The Silvertown Tunnel, which TfL hopes will relieve traffic congestion at the Blackwall Tunnel, received its Development Consent Order in 2018, and some work is starting, including tests to determine what sort of fencing will work best to shield residents of Siebert Road and Westcombe Hill from noise. However, though the project is being delayed, as the consortium that lost its bid to build the tunnel is challenging the procurement process in court. Residents will recall that the Westcombe Society objected to the plans, and still has concerns.

Here, local resident and Greenwich council Green Party candidate Fiona Moore puts her case for opposing the project.

The UN gives us 11 years to avert catastrophic global heating, and Mayor Sadiq Khan has declared a climate emergency. But action is desperately needed.

Traffic wardens made £3.5m in fines last six years.

Parking wars

Greenwich Council leader Danny Thorpe: “We can expect magnetic north to shift eastwards, perhaps for 360 years, magnetic compass needles have pointed west of true north in the past, and so do those compass needles, as any hiker will tell you. We can expect magnetic north to shift eastwards, perhaps for the next 360 years.”

Low-carbon vehicles still emit dangerous pollutants, and so do conventional vehicles. Electric vehicles won’t solve the air pollution problem: what about the drivers on the roads who can’t afford electric vehicles? There are many better options than Silvertown Tunnel. Cycling and pedestrian bridges can cross the Thames. Commuter ferries at key points could take cyclists, pedestrians, and e-delivery vehicles. Let’s extend the DLR to Thamesmead and beyond, and install proper cycle routes and bridges designed around mass transit points.

The Silvertown Tunnel campaign (SSTC), an alliance led by a local teacher, Dave Smith (Annie), a roving reporter (Vivienne), and Dave, our very helpful printer at the Trojan Press, a stone’s throw from Old Dover Road. Not forgetting a great team of distributors who ensure the paper arrives through everyone’s letter box each month.

But: yes, there’s always a but! Your editor, Neville Grant, is standing down as sole editor after over seventeen years. So Neville is now looking for one or more people to act as joint editor. This year, to learn the ropes, ready to take-charge. Chairman of the Westcombe Society, Marilyn Little, says: "We are all greatly indebted to Neville for his contribution to the society – in fact, for well over 17 years! Neville, who was 80 last year, now feels it is time for someone else to take over, and tells me he is happy to hang around as needed to work together with a new co-editor and indeed, to write (for that was his profession). We really don’t want to lose the RN, which reaches the parts of the news that other publications do not reach. So I do hope we can find some one to join Neville in a job-share. Reserve your seat, in February, in order to be reading the headline below …”

The Greenwich Winter Night Shelter is the Society’s Charity of the Year and we are having the Quiz at St George’s Church, Glenluce Road so we can have more tables. Book as an individual, or as part of a team of six. You will be reading the headline below …

Happy Diwali!
Raising funds for the WS Charity of the Year: the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter

T he Greenwich Winter Night Shelter has been chosen as the Westcombe Society’s Charity of the Year. The Parish of East Greenwich was one of the founder groups which provide fellowship and a safe place to sleep for homeless people. For four months every winter, St George’s Church in Glencoe Road provides shelter on Tuesdays for up to 15 people. Other churches in Greenwich cover the other nights.

What’s involved?
Every Tuesday, volunteers arrive at St George’s to prepare a hot evening meal, and prepare the beddings. A skeleton staff stay on duty overnight in case of emergency. Next day, another team of volunteers are ready to prepare a cooked breakfast. They also strip the bed, and take it home for laundering. Table tennis, table football, chess and scrabble are on offer.

To help find this important community initiative, a special Quiz Night has been organised by the Westcombe Society on Saturday 26th October.

Quiz Night!
This time, the Society’s Quiz Night will be held at St George’s Church, Glencoe Road. All the proceeds will come into the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter and we are hoping to welcome not only our regular quizers but also many newcomers for ‘Book in as an individual, and we will find you a team. Or, better still, fix up your own team.’

Generous prizes!
There will be the opportunity to order ‘chippy’ suppers in advance (fish ‘n’ chips or chicken ‘n’ chips, or just chips), and, as there is no bar in the church, there would be a suggested £5 charge on behalf of the users. No voluntary donation on other drinks that you may want to bring along. We hope you agree that this is a wonderful little cause and we look forward to your support.

Booking details are on the front page of this Westcombe News.

Lystra Richards - Loundonseune SE7

Apparently the UK is responsible for about 1% of human CO2 emissions, the figure for China is 29% and that country continues to build coal-fired power stations and has no intention of curtailing its emissions. What is the case? Any strategy devised by the ‘climate experts’ of Government would need to deal with the issue, and the world would amount to mere tokenism, and would just inconvenience us to no avail.

Average world temperatures have risen by a mere 0.8 deg C in the last 150 years so that a ‘climate crisis’ is ‘hysterical and irresponsible’. Just as Extinction Rebellion, the Green activist organisation, aims to impose its climate views on the rest of us by direct action; so Sadiq, Rupert Read, quite happily the schoolgirl Greta Thunberg and Gaunil and Martin Luther King. Staff said

Ed: The world is getting warmer, mainly as a result of human activity. China is trying to change towards renewables. The 130 years figure is misleading; two-thirds of the warming has occurred since 1980. The Chinese made small, but based on NOAA data, 2015 - 2017 were three of the warmest years on record. It is I was pleased to see that my article in August’s WS on how China is dealing with its climate change awareness - the world is warming up. New Thames strategy is planned. If everyone thought their actions were ‘hostile’ climate change would continue in any event, with advantage for the developing world and millions already affected by climate change.

From: G Bailey

Humber Road

Decades ago, Exxon’s own research confirmed the role of fossil fuels in global warming. It is true pollution levels have been gradually falling in London, due to the introduction of cleaner vehicle engines, and the ultra-low emission zone ULEZ aims to cut toxic air by up to 45%

However, Kings College London estimates that it won’t be until 2025 that ULEZ will help to bring the capital’s air within acceptable limits. Small babies and the very old, and those living in the highest concentration of pollutants, run a risk of suffering long-term effects.

From: M Ashley

Barclay

I’ve been to London and the like, and I’ve been to London and the like.

One of the main things aching my physical and mental health is walking my dog. I know of quite a few other people with some serious health issues who live around Harvey Road sports field who also own dogs that are unfeelingly ‘assurance dogs’. Some of these dogs can barely walk because of the pain they are in. To come to Harvey Road and let the dogs run around, while they were and could be able to chat to other people there, must be a huge amount of people often isolated during the day.

Yes, not being able to walk their dog on Harvey Road field is “seeing” to these people.

The dog walkers never wanted to “create an entire community from its sponsors” – we just wanted to continue to share the space with the rest of the community. We fact the CEO of Sport England (one of the main funders of the field) told me that dog walkers were going to be part of the ‘health activity’ on the field, it was the council who decided to ban dogs. Since January 2015 I have been trying to get the dog walks reinstated.

“Pussyfoot, Pussy cat. Where are you going? I’ve been to London and the like. To see the Queen.”

Well, no: this project appears out of nowhere to see who was invading her mansion.

The invaders were of course the Westcombe Society’s walkers, raising funds for the Macmillan on September 15th.

T his year’s Blackheath Fireworks is on Saturday 2nd November at 8.00pm. At a meeting of the KJW, Kellie Blake from Lewisham Council told Mike Norton “Even though we have some support from the London Borough of Greenwich, we face a funding shortfall to support the event and I am busy fundraising. For the first time this year we have a CrowdFunder, https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/blackheath- fireworks2019.”

They also need as many volunteers as possible to help with the collection on the night. Potential volunteers should contact kellie.blake@lewisham.gov.uk

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The wildlife and helped promote a rich feeling habitat for the first time. The event was destroyed only days after it was agreed with a council-employed biodiversity expert that this was an important area of biodiversity that should be preserved.

We should be encouraging biodiversity to help combat plastic pollution – not destroying it.

Our health is at stake. Spraying the field with glyphosate, which the latest studies in February, by the University of Washington found increases the risk of some cancers by more than 40 percent, has been given to the community’s health. We need a large sign on the field’s west gate warning that the field becomes a true community facility – open to all.

From Name and address supplied
My car was stolen from outside my house one night in September. I have been living on Westcombe Hill for five years and never had any problems. I recently learned from the Met that a house was also burgled on our street just a month ago. I would like to be reported in the WS so that residents can be extra vigilant.

WANTED! More volunteers to distribute the WS and – to help with Westcombe Society’s community spirit. Please phone 8853 2756 if you would like to help.

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Blackheath Flower Club

Siân Tribe

It’s a very exciting year for the Blackheath Flower Club: we celebrate our 60th Birthday on Friday October 18th, when Sophie Beaney presides over the club’s Diamond Celebrations with a special demonstration. Blackheath Flower Club meets on the third Friday of the month (1.45 for 2pm - 4.00pm (except December), at Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Rd., SE3 7SE. Visitors £5, raffle tickets extra.

The club offers attendees the chance to sit and watch a colourful demonstration of flowers and foliage. Refreshments are available in the Mycenae House Cafe. The arrangements are raffled at the end. For further information please contact: Siân Tribe on siancaroline@googlemail.com or ring 07887790028.

Sea Change - on Loss at Sea was filmed on Spurn lighthouse near Hull.

Dance fans had a big treat in September, and for those for whom dancing was a far-off country of which they knew little, they were offered a superb opportunity to investigate dance as an incredibly dynamic art form. For two nights, 19th and 20th Sept. at 7.30pm Trinity Laban brought us the London International Screen Dance Festival, celebrating new independent short films from around the world.

The Festival showcased the inventive and experimental integration of movement, choreography and the moving image on screen. Anyone interested in dance, in film and creative ways of thinking about movement, were offered food for thought and a superb opportunity to view works from all over the globe.

On two evenings audiences were offered a diverse range of films from the international dance community including experimental films, animation and films bringing movement to life on the big screen at the Laban Theatre on Creekside.

Do we need more buses on Westcombe Hill?

While applauding the increase in public transport, the Westcombe Society were disappointed in the route chosen for the new 355 between Kidbrooke Village to North Greenwich. Both the Westcombe Society and the Westcombe Traffic Group have given their responses to the recent consultation over the route with their objections.

Two routes for the new 355 service were proposed; one via Blackheath Royal Standard and Westcombe Hill and the other down the A2 and A102.

Opposition to the first option was based on a number of concerns:

* increased pollution caused by congestion on the narrow road;
* the on-going danger of speeding traffic on Westcombe Hill, even in some cases by buses themselves;
* noise and vibration caused by heavy vehicles passing over speed cushions.

We pointed out that an additional ten buses per hour on a residential road was unacceptable to residents who already have some 30 TfL buses passing every hour – as well as coaches, and HGVs.

As part of their response the Westcombe Society pointed out that, while residents in the east of the area are well served by public transport, those towards the west have no direct bus service to the Peninsula.

Given the increase in traffic generated by Charlton Riverside we urged TfL to consider running a direct service to North Greenwich and the Peninsula via Vanbrugh Hill rather than adding to the number of buses using Westcombe Hill. Otherwise, Option 2.

TfL received 1,165 responses to the consultation: 65% supported or strongly supported Option 1, while 16% opposed or strongly opposed it, 50% supported or strongly supported Option 2, while 20% opposed or strongly opposed it. Following detailed analysis of the responses they decided on the first option.

The full report can be found at https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/335/user_uploads/bus-route-335-consultation-report.pdf. This route is therefore expected to be operational from October 26th.
The House Neighbours
The origins of the Westcombe Society

The origins of the Westcombe Society lay with a group of neighbourhood people living in Humber Road. This was in the early seventies, when social action was big on the agenda.

One day a note came through our letterbox advertising a meeting to set up a sort of neighbourhood support and community self-help organisation. We discovered that it came from the inhabitants of No.1 Humber Road.

The house had recently been bought by social workers Kath and Trev. They had a wide circle of local contacts. (One of these was a commune in Charlton, which featured an ongoing accumulator). The winter of 1971 was extremely cold, and they were concerned that many old people could suffer, and needed to be looked out for.

They shared their house with two tenants acquired long term tenants – father and son, Eric and Jim. Eric was out most of the time on his motor scooter since a great deal of their living space was taken up with the aeroplane Jim was building.

So Humber Neighbours was set up. They included Alien Mills, Pat Bodman, and others. The idea was for neighbourhood self-help and that we would all get to know and support each other. Despite missing one leg, Eric acted as hospital co-ordinator and support each other. Despite missing one leg, Eric acted as hospital co-ordinator.

As time went on there was talk about setting up a local amenity society – a bit like the long-standing Greenwich and the more recent Charlton Society. There was also talk of modelling it on the Humber Neighbours. In due course there was an inaugural meeting and the Westcombe Society was set up. After that, the Humber Neighbours mostly carried on. They dissolved, having been replaced by something rather larger. Sadly, Trev had been killed in a road accident and Kath had moved to a commune in Oldham. The rest of us joined the Westcombe Society.

I guess that the neighbourhood self-help ethos would have done better in Deptford or New Cross and that Westcombe Park was rather more keen on something more conservation and amenity focused. But the ethos of Humber Road has left its mark, and the Westcombe Society deserves the community’s full support for the work it does in mounting community events, its work on planning and the environment, its support of local charities – and in providing us all with the sense of belonging which connect us all.

The House Neighbours was set up by friendly, helpful, Eric, and in providing us all with the sense of belonging which connect us all.

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**THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY**

**Sats 24 Oct – Quid Pro Quo in aid of the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, the Society’s Charity of the Year. It’s at St George’s Church, County Road so we may have more tables. Book as an individual, or as part of a team of six, and order ‘Chippy’ supplied by DEB. BYO drinks (small corkage charge)! On your own? Well a team of four to join! 7.30 for 8.00.

Booking with Caroline as soon as possible
0858 353 4346

**COMMUNITY**

**ST GEORGES’ CHURCH**

Every Wednesday at 12.30 p.m. Soup Lunch Fellowship (Soup, bread, fruit and cheese) at St George’s, County Road.

Thurs. 4th Oct 10.45am talk by The Revd Canon Dir. REINS Cancer Awareness. Westminster Abbey, in which he asks ‘What can we really believe about Jesus Christ?’

Sat 5th Oct. Country & Western dancing Sun 6th Oct. HARVEST FESTIVAL. Urgently needed are tinned foodstuffs, pass. currency exchange/ rics & Longlife fruit juice.

Tues 9th Oct 7.30 Spiritual Film Evening:

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

WODENLANDS Farm Hall term activities.

Tues. 22nd Oct. 3.00pm Make a bead bracelet £3.00 no need to book

Wed 23rd Oct. 10am – 12 noon Passionate about Ponies! £3.00 no need to book

and Ponies and horse riding, Bob.

Fri 25th Oct. Horrible Halloween Ball - 3pm Explore the farm and try and find all our creepy creatures! £6.00 per child. No need to book.

just drop in for £3.00

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN’S INSTITUTE: Means first Wednesday of every month, 11.30am to 2.00pm at Sunfields Methodist Church on Old Dover Road. £3.00 per person. Open to WI Club delegates sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and open to WI at 1.15pm, new members welcome £3.00.

Would you like to learn this fascinating game?

Bridge lessons Tuesday evenings. 7.30 to 9.10am at Mycenae House, Old Dover Road. For more details, please contact by phone on 020 8293 5354 or ivymcgeorge@hotmail.co.uk

**SHERINGTON CHILDREN’S CENTRE, TEL. 020 8853 2268**


WOODLANDS FARM APPLE DAY Sun 13th Oct. 11.00am – 4.00pm. Discover all about traditional British apples and how to grow them, with everything you’ve got. Love is more than a just a game for two - 18 – 21 October - £12 / £8 Sat 14 / £10 / £6. Ages 14+ – Thursday 24 October, 7.30pm At Canada Water Theatre. Abu-Zayd DeGale Presents Living in Limbo using storytelling, spoken-word and song to map Abu-Zayd’s life in Sudan and his journey to Newman. Demystifying the myths around refugees.Living in Limbo shows how art can get you into trouble but also save your life. Note: Contains strong language, disturbing images and content, including themes of death and the Sudan Revolution. £10 / £8. Ages 14+.

**THE ALBANY**

Wed. 16th – Saturday 19th October, 8.00pm. At Canada Water Theatre. HLSI. Translated.Paines plough and Tamasha Present I Wanna Be Yours, a tender, lyrical and funny play about finding love and holding on to it with everything you’ve got. Love is more than a just a game for two-

**WODENLANDS FARM**

Woodland Apple Day.

Sun 6th Oct. HARVEST FESTIVAL Urgently needed are tinned foodstuffs, pass. currency exchange/ rics & Longlife fruit juice. The best stand-ups

St Clare's Interiors

www.stclareinteriors.co.uk

ﬁ ﬀ e s ﬀ e d a r t s

**THE ARTS SOCIETY, BLACKHEATH-JAMES GILLRAY: The First Political Cartoonist**

Ian Keable Thu. 24th Oct. 2.00pm At the turn of the 18th century, Gillray’s world was the talking point of smart London. 2.00pm with tea and cake. Enquiries to St. Vincents is St Mary’s Church Hall, Crosswall Park Blackheath Visitors welcome, please pay on the door. THE PARLIAMENTARY PRESS

Sir Stamford Raffles Denice Heywood Mon. 14th Oct. Raffles, the enlightened colonial administrator of Java, Indonesia, and founder of Singapore, Lectures are held at Greenwich University, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich SE10 8LS. Tickets at the door £5.00. Ends at 7.15pm

THAMES VISTAS - BERMONDSLEY TO GREENWICH: Exhibitions of oil, watercolours and prints of Thames views by artist TERRY SCALES. At the West Greenwich Library, SE10 8NS. 30th Sept – 2nd Nov. Meet the artist, Sat. 1st Oct. 12.30 – 4.30pm. For more details visit https://tarryscapes.blogspot.co.uk

**SPOKEN WORD**

TUES-WEDS

Tues. Oct 8th: Mental Health Awareness Week Poetry reading: Sally Festing, Tessa Foley and SE3 7SE Institute will be in the Studio in Age Exchange BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY for the prevention of suicide among men.

Library at 7.30 (doors open at 7).

Fri Oct. 18th 7.45  The Ageing Clock: Drs Adrian Liston & Clara Novo of the Babraham Visit in-words.co.uk for more information.

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY the Greenwich Gallery (Peyton Place, bottom of Royal Hill) as part of the Greenwich Festival with an informal reading on Saturday 26th Oct. 11am

Fri 22nd Nov. 8.00pm SOFIE HAGEN

FRI 11 Oct 8.00pm DALISO CHAPONDA Blah The Bumswing: Reginald D. Hunter Award-winning Comedy

Blackheath Halls Box Office 020 8603 0100
Mon 30 Sep 10.00 Music Appreciation With Bethan ‘Ysber’ Driscoll’s great symphonies Ten week course £100. Every Monday, Mon 30 Sep 7.30pm Blackheath Grey Goes 2019: Course 8 session course which leads to a large scale performance £80/72.00. End on 8th Nov.


My Oct 7 6.30pm THE ROYAL GREEN-WICH YOUTH ORCHESTRA Greenwich young people aged 14-18 and above to work in music at grades 3 standard or above. FREE

Sun 13 Oct. 6.00 pm SIDE BY SIDE WITH the PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA: Proskelev and Tchakovsky FREE.

Mon 21st Oct. 1.15pm Free recital Thu. 31st Oct. Trinity Laban Winds £5.00 Fri 1st Nov. 7.05pm AIMEH DICKINSON CARDINAN: Award winning conºtarian guitar

**CHILDREN & FAMILY**

GREENWICH THEATRE – Sun 27th Oct. OYSTER AND FALL 2+ballons have a life of their own - £15 / £10

Blackheath Box Office 020 8603 0100
Sat 12th Oct. 3.00pm COMEDY CLUB 4 KID. SHEARIN RECITAL ROOM The best stand-ups and much acts from the international circuit doing their thing for a family audience... but not all suitable for children. £10 / £5.

SHERINGTON CHILDREN’S CENTRE, Tel. 020 8853 2268

Fri 1st Nov. 8.00pm SHERRY'S ADVENTURE by Sylvia Holder. £10 / £8. Ages 14+.

WOODLANDS FARM APPLE DAY Sun 13th Oct. 11.00am – 4.00pm. Discover all about traditional British apples and how to grow them, with everything you’ve got. Love is more than a just a game for two.

**THEATRE**

**THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crossoms Hill, London SE10 8NS Box Office. 0858 7757**

Until Sat 19th Oct: BILLY JOE - The Musical Sat 13th Oct 8.00pm LIVE CAN 2019: the top two poems shortlisted for the Poetry prize.

FREE


Tues 29th Oct - Fri 1st Nov. SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL. 7.00 pm £10.95/concs. £8

Sun 2nd -Sun 3rd Nov. GETTING THE THIRD DEGREE - the ongoing battle against discrimination in football.

BLACKHEATH HALLS Sun 3rd Nov. 3.00pm KATHLEEN FERRIER: WHAT A LIFE! a new woman play with music: the story of the great English contralto, whose voice and recordings are treasured to this day. £10 / £8.00 conºs.
Greenwich at its Best

We seem to be passing through divided, and divisive, times. Yet the arts can bring the community together, says KATHRYN McDOWELL.

Greenwich Performs is supported by the Harris Trust, the Trafalgar Tavern, the Greenwich Society, and the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

As Autumn draws closer, our local community arts festival Greenwich Performs is presenting a jam-packed programme of events guaranteed to keep the end-of-summer blues at bay. A diverse cultural celebration of all that Greenwich has to offer, this year’s Greenwich Performs takes place between the 4th and 13th October and features a host of big-name stars. Notable appearances include Deaf Men Dancing at the Laban Theatre, as well as influential dance music legends, DJ duo Eton Messy.

The bumper autumn schedule blends classical, jazz and contemporary music, dance activities, music and lyric workshops, photography exhibitions, a vegan Oktoberfest in Greenwich Market, and a community Fun Palace. Musical highlights include acclaimed chamber choir, Canticum at the Queen’s House, and Trinity Laban at the Painted Hall. This absolutely packed programme culminates in a finale performance from Stefan Bednarcyzk who performs his outstanding Flanders + Swann + Noel Coward Cabaret.
The London Forum
DickAllard

The London Forum is a London-wide organisation of local amenity societies (including the Westcombe Society), and has on several occasions in the past given high praise to the Westcombe News. The core function of the London Forum is to raise the general concerns of its member societies, primarily at the London level through contacts with officers and members of the Greater London Council. In addition, the Forum raises concerns where appropriate with local authorities, through representations to Government Departments.

Of more general interest to individual members of societies, it also organises a series of open meetings (around five per year) at which society members can meet to discuss issues of concern.

The Real Point of Education

The point of trying to get educated is to cultivate mental grip. We all need this, we know, because try as we might, the environment is getting more and more complicated, and the pace of change is increasing. The recent topics have included: “Energy efficiency and Climate Change”, “Buses and sustainable transport”, “Considerate Construction”, and “The provision of affordable housing”.

These meetings, which take place at: The Gallery, 75 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 4LJ, a couple of minutes walk from Farrington Station (on the direct Thameslink line from Westcombe Park), also provide the chance to discuss issues with members of other societies from across London – as well as the speakers.

To find out more go to their website, londonforum.org.uk

The London Forum
Dick Allard

London City Airport Expansion

An airport planning staff held an estimable consultation event on future plans at The City Centre (Guildhall).

There are many facets expanding the airport, depending on your particular viewpoint, so readers will need to look at the consultation documentation/website on www.londoncityairport.com.

Local resident Christopher Peters had a quick look, and highlighted these points –

• The new generation of low noise aircraft is expected to use alternative local roads, and could easily reach Greenwich. Don’t worry, though, the government says it’s for a test or exam. So children urgently need to be helped at home to get this get this

The New 3Rs

A leading education company has said that climate change should be taught from the start of primary school.

Currently, the subject is restricted to chemistry and geography in key stages 3 and 4 when children are aged 11-14, but leading education resources company PlanBee has called for children to be taught the subject much earlier.

With this in mind, PlanBee has developed an entire primary school curriculum that focuses on climate change – and what children can do about it, including ‘the new ‘Three Rs’: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Children should be shielded from the problems, but should not be left feeling anxious and helpless about them, either.

The curriculum covers five key topics: Ethical trading, Fulfilled lives, Water scarcity, Ecosystems, Climate change, Biodiversity and Finite planet.

The themes are explored in an age-appropriate fashion, ensuring not only that children can develop a realistic understanding of both the problems the planet faces, but develop ideas of what they can do about it.

Lessons also challenge children to take action to help Britain’s bee population survive and thrive. They generate their own ideas for ways in which they can teach adults to make more eco-friendly decisions in their daily lives.

Could a Tsunami be caused by an explosion hit Greenwich?

Seventy-five years ago, in August 1944, the US cargo vessel SS Richard Montgomery sank off Sheerness on the Kent coast. On its way to support the D-Day invasion forces in France, it carried on board more than 6,000 tons of ammonites. Every since, it has haunted the Thames estuary with its dangerous cargo.

The Guardian reports that salvage experts are divided over the extent of the threat of an explosion, but there are now fears that the ship is breaking up, and its cargo could blow the waters seven times. In a worst case scenario, the munitions could explode, causing a 15 metre tsunami which could overwhelm river defences – and could easily reach Greenwich. Don’t worry, though, the government says it’s monitoring the situation. So that’s all right, then.

A near miss in the park

The problem of speeding cyclists going north down The Avenue in Greenwich Park has been of ongoing concern to Parks Police. In the morning rush hour traffic is frequently slow moving in King William Walk, waiting to turn into the Greenwich one-way system. At times this can back up into the park. On occasion, cyclists coming down the hill at speed avoid the queues by overtaking on the right.

A recent report to the Safer Parks panel described how a pedestrian was nearly hit by a cyclist who, having overtaken the stationary traffic, then proceeded through the right-hand gate into King William Walk, almost causing an accident.

The Parks police have increased their presence in the area during the morning rush, but their visibility acts as a deterrent and few cyclists are apprehended or warned.

At one time it was suggested that the central gates at St Mary’s Gate be opened during the rush hour which would allow cyclists, but not cars, through. The disadvantage may be that motor-cycles could also use these gates.

Once again the thoughtless and dangerous behaviour of a few damages the reputation of the majority of careful and considerate riders.

Westcombe Council is considering proposals to close roads in the area around Hyde Vale and Croons Hill.

The purpose would be to prevent rat-running between the A2 on the north and the main roads in Greenwich.

These ideas have been mooted a year or more ago, and so far nothing concrete has emerged.

This area is known as the Greenwich Hills and Vales. The Westcombe Society fear that these proposals, if implemented may have a knock on effect on Westcombe Park, particularly around Mark Hill and Westcombe Hill.

The Environment Committee of the Westcombe Society therefore suggest that residents of Westcombe Park respond to the impending consultation giving their views.

The Westcombe Society will update its website to provide further information as soon as it becomes available.
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