

Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and some shops

February 2020 No.1



‘Though February is short, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises’

Residents Respond to Fanzone Proposals

Concerns about planning application 19/3497/F for a Fanzone in Greenwich Park

The Westcombe Society has raised strong objections to the planning application for a Euro2020 Fan Zone in Greenwich Park during June and July this year. The overwhelming response from local residents has been that holding an event of this nature in Greenwich Park is totally inappropriate.

The Westcombe Society, together with the Greenwich Society, other local amenity societies and the Friends of Greenwich Park have attended public consultations and informal meetings with GLA Officers and the event organisers (Loudsound) to voice local concerns. These concerns have been expressed to Greenwich’s GLA member, the local MP, the Mayor of London and Greenwich Council.

So far there has been little indication that residents’ concerns have been taken on board. This application does not cover any of the issues raised, nor does it offer any mitigation to offset the impact on the Park, residents, the surrounding area and local business. The main objections are:

1. 30,000 spectators is excessive

It is felt this figure is excessive and cannot be justified. It is far greater than the attendance at the Olympic equestrian event, and raises serious crowd control issues.

2. Transport plans are inadequate

Public transport facilities will be severely stretched by the addition of those attending the event. This is especially true where timings of journeys conflict with rush hour travel. Network Rail and TfL should produce a Travel Plan indicating how the extra numbers can be coped with.

3 Parking issues

Travel to the event by public transport will be promoted on the Fanzone tickets but this will not stop every car driver. There are concerns that drivers will park on streets within Westcombe Park outside the hours of our CPZs or on Sundays. CPZ hours should be extended to 20.00 hrs on match days. There are also the implications for roads which are not currently in a CPZ.

The proposed closure of The Avenue at times on match days would have a very detrimental effect on local roads especially during rush hours.

4. Loss of public access

The World Heritage Site, and in particular the Queens Field, is a popular and heavily used area in the summer months of June and July. Access to the area will not be possible for up to 12 match days and 6/8 community days.

On non-match days the beauty of the area is likely to be marred by portable toilets, empty stalls, fencing and other equipment. Any restorative work required post the event will also restrict access to the Queens Field in late summer. On non-match days the area should be available for public use during normal park hours.

There are grave concerns that access to the eastern entrance to the Fanzone is very close to the children’s playground. Fans will share access routes with children, and there are concerns about their safety when fans arrive in very large numbers off the trains at Maze Hill.

In addition Circus Field to the South of the Park will be used for heavy vehicles that require access to the park from time to time, to service the on-site food and drink stalls and other tasks in the park.

5. Environmental impact

In view of the policies in the London Plan and the RBG Core Strategy to protect public health and the environment, there are concerns about waste disposal, and the use of generators that could affect air quality.

There should be a requirement that the use of plastic (glasses, straws, wrapping etc.) should be banned, and compostable alternatives should be utilised.

6. The danger of creating a precedent

There is a danger that a precedent for other similar events could be created.

In short:

The Westcombe Society asks Greenwich Council to reject this application, or at least lay down certain conditions.

The most important objections are the impact on the park and its visitors, together with the impact on local transport and travel.

Both of these concerns could be simply mitigated just by reducing the maximum attendance at matches to 22,000.

The Westcombe Society has also urged Greenwich to secure a number of other



The Queen’s House, centre, viewed from the south. Residents are concerned this area of the park would be fenced off for the Euro 2020 Fanzone in June and July.

mitigating measures through formal planning conditions or other binding agreements.

Additional planning conditions that should be applied include:

- Attendance on match days should be limited to 22,000.
- Match days should still allow access to the park for residents and visitors including access to visitor attractions and Greenwich Town centre.
- Full access to the children’s playground on match days should be protected.
- A travel plan is needed to include:
 - commitments from both Network Rail and TfL that they can accommodate the numbers of extra passengers.
 - robust proposals for preventing foot ball fans from alighting at Cutty Sark at peak rush hour times.
 - a commitment by DLR and Network Rail to avoid local engineering works during the Euro 2020 competition;
 - proposals to mitigate the impact on transport of other major events in and around Greenwich including the O2.
- A requirement that all on-site generators run on low-emission fuels.
- A requirement to avoid the use of plastic where compostable alternatives are available and for any unavoidable plastic materials to be recyclable.
- Greenwich Council should amend and enforce CPZ restrictions to prevent fans from parking in residential areas within walking distance of the Fan Zone – and ensure enforcement.

Greenwich Park Lottery Grant Success

They are to receive £5.4m to which the Royal Parks are adding £3.7m of their own funds; they have an income target of a further £2m from fundraising taking the overall investment in Greenwich Park to £10.5m over the next four years.

The parks’ annual 5million visitors are in for several treats including several exciting landscape improvements. The picture below shows The Giant Steps that will lead up to General Woolfe’s Statue.

Nature in the Park is already benefitting with Lime saplings being planted to replace the missing tree on The Avenue – part of a four year restoration for this beautiful tree avenue. This Spring also sees the start of habitat restoration on the Park’s wild grasslands. Mowing is to be reduced to encourage wild flowers so that there will be plenty of butterflies to monitor.

Finally the existing residential lodge at Vanbrugh Gate will be transformed into a new café.



FOR YOUR DIARY!

The Westcombe Society’s Members’/Helpers’/ Newcomers’ Party is on Saturday Evening 15th 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.

< < Newsbriefs > >

New cycle lane....

A new cycle lane is being created on Jamaica Road, part of a project to build a cycle route from London Bridge to Greenwich. Critics note that the lane in that road cost some £85m. and ask whether the money would be better spent on improving traffic flows; currently the route has been reduced to one lane by massive and almost continuous road works from Tooley Street to New Cross, creating lengthy traffic jams for vehicular traffic. Is this another example of the “law of unintended consequences”?

As mentioned in December’s *WN*, pollution from idling engines is twice as high as from moving vehicles and

the question arises whether a cycle lane will exacerbate pollution levels.

Our Winter Night Shelter

Recent research indicates that some 9,000 people are sleeping rough in London.

The Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, which is run by volunteers from local churches, including St George’s in Glenluc Road, continues to supply hospitality to people who are referred to it until mid-March.

Duchess’s visit to Greenwich

In December, the Duchess of Cornwall visited Greenwich. As patron of Emmaus UK, she paid a visit to Emmaus Greenwich, where

she explored the community shop and met companions (formerly homeless people) who worked there. Later she went to the Fan Museum, to see the latest exhibition, and to take part in a fan-making master-class run by the museum and the Royal Volunteer Service (RVS) which helps people to age well.

Christmas Tree

Thank you, Otte and the Bea and Westcombe Cleaners at 74 Westcombe Hill for sponsoring the society’s Christmas Tree in the Standard; thank you, too, Peter Andrews and helpers for setting it up. Many have commented on how festive it looked.

Well Done John Roan

Thanks to students from John Roan school for organising the Community Christmas Celebration in Mycenae House in December. Also to those who donated Christmas presents for this much enjoyable and much appreciated event.

Angerstein Roundabout

STOP PRESS: The *WN* has just learnt of TfL’s and the Council’s new proposals on this busy junction of roads.

Please see page 7 of this issue. Comments should be sent to the Council by February 15th. Please send a copy to the Westcombe Society’s Environment Committee.

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Quote on front page: Charmaine J. Forde

WANTED!

More volunteers to
distribute the *WN* – and to
help with Westcombe Society's
community events.
Please phone 8853
2756 if you would like to help.

Westcombe society membership

please send this membership form to:
Christine Legg, 69 mycenae road,
London, se3 7se

Name.....

Address.....

tel.....

e mail:

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 end of the Tea Hut?



PHOTOS: Neville Gran

A disconsolate biker sadly
photographs the ruins.

Shortly after 7.00pm on Tuesday January 8th, an out-of-control car crashed into the tea hut on Blackheath. Nothing could be salvaged from the wreckage.

Police and paramedics were quickly on the scene, and three people were rushed to hospital. The driver sustained chest injuries, and a woman worker in the tea hut was trapped, and had to be rescued by bikers. She was taken to a burns unit, after a tea urn was overturned. No arrests have been made.

There has been a tea hut on this site for almost a century. The current proprietor of the tea hut, Adam, has been offering a popular service to passing bikers and taxi drivers and others for years. The tea hut is famous for its so-called “animal burgers.”

An appeal has been launched on JustGiving to restore the tea hut.

QEH under pressure

As predicted, our hospitals are under
severe pressure in these winter
months– and Queen Elizabeth Hospital in
Woolwich is no exception.

On one day in December, 605
patients came through the doors of the
A&E department, and there have been
several occasions the hospital has been
placed on Level (Black) internal level. At
times, additional beds have had to be
located in corridors.

The chief executive of Lewisham and
Greenwich NHS Trust, Ben Travis, has
said that the pressure has been ‘relentless’,
and he paid tribute to the dedication and
resilience of the staff in the two hospitals.

Readers may recall that QEH was
originally a military hospital which
sometimes took in other patients. Since
those days, it has been expanded, but our
local MP Matthew Pennycook is not
alone in pointing out that the site itself is
unsuitable, and capital investment is
required to redevelop the site.

If this ever happens, expect more
pressure on hospital beds – and a knock-on
effect on its sister hospital in Lewisham.



Letters

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

From: Name and address supplied

I refer to the letter about Broadbridge Close in
your September issue. Surely, if the writer is so
convinced that the trustees are making the
changes in order to make more money, and
therefore are removing residents so as to be able
to rent out the flats commercially, and if they
are behaving badly towards the residents, isn't
the correct place to take these concerns actually
to the Charity Commission?

From Chris & Christine Godwin W Park Rd

We are shocked at the proposal to hold the
Fanzone in Greenwich Park. We remember all
too clearly the disruption and damage caused by
the Equestrian events during the Olympics in
2012, and the very long delay in restoring the
Park to normal use. This event will deprive the
public of an essential recreation area during the
summer for weeks, if not months.

There will also be sound and light pollution
during the matches, causing distress to people
living in the immediate area, as well as to birds
and animals. There will also be a negative
impact on the National Maritime Museum, as
happened in 2012.

Ordinary members of the public will be
unable to use the important east/west pedestrian
route from and to Greenwich town centre.

We are unconvinced by the promise of

community events on non-match days. Who will
organise them? Will there be financial help
available to participating groups?

The impact on rail/bus transport will be
damaging and significant for ordinary users.
There is likely to be serious overcrowding in
Greenwich town centre. Who is making money
out of all of this? We ask Greenwich Council to
refuse this application.

From: G. Bailey Humber Road

Many residents appear to be outraged by the
Fanzone proposals for Greenwich Park. If
large areas of the park can be taken over for
months for a posh show-jumping event during
the Olympics, why shouldn't football fans be
allowed in to enjoy their sport for this much
shorter period? For many, this might be their
first (but not last) experience of enjoying this
wonderful park.

Chris Smith of Maze Hill

How many tonnes of fireworks are set off every
year both in Greenwich and central London?
And how many toxic fumes, and very harmful
emissions, are given off? And how many pets
are traumatised by the noise?

Isn't it time public fireworks displays were
replaced with son et lumière displays?
Greenwich is full of suitable locations.

2019 General Election Results

The pre-election hustings meeting at St
George's Church organised by
Blackheath Greenwich United Nations
Association was very successful. It was
attended by some 120 people who asked
numerous questions on subject as diverse
as Brexit (of course), climate change, the
NHS, the Silvertown Tunnel, Britain's
role in the world after Brexit, homelessness
and property developers' profits.

A small contingent of Julian Assange
supporters also managed to rush through a
question at the last minute, despite the fact
that the meeting ran out of time. Readers
may recall that Mr Assange (ne Hawkins),
of WikiLeaks fame, is currently in
Belmarsh Prison awaiting Belmarsh
Court's decision later this month as to
whether he should be extradited to the US.
Readers' views welcome.

Some were disappointed that only four
of the seven candidates (the first four on
the list below) were on the platform to
answer questions. The results for
Greenwich and Woolwich constituency
were as follows:

Matthew Pennycook (Labour Party)

30,185 (56.82%, -7.60%)

Thomas Turrell (Conservative Party)

11,721 (22.07%, -3.36%)

Rhian O'Connor (Lib. Dem Party 7,253

(13.65%, +6.53%)

Victoria Rance (Green Party)) 2,363

(4.45%, +1.43%)

Kailash Trivedi (Brexit Party) 1,228

(2.31%)

Eunice Odesanmi (Christian People's

Alliance) 245 (0.46%)

Sushil Gaikwad (Independent) 125

(0.24%)

Going far with Go West



Fonda Manyera: 30 years of service!

This year, Fonda Manyera celebrates
working for thirty years in Go West hair-
dressers at the top of Westcombe Hill.

Unbelievably, she has three grown up
children – and still looks the same as when
she started work, thirty years ago!

What does she attribute this to?

“I just love my job,” she says. “To me
it's not like work – more like a hobby.”
Hobby it may be – but a very professional
one. Born and bred in Greenwich, Fonda
trained at Erith College. The customers
still queue up for a hairdo; and for her
advice too, because they find her common
sense very helpful.

Go West has been going strong since it
opened in 1987, said owners Ali and Sue
Goultekin. Says Ali “We are very lucky to
have Fonda – and all our staff.”

LOCAL NEWS

The dispute drags on . . .



For months there has been an ongoing dispute about pay and conditions for the staff of Woolwich Ferry, resulting in strike action. This follows the launching of two new diesel-powered ferries (above) last year, which resulted in a decrease in the number of staff required – and a reduction in overtime payments. Staff are asking for a 6% pay rise to compensate for the resultant cut in income.

The first recorded ferry service in Woolwich was in 1308. The free service is operated for TfL by Briggs Marine and Environmental, and carries some two million passengers (as well as lorries) every year. Let's hope this dispute is quickly resolved.

Trend-setters in design - Still!

The Blackheath Halls Annual Architecture Lecture is on 25 February 2020 at 7.30 pm. Leyla Daybelge and Magnus Englundwil give a talk on Isokon and the Bauhaus in Britain. The lecture is on the Isokon Building, opened in 1934, Britain's architectural triumph of European design. Originally built to house young professionals with a penchant for communal ideals, it is one of the UK's rare monuments to the Modernist movement.

The name Isokon derives from "Isometric Unit Construction", an allusion to Russian Constructivism. The speakers recount the fascinating story of the building from its origins as an experiment in urban living. They describe how it became



a creative hub for international artists, writers and thinkers; to the building's revival and its role today.

The Isokon building was designed by Wells Coates, a Canadian engineer/architect, for Molly and Jack Pritchard, supporters of modern design. The speakers have written: Isokon and the Bauhaus in Britain published 1919.

Tickets are £15, students £6 which may be obtained through Blackheath Halls, 020 8463 0100.

Greenwich Housing Association Dot Martin

Looking to give something back to the community? Greenwich Housing Society is a small Housing Association based in the Blackheath Standard area of South London.

We currently own and manage 17 homes on two sites providing accommodation for people of pensionable age with a connection to the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

The Society is managed by a small voluntary committee which meets approximately six times a year. We contract in Housing Management to ensure that our residents receive a great service. We also contract in Financial Services to ensure we

manage our day to day responsibilities and

comply with financial regulations.

We are currently aiming to strengthen the Committee and are looking for the following skills: Legal, especially in Housing Financial Skills

Property/Surveying/ /Development Skills

You do not need to have a background in Housing, but it is helpful. You can find out a little more about GHS via our website: <http://www.greenwichhousingsociety.org.uk>

If you are interested in joining our committee please contact Steve Kerridge who is the current Chair: greenwich.housing.society@gmail.com

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Mary Quant inspires Pupils from her Old School

BLACKHEATH High School GDST hosted a special evening celebrating one of its most acclaimed alumnae, Dame Mary Quant.

The work of the fashion icon was discussed at the junior school in an illustrative talk led by Jenny Lister, curator of the Quant Exhibition currently on at the V&A Museum.

Quant, whose pioneering designs gained worldwide acclaim for catering to women's growing empowerment in the 1960s, attended Blackheath High School in the 1940s.

The evening, in partnership with the Blackheath Society and attended by the school community, delved into how Quant, often cited as being the inventor of the miniskirt, launched a fashion revolution through her catalogue of exuberant designs.

Those in attendance were encouraged to bring with them Mary Quant originals and memorabilia to be displayed on the night. This included a former designer for Quant who brought with her a collection of original clothes and dolls.

The evening explored Quant's years at



the school before she departed to transform the fashion industry forever. The event also explored how Quant's legacy continues to influence Blackheath High and the wider world.

Earlier this month, students from Blackheath High School visited the

V&A exhibition where they were taught how to create dresses akin to Quant's.

During the event last week, the school's Year 6 students demonstrated what they had learned by showcasing their own Mary Quant style designs for the V&A Museum curator Jenny Lister.

Head at Blackheath High, Mrs Carol Chandler-Thompson said: "Mary Quant was a trailblazer for women around the world.

"Her clothes were created to accommodate the newly liberated and empowered women of the 60s, and since then they have come to truly represent that amazing moment in history."

"At Blackheath High, we encourage all of our students to use their talents, be creative and strive for greatness just like Mary did. We are thrilled to celebrate her career and time at Blackheath High through this special evening."

Affording affordable housing

In 2016, Mayor Sadiq Khan secured more than £3bn from the Government to help start building at least 90,000 affordable homes for Londoners by March 2021.

This was intended to help Londoners who would otherwise struggle to rent or buy, and forms part of Homes for Londoners - the Mayor's work to tackle London's housing crisis.

The Mayor published his Affordable Homes Programme 2016-21 funding guidance in November 2016. This would help housing associations, community groups, London boroughs and private developers to build affordable homes. It explains how to get funding from the Mayor and the rules. The types of affordable homes the Mayor is funding include:

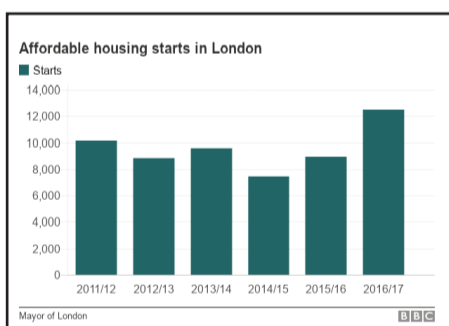
- London Affordable Rent: for people on low incomes
- London Living Rent: helping people on average incomes save for a deposit to buy their first home
- London Shared Ownership

The house building programme has a patchy record. Official figures reveal that the number of "family-sized" affordable homes being built in London with funding from the Mayor fell by almost a third in 2018.

Work was started on only 2,005 homes of three bedrooms or more in the year to the end of March, compared with 2,892 in the previous 12 months. The mayor claims that government policies favour building one- or two-bedroom flats rather than family-size homes.

If you have any questions, email: affordablehomes@london.gov.uk.

If you are already an Investment Partner, contact your area manager.



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FEATURES

Ten things you can still do in the EU after Brexit

While Leavers will be pulling out the champagne corks after January 31st, when the UK formally departs from the EU, others will be wondering what they can still do in the EU after that date. You won't, yet, have to pay £72.50 for a brand new blue passport (printed in France), because you will still be able to enjoy the rights of EU citizens. This is because the UK will remain part of the single market for another eleven months. After that, may Heaven (and Boris) help you . . .

Here are ten things you CAN do in 2020, at least, because of the transition period, as identified by Lisa O'Carroll in the *Guardian*:

1. Holiday in the EU

You can still travel to any EU member state up to 31 December 2020 no visa required. After Brexit, it is hoped that visa-free trips will continue for stays of up to 90 days. It is also hoped that the European health insurance card that gives health cover for tourists in another member state still applies.

2. Take up a summer job in the EU

During the transition period, students and any other workers will still have the right to work in another member state. This is because freedom of movement rules, which includes freedom of movement of labour, still apply while the UK is in the single market. On December 31st - curtains.

3. Get a full-time job in the EU

For the same reason, British citizens will still be eligible for full time positions in the EU. No promises about how long the job may last. It may depend on the EU country concerned.

4. Retire to the EU

As part of the withdrawal agreement, British citizens who are settled – whether working or retired – in the EU before the end of the transition period will retain most of their rights as EU citizens for the remainder of their lives. So if you wanted to retire in a place in the sun in the EU, you'll have to be quick. But yet to be negotiated is an annual uprating of pension sent from the UK and the continued right to move within the EU. Retired Britons in EU may also face loss of healthcare.

5. Go on an Erasmus programme

In the year 2017/18, about 17,000 British students studied in another EU state. It is hoped that Erasmus will continue after Brexit but this depends on negotiations.

Although most of the university places for 2020 are already allocated, places are still available for further education college students and

apprentices who are eligible for work placements of between two weeks to three months.

6. Apply for EU funding for science research

British citizens will still be able to apply for funding in Horizon2020 programmes during the transition period. Eligibility will also still apply for European regional development funds and European social funds, which have been important sources for infrastructure and environment developments in rural areas and for many not-for-profit organisations seeking to help people into employment in impoverished areas.

7. Apply for arts funding

The EU's Creative Europe funding stream will remain open to British applications. Also promising a call for applications in 2020 is IPortunus, a new EU mobility fund for artists .

8. Win a literature prize

The European prize for literature in 2019 was won by British writer Melissa Harrison won for her novel *Among the Barley*, which explored the dangers of nationalism and xenophobia. The prize fund is open in 2020 to British citizens.

9. Look at cross-border healthcare opportunities

EU citizens have the right to access healthcare in any EU country and to be reimbursed for care abroad by their home country. This is in addition to the emergency healthcare for tourists under the EHC system. Little is written about cross-border healthcare, or the processes involved but it is still available during the transition period, says the EU. The NHS has published a guide to getting treatment abroad..

10. Want to know more?

The EU's handy guide to rights and benefits for UK and EU citizens during the transition period is available online.

Walking through History



PHOTOS: Neville Grant

This is Trinity Hospital, a group of almshouses overshadowed by Greenwich Power Station, seen from the river. Originally built between 1613-14 by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, on the site of what had been Lumley House, the childhood home of Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, one of Queen Elizabeth 1st's favourites. It was rebuilt in 1812, in Gothic style, and is now a Grade II listed building. Howard set up his charity in 1613 for 12 'poor men' of Greenwich and eight from Norfolk, where he was born. (The almshouses are thus also known as Norfolk College.) Three other Trinity almshouses were founded by Howard – the others are in Clun, Shropshire and Shotesham, Norfolk.

Howard was a controversial figure: in his lifetime, during the reign of Elizabeth 1st, he was accused several times of conspiring with Mary Queen of Scots; no accident then, when he was honoured by her son, James 1st. But after Howard's death, it was found he was implicated in the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury in the Tower of London. But that's another story.

BELOW:
Henry Howard,
First Earl of
Northampton



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WHAT'S ON



WESTCOMBE SOCIETY EVENTS

Sat 15th Feb **Members'/Helpers'/ newcomers' party**, at Mycenae House (MH), evening (by invite)
Sat 21st March **daffodil tea** at Mycenae House, afternoon (by invite)
Sat 11th April **easter egg Hunt**, at Mycenae Gardens, afternoon
Fri 15th May **AGM** 7.30pm at Blackheath High School for Girls, followed by a talk on the Angerstein family

Fri 25th Sept **Macmillan Biggest coffee Morning** (morning & lunchtime)
Macmillan Walk – TBC
Oct 24th **Quiz night** Mycenae House

Arts

The Arts Society Greenwich Arts Society Greenwich

A Garden like no other: Edward James & Las Pozas James Russell - Monday 10 Feb.2020

Ranging around the world and across the 20th century, this colourful lecture tells the story of Edward James and Las Pozas, introducing along the way an array of intriguing characters such as Salvador Dali and Rene Magritte, and exploring the wider theme of the modern artist-gardener.
Lectures at Greenwich University, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich SE10 9LS. Wine available from 7.15pm. Lectures start promptly at 7.45pm. Guests: £10 at the door – please contact nancybettelley@hotmail.co.uk
see also the exhibition at the John Soan Museum Lincoln Inn Fields!

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



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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 & Greenwich Women's Institute duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Newcomers welcome. 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
Sunday's at Sunfields at Sunfields Methodist church 95 old dover road, Blackheath se3 8sj 1.00-4.00 pm First Sunday of each month. Two course hot meal + creative arts activity. £6.50pp + concs, carers free. Tel Aga/Naomi on 02083189105.
Greenwich park surgeries at Pavillion cafe 10am-11am fri 7th feb, sunday 16th feb, park police avail to talk to residents/visitors
The Big Half half marathon finishing in Greenwich Park, March 1st
Blackheath Flower club meets the third Friday of the month (2pm-4pm)except December, at Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Rd., SE3 7SE. Visitors £6, raffle tickets extra. Feb 21 Sue Oaten A chance to sit and watch a colourful demonstration of flowers and foliage. siancaroline@googlemail.com or on 07887790028

children & family

Woodlands Farm Tues 18th Feb **Winter Birds**, make your own bird feeder. £3 per child. No booking, just turn up. Wed 19th Feb **Get Wild in the Woods**, shelter making and campfire cooking. 10.30am-12.30pm children must be over 7 and accompanied by adult £6 per child. Must book.
Fri 21st Feb **dream catchers**. Let your child's creative imagination fly! 10.30am-12.30pm.
Call Georgina 020 8319 8900 or email education@woodlandsfarmtrust.org

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Trinity Laban soloists' competition Wed 5th Feb Final 7.30 Great Hall FREE booking required.
Trinity Laban symphonic Winds Fri 7th Feb 7.30pm Great Hall, tickets £5.
The Work of the devil Fri 14th Feb Simon Evans 8pm The Hearn Recital Room. Tickets £15, £13 conc.
'Shark in the park' Sat 15th Feb Children's Musical series Great Hall, Blackheath Concert Halls 1.30pm & 4pm tickets £16. Parental guidance 3+
The peanut Butter Falcon (12A) Thurs 20Feb 7.30pm The Hearn Recital Room A modern Mark Twain style adventure. Tickets £8/£6 concs presented in collaboration with Village Cinema
Trinity Laban coLAB 2020 Fri 21st Feb 11.30am, 3pm, 7.30pm & 10.30pm Great Hall & The Hearn Recital Room. CoLab is Trinity Laban's Festival of Creativity. For full schedule/details trinitylaban.ac.uk/whats-on FREE Booking required.
Joel dommett Unapologetic (if That's O.K.?) Sat 22 Feb Great Hall, Blackheath Halls 8pm Tickets £18

Theatre & Film

The Greenwich Theatre, crooms Hill, London se10 8es **Box office: 8858 7755**
4-5 Feb: **Lucy theobald as the duck** Reviewed as 'a masterclass in intimate story telling' 7.30pm £13.
6-8 Feb **revenge** 7.30pm, Mat 3pm £16 'A taut thriller, full of twists and turns'
16th Feb **Mimi and the Mountain dragon** 'Skewbald engage the children from the word go...' £18, children £9.50
Fri 21 Feb **the silence of snow the life of patrick Hamilton** 'you wont be able to take your eyes off this magnetic actor Mark Farrelly...' £16
26th Feb-7th March **Macbeth** 'When shall we three meet again in thunder, lightening, or in rain?' *Shakespeare And lots more.....*
Alexandra Play Ayers
The Actress Feb 19-22, a comedy by Peter Quilter at the Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Avenue, SE7 7HX at 7.45 p.m. Tickets £10 (£8 (Conc.) 07867 627 987 alexandraplayers@gmail.com

Music

8 Feb Junior Trinity's vocal groups and String Time students at the Old Royal Naval College Chapel, from Rhythm Runners Choir and Orchestra to Vocal Consort and Barbershop ensemble. Old Royal Naval College Chapel 5.30 FREE



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Thurs 13th Feb 4pm **Bach To Baby**. Classical Concert for families. £10.
Fri 14th Feb 8pm **JazzNights** Candlerit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £10. £10.
Sat 15th Feb 1pm Ceroc Blackheath **Body shaping dance workshop** £25
Fri 21st Feb 7.30pm **spikedrivers** One of the most original and exciting bands around. £16/£14.
Fri 28th Feb 8pm **Mississippi Macdonald** British Blues Awards nominee's "This Is How It Is" album launch £10

spoken word

industrial History society
11th Feb Barbara Holland...James Ellis, Charlton Developer in the Studio in Age Exchange
21st Feb **BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY** The Electricity Network and Power Transformers, Paul Dyer, UK Power Systems 7.45pm Mycenae House
Feb 4th **IN-WORDS** at West Greenwich Library 7pm. University Poetry Challenge. Poems selected by Sascha Akhtar who will also read some of her work.
Feb 25th Jan Fortune launching her book, Writing Down Deep at West Greenwich Library 7.30pm

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GREENWICH History Tour

David C. Ramzan

David C. Ramzan's Greenwich History Tour is a small book big on interesting facts. For example did you know Greenwich station is one of the oldest railways buildings in the world? Or that Dickens liked to go to The Trafalgar tavern, a place he wrote about in his novel 'Our Mutual Friend'.

My favourite was to learn more about the strange prehistoric looking fountain in the park which is actually not as ancient as it looks. It was built during the mid-1800's using Preseli Bluestone the very same stone that can be found forming the inner circle of Stonehenge.

The pictures in this book are a balance of

old Greenwich and the Greenwich we recognise today reminding the viewer of its diverse history from the thriving businesses of the past that lined the river, to the Naval school and the hospital and, last but not least, the Royal patrons enjoying deer hunting only a mile away.

I recommend this book for quiz masters (J.J. of The Westcombe Society take note!) and all those of us living in this historic part of London. They will then be able to sound more knowledgeable to their visitors who, if they are like mine, are always asking questions which they expect me, a local, to answer. *Anne Williams*

Jane's Kitchen Stories: A VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

The first time I made pasta was as a Valentine's Day surprise for my husband. We had been married a year, I was pregnant with our first child and on maternity leave. With no demands on my time I spent the day cooking the ultimate romantic meal ... fresh ravioli ... heart-shaped fresh ravioli, served with a slow cooked tomato sauce and a glass of pink fizz.

Then I decided to go all in, macerating strawberries and baking heart-shaped shortbreads to follow, it was a labour of love and an absolute delight.

Although fresh pasta is wonderful, I never seemed to find time to consolidate this initial success and my pasta machine languished at the back of a cupboard gathering dust until I finally gave it away.

I thought my pasta-making days were behind me until a neighbour told me about Pasta Mansi, a small Catford-based business run by the delightful Emanuela who not only makes the most amazing pasta that is sold across London, but who will also teach you how to make it yourself. She runs occasional courses on a Sunday morning, very reasonably priced for a couple of hours pleasurably spent mixing, kneading, rolling and shaping dough into all manner of pasta that you carry away for lunch or supper. My favourite shape was the 'cardinale', so called as it looks a bit like a cardinal's hat.

The basic rule of thumb for pasta dough is to use one egg to each 100g flour and

then scale the amount to suit your needs. Mix the eggs and the flour until they start to come together into dough, which you knead until smooth, perhaps 10 minutes, then wrap it and let it rest for at least half an hour. While you can always roll your pasta by hand, using a machine makes a huge difference and gives a much finer result. Take a piece of the dough, dust it with rice flour or semolina, then roll it through all the settings on the machine, starting at the biggest and working down until you reach your desired thickness - shape it how you want. I like pappadelle, cut by hand for a slightly rustic feel, I dust it with semolina and leave it to dry a little before cooking for a few minutes in lots of salty, boiling water. One of my simplest and best sauces is roasted tomato and garlic, just cut the top off a bulb of garlic and wrap it loosely in foil together with a splash of oil and sprig of thyme if you have one. Put this in the oven (preheated to 180C) along with a tray of tomatoes that have been halved, seasoned, sprinkled with herbs and drizzled with oil, leave it for 45 minutes or so until the garlic is soft. Take it all out, squeeze the soft garlic into the roasted tomatoes and mix together, loosen with a little water if it's too thick and whizz it with a stick blender if you want a smoother sauce. Serve with the freshly made and cooked pasta - it is the food of love.

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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

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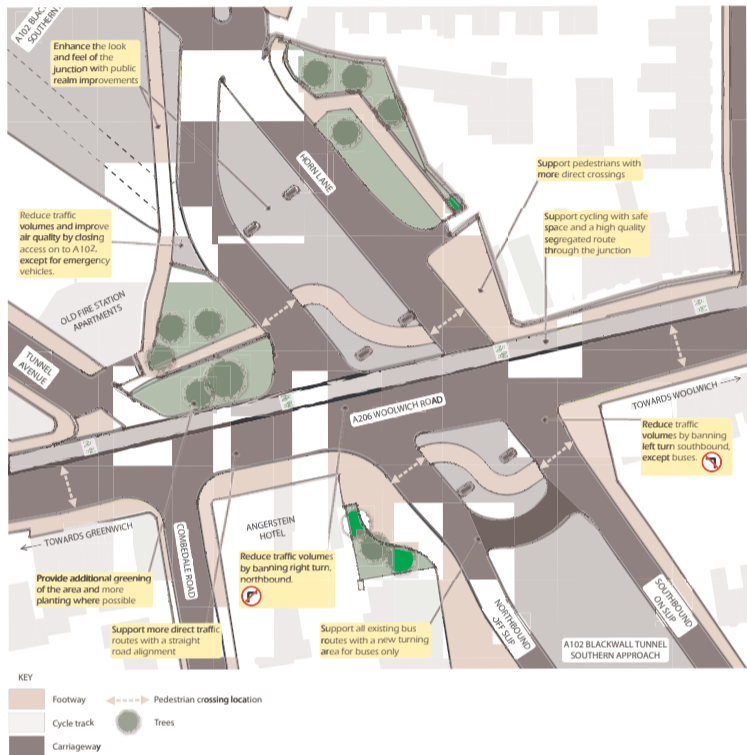


Planning applications can be viewed in the library, or at the Woolwich Library on the lower ground floor of the Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington St. They may also be viewed on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning

A new look for our roads?

TfL have opened a consultation about the 'first phase of our proposals to transform streets in south-east London between Greenwich and Woolwich'. Other proposals relate to the streets surrounding the A206 and a plan to introduce a new cycleway and to make the streets more pleasant for pedestrians. Consequently they are currently consulting about changes to the Woolwich Road between Anchor and Hope Lane and the Woolwich Ferry. However, buried in the document (to be found at <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/cycling/greenwich-to-woolwich/>) is a section on the Angerstein roundabout which is recognised to be a dangerous and

unpleasant crossing, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians. There have been two fatal collisions in the last two years. As the picture below shows, a key proposal is to restrict some turns, and to completely close northbound access to the tunnel approach at the Angerstein junction. So far plans are at an early stage but TfL have a number of suggestions and are asking for comments. The consultation stage ends on February 16th. Many readers will have strong views about the roundabout. Let TfL know what you think and send a copy to info@westcombesociety.org so that we can more fairly represent your views.



Judicial Review for Silvertown?

A spokesperson for Stop the Silvertown Tunnel Coalition (SSTC) told the *WN* that Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, thinks it is acceptable to go ahead with this polluting infrastructure project. In his letter to SSTC the Mayor said “I am committed to reducing car dominance, improving air quality and addressing climate change.” This decision manifestly goes against all these commitments. He makes much of these priorities but the only infrastructure legacy he is leaving for his four year term as Mayor is an outdated climate-wrecking toxic tunnel which locks the United Kingdom’s capital city into high carbon emissions for decades. Silvertown Tunnel is a four lane motorway with HGV lanes, which will worsen air quality for hundreds of thousands of residents in Greenwich and Newham and throughout East and South East London, where air pollution is already over legal limits.

Mayor Khan has ignored advice from climate, environmental health and traffic experts and is pursuing the Silvertown Tunnel without any democratic mandate. He has also ignored pleas from fifteen Headteachers of local schools. He has decided to inflict this new road on the citizens of London - the vast majority of whom don't want it. And despite opposition from neighbouring councils. And this on the very day that 15 NGOs have called for PM2.5s (particulate matter) to be regulated by the World Health Organisation. New research from King’s College London shows that living near a busy road can trigger bronchitic symptoms among children with asthma, and can stunt children’s lung growth.

So we would like to ask Sadiq Khan where the pressure came from that persuaded him to give the go ahead for this hugely unpopular project which goes so blatantly against his own policies? Why is he ruining his own legacy by favouring London’s business interests over the health of millions of London residents and over the future of our endangered planet? The Mayor has betrayed Londoners with his decision to sign. His and TfL’s consideration of options is inadequate and outdated, and they have acted while knowingly ruling out a strategy that would offer far better value for money, and with much faster and more efficient climate and local pollution outcomes. ***We intend to submit a request for a judicial review of his decision.*** ***Victoria Rance On behalf of Stop the Silvertown Tunnel Coalition*** ***For further comment please phone 07958 977992*** ***For photographs please see <https://stopsilvertowntn.com/photo-gallery/>***

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

188 WESTCOMBE HILL ref 19/4014/A To display 2 non-illuminated fascia signs, a non-illuminated hanging sign and 2 canopies.

57A WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 19/4256/F. To convert into 5 flats involving a 2-storey front extension, two rear extensions (1 storey and 2 storey) and a second floor on top of the existing roof

TREE WORKS

40 ST JOHNS PARK ref 20/0143/TC To fell holm oak and remove conifer hedge 20' in length in rear garden.

Vanbrugh Pits conservation work parties *JOE BEALE reports*



We had a lovely morning in November undertaking practical conservation work at Vanbrugh Pits, involving 20 people. Vanbrugh Pits is a wonderfully rich site for a range of wildlife including rare bees, plants such as the scarce Clustered Clover, nesting Whitethroats and an impressive 26 species of butterfly have been recorded. This summer I was lucky enough to see a Red-veined Darter here – a scarce dragonfly. The Pits include Gorse and acid grassland. Our work involves managing scrub and invasive species such as Holm and Turkey Oaks which otherwise quickly shade out the scarce plants and fine grasses and their leaves enrich the soil. This turns it from a biodiversity hotspot into one where only a few generalists can thrive. By selectively taking out some of these and maintaining

the open areas on a rotational basis we give the acid grassland, the butterflies and the rest a chance – the results will be enjoyed next spring. Our wonderful team involves Friends of Westcombe Woodlands – who loan tools and volunteers, Royal Borough of Greenwich Council – who provide capable practical support, individuals including members of the Westcombe Society and Friends of Greenwich Park and recently we are pleased to have been helped by Butterfly Conservation Kent and GoodGym Greenwich. ***Why not come along and join us?*** ***Sessions are at weekends and run from 10am-1pm, with a break for biscuits of course. The next sessions in January and February will be at Hyde Vale/Cade Road and again at Vanbrugh Pits. Please contact Joe if you are interested: joetheillustrator@gmail.com @joe_Beale***

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