



## 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 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.



Greta Thunberg

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 students in 125 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, have the impact of massive developments, and the Silvertown Tunnel, on pollution and our climate, been fully taken into account?

Greta has now been nominated for the 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 Lanchester, author of the dystopian novel *The Wall*, observes: "The need 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.

*What do our younger readers think?*



Photo: UAVPIC.COM/Tor Erik Kvalsvik/Kleven/Hurtigruten

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 Ulsteinvik, 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?**

## Sail away?



**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 the history of the ship, celebrating her 150th anniversary. The famous figure head is in need of restoration – replacement, in fact, since sadly the wood is rotting.

An appeal has now been launched – to contribute, please visit [donate.rmg.co.uk](http://donate.rmg.co.uk)

### WANTED!

**More volunteers to distribute the WN – and to help with Westcombe Society's community events. We have recently lost two of our wonderful WN deliverers, who have moved away, so more volunteers are needed.**

**Please phone 8853 2756 if you would like to help.**

## OnBlackheath

**This year's event is on the weekend of the 13th /14th July, and features Jamiroquai, Grace Jones. Other performers include The Roots, James Morrison, Jacob Collier, SG Lewis, Soul II Soul, Incognito, Swing Out Sister, Rag'n'Bone Man and more.**

In continuing discussions, the Westcombe Society has been promised that directional speakers will be installed so as to reduce the noise for householders in this area.

The public are invited to a pre-event meeting on 27th June at 7.00 p.m in the Clarendon Hotel when more details will be given and questions answered. The post-event meeting takes place on 24th July at 7.00 p.m in the Clarendon.

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 bunds, 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 BJWP through [environment@westcombesociety.org](mailto:environment@westcombesociety.org)

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](mailto: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 Mediaeval to the Post-Modern, was much enjoyed – as were the delicious post-concert cream teas!**



Aeris Brass recently won first place in the British Trombone Society Quartet Competition. *Left to right: Martin Lee-Thomson, Ali Goodwin, Ian Sankey and Adam Crighton*



## Newsbriefs



### ULEZ

Earlier this year the *WN* reminded readers that the mayor's ultra-low emissions zone came into force on 8th April, covering the current congestion charge area.

In October 2021 it is being extended to include the whole area within the North and South Circular roads. The charge - £12.50 a day – will be levied on diesel cars more than four years old, petrol cars more than 13 years old, and motorbikes more than 12 years old.

### Cars "too silent"

There is public concern about low-speed electric and hybrid vehicles because they are so dangerously quiet at low speeds and pedestrians are less likely to be aware of their approach.

From 1st September 2019 all new models of hybrid and pure electric vehicles must by law be fitted with an Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System (AVAS) that emits a continuous sound at speeds of up to 20km (13 miles) per hour.

### For Fish's Sake

Last month a reader sent in to the *WN* a photo of a sign with this slogan, suggested it was coined by someone from the University of Greenwich. We are happy to stand corrected: it is the Royal Borough that has teamed up with Hubbub, the environmental charity, to bring their "For Fish's Sake" cube to Greenwich. This highlights the importance of the Thames and the harm litter has on fish and other marine life. *For a report, and a picture, please see page 7.*



# WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

## WESTCOMBE NEWS

### ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**Neville Grant**, Editor  
wnews@westcombesociety.org  
Tel. 020 8858 8489

### ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO: wnews@westcombesociety.org

**Deadline for the combined July/August issue:** 16th June  
**Environment Editor:** Maggie Gravelle

**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

**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.

**Printed by: Trojan Press**

### Contact the Westcombe Society:

**WestcombeNews@egroups.com**  
**Publisher:** The Westcombe Society  
**Chairman:** Marilyn Little Tel. 020 8853 1312

*The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor. We take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of our readers by ensuring as far as possible the bona fides of our advertisers but cannot accept any responsibility for them. Any complaints should be addressed to the advertiser.*

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

## WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:

**Christine Legg**, 69 Mycenae Rd, London, SE3 7SE

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Email:.....

*Please enclose payment as appropriate:*

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

## Chair's Report

My sincere apologies for not being present at our AGM. A last minute change to my travel plans within a very much reduced window has prevented my attendance. I am sorry I am missing what promises to be a most enjoyable event especially as it is being held in the redeveloped part of the High School and will include a presentation by Jane Grant.

I thank you all for coming tonight and for showing your support for the Society. I am grateful to our Vice-Chairman Jean Jacques Aune who will present my report, in which I review the Westcombe Society's activities over the past year. It is also my opportunity to thank everyone involved in the running of the society, especially our committee members and our Editor, but not forgetting all of the volunteers who help at events or deliver the *Westcombe News*.

I greatly appreciate the support of the Executive Committee. We meet once a month to deal with many different issues that face the Society and its members.

The Events Committee also meet every month to arrange a varied social calendar, ranging from afternoon teas to Members' evenings and quizzes. They are now supported by a great team of families who take charge of the Easter Egg Hunt.

The Environment Committee monitor planning applications on a monthly basis. They also continue to liaise with other groups and societies about matters of common interest including transport.

Our Membership Secretary continues to enrol new members and happily we have more payments being made by Standing Order and also have email addresses for many more of our members. This enables us to send updates on items of importance or local interest to members quickly.

Neville continues his work on the *Westcombe News* which continues to be very well received by our readers. He welcomes input from our local residents who increasingly contribute the major part of the content. Many thanks to Emily and her team who organise the distribution of the papers and also our deliverers.



We continue to work together with our neighbouring Societies on matters such as planning and transport. We also jointly came together to challenge the Greenwich Foundation on the renaming of the Old Royal Naval College which we know is of interest to many of you. We have recently attended focus groups relating to this and the results will be in the *WN*.

Our work is ably supported by volunteers who help at events, deliver the *WN* and in many other ways. We greatly value their commitment, and I am also very grateful to Michael Helm for his ongoing help with the Annual Accounts.

Finally, as you know we have been concerned with the lack of new volunteers coming forward. Our Charity of the Year last year was the Volunteer Centre Greenwich and we have been working with them to identify volunteering opportunities within the Society. We hope this will be fruitful but this by no means replaces the value of local volunteers.

We would welcome your support in enabling the safe future of the Society by offers of assistance, ranging from helping at or running events to assisting our editor.

Other jobs include managing the Advertising in the *Westcombe News* and also the position of Treasurer. We are currently agreeing job descriptions and if you feel you could assist with any of these roles do speak to a member of the committee. Alternatively I am very happy to describe and discuss roles on my return.

And finally... we are very happy to give Life Membership of the Society to Myles and Barbara in recognition of their many years of service to the Society. Thank you both very much – and thanks to all who attended the meeting.



## Letters

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

**From: Catherine Kell Kemsing Road**

The article on the Community Infrastructure Levy (page 2 in May's *WN*) could be misconstrued to mean that charges to developers on new developments were £227,761.

Greenwich Council recently reported that CIL and Section 106 payments from developers are estimated to exceed £90 million in 2018/19 (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, just £256k has been spent on parks over the past year – £177k of that for a masterplan.

This money can be negotiated for borough-wide improvements or for specific mitigation works around a development which the council has a duty to carry out because of a new development, (and which help the development.)

For instance, money from Ikea for traffic infrastructure management at Angerstein roundabout and pavements benefits the customers to the new store, and reduces increased traffic detrimental to residents.

But nothing so far has been spent, and the area remains unattractive and even dangerous.

I recommend the blogger Murky Depths <https://www.fromthemurkydepths.co.uk/> who is doing an informative job digging into how little Greenwich council are spending on the physical public realm of roads and parks.

Funding a few tree seeds is laudable but the older parts of East Greenwich need substantially more money for much quicker improvements; and it's only going to get worse when work on the Silvertown Tunnel starts later this year.

*Ed: Thanks for this. As always, we welcome –*

*indeed, rely on – well-informed contributions from our readership.*

**From Catherine Kell Kemsing Road**

You may have copied the numbers of parakeets from the RSPB website, this is likely to be gross underestimation of the number of birds. The government's official website <http://www.non-nativespecies.org> states that "In 1996 a simultaneous roost count reported a population size of approximately 1,500 and by 2000 numbers had risen to approximately 5,900. Population modelling has revealed that populations in Greater London have increased by approximately 30% per year. The University of Kent's parrot net project <https://www.kent.ac.uk/parrotnet/> UK estimate was 32,000 in 2012. Do the maths . . .

I am sure in these days of fake news you will agree that we all need to be very careful that facts are supported by accurate research.

*Ed: Thanks, Catherine, for this interesting information. We don't claim to be wildlife experts, but the RSPB - and Greenwich Park - seemed to be reliable sources of information; and we felt it important to raise the issue of "invasive species", which is a matter of controversy among bird-watchers.*

*Our resources are limited, so we don't employ fact-checkers – indeed, we don't employ anyone. We rely absolutely on our readership. But if you are offering to be a fact-checker (or indeed the editor!) we would welcome you aboard.*

**From: Chris & Chris Godwin Vanbrugh Pk**

The owners of 57A Westcombe Park Road have re-submitted the development plan which was rejected in the High Court I believe in 2015.

Readers may remember that 57A is a 1920s - 30s style 2- storey house. It has been neglected

## Open gardens weekend

**Tim Barnes**

The Open Gardens week-end in aid of the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice is taking place on Saturday June 8th and Sunday June 9th.

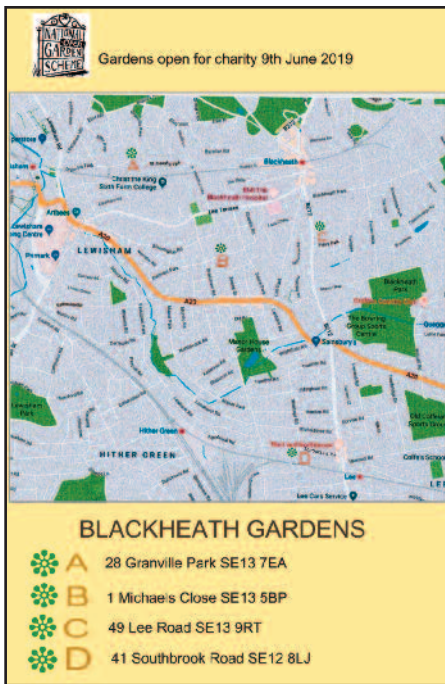
At least 12 gardens will be opening in Blackheath during that week-end and 17 in Greenwich, including the Westcombe Woodlands. We hope that visitors might choose to go to the Greenwich and Blackheath gardens on alternate days. But that is entirely a matter for you.

Among the gardens open on both days are Marek and Barbara Polanski's at 41 Southbrook Road, Lee (former residents of Ulundi Road).

Entry for all gardens is between 2.00pm and 5.30pm. Some gardens are only opening on the Sunday but others are opening on both days. Refreshments will be available at many of the gardens and most are wheelchair-accessible

We are charging £12 for a ticket which will include all gardens in both Greenwich and Blackheath. You can buy tickets at any of the participating gardens or through the Hospice web-site which lists all the gardens. ([communityhospice.org.uk](http://communityhospice.org.uk)),

Alternatively contact me on 0208-858-1185; or at [tim@ttbarnes.com](mailto:tim@ttbarnes.com), and I will arrange for a leaflet to be sent to you containing details of the locations of all the gardens and advice about tickets.



since the previous owners died. There are many reasons for rejecting a renewed plan. The plan is to increase the height of the house by two storeys, to build a rear extension, and to create eight flats (six with two bedrooms, two with three). There would be parking on what is now the front garden, and the garden wall would have to be altered to allow cars to enter/exit.

Neighbouring Paines Court would lose much natural light. There would also be a traffic issue, there is a bus stop almost opposite, and it is close to John Roan School.

*Ed: David and Helen Williams are among others who have written on similar lines. The deadline for submitting responses was 22nd May. Ann Hill wrote a very good letter of objection on the WS's behalf and we have also liaised with other groups and individuals. So the application will come to Greenwich Area Planning Committee and we will keep a lookout for the date, and outcome.*

*From: Name and address supplied*

I was shocked to witness some anti-social behaviour from network rail staff at Westcombe Park station one morning recently. I've sent a complaint online to Network Rail.

**From: Jackie Bogue**

**Tudor Grange**

The recent afternoon cabaret at Mycenae House was amazing. The polished opening performance by the Roan School students was followed by a variety of acts with audience participation. Many thanks to Deborah Fitzpatrick for co-ordinating the event. I am really looking forward to the next one on the 27th June.



# LOCAL NEWS



**Community Festival & Armed Forces Day**

Join together on Saturday 29 June 2019 for the annual Royal Greenwich Get Together Community Festival and Armed Forces Day event.

This free event is a great day out for all the family and will take place across the whole of Woolwich from General Gordon Square right down Number One Street on the Royal Arsenal to the river.

Activities this year include an eclectic line up of children’s entertainment, live music, an open-air cinema and theatre, circus, arts and crafts, sports activities and workshops. There will also be a carnival-style community parade made up of schools, groups and performers from across the borough as well as artisan street food, bars and a farmers’ market.

There will also be an armed forces area featuring military displays, marine activities on the river and a veteran’s parade and award ceremony. The full programme will be announced shortly.

If you would like to get involved by either exhibiting, performing, trading (including food and drink) please complete the application form on: [RoyalGreenwichGetTogether/performance/activity](http://RoyalGreenwichGetTogether/performance/activity)

## 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 1-listed status, (the highest possible) granted by the Department of 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-dominant!

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.

## Festival of Music in Greenwich Park 2019

The Friends of Greenwich Park yet again add to the joys of summer with their festival of music. Two events to fill the pages of your diary:

**Mid-Summer Jazz Concert**  
The Phoenix Dixieland Jazz Band, supported this year by the Crooks Saxophone Quartet, is back in the Observatory Garden, Greenwich Park, at 12.30pm on Sunday 16 June, for another marvellous event for all the family, organised by the Friends of Greenwich Park. Gate opens at noon. The concert ends at 3.30pm.  
£5 for adults (£7 on the gate, if still available). Under 16s free.  
Bar, food and ice cream.  
**Tickets from Friends of Greenwich Park, 52 Greenwich Park Street, SE10 9LT. (cheques payable to “Friends of Greenwich Park” with self-addressed envelope)**  
**Tel 020 8853 2150**  
**email: [cnbevan@hotmail.com](mailto:cnbevan@hotmail.com)**  
**Tickets also available online at [www.friendsofgreenwichpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgreenwichpark.org.uk)**



### Bandstand concerts

The other events are of course the ever-popular bandstand concerts, which every week attract hundreds of locals enjoying picnics in the park as they listen to – sometimes dance to! –the cheery music of the Bandstand concerts during June, July and August. These concerts, which are free and start at 3.00pm, feature a number of exciting bands new to Greenwich Park, performing at the park’s bandstand. Last year, only one event was rained off! Oh, and while you’re there, why not sign up as a Friend of Greenwich Park if you haven’t already? Details on the right:

Sat. 22 June	Royal Greenwich Big Band & Eltham Hill Steel Pans
Sunday 23 June	Countrypolitan Band
Sun.30 June	Here To Havana
Sund. 7 July	KIX Jazz Orchestra
Sun. 14 July	Heroes Band
Sun. 21 July	Meantime Band
Sun. 28 July	South London Jazz Orchestra & Live Band Lindy
Sun. 4 Aug.	Silver Ghosts
Sun. 11 Aug.t	Shadey Scandals
Sun. 18 August	The Old Jelly Rollers
Sun. 25 Aug.	Greenwich Concert Band
Mon. 26 Aug.	Galaxy Big Band

## 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](http://royalgreenwich.gov.uk/brexit)**

## Greenwich Park Recruitment Drive

The Royal Parks is launching a Volunteer Ranger service in Greenwich Park from 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](http://www.royalparks/rangers). **Deadline for applications is noon on 30 May.**  
**A bit too late? Try anyway!**  
**Or there’s always next year . . .**

## 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 Westcome 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.

Mycenae House Reach Out Projects

# Drop In Café

for Seniors

Carers & Family Welcome

## Every Thursday 1 - 4pm

Have a chat,  
Make new friends,  
Like to paint, draw, knit or sew?  
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### Tea & Cake £1

**Mycenae House & Gardens**  
90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath Standard, SE3 7SE  
(just off Westcombe Park Road)

**020 8858 1749**

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH



# FEATURES

## 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!

Our full-colour leaflet contains maps and examples of every artist's work. We aim to post the leaflet through everyone's door, but if you haven't got one, you can pick one up at one at the Libraries at the Standard and West Greenwich, SBS Printers or the shops in Royal Hill. Or just go to our website [www.greenwichopenstudios.uk](http://www.greenwichopenstudios.uk)

**Weekends June 8-9 and 15-16: 2.00 - 6.00 pm John Bangs GOS Co-ordinator.**

### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

All open both weekends unless otherwise stated

- A. John Bangs** Pastel Paintings and Drawings  
25 Blissett Street SE10 8UP
- B. Colin Boothman:** Pastels, Acrylics Oils  
**Felicity Boothman** Pastels Acrylics  
Mycenae House, Mycenae Road SE3 7SE
- C. Basia Karnicka Burroughs** Paintings (Oils on Canvas) 20 Dartmouth Row SE10 8A
- D. Kathy Drake** Sculpture Acrylics Pastels 8/9 June  
54 Blackheath Park, Blackheath SE3 9SJ
- E. Deirdre Ellis** Oils & **Margaret Higginson** Stone sculpture Barton Cottage, Heath Lane SE3 0UT
- F. Caroline Nuttall Smith** Ceramics & Linocut Prints  
**Rebecca Witting:** Acrylic Oil + Gesso [All 8/9]  
**Maria Silva:** Acrylic + Mixed media June only]  
36 Stretton Mansions Glaisher Street SE8 3JP
- G. John-Eric Johnson** Contemporary Studio Ceramics  
**David Bradley** Contemporary Studio Ceramics  
**John Dawson** Thrown & Altered Porcelain  
4 Brooklands Park Blackheath SE3 9BL
- H. Elaine Marshall** Original Prints & Watercolours  
20 Hyde Vale SE10 8QH
- I. Penny Matheson** Paintings & Prints  
30 Hyde Vale SE10 8QH
- J. Chris Moody** Goache Monoprints & Aquatints  
Vicarage 33 Park Vista SE10 9LZ (until 5.30pm)
- K. Sue Parks** Ceramics and Mixed Media  
**Josie Jammet** Paintings & Prints  
Mounts Pond Rd. (corner Hare & Billet Rd) SE3 7PF
- L. Lubna Speitan** Acrylics Oils Inks  
61A Coleraine Road Blackheath SE3 7PF
- M. Janet Wilson** Etchings Monoprints Collagraphs  
Five Mile House 8 Heath Lane Blackheath SE3 0UT  
Open 8/9th June 12.30 - 5.30pm
- N. Titus Barker** Drawing Photography Bookbinding  
30 Royal Hill, Greenwich SE10 8RT
- O. Joanna Dunbar-Webb** M.Media, Prints & Drawings  
4 Flamsteed Court John Penn Street SE13 7QA
- P. Lee Fether** Paintings in Oil & Pastel Drawings  
GWest Gallery Lovibond Lane Greenwich SE10 9FY  
Sats 8/15 June 10 - 5.30pm Closed Sundays



**WEEKENDS**  
**June 08 & 09 and 15 & 16**  
**2pm - 6pm**  
unless stated otherwise.  
Please check individual artist times.  
[www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk)

## What's in a name?



PHOTO: Neville Grant

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, welcoming 1.2m local, national and international visitors annually.

With the re-opening of the Painted Hall, this is a 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.ornc.org](http://www.ornc.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 to hear your views; you can access the online questionnaire until the 30 June here: <https://www.surveymzmo.eu/s3/90144260/J3662DHSA> N15RE

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

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**Website:** [johndannfurniture.co.uk](http://johndannfurniture.co.uk)

**Tel.0208 852 3047 or 07837 859763**

## Greenwich + Docklands International Festival

The opening and closing spectaculars will be two specially created versions of *Cristal Palace*, a new high-flying, immersive production from internationally acclaimed French company Transe 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 premières 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:

**GDIF 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-6pm  
Type: Installation – and its Free  
Lose yourself in this dazzling, immersive architectural installation created by Alan Parkinson, whose spectacular "cathedrals 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 uproarious French street show with a mountain of buckets.

### Teatro dei Ventri'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 GDIF destination in the City of London.

## 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](http://www.philosophyforeducation.co.uk) [www.perprospero.co.uk](http://www.perprospero.co.uk)

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# WHAT'S ON



## ARTS

**THE ARTS SOCIETY, BLACKHEATH**  
**27th June INCOME AND INSPIRATION: FINANCIAL SECRETS OF THE MASTERS** - talk by David Phillips 2.00pm. with tea and coffee, and lecture at 2.30. Venue is St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park Blackheath Visitors welcome, please pay on the door.

**THE ARTS SOCIETY GREENWICH**  
**Monday 10th. June BLOOMSBURY GROUP DESIGNS AND "DESIGNS"** talk by Julia Musgrave 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 SE10 9LS. Tickets at the door available from 7.15pm. £10 for guests.

## CHILDREN & FAMILY

**GREENWICH THEATRE**  
**Sat 1st June 1.00pm and 3.30 pm ELMER THE PATCHWORK ELEPHANT SHOW** includes a menagerie of 21 loveable puppets  
**Sun 16th June MURDER MOST UNLADYLIKE** with Robin Stevens £8.00 | £7.00 Ages 9+  
**Sun 16th June 2.30 pm DRAGONS & WIZARDS** with Cressida Cowell £8 | £7 Ages 8+  
**SHERINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE, Tel. 0208 - 3053140 - 14, Sherington Road SE7 7JW**  
**DAD'S STAY AND PLAY** session every Wednesday, 1.00pm -2.30pm -free drop in Sherington Children's Centre, all home dads welcome Each 2nd Saturday of the month - 10.00am -11.30am - free brunch/arts and craft Contact Daniel.hall1985@hotmail.co.uk for more details, www.selondondads.org.uk

## SPOKEN WORD

**BLACKHEATH HALLS**  
**Wed 5th June 19:30h LIVE CANON POETS: ANDREW GEORGE AND DOREEN HINCH-LIFFE. 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 8.00pm KAMAL AHMED: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A VERY BRITISH MAN** £10.0.

**INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**11th June.7.39 Tracy Stringfellow & Charlie MacKeith. JACOBAN VISTAS AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, Meeting will be in the Studio, not the Old Bakehouse, in Age Exchange**  
**GREENWICH THEATRE**  
**Sun 2nd June 7.30 pm AN EVENING WITH ANDY HAMILTON.** Bring your questions! Tickets £21.00 Concs. £19.00

**Wed 12th June 7.30pm GERMAINE GREER on RAPE** With Q & A. £21. | £16.00

**IN-WORDS poetry evening: Tuesday June 25** at West Greenwich Library, 146 Greenwich High Road SE10 8NN. 7 for 7.30 Cinnamon Press present the new poetry collections by Hugh Dunkerley, Lizzie Fincham & Mark Fitzgerald FREE all welcome.



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## THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

**May 17th. Westcombe Society AGM**  
**Sun 15th Sept - Macmillan Walk**  
**Fri 27th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning**  
**Sat 26th Oct - Quiz Night**

## COMMUNITY

**THE GREENWICH AND BEXLEY HOSPICE**  
**Open Gardens weekend is 8/9th June in Greenwich & Blackheath.** Westcombe Woodlands will be open on Sunday 9 June from 2 - 5pm. Tickets give access to all gardens: <https://www.communityhospice.org.uk/>  
**FRIENDS OF WESTCOMBE WOODLANDS** welcome you to their summer picnic in the woods from **12.30pm Sunday 23rd June** Entrance gate is in Seren Park Car Park, Restell Close SE3 7RD (close to footpath from Platform 1 Maze Hill Station) Info: [westcombewoodlands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:westcombewoodlands@hotmail.co.uk)  
**ST LUKE'S CHURCH CHARLTON**  
**SUNDAY, 23RD JUNE 2019 at 7pm MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S NIGHT** £12 in advance (£13 on the door) (to include Canapés and Wine or Pimms etc) Book now 0208 856 7373 In Aid of St Luke's Church Restoration  
**CHARLTON & BLACKHEATH AMATEUR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**Monday 17th June, Charlton House, Old Library at 7.30pm.** Stephen Harmer (author and head gardener) will present a talk on "The Plant Hunters" All visitors welcome, £2. Also plant sales table, raffle and refreshments.

**BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB** duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Newcomers welcome.

**SUNDAYS AT SUNFIELDS** at Sunfields Methodist Church 95 Old Dover Road, Blackheath SE3 8SJ 1.00 - 4.00 pm First Sunday of each month. ALL older people and their carers are welcome to join us for lunch and lighthearted activities, including reminiscence, arts and music. No need to book. FREE

## WOODLANDS FARM

All are welcome at the Woodlands Farm Trust Summer Show, Shooters Hill on Sunday 9th June 2019 from 11.00 am to 4.30-pm. This event is combined with Open Farm Sunday again this year. Come and meet our animals and enjoy a chance to buy local produce at reasonable prices, including home-made preserves, cakes and honey. There will be a Falconry Display by Joe's Bows, a Sheep Shearing Display and an opportunity to try our Tractor-Drawn Trailer Rides, plus country crafts. Entry is free, donations are always welcome. There is no parking on the farm, please use public transport. A great family day out!

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**1 Bromley Lane, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6LH**

## MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: June

**Fri 7th June 7.30pm - Woolwich Singers concert.** Join the Woolwich Singers to celebrate their 7th Birthday! £5.  
**Sat 8th June 1pm + 3pm - The Ugly Duckling.** Let's All Dance present this beautiful family ballet. £10/£9.  
**Thurs 13th June 4pm - Bach To Baby.** Classical Concert for families. £10.  
**Fri 14th June 8pm - JazzNights.** Candlit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £10.  
**Thurs 27th June 1pm - Daytime Cabaret.** A fun afternoon for seniors with music, magic, singing & more. £2.  
**Fri 28th June 7.30pm - Chris Wood.** GFMA present award-winning folk multi-instrumentalist Chris Wood. £18.  
*For further information visit [www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)*

## MUSIC

**BLACKHEATH HALLS 020 8463 0100**  
**Sat 8th Jun 20:00h THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA!** The royalty of the Ukulele scene return! £27.00 | £25.00  
**Fri 05 JUL 19:30h OLIVER JOHNSTON TENOR & ASHLEY BEAUCHAMP PIANO RECITAL ROOM** with two of the talented professional creative team of our summer opera, performing pieces by Donizetti, Quilter and Smetana. £10 | £8 conc.

**ADVANCE NOTICE: Opening Night: 16 JUL 19:00h BLACKHEATH HALLS OPERA 2019: OFFENBACH'S LA BELLE HÉLÈNE** with some of Offenbach's best-loved melodies, La belle Hélène is a comedic masterpiece  
**Tickets: £19 | £17 conc. | £6 under 12s**  
**THOMAS TALLIS CHOIR & ORCHESTRA**  
**A Summer Concert: BACH Magnificat in D and motets by THOMAS TALLIS & HENRY PURCELL** Thomas Tallis Society Choir and baroque orchestra, conducted by Eamonn Dougan  
**Sunday 16 June 6.30pm** St Alfege Church, Greenwich [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tts)  
**ST GEORGE'S, GLENLUCE ROAD "Summer Choral Concert"** Sat 29th June 6.40pm with the choirs of the Blackheath Centre for Singing. Mix of classical and light repertoire, with works by Morley, Whitacre, Lauridsen, and The Beatles. With Joel Thomas, Director. Host: Rev Tim Yeager

## THEATRE

**THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 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: NEW WORK** Free  
**Thurs 20th - Sun 23rd June 7.30pm Sun.5.00pm SIRENS** Cast out by Zeus, they reappear on Hastings beach to rewrite history  
**Tickets £16 | £13.50**  
**Thurs. 27th - Sat 29th June 7.30pm M.E.H.** Egypt: the "wandering womb" theory is propounded;  
**1518: hundreds dance uncontrollably in Strasbourg;**  
**1877 Dr Jean-Martin Charcot** uses hypnosis on female "hysterics";  
**2019: Award-winning theatre company** write this blurb . . . £16 £13.50  
**Sat 6th July 7.30pm THE BASEMENT TAPES**  
A girl discovers her grandmother's tapes, and things start to unravel £16. « £13.50

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# FEATURES

## 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

Trust (GDST), leading London Day school Blackheath High has invested £18 million over five years to provide new state-of-the-art the facilities.

These include a brand-new library and resources centre; specialist teaching environments for Art, Design & Technology and Music; a cutting-edge Mac suite; and Apple technology in all classrooms for teaching; and expansive gallery and exhibition spaces.

As well as investing in the girls' learning development, the school has created a well-being sedum roof garden for girls to relax and enjoy which sits above an architecturally designed courtyard – with the “Mini-Louvre” at the heart of the school.

### Anne Fuell reports

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

PHOTOS: Ian Jones



women the freedom and power to flourish, saying: “The way to for women 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 now presents. The film was shown to the students at a special assembly prior to the evening reception.

Together with the Girls' Day School

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.”

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A letter in May's *WN* 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**

Here is an edited version of Matt Pennycook MP's blog:

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 Ildai 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 beneath 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

increases in the scale and ambition of emissions reductions after 2030.”

It finds that 1°C of warming is already locked in, and if the world doesn't start doing a lot more, and quickly, then the window for meeting 1.5°C will close too. As Sir David Attenborough put it: “If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilizations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon.”

The alarmism and catastrophic thinking that the report provoked are, in my view, both fully warranted. We confront a crisis that requires nothing less than an aggressive global response. In other words, we should be alarmed. This is the only logical response to a world on course for warming of 1.5°C by 2040, 2°C within decades after that, and perhaps 4°C by 2100.

The big danger is complacency, and it may be fear is a necessary spur to action.

So what can we do? The IPCC's report states a fundamental overhaul to the world economic system is required. Industrial emissions must fall by 75-90% by 2050, needing a combination of electrification, hydrogen, sustainable bio-based feedstocks and product substitution.

The problem: while it is technically possible, it's politically difficult to say the least. Earlier this year, the Government asked the advisory Committee on Climate Change (CCC), to consider ways the UK could become “net zero-carbon” by 2050.

Ministers have since issued vague signals suggesting a policy of cutting emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050: they need to get on with it to ensure the UK becomes a net zero emission economy by 2050, just as the Labour Party's annual conference decided last year.

We can all do our bit as individuals in managing our carbon footprints, but the onus remains on government to enact laws and policies that would reduce all of our emissions. By taking to the streets over recent weeks, young people round the world have made clear what they want governments to do. Let us make sure our government acts.

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# 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](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning)

## Invicta’s new green wall

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 primary schools in London.

According to parent Rebecca Moore,

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 measurement project. They will also be planting a wild flower meadow and



### Report by Vivienne Raper

PHOTO (Left to right) Niall McEvoy (of Scotscape Ltd, a living wall specialist) Kate Fry (School business manager) and Rebecca Moore (a parent)

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.

trees with fruit for the children to pick.

“We’re trying to raise the next generation of Greta Thunbergs,” Moore says.

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 £2,375 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/invictagreenwall?utm\\_id=2&utm\\_term=apX5bY4r3](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/invictagreenwall?utm_id=2&utm_term=apX5bY4r3)**

## Friends of Mycenae Gardens Mark Barnes

Following the success of the campaign to spread the woodchip, and following comments from some of those who helped on those hard-working days, we are trying a teatime planting session rather than our usual Saturday afternoons. So please come, bring your friends, children and garden tools to the gardens on Wednesday 5 June at 4pm. If you cannot come until later, do not worry: we shall carry on until we have finished or 7pm, whichever is the earlier!

The main task is to prepare, plant and fence (temporarily) a new woodland shrub bed, close to the entrance to the gardens, following the advice of our gardening guru, Fiona Machen. If we have time, we may also try to make a start on reviving a planting area in ‘The Glade’. This was planted years ago, but was largely wiped out by a falling tree. In addition, there are routine tasks such as weeding, battling brambles and more in the existing shrub beds, weaving the beech hedge, etc.

If you have the chance, do go into the garden, just beyond the lawns and on the right, to admire the willow barriers, the work of our ‘willow wizard’, Richard Vidal. He is working his way around the shrub

beds as and when he can (in his spare time) to replace the current ‘post-and-rope’ fences. This takes hours of work, but also requires copious amounts of willow (supplied by him) stacked near the entrance. Please discourage children from borrowing from these stocks.

The elegant willow barriers are an obvious example of the work that goes into maintaining and preserving the gardens. Those who come to help on the planting days and other occasions will know that there is much more in the background.

For example, the ‘dead-hedging’ that protects the area reserved for wildlife may look very natural, but it is in fact the result of regular hard work and maintenance by Shirley Broughton and David Jervis, who have to repair (sometimes weekly) the damage caused by nature and by people.

David has also recently repaired the bench under the maple tree, that had been vandalised, and has offered to replace the seat missing from the round table. As members of this group, we may be able to encourage others who use and enjoy the gardens to appreciate and respect the work that goes into looking after them.

## A Flying Visit



Stone the crows! It’s a heron in my backgarden! Margaret Gravelle told the *WN*: “This heron spent ten minutes resting on our shed roof yesterday morning, before being harried by a pair of crows and flying off in the direction of the river.” Heron today, Gone Tomorrow . . .

## For Fish’s Sake



Last month it was suggested in the *WN* 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 harm 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. .

Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald, Cabinet Member for Air Quality, Public Realm and Transport, said: “The Royal Borough of Greenwich has the longest stretch of riverfront 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?**

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