Westcombe NEWS

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July/August 2016 Issue 6

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



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

John Roan's annus horribilis

The John Roan (JR) School has been at the centre of a perfect storm of recent events leading to discontent in the school community. Since September a Head Teacher both started — and resigned. This happened in an environment of strikes, confusion over school budgets, a restructuring process and a huge misunderstanding about academisation. So what happened?

It is difficult to know where to start but perhaps the threat of academisation is a good place. In January the Local Authority (LA) wrote to JR advising them to consider their position regarding academisation. (At that time the government's policy was to turn all schools into academies by 2020.)

In response the JR Governors sent out a letter to parents about their plans to investigate academisation. That upset some parents. Arguably that letter was badly worded and might have been interpreted as a declaration of intent to academise the school. Since then the Governors have repeatedly and publicly denied plans for academisation.

Governors against academisation

I asked for a comment. They said "The governors have not and never have had a plan to academise The John Roan" and "At the most recent meeting of the governing board, governors once again unanimously confirmed their opposition to the national programme of schools' academisation".

However, the school's results for 2016 will determine whether the school falls under the government's "coasting" legislation, which would allow DfE to force schools to become academies if they are classified as "unsatisfactory" or "failing".

Quite rightly the Governors have shown due diligence by setting up a working party to understand the issues and to make recommendations. In September Nadine Powrie, the new Head Teacher, arrived. She must have expected a school that was financially thriving. However, in an email to the school, Cllr. Gillian Palmer stated that the school has been "drawing on its financial reserves to support its expenditure until these reserves are depleted".

Financial deficit

In 2012/13 there were reserves of £1.391m. Now there are none. It is possible that spending reserves created a false sense of security that must now be dealt with. Spending into reserves was signed off long before Ms Powrie was in post.

John Copier (a parent)

Putting this in the context of national changes in funding, JR face budget cuts of 4% a year over the next three years. A Head Teacher told me that budgeting is very difficult in this environment and most schools will find it hard to make budgetary projections even as little as three years ahead. Managing cuts of this severity would be financially challenging for any Head Teacher and heads in that position should be given professional respect to make informed decisions within these constraints.

Ms Powrie, working with the Local Authority, committed the school to a restructuring process the most compelling reason for which was a deficit in the school budget of £438,355 for 2015/16. The reasons for this deficit are not immediately apparent but the state of school reserves, and spending patterns in previous years must surely be taken into account.

On arrival Ms Powrie added a number of non-staffing costs to the 2015/16 budget, including CCTV – possibly a legal requirement. This action has been

widely criticised and blamed for the deficit. However, nobody I've asked (including the JR NUT) can make those non-staffing costs add up to £438,355.

Confusingly although the Governors have stated that the deficit was not helped by an underenrolled 6th Form, this statement has been taken in some quarters as a full justification of the deficit, something the Governors never meant. The Chair of Governors later apologised unreservedly for the confusion caused by the original statement...

It is too easy to assume that this deficit is caused by one thing alone. These are complex financial matters and further clarity would be welcomed.

The meaning of "Restructuring"

Restructuring inevitably meant threats to jobs. Salaries are by far the biggest expenditure for schools: Ms Powrie's consultation process suggested cuts of 20% to teaching and administrative staff. It seems the consultation process stalled, leading to strikes and disruption by the NUT and the NASUWT.

However, questions remain in my mind. Why didn't the NUT allow the consultation process to complete before striking? Did the NUT really understand the nature of the non-staffing costs that they were criticising? They certainly couldn't answer many specific questions on this subject. Perhaps many of Ms Powrie's additions to the budget were necessary.

(continued on page 3)



A view of the bund along St. Germans Place. The warm weather over the winter has been ideal for the growth of wild flowers. How splendid it would be if all the edges of the roads around the Heath were treated in a similar way.

BBC Proms – on our doorstep

 Γ or the first time ever, this year's BBC Promenade Concerts programme includes a concert at the Chapel in the Old Royal Naval College.

In the past, the concerts have always been performed in the Royal Albert Hall, but this year, four new venues have been added: Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Roundhouse in Camden, a multi-storey car park in Peckham – and the ORNC Chapel. Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle* will be performed by the BBC Singers, conducted by David Hill, at 3.0 pm on Sat. August 6th. Tickets will be on sale from June 24th. *For more information on the BBC Proms, go to www.royalalberthall.com*



< Newsbriefs > >

Rail travel

The London Bridge rebuild will continue until 2018 and there will be major changes this summer when all Greenwich Line trains will go straight to Cannon Street without stopping at London Bridge. Services to London Bridge will resume in 2018 when it will again be possible to change to a Charing Cross train.

Bus route

TfL have left the route of the 129 bus between Greenwich Town Centre and North Greenwich unchanged, taking no account of the fact that Sainsburys has moved, and a new M&S Superstore has opened beside it.

TfL have changed the bus stop names to Millennium Retail Park East (old Sainsbury) and Millennium Retail Park West (Odeon). But that doesn't help local residents who need to catch two buses to reach the new store. The Westcombe Society has asked TfL to reconsider local bus routes to take account of the relocation of Sainsburys.

Book sale

In June, the Amnesty International Book Sale raised nearly £11,000. Well done, everyone!

Linking up

A great evening for members of the Westcombe Society in June, with delicious food and wine, and a brilliant harpist. Not yet a member? Don't miss out: joining the Westcombe Society is an excellent way of meeting your neighbours, both near, and further afield, and enjoying being part of the local community.



COMMUNITY

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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What's on: Barbara Ward r eporters: The community – that means you!

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The Environment Committee Report at the Westcombe Society's AGM in May

1. Buildings

Over the year there have been many applications for loft conversions and extensions. Many of these are uncontentious. However in cases where neighbours are overlooked, the street scene of the Conservation Area is significantly altered, or changes seem out of keeping with the style of property we discuss our concerns with the Greenwich Conservation Group who include experts in planning and architecture. Examples of concerns to which we may object include significant changes in roof line which unbalance the symmetry of a property or group of properties (e.g. from hip to gable or some dormer windows), balconies and roof terraces, or changes to windows and doors that are out of keeping with the style of property. We are also very concerned about basement alterations involving extensive excavations which cause noise and vibration nuisance to neighbours and have also, in some cases, led to flooding on neighbouring land. Greenwich Council's new SDP (Supplementary Planning Document) on Residential extensions, which we commented on, provides useful guidance for residents wishing to extend their property.

2. Trees

We monitor applications for Tree Works because trees are an important part of our environment. We live in a Conservation Area, so residents have to notify the Council before carrying out work on trees with trunks bigger than 75mm diameter 1.5m from the ground. Recently we have been pleased to see the Council plant new street trees to replace those lost during the John Roan School redevelopment project.

3. Open spaces

We are lucky to have two such valuable spaces as the Heath and the Park, as well as several smaller green areas. The Westcombe Society continues to be represented on the Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP), the BJWP nature conservation group, the Stakeholders and Safer Neighbourhood panels for Greenwich Park and the Friends of Mycenae Gardens Committee. These groups work to balance the preservation of the natural environment with leisure use and events. Blackheath

and Greenwich Park are both Sites of Metropolitan Interest for Nature Conservation because of their acid grassland. The BJWP tries to ensure that events on the heath are not too obtrusive in terms of noise, traffic and damage to the heath. Residents will have noticed the improvements to the Prince of Wales Pond: more improvements are in the pipeline.

As many know, representations by residents supported by the Westcombe Society and sister organisations resulted in the Council retracting the "in perpetuity" licence with a promise to apply for licences event-by-event in the future. We are currently working on an updated Event Policy for the heath which we hope both Lewisham and Greenwich will sign up to.

4. Transport

We continue to object to the Silvertown crossing unless there is a guarantee that pollution will be reduced. (unlikely.) We are also represented on the Greenwich Line Users Group (GLUG) and have attended several meetings with Network Rail and Southeast Trains. (See page 1 Newsbriefs) We plan to lobby for a bus service direct to the new Sainsburys from the Westcombe Park area. We comment on cycle issues and are pleased to see some cycling improvements at Blackheath Standard. We are also very concerned about heavy traffic on Westcombe Hill and members of our committee have taken part in a speed survey of vehicles. In addition, we are represented on the group that lobbies for control of aircraft noise (HACAN East).

We also commented on the recent consultation for the Westcombe Park CPZ. We feel commuter parking prevents shoppers in Old Dover Road from finding spaces. We are currently awaiting the results.

5. Other developments

We are still awaiting plans for the new IKEA store. Sadly the fight to save the Sainsburys building was lost. The new buildings at Invicta School are now finished and we continue to support local residents with unresolved issues due to this rebuild. We also attend meetings at Blackheath High School to support local residents with their concerns over building which will start later this year.

The WS Environment Committee: Fact File

The special character of Westcombe Park is one of the reasons that we all enjoy living here and the aim of the **Environment Committee is to preserve** its best aspects. This means that we are interested in the buildings, the open spaces, transport in and around the area as well as developments beyond the immediate area which may have an impact on residents' quality of life. **The Westcombe Society Environment** Committee has 8 regular members who are active on a wide range of issues. We also have additional members who specifically represent us on BJWP and the Blackheath Nature Conservation Group. We welcome new members who have an interest in any aspect of our local environment. Please get in touch if you would be interested in finding out more about joining us.

We also work with our local
Councillors. We are due to have a
meeting with them shortly to discuss a
wide range of local issues. Do please get
in touch if you would like anything
added to the Agenda for this meeting.

Emily Norton environment@westcombesociety.org

Swamped by rubbish



ur beautiful park is more popular than ever, as anyone who goes in on a sunny summer's day can vouch. The only problem is – rubbish!

The Park Authorities can barely cope with the volume of rubbish discarded on a single summer's day.

Park manager Graham Deare urges us all: please take it home!



Any views expressed are personal, and are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or the WN. Please give address & telephone number; these will not be printed.

From: M.A. Qavi Beit Sahour, Palestine Two weeks I have been back from the land where the Blessed Child, whose name is invoked in All Saints Church every Sunday, was born and find, not for the first time, the Church Clock stand still in mute witness to the inadequacy of pastoral care.

Only the Lord in His infinite wisdom knows the obsessive compulsive disorder that keeps the Parish Council from keeping the church clock ticking.

The Parish Council's steadfastness in standing by a time-proven failure to seek professional guidance [from, for example, Greenwich Observatory] or from elsewhere is a testament of blind faith over experience. May the Lord have mercy on us all.

From: Malcolm Hardy St John's Park
Remembering the sad fact that the Royal
artillery has removed the "Firepower" Museum
from the Woolwich Arsenal site, it might come
as no surprise that it began its disengagement
from its historic ties with Woolwich in favour
of Wiltshire almost ten years ago.

It was possibly about five years ago that I first noticed the removal from Repository Road of the Zulu War Memorial when I was showing a visitor the lesser-known sights of Woolwich. A further search this year together with an enquiry at the Greenwich Heritage Centre has revealed that the Royal Artillery removed it in 2007, seemingly without much attention being paid to it (I have been unable to find anything that records the removal on the web, and it is still on the list of local war memorials.

The monument commemorated the dead of the officers and men of the Royal Artillery in the Zulu, Afghan and Boer Wars, and I remember the distinctive Zulu shields, assegais and Afghan weapons on it.

I am surprised that the Royal Artillery thought it would find a better home in Wiltshire, especially as one of the distinguished dead in the Zulu War was the Prince Imperial. This was the son of Napoleon III, and the last Bonaparte, who was given what amounted to a state funeral (with the band of the Royal Artillery) and a first grave beside his father in Chislehurst near to Camden House where the family had lived in what is now the Chislehurst Golf Club on Prince Imperial Road.

It should be better known that the Royal Artillery's connections with Woolwich and the Arsenal go back to the early 1700s and that its officers were trained in the Royal Academy beside Woolwich Common, now turned into flats. The Royal Artillery Museum was once housed in the Keep of the Academy and had a special exhibition on the Prince Imperial.

He passed out from the Woolwich Royal Academy but did not apply for a commission in the British army and in the Zulu War was there only as an observer. I did not find this exhibit transferred to the Firepower Museum in the

Arsenal.

Could the regiment forget the importance of its links with Woolwich and continue to strip it of its monuments and guns? The Crimean War Monument still stands on the parade ground of the old Royal Artillery Barracks, but could pre-

sumably also be removed to Wiltshire. Let's hope that will not happen.

From: Liz Lowe
We would like to thank Dr Ann Dingsdale, local historian and textile artist for her excellent guided walk on May Bank Holiday Sunday. This gentle stroll through Greenwich & Blackheath brought to life these independent minded women who campaigned for equality by signing a petition to give women the vote 150 years ago: their petition, presented to Parliament by John Stuart Mill, was summarily rejected. Ann Dingsdale's walk gave a new perspective on the area. Thanks to the WN for

Ed: Millicent Fawcett then took up the fight—and lived to see all women getting the vote in 1928. The BBC have made the 2006 Great Lives Series 11 episode on Millicent Fawcett available free online. Readers can access it on http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/player/b00771zc

bringing it to our attention.

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LOCAL NEWS

Blackheath Foodies Festival



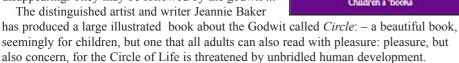
The Foodie Festival takes place on Blackheath from July 8th - 10th. Among the treats promised are cookery demonstrations, food tents, real ale, top chefs and entertainment and children's activities. There will be a 'small stage' with live music.

Ticket prices start at £10.00 (with a £2.25 transaction fee) and the event opens at 11.00 and closes at 7.00 p.m (6.00 p.m. on Sunday.) Tickets and further information from the website www.foodiesfestival.com or by calling 0844 995 1111. The event manager is Jeremy Hitchen (jeremy.hitchen@btconnect.com).

Circle By Jeannie Baker

Good books

Did you know that in its lifetime the bar-tailed godwit may fly further than from the Earth to the Moon and back? Every year it commutes between Alaska and Australasia. Godwits need to stop and feed, en route, on the wetlands of SE Asia, which are fast disappearing. They may be followed by the godwit ...



Jeannie Baker, who lives in Australia, has produced an impressive series of similar children's books, including *The Hidden Forest, Belonging, Home in the Sky*, and *Where the Forest meets the Sea*. They all have a very similar theme: everything in nature is interdependent and connected, and humans upset the balance at our peril.

Jeannie's publisher is Walker Books Ltd., 87 Vauxhall Walk, London SER11 5HJ. www.walker.co.uk www.jeanniebaker.com

Bullied by Big Brother

Did you know that if you live or work in London you are likely to be caught on camera 300 times a day largely without your

knowledge? Or that there are more CCTV cameras in Croydon than there are in New York?

Local photographer John Ellis's exhibition entitled: *Silent Witness: The Art of Surveillance* highlights the growing threat to our privacy posed by the unrestricted growth of CCTV cameras in the capital.

'There are now so many surveillance cameras in London that we no longer even notice them and that is an extremely troubling situation,' the

S⁺George's Church

Family worship 11.00 am Sundays
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Lunch and Fellowship (Soup, bread, fruit & cheese) at St George's. (not in August)
Sceptics Group meets every first and third Sunday at 8.00 pm



a viable method for fighting crime or merely an invasion of our privacy is a debate we are yet to have in our country but one that is very much needed. I hope this exhibition will at least get people thinking about the subject.' Silent Witness: The Art of Surveillance by John Ellis runs from the 14th to the 24th July at the Made in Greenwich Gallery, 324 Creek Road, Greenwich, SE10 9SW.

Editor: : Theresa May's investigatory powers bill whas just been passed by 444 votes to 69.

For information, contact: Revd Robert T. (Tim) Yeager T el. 07804 614245

http://www.stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk

Let us not tire of preaching love: it is the force that will overcome the world

— Archbishop Oscar Romero

Celebrating the Steinberg

Duo

Peter Dempsey & Barbara Ward

Sunday 22nd May, 2016
Tchaikovsky, Liszt & Grieg: Works for
Violin & Piano, performed by the
Steinberg Duo - Nick Burns - Piano &
Louisa Stonehill - Violin at the Steinberg
Music Studio, Vanbrugh Hill

The Steinberg Duo offered a captivating final recital attended by their faithful audience, including fellow musicians, alongside the composer, Philip Sawyers, who has had a close association with the Duo for some time.

The May recital featured Grieg's third and final Violin Sonata, with its beautiful recurring themes, and the contrast of Liszt's two elegies 130 and 131. These are usually arranged for cello, but the lower register of Louisa Stonehill's instrument made for a rich sound, in the elegies as well as the Grieg; the upper register was also handled beautifully, with 130 soaring to a moving finale.

The minimalist surroundings of the Duo's studio could have produced a harsh acoustic, but instead the sense was of immediacy and drama. It was not difficult to see why their performances in the similarly intimate surroundings of the Hattori Foundation had been so well received.

The occasional sounds of traffic and pedestrians outside were not so much a distraction as a reminder that this was music brought to street level, in the best sense.

The highlight of this recital, however, was a flawless performance of Philip Sawyer's Second Violin Sonata, composed in 2011 for the Duo. Sawyers is a relative rarity amongst contemporary composers, in that he manages to produce genuine musicality, but without straying towards the saccharine. This work is clearly a favourite



Louisa Stonehill and Nick Burns

of the Duo, and it showed, their rendering was precise but with great feeling, and they know the piece inside out: sudden changes of tempo and dynamic were handled perfectly, without their having to make eye contact. The outer movements were particularly impressive: a lively conclusion to the Duo's recital, and a reminder of why their loyal audience, and the local music community will miss them.

The renowned and much loved Steinberg Duo are currently relocating from Greenwich to New Hampshire, (USA), where they will continue their prestigious international careers, including continuing to perform in the United Kingdom.

Their intimate Greenwich music studio, where they have offered monthly recitals since 2011, will, they hope, remain a space dedicated to music education and performance and they are currently working with Greenwich Music School to secure this. All details of Steinberg Duo's critically acclaimed albums, their past and future performances plus video footage of live performances, and much more, can be found on their comprehensive websites steinbergduo.com steinberg-music.com

John Roan (continued)

One must be saddened by the resignation of Ms Powrie in May on the grounds of ill health. Ms Powrie's interim replacement is Carolyn Roberts, Head Teacher at Thomas Tallis School.

When asked about the consequences of the restructuring process she told me that there were no compulsory redundancies — and some voluntary redundancies. But she also pointed out that, reluctantly, teaching hours must be increased.

It seems clear to me that restructuring was necessary and that these changes to the school are sensible.

So what happens now? Forced academisation by the DfE remains a possibility. The government keeps changing the

Greenwich Park Bandstand Concerts



Friends of Greenwich Park

Sun. 26 June Greenwich Steel Band & Royal Greenwich Big Band

Sun. 3 July Belvedere Concert Band Sun. 10 July London Gay Symphonic Winds

Sun. 17 July Crystal Palace Band Sat. 23 July Blackheath Halls

Community Opera
Sun. 24 July Lewisham Concert Band
Sun. 31 July Silver Ghosts

Sun. 7 Aug. Lambeth Wind Orchestra Sun. 14 Aug. South London Jazz

Orchestra
Sun. 21 Aug. Hooray Tabasco

Sun. 28 Aug. Greenwich Concert Band

goal posts and the academisation issue is not over yet. The Governors may yet recommend that the school becomes an academy, but their reluctance to follow that path is clear. In view of the Education and Adoption Bill, 2016, their attitude may become irrelevant.

Parent Governors are a voluntary, elected body. They work tirelessly to support and challenge the school. Their role is essential and, as a parent, I hope we can support them as we await the recruitment of a new Head Teacher.

In the meantime Carolyn Roberts will lead the school. I met her. She is composed, thoughtful and her experience comes across when you talk to her.

She emphasised that in the coming months the dual priorities are the children and preparing the school for September. We can only hope that Ms Roberts is a calming influence and that she has a less challenging tenure than Ms Powrie did. Then we might look forward to a less turbulent year.



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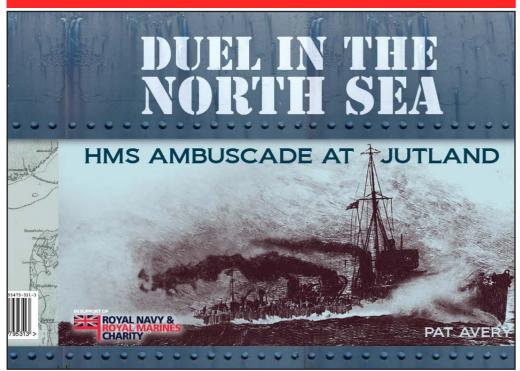
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FEATURES

Remembering Jutland

A new book commemorates the centenary of the Battle of Jutland



Pat Avery, the grandson of a wireless operator aboard *HMS Ambuscade*, a destroyer that fought at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, has published a unique book based on diaries of the battle writen by his grandfather.

On the 100th anniversary year of the battle, Duel in the North Sea - HMS Ambuscade at Jutland has been released, documenting the most intensely contested and significant naval engagement of the First World War.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go directly to The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity.

Author Pat Avery said: "The story of the Battle of Jutland is a dramatic one as well as the largest, and last, of the great battleship battles of the First World War.

"The fierce exchanges between capital ships during the encounter has been very well-documented, but the role played by the destroyers of the small ship navy, and those who manned them, is often overlooked."

One of these ships in particular has an emotional resonance for Pat. His grand-father, Basil Phillips, was a 21-year old wireless operator in the destroyer *HMS Ambuscade*. Pat has researched his ancestor's personal diaries of the battle to be included in this book

On the 31st May 2016, the centenary date, the government held a special Battle of Jutland Centenary commemoration on Orkney. In the battle, the Royal Navy lost 6,097 men killed, and fourteen ships. The German fleet lost 2551 men, and eleven ships.

The Germans claimed it as a victory – but if so, it was a Pyrrhic victory: the Royal Navy continued its blockade, which played a very significant role in ending World War 1.

Pat said: "The point is that we must never forget. This momentous occasion was an opportunity to reflect not only the battle itself, but more importantly the men involved, whose lives were deeply affected by war. They are not just statistics in history books, but individuals who had their own fears, pain and ambitions.

"If through personal accounts such as memoirs and diaries we can relate to individual experiences, we will see that those involved were no different from us. The family association with the Royal Navy continues today: my

son, a serving Petty Officer, suggested that the proceeds of the sale of this book should benefit The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity."

Pat added: "This book would never have reached completion without the encouragement and support of my wife Debbie. It's been a real family effort."

Admiral Sir Philip Jones, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, said: "This book is a personal contribution from a naval family, but it also reflects our national story. Britain was dependent on the sea for security and prosperity in 1916, just as we are today. The Battle of Jutland ensured the Royal Navy retained its supremacy. Famous for being a clash between battleships, this book rightly remembers the men who served in the numerous smaller, but no less gallant, ships of the Grand Fleet and the vital role they played in the Battle."



Lauren Wileman, representing the charity, said: "The book gives an excellent personal insight into the battle. We are very grateful to be receiving 100 per cent of the profits from the sale of copies of the book. It is an extremely generous gesture from Pat in support of the Charity. Donations generated from the book will go toward helping naval veterans of all ages, as well as those serving today and their families."

The book, available in paperback priced £10 (or downloadable on Kindle and iPad, etc. at £5) is now available. The book features original plans of the ship, photographs, and maps. To order, please visit the publisher's website at: www.seafunnel.co.uk

Can we do anything about education?

YES! The arrival of computers has bowled over thoughtful people and upstaged the best educational practice of the past. People reason that because computers stem from mathematics, the kind of drilling used in maths teaching needs to be applied across the curriculum. This puts a lot of pressure on teachers and pupils: pressure which puts most children off education, or at best leads them to learn as little as possible to pass the exam.

The PER Report is based on 21 years of analysis: a 37,000 word document which shows exactly what is going wrong.

Readers of the Westcombe News can buy it by sending £5 and their address to

The PER Group c/o Box 16916, Blackheath, SE3 7WS

New Photographic exhibition at Mycenae House



This photo by Lesley Hall was shortlisted for the prestigious 2016 Sony World Photography Awards. This photo is on show as part of the exhibition of photographs by Aperture Woolwich Photographic Society – on in Mycenae House until September. "Lesley is an amazingly talented and versatile artists and we are proud to have her working amongst us," said Mark Johnson-Brown, manager of Mycenae House.

Solar pioneers of SE London

Camilla Berens

Pioneering solar co-operative, South East London Community Energy (SELCE), has been given a big thumbs-up by local VIPs as it celebrates the success of its first project.

At the end of last year, SELCE raised £250,000 to install solar panels on four local primary schools through a 'community share offer.' A total of 138 people, mainly from Greenwich and Lewisham, became shareholders and they will now receive 4% interest on their investment over the 20-year life of the project.

To mark the 'go live' of the solar panels, SELCE held two celebrations, one in Greenwich and the other in Lewisham. At the Greenwich event, local MP Matthew Pennycook described the 15-strong team behind SELCE as 'true pioneers' who had put in over 6,000 volunteer hours to bring their project to life.

GLA representative, Len Duvall, said he shared the not-for-profit organsation's desire for a 'fairer, more sustainable energy future for London'



while the mayor of Greenwich described SELCE as a "beacon of light for positive change."

At the Lewisham celebration, Sir Steve Bullock, mayor of Lewisham, said that the project was 'deeply impressive'. The solar arrays will save the schools more than £350,000 over the next 20 years, while carbon emissions will be reduced by almost 2,000 metric tons.

SELCE is now planning to raise a further £230,000 through a second community share offer which begins on July 1st. The money raised will provide solar arrays for another six community buildings in SE London. Shares can be bought from £250 to £20,000 and the offer ends at midnight on July 31st. SELCE is again offering 4% annual interest on the initial investment. For more information go to: www.selce.org.uk or call Giovanna Speciale on 0208 269-4882



Off to University in the Autumn?

A one-to-one cooking tuition session for your young person says 'well done' and also...please eat some nutritious meals whilst you're away!

know your onions is a small cooking tuition company run by local mum, Pat Slattery. We love coaching young people to cook nutritious, tasty and modern dishes. Take a look at our website and get a gift voucher for your grown up-baby!

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WHAT'S ON



NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM Above and Beyond #flightexhibition

Fly like a bird, race a supersonic jet and take an elevator ride to the edge of space in our new family-friendly exhibition. Packed full of amazing interactive experiences this ground-breaking exhibition explores the marvels of aerospace innovation, design and technology. Opens 27th May Book now! Jutland 1916: WW1's Greatest Sea Battle Marking the centenary of the Battle of Jutland, the largest sea battle of World War 1. Opens 20rh May BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE FINE ARTS

SOCIETY 4th Thursday of every month St Mary's Church Cresswell Park. St Mary's Church, Cresswell Park www.artsinblackheath.orgwww.artsinblackheath.org-

4th Thursday of every month, - 2pm for 2.30pm Thurs 28th July Valerie Woodgate talks on Joseph Wright of Derby: 'the artist known as 'the spirit of the industrial revolution', - portrayed the people and the scenes of his Northern home townat the historic time of upheaval. Non-members may pay on the door GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS King William Court, University of Greenwich Thurs 7th July 8.00omLaunce Gribbin Grinling Gibbons - Carver to the Crown and Court non-members may pay on the door MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY

324 Creek Rd SE10 Open daily 11-5.30. Until July 6: "Art Reach", art, poetry and life stories from death row, San Quentin" collected by local artist Nicola White, who will also show some of her own work. As mentioned in June's WN.

Tues 5th July - 7 for 7.30pm Greenwich Poetry Makers Readings by recently published local poets

Fri 8th- Mon 11th July 'Viewpoint' - Art **Exhibition Greenwich Free School** Fri 15th- Mon 25th July 'Silent Witness: the art of surveillance' John Ellis's photographs of CCTV cameras Plus usual display of local art and craftworks, cards, poetry And local-interest books. www.madeingreenwich.co.uk

cHil dren & FAMil Y

SEVERNDROOG CASTLE Castle Wood, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3RT Main opening times: Thurs/Fri/Sun12.30-4.30pm Apr-Sept Sun Sun July 3rd - 10.30am-12.00 pm India Day at the Castle - Family Activity Find out what links Severndroog Castle to a fort in India £2.50 per visitor NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM Park Row, Greenwich, S.E.10 9NF rmg.co.uk Planetarium Shows - Family Fun

Royal Observatory, Planetarium & Astronomy Centre, Peter Harrison Planetarium 'Space Safari' Weekends and holidays 11.00am - Tuesdays in term time 12.45,1.45pm £7.50 adults/5.50 children/6.50 Conc. £20 - family

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DAD'S STAY AND PLAY session every Wednesday 9.30-11.30 Sherington Childrens Centre, all Home Dads welcome. Address: 14 Sherington Road, Charlton SE7 7JW (0208 853 0900). Continues even in school holidays and half-term. Contact Dan Hall on daniel.hall1985@hotmail.co.uk for more details. www.selondondads.org.uk

t He West coMBe societ Y

Macmillan Walk London Bridges 18th Sep Walkers and sponsorship please contact Caroline Owens.

Children's Nearly New Sale 24th Sep 2-4pm -Mycenae House. Date subject to confirmation.

Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning 30th Sep Please come and support this event. 10am to 2pm. Sandwich and/or cake makers please ring Caroline Owens. Mycenae House.

Chrysanthemum Tea 15th Oct Invites will be going out nearer the time.

Autumn Quiz 21st Oct 7.30pm for 8pm start. Raffle, prizes fish & chip suppers to order.

Sat 19th Nov. Christmas Bazaar Venue TBC

coMMunit Y

BEXLEY HERITAGE TRUST Hall Place & Gardens, Bourne Rd, Bexley DA5 1PQ Tel-01322-526574 Until 4th Sept 10am-5pm HOW DOES MY GARDEN GROW? A Garden Museum exhibition, looking at the evolution of gardening £10 £9 Conc./under16 £8 family ticket £30 BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Tel Ron 0208 319 1312 BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE www.blackheathandgreenwichwi.com Sunfields Methodist Church on Old Dover St Wed 6th July 7.30pm -9.30pm- Pauline Watson 'Genealogy - Tracing Your Family Tree' 'Have you ever wondered who your ancestors were? Wed 3rd Aug 7.30pm- 9.30pm- Bernadette Russell '365 Days of Kindness' 'doing random acts of kindness every day can help everyone feel better SEVERNDROOG CASTLE Shooters Hill SE18 3RT www.severndroogcastle.org.uk Sun 24th Jul -10.30am Village Fete to celebrate the second anniversary of the re-opening of the Castle GREENWICH MORRISMEN Mycenae House every Thursday at 8.00pm Newcomers welcome DAVY'S WINE VAULTS - Greenwich, 161 Greenwich High Road SE10 8JA Tel. 8858 6011 Thurs, 7th July 7:00pm Sip into Summer! With summer approaching, it's the perfect time to try six of our summer wines ranging from delicately coloured Provence rose to others from England Chile, the Loire and South Africa, with nibbles. Starting with a sparkling Italian Raboso rose. £28.00 Book now! NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Greenwich Comedy Festival 2016 www.greenwichcomedyfestival.co.uk

Tues 26th- Sunday 31st- July Aanother blistering line-up of comedy greats. GREENWICH CREATIVE WRITERS GROUP

Waterstones Mondays 5-7pm Established lively group, space currently available for new members Previously led by Rosie Johnston (Poet), followed by Jeremy Worman (Writer), now led

by John Wilks (Writer). Interested in writing? Please contact johnwilks@hotmail.com GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS www.globalfusionarts.co.uk Tel 0208 858 9497

Mon 4th July 10-11.30am Women's Coffee morning with Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony at New Leaf Café Fri. 15th July 7.30pm GFMA World Cinema Night -Charlton House -£3 donation Sat. 23rd July -2-5pm Charlton Community Day -

Charlton Park, music, stalls, Dog Show, children's races, African Fashion Show, free workshops and food Fri. 29th July 7.30pm-10.30pm International Acoustic Music & Dance Night. See below.

Summer Exhibition 2016 9 June - 1 September

Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, London SE37SE

For more information visit woolwichphotographic.com SLPS - Federation of South London Photographic Societies. KCPA - Kent County Photogra

t He At r e

CUTTY SARK STUDIO THEATRE Cutty Sark Ship, Greenwich www.rmg.co.uk

Pre-Edinburgh Comedy Festival Fri-22nd July – Sat – July 30th Brand new material from some of today's hottest comedians- 'catch the stars of the future on the way up. See website THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Closed until September for renovation SEVERNDROOG CASTLE Castle Wood, Shooters Hill, SE18 3RT www.severndroogcastle.org.uk Thurs 28th July -7.30pm All's Well That Ends Well Outdoor theatre Changeling Theatre Company (See website for booking details)

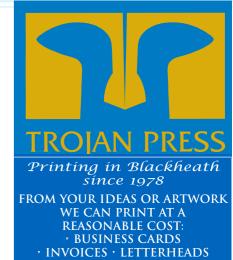
THE SPACE 296, Westferry Rd E.14 3RS www.space.org.uk Thurs 28th June - Tues 2nd July Force of Trump Set in USA, 2017 – Donald Trump as president is banned from the UK and struggles to get in £12/£10 Conc.

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AGe eXcHAnGe

SUNDAY ARTS & CRAFT SALE Sun 5th June 10.00am-2.00pm. Hand-made goods sale from local makers & artists. For tables ring Kathy 07767 756476 BOOK SALES: on the second Saturday every month (except August & December) 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Fri 15th July 1-3pm: Friends Friday (talks & refreshments, free for Friends of AE or £5) Sat 16th July 10am-1pm: Communities at Playintergenerational board games workshop- (free drop in)

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MYcenAe House Live events: JulY

Fri 8th July 8pm - JazzNights. Candlit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave

Sunday 10th July 12-5pm - Summer Sunday Extravaganza. Fun day for the community as part of ParksFest in association with The Friends of Mycenae Gardens with music, dance, children's activities, workshops, food & bar and more, FREE.

Thurs 14th July 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for Baby and You. £10. Fri 29th July 7.30pm - Global Fusion Music & Arts Acoustic Nights, hosted by Morrigan with Open Mic, Ceilidh dancing and Featuring special guest International Pipa player Cheng Yu £6.00 | £4

For further information about all Mycenae House events, please visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

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FEATURES

In August 2015 Nicola White, local artist and an avid Thames mudlark, came across a brass luggage tag in the thick Thames mud near Enderby Wharf, Greenwich. When she cleaned it up, she noticed there was a name and address engraved on the tag "F. Jury, 72 Woolwich Road". Thus began a journey to unfold the story of

Private Fred Jury

On 22nd August 2016, it will be exactly 100 years since Frederick Jury (Private no. 6044, 3rd Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcement, in the Australian Imperial Forces) embarked from Australia on the ship *HMAT A18 Wiltshire* from Sydney to travel to France via Folkestone, to fight in the First World War.

The story of Frederick Jury came to light with a simple Thames mudlarking find one evening in Greenwich in August 2015. I came across a piece of metal so small I almost passed it by as a piece of shrapnel. But then I noticed through the mud and drizzly rain, an engraved name, "F. Jury", and a faded address.

I popped it in my bag ready to examine it more closely later that evening. Perhaps it was a shop in Woolwich I thought. When I cleaned it off, the engraving was revealed to be "F. Jury, 72 Woolwich Road, SE", That meant Greenwich, SE10.



Occasionally, a seemingly innocuous find such as this can be compared to opening up a fascinating story book, and with the help of a lot of people on twitter, this small, muddy object conjured up a whole family of people from the past, with their lives opening up before me like an intriguing novel. So who was Frederick Jury?

He was born in Bermondsey/ Southwark in 1873 to Frederick and Julia Jury. He grew up in Maidstone and Aylesford, where his parents came from. He had a brother called William Jury, a seaman, who was born in 1891.

Married life

We don't know anything about Fred's childhood, but we do know that by 1900/01 he was a Gas Stoker, and he was renting a first floor furnished room at Sarah Amelia Elizabeth Carter's house at 572 Old Kent Road. Sarah Carter ran a coffee house there,

Born in Newington in approx 1860, she married James Carter on 27th March 1882 at the age of 22, and they had two children, Augustus and William Carter. Sadly, her husband James died some time after 1895.

It seems that Fred and Sarah fell in love, and on 24th August 1901, Fred and Sarah got married, at St Philip the Apostle Church, Avondale Square. Sarah was 42 when they married – he was 29.

One of the witnesses was a Ms Cecilia Lush, who went on to marry Augustus Carter, Sarah's son and Fred's stepson. (Sarah and Fred never did have any children of their own.)

According to the 1904 electoral register, Fred was living at 72 Woolwich Road (which is now a solicitor's office) in 1904, and the 1911 census shows that Fred and Sarah were living there together.

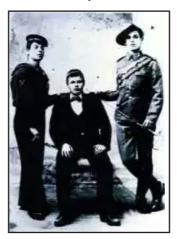


It would appear that Sarah was again running a coffee house from there. I love to imagine the people who might have come to buy a coffee from her at that time in Greenwich—and the conversations they might have had.

The War

After the outbreak of World War 1, both Frederick Jury and his brother William enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces within one month of each other, in March 1916,

Why did they go to Australia to enlist? Perhaps it was because



Fred Jury in his Australian uniform, right.

the pay was apparently 3 times as much as the British Army; in Fred's case it could have been that he was too old to enlist at home (and the age limit was higher in Australia). All this is of course just speculation.

We do know that in all probability Fred travelled to Melbourne in New South Wales where he enlisted at Cootramundra in the 3rd Infantry Battalion, (19th Reinforcement). Sarah we believe stayed in Greenwich.

Then, on 22nd August 1916, almost 15 years to the day that he and Sarah were married, he embarked from Sydney, Australia to the UK on the ship *HMAT Wiltshire*. In December, he was fighting on the Western Front.

For the next two and a half years the unit served in the trenches in France and Belgium and took part in many of the



A group of Australian war-wounded

In May 1919, the battalion was disbanded and its personnel repatriated to Australia. It is worth mentioning that during the course of its involvement in the war, the AIF 3rd Battalion suffered 3,598 casualties, of which 1,312 were killed in action.

But Fred remained in England: in March 1918 he was hit by a



stick bomb, which fractured his left foot; then on 24th June 1918 he was hit by a grenade thrown at close range. Fred received significant injuries to his chest, jaw, arm, finger, thigh and foot: several fingers were amputated, and his left foot was severly injured. Fred spent time in two military hospitals in Hillingdon, and Shorncliffe, Kent.
Finally, Fred was medically assessed as 100% disabled and was discharged from the Australian army in April 1919.

He received a "silver war badge", which was issued in the UK to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness during World War 1.



We know that after the war Fred Jury lived at 72 Woolwich Road and was there at least until 1931. In 1932 he died at Queen Mary's Hospital Roehampton. We also know that William Jury enlisted in the Australian army, was seriously wounded in action, was committed to Sunnyside Mental Hospital in New Zealand in the 1940s. He died in the 1960s, in the same hospital.

Sarah moved to Greenwich South Street in 1933, where she died in 1936.

You might think that that is the end of Frederick Jury's story. However, I thought I would try to find out where he was buried, with the idea that it would be nice to go and pay my respects to him. Well it just so happens that he is buried just around the corner from where I live - in Greenwich Cemetery.

It was like searching for a needle in a haystack, but luckily, Jason, the grave digger with Royal Greenwich Parks, was very helpful. He checked the records, and told me that Fred's grave would be in area "Z" which is the paupers' grave area. The area is very overgrown, with some of the small tombstones completely covered in brambles and nettles. I wasn't feeling too optimistic to tell you the truth.

And then, Jason shouted "I've found Frederick!", and he straightened the stone. It was a moving moment for me, to see

his final resting place, and I found myself imagining who may have stood there when they buried him all those years ago in 1932. But for a moment I was a little taken aback when I read "Beloved Husband of Millie Jury" (was this another wife we had not heard of?) Then of course I realized that this was his pet name for Sarah Amelia Elizabeth Frances (a shortened version of Amelia). In fact, Sarah's grave is also in Greenwich.

Rest in Peace

Frederick Jury.
Gone but by no

means forgotten

Jason the grave digger and I spent a few moments next to Fred's grave. It seemed sort of sad that after such an intriguing life, we had to search in the undergrowth for his headstone, but Jason, used to such ponderings, said that it really isn't about the material things we leave behind, or the state of the gravestone. It's the legacy we leave, the places we visit, the people we touched in our lives.

There must be hundreds and thousands of undiscovered stories lying in the Thames waiting to be found one day. In the case of Frederick Jury, many decades passed before the Thames tide washed away the layers of thick mud to give us a glimpse of his life, pulled together from the various databases and heritage sites that exist, But these few facts give little idea of the thoughts, feelings and dreams that made the man, and his wife, who they were.



This brings to mind a quote from a book by Douglas Kennedy *The Pursuit of Happiness*, which really spoke to me:

"And do you want to know something rather amusing? My past, my choices - when I die, all that past will vanish with me. It's the most astonishing thing about getting old: discovering that all the pain, all the drama, is so completely transitory. You carry it with you. Then, one day, you're gone, and nobody knows about the narrative that was your life. Unless you've told it to somebody or written it down."

It's so true. So I put this to you. If someone found your luggage tag in the Thames in 100 years time, what would they write about you? What is your story? If you would like to read more stories from the River Thames, you can find them on my website www.tidelineart.co

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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

Open Spaces Society Slates Commercial use of Parks

In February, the WN reported that the Royal Borough of Greenwich Events Team withdrew its blanket licence applications to extend the number of events on Circus Field following an extraordinary number of objections from local residents, amenity societies and organisations, including the Westcombe Society. The latest edition of Open Space magazine indicates that this is a nation-wide issue. The jury is out as to whether the Royal Parks could go the same way: it is hoped that the transfer of the management of the 8 Royal Parks and The Royal Parks Agency (TRPA) from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to the Royal Parks Foundation will offer the parks a secure future.



Kate

Ashbrook

The Open Spaces Society, Britain's oldest national conservation body, has slated the abuse of parks and green spaces for commercial purposes in an Opinion piece I wrote for the society's the latest issue of *Open Space* magazine.

The society has criticised Wandsworth
Council for approving Formula
E's plan to occupy Battersea
Park, Ealing Council for backing
a boozy Oktoberfest on Acton
Green common, and Lambeth

Council for allowing a festival on Clapham Common, converting a green space into a mudbath.

In my view, such events are in breach of the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967 which outlaws certain activities on London's commons and in its parks and requires ministerial consent for any works, including temporary ones, on the commons. But the London Boroughs of Wandsworth, Ealing and Lambeth, and possibly others, don't seem to care.

It's all about attracting big business and commercial sponsorship at the expense of quiet enjoyment. Many parks were created

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in Victorian times to satisfy the human need for fresh air and tranquillity in an increasingly dense urban area. That need is greater now than ever.

Of course local authorities are strapped for cash. Of course they must find savings and generate income. But they should not

do so in ways which conflict with the ethos of those far-sighted people—some of them our founders—who secured these open spaces in the first place.

A recent report, *Learning to Rethink Parks*, by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery Fund and NESTA (National Endowment for Science Technology and Arts) has found new ways to raise income and reduce costs for public parks in the face of budget cuts.

Their recommendations include greater involvement of park users, local business and residents in the design and delivery of ideas. The report does not propose sacrificing the parks to international motorraces, or noisy, muddy "festivals".

There is massive evidence that green spaces are essential for people's health and well-being. Local authorities should stop trying to sell off or exploit their parks and instead work with residents and others to make them better.

The Open Spaces Society was founded in 1865 and is Britain's oldest national conservation body. It campaigns to protect common land, village greens, open spaces and public paths, and people's right to enjoy them. This year it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

CONTACT:

Kate Ashbrook 01491 573535 (work) 07771 655694 (mob.)

Lightning strike

This stark trunk is all that remains of a cedar tree in the flower garden of Greenwich Park. The tree was struck by lightning in mid-afternoon on Friday 29th April.

Two passing joggers had a narrow escape: they said that, in future, they would celebrate two birthdays each year.

ED: The WN welcomes photographs of recent events sent in by readers: so please carry that camera with you, to catch that unique moment!



Campaigners tell Mayor Khan: NO to the Tunnel



Campaigners against the Silvertown
Tunnel have launched a petition to
demand that the new mayor Sadiq Khan
withdraws the scheme from the planning
system.

Mayor Khan pledged to look again at the scheme, put in place by Boris Johnson, after acknowledging worries about the air pollution and congestion a new road crossing between the Royal Docks and Greenwich Peninsula would cause.

TfL submitted the tunnel plans for planning permission in the final week of Boris Johnson's mayoralty. If built, the tunnel will generate more traffic, exacerbating congestion at other bottlenecks across London, leading to worse air quality and longer journey times.

Mayor Khan told London Assembly members on May 25th. that he was reviewing the scheme, along with all the crossing proposals put in place under Johnson - but refused to withdraw it from the planning system. Now the No to Silvertown Tunnel campaign is asking him to:

• Show he is serious about his commitment to tackle pollution by withdrawing the Silvertown Tunnel proposal from the

planning system immediately.
• Fully review the Silvertown
Tunnel – taking into account
all views, not just Transport
for London's – and other
crossing schemes planned
east of Tower Bridge.

Pre-construction costs for the tunnel are £107 million, according to documents submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The full cost of building the tunnel will be at least £1 billion.

Since Mayor Khan was elected, it has been revealed

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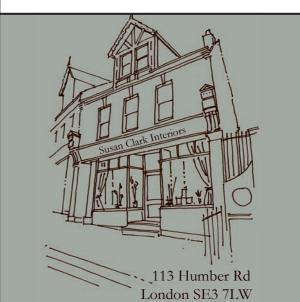
* Fencing * Patios * Brickwork his predecessor covered up a report that made clear the effects of air pollution in the boroughs that will be affected by the Silvertown Tunnel, such as Newham, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Lewisham and Southwark.

The No to Silvertown Tunnel chair Anne Robbins says: "We never had much faith in the congestion and pollution assessments for the Silvertown Tunnel, but the shocking revelations about pollution and primary schools mean Sadiq Khan needs to pull the scheme out of planning, and urgently look again at a scheme that will damage the lives of communities across east and south-east London.

"Nobody is denying Blackwall Tunnel congestion isn't a problem, but the Silvertown Tunnel will only make the situation worse. Even a tunnel for 'cleaner vehicles' would just send more polluting traffic into local areas to head to the Rotherhithe Tunnel. The tunnel will cost Londoners £107m before the diggers even start work - money TfL could put to better use elsewhere."

The petition can be found at www.toxictunnel.co.uk.

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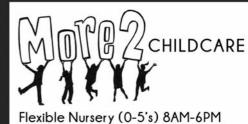
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