

Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and some shops

May 2020 No. 4



'...the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country.'

-HM The Queen

THANKYOU!

Are these words big enough?

Of course not, we have so very much to be thankful for.

From the NHS and healthcare workers in hospitals and residential homes, to volunteers and those essential and key workers who are all helping to support our community.

Our doctors and nurses are on the front line, saving lives and tending to very sick patients. Together with carers and others working with the vulnerable, they are working in very difficult and often distressing circumstances. We must support them by ensuring we all follow Government advice and stay indoors except for essential reasons:

- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- any medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home.

Comply-ing with this advice is the best one way we can thank them for the work they do and the risks they take for us. The numbers clapping for the NHS on



Steve delivers to Beaconsfield Road

Thursdays show that we are not alone in appreciating the work that they are doing.

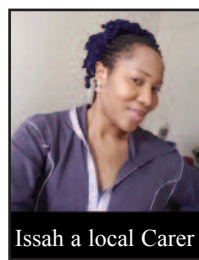
We are very fortunate to live in a truly supportive community. This has come to the fore during the current pandemic. Neighbours are looking to the needs of their neighbours, especially those that are 'shielding' or self iso-

lating. Shopping is being done very willingly, prescriptions are being collected and someone is always available for a chat. We are also fortunate that there are a number of volunteer groups in and around

Westcombe Park with very willing members keen to help those with needs, that do not have a support network, see below for contact details. They are at the end of the phone or email and will take details of what is needed and arrange for its fulfilment.

And it doesn't stop there!

Our post is still being delivered, our bins



Issah a local Carer

are still being emptied and the milk is still on the doorstep. All things that we have come to take for granted. But in the current climate all take on an importance of their own.

Our chemist shops are under increasing pressure as prescription requests increase due to the pandemic.

Our convenience stores are still open and often offering deliveries or orders to help those who cannot get to the shops. Other key staff keep our supermarkets stocked and ensure that shoppers follow social distancing rules.

Those travelling to work are thankfully finding trains, tubes and buses much quieter but the service/s are being maintained by other essential workers.

How fortunate we are that our exercise can be taken in the leafy roads of Westcombe Park. We can admire the trees and the many beautiful gardens as we pass whilst following social distancing. We can

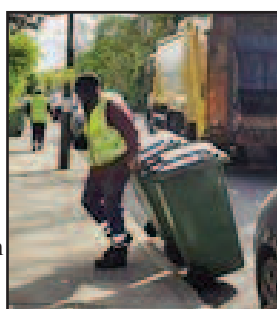


Photo: George Cracknell Wright/www.photogcw.com

This is a picture of one of our committee members, Patricia, carefully socially distancing herself whilst walking home through the park. Quite a famous person now as the picture has appeared in the national press though not sure she has been asked for her autograph as yet!

What do you think the person with the megaphone is saying? Best answer wins a prize! Answers to info@westcombesociety.org.

appreciate the positives that living in a conservation area gives. A little further and we can enter Greenwich Park. We are incredibly lucky to have this amenity on



our doorstep courtesy of the ongoing care by park staff. Whilst we sometimes consider this to be our back garden, it is now being enjoyed by those from slightly further afield who have little outdoor space. Social distancing (or rather the lack of it) was initially a problem but now seems to be being practiced.

We are also very grateful to the



volunteers who are delivering the Westcombe News as part of their daily exercise.

The constraints forced upon us at this unprecedented time are very much softened by the joint efforts of the Westcombe Park Community and are very much appreciated.

-Marilyn Little

HELPING HANDS

The food in the picture below is for frontline essential workers whose children are still at school. It is given free, so that after a mentally and physically draining shift they don't have the added pressure of queuing at shops, often being faced with empty shelves.

Mandeep Jhas says, 'I just went firstly to my local Sainsbury for a small shop for Rachel McMillan Nursery and got a signed letter for free food. I expected to pay for it myself and asked for a 50% discount. The letter from the school ensured free food!'

I then contacted Invicta Primary School and they were very happy to receive help for families. I went to Waitrose Greenwich and, after some negotiations, got them on board too! They have been very supportive. I have made three deliveries to Invicta and Vicki Cuff, the headmistress, is my contact there. I feel very happy to be able to help in this way."



"In these days of strangeness, we are all learning" -Polly Halsey, Poet

Should you require assistance with shopping, medicines or just a friendly chat, the following groups can help.

Westcombe Society: info@westcombesociety.org or 07908 400555

Blackheath Standard & Westcombe Park Community Support:

<https://bit.ly/2WsCosy>

St John's Church: care@stjohnsblackheath.org.uk or 020 8305 0520

St George's Church: tim@stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk or 020 3633 5494

Royal Borough of Greenwich: covid19support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or 0800 470 4831

WESTCOMBE NEWS UPDATE

We are aware that many of our readers do not have access to the internet and felt that it was important the Westcombe News reached as many as possible. We have therefore produced our usual paper version and arranged for it to be counted and delivered by volunteers (as part of their daily exercise) using recommended guidelines for social distancing and personal hygiene including hand washing.

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING planned for May 15th will not now take place due to the current Covid-19 situation.

It will re-arranged and there will be an update in the June issue.

Greenwich Foodbank

The foodbank is facing unprecedented demands. If anyone is able to donate, please do so. Particularly needed: long-life milk and fruit juice, potatoes (both tinned and instant), tinned vegetables and rice.

A Royal Greenwich's children's home has been awarded an 'Outstanding' rating by Ofsted for the fifth year in a row.

New Marathon Date

This year's London Marathon has been postponed until Sunday, October 4th. It will be the 40th race and the organisers are work-

ing hard to make sure that is a memorable and enjoyable event. More information is available on the Virgin London Marathon website (<https://www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com>).

Internet successes

Churches have reported significantly larger than usual attendance since offering services on the internet.

Congratulations

Happy Birthday to Gwendoline Spencer, of Combe Avenue - 100 years old on 4th May 2020 (see Local News page).

Trains

Southeastern have/are closing ticket offices at 60 stations where there have been less than 20 transactions a day. This includes Deptford, Maze Hill and Westcombe Park. As nobody is travelling anywhere at the moment, this is perhaps not surprising.

Southeastern say that the closure is temporary. Let us hope so, and this is something we will need to keep an eye on when things start to get back to normal.

Best wishes
Mike Sparham, Convenor
Greenwich Line Users Group

Covid-19 and MS

The MS Society is looking for people with multiple sclerosis (MS) to provide vital information on how coronavirus is affecting them. To take part, people with MS can visit <https://ukmsregister.org>.

From: Neville Grant SE3

I'm a bit of an amateur sinner, personally, but serious sinners who find it hard to go to confession in these lockdown days should consider going to Chelmsford, where Father Brian Mahoney is offering a drive-in confession service.

Only problem: it's in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

< < Newsbriefs > >

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Westcombe News

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

Front page quote by HM The Queen

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.

NOTICE FROM ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

The coronavirus emergency has dropped down upon us like an invisible, heavy blanket. It has brought anxiety, sickness and death to our communities. It is a sobering and thought-provoking experience for all of us. But it has also brought a sharpening vision of what is really important in life.

St George's Church has closed its building during this crisis. We no longer gather physically in it for the events we once thought were normal – worship, community meetings and dinners, the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, the community lecture series and spiritual film night. But in closing, we have been reminded that the building is not the church. The church is the people who seek to follow the example of Jesus, who express their faith in the way they live their lives, and in the way they love one another through service and care.

Instead we meet electronically in front of small screens, through online gatherings, conference calls on the phone, and through simple live streaming our Sunday service from the vicarage garden. And something quite amazing has been happening. Our average attendance at our 11 am worship service in the building was in the mid-50's. But we get twice that now at the same time on YouTube. Our Easter Sunday service has been viewed more than 150 times in

just 2 days following Easter Sunday. Viewers online are often in groups of two or three, so the total number of viewers is actually more than that. And our members have been forwarding links to our services to friends far away.

We miss the social aspect of coming together, of the hugs, the handshakes, the smiles, the sharing of bread and wine at the Eucharist. When we finally throw open the doors again, and the choir sings, and the organ roars, and we come together around the altar for communion, we will celebrate with new appreciation. But we will do so with a new understanding that our connection to each other is more than that. And we will have learned new ways of sharing our faith with our neighbours, which will continue in the post-virus era.

St George's Church is offering worship services and study groups online. Sunday worship services are live streamed from the vicarage at 11 am each week on the St George's YouTube Channel. For information on connecting with all the available services, please visit the church website: www.stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk

If you need pastoral care, contact the Rev. Tim Yeager: 020 3633 5494 or tim@stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk

PLANT SAVERS

One of the disappointments with the temporary closure of many businesses was the number of plants and sundry items that garden centres and nurseries would have to throw away.

To limit the loss, supply the community and raise money for 'Meals for the NHS' Plant Savers was initiated.

Using the link below, take a look at their website, especially as they deliver to many areas including SE postcodes or if you have time and could support their cause.
<https://plantsavers.co.uk/>

A HEALTHY INVESTMENT FOR US ALL

The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund is a charity that raises money to support healthcare workers facing psychological, physical and financial distress due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. In these difficult times medical professionals are working long hours, in complicated situations with limited resources. We want to make sure healthcare workers on the front line have continued support so they can stay healthy and continue to protect the general public. Subsequently, this fund has been set up to make sure that healthcare workers, and their families, have the support they need, when carrying out their life saving work.

I have been campaigning as a volunteer for Medic Mentor, a non-profit national medical organisation, who have set a goal to raise £10,000 for the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. We have set up sponsored online chess games, movie nights and "Pub Quizzes" on zoom. I believe this is one of the many ways to show healthcare workers our on going appreciation and support. I understand that not everyone will be able to make a donation but you can still help us by sharing this information with friends and family, online.

This is link to use as it goes directly to the donation page. THANK YOU.
https://www.gofundme.com/f/covid19-testing-for-nhs-frontline-staff?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1
Roberta Dunn

NOTICE

We are very sorry to report the death of Richard Baglin on 22nd March.

Richard was an active member of the Greenwich Society and had previously served as their Chairman.

He was committed to our local area and we had jointly worked on many environmental initiatives and issues.

His views were respected and he will be missed.

KINDNESS IN THE FACE OF STRANGERS

The Blackheath Standard & Westcombe Park MutualAid group, along with 23 other neighbourhood groups in Greenwich, came together to mobilise over 900 volunteers who put themselves forward to help the community with everything from grocery shopping and food bank collections to prescriptions and cashless payments. Our neighbours and those needing any kind of physical or emotional support started reaching out to us almost immediately and the volunteers dealt with each request with the spirit of neighbourly friendliness.

We had volunteers with experience in the Calais jungle, along with data protection experts, lawyers, doctors and therapists who all jumped in to make the lives of our neighbours easier. While the Blackheath Standard & Westcombe Park group supports around 60 streets, the wider Greenwich Covid-19 group encompasses 24 community groups and a much larger geographic area. We have regular calls with the council to ensure our operations are truly supporting those in need. We work closely with our community partners, the Royal Borough of Greenwich, MumsAid, Greenwich Foodbank and MoreYoga to ensure we can effectively support the requesters.

The MutualAid group has been a magnificent example of a group of people who came together with the common message of true resilience. None of this would have been possible without the support of the 900 volunteers who signed up to help the community. We thank every one of you who has helped out and has been a shining presence in the lives of those who reached out for support. We could not have hoped for more.

info@greenwichmutualaid.co.uk

A lot of people have taken to cycling for exercise during lockdown, and the roads do look empty, but, 'Please Take Care!'.



Late afternoon on Tuesday 14th there was an accident at the junction between Stratheden Road and the A2. A small car collided with a cyclist, who sustained serious injuries and was taken to

hospital. The area was sealed off, and traffic was disrupted for upwards of three hours with four police officers remaining on the scene.
-Neville Grant

LOCKDOWN FAMILY PARTY

PARTY WITH US EVERY WEDNESDAY ON FACEBOOK LIVE

5PM-8PM

LIVE DJ & MC

REQUEST SONGS

WIN A FAMILY GOODY BAG ON THE NIGHT!

TELL YOUR FRIENDS & JOIN THE PARTY

FOLLOW US @YOUNGGREENWICH

LOCAL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS 100 YEARS OLD BIRTHDAY GIRL

Gwendoline Edith Spencer celebrates her 100th birthday this month on 4th May. Gwen will be celebrating this milestone with her family – two surviving children (sadly her eldest son recently succumbed to the coronavirus), four grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild.

The youngest of six children, her brother, Ernest, the second youngest died in his early 30s as a War hero (in the RAF) and is buried in Hither Green Cemetery in a War grave.

Gwen started work at the age of 14 and



trained as a dressmaker. She eventually became a Court dressmaker, making romper suits for Prince Charles and the big stores in the West End, as well as blouses, dresses, etc. She eventually gave up work in the 1980s.

During WW2 Gwen was bombed out five times, but has stayed in Greenwich since, residing first in Charlton, then Blackheath. The only time she left the area is when she evacuated to Carlisle, where her children were born, but she returned to London before the end of the

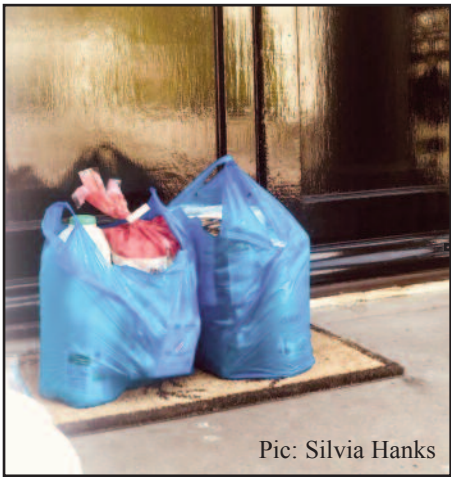
War as she wanted to get "home".

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GWEN!

SHOP SUPPORT

The shops below are offering to take orders on phone or online for local delivery and or pickups:

Avocado Garden <https://avocadogarden.co.uk/>
Sparkes Butchers (020 8355 8597)
Apple and Orange (07946475462).
Selectric - <https://www.selectric.co.uk/>
Neal's Yard - <https://www.nealsyardremedies.com/store?name=blackheath-store>
Blackheath Locksmiths - <http://www.blackheathlocksmiths.co.uk/>
Boulangerie Jade - <http://www.boulangeriejade.com/locations>
Blackbird Boutique - <http://blackbirdboutique.co.uk/>
N&R News (0208 858 5163)
Pravin Supermarket (0208 858 2623)
Brothers Bakery (020 8858 0206)



Pic: Silvia Hanks

COVID-19 MYTHS DEBUNKED

The World Health Organisation says:

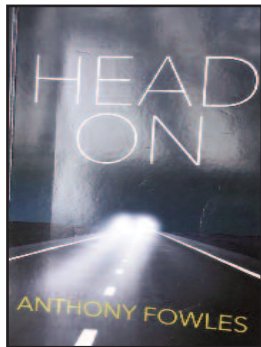
- Hand dryers are not effective in killing COVID-19.
- Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over the body won't kill the virus.
- Vaccines against pneumonia do not protect against COVID-19.
- Regularly rinsing your nose with saline won't act as a preventative...although there is limited evidence that regular nose rinsing with saline can help people recover more quickly from the common cold.
- There is no evidence from the current outbreak that garlic has protected people from getting the virus.
- Antibiotics don't work against viruses, only bacteria.
- People of all ages can be infected.
- COVID-19 cannot be transmitted through mosquito bites.
- Taking hot baths will not prevent you catching the virus.
- Cold weather and snow cannot kill COVID-19.
- Drinking alcohol cannot protect you against the virus.
- Being able to hold your breath for ten seconds or more without coughing or feeling discomfort does not mean you are free from the virus.
- Catching the virus does not mean you'll have it for life.
- You can catch the virus no matter how hot the weather, so exposing yourself to the sun or temperatures higher than 25 degrees centigrade does not prevent you catching the virus.

And finally, according to the WebMD website, lemon juice cannot shield you from the virus. There's no evidence that trying to alkalize your body through lemon juice or anything else offers protection.

THRILLER ON THE HEATH

Historically the green common of Blackheath has witnessed many dramatic events: the terminus of a national rebellion; high-profile duels; international marathons. But it has taken fiction to reveal it as setting for a gun-blazing shoot-out worthy of the OK Corral. Such, though, is the climax of Anthony Fowles's just published thriller 'Head On'.

Beginning in 1970 local resident Fowles has published some thirty books ranging from a biography of Barbra Streisand; a co-authored with Garry Nelson account of life in the lower regions of the English Football League; the historical novel 'Necessary Things' centred on Samuel



Pepys, and a series of determinedly non-academic studies of Jane Austen, Jean Rhys, John Dryden, Ford Maddox Ford and, significantly, Raymond Chandler.

The significance is that over the years Fowles has produced half a dozen thrillers on his own account. Published by the pleasingly local Greenwich Exchange imprint, 'Head On' details the adventures of a tough-minded, Charlton-dwelling Art Student obliged to stand toe to life-threatening toe in a contest with a gamey Jeremy Thorpesque MP.

In the course of its fast-paced and oddly jolly unfolding 'Head On' contrives to cast a sardonic and cold eye on corrupt policemen and politicians alike. By the time the story concludes in the north eastern corner of Blackheath, one is surprised to remember that this is the work of an octogenarian. Be careful where you walk your dog!

'DON'T BE DUPED....'

We have all seen in the press of those who advertise masks, protective gowns, and hand sanitizers on the internet and on the phone – who collect the money, but don't deliver. According to reports on the BBC, there's been a lot of that going on – and there are hospitals that have fallen victim.

But for householders, the biggest threat is the phoney volunteer who calls on the vulnerable claiming to help out with the shopping. They need the money in advance of course to pay for the goods required – and again they collect the money, but don't deliver.

So if you have a caller at your door – even one with an official looking ID hanging round his (or her) neck, take care. Keep the door on a chain, ask for ID, and make that phone call to ensure they are genuine. And even if they appear to be genuine, and the phone call seems reassuring, only take up the offer if absolutely desperate. The best advice is only to accept such offers from someone you know or from the groups listed on page one.

Sad that this should be necessary. The good news is that in general, people are good and trusting – if we didn't mainly trust each other, society would break down. But there are those who take advantage of that trust and this is not the time to take that risk.

Neville Grant

RECYCLE THIS!

Recycle, recycle, recycle has become the mantra for those wishing to do their bit to declutter the planet. WN dedicates this corner to share recycling news, so if you know of any opportunities, inspiration and advice on this subject please contact wnews@westcombe.org. Thanks - Ed

Greenwich Council has asked residents to keep our green waste to a minimum during this time of crisis. So if you don't have a compost heap now is the perfect time to start one. Compost is wonderful for enriching and conditioning the soil and helps keep plants healthy and strong. Here are some tips:-

Our Green waste: Compost is made from 'GREEN' materials (such as grass and hedge clippings, weeds, vegetable/fruit skins and peelings) and 'BROWN' materials (such as dried plant stems, twigs, straw, wood chippings, dead leaves, torn-up cardboard). The brown matter prevents the heap from getting slimy. Do not put diseased material into the heap, or persistent weeds like bindweed, or plate waste. Cooked food, meat, oil etc. attract rats and other vermin so never put these on the heap.

Making a compost heap: Choose a shady corner. Make the heap on a patch of soil. As the heap becomes bigger, stir

it up (called 'turning') to mix the green and brown materials and to let in air to help decomposition by microorganisms and worms. Cover with a tarpaulin or old carpet to stop it getting very wet. Decomposition needs moisture so don't let it dry out. Ideally, two compost heaps are best – one is left to 'mature' and the second is for current use. For a deluxe heap, make a bay by recycling three pallets, or a double bay with five pallets.

Using compost: It will take a few months to make good compost: it will be crumbly and smell earthy. Mix it into soil or use as a mulch.

Home-composting is the most environmentally-friendly way of using our garden and kitchen waste. Composting can be done throughout the year. Compost bins keep the contents warmer than an open heap and make compost more quickly, but the contents still need turning and aerating.

Ann Hill

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The Meaning of Education

It is not widely known that the meaning of the word 'education' changed in the 1980s to be the early (or late) learning of facts and processes the authorities regarded as needed by young people in their adult lives. (Unfortunately 'learning' has been widely interpreted in schools as 'memorising', something which usually only lasts for a few weeks.) Before 1960, the word 'education' referred to something much more spirited, elusive and less precise: a life-transformative initiation into the disciplines and knowledge which had sustained and grown the best culture of a country for countless decades. It was not, at that time, regarded as the same thing as 'schooling'. In those days a school might be put down as being 'just a cram factory', meaning that it tried to bully its students into learning facts and processes. This was not 'education', because it only impinged superficially and temporarily onto the child's psyche, and actually impeded the lifelong initiation into common values, standards, norms, insights and perspectives.

Why did the authorities adopt this changed meaning of 'education'? They were at their wits' end, because a so-called 'reform' of schooling in the 1960s had taken over in many places and had produced school-leavers who had been indulged, flattered, dumbed-down, radicalized against their own society, and encouraged to waste time. They and others who had been to genuine schools were tarred at the time as 'Generation X'. Today we urgently need to resume genuine education. Make your voice heard! SEE www.philosophyforeducation.moonfruit.com.

FEATURES

SPRINGTIME ON THE FARM

It's not been a normal Spring for anyone or any business and that includes Woodlands Farm so, in line with PHE guidance, we closed to the public in mid-March.

Regardless though, of whether the farm is closed or open, our animals are all still there and need to be cared for every day. At this time of year it's even more critical on the sheep front as the ewes are lambing. To make sure that the best care was going to be there, day in and day out (and beyond) the volunteers withdrew and our very small staff team took responsibility for everything. Everything is in their capable hands. However, the volunteers, who really look forward to lambing time were disappointed that they had to stay away, but it meant that the working team could work safely, alone on the farm.

We started with 78 ewes resting in the barns, our manager decided that ten of the sheep weren't in fact in lamb – there are always some empty ones.

Of our 68 ewes, 54 had lambed by 13 April and we have 75 lambs from our different flocks of Dorset Downs, Lleyns, Manx Laughtans and cross-breeds.

There are still 10 ewes left to lamb.

Quite a lot of singletons this year amongst the main flock, while the Manx Laughtans produced more twins.

This photo shows a snap of day to day life at the farm. Our Manager has just



brought these three ewes and their lambs out of the nursery pens and is about to walk them up the lane to the field called Old Coals. As soon as they get outside the barn the ewes stop for a nibble. Time to take advantage of the grass and plants after over a month in the barn eating our home grown and very nutritious silage plus supplementary feed. The lambs are just a few days old and are looking around the big wide world with great interest, apart from

the ones who have decided it's time for a milk break. The numbers written on their fleeces are there to help the humans, obviously not the sheep. The ewes are numbered in the order in which they gave birth, here we have 13, 14, and 15 and their matching marked-up lambs. Green is for twins, blue for singletons and red for triplets. We need to know who's who when checking the flock in the field twice daily.

We're sorry that our Lambing Day in April had to be cancelled and this year the public are missing out on seeing the lambs, not to mention the cows, pigs and chickens (and Bob the pony). Of course this also means that Woodlands Farm is missing out on income from Lambing Day and regular school visits plus sales of our logs, honey and jam plus visitor donations. Our charity will be struggling, as will other charities and businesses throughout the country. Let us hope we can all survive for now and work to catch up later.

For up-to-date info on what's happening on the farm and when we may open, see our website www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org. Regular Tweets on day to day activities are shown on there too, so you don't need to be on Twitter yourself to see them.

- Maggie Jones

MONTESSORI ADVICE: LOOKING AFTER THE YOUNG ONES

I hope that you are not trying too much to do 'homeschooling' - especially with our smallest people. Taking a few months out of children's usual routine will not have a lasting negative impact on their education.

Some of our children are already 'edgy' and unsure. The most important thing right now is to eat and sleep well, try to exercise each day, play board games, card games, memory games, jigsaws and puzzles and lots of moulding, arts and crafts and of course you must read to your children as often as possible – at times like this it is more important that you read to them, than they read to you.

Encourage your children to help you, toddlers love to sweep stairs, load dishwashers, sort laundry etc. - all the activities of daily living (we call these Practical Life activities at school).

Dr Montessori wrote about the child and the building of community, Now the child who manifests perseverance in his 'work' as the first constructive act of his physical life, builds upon this an internal order, equilibrium and the growth of his personality; and as he reveals this we see the true manner in which the child renders himself valuable to his community.

Wendy Fidler, MEfA Academic Director/Founding Trustee MontDip(Hons) FRSA MEWI MCMi MLoD AI DMS APiLExpert

WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.....

F. Scott Fitzgerald, during his quarantine in the South of France on the outbreak of Spanish Flu, 1920.....

'It was a limpid dreary day, hung as in a basket from a single dull star. I thank you for your letter. Outside, I perceive what may be a collection of fallen leaves tussling against a trash can. It rings like jazz to my ears. The streets are that empty. It seems as though the bulk of the city has retreated to their quarters, rightfully so. At this time, it seems very poignant to avoid all public spaces. Even the bars, as I told Hemingway, but to that, he punched me in the stomach, to which I asked if he had washed his hands. He hadn't. He is much the denier, that one. Why, he considers the virus to be just influenza. I'm curious of his sources. The officials have alerted us to



ensure we have a month's worth of necessities. Zelda and I have stocked up on red wine, whiskey, rum, vermouth, absinthe, white wine, sherry, gin, and lord, if we need it, brandy. Please pray for us. You should see the square, oh, it is terrible. I weep for the damned eventualities this future brings. The long afternoons rolling forward slowly on the ever-slick bottomless highball. Z. says it's no excuse to drink, but I just can't seem to steady my hand. In the distance, from my brooding perch, the shoreline is cloaked in a dull haze where I can discern an unrelenting penance that has been heading this way for a long, long while. And yet, amongst the cracked cloudline of an evening's cast, I focus on a single strain of light, calling me forth to believe in a better tomorrow.'

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GOOGLE CLASSROOMS How a mother and her son mastered the online classes

A few weeks ago, when Invicta Primary School said school would not be continuing and that we would be supported to homeschool, I was worried I wouldn't be able to get anything done with my son. My friend talked about doing PE with Joe Wicks and setting up an hour by hour schedule while I hadn't done any of that. Lucky for me, my son was ready to go on Day 1 and said, "it's a school day Mom, we have to do our work". So, I logged on to Google Classroom, not expecting much, only to find the school had prepared well, and with a lot of work to do everyday, so much so, I couldn't keep up with it all.

They had English and Maths lessons and the elective Science, Religious Education, Art, and Computing. They had two videos each day of teachers reading aloud to the students, they had links to further educational websites and webcasts, they even had music and their own PE. All the school staff have been online, leaving positive

messages for the children and keeping them busy with facts and riddles. I couldn't be happier with the provision and think Invicta, Deptford have done a stellar job throughout, even logging on once a day and providing the videoed readings for the students through this Easter holiday.

It keeps my son connected with the school and his friends and I think my one-on-one time with him has even improved his English ability, or at least given him more confidence in working with reading comprehension. An unexpected benefit in this difficult time for so many. I'm so thankful we have this online platform as I know some parents in other boroughs just received a stack of worksheets. So, I would just like to extend a warm thank you to all the staff at Invicta Primary School for all their help and hard work. We parents appreciate it so much.

-Kathy Cullen



Theodore Fjodorovs and Mum, student at Invicta Primary School, Deptford



Vicki Cuff, Headmistress Invicta Primary School, Blackheath and Deptford branches

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WHAT'S ONLINE

POLLY'S PICKS

As we go to print, parts of the world, including the UK, are still in lockdown and in these unprecedented times all face-to-face events have been cancelled for now. Thank goodness, then, we live in the digital age. Never before has digital connectivity been so important. Many of us are now busy on WhatsApp groups with friends, virtual coffee or pub chats with other friends and video connections with family and loved ones.

We've gathered some great experiences for you to get busy online at home, be it keeping fit, singing your heart out or watching a great play, lots to do with the kids, there's so much to do and be entertained with, we are lucky – Enjoy! - *Polly Morgan*

ARTS

Feast your eyes with a virtual tour round some of the best museums and art galleries around the world – Guggenheim New York anyone?! <https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours%3famp=true>
The Royal Albert Hall is streaming artists for free on their website while they are closed, see the Sea Shambles on 17 May and many more top artists. They just ask you to consider offering a donation after you view: <https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/series/royal-albert-home/>

EXERCISE

Joe Wicks online workouts are a hit with millions of fans, including toddlers, keeping entertained and fit from the safety of their homes for free! Join in the internet sensation's workouts he's kindly offering for free and keep fit at home. It's vital to stay fit and healthy so join in! <https://www.youtube.com/user/the-bodycoach1>

CHILDREN & FAMILY

There are lots of online resources about gardening and wildlife to keep the family busy. <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-l-4544-hedgehogs-reading-comprehension>
<https://kidsgardening.org/garden-activities-kitchen-scrap-gardening/>
<https://hub.suttons.co.uk/childrens-corner/free-quizzes-for-children-this-easter>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening_with_children/
Ten fun things to do at home with the kids: <https://discover.ticketmaster.co.uk/special-events/10-fun-things-to-do-at-home-with-the-kids-49994/>



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SINGING

Join Local Musical Director Emma Bond's The Singing Hour - choirs for everyone on Zoom. 10-11am. wkdays: www.thesinginghour.co.uk
TV choral conductor Gareth Malone, who presented the acclaimed BBC series The Choir, has brought singers of all ages and nationalities together with his innovative Great British Home Chorus. Launched on the Decca Records YouTube channel on March 23, the first session included warm-ups and a performance of 'You are my sunshine'. Eight episodes in, the virtual choir is reaching an average of 20,000 live viewers per rehearsal. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC278IKj0R4JBFB18Waw-tWA>

MYCENAE HOUSE

The following are a selection of classes/activities now running online. For the full programme: www.mycenaehouse.co.uk/update.html
Life Drawing
Tune in to a Live Streamed YouTube session with The Renaissance Workshop and follow a life drawing session with guidance from Jon. www.youtube.com/channel/UC7HR4IIVn3fVU178RypTueQ/videos joining in. www.singtogether.org.uk
Citizens of The World Choir
The COTW Choir is a choir for people who are refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and friends. Whilst their 'in-person' rehearsals are on hold, they will rehearse online, perform online & keep the #refugee community vitally connected at this time. If any refugee or migrant would like to join, please email rachel@cotwchoir.com for further details. www.citizensoftheworldchoir.org
Iyengar Yoga with Rosana Fiore. In Rosana's Iyengar Yoga class, students are guided through a carefully-paced programme of postures. Follow her yoga tutorials on her YouTube channel or email her on info@rosanafioreyoga.com for details about her Zoom schedule. www.facebook.com/RosanaFioreYoga
Barre Concept
Barre combines the precision of Pilates, technique of ballet, alignment of yoga and the strength from sports conditioning. Katie is hosting Zoom meetings on Monday 10am, Tuesday 7.30pm, Wednesday 10am, Thursday at 10am. Visit Facebook for full details about signing up and tuning in. www.facebook.com/BarreConceptSculptandBurn
MumsAid continue to provide support for new mums and mums-to-be with online counselling and are also offering two free groups to enhance creativity, mindfulness and self-compassion: An Online Journaling Group and the Mama Tune Online Chorus. Please email ali@mums-aid.org to secure your place. www.mums-aid.org

Come Dance with Me – Dance for over 50s
Dance and movement tutor Joanna Clare continues her dance class for over 50s on Fridays at 11am now remotely via Zoom, plus her new Gentle Keep Fit sessions for over 50s launch on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am from 7 April. For more information about taking part contact Joanna on joclare@hotmail.it or 07709952215. joclare@hotmail.it
Theatretrain Greenwich continues its theatre training online every Saturday on Facebook Live at 10am, register via their website for access to all content. www.facebook.com/Theatretrain- www.theatretrain.co.uk/greenwich
Bach to Baby The music goes on with Bach to Baby, join them live "in their Bach Yard" Fridays at 11am. Just £3.00 for the whole family! www.bachtobaby.com

THEATRE

The Royal Opera House <https://www.roh.org.uk/streaming>
The Deutsche Opera Berlin https://www.deutscheoperberlin.de/en_EN/home
Berliner Philharmoniker <https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home>
Curve Theatre <https://www.curveonline.co.uk/news/watch-our-archive-recording-of-the-importance-of-being-earnest/>
Musical Theatre - The Shows Must Go On <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdmPJhKMaXNNcCr1FjuMvag>
Cirque du Soleil <https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/cirque-connect>
The Globe from Monday 6th April - <https://globeplayer.tv/>
The Hampstead Theatre <https://www.hampsteadtheatre.com/>
Cheek by Jowl, The Winter's Tale Live Capture <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZULvQbgJy8&feature=youtu.be>
National Theatre <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>
The Wind in the Willows <https://www.willowsmusical.com/>
The Show Must Go Online: The Two Gentlemen Of Verona - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOA4Hj4ANGKw&feature=emb_title
The Schaubühne Theatre, Berlin - <https://www.schaubuehne.de/en/start/index.html>
The Viral Monologues <https://24hour-plays.com/>

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An online-based programme designed to offer audiences, writers, actors and theatre industry professionals opportunities to interact with one another:
Every Monday morning, a theme or a style is set and performers invited to send in self-taped monologues, all of which will stream across their social media channels the following day. An online monologue slam which anyone can watch for free. As well as publicising this mini-glimpse of work to everyone who wants to check it out, they will invite casting directors and agents to take a look.
Every Wednesday, an expert from the theatre world will take over our Instagram account for a Q&A session. Submit your questions via Instagram and tune in every Wednesday for some words of wisdom.
Watch some of Greenwich Theatre's greatest past performances, including acclaimed productions of School for Scandal and The Duchess of Malfi. Tune in to Facebook every Friday for an evening show at 7.30pm.
Have a production you'd like our followers to watch? Share your show on social media or email it to marketing@greenwichtheatre.org.uk for the chance to share it with the Greenwich Theatre community!
Are you a budding writer? Every Sunday a theme for a piece of short writing is set, to be submitted by the following Sunday. The top picks will have the opportunity to be performed once the theatre is reopened in a sharing event or even an online table reading. Themes will range from connections to memories to kinship and should last no longer than 15 minutes.
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FEATURES

THE FAMILY SPIRIT

KEEPING THE FAMILY ENTERTAINED IN TIMES OF LOCKDOWN, ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Anastasia Panova

My first article in the April issue of WN had the ironic working title, ‘How to survive the Easter holidays with four children?’ Just a couple of weeks later, after submitting that first article, we found ourselves in a survival situation with no irony. And life for every individual and family changed in an epic way.

I had no idea what a drama queen I was! The scale of my inner depths appeared three weeks ago, when the man of my dreams, my Mr. Darcy, husband and father of my children, asked me to self-isolate in our already isolated house. I had a cough.

I was transferred to a separate room. The feelings were mixed: first rage, then vengeance, and later - acceptance; that the father of the family had acted like the Lion King, (father-hero), or as Bambi's dad, in other words, as the leader of the pack, and not the handsome prince on a white horse, who must prove his nobility 50 times.

I can't say if I was sick, but, after scrolling through two books that night, ‘The Shawshank Redemption’ and ‘Count of Monte Cristo’ I realised that being ‘sick’ for a couple of days would end in divorce.

The whole next day, I, as Uma Thurman's character from the movie Kill Bill, was engaged in sports activities, ate a kilogram of ginger and turmeric, and in the evening got out of prison, declaring myself healthy and not contagious. (Here we could enter into polemics and repeat all the most popular discussions of recent weeks about what the virus is, what its symptoms are; we could accuse me of neglecting the family, but this article is more like a parody on an adult article, so let's not split details).

After leaving my prison, the family council decided to isolate all family members for two weeks, according to the protocol given on the NHS website: what to do if you had symptoms.

I suddenly had a strong feeling that I have to not just survive, with my children first of all, but also with my partner, friend and often the decisions maker.

This article continues the first. I will touch lightly on what helps me with the children but I would also like to share some ideas about romance in isolation.

My aim is not only to show you how I survive, but also how I enjoy every day in isolation. With my four children, a dog, a husband (who is losing his life's dream project along with dealing with a failing business due to the Covid-19 situation) and with myself, the biggest drama queen in the world. Every day I thank the coronavirus and I feel very happy. So how?

The one-day of imprisonment occurred, awakening the Samurai Spirit within. An ordinary person can express rage in a loud voice or tears, or wrinkles on the face, or in a state of anxiety and depression afterwards; but in a drama queen of Russian origin, rage woke up the crystalline clarity



Uma Thurman in ‘Kill Bill’

of mind and the fighting spirit. I realized that I was not afraid of any virus, I literally despise panic and, as a result - hasty decisions; all I want is to be with my family all together. I want to take care of my beloved ones if they are sick and I want them to take care of me if I feel bad. In situations of apocalyptic proportions, there are special genre rules, but in my genre (in my universe), there is one law: the family must be inseparable.

It may seem that Uma Thurman's beauty and Hercules's health automatically come with a fighting spirit (Samurai spirit). Unfortunately, no such thing. Therefore, since I am again with my family, our morning begins strictly with exercises. We, like most people living in the UK, are doing exercises with Joe Wicks. My ‘older generation’ of children (Vasya ten and Maxi 12) are required to make a block for at least 30 minutes, younger ones (Stephanie three and Eva two) are playing, during workout, and watching us.

Five days a week, from Monday to

Friday, we live a strict routine. Each of us has a daily schedule, which is painted in minutes. The key to my happiness appeared to be very prosaic! No vodka for lunch, but only a strict regime for all participants in this fascinating project - quarantine.

It would be boring to list for you the schedules for the six of us. But here's an idea for helping young children and older folk talk to each in video calls. Here is my idea: I ask them to read to the little ones, Stephy and Eva, let's say ‘Room on the Broom’. Main characters of the story are: a cat, a dog, a bird, a frog and a witch. So my mum tells the story and asks the girls to act like one of these characters. She will say: a dog is looking for a lost bone. “Come on Stephy, go on, find it!”

Stephanie will happily bark around and respond to the idea of being a dog. So almost immersive theatre online. Great fun!

Keeping the home fires burning: Time is not the issue. Here are a few ideas, some I've tried, others I'm excited to try! (Maybe my one day in ‘prison’ has had a good impact on my family life...?)

A date in the car, the garden, or at least near your front door.

As in role-playing with children, the devil is in the detail. Not every family has a garden like we do. However, if you do have one, then nothing is easier than creating a memorable romantic date. I don't hesitate to ask my ‘older’ kids to assist me in the organisation of such an event. Say, in one part of the garden we could organise a table with the most exquisite, or the most simplistic type of pizza, and... Perhaps locate a spot for a bar? Put some electric lights on it and music.

Your appearance is a crucial feature that sets the mood for evening. I'll admit that I do not necessarily have vigour to perform the hair-dressing, make-up, to put on high heels and glint with laughter, nevertheless I sure can provide the same attitude with perfume and a sudden cocktail dress. Or perhaps my enthusiasm will let me wear heels.

Another awesome place for a date is a car. Not every person would savour returning to such a nomadic romance, but both the quiet music and awkward silence deserve a chance.

Tabletop games: try playing with your beloved a game of Sea battle, or, at worst, chess. Focus on the rivalry and the thrill.

Meditating together. I consider that to be quite intimate and, literally, essential experience of any couple. Besides, it can be great fun!

Coaching sessions/online lessons. Anything as long as it's together. The particular discipline is not important, focus on something where both of you feel equally incompetent. Overcoming your shyness can become a very distinctive experience...

A CRUISE STORY WITH NEVILLE AND JANE

We booked our cruise [described in April's WN] months ago. Two of our oldest friends kept asking us to go on holiday with them, and it so happened we always had reasons for saying “Sorry, no.” But in the end, though we are not heavily into what one might call ‘Cruise Culture’, we agreed.

And then our pals pulled out for health

(continued from previous column)

reasons. So here we are on a month-long cruise, dodging the coronavirus, Iranian mines, gunboats in the Strait of Hormuz, and Somali pirates in the Gulf of Oman.

Quixotic, really: why would one pay a lot of money to spend a total of 60 hours in a dozen foreign cities? No, I can't answer that question . . .

When cruise dining, one is expected to sit at the same table for dinner every evening – with the same company. It's a bit of a lottery who you find yourself with.

In our case, our dinner companions were not objectionable (though our politics did not mesh). And it so happens that my wife, Jane, happens to have rather transparent body language: so when she's bored, she looks bored.

So perhaps you've guessed it, I felt it necessary to compensate – well, OK, as it happened, to over-compensate by increasing my EQ (‘Ebullience Quotient.’) And to maintain morale, I recounted some of my favourite stories.

This one for example: a shy young man called Simon Brown booked into a fly-cruise starting in Bridgetown, Barbados. On stepping off the plane he was greeted by rather an attractive Brunette.

“Hi, I'm Pearl!” she purred in a beautiful rich Bajun accent. “Welcome to Barbados.”

He learnt that before embarking on the good ship Caribbean Star, he was invited to a cocktail party on the beach.

The rum punch and Prosecco flowed like water: Simon being Simon played it safe, and stuck with the Prosecco. After his second drink, Pearl came up to him. “I'm very sorry, Mr Brown, but I have some bad news.”

“Bad news? I'm not double booked am I?” asked Simon anxiously.

“Oh no, no, nothing like that. But there's been a bit of a computer mix-up. You booked a single cabin, and there isn't one available. You will have to share.”

“Oh no! But who with?”

“Well you see that blonde over there, by the bar...” replied Pearl.

Simon, perked up.

“I'll introduce you,” said Pearl.

It so happened that Simon and his attractive new cabin companion hit it off quite amicably, and Simon, being a gentleman, said, “Look, it's a bit embarrassing, we hardly know each other. I suggest that you turn in first, and I'll join you half an hour later.”

In due course, Simon rather nervously entered the cabin. He didn't know whether to be disappointed, or relieved, to see that there wasn't a double bed: but a bunk bed.

On the bottom bunk, lay his travelling companion, her long blond hair sprayed out across the lily white pillow case. Simon managed to climb into his pyjamas without mishap, and scaled the ladder onto the top bunk.

Now we've all experienced those little air jets pumping warm, or cold air. Well this one only pumped cold air, and Simon was soon shivering with cold. Finally he could bear it no longer. He leant over and said

“Excuse me! Are you awake?”

“Yes,” the lady demurely replied.

“Can I ask you a favour?” he asked.

“Of course!” she replied softly.

“I'm so cold. Could you possibly pass me up a blanket from the locker under your bunk?”

There was a pregnant pause, then came the reply:

“Look it's going to be awkward, sharing this cabin for two weeks. I suggest we imagine we are husband and wife.”

“Oh, Yes,” said Simon, “Good idea!”

“In that case,” said the lady “Get your own bloody blanket.”



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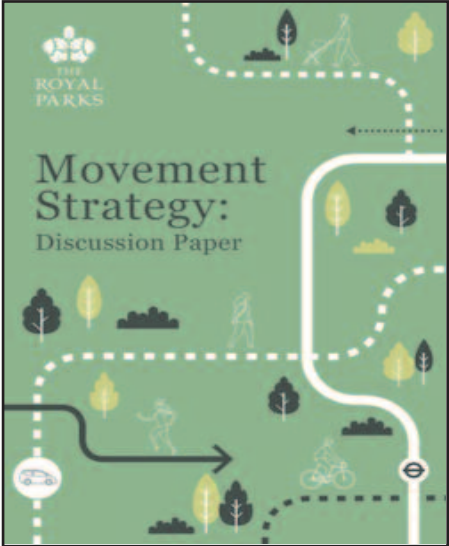
Planning applications can be viewed in the library, or at the Woolwich Library on the lower ground floor of the Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington St. They may also be viewed on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning

KEEP MOVING

ENJOYING THE GARDEN IN MAY

Maggie Gravelle

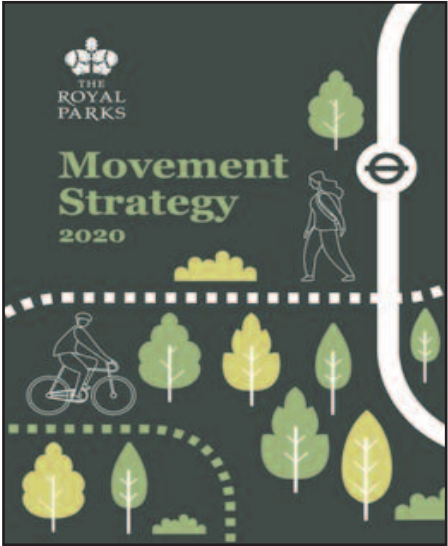
Ann Hill



Greenwich Park is one of eight London Royal Parks. In 2019 the Royal Parks began a consultation process designed to investigate and plan for the increased pressure they will face in the light of expected rises in visitor numbers, increased use of cars, higher pollution levels and possible reductions in income. A discussion paper about movement in and to the Parks was circulated and, following responses to this, a strategy paper drawn up.

This suggests seven desired outcomes with an outline of how each will be achieved. The Westcombe Society has submitted a response broadly supporting the principles behind the strategy but with some concerns about ways of achieving them. Chief among these are ways of reducing traffic through the park and ways of promoting considerate cycling.

At the moment(outside of coronavirus pandemic) the Avenue through the Park is open for commuter traffic in the morning and evening. In the summer months it stays open until 8.00 or 9.30pm when the Park closes. Ideally we would like to stop all through traffic but appreciate that this could have an impact on congestion in surrounding streets. So we



advocate evening closure to through traffic at 6pm in both winter and summer. Families could then enjoy warm summer evenings away from cars. Whatever changes are proposed must be trialled to monitor the effects on residential streets.

We are keen to encourage cycling as a safe, healthy and enjoyable activity and as an alternative form of transport. It is unfortunate that a few inconsiderate cyclists harm the reputation of all. The main problems arise on east-west routes during rush hours. We would like to see better signage to indicate where cycling is permitted. We also advocate a re-consideration of which paths are suitable for shared use - for example the path alongside the herbaceous border at the north side of the Park.

It might also be possible to re-design the barriers at the narrow gates on Maze Hill so that cyclists have to dismount. We suggest that more cycle racks be installed, for example near the children's playground, to encourage families to come by bike.

We all value the amenity of Greenwich Park and want to share it, so any improvements to access and movement within the Park are to be welcomed.

WORK PARTIES ON BLACKHEATH

Joe Beale

The Hyde Vale meeting went very well, we got a lot done (long overdue) and helped keep the open areas open - this should benefit the many butterflies and wildflowers that are found there. We left the brambles because it was well into early spring and the long-tailed tits and wrens

were showing signs of nesting, but in autumn we may cut back some areas. Thanks to the lovely volunteers for their help and Tony Bigwood from RBG for his continuing support. No further work parties are planned until the autumn, assuming the pandemic is under control by then.



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May is one of the best months in the garden. It's brimming with freshness and beauty. I especially enjoy the irises, peonies, aquilegia, and early roses that burst into flower this month. The longer, warmer days encourage rapid growth of seedlings and established plants, so there is always plenty to do at this time of year. Here are a few jobs to keep you busy:

- Hoe to keep down weeds: choose a warm, dry morning so that weeds left on the surface dry out and die.
- Sow salad crops, beetroot and carrot. Sow small amounts in succession to prolong the season and avoid gluts.
- Sow peas, French beans and runner beans.
- Plant out courgettes.
- Plant out tender annuals such as cosmos, zinnias, nicotiana and tithonia. Plant out cannas, dahlias and chrysanthemums.
- Stake tall-growing plants whilst they are still young. This avoids having to tie them up when they start to flop, which would look unnatural.
- Give container plants a liquid feed every 2-4 weeks. Feed tomatoes weekly once they start to set.
- Earth up potatoes to increase yield.
- Do the 'Chelsea chop' on late-flowering perennials such as phlox, sedum, helenium, achillea (yarrow),

golden rod, aster. This involves shortening stems by one-third to encourage side-shoots and a more compact plant. Consider shortening just the front of the clump and leaving the back, to prolong flowering.

Do not despair if you have no room for a veg plot. Beetroot, chard, and lettuce have attractive leaves and can be dotted in among flowers. They can also be grown in pots on a patio. Climbing French beans and runner beans take up little room and can be grown up a wigwam of sticks. They germinate and grow quickly and their seeds are big enough even for young children to plant. Tomatoes flourish outdoors in pots by a sunny wall.

Enjoy all the delights that May has to offer, and make time to sit, relax, and observe nature at work in even the tiniest of spaces.



Pic: Marilyn Little

GROW YOUR OWN

Anne Robbins

Getting started might seem daunting given the circumstances. Most garden centres have closed, so getting supplies is difficult. And is it not too late to start? In fact, May is an excellent time to grow seeds for many vegetables. The last frosts have passed: many plants wither and die in cold weather. Even if you only have a patio or balcony, you can grow tomatoes.

You only need a Grow Bag, which has compost with the right mix of nutrients, and a couple of plants. Fresh herbs, lettuce and chili peppers are also great crops in pots.

A good source is Alan's Plants and Garden Centre, at the foot of Halstow Road, which has stayed open throughout the lockdown. At time of writing, they are asking customers to make appointments online using their Facebook page or by phone (07795 342822) as they are practicing social distancing and it's a small space. Alan's is hoping to keep compost, grow bags, and a range of tomato, strawberry, and herb plants in stock, as well as seeds alongside the decorative plants.

Online, there are many resources, includ-

ing instructional videos on YouTube and the BBC's Gardeners' World website.

Seeds can be bought online, though some sellers are finding it difficult to get supplies themselves. Try Vital Seeds or Real Seeds, both organic producers; Pennards and Franchi Seeds of Italy have a great range of herbs as well as beans, peas, salad greens, and courgette seeds.

Sainsbury's too has a rack of vegetable seeds from good producers. So you should be able to get started with ease, and enjoy the fruits – and vegetables – of your labours later this summer.

If growing vegetables inspires you, an allotment might be an option, though our local space in Humber Road has closed its waiting list. It can take years to attain a plot though. The Royal Borough of Greenwich's Parks and Open Spaces Department may be able to find you a plot elsewhere, though the department has closed for the time being. Its website says all plots are currently occupied, but once the council is back at work you should be able to join a waiting list for sites a little outside the immediate area.



'LOVE IS LIKE A BUTTERFLY....'

Charlton Community Gardens are planning to create a Wildlife Friendly Area in the Station Garden. They want to ensure their planting is butterfly- friendly. The plan is to add some new plants that butterflies, spotted locally, like to visit.

The Group have put together a little survey and are asking The Westcombe News readers for their help in answering the following:

- the sort of butterflies you see
- how many of each in a week
- the plants each likes to visit

- the street/garden where you saw it

If you are lucky enough to see a caterpillar or even an egg or pupa they'd also like to know about that.

If you don't know the name of a butterfly there are lots of websites to help e.g. <https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/identify-a-butterfly/>

Or if you can take a photo, Google Photos may help with the identification.

Please send your findings to: charlton-communitygardens@gmail.com



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