



Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops

October 2016 Issue 8

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



The Westcombe Society Christmas Bazaar IS BACK! 26th November at Invicta School.
Please contact info@westcombesociety.org for craft table bookings or ring 020 8853 1312.

Review of regulations needed *WN Reporter*

There is increasing concern about the Council's approach to applications for subterranean developments in domestic housing in Greenwich – in particular in areas where there may be a potential subsidence problem; and on hilly areas where there is an increased risk of instability.

The issue has been highlighted over a planning application approved on 12th July for the development of a basement extension in a house in Foyle Road, as reported in the *WN* in September (page 7).

Decisions on such issues are informed by a "Residential Extensions, Basements and Conversions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)" which gives guidance to both applicants and councillors when taking decisions about planning applications.

Although the SPD was only formally adopted on July 20th 2016, some days after the planning decision was taken, the Planning Committee was aware of the draft document and reference was made to it during the deliberations.

Committee "misled"

There are concerns that members of the Planning Committee at the Committee meeting on 12th July were misled by claims that Greenwich Council controls on basement extensions were in line with those of other London Boroughs.

Contrary to the impression given by officers to the Planning Committee meeting, Greenwich's SPD is much less comprehensive than those of other boroughs, consisting of barely four pages of "guidance". Compare that with the SPDs of other boroughs: Westminster's SPD is over 40 pages long, plus appendices; Camden's is similar (as quoted in September's *WN*), and Kensington and Chelsea now have quite stringent restrictions in place (not just guidance).

There are concerns that the decision to grant planning permission was therefore based on a misapprehension. There is a

question as to whether this constitutes grounds for revoking the permission pending further public examination.

Moratorium?

The Council is now being urged by concerned residents to introduce a moratorium on applications for basement extensions until a new policy has been adopted which is more consistent with the more rigorous approach adopted by other London Boroughs which have far more experience of this problem.

Many observers think that local residents are justifiably concerned, and it looks as though appeals may be in preparation. At the very least it is felt strongly that the Council should take the risks involved in such developments more seriously and investigate applications more thoroughly, taking into account particularly local ground conditions.

Groundwater flow

As local geologist Mike Norton observes: "The practice of building large cellars in some parts of the area where the lower part of the sands and gravels comes to the surface appears to be disrupting groundwater flow, causing localised flooding during periods of high rainfall." Such problems may be the tip of the iceberg.

Apart from the dangers inherent in such developments where adequate surveys have not taken place, there are also concerns about other issues in this particular application in Foyle Road: any excavation is certain to produce a huge amount of spoil, which would have to be removed through a narrow passageway between dwellings, causing a great deal of disruption and mess.

Footnote:

Developments such as those in Foyle Road are still subject to more stringent Building Controls. Local residents are watching developments with interest.



High Tide by Ray Charter

This haunting image of the sculpture *The Rising Tide* by world-renowned underwater sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor features in the exhibition of photographs by Aperture Woolwich Photographic Society in Mycenae House. The sculpture is regularly concealed and revealed by the daily ebb and flow of the Thames on the Vauxhall foreshore.

The sculpture suggests strongly that rising water levels around the globe are linked with the pumpjacks (or 'nodding donkeys') of the oil companies. The photographic exhibition continues until the end of October, and some of the items are for sale.

Come Dine with Us & Change the World *Mark Johnson-Brown*

Mycenae Soup Tickets Now On Sale and Going Fast

Mycenae House is hosting a second innovative, fun, community micro-granting dinner called 'Mycenae Soup' on Friday 18th November at 7.00pm.

The basic idea is that up to 120 people go for dinner at Mycenae House, paying a minimum of £10 per head for a delicious meal and evenings entertainment. The food is provided by local caterers as sponsorship, and all the funds raised are given to a local charitable project. The charitable project is chosen by the diners who get to vote after hearing two minute presentations from each of the projects.

The event will once again be hosted by Rev Tim from St George's Church with special guest performances from local musicians and artists. Last year the event sold out and people had to be turned away. This year, the organisers hope to sell out the event in record time.

So, if you are interested in booking a place or a table at the event please call 0208 8581749 for tickets or book online at www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

If you know of, or are, a local project or charitable organisation who would benefit from additional funds, call

Mycenae House for the simple application form. Last year's winners, the Mental Health Activity Trust based in Delacourt Road, walked away with £1279 which funded a year-long gardening project. Call 020 8858 1749 for more details.



This splendid array of flowers outside the Royal Standard pub survived well into the scorching days of the first half of September, when temperatures rose to 34 degrees.



Newsbriefs



The Night Garden

A new application for In the Night Garden Live for 2017 on Circus Field has been made. Unfortunately they have not been able to rejig their time slots and are asking for only four days fewer than they had this year. The Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) are minded to approve of the application at their meeting on 18th October, but anyone who thinks otherwise should inform the BJWP in good time.

Blackheath fatality

Thirty-year-old Oliver Dearlove from Eltham, who worked in a bank in Belgravia, was killed by a single punch just after midnight on Sun. 27th August. He was walking along Tranquil Vale towards the station. A man from Plumstead has been charged.



The London Bridges walk

Nine members of the Westcombe Society took part on Sunday 18th September, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Care,

Pleasaunce break-in

Commiseration to Lizzie at Pistachios in the Park. It is sometimes the damage caused by break-ins rather than the goods taken that

cause most upset and disruption. This was certainly the case at the eco café which was targeted on 10th Sept. Broken shutters, smashed glass and other damage prevented the Café opening for a week: just for a till containing a small float! A sterling effort by Lizzie and her team enabled the Café to open for business again on the 16th. We hope you have recovered from this trauma Lizzie: it was very pleasing to see that your customers are happy to be back.

High balls in the Cable Car

Proposals have been set in train for an alcohol licence for the Cable Car. Puritans argue that the cable car is for commuters, not consumers of alcohol. The proposal is in line with Emirates Airlines' policy on serving alcohol in flight.

Westcombe Society events

The Chrysanthemum Tea

for Senior Citizens is on Sat. 15th Oct.
2.00pm to 4.00pm in Mycenae House

Invites have been sent out, but if you haven't had one or would like to come along for the first time, please contact Caroline Owens on 020 8853 0948. If you would like to make cakes for our guests, these are always gratefully received. Please contact Joanne on 07709 571777.

Quiz Night

Fri 21st Oct. 7.30pm for 8.00pm at Mycenae House.
Please book your team of 6, or your place on a team, by calling Caroline Owens on 8853 0948 by October 15th.
Chicken/fish 'n chips may also be ordered (£6.00; just chips: £2.00).
Tickets: £5.00 members, £6.00 non-members

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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Environment Editor: Maggie Gravelle

What's On: Barbara Ward

Reporters: The community – that means you!

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Emily Norton All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2756
environment@westcombesociety.org

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

ADVERTISING MANAGER
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Advertising@westcombesociety.org

All adverts payable in advance by cheque to The Westcombe Society.
DISPLAY: Single column 6cm x 6cm: One - four issues £35, five-plus issues £30 each. Other sizes: please inquire.
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

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From your editor: his report at the Westcombe Society's AGM 2016

The *WN* is a truly community newspaper: it is delivered to everyone in the Westcombe Park area, regardless of whether they belong to the Westcombe Society or not, and it is also widely read outside our immediate area.

I am very pleased and proud to have been a part of it, and I am very grateful to all those who have kept it alive since its inauguration in 1973 – particularly past editors. And also to all those who help to produce or distribute it; and to many fine contributors.

Invidious to name names perhaps, but I must mention Marilyn, who does stalwart work on the advertising, and keeps a useful weather eye on me (while granting a dangerous degree of editorial independence!) and Myles and Barbara, who have been managing the distribution for countless years greatly assisted by our magnificent team of distributors; Emily Norton, who not only works hard on the environment committee, but has now taken over from Myles; also thanking Maggie Gravelle the environment editor, and Anne Hill, who does the planning applications. Thanks too to Barbara Ward, who has taken over the What's On Page, and to her and numerous other contributors. We also owe our thanks to Dave Mayes, of the Trojan Press, who is enormously helpful.

We must also thank our advertisers who cover our printing costs: the surplus each month assists local charities as well as other local organisations. We like to think we give our advertisers good value for money: our charges are low, and the advertisers know that they target the local community. They also know that the *WN*, coming out as it does ten times a year, is more likely to remain in each household for longer than a daily newspaper.

Lastly we must acknowledge with gratitude all the volunteers present and past who worked in one way or another on the paper and who have kept it alive for for over 40 years, long before I'd even heard of the paper.

As editor, a word of warning: one needs to be aware of some of the socio-political undercurrents: though I was once told by an experienced newsman that if you never annoy anyone with your paper, you are not doing your job. On the whole, I take no pleasure in annoying anyone; so far, touch wood, no one seems to have been greatly offended. Does that mean we are doing something wrong?!

One just has to remember that the *WN* is a community paper, and its raison d'etre, apart from informing everyone what is going on locally, and entertaining them, is also to unite people, as a community, rather than being divisive; all this without being bland. I don't really do bland.

Occasionally issues like the future of John Roan School, and the Silvertown Tunnel, and Enderby Wharf, which have lots of political ramifications, are very hard to deal with without upsetting someone; as are the ongoing serious issues of air pollution and many housing issues. It would be easy to opt out, and simply record who won second prize in the flower arranging competition, and to look inward into the minutiae of local life: though that too is important. But I like to think that we can extend horizons rather than merely reflect them, and inform our readers about important issues and events that have both local and national implications, so that you can reach your own judgement. And of course include some articles of general interest.

All this granted, this is YOUR paper, not mine, so I urge you, as readers, to make it yours, by writing for it, reporting local events and incidents, sending in your photographs, and letters to the editor on matters of common concern.

Neville Grant

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: Gordon Baker Foyle Road
Maggie Gravelle's excellent thought-provoking article in the September issue of the *WN* highlights the very real risks of basement developments in the Westcombe Park area. Worryingly she also shows how the Royal Borough has been slow to appreciate those risks and the inadequacy of the recently-approved Council Supplementary Planning Document in comparison with those of other London Boroughs. Yet at the Planning Committee meeting to which she refers, Council officers assured Committee members that controls on basement developments in the Royal Borough were in line with those of other boroughs. The Committee may have reached their decision on the application concerned on a flawed premise that could set a dangerous precedent which will give inadequate protection to local residents and the environment.

The Council has stated that the Supplementary Planning document will be adopted "pending agreement from the relevant environmental bodies." I hope this includes consultation with the Westcombe Society's Environment Committee as well as professional experts. Meanwhile, the only responsible course is a moratorium on all basement applications until a comprehensive set of rigorous controls has been worked out and approved following thorough consultation.

As well as the risks of subsidence, flooding and soil instability mentioned in Maggie's article, which could blight many neighbouring properties in hillside locations and prejudice insurance cover, mains drainage could be adversely affected. Vibration could cause serious damage to adjacent properties, many of which are over 100 years old. Many Westcombe Park houses are semi-detached or terraced leaving very little room for the extensive excavation work to be carried out or for the removal of vast quantities of excavated spoil. This and the dust and noise of the work is bound to cause huge inconvenience and distress to nearby residents. Protracted nuisance is likely from disruption of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and parking facilities caused by construction and tradesmens' vehicles, building materials and skips.

I do not want to seem unneighbourly but good neighbourliness cuts both ways. Those who plan such developments should show more concern for the effect on the neighbourhood. The Council should take heed of the serious problems caused by basement development in other Boroughs and should take far more account of the likely consequences for the wider neighbourhood and environment.

From: K. & A. Townend Stratheden Rd
The traffic in Stratheden Road is horrendous.. We suggest some mitigating actions, such as planting trees and raised bed planters on the pavement in front of the Stratheden Road shopping parade.
Ed: You will be pleased to know that planters are to be placed around the Standard shortly.

From Dr Michael O'Keefe Beaconsfield Rd
Given that the recent circular from the Council bringing forward its proposals for extending the CPZs indicated that 'a high proportion of respondents ... have asked for some controls to be introduced', it is not surprising that No. 7 of the *WN* should write that 'roads that have asked to be included in the extended controlled parking area...' and proceeded to frame the discussion as if the Council was simply responding to popular demand for change.

Your readers might be interested to know that the actual figures are as follows: of 1,965 premises in the whole Westcombe Park area that are currently outside parking controls, only 142 expressed dissatisfaction with the existing (no controls) situation.

The WN in Numbers

Number of issues each year: (July/August & December/January are combined issues.)	10
Number of volunteer distributors:	53
Number of households delivered to in the area:	3,800
Number of copies printed each month:	4,100
Estimated number of readers (2.5 per issue on average)	10,750
Amount paid to the volunteers in production & distribution:	£0

Want to know more about getting involved?

None of us are here forever, and we do need to think of the next generation of people we hope will be producing the paper. Including of course the editorship. As current editor, I find it all enormously enjoyable and rewarding, and should add that it takes as much or as little time as one has to spare.

I once produced a whole issue in three days, in between various travels; but as I tend to tinker with it, and keep updating the stories, it can easily get to one, and one can spend a great deal longer if one wants to. Oh, and by the way there has never been any problem about enough material....

Production is very easy now with a very user-friendly layout system, called Quark, which I learnt quite quickly though I am not particularly computerate. So do please let me know if you would like to get more involved, hands on, in the production. Why should I have all the fun?

From: G Bailey Westcombe Park Road
The Council has suggested on their CPZ consultative document that Stratheden Road north of St John's Park should be a no-parking zone, presumably to ease traffic flow.

This would adversely affect the businesses around the post office, as well as residents of the flats on the eastern side of the road, some of which house old or disabled people who need to be able to park there. The effect of a no-parking zone would be to speed up traffic along Stratheden Road (towards Pointers School); the Council would then have to add expensive traffic calming measures such as speed humps.

A few vehicles parked as they are at present already have that traffic calming effect.

From: Raj Sanger Westcombe Park
The latest consultation for another enlargement of a CPZ has just come through from the Council. It appears that what started as an attempt to control commuter parking around Westcombe Park Station has become a monster extending to a vast area covering many roads.

The council have failed to manage the existing CPZ and the only blunt tool they seem to have is enlarge it.: the main result of a CPZ is to increase pressure on adjacent areas.

The fact is from the initial CPZ, numerous consultations have given rise to 2nd / 3rd level CPZ's. This is in no way acceptable. For example in the latest consultation where there are no permit controls for Coleraine Road it is highly unfair to go from nothing to restrictions Monday – Friday, 9am – 6.30pm.

The CPZ should not include Saturday at all, it is not necessary. The proposed enlargement of the CPZ is not necessary and greatly increases inconvenience for local residents.

I would like to propose that the existing CPZ should be better managed: changing the operating times to Monday – Friday 11am – 2.30pm is all that is necessary.

LOCAL NEWS

Ideas, please!

Maggie Gravelle
& Ann Hill

Westcombe Park is an area of variety and surprises – from the details of brickwork and tiling to the broad views and the unexpected delights of a street corner garden, such as the one at the junction of Vanbrugh Hill and Dinsdale Road, diligently tended by a local resident.

The Environment Committee recently surveyed the area informally to identify possible places that might be improved with help from the Ward Budget Scheme.

Under this initiative, each of Greenwich's 17 wards have been allocated £30,000 to be used on projects that will have "a positive impact" on the area. Some money has already been designated, for example for an information board on the heath, and a contribution to the Christmas lights at the Standard, but Councillors are inviting further suggestions for local improvements.

Some suggestions that the Environment Committee considered include: clearer signage at Batley Green, planting wild flowers along the side of Webb Road, planting flowers and/or shrubs to enhance



the frontage of John Roan School on Westcombe Park Road, and brightening up Station Crescent with planters or restoring the garden beds. Any proposals must be of benefit to the community and be one-off, sustainable developments (for example planters need to be weeded and watered.)

If you favour any of these suggestions, or have ideas of your own, please contact either the Westcombe Society Environment Committee (environment@westcombesociety.org) or any of the local councillors; Geoffrey Brighty (geoffrey.brighty@royalgreenwich.gov.uk), Paul Morrissey (paul.morrissey@royalgreenwich.gov.uk) or Cherry Parker (cherry.parker@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

Keith Murray leaving the Halls

After 11 years as General Manager of Blackheath Halls, Keith Murray will be retiring at the end of this year.

During this time, Keith has been key in bringing the Halls to a position of financial sustainability, and has formulated an increasingly successful and varied artistic programme. He was also instrumental in establishing the community engagement programme at the Halls, including the highly successful annual community opera and community orchestra. (See Barbara Ward's review in last month's *WN* of *Carmen* organised by Rose Ballantyne.)

Keith has also been key in driving forward capital projects at the Halls, raising significant public and private funding for the lift project in 2012, as well as for the current roof project and also a major capital grant from Arts Council

England for future development works at the Halls. He has also implemented a new 5 year Strategic Business Plan for the Halls. Not only has Keith led the Halls management team for 11 years, he has in recent years also overseen the Commercial Events Department for Trinity Laban.

Keith has brought a high degree of professionalism and extensive experience of arts and venue management to the Halls and to its development as a leading arts venue. His contribution both personally and professionally to the success of the Halls is outstanding.

Over the coming months Keith will continue to contribute actively to the day-to-day management of Blackheath Halls. He will also be working with senior management at Trinity Laban to ensure a smooth handover.

Blue badge applications – making life easier?

From 5th September, everyone wishing to apply for or renew a Blue Badge, needs to do so through an online application form on the Royal Borough's website. Applicants will be able to complete the application form, upload all supporting items, including their photo and pay their £10 fee safely online at the same time.

Compared to the old paper application forms, it is, in theory, a much faster and smoother process, providing an instant emailed acknowledgement of receipt.

The move, part of the transformation of the Council's website into a digital hub, means residents and businesses can apply for services, report problems and make enquiries without having to use a phone.

Easy-peasy? All you have to do is
* access the website
* fill in the form
* attach a photo you have copied onto your computer as a jpeg
* scan in any supporting documentation

If you do not have a computer or internet access but wish to apply for a Blue Badge, a member of your family or other trusted person can do so on your behalf.

Alternatively, members of the public may use computers, with free Wi-Fi internet access in any library in the borough.

The Mobility team will also arrange drop-in sessions and provide telephone help and support to residents.

Cllr Maureen O'Mara, Cabinet Member for Customer Services said: "This simple online form will really make a big difference for service users applying for a Blue Badge. Improving the accessibility and ease of service to residents lies at the heart of these changes. I'm looking forward to rolling out many more improvements in the near future."

Cllr David Gardner, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care added: "I am so pleased that we have rolled out a quicker and easier Blue Badge application process while ensuring that anyone who is without support from a relative, friend or carer or who does not have access to a computer can receive dedicated help from the Mobility team."

For more information about the Blue Badge Parking Scheme, please visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/bluebadge

Abstract Concoctions



Professional artist Blandine Bardeau is offering a mixed-media course for adults, during which they can explore mark-making, abstract art (drawing, painting, collage) in an experimental, supportive environment.

"No previous experience required," says Blandine. "Just a willingness to explore and be surprised. The aim of the series of workshops is to start a creative process outside of the pressure of producing a "good result", supporting students to learn how to research and what inspiration means, as well as the importance of looking and seeing, and how to start an artwork using different methods."

The course also aims to explore what it means to make abstract art, how joyful and meditative it can be and why it is a valuable thing to do. Students will be invited to experiment, play and try out new things and to develop their own artistic language. At the end of the series, students will have produced many exercise artworks and in addition will have achieved at least one finished piece.

Abstract Concoctions A mixed-media Art Workshop led by Blandine Bardeau For adults. Thursdays 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th November 2016, 7 - 9.30pm Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, London SE3 7SE £180 per person for the 4 weeks including materials. To Book : <https://abstractconcoctions.eventbrite.co.uk> <http://www.blandinebardeau.com/art-workshops/>

Halloween Special

The Greenwich Tour Guides Association has organised "the Original Greenwich Ghost Tour". This features Tales of Murders, Mysteries and Ghosts. Times: Friday 28th, Saturday 29th and Monday 31st October at 7.30 pm.

Other dates and group bookings can be arranged. Tickets: £9 (over 15 only)

For more information and to book your place call 07575772298 Email: guides@greenwichtours.co.uk www.greenwichtours.co.uk.

Vote for Maryon Park!

Maryon Park Community Garden is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

The supermarket has teamed up with Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative, which see grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to environmental and green space projects.

Three groups in each of Tesco's 416 regions have been shortlisted to receive the cash award. And this month shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

Maryon Park Community Garden is one

of the groups on the shortlist. The Garden is a not-for-profit voluntary project, providing growing plots, a community orchard, art therapy and a Forest School in Charlton.

The Bags of Help Grant will help to improve the environment in Maryon Park and help the Community Garden thrive. The plot-holders, visitors, Special School partners and the local early years children will all benefit.

Voting is open in stores from 26th September to 9th October. Customers will be able to cast their vote by using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop.

Mycenae House & Gardens

'.... a special place, its not like anywhere else' Ellise 7yrs

Saturday 12 November
The Owl & The Pussy Cat
Childrens ballet show from
Let's All Dance. Perfect for 2-9 yrs
£8.50 11.00am

Friday 18 November
Mycenae SOUP
Come dine with us and help
support local charity projects.
Donation £10 7.00pm

More information on our website
020 8858 1749 www.mycenaehouse.co.uk



FEATURES

Blackheath & Greenwich Art Society's Annual Exhibition



Creating the 1951 Festival of Britain collaged textile: Constance Howard is centre, left, at the front; seated at the back is Monica Larkin, with Mary Quant standing next to her.

Blackheath Art Society members are pleased to return this Autumn to Discover Greenwich, in the Old Royal Naval College, SE10 where you will find a wide range of paintings, drawings, prints, craft and artwork in 3 dimensions. All work is for sale.

The Society was founded in 1947 in a spirit of optimism by Goldsmiths and Camberwell Art School tutors coming back from WWII, some from Burma PoW camps. Among many distinguished members were early presidents Graham Sutherland, and Victor Passmore, as well as local artists Betty Swanwick and Rowland Hilder. The current president is Terry Scales (Victor Passmore was his tutor in his first year in the juniors!)

After a long spell exhibiting above Blackheath Village Library, Lewisham Council rented out the space, and the Society was fortunate to find two alternative venues, firstly in Blackheath Concert Halls, and more recently in the Old Royal Naval College, above Discover Greenwich. A pattern has now been established, with a Summer show in the former, and an autumn show in the latter.

One of the original members is still showing her artwork with us: Monica Larkin, Goldsmiths student in 1947. She was there when innovative and vigorous tutor Constance Howard (Mrs. Parker in the photo, above) formed her new textile and embroidery department, turning stitching and work in textiles into art on a level with painting and sculpture. Monica and fellow students, including a young Mary Quant, were led by Constance to create a vast collaged textile for the 1951 Festival of Britain

Later at Sir John Cass Art School Monica extended her skills to include jewellery and enamelling. She had a long and varied art teaching career in

Among many fine paintings and other artworks on show at the exhibition is this landscape by



Cristiana Angelini [Right.] Stockwell Teacher Training College, then in Bexley and Greenwich Boroughs.

Monica Larkin has always continued with her own textiles and jewellery and has been a loyal supporter of the Blackheath Art Society, a Committee member and at one time Chair, regularly exhibiting from 1947 to now.

Monica Larkin and our members, many with Goldsmiths or Camberwell connections, have their Autumn exhibition in the upstairs gallery of Discover Greenwich (Old Royal Naval College), Cutty Sark Gardens, SE10, from 15th October to 18th December, daily, 10 to 5.

Right: 3-D Head by Caroline Mayow



Early Music Festival

Regular visitors of the Early Music Festival and exhibition will already be aware that the Painted Hall Conservation Project at the Old Royal Naval College has now begun and therefore our usual exhibition venue will be out of commission for at least an 18 month period.

We are pleased to announce that we have found an alternative venue for the 2016 Early Music Festival and Exhibition at Blackheath Halls, a beautiful listed building, built in 1895 near the centre of Blackheath Village.

During the festival you can view the world's largest early music exhibition with around 100 exhibitors from across the globe.

Performers include The

Magdalena Consort & His Majestys Sagbutts & Cornetts, Piva, Michala Petri With Lars Hannibal, the European Union Baroque Orchestra, and Laura Schmid. The full programme will be published shortly.

Fringe events, such as maker's demonstration recitals and formal evening concerts will take place at nearby churches St Michael's & All Angels, St Margaret's and All Saints all within a few minutes walking distance from Blackheath Halls.

BLACKHEATH HALLS
Royal Greenwich International Early Music Festival and Exhibition 2016

Thursday 10th – Saturday 12th
November 2016. Tickets already on sale - Box office: 0208 4630100

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Cramming means memorizing things superficially, quickly – in short term memory – to pass an exam.

The P E R (Education Renewal Group) was founded in 1993 to try to ban cramming in schools and get back to genuine education.

For more details contact philosophyper@aol.com

WHAT'S ON



ARTS

BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY, St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath www.artsinblackheath.org

All meetings are on the 4th Thursday of each month except August and December- 2pm for 2.30pm
Thurs 27th Oct – Peter Madhurst 'Songs and Arias by Mozart and his Contemporaries'

Non-members may pay on the door
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, University of Greenwich www.gdfas.org All lectures 8pm
Mon 10th Oct – Brian Slater 'When Britain clicked'

'– Fab Photographs from the Swinging 60's

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www.madeingreenwich.co.uk

Open daily - 11 am -5.30pm

Fri 7th-Wed 19th Oct. 'Places of Pilgrimage', paintings and screen prints by Ian Scott Massie
Meet the artist **Sun 9th. Oct 2-5pm**

Tues 18th - 'Dante' – Lecture/Performance by Graham Fawcett Advance booking recommended

Fri Oct 21st- Mon 31st –'We are all curious tourists'- new works by Clare Johnson, Orson Kartt and Sue Westergaard

FAN MUSEUM, 12,Crooms Hill, SE10 8ER
www.thefanmuseum.org.

Tues 6th Sept- Sat 31st Dec –'Town And Country; - Fans which depict the built environment.

Fan Making Workshops- first Saturday of each month UK's only museum dedicated to fans
Adults: £4.00 Conc. £3.00- Children: (7-16) £3.00

CHILDREN & FAMILY

SEVERNDRIOOG CASTLE Castle Wood, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3RT Main opening times:

Thurs/Fri/Sun 12.30-4.30pm Apr-Sept

Sun 3rd Oct. – 'The Big Family Draw'

Family craft for kids to try- make an Autumn Spiral

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Park Row, Greenwich, S.E.10 9NF rmg.co.uk

'Play Tuesdays' Embark on a museum adventure that includes trails, arty workshops, songs and stories

10.30am 11.30am -1.00pm 2.00pm Lower Ground – Sammy Ofer Wing Adults – free Children £3- (one accompanying adult)

BLACKHEATH HALLS 23, Lee Rd. Blackheath SE3 9RQ 0208 463 0100www.trinitylaban.ac.uk

Sat 15th Oct – 3.00pm Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Box Tale Soup invite you down the rabbit hole into a timeless world of wondrous fantasy

Recital Room £8.50 Suitable for 4+

Sat 29th Oct. Jack And The Beans Talk 'A fresh and funny retelling of the classic fairytale Jack and the Beanstalk

Recital Room £8.50 Suitable for 3+

GREENWICH THEATRE CROOMS HILL

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Mon 24th Oct Penguin! Elephant!

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SHERINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE, Tel. 0208 – 3053140 - 14, Sherington Road SE7 7JW

DAD'S STAY AND PLAY session every Wednesday, 1.00pm -2.30pm –free drop in Sherington Children's Centre, all home dads welcome- continues even in school holidays and half term. Each 2nd Saturday of the month – 10.00am -11.30am – free brunch/arts and craft

Contact Dan Hall – 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:

Chrysanthemum Tea - Sat 15th October
Autumn Quiz - Friday 21st October
Christmas Bazaar 26th Nov. Venue: Invicta School

COMMUNITY

WESTCOMBE WOODLANDS

Sunday Oct 2nd. 2.00 - 5.00 pm Open Day.

Entrance from Seren Park car park near footpath

Volunteer days: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm Sun. 2nd Oct., Sat 5th Nov., Sun. 4th Dec.

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Meets first Wednesday of every month, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Sunfields

Methodist Church on Old Dover Road.

Wed. Oct 5th 7.30-9.30pm 'Growing Chillies in Kent' – Steve Wheeler 'the farm manager at Kent

Chilli Farm talks about the farm getting started and the trials and tribulations of growing chillies'

GREENWICH CREATIVE WRITERS GROUP

Waterstones - Mondays 5.00 - 7.00pm

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BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm Tel. Ron 0208 319 1312

GREENWICH MORRISMEN Meet every Thursday at 8.00pm in Mycenae House. Newcomers welcome

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SPOKEN WORD

BLACKHEATH SOCIETY St Mary's Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath Village.

Thurs. Oct 13th 7.00 for 7.30pm. 'Sherlock Holmes & Conan Doyle's connections with Blackheath'

Tickets from Eventbrite £10, inc. glass of wine.

Speaker: Roger Johnson, editor of the Sherlock Holmes Journal & noted scholar of Holmes

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

SAT 15 OCT 8PM Marcus Brigstocke: Why the Long Face? The award-winning comedian returns with his critically acclaimed show. £16.00

SAT 29 OCT 8.00PM LIVE 2016 Rich Hall: a master of absurdist irony and rapid-fire wit. £16.00

Fri 28th Oct. 8.00pm Michael Portillo 'Life: A Game of Two Halves' £18 | £16.00 concs.

BLACKHEATH FLOWER ARRANGING SOCIETY 3rd Friday of each month 2.00pm, Mycenae House Contact Sian Tribe 8852 3909)

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tues 11th Oct. Terry Powley

'Society's Changing Perceptions of Youth in the Twentieth Century' Non-members £1

GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS

Fri 14th October GFMA World Cinema Night – Grand Salon, Charlton House, Charlton Rd, SE7 8RE – Admission £3 (donation)

Free workshops Fortnightly Tuesday and Friday community workshops 7.30-8.30pm at Mascalls

Meeting Room off Victoria Way, Charlton SE7 7TT

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THEATRE

THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755

greenwichtheatre.org.uk

A new flexible and more intimate studio space in Greenwich Theatre means that now two productions can be shown at the same time.

The next studio show on October 6th is a reading of *Gazing at a Distant Star* after which the audience can discuss the play with the playwright, Sian Rowland. The Flanagan Collective's *From the Mouths of the Gods* follows on Oct 11th.

Until 9th Oct Little Voice - Musical comedy by Jim Cartwright

Mon 10th & Tues 11th Oct 7.30pm

Jekyll & Hyde + Nerve: Two one act plays by Charles Howitt 'inspired by the Gothic novella by Robert Louis Stevenson ' £16 Concs £11

Tues 11th – Sun 16th Oct 6.00 pm 'From The Mouths Of Gods "This show is about freewill and determinism, maths and kissing" ... £11

Wed 12th – Sat 15th Oct (Thurs & Fri -7pm Wed & Sat -8.45pm) 'Snakes And Giants' 'a two-hander, combining storytelling, spoken word & song' £16

Wed 12th 7.00pm & Thurs 13th Oct. 8.45pm

'Reverie' 'A funny heart-warming tale of one man's desire to be free'

Sun 16th Oct. African Women – 7.30pm

'New play about African women in a society founded on polygamy, greed and misogyny' £16 Concs £11

Mon 17th & Tues 18th Oct - 7.30pm

'Method in Madness' 'When a young Hollywood starlet who has been cast as Ophelia turns to method acting for salvation.' £16 Conc £11

Wes 19th Oct 'In Our Hands' 8.00pm Alf the trawler fisherman is at the top of his game. But can he survive? ' £16 Concs £11

Thurs 20th – Sat 22nd Oct (Thurs-Sat & 30pm Sat Matt 2.30pm) 'Pride And Prejudice'

A fresh and faithful adaptation of one of the nation's best loved novels £16 Concs £11

Sun 23rd Oct 7.30pm 'The Haunting of Exham Priory' 'A spine-chilling new play based on H.P. Lovecraft's classic Gothic chiller'

The Rats in The Walls' £18 Concs £11

Sun 30th Oct – 2.30pm & 7.30pm 'Dido & Aeneas: Remixed' Greenwich Theatre & Redbridge Drama Centre, NMT £16 Concs £11

THE SPACE 296, Westferry Rd E.14 3RS

www.space.org.uk

Tues 7th Sept – Sat 8th Oct. 8.00pm 'Manifesto'

'a bold new approach to creating a play' £14

BLACKHEATH HALLS

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Wed. 5th. Oct 7.30pm

Steven Isserlis Cello & Olli Mustonen Piano

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Thurs. 27th Oct - 7.30pm Trinity Laban

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Wed Oct 19th- 7.45pm Thee James Brothers

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MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: OCTOBER

Sat 1st Oct 7pm - Global Fusion Music & Arts present 50th Anniversary of Botswana Independence celebrations. Featuring live music from Aubrei and Masego Woki and the Kalahari Band. £10.

Fri 7th Oct 7.30pm - Icarus Club. Acoustic Live Music featuring Mississippi MacDonald and the Cottonmouth Kings. £7.50.

Thurs 13th Oct 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for Baby and You. £10.

Fri 14th Oct 8pm - JazzNights. Candle-lit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk featuring Simon DaSilva (trumpet). £10.

Fri 28th Oct 7.30pm - Global Fusion Music & Arts Acoustic Nights. An evening of live music & dance featuring special guests. £6.

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

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In April this year, the *WN* celebrated the 400th year of Shakespeare's death with an exploration of his local links. Since then a close, possibly intimate, story linking him with Greenwich has emerged – a story of unrequited love. Below, Neville Grant asks

Was the Dark Lady of the Sonnets our near neighbour?

One of the many mysteries surrounding William Shakespeare is the identity of the Dark Lady of the Sonnets. These sonnets have a recurring, indeed obsessive, theme of unrequited love.

So who was this mysterious "dark lady"? My interest was aroused by "the Greenwich Phantom" who cites a 1977 book by C M Dawson called *The Story of Greenwich*. Dawson claimed that "Shakespeare was here [in Greenwich] ..." and alleged that "his Dark Lady of the Sonnets may have resided in Crooms Hill."

Dr Duncan Salkeld, of the University of Chichester, claimed to have identified the Dark Lady as Lucy Morgan, a "fallen woman" also known as "Lucy Negro". But this claim is disputed by many.

In his book *Shakespeare the Man*, The Shakespearian scholar A. L. Rowse argues convincingly that the dark lady was the poet and musician Emilia Lanier, née Bassano, of a musical family originating from Venice. Rowse cites the diaries of Simon Forman as supporting evidence.

So why "dark"? In Shakespeare's day, "dark" could refer to having very dark black hair – or, more likely, it may possibly refer to her dark complexion reflecting her family's Jewish/ Moroccan origins. (in *Love's Labours Lost* Shakespeare celebrates the beauty of Rosaline's dark complexion.)

Compare this with Sonnet 127:

*In the old age black was not counted fair,
Or if it were it bore not beauty's name;
But now is black beauty's successive heir,
And beauty slandered with a bastard shame:*

Emilia's early life

Simon Forman records in his diary that, after the death of her father, when she was seven, Emilia Bassano went to live with Susan Bertie, Countess of Kent, in the family headed by Peregrine Bertie, Lord Willoughby. The countess lived partly in Lord Willoughby's London house, and partly in her country house in Greenwich.

The countess was well-educated, and ensured her young protégé was equally well educated: as the poetry she later wrote indicates, Emilia became familiar with Edmund Spenser, Ovid, Petrarch, Chaucer, Boccaccio, and Agrippa, among others.

When she was thirteen, (the age of consent in those days) Emilia became what the Italians used to call "an honest courtesan" – the mistress of Sir Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, who as Lord Chancellor was in charge of the English theatre, and who was also a sponsor of Shakespeare.

There are strong indications that Lord Hunsdon was the illegitimate son of Henry VIII (his mother being Mary Boleyn). Aged 27, Emilia became pregnant, and to avoid scandal she was expelled from court



Possible portrait of the Dark Lady by Nicholas Hilliard. (Ladies in the Tudor court usually treated their faces with "Spirits of Saturn" – thick white face powder made from vinegar and white lead.)

and married off to a court musician, her cousin, Alphonso Lanier.

Lanier performed both at court, and in the theatre. As a member of the family of court musicians, he lived near the royal palace of Placentia in Greenwich, in the family home of the Laniers. According to Clive Aslet in his book *The Story of Greenwich*, the family lived in a house that became 16 - 18 Crooms Hill, once possibly part of Paternoster Croft, which had belonged to the Abbey of Ghent. Here they were well-placed to perform both for the Queen in Greenwich, and in theatres (though the Globe did not open until 1599).

The evidence

So what is the evidence for Emilia being Shakespeare's Dark Lady? First she had a dark complexion; secondly, she and her family were well known to Shakespeare: over half the musicians in the King's Men were members of the extended Lanier/ Bassano family. Her cousin Robert Johnson was Shakespeare's music collaborator: he created at least six songs and dances in Shakespeare's plays, including *Full fathom five* and *Where the bee sucks*.¹

It is possible that Emilia wrote some of the songs, too. Some phrases she uses in her poetry closely echo some used by Shakespeare, indicating at least literary connections. Her intellectual and literary interests have much in common with those of Shakespeare. In 1611 Emilia became the first woman in England to write a book of poetry² and like so many of his female characters, she was a proto-feminist: one of her poems is a spirited defence of Eve – and an attack on the apostle Paul's attitude

For more on Emilia Lanier/Bassano, visit Peter Bassano's website: www.peterbassano.com/shakespeare (The distinguished musician Peter Bassano suggests that he comes from the oldest musical family in the world, though West African griots would probably dispute this.)
*For more on a history of Greenwich, see Clive Aslet's fine book *The Story of Greenwich* London: Ted Smart 1999*
For a fascinating (and plausible) theory that Shakespeare was really Emilia, see Shakespeare's Dark Lady by John Hudson (Stroud: Amberley, 2014.)

to women. * The poems show evidence of resentment towards men – it has been suggested (improbably) partly motivated by anger at the publication of the sonnets, which hint at her own identity.

Shakespeare's plays are full of characters called Emilia: she appears in *Othello*, *Comedy of Errors*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Two Noble Kinsmen*. And from what we know of her feistiness and intelligence, she reappears frequently as characters in Shakespeare's plays: like Emilia, they are all strong: for example, Katherina (in *Shrew*), Rosaline (in *Loves Labours Lost*), Hermia (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Portia (*The Merchant of Venice*), Beatrice (*Much ado*), Rosalind (*As you Like It*) – as well as Cressida and Cleopatra. In *Taming of the Shrew*, Katrina's father is Batista – also the name of Emilia's father. In an alternative version of *Taming of the Shrew* performed in 1593, two of the characters are named Alphonso and Emilia.

Caroline Spurgeon, in her classic book on Shakespeare's imagery, remarks on some close similarities in imagery between Emilia's poems and those of Shakespeare. Convincing arguments that she was the real author of Shakespeare's plays – or at least helped to write them – have also been advanced. (See Hudson's *Shakespeare's Dark Lady*) So there is evidence of a literary relationship if not an amorous one.

Emilia was no angel: she enjoyed being Lord Hunsdon's mistress, and her marriage to Alphonso was not a happy one (very understandably, she hated her loss of status as a lady at court); and, from the sonnets, Shakespeare's ambivalence towards the Dark Lady shows a realisation that the woman he is obsessed with could (in his view...) be as badly behaved as (some) men. Recent evidence of his attempts to obtain a coat of arms may possibly have been partly motivated by an attempt to raise his social status – to make him more acceptable as a lover perhaps?

So did Emilia Lanier live on Crooms Hill? Perhaps – but only for a month or so, if that: she married Alphonso in October 1592; according to John Hudson, Alphonso set up house in Westminster with the money Emilia brought with her from Lord Hunsdon. It was there that she gave birth to her son Henry early in 1593.

1 Sting made a best-selling CD of his music in 2002.

*2 Her poems *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* were published in 1611 (in English).*



The Dark Lady of the Sonnets should not be confused with the Dark Lady of Mycenae Gardens, where she used to lurk amid the shrubbery. This sculpture by the distinguished sculptor Brian Taylor is just one of his works that was on display.

Brian Taylor, FRBS, FSBS, who died in 2013, lived and worked in Greenwich. The pieces in Mycenae Gardens were bronzes apart from the horse.

This sculpture was among the last of the remaining artefacts from the exhibition of Taylor's work mounted by Mycenae House last year. His horse, which was made of fibre-glass, has also gone, along with all the other sculptures. Most of them have gone to the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey.

The Alexandra Players are back again!

The Alexandra Players' production in October is a cracking comedy called *The Flint Street Nativity*. Originally a film, it was later adapted for the stage. The author is Tim Firth of *Calendar Girls* fame (or infamy!). It features a Primary School class (played by adults) rehearsing and producing a Nativity Play.
Wed. Oct. 26th to Sat. Oct. 29th
The Flint Street Nativity' is a comedy by 'Tim Firth Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Avenue, Charlton SE7
8.00p.m. (Doors open 7.30)
Tickets: 07867 627 987 £9 (£8 Conc.)

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The geology of South-East London

A number of dene hole incidents have occurred in the area, and in 2002 a huge hole opened on Blackheath Hill. And now people are concerned about the potential dangers of basement extensions. In this, the first of two articles, MIKE NORTON considers the geology of the area

As many of you will know, Blackheath is a Site of Metropolitan Interest for Nature Conservation because of its acid grassland. What you probably don't know is why acid grassland developed on the heath in the first place.

This brief look at the geological history of this part of Southeast London is intended to explain this, taking in things such as the hole on Blackheath Hill, the most fearsome of the obstacles on the old Blackheath Golf

Course, the groundwater problems that some of you suffer from, and how exactly this is all related to the formation of the Alps.

Warm seas

During the Late Cretaceous, the whole of southern Britain was covered by a shallow warm sea. In this sea lived a variety of plankton, called coccolithophores.

When these tiny organisms died, the small plates of calcium carbonate that formed their outer parts rained down on the seafloor, eventually forming the type of limestone we call "chalk".

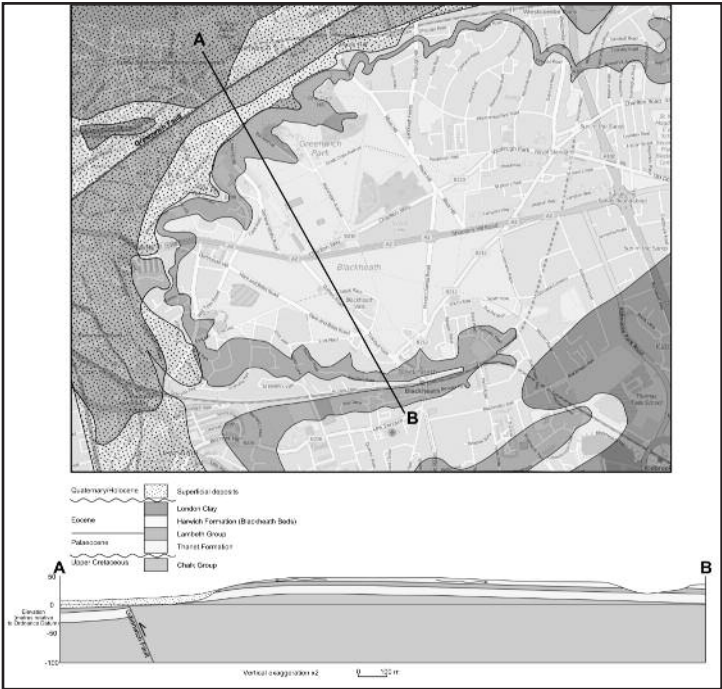
Small amounts of silica were also deposited, from parts of sponges and other types of plankton. As the chalk began to turn into rock, the silica was dissolved and moved through it, precipitating to form the irregular masses of almost pure silica that we know as "flints".

Up and down

Some time towards the end of the Cretaceous, Britain became uplifted, leading to some erosion of the chalk, concentrating the more resistant flints. Towards the end of the Palaeocene (59-56 million years ago [mya]), a shallow sea developed once more, depositing the Thanet Formation sand, with larger fragments of flint at its base.

The sea shallowed and the environment became estuarine, with the deposition of clays, sometimes with layers of shells, forming the Lambeth Group, possibly formed in the delta of a "proto-Thames". The water deepened again and the sands and gravels of the Blackheath Member of the Harwich Formation (better known locally as the "Blackheath Beds") were deposited, with the many flint pebbles most of us are familiar with.

The youngest preserved formation in the Blackheath area is the London Clay Formation, deposited in the early Eocene



(56-48 mya), which is true to its name, consisting mainly of clays deposited in a much deeper marine environment.

Alpine influence

During the late Oligocene (about 25 mya) the main phase of Alpine mountain building began as part of the collision between the African and Eurasian tectonic plates. This event made its presence felt a long way to the north.

The most obvious result of this push from the south was the "inversion" of the "Wealden Basin" to form the "Wealden Dome", as the large normal faults active during the Jurassic to early Cretaceous were reactivated in a reverse sense. The eroded flanks of the Wealden Dome form the North and South Downs.

A much smaller fault in our area, the Greenwich Fault, was also reactivated, forming its own smaller dome, the Greenwich Anticline. Detailed study of the chalk reveals that this anticline was active much earlier, towards the end of chalk deposition, but the more important phase was the later of the two. At this time, southeast England again became land and has remained so ever since, undergoing slow erosion.

Towards the north and west, these rocks are covered by Quaternary to recent (2.58 - 0 mya) superficial deposits consisting of gravels, sands, silts and clays, partly a result of slope instability along the Thames river cliffs and partly from deposits by the river itself (and its tributaries like the Ravensbourne).

(to be continued next month)

Enderby Wharf: the plot thickens

Neville Grant

As reported in September's *WN* a claim for a judicial review of the council's decision to grant planning permission for the Enderby Wharf cruise liner terminal development was dismissed in August. The local residents pressing for a judicial review were concerned at the fact that there was no provision for shore-based energy supplies to visiting cruise liners; and, as a result, the ships running on their own power in port would emit toxic fumes.

They argued that ships "hotelling" on the site would burn the equivalent of 688 diesel lorries idling 24 hours a day, and that the terminal should provide shore-based generators to reduce emissions.

Local residents now plan to take the case to the Court of Appeal and have to pay for the appeal by crowd-funding.

Dismissing their arguments, Mr Justice Collins said: "Very few cruise ships were able to link up to on-shore power supply, and in any event those that did would require an input which differed from that provided by the UK National Grid. Furthermore, the cost to the provider and to any ship was prohibitive."

The High Court Judge argued further that the comparison with lorries was misleading since ships' emissions would be "hot and fast" and at height, meaning they would disperse quickly. He also pointed out that the key pollutant from ships was sulphur dioxide - but that was not an argument against cruise liners since all ships using the Thames were obliged to use low sulphur fuel.

On September 7th the case was raised in Parliament by our MP, Matthew Pennycook, and the MP for Poplar and Limehouse, Jim Fitzpatrick.

Matt Pennycook said: "In recent years, a range of technical measures to reduce harmful emissions from ships has been introduced - the addition of scrubbers and the adoption of cleaner fuels to name but two—but none is a panacea. For example, low-sulphur fuel reduces sulphur dioxide levels and some particulate

matter, but does not remove all harmful toxins."

He added: "Given the potential health implications of constructing a cruise liner terminal that would berth vessels emitting hazardous toxins into the air in the vicinity of a high-density residential area that is already an air pollution hotspot, it is little surprise that local residents and the East Greenwich Residents Association have organised to oppose it."

He argued that the technology existed for overcoming any technical difficulties connecting visiting ships with onshore power supplies. He evinced disappointment that the developers had made so little effort to explore the range of grid connections available. He questioned whether the capital costs [estimated to be around £1m] were prohibitive in the long run, especially given the extremely high cost of retrofitting the terminal in the years ahead.

He pointed out that if the developers insist on ploughing ahead with the scheme as currently proposed, they would do so in the face of widespread hostility from the local community and continuing negative coverage before a single shovel had even been put in the ground.

In an extended response, the Minister for Planning, Housing and London, Gavin Barwell, pointed out that he understood that the Department of Transport policy statement for ports was that "all proposals should either include "reasonable advance provisions" to allow the possibility of future provision of shoreside fixed electrical power infrastructure - or "should give reasons as to why it would not be economically and environmentally worthwhile to make such provision."

He "entirely understood" the concerns that had been expressed, but said that the government had given local councils the tools to ensure that developments are appropriate for their location, and to prevent unacceptable risks of pollution. However, he agreed to meet the two MPs, together with ministerial colleagues, to look further into the case.

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