Children £8.50
The Magic Beanstalk
22, Lee Rd, London SE3 9RQ
Sat 5 Mar - 3pm Recital Room
A charming new musical about the magic of family
SHERINGTON CHILDREN’S CENTRE, 14, Shooters Hill Road, London SE3 7TH
Sat 5th March 2016 7pm –A
Presented by The Sherington Children’s Centre Choir
Tickets via www.mycenaehouse.co.uk
For further information about all Mycenae House events and to buy tickets visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY
All in Mycenae House unless otherwise stated:
Daffodil Tea Sat 10th March (The Daffodil Tea is by invitation; however anyone who doesn’t receive an invitation and who would like to receive please ring Caroline on 020 8855 9948.)

THEatre
THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE3 8QS 
BOX OFFICE 020 8853 0950
Tues 1- Sat 5 March 7.30pm, Sat (Mat) 2.30pm
Three Generations Of Women £15 - Concs £12.50
Sun 6th March RED: Women’s Theatre Awards Rehearsals, Presented by Elle Sumara www.redwomenstheatreawards.com
4pm – 6pm
Standing and sitting ticket prices £6.00
Tues 15th & Sat 20 March Every year the NT commissions new plays. Performance details: tugoose@greyscalearts.com £15/ Concs £13.50
Tues 22-24 March 8.00pm Titania Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream as you have never seen it before
Wed 30 March – 7.30pm Timed Gala ‘In this tight little town, minus’ wows more central-ist.Fridays £13.50

MUSIC
THOMAS TALLIS SOCIETY
MUSIC
Fri 5 March – 7.30pm St Alches Church Thomas Tallis Society
Tues 1- Sat 5 March 7.30pm
Tues 15th March – 7.30pm Timed Gala
Other music events:
Tues 22-24 March 8.00pm Titania Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream as you have never seen it before
Wed 30 March – 7.30pm Timed Gala ‘In this tight little town, minus’ wows more central-ist.Fridays £13.50

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St Olave’s is a Prep School in New Eltham for boys and girls aged 3-11 years
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• Excellent results in the 11+ selection
• Clubs, outings and residential trips
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• Good attendance
• Inclusive curriculum
• Bold, creative curriculum
• Good Ofsted report
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Tel: 020 8853 2268
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Tel: 020 8853 2268


The Westcombe Society
Join us for our monthly guided walk!
Next walk: Sun, 20th March, Spring Equinox walk, Sun, 17th April – Young New and New Lows walk
Meet in the green Education Building at 10.00 am

MEET THE POINT SCHOOL
An independent co-educational school for pupils aged 3 to 11 years

The Point School
An independent co-educational school for pupils aged 3 to 11 years

MEYCONE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: MARCH
Fri 4th March 6.30pm - Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston. This rare fusion of classical voice and mandolin for one of the most exciting new pairings on the acoustic roots scene. £12.
Thurs 10th March 4.00pm - Bach To Baby, Classical Concert for Baby and You. £12
Fri 11th March 8.00pm - JazzNights. Candlelite Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £15
Sat 12th March 7.30pm - A play for International Women’s Day, Hosted by Global Music: £15
Fri 18th March 6.00pm - Mycenae Comedy Club. Stand-up comedy from rising stars of the circuit. £12

For further information about all Mycenae House events and to buy tickets visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

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FURTHERS

In search of God’s Tree

Maurice Ben Rose

New books

Greenwich seems to be full of writers! Simon Parker’s new book taking Power Back to the People comes out in May.

It shows how councils, communities and individuals across the world are stepping in when big centralised policies have failed. The book shows how Britain came to be the most centralised country in the western world, and details how top-down social policy has failed to make us more equal and more prosperous. It argues that grassroots social action is needed to create a vibrant civic commons. Fighting words from the husband of one of our local councillors, Cherry Parker...

Simon will be discussing the book with a senior figure from the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The event takes place on Monday, 29th Feb. 2016 5.00pm - 7.00pm at: 6 Milette Passage SE10 0ER GB

For details & free tickets visit: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/taking-power-back-to-the-people-2806710416

Former resident Thomas Grant has written a ten- a fantastic fundraising B&B host to the wedding!

his girlfriend – and invited their world famous Marathon and help raise £2,000.

Half-way house on Green Lanes in Stoke was Aaron’s name for it.

I still go to hug the odd tree in Greenwich area. Where it was there I remain in the area, renting a small room near the park.

Thefollowing is an extract from a poem I wrote entitled ‘God’s Tree’.

This is it! Dad ‘God’s Tree’! Oh! I said ‘It’s a secret promise you’ll tell no-one.’ I promised, innocently lying God’s Tree, our secret

A trapdoor to the sky

Looking for confidences

A love bond between us

‘This is it Dad ‘God’s Tree’ ‘Oh’ I said

I promised, innocently lying God’s Tree, our secret

‘It’s a secret promise you’ll tell no-one.’

God’s Tree came much sooner than expected... Here I must own to being a对外只发一次。所以对于每个人来说，这是一次机会。但是，对于某些人来说，这可能意味着他们必须参加额外的会议或工作，以继续这种改进和变革。这种行为是如此之多，以至于在某些情况下，有些人可能会感到沮丧或失望。然而，重要的是要记住，这种行为是持续的，它需要时间，需要耐心，需要承诺和努力。如果每个人都能积极参与并承担责任，那么这种行为就会带来显著的改变和进步。这将有助于建立一个更加公正、更加包容的社会。
Raders will recall the sad time in the 1960s and 1970s when the UK elm population was largely destroyed by Dutch elm disease. Friends of Westcombe Woodlands are now joining in a project of the Conservation Foundation in the hope that we may be able to return mature elms to our countryside.

In fact, there are elms in the Woodlands already. However, since the disease (which is a fungus carried by the elm bark beetle) struck, elms only grow to a limited height before the disease strikes and they die back, preventing them from growing into the majestic trees we once saw. On the right is a picture to help you to identify an elm – specifically ulmus minor.

The Conservation Foundation has been taking cuttings from parent trees that appear to have resisted Dutch elm disease for 60 years. There is therefore every hope that the cuttings will be disease-resistant, although, given that this is an experiment, this cannot be guaranteed.

We have been given five saplings, currently only around a metre tall, and have planted them around the Woodlands in spots where they should do well. Our elms are ulmus procera and ulmus minor.

One is planted near the bottom of the Mound, not far from the wild cherries, and two are planted on the Lassetter Place side of the Woodlands. We will be monitoring their progress as we are participating in the Conservation Foundation’s experiment.

If you are interested, go to www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/elms.

We have now started public consultation on the proposed new route options. The public consultation closes on Thursday 24th March 2016. To find out more:

* visit www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk for information about our proposals
* keep up-to-date and subscribe to our Lower Thames Crossing email alerts
* follow updates on Twitter @LowerThames

To find out more:

The Mayor emphasised the value of green spaces within urban areas and their increasing vulnerability and praised the Friends of Mycenae Gardens and volunteers for their work in protecting the Dell and increasing its bio-diversity.

After the ceremony the Mayor and Mayress talked with Joe Beale and others involved in the display board and joined guests in refreshments before taking a walk through the Dell to see the work done by volunteers with support from the Mayor of London’s Capital Clean-up Community Grant.

The event was well attended and all were impressed by the beauty of the display board and the quality of its oak stand, made by Greenwich Men in Sheds, a voluntary group within AGE UK. Particular care has been taken to position the display board at a height suited for viewing by children and wheelchair users.

If you would like to find out more about the Friends of Mycenae Gardens please visit the website for updates and information about how to become a member of the friends group http://mycenaegardens.org.uk.

Ann Hill

Environ Tramontano

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
HOLIDAYS

WHITSTABLE WEEKENDS/SWEEPS Sea view house between Whitstable Harbour and Ramsgate. £500. Friday 8th-5th £374 03444 153 03444 27

MARGATE BOOT CAMP & SPA* BLACKHEATH HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICE, COUNSELLING, Alexander technique, yoga, Pilates, massage, yoga, Pilates classes at Mynecae House, MLYNECAE HOUSE, ST GEORGE'S ROAD, SE3 7DP. All levels welcome, male and female. Please contact Nicky for further information.

COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY by Helen Halliday, BA(Hons), PGCE. Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP. Tel: 0203 495 4801

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www.blackheathsecretarialsolution.com

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At Zoom every child enjoys an individual learning journey. A record that tracks their daily progress through their fantastic, fun-loving learning environment.

At Zoom we keep up-to-date with the 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 our children will be ready to start school as keen learners and enthusiastic and confident learners.

With five nurseries in Eltham, High Garden, Blackheath and Brockley that have been open for approximately five years total, Zoom offers a rich and varied educational experience.

It is a fantastic experience, especially when you don’t have to go far to give your child the start they deserve.

To find out more and arrange an informal visit please call Ann Riley, Assistant Childcare Director on 07786 413128 or annriley.zoom@gmail.com

MEFA Montessori Weekley

Family Programme

Size of Group: 8

4-5 year olds

Thamesmead, SE28

0777 0433994

Tuesday 5:30-5:30

After-school Nursery

Group @ Mycenae House

Address: 135 Westcombe Hill, Blackheath, SE3 7DS

All enquiries 0771 0433994

Weds 3:30-3:30

Saturday 9:30-11:30

Preschool, 1:30- 2:30

Baby Montessori, 9:00-10:00

Toddlers Montessori

Monday House

Thursday 1:00-3:00

Contact: Zoom Nurseries

Zoom@blackheath.co.uk

Zoom Nursery – Westcombe Hill

www.zoomnurseries.com

To book your visit for the Market Place with pay- ment in advance (full day of Market £10) please email: Marilyn Little, 163, Westcombe Hill, SE3 7TP 0853 1312 Advertising@westcoombesociety.co.uk

All children over 3 years old. Please make contact to Westcombe Society

www.greenwichcc.com T: 0208-858-7211

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Blackheath circulars

25% off 2nd pair of spectacles. (same prescription. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Complete glasses start from £49.85 with single vision lenses. Contact lens services and accessories)

Tuition

Show your computer who's the boss.

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Home education

MEFA Montessori Weekley

Family Programme

Size of Group: 8

4-5 year olds

Thamesmead, SE28

0777 0433994

Tuesday 5:30-5:30

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Zoom Nursery – Westcombe Hill

www.zoomnurseries.com

To book your visit for the Market Place with pay-ment in advance (full day of Market £10) please email: Marilyn Little, 163, Westcombe Hill, SE3 7TP 0853 1312 Advertising@westcoombesociety.co.uk

All children over 3 years old. Please make contact to Westcombe Society

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