

A Route
Too Far?
Should
residents of
Westcombe
Hill be
worried?
See page 7.

Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and some shops

May 2019 No. 4



A community newspaper commended by the London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies

Cleaning up our river

WN
Reporter



PHOTO: THAMES21(c)

What could be better than a gentle spring-time stroll along the Thames Path in Greenwich?

Well, it could be better, certainly at low tide, when one can see the amazing amount of rubbish – especially plastic – that is strewn on the foreshore.

A series of river cleans along the Thames and its tributaries revealed that more than 80% of litter found in the Thames, and 78% on its tributaries, was made up of single-use items such as metal drink cans, food packaging and plastic drinks bottles.

Over 60% of litter would disappear from Thames basin if we moved away from single-use items, say the waterways charity Thames21 and the Marine Conservation Society.

What is Thames21?

Thames21's vision is to put healthy rivers at the heart of community life. The idea is to reconnect people to nature by helping them enjoy, protect and enhance their local rivers. On its website it says:

"Whether it's the Thames or one of its many tributaries, we offer inspiring ways for communities to get down to their local riverbank. Thousands of volunteers help us rewild rivers, canals and other stretches of open water, and protect them every year.

"Our aim is to rebuild the relationship between communities and their rivers."

What does Thames21 do?

Thames21 has a four-pronged approach:

- It runs education programmes.
- Thames21 helps communities reclaim their rivers through rewilding projects cleaning rivers and reducing flooding by creating rainscapes and reedbeds.

* It campaigns to get meaningful change, such as *Break The Bag Habit*.

* Thames River Watch trains Londoners to collect crucial data on foreshore plastic involving more than 1,000 volunteers to date, including students.

Last year, Thames21's River Watch Programme, in partnership with Tideway, the company building the new Thames sewage tunnel, won a highly prestigious Dragon Community Partners Award, less than a week after it released new data revealing how the summer heatwaves contributed to more plastic litter in the river.

So, what's happening in Greenwich?

Patrick Ives, chairman of the East Greenwich Residents Association, told the *WN*:

"One of the things we've organised is a spring and autumn clean-up of the Thames Path near the golf driving range. There is a planted area there that hasn't been very well looked after.

"Last year we also included a river clean-up of the Ordinance Draw Dock by the Intercontinental Hotel. Another is planned soon.

"We have been thinking about a foreshore clean-up for some time but there are issues with that. Tide times have to be looked at, access to the foreshore in our area is somewhat lacking in places, and there may be liability issues. We haven't looked into any co-ordination with Thams21 yet but that may be the way forward. The Great British Spring Clean is on until about the 22nd of April. Last year's spring time clean-up, which included the draw dock, was part of this.

"This year we will organise something fairly soon for that and it might

include the forshore as well, probably near the Morden Wharf building. That would have to take into account the issues mentioned earlier."

Stephanie Baker adds: "There's a lovely campaign to make Londoners think carefully about their choices and waste disposal – it's called *For Fish's Sake, Don't Leave Litter* and uses the hashtag #ffsldn. I believe it was started by a student at Greenwich University. There's a large sign about the campaign on the Greenwich Peninsula; ironically I found it around the corner from a lot of construction waste along the Peninsula."



Construction traffic: Correction

Some of you will have read the item in April's *WN* under Newsbriefs (page 1) concerning construction traffic for the Silvertown Tunnel.

We regret this was a misinterpretation of the document which the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) have since clarified. The 'corridors' around the trunk roads A102, A2, A2213 and the A20 reflect the areas that could be affected by the noise, pollution and other impacts of the construction traffic on these roads. They have been identified as areas for mitigation measures – NOT as alternative routes.



Thames21 is the voice for London's waterways, working with communities to improve rivers, and canals for people and wildlife.

Thames21's London Rivers Week takes place May 25–June 2.

For information about volunteering, and action, please go to thames21.org.uk/londonriversweek



RBG were at pains to point out that the above trunk roads are the only ones approved for construction traffic and inappropriate use of other routes is not permitted.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan will set out the measures required to manage construction traffic.

Link to documents below:
<http://committees.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/documents/s72370/Appendix%20A%20-%20Proposals%20for%20Neighbourhood%20Enhancement%20funding.pdf>



Newsbriefs



Blackheath Girls High School.

The extended and refurbished school was reopened on May 2nd, with addresses by Caroline Criado-Perez OBE and Cheryl Giovannoni, CEO, GDST.

Good news for rail passengers

Network Rail's proposal to close the foot crossing over the freight line to Angerstein Wharf has been withdrawn.

Travellers from the Fairthorn Road/Gurdon Road area, and Victoria Way will be very relieved, for this route provides quick access to Westcombe Park Station.

Cllr. Stephen Brain (Labour and Co-Operative, Peninsula ward)

told the *WN*: "Due to the combination of good work by Peninsula ward Councillors, Matthew Pennycook MP, residents and the very quick work of the Council's Legal Services Team, I can confirm that no permanent closure will take place."

A petition opposing the plan attracted 600 signatures in 24 hours.

Greenwich Civic Awards

The full list is now available: all well deserved. It includes:
Lifetime Achievement award
John Kemmis
Roden Richardson
Arts and Entertainment Award

Blackheath Halls
Community awards
Tim Barnes
Rev Robert ("Tim") Yeager
The Charlton Society

NHS staff shortages

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust faces serious staff shortages. Some are leaving because of Brexit; others for other reasons. Across the UK there are 100,000 unfilled vacancies in the NHS. At present 19% of NHS medical staff are from overseas.

The Botticelli Madonna

in Ranger's House isn't a copy – it's the real thing! See page 4.

The Westcombe Society

Annual General Meeting

Friday May 17th at 7.30 pm

in The Centenary Room,
Blackheath High School for Girls, Vanbrugh Park
by kind permission of the Head,
Mrs Carol Chandler-Thompson

Your chance to hear what's going on - and to elect a new committee.

Guest speaker:

100 years after (some) women won the vote, Jane Grant will give a talk on the part women in Greenwich & Lewisham played in the campaign – with free booklets! + Wine & Nibbles.

Nominations for new members of the committee needed.

Members only – but new members can join on the night!

COMMUNITY

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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16th May

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Sub-editor: Annie Grey

Roving reporter: Vivienne Raper

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. More volunteer distributors needed, please phone 020 8853 2756

ADVERTISING MANAGER

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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>

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:
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Email:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

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

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY AGM 2019

7.30pm on Friday 17th May 2019
in the Centenary Room,
Blackheath High School for Girls

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Approval of, and matters arising from, Minutes of 2018 AGM
3. Reports from the Chair,
 - * Events Sub-Committee,
 - * Environment Sub-Committee,
 - * Membership Secretary,
 - * Editor of the Westcombe News
4. Treasurer's Report and presentation of audited statement of the accounts the year ending 31/03/2019
5. Election of Officers
6. Charity of the year 2019-20
7. A.O.B.
8. Guest speaker: 100 years after (some) women won the vote, Jane Grant will give an illustrated talk on the part women in Greenwich & Lewisham played in the campaign
Wine and nibbles will be served

Free booklets on the local women's suffrage campaign published by the University of Greenwich & Royal Greenwich will be available. This meeting is open to all members. New members may join, and attend

Letters to the editor

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

From: G. Bailey Humber Road

Your April Fool story and Quiz were almost beyond a joke. To me, it carried the message "Better to laugh than to cry."

Seriously, the whole nation, and our elected representatives in Parliament, have gone mad over Brexit: it was Nero who was said to fiddle while Rome burnt.

That's what our MPs are doing! A whole host of serious issues are being almost totally neglected: saving the planet from climate change; the housing crisis; our under-funded and understaffed NHS, schools and police forces; the hundreds and thousands of children who are below the poverty line, and breathing polluted air; the money wasted on vanity projects such as HS2; yet another generation of unuseable nuclear weapons; and the aircraft carriers without planes.

MPs talk of the will of the people. Here are some facts about the electorate of 51.36m: *

Nearly 5m didn't register to vote.

16.13 voted to remain

12.9m abstained.

17.41 voted to leave. But what did that mean? A hard Brexit, with no deal?

Acceptance of the EAA? Acceptance of some kind of compromise?

That means some 39 million people did not vote for Brexit – and even those who did did not all share the same view of what it might mean. Now we know – and it's time people were allowed an opportunity for informed consent to the outcome of the negotiations. They need to be made aware that the UK has already lost trillions of pounds over Brexit, and economic suicide is on the cards. We're not gaining control: we've lost control.

* Denied a vote: 1.86m UK citizens living in Europe, and 3m EU residents of the UK; and 1.5m 16 - 18 year-olds, who were not consulted about the future they wanted.

From: Trevor Allman Coleraine Road

I refer to the headline in April's WN about public service cuts facing Greenwich, and note that the councillors approving the cuts awarded themselves a 2% increase in their Members' Allowance (it starts at £10,210). When I was a councillor (1986 - 1990) we were only paid an Attendance Allowance. I think that should still apply — to MPs too.

Great new local support service

Julie Friedeberger

When my husband was discharged from QEH last month after surgery, it was our good luck to be referred by the hospital physiotherapist to the excellent new Age UK Greenwich and Bromley Bridging Service.

I was given the phone number of Maria Harris, the lovely lady who runs the service, and I called her, not knowing what to expect but hoping there would be some support. I was feeling isolated, frightened, and at sea with my new caring responsibilities, and Maria's calm, friendly voice was a lifeline.

For an hour she listened, and talked me clearly and sympathetically through the difficulties I was already experiencing; and by the end of our talk I felt less alone and better able to cope with them.

The Bridging Service supports vulnerable adults and older people in the boroughs of Greenwich, Bromley and Bexley for the first 24 hours after being



discharged from hospital, to enable them to regain confidence and independence in their home environment. and to prevent readmission to hospital.

It's a flexible service, geared to the needs of its users: it can provide staff to stay with a client for a 24-hour period and assist with domestic and daily living tasks; do risk assessment; and give guidance and emotional and psychological support.

And as I experienced myself, there is also great support for carers on the phone. If you or a loved one have a hospital stay coming up, and feel the Bridging Service would be helpful to you, you can ask the hospital staff to refer you: the number to call is **07494 972778. Email bridgingservice@ageukbandg.org.uk**



Greenwich Neighbourhood

Growth Fund MAGGIE GRAVELLE of the

Westcombe Society's Environment Committee looks at a great idea from Greenwich Council that could be improved

The Westcombe News has reported in the past on the Community Infrastructure Levy. This "CIL" is a charge, set by local authorities on new developments, which is then paid into the the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund (NGF).

This is intended to help fund facilities, infrastructure and services to 'mitigate the impact of development and enhance neighbourhoods' according to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Danny Thorpe.

Round 2 applications were voted on and awarded in February. In March this year a lively Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting discussed what members described as an 'inadequate' report on CIL spending.

They were critical of both the level of funding and the lack of information and contrasted this with other councils which were more generous and transparent. One Councillor said, "I have no idea, as a member of this council, how this money is spent."

Well we know now.

23 groups across the borough, two of which are in the Westcombe Park area, have been given grants. Locally:

- * £8,980 went to the Seed to Tree programme submitted by the Friends of Westcombe Woodlands, and
- * £19,090 went to the Autism Support Yard Project for the Montessori School.

The Seed to Tree programme involves children from Halstow and Christchurch schools who will visit the Woodlands and take part in activities to grow and care for tree seedlings and eventually plant them near pollutant hot-spots.

The Montessori School aims to create a safe outdoor area at the Autism Support Centre to 'better meet the needs of children and families with autism and other special educational and medical needs in the area'.

While we congratulate the projects that were successful, the Westcombe Society

are disappointed that there were not more applications. This is evident from the fact that the total spend in Area 2, which consists of West Greenwich, Peninsula and Blackheath Westcombe wards, was £131,962 out of a fund of £227,761.

Fortunately, the outstanding £95,799 will be carried forward to the next round and we hope that the Council make a number of improvements to the process.

How could it be better?

We feel that the low take-up is, in part, due to poor and possibly poorly-timed publicity and would like to see information more conspicuously displayed in libraries and community centres, for example.

Another factor is that Greenwich Council interpret the regulations about use of CIL very narrowly. The Council has taken it to mean that funds must be spent in the immediate vicinity of the development. But there may be greater needs elsewhere.

It is noteworthy that other councils have a different view to justify spending it on, for example, improvements to housing estates and open spaces where the need may be greatest.

We are also critical of the application process. Some organisations already have experience of bidding for funds, but for some groups it can be a daunting process. Advice is available from the council, but we are also hoping that for the next round a mentoring process can be instigated whereby more experienced groups can support other applicants.

Cllr Thorpe is quoted as saying: "We are looking forward to receiving even more applications for great ideas when the next round for the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund opens later in the year."

The Westcombe Society hope that submissions will come from a wider range of groups, particularly those that have suffered most from years of building and construction in their areas.

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LOCAL NEWS

You don't believe in ghosts?

What other explanation could there be for this apparition that appeared in the Queen's House in Greenwich?

For Queen Elizabeth the First died years before the Queen's House was built.

Sorry, there is a perfectly rational explanation: for "the Virgin Queen" was none other than award-winning actor Christopher Green, in Tudor drag, surrounded by her loyal subjects singing "The Onipa Anthem" by composer Peter Adjaye.

Her walk from the Queen's House down to the Thames was commissioned by the NMM and the Heritage Fund as part of the Armada Portrait project.



Chris Bentley R I P

Chris Bentley, a very popular man who has always been committed to supporting his community in Siebert Road, passed away on March 12th after a huge struggle against cancer.

Chris fought this horrible disease till the very end, still making plans for his aims both for Siebert Rd and his first true love of sailing. This summer he aimed to sail along the Brittany coast: sadly, he never made it.

He has left behind two sons, Tom and Max, who were his pride and joy and me. We loved each other dearly.

It seems that everybody whose lives he had touched was struck by his sincerity, his generosity, his kindness – and his love of a good party!

Nothing was too much for Chris. His funeral took place at Eltham



Chris in Guadeloupe – "the best holiday of our lives, just before his diagnosis"

Crematorium, Crown Woods Way, London SE9, and was followed by a get-together upstairs at *The White Swan* in Charlton Village, where we listened to his favourite music and shared stories and memories.
Sharon Brokenshire MBE

Greenwich Housing Society: Can you help? Dot Martin

If you happen to be a regular reader of the Westcombe News, I am sure you will know of the Greenwich Housing Society.

From time to time, when we have needed additional members to serve on our Management Committee, we have advertised such vacancies in the WN and have been very fortunate in the calibre of individuals offering help.

Some of you may even remember a short article some while back, on how the Society actually started. A Ms Hatfield, a social worker in Greenwich dealing mainly with older people and well aware of the need for decent accommodation for such people, decided to try to set up a Housing Society.

Having gathered a number of enthusiastic volunteers, a Housing Society was indeed formed. This was back in the 60s when a number of such organisations came into being.

Imagine the surprise when one of Ms Hatfield's clients offered her house to establish the Greenwich Housing Society.

We remain extremely grateful, and the

block of flats in Heathway is named Hatfield Court, after our founder.

Currently, we are seeking to expand, adding to Hatfield Court and our property in Glenluce Road. Should anyone know of a property that could be renovated and divided into 2 – 4 flats, we would be glad to hear from you.

Please feel free to contact our Chair, Steve Kerridge at GHS, 12 Glenluce Road, London SE3 7SB or Dorothy Martin, former Chair (same address).

Happy Birthday, Jonathan!

On March 29th, many attended a special birthday celebration in Blackheath Halls of Jonathan Dove, son of life-time supporter and activist of the Westcombe Society Myles Dove.

Astonishingly prolific, Jonathan Dove has composed some 30 operas, and many orchestral and choral works, chamber music, and music for plays, and films. Among his specialities is music for the voice. He is renowned for taking new music into the local community.

What better way of celebrating than a concert of his music in Blackheath Halls? In the afternoon, Jonathan led a rehearsal of the pieces that were to be performed by over twenty Trinity Laban students.

The head of the Voice Department at Trinity Laban, Phillippa Scammell, told the audience:

"All of us at Trinity Laban were extremely pleased and honoured that Jonathan spent time with our students, who benefitted greatly from his guidance; and

the students were very pleased to have the chance to perform some of his work."

And of course a very appreciative audience were delighted to hear the results in the evening, performed with great verve and confidence.

Among the many works performed were *Five Amorous Songs* - Juliette Koch (soprano) and Lucy Murphy (piano), with poems by Mary Wortley Montague; and *The End*, for instruments and voice (Sandeep Gurrupado (tenor). Other pieces included the haunting voice of Shakespeare's *Ariel*. (Sofia Celenza, Isabelle Morgan, and Eleanor Rosser Smyth.)

The concert also included solo works for piano by the Grammy-nominated composer Dobrinka Tabakova, whose *Modetudes* for solo piano introduced and reacted to the ghostly voice of *Ariel*.

Said Jonathan: "I was very impressed by these very talented young people at Trinity Laban."


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Gaby Marston

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FEATURES

All The Way Home

Gill Stoker, Mary Evans Picture Library, and Irena Hill, In-Words Ltd

In April 2017 the Mary Evans Picture Library in Blackheath invited the award-winning poet Jane Clarke to write a sequence of poems in response to the Auerbach family archive represented by the library.

The Patricia Aubrey Collection offers a unique insight into how the First World War affected the members of this family, in particular her uncle, Albert Auerbach, who died in action in September 1918, and her aunt Lucy, who survived the war and lived on into the early 1970s.

Albert Auerbach and his elder sister Lucy were close and, alongside the photos, Albert's letters to Lucy from overseas were a particular source of inspiration for Jane, giving a detailed insight into the minutiae of a soldier's life in wartime.

Aged twenty, Albert joined up in the Royal Fusiliers. On 20 July 1915 he was commissioned as 2nd Lt. in the 1st London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers. His first posting was to Gallipoli in Nov. 1915.

After a time in Egypt he went on to France, from where he was invalided home with shell shock and dysentery on 3 Dec. 1916. Returning to France in June 1918, he was killed by a shell on the Somme, in the early morning of 1 Sept, 1918, exactly four years to the day of his joining up.

During the war, Lucy worked at the War Office in London, but occasionally travelled to the Worcestershire village of Madresfield, to help with agricultural and dairy work. A gifted pianist, she made her living after the war by teaching piano.

Albert was posthumously awarded the MC, presented to his mother at Wellington Barracks, London, in 1919. His sister Lucy made her own personal pilgrimage to the

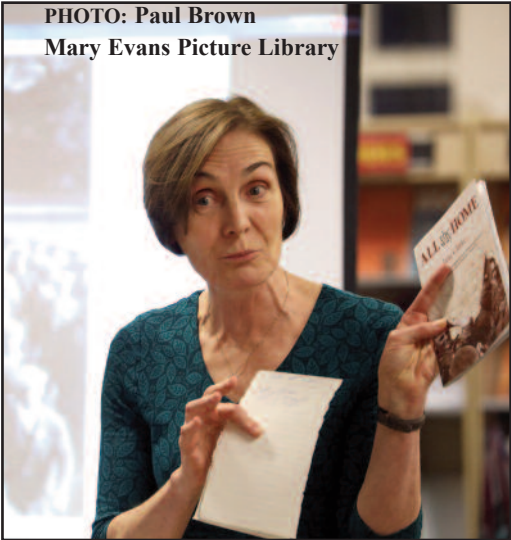


PHOTO: Paul Brown
Mary Evans Picture Library

Jane Clarke

Somme area in September 1920 to see where her brother had fought and died.

November 1918, a time of peace, relief and happiness for some, was a time of tragic sorrow for the Auerbach family.

During the writing and researching period, Jane Clarke received a grant from Arts Council Ireland, and a travel bursary from Culture Ireland for the launch event in London of her poetry pamphlet, *All the Way Home*. This contains a sequence of 21 poems, and was published by Smith Doorstop in April 2019, with book launch events in Dublin, London and Manchester.

The London event took place at the West Greenwich Library on 9 April 2019, hosted jointly by Irena Hill of In-Words and the Mary Evans Picture Library, with a full capacity audience. Local author Blake Morrison introduced her work on the night, reading poems from *The River*, her first collection (Bloodaxe), and her second collection, due out later this year.

The emotional landscape of war, and at home, is reflected in Jane's poems, and also the poignant photographs from the family archive. And 'landscape' is the key word here because, as Jane explained, the natural world gave her a way in, becoming a unique facilitator with its gift for metaphor and beauty, for the everyday and the extraordinary, for expressing loss and the small joys one can experience, even in the midst of a catastrophe.

Ranger's House

Discover more than 700 treasures of art and design: the Wernher Collection. SIMON BLACK (English Heritage)



Ranger's House reopened to the public for its 2019 season on Monday 1st April. Built in 1723 along the western wall of Greenwich Park at the top of Croom's Hill, Ranger's House has a fascinating history.

For most of the nineteenth century it was the official residence of the Rangers of Greenwich Park, who were appointed by the monarch to care for the park.

Today, it is run by English Heritage as the home of the Wernher Collection – a remarkable treasure trove of more than 700 medieval, Renaissance and later works of art put together by Sir Julius Wernher (1850-1912), a German-born businessman who became one of the richest men in the world mining diamonds and gold in South Africa around the turn of the twentieth century.

Julius possessed a keen eye for the intricacies of materials and craftsmanship (as you would expect of a man trained as a diamond dealer), so his remarkably varied collection showcases early Renaissance Italian paintings and the decorative arts of jewellery, bronze sculptures, enamels, ivory, tapestries and ceramics.

On the first floor, English Heritage has recreated the way Julius would have presented his collection to his friends. He liked to juxtapose different items for effect so that they 'spoke to each other'.

Highlights include Renaissance masterpieces such as *Madonna of the Pomegranate* – newly restored and now formally attributed to Sandro Botticelli.

Also *The Rest on the Flight into Egypt* by Filippino Lippi (who was a student of Botticelli), and important works by Gabriel Metsu and Hans Memling.

There are superb examples of maiolica ceramics, including two rare plates from a dinner service made around 1528 for Isabella d'Este – one of the most powerful figures of the Italian Renaissance. And by contrast, an oval dish by the sixteenth century French ceramicist Bernard Palissy featuring hyper-realistic models of snakes,

lobsters and fishes – a piece that recalls Wernher's love of the 'splendidly ugly'.

On the ground floor, there are more fashionable paintings and furniture laid out in reception rooms to recreate the life of Julius and his wife, Alice, as hostess and host in Victorian society. These include classic English portraiture by Reynolds, Romney, Raeburn and Hoppner, and a striking portrait of Alice by John Singer Sargent.

The largest room in the house is the




magnificent Long Gallery, which features Bergonzoli's romantic sculpture *The Love of Angels* and large scale French tapestries.

Ranger's House will be open Sunday to Thursday 11.00am-5.00pm until the end of October, although it is always best to check the English Heritage website for any unexpected closures. (This is also the place to find admission prices and directions.)


Access is from Chesterfield Walk or through a gate from the rose garden in Greenwich Park. The house is available for hire for weddings, parties and corporate events, and we are always looking for volunteers to help welcome visitors and bring the collection to life.

Ranger's House has been a local landmark watching over life in Blackheath and Greenwich Park for nearly 300 years. Please do come along to find out about the fascinating history of the house, its owners and the stunning art collection it now contains..



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WHAT'S ON



ARTS

THE ARTS SOCIETY, BLACKHEATH
23rd May **JO WALTON THE ART AND CRAFT OF JOHN PIPER** 2.00pm. with tea and coffee, and lectures at 2.30 St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park Blackheath Visitors please pay on the door.
THE ARTS SOCIETY GREENWICH
13th May **AGM 7.30 pm** followed by Frank Woodgate: **CRAFTSMANSHIP & SENSUALITY: Gustav Klimt & Vienna Secession.** Greenwich University King William Court, ORNC SE10 9LS.

LIFE DRAWINGS at Mycenae House

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BLACKHEATH HALLS

Fri 3rd May 19:30 DAVID STARKEY: CHURCHILL - WRITING HIS WAY TO POWER how the writer became the politician and war leader. £16.00
Sat 11th May 20:00 JEREMY MUSSON: ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSES, THE LAST 50 YEARS £10.00 inc glass of wine
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14th May 19.30 **MIKE CLINCH UNDERGROUND KENT** Meeting in the Old Bakehouse, behind Age Exchange. Parking in Station car park.
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CHARLTON & BLACKHEATH AMATEUR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
20th May, 7.30pm Charlton House, Old Library at Iain Pentney will present a talk on "Container Gardening". All visitors welcome, £2. Also plant sales table, raffle and refreshments. Website: <https://cabahs.wordpress.com/>

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Sat 18th May 1pm - Ceroc Blackheath. Learn to dance at this SILC workshop.
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Fri 24th May 7.30pm - Rob Bartlitz. A classical piano concert of Chopin's music. £10.
Fri 31st May 7pm - Afrika Jambo Night. GFMA present a fantastic evening of African Music, Dance, Food with the Conglose Rumba Band Afrika Jambo. £12

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Thu 16th May 1939 Jette Parker Young Artists: Masterclass £10 | £8 conc.
FRI 17 MAY 20:00h AIDAN O'ROURKE WITH KIT DOWNES two of the world's finest folk musicians £16.00
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THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755
Tues 7th - Sat 11th May Sherlock Holmes: THE SIGN OF FOUR by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Tues. 7th - Sat 11th May NECK OR NOTHING Near-death with a grizzly bear and its aftermath . . .
Tues. 14th-Sat 25th May SALOME by Oscar Wilde Features male nudity and unseemly scenes!
Wed 29th May CARD NINJA with Javier Jarquin You wouldn't believe it even if you saw it
Sun 12th May 7.30 pm THREE EMOS A musical and other issues "heart-breaking & haunting"
THE CENTENARY COMPANY: THE MIKADO Sunday 5th May 6.30pm Concert performance at St Alfege's Church Hall, Roan St Greenwich £10.00
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FEATURES

Talk About Art

JOHN BARTRAM on a children's exhibition on the themes of migration and displacement

Talk About Art is running another new exhibition from the end of April, featuring work by schoolchildren from Lewisham on the theme of migration and displacement – themes that resonate with their own life experiences.

The three-week free exhibition starts on Monday 29 April in the Deptford Lounge using a variety of media, including film. Talk About Art will run up to nine free workshops for local schools during the exhibition.

Children at Tidemill Academy, Forster Park and Holbeach schools created art work [Right] for the show in after-school clubs during ten weeks up to the end of March. The project was designed as



an enrichment activity for children eligible for pupil premium, a government grant to decrease the attainment gap for the most disadvantaged children.

Called Talk About Art On The Move, this visual arts project celebrates artists whose greatest work has been inspired by migration, among them Vincent Van Gogh, David Hockney, Peter Doig, Leonora Carringtons and Niki de Saint Phalle.

Many of the children have experienced displacement in some form or other, and they are encouraged to use their own life experiences in a positive and creative way.

They formed and shared their own opinions about the famous artists' work, guided and supported by Talk About Art's professional practitioners.

This is the first of three exhibitions which will also go on public display in libraries around the borough, thus giving these disadvantaged young people the opportunity to be seen as valued contributors to the local community.

The project costs £36,257. TAA has received a £14,800 grant from the Arts Council and a significant contribution in kind from Lewisham Library services. This is a new project model piloted in consultation with Tidemill Academy and it allows TAA to work outside the school timetable and access children with particular needs, regardless of their year group. **TAA will continue to offer free exhibition-linked workshops for class groups. To book a workshop please contact Marilyn.Moore@lewisham.gov.uk.**

Blackheath Cricket Club

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Blackheath Cricket Club won the Kent Premier League in 2018 for the first time since 1984! The Premier Division is one of the strongest amateur cricket leagues in the UK whilst the Club's 2nd, 3rd and 4th XIs also play in the Kent League structure, making the number of opportunities available for high level cricket at one club unique.

This recent return to the prominence has also included featuring in five of the last eight county T20 Finals Days, lifting the trophy twice, and winning the National Knockout Competition in 2014, beating Northern in the final, 43 years after the club's previous national success, on that occasion beating Ealing.

The Club has been able to field an array of talent in recent years: Martin Saggars (England), Victor Mpitsang (South Africa), Mohammad Ashraful (Bangladesh), Nic Maddinson (Australia), Kirk Edwards (West Indies) and Aiden Blizzard (Australia) to name a few.

Former England Internationals Alan Knott and Min Patel spent their formative years at Blackheath CC and more recently, current professionals Daniel Bell-Drummond and Ivan Thomas (both Kent) and Tymal Mills (Sussex) have called the Rectory Field home for Club Cricket.

Historically, the Club has its origins in three local cricket clubs: Blackheath Dartmouth (founded c. 1830), Blackheath Paragon (c. 1840) and Blackheath Morden (1863). A famous (or infamous?) member of the Morden side was leading Jack the Ripper suspect Montague Druitt.

In 1886, Blackheath Morden dropped the "Morden" from their name and took up residence at the Rectory Field ground the Club still occupies today. The ground was shared with Blackheath Rugby Football Club who, along with Richmond RFC. is the oldest rugby club in the world, and the Rectory Field hosted many international

rugby games at the turn of the century.

Not to be outdone, First Class Cricket was also played at the Rectory Field up until 1971 with Kent usually facing local rivals Surrey at the SE London venue. The Club's six XIs, Sunday teams, midweek programme and vibrant social scene mean there is a place for everyone from current internationals to complete beginners.

Blackheath also has one of the leading youth sections in the UK, regularly progressing to the latter stages of the ECB National U13 and U15 Cup competitions, and winning the U15 Cup in 2008 by defeating Wolverhampton in the National Final.

An ECB Focus Club with Clubmark accreditation and a wealth of experienced coaches, Blackheath Cricket Club provides an environment where young people can enjoy the game recreationally, but also supports a steady stream of young people to access county age-group squads.

If you want to find out more about the Club, how to join, get involved or when to come and watch, please contact Charlie Speller at Charliesid1794@gmail.com.

For further information, please visit <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/blackheathcricketclub>. The first home fixture this year is Saturday 11th May against Beckenham – play beginning at 12.00 pm.

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Vivienne Raper on New inclusive play space in Greenwich Park



The playground to the north-east of Greenwich Park is being redesigned thanks to a £315,000 donation from The London Marathon Charitable Trust.

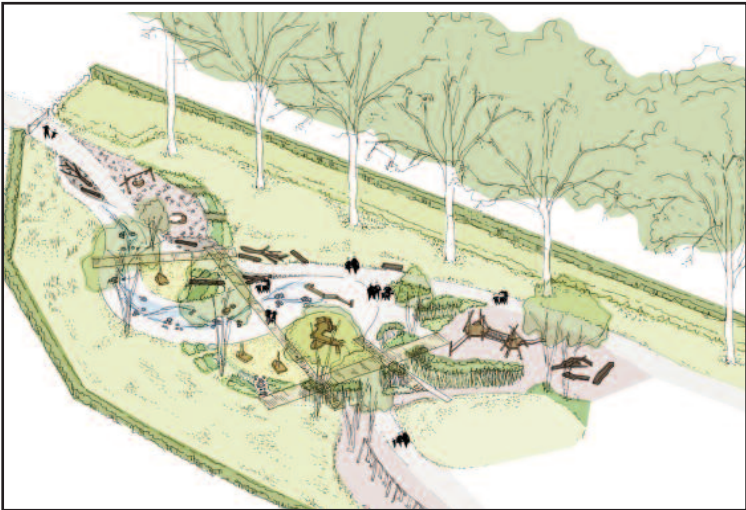
The Royal Parks’ aim is to modernise the playground, which has been in operation since the Second World War, and to allow able-bodied and disabled children to play together.

The revamp will feature a nautical theme with a basket swing (like a hammock), a round-about, sand and water play, and natural materials such as logs, rope, and bark, as well as plants to explore scent and colour.



Vivien Davies is a community group organiser, dog lover and full-time carer. She lives in Greenwich with her husband, her teenage son, her young daughter who has complex needs, and a very lively Labrador. She says: “Greenwich Park is such a big part of our lives. We explore it together as a family, discovering its history, nature-watching and going for walks. It’s a great escape from our pressurised, urban lives. Having a play space that is accessible is essential.”

Work is expected to finish on the playground in early June 2019. But even in its unfinished state, it is already very popular.



Parakeets in the Park – asset, or threat?



Everyone who goes for a stroll – or a run – in Greenwich Park enjoys the wildlife, whether it be fallow deer, stag beetles or squirrels. And then there’s the birdlife in the park: there are up to 70 wild bird species, more than 30 of which breed in the park. These include woodpeckers, tawny owls, thrushes and warblers.

However, there are new birds on the block, too: ring-necked parakeets, flurries of them. Twitchers – bird-watchers – are worried that these visitors from Pakistan may be taking over. It is estimated that living in the UK today are over 8,600 breeding pairs of ring-necked parakeets. Ninety per cent live in London. They are also spreading across mainland Europe.

They are unmistakable: bright green, with a red beak, long tail and a necklace of pink and black feathers, they are hyper-active – and very noisy. If you can’t always see them very clearly, you can hardly fail to hear them.

How did they get here? There are many theories. Some say the first parakeets were pets that escaped – or were released. One suggestion is that some escaped from London Zoo when it was damaged during the Blitz in 1940 or 1941.

There is a story that Jimi Hendrix released a breeding pair from Carnaby in the swinging (or singing?) sixties.

According to another story (unverified)

they escaped from film studios during the filming of *The African Queen*.

For many twitchers, they are like marmite – they either love them, or hate them. Some welcome the idea of home-grown British parakeets.

Others worry that they may have a negative impact on our local feathered friends. Parakeets, like other birds, enjoy feasting on nuts, berries, seeds and even household scraps.

What’s your view? There are increasing reports of parakeets roaming the gardens of Westcombe Park, almost always in flocks, like feathered gangs. And if they do have an impact on native birds, we should indeed be concerned. But, so far, the jury is still out. Graham Dear, Park Manager for Greenwich Parks, said:

“We monitor wildlife to ensure all species in the park’s ecosystems can co-exist and thrive. Our observations show that parakeets may compete with native bird species, and they eat buds and seeds from trees. But the number of these birds in the parks seems to have stabilised, and aren’t a huge concern.”

A Route Too Far?

Requests have been made for additional services to provide connections to and from Kidbrooke and North Greenwich Underground station. There is currently no direct bus service between the two. TfL are proposing a new service, the 335.

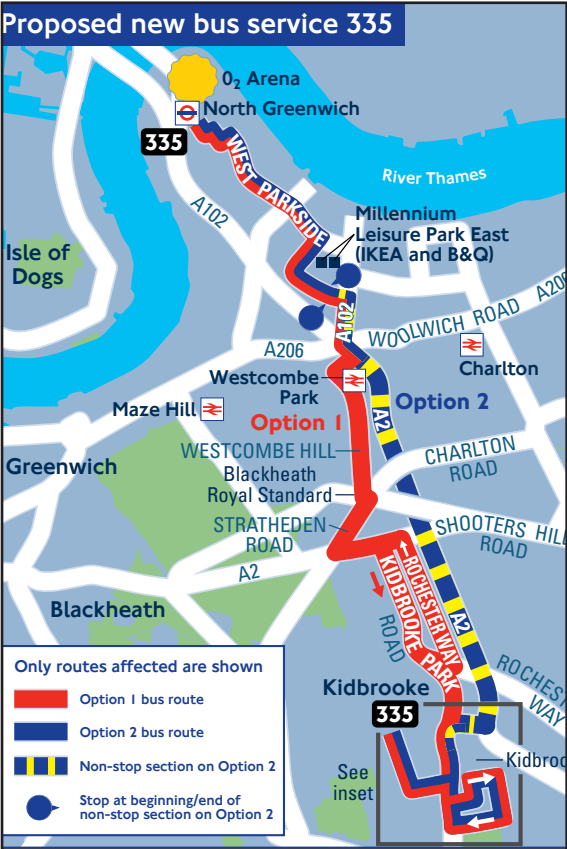
Two options for a new route providing this link have been evaluated to provide this. Both options would use double-deck buses operating every 12 minutes during Monday to Saturday day-times and every 15 minutes during evenings and Sundays. Both options would terminate at the stand on Moorhead Way.

As can be seen from the map, Option 1 would operate via Blackheath Royal Standard, and Westcombe Hill; Option 2 would use a more direct route via the A2 and A102.

There would be fewer local benefits from this option due to the long non-stop section on the A102. However, this route would be five minutes shorter than that proposed in Option 1.

TfL’s preference is for Option 1, via Blackheath Royal Standard, as it provides an attractive link between Kidbrooke Village and North Greenwich. It also has a range of wider benefits by providing extra capacity on busy local corridors.

Cllr Geoff Brighty told the *WN* that he had suggested an alternative route via the Standard and Charlton Retail Park.



However, in their consultation document, TfL argues that that route is circuitous, and would involve a 35 minute journey time.

Westcombe Hill residents have good reasons to be alarmed at Option 1: 30 buses an hour already go up and down Westcombe Hill, plus commuter coaches. Option 1 would add up to another ten buses an hour.

Details of the proposal can be found online at: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/route-335>.

Email TfL at consultations@tfl.gov.uk, or you can write to FREEPOST TFL CONSULTATIONS. There is also a survey that can be completed online. The consultation ends on Friday May 17th

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

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101 MAZE HILL ref 19/0591/HD
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ALL classified adverts 30p per word. Please make cheques payable to The Westcombe Society

BUY LOCAL!

Discounts available on production of your Westcombe Society membership card.

BLACKHEATH VILLAGE: PARES FOOTWEAR
10% OFF all shoes over £20, excluding sale stock
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GREENWICH: NORTH POLE RESTAURANT
12.5% OFF Meals only for two
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GREENWICH COMMUNICATION CENTRE
at 164 Trafalgar Road: 10% Discount on all Computer Maintenance & Repairs (inc Tablets & Smartphones)
www.greenwichcc.com T: 02082692103

HUMBER ROAD: BODYWORKZ - THE FITNESS CLINIC
109 Humber Road.10% OFF all treatments costing £30 or more except Chiroprody; exc.Saturdays.
ROYAL NEPALESE RESTAURANT
(Station Crescent) 20% OFF meals for two or more Sunday - Thursday.
CORIANDER RESTAURANT (Station Crescent) 25% off Sunday to Thursday. Bookings only!

THE STANDARD: COTON & HAMBLIN - OPTICIANS
£65 off complete spectacles
BLACKHEATH EYECARE OPTICIANS
20% off 2nd pair of spectacles. (Same prescription). Not in conjunction with any other offer. (Complete glasses start from £49.95 with single vision lenses). 5% off contact lens solution and accessories. <https://www.blackheatheyecare.co.uk/>
TROJAN PRESS 10% OFF all quotations

WESTCOMBE HILL A * DRIVING SCHOOL £5 discount on the price of one x 2 hour lesson for WS members.
THE WONDER WOMEN NETWORK 10% discount

WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD KAREN STOREY OF HOMESPACE offers members 10% discount on decluttering & homestaging services.Please note new number: 07951 191086 www.home-space.biz

PENINSULA SHENDA FALVEY PERSONAL TRAINING & BOOTCAMP Free bootcamp session at Greenwich Peninsula worth £10. Book to secure place (excludes existing customers) 25% off first personal training session plus free consultation M: 07887 727 335 www.shendafalveypersonaltraining.com

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


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Mycenae Digital Outreach Team

are pleased to offer **FREE** digital outreach sessions in partnership with the Greenwich Carers Centre (The Stables) **for carers.**

Not sure if you are a carer? A carer is anyone, including children and adults who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability.

Book a place on some or all of the 4 Digital Taster Days to be held:

Tuesday 9th April 2019	1 - 2.30pm	Device Ownership
Tuesday 23rd April 2019	1 - 2.30pm	Device Comfort
Tuesday 7th May 2019	1 - 2.30pm	Building Confidence
Tuesday 21st May 2019	1 - 2.30pm	Online Security

Bring your own smartphone, laptop or tablet or use ours.

Venue: The Greenwich Carers Centre at 76 Hornfair Road, London SE7 7BD

Venue wheelchair accessible - On site cafe serving hot/cold food and licenced bar. Disabled parking is available. Pay & display is also available at Charlton House (£1/hour). Parking is unrestricted on the road.

To book one of the limited spaces email: mycenaedigital@gmail.com

www.mycenaedigital.co.uk 020 8858 1749

