The Cruise Liner Terminal controversy

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 the first to arrive into Greenwich last March of its sister ship, Viking Star.

For more information, please visit: [www.vikingcruises.co.uk](http://www.vikingcruises.co.uk)

**Greenwich welcomes the Viking Sea**

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 Bloore, backed by The East Greenwich Residents’ Association (EGRA) and the Greenwich Socirty ran a successful crowd-funding campaign to support the legal case which raised £6,000.

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, (Anice 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 Bloore 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 Bloore 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, 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 scrapage 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, Saqdh Khan, would do well to take on board some of his rival’s 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**

C**ongratulations 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 …”. Related sponsorship offers are still being accepted!

The Pleasance 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://bkgp.org/category/news/](http://https://bkgp.org/category/news/) or contact Lizzie at the Patachou in the Park cafe in the Pleasance, 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 at 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](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)

Videography by [http://www.bdec.co.uk](http://www.bdec.co.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 8583 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 June 2016

COMMUNITY

Westcombe Society AGM 13th May 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 members 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 is 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 making Woodside Park a CAC 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 Silverstoun 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 GOMA.

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

I also have to thank the Events Committee who continue to provide regular events for various members of the community we all tend to enjoy as 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 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 hard work and events, delivering the NW and graffiti busting.

Despite not having a June 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 Fair which we plan 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 volunteers in producing and distributing the paper, especially to Miles and Barbara who this year retired from their responsibility for distribution; and to Emily who has now taken on this important job.

Thanks also to our new Membership Secretary, Christine, who has been busily sending out membership cards to new members and recording 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 make regular contact by 20%. We have also introduced a new system for publishing our Christmas issue.

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.

John Fusion Music and Arts

GFMA – this year’s winner of Royal Greenwich’s civic award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Entertainment.

In the photograph Louise Le Marchand, Project Manager, and Chew Gang, Frederick, Claude and Sharon, receive the award from the Mayor, Norman Adams. Recently Louise had her first play “Carlo’s Café” performed at Mycenae House to a standing room only audience. GFMA is now collaborating with Mycenae House on more events. The last Festival of our season are now International Acoustic Music and Dance Nights.

GFMA started in Charlton 15 years as a multi-cultural group of musicians and artists who jotted together to promote their talents. At first funded by the council, GFMA became a charity in 2013. Their activities include:

• A group of jazz musicians fortifying – 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 year. The events included fashion shows in the square and music from musicians from throughout the world – e.g. Nepal, China, India, Botswana, Nigeria and the USA.

• A celebration of St George’s day in Mycenae House.

See GFMA’s video clip dense! website - globalfusionsinca.co.uk

Can we do anything about Education?

Yes! The arrival of computers has bewilded thoughtful people and upset 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 leaves them as far 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 & Mark, Polanski invite you to visit their large mature garden with its wide hedges and borders of colour and interest, surrounded by mature trees, framing sunny communications 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 fuchsias and delphiniums in 2 lidsy, ponds makes places to sit and rest, cooled by the fountain. Enjoy refreshments in a small classical summer house, almost hidden by roses featured in Show me your Garden and Garden News.

Westcombe News 2016

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WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Tel: 020 8885 8498
ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO
www.westcombe.org

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Environment Editor: Maggie Gravelle
What’s On: Barbara Ward
Reporters: The community - that means you!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Emily Norton All queries and all matters to: 020 8885 2756
info@westcombe.org

DISTRIBUTION

Emily Norton and volunteers
Volunteer distributors please phone
020 8885 2756 , we need your help!

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Marilyn Little, 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 020 8885 1312
Advertising@westcombe.org

All ads payable in advance by cheque to The Westcombe Society.
DISPLAY: Single column item x 6cm: One item £20; 2 items £30; 3 items £40; 4 items £50; 5 or more (a telephone number = one word). An email address = 3 words.) Deadline for all ads is 10th day of the preceding month.

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The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor. We thank all our contributors who work to pro tect the interests of our readers by ensuring as far as possible the bona fides of the advertising but cannot accept any responsi bility for advertisements. Any complaints should be addressed to the Editor.

To access back-numbers (in colour) go to: www.westcombe.org/westcombe/news/ Westcombe Society’s Blog: http://westcombe.blogspot.com

Letters

Any views expressed are personal, and are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or the NW. Please give expressions & telephone numbers where possible.

Westcombe News June 2016

Front: Jack Dooneen, Chair, Royal Standard Business & Traders, The RSBA offer our sincere thanks to the GOMA for raising, over a generous donation of £1,000 to the Traders’ Christmas Lights fund. Thanks to everyone for all your efforts, we have our Christmas Lights at the Standard for the last two Christmas seasons. The display is still intact, 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 3 lights that have been purchased so far were done so entirely by the generosity raised by the Traders’ Association, through membership fees, members’ subscriptions and donations, and raised in the area.

In addition to purchasing the lights, the Traders’ Association is also trying to fund the cost of the lights being put up and taken down which amounts to almost £100 per year.

We hope to increase the number of lights at the Standard and will be continuing to raise funds for the purpose. The cost of lighting the Standard for 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 royalstandardbus.co.uk.

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

From: David Barrett Seven 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 Rose is a vital element. I am struck though that debating the rights and wrongs of academies as such is finally, a waste of time – particularly for the school, the local community and, indeed, the NW. The Government is clearly intent on perpetuating the correct 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 coalitions.

The NW is a vital and very well-respected 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 a number of options as to what form an academic tax can and does. No one can or should be ignored and who wish "our" school the best. Surely it is in choosing the right, or at least the best, option that all stakeholders should be addressing themselves?

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

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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.

This year’s work is 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 Cristina Angelini

If you are a local artist, and think that you may like to join us, you are warmly invited to come and meet us and see our work at the Preview View on Thursday 2nd June, from 6.10 to 8.10 in the Cafe Bar.

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 Cleanshout, Mark Walker, Rose Bayley and Lee Copp. The design and technical team are Roy Moore, Rob Hames, David Hawkett, Louise Gaul and Sue McGeachan.

Timeshare will be presented at the Alexandra Hall, Brantham Avenue, on Wednesday to Saturday June 1st to 4th at 8 p.m. (doors open 50 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.axelradialplayers.org.uk

Seats booked by e-mail or telephone must be collected not less than 15 minutes before the performance. Seat prices are £9 (Concessions). Book by telephone: 07867 627 987 E-mail: alexandradr@ players@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 organized by St John’s Church in Stratheaven 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.

Ken Clarke, a passionate pro-European, and former Chancellor of the Exchequer, will speak on behalf of the British 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 Salson will be on the panel, and will be offering a Christian perspective.

The new vicar of St John’s, the Rev Dr Eddie Scrace-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.

Time for art

As part of a sketchbook course run by the local musician, Tony Hall, 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 somewhere lighter and 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!”

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
Fri. 10th June 8pm Parish social event: Quiz Night at St Mary Magdalene Peninsula (Holy Trinity) Sat. 11th June 3.30pm Afternoon tea at St George’s to celebrate HM the Queen’s 90th
Sat.18th June Flower Festival (at St George’s)
Sun. 19th June at Christchurch & St George’s Narrated Holy Communion 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.

The LeWilliam 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 choirs, 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 fun, and I think 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 Coop, 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.”
Anti-wrinkle Treatments and Dermal Fillers

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 INP Paribus in London.
Q: Doesn’t it 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 moved 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?
NW: 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 objets 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.

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 same same, 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 only had a few days, 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 man 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.

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

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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: 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 for 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 remain in some lawyers’ files, 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. 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.)
Patron: Fish by Nicola White
Wholesale door by Doug Drinkwater
Printed by: Keith Loken

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

Westcombe News June 2016

"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 partner Steve on death row.

On display too will be some of their letters and stories. Whatever you feel about the death penalty, this 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 Steinmetz 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 during the River Thames.

Meet Nicola and a reenactment from Amicus over a drink on Sunday June 26th between 4 and 7. There will also 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.

AMICUS, June 26th - July 6th, VENUE, Made-in-Greenwich Gallery, 124 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 Aarhus watched a 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 letters meant to them. Nicola White was pleased they were to have their voices heard beyond the prison walls.

Lifelines was the subject of a BBC programme in the Etridgeman 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: Chris Stafford-Smith O.B.E.
For membership, email membership@lifelines-uk.org.uk
See also http://www.amicus-uk.org/
June: Spoilt for choice

Jazz in the Park

The Friend’s annual Midsummer Jazz Concert is on Saturday 19 June 2016 - 1pm to 3.30pm. It 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 8LT. Tel 020 8853 2186. 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

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.

While the exhibition may not have the power to either transform or halt this process, every child can do so much more than he or she may consider possible.

“The Pointer School

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

“Not for you” – a documentary ‘in transition’

We believe that, with love, guidance, encouragement, discipline and hard work, every child can do so much more than he or she may consider possible.”

Mr RIS Higgins Headmaster

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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) conc. Free standing places on the day.

Sat 25th June 1.00 - 5.30 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 Perce & Drums Beltzouk 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 activities for under 12s: theatre, stories, games, dance. Well Hall Pleasure Grounds. Free.

Summer Party at the Pleasance!

and it’s free, says Sue Gay

Sunday 5th June is party time in East Greenwich Pleasance. 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 Diosmos and Ronnie and the Rockets, 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 ProPlinity, as well as story telling for the little ones, all this and - craft making, too. See http://fpg.org.uk for more details.

Westcombe News June 2016
ENVIRONMENT

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 Tory-ban campaigner Daren Wulffbank.

“Often, it’s before 7am, which is strictly against the rules of the London Lorry Control Scheme, but it’s common 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 shunting 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. BRGB 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 Wulffbank on darenwulffbank@gmail.com

Liberating the roots

Mycene 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 had bark chip to match the decomposed ground. They were a splendiferous bunch and they completed the task over two Saturdays in March and April together with Friends of Mycene 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, swelling 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 house off Kings Highway in Plaistead.

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.

48 people had to be evacuated from nearby Brickfield Cottages.

Industrial archeologist Dr Per von Schellner has told the Greenwich Mercury that the main suspects as to the cause are old chalk mining, 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.

Are HGVs ruining your quality of life?

A video filmed from the Emirates AirLine 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 through a local submarine-spotting group say that it could have been a Russian ‘hunchback’ 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?

‘Beast of the Thames’ spotted?

Now you see it ...  ... now you don’t

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