Concerts in the Park

**The Friends of Greenwich Park**

Sun. 4 Aug. Silver Ghastos
Sun. 11 Aug. Shady Scandals
Sun. 18 Aug. The Old Jelly Rollers
Sun. 25 Aug. Greenwich Concert Band
Mon. 26 Aug. Galaxy Big Band

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 aren’t one already?

**Mycenae House Summer Sunday Extravaganza**

This year, Mycenae Gardens have organised this great event on 28th July to celebrate family, fun, creativity – and Local Life.

It will be a family festival with live music, dance, wellbeing sessions, arts & crafts and a varied programme of work-shops and activities.

Enjoy the musical vibes with a packed programme of live performances, maybe take part in an art or dance workshops, let your kids explore the Play Zone, try something international from the Street Food Zone or just browse in the Stall Zone, there will be something for all to enjoy plus great food and drink.

The superb live music line-up includes performances from The Kimberleys (folk superstars) Mississippi MacDonald (blues guitar legend) The Grizzly Mutts (country, Americana and blues), Mary & The Lost (soul, Motown). We also have the UK’s only full-time Lindy Hop orchestras!

**Tappers, Theatre Train, Emergency Exit** (folk rock/alt pop), The Green Chain (funk, soul, jazz, world), Mycenae House & Gardens, 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath Standard, London, SE3 7SE (Free Parking) Transport links: Westcombe Park train station 400m, North Greenwich tube 5 mins by taxi; Buses 386, 53, 54, 108, 202, 286, 580, 422

**Coles, a former maths teacher. According to John Roan School, it has won by its schools, and it has invested £300m in 15 building projects.**
**Letters**

**A major new exhibition opening in July at the National Maritime Museum (NMM) is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.**

This is the country’s biggest exhibition about our planet’s nearest celestial neighbour.

Visitors will be invited to bust myths about the moon, and see amazing objects that have been to the Moon and back. We will also be invited to ask ourselves ‘What does the Moon mean to us today?’

Charting the cultural and scientific story of our relationship with the moon, the exhibition features over 180 objects enabling us to connect with the wonders of the Moon through artefacts, artworks and interactive discovery, and discover how this has captivated and inspired us throughout history. Among the items on show are:

- A rare lunar meteorite
- The “Snooky Cap” Communications Carrier, worn by astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin during Apollo 11
- The Hasselblad camera equipment that captured some of the most recognisable and iconic images of the 20th century
- Lunar samples collected from NASA’s Apollo missions and the Soviet Union’s Luna program
- Artsworks from artists including J.M.W. Turner, John Constable, Katie Paterson and Lari Pittard
- A Mesopotamian Tablet from 172 BCE, the oldest object on display

Follow the conversation at @Moon5

Essential information: Opening times: Daily | 10am - 5pm. Exhibition continues until 5th January 2020

Price:
- Adult: £19 | Child: £5.85 | Student: £6

**MOON: NMM’s new exhibition**

**T**he River Ale House in East Greenwich recently picked up two awards from Camra (The Campaign for Real Ale).

The pub will now represent the area against 12 other Camra regions for the All London title. The River Ale House has already won an award – from The Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood for their Greater London Pub of the Year 2019.

The pub specialises in real ales sourced from the barrel, real ciders, wines and gins.

For further info please contact Trevor Puddifoot on 07437 596840.

**Award-winning Pub**

**Still time to stop the Silvertown Tunnel?**

Local resistance to this £1bn mega-project is growing. The Stop the Silvertown Tunnel Coalition (SSTC) highlight the climate emergency, and the dangers of traffic pollution, especially for children. Sixteen local school heads signed an SSTC letter to London Mayor Sadiq Khan, asking him to delay and think again.

The project will be paid for over 25 years by tolls on Silvertown and Blackwall Tunnels. This will only work with high traffic volumes – yet the policy is to reduce traffic.

The new tunnel would be a bigger bore than Blackwall, drawing larger HGV’s through Greenwich. There’s no provision for cargo bikes, cyclists etc.

Construction work on Greenwich Peninsula, now due to start late 2019 and not finish until 2025, will be massive.

Campaigners (@SilvertownTN) say the money should be spent on green transport instead. City Hall and TfL are standing firm – and so does Greenwich Council, unlike Newham, supports the tunnel.

**WANTED!**

More volunteers to distribute the N & V – and to help with the Westcombe Society’s community events.

We have recently lost two of our wonderful N & V deliverers, who have moved away, so more volunteers are more than welcome. Please phone 8853 7256, if you would like to help.

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**WESTCOMBE NEWS**

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Environment Editor: Maggie Gravelle

Sub-editor: Arene Grey

Roving reporter: Vivienne Raper

Members of the group in South East London voted it the SE Pub of the Year 2019 and SE Cider pub of the Year 2019. PHOTO: the RAH team on the award night

Views expressed here and elsewhere in this publication are not necessarily those of either the Westcombe Society, or the Westcombe News.

From Gabi Marston Colourline Ward The annual Open Studios and National Garden Scheme taking place every summer are two of the many attractions in this area. The decision to hold both on the same weekend this year was vasty counter-productive.
LOCAL NEWS

Making waves at the RA

Congratulations to local artist Ashley Greaves, a regular advertiser in the Westcombe News, who has had two paintings selected for this year’s Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. One of his works is here. (Right)
The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2019 runs from 10th June – 12th August. Free to members.

Volunteer Centre Greenwich Awards

Everyone says how rich Greenwich is for its history: less well-known is how rich the borough is in her volunteers.

At a Volunteer Awards ceremony in June, supported by the Community Fund and Mycenae House Community Centre, the patron of the Volunteer Centre Greenwich, Judy Smith MBE, praised those who volunteer to support dozens of charities in the borough; and also sang the praises of those who work for the VCG – the most professional Volunteer Centre in the country.

The ceremony took place in Mycenae House, and was opened by the Mayor, Nick Hayes, who also said how important it is to recognise the efforts of volunteers.

Frame certificates were then handed out to volunteers from voluntary groups and charities across the whole borough, including Crossroads Care, Homestart Greenwich, Judy Smith MBE, praised those who volunteer to support dozens of charities in the borough; and also sang the praises of those who work for the VCG – the most professional Volunteer Centre in the country.

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Closing the proceedings, VCG’s Chief Executive, Michelle Martin, quoted a member Sherry Anderson: “Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless; it’s because they are priceless;” and in the words of Elizabeth Andrew, “volunteers may not always have the time - but they have the heart.”

One Giant Leap

The Jack Studio Theatre in Brockley is putting on an amusing play in July, embroiling a conspiracy theory: the (probably) fictional story of the greatest lie in history...

One Giant Leap is written and directed by Ross McGregor, and produced by Arrows & Traps Theatre. The scene: July, 1969. Los Angeles. Edward Price is a man with problems. His ex-wife left him for a famous actor, his house has been seized by the IRS, and the sci-fi TV show he produces just got cancelled in its first season. But that’s show business for you.

Things look bleak until the CIA arrive with a suitcase of money and an offer. Edward now has five days to fake the moon landing, and pull off the greatest conspiracy in history. One small step for a TV film-maker ... if he succeeds, he’s set for life. If he fails ... well... best not to think about that.

One Giant Leap is about the power of having an impossible dream, realising it’s impossible, and then trying hard to fake it and hope no one notices. A bit like Brexit, really.

The Jack Studio, 410 Brockley Road, London SE4 2DH - 020 3313 3366, Tuesday 2 - Saturday 27 July 2019 at 7.30pm £16, £13 conc, suitable for 12+.

The Future of Broadbridge Close

The occupants of all 36 flats in Broadbridge Close were shocked to receive a letter from Morden College informing them that they would in due course be removed when a suitable property becomes available, according to the request they made on the form.

A number of the occupants of the close are understandably worried by these proposals; many of them are very elderly, some are very reluctant to face the upheaval of a move. Responding to an enquiry from the RN, David Rutherford-Jones CB, Chief Executive and Clerk to the Trustees, wrote:

“Broadbridge Close is a beautiful corner of Blackheath, lived in by the beneficiaries of Sir John Morden’s Charity since the 1950s. The flats are however becoming a challenging place for older people, in a changing society where older people are living longer at home, many of them in considerable frailty.”

“We are finding that an increasing number of our applicants would rather live in our properties where there is level access to all floors and where the flats are more ‘open plan’. This trend will increase. Because Broadbridge Close is listed locally, and therefore very challenging to alter structurally, we are unable to achieve level access to all 32 flats; nor can we make the flats more open plan without reducing the number of flats.

“So, after much deliberation, the Trustees have decided that they will not sell Broadbridge Close, but change the use of the flats there so that in future all 32 flats are in use all of the time, by offering them for let on the open market, and at the same time protect the heritage of Broadbridge Close.

“All our current residents of the close will be offered a home elsewhere amongst the Charity’s estate and the Charity will pay all related moving costs. We do anticipate that it will take an extended period of time for these flats to become available and all moves to be completed.

We are in no hurry. “The welfare of our own resident beneficiaries who live at Broadbridge Close now is absolutely paramount to us; and in this respect our track record is we believe very strong. We know the decision is not easy for some and we are extremely sensitive to this. We will show every consideration; all will be well.”

We understand that 50% of our residents are happy to move to what is more suitable accommodation. There have been concerns about number of accidents (falls) that have occurred because of the layout and small size of the flats.

Talk on Peace and Justice in Palestine

On July 22nd, Blackheath & Greenwich United Nations Association welcomes Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh to the Friends Meeting House, Blackheath, to give a talk on Peace and Justice in Palestine – and the importance of human rights. To keep hope alive, many Palestinians especially those who are children. To keep hope alive, many Palestinians especially those who are children. To keep hope alive, many Palestinians especially those who are children. To keep hope alive, many Palestinians especially those who are children. To keep hope alive, many Palestinians especially those who are children. To keep hope alive, many Palestinians especially those who are children. To keep hope alive, many Palestinians especially those who are children. To keep hope alive, many Palestinians especially those who are children.

Aida Refugee Camp: now more of a town than a camp, the residents have hope, but their homes have been seized in several languages, they include Mammals of the Holy Land. Sharing the Land of Canaan: human rights and the Israeli-Palestinian Struggle (English, Spanish, and German) and Popular Resistance in Palestine: A history of Hope and Empowerment (Arabic, English, French, forthcoming in Italian).

He has also an activist book published electronically on his website (http://qumsiyeh.org), and has published over 250 letters to the editor and 100 op-ed pieces and interviewed extensively on TV and radio (local, national and international).
A new survey has revealed that nearly half of those in Yorkshire would only consider paying a 5% tip to waiting staff, while one in seven in the North East never tip at all. The survey of 1,000 people conducted by Perrys Chartered Accountants to highlight tipping culture in the UK also revealed that nearly eight out of ten people don’t think it is fair to pay a restaurant server charge, and would prefer to tip individual waiters for their work instead. Half would only leave a tip if they had great service; a third believe restaurants should not profit from tips at all.

Tipping and service charges in restaurants in the UK can cause confusion for diners, with many assuming that serving staff get the full share of tips.

“Many diners prefer to pay cash tips as they believe they are more likely to go to waiting staff. What many people don’t realise, including waiting staff, is that if you receive a cash tip, it is your responsibility, not your employer’s, to ensure any income tax on the tip is declared to HMRC. For lots of waiting staff, particularly those earning minimum wage or less, this can be difficult to organise.”

Instead, an easier and more transparent tipping method for bars and restaurants is operating a ‘tronc’ scheme. This means the restaurant and staff can agree how tips will be shared in advance and administer tax payments more simply. Whether tips are paid by cash or card, any income tax can be dealt with by the employer. The ‘tronc’ also means any electronic payments to staff will not incur NI deductions, although Income Tax is still payable.

From tipping to tripping

The Westcombe Society’s annual walk is on Sun, 15th Sept. We are meeting at Westcombe Park station at 9.30am to catch the 10:02am train to Erith, where we will join the Green Chain Walk, going on to Orleas Woods (distance 2.5 miles). There is a £10 walk subscription per adult, all going to Macmillan. Please also feel free to do your own fund raising. The walk is suitable for adults and children. A bottle of water will be supplied but please bring a packed lunch.

Please book in advance by calling Caroline Owens on 020 8853 9484. For details, ring Joanne on 07709 571777.

Greenwich Printmakers 40 Years On

In January 1979, a small group of local artist-printmakers formed the nucleus of what was to become a very successful co-operative gallery in the heart of Greenwich. The group had originally borrowed a friend’s shop in Turnip Lane for a weekend’s display at Christmas; but excited by the response from local residents keen to buy their original etchings, lithographs, relief and screenprints, they set up a permanent gallery there for six years before moving to Greenwich Market, where this year they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Some of the founder members have since moved away, and the membership extends to all parts of London, but Greenwich remains the hub. The gallery in Greenwich market features a bi-monthly exhibition. They also display in the Morley Gallery in Waterloo, the Jack House Gallery in Portobello – and at the Barbican in December.

The paintings displayed are JMW Turner’s The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons 1834, Claude Monet’s Charting Cross Bridge 1894 and The Frost Fair on the River Thames in 1843, artist unknown (above)

The exhibition will illustrate how the Thames has influenced trade, the Docklands and entertainment – from Frost Fairs to the 02 – and will portray the river’s role in conflict and the many artists that have been inspired by it. TAA is offering free workshops for children to create their own visual journey down the river. These will run in the mornings from July 15th to 17th for whole-class groups of up to 30 children. New summer holiday family workshops will run from July 22nd to 24th.

To book a family workshop, please email Delanie Forbes on fordebuelan@aol.com.

John Bartram

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-nationalise 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 have the historic classless culture with the current Status Quo – which they hate. The historic classless culture of the UK is about common law, common sense, and a freedom to think deeply which was stamped out in most other countries. This is needed.

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

London’s Climate Action Week 1st - 7th July

A part of the Mayor’s commitment to addressing the climate emergency, the City of London will host a Green Finance Sector event on Thursday 4th July, which will call for urgent action to implement solutions to help cut our carbon emissions. The City of London will host a Green Finance Summit with 900 businesses discussing ways to expand London’s thriving green finance sector.

One very important event is a Schools Climate Conference, bringing together school children and experts to discuss the climate crisis. This will be on Wednesday 3rd July 10.30am to 3:00pm at University College London, the Christopher Ingold Building.

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**The Losers at Hervey Road Playing Fields**  
**Simon Black**

Former users of a much-loved green space are angry at the changes that have damaged wildlife and severely restricted public access – this at a time when the London mayor Sadiq Khan has pledged to “protect, improve and add to our outstanding green spaces” in his final Environment Strategy.

Hervey Road Playing Fields is a five hectare site in the crook of the A102 and Shooter’s Hill Road, bounded by Hervey, Begbie, Eastbrook and Wricklemash Roads. Until April 2018, it was used by local schools for sports, exercise and relaxation. There was a fellowship of more than 100 dog walkers, as well as runners, frisbee throwers, families having picnics, older people getting gentle exercise and children exploring the field’s wildlife.

Following the application of a powerful weedkiller (see photo, above), it turned brown and died, so that the area could be reseeded with a sports turf. Bright floodlights, erected over the car park and MUGA (multi-use games area) sessions for safeguarding reasons. The Fields will remain closed during school terms as a safeguarding measure. There is also concern over the attitude to our native wildlife – and our own survival, what priority do we give to our native wildlife and the principles of bio-diversity? Perhaps the Council should think again…

If it helps us to think about these questions more carefully in the future, Hervey Road Playing Fields might just prove to be a turning point. As Joni Mitchell almost said: “They paved paradise and put up a parking lot.”

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Greenwich Music Time 2019

The Greenwich Music Time series of concerts, which takes place 1-7 July 2019, celebrate a 5th anniversary in 2019. The performances are set amongst the city’s most impressive backdrop, framed by the pillars of the stunning Old Royal Naval College, the Thames and the London city skyline. This setting provides the ultimate concert experience in London. It’s a true special venue with a backdrop like no other.

Sir Cliff Richard, Paul Weller, Groove Armada and West End Proms have already been announced for the 2019 bill, and more announcements are to follow.

Sir Cliff Richard 1st July 6.00pm

Sir Cliff Richard grew up in Greenwich, and this is the UK’s 75th birthday concert. It will be a very special concert in the tradition of Cliffs earlier concerts at the Old Royal Naval College.

West End Proms 4th July 6.00pm

Some of the world’s most talented musical theatre stars from Brodway and the West End, will unite this summer as part of West End Proms at Greenwich Music Time – an evening of beautiful live music, complete with a stunning 32-piece orchestra.

Whitney, Queen of the Night 6th July

This is a stunning celebration of the music and life of one of the greatest singers of our time. This is an outstanding concert that has been described as “a powerhouse performance that delivers on every level…”

Join us for an unmissable evening with a sensational cast and a stunning live band.

---

For more information, please visit:  
The Royal Parks new “Movement Strategy”: your opinions sought!

The Royal Parks is a charity entrusted to manage eight of London’s largest open spaces – including, of course, Greenwich Park. Their recent consultation document is summarised below:

The Royal Parks have now decided to embark on a revision of their “movement strategy.” The 2016 Royal Parks Transport Principles were developed to establish transport and access policy positions that included prioritising pedestrians and ensuring that any transport projects did not negatively affect the parks. It was always the intention to further refine and develop these principles into a comprehensive strategy.

With the changing nature of the parks and an aim to become actively engaged in movement and access issues, we have developed a set of seven principles that will replace the previous ones.

1. We will protect and conserve our parks’ special qualities. Any changes or developments that affect the way visitors move within our parks should be sensitive to the heritage, character, biodiversity, wildlife and listed landscapes of the parks and must not result in any net loss of trees or green space.

2. Our parks are for people. Our parks are places that people visit for relaxation and recreation, and to escape the busy city. To make that possible, we will prioritise walking within our parks.

3. We will encourage the use of more sustainable ways to access our parks so visitors use active and sustainable modes of transport for visits whenever they can.

4. Our park roads are not intended to be commuter through-routes for motor vehicles. Over time, we will discourage overuse of our roads by vehicles.

5. We will achieve more through partnership and collaboration. We will collaborate with key partners on projects, both within and outside of the parks, to achieve the best possible outcomes for the benefit of our visitors.

6. We will monitor and report outcomes against objectives and embed continuous improvement into our approach.

7. We will be proactive in our approach to future transport challenges and opportunities. The future of transport is quickly changing; we must be prepared for changes in these ways in align with our charitable objectives.

Facts n Figures

39% of visitors arrive on foot
36% arrive by public transport
17% arrive by car
5% arrive by bicycle
1% arrive by coach

Save the hedgehog

When did you last see a hedgehog in our area? We would love to know! Known widely as a gardener’s best friend, round, brown and spiky hedgehogs are one of the UK’s most familiar wild mammals. 60 years ago it is estimated that up to 30 million roamed the countryside, but these numbers are now in steep decline, with the loss of habitat, predation and road deaths to blame. Now it is estimated that there are just one million of them left.

If you are interested in helping to protect hedgehogs, you can make a difference. Setting up a hedgehog home, one way you can do this is to put out and try to reverse their fortunes. Ailie Hill, a mother of one from Ludlow, has started to run her own sanctuary – Pricklebums Hedgehog Rescue – from her home. She said: “It all began when I found an injured hedgehog while out one day. It had fallen below a cattle grid and couldn’t get out. The poor thing was emaciated as he had been there for some time. I turned it back to health, though to start with I didn’t really know what I was doing.”

Eager to find out how she could help more of them, Ms Hill began volunteering at a local wildlife rescue centre. She then completed a course in hedgehog first aid, care and rehabilitation and has set up her own animal hospital. Ms Hill has cared for more than 500 sick, injured or orphaned hedgehogs. With more hedgehogs coming through the door each week, she has also recruited a small number of volunteers to assist. Ms Hill has found it hard to walk. Signs to look out for include excessive scratching or licking in one particular area. Much like the situation with adders, AFI* has seen much more instances of claims about dogs rather than cats.

Between 2015–2018 in the UK claims for snake bites on dogs submitted to Animal Friends Pet Insurance were up by 15%. So perhaps more of us are getting out and about with our dogs: but we must be alert for possible dangers to them. Indeed, one dog, in the same period a one cat was bitten by a snake. Not fair, really.

Another risk in the outdoors are ticks which are carriers of diseases that can transmit illnesses, such as Lyme disease and Babesiosis. Symptoms include joint swelling, lethargy, lameness and a fever. Some dogs may suffer from what is known as ‘tick paralysis’, which means a dog may fall to the ground while walking. Signs to look out for are excessive scratching or licking in one particular area.

Save the hedgehog

Local residents celebrate the life and legacy of Kofi Annan

Coinciding with the visit of President Trump, the UK’s United Nations Association organised a meeting called ‘Kofi Attah Annan, Westminster on June 3rd to commemorate the life and legacy of the former Secretary General (SG) of the UN, Kofi Annan.

A number of local residents attended the event. Kofi Attah Annan, born in Kumasi, Ghana, was the seventh Secretary General (SG) of the UN. Annan demonstrated how one could achieve meaningful change in global affairs, promote development, safeguard rights and prevent conflict despite hostile unilateralist permanent members of the Security Council (SC).

The event was organised by UNA-UK and Chatham House and was attended by over 1,500 people; it was presided over by Lord Malloch-Brown (former Deputy SG), Amina Mohammed (UN Deputy SG), and Mary Robinson (former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights).

The messages at this meeting were very different from those of President Trump. What is in common is not just climate change, but climate justice: poorer countries would be the most affected.

Mary Robinson reminded the meeting that the Paris Agreement, convened by the UN in 2016, called on all governments to keep the global temperature rise as close as possible to 1.5°C. However, further action is urgently needed, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In October 2018 the IPCC released a special report making it clear that greenhouse gas emissions need to come down by 45 per cent by 2030, and reach zero emissions by 2050 to meet the crucial target.

Failure to reach the 2030 target would mean that climate change is likely to be irreversible; already a million species are threatened with extinction.

The words of our out-going Prime Minister, Theresa May, committing the UK to zero by 2050 were accurate: but the UK is already lagging behind its targets, and there are serious doubts as to whether future governments will be able to achieve the goal she has announced. Fine words but no parapet.

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 found on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning

hidden dangers of the countryside

With Brexit uncertainties about travel in Europe, many people this year are planning a holiday in the UK. What could be better than a peaceful visit to the countryside? Fido is probably already wagging his tail.

However, data released by Animal Friends Pet Insurance (AFI) alerts pet owners to the hidden dangers of summer – ticks, and adders in the long grass.

You would think that even the most adventurous dog walker is unlikely to spot anything on their daily outing but just because we don’t see them doesn’t mean they aren’t there.

Adders are venom snakes that can prove rather dangerous if they bite you or your pet. While their venom is quite mild it will require immediate attention, and an antidote will have to be administered to counteract the venom. Dogs may well rush in to see what the adder is – and suffer for it.

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Much like the situation with adders, AFI* has seen much more instances of claims about dogs rather than cats. Over the period 2015-2018 there have been fluctuations in claims made due to tick infections in dogs but overall the claims have risen by 28%. And again, only one cat (over the period) presented with a tick infection and was claimed for.

If you have any doubts or concerns about your pet’s welfare you must seek the advice of your veterinarian as soon as possible. For more information on these hidden dangers for your pet please visit: http://www.animalfriends.co.uk/blog/the-hidden-dangers-of-summer/ *This article was released by: Animal Friends Insurance Services Limited, company number 363812, registered office Animal Friends House, Station Approach, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 4AL. http://www.animalfriends.co.uk

environment

Westcombe News July/August 2019

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