



We shall
remember them

Westcombe NEWS



Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and some shops

November 2018 No. 9

Applications from Crafts people for the Westcombe Society Craft Fair can still be made by emailing info@westcombesociety.org



“The war to end all wars” ended at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918. Too late for the poet Edward Thomas, who was killed in action in the battle of Arras in 1917. In tribute to those who died, on all sides, we print this short poem:

In Memoriam

The flowers left thick at nightfall in the wood
This Eastertide call into mind the men,
Now far from home, who with their sweethearts,
should
Have gathered them and will do never again.

Edward Thomas



PHOTO: Vera Kramerova

SUPPORT MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT!

The Westcombe Society's Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support, which took place on Friday 28th September in Mycenae House, was a tremendous success, raising £900.

Here, the Mayor of Greenwich, Cllr Christine May, and Deputy Mayor Cllr Mick Hayes is greeted by Craig Fordham, (Macmillan Director of Legacies), J.J Aune, (Vice-Chairman of the WS), and Marilyn Little (Chair of the WS.) Please see page 2.

Greenwich Heritage Centre: Mothballing History

WN reporter

There is a rising tide of anger at the closure of the Greenwich Heritage Centre: an act of cultural vandalism that makes a mockery of the Royal Borough's claim to be proud of its history and heritage.

Residents of Westcombe Park will recall that the Heritage Centre – then called a local history library – was until October 2003 housed in Woodlands House (now the Steiner School, next to Mycenae House). The library was moved to the site on the Royal Arsenal. With “Building 41”, the Council proudly claimed that it was accorded the space and resources that the Heritage Centre needed and deserved.

Now it is closed.

An informal grouping – the Greenwich Archive Users Form (GAUF), formed last month as reported in the *WN* – points out that The Royal Borough of Greenwich is now the only London Borough which does not have an open, publicly accessible local history archive.

The archive, which is administered on behalf of the council by the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust, had been housed in the Greenwich Heritage Centre in Building 41 (a former ammunition factory) at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

The archive is of great local significance, used by residents concerned with family and local history. It is also a valuable resource for all those engaged in planning matters within the Borough, including those carrying out the desktop site surveys that are legally required of developers.

Local historian Neil Rhind said:

“The archive is of great national and even international importance, being used by historians and researchers from far and wide, since it holds unique documents relating to the history of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site and the internationally important Royal Arsenal at Woolwich.”

It also holds documents for public consultation for the National Archives and the London Metropolitan Archives.

The Heritage Centre was precipitately closed at very short notice on July 21st after a decision by the Council's planning board – without adequate warning or proper public consultation. The archives are now mothballed. Building 41 is now intended to serve as a music and performing arts venue as part of the new Woolwich Cultural Quarter.

Inevitably, there has been a number of redundancies, but remaining staff will be housed in Charlton House, where a “limited public service” will be provided.

GAUF informed the *WN* that it is intended that the archive will be moved temporarily to an industrial unit at Anchorage Point, Anchor and Hope Lane, Charlton, where the Trust claims (wholly implausibly, said GAUF) that it will reopen in December.

This location is highly unsatisfactory. Access to a rather remote place without a nearby bus stop will be hard, both for staff, and would-be users. The building will require expensive fitting-out in order to provide the appropriate storage and environmentally stable conditions required by British Standards for the maintenance and

public consultation of unique documents.

Anchorage Point is only available for the length of a five year lease, so the archive will then have to be moved again, to a currently unidentified location, with more disruption, more expense and more risk to fragile material. All of this is happening without the benefit of archivally-trained staff – and without the benefit of an adequate catalogue of the material.

“It would be hard to imagine a better recipe for disaster,” commented Elizabeth Percy, of the Greenwich Archive Users Group.

Sherington to become an academy?

Sherington School in Charlton has been Shaving “exploratory talks” about the possibility of becoming an academy – despite having an outstanding Ofsted.

Many parents are outraged. At a protest meeting organised by mother of four Vicky Makepeace, she said: “My two older boys did well at the school and enjoyed it, and I want my two other children to have the same experience.”

Cllr David Gardner said that Greenwich Primary Schools have an excellent record, and Sherington was an outstanding school rooted in the local community. “Turning a school into an academy is a trip into the unknown – and a one-way street.”

The governors are set to make a decision on November 2nd.

Crafts



The Westcombe Society's Christmas Market

Saturday 17th November 11.30-4.00
**Blackheath High School, Mycenae Rd,
SE3 7AG**

Homemade
cakes

Punch
and Judy
12.15 & 2.30

Live
music

Santa's
Grotto

Entry £2 adults, £1 12-16 & members, under 12 free
In aid of the Volunteer Centre Greenwich



Newsbriefs



Sock it to them

Knitting nanas from Mycenae House are working on a fantastic new community project – but we need more knitters. If you can help us please drop the socks into Deborah, Mycenae Reach Out Project, at Mycenae House.



Cuts to local bus services

TfL has rejected a proposal for a new X161 express bus route to connect the new Woolwich Crossrail station to Shooters Hill, Eltham and Mottingham. People living in these areas will thus find it hard to benefit from the new Elizabeth Line. There are also concerns about cuts to local bus services, including shortening the 53 bus route, crucial for many night and shift workers.

Airport expansion

Matt Pennycook MP has criticised the government for watering down the UK's emission reduction targets

if and when we Brexit. The UK's watchdog to replace the ECJ would have no powers on climate change.

Women's Safety Charter

The Council has launched Greenwich Women's Safety Charter to combat sexual harassment, joining forces with the Her Centre.

Mums Aid

Mumsaid has just won an award at the Maternity Health Alliance's annual conference. Greenwich is one of only two London boroughs rated as inadequate on the map of Perinatal mental health services.

COMMUNITY

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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Environment Editor: Maggie Gravelle

Sub-editor: Annie Grey

Reporters: The community – that means you!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Emily Norton All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2756
environment@westcombesociety.org

DISTRIBUTION Emily Norton and volunteers.

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ADVERTISING MANAGER

Marilyn Little, 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 020 8853 1312
Advertising@westcombesociety.org

All adverts payable in advance by cheque to **The Westcombe Society**.
DISPLAY: Single column 6cm x 6cm:
One - four issues £35, five-plus issues £30 each. Other sizes: please inquire.
Classified Ads (Market Place) 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. An email/web address = 3 words.) Deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month.

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To access back-numbers (in colour) go to:
www.westcombesociety.org/westcombe-news/
Westcombe Society's Blog:
<http://westcombe.blogspot.com>

WANTED! More volunteers to distribute the WN – especially St John's Park. Please phone 8853 2756 if you would like to help.

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:
Christine Legg, 69 Mycenae Road, London, SE3 7SE

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Email:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family Membership	£12	[]
Individual Membership	£8	[]
Senior Citizens/unwaged	£4	[]

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Raising money for Macmillan



At the Coffee Morning, our visitors met with some of our volunteers.

Above: Craig Fordham, Macmillan Director of Legacies; Mick Hayes, the Deputy Mayor; Tessa Cross; Diane Blackwell; Christine Legg (WS Membership Secretary); the Mayor, Cllr Christine May; Caroline Owens and J-J and Maureen Aune.

Right: Caroline Owens, the organiser. Motto: "Let them eat cake!" Yes, the cakes sold like, well, what else, hot cakes!



PHOTOS: Vera Kramerova

On 14th November eleven walkers assembled in the rain to begin this fund-raising fourteen km walk organised by the Westcombe Society. We set off along the north Thames Path: the views of Greenwich were as usual-marvellous despite the weather, and there were some very interesting stops such as the lighthouse at Trinity wharf. We crossed back via the cable car to home. Our thanks to Raj at Westcombe Hill Food and Wine who generously donated the water that kept us going!

The Westcombe Society MacMillan Walk



PHOTO: J-J Aune



Letters

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

From: Macmillan Cancer Support, London
A huge thank you to the Westcombe Society for their fantastic coffee morning held at Mycenae House attended by the Mayor of Greenwich Cllr Christine May, the Deputy Mayor Cllr Mick Hayes and Craig Fordham, Head of Legacies at Macmillan.

An incredible £900 was raised on the day. The Society is not stopping there – they went on to do a walk for Macmillan on the 14th October in the local area. All money raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Ed: This message appeared on Macmillan's facebook page. The Westcombe Society should be proud of its fund-raising efforts: apart from its ongoing support for Macmillan Cancer Support, over the years the WS has raised thousands of pounds for local charities. The Christmas Craft Market on Nov. 17th in Blackheath High School for

Girls will be raising funds for Greenwich Action for Voluntary Service (GAVS) based at 10, Woolwich New Road, Tel. 8309 8231.

From: Trevor Allman Coleraine Road

Your reports of the John Roan pupils' exam results (*WN* - October) vindicates those campaigning against academisation in their belief that the Ofsted report, which claimed John Roan was "inadequate", was unfair and politically motivated to hand the school over to an unaccountable private company.

As the Official Monster Raving Loony Party candidate for this Ward, I gave my unequivocal support to "John Roan Resists", and joined a lobby of the John Roan Governors to show my solidarity again. Unfortunately, none of the Governors deigned to speak to anyone.

I urge all those who care about the future of this community school to support "John Roan

MHA 'Off the beaten track but thriving' POLLY MORGAN

The Mental Health Activity Trust is leading the way, supporting local people in their communities. The charity, on Delacourt Road, Blackheath Standard, is often deemed to be 'off the beaten track', but is going strong. It is supported by a busy charity shop that will have been open for five years on 29th March 2019.

CEO and Founder, Toni Hale, set up the charity to help those living with mental health problems to sustain meaningful employment either within the MHA Trust or their communities. She said: "Since we opened, we have served approximately 32,760 people, up-cycled over eight tonnes of donations, as well as supported over 2,000 people with complex issues and welfare rights advice. And we've got 53 people into sustainable employment.

"This is a real achievement for a small charity, particularly as we are not supported by any Government or Local Authority funding."

The charity currently employs 27 volunteers. Toni organises day trips, holidays and many social events to decrease social isolation. The charity also hosts an annual special awards ceremony which it pays for, and is free to anyone who attends. Toni adds: "However, we need to raise more income to fund our activities, so please get in touch if you think you can help."

To find out more about the MHA Trust, how to make an appointment or donate, please visit: <https://mhatrust.org/about/>, <https://mhatrust.org/give-mha-trust/>

Sorry, SOUP supporters

It is with regret that we had to cancel the Mycenae SOUP event planned for October. We send our apologies to all concerned for the inconvenience caused.

Two previous Mycenae Soup events, raising thousands of pounds for local projects, sold out. But in October we were very disappointed by poor ticket sales. Despite our very best efforts to promote sales, the event became unfeasible.

We will now rethink our future strategy for supporting local charities, but we remain absolutely committed to doing so.

We'd like to say thank you and sorry to the great projects that had applied to pitch for the funding and genuinely hope we can help them in other ways for the future.

News from St George's

The next community lecture is at 8.00pm on Thursday 6th December, when Dr Sam Moorehead will give an illustrated talk on 'The pagan roots of Christmas traditions.'

Spiritual Film Night is *Amreeka* on Wed. 28th November 7:30 pm. *Amreeka* chronicles the adventures of Muna, a single Christian Palestinian mother who seeks a new life in Illinois.

Resists", who provide updates on the anti-academy campaign via their Facebook page and on Twitter at @JohnRoanResists.

Apart from these issues, I was saddened to learn of the death of Edward Hill, whom I knew as a campaigner and on a personal basis. Ed was sometimes unorthodox in his approach to campaigning, but cared deeply about how the destruction of our environment impacts on humans and other species. It is people like Ed who stand up for the interests of the community.

From: Peter Osler Churchill Place E14

I read with some concern your story regarding the proposed new academy in Old Dover Road. All the criticisms of the plan cited by Ann Hill are spot on - especially remembering the mess created by the Bluecoats students in the area. Thank you, *Westcombe News*.

LOCAL NEWS

Come and join us at Theatretrain, Greenwich

Theatretrain Greenwich runs classes in dance, drama and singing for 6-18 year olds on Saturdays during term time from 10am-1pm and 4-6 year olds at 12-1:30pm in Myceane House.

Whether you're a West End wannabe or a shy wallflower looking to make friends and gain confidence, this is the place for you. Our ethos is as a 'performance company' and ALL students take part in ALL productions whatever their level of ability. We believe this not only gives our students skills and confidence in performance but also respect and appreciation for each other AND the responsibility of working for the team not just themselves.

So come along... we'd love to have you

on board! For over two decades we've championed an exhilarating approach to theatre education in the theatrical arts for young people aged 6-18, teaching them to dance, act and sing.

Our theatre school brings out the best in students, builds confidence, and gives aspiring young actors opportunities of a lifetime via our large scale London shows and our smaller local shows each year. No auditions are necessary as we teach them everything they need to know!

For more information, visit greenwich@theatretrain.co.uk or ring Christina Fulcher on 07908647284 Sat 3rd Nov. at 1215: 35 children perform a Dancathon. Donations to charity.

Calling all sceptics

Are you nursing a grudge against God? Feeling burned by the Church? Have you walked away from religion because your childhood faith felt phoney? Are you annoyed by Christians who claim an exclusive hold on truth and want to push their brand of belief on you? Do you think it's all nonsense, but are still nagged by a feeling that "there must be more than this?"

You might actually enjoy the Sceptics Group that meets at the St George's vicarage. It's a free-wheeling discussion group exploring questions of faith and falsehood, science and mystery, scripture and more.

There aren't any wrong questions or forbidden opinions. We informally discuss the questions, gripes and concerns which people bring to the group. Sometimes we watch a video to kick off the discussion produced by a group of Progressive Christians. ... (Yes, there is such a thing!)

The Sceptics Group is open to anyone

who wishes to wrestle with questions of what it means to live a meaningful life. Atheists and agnostics are welcome, along with believers or non-believers of any faith or tradition.

The group is led by the Team Vicar of St George's Church, the Rev. Tim Yeager, and it meets at the St George's vicarage on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 8:00 pm. There is always a glass of wine or other beverage waiting for you, and a group of neighbours who may be sharing some of the same concerns that you have.

If you're interested, give Tim a call at 020 3633 5494, or email Tim at tim@stgeorgeswestombepark.org.uk STOP PRESS Saturday, 3rd. Nov. at 6:00 pm at St George's Church: A concert by the Vox Soul Youth Choir of Lisbon, Portugal. Free and open to the public. Retiring collection - donations for the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter

Prepare for Universal Credit

Residents who are claiming benefits in the Royal Borough of Greenwich are being urged to prepare for changes under Universal Credit as the system begins to roll out across the borough.

From October, most new claimants will have to apply for Universal Credit (UC) which will replace housing benefit, income-based job seeker's allowance, income support, income-related employment and support allowance, child tax or working tax credits.

Those already claiming benefits will see no change for the time being.

One of the changes under UC means that new claimants will not have to make a separate claim for housing benefit. Help towards rent will now be paid as part of UC. However, the element of UC that is to help with rent will be paid direct to the claimant rather than to their council or housing association landlord, so tenants will now be responsible for paying their own rent in the same way that many private tenants already are doing so..

If rent arrears build up for eight weeks or more, then the landlord can ask for the payment to be made direct – this applies to private landlords as well as council and housing association landlords.

Direct payments can also be applied for in other circumstances if the DWP accept that it is in the claimant's best interests. All claims will need to be made online, and every claimant will have his or her own online account. People without easy access to a computer can use computers available in local jobcentre offices and the Royal Borough's libraries.

UC will be paid monthly in arrears. However, the first payment will be made seven days after that. This means that it may take five weeks for people to get their money, but an advance payment can be made whilst the claim is being processed.

Cllr Christine Grice, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources said: "The changes being made are huge and will have a major effect on people who need to make a new claim, or advise of a change of circumstances, such as a change in residence. Having to wait five weeks from your claim to receive your money could be disastrous for people unprepared for it.

"The Council has a range of support for people to help them cope with the changes – I would urge anyone needing to make a claim to find out more now."

For more information visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/universalcredit or call the Welfare Rights Service on 020 8921 6375 (open Monday, Wednesday & Thursday between 10am – 1pm).

Come to Sunfields Methodist Church on Sunday 18 November at 10.30 am (across the bridge from the shops in Old Dover Road) to a service presided over by Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, aka Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths). All welcome. Followed by a bring-and-share lunch.



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GAS
SAFE

Well played, Blackheath!



Blackheath Cricket Club secured the ECB Kent Premier League title for the first time since 1984 with a crushing last-day defeat of reigning champions Beckenham. President of the club Viv Lawrence told the *W/N*: "One member of the team is Ivan Thomas a former John Roan boy, who also plays for Kent at county level. Another member of the Club is Sam Douglas-Freeman, son of one of the governors, he played in the 2s, who also gained promotion."

Blackheath captain Chris Willetts, in his tenth year at the helm, won the toss and elected to bat. Thanks largely to a third wicket stand by Willetts and Tanweer Sikander, BCC amassed a daunting total of 278 for 8 declared.

Blackheath soon made in-roads into the Beckenham batting and persistently good bowling from James Hands and former Warwickshire seamer Tom Mees then combined to reach a convincing win over Beckenham. This capped off a tremendous period for the Club which has had a plethora of achievements including County T20 titles and the National Knockout Cup.

Interested? Please ring 020 8691 6512 (h) or 07711 044091 (m)

Early music

The world's largest Early Music Fair comes to Blackheath Halls from Thursday 8th November to Saturday 10th. Over 100 instrument makers converge from around the globe. Tickets to the exhibition gives you free entry to Makers Demonstration Recitals which take place throughout the three days at St Michaels and All Angels Church in Pond Road.

Among the treats:

On Saturday 10th November, the **Thomas Tallis Society Choir and Orchestra of the Sixteen** play Handel's Overture to Jephtha, Coronation anthems, and Dixit Dominus 1945 - 21.45 at St Alfege Church, Greenwich £20 / £14.

Tickets for the fair from Early Music Shop: Tel. 01274 288100 www.earlymusicfestival.com Prices: One day £10.00 2 Days: £15.00 3 Day ticket: £20.00 Advance Purchase only (Until Nov. 1st) 3 Day Ticket £12.00



Some time ago Cathy and Martin Guha kindly offered to install a community bookshelf at Westcombe Park Station. They got permission from the Team Leader at Woolwich, and went ahead.

So thanks to Martin's craftsmanship, October saw the launch of the Westcombe Society Community Bookshelf. All are invited to bring a book, and take one!

So why not sit down in the station, have a nice cup of coffee, and browse through a few of the excellent books on offer?



LEAH LODGE



StChristopher's
More than just a hospice



UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Information sessions and support for family caregivers

Do you care for a family member or friend who has dementia and would you like to learn more about dementia in a supportive group environment?

The three sessions will provide the opportunity to meet other people in similar situations and enable you to share your experiences in the strictest confidence.

Each session will cover a different aspect of care, including improving communication skills, understanding certain behaviours, practical strategies and how best to look after yourself.

Join us on 6th, 13th and 20th November 2018, 2pm-4pm
Booking recommended. See overleaf for details.

To reserve your place, call Geoff Pride on 0208 318 2272
Booking recommended as spaces are limited

Leah Lodge Care Home, Blessington Road, London, SE13 5EB

FEATURES

Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund - Round 2

MAGGIE GRAVELLE

The article in October’s *WN* on local community projects was slightly misleading, confusing the Ward Budget Scheme with the Greenwich Growth Fund or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The Ward Budget scheme is an ongoing pot of money for small scale projects in individual wards. CIL is for larger projects costing £50,000 or more.

All the winning schemes quoted in the article were submitted under CIL.

The list of projects in the Ward Budget Scheme so far funded are as follows:

Blackheath Society – Blackheath Story Boards (The Westcombe Society funded the board at Vanbrugh Park gate)

Age Exchange – Communities at play (sessions designed to get different generations together, using board games but minus ipads, phones etc)

Greenwich Foodbank Van – combined with 13 other wards towards a new van
Blackheath Standard Traders – Christmas Light purchase

Friend of Mycenae Gardens – to buy two garden benches

St Georges Community Gardens – contribution towards opening up the garden area as a community garden

Friends of Westcombe Woodlands – pond dipping project

Age Exchange/Blackheath Conservatoire – reminiscence project to combat isolation / dementia at Langton Way and Wentworth House sheltered housing

Kidbrooke Park Close Estate– for environmental improvement and community safety: 2 lights on pathway between estate and Rochester Way and low level fencing around grass areas to discourage misuse / dog fouling

Vanbrugh Park Estate – greening project (replacing some of the large amount of paving stones with grass and shrubs)

If residents have projects costing less than £30,000 they should contact Ward Councillors with details. The box on the right provides more information.

Fact sheet from our local councillors:

The Greenwich Growth Fund (funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy)

There will be a public vote in December to help decide which project receives funding. The type of project that could be included within the terms of the scheme could be to provide or improve community facilities, environmental improvements, or new play equipment, and must have a minimum value of £50,000.

The funds which are part of the Community Infrastructure Levy are allocated to each area according to how much development has taken place in that area. We are in Area 2 - Blackheath and Greenwich (Blackheath Westcombe, Peninsula & Greenwich West wards); the amount available for Round 2 is £227,671.

The endorsement of all three Ward Councillors in the Ward in required.
Full details are available at: <https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/growthfund>.

Ward Budget Fund

RBG is running a new Ward Budget Scheme building on the success of the first scheme which saw 139 projects benefit over the Borough as a whole and 9 in Blackheath Westcombe Ward – where almost every penny of the £30,000 available was allocated. In the new scheme £30,000 per Ward will again be available over the next four years and proposals must be submitted to local councillors.
Your local councillors would be very happy to discuss both funds with you and any ideas you may have.

Comedy in Blackheath Halls

Got the Brexit Blues? Cheer up, help is at hand. No fewer than three top comedians are lining up at the Halls:

Friday 16th Nov welcomes **Marcus Brigstocke’s** new satirical show **Devil May Care**. As we categorize people in little boxes – Snowflake, Fascist, Remainer, Trot, Libtard, Brextremist, Feminist, Piers Morgan . . . we have to decide - what is good, what is bad?

8.00pm £16.00

Friday 30th Nov. **Sean Lock’s** new show **Keep It Light** Join him for a unique mix of new and tried material.

8.00 pm £15.00

Sunday 2nd December Definitely time for an American comedian, and **Rich Hall** is the man of the moment with his hilarious show **Hoedown**. And it isn’t just Trump in his sights ...

8.00 pm £17.00

Historic landmark under threat



Thousands of people have signed a petition against the closure of Woolwich Barracks (above).

There has been a military presence in Woolwich for over 300 years, and these barracks are unique: they are the longest Georgian building in the world, and in 1973 were given a Grade II* listing.

They were built between 1772 and 1802; originally two separate buildings, erected at different times, they were joined together by the architect James Wyatt, who constructed the triumphal arch that can be seen in the above photograph.

There has since been a groundswell of local public opinion, leading to the petition shortly to be presented to the government

by local MP Matt Pennycook.

He said: “Woolwich remains a garrison town: our history and identity are intertwined with our armed forces.”

Kenny Janes, said in a tweet: “I was born in Woolwich, and currently serving. This would be an absolute kick in he teeth if it was removed, why are they even thinking of it?”

The reason, no doubt, is that the defence budget is sorely stretched. But many soldiers will tell you the accommodation they are given by the army – often rented – can be pretty sub-standard.

On a happier note, The Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery are holding an open day on the 27th November 2018.

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WHAT'S ON



ARTS

BLACKHEATH ART SOCIETY

Autumn/Winter Exhibition 2018 at the refurbished Gallery, upstairs at the Old Royal Naval College, **Saturday 13th Oct. to Sunday 2nd Dec. daily, from 10am to 5pm, and entry is free..**

THE ARTS SOCIETY, GREENWICH

King William Court, Univ. of Greenwich
12 Nov. The King's New Armour: A Renaissance Art-Form in England Tobias Capwell Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection All lectures are at 7:45pm, with wine served from 7:15pm. Visitors welcome, please pay at the door
THE ARTS SOCIETY, BLACKHEATH
22nd Nov GILES: HIS LIFE TIMES AND CARTOONS Barry Venning 2.00pm. with tea and coffee, and lectures at 2.30. Venue is St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park Blackheath
Visitors welcome, please pay on the door.
THE GREENWICH GALLERY Peyton Place
Exhibition on now: Jack Rake (1901 - 1986) The physician who wanted to be an artist.

CHILDREN & FAMILY

GREENWICH THEATRE CROOMS HILL KNITMAS: A WINTER YARN

4 Dec - 30 Dec 2018 Following last year's Snow-Pocalypse, SharkLegs Theatre Company returns with another festive treat! Suitable for ages 4+
£13.50, Children £8.50

BLACKHEATH HALLS

SAT 17th NOV 11:00h & 15:00 THE FROG AND THE PRINCESS A humorous retelling of the classic Brothers Grimm tale **£8.50**

SAT 24 NOV 11:00h & 15:00 3 LITTLE PIG TALES This classic story is set in Paris **£8.50**

SAT 01 DEC 11:00h FAMILY DAY 2018

A day of fun for the whole family to enjoying including our Festive Family Sing-A-Long event

SPOKEN WORD

IN-WORDS POETRY

Nov. 13th, 6.45 for 7.00pm - Graham Fawcett on Anna Akhmatova. At The Treehouse, The Greenwich Tavern SE10 9JH

Nov. 27th, 7.30 Poetry evening with Fiona Moore and friends At the Treehouse Visit in-words.co.uk

CHARLTON UNITED REFORM CHURCH

Bramshot Avenue. Charlton URC is hosting a talk by Canon Andrew White (of Baghdad fame, also MS sufferer) on 29th. November at 7.30. All welcome
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY

13th Nov. 7.30pm David Waller. Iron Men. Henry Maudslay Woolwich Engineer (1771 - 1831)

Meeting in the Old Bakehouse, behind Age Exchange.

CHARLTON & BLACKHEATH AMATEUR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Mon. Nov. 19th

Charlton House, 7.30pm **Jude Lawton**, Chair of Plant Heritage Kent will speak on **Ferns for your garden**

Visitors welcome, £2. With refreshments

BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Nov 16 7.45 Philip Laurie of Transport for London speaks on **London's Geology: 100 million years in the making** Mycenae House. Visitors welcome £3.00

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

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

Sat 17th Nov. 11.30am - 4.00pm Christmas Craft Market Blackheath High School

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

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SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

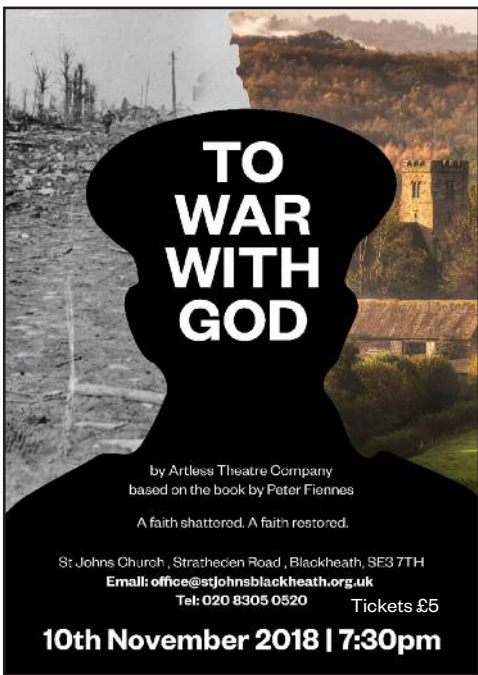
30th Oct - 2nd Nov The world's largest youth drama festival returns to Greenwich

SHIVERS 4 Nov As the dark nights draw in, join us for an evening of all-new tales of terror...

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Tues Nov.27th 7.30 - Wed 28th 2.30 (2018 NOT 2019 as announced...) John O'Connor re-enacts a Dickensian performance £11



ROBINSON CRUSOE 23rd Nov 2018 - 13th Jan
Set sail to Greenwich Theatre this Christmas for our swashbuckling panto - Robinson Crusoe. Starring panto favourite, Andrew Pollard.



COMMUNITY

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meets first Wednesday of every month, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Sunfields Methodist Church on Old Dover Road
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Newcomers welcome. Bridge lessons on Tuesday evenings 7.15 pm. All welcome. Tel. Ivy 8293 5354

SUNDAYS AT SUNFIELDS at Sunfields Methodist Church

95 Old Dover Road, Blackheath SE3 8SJ Lunch! 1.00 - 4.00 pm First Sunday every month. ALL older people and their carers are welcome FREE, so please do just come along

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MUSIC

BLACKHEATH HALLS

Thurs. Nov 1st 7.30 Great Hall. Trinity Laban Symphonic Winds celebrate Thea Musgrave's 90th birthday in a wide-ranging concert. £5.00

Fri 2nd Nov. Trinity Laban Opera scenes 5.00 & 7.30 pm. Recital room and Great Hall. Free, but booking required on 8463 0100

Mon 5th Nov. 1.10 pm Beethoven's Symphony No.9 for two pianos. Tessa Uys & Ben Schoeman perform. Free, but retiring donation to the Halls.
Mon 5th Nov. & Tues. 13th Nov. 7.30 pm Trinity Laban BEATS IN THE BAR Free, but booking required.

Sun 11th Nov. 6.30 pm DIWALI EVENING CELEBRATION Tickets tbc. Indian food and culture presented by Friends of the Halls.

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:

Wed 14th Nov. 7.30 pm Recital £10 | £8 concs.

Fri 16th Nov. 7.30 pm WW1 100 YEARS

COMMEMORATION RECITAL Songs and readings. £12.00 Presented by the Friends.

Sat 17th Nov. BLACKHEATH HALLS ORCHESTRA play Debussy & Sibelius Tickets £12.00 | £10.00 concs. Under 12s £6.00

Min 19th Nov. 1.10pm Sian Phillips and Per Rundberg play Mendelssohn etc. Free, but retiring donation to Blackheath Halls.

Thurs 22nd Nov. CLASSICAL MUSIC in the films of **INGMAR BERGMAN:**

A lecture/ recital with Dr Anyssa Neumann. £10.00 inc glass of wine.

Thurs 22nd Nov. 8.00pm TRINITY LABAN JAZZ Free, booking required

Fri 23rd Nov. 6.99pm TRINITY LABAN

SIDE BY SIDE play Farrenc's Symp No.3

Sat 24th Nov. 7.30 BLACKHEATH GOES

GOSPEL 10th Birthday £12.00 | £10.00

Mon 26th/Tues 26th Nov. MUSIC GALA:

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Wed 28th Nov. 6.00pm Megan Storer flute

& Noelia Cotuna harp. Free

Thurs 29th Nov. 7.00pm TRINITY

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FEATURES

Academisation: A John Roan parent writes

He argues: “Like it or lump it we are stuck with it.”

The John Roan has had some significant problems in recent years. Greenwich Council secured some additional leadership support in 2017, but by the time of the Ofsted inspection earlier this year, the improvements were still at an early stage. The Ofsted report was a disappointment but not a surprise.

The law required that an Academy Order be made. The law imposes a statutory duty on the School Governing Body and the Council to work towards Academy conversion. The actual conversion will happen probably in early 2019.

Many people dislike the Academisation of our schools. If anyone thinks the law is wrong then they should campaign and vote for a Government that will change the law.

The teachers’ union got some legal advice just before the summer holiday to say that there might be a chance to launch a legal challenge to the Ofsted report. But the Union decided not to pay the legal costs of that challenge. There was a crowd-funding attempt but it didn’t raise enough to start a legal case. The latest date by which a challenge could start has now passed.

The Academy sponsor has confirmed that it has no plans to change staff terms and conditions. The current school governors have no proposals to change staff terms and conditions of employment.

The local MP spotted that the school had a strong and popular new headteacher who was making improvements. He argued passionately that time should be allowed for the new head, in partnership with staff and parents, should be given time to show that improvement could be achieved. Sadly he was undermined because the staff went on strike rather than focus on showing a unified desire to improve.

Further strikes are now planned. The dozen or so parents who support that have been demonstrating outside the school dur-

ing the open events designed to show off the school to potential 2019 entrants. The hard work of the staff who put on a fantastic set of events was probably undermined by being handed leaflets reiterating a message of conflict within the school.

It is heartbreaking to see the efforts of the school leadership and staff undermined, and diverted from the task of securing the improvements that are needed. Especially as the strike seems so devoid of meaning. The employer, the School Governing Body, has said it isn’t planning to change terms and conditions. There is no dispute between the staff and their employer.

The strike is driven by dogma. Staff have been fed a great deal of misinformation about what it can achieve. To repeat: there is nothing that the staff want their employer to do. There is no proposal to change terms and conditions. There is nothing the employer can now do to challenge the Ofsted inspection report.

To the extent that academisation is perceived to be wrong, that’s a national political issue which the unions should tackle nationally. The staff at the John Roan who are striking appear to have been sold a political dogma. Their strike is actively counterproductive.

A number of parents support the strikes. But a far, far larger proportion do not. They support the staff, while recognising that they feel genuinely concerned about the change to being employed by an Academy Trust.

I do not agree to my name being published, because a very small number of parents who support strike action have been abusive and aggressive towards people who disagree with them. I don’t wish to say that everyone who supports the strike behaves like that, but a small number have done so and I do not want to be exposed to that abuse.

Honouring those who died

One hundred years ago, at 11.00 am on 11th November 1918, the guns fell silent and the “war to end all wars”, which had claimed the lives of millions of people, finally ended.

In the aftermath, communities all over Britain compiled rolls of honour in remembrance of those friends and loved ones who had given their all in the name of Freedom. Blackheath Standard was no exception.

On 11 Nov. 1925 a memorial screen with over 120 names on it, was unveiled in the church of St John the Evangelist, in Stratheden Road. These men were either local residents themselves, or family relatives of residents. More than 30 of these men were former members of the 3rd Blackheath and Kent Boys’ Brigade. Some men also played for The Blackheath Rugby Club. The screen was unveiled in November 1925.

**‘At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them.’**

One hundred years on, the parishioners at St John’s resolved to remember these men in a manner befitting their acts of self-sacrifice. To this end, at the beginning of July this year a small group of parishioners volunteered to carry out research into the war stories of those whose names are engraved on the screen.

The results are being turned into a commemorative display in the church building, which will be open to the public during the week of the 5th – 11th November 2018.

The task has not been an easy one. The building which housed the army records of the men of Other Ranks of WW1, was bombed in 1940, and 70% of these files were destroyed, and we have not been able to trace every name on the screen. We invite the reader to look carefully at each name on the photographs of the screen. Should anyone be able to provide any information on any of the names, please get in touch with us through our church office at office@stjohnsblackheath.org.uk.

The Church of St John the Evangelist in Stratheden Road, near the Royal Standard pub, will be open during the week 5th - 11th November. Members of the public are cordially invited to visit and

view the memorial display and mourn the passing of a generation of Blackheath’s finest children.

The week concludes



with a Service of Remembrance at 10.30am with two minute’s Silence on Sunday 11th November.

And if you can contribute in any way to our knowledge and understanding of the lives of the men whose names are on the Memorial Screen, we shall be so pleased to hear from you. **St John’s Church is open during the week for the Commemorative Display 5th – 11th Nov, but you are also warmly invited to attend a concert on the 7th November at 7.30pm and a play called ‘To war with God’ on Sat. 10th Nov. at 7.30pm.**

A Service of Remembrance is at 10.30am on 11th November. More details from our church office or via our website:
www.stjohnsblackheath.org.uk

Understanding people with dementia

Do you care for a family member or friend who has dementia and would you like to learn more about dementia in a supportive group environment?

St Christopher’s Hospice and Leah Lodge are offering you three sessions to provide the opportunity to meet other people in similar situations and enable you to share your experiences in the strictest confidence. Each session covers a different aspect of care, including improving communication skills, understanding certain behaviours, practical strategies and how best to look after yourself.

Join us on 6th, 13th and 20th November 2018, 2pm–4pm Booking recommended. To reserve your place call Geoff Pride on 8318 2272/ Leah Lodge Care Home, Blessington Road London SE13 5EB

Poetry please

Apologies to Gabi Marston: two lines of her terse verse were omitted.

Here is the full version:

Melvyn Bragg But Andrew Marr
What a drag- He’s a star!

This limerick is from Greta Zoob, a proud Granny whose granddaughter is about to start at Uni:

Soon Kat will be going to Exeter
Where the men will be craning their
necks at her
With brains and beauty
She’s still not snooty
While all the men flex their pecs at her.

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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 de-toxify it by removing ancient strands of imperialism, sexism and racism. We need second to energise it by adding new, enduring stuff – modelling with digital electronics.

Many educationalists lean towards the left and they conflate the historic classless culture with the current Status Quo – which they hate. The historic classless culture of the UK is about common law, commonsense, and a freedom to think deeply which was stamped out in most other countries. This is needed.

A society which neglects its core values falls apart. The P E R Group websites: www.philosophyforeducation.co.uk. www.perprospero.co.uk

ENVIRONMENT



Planning applications can be viewed in the library, or at the Woolwich Library on the lower ground floor of the Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington St. They may also be viewed on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning

Goodbye to Wheelie Bins?



These days, wheelie bins have become a seemingly unavoidable part of the street scene, and are without doubt an eyesore, especially in conservation areas. So it was with interest that the *WN* heard about the biggest underground bin system in the UK. This is now operating in north west Cambridge, eliminating the need for around 9,000 wheelie bins.

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City have begun collecting residential waste using innovative underground bins at Eddington. Residents now take their waste and mixed recycling to sleek steel bin chutes set into the pavement near their homes.

The discarded items fall into a large underground chamber. A sensor notifies the council when the chamber is full, so that collections can take place when required.

Could this work here?

Is this an idea that could work in parts of our borough? Our neighbourhood is rich in underground workings. Many of us remember the huge hole that opened up on Blackheath Hill in 2002, which very nearly swallowed a bus.

The caverns around Blackheath are well documented over the ages; for example *The Underground Passages, Caverns. etc., of Greenwich and Blackheath*. M. Stone, M.A., published by Greenwich Antiquarian Society in 1914, gives a detailed account of where they are situated, and why they were created. More recently, The Blackheath Caves Craske Report (1946) unearthed by an outfit known as Subterranean Greenwich and Kent, even provides a sketch map. (see The Blackheath Bugle 2010).

So RBG: maybe in this borough we should think laterally, or perhaps more appropriately, think deep!

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ULEZ comes to London



Air pollution is a dangerous threat to children's health. According to a UNICEF report, In 71% of UK towns and cities, children are breathing unsafe levels of air pollution. Around 1 in 3 babies are growing up in areas of the UK with unsafe levels of particulate matter – that's nearly 270,000 babies under the age of 1 in the UK.

The problem is mainly caused by road vehicles. To help tackle this, the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is coming to central London in the same area as the Congestion Charge zone.

It will operate 24 hours a day, every day of the year, from 8 April 2019. Vehicles will need to meet the new stronger emission standards, or pay the daily ULEZ charge.

Vehicles registered for the Blue Badge Congestion Charge Discount will not receive a discount from the ULEZ. If the vehicle is driven within the zone and does not meet the ULEZ standards, the ULEZ charge will be payable from 8 April 2019.

- You will not need to pay the ULEZ charge if the vehicle is registered with the DVLA with a 'disabled' or 'disabled passenger vehicle' tax class
- You will continue to receive the 100% discount from the Congestion Charge as long as your vehicle remains registered for the Blue Badge Discount

Check if your vehicle meets the new standards by entering your number plate into the online vehicle checker by visiting <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/check-your-vehicle>

From 25 October 2021 the central London ULEZ area will be expanded to the inner London area bounded by the North and South Circular roads.

This is part of the commitment by the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, and TfL to help Londoners breathe cleaner air.

Any vehicle that meets the ULEZ standard will be able to travel in the zone without paying the ULEZ charge.

On 25 October 2021 the ULEZ will be expanded to Inner London (the area up to but not including the North and South Circular Roads).

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Book Review New approaches to health

Weeds in the Heart is a beautiful, case-bound coffee table book with full colour, gilded illustrations, created by medical herbalist Nathaniel Hughes, and talented British artist Fiona Owen. Together they have created this unique guide to unlocking the ways plants can encourage wellness and healing.

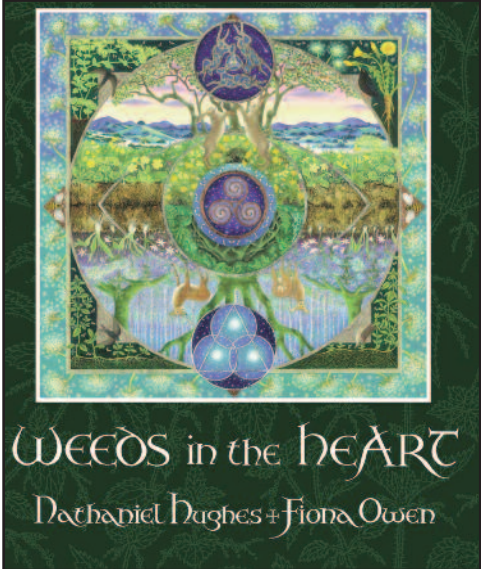
"Not a book of cures, but a book of doorways," the book doesn't provide answers, but instead equips readers with the tools they need to learn from nature themselves.

The authors are an interesting team: Nathaniel Hughes is a herbalist and healer with a background in the sciences. He has a degree in chemistry, and studied herbal medicine at post graduate level for four years in Scotland.

Fiona Owen is a British artist, living and working in Gloucestershire. Fiona paints in oil on panel and gilds her work with 24ct. English gold leaf in the tradition of the Medieval manuscripts.

Nathan and Fiona have developed some wellness article topics surrounding the themes in the book, including:

- * *Battle, fighting, beat*: Why we need to stop using 'war' language for our health
- * Appreciating melancholy - why feeling sad isn't always a negative



- * Combining meditation and herbs: why plants and mindfulness go hand-in-hand
- * Embark on a dream journey with these three herbs
- * Grow your own Meditation Garden - 5 plants that will help you meditate
- * Back to basics: why we should go back to the power of wild nature
- * Support your body to heal itself - don't see it as having problems that need to be 'fixed'
- * What is herbalism and why should we take it seriously?

Apart from being a very beautiful book, *Weeds in the Heart* offers a doorway into thinking laterally, and positively, about health and wellbeing, but you don't have to buy into every idea on offer. Food for thought! **N.G.**

Weeds in the Heart by Nathaniel Hughes & Fiona Owen, is out this October, by AEON Books, priced £29.99 each. For more information see: www.aeonbooks.co.uk

Beware the used clothing scam

Meningitis Now has recently discovered that its logo is being used on unauthorised clothes recycling bags.

These bags are designed for people to donate their unwanted clothes, shoes, and other items, which are then collected at the roadside or on the doorstep, often to raise money for charity.

Meningitis Now would like to make it clear that this charity does not raise funds through schemes such as these; there is no agreement in place with any company to collect unwanted goods on its behalf.

This is not the only charity that has been affected by this, as its logo sits alongside

other charities on these fraudulent bags, including bibic, which supports children and young people with disabilities and learning difficulties.

Stephen Service, Policy Manager at the Fundraising Regulator said: "While many clothing collections are legitimate, charity bag fraud is an increasingly common problem which makes victims of donors and charities alike. If in doubt, check with your local council directly before you give to ensure the collection is licensed."

Ed: Or just give unwanted items to one of our local charity shops.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

131 COLERAINE ROAD ref 18/3468/CP
Erection of rear conservatory.

209 WESTCOMBE HILL ref 18/3506/F
Construct single storey rear and side extensions. Enlarge bathroom window and install new window on first floor

188 WESTCOMBE HILL ref 18/3474/F
Conversion of property to provide commercial use and 3 flats. Construct 2 light-wells

28A DINSDALE ROAD ref 18/3433/F
Replace windows and install uPVC door.

CAPITAL ROOFING LTD, 193 WESTCOMBE HILL
Ref: APP/E5330/W/18/3205459
Appeal Council's decision to refuse excavation/ retention of terraced land and installation of 6 storage containers.

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