The Royal Parks were asked by the Westcombe Society and Local Area Alliance to test the possibility of creating a Fan Zone to screen key Euro 2020 football matches in one of their parks. Having completed a site feasibility study and taking into account the major events and ceremonial occasions already taking place in the parks in June and July next year, they can confirm that they will be hosting the screening in Greenwich Park, in the Queen’s Field. A few of our readers may be aware of the intended use of the Queen’s Field in Greenwich Park (the area in front of the Queen’s House) for the creation of an Euro2020 FanZone.

We emailed a copy of the letter reproduced below to all members of the Westcombe Society, together with the Society’s comments. (The letter contains a link to the Fan Zone website which has more detail in the FAQs).

Whilst events in the Park are generally well organised, this is perhaps larger and longer than others. It is billed as a family friendly event. We have a meeting with the Event Organisers on 20th August.

In July, this letter was sent to residents on the west side of Westcombe Park:

Departmental Sports Events

Date: 07 July 2019

Dear Resident,

Next summer London is hosting matches for UEFA EURO 2020, a festival of football happening across Europe between 12 June and 12 July 2020. As part of welcoming the festival, we’d like to create family-friendly spaces for London residents and visitors to come together and enjoy the action.

The Queen’s Field area of Greenwich Park (the open space in front of the Queen’s House) has been proposed as a Fan Zone site. Inside the zone, there would be big screens to watch selected games, family activities and other activities put on by UEFA EURO 2020 sponsors. Greenwich Park would showcase England’s group games; all home nation matches in the Knock out rounds; and the semi-finals and final which will be played at Wembley Stadium.

There would be access for Londoners, families, locals and fans from all over Europe to come to the Fan Zone for these matches. As a local resident, you would be given priority access to the Fan Zone.

We understand that all these extra visitors to Greenwich would impact local people as well as the park itself. That’s why we’ve already put steps in place to minimise any disruption. We would also be volunteers and stewards to help people find their way to the Fan Zone. We’d also run free to access community days throughout the tournament and make the festival accessible as possible outside ticketed match days. We understand that the people who know Greenwich Park best are those who live nearby. That’s why we’re running consultation sessions to highlight the benefits of UEFA EURO 2020 in Greenwich and to answer any questions you may have. Details on these sessions are as follows:

Tuesday 23 July, 2pm-9pm The Forum, Caledonian Hall, Trafalgar Road, SE10 9EQ

Wednesday 31 July 11am-4pm The Forum, Caledonian Hall, Trafalgar Road, SE10 9EQ

Meanwhile, we’ve created a dedicated Fan Zone webpage at www.greenwich.gov.uk-fanzone-consultation where you’ll also find answers to frequently asked questions. We look forward to working with you to bring UEFA EURO 2020 to Greenwich and showcasing all that the area has to offer.

Yours sincerely,

James Fitzgerald - Senior Manager, Events and Commercial

The Royal parks are enjoying Greenwich Park’s brilliant new inclusive playground, which was opened in July by the Royal Parks charity’s chief executive Andrew Scarr. The new playground, which cost £350,000, was built specially for children with all abilities with the generous support of The London Marathon Charitable Trust in partnership with local charity Greenwich Play.

The Trust is co-funding a three-year play programme to encourage children to spend more time outdoors and actively play in nature. Children can immerse themselves in a nature-inspired setting which uses loose, textured and natural materials such as logs, rope and bark to build in with the park’s landscape. Features include a basket swing, roundabout, and plenty of sand and water play.

No, this is not the seaside: the children are enjoying Greenwich Park’s brilliant new inclusive playground, which was opened in July by the Royal Parks charity’s chief executive Andrew Scarr. The new playground, which cost £350,000, was built specially for children with all abilities with the generous support of The London Marathon Charitable Trust in partnership with local charity Greenwich Play.

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The Westcombe Society Annual Walk raising funds for Macmillan

Sunday 15th September.

We are meeting at Westcombe Park station at 9.30am to catch the 10.02am train to Erith. To book your place all Caroline Owens on 0208 535 0948; or email r.c.owens@btinternet.com. For more information see page 2

The Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning

Friday 27th September 10.00am to 2.00pm in Mycenae House

If you are able to make a cake for the event, or could help out on the day, please contact Caroline Owens on 0208 535 0948 or by emailing Caroline at r.c.owens@btinternet.com

‘Monster’ Quiz Night - Oct 26th.

In aid of the Night Shelter is on October 26th. St George’s Church, Glenluce Road.

The Greenwhich Night Shelter is the Society’s Charity of the Year and we are having the Quiz at St George’s so we can have more tables. Usual Teams/Tables; plus ‘Chippy’ suppers. 7.30 for 8.00. Booking with Caroline as usual 0208 535 0948.
A bottle of water will be supplied but please bring a packed lunch.

Please book your place in advance by calling Caroline Owens on 020 8355 0948 or by emailing Caroline at s.o.wenns@btinternet.com.
If you would like more information on the walk, please contact Jeance Lucas on 07790 571777.

The Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning

This annual event, another fund-raiser for Macmillan Cancer Care, is on Friday 27th September 10.00am to 2.00pm in Mycenae House.
Bring your friends or come alone for tea or office and delicious cake or for a tasty sandwich lunch, we will be delighted to see you at this enjoyable annual event.
Try your luck in the Raffle with its generous prizes and tempting by the Cake Stall where you can buy some to eat – or take home.

This year with your support we raised £900 for Macmillan at this event, please help us to raise even more this year for this worthwhile cause.

We need help to make cakes for the stall and for various tasks on the day. Please contact Caroline on 0208 833 0948 if you are able to help.

From: Name and address supplied
I wish to correct your article on the future of Broadbridge Close. The occupants of 2 of the 3 flats are happy to move, to a house with less than 50%.
As at today’s date no one resident has been given a form to complete regarding preference for type and location of residence.
In the last five years there has been only one open space for a house for a falling down house.
Two residents have had falls out in the street.
This is probably a much lower figure than you would have to achieve.
Unfortunately no Morden College will be able to sell at £2 flats at £100 per month – more than current residents pay.
The College will reduce the number of flat entertainment or diversity supports substantially.

From: Chris Foster Westcombe Park Rd.
I refer to the article on Greenwich Park’s “movement strategy” in August’s W&V. I do hope that the Royal Parks do not present a one-size-fits-all outcome.
What’s good for Hyde Park may not be good for Greenwich. “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” is a convenient principle, and one of the principles enshrined in the RPA’s proposal is reliance on evidence-based solutions.
One wonders whether the figures on page seven, indicating that 39% of visitors on foot, is a figure that applies to all parks, or Greenwich.
One wonders whether we would manage would be interesting to know what visitors’ surveys have revealed regarding Greenwich Park.

From: Christopher Peters SE3
It’s sad to see more and more people competing against the new tunnel. Already congestion at Blackwall and Greenwich Road will be a thing of the past. One of London’s north-bound peak hour traffic can be stationary, and pollute, back to Kidbrooke and beyond.
At other times there will be a new road which will need to be held back to As.
Conditions can be improved by building a new tunnel. I’m 76, but look forward to being on the first double deck bus to Silvertown though I may need some assistance by then. Cycles are important and I imagine they will cross by two DLK links and two links and by a new cycle bus though the new link.
Yes solutions are important – there is an electric charge point in the development in which I live and elsewhere, and diesel will be going out, but that is missing in a falling down area from south east to north east. (I can’t send a copy to Network Rail as they don’t have an email address for me)
Without the cross roads are further down so cups of coffee, are not the public improvements to key service are kept for the public.
Until more crossings will be further down.

From: Richie Hart Hervey Road
I am writing to comment about the article about Hervey Road Sports Field in July’s W&V. I have lived near the field for about 16 years. My mum, Anne Hart, has been involved in the preservation of the field for all of that time.
For eight years she led a tireless campaign to oppose the building of a school over the entire field and the Friends of Hervey Road Sports Field were ultimately successful. As a result, the field was turned into a “Field in Trust”, protecting it from ever being built on.
However, despite its new status, without field management, it became a hotpot for crime, drug-dealing, dog-fighting, travellers settling on the field, and motorists joy-riding on it. The field was also used extensively by professional dog walkers, often failing to clean up dog’s poops.
After much haggling the field finally was leased to Blackheath Rugby Football Club, who it is hoped, and expected, would manage would be interesting to know what visitors’ surveys have revealed regarding Greenwich Park.

From: Adam Newby
The article by Simon Black reads mainly to be done with dog-walking and “recreational”.
However the field was, has, and always should be for sports for the whole community. Not a park. It is not a park. It is an entirely flat area of grass, with trees only on the border, and has always been used for sport in the past.
In terms of biodiversity, this is where Simon Black really excels but I am quite sure that the tree is never really used for sport.
As far as I am aware there is wildlife and biodiversity – she is a member of the Bat Conservation Trust and to suggest that the BCC are destroying biodiversity is untrue. To me there are all cut down, and my mother is growing a number of plants in her garden, and we have recently planted bulbs on the field border.
She has campaigned with the rugby club to keep the field as it is, and this is the main reason why we have been able to keep up the field.

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We need help to make cakes for the stall and for various tasks on the day. Please contact Caroline on 0208 833 0948 if you are able to help.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of either the Westcombe Society, or the Westcombe News. More letters are on page 3, Column 1.
Letters (continued)

From: Peter Greaves  The Pla tination

June’s issue of the WV highlighted the slowness of governments to tackle the climate crisis. Scientists have been warning of this for 30 years or more, so it is extraordinary that it has taken children around the world, inspired by Greta Thunberg, to have forced the issue.

Yet the government under any good work it claims to be doing by continuing to subsidise fossil fuels, and encouraging fracking; and to not doing things that could have been done – such as developing tidal power in Swansea or Morecombe Bay.

Recently Theresa May set a legally binding target for the UK to its greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, but the Guardian reporting this (13th June) went on to say: “If it were to be achieved, this would mark the end of Britain’s contribution to global warming, apart from emissions ‘exported’ by buying products made abroad.” (italics added)

But if such emissions are excluded from the calculation it might make us feel good, but it would mean that we had not fully adapted our way of life to a zero-carbon economy, but were in effect exploiting other countries: global concentration of CO2 would continue to rise.

Meanwhile, we send billions of pounds overseas to build power plants that burn fossil fuels while claiming a climate victory at home. UK Export Finance provided in recent years £2.5bn to support fossil fuel projects, and only £104m to support renewable energy projects (Guardian 18 June). Greta would not be impressed.

From: G Bailey  Hamner Road

Am I alone in hating to read any of our national newspapers these days as we head, lemming-like, for No Deal Brexit? It’s a relief therefore to turn to the WV.

However, I cannot avoid sharing my deep concerns about what is happening in this country. It seems Boris Johnson is refusing to face the facts, and as a result we are facing a massive threat to our economy, the possible disintegration of the United Kingdom – and an imminent takeover by Trump, perhaps, in effect, as the 51st state.

If Boris gets his way, the pound will sink, and everything worth having in this country will be bought up by American companies at bargain basement prices. And our best friend is Trump?

Mr Trump is emerging as a wrecking ball against international law, the world economy, the multilateral treaty with Iran, the bilateral treaty on nuclear weapons with Putin, thereby starting a new nuclear arms race, and all norms of civilised society.

And Boris Johnson is proposing to make him our best friend. Heaven help us.

Woolwich Works: the Royal Borough’s new cultural hub

Previously known as the Woolwich Creative District, five old industrial buildings totalling 15,000sqm, are being refurbished and are due to open in the public in 2020.

The new name for the ambitious £31m council-led development is to be Woolwich Works. The name was chosen by 72 per cent of 449 respondents to a survey carried out by the council. Residents also agreed that each of the historic buildings in the complex should retain their original name, reflecting the way they were used: The Fireworks Factory; The Academy; The Cartridge Factory; The Carvajagows and The Laboratory.

Punch Drunk, the pioneering theatre company, has already revealed it would be making the site its home alongside other resident companies: Europe’s first majorit Black and Minority Ethnic orchestra Chineke! Orchestra, Woolwich-based Protein Dance and the Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair.

Cllr Miranda Williams, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Third Sector, said: “Woolwich Works will unite past and present. The area is hugely important locally as the buildings once supported Britain’s industrial architecture and were at the heart of the formation of the Royal

New Location for the Archive & Museum collection

The Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust is delighted to announce the completion of the Museum Collections and Archive move of the Royal Borough of Greenwich to its new home in Charlton.

Following a substantial investment by the Royal Borough of Greenwich, the museum collections and archive of the borough are now housed together, for the first time in its 100-year history, at a new facility and store fitted to the highest standards of collection and archive care and management.

This new facility and research space will be open to the public by appointment only at the beginning of September, following a period of piloting new security systems over the summer.

The plan is to prepare the new research room into a welcoming and accessible space for the general public and academics to visit to carry out their research. An official opening date will be announced nearer to the time by Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust.

Specific questions relating to making an appointment can be sent to the Trust directly at archive@rgh.org.uk.

Diana Rimmel 1937-2019

Diana Rimmel died in QEII on the 12th June. Many people attended her funeral in July. Her daughter, Delia, writes: Diana was best known for running local history classes at Goldsmiths College from 1978 to 2003. Prior to this she trained as a secretary working for the BBC Foreign News Department at Alexandra Palace, while studying journalism partime.

In 1963 she bought a run-down Victorian house in Greenwich with her then husband Terry Scales. Diana said that restoring this house in Ashburnham Place, and living in this area, helped form her lifelong interest in historic buildings and in the people who built and lived in them. Diana became a key member of the Ashburnham Triangle Association in 1975.

Diana was very community-minded, and had active roles in many other societies including the Greenwich Society, the Lewisham Local History Council, and the Blackheath Society. She was the first administrator for the Greenwich Theatre Art Gallery in 1967 and wrote reviews for the local press.

In 1971 Diana studied for a diploma in history at Goldsmiths College, and later for a degree in history at the LSE. In the same year she landed her dream job at Goldsmiths College. Her courses were described as “a blend of local, social and individual history” and ran for 25 years.

Despite serious health issues, Diana gave her last local history talk in 2017. It was on a subject close to her heart: “The Peoples Palaces”, encapsulating her egalitarian idea that beautiful buildings and gardens accessible to everybody could both uplift and educate people.
A remarkable transformation has taken place over the past year and a half at the Hervey Road Sports Field! Located in the southeast of London, with Hornfair Park adjacent, Hervey Road Sports Field covers an area of 4.8 hectares. Opened in 1888, it was last regularly used as a sports ground in 2002 when it accommodated 2 football pitches, a bowls green, three tennis courts and a pavilion with dressing rooms. There was also a rifle range on the site.

However, since this time it has had limited use. It was on the London Playing Fields Foundation’s “At risk register”. The “Save Hervey Road Sports Field” group was set up 11 years ago when there was a real threat to build a school on this precious sports field. Their campaign was very successful and the threat to build a school was defeated.

The site was then underused as a sports facility for a number of years and it was prone to illegal encampments, fly tipping and illegal behaviour such as drug-taking.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich then decided to restore it to its use as a sports facility. Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald said: “We fully recognise the importance of the Hervey Road playing field to the local community and that’s why the Deed of Surrender protects the site as a playing field, and ensures residents have access the area for walks and informal games.”

Their aim was to encourage sport and to save the site for future generations. The initial plan included improvements to the sports field, an inclusive play area, team changing rooms with an area for social and/or physical activity and cafe provision, resurfacing the car park, and provision of a floodlit MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area).

All of these aims, and more, were successfully completed in 2018. From September 2019 onwards, through the winter season, there will be one adult-sized rugby pitch, one adult-sized football pitch, 3 junior football pitches and also a number of areas for mini-rugby training. Only the cricket nets have yet to be installed.

Blackheath Rugby Club took over management of the Hervey Road Sports Field in September 2018. Last winter, the playing fields were used most Sunday mornings by around 200 mini rugby players and 60 junior footballers.

A new girls rugby club started early this year. 500 schoolchildren used Hervey Road Sports Fields for sport and PE in the last three terms. During the winter months, it was the main sport for the older children, but the MUGA was also used extensively by younger children.

Over the Easter holidays, a 300m running track was created so in the summer months, the schools could run athletics sessions. Two schools held their sports days at Hervey Road Sports Field in the summer. For the first of these, approximately 1000 schoolchildren and teachers, along with siblings, parents and grandparents, enjoyed a wonderful day of sports.

On Saturday 6th July, we held a Fields in Trust ‘Have a Day’ picnic and fun day at the sports fields. Fields in Trust legally protects parks and green spaces in perpetuity across the UK, working in partnership with landowners. We were very pleased to welcome Eltham MP Clive Efford, and our three local councillors as well as members of the Friends of Hervey Road Sports Fields and the Kidbrooke North Residents Association.

During the summer school holidays, the fields have been available to all members of the local community to use 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Greenwich District Cricket Junior Cricket Academy run very popular cricket sessions every weekday at Hervey Road in the summer holidays.

Charlton Triangle Homes have been using the sports fields for Tag Rugby as part of their youth summer programme, with Blackheath rugby providing the taining. Charlton Athletic Community Trust are also running football coaching sessions at the end of the summer holidays. The facilities have also been used by a local netball club, and a local junior football team will be using the Playing Fields from September 2019 onwards.

We are confident that usage of the playing fields will increase steadily over the next few years. We are particularly keen to attract more groups to use the pavilion for meetings, children’s parties or for classes. We also hope more sports organisations will use the MUGA.

It is already well used by local schools and clubs and is freely available for use by local residents outside school hours. I am particularly pleased to be able to report that a recent inspection by the Planning Enforcement Officer confirmed that we are fully compliant with the plan for ecological enhancement. Biodiversity is important to us, as well as provision of a wide range of sports. I can reassure all local residents that Hervey Road Sports Fields is in very safe hands.

The Transformation of Hervey Road Sports Field

Dr Alan Thompson
President of Blackheath Rugby Club

The watch that changed history

This book is about the navigation pocket watch that changed history. Blackheath resident John Harrison’s first book recounts the story of a timekeeper that travelled the oceans in the 18th and 19th centuries. As Davy Sobel says in her best-selling book Longitude: “The sea life of K2 encompasses some of the most famous voyages in the annals of the oceans.”

Kendall’s Longitude (The Times and Voyages of K2: the Bounty Watch) celebrates the place in history of the second of three maritime timekeepers produced by Larcum Kendall between 1770 and 1773 for the Board of Longitude. A reliable timekeeper was vital for British Navy ships to pinpoint their exact position as they sailed the oceans to secure the Empire and develop trade.

Maritime navigational tools could find latitude (position north or south of the equator) but establishing longitude, or how far east or west you needed to sail, remained elusive. The answer was to take an accurate timepiece, set to Greenwich Time, but a pendulum clock wouldn’t work on a rolling ship so a smaller, accurate watch was needed.

John Harrison had developed four sea clocks and, based on these, Kendall made a series of smaller nautical timekeepers to take on board which were accurate enough to establish longitude. Harrison’s H4 watch was the breakthrough.

K2’s first voyage, accompanied by the young Horatio Nelson, was nearly its last in the crushing Arctic ice. The next two expeditions saw it survive kidnappings, nautical intrigue and the gunpowder plots of the American revolutionary wars; its next voyage was to the slave coasts of Africa.

Captain William Bligh took K2 on the Bounty, but lost it in a fight with the mutineers who sent him off in a small boat in 1789.

Led by Fletcher Christian, they carried the watch to Pitcairn Island, from where it was recovered 18 years later by a Nantucket Quaker, only to be stolen by the Spanish. It then rode on mules along the Andes before sailing into the Opium Wars in China. It finally returned to Greenwich in 1863. The ‘pocket watch’ had many dramatic adventures described in the book, which also contains technical details.

K2 is currently lying up at the South Pacific exhibition at the National Maritime Museum. The book, copiously illustrated with colour and black and white photos, is published by Austin Macauley and is also available through Waterstones and Foyles’ at £21.99 for the hardback and £9.99 for the paperback edition.
just a short distance from the bottom of Eltham High Street, tucked away down a quiet residential road, is Eltham Palace. You could drive straight past without even knowing it was there. Yet it is one of the most important historic sites in London.

However, turn off Court Road and you will discover the site of one of the most important royal palaces in medieval England – a favoured residence for kings and queens from the fourteenth century onward.

By the Tudor period it was one of only six English palaces large enough to accommodate, feed and entertain the monarch and the entire royal court.

According to the Domesday Book of 1086, the manor of Eltham was owned by Bishop Odo of Bayeux, half brother of William the Conqueror.

In 1086, the manor of Eltham was owned by Bishop Odo of Bayeux, half brother of William the Conqueror. The estate changed hands several times, until 1295, when the land came into the possession of Antony Bek – Bishop of Durham and a favoured knight and adviser to both King Edward I and II.

From archaeological excavations we know Bek built a great hall surrounded by a moat and defensive wall with eight octagonal towers. Bek also created a hunting park that was visited by the Prince of Wales (the future Edward II).

When Bek died at Eltham in 1311, he left the estate to Edward and his wife, Queen Isabella. This is the beginning of Eltham’s history as a royal palace. Edward and Isabella added new buildings and fortifications. Their second son – always known as John of Eltham – was born here in 1316 and baptised at the site’s chapel.

Richard II spent much of his youth here. He established the Order of the Garter – the oldest surviving order of European chivalry – in 1348, and there is a contemporary record in the Royal Warrant Accounts:

“For making 12 garters of blue, embroidered with gold and silk, each having the motto ‘Honi soit qui mal y pense’ and for making other equipment for the King’s joust at Eltham."

King John II of France surrendered himself to voluntary exile in England in 1364, and he was received at Eltham by King Edward III amid two days of ‘great dancing and caroling’.

The exterior of the Great Hall, fans for its 15th Century hammerbeam ceiling.

The gardens surrounding the palace are a delight to wander around in.

The entrance to the palace

Richard II added new lands, until the hunting park around the palace comprised nearly 1,300 acres.

He also built the foundations of the most magnificent manor in his lively memoirs. However, Eltham in the 1390’s could be a dangerous place. Richard II’s Clerk of Works was the poet Geoffrey Chaucer, who was mugged twice travelling to or from Eltham, losing 140 of official funds as well as his purse.

Eltham was one of Edward IV’s favourite residences, and in the 1470’s he built the magnificent Great Hall, with its intricate hammerbeam roof, which still stands today.

During Henry VII’s reign, Eltham became the royal nursery for the future Henry VIII and his sisters.

On Christmas Eve 1515 Cardinal Wolsey took the oath of office of Lord Chancellor at Eltham before the king. In 1522 he published the Eltham Ordinances – reforming regulations of the royal household that aimed to control access to the king.

The Tudor period marked the height of Eltham Palace’s importance, but also the start of its decline. Elizabeth I visited only occasionally – the palaces at Greenwich and Hampton Court gave swifter river access to Westminster.

Charles I was the last king to visit, and in the Civil War, the palace and park were ransacked and stripped by parliamentarian forces.

Over the next 200 years the site became a farm, and the Great Hall little more than a barn. It was painted by JMW Turner and others as a picturesque ruin, open to the elements with cattle wandering through.

This was the site rediscovered in 1933 by wealthy society couple Stephen & Virginia Courtauld. They were looking for somewhere to build a luxurious, stylish, state-of-the-art house close to London where they could entertain their friends.

In Part II of this history, in a future issue of the Westcombe News, we will find out about the creation of the Courtaulds’ Eltham Palace, incorporating a restored Great Hall alongside a new house boasting some of London’s finest art deco interiors.

We will get to know Stephen, Virginia and their glamorous friends – not forgetting Malt-Jongg the lemur.

Eltham Palace and Gardens are open to the public. Please visit the English Heritage website for times, prices and information to help plan your visit.

https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/eltham-palace-and-gardens/
ANNE ROBBINS reports on the work of the Westcombe Society’s Environment Committee as presented at the AGM in May.

T he Environment Committee’s aim is to maintain the character of Westcombe Future in the local built environment. The eight voluntary members, including the Society’s Chair, meet monthly to look at issues such as traffic, tree care, and major building work, taking into account neighbours’ views to help us form our positions.

We liaise extensively with other organisations, such as other amenity societies and stakeholder groups, including the BID, Artist/Writing Party, Friends of Mycenae Gardens, and more. In addition, we try to keep in touch with groups working on issues such as traffic that might impact on our area.

While we have some expertise, we’re mainly guided by common sense and experience. We’d welcome new members, so please do get in touch if you would like to help.

The Westcombe News is our main means of keeping members informed. We also use our website, but would love some help with it! Our Twitter feed is @WestcombeSoc.

We consider ourselves fortunate to live in a Conservation Area and refer to the RBG’s 2010 Character Appraisal document for background.

Treasure our Front Gardens

T here are some lovely front gardens in the Westcombe area and they give pleasure to passers-by, as well as to their owners. There are many reasons why we should value them, the most obvious being that they greatly improve the appearance of the neighbourhood. And of course they give us a chance to maintain contact with the council’s tree officer. There are regulations on pruning or felling in conservation areas, and we encourage residents to make sure they notify the council of tree plans. We’ve added our support to the initiative to appoint an ecology officer at the council.

The Committee met with our ward counsellors in 2018. We’re very thankful for the support they give us, from planning and traffic matters to communications with council officers.

We email them quite a lot, and are always grateful that they respond quickly and take our questions seriously. Our area, like so many, depends on the cooperation of elected, appointed, and volunteer bodies, and we hope that all three continue to maintain the Westcombe Park area for its residents.

The Silverton Tunnel plans were approved in 2018 but are still being modified with potential impacts on our residents.

Transport for London (TfL) have agreed that The Angerstein roundabout needs improvements, but it will be some time before we know what those will be.

The environment committee have also made strong representations to councillors on Network Rail’s proposal to close the Angerstein crossing for pedestrians.

The council has been planting more street trees, for instance in Humber Road, and has been working well with the HWIP to support the Heath’s habitats. We also maintain contact with the council’s tree officer. There are regulations on pruning or felling in conservation areas, and we encourage residents to make sure they notify the council of tree plans. We’ve added our support to the initiative to appoint an ecology officer at the council.

Chairs of the Environment Committee’s aim is to maintain the character of Westcombe Future and to work on local conservation initiatives. This is our agreement to the AGM in May.

Vehicle movements in the park

Chair of the Environment Committee Councillor Marilyn Little has written a letter of support to the Royal Parks’ Movement Strategy summarised in July’s WNY.

However, she expressed serious concerns about traffic management from Greenwich Park. She stated:

“While ideally we would be very happy to remove through traffic you will be aware from our reaction at our meeting in June, that we have grave concerns regarding any changes to Traffic movements within the Park or Parking policy.

“Displacement has severe implications to the Westcombe Park Area. Any change would need very careful planning and trialling and should take into account other initiatives currently being undertaken locally.

“Many residents are concerned that parking in surrounding streets would become a serious problem if visitors were unable to park in the park.

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-italicise it by removing ancient strands of imperialism, sexism and racism. We need second to energise it by adding new, enabling educational technology to digital electronics. Many educationalists, including the two left in the UK, now 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.

We consider ourselves fortunate to live in a Conservation Area and refer to the RBG’s 2010 Character Appraisal document for background.

Treasure our Front Gardens

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Chairs of the Environment Committee’s aim is to maintain the character of Westcombe Future and to work on local conservation initiatives. This is our agreement to the AGM in May.

Vehicle movements in the park

Chair of the Environment Committee Councillor Marilyn Little has written a letter of support to the Royal Parks’ Movement Strategy summarised in July’s WNY.

However, she expressed serious concerns about traffic management from Greenwich Park. She stated:

“While ideally we would be very happy to remove through traffic you will be aware from our reaction at our meeting in June, that we have grave concerns regarding any changes to Traffic movements within the Park or Parking policy.

“Displacement has severe implications to the Westcombe Park Area. Any change would need very careful planning and trialling and should take into account other initiatives currently being undertaken locally.

“Many residents are concerned that parking in surrounding streets would become a serious problem if visitors were unable to park in the park.

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-italicise it by removing ancient strands of imperialism, sexism and racism. We need second to energise it by adding new, enabling educational technology to digital electronics. Many educationalists, including the two left in the UK, now 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.

We consider ourselves fortunate to live in a Conservation Area and refer to the RBG’s 2010 Character Appraisal document for background.

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