



Westcombe NEWS

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June 2016 Issue 5

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



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

(c) FTP Edelman



Greenwich welcomes the Viking Sea

On May 5th, London welcomed the largest ocean ship ever launched in London, the *Viking Sea* (47,800 tons). Officially a small cruise ship, it arrived for its naming ceremony in Greenwich.

The 745 ft. long ship passed through the Thames Barrier before mooring at Greenwich. There 48 sailors manned the yard-arm of the *Cutty Sark* in a traditional naval custom to welcome her. Later on that evening, the ship was christened followed by a celebratory firework display. Those who saw the fireworks described them as spectacular.

The sophisticated, state-of-the-art ship can host 930 guests on itineraries that start from Scandinavia and the Baltic through to the Western and Eastern Mediterranean as well as the Caribbean and beyond. *Viking Sea* is the second ocean cruise ship launched by Viking Cruises and follows the arrival into Greenwich last March of its sister ship, *Viking Star*.

For more information, please visit:
www.vikingcruises.co.uk

The Cruise Liner Terminal controversy

WN reporter

In May's WN we reported that a local resident, whose anonymity is legally protected by the High Court, had applied for a judicial review of the decision by Greenwich Council to grant permission to build a new cruise liner terminal at Enderby Wharf.

The application for a judicial review has been successful, and will be heard over two days, 12th-13th July. Ian Blore, backed by The East Greenwich Residents' Association (EGRA) and the Greenwich Society ran a successful crowd-funding campaign to support the legal case which raised £16,000.

There has been widespread concern that the council had failed to adequately assess the dangers of air pollution, but the council has insisted that it consulted experts on this very issue. The Mayor's consultant, (Amec Foster Wheeler) admitted that ships will add to pollution equal to 688 lorries idling as they burn diesel fuel to generate on-board power. EGRA claims that this will endanger public health.

In January this year, Ian Blore published

EGRA's Green Manifesto (quoted in the WN) which focussed on this and many other issues. Cllr Thorpe, responsible for Regeneration & Sustainability, replied that it would be massively expensive (as well as disruptive) to lay down lines for shore-based facilities. Ian Blore then suggested using European Union grants to help install onshore power supply for berthed ships.

The council argue that only 5% of ships have the technical ability to use onshore power supplies, but EGRA point out that both New York and Rotterdam insist that visiting cruise ships should use on-shore power supplies. Viking Cruises appear to be on top of this issue:

Viking Cruises

A spokeswoman for Viking Cruises told the WN: "Viking Cruises' ships are built to the highest environmental standards using the latest technology that meets the strictest environmental regulations. While in port, our scrubber removes any pollutants from our emissions, minimising impact on the local environment."

"Viking Cruises' ocean ships do have the option for on-shore power connections where this is available and we can provide limited capacity to the ships while in port."

Air pollution

The WN has long echoed the concerns of our readers about the level of pollution both in London and in Greenwich. The number of diesel-fuelled vehicles on our streets is of particular concern.

According to Clean Air in London, this year's death toll caused by long-term exposure to PM2.5 pollution now stands at over a thousand – and rising.

The founder of the Clean Air campaign group, Simon Birkett, says that on the 60th anniversary of the Clean Air Act this isn't good enough: "We need to ban diesel vehicles from the most polluted places before 2020, as more than half of all Londoners are demanding."

Scientists have pointed out that PM2.5 pollution can cause heart and lung disease and cancer; it can also aggravate asthma. It is no

wonder that Paris has banned diesel-fuelled vehicles.

Sadiq Khan, Zac Goldsmith and other mayoral candidates showed themselves aware of the serious issues around air pollution, and favoured a vehicle scrappage scheme, to reduce the number of polluting vehicles. Zac Goldsmith went a stage further: he wanted the government to hand over control of vehicle excise duty in London, encouraging drivers to "flip the car market from polluting to green." Many local authorities want greater powers to deal with air pollution.

Our new mayor, Sadiq Khan, would do well to take on board some of his rivals' proposals, which, combined with bringing forward (and extending) the Ultra Low Emissions Zones from 2020, would do much to help Londoners to breathe more safely. But no one is holding his breath over the cruise liner terminal issue. As they say, "See you in court!"

Newsbriefs

Congratulations to Joanne Lucas, stalwart member of the Westcombe Society, for running the London Marathon, and raising over £2,000.00 for Cancer Research and St George's Church. "I'm glad I did it – but never again!" says Joanne; "on the other hand . . .". Belated sponsorship offers are still being accepted!

The Pleasaunce Summer Festival will be held this year on Sunday June 5th. Starting at 12 noon there will be live music, an art marquee, children's entertainment, craft stalls, dance and sport sessions during the afternoon. Enjoy a fun, free afternoon. Visit <https://fegp.org/category/news/> or contact Lizzie at the Pistachios in the Park cafe in the Pleasaunce, Chevening Rd.

The Mycenae House film about Mycenae House's "Summer Sunday Extravaganza" on July 10th is on Youtube. This is a family fun day festival @ Mycenae House & Gardens as part of Greenwich ParksFest event. How many people on the video do you recognise? You might even see yourself... <http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk>
Videography by <http://www.hdcw.co.uk/>

**EU
IN
OR
OUT**

Join the debate at St John's Church
Come and put your questions to our
panel of experts. Panel includes:

Ken Clarke MP and **Frank Field MP**

Thursday 16th June, 7.30pm for 8pm
St John's Blackheath, Stratheden Rd

www.StJohnsBlackheath.org.uk

Westcombe Society Members' Evening

Friday 17th June
7.30 – 10pm
in Mycenae House



Invitations have gone out.

**If you haven't received
yours, please ring Caroline
on 020 8853 0948 and we'll ensure
that you receive one.**

* * *

Family Summer Picnic

Sat 25th June
1.30- 3.30 pm
Mycenae Gardens
Stalls, Family Games,
Tombola, Jazz, fun!



Westcombe News

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DISTRIBUTION Emily Norton and volunteers.
Volunteer distributors please phone 020 8853 2756 , we need your help!

ADVERTISING MANAGER
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Classified Ads (Market Place) 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. An email/web address = 3 words.) Deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month.
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To access back-numbers (in colour) go to: www.westcombesociety.org/westcombe-news/
Westcombe Society's Blog:
http://westcombe.blogspot.com

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:
Christine Legg, 69 Mycenae Road, London, SE3 7SE

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel.....

Email:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family Membership	£12	[]
Individual Membership	£8	[]
Senior Citizens/unwaged	£4	[]

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Westcombe Society AGM 13th May

GFMA wins award

Report by the Chair, Marilyn Little

Once again I must thank all our volunteers who, in so many varied ways help and support the society. My thanks also to Executive committee, and the members of the Environment and Event committees, and the team who deal with the production and distribution of the Westcombe News each month.

This year we have welcomed a new minutes Secretary and a new Membership Secretary and are very grateful for the support they provide. The members of all these committees give up their spare time to ensure that the business of the Society in continued.

The Environment Committee continue to monitor planning applications. They also share their experience by helping formulate and implement various policies with others including RBG, currently helping with the assessment of Article 4 within our area. They have worked jointly with the other societies on a number of important issues, including the application for multiple events on Circus Field. They are now working with the Blackheath Joint Working Party on policies governing the management of the Heath as a whole. Experience and knowledge is also shared with the Friends of Mycenae Gardens and this has also helped enhance the Dell. They also support larger projects such as the ongoing Silvertown Tunnel debate and Greenwich Line Users Group. We are also represented on the Royal Parks Stakeholder Committee, the Safety Neighbourhood Panel, the Safer Parks Panel and the Greenwich Conservation Group, and support other groups and societies eg EGRA.

We continue to enjoy the support of our Ward councillors on many local issues. Their full report appears in next month's *WN*.


I also have to thank the Events Committee who continue to provide regular events for various members of the community including our Helpers and Members. We are lucky to have a group of younger members who have been very active in arranging events for our younger residents, such as the Easter Egg Hunt for example. This year we joined forces with the Charlton Toy Library to arrange and run a Nearly New sale. We hope to continue with joint enterprises! If you have a couple of hours to spare from time to time do let us know, there will always be something that we need help with.

The more formal committees are only part of the story. We have many volunteers who help in all sorts of ways. We greatly appreciate their help at events, delivering the *WN*, and graffiti busting. Despite not having a Bazaar this year we have made a number of donations to local charities. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with events, especially for the Craft Fair we are planning for November.

I have to thank Neville yet again for the sterling work he does month in month out in producing the *Westcombe News*. Thanks to all involved in producing and distributing the paper, especially to Myles and Barbara who this year retired from their responsibility for distribution, and to Emily who has now taken on this crucial job.

Thanks also to our new Membership Secretary, Christine, who has been busily sending out membership cards to new members and updating our records. We have just over 200 members together with around 100 life members. We have improved our percentage of those members with whom we can communicate via email. Finally, thanks to Michael Helm for yet again inspecting the accounts.

I am very well aware that without the efforts of our members we would not enjoy the benefits that the Society bring to our area. We very much welcome new volunteers, and I am very happy to speak to anyone who would like more information at any time.

 **Letters** 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: Jack Downes Chair, Royal Standard Business & Traders Assoc.
The RSBTa offer our sincere thanks to the Westcombe Society for their generous donation of £1,000 to the Traders' Christmas Lights fund.

As local residents have seen, we have had Christmas Lights at the Standard for the last two Christmases. Whilst the display is still modest, we trust that they add some cheer to the area, together with the Christmas Tree erected by the Society and sponsored by a local business each year.

The 5 lights that have been purchased so far were done so with funds entirely raised by the Traders' Association, through membership fees, members' socials and fund raising in the area.

In addition to purchasing the lights, the Traders' Association has to fund the cost of the lights being put up and taken down which amounts to almost £1,000 per year.

We hope to increase the number of lights at the Standard and will be continuing to raise funds for this purpose. We are also planning Summer and Christmas community days around the Standard in 2016. Please keep an eye out for posters and

notices in the *Westcombe News*.

If any local business would like to know more about joining the Traders' Association, contact the Secretary at royalstandardbta@gmail.com.

We are proud to work in such a vibrant and community spirited area.

From: David Barrett Seren Park
I do not have school-age children any more but I am passionately interested in education; I am equally interested in our local community of which John Roan is a vital element.

I am struck though that debating the rights and wrongs of academies as such is, frankly, a waste of time - particularly for the school, the local community and, indeed, the *WN*. The Government is clearly intent of pushing through the current proposal and has a majority in the House of Commons. Also we should remember that these academies started under Labour and were supported by the Liberal Democrats both in opposition and coalition. The *WN* is a fine community newspaper – probably the best; but I do not really think it is going to have a great deal of influence

on national policy.

There are though a number of options as to what form an academy can take and choosing the right option is vital for all concerned and who wish "our" school the best. Surely it is to choosing the right, or at least the best, option that all the stakeholders should be addressing themselves?

Ed: The WN is concerned with information, not influence, David! And it seems that this has been overtaken by events as the policy has changed.



Global Fusion Music and Arts - GFMA - is this year's winner of Royal Greenwich's civic award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Entertainment.

In the photograph Louisa Le Marchand, Project Manager, and Chew Yeen, Freddy, Claude and Sharon, receive the award from the Mayor, Norman Adams

Recently Louisa had her first play 'Carlo's Cafe' performed at Mycenae house to a standing-room only audience. GFMA is now collaborating with Mycenae House on more events. The last Fridays of each month are now International Acoustic Music and Dance Nights.

GFMA started in Charlton 15 years as a multi- cultural group of musicians and artists who joined together to promote their

Wendy Higgs

talents. At first funded by the council, GFMA became a charity in 2013. Their activities include:

- * 7 free workshops in Charlton fortnightly – singing, drumming, Tai Chi, yoga, etc.
- * A writer's group" put on three plays with both Arts' Council and Heritage funding.
- * Many music and poetry events, including music-making, story-telling and poetry in London schools
- * GFMA held 5 festivals in Woolwich's central square last summer. One of these had a fashion show in the square and musicians from throughout the world- e.g. Nepal. China, India, Botswana, Nigeria and the US.
- * A celebration of St George's day in Mycenae House

See GFMS's video-clip dense! website - globalfusionarts.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' analysis: a 37,000 word document which shows exactly what is going wrong. Readers of Westcombe News can buy it by sending £5 and their address to

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

NGS garden at 42 Southbrook Road SE12

Barbara & Marek Polanski invite you to visit their large mature garden with its wide herbaceous borders full of colour and interest, surrounded by mature trees, framing sunny lawns, a central box parterre and an Indian pergola and gazebo.

Ancient pear trees are festooned in June with clouds of white Kiftsgate and Rambling Rector roses. Discover fishes and damselflies in 2 lily ponds. Many places to sit and relax, cooled by the fountains. Enjoy refreshments in a small classical summer house, almost hidden by roses Featured in Show me your Garden and Garden News.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS. DOGS ALLOWED. REFRESHMENTS Open Sat 11th, Sun 12th June (2-5.30) Visits by arrangement May - August: ring 8333 2176 or email polanski101@yahoo.co.uk Adm. £3.50, children free.

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LOCAL NEWS

Blackheath Art Society Althea Battams

The Blackheath Art Society is pleased to be holding their Annual Summer Exhibition in the Cafe Bar at the Blackheath Halls from Thursday 2nd to Wednesday 29th June.

The exhibition is open Monday to Friday 10.00 am -5.00 pm, and also before and during all performances, weekdays and weekends.

The artists work in a range of media and styles, exploring a variety of topics and themes. All the work on display is for sale at reasonable prices.



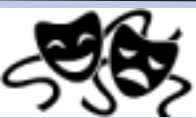
Above:
Girl in the Pink Hat
by Pat Coleman

Left: *Apples in Blue Bowl*
by Cristiana Angelini

If you are a local artist, and think that you may like to join our group, you are warmly invited to come and meet us and see our work at the Private View on Thursday 2nd June, from 6.30 to 8.30 in the Cafe Bar.



Timeshare



The Alexandra Players are honoured to have been offered the rights to be the first to stage a new play by Philip Ayckbourn. Philip, having seen our production of another of his plays, *The Essence of Love*, contacted us with an offer of producing the first performance of his latest play, *Timeshare*. After reading the script we jumped at the idea.

Timeshare presents us with the dilemma of what life could be like if we met ourselves at different stages of our life. Timeshare in a Spanish villa becomes a reality, and those who saw *The Essence of Love* will know that, in the hands of Philip Ayckbourn, this can lead to some amusing consequences. The play is directed by Keith Hartley and the cast is made up of Jackie Hartley, Mark Higgins, Katie Cleanthous, Mark Walker, Rose Bayley

and Lee Copp. The design and technical team are Roy Moore, Rob Hames, David Hawkett, Louise Gaul and Sue McGeehan.

Timeshare will be presented at the Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Avenue, on Wednesday to Saturday June 1st to 4th at 8 p.m. (doors open 30 minutes before the performance commences.)

You can now book your seats by phone, e-mail or, to ensure your seats are reserved and will not be re-sold, you can book and pay in advance with PayPal by logging on to our website at www.alexandraplayers.org.uk

Seats booked by e-mail or telephone must be collected not less than 15 minutes before the performance

Seat prices are £9 (£8 Concessions).

Book by telephone: 07867 627 987

E-mail: alexandraplayers@gmail.com

The EU: In, or Out? Andrew Riley

The veteran MPs Kenneth Clarke QC and Frank Field will go head to head on the pros and cons of staying in the European Union at a community debate hosted and organised by St John's Church in Stratheden Road on Thursday 16th June – exactly a week before the EU referendum vote itself.

They will briefly set out their respective positions before answering any questions you may have. The event, which will be held in St John's Church, is open to all and admission is free. Doors open at 7.30pm for light refreshments; the debate itself will start at 8pm.

Ken Clarke, a passionate pro-European, and former Chancellor of the Exchequer, will speak on behalf of the Britain Stronger In Europe camp. Frank Field, who has been the Labour MP for Birkenhead since 1979, will speak on behalf of Vote Leave.

The Rev Dr Pete Sanlon will also be on the panel, and will be offering a Christian perspective.

The new vicar of St John's, the Rev Dr Eddie Scrase-Field, will open and close the debate, which is intended to give people the information they need to come to a clear decision on the issue. If you have a question you would like to raise, please email Office@stjohnsblackheath.org.uk.

The view from Denmark: cartoon by Tom Jannsen



Eddie says: "I believe that it's very important that the church seeks to be at the heart of the community - that is why we are facilitating this event, to support and encourage people in this very important decision – the most challenging decision we face in a generation."

NOTE: The Ecumenical Borough Deans and Christchurch, Trafalgar Road have organised another debate on the EU at 7.45 on June 8th.

St George's Church and Parish	
In addition to the normal services:	
Wed. 8th June 7.45 for 8pm EU Referendum debate at Christ Church with Caroline Spelman MP	Sat.18th June Flower Festival (at St George's)
Fri. 10th June 8pm Parish social event: Quiz Night at St Mary Magdalene Peninsula (Holy Trinity)	Sun. 19th June at Christchurch & St George's Narrated Holy Communion
Sat. 11th June 3.30pm Afternoon tea at St George's to celebrate HM the Queen's 90th	Sunday 26th June Parish BBQ at Margaret's house 3 Hardy Road to welcome Andrew and Jayne
	Every Wed: 12.00 pm Lunch and Fellowship (Soup, bread, fruit and cheese) at St George's.

PHOTO: Tim Yeager



The Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir performed at Mycenae House on Thursday 21st April. The choir is made up of junior doctors and other NHS staff who have organised to raise awareness of what they perceive to be current threats to the NHS, whilst boosting morale, increasing positivity and protecting the NHS. Their performance, along with those of other musicians, was organised by the campaigning group Greenwich Keep Our NHS Public.

Editor: A new study by Tenovus Cancer Care and the Royal College of Music has found that singing in a choir for just one hour boosts levels of immune proteins in people affected by cancer. It also reduces stress and improves mood, and could therefore have a positive impact on overall health.

John Roan head steps down

Due to ill health, Nadine Powrie, the new headteacher at John Roan School, has stepped down after nine months.

The news follows a difficult period in the school's history: the controversy over the government's academisation plans caused a great deal of disquiet among the governors, the teachers and the parents, and some teachers thought that if the process went through both jobs, and some courses of study, might have been cut.

This threat has been lifted, at least for the

time being, as the government has backed off from the idea of compulsory academisation, but not before a number of strikes by teachers.

The head of Thomas Tallis School, Carolyn Roberts, is providing interim leadership until the end of the summer term.

The chair of the governing body, Patrick Cooper, said: "The governors appreciate how hard Nadine has worked for the school, and we are sure that all will join us in wishing her well."

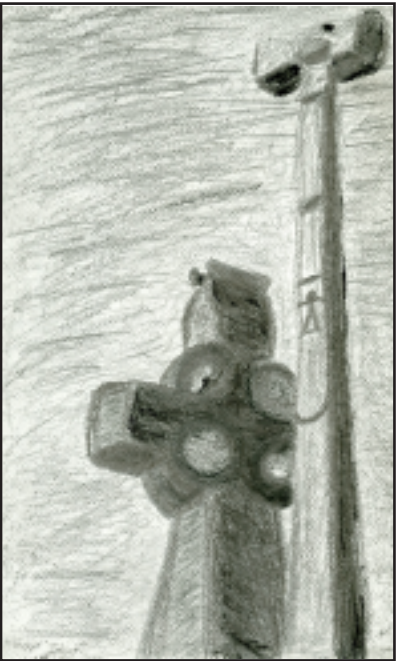
Time for art

Art in this area is booming! First, over the weekends of June 10th/11th, and 18th/19th June, nineteen local artists will be opening their studios to the public in the annual Greenwich Open Studios event.

In the Westcombe Park area are Felicity Moss and Colin Boothman, who are Artists in Residence at Mycenae House. They have had a studio there for twenty years, and they paint representational subjects using a variety of media.

Other artists open in the area include Nicola Corrigan in Maze Hill; Julia Godsiff, Iain Herdman, Janey Jones, Maria Silva, and Rebecca Witting, showing together in Blackheath Park; and Basia Burrough and Kate Honey in Dartmouth Row. Artists' studios are also open in West Greenwich, Plumstead, and in the Trafalgar Rd area.

For all participating artists, and venues, visit the Greenwich Open Studio Website: www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk



Howard Colyer

Howard Colyer's "Celtic Cross" exhibition is at the Made in Greenwich Gallery from June 4th - 20th. You can meet him on Sun. 12th June 2.00 - 5.00pm. He writes:

"As part of a sketchbook course run by the artist, Tony Hull, I went to the cast room of the V & A, and I drew St. George and the Dragon, and the great Celtic cross from Dublin, and I thought that my cross was the poorer of the two attempts, but everybody else disagreed with me, and praised my Celtic cross to an extent which surprised me.

"Since then I've made perhaps a 100 drawings and paintings based on the crosses displayed in the cast room, and those in the Celtic exhibition at the British Museum last winter. Generally, in my imagination I have taken what I've found and transported them to some location wilder than South Kensington or Great Russell Street: I haven't taken a documentary approach.

"But I do hope to return to St. George the dragon slayer one day!"

FEATURES

The liberating power of art

What made a woman working for 25 years in the corporate world of banking and high finance leave to devote herself to art? Why did she become a mudlark? And how did she find herself in a visiting cell in an American prison with a deathrow inmate? Yes, artist NICOLA WHITE has several stories to tell. The *WN* spoke to her to find out more.

Q: Nicola, how long have you lived in Greenwich?
NW: I moved up from Cornwall about fifteen years ago. First I lived in New Cross, and Lewisham, then Greenwich.
Q: Where are you from?
NW: Cornwall, originally, but I lived in France for seven years or so. I was married to a Frenchman for a while ... but that's another story.
Q: So you came here to work?
NW: That's right. I have been working with banks, financial organisations – Hedge funds, that sort of thing, for 25 years. The last job I had was PA to the Chairman of BNP Paribas in London.
Q: Doesn't seem to fit well with your interest in art!
NW: Yes, well, ever since I was a small girl I have been interested in objects, small things, you know, stones, shells, anything discarded by humans or nature ... not so much for the objects themselves, as the stories I could imagine around them
Q: So you became a mudlark!

Life as a mudlark

NW: Yes, when I came to London, I became a Thames mudlark in my spare time. Even old pieces of metal caught my eye, and fragments of glass, polished by the tides. I loved to imagine where the bottles came from, and how they ended up in the river. And I've found eighty or more messages in bottles!
Q: No used fivers in them?
LW: No – but you wouldn't believe the things I've picked up from the banks of the Thames at low tide. Recently I collected 150 lighters along one short stretch of the river; I even picked up about a hundred babies' dummies – not to mention a wartime grenade that had to be blown up by the bomb squad! I've found pieces of jewellery - and even an Elizabeth 1st half crown.
Q: And turned some of these *objet trouvés* into art?
NW: Yes, I've incorporated a lot of these objects into my art, – either just photographs, or you know, fish made from the glass I found – I also turned the lighters into a piece of art!



Westcombe Park Dental Practice



13 Station Crescent,
Westcombe Park, London SE3 7EQ Tel. 0208 8533304 Fax: 0208 8581784

Art in a bank

Q: All this while you were working in the corporate world?
NW: Yes. I think I've always felt the need to create. Then one day I thought some of my co-workers at the bank might have the same urge, so I suggested to my boss that we should have an employees' art exhibition.
Q: And he agreed?
NW: Yes, he did! The first exhibition we had in the bank displayed 400 art works. That was in 2011, and they have been having these shows every two years ever since.
Q: And continuing after you left?
NW: Yes, I'm very pleased about that.

Changing course

Q: So what made you change course, and leave the world of banking?
NW: It wasn't at all an easy decision – letting go of years of certainty, and security, but personally, it was essential. I'd just had enough: I wanted to pursue my dream of becoming an artist.
Q: How did you feel when you left – you left only a few days ago, I think?
NW: That's right! It's amazing, I feel liberated!
Q: And I gather that together with this interest in art, you are also greatly concerned about the plight of prisoners on death row in the United States?
NW: I met a nun where I live about seven years ago who told me about Lifelines, an organisation that befriends and supports prisoners on death row in the US through letter-writing.

Art in jail

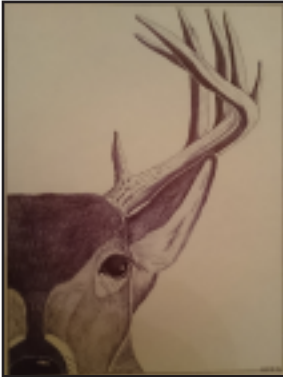
NW: I have been writing to a man named Steven for about seven years: he has been on death row in San Quentin jail, California, for almost 20 years; and since then I've also been writing to about a dozen others who are taking part in the Art Reach exhibition being put on in Greenwich this month.



Q: Did you ever get to meet Steve?
NW: Yes, in April 2015 I visited the US to see him. No easy task: the rules for visitors are very tight; you have to be an approved visitor. But it's well worthwhile to bring some friendship and warmth to a place typically known for bleakness and despair.
Q: So you managed it?
NW: Yes, I met him in a visiting cell in San Quentin prison. Because I had travelled so far I was allowed a five hour visit – and you would think, how can I fill in five hours?

Well the time slipped past so fast you could not believe it possible. During my visit Steve and I spoke about the beautiful handmade cards he sent to me made by fellow prisoners. Some of the inmates spend hours in their cells drawing and painting. Most of what they do remains in some lawyers' file, and are never seen. This seemed a great shame, really. It's so important for artists to share their work: when others see it, the work is somehow validated. So that's how I came up with this idea of mounting an exhibition of their art, and their poetry.
Q: Thanks, Nicola, for a really inspiring story. We look forward very much to seeing the exhibition. (See panel, right.)

Pictured: *Fish* by Nicola White
Whitetail deer by Doug Dworak
Spirit Crow by Keith Loker.



"Art Reach" - Art from Death Row, San Quentin, California

This is the first leg of a very moving exhibition of artwork and poetry by death row inmates in San Quentin jail, California. It has been arranged and coordinated by local artist, Nicola White and her penfriend Steve, on death row. On display too will be also some of their letters and stories. Whatever you feel about the death penalty, the exhibition provides an insight into the thoughts and feelings of men who have been incarcerated on San Quentin death row, in some cases, for over 30 years. Most of the works will be for sale with proceeds going partly to Amicus (lawyers fighting for justice on death row) and partly to buy art materials for the inmates. Nicola White, who years ago became a pen-friend to a prisoner on San Quentin death row, will also be showing some of her own art made from discarded objects collected along the River Thames. Meet Nicola and a representative from Amicus over a drink on Sunday June 26 between 4 and 7. There will be an opportunity to hear more about the work of Amicus and issues surrounding the death penalty, with a short presentation by Amicus at 5.00pm.
DATES: June 24th - July 6th. **VENUE:** Made in Greenwich Gallery, 324 Creek Road, SE10



With members all over the world, LifeLines supports and befriends prisoners on Death Row throughout the US through letter writing. LifeLines began in 1988 when its founder Jan Arriens watched the BBC documentary *Fourteen Days in May*. Jan was so moved by the words of the condemned prisoners who were interviewed, and by the dignity of the man who was to be executed, Edward Earl Johnson, that he wrote to three of the prisoners. They all replied, saying how much his letter had meant to them and how pleased they were to have their voices heard beyond the prison walls. LifeLines was the subject of a BBC programme in the Everyman series in 1992. Conferences are held twice a year: members can hear first-hand accounts of issues related to the death penalty. The conferences take place in London every autumn and at a different regional venue each spring. They are a great way for members to get to know one another and meet like-minded people, and are always very sociable and inspiring gatherings. Another way of keeping in touch is with the LifeLines quarterly newsletter *The Wing of Friendship*. Members and prisoners alike are encouraged to submit material for publication and we are happy to say that many do.

Patron: Clive Stafford-Smith O.B.E. For membership, email membership@lifelines-uk.org.uk See also <http://www.amicus-alj.org/>

STGEORGE'S
WESTCOMBE PARK

Flower festival

St George's Church on Glenlue Road is holding a flower festival on Saturday 18 June with a theme of music. Viewing will be from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The church will be open for arranging from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. All welcome to take part. Please register to enter a display at juditheastaugh@gmail.com. www.stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk

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WHAT'S ON



ARTS

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 20th 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.org-

4th Thursday of every month, - 2pm for 2.30pm

Thurs 23rd June 'The Collections of Napoleon and Josephine' talk by Carole Petipher::

A totally new insight into this iconic couple by examining the secret extravagances that they chose for their private chateau. Non-members may pay on the door **GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS**

King William Court, University of Greenwich

Mon 13th June 8.00 pm Valerie Woodgate: 'Sickert and the Camden Town Group': Founded in 1911 and inspired by French Post-Impressionist and working-class life in London, the short-lived Camden Town group heralded a new modern spirit in British Art.. Non-members may pay on the door

MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY

324 Creek Rd SE10 Made in Greenwich Gallery, 324 Creek Road, SE10 9SW. Open daily 11-5.30.

June 4-20: Howard Colyer's "Celtic Cross".

June 24-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 www.madeingreenwich.co.uk

CHILDREN & FAMILY

SEVERNDROOG CASTLE Castle Wood, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3RT

Main opening times: Thurs/Fri/Sun 12.30-4.30pm 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

GREENWICH THEATRE CROOMS HILL London SE10 8ES: ALSO: The Tramshed 51-53 Woolwich New Road, Woolwich SE18 6ES

Box office 8858 7755 greenwichtheatre.org.uk

Fri 3rd June - 11am & 2pm Jessie And The Cloud Machine - Fantastic For Families (Tramshed)

Ages 6+ £8.50 Cones £6.50

Sun 4th June 11am & 2pm Pitaschi the Kitten with Dreams - Fantastic for Families (Tramshed)

Pitschi the little kitten goes on an exciting adventure ... meet the animals after the show!

THE SPACE 296, Westferry Rd E.14 3RS www.space.org.uk **Sat 25th June- 1pm - 4.15pm** - Roof Garden The Girl and the Giraffe

Free - book in advance

THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES

Box Office: 8858 7755 greenwichtheatre.org.uk

Thurs 2nd June - 2pm & 4pm Spot - Fantastic For Families Enter a magical world of light, sound and movement. In this charming show from Italy for young children £8.50 Concs. £6.50

SHERINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE

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

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

All events are in the Main Hall of Mycenae House unless otherwise stated:

Members' Evening - Fri 17th June 7.30 - 10.00

Summer Picnic Sat 25th June Mycenae Gardens 1.30pm.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Fri 23rd Sept.

Autumn Nearly New Sale - Sat 24th September

Chrysanthemum Tea - Sat 15th October

Autumn Quiz - Friday 21st October

Christmas Bazaar 21st Nov. Venue TBC

COMMUNITY

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

Wed -1st June 7.30pm -9.30pm 'Let's Go Cruising' Stephen Gosling explores what life is like on a cruise ship. Sunfields Methodist Church Old Dover Rd.

WESTCOMBE WOODLANDS Next volunteer day Sunday June 5th.

GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS

First Wednesday of every month - 7.30pm at Sunfields, Old Dover Rd, SE3 8SJ Tel 0208 858 9497

Fri 17th June World Cinema Night Charlton House

Sat 18th June Summer World Music Day- General Gordon Square, Woolwich

Friday 24th June GFMA Acoustic Night, Refugee Night Special Mycenae House Free workshops

Fortnightly Tuesday & Friday community workshops 7.30-8.30pm at Mascalls Meeting Room off Victoria Way, Charlton SE7 7TT Tai Chi, Singing, drumming, Writer's Group, African Dance Info 0208 858 9497

DAVY'S WINE VAULTS - Greenwich, 161 Greenwich High Road SE10 8JA

Sat. 18th June 10:00am Summer Tasting & Four Course Lunch + coffee. £49.95 per person This is a fantastic day: over 70 wines to sample and experts on hand to advise. Tickets sell out very fast, so please book early to avoid missing out. Tel. 020 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!

SPOKEN WORD

BLACKHEATH FLOWER ARRANGING SOCIETY 3rd Friday of each month. Graham Harmer - 'June is Busting Out all Over' Contact: Mrs Jillian Smith 0208 857 1355 Non-members- £5

Contact: Mrs Jillian Smith 0208 857 1355

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tues 14th June - 7.30pm Ian Bull - 'The Royal Arsenal - Then & Now' Non-members £1

BLACKHEATH HALLS 23, Lee Rd, Blackheath SE3 9RQ Box Office: 0208 463 0100

WED 8th JUN 8pm MISHA GLENNY

Nemesis: One Man and The Battle For Rio: Brazil's Most Wanted Man Recital Room

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Thurs. 9th JUN 8pm PROF. ROBERT WINSTON

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BOOK SALE

at the Church of the Ascension, Dartmouth Row Sat. 18th June

MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: JUNE - JULY

Fri 3rd June 7.30pm - The Icarus Club. Live acoustic music night. £7.

Thurs 9th June 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classics for Baby and You. £10.

Fri 10th June 8pm Candlit Live Jazz hosted by Dave Silk. £10.

Fri 24th June 7.30pm - Global Fusion Music & Arts Acoustic Nights. Featuring Bards Without Borders as part of the 400 year anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare (for Refugee Week 2016). £6.

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.

For further information visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

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talk about... PRE-RAPHAELITES



The Talk About...Art (TAA) high-tech exhibition featuring the Pre-Raphaelite painters will be shown at Deptford Lounge 9 Giffin Street, SE8 in June following its successful six-week run at St Margaret's Church last October. This new joint venture to promote the visual arts, particularly amongst teenagers, aims to attract local schoolchildren by using stunning state-of-the-art light box technology. The free exhibition runs from June 1st to 29th, featuring a series of public talks and drawing workshops, and is open weekday 8.00am-10.00pm. Saturdays. 9.00am - 5.00pm & Sundays 10.00am -5.00pm.

THEATRE

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E: alexandraplayers@gmail.com

Wed 1st - 4th June 8.00pm TIMESHARE

Premiere of Philip Ayckbourn's new comedy

THE SPACE 296, Westferry Road E14 3RS

www.space.org.uk **Thurs 9th June - 8.00pm-**

9.45pm LAMP LITE: LOOKBOOK

An evening of bold new writing including eight short play readings by members of Sexy Lamp Society, from sci-fi to sex work There will be a writer's response element to the night, open to everyone

Tickets £8 - £10

BLACKHEATH HALLS

23 Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9RQ

Sat 18th June 8.00pm Fay Hield Trad. English folk singer & The Hurricanes £17 /£15 Concs.

Sun 19th June Rosamunde Trio Martino Tirimo piano |BenSayevich violin|Daniel Vels cello Franck: Piano Quartet in F minor Schubert: Piano Quintet, D667 (Trout) Recital Room £14

Fri 1st July 7.30pm BANISHED Award winning composer Stephen McNeff and librettist Olivia Fuchs join forces to create a new opera for Trinity Laban students Great Hall £15|£12

SEVERNDROOG CASTLE Castle Wood, Shooters Hill, SE18 3RTwww.severndroogcastle.org.uk

Sun 19th June - 5.00pm-8.00pm

SUMMER TWILIGHT CONCERT -

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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.

Friday 17th June 1pm-3pm - Friends Friday

(talk & refreshments, free for Friends of AE or £5 on door for guests)

Sat 18th June 10am-1pm Communities at Play Inter-generational board games - workshop- (Free drop-in)

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS: 24th June 12.00 - 1.00 pm Trinity Laban students in the Old Bakehouse. Free, but retiring collection

Saturday 25th June - 11am-12.30pm - Saturday Belly Dancing with Maria- (£7.00)



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John Payne

johnpayne.com

June: Spoilt for choice



Jazz in the Park

The Friend's annual Midsummer Jazz Concert is on Sunday 19 June 2016 - 1pm to 3.30pm. This has become one of the highlights of our year in Greenwich Park. Once again it features the Phoenix Dixieland Jazz Band. This is an event for the whole family, held in the Observatory Gardens. Gardens open 12.00 pm.
Sunday 19 June 2016 - 1pm to 3.30pm Adults £5 in advance (£7 on the gate), under 16 free. Tickets from Friends of Greenwich Park, 52 Greenwich Park Street, Greenwich, SE10 9LT. Tel 020 8853 2150. Cheques payable to Friends of Greenwich Park. Please enclose a sae.
Tickets are non-refundable if the event is cancelled due to bad weather.



Angela Buffoni - Not For You

27 May 2016 – 10 June 2016
PV 27 May 6.00 – 8.30 pm

The Greenwich Gallery is pleased to present new photographic works by Angela Buffoni documenting how London in general has changed and the south east of the city in particular.

The exhibition consists of colour photographs shot over the years on both analogue and digital cameras. All prints are limited editions.

Against the backdrop of skyscrapers and building sites Angela Buffoni's visual comments capture a city in transition, slowly becoming more exclusive as a result of housing policies and the manic property market.

The fast paced gentrification of vast areas of London is already producing spiralling rent hikes, and the ensuing erosion of local communities. High rents are forcing out independent shops, cafés and bars. Local residents and key workers unable to pay increased **rents** are finding it increasingly necessary to relocate.

27th May – 10th June PV 27th 6.00 – 8.30 pm

*Opening hours: Mon -Fri 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday 12noon – 4pm
The Greenwich Gallery, Linear House, Peyton Place London SE10 8RS
Tel. (0)20 8465 5968 <http://www.thegreenwichgallery.com/home/4571001397>*



Summer picnic

The Westcombe Society's popular Summer Family Picnic is on Saturday 25th June - and a much enjoyed feature is the sound of Dave Silk's jazz band. Some readers will have heard Dave and his talented players perform in their Jazz Nights May Fest 2016, in venues in Greenwich and historic Rye. (Ed: Let the WN know in good time, next year, Dave!)

This year, the summer picnic will feature all the old favourites – stalls, a Pimms bar, Tombola, and lots of family games and sports competitions.

Festivals galore!

Royal Greenwich Festivals is an annual series of high quality events designed to showcase the cultural vibrancy of our borough. There is something for everyone on offer. Among the events:

Sat 11th June: 12.00 - 3.00 pm **The Bollywood Brass Band** play the very best classical and Bollywood music in Cutty Sark Gardens. Free.

Sat 18th June. 12.00 - 3.00 pm **World Music** - General Gordon Square Woolwich
Fri. 24th June - Sat 2nd July Greenwich + Docklands International Festival starts at the National Maritime Museum with **Fri. 24th June 10.00 pm The House:** dance, digital projection music, narration & pyrotechnics marking the 400th anniversary of the Queen's House. Seats: £15.00 | £12.00 concs. Free standing places on the day.

Sat 25th June 1.00 - 9.30 pm -Sun 26th June 12.00 - 7.00 pm Greenwich Fair 22 street art performances in Greenwich Town Centre/ ORNC Cutty Sark Gardens. Free
Sat 2nd July 9.00 for 10.00 pm The Clash of Drums by Les Commandos Percu & Deabru Beltzak: percussion and fireworks at the Parade Ground, Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich. Free.

Mon 27th - Friday 1st July 4.00 - 7.00 pm Moat Island: Outdoor arts adventures for under 12s: theatre, stories, games dance. Well Hall Pleasaunce Free

Book tickets at:
www.festival.org
For full details of all summer events planned go to www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/festivals
The Royal Greenwich Festival Guide 2016 is available at all libraries.

Summer Party at the Pleasaunce! and it's free, says Sue Gay

Sunday 5th June is party time in East Greenwich Pleasaunce. On offer: a free afternoon with loads of live music, an art exhibition and a variety of children's entertainment, running from 12 noon to 5.00pm.

Bring a picnic and enjoy a pleasant day out – all for nothing. There will be a Bar and Cake Stall plus our great little cafe; plus the Meantime Jazz band, and a selection of great rock and pop bands. including Los Dawsons and Ronnie and the Ripcords, alongside a younger version of their band...

You may pick up a bargain in the Art Tent and there will be children's sports organised by ProInfinity, as well as story telling for the little ones; all this and craft making, too.

See <http://fegp.org> for more details.

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Sunday 12 June, 6.30pm
With extended interval for a picnic (bring your own)

Charlotte Molins - Soprano
Nick Pritchard - Tenor
Ben Davis - Bass

Tickets online or at the door: £18, £12
www.ticketsource.co.uk/alexander



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

Are HGVs ruining your quality of life?

A group of Westcombe Hill residents are campaigning to stop the influx of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) that are using roads in the Westcombe Park Conservation Area as a cut-through for the massive building projects on Greenwich Peninsula, and would like to hear from local residents who have noticed an increase in heavy traffic using residential roads.

Over the last year, the rise in the number of 18-tonne and above vehicles has been impossible to ignore. “We’re woken up most days to the whole house shaking as skip lorries, cement lorries and other huge eighteen-tonners thunder down the road,”

says Westcombe Hill resident and lorry-ban campaigner Daren Wallbank.

“Often, it’s before 7am, which is strictly against the rules of the London Lorry Control Scheme. But it’s constant through rush hour, as the lorries use the streets of Westcombe Park to avoid congestion on the A102.”

Apart from the noise pollution, HGVs are adding to atmospheric pollution - which is already above EU guidelines in this area – and posing a very real danger to pedestrians.

Residents have witnessed shouting matches between HGV and bus drivers, as both refuse to make way for the other on the narrow top half of Westcombe Hill.

“I’ve been verbally abused by an HGV driver more than once whilst trying to get my toddler out of my car parked on the road,” reports Georgia Blundell, who is also campaigning. “It’s terrifying and only going to get worse if the Silvertown Tunnel gets the go ahead.”

The campaigners have been in talks with the Royal Borough of Greenwich about the problem. RBG carried out traffic surveys earlier this year, but admits that the data was flawed: they say that they will need more data and anecdotal evidence before they consider taking action.

So more evidence is needed!

If you’ve noticed an increase in heavy traffic using your road, please contact Daren Wallbank on darenwallbank@gmail.com



‘Beast of the Thames’ spotted?

A video filmed from the Emirates Air Line Cable Car across the Thames appears to show a “strange creature” in the river which has an uncanny similarity to the Loch Ness monster.

There are claims that it could have been a whale, or even a submarine. The Admiralty has denied all knowledge (though a local submarine-spotting

Now you see it . . .



... now you don’t

group say that it could have been a Russian ‘humpback’ submarine).

The Port of London Authority have indicated that there have been no reliable reports of submarines entering Greenwich territorial waters

The YouTube clip shows a long dark shape which appears to have two humps emerging briefly from the river before disappearing into the murky depths in front of The O2 in Greenwich.

Through the ages there have been a number of sightings of huge sea serpents: maybe this is was it was?

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Liberating the roots



Mycenae Gardens have been benefiting from the good deeds of a wonderful team of GoodGym volunteers who have been helping to restore a badly compacted area under the magnificent and historic plane trees.

GoodGym is an organisation established in 2009 in which a group of runners get fit by doing physical tasks that benefit local communities. Rather than exercising indoors, GoodGym aims to channel this energy towards social good. As a result, eleven volunteers from various London Boroughs worked tirelessly to aerate with garden forks a large area of solid ground and then haul bark chip to mulch the decompacted ground. They were a splendid convivial bunch and they completed the task over two Saturdays in March and April together with Friends of Mycenae Gardens. After each session the volunteers enjoyed refreshments and felt sure the ancient plane trees were also feeling invigorated. **GoodGym Greenwich meet on Wednesdays at 7pm in St Anne’s Court, Greenwich University. Contact Adele Prince (adele@goodgym.org) for more information.**



Greenwich’s mysterious holes

Investigations are under way after a huge hole opened up on 12th May in Woodland Terrace, Charlton, swallowing up a Vauxhall Zafira

Another, smaller hole opened up in Sandy Hill Road, in a housing estate in Woolwich, on the same day.

The two events, which are not thought to be linked, occurred just ten days after a large hole developed in front of housing off Kings Highway in Plumstead.

48 people had to be evacuated from nearby Brickfield Cottages.

Industrial archeologist Dr Per von Scheibner has told the *Greenwich Mercury* that the main suspects as to the cause are old chalk minings, and called for a thorough investigation to be carried out.

The Council is liaising with Southern Gas Networks and Thames water to ensure there has been no pipe damage; road closures are expected to last at least a week.

Traffic disruptions can be expected in the following locations:

- * The route between Maryon Rd & Heathwood Gardens
- * Woodland Terrace, Charlton
- * Sandy Hill Road, Woolwich

There will be local bus diversions

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Marilyn Little, 163, Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP
8853 1312 Advertising@westcombesociety.org
ALL classified adverts 30p per word. Please make cheques payable to The Westcombe Society

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NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS The Georgian House. Delightful period house in charming Pickering market town. Sleeps 10. http://www.thegeorgianhouse.co.uk/ Tel: 07876 385189
HOUSE TO RENT Sole Rose is a charming and beautifully furnished period house in the popular seaside town of Southwold, Suffolk. Situated within easy walking distance of the High Street, beach and pier. Sleeps 4/6. http://www.solerose.co.uk 07876385189

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(See <http://www.westcombesociety.org>)

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Fell 3 laurel in rear garden

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