



# Westcombe NEWS

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Dec. 2019 /Jan. 2020 No. 10



Seasonal Greetings to one and all for a peaceful and prosperous New Year

## Grenfell: What does it mean for Greenwich?

WN reporter

The first report of the Grenfell Fire Enquiry was released in October, and makes very distressing reading. The report related specifically to the events of the night of June 17th, and deals among other things with the likely cause of the fire, and the actions of the London Fire Brigade on the night of the fire.

A spokesperson from the Fire Brigades Union said: "The government has repeatedly ignored demands for changes in fire regulations, and for more resources."

Phase 2 of the enquiry, which looks in more detail at the regulations and building requirements and shortcomings, will commence in January.

However, most of us will have been only too well aware of at least some of the lessons to be learnt, some of which have already been documented. For it was as long ago as May 2018 that an Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety led by Dame Judith Hackitt was released.

The purpose of this report was to make recommendations that would ensure this country has a sufficiently robust regulatory system for the future, and to provide assurance to residents that the complete system is working to ensure the buildings they live in are safe, and remain so.

It examined building and fire safety regulations and related compliance and enforcement, with a focus on high-rise residential buildings. What is somewhat alarming is that only buildings over 18 metres in height were considered.

The Hackitt report set out over 50 recommendations for government as to how to deliver buildings that are safe to live in. No doubt the second phase of the Grenfell Tower enquiry, due to start soon, will refine some of the recommendations. But do we have to wait until then to make changes?

### How much has changed so far?

In May 2019, the BBC reported that data released by the Building Safety Programme indicates that 221 high-rise buildings still have unsafe ACM cladding, and remediation work had not yet started.

In October 2019 a report put out by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government gives even greater

cause for concern: it claims that there are still 312 tower blocks that have failed tests since the Grenfell Tower disaster. This means that combustible cladding, similar to that used in the Grenfell Tower, is still in place.

The report lists authorities where there are still high-rise buildings with unsafe combustible cladding.

High on the list is the Royal Borough of Greenwich, which it claims has some 11 blocks that have failed the cladding test. The top six authorities on the risk list are Brent, Greenwich, Manchester, Salford, Tower Hamlets and Westminster.

In 2017, the Royal Borough reassured tenants and residents that all its buildings comply with fire safety regulations. It was pointed out that within Royal Greenwich there are 93 high-rise blocks, six of which are 24 storeys high. The six 24 storey blocks have external cladding.

All the 93 blocks were fire-risk-assessed annually – according to the regulations on fire safety then in place.

### And now?

Cllr Chris Kirby, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "We welcome the publication of the first phase of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report. The Government, councils, housing associations and emergency services owe it to the families of the 72 people who were killed to do everything in our power to prevent such an unspeakable tragedy from ever happening again. There are a number of recommendations which will need to be taken forward by London Fire Brigade, local authorities and building owners – we will go through these and publish a full response in due course once we understand what they mean for the Council and our residents."

Residents are hoping that they do not have to wait for the second phase of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to be completed before they can lie safe in their beds.



The Royal Borough of Greenwich delivered its bid to become Borough of Culture 2021 on 28 October. Arriving at City Hall by Thames Clipper, Leader of the Council Danny Thorpe and Cabinet Member for Culture Miranda Williams, were joined by local groups, including performers from the fantastic Woolwich Carnival. The London Borough of Culture is part of the Mayor of London's plans to support the arts in the capital, open for all London boroughs to bid for £1.35m to hold a year-long programme of cultural events,

## Charity of the Year 2020

DI BLACKWELL

Do you know of a local charity that is making a difference to the quality of people's lives – and needs a helping hand with funds to continue its good work?

Every year at this time The Westcombe Society, whose main function has always been to nurture the local community in every way it can, asks for applications for its Charity of the Year.

In 2019 the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, the charity which helps the homeless, was the focus of fundraising efforts by The Westcombe Society. Money raised has made it possible for those running the night shelters to purchase beds, bed linen, blankets, and food. All this and much-appreciated shower facilities, too!

Organisations asking to be considered for the Charity of 2020 must be locally funded (i.e not a national charity) and should be of benefit to residents of the local Westcombe area or nearby.

Applicants can be working to improve the quality of life for local people in all kinds of situations. For example, these may be young people, disadvantaged children, parents in need of support or those with special needs.

**Please send in your application (a sheet of A4) by 31st January 2020 to [info@westcombesociety.org](mailto:info@westcombesociety.org)**

**In your application provide full details of the organisation, and outline how you would spend any donation.**

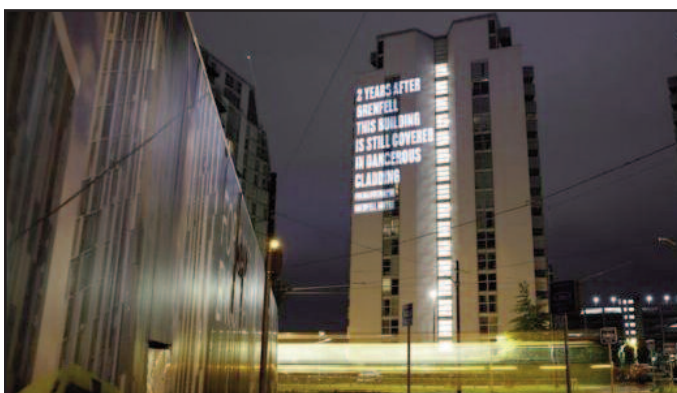
## EURO 2020 Fanzone Community Days

Between 12 June and 12 July 2020 London is one of the cities hosting matches as part of UEFA EURO 2020.

As part of this the Greater London Authority is proposing to use Greenwich Park as a Fanzone, where families and friends can come together to enjoy this unique sporting occasion (as reported in the *WN*). These plans can be viewed online at <https://planning.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/online-applications/>. Search for 19/3497/F.

The proposals require planning permission: any comments need to be made before 18th December to Royal Borough of Greenwich, Planning Department, Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, London SE18 6HQ, or on-line to [planning-consultation@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:planning-consultation@royalgreenwich.gov.uk). Please also let us have your comments so that the Westcombe Society response can reflect the views of our members and residents to [info@westcombesociety.org](mailto:info@westcombesociety.org). (see also page.3)

The projection on this building in Salford, which has 246 flats, said that it was "still covered in dangerous cladding" that was not covered by the government's cladding removal fund.



### The General Election 2019

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

for the Greenwich & Woolwich Constituency

PUT YOUR QUESTIONS TO THEM

Thursday 5th December 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

St George's Church Glenluce Road SE3 7SE

Everyone welcome.

Hosted by Blackheath & Greenwich United Nations Association

Thanks to: The Vicar Revd Tim Yeager

Queries: please ring Neville Grant 0208 858 8489





## WESTCOMBE NEWS

### ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**Neville Grant**, Editor  
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Tel. 020 8858 8489

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

**Deadline for the February issue:**  
16th January 2020

**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

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Advertising@westcombesociety.org

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*The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor.*

*We take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of our readers by ensuring as far as possible the bona fides of our advertisers but cannot accept any responsibility for them. Any complaints should be addressed to the advertiser.*

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

### DATE for your DIARY!

The Westcombe Society's Members'/Helpers'/Newcomers' Party is on Saturday Evening 8th February at Mycenae House (invitations going out in January)

Newcomers to the area are also welcome. Please phone Caroline on 8853 0948 if you would like an invitation.

### 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.

The Westcombe Society's Quiz Night was held in George's church on 26th October to raise funds for the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter. Many thanks to the Revd Tim Yeager and members of his church for welcoming us.

The church is also of course one of the venues in Greenwich that hosts homeless people one night each week from November till March.

The venues provide not only a bed for the night for some fifteen homeless people, but also a hot evening meal, a cooked breakfast and a bit of fellowship and warmth, all done by teams of volunteers.

The church was full with 20 teams of six taking part, and searching for answers set by J-J. Congratulations must go to the St George's teams who took first, second and fourth places!



## The Westcombe Society's Quiz Night



PHOTOS: Tim Yeager

There was a very generous donation of £50 for the first prize in the Raffle, and our thanks go to all who bought tickets as the Raffle raised almost £400. The first prize was donated to the charity by the winners thereby helping to increase the total raised.

Chippy suppers were provided as usual by the 'Fisherman's Inn' on

the Woolwich Road and as always were greatly enjoyed.

Thanks must go all the team from Caroline taking the bookings, to Maureen organising the suppers, not forgetting Joanne and Patricia who did a stirring job collecting and marking the papers.

We would like to thank all those who took part and helped to raise £1300 for our Charity of the Year - the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter.

# able.

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## Letters

Views expressed are not necessarily those of either the Westcombe Society, or the Westcombe News.

**From: Prof. Matt Todd UCL**

There have been some negative comments about parakeets in the park in recent issues of the *WN*. The only threat they represent is to the smiles of commuters at Maze Hill Station as they await their train, who enjoy their joyous chatter.

**From: Abby, Head Coffee Lady, Macmillan**

Huge thanks to Caroline Owens and the wonderful team of volunteers for hosting the Coffee Morning and raising £1000. The Westcombe Society's Coffee Morning really does count and I hope we can do it all again next year.

**From: Anna Paine Macmillan Cancer**

We can't say thank you enough, to everyone at The Westcombe Society for your donation of £421.00 raised from your walk. Your generosity and support will allow us to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can.

At Macmillan, we understand that cancer can impact on a person's whole life. With your support, people get the energy and inspiration to feel more like themselves. Thank you again!

**From: Victoria Rance Lizban Street**

The Stop the Silvertown Tunnel Coalition has written to the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, saying that the SSTC will seek a judicial review if signing goes ahead.

**From: Name and address supplied**

I, like many residents, have received notification from the GLA about the proposals for the Fan Zone next summer. Summer seems a long way off and the planning application is yet to be considered by the Council but I note that as well as up to 12 days of football, there is a proposal to run six to eight "Community Event Days." These will be unticketed and the organisers claim they might attract up to 5,000 people. I hope that in the face of all this razzmatazz there will be some time when the Park can be returned to its principal use as a park for the quiet enjoyment of all.

**From: Helen & Tony Othen Peyton Pl.** Many thanks to all for the tremendous amount of money raised for the Night Shelter by the Quiz Night.

It will be a huge help for our guests and help us to run the shelter throughout this winter which looks set to be one of the coldest.

The Westcombe Society is close to our hearts as we lived for 25 years in Humber Road and were always keen to support the society's events.

Now you are supporting the Winter Night Shelter and that is wonderful - THANK YOU!



Planting in the Pleasaunce will be wassailing, to help the East Greenwich Pleasaunce orchard come out of hibernation and bear plenty of fruit next year, on Sunday January 12th 12 noon - 3.00pm. We hope to have Greenwich Morris.

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# LOCAL NEWS



## UEFA EURO 2020 and The Greenwich Park Fanzone: Join the conversation!

Join us for one of our consultation session to discuss your ideas and initial proposals for the community days at the proposed UEFA EURO 2020 Fan Zone site in Greenwich next summer.

Between 12 June and 12 July 2020, London will be one of the cities hosting matches as part of UEFA EURO 2020. As part of welcoming European football to London, the Greater London Authority is proposing to create a fan zone in Greenwich, where families and friends can come together to enjoy this unique sporting occasion. These plans are subject to consultation with residents as well as planning permission.

In addition to showcasing matches, 6-8 free community days would be held throughout the tournament. Emergency Exit Arts has been commissioned to consult the local community about a possible programme of events at these community days.

These will highlight the cultural and artistic heart of the local community and focus on fun and engaging activities to achieve full involvement.

The days are likely to evolve around a number of themes, Interested groups and partners are invited to attend an initial discussion of ideas and proposals.

The first session (5th December, 1:30-4pm) will primarily focus on the following themes:

- Arts & Crafts
- Music & Dance
- Heritage & Stories

The second consultation session (11th December, 1:30-4pm) will primarily focus on the following themes:

- Gardening & Environment
- Sports, Health & Well-being
- Other themes

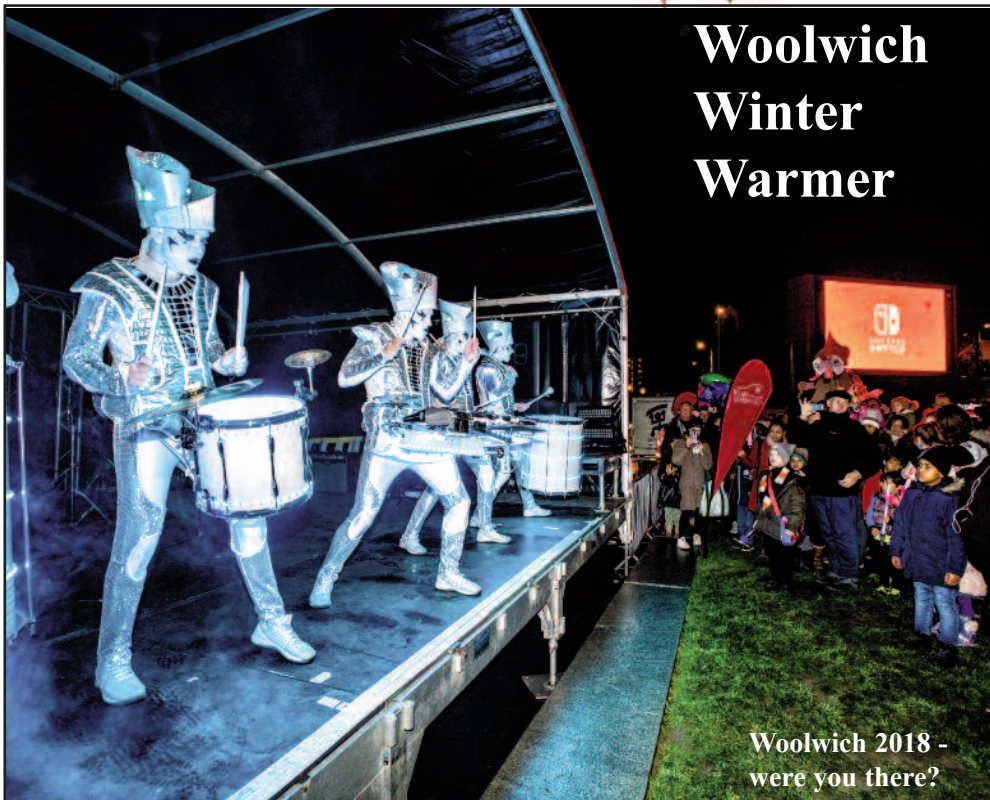
**However, if you can't make the date that is more relevant to your idea, please do come along for the other session regardless. The consultations will be taking place at the Emergency Exit Arts HQ: Rothbury Hall, Mauritius Road SE10 0EF**

### A102 Blackwall Tunnel Southern Approach

From 25th November to 18 December between 21.00 and 05.00 there will be various slip road and lane closures to allow for re-surfacing works between Sun in the Sands roundabout and Woolwich Road to take place.

Pavements and pedestrian crossings will be remain open wherever possible and any temporary closures will be signed.

Visit [tfl.gov.uk/bus/status](http://tfl.gov.uk/bus/status) for bus services that may be affected. For further information visit [tfl.gov.uk/roads](http://tfl.gov.uk/roads).



Woolwich 2018 - were you there?

Get into the Festive mood by going to the Woolwich Winter Warmer on Sat. 7th December 12 - 6.30pm in General Gordon Square and the Royal Arsenal, an extravaganza with live stages, choirs, an Ariana Grande tribute act and El Carromato's Big Dancers – you can't miss them in the Lantern Parade. Also: fairground rides, fireworks and pedal-powered sleigh rides.

## Discover London's newest ice rink



Discover the most beautiful ice skating setting in London this Christmas at the Queen's House Ice Rink in Greenwich.

The Queen's House Ice Rink is a magical place to go skating this winter. Enjoy striking views of the River Thames and Greenwich Royal Park as you weave (or wobble) your way around the rink.

The Queen's House is London's newest Christmas ice skating destination and the only outdoor ice rink in south London. And it's here in Greenwich, on our doorstep!

Book your skating session online now and visit the Queen's House Ice Rink this winter.

**Open Everyday from 29th November to 12th January, except Christmas Day; please see calendar for dates and times. For group bookings please call 020 8312 6608.**

**Please note that the National Maritime Museum, Royal Observatory Greenwich, Planetarium, Cutty Sark and Queen's House (excluding toilets) will be closed on the 24th - 26th December.**

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## < < Newsbriefs > >

### Congratulations

Woolwich Laureate Bernardine Evaristo has jointly won the Booker Prize 2019 for her novel *Girl, Woman, Other*, with the world-renowned author Margaret Atwood.

### All aboard the 335!

Saturday 26 October, saw the second new bus route to arrive in Royal Greenwich this year, following the launch of the 301.

The new 335 will use double-decker buses, running every 12 minutes Monday to Saturday during the day-time, and every 15 minutes during evenings and Sundays. Good news for some: but the long-suffering residents of Westcombe Hill will now be getting 36 buses an hour going up and down that narrow hill.

### Traffic light adjustments

TfL have proposed to adjust the timing of traffic lights to enable more pedestrians and cyclists to cross roads. An example of the "law of unintended consequences?" Drivers are already

frustrated by ill-timed and poorly located traffic lights – notably at the highly polluted junction of Vanbrugh Hill and Trafalgar Road.

Pollution from idling engines is twice as high as from moving vehicles and feelings have been running high locally since the death of Ella Kissi-Debra from asthma linked to traffic fumes. It is estimated that one child in five in Tower Hamlets suffers from traffic-related conditions.

### Stop the Nastiness!

The group Compassion in Politics has launched #StopTheNastiness, which aims to encourage candidates to "campaign with respect, call out hate, and promote compassion" over the next six weeks. It also calls on the media for restraint.

### Greenwich Park Police

hold regular surgeries when the public can discuss any issues of concern. The next surgeries are at the Pavilion Cafe from 10.00-11.00 on Dec. 20th and 29th.

**The Woodlands Farm Trust**  
**CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
**Sunday 1 December 2019**  
**11.00 am - 3.00 pm**  
**331 Shooters Hill**  
**Welling DA16 3RP**  
**No parking, please use public transport**  
**Buses 89 & 486 stop outside**

- Meet Father Christmas and his elves in the magical grotto
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- Children's festive activities
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**The Woodlands Farm Trust**  
Charity Registration No: 1051680  
For further details visit our website:  
[www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org](http://www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org)  
Twitter: @woodlandsft



# FEATURES



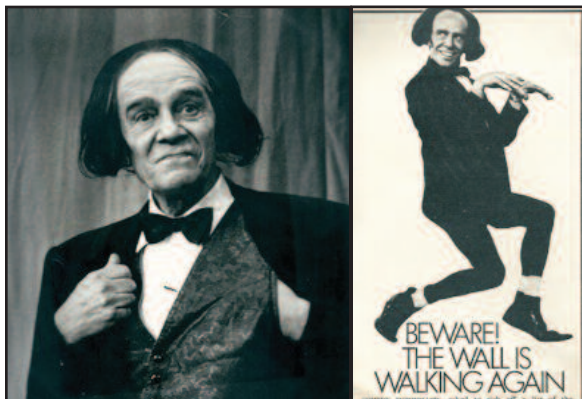
## Remembering Max Wall

**DAVID DRUMMOND** reminds us that comedians are not only found in Westminster

Once familiar face in our borough was the entertainer Max Wall whose latter-day success was achieved via his performances at The Greenwich Theatre.

These included his much-lauded Archie Rice in John Osborne's *The Entertainer*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* and the birth of his series *Aspects of Max Wall* in which he introduced to a younger generation the comedic skills he had mastered in variety. These peaked with his hilarious creation of the weird pianist Professor Wallofski prone to funny walks.

With a pleasing light baritone he accompanied himself on his guitar as he sang some of the hundred odd songs of his own composition. Remember *Me and My Tune?* Like many comedians before him his timing skills also led to acclaim as a character actor.



The society got the bar at Greenwich Theatre to bear his name, and display images of him in performance. It also publishes a journal – *The WallPaper*

Past presidents include Ronnie Corbett and Ken Dodd (currently Barry Cryer) and present patrons are Simon Callow, David Bradley and Alison Steadman. We meet in The London Hippodrome in a special room named after Lola, a female lion tamer.

That Max Wall performed here on several occasions is a particular pleasure to the society's members. From its archives The Max Wall Society will celebrate him there amongst a number of planned programmes. Recollected too will be past performers such as Maurice Chevalier, escapologist Houdini, and Anna Pavlova in Swan Lake in its premiere performance in Britain. Also remembered are the 12-year-old Julie Andrews, Ivor Novello, and Judy Garland in her last performance. It was here that Pat Kirkwood first sang that her heart belonged to Daddy, Pedro the Fisherman whistled and a boy named Charlie Chaplin appeared as a dog.

With the owners of the Hippodrome it is hoped that the MWS will revive happy memories and, in particular, be of interest to younger people as it introduces them to the great names of the past.

**Details of membership of the society are available from:**

**Jean Barham Wyatt, 11, Milland Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 1TG**



A group of his admirers intent on keeping his name alive formed a society in his name: The Max Wall Society. It tends his grave in Highgate Cemetery, and arranged for a plaque at his Kennington birthplace.

## The *Westcombe News*: From Glue-Stick to Memory Stick

**NEVILLE GRANT** gives an insight into how your favourite local newspaper is produced.

Editing the *Westcombe News* has given me a lot of pleasure over the years: above all, it is fun. I can't tell you what a buzz of satisfaction one feels as each new issue rolls off the press. So it will be with great reluctance that I step down as the sole editor of the paper next February.

So, exactly what is involved? These days you don't need typists, scissors, and glue. Armed with a large screen Apple Mac (it comes with the job as editor), and a simple design and layout system, Quark, production of the *WN* has become streamlined.

### It's easy!

Readers will be surprised to see how easy and straightforward producing the *WN* has become.

First it only comes out ten times a year. (July/August and December/January are combined issues.)

Secondly, it is only eight pages – though one could reduce the extent to six or even four if desired.

Thirdly, the editors are not alone. Marilyn looks after the money side; Gavin is in charge of the ads, and ensures that they come in in good time. Maggie, the environment editor, comes up with new ideas and stories for the environment page – though the story often makes the front page; Annie is a rigorous proof-reader, and Emily ensures the paper is delivered, with the help of all our volunteer deliverers. And, of course, apart from roving reporter Vivienne, all the other reporters are YOU, dear readers, for the *Westcombe News* is a community newspaper, and it is YOURS, not ours!

### And where does the copy come from?

There is no difficulty in filling those eight pages. The reason? Copy floods in from many sources. Readers (not just members of the Westcombe Society) find it a useful outlet for them, whether it be to publicise a pet project, or an interesting news story, information about their club or society's activities, and local issues such as the Silvertown Tunnel, a proposed cruise liner terminal, or new plans for Greenwich Park, for

example.

The editors have easy access to email – westcombenews@yahoo.co.uk – which provides multiple sources of information, local and national, from Greenwich Council, the Mayor's office, TfL, and indeed the government. These often impinge on our locality, and the editor finds there is no problem finding a local angle.

There's no difficulty either in finding readers – and, therefore, advertisers;

with local newspapers becoming thinner and thinner, many people now find the *WN* an essential source of local information and news. I call it a Heineken paper that reaches the news that other papers do not reach!

The advertisers like it too – it's a cheap way of reaching the local target readership; and of course

the revenue covers the printing costs – and any extra income goes to local charities via the Westcombe Society.

It's win, win, win all round!

### So, how does the editing work?

Using Quark, you create a text box, and copy and paste the selected text. You can arrange the text in one, two, three or even four columns, as needed.

A separate text box for the headline is also necessary. Pictures? These include photos, and those advertisements that include pictures, and come in as pdfs or jpegs. As they arrive, or are found, you download them into a picture file. Draw a picture box on the page, to fit, and import the target picture, adjusting the size as necessary. All very easy.

Once all is completed, you do a final save, and transfer it to a memory stick, together with the file containing all the photographs and ads you have used. Off it goes on Monday to our helpful printer, Dave.

Hey presto! By Friday over 4,000 are out and with the distribution manager: then our wonderful volunteer deliverers take over, and deliver them, street by street. Every issue is a triumph for local community commitment and action.

Long may the paper last. And please, dear readers, keep that copy coming in!

**Last month Neville Grant announced that next year, he will no longer be the sole editor of the WN. From February the WN will be co-edited with Anne Williams, who lives in the area, and was the editor for a time some twenty years ago. A warm welcome to Anne!**

## The Kimberleys



The Kimberleys, Isobel and Jim, are professional recording and touring musicians who have worked with such greats as Gordon Giltrap, Cathy Lesurf, Andy Cutting and Mark Knopfler, but they have also been at the heart of the vibrant local music scene since moving to the area over a decade ago.

In June of last year, to a sold-out Mycenae House, they launched their debut album, an atmospheric collection of traditional folk songs, (Impressive and uplifting arrangements – *Rock n Reel* magazine) and now they return to Mycenae House with a show in celebration of the season featuring Christian, pre-Christian, yuletide and winter songs. A joyful antidote to the commonplace Christmas playlist.

**Mycenae House Friday 20th December  
Doors 7.00pm £10/£12  
www.thekimberleys.org**

### St George's Lecture series

**The Secret of Success is Sharing it**  
**says ED MAYO**

Drawing on his life in campaigning and ethical business, from fair trade and consumer rights to workers' co-operatives and credit unions, local resident Ed Mayo shares lessons on how to co-operate and why teamwork – getting on with others rather than trying to get ahead of them – can be a winning formula.

Formerly head of the New

Economics Foundation, and author of several books, Ed Mayo was nominated in 2003 as one of the top 100 most influential figures in British social policy.

**Thursday, 23rd Jan. 8.00pm  
St George's Church Glenluce Rd.**

**The lecture series continues in March and April with two other speakers.**



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# WHAT'S ON



## ARTS

**THE ARTS SOCIETY GREENWICH**  
**WILLIAM HOGARTH 1697-1764 Linda Smith Monday 9th December 2019**

Hogarth is nowadays mostly remembered as a talented satirist, but there is much more to him than that. 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. See also the exhibition at the John Soan Museum Lincoln Inn Fields!  
**THREE CHINESE CITIES: PEKING, SHANGHAI & SUZHOU 13 January 2020 Anne Haworth** Three unique cities. Times, venue, as above.

**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  
**MYCENAE HOUSE Nov - December**  
**THE RENAISSANCE WORKSHOP** Exhibition of a wide range of work by pupils from the Life Drawing classes held at Mycenae House by Jon Long.  
email: jonathancndlong@gmail.com

## SPOKEN WORD

**NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM**

**Bill Bailey's Cutty Sark Spectacular 15 Dec.** One of our nation's greatest landmarks for an evening of music and comedy to celebrate Cutty Sark. Doors Open 6.50pm | Show Starts 7.30pm Tickets: £35 - £49

**IN-WORDS at West Greenwich Library**

**Tuesday December 3rd: join NEVADA STREET POETS** as they celebrate their tenth anniversary. . 7.30 (doors open at 7.00pm), FREE.

Visit [in-words.co.uk](http://in-words.co.uk) for more information.

**INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**14th January 2020 Prof Dave Perrett on GLIAS and IA in London;** in the Studio in Age Exchange  
**BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY**  
**Dec. 13th 7.45 Mycenae House AGM and short talks by members or visitors(!). NOTE THIS IS THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**January 17th 2020: GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURES AND FRACKING, Dr Paul Nathanail, MD LQM Ltd 7.45 Mycenae House**

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## COMMUNITY

**ST GEORGE'S CHRISTMAS**

**Sat 14TH Dec. 4.00pm** Pub Carol Singing at the Royal Standard

**Wed 18th Dec 7.00pm** Choir concert Mycenae House

**Sun 22nd Dec 6.00pm** Carol Service at the church

**Tues 24th Dec 4.00pm** Crib Building.

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

**Wed 25th Dec 10.30** All-Age Christmas

**Sun 5th Jan. 11.00 am** Feast of the Epiphany

**THE BRIDGE AND FRIENDS OF EAST GREENWICH PLEASANCE** The Bridge CIC, East Greenwich Pleasance, Off Chevening Road, Greenwich, SE10 0LB are holding their annual 'Meet Father Christmas' Event on Sunday 8th December 12pm - 4pm. Father Christmas will arrive by special transport at 12.30 and children can visit him for FREE in his grotto between 1 & 3.30pm. There will also be a Christmas market, refreshments, carol singing with Halstow Community Choir, games and a tombola to entertain the whole family. This event is open to all.

**NORA & PAVLINA'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

as part of their community building social enterprise. Pay What you Want! Dec. 15th 6.00 - 10.00 pm at Charlton House. Adults £10.00, children £5.00 Three course meal. Entertainment. Book at <https://nora-pavlina-christmas.eventbrite.co.uk>

**BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Meets first Wednesday of every month, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Sunfields Methodist Church on Old Dover Road

**BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB** duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Newcomers welcome.

**Would you like to learn this fascinating game?**

Bridge lessons Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road. For more details, please contact Ivy McGeorge on 020 8293 5354 or [ivymcgeorge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ivymcgeorge@hotmail.co.uk)

**SUNDAYS AT SUNFIELDS at Sunfields Methodist Church 95 Old Dover Road, Blackheath SE3 8SJ**

1.00 - 4.00 pm First Sunday of each month. No need to book. FREE

**GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS**

Earl of Chatham Pub, Woolwich Thurs. 19th Dec.

Poetry and Music Night 7.30 - 10p, Free

**TUE 17 DEC 1.30pm BLACKHEATH HALLS**

**AUTUMN TEA DANCE £8 | £6 conc.**

## CHILDREN & FAMILY

**WOODLANDS FARM**

**Stick Man at Christmas Sat. 7th Dec. 10am, 11am and 1pm**

Watch the Stick Man film before heading off round the farm on The Stick Man Activity Trail. Find everything on the trail before heading off to Santa's grotto to get your special certificate and a present from Father Christmas himself. £8 per child (+ booking fee). Sessions start at 10am, 11am and 1pm. Booking is essential. Please arrive 15 minutes before the time of your booking as the film will be starting on the hour. To book go to our website [www.the-woodlandsfarmtrust.org](http://www.the-woodlandsfarmtrust.org)

**NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM**

**Last chance to visit The Moon exhibition.**

**Ends 5 January Bring your little astronauts along!**

**CHRISTMAS AT CUTTY SARK**

**7-8 December 11.30am-1.30pm and 2pm-4pm**

Bring the little ones to make a hands-on Christmas wreath workshop for your front door!

## MYCENAE HOUSE EVENTS: DEC 19 / JAN 20

**MYCENAE HOUSE, Mycenae Road SE3**

**Thurs 5th Dec 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for families. £10.**

**Fri 6th Dec 7.30pm - Robert Vincent. One of the UK's top Americana artists, supported by The Kimberleys. £16.**

**Fri 13th Dec 8pm - JazzNights. Candlit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £10.**

**Wed 18th Dec 7pm - Choral Christmas. Choirs of St George's Church & Blackheath Centre for Singing. Free.**

**Fri 20th & Sat 21st Dec 1pm + 3.30pm - The Nutcracker.**

Let's All Dance present this festive family ballet. £14/12.

**Fri 20th Dec 7.30pm - Christmas with The Kimberleys. A magical evening of live music, and the festive spirit. £12.**

**Thurs 9th Jan 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for families. £10.**

**Fri 10th Jan 8pm - JazzNights. Candlit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £10.**

**Fri 24th Jan 7.30pm Burns Night Special. Scottish live music, dancing, poetry, food & Piping in the Haggis, book early! £13.**

For further information visit [www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)

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## MUSIC

**BLACKHEATH HALLS**

**Box Office 020 8463 0100**

**SUN 01 DEC 11:00h NADINE BENJAMIN**

**soprano & NICOLE PANIZZA piano**

**Emergence** - a selection of songs setting the poems of Emily Dickinson, a poet with an exceptional ability to distil 'amazing sense' from 'ordinary meanings'. £10.00 | £8 concs.

**SUN 1 DEC 1.30 & 3.45 THE NUTCRACKER**

Let's All Dance return with their beautiful and enchanting production of this popular festive favourite. £14 | £12 under 16s

Sun. 1st Dec. £14.00 | £12.00 under 16s.

**MON 2nd Dec. 13:10h BARNABY ROBSON**

**clarinet, NARDUS WILLIAMS soprano & FIONA HARRIS piano** perform Steve Reich New York Counterpoint and Schubert FREE, retiring collection for Blackheath Halls.

**Mon 2nd Dec. at 6.30 and Tues. 3rd Dec. & Wed 4th Dec. and Thurs. 5th Dec. 7.00pm**

**TURNING OF THE YEAR £6.00**

**SAT 07 DEC 7.30pm HAVEN'T STOPPED**

**DANCING YET BIG XMAS DISCO BALL!**

A dance-tastic night of 70s & 80s soul, funk and disco as recommended by Time Out & BBC Radio 4 £15. in advance, £18.00 on the door

**SUN 8th DEC 8.00pm JAMES TAYLOR**

**QUARTET** The legendary UK funkmeister and Hammond guru, playing rare groove and jazz funk, mixed in with a little soul. £20.00

**TUE 10 DEC 7.30pm BEATS IN THE BAR**

Our much-loved regular series features guest artists alongside student bands Free

**WED 11 DEC 10.00am VOCAL MASTER-CLASS: NICKY SPENCE** The acclaimed tenor

returns to share his insights with Trinity Laban vocal students. Free

**WED 11 DEC 7.30pm TRINITY LABAN JAZZ**

**CHOIR directed by Cleveland Watkiss**

**THU 12 DEC 10.30am VENUS BLAZING**

**SYMPOSIUM: REFLECTING ON THE**

**FUTURE** Trinity Laban discusses the impact of Venus Blazing, our campaign throughout 2018/19 to present music written by male and female composers in equal measure. Free

**THU 12 Dec 6.30pm** An

intergenerational group of participants will present a creative response to Grace Williams's Symphony No. 2, exploring issues of place and identity. Free

**7.30pm TRINITY LABAN**

**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

If you've enjoyed our

Venus Blazing day, this concert is

the perfect ending! £8.00 | £5.00

**SUN 15 DEC 7.30pm**

**BLACKHEATH HALLS**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Join us for our annual concert

as we celebrate the magic of

Christmas £17.00 | £15. concs.

£7.00 under 12.

**MON 16 DEC 1.0pm PRISMA**

**COLLECTIVE:** A concert of

music from many lands for

Christmas. Free, retiring collection

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**ORCN TRINITY LABAN CHAPEL**

**CHOIR Sat Dec. 14th 7.00pm**

perform Christmas music

including Bach, Handel and

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**Carol Singing in the Community**

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# FEATURES



## QUIZ for all the family



You may be surprised how much your children know about the Three Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Children take a great interest in saving the planet, and the home is the perfect place to start practising sustainable living.

So try out this quiz – it’s about what can be put in the blue top bin. Remember that putting a wrong item into the blue top bin contaminates the whole truck and can lead to the entire truckload having to be discarded.

Can the items listed right, be recycled in the blue top bin? Tick where applic!

	YES	NO
1. Plastic bottles	0	0
2. Take-away coffee cups	0	0
3. Styrofoam food containers	0	0
4. Used pizza boxes	0	0
5. Paper plates	0	0
6. Paper towels	0	0
7. Wet wipes	0	0
8. Tissues	0	0
9. Shiny wrapping paper	0	0
10. Biscuit packet wrappers	0	0
11. Sweet papers	0	0
12. Baby-food pouches	0	0
13. Crisp packets	0	0
14. Plastic garden pots	0	0
15. Black plastic sacks	0	0
16. Nappies	0	0
17. Coat hangers	0	0
18. Wood	0	0
19. Bubble wrap	0	0
20. Batteries	0	0
21. Plastic toys	0	0
22. Plastic shopping bags	0	0

You can check your ANSWERS on page 8.

## Jane’s Kitchen Stories: December: Party time!



Blackheath and Greenwich are great places to live for many reasons. We have the beautiful green spaces of park and heath, historic buildings and a strong sense of community. And then there is fish...

The early risers amongst you may not have considered how close we are to Billingsgate Market - you can be there and back with an amazing haul of the freshest fish at great prices before the rest of the household is awake. You can buy big, share with a friend or ask the traders to split a box for you - many of them will.

If you like a lie in, and are anywhere near Deptford, you might go to Bob’s Fish Van which is in the market every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. His fish are fresh from Billingsgate and if you ask he will gut and scale them for you.

Closest to home is Ellis & Jones in Circus Street – there, fish is ready prepared and beautifully displayed. They stock salmon from Loch Duart, a fishery which is environmentally sustainable, and raises the most extraordinary salmon, firm-fleshed and full of flavour.

As Christmas approaches cured salmon is a great option for a party. It is an impressive centerpiece, will feed loads of people, tastes delicious and is a stress-free choice as it is all prepared ahead. There are lots of recipes out there but beyond the basics of using salt and sugar for the cure, the aromatics are up to you.

I like to use beetroot, orange, juniper

and gin which gives stunning colour and depth of flavour, sometimes I add fresh dill, caraway or coriander seeds.

First acquire a side of super fresh, sustainable salmon and remove any pin bones.

Peel and quarter a couple of beetroot, zest an orange and a lemon, bash a teaspoon of juniper berries with a rolling pin then put all of

this into a processor and blitz.

Add 100g rock salt, 50g demerara sugar and 50ml of gin – last year I used a blood orange gin which was amazing.

Put the salmon skin side down on a baking tray lined with cling film or parchment, cover it with the cure, then wrap it tightly and leave it in the fridge for a few days turning regularly.

Finally unwrap the salmon, rinse off the cure, pat it dry, slice it finely and enjoy with soda bread, sour cream – or fresh pickles!



### Jane’s Kitchen

Enjoy effortless entertaining with delicious dinner party dishes prepared and delivered.

Have a night off cooking with a kitchen supper ready to heat and eat.

Jane makes a variety of seasonally inspired menus from scratch using well-sourced ingredients.

www.janeskitchen.london  
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## In the bleak midwinter Frosty windscreens grow . . .

Winter is set to be one of the chilliest in decades. For drivers, that means frosty windscreens.

A nightmare if you’re late for work. Drivers have been known to try to scrape their windows with a credit card. Good way to turn credit into debit ...

The obvious solution is to use a one of those de-icers - but have you noticed how quickly de-icers get used up?

A complete no-no is pouring boiling water over your windscreen. In a recent poll by Halfords among 1,600 motorists about their winter motoring habits, an amazing half of them admitted using a kettle of hot water on their car windscreen. A good way to crack your windscreen...

Some drivers are tempted to turn the heater on full and drive off, hoping the screen will clear: again, not a good idea. – and it’s a move that could land you in trouble. You don’t need the Highway Code to tell you that it could be dangerous.

The Highway Code states that “windows and windscreens must be kept clean and free of obstructions to vision.” You can get a fine of £60, and three points on your driving licence for that offence.

Not just the front windscreen: the wing mirrors, and the rear windscreen also need

to be cleared. Not to mention the condensation that forms inside the car.

You may be tempted to switch on the heaters, and leave the car to defrost while you nip in for a quick cup of coffee. Sorry sir, that’s a £20 fine and three points on your licence for failing to be in control while your engine is running...

### Best ways to deal with the problem

The obvious way is to use a windscreen scraper or de-icer

But there are other solutions. One way to do it is by making a DIY de-icer.

To make a DIY de-icer: mix up a solution of water with a teaspoon of salt, before pouring it over any frozen areas. Don’t use too much salt, as it could cause corrosion to any paintwork it touches..

An alternative is to mix three parts of vinegar with one part of water – if you don’t mind the smell!

Here’s another idea: prevention is better than cure. soak an old towel in a solution of water and table salt and place it on the car windscreen the night before. The salt lowers the freezing point of water, which means moisture is prevented from frosting over on your screen.

Drive safely for Christmas!



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## Christmas at Mycenae House & Gardens

December

Thur 5 **Bach To Baby** Classical for Baby & You 4.00pm

Fri 6 **Robert Vincent** (Acoustic Americana) 7.30pm

Fri 13 **Jazz Nights** (Live Jazz at its best) 8.00pm

Wed 18 **Choral Christmas** feat BSFS & St Georges Choirs 7pm

Fri 20 **The Nutcracker** Ballet by Lets All Dance 1 & 3 pm

Fri 20 **Christmas** with the **Kimberleys** 7.30pm

Sat 21 **The Nutcracker** Ballet by Lets All Dance 1 & 3 pm

www.wegotickets.com/location/13865  
www.mycenaehouse.co.uk







Planning applications can be viewed in the library, or at the Woolwich Library on the lower ground floor of the Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington St. They may also be viewed on [www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning)

Environmental groups call for action following Thames21’s Big Bottle Count

KIRSTEN DOWNER reports

London’s largest mass census of river plastic, the annual Big Bottle Count, saw more than 100 volunteers count and remove plastic bottles from the Thames last October.

A total of 1,732 plastic bottles were counted at 17 sites along the Thames as part of the investigation into the impact of single-use plastic bottles on the capital’s river,organised by waterways charity Thames21, local group the Grays Beachcombers and assisted by the #OneLess campaign.

More than 27 000 plastic bottles have been removed from the river by Thames21 volunteers in the past year, and more than 107 000 since records began in 2016. The Big Bottle Count forms part of a regular ongoing monitoring programme.



Thames 21’s Big Bottle Count took place on 17 sites along the Thames,

AJ McConville, of the Thames21 programme said: ‘Plastic drink bottles continue to blight the river. Valiant Londoners help us collect this crucial plastic data which helps hold manufacturers and decision-makers accountable,’ said McConville. ‘Is society doing enough to tackle the plastic crisis? The river gives us the answer: a clear no.’

Thames21 is among many groups calling for an all-in Deposit Return Scheme (DRS to be introduced as soon as possible

Debbie Leach, CEO of Thames21 said: ‘In Germany, which has had this system since 2003, bottles are now recycled at a rate of 99%.’

The Government’s recent Environment Bill allows for the creation of the DRS, does not specify when it will happen.

*Thames21 connects people with rivers by putting healthy rivers back at the heart of everyday life.*

*[www.thames21.org.uk](http://www.thames21.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1103997*

Reducing Traffic in West Greenwich

The council have been working on proposals to reduce Rat Running in the”Hills and Vales” area of West Greenwich. They have come up with two proposals. The Westcombe Society asked to be involved in the consultations in the light of the possible impact on Westcombe Park.

The displaced traffic could cause worse congestion elsewhere. Further details can be found a ‘[www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk /liveableneighbourhood](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/liveableneighbourhood)’

*Please review the documents and let us have your comments on the proposals at [info@westcombesociety.or](mailto:info@westcombesociety.or)*

Plans for the Ecology Park

Plans designed to off-set the ecological damage from a proposed new tower block, close to Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, are being considered by local residents and supporters.

A campaign to stop a 20 storey tower overshadowing the Park has already forced developers to reduce it to 13 storeys.

Now, TCV, the Land Trust, ecologists and GMVL have been working to find a solution aimed at delivering biodiversity gain, despite the shading.

The new plan involves removing the current Gatehouse and constructing a urpose-built Visitor Centre close to the 13 storey block. This will create a sustainable, fit-for-purpose community asset with much improved facilities nestled within a new area of wetland habitat adjoined to the

Park. The old Gatehouse site, in full sun, will be completely re-modelled as shingle beach and meadow habitat.

Further measures include improvements to the water circulation system, predator resistant tern rafts, invertebrate hotels and bat boxes.

The developers are currently appealing against the Council’s decision to turn down their reserved matters application for the tower.

Another sticking point may be the fact that the site of the new Centre is on Metropolitan Open Land, so special permission is needed. Campaigners have come a long way but watch this space.

**Annie, of the Friends of Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park**

Treasure that ivy, it’s not a pest!

SHIRLEY BROUGHTON



Wildlife loves ivy-

- Ivy is an essential food source for insects during autumn, when there is little else available.
- Ivy provides an excellent habitat for foraging creatures- it roots at many points, with stems that cover a wide area. This notably reduces the effect of frost hardening the ground in winter months, meaning animals can continue foraging in the leaf litter during bitter weather.It flowers on mature plants, producing nectar and pollen for bees, hoverflies, wasps, butterflies, moths etc. (including many rare species), before they hibernate.
- Ivy’s winter berries provide food for birds: the high fat content of the berries is a nutritious food resource for birds and the berries are eaten by a range of species. Ivy is the plant equivalent of a 24/7 grocery store. The berries provide essential food through the harsh winter months for birds
- Mature Ivy growing on walls and trees provides good shelter and cover for insects, birds, bats and other small mammals where they can hide, roost, nest and hibernate.

Ivy is not parasitic

- Ivy uses trees and walls for support: it doesn’t suffocate or strangle a tree, but clings to it, allowing it to reach upwards to better levels of light. Ivy has a separate root system in the soil, which absorbs its own nutrients and water as needed.
- If your tree contains dead wood, or the ivy grows wildly out of hand, it’s best to keep the ivy trimmed, to reduce wind resistance.
- If Ivy dominates a tree’s canopy, it can smother the leafing branches, which would limit the tree’s ability to photosynthesise; this will not kill it, but contain its growth.

Ivy is an insulator to buildings

- Ivy has recently been shown to provide extra insulation to buildings: recent research by Oxford University found that ivy acted like a blanket, warming up walls in cold weather and cooling the surface temperature of the wall in hot weather.
- Researchers also found that walls where ivy was growing were less prone to the damaging effects of freezing temperatures, fluctuations in temperature, pollution and salts than exposed walls without ivy.
- Ivy helps to protect intact walls; but if there are cracks and holes in damaged buildings, ivy may pose a problem.

Ivy reduces air and noise pollution

- Ivy has been found to absorb harmful pollutants in the atmosphere, even in the garden; it can also reduce noise pollution.
- Finally, ivy provides excellent, ever-green, ground cover even under trees, where nothing else will survive, forming an attractive green carpet.

Attention all drivers!

**Controlled Parking:** Should Saturdays continue to be included? Are you happy with the current controls or would you prefer changes such as no controls on Saturdays or controls in a street that doesn’t yet have them? Give your views before Dec 16th at: [consultations.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/survey/655](http://consultations.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/survey/655)

**Electric car charging:** Would you like to see lamppost charging points in your street? <https://consultations.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/KMS/dmart.aspx>

QUIZ answers: What can be put in the Blue bin?

Only the plastic bottles are recyclable in the blue top bin!

Some paper items cannot be recycled if they have a coating (e.g. takeaway coffee cups, paper plates), or the quality is too poor (kitchen towels, tissues). Greasy paper is a problem (e.g. pizza boxes) and so is paper with paint or sellotape on it. Sweet papers, biscuit packet wrappers and paper that doesn’t stay crumpled cannot be recycled as they wreak havoc with the machinery.

Shiny wrapping paper is also a No-No: a useful reminder this Christmas is not to put metallic wrapping paper, glittery cards, ribbons or bows in the bluetop bin.

But there are lots of things you can recycle including: food tins, drinks cans, aerosol cans, tinfoil (make it into a tennis-ball size before putting it in the bin to

ensure it is not too light), cardboard boxes, greeting cards (without glitter and metal), food and drink cartons, newspapers and magazines, catalogues, telephone directories and paperback books, glass bottles and jars, plastic milk bottles, shampoo, shower gel, household cleaning products and bleach bottles, yoghurt pots, plastic ready-meal containers (not the black ones), margarine and ice-cream tubs, and plastic fruit punnets. But remember they must be empty and clean.

Can you think of anyone else (e.g. your child’s teacher?) who might be interested in this quiz? Try sharing it.

**For other useful information, including recycling symbols, try [https://www.recyclenow.com](https://www.recyclenow.com;);**

**For recycling almost any form of waste try <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB>**

Advert.

The Real Point of Education

The point of trying to get educated is to cultivate mental grip. We all need this urgently today because the total environment is getting more and more complicated by the minute. ‘Grip’ means having the basics of keen observation, avoiding bias, cool abstraction, and awareness of the pitfalls of partial knowledge. These disciplines are not motivated by a thirst to know more, or to get more marks in a memory test. They are about a determination to sort it out, so that the whole “makes sense” and provides a source of confidence. Today schools on the whole are not doing this, or even trying to do this: they are mostly trying to maximise marks in a test or exam. So children urgently need to be helped at home to get this get this kind of approach and grip.

See: [www.philosophyforeducation.moonfruit.com](http://www.philosophyforeducation.moonfruit.com)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (See also <a href="http://www.westcombesociety.org/">http://www.westcombesociety.org/</a> )	
<b>I VANBRUGH PARK ROAD ref 19/3515/F</b> To convert basement into a 2-bedroom flat <b>31A VANBRUGH PARK ref 19/3535/F</b> To lower the basement and construct front and rear lightwells to make a 1-bedroom flat, and install front railings (resubmission) <b>3C GLENLUCE ROAD ref 19/3516/F</b> To replace pitched roof with flat roof and install doorway, railing sto create rear roof terrace. <b>GREENWICH PARK, EURO 2020 ref 19/3497/F</b> Plans to create a Fan Zone to screen football matches and host community events	<b>82 WESTCOMBE PARK RD ref 19/3740/F</b> Single storey rear extension, front porch, loft conversion,front roof lights and two rear dormer windows, summer house and dropped kerb <b>127 COLERAINE ROAD ref 19/3661/HD</b> To convert garage into habitable room with window <b>47 SIEBERT ROAD ref 19/3890/CP</b> Dormer roof extension above two-storey outrigger and install two roof lights to front slope. <b>51 COLERAINE ROAD ref 19/3947/TC</b> Fell Holm Oak in rear garden



# MARKET PLACE

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