



John Roan School: A result at last

On May 24th it was announced that United Learning is to sponsor John Roan School. The announcement ends a long period of uncertainty that has been very worrying and unsettling for staff and students alike – as well, of course, parents, carers and governors.

United Learning (UL) sponsors some 73 schools across the country. On its website, UL (motto: The Best in Everyone) states: “United Learning is a group of schools committed to providing excellent education through which all pupils are able to progress, achieve and go on to succeed in life. Our approach is underpinned by a sense of moral purpose and commitment to doing what is right for children and young people, supporting colleagues to achieve excellence and acting with integrity in all our dealings within and beyond the organisation, in the interests of young people everywhere.”

UL claims 63% of the KS5 pupils who left its academies at the end of 16-17 have gone on to study at a higher education institution; of these, 21% took up a place at one of the top third ranking universities.

Rather strangely, the same website claims: “80% of KS5 pupils leaving independent schools have gone on to study at a higher education [institution], half of whom took up a place at a Russell Group University. Of these, 5% took up a place at Oxford or Cambridge.”

This information would appear to be misleading to a casual reader, as it refers to “independent schools” – a term which refers to the so-called public schools; these figures are hardly relevant to UL’s academies – or any academies – unless, that is, they are expressions of aspiration.

Heaven forfend! For academies across the country are increasingly describing themselves as “independent schools”; this is a very slippery slope: for “independent” read “public” and for “public” read “fee-paying”. Many now fear that it is only a question of time before academies start charging school fees – particularly likely in areas where academies are already running out of funds for essential items such as text books.

Fortunately, the UL Trust seems to be well-run, and well-funded. As one observer suggests: “If you are going to academise, United Learning is perhaps the one to go for.”

On the face of it, UL has a good track record. 11 National Awards have been won by its schools, and it has invested £300m in 15 building projects.

The executive director of UL is Jon Coles, a former maths teacher. According to a 2016 article in *Schools Week*, Jon Coles, has been described as “the cleverest man in education” – a comment that makes him wince. In his words: “I don’t think cleverness is that important in the overall scheme of things. What matters is what you do. It is more important to have a sense of purpose or to treat people well.”

In a letter to parents/carers, Dominic Harrington, the National Schools Commissioner in the Department of Education, praises head teacher Cath Smith and teachers for the efforts they have made to improve the school; however, he says that a schools inspectors’ visit on March 27th still identified “significant weaknesses.”

He continues: “Leaders at United Learning are keen to begin sharing their plans for improving The John Roan School with parents and carers and will be in touch about this soon. The Trust is keenly aware of the proud traditions, history and ethos of The John Roan School in serving the local community in Greenwich, and will work with the Foundation to preserve them. Among other commitments, the Trust has promised to retain the school’s name and its crest.”

In her letter to parents/carers, the head teacher, Cath Smith, acknowledges that there are areas where the school has not been making the progress one could hope for; she says that she welcomes the outcome, and looks forward to working alongside the UL team.

The John Roan Foundation is unaffected by these developments, and will, as at present, continue to support the school.

Meetings took place in June to enable parents/carers to meet UL representatives.



Concerts in the Park



PHOTO: Neville Grant

The Friends of Greenwich Park yet again add to the joys of summer with their free bandstand concerts at 3.00pm each Sunday:

Sun. 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. Shadye 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

FREE!



As part of the Royal Borough of Greenwich’s PARKSfest series, Mycenae House and the Friends of 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 workshops 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 (co-writes with Ed Sheeran), Sam Winston (folk rock/alt pop), The Green Chain Quartet (60’s cool, jazz & RnB) plus more.

Activity highlights include: Bo Peeps Preschool, Diddi Dance, Tiptoes & Tappers, Theatre Train, Emergency Exit

Arts, Language for Fun, Follies Face & Body Painting, Toddlersense, Special League Soccer, Greenwich Music School, JK Performing Arts, Ballroom Burn, Greenwich Morris Men plus much more.

Come and join us for what promises to be a great afternoon out and of course entrance is FREE!

Sunday 28th July 12 noon - 5.30 pm
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, 380, 422

Mark Johnson-Brown



Sam Winston



Newsbriefs



Ward Budget Scheme

Our Councillors have a small budget with which to support local schemes to improve the area. Two projects are being funded:

* Dinsdale Road Residents Community Project (plants etc. to improve the corner plot Dinsdale/Vanbrugh Hill);
* Greenwich Pensioners Forum “Health and Well-being day” (combining with other wards)

Other projects are being considered and applications to the Councillors would be welcomed

Charity cards

What was the local area like in c. 1900? Now on sale at Susan Clark Interiors (113 Humber Road very near Westcombe Park Station) are illustrated cards, published by The Westcombe

Society. Come and see what your street or house looked like a hundred-odd years ago, reproduced as greeting cards or notelets. The profits from the sale of these cards are being donated to charity

Hot weather warning

As (if?) summer approaches, the British Veterinary Association (BVA) is warning pet owners to take extra care after more than two-thirds of vets (71%) in London and the SE reported treating animals affected by the heat during last summer’s record-breaking temperatures.

Dogs may particularly struggle to stay cool in high temperatures and humid conditions since, unlike humans, they are unable to cool down quickly through sweating, making them vulnera-

ble to overheating. Flat-faced breeds such as bulldogs and pugs are at even greater risk, as their short muzzles can make breathing difficult, and therefore cooling down much harder.

Even a 20-minute walk in the middle of the day can be fatal.

Congratulations to

Jonathan Dove, son of Myles Dove: guest director this year at the Salisbury Festival, he is in the Birthday Honours List as being awarded a CBE for Services to Music; also to former resident Thomas Grant, author of the best-seller *Jeremy Hutchinson’s Case Histories*. His second book (for the general public) *Court Number One: The Old Bailey Trials that Defined Modern Britain*, has just come out to critical acclaim.

COMMUNITY

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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Roving reporter: Vivienne Raper
Reporters: The community – that means you!

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environment@westcombesociety.org

DISTRIBUTION Emily Norton and volunteers. More volunteer distributors needed, please phone 020 8853 2756

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Advertising@westcombesociety.org

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Classified Ads (Market Place) 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. An email/web address = 3 words.) Deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month.
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WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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

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Address.....

.....

Tel.....

Email:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

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

Membership cards

A membership card is only issued at the time you join the Westcombe Society, and should be retained.

Should you require a replacement card, please contact the Membership Secretary, as above.

Still time to stop the Silvertown Tunnel?

Local resistance to this £1bn mega-project is growing. The Stop the Silvertown Tunnel Coalition (SSTC) highlights 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 HGVs through Greenwich. There's no provision for e-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 far, Greenwich Council, unlike Newham, supports the tunnel.

Award-winning Pub

The 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 poured from the barrel, real ciders, wines and gins.

For further info please contact Trevor Puddifoot on 07437 596040.

MOON: NMM's new exhibition

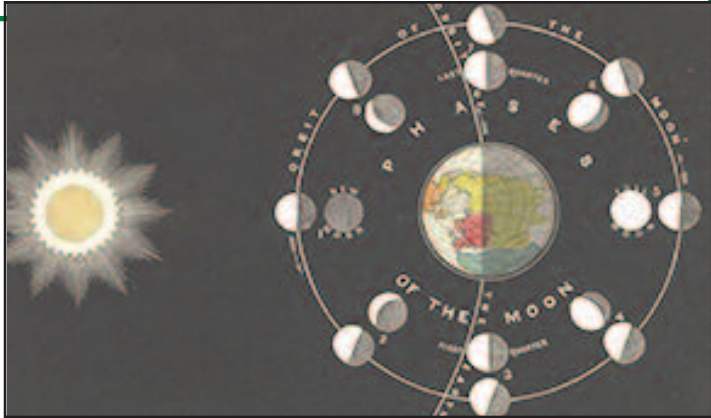
At a major new exhibition opening in July the National Maritime Museum (NMM) is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the moon landing.

This is this 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 reconnect with the wonders of the Moon through artefacts, artworks and interactive moments, and discover how it has captivated and inspired us throughout history. Among the items on show are:

- * A rare lunar meteorite
- * The "Snoopy 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 programme
- * Artworks from artists including J.M.W. Turner, John Constable, Katie Paterson and Larissa Sansour
- * 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: £9 | Child: £5.85 | Student: £6



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



Letters

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

From Dr. Roger Marshall, St. Germans Place
I warmly welcome Matthew Pennycook's summary in June's WN of the present climate change debate, where he has admirably resisted the temptation to be alarmist in any way.

However, the atmosphere's carbon dioxide concentration is already at a higher level than for several million years, and is now changing at an unprecedented rate: nature and society will find it increasingly difficult to adapt.

Pennycook could also easily have included a reference to the many amplifying feedback mechanisms, which may accelerate and magnify global warming. For instance, melting of the white Arctic ice and its replacement by a surface which reflects less sunlight, means that there is further warming in an amplifying loop.

Alternatively, with higher temperatures we have more peat and forest fires which produce carbon dioxide or with higher temperatures we have more atmospheric water vapour. These gases both add to the retention of heat and therefore to further warming.

Most concerning of all is the potential melting of the Russian, Canadian and Alaskan permafrost or

tundra, which will certainly release vast quantities of carbon dioxide and which may under the wrong conditions also release methane, which over a twenty year time span, is 86 times more potent as a heat trapping gas.

The historical records of the synchronous atmospheric carbon and temperature cycles over the last 800,000 years support the existence of such feedback loops and unfortunately they are not yet built into many of the present climate projection models. Once this genie is out of the bottle it is not possible to put it back in, so Lance Corporal Jones is wrong - DO PANIC - and preferably now before it is too late.

From: Nicholas Sellens Glenluce Road

Given the welter of misinformation and distortion on climate change with which we force-feed our children, I doubt whether you will read anything other than anxiety from the younger generation on this infinitely complex topic. But hey, why should we worry about scaring the wits out of little kids when there is a political agenda to press?

Ed: What misinformation did you have in mind, Nicholas? In fact it is the young – and scientists – who are trying to scare the wits out of complacent

politicians obsessed with their short-term political goals: in the words of a previous correspondent, "fiddling while the planet burns."

From: Gabi Marston Coleraine Road

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 vastly counter-productive.

WANTED!

More volunteers to distribute the WN – and to help with the Westcombe Society's community events. We have recently lost two of our wonderful WN deliverers, who have moved away, so more volunteers are more than welcome. Please phone 8853 2756 if you would like to help.

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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 years 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, Mick Hayes, who also said how important it is to recognise the efforts of volunteers.

Framed certificates were then handed out to volunteers from voluntary groups and charities across the whole borough, including Crossroads Care, Homestart Greenwich, Superkids Community Trust, Greenwich Carers Centre, the ORNC, Bexley Lewisham and Greenwich Mind, GFMA – too many to list here.

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, embroidering 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 • 0333 666 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 to the Morden College properties in St German's Place or Kidbrooke Grove.

The reason? According to the Clerk of the Trustees of the College, “The flats are 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.”

Each of the occupants has been given a form to state what sort of accommodation they require – for example, ground floor, upper level with lift, etc.

The residents were all invited to a meeting in their club room at which they were assured that this move would not happen quickly; each resident would be moved 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 *WN*, 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 the residents are happy to move to what is more suitable accommodation. There have been concerns about the 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 inclusivity.

Prof. Mazin Qumsiyeh teaches and does research at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities. He is founder and director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History, and Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability (see palestinienature.org).

He previously served on the faculties of the University of Tennessee, Duke, and Yale Universities and has published over 150 scientific papers on topics ranging from biodiversity to cancer.

He was chairman of the Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People and currently serves on the board of Al-Rowwad Children’s Theater Center in Aida Refugee Camp.

His many books have been translated



Aida Refugee Camp: now more of a town than a camp. To keep hope alive, many Palestinian families kept the key to their front door when they were forced out of their homes by Israeli settlers

into 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 also has an activism book published electronically on his website (<http://qum-siyeh.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).

Mycenae House
Reach Out
Projects

Drop In Café

for Seniors

Carers & Family Welcome

Every Thursday 1 - 4pm

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Make new friends,
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Tea & Cake £1

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FEATURES

Some tips on tipping

A new survey reveals that tips should be shared equally and restaurant owners should not profit

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 service 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.

In October, the government announced plans to legally bar restaurants from taking any share of the tips after it was revealed that many large chains still routinely took a percentage of tips paid by credit and debit cards. However, receiving cash tips isn't always straightforward for waiting staff.

Alex Skinner from Perrys Chartered Accountants, who specialises in working with pubs and restaurants, explained that

Findings:

- * The stingiest tippers are in Yorkshire
- * One in seven in the NE never tip at all
- * Most generous tippers are in the SW – a fifth are happy to tip 20% of the bill
- * 78% think it's unfair to pay a restaurant service charge – only individuals should be tipped for their work
- * Over a third say 'restaurants should not profit from tips'
- * Half say 10% is a fair & reasonable tip
- * Only 2% would consider a 20% tip

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

As part of the Mayor's commitment to addressing the climate emergency, the first-ever London Climate Action Week kicks off on July 1st.

It will bring together London's climate expertise and talent from across sectors to run around 100 events across the city focused on taking local and global action. Events will highlight the scaling up of practical solutions and identifying new 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 s 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,

understanding tipping can be difficult for business owners and waiting staff. He said:

"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 employed on a more casual basis, 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 Oxleas 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 0948. For details, ring Joanne on 07709 571777.



This Greenwich exhibition highlights the Thames' role in art and conflict in Talk About Art's first project in Greenwich, *Tides of Change*. This project by TAA involves local schoolchildren, and will run for two weeks in July at St Alfege Church, highlighting the role the river Thames has played in art and conflict.

Funded by the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Peter and Teresa Harris Trust, the exhibition runs July 13th to 26th from 11.00am to 4.00pm and will include the installation of a semi-permanent stained glass window in the church designed by premium grant pupils from St Peter's Primary School.

These include asylum seekers and homeless and looked-after children.

Guided by experienced TAA associate artists in a club art studio after-school, the St Peter's children have the opportunity to create their own Thames-inspired pieces of art for the exhibition.

The work of many artists inspired by the Thames will be displayed, and the children's creative responses will then be included in the exhibition. The stained glass window shows how children who have dealt with significant challenges and been affected by Tides of Change can, through creativity, be seen as valued contributors to the local community.

Local Greenwich artist Peter Kent has created an original illustration for the project. The exhibition has six pop-up stands and two have integral monitors, as augmented reality film footage plays an



The paintings displayed are JMW Turner's *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons 1834*, Claude Monet's *Charing Cross Bridge 1894* and *The Frost Fair on the River Thames in 1684*, artist unknown (above)

The exhibition will illustrate how the Thames has influenced trade, the Docklands and entertainment – from Frost Fairs to the O2 – 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 forbdelan@aol.com.

John Bartram

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 Turnpin 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 Portsmouth – and at the Barbican in December.



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WHAT'S ON



ARTS

THE ARTS SOCIETY, BLACKHEATH
Artists at Home Part 2 John Fisher
Thursday 25th July John Fisher, a renowned artist and member of our society, offers up a unique insight into the lives of some of the world's most famous painters, writers and musicians. Part 1 of his talk was a great success. Don't miss part 2! 2.00pm. with tea and coffee, and lectures at 2.30. Venue is St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park Blackheath Visitors welcome, please pay on the door.

THE ARTS SOCIETY GREENWICH
Monday 8th July Imperial Calcutta: Arts and Architecture talk by **Dr John Stevens**. Calcutta was the second city of the British Empire. This lecture looks at the arts and architecture of this amazing city, which was India's capital until 1911. Lectures are held at Greenwich University, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich SE10 9LS. Tickets at the door: £10 for guests available from 7.15pm.

LIFE DRAWINGS at Mycenae House
Every Thursday 7.00 - 9.00 pm £15.00 per session under the guidance of Jon. No. need to book.
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email: jonathancdlong@gmail.com

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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

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THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Sun 15th Sept - Macmillan Walk
Fri 27th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning
Sat 26th Oct - Quiz Night

COMMUNITY

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Meets first Wednesday of every month, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Sunfields Methodist Church on Old Dover Road
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Newcomers welcome.
Would you like to learn this fascinating game? Bridge lessons Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road. For more details, please contact Ivy McGeorge on 020 8293 5354 or ivymcgeorge@hotmail.co.uk
CHARLTON HOUSE www.charltonhouse.org
0208 856 3001 Mulberry Tea Rooms
Jacobean Entrance Hall Mon-Fri 9am- 4pm
Lunchtime concert every Friday 1.00pm – 2.00pm
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. We are experienced in supporting those who may have extra needs due to health conditions like arthritis, dementia or strokes etc. Carers also invited. Sundays at Sunfields is provided free; please do just come along – there is no need to book. FREE

THEATRE

THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755
Sat July 6th. 7.30pm THE BASEMENT TAPES
A girl unearths her grandmother's tapes, and . . .

GREENWICH THEATRE EDINBURGH PREVIEWS
16th July 7.30 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT TAMING OF THE SHREW
Wed 7th July 7.30pm EX-BATTS & BROILERS
Two chicks play two chuks
Sun 21st July 7.30pm NEARLY HUMAN Brass band ventures into the world of theatre
Mon 22nd July 7.30pm FULFILMENT Robox is your personal fulfilment device. The one-click wonder, the ultimate convenience. You dream it, he delivers it. Instant fulfilment. But fulfilment isn't for everyone. Award-winning theatre company SharkLegs uncover the price people really pay for next-day delivery.
Sat 27th July 7.30pm SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS by Helen Eastman: All about Mary Anning, the fossil discoverer
Sun 28th July 4.00pm THE BIRNING Which witch is a good witch?

Wed 24th July 7.30pm DON JUAN Flirtatious Kiwis welcome you to a seductively funny show
Thurs. 25th - Fri. 26 July 7.30pm POLLY: THE HEART BREAK OPERA Satirical bash at an 18C rom-com by John Gay. Great fun.
ADVANCE NOTICE
BROOKLYN - THE MUSICAL
27 Sep - 19 Oct 2019 A touching and inspiring sidewalk fairy tale musical



SLEEPING BEAUTY
22nd Nov 2019 - 5 thJan 2020
Pantomime returns to Greenwich following the triumphant Robinson Crusoe!

MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: July/August

MYCENAE HOUSE, Mycenae Road SE3
Thurs 11th July 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for families. £10.
Fri 12th July 8pm - JazzNights. Candlit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £10.
Thurs 25th July 1pm - Daytime Cabaret. A fun afternoon for seniors with music, magic, singing & more. £2.
Fri 26th July 7.30pm - Summer Ceilidh. Celebrate with GFMA for an evening of dance, music and fun. £8.
Sun 28th July 12-5.30pm - PARKSfest Summer Sunday Extravaganza. A fun family festival with live music, performances and activities for all the community. Free entrance.
Thurs 1st August 1-3pm - Free Local Community Meal. Delicious food, great company, everyone welcome! Free.
Thurs 8th August 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for families. £10.
Fri 9th August 8pm - JazzNights. Candlit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £10.
Sat 17th August 11am - Baby Broadway. Sing-along concert of familiar showtunes for all the family. £10.
Sat 17th August 1pm - Ceroc Blackheath. Improve your dancing skills at this SILC workshop.
Thurs 22nd August 1pm - Daytime Cabaret. A fun afternoon for seniors with music, magic, singing & more. £2.
For further information about all Mycenae House events visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk



MUSIC

BLACKHEATH HALLS
Box Office 020 8463 0100
Fri 05 JUL 19:30h OLIVER JOHNSTON
Tenor & ASHLEY BEAUCHAMP Piano
An opportunity to hear two of the talented professional creative team of our summer opera perform pieces by Donizetti, Quilter and Smetana. £10 | £8 conc.
BLACKHEATH HALLS OPERA 2019:
16th, 17th, 19th JUL 19:00h Sun. 20th 2.30pm
OFFENBACH'S LA BELLE HÉLÈNE
Featuring sparkling orchestral panache, some of Offenbach's best-loved melodies, La belle Hélène is a nineteenth century comedic masterpiece. .
Tickets: £19 | £17 conc. | £6 under 12s
WED 24 JUL 19:30h
BLACKHEATH PRESENTS: ALEXEI WATKINS French Horn & **ALEX WOOLF** Piano
RECITAL ROOM, Royal Academy of Music graduate, Alexei Watkins performs pianist & composer Alex Woolf's ARIA

BLACKHEATH HALLS TEA DANCE
Tuesday 6th AUG 1.30pm GREAT HALL,
£7.00 including light refreshments



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FEATURES

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 Wicklemarsh Roads. Until April 2018, it was used by many local people for 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.

Not only did it offer people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities opportunities for physical activity, Hervey Road Fields provided a huge boost to their mental health and well-being. It was relaxed, welcoming and truly inclusive.

All that changed when Greenwich Council decided to redevelop the field as a sports facility, with pavilion, playground, cricket pitch and MUGA (multi-use games area). They promised that the site would offer “a range of activities, including wheelchair rugby, women’s football, cricket for all ages, as well as family events for the wider community.”

The budget for this work rose to around £1.4m, with significant grants from Sports

England and the London Marathon Charity Trust as well as top-up funding from the Council itself.

After a tendering process, Blackheath Rugby Club (BRC) was chosen to run the site for the next 30 years under a service level agreement with the council.

Local residents say that they were not properly consulted over these changes. A community group – the Kidbrooke North Residents’ Association (KNRA) – was set up to give a voice to former users. Their concerns grew as the site closed in April 2018 and building work began.

Hervey Road Fields was a natural home for wildlife, since about 25% of the area was left undeveloped, with brambles, nettles, and undergrowth. This habitat supported a diversity of insect life, which in turn attracted small birds and mammals, including a colony of bats, which relied on the site for food and shelter.

KNRA says almost all this undeveloped land – and its fragile ecosystem – was destroyed in the construction work. Next to go was the grassed area, another haven for insects: this included native grasses, mosses and meadow flowers.

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 added to the problems for wildlife, and bat activity is now drastically reduced. As a result, an area of rare biodiversity has been

turned into an arid monoculture.

One of KNRA’s main aims was to make sure local

people still had access to the field.

In Dec. 2017, Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald stated that “Local people will continue to enjoy access to the playing fields for informal recreation 350 days a year 9.00 - 5.00 in winter and 9.00 - 7.00 in summer.”

However, the latest information on the BRC website is that “During term time, the playing fields will be closed to the public when they are being used by local schools”. At the moment, this ban includes virtually all day Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, plus Tuesday and Friday afternoons. In addition, dogs and dog-walkers are excluded from the site at all times.

In May, KNRA wrote to Danny Thorpe, Leader of Greenwich Council, asking a simple question: what is the purpose of Hervey Road Playing Fields – is it a public space or a private sporting club? In his reply, Mr Thorpe stated that “Hervey Road has multiple uses and we need to balance the needs of all users.” He confirmed that the Fields will remain closed during school sessions for safeguarding reasons.

There is also concern over the attitude to community involvement shown by BRC, which seems to view management of the Fields as a primarily commercial operation.

Their website states that adding Hervey Road to their Charlton Road and Well Hall



sites will make the club “...masters of our own destiny... It will put us in a much stronger financial position... The bottom line is we control our space... and we will exploit, to the full, the potential on offer.”

Whatever progress may be made on public access – and the omens are not good – it is clear that fewer local people are using the Fields. Whereas before they felt the space belonged to them, now they can only enter with permission at agreed times. This sense of exclusion seems a very poor return on investment of £1.4m.

Hervey Road Playing Fields is a small site, but raises big questions. Who gets to decide how our precious green spaces are used? Should they be monetised in this way? What value do we place on informal physical activity, as opposed to organised sports? And at a time when we are just beginning to understand the importance of the natural world to 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 multi-use games area”.

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 truly 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 OBE, the UK’s all-time greatest hit maker, will be performing a very special concert on Mon 1st July..

Cliff’s new album Rise Up will be released on November 23 - his first album for 14 years. The album’s title track is currently riding high in the vinyl charts and is his 145th official UK release, showing that Cliff continues to be a much-loved music legend, and someone who is very capable of entertaining with great energy and passion.

Read more at

<https://www.ornc.org/event/sir-cliff-richard-at-greenwich-music-time-2019#RhJROJ1v5GQu62G7.99>

West End Proms 4th July 6.00pm

Some of the world’s most talented musical theatre stars, from Broadway 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.

West End Proms will present a breathtaking evening of live music from the past seven decades of popular musical theatre. The show will include songs from Les Misérables, Phantom Of The Opera, The Greatest Showman, Rock Of Ages, Wicked, Sunset Boulevard, Dear Evan Hansen and many more.

West End Proms top cast includes the award-winning John Owen-Jones (Les Mis), Ben Forster, winner of ITV’s Superstar (2012), plus Rachel John and Jon Robyns, stars of West End show of the moment Hamilton. Jodie Steele and Jamie Muscato, two of the leading actors from the show Heathers, plus Lauren Samuels, who rose to prominence as a finalist on the BBC’s Over the Rainbow, and Marisha Wallace, leading lady of Dreamgirls and Waitress are also confirmed.

Groove Armada 5th July 6.00pm

Multi-million selling, BRIT and Grammy award nominated Groove Armada bring their unmistakable sound to the beautiful setting of The Old Royal Naval College in London on July 5th..

From mellow, melodic chill-out tracks to electronic beats and uplifting dance anthems, a Groove Armada live show is like no other. The duo will take the crowd into the night with an exceptionally crafted set that transports you to the sunny vibes of Ibiza. Expect to hear all the fan favourites including “Superstylin”, “My Friend”, “I See You Baby”, “At The River” and many more.

Read more at

<https://www.ornc.org/event/groove-armada-at-greenwich-music-time#cqKHK7g8VLXkmc6v.99>

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...”, taking audiences on a magical rollercoaster ride through three decades of nostalgic hits. ...

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

Paul Weller 7th July 6.00pm

Following the release of their brand-new album featuring contributions from Paul Weller, soul band Stone Foundation will support the former Jam & Style Council icon at Greenwich Music Time 2019. <https://www.ornc.org/news/greenwichmusic-time2019#UoO4sleUso1w2wXK.9> <https://www.ornc.org/event/west-end-proms-at-greenwich-music-time#xW2E9PYph9ch8Yw0.99>

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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

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:

As manager of the Royal Parks, we are responsible for managing and identifying any future changes to our parks’ movement network. This includes park roads, cycleways, footpaths and car parks.

Some aspects of the city’s transport system that affect the parks’ movement network are not under our control. This includes all roads and paths outside the park boundaries, and the provision of public transport. Additionally, parliamentary approval is required to implement changes to speed restrictions and car parking charges within our parks.

The Royal Parks have now decided to embark on a revision of their “movement strategy.”

The 2016 Royal Parks Transport Principles were designed to establish transport and access policy positions that included prioritising pedestrians and ensuring transport-related 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

Two legs good, four wheels bad... Should commuters be allowed to drive through the park at certain times? Readers are asked to respond to the Royal Parks Survey online. The WN would also love to know your views, too!



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.

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

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

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 Evidence-based decisions.
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 these changes in ways that align with our charitable objectives.
*Find the survey at royalparks.org.uk
The report can also be seen on www.westcombesociety.org.uk*

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 their numbers are now in steep decline, with the loss of habitat, predation and road deaths to blame. Now, it is estimated there are just one million of them left.

Thankfully, an organisation is on hand to try and 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 nursed 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 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 her.

We can’t all be a Ms Hill. But there are simple things we can do. For example, Myles Dove told the *WN*: “Hedgehogs do like to get about. Those with gardens can all help by creating small alleyways helping them to do so: a small gap in a fence or hedge gives the hedgehogs the chance to satisfy their wanderlust!”

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 at Central Hall, 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 Atta 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 1,600 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 involved 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 emissions by 2050 are welcome: 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 butter no parsnips . . .

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

188 WESTCOMBE HILL ref 19/1918/F
Change of use from shop to fitness studio
49 MYCENAE ROAD ref 19/1769/HD
Construct replacement single storey rear extension

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 at the thought. 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 any serpents on their daily outings – but just because we don’t see them doesn’t mean they aren’t there.

Adders are venomous 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 a snake is – and suffer for it.

Between 2015-2018 in the UK claims for snake bites on dogs submitted to Animal Friends Pet Insurance went 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. Interestingly, in the same period only one cat was bitten by a snake. Not fair, really.

Another risk in the outdoors are ticks which are carriers of diseases that often 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 find 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.

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 <https://www.animalfriends.co.uk/blog/the-hidden-dangers-of-summer/>

**This article was released by: Animal Friends Insurance Services Limited, company number 3630812, registered office Animal Friends House, Sunrise Way, Solstice Park, Wiltshire, SP4 7QA. <http://www.animalfriends.co.uk>*

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