Planning matters

The Westcombe Society Environment Committee is particularly concerned with issues that affect the local area. We keep a close eye on planning applications where appropriate and attend planning committee meetings when necessary. Recently, we have been aware that the Planning Department of the Royal Borough of Greenwich has been severely over-stretched. Information to the public has been delayed, and there is a backlog of applications to be dealt with, and some errors have occurred.

The debacle over the failure to process the application for a mobile phone mast in Selborne Road is but one example. In that case, the Council failed to process the applications within the requisite 56 days, and, as a result, the development has gone through by default.

So it was with some interest that we noted a motion on this theme that was proposed by a group of councillors at the recent Full Council meeting. This, while acknowledging the hard work of officers, regretted recent planning errors and delays that have been a result of large case-loads and an absence of performance delays that have been a result of large case-loads and a backlog of applications. Many observers feel that this is likely to be money well spent.

The proposal called on the Council to implement a full review of what has gone wrong in the planning department.

Response, the Deputy Leader of the Council recognised that there had been a backlog of applications but argued that in the period July to September 98% of ‘non-major’ planning applications had been processed on time. He told the meeting that the Regeneration and Scrutiny panel planned to conduct a review into the problems and that its findings would be made public.

As part of this motion, the Full Council is open to the public. Details, including the agenda and papers, can be found on the RBG website. Full Council meetings are also available through the webcast and can be accessed at https://royalgreenwichpublic.invisionco.com/home. We welcome this additional route to public engagement.

The Bazaar

The Westcombe Society’s return to Blackheath High for the annual Christmas Bazaar was a huge success,” said the organiser Marilyn Little, “and we are very grateful to the Head and staff for their generous support.”

Probably around 300+ adults and children came through the door – a steady stream throughout the day. Many of the children visited Santa and were very happy with their presents.

The stallholders’ stall was very well attended, and, as a result, the development has gone through by default.

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A Christmas message

The Royal Standard Business & Traders’ Association wish to thank all our customers and neighbours for continuing to support your local shops and businesses.

We hope that both residents and visitors to Westcombe Park and Blackheath Standard enjoy the Christmas lights display. These lights have been provided through the generosity of the Traders’ Association, together with donations from the Westcombe Society and the Langton Way Residents’ Association.

Whilst the electricity is provided by the Royal Standard Business & Traders’ Association has to pay for the lights and associated costs. This year these amounted to £1,300.

Whilst we are just about able to fund the backlog, Greenwich’s new assistant director for planning, Victoria Geoghegan, recently recommended that external consultants should be taken on to help out. Regional Enterprise Ltd will be providing “planning application services” at a cost stated to be up to £50,000 for six months.

Many observers feel that this is likely to be money well spent.

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As everybody knows, Christmas is a time of giving. But here I’m writing about a different kind of present.

I have recently been working with the local charity appeal ‘Penny for a Brick’. They’ve been running for over 11 years now and have taken donations from local people to support young children in Nepal. I visited the country in 2014 with the Boy Scouts, and wrote about it in The Westcombe News when we mounted a “Penny for a Brick” campaign to help improve schools.

I cannot begin to describe the majesty of its scenery, the diversity of its culture, and, more importantly, the kind-heartedness and hospitality of its people – despite levels of poverty we can only imagine. Sadly, many of the most vulnerable who live there are children with no chance at receiving the support they need.

‘Penny for a Brick’ is trying to sponsor even more children than before to ensure that they receive a full education, safety at school and a decent meal each day. We can achieve this through the small donations from members of the public.

As we did following the 2015 earthquake, we are running a bag-packing event involving local Scouts at a nearby supermarket to raise funds and awareness for the children of Kathmandu. Please give when you can!

We are also appealing for local people to sponsor a deserving, desperately-in-need child. Please email me at benmountainmedia@gmail.com for more information if you would be interested in doing this. I cannot stress enough the impact these sponsorships have upon young people’s lives.

It was once said that “If you cannot feed a hundred people, then just feed one.”

You can do so this Christmas and change a life forever.

Thank you all in advance – and have a very Merry Christmas!

Ben Mountain

Friday 25th November saw waves of people turning up at Blackheath High School for the Girls in Myceuse Road for the Christmas Bazaar to enjoy the music, the colourful stalls and the festive atmosphere. Santa’s Grotto was very popular, as was Punch & Judy. Tim Crane was the lucky winner of the Westcombe Hamper.

Many thanks to Westcombe Dry Cleaners 74 Westcombe Hill for providing the lovely Christmas Tree.

Maggie Gravelle

Oliver Dimsdale

Punch and Judy and Father Christmas. A very attractive show, too, was, as always, a big draw. The Punch and Judy show was, too, was, as always, a big draw. The Punch and Judy and Father Christmas. A very attractive show, too, was, as always, a big draw. The Punch and Judy show was, too, was, as always, a big draw. The Punch and Judy show was, too, was, as always, a big draw. The Punch and Judy show was, too, was, as always, a big draw.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas!
**Quiz Night Time**

In November, the Westcombe Society held yet another successful Quiz Night in Mycenae House. Ten teams competed with fierce good humour to find the answers to posers put by the question master J-J Aune. Many of the questions were quite challenging, ranging from Ancient Egypt to quotes from Shakespeare and the stars of horror films. The bid did a roaring trade, and the fish or chicken and chips were delicious.

All the best quizzers have the teams jostling for position, with only a few marks separating them as the results are counted, as happened this time. Congratulations to the winning team (above: - The 7NZs) and well done the runners-up: “The Strange Thing” (left, no, not a literal...) And of course many thanks to J-J and the other helpers who scored and cleared up.

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**People’s Parlour**

Everyone using Blackwall Lane will have noticed the Byzantine domes of the Church of St Mary and St George, which have unfortunately been covered up by scaffolding. But apart from some older residents of East Greenwich who remember using the cellars as an air raid shelter, not many local people have actually ventured into the building in recent years.

In an effort to reintroduce Rotherhithe Hall to the community, EEA, in conjunction with the East Greenwich Residents Association, have been working on a very popular project with older residents. Every Thursday morning, EEA runs creative workshops ranging from metal-work to drawing, gardening to poetry – all fuelled by plenty of tea, cake and conversation.

As well as working on some much needed planting to improve the local streetscape, there will be a December lantern procession in conjunction with local schools. The project is currently funded by the Arts Council with a contribution from Greenwich Council. EEA and EGRA are now running a crowdfunding campaign so that this popular initiative can continue. All contributions, big or small, will be gratefully received at http://www.crowdfund.co.uk/people-parlour

The People’s Parlour - every Thursday morning from 10.00 to 12.00. All over 60s welcome to come and try something new.

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**Charlton’s New Skate Park**

Free coaching sessions and a skate competition marked the opening of Charlton Park Skate Park in October. Brownies and scouts were invited to meet the local residents who couldn’t wait to try out the Royal Borough of Greenwich’s latest state-of-the-art facility. The Skate Park incorporates a series of elevations and dips designed to suit fans of skating, cycling, and scooting no matter what their age or ability.

Saturday’s launch featured a competition for more advanced skaters, impressive demonstrations, free coaching over for eight hours and Dr Bike marking. The Skate Park was designed following extensive consultation with focus groups including local residents, park users and skaters of all ages, and should appeal particularly to young people of all ages.

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**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.

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**Well done, Zoe!**

Zoe Laver from Blackheath High School has been crowned one of the winners of the national art competition ‘Spirited Arts’ held annually by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE). ‘Spirited Arts’, now in its 14th year, aims to get people thinking about RE through Art, to produce work based on their own research. This year there were 1800 entrants.

Zoe, now in Year 8, created a painting about the Buddhist monk Thich Quang Duc, who set himself on fire in 1963 to protest against the persecution of Buddhists. Explaining her painting, Zoe said: “I find it truly inspirational that this holy man would...”

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**Christmas Services**

Christmas Carol Service (followed by hot mulled wine, drinks and mince pies)

Sunday, 24th Dec 4:00 pm – St Mary’s Church, Greenwich

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**Campaign against bullying**

How many of us were aware that November saw “anti-bullying week”? Anti-Bullying Week from 13th - 17th November had the theme ‘All Different, All Equal’. Schools were encouraged to take the issues on board, and help children come to terms with this appalling trend.

A poll published by the Anti-Bullying Alliance based on the National Children’s Bureau has shown that:

- • 40% of children polled said they would hide aspects of themselves for fear of being bullied.
- • 61% said they would hide or change how they look to avoid being bullied.
- • 64% of children polled know someone being bullied in their school.
- • 36% say that they don’t learn enough about what to do if it happens to them.
- • Anti-Bullying Alliance patron Andy Day, with his band Andy and the Odd Socks, asked schools to celebrate what makes us all unique by asking children to wear odd socks to school on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week (13th Nov.) and celebrate ‘Odd Socks Day’.

In November, 100 pupils from six Greenwich primary schools attended a day-long series of workshops designed to boost the children’s self-confidence, and put a stop to bullying.

Aimed at John Roan School observed Anti-Bullying Week, a spokesperson for the school told the WVF: “We don’t just have one week dealing with the issue; we take bullying very seriously where it occurs, and we have things going on about bullying all the time. For example, we had a library event in November in which the theme was “Don’t judge a book by its cover” – the message being we should make snap judgements about other people because of how they look.”
Pickled herring, Kentucky Fried Chicken - how would you fancy these for your Christmas dinner? You’d be surprised at what is seen as a Christmas Treat among some of our close neighbours, especially in the off-shore continent. Here the W3 carries out a brief culinary survey...

**France** – The main Christmas meal in France is called *Noël* and typically enjoyed late on Christmas Eve or early Christmas morning – often after people have returned from Midnight Mass. The dish is usually roast turkey with chestnuts or roast goose served with oysters, foie gras, lobster, or venison – not forgetting a variety of cheeses and a rhubarb de Noel (a chocolate log cake). In some areas there is a celebration where 13 desserts are eaten, representing Jesus and his 12 apostles.

**Germany** – In Germany the usual dish is goose and cabbage (some people swap goose for carp – also common in Poland); pudding is a fruitier yeast bread called stollen. It is said that those who don’t eat well on Christmas Eve will be haunted by demons: any excuse is better than none.

**Italy** – On Christmas Eve many Italian families enjoy the Feast of Seven Fishes – seven fish-based dishes served before the Midnight mass service. Then it’s home for a slice of cake – Panettone – and a cup of hot chocolate.

**Japan** – Christmas in Japan is seen more as a time to spread happiness than a religious festival. The preferred meal for Christmas Eve is fried chicken which means that Christmas is the busiest day of the year for KFC as it often sees people queuing up outside the doors. Many place orders in advance to avoid disappointment.

**Slovakia** – Carp is the dish of choice. Many families buy the fish alive and keep it in the bath until Christmas Eve, so care should be taken when having a bath . . .

**Iceland** – In 1988, Iceland’s National Assembly declared Thorlák Thorhalsson a saint, and he is now the patron saint of the country. He died on December 23rd, and so, in many Selkirk’s Benbecula adventures. Iceland. The dish of choice is boiled potatoes and fermented skate. Mmm, delicious . . . ! But pity about the smell . . .

**Sweden** – It’s Christmas! The presents are under the tree, the candles are lit, and it’s time for the smorgasbord. This includes an egg and anchovy mixture (gubbribör), ham, pork sausages, pickled herring, home-made liver pâté, wort-flavored yeast bread (vörtbryd), potatoes and an infamous fish dish, lutfisk: dried ling or saithe soaked in water and then simmered until it is done. Do NOT try this at home. Garrison Keillor, in his novel Pontoon, famously described lutfisk as “Not edible by normal people.”

**New West Ham United book**

Westcombe Hill resident Tim Crane has published his latest book on West Ham United. They Played for John Lyall – The West Ham Years 1974-89. With over 500 personal photographs and 200,000 words, this 376 page hardback book is a must-have Christmas gift for all who played for West Ham’s most successful manager between 1974-89. With over 500 personal photographs and 200,000 words, this 376 page hardback book is a must-have Christmas gift for all. Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Wouter Bos, has signed a copy from Tim himself at 183 Westcombe Hill.

**Support local authors – and the food bank**

Greenwich Creative Writing Group joined together to publish a paperback of their work to be sold at this Christmas at Waterstones, price £4.99, all profit to Greenwich Foodbank. In this lovely paperback you will find interesting tales of murder, romance, slices of life experience in the form of short stories, poems and short prose and flash fictions, something for everyone. A great Christmas present at a worthy cause.

**RIDE: BMX Glory**

R is for the tough life lessons learned by Scottish superstar John Buultjens on his rise to BMX glory. Escaping from his violent father’s beatings, he was placed in a children’s home and then adopted. He later turned his life around, and became BMX’s best known names.

As the global brand manager for the most famous BMX brand of them all, Haro, he now backs and sponsors riders across the globe, and his story has been turned into a great movie.

_Publishing: Pitch Publishing Ltd. RRp £16.99_
THE BRIDGE • The Pheasants
Dec 3rd 2 - 4.30 pm lots of fun & games, and craft stalls, at the bridge, organised in partnership with the Friends of Greenwich Penultimate with festive singing by Halowen Community Choir at 3.00pm, and delivery of Defra’s woodland presents to local community groups. Places: Tickets are first come first served. This event is free and there will be food, drink and plenty of festive cheer. For more information and to please ring 7566 3087 (or Sally) 5672 4712
GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Meets first Wednesday of every month, of dancing, singing, film. Free from 7.40pm at St George's Church Broadway. Contact: Barbara Ward ward.barbara1056@yahoo.co.uk. Free
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Main House & Rooms 7.15pm and on Wed 1.15pm. Tel: 020 8219 1512
ST GEORGE'S CAROL SINGING Thurs., 21st Dec. 7:00 pm at Mycenae House (with the Blackheath Centre for Singing). Pelton Arms Wed. 13th Dec. 7:30 for 8:00 pm
ST GEORGE'S CAROL SINGING The Vanbrugh Thurs. 21st Dec. 7:30 pm at Sunfields Institute. All men and women welcome. Contact: 07989 740252 or 020 8854 0841
ST GEORGE'S CAROL SINGING Sat. 2nd Dec. 3:15 pm at Blackheath Village Day: Visit St George's Church & Ideal Homes’ Grand Garden Party. Free.
ST GEORGE'S CAROL SINGING Sat. 2nd Dec. 11.00 am & other times at the Blackheath Christmas lights (2nd Dec). Free drop-in to hear the Choir sing and to see a festival of lights
SING-A-Long: Sing favourite Christmas songs with the Blackheath Christmas lights
SAT 23RD & SUNDAY 24TH DEC: ACOUTIC CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR Acts from the local area and all over the UK for this show which promises a night of some of the best original acoustic music around. £13.70 | £5.60 Sun & Sat, £10.50 | £3.40 Sun. (Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Sunfields)

SNOW-POCALYPSE: FRIENDSHIP NEVER DIES
Mon. 18th Dec. 1.30 pm LUNCHTIME RECITAL: LINOS PIANO TRIO Trinity Laban’s 2017/18 Annual Award Ceremony. Boys Brigade Hall, 195 Old Dover Road, Blackheath SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755
Tues. 19th Dec. 1.30 pm LUNCHTIME RECITAL: Llewellyn String Quartet in Mycenae House. Visit www.llewellynquartet.com
Tues. 19th Dec. 7.30 pm LUNCHTIME RECITAL: Pianist Andrew Cooper performs Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert. Blackheath Village Community Boardroom
Wed. 20th Dec. 1.30 pm LUNCHTIME RECITAL: The Master Craftsmen return! Great night of guitar magic. £15. 12.00pm-1.30pm
Wed. 20th Dec. 7.00pm DANCE: A C H I E V E M E N T, as well as their personal, social and emotional development. It’s an important tool, one that helps us ensure that when we leave Zoom to return to classrooms, we leave as independent learners and thinkers, ready for the challenges ahead.

With five nurses in Ethiam, Hither Green, Blackheath and Brockley that between them have three decades of nurse-led experience, you don’t have to go far to give your child a great start.
To find out more and arrange an informal visit please call Ann Bray, Assistant Childcare Director on 07876 137180 or email AnnBray@zoomhospital.com

CHILDCARE FOR AGES 3-5 YEARS - AT YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER

DEC 16TH 11:00AM - 12:00PM
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
CHILDCARE FOR AGES 3-5 YEARS
GET ALONGSIDE CHILDREN’S ACHIEVEMENTS IN A VARIOUS WAY.
THEME: ART
OBJECTIVE: TO INSPIRE CHILDREN TO BECOME CREATORS AND SHAPERS OF THEIR FUTURES

A & A LANDSCAPES
Landscape Specialists

Free advice & Qualified estimates horticulturalist

All of soft & hard landscaping work carried out including
Maintenance  Site clearance  Pruning  Fencing  Patios

Blackheath SE3 8TS
Tel: 020 8318 2530
In another of our occasional “Meet your neighbour” series, the WN interviewed
Ann Hill, world famous nutritionist who has helped save the lives of millions of children worldwide

WN: Ann, first of all, congratulations on the award of the George Macdonald medal for your work that has led to improved health in tropical countries.

AH: Thank you.

WN: So, Ann, are you a Londoner?

AH: No, I started life in Lancashire, but the family moved to Scotland when I was 12, and I stayed there during my teenage years and took the Scottish Highers examinations.

WN: Where did you go to school?

AH: I did a Ph.D and then went as Scientific Officer to the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit in Kingston, Jamaica, under the director John Waterlow.

WN: Do you do what?

AH: Most of my research centred on achieving rapid recovery of children with severe malnutrition. The Unit was funded by the UK Medical Research Council. Amazingly, not only did I not have to apply for grants, I was given free rein to plan my own research. The Unit specialised in child malnutrition which was common in poor communities in Jamaica and the Caribbean at that time.

WN: Caused by?

AH: Very low rates of exclusive breastfeeding, with many infants being fed diluted cowmeal grisweetened with a little condensed milk, or over-diluted powdered milk. The water was not always clean. So all this, combined with poor living conditions, led to very high rates of childhood diarrhoea and pneumonia, often fatal.

WN: Tragic.

AH: Tragic, yes, and unnecessary and avoidable. Even today, almost half of all deaths in children under 5 are associated with undernutrition. Severely malnourished children need very special care, and they easily die. Part of my work involved getting the correct treatment more widely known in order to improve child survival.

WN: Who were you educating?

AH: Doctors, nurses and undergraduates. And parents of course. I helped to develop malnutrition treatment guidelines for the Caribbean which later became the basis for the World Health Organisation’s 1981 malnutrition guidelines.

WN: How long were you in Jamaica?

AH: 13 years.

WN: And then you returned to the UK to work at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine?

AH: Yes, back with John Waterlow again. That was in 1978, when we also moved into Westcombe Park; by this time I was married to a barrister, and had two children. They went to John Ball Primary School in Blackheath.

WN: And you became head of LSHTM’s nutrition department?

AH: Yes, but not until 1992. Just after that, concerned about widespread poor hospital treatment of malnourished children and continuing high mortality, a colleague and I convened a workshop in London with WHO, UNICEF, Save the Children and others, to discuss why the 1981 WHO guidelines were not being widely implemented. And this led to the creation of a version of the guidelines, known as the “Ten Steps”.

WN: So the guidelines were changed?

AH: Not substantially, but we made them clearer, simpler, memorable, and more easily accessible.

WN: This made a huge difference?

AH: Yes. The ‘Ten Steps’ are used widely worldwide. In South Africa, for example, it is now national policy for hospitals to follow the Ten Steps, and deaths among children treated for severe malnutrition have halved.

AH: I also helped WHO develop their 2003 training course and have trained doctors and nurses in Africa, Asia and South America. The next task is for treatment of severe malnutrition to be part of medical and nursing curricula.

WN: So Ann, you’ve now retired?

AH: In theory, yes! But I’m co-convenor of the International Malnutrition Task Force and I’ve been helping to develop a new interactive e-learning programme ‘Caring for Infants and Children with Acute Malnutrition’, which so far has enrolled 14,000 users in over 100 countries. Our research is showing that users of this course are able to apply the knowledge gained and so improve the survival of malnourished children in their care.

WN: Very impressive!

AH: And you know, it’s very difficult to retire when there is still so much to be done – in fact, I’ve just organised an international symposium in Buenos Aires, on building capacity to prevent and treat malnutrition.

WN: So the award of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene’s George Macdonald medal in recognition of your work is well deserved.

AH: I’ve been fortunate in having wonderful colleagues and opportunities to make a difference. I would not have been very effective working alone, so the medal reflects our collective contribution to improving child health.

WN: Professor Ann Ashworth Hill, thank you for talking to us.

AH: Thank you.

WN: Congratulations again.

AH: Thank you.

WN: Will you tell us something else about your work that has led to improved health in tropical countries?

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WN: Professor Ann Ashworth Hill, thank you for talking to us.

AH: Thank you.
ENVIRONMENT

John Roan’s ‘A’ Team!

Reducing pollution on our roads

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is taking part in a London-wide awareness raising campaign which involves local volunteers and council staff talking to drivers about idling engines and its impact on local air quality. Vehicle Idling Action is a London-wide campaign that aims to reduce localised air pollution caused by motorists who leave their engines running when parked, or when waiting for traffic lights to change. Working on reducing emissions and high levels of nitrogen dioxide air, along major roads in particular, is a key priority for the Council.

The Council’s Greener Greenwich Strategy, launched in 2016, outlines the actions the Council intends taking to tackle climate change and air pollution across the borough, which includes a number of local projects such as the introduction of a Low Emission Neighbourhood in west Greenwich last year. Come along to the Woolwich Centre on Thursday 2nd November, 9.30 - 11.30am to find out more and how you can get involved.

Volunteers are wanted to go out with Council and Transport for London staff to engage with motorists in Woolwich Town Centre about the benefits of turning their engines off. If you want to be a Vehicle Idling Action Champion, please email: greenery@royalgreenwich.gov.uk. Idling Action Events will also be taking place in 15 other local authority areas with teams of volunteers, local authority and project staff working to educate both motorists and pedestrians. The approach is to invite drivers to join the campaign and switch off their engines when parked.

Moose on the Loose

A rare white moose is seen in Gunnarskog, Varmland, Sweden July 31, 2017. According to Swedish newspapers, this is the second white moose sighting that’s been viral in Sweden this summer. In July, local resident Jessica Hemlin photographed a white moose that regularly visits her garden in Munkeda, which is also in western Sweden.

Sweden has an estimated 400,000 moose, most of which are brown or black, the newspaper reported. But according to the BBC, about 100 of them are mostly white. Some of them have albism, in which the body doesn’t produce a lot of melanin pigment. But many more of the animals have a recessive gene that causes mostly white fur interspersed with bits of brown.

According to National Geographic, the white colouring may be a form of natural selection, as hunters choose not to shoot a white moose, thus in effect increasing their numbers. Moose in Sweden have no natural predators apart from humans.

Sign up for the organ donor register

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is urging residents to sign up to the organ donor register to help save more lives.

In October, a cross-party group of 15 councillors passed a motion to support the national “Yes I Donate” campaign which aims to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation. They also pledged to back the introduction of a nationwide opt-out organ donation system. This would mean that everybody is assumed to give their consent for organ and tissue donation unless they specifically opt out – the opposite of the current system, where people have to opt in.

It comes just a few months before a private member’s bill to introduce a nationwide opt-out organ donation is set to be debated in the House of Commons. Similar schemes are being introduced in Wales and Scotland. England’s transplant consent rate is one of the lowest in Europe, as many people do not discuss or record their wishes with their families.

Councillor David Gardner, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: “Councillors felt that action should be taken to help those on the waiting list for a transplant, including the 17 people who are currently waiting in Greenwich.

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Councillor David Gardner, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: “Councillors felt that action should be taken to help those on the waiting list for a transplant, including the 17 people who are currently waiting in Greenwich. After all, if the soft opt-out system has been successful in Wales and is set to be introduced in Scotland – why shouldn’t this also be the case in England? “We know that the gap between the number of organs donated and the number of people waiting for a transplant is just set to widen and we hope to help bridge that gap. We hope our motion will encourage the government to bring about this timely change nationally.”

Three people die every day in the UK while waiting for a transplant and many others lose their lives before they even get on to the transplant list. Just one donor can save the lives of several people, restore the sight of two others and improve the quality of life for many more.

To sign up to the organ donation register, visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk


Moose on the Loose

A rare white moose is seen in Gunnarskog, Varmland, Sweden July 31, 2017. According to Swedish newspapers, this is the second white moose sighting that’s been viral in Sweden this summer. In July, local resident Jessica Hemlin photographed a white moose that regularly visits her garden in Munkeda, which is also in western Sweden.

Sweden has an estimated 400,000 moose, most of which are brown or black, the newspaper reported. But according to the BBC, about 100 of them are mostly white. Some of them have albism, in which the body doesn’t produce a lot of melanin pigment. But many more of the animals have a recessive gene that causes mostly white fur interspersed with bits of brown.

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The Westcombe Society’s Christmas Bazaar

Many thanks to all those who took photographs of the Christmas Bazaar. Sorry that we couldn’t include all of them! These photographs really succeeded in capturing the happy atmosphere of the occasion.

The B&W welcomes photographs, so do please keep them coming in, if possible with suitable captions attached.

Letters

Any views expressed are not necessarily those of either the Westcombe Society, or the Westcombe News.

From: D Reed
I’m fed up with the ramblers like N Grant in the October edition of the W&N completely ignoring the democratic vote by 17.5 million people, ignoring the lies of the remain side. I voted leave, anyone who thought that the politicians were going to give £350 million a week to the NIS was living in cloud cuckoo land, totally wrong, when we leave the EU a decent chunk of this money will go to the NIS. If we had another referendum, and leave won, would we have to have a third? Ed: We welcome a rational discussion on this important national issue. Many consider that the real ‘remainers’ were those who voted for Brexit, but in fact is the name-calling by either side is really no substitute for rational argument. Please see the book review on p. 4.

From: Mary Mills
In the November issue of the W&N Malcolm Scott Hardy says in his interesting article on General Gordon that there is no memorial to him in Greenwich. However - or - what about Woolwich’s Garden Square?