The John Roan campaign of parents, staff and the wider community to save their school from forced academisation has secured a major success in preventing the school from opening as an academy in September 2018. “We are really pleased that our school will be opening as a community school in September,” reports one of the parent campaigners, Annii Harrison, whose son will be joining Y11 in the new term.

“We were shocked to find out in June that our school had been judged as ‘inadequate’. The Ofsted report was clearly politically motivated and described a school we didn’t recognise.

The Ofsted report

The Ofsted report published in June has been challenged by staff and parents at the school. Under current legislation (The Education and Adoption Act, 2016), when a school is judged as inadequate, the Secretary for Education, Damian Hinds, is empowered to force a school to be taken over by a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Parents, staff and the governing Body are not even legally entitled to any consultation about the process.

The order was issued on 12 June and Dominic Herrington, the Regional SchoolsBody are not even legally entitled to any consultation about the process. The Local Government Association (LGA) which represents councils in England has provided compelling evidence that councils support the school and Cath Smith was appointed the Head of the school in February 2018. JASON Holdway, a parent, says: “It all seems a bit fishy that the UST come into our school, we fail the Ofsted inspection seven months later and then, hey presto, they get named as the preferred sponsor to take over our school assets worth millions. I’ve read their Companies House report which states that they are a ‘going concern’, but need to expand. It looks to me that they had a lot to gain from our school not doing well in the Ofsted inspection.”

Criticism of academisation

The academy programme has come under fierce criticism in recent years. The Local Government Association (LGA) which represents councils in England has provided compelling evidence that councils support schools more effectively than Multi Academy Trusts (MATs). The report which looked at 429 schools rated as inadequate in 2013 found that 115 (75%) that stayed with the council beat government funding, compared to only 59% who had been inspected since becoming academies. Reports of excessive pay for academy CEOs, the use of off-rolling (when pupils are removed from academies to improve results) the exclusion of children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and the use of non-qualified staff fill the press on a weekly basis and have undermined the credibility of this policy amongst both parents, and teachers.

Kirstie Paton, NEU rep and a teacher at the school, explains why NEU (National Education Union) members at the John Roan have been on strike.

“Academisation is a broken system. Our schools are in crisis. We have serious concerns about how academisation is leading to greater inequality in schools. In “the market of education”, many children lose out and that is not something we can allow without challenge. The John Roan has a proud tradition of educating all children and we celebrate its caring, community ethos. MATs do away with this case (July 2017) a school took Ofsted to overturn the report: the academy decided to take legal action against Ofsted to overturn the report: the academy decided to take legal action against Ofsted.”

Where next?

The NEU and GMB unions have asked representatives from the Governing Body, and the Council for their support in their legal challenge to Ofsted. Parents and staff have submitted formal complaints about the objectivity and bias and the conduct of the lead inspector Joan McVittie.

However, it seems schools judged ‘inadequate’ are not allowed to complain. Ofsted argue their internal moderation process is rigorous and therefore there is no right of appeal. However in the Durand case (July 2017) a school took Ofsted to court, and the judge ruled in favour of the school. Parents and the unions are now determined to take legal action against Ofsted to overturn the report: the academy order would then have no legal standing – and the school would not be academised.

“We want our Labour Council to do everything in its power to stop the handing over of our beloved school to the UST or any other academy,” says Annii Harrison. “They are all the same – predatory business men who take a cut of public funds for themselves and ultimately don’t care about our kids, especially if they aren’t the sort to do well in exams. We want the UST and their governing Body, our headteacher and the LA to support the legal challenge which could stop the academisation in its tracks.”

Questions have also been raised about the way in which the John Roan Foundation have acted throughout this process. They own the land and buildings at Maze Hill along with the playing fields and other properties in West Greenwich. Parents and staff were informed that in April they invited the CEO of UST, Graham Price, to discuss transferring the assets of the Trust to the UST. This has already caused controversy: the LA Trustee John Fahy, who expressed concerns about whether the UST has been carried out in respect to the UST, has been removed. Parents Annii and Jason are optimistic: “Our campaigning has secured us some time to continue our fight. If they’d got their way, there would be a UST sign outside our gate in September. We’ve stopped that through our campaign. We will pursue the legal challenge, but we also need to get everyone in our community campaigning to save our school. We have 341 years of history and we are not for sale!”

What you can do:

* Come to the Next Campaign meeting: Parents for John Roan will be meeting on Tuesday 4 September at 6pm at Mycenae House. All are welcome.

* Support the John Roan community day on Saturday 22 September. If you would like to get involved then please contact parents@johnroanresists.org.uk

* Follow us on Twitter @JohnRoanResists and FB JohnRoanResists.

* Write a letter explaining your opposition to the forced academisation of the John Roan and requesting that the local MP Matthew Pennycook, local Cllrs and the Cabinet member for Schools, David Gardner, support the legal challenge to Ofsted.

Dear Members and Neighbours in Westcombe Park,

Do Come: 28th September 10-14:00 The Westcombe Society at Mycenae House Community Centre. Cakes, Sandwiches, Raffle.

Bookings and donations for raffle please ring Caroline statist 0208 853 2303

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Stafford pub and on part of its huge garden, have been rejected by councils after opposition from neighbours and the local MP.

Greenwoch planning officers had recommended approval of the plans, but councillors have rejected the scheme, calling it an “incongruous development” because of the adjacent pub.

Congratulations:

* to the RA F on its 100th birthday.
* to Mycenae House on yet another terrific Parkfest day in July.

Westcombe News

Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and some shops

September 2018 No. 7
Advertising@westcombesociety.org

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THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to: westcombesociety novamente.com

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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Advertising

Classified advertising (minimum 50 words) costs £1 per word (a telephone number = one word). An email address can be included for free. The deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month.

Contact the Westcombe Society:

WestcombeResidents@tiscali.co.uk

Publisher: The Westcombe Society

Chairman: Marilyn Little Tel. 020 8853 1312

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THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

The Westcombe Society is planning another Christmas Fair on Sat, 17th Nov. This year’s theme is ‘Green Ideas in a City’ and we need your help to make this a fantastic event! We urgently need volunteers to help us with the following tasks:

1. Sell Christmas Trees
2. Sell Raffle Tickets
3. Sell Xmas Baskets
4. Sell Xmas Cards
5. Help set up and take down
6. Help on the day
7. Help with deliveries

If you can help with any of these, please contact Marilyn Little on 0208 853 1312 or email westcombe@tiscali.co.uk

WANTED: More volunteers to distribute the NW – and to help with Westcombe Society’s community events.

Please phone 0208 853 2768 or email westcombe@tiscali.co.uk if you would like to help.

Westcombe News September 2018

St Alfege’s: 300 years of service

St Alfege Church will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of its dedication at Mass on Sun 17th with a series of special events. On Sunday 23 September we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary with a Sung Eucharist at 10.00am followed by a bring and share lunch, and a community poetry event at 1.30pm in the church entitled The Spirit of Place.

On Wednesday 26 September 7.30pm, the Rev'd Canon Chris Moody, vicar of St Alfege, will be talking about his recent visit to Atterbury, the controversial Bishop of Rochester who rededicated the church in September 1711.

On Sunday 30 September at 7.30pm there will be a performance of Esther (1718) by Handel. See page 5.

Letters

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

From: G Bailey Westcombe Park Road

I was pleased to see the article on children’s healthy eating in this month’s NW. It is an absolute and honest reflection of responsibilities of parents in facing the problem. It has recently come to my attention that many children even at Primary School are being snatched into a immensely game called Fortnite. Fortnite is a “co-op sandbox survival game” developed by Epic Games and People Can Fly and published by Epic Games.

What seems to be concerning is the fact that the game feeds kids with the idea that eating with friends - and killing enemies while doing it is the way out. From: Trevor Allenman Celeraine Road

With regards to your headline “Who are calling the shots?”, it is interesting to see the Labour Party in the London Borough of Greenwich is euphemistically known as “The Berkeley Homes Party”, I think we know the answer to the question posed.

Given the former Labour leader of Greenwich Council, Chris Roberts, under whose tenure the over-development of parts of the borough began, is now a candidate for the Conservatives, the euphemism is not without reason.

It is also not without irony that Nick Raynsford, our former MP, should state that the planning system “is not fit for purpose”. Given how he helped to develop with developers to build flats, but protests from the residents he was supposed to serve, he certainly should have understood it wouldn’t be a novel concept if those elected to serve the interests of residents of the London Borough of Greenwich, usually didn’t.

The Official Monster Raving Loony Party condemns the Labour Party on Greenwich Council for the policies and the amount of needed social housing (8.3%) among all the new developments in the borough. This seems to be in keeping with the social cleansing policies employed by Labour, as well as Conservative, councils, forcing the poorest and most vulnerable people from areas that they want for gentrification. From: Victoria Rance Rither Road

One Sunday in July, a beautiful area of wild grassland on Blackheath was mown despite the fact that it was brimming with wildlife. This area of the Heath, just west of St John’s Park, is usually left, and I walk through it regularly. It had colonies of skipper butterflies, marble whites, and marbles of other insects and beetles; a piece of wildlife that must take years to establish, and now is dust. This photo shows what happened.

Westcombe News September 2018

Sad Farewell to Wide Horizons

Wide Horizons Environment Centre in Eltham, which was profiloed in June’s NW, closed down at the end of July, with a loss of 75 jobs. Wide Horizons helped to reduce obesity in children, and develop a healthy interest in outdoor activities. It catered for around 45,000 people a year in the last year.

It was helped into being as far back as 2004, by both Lewisham and Greenwich Councils who invested a total of £1.4 million earlier this year.

However, it had financial difficulties, which was compounded by the lack of steady funding. In total it was giving away £400,000. This was turned down by the Council amid claims that the charity’s business plan showed that it would need yet more funding by the end of the current year.

In a statement, the Leader of Council Cliff Youngs said: “As a teacher I fully appreciate the value of Wide Horizons education. But it was not in the taxpayer’s best interests to provide any further financial assistance.” Parents and children have been full of praise for the work of the charity.

This incident in Haldowe Road highlights the risk from heavy traffic accessing our communities, in particular those with children in Eltham.

From: John River

11 O’Malley Road and Vanbrugh Hill/Blackwall Lane is frequently blacked out by cars and even buses moving into the yellow box scheme. We are strongly against being moved out of it. Cameras and fines could remedy this and create a traffic plan that ensures safety. This situation is made even worse by all-in-pedestrian crossing a few yards west of the junction.

We have now noticed that someone has decided that one way of improving the traffic flow, at the inconvenience of pedestrians/bus users, is to suspend the use of the request traffic lights on Trafalgar Road and (also on Shooters Hill Road). Ed. And I haven’t even opened yet.

From: John River parents

I have a daughter at John River and I am totally opposed to the forced academisation of my daughter. My daughter is happy at school and progressing, the teaching is good and the staff are dedicated.

From: Stephen Wilson-Black

I am a parent to two children, one in Year 11, and a new one in Nursery. I am absolutely devastated that my child is in danger. I am absolutely devastated that our child is in danger. I am absolutely devastated that our child is in danger. I am absolutely devastated that our child is in danger. I am absolutely devastated that our child is in danger. I am absolutely devastated that our child is in danger. I am absolutely devastated that our child is in danger.

I am very worried for the future: we love the John River School and don’t want to be an academic and don’t want to be an academic. They don’t want to be an academic and we don’t want to be an academic. Their parents don’t want to be an academic and neither do we. We don’t want to be an academic and neither do we.

From: Joe Irvine

Living Streets E17 8SA

Shocking figures confirm the need for government and schools to encourage more active lifestyles. The number of children leaving primary school severely obese has hit record levels with one in 25 pupils aged 10 and 11 in the most obese category. Childhood obesity is one of the biggest health threats facing the UK and it’s getting worse, not just about eating better but about keeping active - and swapping the school run for a bike ride is an excellent way to start.

All schools should be using their recently doubled PE and Sport premium budget – funded by the “sugar tax” – as active travel initiatives which help enable and encourage more families to walk to school, thus reducing air pollution and congestion. The results of the annual National Travel Survey (2010) show a decrease in the number of
**Council to fund local community projects**

A new funding pot of £510,000, which brings projects proposed by local residents in the Royal Borough’s Wards has been agreed by the council. Each of the borough’s 17 Wards will receive £30,000 to cover a range of community initiatives, between now and 2022. In the last round of Ward funding, 139 community projects received funding, ranging from community and social schemes, environmental issues and well-being and health.

Under a similar scheme the winners in Area 2 (our area) included:

- The Bridge East Greenwich community group for new outdoor play equipment and bench refurbishment at The Bridge
- St Alfege Church in Greenwich West for a new community groups’ projects
- The Peninsula Koinonia Federation for the Christchurch School’s community garden
- The Land Restoration Trust and the Conservation Volunteers for their Getting Close to Nature at Greenwich project
- Montessori Education for Autism for support for the Rea Outreach ‘Digital Inclusion’ Project at Mycenae House
- The Vanbrugh Community Association for equipment for the support at the Reach Out ‘Digital Inclusion’ Project at Mycenae House

We want residents and community groups to send ideas to their local Ward councillor, so that they can champion their community’s needs and priorities; and improve the Council’s community leadership role and promote civic pride.

To discuss your project ideas, please contact your local Ward councillor – to find their contact details, check out the latest edition of Greenwich News, go to www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/councillors

For information about the scheme, please email ward-budgets@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

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**“Think Gold – not Bronze”**

Many members of the Greenwich community who remember the old Greenwich Festival have had this in high summer and had an innovative and varied programme. The discussions about reviving the old Greenwich Festival have now turned to action. There is to be a Festival spanning two weeks beginning on Sunday 30th September and branded under the name Greenwich Performs.

On the opening night there will be a firework display, with food and drink and songs from the Rock Choir, at The Point. Those of a quieter disposition can enjoy a performance of Handel’s Esther at St Alfege Church the same evening.

The programme thereafter is full, but a few highlights may be mentioned. On Monday 1st October there will be a performance by the English Piano Trio in which they will be playing pieces by Mozart together with readings from contemporary letters and diaries.

The following day will see the opening performance by the Changeling Theatre of their current production of Measure for Measure at the Greenwich Theatre. This will be preceded by Blake Morrison reading his anthology of prose and poetry.

The evening of Friday 5th October sees Greenwich Hospital’s Oktoberfest in Greenwich Market and on the following week-end two days of activities put on by Greenwich Council at Cutty Sark Gardens.

The weekend of the 7th/8th October will see events for children. At Greenwich there is a production of How to hide a Lion based on the book by Helen Stephens on the Saturday and three performances of Much, Much and Mystery in Moon Land on Sunday 7th October.

The Head teacher MRS Carol Chandler Thompson said “We challenge our students to put themselves outside of their comfort zone on a regular basis; this is particularly important for young women, who we know have a high sense of self which can be risk-averse.

“Our mantra is: ‘Try, try and risk failure, is immeasurably more valuable than never trying at all.’ Our annual Challenge Week allows us to celebrate this fearless attitude here at Blackheath High School.”

Anne Fuell

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**Greenwich performs! Tim Barnes**

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Anne Fuell

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**Chance to try an E-Car**

The council has teamed up with the borough’s regular car club provider, Enterprise Car Club, to trial an e-car scheme in the Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN) of Greenwich. The LEN is focused on improving air quality in the area by encouraging the use of low-emission vehicles.

Two electric cars, Nissan Leafs, are now available to Enterprise Car Club members. They can be booked for as little as £1 per hour, which includes VAT and insurance, 365 days a year, they cost as little as £6.20 per day.

If an electric vehicle will work for you,”

any Enterprise Car Club member will be able to use the electric cars. Available 24/7, 365 days a year, they cost as little as £6.20 per hour, which includes VAT and insurance, and five pence per mile including charging.

Nissan Leafs have a battery life of more than 100 miles and can be charged at any Source London charging site. There are currently more than 850 Source London charging points in the borough and two more are planned.

Dan Gursel, MD of Enterprise Car Club, said: “We are delighted that Greenwich is leading the way for electric vehicles will soon become available.

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**Westcombe News September 2018**

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**Mycene House & Gardens**

**JULIE FELIX**

Major British Folk Star

Tuesday 21 September

7.30 - 10.30pm

T-shirts £12

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**TINE EDEY**

BBC R2 Musician of the Year

Friday 5 October

7.30pm

Doors Tickets £16/14

020 8858 1749

www.mycenehouse.co.uk

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**Moon Land**

Stephens on

- the Saturday

- the Sunday

- the book by

- the Saturday

- the book by

- the Saturday

- the Saturday

- the Saturday

- the Saturday

- the Saturday
Spread the Word!  
ICAN shows what can be achieved

S PREAD the word, a huge reunion, is planned to celebrate 20 years of helping Greenwich youngsters who struggle to communicate.

Families whose children attended the ICAN programme at Pound Park Nursery in North Woolwich or Mulgrave Primary School in Woolwich over the past two decades are invited to the giant catch-up in October.

The event is taking place on October 11th between 5.00pm and 7.30pm at Mulgrave Primary School in Rectory Place, Woolwich. Families of former or current ICAN pupils can get in touch via ican@thamesuniversal.co.uk to save places at the reunion.

The event will celebrate what ICAN has achieved through sharing memories of children and taking a look back at old photographs. Members of the team will deliver a talk about the programme and children will share stories of their time at ICAN. Light refreshments will be provided.

Lauren Adamson, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist at Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, said: “We’re incredibly proud of what ICAN has achieved since its launch in Greenwich in 1998. We’re hoping as many of our former students and their families as possible can get together in one place to help celebrate our milestone.

“We’re also eager to use the anniversary to get word out about what ICAN and Speech and Language Therapy can do to help families who may have children experiencing a speech and language delay.

“It can be incredibly frustrating and frightening for families when a child’s language and communication skills don’t develop as they might expect.”

Lauren added: “Makaton sign language can help expression and understanding, empowering children to express their needs alleviating frustration. As the children start speaking, they begin to stop using Makaton.”

Local resident Matt Nixon, whose son Theo, five, attended ICAN at Pound Park in 2016, said: “We can’t speak highly enough about ICAN and the team behind it. It worked wonders with Theo and through Makaton sign language, taught him the skills to start communicating with us which has led to him talking.”

For more information on Speech and Language Therapy assessment drop-ins in Greenwich: http://oxleas.nhs.uk/services/service/children-speech-and-language/-.

See also: http://www.mulgravesprimary.org.uk/360/ican OR: http://www.greenwichprimary.org.uk/about-us/ICAN/

Cycling Fatalities

FOLLOWING yet another death of a cyclist at the Angerstein roundabout under the A102, Marilyn Little has been urging RBG, TfL and the London Mayor to improve this blackspot and to continue the cycle superhighway to Woolwich.

After their visit to the site we have heard via our London Assembly member that both RBG and TFL have agreed to further safety measures around the flyover, and also address issues relating to the road from Greenwich town centre to Woolwich to improve safety for all road users.

The Deputy London Mayor for Transport aims to extend the cycle superhighway from Greenwich to Woolwich within the next two years.

In June RBG were also asked what plans they had to improve pedestrian and cycle routes to the IKEA store together with the plans they had to cope with the additional traffic the store would create. No response to date but the Westcombe Society will continue to push for a response.

Greenwich Park are running a survey to gather public opinion and need for catering in the Park for the next 5 - 10 years. Please let them have your thoughts on this important topic by responding to the survey below:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CyclingFatalities
**Children & Family**

**Greenwich Theatre, Royal Naval College**

**Sunday 9th September, 2.00pm**

**SPOKEN WORD**

In Words

11 September: Gerard Manley Hopkins

At the Treehouse in Greenwich we mark the centenary of the publication, in December 1913, of a book of Gerard Manley Hopkins’ poems with Frances Guest and Sue Ahmed. Come down and sing along with us.

Tickets £12.50 online through www.ticketco.co.uk/InWords.html
Visit in writing for details.

**Industrial History Society**

8 October: Victorian Dinners, The Royal Observatory and the Greenwich Generating station Meeting in the old boathouse, behind Age Exchange.

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**What's On**

**The Westcombe Society**

Friday 23rd September 10.00am - 2.00pm

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Sun 14th October: Macmillan Walk. Meet at 9.00am at Vanbrugh Castle. See page 2.

Sat 10th November: Quiz - 7.30-10.30pm in the Hall, Mycenae House

Sat 17th November: 11.30am - 4.00pm

Christmas Bazaar Blackheath High School

We need more volunteers to help out at our events. Interested? Please ring Joannie on 07709 571777

**Theatre**

**Greenwich Theatre, Greenwich**

**Siren’s**

**9 Sept - 9 Sept**

[Edinburgh Fringe Festival] award-winning Zoe Co re turns with the story of these Greek sirens who find themselves washed-up on Hastings.

**Mycenae Singers: Singing Through**

**Singing Concert 29 Sept.**

One of London's most exciting community choirs performs heartfelt and uplifting renditions of soul, jazz and pop classics.

**2K0 20-22 Sept.**

Dance Company fuses dance, music and theatre to create a visually powerful story of family, identity and belonging.

**An Enemy of the People**

27th - 29th Sept.

Flintlock Theatre returns with Ibsen’s classic in a exciting examination of life, money, power and corruption in contemporary Britain.

**Venues**

**Greenwich**

The stages of the epic journey between Lancel Armstrong and Mario Pannza on the famous Mount Vesuvius in the 2010 Tour de France. Adam Kay: This Is Going To Hurt

(SECRET DIARIES OF A JUNIOR DOCTOR)

20th - 24th Oct.

Award-winning medical comedian shares entries from his diaries as a junior doctor in this 'fascinating' (Guardian) evening of stand-up comedy.

**MEASURE FOR MEASURE**

2nd - 6th Oct

Chipping Tunbridge Wells Operatic society’s boddy and witty comedy full of twists, turns, sin and virtue.

**Mycenae House Live Events: September**

**Mycenae House, Royal Naval College**

Sat 8th September 1pm - Core Evolution Dance Workshop. Dips, Dips and Seducers with “Top Drop” teacher Steve Thomas. £5.

Fri 14th Sept 7pm - Jazz Night. Candidi Live Jazz music event hosted by Darse Silk. £10.

Mon 21st Sept 7.30pm - Julie Fells performs for International Day Of Peace hosted by Global Fusion. £12.

Fri 28th Sept 7.30pm - Miranda Slyce. Suit solo from Show Of Hands’ Acclaimed singer and husbant. £12.


For further information visit www.mycenae.co.uk

**Music**

**Music Appreciation with Matthew Taylor: Serenata Notturna**

**Mondays 17 & 24 September**

1, 15 & 29 October

5, 12, 19 & 26 November

10.30am -12.30pm (Old Library, Chariton) £37.50

For the autumn term Matthew will illustrate the serenade through its history, starting with Mozart through to Vaughan Williams. A term of delights.

**Course Fee: £95 (10-week course)**

individual lectures £10 or try a taster for free

Further details contact: Lionel Lewis 020 8297 1075 | L.J.Lewis@virgin.co.uk

Presented by Blackheath Music

**Tribute: Labrador**

**Communities**

**Blackheath & Greenwich Women's Institute**

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

**Sat 10th November**

Macmillan Walk. Meet at 9.00am at Vanbrugh Castle. See page 2.

Blackheath Bridge Club duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thur 7.30pm and on Wed at 1.30pm. Volunteers welcome.

Would you like to learn this fascinating game? Bridge lessons starting September 25th. Tuesday evenings.

First lesson free. At Mycenae House. For more details, please contact by George on 020 8293 5548 or concierge@trojanpress.co.uk

**CHARTER HOUSE: charcoal house**

20th, 25th, 30th. Mathew Tea Room: 

Jacqueline entrance Hall. Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Lunchtime concert every Friday 1.30pm - 2.30pm.

**Sundays at Sunfields**

at Sunfields Methodist Church on Old Dover Road

BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thur 7.30pm and on Wed at 1.30pm. Volunteers welcome.

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BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thur 7.30pm and on Wed at 1.30pm. Volunteers welcome.

Would you like to learn this fascinating game? Bridge lessons starting September 25th. Tuesday evenings.

First lesson free. At Mycenae House. For more details, please contact by George on 020 8293 5548 or concierge@trojanpress.co.uk

**CHARTER HOUSE: charcoal house**

20th, 25th, 30th. Mathew Tea Room: 

Jacqueline entrance Hall. Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Lunchtime concert every Friday 1.30pm - 2.30pm.

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**Features**

**Saving Greenwich’s Historic Gas Holder**

**Peter Luck**

A petition to save Greenwich’s gas holder from demolition with 1300 signatures was delivered to the full council meeting of the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) on 27th June. The petition has also been sent to Southern Gas Networks (SGN), Historic England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Writing from Munich, Dr Barbara Berger is quoted as saying “This gas holder is a masterpiece from the gas-engineer Sir George Thomas Livesey, built in 1889. The construction of the guide frame is unique and a milestone in the development of the guide-frame in the nineteenth century.”

The petition calls for an early opportunity for consultation with Council tenants on the proposals with Council tenants. Some councillors are angry that Meridian Council’s cabinet has had a mixed response. For some twenty years efforts have been made to have the holder listed. They have all failed. The Monuments Protection Programme acknowledged its importance in 2001-2002, but today’s EHS verdict has been that it does not meet standards for listing as of special interest in a national context. The grounds for this decision remain contested.

While being critical of the initial decision of Historic England (and its predecessor English Heritage) and DCMS for not listing the holder, the authors of the petition are strongly against total demolition. That action can only take place in the context of an open discussion between the interested parties: the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Southern Gas Networks and representatives of industrial heritage.

Matthew Carmona, Professor of Town Planning and Urban Design, UCL, Bartlett, commented: "As we embrace the future of Greenwich Peninsula, we should never forget its industrial past. Much industrial heritage has been lost but retaining the gas holder would be a positive and tangible link to that past, whilst helping to define a richer and more distinctive future.”

At the time of writing over 1400 people have signed the petition, which still remains open. Most of the signatures are from local people, but there are also signatures from a number of recognised figures in architecture, industrial conservation and planning, from the UK and Europe. Please contact peter.luck@waitrose.com for further details of the campaign and the petition.

**New proposal for “pocket homes”**

A proposal that would create 150 new one bedroom homes for ordinary working people in the borough has received initial approval by the Council. Sites at three locations on housing estates, currently used as parking and garage areas, would pass to Pocket Living, a company specialising in building on plots of land that are considered too small for most building developers. The Council has agreed to start consultation on the proposals with Council tenants close to the holder located near the Heights Estate, Charlton; Kidbrooke Park Close, Kidbrooke Park Estate and on Quince Road, Orchard Estate (Lewisham). As part of the plan, 80 per cent of the receipt from the sale of the land for the new homes will be ring-fenced to deliver new Council homes. The remaining 20 per cent will be used to improve the environment of the sites identified. Sizwe James, Cabinet Member for Growth and Strategic Development, said: “The Council is committed to doing everything it can to alleviate the housing crisis for our residents. This project would put home ownership within the range of ordinary working people who have been effectively priced out of the market. At the same time, it would provide us with another stream of income to deliver on our promise to build more council homes in Royal Greenwich.”

The one-bedroom flats are aimed at single renters currently priced out of the property market. The properties in the scheme would be sold at 20 per cent less than market rates. Purchasers would own 100 per cent of their homes; there is no shared equity, and 70 per cent of Pocket buyers have incomes of less than £40,000. Pocket homes are only available to first-time buyers who either live or work in the borough. Rules would be in place to ensure that the homes remain affordable in perpetuity and available to the target group. All the developments would be subject to planning and design approval.

The proposal agreed by Greenwich Council’s cabinet has had a mixed response. Some councillors are angry that Meridian Home Start was not chosen. This was a company set up by the council to develop new homes to rent at 65% of market rents. (See WN, April 2018)

This is in contrast with Pocket Living’s plans, which would sell the homes to Greenwich residents at a 20% discount, with a covenant in place to ensure they cannot be sold for a year after purchase. The Housing Scrutiny Panel will be looking at the proposal in due course.

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**FACT FILE**

**The Significance of the Gas Holder**

The East Greenwich No1 Gas Holder was built in the 1880s to the designs of George Livesey as part of the new and very large gas works planned by him as a model for future gas plant construction which, indeed, it became.

The holder itself was a development of an earlier holder at Old Kent Road, being very much larger and having a much taller tank (the part of the holder let into the ground) made necessary because of the much higher ground conditions.

To compensate for the shallowness of the tank the above-ground holder was built in the form of a near-sphere (the upper conical part of the bell) having four lifts instead of the hitherto customary two. For a while this was the largest permanent tank in the world, being rigorously un-decorated, can be seen as a precursor of twentieth century modernism.

At 180 feet high the holder is widely visible and will remain so as high rise development takes place in the vicinity. To the west wharves have safeguarded status and so will remain low-rise, and the holder stands in a commanding position by the Blackwall Tunnel approach road. It is also as an exceptionally fine example of an increasingly rare structure, a fine ‘badge’ of identity for the area.

As such it is also the last intact survivor of the gas works and one of very few (some so boldly visible) of the industrial heritage of the peninsula.

See: Mary Mills: Greenwich Marsh – the 300 years before the Dome (M Wright 1999) and The gas holder (forthcoming).

**A Visionary Architect**

Before her death in 2016, Dame Zaha Hadid was one of the most distinguished architects in the world, and a talented designer. She twice received the UK’s most prestigious architectural award, the RIBA Stirling Prize, and in 2012 was made a Dame for services to architecture.

In a lecture organised by the Greenwich Arts Society, we can hear the story of this visionary architect, from her early abstract paintings to her first sharp-angled buildings and her later structures, extruded to the most extreme organic shapes in what she called a “seamless fluidity”.

The lecture will look at her completed works, including her most famous building in the UK, the Aquatics Centre for the London Olympics in 2012, as well as unexecuted designs.

The lecturer, Anthea Streeter, studied Fine and Decorative Arts in London and at Harvard University, where she developed her interest in 20th century architecture. Since returning from America she has taught courses in Oxford and London, and given numerous lectures.

This lecture will take place in the larger theatre of King William Court; on entering, turn left and use the lift at the end of the corridor to reach the first floor.

Date for your diary: 10th Sept. 7.15 for 7.45.

Visitors also welcome, please pay at the door.

Westcombe News September 2018
When is a consultation not a consultation?

Short answer: When it’s in Greenwich. The public were given all of three days’ notice of this “consultation”. If you manage to get there, be sure to ask how many genuine, genuinely affordable housing units are envisaged. And how much social housing.

O’Neill said 3rd it was announced that the project proposals for a further large housing development of high rise flats would be revealed on Saturday 7th July. The image above shows the scheme as proposed in 2016.

The site is the present green triangle bounded by the A2, the railway at Kidbrooke Station and the Kidbrooke turn off from the A2. Early indications have suggested up to 600 units will be built in a series of high-rise blocks.

The Developer expects planning permission to be granted by the end of this year, making a site start during 2019 possible. In considering this proposal it should be noted that the site of the old Thomas Tallis School is also earmarked for future housing development.

This was a first consultation with a look at current proposals. It was announced that “TfL is committed to unlocking surplus land for much needed housing in London and it has released land next to Kidbrooke Station. To the south and east of the Site is Kidbrooke village.

Working in partnership with TfL, Notting Hill Genesis are seeking to provide much needed new housing on the site as well as a range of commercial uses. The consultation took place at Kidbrooke Village Centre, Efford Close Kidbrooke Village London SE3 9FA on Saturday 7th July.

Yet again we have a paper exercise at extremely short notice, at a time when many people are away: a much cherished tradition in this borough....

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(See also www.westcombesociety.org/)

102 CLENARE ROAD ref 18/2488/HD (Resubmission) comments by 5 Sep

Construct 2-storey side extension, single storey rear extension and formation of dropped kerb

6 GLENLUCIE ROAD ref 18/2560/HD comments by 5 Sep

Construction of a rear dormer extension with 2 front and 2 side roof lights.

15 REACONSFIELD ROAD ref 18/2120/HD

Demolition and construction of a replacement side extension, installation of new Edwardian-style canopy porch, installation/removal replacement of windows and new access steps to rear garden.

WESTCOMBE HILL DRY CLEANERS ref 18/2231/F comments by 5 Sep

Construction of an additional storey to facilitate creation of 1 x 2-bed self contained flat.

Subdivision of existing 3-bed flat into 2x1-bed self contained flats

118 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 18/2513/HD comments by 5 Sep

Construction of a single storey rear extension. Demolition of wall, gate and gate and replacement of external panel and gate.

Conservation issues

Maggie Gravelle of the Westcombe Society Environment Committee and representatives of five other amenity societies met with the Planning Department to discuss revisions to the Conservation Officer made and erected a signpost display - a clear: the blocks will resemble a building

A result, at last, for the 1000 households at New Capital Quay near Deptford Creek – probably the largest privately-owned development in the UK with Grenfell-like cladding. (See April’s WV). In July, the National House Building Council announced it will be paying to replace the cladding – which could cost anywhere between £20m and £40 million.

The NHBC was the warranty insurance provider at New Capital Quay, and it also acted as the building inspector during the construction of the blocks. This is a welcome end to a long-running dispute between the developer, Galliard, the NHBC, and the residents, who at one time claimed they felt they were being treated like hockey players. Leader of the Council Cllr Danny Thorpe, and local MP Matt Pennycook, have welcomed the news.

However, the question arises as to whether local councils should have more stringent rules over new building developments. But one thing, however, is clear: the blocks will resemble a building site for some months to come.

An End to Cladding Wars at Capital Quay

When is a consultation not a consultation? when it’s in Greenwich. The public were given all of three days’ notice of this “consultation”. If you manage to get there, be sure to ask how many genuine, genuinely affordable housing units are envisaged. And how much social housing.

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Among their requests: stronger and clearer guidelines on basements. As reported in June’s WV, a full consultation will begin on the issue in the autumn, when the Conservation Officer has said he hopes to take forward the committee’s request for new Article 4 directives. This would strengthen conservation area protection measures against off-road parking and changes to windows and doors.

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