



# Westcombe NEWS



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September 2019 No. 7

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

## UEFA EURO 2020 comes to Greenwich

Are YOU a Fan-Zoner? WN Reporter

The Royal Parks were asked by the GLA and the government to look at 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 Queens Field.

A few of our readers may be aware of the intended use of the Queens Field in Greenwich Park (the area in front of the Queens House) for the creation of a 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.

Our main concerns are around the use of a large area of the park and ensuring its accessibility to the public on non-match days; also heavy traffic, noise and disruption both within and outside the park, and the closure of certain paths and the road through the park at times during Match days. Part of Circus Field near to the Park Gate will be closed for two months. We would wish to have assurances on their mitigation of these concerns.

So far, the following comments have been received.

- \* This is an inappropriate use of a World Heritage site which already attracts many visitors.
- \* A large popular area in the park will be inaccessible for much of match days.
- \* Care must be taken to ensure that the park is still accessible to Park visitors as much as possible, as it is very well used during the summer months.
- \* When a similar event was held locally it had to finish early due to unruly behaviour.
- \* Will residents get extended parking permits for match days? (*Cont.in col. 3*)



PHOTO: The Royal Parks, Marta Corada

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 Scattergood. The maritime-themed 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 London 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 blend in with the park's landscape. Features include a basket swing, roundabout, and plenty of sand and water play.

- \* There will be a need to ensure parking is available with extra wardens to avoid illegal parking and congestion.
- \* Congestion on buses and trains (and bus stops and stations) may be an issue.

## A New Era?

In a statement on the Prime Minister's first speech, the Council responded: "We welcome the new Prime Minister to office and his optimistic promises to fix the crisis in social care, put more police on the streets, increase per pupil funding and lift millions out of poverty – forthwith!" "As a Council we have had enough of austerity and nine years of sustained cuts to our budgets. Since 2010, our funding was reduced by a staggering £1,400 per household, totalling some £125 million, largely as a result of funding that the Government has taken away from us. "So, we look forward to the Prime Minister realising his promises – no ifs or buts."

The local societies (Blackheath, Greenwich and East Greenwich together with ourselves) had a very useful meeting with the Organisers on the 10th August. They were very well aware of our concerns and are currently working with various agencies on mitigation strategies. They will update us on any changes to plans and are keen to meet with us again as the project progresses. They expect to put in a Planning Application in mid September when a further consultation will take place. This will be followed by a Premises Licence Application in October. Further updates will be published in the WN as available.

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

### 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 call Caroline Owens on 0208 853 0948; or email [r.c.owens@btinternet.com](mailto: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 8853 0948 or by emailing [Caroline at r.c.owens@btinternet.com](mailto:Caroline at r.c.owens@btinternet.com)

**"Monster" Quiz Night - Oct 26th.**  
in aid of the Night Shelter is on October 26th. at St George's Church, Glenluce Road. The Greenwich 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 853 0948

**In July, this letter was sent to residents on the west side of Westcombe Park:**  
**Department: Major Sports Events Team**

**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 Queens Field area of Greenwich Park (the open space in front of the Queens 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 nations matches in the knock out rounds; and the semi-finals and final which will be played at Wembley Stadium.

There would be around 30,000 tickets for London families, local people and fans from across 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 event site on the Queens Field as 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 below.

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.london.gov.uk/greenwich-faq-consultation](http://www.london.gov.uk/greenwich-faq-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 this area has to offer.

Yours sincerely,  
James Fitzgerald - Senior Manager, Events and Commercial

## < < Newsbriefs > >

**New advertising manager**  
The Westcombe Society welcomes the new advertising manager for the WN, Gavin Hose. Contact details are on page 2.

**Success of GDIF**  
Over 60,000 people attending the Greenwich and Docklands International Festival events, which took place in 9 different locations across London. The programme included over 130 shows from 43 companies hailing from 12 countries. About 300 participants took part in GDIF events, including dancers, young local photographers and school groups taking part in workshops.

Crucially, 120 volunteers who cumulatively gave over 1,800 hours of their time helped to make the Festival a great success.

**Park's trial scheme**  
Greenwich Park mounted a trial scheme which took visitors from St Mary's Gate, SE10 0 9HU up the steep hill to the Pavilion Café and Royal Observatory. The scheme ran for four weeks in the summer from 11am - 4pm each day at approx. 20 minute intervals. If successful it will be extended from next year onwards.

**Loo news**  
Free toilet facilities are available at the White House Café at St

Mary's Gate, the Royal Observatory and Pavilion Café. There are 20p toilets at Blackheath Gate and the Avenue side of the Observatory. These all include accessible toilets.

**Stolen cars**  
The local authority with the highest car theft rate was London with a staggering 31,738 reports filed. The borough with the worst record is Enfield. The most popular cars with criminals? Ford Fiestas, and Ford transit vans.

**Greenwich 'a good employer'**  
The Royal Borough of Greenwich has been recognised as a great employer by the Mayor of

London's newly launched Good Work Standard - part of his commitment to making London the best city in the world to work. The Mayor's Good Work Standard sets the benchmark for the best employment standards and helps employers contribute to a fairer and more inclusive London economy.

**The Vanbrugh**  
The Planning Inspectorate have dismissed at appeal plans to build a house behind The Vanbrugh pub in East Greenwich, including on part of its beer garden - plans that were already previously rejected by the Council.



# COMMUNITY

## WESTCOMBE NEWS

### ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Tel. 020 8858 8489

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

**Deadline for the October issue:**  
16th September

**Environment Editor:** Maggie Gravelle

**Sub-editor:** Annie Grey

**Roving reporter:** Vivienne Raper

**Reporters:** The community – that means you!

### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Emily Norton** All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2756  
environment@westcombesociety.org

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

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

**Gavin Hose, 26 Webb Road, SE3 7PL**

Advertising@westcombesociety.org

All adverts payable in advance by cheque to **The Westcombe Society**.  
**DISPLAY:** Single column 6cm x 6cm:  
One - four issues £35, five-plus issues £30 each. Other sizes: please inquire.  
**Classified Ads** (Market Place) 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. An email/web address = 3 words.) Deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month.

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

### WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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

Name.....

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.**

## News from the Westcombe Society

### Twilight Walk for Macmillan

The Westcombe Society's annual walk for Macmillan Cancer Care will take place on Sunday 15th September. We are meeting at Westcombe Park station at 9.30am to catch the 10:02am train to Erith. From there we will join the Green Chain Walk from Erith Riverside to Bostall Woods (distance 3.5 miles). and enjoy a panoramic view of the Thames Estuary before heading up to higher climes at Bostall Woods and London's hidden heath-land.

A small diversion from the route will also allow us to visit Lesnes Abbey via Lesnes Abbey Woods. The woods are a virtually undiscovered gem in South East London. The Abbey was built in 1178, by Richard DeLucy, the Chief Justice of England, as penance for the murder of Thomas Beckett. It was dissolved in 1525, by Cardinal Wolsey.

We will then continue on to Oxleas Woods (distance 2.5 miles). This route has delightful stretches of ancient wood-land revealing nature in all its variety and splendour. There is a £10 subscription per adult for this walk, 100% of which will go Macmillan. Please also feel free to do your own fund-raising.

The walk is suitable for adults and children, although some stretches may be difficult for buggies.

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 8853 0948 or by emailing Caroline at r.c.owens@btinternet.com.*

*If you would like more information on the walk, please contact Joanne Lucas on 07709 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 coffee 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 be tempted by the Cake Stall where you can buy some to eat – or take home.

Last 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 ring Caroline on 0208 853 0948 if you are able to help.



## Letters

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

### From: Name and address supplied

I wish to correct your article on the future of Broadbridge Close. The occupants of 2 out of 32 flats are happy to move, a bit less than 50%.

As at today's date not 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 incidence of a resident having a fall in their flat. Two residents have had falls out in the street. This is probably a much lower figures than you would expect in a Community of our size and age.

By this measure Morden College will be able to let 32 flats at £1000 per month – more than current residents pay, and the College will reduce the number of Beneficiaries of the charity supports substantially.

Unfortunately Morden College do not like criticism and the CEO has twice recently told residents in their 80's that they know where the door is if they do not like it. I am unable therefore to allow you to print my name or address.

### From: Chris Foster Westcombe Pk Rd.

I refer to the article on Greenwich Park's "movement strategy" in August's *WN* issue. 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 sound principle, and one of the principles adumbrated in the RP proposal is reliance on evidence-based solutions.

One wonders whether the figures on page seven, indicating that 39% of visitors arrive on foot, is a figure that applies to all parks, or Greenwich Park? It would be interesting to know what visitors' surveys have revealed regarding Greenwich Park.

### From: Christopher Peters SE3

It's sad to see a report on-going opposition to the new tunnel. Already congestion at Blackwall is serious and produces pollution. On bad days north-bound peak hour traffic can be stationary, and pollute, back to Kidbrooke and beyond. At off-peak times traffic can be held back to IKEA.

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 DLR links and two foot tunnels or by a new cycle bus though the new link.

Yes e-solutions are important - there is an electric charge point in the development in which I live and elsewhere, and diesels will be going out. What is missing is a rail connection from south east to north east. (I can't send a copy to Network Rail as they don't have an email address (can Southeastern help please?)

Until more crossings are built further downstream, lorries and drivers will not be deterred from the tunnels and so we must look to the best solution with tunnels.

### From: Richie Hart

### Hervey Road

I am writing to complain about the article about Hervey Road Sports Field in July's *WN*. 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 hotspot for crime, drug-dealing, fly-tipping, travellers settling on the field, and motorbikes joy-riding on it. The field was also used extensively by professional dog walkers, often failing to clear up dog mess.

After much haggling the field finally was leased to Blackheath Rugby Football Club, who it was hoped, and expected, would manage the field, while allowing local people to enjoy it as a sports field.

In 2014, my mum became seriously ill. However, despite this, she has since made a full recovery, and continues to work tirelessly in favour of the field regardless.

The article by Simon Black seems mainly to be to do with dog-walking and "recreation". However the field was, has, and always should be, a sports field 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

## Community Lecture Series at St George's 2019-2020. TIM YEAGER

St George's is launching a new lecture series starting on Thursday, 26th Sept. at 8:00pm with a talk by the Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett, who is Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Diocese of Southwark. She will ask "What's the point of the parish church?"

As numbers of worshipping Christians/Anglicans decline dramatically, every diocese seems to be chasing growth in numbers and fresh expressions of church, the parish church is beginning to look like an anachronism in the 20th century. We must ask ourselves is there anything prophetic left in the parochial system?

Then on Thursday, 24 October, also at 8.00pm, The Revd Canon Dr Robert Reiss, Canon Emeritus of Westminster Abbey, asks "What can we really believe about Jesus Christ?"

Dr Reiss will examine debates about what can be credibly believed about Jesus since the advent of biblical criticism from the nineteenth century onwards, considering especially some recent debates started by the publication of *The Myth of God Incarnate*. He is the author of *Sceptical Christianity* (2016) and is working on *Death, Where is Your Victory?* which he hopes will be published in 2020.

A voluntary retiring collection will be taken at the end of each lecture.

always been used for sport in the past.

In terms of biodiversity, this is where Simon Black really is barking, literally up the wrong tree. My mum and I are HUGE wildlife and biodiversity defenders – she is a member of the Bat Conservation Trust. and to suggest that the BRC are destroying biodiversity is untrue. No trees have been cut down, and my mother is growing a number of trees for the field in a nursery, and we have recently planted bulbs on the field borders. She has campaigned with the rugby club to make sure that they respect the areas of wild grasses round the borders, in the border areas.

What has Simon Black done to aid biodiversity and the use of the field, except write inflammatory articles that alienate the rugby club from the community? We need to be working together with the rugby club, and showing the club how to include the community, more effectively, not deliberately alienating the club.

I would appreciate it if the *WN* wrote a retraction in their next issue, because they were not aware of all the facts. Not being able to walk your dog on the sports field opposite must be terribly vexing, but it is not a valid reason to dislocate an entire community from its sponsors, and let the field return to a drug, murder and fly-tipping hotspot as a result.

*Ed: We are pleased to give space for this response from Richie. It is not for the WN to retract the views expressed by readers: we give all members of the community a voice - this does not mean that the WN necessarily agrees with what is stated. See page 4.*

### From Simon Black

### Lizban Street

Thanks again for publishing the Hervey Rd Playing Fields article in the July's *WN*. I have had very good feedback from the members of the Kidbrooke North community group, and from a few members of the reading public!

The good news is that things seem to be moving. Our ward councillors (Labour and Tory) are working together and making positive noises. There will be a costs and benefits report to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel on 21 November. I hope I can report back to *WN* as the campaign progresses...

*Ed: Please see the article by Dr Alan Thompson on the Hervey Road Playing Fields on page 4.*



# LOCAL NEWS

## Letters (continued)

**From: Peter Greaves      The Plantation**  
June's issue of the *WN* 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 undoes 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 cut 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 £2.5 bn to fossil fuel projects, and only £104 m to support renewable energy projects (*Guardian* 10 June). Greta would not be impressed.

**From: G Bailey      Humber Road**

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

However, I cannot avoid sharing my deep concerns about what is happening to 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 buying 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 multi-lateral 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 to 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 Carriageworks 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 majority 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 ambitions and were at the heart of the formation of the Royal



**Above: The Greenwich Heritage Centre - a casualty in the new development.**  
*What happened to it? See below.*

Arsenal Co-operative Society.

“Now, thanks to investment from the council they will be reborn as places for theatre, dance and art. Local people and community groups will benefit too as 70 per cent of the space will be available to them at subsidised rates. I have no doubt when it opens Woolwich Works will quickly establish its self as London’s most exciting new events venue.”

## 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@rght.org.uk](mailto:archive@rght.org.uk).*



This popular new course created by the Rev Tim Yeager, is being offered again. Described as “a fresh look at Christianity for inquiring minds”, sessions will meet at St George’s Church in Glenluce Road on eight consecutive Wednesday nights, beginning on 18th September.

The format begins with a simple meal at 7:30, followed by an illustrated talk and small group discussion, ending by 9:30 pm. Participants are encouraged to attend all the sessions.

However, participants are also welcome to attend any of them as they are able.

Previous participants enjoyed the mix of seriousness and humour in the presentation, and gave high marks for learning about the historical and social context of the gospels, and the various interpretations of Bible stories. Participants are invited to explore their own faith in a friendly and welcoming environment.

**The course is free and open to all. For more information or to register for the course, contact Rev Tim Yeager at: [tim@stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk](mailto:tim@stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk) or call: 020 3633 5494**

## Diana Rimel 1937-2019

**Diana Rimel died in QEH on the 12th June. Many people attended her funeral in July. Her daughter, Delia, writes:**

Diana was best known for running local history classes for 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 parttime.

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.



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# FEATURES

## The Transformation of Hervey Road Sports Field

Dr Alan Thompson  
President of Blackheath Rugby Club



An amazing transformation has taken place over the past year and a half at the Hervey Road Sports Field!

Located in the Kidbrooke with Hornfair ward, 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 changing facilities. 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 Dedication 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 café 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 aged from under 6 up to under 10.

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, football 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 Field 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 watch that changed history

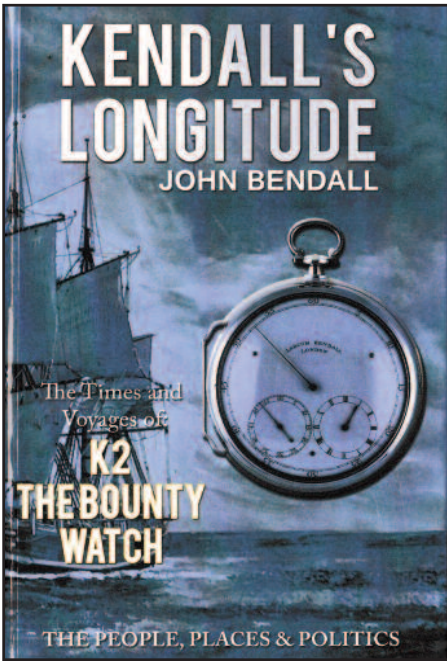
This book is about the navigation pocket watch that changed history. Blackheath resident John Bendall's first book recounts the story of a timekeeper that travelled the oceans in the 18th and 19th centuries.

As Dava 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



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.




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

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 1963. The 'pocket watch' had many dramatic adventures described in the book, which also contains technical details.

K2 is currently lit 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 Foyle's at £21.99 for the hardback and £9.99 for the paperback edition.



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School Year Sept 2019 - 2020

Stop	Letter of stop	Time AM	Time PM
<b>ALL PICK UP POINTS TO BE ADVISED</b>			
Greenwich Underground Station		07:20	
Bottom of Vanborough Hill		07:30	
Westcombe Park Road Junction Coleraine Road		07:35	
Bus Stop Opposite Standard Pub		07:40	
Bus Stop at St Germans Place		07:43	
Prince of Wales Pond		07:45	
Blackheath Station		07:50	
Lee Road ( Priory Park )		07:52	
Lee Road ( Manor Way )		07:53	
Lee Train Station (Colfes drop off)		07:55	
<b>Arrive at school 08:15</b>			
Evening Pick up time coach 1		16:05	
Late Coach		17:55	
Colfes School		16.10/15	

Please send: School, Child's name, Name of Parent/Guardian, Address, Contact Phone Number, Pick-up Point, and PASSPORT SIZE PHOTO.

Payment per term: Colfe's £352.00 Eltham £399.00

Cheques no longer accepted. Please remit to: Lewis Coaches:

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# WHAT'S ON



## ARTS

**THE ARTS SOCIETY, BLACKHEATH**  
**The Art of Travel Janice Brooke**  
**Thursday 26 September** Taking us inside her role as Cultural Tour Manager and away to the Impressionists' Normandy, our very own Visits Secretary shares some of her own magic moments around the world of art and architecture. 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**  
**The Wallace Collection, the Frick Collection and their connection with Knole**  
**Hilary Williams Monday 09 September** The lecture looks at the rich collection of furniture, paintings and porcelain at the Wallace Collection, London, and how they influenced the connoisseurship which led to the formation of the Frick Collection, New York. Lectures are held at Greenwich University, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich SE10 9LS. Tickets at the door: £10 for guests. Wine 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. Info: Tel Jon on 07435 569963 email: jonathancdlong@gmail.com

## SPOKEN WORD

**NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM**  
**Park Row, SE10 9NF**  
**4th - 8th Sept. Greenwich Comedy Festival with some of the biggest names in comedy**  
**BLACKHEATH HALLS**  
**Wed 4th Sept. 7.30 pm Talk on BLACKHEATH CAN TAKE IT! EXPLORING WARTIME BLACKHEATH** An illustrated talk by our local historian Neil Rhind Tickets £10.00  
**Sat 14th September. 8.00pm The Comedian ROB BECKETT: WORK IN PROGRESS** A chance to hear his new material ahead of his 'Wallop' tour  
**IN-WORDS**  
**Sept. 10th at West Greenwich Library 146 Greenwich High Rd, SE10 8NN, opera impresario Carole Strachan and Jan Fortune present their latest books. 7 for 7.30, FREE**  
**Sept. 17th at The Greenwich Tavern King William Walk, SE10 9JH, Graham Fawcett's presentation on Charles Baudelaire. 6.45 for 7.00, booking on https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/in-words-1t**  
**More info and booking on in-words.co.uk.**  
**BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY**  
**Friday 20th Sept. 7.45 pm The Changing Chemistry of the Oceans and the Impact of Global Warming by Dr Pallavi Anand from The Open University** Meeting will be in Mycenae House, Mycenae Road.  
**St GEORGE'S CHURCH Glenluce Road**  
**Thurs. 26th Sept. at 8:00pm** Talk by the Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett, who is Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Diocese of Southwark. asks "What's the point of the parish church?"



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## THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

**Sun 15th Sept Macmillan Walk [p.2]**  
**Fri 27th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning [see p.2]**  
**Sat 26th Oct Quiz Night at St George's Church in aid of Greenwich Night Shelter**

## 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.  
**WANT TO LEARN THIS FASCINATING GAME? We will be offering Beginners' Classes on Tuesday evenings at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road 7.30 to 9.30.** For more details, please contact Ivy McGeorge on 020 8293 5354 or ivymcgeorge@hotmail.co.uk  
**CHARLTON HOUSE www.charltonhouse**  
Lunchtime concert every Friday 1.00pm – 2.00pm  
**BLACKHEATH FLOWER CLUB**  
**Fri Sept 20th** 1.45pm for 2.00 - 4.00pm at Mycenae House SE3 7SE **Demonstrator: Lisa Morgan**  
**SUNDAYS AT SUNFIELDS at Sunfields Methodist Church 95 Old Dover Road, Blackheath SE3 8SJ** 1.00 - 4.00 pm First Sunday of each month. Sundays at Sunfields is provided free; please do just come along – there is no need to book. FREE  
**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  
**VOLUNTEER CENTRE GREENWICH**  
**Fri. Sept 20th. CHARITY GALA FUNDRAISER** at The Clarendon Hotel, Blackheath 6.40pm Drinks Reception followed by Three Course Meal, Two Bottles of wine per table, Dancing/Raffle/ Fisco Auction Carriages 11.30 pm £60.00 per ticket Email: michelle@volunteershrewenwich.co.uk. All proceeds go to support Volunteers and Local Charities

## GLOBAL FUSION

**Global Fusion Music and Arts Events:**  
**Sun. Sept. 1st 7.30 - 10.00pm BLUES NIGHT** at the Earl of Chatham Pub, Woolwich. FREE  
**Thurs. 19th Sept. Poetry, Spoken Word and Music Night 7.30 - 10.00pm** Earl of of Chatham Pub, FREE  
**Fri. 20th Sept. in MYCENAE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**  
Zoe Rahman and her brother Idris Rahman 7.00pm - 10.30 pm With support artists. Tickets £12.00 on line at [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com) or £15. on the door

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## MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: SEPTEMBER

**MYCENAE HOUSE, Mycenae Road SE3**  
**Thurs 12th Sept 4.00pm - Back To Baby.** Classical Concert for families. £10.  
**Fri 13th Sept 8.00pm - JazzNights.** Candlit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £10.  
**Fri 20th Sept 7.30pm - Global Fusion Music & Arts.** A wonderful evening of live music and fun.  
**Thurs 26th Sept 2.00-4.00pm - Daytime Disco** for people with disabilities. Dance the afternoon away with live DJ's playing great tunes! £2/carers free.  
**Fri 4th Oct 1-5pm - Tea, Cake & Talk.** Information awareness event with expert advice from local organisations. Free.  
**Fri 4th Oct 7.30pm - Nick Harper.** An evening of outstanding live music at Harper's 58 Fordwych Road tour. £16.  
*For further information visit [www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)*

## MUSIC

**BLACKHEATH HALLS**  
Box Office 020 8463 0100  
**Sun 1st Sept. 6.00 pm RESURRECTING STEVE | MAHLER SYMPHONY NO.2**  
**GREAT HALL A free charity concert in aid of the Stroke Association and talented violist and singer Stephen Kennedy**  
**Thurs. 12th Sept. 7.30 pm BRAHMS SEX-TETS** featuring Salomon String Quartet Tickets £10 | £8 conc.  
**MON 16 SEP 19:30h**  
**BLACKHEATH GOES GOSPEL 2019: ADVANCED LEVEL COURSE**  
**GREAT HALL** The first of five sessions : you will have a chance to develop your vocal technique and learning a variety of gospel styles.  
**Cost of course: £80 | £72.00 concs.:**  
**Thurs.19th Sept. 7.30 pm FILM: GREEN BOOK (CERT. 12A)** Green Book tells the heart-warming true story of Tony Lip and Dr. Don Shirley. Presented in collaboration with The Village Cinema. £8.00 | £6.00 concs.

## THEATRE

**THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES** Box Office: 8858 7755  
**Sept 5th - 7th. SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**  
Back by popular demand Pantaloons Theatre present a stage version of Jane Austen's novel  
**12 Sept- 14 Sept. IN AND OUT OF CHEKHOV'S SHORTS** Performed by a company of five and featuring original live music, and stylish ensemble story-telling, In and Out of Chekhov's Shorts is an exhilarating mixture  
**15 September. MUSIC HALL** Yes, it's back again!  
**16 Sept. 12 SILK HANDKERCHIEFS - A SONG CYCLE** Reg Meuross's moving work of social and political history, set in a fishing community hit by disasters. Inspired by Brian W. Lavery's book *The Headscarf Revolutionaries*  
**17 Sept. WHADDYA KNOW - WE'RE IN LOVE!** All aboard SS Freedonia for the craziest show around!  
**18th Sept. ALAN JOHNSON - IN MY LIFE** Alan tells his personal story with the help of some of the music that has soundtracked his life.  
**THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES**  
**19 Sep - 21 Sep 2019** This inventive and hilarious comedy mystery features 2 fearless actors playing every role in this fast paced farce.  
**22nd Sept. ONCE UPON A TIME** From the team that brought you, 'The Thing That Came From Over There' comes another rip roaring comedy adventure bursting with physical comedy  
**27 Sep - 19 Oct. BROOKLYN - THE MUSICAL**  
A touching and inspiring sidewalk fairy tale musical £28.50 | £23.50 Previews: £16.00

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# FEATURES

## In the first of two articles, Simon Black of English Heritage looks at **Eltham Palace: The Royal Years**

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 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.

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



**The entrance to the palace**

born here in 1316 and baptised at the site's chapel.

Edward III 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'.

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

He also built the foundations of the moat bridge you can still walk over today – the oldest working stone bridge in London. Jean Froissart described Eltham as 'a very 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 £40 of official funds as well as his horse!

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 1525 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 parliamentary 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 Mah-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/>

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

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





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ANNE ROBBINS reports on the work of the  
**Westcombe Society's  
Environment Committee**  
as presented at the AGM in May.



# MARKET PLACE

Please send ads for the Market Place with payment by the 10th day of the preceding month to:  
Gavin Hose, 26 Webb Road, SE3 7PL  
Advertising@westcombesociety.org  
ALL classified ads 30p per word. Cheques payable to The Westcombe Society.

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## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**23 HARDY ROAD ref 19/2575/HD**  
Demolish garage, porch, and side and front extensions & construct two side extensions and a two-storey front extension and rear extension, and other external alterations including front window.  
**23 HARDY ROAD ref 19/2574/HD**  
Replace front boundary walls & install two gates.  
**15A ULUNDI ROAD ref 19/2570/HD**  
Enlarge basement & incorporate rear lightwells  
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