I

the words of the old song: "There isn’t room from now on..." We have
already permanently lost direct services to
Waterloo and Charing Cross from stations on the Greenwich line. Is there
going to lose them from Blackheath too?
Might this also mean that recently
published proposals to run Thameslink
services through Greenwich will be axed?
In the current consultation document on
the SE Rail Franchise there is a section on
"simplifying" the SE rail network "to improve reliability."

The proposals include:
• Removing the plan for all Metro Services on the
North Kent (between Dartford and
Connington) to 4th and 5th Kent
lines to terminate at Cannon Street only.

As many of the 2 million people who used
Westcombe Park and Maze Hill in 2015/16
already know, changing at London Bridge
has never been easy and even with the new
exciters at London Bridge the change won’t be particularly convenient
even when all trains stop at London Bridge
again. Many travellers may hope they can
continue on service to Blackheath, but with
these proposals this option would be closed.
Perhaps more importantly many
passengers need the Blackheath service to
Victoria and other places in South London,
such as Kings College Hospital.

The relevant question (Q.17) in the
consultation document reads as follows: "How far do you support or oppose, options to reduce the choice of central London destinations served from
individual stations with the aim of
providing a more regular, evenly spaced
timetable, and a more reliable service?"
The question gives no indication of what
greater reliability might mean. But many
passengers might think the benefits of
greater reliability suggested would be
massively outweighed by the inconvenience
and additional time incurred by
having to change trains or travel via
Central London in the case of Blackheath
Namune, Peckham Rye or Denmark Hill.

Mike Spatham from the Greenwich Linear

New proposals shock rail users

Emily Norton

Ranger’s House

English Heritage have new plans for
Ranger’s House. The idea is to replace the
guided tours with "Free ranger-guided
walks" for groups of 20 or more
seeking to recruit over 100 volunteers.
From July 1st, the plan is to open the house
from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm from Sunday to
Wednesday each week, running until the
end of September. All guides will be
taught the history of the house and its
collections as part of their induction
training. Interested? Please contact
Christopher Small@english-heritage.co.uk

Royal Hill garden saved

In Feb’s RV we reported that a dereelct car
park at the foot of Royal Hill that has been
turned into a community garden was under
threat of being demolished. Campaigners
managed to amass 2000 signatures in support of the garden, and
forty local residents presented their case at
a white-knuckle meeting of the planning
committee: the Council’s proposals were
turned down by six votes to five. Jonathan
Mantle, co-founder of the project with Tony
Other, said: "It’s extremely unlikely that
the application will be reassessed."
Tunnel Vision

Those who have doubts about the usefulness
of the Silvertown Tunnel are hoping
that the proposed new tunnel under
the Thames from Tilbury to Gravesend may
relieve pressure on both the Dartford Crossing and the Blackwall Tunnel – and
make the Silvertown project unnecessary.

Greenwich Winter Night Shelter

Many local volunteers were delighted to
partake in a service of thanksgiving, and
party, at Christ Church, East Greenwich, to
mark the end of the year’s programme for
homeless people. Also present were the new
Bishop of Woolwich, Bishop Karovos, and
Mrs Karovos. Welcome, bishop, or, as they
say in Nigeria, Ekafo!

Sad news

The RV is sorry to report that in April, a
woman was raped in Sutcliffe Park. In a
separate incident, Jordan Wright, 19, was
stabbed to death near Harvey Road. A local
resident said: “It’s just horrible. Things like
that don’t happen around here. It’s always
very quiet.”

Good advice from the spectators – but did the runners take any notice?

Kim Jong-un’s Blackheath Hideaway

Ev en the RV couldn’t make it up: and
as it’s May, it couldn’t possibly be an
April Fool.
A report in the Sunday Times of April
23rd, indicates that North Korea is
suspected of using a house in Blackheath
to help to fund the regime of the dictator
of North Korea, Kim Jong-un.

A property in Blackheath has been
registered as the UK’s branch of North
Korea’s state-controlled insurance firm,
the Korea National Insurance
Corporation (KNIC). The address of the
property is disclosed on the EU’s sanctions list, which
states the KNIC is “generating substantial
earnings from the exchange rate in which it
could contribute to nuclear-related, ballistic
missile-related or other weapons of mass
destruction-related programs.”

According to the Observer, KNIC is
registered to a detached property on
Kidbrooke Park Road. Its entry on
Companies House now describes KNIC as “closed” since 6 October 2016. In 2014
it had total assets of 130bn North Korean
won, the equivalent of £113m.

The British treasury has frozen KNIC’s
assets, and the Blackheath house cannot
be sold without the permission of the
government. The North Korean Embassy
says the allegations are “groundless.”

However, many are raising questions
about how many other unacceptable
regimes or individuals are using London
for money-laundering purposes, or for
other questionable financial activities.
Easter Egg Hunt

T his great family event took place on Easter Saturday in Mycenae Gardens and the weather was fine and sunny (at times)! Over 120 children attended and hunted for eggs. A tombola and cake stall were on hand, as was a face-painter to decorate young faces. Beautifully decorated baskets and hats won lots of well-deserved prizes. It was a very happy day, very well organised by the ladies of Westcombe Hill & their families. Well done and thank you. RIGHT: Jenny was among the winners.

AGM of Friends of Mycenae Gardens

T he Friends of Mycenae Gardens held their AGM on 22 March. The new chair, Mark Barnes, noted that in the early years of the group, each meeting had been crowded and debate “lively”. Recently, as the group adopted a more active role in maintaining and improving the gardens, attendances and the emphasis at the AGMs have both decreased. He hoped the increase reflected growing confidence in the work of the group, but noted that local support was even more essential, in order to undertake that work. The meeting was instead energised by Tim Hoo’s presentation of the achievements of 2016, including the backbreaking decapsulation work carried out by some members of GoodGym. Much of this had been organised by the three retiring members of the committee.

Westcombe Society AGM

Friday May 12th at 7.30 pm.

in The Centenary Room, Blackheath High School for Girls, Vanbrugh Park by kind permission of the Head

AGENDA

1 Welcome and apologies for absence
2 Last minute of AGM & matters arising
3 Brief reports:
   • Chairman’s Events Ctte & Environment Ctte
   • Westcombe News
4 Treasurer’s report & presentation of audited accounts
5 Election of new committee
6 Charity of the year 2017 - 2018
7 Any other business
8 Graham Baker, the manager of Greenwich Park, talks about the Greenwich Park Revealed Project
9 Wine and nibbles.

All members of the Westcombe Society are warmly invited to attend the AGM. Not a member? Now is a good time to join. Just turn up, and join on the spot!

Quiz Night April 1st.

To fools turned up for quiz night on Saturday 1 April! Apparently the questions were rather difficult this time and you could practically hear the power of concentrated thought. The top marks were not so very far ahead of the bottom, so every team did well in some of the rounds. Three teams contested the second place and, to add to the excitement, a tie-breaker was needed.

It was very good to welcome some new teams this time: not surprisingly the younger ones were particularly good on the rounds involving questions about the internet.

Staff from the Fisherman’s Inn turned up exactly on time with the tasty fish and chips – much appreciated!

Congratulations to Marilyn Little and her team, from Westcombe Hill, who won this time! And in particular many thanks to our Quiz-Master, J-I Aune.

St George’s, Glenclose Rd. Westcombe Park

Sunday 11th 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion (All Age service 1st Sunday of each month)
Monday: 8.30 a.m. Morning Prayer 12.30 p.m. Soup Lunch Fellowship
Scoties Groups meet at 9 Westcombe Pl Road 1st & 3rd Sunday each month
"Special Events in May"

Wed, May 17th 7.30 at St George’s Spiritual Film Night. The Spirit of ‘45 (2013) Ken Loach film about the vision of a more caring society in the wake of WWII.

Contact: Revd Tim Yeager tyeager@gmail.com Tel: 07860 414245

Correction: In our piece about Myles Dove we were misinformed about him wind-surfing in Portsmouth Harbour. We should have said Portland Harbour, in Weymouth. Much better location for wind-surfing, Dorset!

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The Westcombe Society presented this mimosa to Myles Dove and Barbara Henley to thank them for all their work managing the distribution of the HV for so many years.

Myles reports: “I thought your readers would be glad to hear that the tree is flourishing!”

As is Myles, who continues to do his share in distributing the HV. A real trouper!

Westcombe News May 2017

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Letters

From: Mike Spribille Greenwhich Live Users Group

S pribille are consulting about their timetable from January 2018, when the work at London Bridge is completed and Cannon Street services can stop there again.

Unfortunately, the changes proposed are minor and overwhelming on this line is set to get worse. Last year, five peak services were diverted away from Greenwich in each direction and anybody travelling at peak times will know how busy the remaining services are.

With trains stopping at London Bridge again, they will get even busier, and the pre-2018 peak time frequency should be restored. Readers may be surprised to hear that this consultation was open only until 29th April – it was not nearly as widely publicised as it should have been – but it may still be worth sending comments to timeatb Klingemanagement@ southeasternrailway.co.uk. The DfT’s other consultation is about the new franchise, beginning in December 2018. One proposal DfT has floated is that all services on the Blackheath line (via Blackheath) should run only to Cannon Street, as is the case on the Greenwich line. Many passengers in the Westcombe Park and Royal Arsenal areas use Blackheath station to direct services to Waterloo, Charing Cross and Victoria. Diverting these services into Cannon Street would be a regrettable step. It is not necessary and removes choice from passengers. Comments on this consultation can be sent to BetterSouthEast@dfi.gov.uk by 23 May Ed. See also page 1 of this month’s HV.

From G Bailey Westcombe Park Road

In last month’s HV, the Council’s new plans for Charlton Riverside were outlined. Historically, Charlton Riverside has been an important industrial hub, which was largely destroyed during the blitz, as your story of the Story of Invicta mementoes.

Today, the area is host to a large number of small businesses - workshops, studios, printing works, light industry - and provides a significant amount of local employment opportunities. Yet the plans seem to envisage the whole area being turned round for residential use, where will all the new residents be working? Is it to become a dormitory for those working elsewhere? I do hope that the Council has plans to re-use all these small businesses.
Royal Arsenal: a new Hub for the Arts

Planning has been approved to transform a section of the historic riverfront site in Woolwich. The Royal Borough of Greenwich’s Cabinet approved the plans in March to transform a section of the historic Royal Arsenal riverfront site in Woolwich into a 16,500-square-metre creative hub.

Creating more than 400 local jobs

The project will feature an array of large-scale concert venues, rehearsal and studio spaces, offices, restaurants, and a base for internationally acclaimed theatre companies. The site has long been identified as a key driver for the local economy, and it will provide a new foundation in the continued revival of Woolwich and the surrounding area. It is anticipated that the new creative district will provide more than 400 local jobs in addition to new roles during construction.

Boost to the local economy

Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich Cllr Denise Hyland said, “For almost 300 years, the Royal Arsenal was a major employer and the backbone of the local economy. These exciting plans place the site at the forefront of providing local jobs once more.”

“Approximately one in six people in London work in the creative industries; this proposal will create new skills and wide ranging employment opportunities to open up these industries to residents and provide a massive boost to the local economy. This is an investment in the future of Woolwich and the future of the borough as a whole.”

Westcombe News May 2017

Community Poetry

Barbara Ward

O

the evening of 31st March 2017, West Greenwich Library Creative Writers Group gathered to perform their work in an evening of poetry, prose and music.

A truly wonderful event with many talented writers, both published and first-time, performing their poems. The audience were treated to interactive poetry, life-verse as poetry, heartfelt slices of member’s lives. We heard an ode to abandoned Christmas trees, declarations of love in remembered letters, a mother’s view of parenting. For myself, the best of all were the joyous poems of a Maudsley Mental Hospital worker who wrote poems full of hope, to read to patients and inspire them. Bravé to the librarians who organised the evening and the wine – and provided space for the diverse group that meets every first Thursday of the month at the library. And very well done to the organiser who serenaded the well attended event and provided a back drop to the poetry. This was Community Arts at it’s very best. Long may it continue!

London by night

In her first solo exhibition, contemporary artist Lubna Speitan launches a striking series of original monochromes – ‘nightscapes’ that capture the unique aura of London after dark showcasing her distinctive and instantly recognisable style. Working predominantly in oils and acrylics Lubna paints landscapes and seascapes, portraits and abstracts.

Most distinctive, however, are her nightscapes of London, capturing the enigmatic uncanniness of nights in the city, nights lit by brittle holograms, lighting street signs, and the sheen of rainwater.

These scenes are full of secrets: this is a hidden London: the city of those who live on the streets, the friendless, the outsiders.

The paintings reveal the loneliness that looms over London in the dead of night. Inspired by periods of insomnia, Lubna has calmly observed the interplay of darkness and illumination, and invites viewers to share the mystery of these deep and fleeting spaces.

Born in London in 1983, Lubna Speitan has a BA in Graphic Design, University of East London. She has many diverse interests, and is active in social politics, environmentalism, and championing the rights of minorities and the dispossessed.

She says: “My intention is to feed the imagination of my viewers, to transport and communicate. With a little imagination we can travel great lengths together.”

Lubna’s work can be viewed 8th May – 8th June 2017, Mon-Sat from 9am – 5pm at Greenwich West gallery

Enter G-West Café, Lovelace Lane, Greenwich, London SE10 8JA in Greenwich West Community Centre, 341 Greenwich High Road, Contact: 07788 217 893 lubnaspelatan.com

World Heritage Day 2017

Greenwich was one of thirty World Heritage sites in the UK to celebrate World Heritage Day, 2017 on April 18th. The Carty Sack, the Queen’s House, National Maritime Museum and Royal Observatory, as well as the Old Royal Naval College were all bathed in light for one night only – the first time in Maritime Greenwich’s history that they have all been lit up. But why did so few people know about it?

Sing with “The Befrienders”

The Befrienders and Trinity Laban vocal department students present a feel-good, musical celebration of Springtime on Tuesday 9th May at 1.05pm in the Peacock Room, King Charles Court, Old Royal Naval College, SE10 9RF.

Join The Befrienders and Trinity Laban vocal department students as they join together to present a fun, feel-good lunchtime concert to welcome Spring. Featuring original songs from the group, we are also celebrating fifty years of two iconic albums of the 1960s – The Graduate soundtrack and The Beatles’ Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band. Come and be entertained, join in, sing along and leave with a spring in your step!

The Befrienders are a social singing group for older people run by Ageing Well Lewisham working with Trinity Laban. The group meet every Tuesday at the Grove Centre in Sydenham, 10am – 12pm and are one of four groups within Trinity Laban’s “Inspired not Tired” programme of music and dance for people aged 60 and above. And it’s free!

You have been warned!

A reader writes: “I was scammed yesterday. I was repeatedly and persistently telephoned by a woman with an Indian accent who insisted that she was urgently contacting me on behalf of BT because a California-based operation was trying to access my computer. I repeatedly challenged her and she was able to produce plausible BT credentials and a call-back number. I gave her the benefit of the doubt and albeit cautiously followed her instructions to remove bugs on my computer.

However at one stage this involved downloading a version of Norton called Teamviewer meant to help her remove the bugs and give extra protection but in fact gave her remote control. She then showed me a list of recent but blocked attempts to back me. The whole process went on far too long with questions about Facebook and online purchases.

“It finally got round to my bank account and a genuine on-screen form from my bank (which she claimed not to be able to see) to set up an on-line account, something that I have never wanted. Now I have been partially put in account details, but seeing that I immediately had emails from my bank to say I had set up an on-line account and changed my email address, I aborted the process.

“I immediately telephoned my bank, was referred to the fraud section and disabled the on-line account. Efforts to report the incident to BT and on the on-line cyber fraud police website were less successful. I have myself traced and uninstalled the Teamviewer programme but must now call in a computer expert to check my computer.

“I obviously feel a real fool...”

Ed: It could happen to anyone...

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Developments on the peninsula

Neville Grant

Remember back in September 2015 the Royal Borough of Greenwich Planning Board gave the go-ahead to developers Knight Dragon on a landmark application that will create 20,000 new homes and 12,000 jobs on the Peninsula. The development also includes provision for two new schools, a new North Greenwich transport hub, new community and health facilities and a new 40,000-square-metre film studio.

Knight Dragon have now released the first images of the new £1 billion landmark glass building set to tower over the Greenwich Peninsula by 2021. The structure will be made up of an 80ft winter garden atrium topped with three triangular towers, and is designed by one of the world’s leading architects – Spanish born, Santiago Calatrava.

To be called Peninsula Place, the building will include some 800 apartments, (200 as ‘affordable’), a 500 room hotel, 300,000sq ft of offices and about 80 shops, as well as bars, restaurants, bars, a cinema and a performance venue.

There will also be a bridge linking the development to the Thames. This is Calatrava, known for his bridges: so of course, a bridge. Sadly, no bridge across the Thames (which of course would have to be high enough to allow cruise ships to the Thames (which of course would have to be high enough to allow cruise ships to access Enderby Wharf). Users of the 108 or 422 bus will be cheered to know that the current bus access Enderby Wharf.

The tube station is to be renamed “Peninsula Place will create a new buzzing, cultural destination in the capital, which I’m confident will attract visitors not only from London, but around the globe. “This investment in key infrastructure in the capital is a vote of confidence post-Lib Dem, and shows that London is open to business, trade and attracting the greatest talent from around the world.”

Who is Calatrava?

First came across a Calatrava structure in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The award-winning Quadracci Pavilion of the Milwaukee Art Museum has a movable, superstructure like a bird, with a “wing-span” of 217 feet, which can open up and close down as required. Calatrava has his own flamboyant style: among his masterpieces are the Lyon-Europe Airport Railway Station, New York’s World Trade Centre Transportation Hub; the Olympic Sports Complex in Athens and his Turning Torso Building in Malmo; and numerous beautiful bridges that seem, visually, to sing like harps.

Born in 1951, he was educated in Valencia, and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. La Escuela Tecnica Superior de Arquitectura de Valencia followed, after which he went on to postgraduate studies in civil engineering in Zurich. Calatrava is a controversial figure among architects. Writing in the Observer Sun 5th February 2017, Rowan Moore, said: “He has the trappings of polymathic genius. He was an engineer and a mathematician before he was an architect. He sculpts with a smooth abstraction a bit like Brancusi. He wants you to know that he paints every day: washes of doves, bulls and ecstatic nudes. Presentations of his projects come with drawings in a similar style, showing his working out of shapes and details.”

He also brings in his train a stagger- ing number of alleged mishaps, projects late and over-budget, leaking roofs and falling masonry, broken limbs caused by slippery glass surfaces. His record was dismembered by an article in the New York Times . . .

So even geniuses have their flaws: though his projects have a track record of massive overspending, and running over time-limits, there is no doubt that he will leave his mark in Greenwich.

Is education happening?

Yes. Michael Oakeshott famously said that education was a conversation between generations. In recent times a considerable gap has opened up, because children see a different world with different emphases and fashions. This makes education very difficult.

Parents need to do everything they can to “talk the same language as their children”.

Schools need to do everything they can to win the trust of pupils. Without these moves much teacher talk in classrooms is a waste of time.

The P E R Group’s new website: www.perprospero.co.uk

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Meet your neighbour:
The WN meets STEPHEN WHITEFIELD

Kent may be the “Garden of England” - but the Garden of Westcombe Park must surely be Angerstein Lane, where the garden is tended lovingly by Stephen Whitefield. April was a good time to see it, with the daffodils & tulips competing with the forget-me-nots, and the peonies pushing through.

PHOTOS: Neville Grant

Nearby: this Victorian postbox still in use

We are sailing ...

In April, the Tall Ships again came to Royal Greenwich.

Following the success of the Tall Ships Festival in 2014, Greenwich hosted the start of the Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta, which is organised by Sail Training International.

From 13th - 16th April, 30 Tall ships were moored in Woolwich and Greenwich. Members of the public had the opportunity to go aboard these ships, and could buy tickets from Sail Royal Greenwich for short trips on board some of the ships up and down the Thames – the best possible way of seeing riverside Greenwich.

On board for the first leg: fifty young volunteers from Greenwich. Among them Capres Turner, studying anthropology and Sociology at Goldsmiths, and Samuel Weston, who is studying photography at Ravensbourne College.

F: Well, who wouldn’t want to pass by? For what you have here, Steve, is a work of art, gardening art!
SW: Thank you! It’s just a cottage garden, really. I should also mention the efforts of my neighbour in 8 Vanbrugh Terrace, who has done some wonderful planting and landscaping on his side of the lane, to complement the side I’ve been working on.

F: You have always lived here?
SW: No, I was born in Eltham, and I’ve lived around this area – mainly in Blackheath, all my life.

F: So, a professional gardener, then?
SW: Not at all! I studied construction and technology early on, and then moved on into property development. I only really started this garden about 12 years or so ago, as a hobby. I’m mainly self-taught. My parents were both keen gardeners, so I suppose something must have rubbed off, though of course I wasn’t at all interested in gardening when I was young.

F: But you must have green fingers!
SW: Well, I have had to develop them. And books and radio and TV programmes have been a big help too.

F: Any tips?
SW: Not really: just crack on!

F: I see you have a quince tree over there, and that is a fruit tree?

SW: A pear tree. There’s another behind you, for cross-pollination purposes.

F: So I guess you have a lot of people coming to admire your garden?

SW: Yeah – for example, one day Ella came passing by – she’s a student of dance at Trinity Laban. She seems to have fallen in love with the garden, and she comes in quite often to lend a hand. But the time everyone should come is Sunday 18th June. That’s when Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice have their Open Garden Festival, raising funds for the hospice. Tickets are £3.00, and you can also buy tea and cakes. Or you can pay £10.00 and visit as many gardens as you like: a great day out. Last year my garden brought in £400.00

F: Well done – and a very worthy cause. Great to meet you Steve; and see you on 18th June!
bluebell alert

The Woodland Trust has told the WN that visiting a bluebell Wood is one of the UK’s great seasonal highlights and the Trust has lots for you to visit for free across the South and East this spring. It lists some of the best spots for enjoying bluebells – the nearest places to us are in Kent – Ashenbank Wood, Cobham, and Hucking Estate, Maidstone. Oh, and there’s also the Westcombe Woodlands! (as in the photograph).

Half of the world’s population of bluebells are here in the UK. They can usually be found between mid-April and late May, when the flowers can make the most of light reaching the forest floor before the full woodland canopy casts its shade. They can provide a valuable, early source of nectar for bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other insects. Occasionally you will spot white bluebells in amongst the violet – this is caused by a genetic mutation.

The BJWP

The Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) had its annual public meeting at the end of March. This provided an opportunity to discuss various aspects of the heath’s upkeep and use. It also allowed the general public to learn about progress on the various projects that have been funded by money from the OnBlackheath concerts, which so far, have provided an annual sum of £15,000.

For the 2016/2017 period, funds went to the Hare & Billet Action Group, Story Boards (part funding), a grassland and ecological survey of the whole heath and bird-proof litter bins. For the 2017/2018 period, funds have been agreed for: additional bunds; “Do not feed the wild fowl” signage for the Prince of Wales Pond; Nature Walk leaflets; and Lewisham sides of the heath. A draft ecological survey of the whole heath and Lewisham sides of the heath. A draft was produced last year by the amenity societies and this has since then been going between the two councils and is expected to appear in the very near future.

In 2017, from May onwards we can expect the return of “In The Night Garden Live” on the Circus Field from mid-May to mid-June. Race for Life at the beginning of July is followed immediately by the Foodies Festival. Late August into Early September sees a funfair on Circus Field overlapping by a day with the arrival of OnBlackheath, with 9th/10th September being performance days.

In the second half of October, a funfair on the Lewisham side of the A2 will continue through the weekend of the annual fireworks (4th November). Finally, the Christmas Lights switch-on Blackheath Village event is on 2nd December.

Go With the Flow

Jim Wintour

While a grey cloud hangs over much of the economy, one ray of sunshine is the global cruise line industry. The industry has been growing by a sprightly 6% a year, outstripping most other sectors. Barcelona was visited by over two million cruise line passengers last year. Even a small town like Akureyri in Iceland, far smaller and far colder than London, had 90,000 cruise line passengers. Yet London is missing out, with only a measly 20,000 cruise line passengers docking in central London last year.

The reason London is missing a trick is simple. According to one cruise operator, London is the only major European port “which fails to live up to its status in terms of arrival infrastructure”. In other words, London lacks a proper cruise liner terminal.

There are some decayed facilities in Tilbury, but otherwise cruise liners are forced to go to Dover or Southampton. As Clr Danny Thorpe of Greenwich Council points out, the terminal will add a new dimension to Greenwich’s tourist industry, presently worth some £1.1 billion a year to the local economy. It will bring new jobs on top of the existing 16,000 jobs in tourism in Greenwich, and people will be trained in the proposed new skills centre at Enderby Wharf.

However, the proposed new cruise line terminal at Enderby Wharf is just a small step to improving London’s facilities and will only handle about 50,000 passengers a year. If Greenwich and London are going to reap the benefits of tourism and jobs on the transformational scale of Barcelona, then an additional and massively larger cruise liner terminal is needed, perhaps shore-powered and located in Woolwich.

Jim Wintour lives near Enderby Wharf

PHOTO: courtesy Port of London Authority

PHOTO: Frank Smith

The Viking Star in Greenwich. Launched in 2015, it carries up to 930 passengers.

Westcombe News May 2017