What do today’s children face if World Leaders fail to act?

On page 6 of this issue, we include a summary of a blog written by our MP Matt Pennycook about climate change.

He mentions how scandalous it is that it was in February, for the first time for over two years, that Parliament allocated serious time to talk about the issue. Extinction Rebellion may be extremely inconvenient – but they do have a point. The slowness of action by governments is now a matter of deep concern.

The figures are clear: we have a deadline of 12 years after which climate change becomes irreversible. In Matt’s words: “We are on an course for warming of 1.5°C by 2040, 2°C within decades after that, and perhaps 4°C by 2100.”

The authors of the landmark report on Biodiversity, issued by the UN in May, say human activity has placed up to a million species of plants and animals at risk of extinction. Urgent and unprecedented changes are needed – and both are needed for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C – which they say is affordable and feasible, although the target lies at the most ambitious end of the Paris Agreement pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5°C and 2°C.

Last year, the Swedish schoolgirl activist Greta Thunberg, frustrated with the slow pace of government action to deal with climate change, launched a “school strike for climate.” Youth strikes began in Sweden in August 2018.

Greta has since been meeting world leaders, and the strikes have now grown to an estimated 1.5 million student strikers in 120 countries. In a conference in Berlin in April, Greta said: “We live in a strange world, where children must sacrifice their education in order to protest against the destruction of their future.”

Weekly school strikes, registered at the Fridays for Future website, continue, with over 400 strikes in 68 countries. Their demand: when will our leaders sit up and take action?

Not just Parliament: local government, too. Here in Greenwich, with the impact of massive developments, like the Silvertown Tunnel, on pollution and our climate, been fully taken into account?

Greta has now been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. Matt Pennycook comments: “By taking to the streets over recent weeks, young people around the world have made clear what they want governments to do.”

John Lancaster, author of the dystopian novel The Wall, observes: “The Wall is not for intergenerational justice on the issue of climate change could not be stronger. The prospect of leaving a broken world for our descendants is the clearest call for action on climate change we will ever get.”

It is important to acknowledge that there are some hopeful signs, as Matt Pennycook points out on page 6.

Surely, we owe it to future generations to do more to ensure the survival of our planet. There is no Planet B.

Sail away?

Earlier this year the world’s first hybrid powered cruise ship, the Norwegian company Hurtigruten’s MS Roald Amundsen successfully completed her first sea trials in the fjords along the western coast of Norway. Her advanced, green technology was put to a test in the waters off Unst, Shetland, Norway. The ship is currently undergoing final outfitting. Advanced hybrid-powered expedition cruise ships like these feature ground-breaking green technology such as battery packs and specially designed ice-strengthened hull, and are designed and constructed with sustainability at the core of every detail.

Time to rethink Greenwich’s cruise ship terminal? Or should cruise ships now be off-limits?

UTLEZ - Earlier this year the UBN terminated readers that the mayor’s ultra-low emissions zone came into force on 8th April, covering the current con-

NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and some shops
June 2019 No. 5

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

ONBLACKHEATH PAY A CONTRIBUTION OF £15,000 TOWARDS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HEATH. In the past this has contributed towards the interpretation signs on the heath, improvements to the ponds and the building and planting of the bands, among other projects. Proposals about how to spend this year’s money will be welcomed by the Blackheath Joint Working Party. Residents can contact the BWP through environment@westcombesociety.org or OnBlackheath also contribute to local charities and would welcome suggestions about any new causes they could support.

Please contact OnBlackheath directly via info@onblackheath.com

AERIS BRASS ENSEMBLE CONCERT

In May the Trombone Quartet AERIS Brass gave a concert in St George’s to raise funds for Christian Aid. The music, which ranged from the Medeival to the Post-Modern, was much enjoyed – so were the delicious post-concert cream teas!

Perhaps we should be returning to wind power - if it was good enough for the Cutty Sark . . .

The 150th Anniversary Edition of Cutty Sark: Last of the Tea Clippers is now in paperback. This brilliant guide gives an in-depth survey of to the history of the ship, celebrating its 150th anniversary.

OnBlackheath
Letters

From: Catherine Kell Kilming Road

The article on the Community Infrastructure levy (page 2 in May edition) could be interpreted to mean that charges to developers on new developments would be passed on to us. Greenwich Council recently reported that CIL and Section 106 payments from developers are still being put aside rather than getting planning permission, and are used by planning authorities to supplement council provision of new public realm development. In addition to the Neighbourhood Growth Fund, CIL has been paid by developers over the past year – £117k (that for a masterplan. This money can be negotiated for borough-wide improvements for specific mitigation works around a development which the council has to pay for out of its own budget for a new development, (and which help the development.)

From: Tim Barnes

The Open Gardens weekend in aid of the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice is taking place on Saturday June 8th and Sunday June 9th. At least 12 gardens will be opening in Blackheath during that week-end and 17 in Greenwich, including the Westcombe Park Woods. You can buy tickets at any of the participating gardens or through the Hospice website which lists all the gardens (www.greenwichhospice.org.uk).

Alternatively contact me on 0208-858-1185; or at tim@t Barnes.com, and I will arrange for a leaflet to be sent you containing the numbers of the locations of all the gardens and advice about tickets.

Letters

From: Catherine Kell Kilming Road

You have copied the numbers of pockets from the RSPB website, this is likely to be gross underestimation of the number of birds. The government’s official 2010 report (75 million in 2010 (in 2015/16 it was £91 million) 106 payments are negotiated as a proportion of the increased land value resulting from getting planning permission, and are used by planning authorities to supplement council provision of new public realm development. In addition to the Neighbourhood Growth Fund, CIL has been paid by developers over the past year – £117k (that for a masterplan. This money can be negotiated for borough-wide improvements for specific mitigation works around a development which the council has to pay for out of its own budget for a new development, (and which help the development.)

From: Michael Helm for his ongoing help with the Westcombe News. I recommend the blogger Murky Depths describe and discuss roles on my return.

From: Tim Barnes

The Open Gardens weekend in aid of the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice is taking place on Saturday June 8th and Sunday June 9th. At least 12 gardens will be opening in Blackheath during that week-end and 17 in Greenwich, including the Westcombe Park Woods. You can buy tickets at any of the participating gardens or through the Hospice website which lists all the gardens (www.greenwichhospice.org.uk).

Alternatively contact me on 0208-858-1185; or at tim@t Barnes.com, and I will arrange for a leaflet to be sent you containing the numbers of the locations of all the gardens and advice about tickets.
**W** eekend in Greenwich 

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**New status for Friends Meeting House**

Well done, the Religious Society of Friends – known generally as the Quakers – for making architectural history. Long overdue you might think, as the first Meeting House dates back to 1670, in Hertford. This building has now been given special protection, with a Grade I-listed status (the highest possible) granted by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This building has now been given special protection, with a Grade I-listed status (the highest possible) granted by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), following the advice of Historic England. Not bad to be so recognised by the DCMS, considering that the Quakers do not claim to be in any way digital, nor would they claim to be primarily cultural, sporting or media-dominated!

Among those given Grade II status is The Meeting house in Lawn Terrace, in Blackheath, where meetings take place every Sunday at 10.30am. The Blackheath Meeting House was built in 1971-2, mainly of reinforced concrete, and designed by Trevor Dannatt. Trevor Dannatt used to live in Westcombe Park, and was heavily involved in the designing of the Royal Festival Hall on London’s South Bank. Three other Meeting Houses have been accorded the same status – all in Cumbria. The Society of Friends was founded in the seventeenth century by George Fox, who argued that there was no need for priests or churches for people to make contact with God. They are active in social justice movements, making a firm stand against war, and on issues such as climate change, racism, and gender equality. For years they were persecuted until the 1689 Act of Toleration.

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**Welcome to EU Citizens**

As we approach Brexit, non-UK EU citizens will have to apply for new residence status under the EU settlement scheme. The deadline for applying is 30th June 2021, or 31 December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Greenwich Council provides an ID verification service – FREE – for local residents who are applying for settled or pre-settled status. The service is available at Woolwich Town Hall, Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 12 noon and 2.00pm - 4.00pm. No appointment is needed, just ask for the Registrar’s team at the reception desk.

To find out more, please go to royalgreenwich.gov.uk/brexit

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**Festival of Music in Greenwich Park 2019**

The Royal Parks is launching a Volunteer Ranger service in Greenwich Park for July.

The Volunteer Ranger service is part of a three-year trial that will see volunteers operate at busy periods in Greenwich, and two other Royal Parks.

The service is being rolled out in Greenwich Park to support The Royal Parks’ bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a project called Greenwich Park Revealed.

The Volunteer Rangers will primarily help visitors uncover fascinating facts about the history and nature of the World Heritage Site, and encourage people to explore lesser-known attractions.

Volunteers need to be 18 or over and able to commit to at least one day a month on a weekend until October. Full training will be given. Further recruitment will take place next year. To find out more details and to apply, visit www.royalparks/rangers. Deadline for applications is noon on 30 May.

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**Farewell, Chris Moody**

We are sorry to report that the Rev. Canon Chris Moody, the vicar of St. Alfege’s Parish Church, Greenwich is to retire this month.

The Bishops of Southwark and Woolwich will be attending his farewell evensong on Sunday 23rd June.

Although Westcombe Park is outside the parish, several local residents regularly worship at St. Alfege’s and, after 14 years there, retirement calls. Chris and his wife Gill are well-known and respected throughout the Royal Borough.
Greenwich Open Studios 2019

John Bangs

It’s forty two years since artists in Greenwich first banded together to found Greenwich Open Studios – or GOS for short. Originally, it was set up as a fringe event in the Greenwich Festival. When the Festival moved on, GOS reasserted itself as the home for artists who want to exhibit in their own individual studios, usually in their own homes. This makes GOS unique in Greenwich. It is still possible to walk from house to house on a summer’s day taking part in what Will Self might call the psycho-geography of an artistic adventure; albeit a very pleasant one. And GOS has consistently maintained its core of long-standing artists as well as attracting new ones. You can ponder artistic evolutions while at the same time discovering new talent!

All open both weekends unless otherwise stated

A. John Bangs Pastel Paintings and Drawings 20 Royal Hill SE10 8RP
B. Colin Bustaman Pastels, Acrylics Oils
Felicity Bustaman Pastels, Acrylics Mycenae House, Mycenae Road SE3 7NE
C. Bois Kerstena Burnhouse Paintings (Oils on Canvas) 20 Dartmouth Row SE10 8A
D. Kathy Drake Sculpture Acrylics Pastels 6/9 June 54 Blackheath Park, Blackheath SE3 9SY
E. Deirdre Ellis Oils & Margaret Higgins Stone sculptures: Barton Cottage, Heath Lane SE3 9CT
F. Caroline Nuttall Smith Ceramics & Linocut Prints
Rebecca Writing: Acrylic Oil & Graze [All 8/9
Maria Silva: Acrylic + Minted media June only]
G. 36 Stretton Mansions Glaisder Street SE8 3JP
H. John-Kiri Johnson Contemporary Studio Ceramics
I. David Bradley Contemporary Studio Ceramics
J. John Dawson & Alun Peroulides
K. 4 Brooklands Park Blackheath SE3 HBL
L. Elaine Marshall Original Paints & Watercolours
M. 20 Hyde Vale SE10 8JR
N. Penny Mathews Paintings & Prints
M. 30 Hyde Vale: SE10 8BD
O. Chris Nobby Monoprints & Aquatints
Vaccaro 33 Park View SE10 9LR (until 3.30pm)
P. Sue Parks Ceramics and Mixed Media
Q. Josie Janett Paintings & Prints
R. Mounts Pearl Rd. (corner Hurst & Billet Rd) SE3 7P
L. Lelba Spatius Acrylics Oils Ink
S. 61A Coleraine Road Blackheath SE3 7PF
T. Janet Wilson Etchings Monoprints Calligraphy
Free House 8 Blackheath Lane Blackheath SE3 8UT
Open: 18th June 12-30 - 5.30pm
U. Timi Barlor Drawing Photography Bookbinding
S. 30 Royal Hill, Greenwich SE10 0HT
V. Joanna Dunbar-Webb M.Media, Prints & Drawings
W. 4 Flourmill Court John Penny Street SE13 7QA
X. Lee Fether Paintings in Oil & Pastel Drawings
GWest Gallery Lennirnd Lane Greenwich SE10 9FY
Y. Sats 8/15 June 10 - 5.30pm Closed Sundays
Z. Noa May 2023

Greenwich + Docklands International Festival

The opening and closing spectaculars will feature specially commissioned versions of Cristal Palace, a new flying-flying, immersive production from internationally acclaimed French company Transcendence Express. Presented with professional and community casts, first in Woolwich on 21 June and then at the Royal Albert Dock in the Royal Docks on 6 July, these UK premieres will fuse dance, music, acrobatics and locally inspired storytelling to transform two very different public spaces into glittering outdoor ballrooms, with the help of a giant overhead chandelier.

There’s much more to discover in this year’s programme, which also actively celebrates human rights, community and togetherness.

So mark 21 June - 6 July in your diary and get ready, in the words of the Guardian, for “...the annual miracle that is the Greenwich+Docklands International Festival.”

Among the highlights:

GDF21 Opening Night, Friday 21 June, 6pm-11pm at Woolwich Town Centre, SE18 FREE!
Enjoy art, food, dance, street theatre and a spectacular ceremony.

Daedalum 21 June - 23 June 2019 Where? Royal Albert Dock Duration: 1pm-9pm, 11am-9pm, 1am-FM Type: Installation – and its Free
Lose yourself in this dazzling, immersive architectural installation created by Alan Parkinson, whose spectacular “cathedral of air” have attracted more than 3 million visitors across the world. Come and enjoy the Dockside festival site – deckchairs, playful fountains, street food and a bar.

Greenwich Fair
Friday 21 June 12pm-8pm Saturday 22 June 1pm-9pm Sunday 23 June 12pm-7pm Greenwich Town Centre, SE10 FREE
It’s all here: street theatre, dance, games, circus and art from across the UK and Europe. Plus a mouth-watering selection of food stalls.

Visitors can be part of a giant 17th-century painting as it comes to life, ride on a laugh-out-loud, low-tech rollercoaster, or try a fantastical, family friendly drag show. Plus an upcycled French street show with a mountain of buckets.

Teatro del Veniti’s Moby Dick
22nd June at the Guildhall’s courtyard
This spectacular Italian production brings Captain Ahab’s ship, and his obsessive search for revenge, to a new GDF21 destination in the City of London.

What’s in a name?
The Old Royal Naval College is one of London’s most popular visitor attractions, at the heart of the UNESCO Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site. We’re welcoming Elm visitors and international visitors annually.

With the re-opening of the Painted Hall, this is truly exciting time for the organisation as they embark on a very ambitious transformation to become an amazing cultural destination.

The Board of Trustees want to attract more visitors, tell more stories about the 500-year history, and engage and inspire more diverse communities, whilst ensuring the site’s future sustainability and preserving its heritage assets. You can view their plans on www.orcn.org.

They are currently consulting and are committed to listening to as many people as possible to help them shape their future. As part of this work, they continue to look at the name and identity of the site, and how it enhances visitors’ and local communities’ understanding and experience of their buildings and grounds.

The trustees want you to hear their views; you can access the online questionnaire until the 30 June here: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/901442603362DHS/A

Following this consultation in July, they will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, who will agree on the next name.

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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-toxicify 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 confute 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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PHOTO: Neville Grant

FEATURES

Westcombe News June 2019
ARTS
THE ARTS SOCIETY BLACKHEATH 25th June: INCOME AND INSPIRATION: FINANCIAL SECRETS OF THE MASTERS – talk by David Phillips. 2.00pm. with tea and coffee, and licence at 2.30. Venue is St Mary’s Church Hall, Cowleswood Park, Blackheath. Visitor welcome, please pay on the door.

THE ARTS SOCIETY GREENWICH Monday 10th June: BLOOMSBURY GROUP DESIGNS & DRAWINGS – talk by Julia Mungave. The Bloomsbury Group were a set who Dorothy Parker once described as “living in squares, painting in circles, and loving in triangles”. Lectures are held at Greenwich University, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, DA15 9LS. Tickets at the door available from 7.15pm. £5 for guests.

THREE CHILDREN & FAMILY
GREENWICH THEATRE Sat 1st June 1.30pm and 3.00pm ELMER THE PATCHWORK ELEPHANT SHOW includes a parade of 21 lovable puppets
Sun 16th June 11:00am and 1:30pm Three Housewifely Chores – wives of characters from ‘The Servant’ and ‘A Waste of Means’.

SPOKEN WORD
BLACKHEATH HALLS Wed 5th June 19:30 HILY CANON POETS: ANDREW GEORGE and DOBRE BUCIU. LLIFEE. RECITAL ROOM. Live Canon presents an evening of poetry from their recent collections, all proceeds to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.
Wed 12th June 6.30pm KAMAL-AHMED: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A VERY BRITISH MUSLIM

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
15th April 12.30pm – 2pm Peter Praed and the Southwark Regency
19th April 7.30pm – 10pm Dr. Rowena Whipps. Fashions of a Century – 1870s and 1970s

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY
May 17th. Westcombe Society AGM
May 15th - 27th May Macmillan Walk
Fri 27th June Macmillan Coffee Morning
Sat 26th Oct – Quiz Night

MUSIC
BLACKHEATH HALLS 606 0001 0010 Sat 8th June 20:00 THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA! The royalty of the Ukulele come to town! £27.00 | £25.00
Fri 05 July 19:30 OLIVER JOHNSTON TENCOR & ASHLEY BEAUCHAMP PIANO RECITAL ROOM with two of the talented professional creative team of our summer opera, performing pieces by Messiaen, Quillez and Smetana. £10 | £8

ADVANCE NOTICE: Opening Night: 16 JUL 19:00 BLACKHEATH HALLS OPERA 2019: OFFENBACH’S LA BELLE HELÉNE. Come and see both of Offenbach’s best-loved melodies, La belle Helène is a comedic masterpiece
Tickets: £19 | £17 conc. | £16 under 12s

THREE THEATRE
THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8JS Box Office: 0858 7755 Sat 15th – Sun 16th June 7.30pm FLUX. Innovative theatre work showing what it means to be a woman in a world of men £16 | £13.50
Sun 16th June 7.30pm LIVE CANON POETS: SIRENS. £16 | £13.50
Thurs 20th – Sun 23rd June 7.30pm, 5.00pm SIRENS Cast out by Zeus, they reappear on Hastings beach to rewrite history
Tickets £16 | £13.50

Tues 27th, Sat 29th June 7.30pm M.E.H. Egypt: the “wandering womb” theory is propelled.
1516: hundreds dance uncontrollably in Strasbourg;
1877 Dr Jean-Martin Charcot uses hypnosis on patients;
2019: Award-winning theatre company write OBERON. £27.00 | £25.00

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Inspirational Women launch state-of-the-art school

Blackheath High School GDST’s £18 million redevelopment was officially opened on May 2nd, with a star-studded line-up including prominent women’s rights campaigner Caroline Criado-Perez and ITV News Anchor Charlene White.

The evening was officially opened by Cheryl Giovannoni, CEO of GDST, whose vision it is to shape the future of girls’ education.Criado-Perez, author of Invisible Women and who led the campaign to put Jane Austen on the £10 note, was invited by the school to mark the official opening of its new facilities.

Addressing Blackheath High parents, teachers, alumnae and students, Criado-Perez’s speech touched on the need to give women the freedom and power to flourish, saying: “By giving women the opportunity to escape the strait-jacket society puts them in isn’t to denigrate them, but to empower them.”

Quoting Virginia Woolf’s ‘A Room of One’s Own’, the campaigner concluded her address by saying she hoped the all-new Blackheath High School would provide the necessary space for girls to maximise their full potential: “I hope these spaces opening today give the room for girls to flourish for generations to come.”

Joining Caroline in marking the occasion was former Blackheath High alumna and ITV London news anchor Charlene White. Charlene said “Hello” to her old teachers during a pre-recorded spoof news show filmed at the News at 10 studios where she is filmed during a pre-recorded spoof news show.

Mrs Carol Chandler-Thompson said: “The evening was one of my proudest moments as Head at Blackheath High. These new amazing facilities are going to provide our girls with the very best learning environment for them to grow and become leaders of the future.”

A letter in May’s W/N deplores the fact that our political leaders have spent so much fruitless time on BREXIT that they have failed to address important issues such as Climate Change.

On Thursday 28 February, I attended a ‘Commons’ debate on progress toward net zero carbon emissions. Incredibly, this was the first time in over two years that MPs had been given the chance to debate climate change at any length.

The Government, who control the parliamentary order paper, need to do more. It is all too obvious that averting catastrophic climate change requires much more attention from Parliament.

Last summer, a heatwave affected the entire Northern Hemisphere, killing dozens of people. Hurricanes forced three million people in China to flee, and the US faces some of the most destructive wildfires in history. This year, the tropical cyclone Idai destroyed vast areas of Africa.

We are living today in a world that has warmed by just 1.5°C since the late 1800s, when global records began. Currently we are adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere at a rate faster than at any point in human history. As a landmark report published by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October made clear, we’re in the eleventh hour.

The report made clear that limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will require transforming the world economy at a speed and scale that has “no historic precedent.”

It’s not all doom and gloom: the plummeting costs of wind and solar power and batteries are a hopeful sign. And there is now a broad international consensus (pace Trump) about the need to limit increases in the global average temperature in accordance with the 2015 Paris Agreement.

However, the report made for sobering reading: limiting warming to 1.5°C will be extremely difficult, never mind the 3-4°C that the world is on course for by 2100, even if the targets signed up to at Paris are adhered to.

The IPCC’s report is confident in stating that the 2030 emissions reduction effort pledged in the Paris Agreement “would not limit global warming to 1.5°C, even if supplemented by the very challenging measures.”

Also added is ‘The Pod’, a contemplation space for meditation and idea generation.

Blackheath High has also boosted its sports offer by adding a brand-new top-of-the-range fitness suite and outdoor games court to complement their existing multi- acre Sports Campus, along with a brand new Sixth Form Centre to inspire a mature, pre-university atmosphere.

Head at Blackheath High School GDST, Mrs Carol Chandler-Thompson said: “The evening was one of my proudest moments as Head at Blackheath High. These new amazing facilities are going to provide our girls with the very best learning environment for them to grow and become leaders of the future.”

“It was only fitting that an unstoppable woman like Caroline was here to deliver a keynote speech that will inspire our girls to really make the most of these wonderful new surroundings.”

Anne Fuell reports

Right: Caroline Criado-Perez
Carol Chandler-Thompson
Cheryl Giovannoni

PHOTOS: Ian Jones

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Westcombe News June 2019

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If you are in any doubt, or if you are
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Checking that this mortgage will meet your needs if you want to
move or sell your home.

If you are in any doubt, or if you are
worrying about your parents,
ask your financial advisor.
I invicta Primary School is fighting air pollution with a new ‘green’ wall of ivy and evergreen trees. The school hopes that the plants will capture particles from the A102 that can harm the lungs of young children.

The first phase of the green wall was completed over Easter and comes after the Blackheath school received two grants amounting to £19,500 from the Greater London Authority. It follows after Invicta being named in 2017 among the top 50 most polluted urban locations in the UK.

According to parent Rebecca Moore, concerns over air pollution started earlier, after a 2013 study by the “No to Silvertown Tunnel” group that found levels of nitrogen dioxide near Invicta that breached EU air quality guidelines.

“It motivated us to do something,” she says. “We did petitions to protect the houses from the Silvertown Tunnel and we tried to do something in collaboration with the school.”

The school is on Invicta Road, close to the A102 Blackwall Tunnel Approach. The new green wall came together thanks to Niall McEvoy, business development manager of Scotscape Ltd, a living wall specialist, whose children attend the school. He designed an ivy barrier for trapping particulates around the school, and evergreen trees in the grounds themselves.

The second phase of the green wall project, scheduled to take place in May, will include a £5,000 solar-powered irrigation system to maintain the wall during the school holidays. “The solar-powered irrigation is a great idea of Niall’s,” says Moore. “It’s about thinking about the environment – the bigger picture.”

The school will be running educational projects around the green wall, with a green summer challenge, green ambassadors and a pollution monitoring project. There will also be planting a wild flower meadow and brambles and more in the existing shrub routine tasks such as weeding, battling out by a falling tree. In addition, there have been planted years ago, but were largely wiped out by a falling tree. In addition, there are 200 trees in the grounds themselves. According to Vicki Cuff, Acting Executive Headteacher, "When we learned we were one of the 50 most polluted primary schools, we were shocked and concerned, so I’m excited that the community has come together through the school to make a massive sustainable difference for the children – now and in years to come."

The school needs to raise £5,575 to match funding with a £9,500 grant from the Greater London Authority Schools Air Quality Greening Programme. They have set up a crowdfunding page at: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/greenwall?

Last month it was suggested in the WO that this slogan was coined by someone from the University of Greenwich. We are happy now to stand corrected! The Royal Borough has teamed up with environmental charity Hubbub to bring their “For Fish’s Sake” cube to Greenwich. The campaign highlights the importance of the Thames and the litter – particularly food packaging and cigarette butts – has on fish and other marine life. The cube is outside the O2 arena and will move to Riverside locations across the borough.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich has the longest stretch of river-front in London, with 8.5 miles of walking and cycling routes for most of the length of the Thames. Over 300 tonnes of rubbish is cleared from the river each year, not to mention what sinks to the riverbed or what gets washed out to sea. We love the Thames, and we need everyone to do their bit to keep it clean. If you aren’t near a bin, wait till you find one or take it home.”

Steve Sayer, VP & General Manager, The O2, said: “We’re really pleased to be hosting the #FFSLDN cube at the O2. We have a responsibility as the world’s busiest music and entertainment destination to be consistently forward-thinking when it comes to sustainability. It’s great to be able to support this campaign, especially considering our home is on the Thames.”

Rhiannon Ashley from Hubbub said: “So far the campaign has been taken to London Bridge and Putney, so we’re really excited that the #FFSLDN cube has come downriver for a tour around Greenwich.

Why not post your own photos, using the hashtag #FFSLDN?"