



# Westcombe NEWS

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Dec 2016/ Jan 2017 Issue 10

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



In the words of Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*:

## “God Bless us, Everyone!”

With this quotation from Charles Dickens’ novel, we are pleased to report the return after a year’s gap of the Westcombe Society’s Christmas Bazaar. Our usual venue in Blackheath High School was not available this year, and we are grateful to Invicta School for welcoming us to their brand new premises on Invicta Road.

Many thanks to all involved – the volunteers, sponsors, stall-holders, and above all the general public for supporting this popular event, which raised money for the Society’s Charity of the Year, the Mental Health Activity Trust. It was a great time to buy Christmas presents, while the children enjoyed face-painting and other activities, Punch & Judy and Santa’s Grotto.

## New Fairness Commission

Seven years ago saw the publication of *The Spirit Level* by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. It demonstrated that more equal societies lead to longer and healthier lives, greater trust amongst its citizens and greater social mobility and innovation. Obvious, really.

As a result, the London Fairness Commission started work, and issued a report. This report contained a package of recommendations of ways the London Mayor can tackle these challenges, and make London fairer.

Readers who read the last issue of the *WN* learnt that they were among the least happy people in London (!!!). So we will be relieved to hear that the Royal Borough of Greenwich has placed happiness near the top of the priority list, and have things well in hand.

The Royal Borough has established an independent Fairness Commission called *Greenwich: our future together*. The Commission will deliver “an objective independent evidence-based strategy” to tackle inequality and poverty in the borough focusing particularly on health, housing, employment (including training) and education.

*Greenwich: our future together* will be led by Lord Kerslake, the current Chair of Peabody, one of the oldest and largest

housing associations in London. Lord Kerslake has experience in both central and local government, as former Head of the Civil Service and Chief Executive of the London Borough of Hounslow and Sheffield City Council. He also sits on the House of Lords Finance Committee.

The Commissioners have been drawn from a wide selection of local and national organisations and are experts in their respective fields across housing, education, employment and health. The work will be carried out over the next few months.

Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich Councillor Denise Hyland said: “The Royal Borough of Greenwich is firmly committed to doing all that it can to tackle social and economic inequality, fostering a strong cohesive community with fairness at its very core.

“*Greenwich: Our Future Together* has the central ambition of helping those trapped in poverty by ensuring that communities are given the right support, care and resources to prosper, and by identifying new ways of improving the quality of life for all residents.”

**Any organisations wishing to give evidence or make representations to the Fairness Commission can do so via email to [Anya.Martin@peabody.org.uk](mailto:Anya.Martin@peabody.org.uk) or [Bakita.Kasatha@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:Bakita.Kasatha@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)**



ABOVE: The BBC’s Asad Ahmad, old boy of John Roan School, opened the Bazaar. Great to see you off the silver screen, Ahmad! Here he was accompanied by Marilyn, Queen of the Bazaar, Toni Hale of the Mental Health Activity Trust, and Dave, who spent two years homeless; now fixed up, he is helping to run The Mental Health Activity Trust’s soup kitchens for rough sleepers at 15 Delacourt Road. (Thursdays 15th December, 12th January & 9th Feb.)

RIGHT: Visitors were welcomed by Annette, selling lucky programme tickets. Lovely hat! The prize: a Christmas Hamper.

Opening the bazaar, Asad Ahmad said how much he enjoyed living in Greenwich because of its strong sense of community. He congratulated all who took part in the bazaar. *More pictures on pages 2 and 8.*

PHOTOS: Neville Grant



## Injustice on our doorstep

One of the issues that the Fairness Commission might look at is what many see as a form of blackmail by TfL.

TfL has indicated that if, and only if, the Silvertown Tunnel goes ahead, they will do something to protect the residents of Siebert Road from the noise, vibrations and air pollution caused by the A102 feeder road to the tunnel. Meanwhile, it is proposed to spend millions of pounds on a Garden Bridge in West London.

Householders in Siebert Road have long campaigned about the intolerable situation of a motorway thundering past only metres from their houses, causing both structural damage and misery. What is urgently needed is a substantial barrier to

protect their homes – and their health..

One idea to consider: earlier this year, development company Grosvenor and engineering firm Arup commissioned a report on “green facades” – living walls that can reduce pollution by up to a fifth. A trial scheme in Mayfair involves an 80 foot high structure planted with grass, flowers, strawberries and foliage. It can also cut noise pollution by 10 decibels, and is fitted with sensors measuring noise, air pollution, and temperature.

This may not in itself be sufficient: but a substantial barrier with a facade of foliage could put the Green back in Greenwich. ***The Siebert Road Residents Association deserves support! Ring Chris Bentley of SRRRA on 07866 593 171.***

PHOTO: Carol Curran



Ever-popular at the bazaar: Punch n Judy! Christmas spirit personified!

## Newsbriefs >>>>>>>>

**Blackheath Village Day**  
This is on Sat. 3rd December. The festivities begin with The King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery Kings Parade around 11.30. Lights on at 4.30pm.

**Christmas Scam**  
The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) saying that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call this number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for

the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

**Cards for Good Causes ...**  
will be at St Alfege’s daily until Monday Dec. 19th 10.30am-4.30pm Mon to Sat and 11.15am-4.30pm Sundays. Also open 10.00 - 4.00 pm at Age Exchange until Saturday Dec 10th.

**Health warning**  
Turkeys that may or may not have voted for Christmas are foiled again. Research at the University of Sharda shows that food cooked in foil could contain more than six times one’s safe daily intake of aluminium. High doses of this can be dangerous, and have been linked to Alzheimer’s and osteoporosis.

**Thomas Tallis Society Choir & Orchestra**  
Directed by Eamonn Dougan

Handel  
**Messiah**  
by candlelight

Sunday 4 December, 7pm  
St Alfege Church,



Greenwich & Bexley  
**community hospice**

*A Christmas Carol Concert*

Friday 9th December at 7pm

Old Royal Naval College  
King William Walk  
Greenwich  
SE10 9NN

Tickets are £25 per person  
(includes a festive drink & mince pie)

Our annual Carol Concert will fill you with festive cheer with a selection of classic carols led by the enchanting Trinity Laban Chapel Choir, special readings and a torch-lit procession by the 3rd Greenwich Park Girl Guides.

To book your tickets call 020 8319 9230, email [info@gbch.org.uk](mailto:info@gbch.org.uk), visit our website [www.communityhospice.org.uk](http://www.communityhospice.org.uk) or go to any Hospice charity shop

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# COMMUNITY



## WESTCOMBE NEWS

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**Environment Editor:** Maggie Gravelle  
**What's On:** Barbara Ward  
**Reporters:** The community – that means you!

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
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**DISTRIBUTION** Emily Norton and volunteers.

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### ADVERTISING MANAGER

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**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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## The Christmas Bazaar



Outside the entrance to the bazaar, there was a brisk trade in mincepies, roasted chestnuts; the mulled wine was free. Every nut was hand-picked and selected for quality by nutty experts.

More gastronomic delights awaited inside: it was very hard to resist the superb collection of home-made mincepies, cakes and other delicacies.



## And now, some more Thank Yous:

Thank you to Brown and Brooke for sponsoring the Christmas Tree in the Standard.

Thank you to David Lloyd, Sue Clark Interiors, Charlton FC, Chandler Wright and Blackheath Group Fitness for donating bids for our Silent Auction.

And thanks to all the local businesses (and residents)

who gave items for our raffles or Hamper:

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W.Hill News

## What do we want for Christmas? A greener Greenwich!

Greenpeace report that too often many of us are breathing in nitrogen dioxide – one of the most toxic car pollutants. For this reason, the WN welcomes the consultation exercise being mounted by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, as reported on the opposite page.

As the WN has repeatedly indicated, diesel cars are the number one culprit for pumping out nitrogen dioxide into our air. Even new diesel cars have been found to emit this gas over the legal limit 89% of the time – and it is estimated that some 40,000 people in the UK each year die prematurely because of air pollution. The article on page 3 outlines some of the other health issues.

Meanwhile, Friends of the Earth cite a report by the US Environment Protection Agency that claims that the average cruise ship emits the same amount of sulphur dioxide as 13.1 million cars, and as much soot as 1.06 million cars.

In November the BBC Radio 4

programme Costing the Earth focused on the role that cruise ships have in creating pollution in the UK. The programme focused mainly on the cruise liner terminal at Enderby Wharf in Greenwich, and was very critical of both Greenwich Council and other authorities in the city for allowing the plan to go forward without proper safeguards.

The programme also cited the dire consequences that cruise ships were having on the air of Southampton. The diesel fuel used in these ships is some eight times more toxic than that used in motor vehicles.

So a cruise ship moored even for just one day at Enderby Wharf is clearly not going to help reduce air pollution in Greenwich, which already suffers badly from the problem.

As reported in a previous issue of the WN, the problem could be solved if shore-based energy sources were used – but Greenwich Council has said the cost would

be prohibitive. It is estimated that the cost could be between £3 - £4 million. Isn't that a reasonable price to pay for the health of our children? Especially if cruise ships were required to contribute: the cost could be retrieved from the shipping companies by between five and six years.

The government claims that air pollution problems in the UK will be solved by the year 2025. If this scandalously unambitious object is to be achieved, it is more than likely that Enderby Wharf and its energy sources will have to be reconfigured at even greater cost.

### Carol Singing

Mon. 19th Dec.



Meet at 7.15 pm at Mycenae House, for a 7.30 start. All – with and without instruments – are welcome to join in!

Followed by mulled wine & mince pies.  
Raising funds for the Night Shelter.

we can write at Greenwich Council, to request the part-refund of Council Tax to which we are surely entitled?

From: Myles Dove Maze Hill

We are very sorry to report the demise of Molly, the Westcombe News cat, in November.

Molly used to keep a weather eye on the piles of WNs waiting to be distributed, and always welcomed those who came to collect them. She will be much missed.



From: Peter Dempsey Hardy Road

At a rough guess, I'd say it's been more than three months since any pavement sweeping took place in the Westcombe Park area. Some items of rubbish have become like old friends, and I'm tempted to give them names. More importantly, is there a specific person to whom





# LOCAL NEWS



## Reducing air pollution... have your say

Air pollution is a worrying issue for people living or working in London. The most polluted roads nearby are Trafalgar Road and the approach roads to the Blackwall Tunnel, including the A2.

It is estimated by the Environmental Research Group of King's College London, that around 9,400 deaths per year in London are attributable to illnesses related to poor air quality.

The two pollutants of particular concern to public health in London are Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and Particulate Matter.

♦ **Nitrogen dioxide:** At high concentrations, NO2 causes inflammation of the airways. Long-term exposure is associated with an increase in symptoms of bronchitis in asthmatic children and reduced lung development.

♦ **Particulate matter:** Long-term exposure contributes to the risk of developing cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, including lung cancer. The health impacts of small particles with a diameter of 10 microns or smaller are especially significant, as small particles can penetrate deep into the respiratory system.

### Source of pollutants:

Road transport accounted for 50% of NO2 emissions in Greater London in 2013, aviation 8% and rail 3%. Of the 50% from road transport, diesel cars accounted for 24% of NO2 emissions, HGVs 21%, TFL buses 20%, vans and minibuses 12%, and petrol cars 12%.

Road transport was also the greatest source of Particulate Matter. Since his election in May this year, Sadiq Khan has given high priority to improving air quality and detailed proposals have now been put forward for our views.

These proposals include:

- ♦ An Emissions Surcharge
- ♦ An Ultra Low Emission Zone

### Emissions surcharge:

The Mayor proposes to introduce this in October 2017 for the older, more polluting vehicles driving into and within central London. This would be in addition to the Congestion Charge. Vehicles will need to meet specified exhaust emission standards or pay a daily charge of £10.

The surcharge is also intended to act as a stepping stone to the Ultra Low Emission Zone, when tighter vehicle emissions standards would come into force.

### Ultra Low Emission Zone:

Tighter vehicle emissions standards are due to come into effect in 2020 for Central London and vehicles that do not comply with the standards will pay a daily charge, (£12.50 is the proposed charge). To further improve air quality, the Mayor wishes to introduce this sooner than 2020 and wants it to cover a larger area. He would like to hear our views to three proposals:

- ♦ Whether to bring forward the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone for Central London to 2019
- Whether to extend the Ultra Low Emission Zone from Central London to London-wide for HGVs, buses and coaches, with a possible start date of 2019. ('London-wide' means to the same boundary as the existing Low Emission Zone)
- Whether to extend the Ultra Low Emission Zone from Central London up to the North and South Circular roads for all vehicles, including cars, as early as 2019, but possibly later.

It is estimated that London-wide measures for heavy vehicles would lead to a 30% reduction in NO2 emissions from road transport across London, and that extending the zone to the North and South Circular roads for all vehicles would lead to an overall 40% reduction.

### Which cars will be affected?

Cars registered in 2005 or older are likely to be non-compliant with the standards to be set for the Emission Surcharge and for the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

**Depending on feedback from the Consultation, and continuing feasibility work, the Mayor will decide whether these options should be pursued.**

**You can have your say through the online survey at the end of the information website <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/environment/air-quality-consultation-phase-2>. Alternatively, write to: FREEPOST, TFL Consultations. Closing date: Dec. 18th.**

### FOOTNOTE:

**Sadiq Khan has claimed Volkswagen should pay £2.5m for missed congestion charge payments following the emissions-rigging scandal. The mayor said 80,000 VW engines fitted with "defeat devices" were registered in London.**

Anne Robbins



PHOTO: Anna Mars

The 2016 Mycenae Soup fundraising dinner at Mycenae House on 18th Nov delivered another stunningly successful evening, raising a total of £1,287 in donations.

A packed gathering of 134 local diners listened to appeals for funding from six local community development initiatives including Mums Aid, Greenwich Mencap, Kairos Rehabilitation, Return to Work, Her Centre, and MOT for the over 65s.

Following a hearty meal provided courtesy of Masons Catering and The Catering PA, and entertained by pianist Peter Munden and guitarist Stephen

Brayne, the vote provided the evening with an overwhelming winner in Greenwich Mencap's innovative pilot project called Support for Siblings. This is aimed at providing support for siblings of children with learning disabilities and/or autistic spectrum conditions.

Royal Borough of Greenwich mayor Cllr Olu Babatola presented the cheque for £1,287 to Greenwich Mencap to top off a great night which was MC'd by Rev. Tim Yeager. The search for next year's Soup projects is now underway: we encourage those interested to contact Mycenae House for details. **Mark Johnson-Brown**

## Greenwich's Living Advent Calendar

Now in its 10th year, the streets of Greenwich come to life in December with 24 unique window offerings in the lead up to Christmas, creating a living Advent Calendar. A newly decorated window is revealed every day of Advent.

The event features many different locations around Greenwich. It concludes with the Christmas Eve services at St. Alfege Church, the organiser of the event.

A newly decorated window will be revealed on each day of Advent (1-24 December). The windows will remain on display until January 2, 2017. A variety of media will be used for the windows, including models, sculpture, collages and multimedia installations. Walking around all the windows will take about 3 hours.

The Rev. Chris Moody, the vicar of St. Alfege Church, creates a theme every year. The theme for 2016 is "The Promised Time." He said he was inspired by old hymn, "Thy Kingdom Come, O God",

which includes the lines:

*When comes the promised time  
That war shall be no more,  
And lust, oppression, crime  
Shall flee thy face before?*

He said while longing is a painful and tiring emotion, the flip side of it is hope. "For there to be "a promised time", whether it be in our personal lives, all the way up to a benevolent change in world affairs, we hope against hope."

**All the details of Advent Windows, including the map for this year, are posted on the website [www.adventwindows.com](http://www.adventwindows.com). Pamphlets and maps also will be available at the Tourist Information Centre, St. Alfege Church and West Greenwich Library. For further information, please contact: Maureen Stapleton, Organizer (07595.741.755) or Rev. Chris Moody, Vicar, St. Alfege Church (020.8853.0687)**

## Working for a Safer Greenwich

Safer Greenwich is a new, independent Organisation which is run by and for residents. Safer Greenwich runs the Greenwich Safer Neighbourhood Boards which meet regularly to hold the police to account and ensure communities are more closely involved in problem solving and crime prevention.

They also scrutinise the use of resources by the borough police to guarantee value for money while tackling the crime issues that matter most to the local community.

A public meeting took place in Woolwich—unfortunately, too late to give due notice in the *W.N.* 1 December 2016. The meeting was a great opportunity for residents to hear more from their local police officers on the work they're doing in the community and discuss some of the main crime issues facing the borough.

**For more information on Safer Greenwich, please contact Joanne - [joanne.tan@gavs.biz](mailto:joanne.tan@gavs.biz) or 020 8309 8231**

## A Choral Christmas in Mycenae House



Featuring the choirs from the Blackheath Centre for Singing and St George's Church, we will be celebrating all that is exciting, uplifting and special about Christmas at this Seasonal Sing-along.

The event will feature music from pianist Peter Murden and readings from actress Cindy Fuller with the presentational duties coming from our favourite MC, the Rev Tim Yeager.

The event is free and we hope you will join us in raising the roof with song and music on this most special of seasons. If that wasn't enough we'll be providing Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Come along, bring your friends and family and celebrate in that special Mycenae, Westcombe and Blackheath community way!

**Friday 21st December at 7.00 pm.**



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*Christmas 2016*

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21 Choral Carols & Music

22 Bach To Baby

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# FEATURES



## Panto-time with Pollard

**B**OOING at this year's pantomime at Greenwich Theatre will reach new levels with the return of everyone's favourite villain Anthony Spargo as Captain Hook in *Peter Pan: A New Adventure*.

Anthony will be remembered and still loudly hissed for his dastardly portrayal of the Sheriff of Nottingham in Robin Hood and as the cruel and calculating Count Fracula in Red Riding Hood.

"He's made for the role - Anthony's the perfect villain," said James Haddrell, the theatre's artistic and executive director.

Andrew Pollard is once again lined up to write and direct *Peter Pan: A New Adventure*, but panto-punters are anxiously asking "But WHO is the Dame?"

The whole of Greenwich will breathe a sigh of relief to hear that the role of dame will be played by none other than Andrew Pollard! Oh, no, he isn't! Oh, YES, he is! For the eleventh time! He and Anthony will be surrounded by a cast of ultra-talented newcomers with the overall emphasis very much on high quality musical theatre. Among the cast are Rory Maguire, who has

just finished a tour of Shrek the Musical, to play Peter Pan, and Krystal Dockery - who made her debut as Cinderella at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith, is Tinkerbell,

Wendy is played by Louise Young from Mamma Mia and James-Paul McAllister, who has been touring the UK with Priscilla Queen of the Desert, will crop up in a host of under-the-sea roles.

Captain Hook's slimy sidekick Smee is played by Sackie Osakonor. "He's also a taekwondo black belt so Peter Pan will have to be on his toes," said James Haddrell.

"This production focuses strongly on musical theatre quality. More and more actors are keen to be a part of our panto because of the reputation that has grown over the years.

"What's equally important is the storytelling. The elements that people know and love from the classic tale of Peter Pan are there but this is a new story and we can't wait to share it with our audiences."

**Peter Pan is on until Sunday, January 8. For more details and ticket prices go to [www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk](http://www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk)**

## Supporting Greenwich Park

**G**reenwich Park Revealed, is the working title of a project to submit a Heritage Lottery Fund/Big Lottery Fund grant application under the 'Parks for People' grant programme. Grants of up to £5,000,000 are available for projects that will make a difference to the heritage, people and communities using their local parks.

Over 4.7 million visitors a year come to the park, which is no surprise to me as the park manager: it is one of London's great Royal Parks, but we know there are some aspects of the park that could benefit from investment. The much loved boating lake, for instance, which was built in the 1930's, is leaking and is in need of repair. Wolfe's

Statue presides over the finest view in London, but the quality of the landscaping around the statue and the erosion on the giant steps, does not reflect this prestige location. We aim to tell the story of Greenwich Park's past, improve it in the present and conserve it for the future. The residents of Westcombe Park are some of Greenwich Park's most loyal visitors. Your support will be essential if the HLF project is to succeed and there will be opportunities for anyone who wishes to engage and assist with the project.

There will of course be regular updates through the *W/N* but you can sign up to the project mailbox at: [greenwichrevealed@royalparks.gsi.org.uk](mailto:greenwichrevealed@royalparks.gsi.org.uk). **Graham Dear**

Book Review

## Going Nowhere

Barbara Ward

**J**oan Ruddock, former MP for Lewisham, has published *Going Nowhere*, a memoir of her personal and professional journey as a formidable campaigner, politician and champion of women's rights and environmental rights.

Joan rose to the highest level of government, holding key government positions, many high honours and becoming a member of the The Privy Council.

Joan has also been part of many key local, national and international political campaigns of her time. CND, Greenham Common, Shelter, Climate Change, to name but a few. Joan thinks that her proudest professional moment was helping to impose carbon limits internationally, but she campaigned on many other issues, too.

Joan described her memoir as standing out from many of her contemporaries because it is a story of a woman in government at a time when there were very few such women.

The book contains many interesting

campaign stories - including that opposing the closure of Lewisham Hospital - and Joan hopes the book will appeal to all and particularly to women who might wish to follow a similar path.

Joan still maintains strong links with the area that was once her constituency.

Joan's career has taken her across the globe, speaking and being involved in campaigns, locally nationally and internationally, some even involving the United Nations. This is a fascinating book which demonstrates Joan's deep commitment to women's rights and her constituents.

Joan Ruddock's journey goes on as Chair of Friend Blackheath Halls and now trustee at The Albany Theatre and through her own involvement with a number of special local projects.

**You can hear an interview with Joan Ruddock on Maritime Radio's website ([www.maritimradio.london](http://www.maritimradio.london))**

## Look who's back in town!

**F**ormer Charlton Athletic and West Ham United manager, Alan Curbishley, recently dropped in to see local author Tim Crane, at his house on Westcombe Hill.

Curbishley was the last time Charlton had anything to shout about and will be fondly remembered in the area.

Alan, who started his career at West Ham United in 1975 has just published a book titled *Game Changers* which takes a root and branch look at the current state of the great game. He also left with a copy of Tim's book; *They Played with Bobby Moore - The West Ham Years*, which is now in its second print run.

Both books are heartily recommended as stocking fillers this Christmas and are available on Amazon. Alternatively, readers are most welcome to buy the Bobby Moore book from Tim in person at his home at 183 Westcombe Hill.

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CHARLTON ATHLETIC EVENTS CALENDAR					
<b>17TH DECEMBER</b> CHRISTMAS SPIRIT DAY	<b>2ND JANUARY</b> ANNUAL MEMORIAL GAME KIDS FOR A CAUSE	<b>14TH JANUARY</b> STREET VIOLENCE RUINS LIVES	<b>4TH FEBRUARY</b> UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH TAKEOVER	<b>18TH FEBRUARY</b> FOOTBALL HOMOPHOBIA	<b>25TH FEBRUARY</b> ACADEMY DAY/ FOOTBALL FOR A FIVER
<b>11TH MARCH</b> RED, WHITE AND BLACK DAY	<b>25TH MARCH</b> LADIES DAY	<b>8TH APRIL</b> CHARLTON UPBEATS DAY	<b>17TH APRIL</b> MEN'S HEALTH DAY	<b>30TH APRIL</b> FINAL DAY	<b>27TH MAY</b> FA CUP FINAL
<b>DECEMBER 2016</b> Sat 10 Bradford Sat 17 PETERBOROUGH UTD Mon 26 Milton Keynes Dons Sat 31 Southend Utd	<b>JANUARY 2017</b> Mon 02 BRISTOL ROVERS Sat 07 Rochdale Sat 14 MILLWALL Sat 21 Scunthorpe Utd Sat 28 Bolton Wanderers	<b>FEBRUARY 2017</b> Sat 04 FLEETWOOD TOWN Sat 11 AFC Wimbledon Tue 14 Oldham Athletic Sat 18 OXFORD UTD Sat 25 BURY Tue 28 Shrewsbury Town	<b>APRIL 2017</b> Sat 01 Peterborough Utd Sat 08 SOUTHEND UTD Fri 14 Coventry City Mon 17 GILLINGHAM Sat 22 Chesterfield Sun 30 SWINDON TOWN	<b>MAY 2017</b> Sat 27 EMIRATES FA CUP FINAL	





# WHAT'S ON



## ARTS

**BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY**, St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath [www.artsinblackheath.org](http://www.artsinblackheath.org)  
All meetings are on the 4th Thursday of each month - except August and December- 2pm for 2.30pm  
**Jan 26th Mark Hill talks on Undressing Antiques**  
Non-members may pay on the door  
**GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY** King William Court, University of Greenwich [www.gdfas.org](http://www.gdfas.org) All lectures 8pm  
**Mon 12th Dec – Patricia Eskine-Hall**  
**'Catherine the Great- Myths & Truths'**  
Non-members may pay on the door  
**MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY**  
324, Creek Rd. [www.madeingreenwich.co.uk](http://www.madeingreenwich.co.uk)  
Open daily - 11 am -5.30pm  
**Wed- Dec 21 – 'Solstice Shorts Festival'** in association with Arachne Press and West Greenwich Library See website for details  
**BLACKHEATH ART SOCIETY**  
[www.blackheathartsociety.org.uk](http://www.blackheathartsociety.org.uk)  
Until 18th Dec- Open daily – 10am to 5pm  
**Exhibition 2016 ORNC, Cutty Sark Gardens, SE10 9NN Upstairs Gallery Free**  
**FAN MUSEUM, 12, Crooms Hill, SE10 8ER**  
Until Sat 31st Dec –'Town And Country'; - fans which depict the built environment.  
**Fan Making Workshops-** first Sat. of each month  
Adults: £4.00 Conc. £3.00- Children: (7-16) £3.00

## CHILDREN & FAMILY

**BLACKHEATH HALLS 23 Lee Rd. Blackheath, SE3 9RQ** Box Office: 0208 463 0100  
[www.trinitylaban.ac.uk](http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk) Sat 3rd Dec -1.00pm 'Jack Frost'- Moon on a Stick Productions 1pm & 3pm: puppetry, live music and enchanting storytelling.' Recital Room £8.50 Suitable for 3+  
Sat 10th Dec 3.00pm 'A Christmas Carol' Booster Cushion Theatre With the help of lots of humbugs, this very entertaining version of the Dickens classic take the audience back to Victorian England, using mime, voice and some suitcases loaded full of ghosts.'  
**GREENWICH THEATRE**  
Crooms Hill, SE10 8ES:Box office 8858 7755  
Until Sun 3rd Jan - Times vary **PETER PAN**  
'The show includes a rap about Fish Fingers, some food-based mess and a magical balloon ride that will have children 3+jumping for joy'  
£28 All children's tickets are half price/ Cones £20  
**NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM**  
Park Row, Greenwich, S.E.10 9NF [rmg.co.uk](http://rmg.co.uk)  
Discover Sundays-11.30am to 1.30pm, 2-4pm  
'Be inspired by our maritime past and explore connections to the sea- ask staff where the activity is on the day' Free  
Play Tuesdays 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm  
£3 per child with an accompanying adult-timed sessions: collect tickets from the admissions desk  
'have fun with your family by exploring the museum through crafts, music dance and drama'  
10.30-11.30 am and 1pm 2pm 3pm  
Adults – free Children £3 one accompanying adult, free for accompanying siblings under 6 months; suitable for under 5's  
Character Encounters: 'meet a character from the past and take part in an exciting performance that brings maritime history to life'  
Saturdays 12 1pm 2pm  
**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 [Daniel.hall1985@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Daniel.hall1985@hotmail.co.uk) for more details, [www.selondondads.org.uk](http://www.selondondads.org.uk)

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, KIRKSIDE RD** ref 16/2554/F Construct playground on grassed area for kindergarten

**41 MAZE HILL** ref 16/3619/F  
Replace door & window with a bi-folding door

**64 FOYLE ROAD** ref 16/3491/F  
Construct 2-storey rear extension

**62 WESTCOMBE HILL** ref 16/3443/F  
Retrospective change of use from storage to car and van hire

**79 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD** ref 16/3648/F Loft conversion with side and rear dormers and two roof lights

**JOHN ROAN SCHOOL, WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD** ref 16/2764/F  
Erect fence across main entrance and to rear

**JOHN ROAN SCHOOL, MAZE HILL** ref 16/2765/L Erect fences to provide security

**151 HUMBER ROAD** ref 16/2943/F  
Create front lightwell and lower ground floor window

**TREE WORKS**  
**100 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD** ref 16/3725/TC Fell holm oak in front garden

## COMMUNITY

**EAST GREENWICH PLEASANCE**, Chevening Rd, London SE10 [www.thebrdgegreenwich.co.uk](http://www.thebrdgegreenwich.co.uk)  
Sun 4th Dec -1.30pm – 4.30pm - Family Christmas Event 'The Bridge Community Centre will be transformed into Santa's Grotto – Santa arrives at 1.45pm, children can post a letter to Santa, mulled wine, mince pies, local musicians playing.  
**CUTTY SARK GARDENS**, Greenwich, SE10  
Sat 3rd Dec – 12.00pm-6.00pm- Christmas Fair  
Meet Santa's Reindeer, Live Music Stage, Puppet Show, Festive Food Stalls  
**BLACKHEATH VILLAGE DAY**  
Sat 3rd Dec 4.30pm Christmas lights Switch On  
**GREENWICH MARKET**  
Sat 17th & Sun 18th & Wed 21st – Sat 24th Dec – 'Santa in his Grotto' Funny elf will treat children to magic fun, Christmas gift bag £4 per gift  
**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 – Dec 7th 2nd 7.30pm – Christmas Social –members only  
**BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB** Duplicate sessions Mycenae House Mon & Thursdays 7.15pm and on Weds at 1.15pm Tel Ron 0208 319 1312  
**GREENWICH MORRIS MEN** Meet every Thursday at 8.00pm in Mycenae House. - Newcomers welcome.  
**READING GROUP** First Wednesday of each month Reading Group (New) for committed readers begins Dec 6th - Read –Discuss-Drink/ Eat - at Greenwich Union pub, 8pm, Royal Hill- - A few places left – contact Barbara Ward -ward.barbara@mac.com - first book – 'Mrs Hemingway', (2014), Picador

## SPOKEN WORD

**BLACKHEATH HALLS**  
Sat 17th Dec. 7.30 for 8.00 pm : Great Hall Jack Whitehall: Work in Progress Star of 'Bad Education' and 'Fresh Meat' Jack Whitehall tests out new material for his UK Tickets: £17.50  
**THE GREENWICH THEATRE**, Crooms Hill, SE10 8ES Box Office 0208-858 775  
Mon. 19h Dec 7.00pm Live Canon's Christmas 'a company renowned for their live performances of poetry, bring to life a host of festive favourites £20 with mulled wine & mince pies  
**INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
[greenwichindustrialhistory.blogspot.co.uk](http://greenwichindustrialhistory.blogspot.co.uk)  
17th January 2017 Stewart Ash on Sir John Pender. Age Exchange Old Bakehouse Bennet Park Blackheath Village Non-members £1  
**BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY**  
Friday monthly lectures at 7.45pm Mycenae House. Call 0208- 854 3389 for more information  
Fri. Dec 16th 7.45pm –AGM & members evening  
Visitors welcome at all meetings and are requested to donate £3 to the society.

## GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS

[Globalfusionarts.co.uk](http://Globalfusionarts.co.uk) Tel 0208 858 9497  
Fri 9th Dec 7pm – Wassall Night- Charlton House £6 & £5 concs.- on the door or <http://wegottickets.com>  
Wed 14th Dec –7pm Christmas Ceilidh Mycenae House Morrigan £6 & £5 concs.  
'The Fairy'- £3 donationThe Grand Salon Charlton House £3 donation

## MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: DECEMBER/JANUARY

Fri 9th Dec 8pm - JazzNights. Candlit Live Jazz Christmas Curry Special event hosted by Dave Silk featuring Bob McKay (sax). £10.  
Wed 14th Dec 7pm - Global Fusion Music & Arts. A Christmas Ceilidh evening with live music & dance featuring special guests. £6.  
Fri 16th Dec 7.30pm - Icarus Club. Acoustic Live Music Christmas Spectacular featuring the best familiar faces and special guests. £7.50.  
Sun 18th-Tues 20th Dec - Let's All Dance present The Nutcracker Ballet. Retelling the classic Christmas story the whole family will love. £12/10.  
Wed. 21st Dec 7.00 pm - Choral Carols. A festive sing-along with St. George's Church. Free entrance. Mulled wine, mince pies.  
Thurs 22nd Dec 4pm Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for families. £10.  
Fri 6th Jan - Charity screening of Twelfth Night. The Interactive Shakespeare Company present this feature length film to raise money for Neurofibromatosis Type 1.  
Wed 11th-Sat 14th Jan 7.45pm - The Roan Theatre Company. A daring and thoughtful play, An Experiment With An Air Pump. £1  
For further information about all Mycenae House events, please visit [www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)

## CHRISTMAS AT ST GEORGE'S

Sun. 18th Dec. 6:00 pm - Christmas Carol Service (followed by mulled wine, drinks & mince pies)  
Sat. 24th Dec. – 4:00 pm – Crib Service  
Sat. 24th Dec. – 11:30 pm – Midnight Mass  
Sun. 25th Dec. – 10:30 am – All Age Christmas Communion  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Wed. 7th Dec. 7.30pm **ST GEORGE'S SPIRITUAL FILM NIGHT**  
We will be showing "Meet John Doe", a 1941 film by Frank Capra. A man needing money agrees to impersonate a non-existent person who said he'd be committing suicide as a protest, and a political movement begins. Climaxing on Christmas Eve ...  
*Carol singing:* Pelton Arms Mon. 19th Dec., 7.30pm  
Vanbrugh: Thurs. 22nd Dec., 7.30 pm

## THEATRE

**THE GREENWICH THEATRE**, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755 [greenwichtheatre.org.uk](http://greenwichtheatre.org.uk) 3R  
Until Sun 8th Jan – times vary **PETER PAN**  
'The show includes a rap about Fish Fingers, some food-based mess and a magical balloon ride that will have children 3+jumping for joy'  
£28 All children's tickets are half price/ Cones £20  
**CUTTY SARK STUDIO THEATRE**  
Cutty Sark Ship, Greenwich  
[www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk) Cutty Sark, Lower Ground, The Dock, Sammy Ofer Gallery  
**LABAN THEATRE**, Creekside, SE8 3DZ  
Fri 2nd & Sat 3rd Dec 2.30pm & 7.30pm –'The Clockmaker's Daughter'

## MUSIC

**BLACKHEATH HALLS 23 Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9RQ=** 0208 463 0100[www.trinitylaban.ac.uk](http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk)  
Sat 3rd Dec - 12.30pm - Village Day & Christmas Lights – 4.30pm Free Recitals – Great Hall: 12.30m All Saints Choir  
1.00pm Trinity Laban Vocal Quartet  
1.30pm Halstow Community Choir  
2.00pm Blackheath Halls Gospel Choir  
2.30pm Royal Greenwich  
4.00pm All Blackheath Choirs will also be singing carols on the main stage at 4.00pm before the lights switch on 4.30pm  
5.30pm -Festive Family Sing-A-Long – popular Christmas songs.  
Sun 11th December – 8pm – Glenn Tilbrook: - The Best of Times 'Squeeze guitarist, singer, songwriter' £23/Conc.£21  
THU 08 DEC 19:30h the Trinity Laban Wind Orchestra in an eclectic performance of varied repertoire, including a world premiere by Trinity Laban student Erica MacLeod. £5.00  
Sun, 18th Dec. John Lenehan piano £14 | £12  
Recital Room A Christmas Fantasia Festive collection of silent film and music £14 | £12.00  
Mon 19th Dec. 1310hrs. Lunchtime Recital: Bach, Handel etc. Lana Trotovesk violin, Boris Bizjak flute, Masumi Yamamoto harpsichord Free with a retiring donation  
**OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE, SE10**  
Sun 4th Dec- 7pm Save the Children – Christmas Concert Featuring Trinity Laban Chapel choir, Meridian Brass, festive readings £16 - £22  
**CUTTY SARK STUDIO THEATRE**  
Sat 10th Dec- 8.00pm The Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir - they beat Beiber to last year's Christmas No 1! 'A festive evening underneath the ship's gleaming hull' £25  
**ST ALFEGE'S CHURCH** Greenwich Church St  
Lunchtime Recital - Thursdays (1.05pm)

## BLACKHEATH HALLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Fri 16th Dec- 7.30pm  
**Christmas Concert**  
including Benjamin Britten's  
A Ceremony of Carols,  
plus Christmas music and carols .  
With many community groups  
Tickets: £15 | £12 | £6 under 12s  
(Inc mulled wine & mince pie)



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LEARNING FOR LIFE





# FEATURES



## Keeping our *NHS* healthy . . .

Many Greenwich residents were shocked by a report by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich following an unannounced visit in June.

It is well known locally that the A&E department in QEH is massively over-stretched, so it was no surprise that the CQC reported that A&E patients were being treated in corridors and chairs.

The watchdog said that the hospital “requires improvement” after encountering a series of problems; among those noted during the visit:

- \* the deterioration of a patient with the deadly infection sepsis during their inspection because of inadequate monitoring.
- \* Some staff were also observed speaking “sharply” to patients.
- \* Children in A&E were not always given the full range of checks they needed.
- \* There were long waits in A&E.
- \* Some patients had to wear incontinence pads overnight because staff were too busy to help them use a commode.
- \* some had to wait two months to have their hair washed because hospital staff were too busy to help them.

The inspectors commented: “The nurse in charge . . . said staff were often too busy to provide personal care and this meant some patients could go up to two months without having their hair washed.... there were not enough staff for the volume of patients who would use commodes.”

“This deeply shocking case is yet another example of a health service stretched to breaking point due to under-funding by the Conservatives,” said the shadow health minister Justin Madders.

“Nurses have been consistently saying for several years that they are so stretched they often find they are unable to complete all the tasks on their shift.”

### Staff morale

As so often happens, the press seized on the negative findings: very few comments on how well the staff are coping under very difficult conditions . . .

A recent patient at QEH interviewed by the *WN* said: “I have nothing but praise for the staff on the ward I was in [Ward 12]; the staff were friendly, compassionate and professional. It is so easy for inspectors to find fault – indeed they have to justify their existence by finding fault. You never see a headline: ‘Staff praised for doing a superb job’.”

A member of hospital staff told the *WN*: “The CQC is great at making criticisms – especially when it comes to soft targets like A&E departments, which are under huge pressure across the country; yet they offer only criticism, rather than solutions.”

Ministers’ ‘incompetent’ decision in 2010 to cut the number of nurse training places had helped create the staff shortages that are common across the NHS, Justin Madders said. (Charging university fees for those taking up nursing is likely to make the problem even worse.)

Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust,

which runs the hospital, responded:

“We welcome this report. It does note that we have made

progress since the last CQC inspection back in February 2013, and we are pleased that our staff received a rating of ‘good’ for providing a caring, kind, and compassionate service.

“We recognise there is more to do and we have a detailed programme of making improvements . . . working with our health and social care partners – and indeed the CQC themselves . . .”

**WN  
reporter**

### Not acceptable

On examples of poor care highlighted in the media Claire Champion, Director of Nursing and Clinical Quality at QEH, commented: “The examples of poor care which are described in the CQC report are not acceptable and I was extremely disappointed when I learned about them.

“Since the CQC visit, our senior nursing team and I have worked to address the concerns highlighted in the report. We have also strengthened how we monitor standards of in-patient care through our quality ward rounds.

“I emphasise that I consider it to be gross misconduct and a failure of nursing care for patients to have to wear incontinence pads as staff say they do not have time to take them to the toilet, or for patients to have to wait such a long time to get their hair washed. We apologise to patients in these cases . . .

“The few examples of poor care cited in the CQC report do not reflect our overall standards and general performance across the Trust. As well as noting many cases of good care the CQC report praises the caring attitude of our emergency department staff. But we recognise that we need to get it right for every patient every time.”

### Meanwhile, at Westminster . . .

The findings emerged as the House of Commons health select committee warned that hospitals could struggle to cope in the face of a winter that will be “substantially more difficult” than last year’s.

In a report on how winter pressures affect A&E units, the cross-party group of MPs warned that many hospitals are failing to meet the target of treating 95% of emergency patients within four hours, so that patient safety is at risk,

“The winter of 2015-16 was mild and the flu vaccine worked. We heard of a fear amongst leaders of acute NHS trusts that 2016 - 17 could be substantially more difficult,” the report said.

Philip Dunne, the health minister, said: “The NHS is better prepared for winter than ever before, with plans in place to help hospitals to cope with additional demand – and the NHS is performing well despite the pressure of an ageing population, with nine out of 10 people seen in A&E within four hours.”



Our *NHS*: in safe hands?

## Mycenae House – Reach-Out Project – Context & Impetus

Mycenae House, a vibrant community hub in the Greenwich area, fundamentally exists to support and help develop the communities of South East London. Over the last few years, as the services of the NHS and the Local Authority have become more stressed and vulnerable to austerity, we have seen an explosion in the numbers of people seeking all kinds of critical support and advice.

We have been looking at how we can be more supportive and responsive to people’s needs and to build closer links with the services delivering front line support. We have been in discussions with other local organisations, local councillors and other service providers. As a result we are pleased to announce a new strand of work and two initiatives that we hope will bring lasting benefit to our community. This new strand of work is expected to focus on older people, vulnerable and isolated people and people suffering with mental and physical needs including Dementia and Alzheimer’s.

To begin this work the Vanbrugh Community Association have agreed to fund a Project Managers post for one year. She or he will be based at Mycenae House, which will strengthen the house’s current programme and also find ways to build new services and partnerships. Secondly we wish to form an Inclusive Community Partnership – an informal alliance of organisations and people whose work focuses on the more vulnerable people within our community and in supporting people’s needs.

To deliver this work, we are now in the process of recruiting a project manager.

This role is basically a 12 month kick-starting initiative that aims to reduce social isolation and improve access to Wellbeing support for our community by devising and delivering a range of work we aim to

make sustainable and long term. The role will:

1. Strengthen and develop the in-house programme of activities for the elderly, isolated and vulnerable community members. This will be done through making an analysis of need, opportunity and viability.
2. Instigate an alliance of symbiotic organisations, initiatives and individuals focussing on support for vulnerable people in our community. The group will look at ways to cooperate and strengthen their work in partnership.
3. Develop a sustainable model & plan to deliver this work over the long term. This is expected to include partnership development, project planning and applications for funding.
4. Create a new outward-reaching programme for Mycenae House based on community need.

### Drama on our doorstep!

The Roan Theatre Company is making a reappearance in the area where it was first formed in 1927, by, for the first time, putting on a play at Mycenae House. The play is *An Experiment with an Air Pump* by Sheila Stephenson, and it is on from January 11th -14th at 7.45 each evening.

The action of the play takes place in a house in 1799 – and in the same house 200 years later. Combining science, romance and comedy it was described by The Independent as ‘having energy, variety and intelligence’.

Several local actors, including a genuine ‘Old Roan’, will be appearing and the RTC hopes to attract more loyal followers following the performance. The RTC was last seen at the Bob Hope Theatre in Eltham with its very successful production of *Great Expectations*.

## Westcombe park dental practice



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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](mailto:philosophyper@aol.com)





# MARKET PLACE



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## GARDENING

**GARDEN MAINTENANCE:** mowing, weeding, pruning, communal garden contracts, fruit and vegetables, gardening tuition, RHS qualified, also domestic cleaning. Call John and Rachel on 07746 121510

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**HOUSE TO RENT** Sole Rose is a charming and beautifully furnished period house in the popular seaside town of Southwold, Suffolk. Situated within easy walking distance of the High Street, beach and pier. Sleeps 4/6. <http://www.solerose.co.uk> 07876385189

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## PERSONAL CARE & THERAPY

### BLACKHEATH HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICE.

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Tel: 020 8858 1991

### PILATES CLASSES AT MYCENAE HOUSE.

**Mondays at 1.45pm and Thursdays at 2.00pm.**  
All levels welcome, mats provided. Please contact Hilary for further details on 07970 290818

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- \* Re-laying floors-lino, wood laminates & ceramics.
- \* Domestic Electrical work.
- \* Plumbing - taps, showers, radiators and external.
- \* Garden revival and maintenance

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**Tony: 0208 856 9398 M: 07961 540836**

<http://www.tonysdiy.com/>

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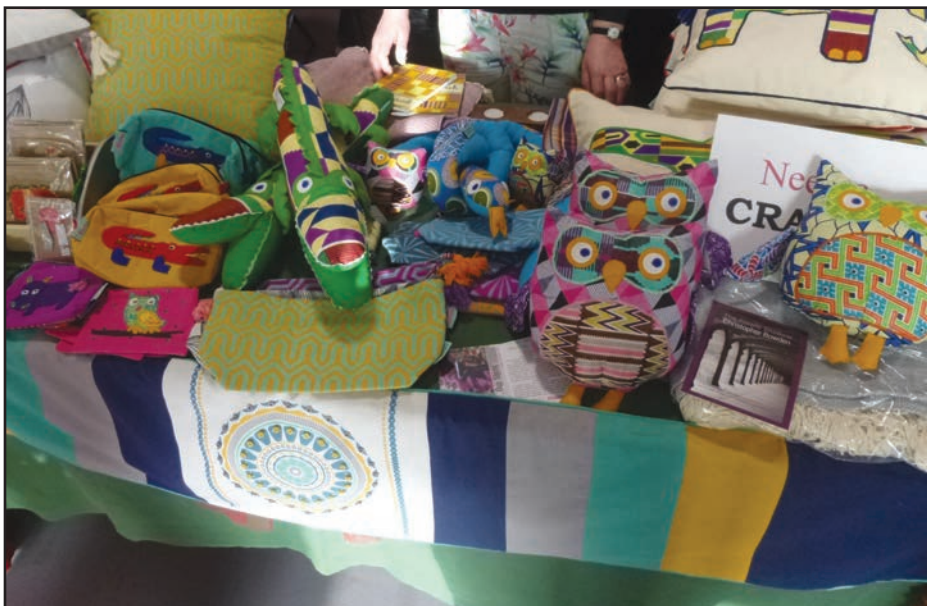
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# The Westcombe Society wish you all a Happy & Peaceful New Year



The stalls at the Christmas Bazaar this year were outstanding. They included hand-crafted Christmas decorations & cards, a wonderful collection of cushions and scarves made by disabled people in Tanzania, wonderful jars of jam and mincemeat, jewellery, books, art, cakes, and many other stalls. RIGHT: Santa and his minder might look as though they both just came out of jail. But appearances can be deceptive: they were going walkabout to remind us all that the Christmas action this year was at Invicta's new school!



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It's the year 1906. Rumours abound that a deadly plot is hatching - not in the fog-ridden back-alleys of London's Limehouse district or the sinister Devon moors of the Hound of the Baskervilles, but in faraway Peking. Holmes's task - discover whether such a plot exists and if so, foil it. But are the assassins targeting the young and progressive Ch'ing Emperor or his imperious aunt, the fearsome Empress Dowager Cixi?

The murder of either could spark a civil war. China's fate and the interests of Britain's Empire in the Orient could be at stake.

Holmes and Watson take up the mission with their customary confidence - until they find they are no longer in the familiar landscapes of Edwardian England. Instead, they tumble into the Alice In Wonderland world of the Forbidden City.

Contact:  
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