

Westcombe NEWS

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June 2020 No. 5



STAY ALERT, CONTROL THE VIRUS, SAVE LIVES

STREETSPACE

WN Reporter

On the 6th May 2020 the London Mayor announced his Streetspace Plan to overhaul London's streets.

"Clean, green and sustainable travel is to be at the heart of London's recovery" and it is hoped that "cycling could increase ten-fold and walking five-fold post-lockdown".

This transformation of London's roads will be fast-tracked to provide new cycle lanes and wider pavements to enable social distancing. It is hoped that this will reduce pressure on Tubes and buses and provide a cleaner, green and sustainable way of travel now that the lockdown has been relaxed to allow some businesses to reopen. Those employed in them who cannot work from home are being encouraged to use these cleaner ways of travel.

The rationale for these changes is stated in the Mayor's briefing as ... "With London's public transport capacity potentially running at a fifth of pre-crisis levels, millions of journeys a day will need to be made by other means. If people switch only a fraction of these journeys to cars, London risks grinding to a halt, air quality will worsen, and road danger will increase".

To prevent this happening, TfL, working with London's boroughs, will rapidly repurpose London's streets to make changes - unparalleled in a city London's size - which focus on three key areas:

1. The rapid construction of a strategic cycling network, using temporary materials, including new routes aimed at reducing crowding on Underground and train lines and on busy bus corridors.
2. A complete transformation of local town centres to enable local journeys to be safely walked and cycled where possible. Wider footways on high streets will facilitate a local economic recovery, with people having space to queue for shops as well as enough space for others to safely walk past while socially distancing.
3. Reducing traffic on residential streets, creating low-traffic neighbourhoods right across London to enable more people to



GREENWICH TOWN CENTRE

walk and cycle as part of their daily routine, as has happened during lockdown.

Locally, Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) have formed a Streetspace Taskforce to identify, develop and implement measures that can be put in place quickly and to develop proposals to TfL. They are focusing on areas they know or expect to be the busiest, currently the three 'town centres' (Greenwich, Woolwich and Eltham), high streets and around green spaces. The RBG plan can be found here: https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/article/1622/plans_to_improve_streets_to_maintain_social_distancing

Greenwich Town Centre has been prioritised because of its narrow footways and, in the short term, will widen the footways within the gyratory using temporary barriers.

Additionally, a 'School Street programme' allows emergency street closures to support social distancing for pupils and parents. Invicta Road and Siebert Road are being used on an experimental basis from June and will be closed to traffic during start and finish times to allow pupils and parents of Invicta School to socially distance. Pupils are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school.

These temporary adjustments will need to be kept under review by residents in order to inform any possible permanent changes by Transport for London - which would, we believe,

require public consultation.

Other initiatives include:

- widening footpaths in 'town' centres and around Greenwich Park
- filtering more residential streets to reduce through traffic but maintain access for cyclists, pedestrians and emergency vehicles
- creating more School Streets
- bringing forward plans for the Greenwich to Woolwich cycle route

Residents have an opportunity to inform RBG on how the implemented schemes are working. Additionally, if you are aware of local areas causing issues for Social Distancing please contact:

Danny.thorpe@royalgreenwich.org.uk

In summary, Covid-19 travel changes include:

- Londoners must continue working from home wherever possible to enable safe journeys for those who cannot do so.
- Those who need to travel are asked to reimagine their journeys where possible using existing or newly-introduced walking and cycling options and to 'shop local' to relieve pressure on public transport. Public transport should be avoided wherever possible.
- Employers are urged to help their staff avoid travelling at the busiest times of day. Face coverings should be used, rigorous cleaning regimes, hand sanitizer points and operational changes at stations will help keep everyone safe
- National requirement to maintain a two-metre distance between passengers wherever possible means public transport will

operate very differently to before the pandemic.

- If you absolutely have to drive, please avoid peak times and obey speed limits and traffic laws at all times.
- The Congestion Charge, Ultra Low Emission Zone and Low Emission Zone was reinstated on Monday 18th May and will be increased to £15 per day from 22nd June, to prevent London's roads from becoming unusably blocked.
- To support NHS staff, the Congestion Charge reimbursement scheme is being extended and will also be open to care home workers.
- Free travel for school children and for the over-60s during peak times, is being reviewed. [Note: Peak times have yet to be clarified].

75 YEARS ON

On Friday 8th May in the local streets and gardens we celebrated our victory and freedom from WW11. Acknowledging as well the debt of great magnitude we will always owe to all the service men and women who gave up their lives to protect this country.



INVICTA SCHOOL

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY BULLETIN BOARD

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING has been postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic. If members would like a copy of the accounts they can be obtained from info@westcombesociety.org.

DIARY DATES

Friday 25th September 9am to 1pm
Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning at Mycenae House
Macmillan Walk - TBA
October 24th Quiz Night at Mycenae

< < Newsbriefs > >

Congratulations

We are pleased to hear of the well-deserved appointment of our MP Matt pennycook, as Shadow Minister for Climate Change.

and

to Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald, a former local resident and contributor to the WN, who recently became Deputy Leader of Greenwich Council.

RIP

We regret the to announce the death of Dave Sharman, a gentle man in all respects, who cared

passionately for the health and well-being of the planet. He was a member of the Green Party, and of Blackheath & Greenwich United Nations Association, and will be much missed by all who knew him. Sadly, people had to watch his funeral on the internet because of Covid-19.

Police state?

A local man, not au fait with the news, drove westwards with his two sons for a day in the countryside, and was stopped 100 kilometres out by the police, who levied a hefty fine and turned

him round. No doubt he was misguided, but a number of recent incidents in England raise serious questions. With the Prime Minister urging us to use our common sense, this puts the police and the public in a difficult situation: what is the legal status of 'common sense'? Inspector Knacker of the Yard may have a different definition of common sense from Joe Public. The need for clarity has never been greater.

Black Insomnia Coffee Company, the maker of the

world's strongest medium roast coffee, has launched a revolutionary Nespresso©-compatible coffee pod which is 100% home compostable.

A Colour Splash

Forget the Powers That Be for a moment! The Blackheath Royal Standard Village Association Planter (in the middle of the road between Sun Yah and The Royal Standard pub) continues to flourish. Thanks to the volunteers who ensure it is watered as necessary.

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WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:
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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.

SEWING FOR GOOD

To Help Save Lives on the Frontline

Polly Morgan

Two women, backed by a team of amazing volunteers, have launched a local volunteer group, Sew4Good Greenwich. The volunteer-led initiative's mission is to provide vital PPE garments for those working on the frontline of the COVID-19 crisis in Greenwich and surrounding areas. Nicola Fleming, a Vanbrugh Hill resident, had the idea to form Sew4Good Greenwich when asked by a friend to make some scrubs as Nicola has a degree in fashion and textiles and has taught textiles for several years. Nicola explained: "My GP friend needed quite a few scrubs which I couldn't fulfil alone. So I got in touch with South London's 'For The Love of Scrubs' and 'Greenwich Mutual Aid.'"

That was how Nicola got in contact with Richa Kirpalani, a Greenwich Peninsula resident who had worked in luxury fashion in the product development space.

These women combined their skill and passion to do social good, forming the volunteer-led group over the recent Easter weekend.

The group currently runs on WhatsApp. The group now has about 40 volunteers, with different levels of skill, ranging from first-time sewers to retired seamstresses, all willing and eager to lend a hand.

Both Nicola and Richa were aware of larger organisations

with 40,000 plus volunteers (e.g. For The Love of Scrubs) who are supplying to large hospitals and other organisations but Sew4Good Greenwich takes a different stance and they focus on the local Greenwich area, namely GP practices, surgeries, care homes, and hospices. They have also fulfilled orders for our local GP surgery, Vanbrugh Health Centre, which the surgery was very grateful for. Nicola said: "Our material is mainly sourced from recycled bed linen and donated fabrics. As we can't accept monetary donations we have been very grateful to the long list of people who have supported us with donations of sheets, duvet covers, fabric, thread and elastic. Retailers such as Merchant & Mills and Rolls & Rems have also been very generous with their donations."

Richa added: "We have received many requests so far, our biggest requests in terms of quantity was for circa 325 units of

PPE, including scrubs and headbands for masks. The production of these would not have been possible without our amazing team of volunteers who completed the request and orders in just over two weeks". In fact, they have had so many requests for people to join that they have had to put some prospective members on hold based on current demand and operational planning.

Sew4Good Greenwich are currently working hard to fulfil their latest request for around 1,000 items of PPE. Richa said: "From a personal and professional perspective this has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences." Nicola added: "The organisations we have already fulfilled requests for have said they are very grateful for our supplies. We are just doing our bit in contributing during this crisis, with the skills we have." Richa agreed: "The real heroes are those we are helping on the frontline, we are just providing what we can in a very small way."

Picture: Left to right: Sharon Bailey - Health care support worker, Dr. Rebecca Moore - GP, Ruth Keel - Training Hub program lead.

Facility: WWW.Greenwich-health.com
IG Handle: @Greenwichhealth
Greenwich Health is a Primary Care Team and supports all GP practices in the Borough.

Picture: Quote: "Sew4Good Greenwich ensured we had scrubs which enabled us to set up a Coronavirus clinic in under 10 days and see local Greenwich residents, safely"



FOSTERING A CHILD IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Royal Greenwich's fostering recruitment and assessment activities haven't stopped because of Covid-19 but they have been adapted to ensure people stay safe from catching the virus. Any enquiries, interviews, ongoing training and support is being delivered safely through email, telephone, and video calls. Our teams have already contacted over 150 children, families and carers since the crisis began.

Jennifer Bygrave, vice chair of the Greenwich Foster Carers Association Committee, said: "It has been good to hear that most carers are coping well with this surreal situation - understanding and accepting the limits of their control and keeping a brave face for their family and the children they are looking after."

Cllr Jackie Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Community Safety, said: "These amazing foster carers who dedicate so much of their time to make a positive change in the lives of so many Greenwich children, young people and parents do a wonderful job and we are truly grateful to them, but we still need more people to step up and join them.I encourage you to learn more and get in touch if fostering is something you would like to do."

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer and can answer 'yes' to the following criteria, we'd like to hear from you:

-are over 18 (and mature)

-have a spare room

-have time to dedicate to caring for a young person or child.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a foster carer with us, please call 0800 052 1449 or email fostering.duty@royalgreenwich.gov.uk.

BROTHERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For community spirit look no further than Kaz and Erol Kilic, Diane Blackwell the charity box in the shop. Says Kaz: "The first time we did this

was a Monday, pension day, so we had lots of elderly people passing by, showing their appreciation and asking what they could for us in return. It was very touching."

The following week Erol and Kaz baked extra bread rolls and popped them outside too. Then they realised yeast was hard to get so they left that out front in small pieces with small bags.

The next step was helping old and vulnerable customers stuck at home in isolation. Now Kaz delivers bread locally most days. He was especially moved when, after putting bread outside an elderly customer's front door, he looked back as he walked to his car and saw that the man was still outside waving and smiling and continued to do so till Kaz drove off. "Now that's gratitude!"

It goes without saying that Kaz and Erol will have a lot of very loyal customers once the Covid horror is over.

The Brothers Bakery....

Kaz and Erol Kilic



LOCAL NEWS

LOST YOUR BEERS?



Three Corona bottles seen near a bench on the dips. Production of the excellent Mexican beer - Corona - has been halted, another casualty of Covid-19. If you think you've got problems, spare a thought for the marketing manager of Corona Europe! But if you're desperate for a Mexican beer, you can no doubt get a bottle or two on eBay.

A mystery why they were there?

NEW COUNCIL CABINET

The Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Cllr Danny Thorpe, confirmed changes to the Council's Cabinet at last night's Annual General Meeting.

Cllr Danny Thorpe said: "The coronavirus pandemic has touched every aspect of the Council's work, and the new Cabinet will help us shape our services as the borough recovers. Businesses will need support to get back on their feet, schools will reopen for children who have been stuck at home for months, our social care services will help vulnerable residents, and our leisure centres and libraries will reopen. It's clear that many services will not be the same, and we want residents to tell us how we could do things differently in a post-coronavirus world.

So over the next few weeks we're going to run Q&A sessions with our Cabinet Members so that residents can find out more about who they are, and more importantly inform them about their upcoming

priorities."

Q&As with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members will be advertised on the Council website, social media channels and Greenwich Info in due course.

The full Cabinet is:

Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald, interim Deputy Leader, Economy and Skills

Cllr Sizwe James, Environment, Sustainability and Transport

Cllr Adel Khaireh, Culture and Communities

Cllr Chris Kirby, Finance and Resources

Cllr Sarah Merrill, Planning and Regeneration

Cllr Matt Morrow, Children and Young People

Cllr Anthony Okereke, Housing

Cllr Jackie Smith, Community Safety and Enforcement

Cllr Miranda Williams, Health and Adult's Social Care

ZOOM DATE ST GEORGE'S COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday, 16 June 8:00pm

"The United Nations: Unnecessary or Indispensable?"

Speaker: Neville Grant, Author and Chair, UN Association of Blackheath and Greenwich.

Best known to residents in the Blackheath area as the former editor of the Westcombe News, Neville has been involved, both locally and nationally, with

The United Nations Association, a critical friend of the UN. He worked for years in China on a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) publishing project, and as a professional educator, has written English books in use on four continents.

The lecture will be live-streamed on Zoom. For details on how to join the event, please go to the St George's website: www.stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk

WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE..... AGAIN News from 1665

In 1665 Samuel Pepys moved out of London to avoid the plague, and was commuting between Greenwich and Woolwich, partly to supervise work at the dockyards.

August 22nd ... I went away and walked to Greenwich, in my way seeing a coffin with a dead body therein, dead of the plague, lying in an open close belonging to Coome farme, which was carried out last night, and the parish have not appointed any body to bury it, but only set a watch there day and night, that nobody should go thither or come thence, which is a most cruel thing: this disease making us more cruel to one another than if we are dogges....

August 25thThis day I am told that Dr Burnett, my physician, is this morning dead of the plague; which is strange, his man dying so long ago, and his house this month open again. Now himself dead. Poor unfortunate man.

August 26th ...thence I by water

home, in my way seeing a man taken up dead, out of the hold of a small ketch that lay at Deptford. I doubt it might be the plague, which, with the thought of Dr Burnett, did something disturb me, so that I did not what I intended, and should have done at the office....

August 30th ... then abroad and met with Hadley, our parish clerke, who, upon my asking how the plague goes, he told me in encreases much and much in our parish; for, says he, there died nine this week, though I have returned but six; which is a very ill practice and makes me think it is so in other places; and therefore the plague much greater than people take it to be...

September 4th ... walked home, my Lord Bruncker giving me a very neat cane to walk with; but it troubled me to pass by Coome farme where about twenty-one people have died of the plague... and a watch is constantly kept there night and day, to keep the people in...

SCHOOL'S BACK

Local primary schools are going ahead with plans for a phased wider opening of schools. Headmistress Vicki Cuff from Invicta Primary School wrote, "Over the past week, I have been looking carefully at the Government's ambitious plan with the senior leadership team and school governors and thinking carefully about what this means for Invicta. We have been reading and digesting the guidance from the Department for Education and unions as well as talking to staff, governors, the Local Authority and other headteachers to consider what is possible for the Invicta community and what this might look like in practice.

- Our governing body has agreed that the phased wider opening of Invicta will not begin before 8th June at the earliest, in order for us to make a safe and robust plan.
- Our plan will begin with the phased (gradual) return of the government's priority year groups of EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 with the order of these year groups to be confirmed."

At the time of going to press Halstow Primary was yet to confirm the date when their pupils will be going back to school. "We need to consult and inform the parents first".

With regard to secondary schools, RBG finish their press release: "Discussions between headteachers, boards of governors, teachers, parents and the council are continuing. It is likely that the situation will continue to change as ideas are discussed and new information is considered."

All schools agree that in any phased return, the safety of the pupils, staff, and wider community will always be a primary consideration.

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LOCAL NEWS IS GOOD NEWS ...

The Sunday Times (April 19th, page 13) warns that six out of ten local papers are unlikely to survive the current Covid-19 crisis.

We should all fervently hope that this is not a self-fulfilling prophecy. Local newspapers have been playing a vital role during the crisis; they have been publishing guidance from local councils, and giving information on local services, provided by both the councils and voluntary bodies. They also highlight local news that do not get a mention in national papers.

In bigger papers, advertisers have increasingly moved their budgets to websites on the internet.

Journalists have become an endangered species. Hundreds of newspaper employees have been laid off (even before the crisis), and at least 50 local papers have suspended publication.

Community newspapers, such as the Westcombe News, are a different story. The work is all done by devoted volunteers, who edit, write and distribute the papers.

However we hope that readers of the WVN will not desert our other local papers - we need them all. We don't realise how much we need things until they are gone. This could be the long-term central message really, of the lockdown

- Neville Grant

DON'T LIVE WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE

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Put you down? Ever frighten or hurt you?
Control your movements, friendships or money?
IF SO, THIS IS DOMESTIC ABUSE.

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FEATURES

OPINION

The Changing Nature of Covid-19

Boris has said that the outbreak of coronavirus is our biggest challenge since the war. It didn't seem that way at first. It was more like the virus crept up on us. Lockdown was a shock, our disbelief thickening the air but we thought, it won't be long until it's over. Instead, the seriousness of our situation deepened, and we started to hear about a projected 18 months, we learned about this being the first wave and finally we understood that we are now in the new normal, that our lives might never completely go back to how they were.

How could they? Most traumatic events, in hindsight give as much as they take. We are given the gift of reflection which we may squander a little on thinking nostalgically about the past but change is change. New knowledge makes us grow, we are different beings post virus. We have had new experiences, and our present will change to reflect this new knowledge.

Covid-19 in hindsight could be seen as a great balancer. Those of us who have experienced mental health issues which have led to isolation or re-learning might find we are surviving better in lockdown than our more outgoing, outwardly mobile brethren who, without the distraction of work, find their inner guy ropes loosening.

Local community is now seen as life enhancing; as a valuable asset to be cared for, nourished, cleaned. We will guard our green spaces wisely knowing when lockdown happens they remain our green flag of hope. We watch the season develop and change with a whole new sense of awe and

appreciation.

Food deliveries might be here to stay with food sourced from country farms, along with putting our grocery money back to the source rather than inflating the bank accounts of the supermarkets. Virtual training might make retraining accessible for everyone. Mental Health will finally be seen as essential for our well-being.

Covid-19 has exposed the self-serving nature of the old guard, the majority of Governments, politicians, money lenders, food barons, etc. Inequality is out of the Genie's lamp now and cannot be shoved back out of sight. The public are grouping together, raising their voices ever higher - becoming pro-active, fighting for the new equality, for sustainability, for fairness in order to create a healthy planet run by healthy individuals. If we are to live well, we need community, we need green spaces, we need a fully functioning NHS health system and we need investment to keep our future healthy.

This is the rebirth potential that is being revealed as the pandemic recedes. Covid-19 might come to be judged, not only as a terrifying ordeal for those that lost their lives and for the loved ones they leave behind but also, for those of us remaining, the greatest opportunity since the war, to make the changes that will make our lives and the lives of those around us count.

-Anne Williams

"It's funny how the ugly duckling always has so many beautiful things to teach us."

— Curtis Tyrone Jones

“Please, we’re social distancing”



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LOCAL PROFILES

A HEALING RESOURCE

Alina Frymorgen runs the Neal's Yard Remedies franchise in Blackheath Village. For everyone who appreciates having an alternative to allopathic medicine, her shop is a valuable resource. Indeed a local treasure! A place where, along with a back massage, you can get your health concerns listened to, and remedies suggested. A herbalist is also available to tailor-make remedies to suit the customer's needs.

Like any good doctor, Alina is proud of how much research she does, going to lectures given by complementary practitioners from around the world as well as attending refresher training sessions in order to keep abreast of all current developments in the field of complementary medicine.

WN asked Alina to share a little of her story as well as giving us an insight into how Covid-19 has affected her shop.

"When I left Poland in the mid 80's, it was more like jumping galaxies. I left a grey, socialist authoritarian state of one party, one culture, one religion and one type of medicine. To me London offered much more than I had ever thought existed. Finally life was rich, colourful, exciting and full of choices. I quickly chucked away pork chops for a vegetarian diet and soon embarked upon studying homeopathy. Even my pediatrician mother had no idea what it meant then."

Alina got a job in the Neal's Yard shop in Covent Garden.

"Back then, there was no Google, no social media, no internet. We spent a long time sharing herbal and homeopathic books with customers, looking for the best solutions. Many happy clients were coming back to thank us for the amazing improvement. Work was meaningful and very satisfactory."

But how did Alina get from being a shop assistant to owning her own shop?

"After my first lecture with Ian White, the founder of the Australian Bush Flower Remedies, I decided to try the Abundance Essence, "to open up for the numerous opportunities the Universe has to offer". It worked! I soon had the eureka moment: I would love to have a shop like the one in Covent Garden only in my neighbourhood."

"So in September 2001, with a huge help from my dear friends, I opened the fran-

chise in Blackheath."

Alina loves owning her shop even in these times of the 'disappearing high street'. She believes 'on-line' purchasing cannot supply what she can - vibrant, one-to-one and face-to-face help and support of her customers' needs.

So what happened when lockdown began? How has Alina continued to serve her customers?

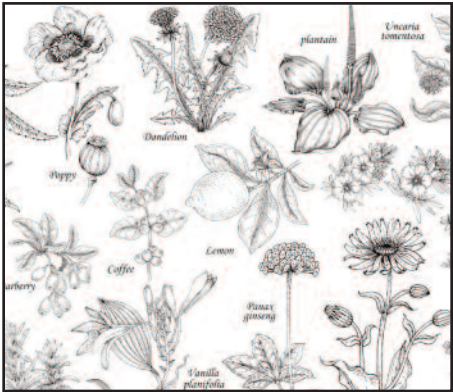
"I have never felt more appreciated as a local well-being hub, as during the present times. I have stayed "open", in a new way, since the beginning of the lock down. My customers, who don't rely solely on pharmaceuticals, have been contacting the store via email, phone or Facebook to place their orders. I process each order and place it outside the store. The payment is contactless or via bank transfers. For those people who have been in isolation my husband is very happy to deliver to their doorsteps (literally).

"We are all more anxious and worried at present. Stress affects our health in multiple ways. I have sold loads of herbal teas for better sleep and nervous exhaustion, also for many aspects of indigestion.

"People are buying more essential oils at the moment to create a beautiful ambience at home. Parents are looking for Bach flower remedies, for 'focus', to help in home schooling.

"On top of pandemic-related problems we are in the hay fever season for which we have always sold homeopathy, herbs and supplements. The media often mention the evidence that Vitamin D is very beneficial to our immunity. Such information brings us lots of custom. The phone hasn't stopped ringing."

Thank you Alina! WN wishes you lots of future success in your business and in the health of your customers.





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THINGS TO DO



The Westcombe Society's very own Quizmaster Extraordinaire J-J has created for WN readers not one, but two, quizzes. (No looking on the internet!) We will print the answers in July's edition of WN.

QUOTATIONS AND SAYINGS

EXAMPLE : **OAWAAP**
(Anonymous) On a wing and a prayer
(Anonymous) being the clue!

Now its your turn:

1. **EGCCTP** (Agathon)
Ans _____
2. **HSQMYP**
(Motto of the Order of the Garter)
Ans _____
3. **ALIITBR** (Jane Austen)
Ans _____
4. **TLBOI** (Jane Austen)
Ans _____
5. **WWFG** (Samuel Beckett)
Ans _____
6. **ATOBIAJF** (John Keats)
Ans _____
7. **L'E. C'E.L.A**
(J-P Sartre - in French)
Ans _____
8. **YPYMATYC** (Anonymous)
Ans _____
9. **AIFTBITBOPW**
(Voltaire in English)
Ans _____
10. **PITLROAS** (Samuel Johnson)
Ans _____

WHO AM I?

1. Which actor/politician used to shop at Safeway (before M&S)
Ans _____
2. Which famous widowed footballer was a pupil at Blackheath Bluecoats?
Ans _____
3. Which actor starred in Mama Mia (whose name has a link with 'barrels') and a pupil at Thomas Tallis School?
Ans _____
4. Which actor whose name has links to Sir Paul McCartney, went to Kidbrooke School?
Ans _____
5. A Russian who worked in the Deptford Docks and has a statue near Deptford Creek - who was he?
Ans _____
6. There is an elm tree planted in her honour in Marion Wilson Park - who is she?
Ans _____
7. She was the pioneering first headteacher of the first purpose-built comprehensive school - who was she?
Ans _____
8. The National Gallery, a local public house and Mycenae House - whose name links these places?
Ans _____
9. Which 16th century English composer has strong links with a Greenwich church?
Ans _____
10. She was appointed Ranger of Greenwich Park in 1805 and was rumoured to have had a colourful life?
Ans _____

'100 FOUND OBJECTS' WHAT CAN YOU FIND?

Are there objects, whether lost, found, in plain view or hidden away, that you feel represent your 'manor'?

The history of 'West Combe' has been documented over the years. William Lambard, whose family owned the Manor of West Combe, published 'Perambulation of Kent' in 1576. Since then many local historians have dug deep into the archives to update or rewrite our local history. Today, a new 'blog' is seeking suggestions for Westcombe and East Greenwich to enrich 'A History of Greenwich in 100 Objects'.

Based on the British Museum's book and radio series 'History of the World in 100 Objects' the more modest Greenwich 'blog' can be found at www.hogblog.org/. The site seeks to build on the 20 objects featured so far, from statues and sculptures to paintings, everyday items from the archives and mudlarking 'finds' from the river.



The definition of an 'object' is open to interpretation - for example we will not be featuring buildings - though have made an exception for the Blackheath Tea Hut, which due to its recent destruction fits the category of 'lost' objects. A very Westcombe example could be the 'missing Mary' - a religious statue that disappeared some years ago from its niche above the door of Mycenae House. (See pic)

Are there are objects, whether lost, found, in plain view or hidden away, that you feel represent your 'manor'? Please send suggestions and any

images of objects to: editor@hogblog.org. Also get in touch if you are motivated to write a short blog (from 500 to 2,000 words) about your nominated object.

There is also a short course planned for the autumn on '50 Objects of Greenwich'. Sessions led by curators, conservators, mudlarks and storytellers will feature paintings and prints, mudlark finds, objects in streets and parks, and a Greenwich selection from the 2.5 million items in the RMG stores at Kidbrooke. To respect the need for continuing caution over public and social space it is likely the course will be delivered as a webinar or digital tour hosted by Royal Museums Greenwich.

Explore Greenwich in 100 Objects at HogBlog.org
<https://www.instagram.com/hogblog.50/>
<https://twitter.com/100Hogblog>



Lead toy recovered behind the Queen's house this year. Collection of clay pipes found mudlarking on the Thames. Thameslarker@gmail.com.

ORIGAMI

Calling all adults.... getting bored of your colouring-in books? Why not try your hand at Origami? Albina Grigaliuniene, originally from Lithuania, took up the hobby to help her survive lockdown. Albina says she finds it, "relaxing - it calms my mind".

Origami actually has many health benefits: it improves fine motor skills and brain development; develops imagination and a sense of colour plus it improves concentration and spatial awareness. As well as creating free gifts and presents - so good for your purse too! So why not give it a go?



Can you see the rabbit?

Tutorials:
<https://origami.me/video-tutorials/>
(more on a youtube).
Buy Origami paper from Amazon
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Origami-Paper/b?ie=UTF8&node=201028031>

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FEATURES

THE ART OF LOCKDOWN

8-12YRS

FUTURE INTERIOR DESIGNER?

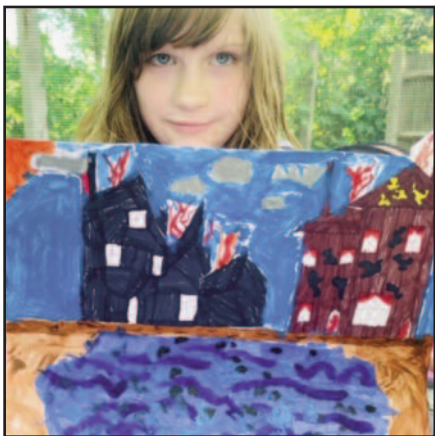


Pic: Tom Lewis

Jenn is 12 years old and a Year 7 student at Thomas Tallis School. She lives in Wycherley Close and her hobbies are drawing, painting, baking and making stuff! During lockdown the Lewis family has been spending much more time in their back garden and Jenn decided to liven it up by painting many of the stones there.

(The stones are beautifully coloured, visit www.westcombesociety.org to see WN online and in colour.)

A MODEL IN THE MAKING



Niamh Branagan 7yrs old, Year 2, 'The Great Fire of London', Halstow School project. Niamh also paints rainbows in her spare time.

A COOL NEW POET



Samuel Kidder 8yrs old

ISOLATION FEELINGS

I don't usually stay home this long
I don't usually have banana cake every day
I don't usually have so much screen time
I don't usually only get to see two friends
I don't usually do WhatsApp play dates with them
I don't usually see my family so much
I don't usually have lovely meals
I don't usually realise how lucky I am

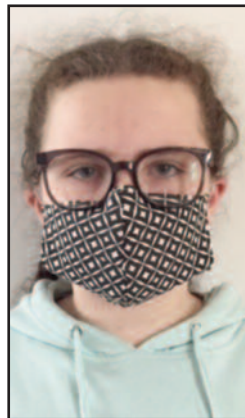
A YOUNG ENTRENEUR HELPING THE NHS

Blackheath High School GDST student Emma has designed a collection of 'BHS for the NHS' t-shirts and bags to raise money for the NHS Charities Together. Emma's collection also includes a line of quarantine birthday t-shirts, designed and personalised for those who are celebrating their birthdays away from friends and loved ones.

The 'BHS for the NHS' collection has been supported by students and pupils alike and thus far Emma has raised £95 for



THE MASK GIRL OF SIEBERT ROAD



Peggy Lake, 12 years old, has been making masks for her friends and family. She loves sewing and wanted to make something that was helpful and also reusable.

I have been given three of these masks and they are very comfortable to wear and pretty! - Ed.

NEXT GENERATION FAMILY ARTIST



Rafferty is 9 years old and lives on Westcombe Hill, he goes to Invicta and his teachers have put together some superb art lessons which have inspired him to pick up a paint brush instead of having his nose in a book!

"SAVED BY THE KIDS"

A serial entrepreneur is offering FREE Zoom businesses classes teaching children everything they need to know about being their own boss.

Natasha Courtenay-Smith, 43, winner of four business awards and currently CEO of London marketing agency, Bolt Digital, started the lessons for her own children after UK schools closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The free lessons are hosted by Natasha Monday to Friday during lockdown for 30 minutes from 11am and are suitable for children aged between seven and 12. Activities include:

"Saved by the kids" - where the kids help turn around failing businesses, like a zoo and restaurant, which have been impacted by the Coronavirus lockdown.

"Product creation" - where the kids come up with brand and product names for things like a best-selling chocolate bar.

"Great Bosses" - the goal of this lesson

format is to analyse the qualities of successful entrepreneurs, leaders and bosses.

"The UK needs to ensure more children are equipped with the skills of opportunity creation, understanding businesses, not being scared of businesses - giving it a go because they won't all succeed but some will."

Natasha outlines below the five things she believes EVERY child should know about running a business:

PURPOSE: The purpose of running a business is not just to make a profit, it also has a wider purpose - to ensure it contributes to the local area, it does a good job for its customers, and it enriches the life of its team - as well as contributing to the UK economy.

USPs: Identifying unique selling points - how to create them and how to create excellence within those USPs.

MINDSET: How to achieve a successful mindset with things such as goal setting -

and how to achieve those goals - how to rise up after falls, feeling fears and moving forwards anyway, and how to improve your pace of decision-making.

ADAPTING: How businesses and people need to adapt as the world changes around them. Understanding that we all face change and it's one of the only certainties in life.

FINANCES: Understanding the financial mechanics of running a business. What drives profit, how to drive profit by doing a better job, diversifying to offer a better experience for your customers and how to manage your business costs.

Children and parents can join Natasha live every week day at 11am via Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/boltbizkids

Or they can watch the recorded lessons on demand any time via the same link.



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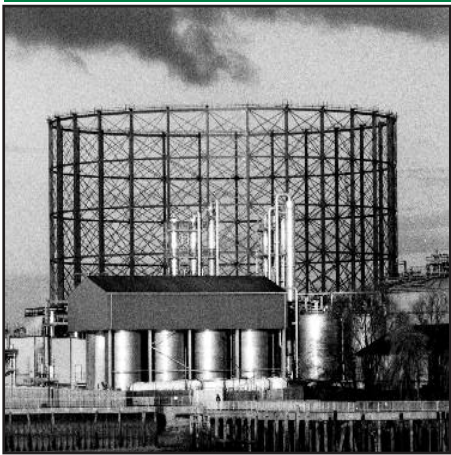




Planning applications can be viewed in the library, or at the Woolwich Library on the lower ground floor of the Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington St. They may also be viewed on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning

BEAUTY IN A GAS-HOLDER

Mary Mills



Above Pic: Peter Field
Right Pic: Peter Luck

So, our magnificent gas-holder has now gone – apart from a tiny, tiny section which will remain, although we don’t know for how long. In fact the fate of almost all gas-holders was sealed several years ago when the industry regulatory body, Ofgem, declared that in order to save money in the future, all gas-holders must be demolished unless they were listed.

We knew the East Greenwich holder was exceptional in its construction, its size and the ideas which led to its design. Attempts to get it listed eventually resulted in an immunity to listing order from the Government. It seems likely that the reason for its demolition is really connected to the construction of the Silvertown Tunnel.

Over the past couple of years a small group of industrial historians has worked hard, both to try and save it - there are plenty of examples of usefully adapted holders around the world – and to record it. We have been lucky that the British gas-holder expert is a friend and has been involved with us. We need to thank the staff of Southern Gas Networks who have

arranged for us to visit during the 18 months of demolition and we now have an amazing archive of photographs including a lot of drone footage from SGN.

SGN have commissioned an art work and along with local councillors we have been part of a judging panel. As demolition has moved to the visible part of the holder in the last month and the guide frame has come down, many local residents have been taking pictures - and persons unknown put up a banner. There are at least three stop frame animations of the demolition, some videos and hundreds of photographs. Not one person has said they are glad to see it go.

A lot of other holders are coming down and there are many local campaign groups but nothing seems able to stop this relentless process. One which may have escaped however, is the very good-looking holder on the canal in Bethnal Green. It has escaped the Ofgem ruling because it has been bought by a developer –but we understand developers were told East Greenwich was not for sale.

NATHAN WAY RE-OPENED

There has also been an increase in unwanted items left on pavements. But now Nathan Way Refuse and Recycling

centre has reopened, you can help out the smaller than usual waste crews, and take your larger unwanted items to the dump!

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

- 69 VANBRUGH PARK ref 20/0490/F**
To convert two one-bed flats into a family maisonette with alterations to the fenestration and balustrade of the conservatory.
 - 8 RUTHIN ROAD ref 20/1235/HD**
To construct single storey rear infill extension and relocate retaining wall to form rear terrace
 - 12B HARDY ROAD ref 20/0744/F**
To install external stairs and replace rear window with a door and window.
- TREE WORKS

- 23 BEACONSFIELD ROAD ref 20/1364/TC**
To fell Eriobotrya japonica loquat in front garden.
- 1 BEACONSFIELD ROAD ref 20/1153/F**
To construct 4-bedroom house with basement in garden
- 39 GLENLUCE ROAD ref 20/1016/HD**
To construct single storey outbuilding with basement in rear garden

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ENJOYING THE GARDEN IN JUNE

Ann Hill

Roses epitomise the English garden in June so let us stop a moment to enjoy them as we pass by. This is the month when the garden is in full swing with long warm days and maximum sunlight boosting plant growth. Vegetable plots are starting to brim with goodness. Flowers are appearing in abundance and this is a lovely month for lupins, delphiniums, sweet peas, day lilies, penstemons, and cornflowers. There is still plenty to do at this time of year. Here are a few jobs to keep you busy:

- Encourage continued flowering by removing dead heads.
- Keep container plants and hanging baskets well-watered (daily in hot weather) and give them a liquid feed every 2-4 weeks.
- Put house plants outside in a sheltered spot to enjoy extra light.
- Plant out any remaining bedding plants and tender annuals.
- Thin out hardy annuals and self-seeded nigella and marigolds.
- Tie sweet peas and other climbing plants onto their supports. Stake dahlias.
- Sow wallflowers for next spring.



- Take cuttings of fuschias, pelargoniums, and osteospermums.
- Mulch if you have any. Apply on moist soil.
- Cut back all foliage of oriental poppies and delphiniums to the ground after flowering. New growth will soon emerge.
- Prune spring-flowered shrubs that have become an untidy shape.
- Give tomatoes a liquid, potash-rich, feed weekly once the flowers start to set.

- Remove side shoots.
- Keep beans and other vegetables well-watered. Choose mornings or evenings.
- Protect strawberry bed with netting.
- Continue to hoe to keep down weeds as they compete for moisture and nutrients.
- Continue to sow salad

crops, radish, beetroot, carrots, peas, beans.
•Top up the bird bath.

Make time to sit and relax and especially enjoy the balmy evenings. I love to hear and watch the swifts skirling and swooping high up and glimpse the evening bats. Count yourself lucky if you see a stag beetle flying at dusk...they are so endangered.

THE LONDON FORUM

Helen Warner

The Westcombe Society, along with over 100 other London amenity and civic societies, is a member of the London Forum. The Forum represents the views and interests of societies and their members on issues that are important for those who work and live in London. Their main focus is on Planning, Development Management, Heritage, Transport, Environment, Waterways and Open Spaces. They do this by taking part in meetings and consultations held by the Mayor of London, Transport for London, other London-wide bodies, and departments and agencies of National Government - submitting written responses, monitoring and responding to consultations, policies and decisions, and mounting campaigns on important issues. They consult and keep members up-to-date with open events and briefings. London Forum (LF) is a charity with no paid staff. Representatives from its membership make up the committees.

The London Forum is currently having frequent virtual meetings for its members to discuss vital issues such as the implications of Covid19 on the planning system. With the countryside charity CPRE, Friends of the Earth London and planning network Just Space, they have created a Charter for ‘best practice principles’ which has been circulated to all Local Authorities

in order to help safeguard the role of local communities / public voice in the planning process.

Just some recent matters on which the LF has submitted responses included:

- The Mayor’s New London Plan
- White Paper on Planning, particularly government’s plan to allow permitted development right for upwards extensions; housing-led regeneration of high streets and a policy for “densifying gently in existing residential areas”
- The LF supported 'Building Better, Building Beautiful' Commission (BBBBC)
- Extensions to the Northern & Bakerloo lines, re-signalling on the Piccadilly line and proposals for extending Croydon Tramlink
- Changes in bus routes and cycle ways and the impact of greener buses on high streets
- Crossrail

The London Forum have an active Twitter feed https://twitter.com/London_Forum and website <https://www.londonforum.org.uk/>. – Helen Warner is a member of the Westcombe Society Environment Committee and a Trustee of the London Forum

‘SPOT THE DIFFERENCE’



The borough has been replacing some local road signs, but only if they really need it. These two are on opposite sides of the northern end of Coleraine Road, across from each other. -Anne Robbins

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