John Roan to be an academy?

At the meeting on the 17th was clear. We should be given time to submit a school academisation of this school. If John Roan is academised, local residents would have nowhere to go to voice any concerns they might have except to the school itself, as it will no longer be a fully inclusive local authority school.

The John Roan Foundation has a charitable status. It owns the Maze Hill Grade II listed site, as well as other property and playing fields. Amongst other things, the Foundation funds the school orchestra and the school’s buses. With public support, the Foundation could resist academisation. The ethos of The John Roan Foundation is to serve the community, surely best in a fully inclusive local authority school.

Academies on the other hand are run as businesses, and their ethos is to test and make money. They also make profit by working harder and by pushing under local authority control. Equally important, parents would not have the support of the local authority when they have issues over their children’s education.

The meeting on the 17th was clear. We don’t have time to waste. If the school and local community come together, they can resist the academisation of The John Roan School.

Special Needs departments are often reduced, which means they are not fully inclusive schools. Academies also close curriculum areas that do not yield high test results, particularly in the arts.

As the IKEA building starts to take shape, there are mixed feelings, as traffic levels are already extremely high. One driver said it took her half an hour to escape the Sainsbury’s supermarket car park, and she was not alone. The application for a navigation mast by IKEA was universally objected to and has been withdrawn.

The Charity of the year is the Volunteer Centre Greenwich. The Christmas bazaar is on Nov. 17th at Blackheath High School for Girls, and if you would like to book a table for a stall, (cost £30), please book it by emailing Marilyn.little@btinternet.com.

A teenage girl was hit by a bus in Old Dover Road at around 830am on 27th April, and taken to hospital. At 8.30am on May 18th a cyclist was killed on Woolwich Road beneath the notorious A102 flyover.
The Westcombe Society’s AGM

Many thanks to all of you for coming along tonight to hear our activities over the past year. It also gives me the opportunity to thank and thank all those involved in the running of the Society. I appreciate the time you give to ensure that we support the Westcombe Park community. I include members of all the committees, the editor and deliverers of the W&N and all those who help us with events in many ways.

My thanks to the Executive Committee who meet once a month to ensure that the workings of the society are in order. The Events Committee also meet every month and arrange a varied social calendar, ranging from the新区 to a tea party at the W&N for Members’ Evenings and Quizes. They have been helped by a team of families who take charge of the Easter Egg Hunt – most of our events are held in Mycenae House or Gardens.

The Environment Committee monitor planning applications on a monthly basis. They have a good relationship with other groups and societies about matters of environmental interest including transport. Our membership secretary is busy registering new members and also sending out emails to members about items of importance or local interest.

Neville continues his work on the W&N which is a well-regarded publication. With reducing numbers of local papers it is an important contribution to the area. But as he will tell you it is our paper and we rely on content from our residents. Thanks also to Emily and her team who organise the distribution of the paper.

We continue to have very good working relationships with the other Amenity Societies and share items of interest very regularly. It is particularly noteworthy that our opinion on issues is respected. Working together does help with larger issues, the proposed Rail changes a case in point which resulted in the recognition of the Victoria option from Blackheath.

We also worked together, as you know, to ensure that the design of the new KEA building was as appropriate as it could be for the area and it can be seen changing daily and its size is now apparent. Their wish to install a 48 metre navigation mast actually attracted over 200 objections and was withdrawn last month.

The more formal committees are only part of the story. We have many volunteers who help in all sorts of ways. We are very grateful for the encouragement and support they give to events and delivering the W&N amongst others.

Finally, thanks to Michael Helm for yet again inspecting the accounts. Whilst I am extremely grateful for the help and support you all show for the Society I would very much like to ensure its future by encouraging the increased involvement of our younger residents. To bring fresh ideas and approaches to the Society which we desperately need.

Our editor would like to especially welcome help in producing the W&N and we also desperately need help in maintaining and developing our web site. You may know of people who have an interest in assisting in either or both of these areas.

On a personal level I have now been Treasurer and Advertising Manager for nine years and would very much like to pass these duties on. Neither are onerous and do not require attendance at committee meetings if that is preferred.

We need to ensure that the work of the Society continues and I am very happy to speak to anyone who would like more information on what is involved.

The Pleasance Summer Festival

The Friends of East Greenwich Pleasance, in partnership with The Bridge, is delighted to be holding its 12th Annual Summer Festival on Sunday 10th June 12-00.00-5.00pm, at East Greenwich Pleasance, Off Chevening Road, SE10 0LB. The event is part of the Parkfest series of events held all over the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Once again, we have a fantastic line-up of environmental entertainment and activities, including live music, singing from the community choir, a dog show, an Art tent, and a book stall as well as lots of sports activities and fete games.

This year, we are delighted to welcome for the first time a new Circus production for older children and a Rocket show run by Emergency Exit Arts, which will both take place in the main Pleasance Park.

There’s also a licensed bar with Pimm’s, craft beers and cider as well as the famous Pleasance Punch, a tea and cakes tent and, of course, Pinchos café will be putting on some extra specials too.

There will also be a bouncy castle and face-painting as well as a variety of craft and gardening activities, a story corner, and soft play for the under 5s.

A FREE DAY OUT for everyone and if the weather’s good why not bring a picnic!

www.fcgp.org
www.thebridgegreenwich.co.uk

The Marathon: They’re off!

Laura Norton captured on her camera this dramatic moment at the start of the London Marathon. In the front row, left to right: Abel Kirui (Kenya, who came 4th), Eliud Kipchoge (Kenya, 1st), Lawrence Cherono (Kenya, 7th) and Sir Mo Farah (GB, 3rd).

From the right one can just see Tola Shara Kihatu (Ethiopia, who came 2nd). For the area we have a fantastic atmosphere including live music, singing from the community choir, a dog show, an Art tent, and a book stall as well as lots of sports activities and fete games.

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Dads play – children watch

Dads with children at Millennium, St Mary Magdalene C of E and Eltham schools organised and took part in a Charity Football event at the home of Charlton Athletic FC on Saturday 19th May.

The aims of the event was to raise much for the three schools, to bring their community together – and allow dads to impress their kids with their footballing skills! Three 40-minute matches saw three teams playing each other.

In addition to watching football, those attending watched the Royal Wedding in the Hospitality Suite, whilst the kids get down to music provided by DJ Craig. They also bought raffle tickets and took part in the silent auction, with a range of wonderful prizes kindly donated by local businesses.

Much enjoyed by all.

Mark Hertrin

Blue Badge News

The Badges enable those people who are disabled to get closer to their destination if they meet certain criteria such as receiving a higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance.

In 2016, the WSPF reported that everyone wishing to apply for or renew a Blue Badge, needed to do so on-line. Easy-peasy? All one had to do is

* access the website
* fill in the form
* attach a photo as a jpeg
* scan in any supporting documentation

However, there is still hope for those who get stymied by online application forms: the Royal Borough of Greenwich is launching face-to-face appointments from 1st April to make the process simpler.

Residents will be able to visit the Eltham Centre on Mondays, Woolwich Centre on Wednesdays or Abbey Wood Neighbourhood Office on Thursdays to get the help they need to successfully complete their application – whether they are applying for a new badge or renewing one.

The Council cannot process applications until the correct documents and payment are received, so it is hoped that these new sessions should help minimise requests for further information.

London to Brighton Classic Car Run

The London to Brighton classic and kit & sports car run returns to Greenwich Park for the 2018 start.

Over 400 vehicles will be starting from the park 8.15am – 11.15am on Sun. 3rd June as they set off to Brighton.

The event celebrates its 30th anniversary with vehicles from the pre-war era sharing the trip with classics from the 1950’s to the 90’s.

Cost to join the run is £97 and details can be found on the organisers’ website.

Greenwich Open Studios June 2018

Greenwich Open Studios, (or ‘GOS’) artists open their studios to the public every two weekends throughout June. Unlike other studios where a single warehouse block might house a group of artists, each GOS artist’s show in their individual studios.

Established in 1973, GOS has become one of those special annual Greenwich fixtures – a combination of a summer’s stroll around Greenwich with a unique opportunity to explore the indivisibility of each artist’s working space.

GOS has three hubs – West Greenwich, Blackheath, and the Westcombe Park area of East Greenwich.

The studios are open on the weekends of June 9th-10th and 16th-17th from 2.00-6.00pm on both weekends.

For those that want to stay in the Westcombe Park area there are four artists exhibiting. Lubna Spelen is one of the most recent artists to join GOS. Her striking night time modern buildings and landscapes will be a new GOS feature.

Chris Moody’s prints are a unique take on modern buildings reflected in water. Colin Boothman, with his memorable landscapes, and Felicity Moss, with her vibrant still lives are long-established fellow GOS artists.

The work of all twenty GOS artists this year could be more varied, ranging from paints, pastels and prints to ceramics and even jewellery. GOS leaflets are available in most shops and libraries. If you are unable to get hold of the GOS website, where you can also see their work and websites. Why not plan an afternoon visiting studios in all three hubs?

http://www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk
John Banks

Save the Gas Holder

This petition calls on energy company SGN and the Royal Borough of Greenwich to follow the policy, endorsed at the Cabinet of the Borough Council in November 2017, to re-purpose the historic East Greenwich No 1 Gas Holder on the Peninsula.

The Historic Gas Holder is a Grade II Listed structure and a Victorian landmark heritage building. And we urge the new Council to pursue further discussions with SGN and heritage bodies on the future of the gas holder and its site.

Background

In April 2018 the gas distribution company SGN was given approval by the Royal Borough of Greenwich to dismantle East Greenwich No 1 Gas Holder.

This approval was received in the pre-election period when councillors were in ‘purdah’ (when normal council business is suspended and a time-limited decision, like this one, would be passed to officers). It appears the planners’ decision is in direct contradiction of the Planning policy about the gas holder site, which states:

“Proposals should respect and respond to the industrial character of the area as a means of relating new development to the local context. In particular, development should build on the heritage value of the gas holder to enhance the character and distinctiveness of the area.”

To sign the petition, please go to https://www.change.org/p/royal-borough-of-greenwich-save-the-nationally-important-east-greenwich-gas-holder-from-demolition

Mary Mills

WANTED

DOMESTIC HELP/CARE SUPPORT
for local Disabled Woman

Are you: Cheerful, Reliable, Practical, Physically fit with a Mature outlook?

Live Local, and looking for part-time work with flexi hours?

Then you may be just who I’m looking for! Interested? Want to know more?

Please email Lu.williams@hotmail.co.uk or telephone Anne on 07743450955

Walk on the Wide Side!

With the onset of summer weather we are excited to announce that Wide Horizons have two exciting events this June for residents, families and children at our Wide Horizons Environment Centre in Eltham.

On Saturday 23rd June we will once again be opening the gates to our Environment Centre for our annual, Family Fun Day at our beautiful nine-acre wildlife site.

You’ll have the chance to experience a host of exciting, adventurous activities including a climbing wall, mini-beast hunt, fire lighting, face painting, arts & craft, as well as the chance to meet our pigs Wallace and Darwin, and the chickens and ducks in their brand new home. Come along with your family and friends for a great day out!

Or you can just relax and enjoy a picnic, ice cream, cakes and drinks in our beautiful grounds. If you fancy something a bit more adventurous, we will also be introducing our brand new day time adventure through South East London – The Green City Challenge: walk, jog or run a marathon, half marathon or 5 miles across South East London.

Discover historical secrets, experience amazing views and enjoy parkland, woods and hidden green spaces as you travel through South East London.

The Green City Challenge is a great event that everyone can enjoy, no matter how fit you are or whether you’ve done anything like this before. Make this your 2018 adventure!

Our aim is to bring the community together in one big day of fun and adventure so please join us for one or both of these exciting activities.

Neil Munro is Director of Adventure Learning Services. For information, ring 020 8294 8160 or email events@widehorizons.org.uk

This is a material consideration in planning, and proposals should have been measured by RBG planners against this approved policy of the Borough, discussing in detail means of meeting its requirements.

The dismantling proposal submitted to RBG by SGN’s consultants failed to respond to, or mention, this approved policy for the gas holder. This should have led to the proposal being refused by RBG planners on behalf of the Borough, instead, it was approved.

To sign the petition, please go to https://www.change.org/p/royal-borough-of-greenwich-save-the-nationally-important-east-greenwich-gas-holder-from-demolition

MARK HERTLEIN

Has education lost its way?

‘Education’ actually means the induction of youth into the core of the historic classless culture. This isn’t simple. We need first to demystify it by removing ancient strands of imperialism, sexism and racism. We need second to energise it by adding new, enduring elements. Education is about combining the two.

Many educationalists lean towards the left and believe that by avoiding imperialism, sexism and racism, we can introduce a classless culture. This isn’t simple. We need first to demystify it by removing ancient strands of imperialism, sexism and racism. We need second to energise it by adding new, enduring elements. Education is about combining the two.

Physically fit with a Mature outlook?

For part-time work with flexi hours?

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JAMES REMOVALS

2 Fully trained staff
6 Fitted Van
2 Tonne Van
6 Tonne Van
3 Tonne Van
13 Tonne Van

Fully equipped office

Discounts for long/medium storage

We also provide fully trained staff to recover aollapsed/rotten frames – no extra charge.
I nformation and Communication Technology (ICT) has become an indispensable part of modern life. Not just computers and mobile phones: the internet is a vast source of information; but it can also be used to peddle filth, fake news and misleading advertising.

It can also con people out of money, invade our privacy with unwanted ads, and, through social media, create victims of bullying. Because so much that is posted is anonymous, people can post malicious and damaging lies, and can cause misery and mayhem – especially to anyone in public life such as MPs or “celebs”, and vulnerable young people.

It can also make it much easier for criminals to organise their activities, and even undermine democracy by the use of a variety of manipulative dirty tricks.

So would we be better off without it? Hardly. Virtually every modern appliance depends on electronic technology; without access to ICT businesses would go bust; whole swathes of public service activities, from the NHS to all other organs of government would just seize up. So ICT Luddites are really living in fantasy land.

Even so, some happy people can, more or less, opt out, as Gabi Marston has done, according to her poem, below.

What do readers think?

I do not moan that

BUT

No Laughing Matter...

Following a letter by Jeremy Hunt, the Health Secretary, to social media companies, about online child safety, the not-for-profit organisation Internet Matters has called for government to consider investment in parent education in order to form a collective approach to keeping young people safe online.

Carolyn Bunting, CEO of Internet Matters, said: “Children’s internet safety is one of the most pressing concerns parents face in the digital age. “And while there is always more that the tech industry and social media networks can do to enforce age restrictions and protect children’s rights, we need to collectively focus on wider education to address the growing behavioural issues online that can negatively have an impact on children’s health and well-being.

“We know from recent research that the overwhelming majority of parents (96%) feel responsible for their children’s safety online. Helping children stay safe in the digital world has become a part of modern parenting.

“The right support, we can empower parents, giving them skills to teach their children to be smart and safe online. We can encourage their children's critical thinking and build their digital resilience, so they can safely benefit from the wealth of opportunity with access to the internet and technology offers.

“To achieve this will require a focus from government, industry, schools and parents, working together to make the UK the safest place for a child to be online.”

Internet Matters (internetmatters.org) was launched in May 2014 by the UK’s four major broadband providers: BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media. The independent, not-for-profit organisation aims to help parents to keep their children safe online.

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**FEATURES**

**Between the Devil and the ICT**

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**Lego-thon helps raise awareness of autism**

How many lego models could you make in an hour? This is the challenge schools took on for Royal Greenwich’s first-ever Lego-thon, creating everything from boats to bridges.

The fun activity was designed to promote autism awareness in schools, and was organised by the Council’s Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Outreach Service, designed to help young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their families and professionals.

Many schools in the Borough use Lego Therapy to help children with ASD develop a range of skills including how to communicate and collaborate with others and how to express their feelings.

Shooters Hill Sixth Form campus which linked their entries to learning outcomes for students, won first prize. Timberscroft Primary in Plumstead, which involved every year group from nursery to Year 6, won second prize, and third prize was awarded to Middle Park Primary in Eltham, which not only created models but also organised linked activities including assemblies and class discussions.

The winning schools will receive Lego therapy sets to encourage them to carry on the good work, and all participating schools will receive certificates.

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**Opt in to get information by email from the Westcombe Society**

New regulations about control of data mean that the Westcombe Society has to ask members to confirm that they agree to the society contacting them above and beyond reminders for subscription renewals. You may already have had an email about this from us (amongst many others from different organisations).

At present we send out information to members by email on the Westcombe Society’s events and on issues of urgent local concern as well as, occasionally, information on events organised by others. Members who have not given an email address may not get this information due to the expense of sending it by post. So if you would like to get more information on our activities do send your email to: membership@westcombescociety.org

The Westcombe Society takes care to protect the information we hold on members and a new privacy policy will be available on the website giving more detail on this.

We hope that members find that the information sent out by email of value and that as many as possible will opt in to keep receiving it.
The Faber Society, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 1PL
www.faber.co.uk

23rd June 2018: THE GARDENS OF VERSAILLES
Sat 9th June 10.- 4.00 Art & Craft & Book Sales

June 2nd - 3rd. THE Elves & The Shoemaker - Play. £5.00

June 16th WOKE
THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755

An explosive re-telling of Ibsen’s classic tale, exploring stigmas around gender and mental health.

From the creator of the hit show ‘The School for Scandal’ comes ‘A Doll’s House’

On 07709 571777

Our associate companies,” said James to the actors present at the first production of the show.

“We think unique is an over-used word but I certainly think it applies to Filament Theatre, one of our associate companies,” said James Haddrell, the theatre’s artistic and executive director.”

Festivals will continue throughout the period at various venues.

In 2018 Trinity Laban celebrates the 300th anniversary with Nicholas Hawksmoor.

THE WESSEX COMSOCIETY
Fri 30th June - Macmillan Coffee Morning
Sat 10th November - Christmas Raffle

THURSDAY NIGHT JAZZ - No entry fees

LEWISHAM LIBRARY

Gloria

“…”

TUES 12 JUN 13.05h Soprano Patricia Fraser sings

TRINITY LABAN will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of the rebuilding of the church by rededication of the church of St Alfege.

May 16-20 JEN VARIOUS TIMES NEW LIGHTS FESTIVAL a new piano festival exploring music of the avant-garde is all in its multifarious incarnations.

Annual Gala Concert
THE GREENWICH THEATRE

At community events being planned to encourage more people to come and enjoy music.

Friends will continue throughout the period at various venues.

11th Jun 2018: THE GARDENS OF VERSAILLES
Sat 9th June 10.- 4.00 Art & Craft & Book Sales

THURSDAY NIGHT JAZZ - No entry fees

Christmas Raffle

A programme of music

Tuesdays: 13.00-17.00pm

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**FEATURES**

**Talk About Art**

**... Connecting Cultures**

This new Talk about ART show features jewellery, glamour and celebrity culture

**John Bartram**

The exhibition explains how precious and semi-precious stones and precious metals are fashioned into jewellery, with sections on Chinese jade, diamond cutting and polishing and the use of platinum, gold and silver.

British crown jewels and famous opals are featured, and jewellery worn by Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis Presley, Sam Worthington and Natalie Mark. Hatton Garden and Bond Street, the centres of London’s jewellery trade, are included as well as the Victoria and Albert Museum, which houses one of the finest jewellery collections in the world.

The exhibition will be £7.00.

In partnership with Brindishe Manor School, the free exhibition Talk about Art...Connecting Cultures runs from June 7 to 29 at the Lewisham Central Library.

Eight colourful stands depict the ceremonial and religious roles of jewellery in ancient cultures in China and India’s Moghal Empire, and paintings carrying jewellery worn by the modern celebrities who flaunt it. The ninth stand features jewellery designed by year 4 pupils at Brindishe Manor.

All proceeds will go to the continues the centres of London’s jewellery trade, are included as well as the Victoria and Albert Museum, which houses one of the finest jewellery collections in the world.

The exhibition explains how precious and semi-precious stones and precious metals are fashioned into jewellery, with sections on Chinese jade, diamond cutting and polishing and the use of platinum, gold and silver.

British crown jewels and famous opals are featured, and jewellery worn by Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis Presley, Sam Worthington and Natalie Mark. Hatton Garden and Bond Street, the centres of London’s jewellery trade, are included as well as the Victoria and Albert Museum, which houses one of the finest jewellery collections in the world.

The exhibition will be £7.00.

In partnership with Brindishe Manor School, the free exhibition Talk about Art...Connecting Cultures runs from June 7 to 29 at the Lewisham Central Library.

Eight colourful stands depict the ceremonial and religious roles of jewellery in ancient cultures in China and India’s Moghal Empire, and paintings carrying jewellery worn by the modern celebrities who flaunt it. The ninth stand features jewellery designed by year 4 pupils at Brindishe Manor.

All proceeds will go to the

**Jazz in the Park**

Our renowned Midsummer Jazz Concert, organised by the Friends of Greenwich Park, takes place from 12.00 - 3.30 pm on Sunday 17 June.

The Phoenix Dixieland Jazz Band will again be bringing their brilliant New Orleans bounce to the charming and enclosed Observatory Garden. They will be supported by the talented local youngsters of the Greenwich Steel Band.

The Garden will open at noon, with the concert beginning at 12.30pm and ending at 3.30pm. Come and enjoy the party. Our sponsors, Daisy’s of Greenwich, will run a bar, and the Park’s Pavilion Cafe will have a stall providing food, ice cream and soft drinks.

Just a reminder that seating is not available in the Garden, so do bring a rug or chair if you don’t want to sit directly on the grass. Please note that dogs (apart from guide dogs) are not permitted in the Garden. This is an event for the whole family.

Tickets booked in advance are £5.00, with under-16s free. (Tickets on the gate, if any are still available for this popular event, will be £7.00)

**Greenwich+Docklands International Festival**

**FLY BY NIGHT**

21 June - 23 June

9.15pm each night

Thamesmead

A dramatic, technologically advanced flying performance involving over 1500 trained pigeons soaring into the skies and his leg bands that once carried vital messages replaced by tiny LED lights to illuminate the night sky and create an unmissable performance.

**ICARUS**

24 June at Greenwich Fair, Cutty Sark Gardens (West) FREE

**UNDAUNTED**

22 June 7.30 pm FREE

Old Royal Naval College

In 2018 we celebrate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, which gave some women in the UK the vote for the first time. To mark the event, the UK’s only female high-wire walker performs her act on a free-standing scaffold positioned between the iconic twin domes of the Old Royal Naval College. Paying tribute to the courage of all those who campaigned for equality over many decades, (like Millicent Fawcett) this spectacular feat reminds us of the fragility of the status quo and serves as a rallying call to the generations of women still to come.

**WINDRUSH: 492 22 June 1.30pm Free**

Cutty Sark Gardens

A reflective performance featuring a soundscape written by the Greenwich playwright Roy Williams. 70 years to the day that the Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Dock from the Caribbean, this durational installation will see the names of the 492 individuals who arrived on that ship inscribed in photoluminescent powder onto the ground around the Cutty Sark, commemorating in light-emitting text the men and women who have become a powerful symbol for the generation who transformed Britain into a contemporary, multi-cultural society.

This reflective performance celebrates the contribution that black and Asian communities have made to British life.

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After the Marathon

Despite the searing temperatures and the sad death of one runner, the 2018 Marathon seems to have been a very successful one. Those who attended the start of the race on Blackheath report that the atmosphere was festive and good-humoured. They really enjoyed seeing the starts and then moving to the masses going past. There was music by the Scots Guards at the start and as always the entertainment continued along the entire route. So far, we have not had any reports of unexpected problems due to road closures, and the stewards appear to have been helpful and well-informed.

The organiser report that the clean-up was swift, and that they were pleased with the condition of the area considering what we had to deal with on arrival, after many weeks of rain.

There was some concern about the enormous number of plastic bottles which littered the area. (Some were undrinkable...) After the race. These were in most cases cleared very quickly and we have been assured by Virgin that every effort is made to recycle them.

They also collect, clean and re-cycle discarded clothing. There has also been some discussion on-line about the wasteful use of single-use plastic cups. However, it has also been pointed out that the alternative bio-degradable cups seem to go mushy and slippery when they get wet which is obviously dangerous for runners.

Please let us have your feedback, including any problems you experienced, so that we can pass these on to the organiser for next year.

The Council has won a legal battle against a developer who turned the Eagle Tavern in Shooters Hill into nine self-contained flats without obtaining proper planning permission. Planning permission had been granted for five flats. The owners Winerose Ltd, Vanburgh Park, Vanburgh Park Road, Royal Greenwich Park, Charlton Way, Greenwich Church Street.

The shuttle would have run every fifteen minutes from 10.00am to 5.45pm, with only four pickup/set down points – Mount Pleasant, in the Piazza, in Siebert Road and at the Royal Standard (above). PHOTO: Neville Grant

Council in legal battle

Greenwich Services Plus Ltd (GS Plus) applied to TFL for a licence to run a new “Royal Greenwich Shuttle Service” from the Observatory, in Greenwich Park to Greenwich Town Centre from 26th May. The service would have been financially supported by the Royal Borough of Greenwich and was intended as a visitor shuttle between Cutty Sark, and the Royal Observatory. If it had been approved, the route would have been:

Royal Greenwich Park, Charlton Way, Vanbrugh Park Road, Westcombe Park Road, Maze Hill, Traflagar Road, Romney Road, Nelson Road, Greenwich Church Street.

The shuttle would have run every day of the year financial by the appeal, was dismissed. The developers now have four months to cease residential use as it is, or nine months to implement the development in accordance with the approval previously granted.

For information on planning, go to www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/planning

Shuttle bus - or cable car?

In 2016, the FV raised the issue of basement development, which has been a hot issue in some parts of London. In central London, basements are being turned into swimming pools and living accommodation. There are complaints that such developments have a damaging effect on nearby properties – particularly when they extend beneath the street.

A new Residential Extensions, Basements and Conversions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted during 2016. This provided further guidance on basements, including in conservation areas and listed buildings.

At a Council meeting in October 2016 Cllr Geoff Brighty asked about the effectiveness of the then recently adopted policy – with specific reference to basements. The Cabinet Member committed to a review in 12 months. That review has been underway since late 2017.

In Feb-Mar Cllr Brighty was advised that public consultation on the updated SPD would take place after the election “purdah” period. There remains anxiety as to whether the SPD will be sufficiently stringent to consider the impact of any basement development on flooding, ground water, stability and structure. The outcome of the consultation will be presented to the Council in the September.


Fly-tippers face hefty fines

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of rubbish or bulky items on land where dumping isn’t allowed. It can be dangerous to health. Fly-tipping on land and waterways is and expensive to clear away. Each year, councils have to spend millions of pounds dealing with the problem.

It is a criminal offence to dump waste illegally. You could be fined or get a prison sentence. It is an offence to allow fly-tipping to take place.

If someone knocks on your door offering to remove your rubbish, a word of caution: people who allow their rubbish to be dumped illegally could be in trouble. The government is considering proposals to allow on-the-spot fines of up to £400 – even if someone doesn’t personally take part in the fly-tipping. So always insist on ensuring that the person offering to remove your rubbish has a licence to do so.

Sometimes people bring waste in a vehicle and dump this on land or by the road. The vehicle owner can be prosecuted for waste crime. So if someone borrows your car, and is caught fly-tipping, or dumping waste, you might be held liable.

This allows the authorities to prosecute someone whose vehicle is identified, not the driver.

The police and authorities can stop, search and seize vehicles used or suspected of being used for illegal waste activities, including fly-tipping.

Greenwich Council provides waste disposal sites and recycling centres where you can safely and legally recycle or dispose of unwanted items.

If you see someone fly-tipping, you should report it to Greenwich Council. You can report problems using online forms, email or by ringing the council.

On line, go to https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/report.

This provides information on how to report all or any of the following: fly-tipping, or other environmental crime such as littering, street-cleaning issues, street faults (including roads, pavements, trees and street lighting), abandoned vehicles, graffiti or fly-posting, or problems in parks or foot-paths.

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