



Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, & in libraries & some shops

July/August 2017 No. 6

A community newspaper commended by the London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies



First-time buyers losing out to foreign investors

WN reporter

A report commissioned by the Mayor of London four months ago reveals that an eighth of all new homes intended for first-time buyers in London are being bought by foreign investors – and it's not just happening in the capital.

The research indicates that foreign investors are buying up, not just luxury homes, but thousands of homes in London suitable for first time buyers. They then use them as buy-to-let investments, and in some cases hold them in off-shore tax havens.

In a report published in the *Guardian* on 14th June, between 2014 and 2016, 3,600 of London's 28,000 newly-built homes were snapped up; many of the buyers came from Singapore and Hong Kong.

The most popular destination for Chinese investment is in Greenwich, where Knight Dragon is building 16,000 new homes.

About half the properties purchased in London were priced for first-time buyers – between £200,000 and £500,000.

According to figures released by Lloyd's Bank, the average cost of a home in London bought by a first-time buyer is £405,000 – almost double the national average.

The effect is observable at local level: in Greenwich, Tower Hamlets and Wandsworth, one in eight of all new homes have been bought up by foreign buyers.

There are calls for the Mayor, and local councils, to intervene, blocking foreign buyers until Londoners have been given the opportunity to buy.

The HomeOwners Alliance, representing current and would-be home-owners, say this trend is alarming, and unfair to first-time buyers.

Busted iphone screen? No problem, in Greenwich

Mobile phone technology has made the much-loved iconic red telephone boxes obsolete. Lovefone, among a few other businesses, are bringing these listed structures back into public service.

The founder of Lovefone, Alex, said: "Many telephone boxes across London have been neglected over the years. So we thought we could breathe some new life into them by utilising these landmarks which have become obsolete with the advent of mobile technology."

"People seem to like the idea – we've had some great support from the locals and media"

Last August, Lovefone created a new shop in Greenwich where you can get your iPhone or Nexus smartphone repaired in an iconic British red telephone box called a 'Lovefonebox'.

Lovefone's first phone box is at 291 Greenwich High Road SE10 8NA, next to The Mitre pub (great excuse to have a drink whilst you wait!) The phone box is open for business from 10.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

Apart from their standard electronics repair services, Lovefone are also offering free mobile phone charging and wifi at



their phone box repair shops. The aim is to have 35 locations in London over the next 18 months with other Franchise opportunities available outside London.

A second phone box repair shop has just opened at 120-22 Brompton Road in Knightsbridge.

Our toxic air

Andrew Riley

Toxic air pollution is blighting parts of areas in Blackheath, Westcombe Park and East Greenwich. According to a new survey, levels of nitrogen dioxide have been recorded at more than twice the EU legal limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air (µg/m³) at one site,

The results showed an average reading of 91mcg on Shooters Hill Road by the junction with Stratheden Road; 58mcg at the end of Langton Way by the Sun in the Sands roundabout; 50mcg on the bridge over the A102M on Old Dover Road; 49mcg where Westcombe Hill meets Blackheath Royal Standard; and 46mcg at the Standard's junction with Vanbrugh Park.



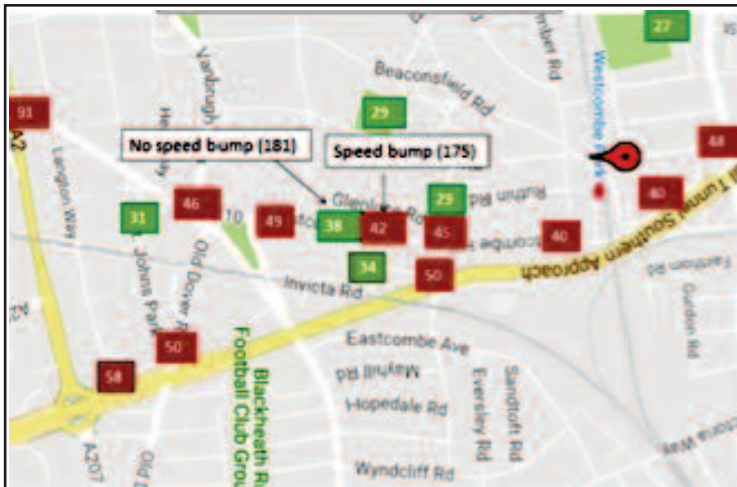
Some readings showed levels of nitrogen dioxide within the legal limit. These included: 27mcg on Halstow Road; 29mcg on Mycenae Road by Mycenae

House; and 31mcg on St John's Park near Elsie Marshall Hall.

The research was carried out between March and April by a group of local residents, who fixed "diffusion" tubes to lamp-posts and signposts to measure levels of nitrogen dioxide at 17 sites across the neighbourhood.

The tubes were taken down after a month and analysed by the Environmental Scientific Group.

The research project was organised by the No to Silvertown Tunnel campaign in association with the Network for Clean Air, and was funded by donations given at the funeral of Terry Grant, who ran the film club at Mycenae House and helped with a similar earlier survey.



RIGHT:
Some sample readings.
Legal limit 40 mcg

Tube No.	Reading	Location
13	91	Shooters Hill junction with Stratheden Rd.
15	50	Old Dover Rd west of bridge over A102
16	58	Langton Way near Sun in Sands Roundabout
17	46	Royal Standard at Vanbrugh Park junction
20	49	Westcombe Hill / Westcombe Park Road.

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Newsbriefs

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Station closures

Charing Cross, Waterloo East and London Bridge stations will be closed from Sat. 26th August to Sat. 2nd September inclusive. Cannon St will be closed on Sat. and Sunday 26th and 27th August with a reduced service to Cannon Street through Greenwich and Blackheath for the rest of the week. Blackheath will still have Victoria services. There are also major closures so check before you travel.

Tower block safety

After the tragic fire at Grenfell House in Kensington, the Royal Borough of Greenwich is reassuring tenants and residents that fire safety remains an utmost priority.

Within Royal Greenwich there are 93 high rise blocks, six of which are 24 storeys high. The six 24 storey blocks have external cladding.

All the 93 high rise blocks are Fire Risk Assessed every year and all have current Fire Risk Assessments except two blocks in John Wilson Street which have interim risk assessments, as they are currently being refurbished.

Road closure

From Sun 25th June until Sun 3rd September, Kidbrooke Park Road will be closed to all traffic between Weigall Road and Old Post Office Lane for road works.

GDIF Finale

Don't miss the finale to the Greenwich + Docklands International Festival on Saturday 8th July., when huge colour-wheels will roll through the streets of Woolwich. Free! It starts at 9.00pm at the Assembly Statues (near Congusto) No. 1 Street Royal Arsenal Riverside SE18 6ST.

Do not disturb app

Apple has announced that its iOS 11 software update is to include a new "Do Not Disturb While Driving" mode for iPhones. The new feature will detect when someone is driving and automatically turn off.

Jo Cox In Memoriam

A number of local residents took part in a Jo Cox party in June organised by one of our deliverers, Ann Brown, of Old Dover Road. Siebert Road also held a vibrant street party in June, with a medley of bands.

Christmas Bazaar

The Westcombe Society's Christmas Bazaar is back at its old venue, Blackheath High School for Girls, Mycenae Road, by kind permission of the head teacher. It's on Sat. 25th Nov. Anyone wishing to book a stall should contact Marilyn Little on 8853 1312.

East Greenwich gas holder to go?

The Council wants to know the views of residents on their new "framework to guide future development of site GP3 on the Greenwich Peninsula," reports Mary Mills. Site GP3 is on the Greenwich Peninsula (roughly south-west of the O2).

With the potential decommissioning of the existing gas holder, the site could have alternative and more intensive uses. This Planning Brief sets out an overarching framework to guide future developments of the site. Details can be found on <https://consultations.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/KMS/dmart.aspx?strTab=PublicDMart&PageType=item&DMartId=895> and one can respond via an on-line survey.

Regrettably – as so often seems to happen – this consultation takes place over the summer months when many are away.

Comments can be emailed to:
planning_policy@royalgreenwich.gov.uk.
For further enquiries ring 020 8921 6235.

Westcombe Society

Sat 22nd July 7.30 pm
Members' Evening in Mycenae House. Bring-a-dish - and meet old friends!

Invitations are going out soon - RSVP by 14th July.

Ring Caroline on 0208 858 0948

The annual Macmillan Walk on Sun. 17th Sept. starts at Westcombe Park Station (Station Crescent) at 9am. See page 2.

Please ring Joanne on 07709 571777.

The Annual Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan is on Fri. 29th Sept.

10.00am - 2.00pm
Volunteers are needed to make cakes and sandwiches, and to help on the day.
Please ring Caroline on 88530948

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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Environment Editor: Maggie Gravelle

What's On:

Reporters: The community – that means you!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Emily Norton All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2756
environment@westcombesociety.org

DISTRIBUTION Emily Norton and volunteers.

Volunteer distributors please phone 020 8853 2756, we need your help!

ADVERTISING MANAGER

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Advertising@westcombesociety.org

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DISPLAY: Single column 6cm x 6cm:
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Classified Ads (Market Place) 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. An email/web address = 3 words.) Deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month.

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Westcombe Society's Blog:
<http://westcombe.blogspot.com>

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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London, SE3 7SE

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General Election 2017

Photos:
Mark Johnson-Brown



MATT PENNYCOOK



The WN asked a young Russian journalist for his reactions to the Hustings meeting that took place in Mycenae House during the 2017 election campaign.

Voters in Greenwich had their vote – and chose to stick with the Labour candidate – one who has already spent two years on the green benches of the House of Commons. Matthew Pennycook took 34,215 votes out of the 53,306 who turned out on 8th of June and so will remain the constituency's MP for the next four years.

Or at least until the next election . . .

As a Russian citizen and journalist I envy both the British political system and the culture of political discussion that exists. In late May I had the pleasure of witnessing the Hustings meeting in Mycenae House, where four candidates argued their cases in a polite manner and answered questions from the audience. And in time-honoured fashion, they duly agreed to disagree – and sometimes even agreed to agree.

Maxim Martemyanov

That was a debate genre you won't see in present-day Russia. The debates there serve, with few exceptions, solely for purposes of advertising – and only exist on government-funded or controlled TV-channels. Most people already know who is going to win.

Of course, Russia is vast, and the regime can't totally control every election campaign in every corner of the country, thus can't control how debates are conducted. Russian MPs are

obliged to hold a "Meet your representative" meeting once a year – but even at such meetings it is next to impossible to hear jokes from a party member about his or her leader. The Tory candidate Caroline Attfield did exactly that in her opening statements at the Hustings when she referred to Theresa May's infamous slogan "Strong and stable".

Although the audience responded with a good laugh, it didn't help to keep voters on her side.

Talking of slogans, one came to mind that to me explains a lot in Russia. It is the one that Chekhov's story "The Man in a Case" liked to repeat every now and then: "...it is all very nice, but I hope it won't lead to anything". To me that is why in today's Russia we don't hear many jokes by those who are in power. Because in many cases it certainly will lead to no good.

Even if you are one of them.

Wanted!

Greenwich park has over 50 volunteers – but needs more. Volunteers could

- * meet and greet visitors in the summer
- * help with a new archeological dig
- * carry out gardening projects
- * drive for a new mobility scheme to help visitors who need assistance
- * support workshops for adults and children.

Interested? Contact:

www.royalparks.org.uk/be-involved/volunteering-in-the-royal-parks



Letters

Any views expressed are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or the WN.

From: Brooks Jackson

Those who have doubts about the usefulness of the Silvertown Tunnel must be in the minority, for the vast majority of people it is an urgent necessity, especially taking into account the fact that building the tunnel will take at least six years – by which time the RAC tell us traffic will have increased significantly.

With all the proposed plans for building in the area and increased traffic there is no way that the Blackwall Tunnel can cope; the tunnel at Tilbury will have as much traffic as it can handle with increasing traffic in the Dartford Crossing area.

We have already had gridlock in the area and there could be more or worse if there was serious damage in the Blackwall Tunnel from an accident which would devastate a vast area without the Silvertown Tunnel.

The new tunnel would also be a plus for more public transport and double decker buses to handle the increasing population.

As for pollution, it is worse from stationery vehicles than those moving and by the time the Silvertown Tunnel is finished there will be fewer diesel cars and trucks with the new laws.

However the growing use of electric cars means that they will be the car of the future –

with no pollution. They will be well needed here with the high cost of the oil we have to import.

Any delay in building the Silvertown Tunnel would be a blow to London's economic future in the South East.

From: Trevor Allman Coleraine Road

As a result of the General Election we now have a Conservative Government that is supposed to be propped up by the Democratic Unionist Party, the political wing of the Loyalist terror gangs in the North of Ireland.

Given this development, and that Greenwich Conservatives have already selected Cllr Geoffrey Brighty, Thomas Turrell and Roger Tester as their candidates for Blackheath Westcombe Ward for the 2018 Local Elections, I think it is only right that we ask them to state whether they support or condemn terrorism.

Charity Walk

Joanne writes: the annual charity Macmillan Walk is on Sunday 17th September. We meet at Westcombe Park Station (Station Crescent) at 9am, and this year we follow the Green Chain Walk to Oxleas Woods taking in Maryon Wilson Park, Charlton Park, Woolwich Common, Shooters Hill golf course and Sevedroog Castle. Total distance, including the route home along Shooters Hill Road and Old Dover Road, is about 10 miles. Some may wish to take the 89 bus home.

A bottle of water will be supplied at the start but please bring anything else you may want to eat or drink on the walk.

There will be shops open along the route and there is a cafe at the end - their bacon sandwiches come well recommended!

To take part there is a £10 entry fee, 100% of which goes to Macmillan Cancer Care.

It would be ideal to get sponsorship for the walk, although this isn't compulsory. All monies raised will go to Macmillan.

If you would like to walk, or make a donation, or would like more information please ring Joanne on 07709 571777.

Our Summer Fayre



Marilyn Little writes: the Westcombe Society held our annual Summer Fayre on Saturday 24th June in Mycenae Gardens. The children were entertained with races, tugs of war and a very popular coconut shy. There was also a face painter who was kept busy (as usual) as well as a scavenger hunt.

St George's Church had a stall for their highly-regarded jams and pickles. We were entertained by a jazz trio and singer, and the odd glass of Pimms and delicious cakes were on sale.

We were fortunate with the weather and it was a shame that more people were not able to come along and enjoy a pleasant afternoon in the garden. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the afternoon very special.



PHOTOS: Di Blackwell

Presented by Friends of Mycenae Gardens and Mycenae House

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LOCAL NEWS

St. Alfege's Embroidery



This panel shows Jesus preaching from a boat on the Thames to crowds in the Old Royal Naval College and Greenwich Park.

Among events in Greenwich to mark the Millennium in 2012 of the death of Alfege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was beaten to death by Danish raiders on the site of St Alfege Church, a project was launched to create four needlework panels that represent stories about the life of Jesus from the New Testament set in modern day Greenwich.

St Alfege Church is now mounting a new exhibition of four new and beautiful sewing panels depicting Christ in Greenwich Now, inspired by both the millennium of Alfege's martyrdom in 2012, and the Greenwich Millennium tapestries now permanently exhibited at Royal Greenwich Heritage Centre.

The panels represent stories about the life of Jesus from the New Testament set in modern day Greenwich and underline our belief that Christ is discovered over and over again in the course of ordinary lives and encounters today, just as he was two thousand years ago.

Revd Chris Moody, Vicar at St Alfege

Church said: "This is a wonderful example of members of the local community coming together to bring the story of Jesus to life."

The sewing took place from 2011 until 2016 with the sewing group meeting every week in the church and included members of St Alfege Church, the Old Royal Naval College Chapel and the wider community in and around Greenwich.

The panels were made to be used by schools, churches and other institutions to support community engagement and learning and are set in triangular frames which can be displayed together or separately. It is intended that they will be displayed on a changing basis in a variety of locations in Greenwich. Please contact office@st-alfege.org.uk or telephone 020 8853 0687 for more information.

The panels will be on display in St Alfege Church from 18th June to 9th July 2017 and the church will be open as usual every day from 11.00am to 4.00pm, and Sundays from noon to 4.00pm.

Eco Park Under Threat



Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park is an urban oasis that has just been named not only Best Space for Nature and but also joint Site of the Year at the Land Trust Awards 2017.

This vital green space amid the high-rise buildings of urban Greenwich is home to hundreds of different species, including two new species of bee.

Managed by The Conservation Volunteers, it provides opportunities for people to enjoy the natural world. Rangers Tony Day and Joanne Smith, and park volunteers not only work tirelessly to maintain the park for the benefit of plants, animals and people, but also host hundreds of activities, volunteering sessions and school visits each year.

The Land Trust is a national land management charity that supports open space and green infrastructure. Alan Carter, the Director of Portfolio Management at the Land Trust, said:

"Since it opened in 2002, and under the Land Trust's ownership from 2011, Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park has gone from strength to strength. Thanks to the dedication and passion of the rangers,

volunteers, local residents and visitors, this small park punches well above its weight in terms of habitat and species diversity.

"This Ecology Park delivers in every way, and with exciting projects on the horizon such as a dedicated Outdoor Classroom, there's even more to come."

However, there are worries that the park is under threat. There are proposals for a high-rise building nearby by developers Greenwich Millenium Village Ltd. (GMVL) that could cast a deep shadow over much of the park.

Sue Younghouse, speaking on behalf of the Friends of the Park, claimed there was cross-party backing for their campaign against the development.

"The park is a unique environment and must be protected. Local residents, visitors and wildlife enthusiasts have all been writing to Greenwich Council Planning Committee voicing their concerns about the damage that this 20-storey tower block could cause."

A spokesman for GMVL said that it has received outline planning permission, and is proposing to extend the ecology park with a new ecology swale.

Invicta pupils imagine the Amazon – in Hackney

Alex Buchanan

On Friday 26 May, Year 2 students from Invicta Primary School in Blackheath attended the rehearsals of the World premiere of new dance/music show *Voices of the Amazon* at Studio Wayne McGregor at Here East in Hackney Wick.

The performance both entertained and helped develop the children's

understanding of deforestation and the loss of natural medicines and plants in the Amazon Rainforest, which is now on the KS2 Geography syllabus. The children got an exclusive sneak peak of the show which opens at Sadler's Wells in July and were able to ask questions about the production.

Voices of the Amazon is set in the Amazon Rainforest and, through dance and music, tells the story of two sisters and



Charles Demasio in rehearsal their overwhelming love for each other.

The story also highlights the damaging effects of deforestation and the loss of renewable medicines and plants,

For the children of Invicta it was a double whammie – a fascinating experience of the performing arts, and an insight into the serious environmental issues facing the planet.

John Patrick Murphy

Mourners raised £350 for Help for Heroes at the funeral of Greenwich community campaigner, John Patrick Murphy, who died in May aged 96.

John, a Roman Catholic, worshipped at St Joseph's Church in Greenwich High Road. He was buried at Eltham Cemetery on 31 May and Greenwich MP Matthew Pennycook was among the fifty mourners at the service. John had been a life-long member of the Labour Party.

His son, John Edward Murphy, said: "People were very generous. It was a fitting memorial to my father who was a patriot and supporter of the armed forces and of Greenwich."

John from Ormiston Road, SE10, helped campaign for the retention of the East Greenwich library in Greenwich High

Road in the 1980s. The library had been gifted to the borough by benefactor Andrew Carnegie, but is now being sold.

With local campaigners, John helped to persuade the council leaders to open the East Greenwich Pleasaunce to the public. Housing graves of seamen who had died at the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital, near the Cutty Sark, the Pleasaunce has been transformed into a delightful and peaceful park for the use of local people.

John had survived a German sniper's bullet in the Second World War when he served with the 20th London (Queen's Own) Regiment. Earlier, he had shot down a Fokker Wolfe 190 after it had dropped its bomb on a school in Catford, killing children and staff.



Bowie, bombs, and Britain's first car

The Ashburnham Triangle Association are launching a new history archive for the Triangle, constructed from the research notes of late local historian Richard Cheffins. Imogene Russell, the Hon Sec. of the association, told the *WN*:

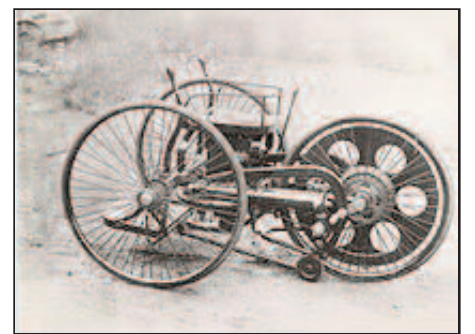
"Imagine you lived in the Triangle in the 1880s and invented a petrol vehicle. Benz and Daimler and others abroad were having a go too, but you were the first in this country.

"And your employers, Merryweathers, the fire engine manufacturers in Greenwich High Road, built your three-wheeler (pictured). And then, instead of developing and manufacturing it, they and everyone else said, 'Forget it, it'll never catch on', or words to that effect ...

"It frightens the horses and it goes too fast." That's what happened to Edward Butler of 31 Ashburnham Grove. He stuck to boat engines after that...

"Quite a lot else has happened in the last 170 years or so since these Triangle streets were built – events as disparate as WW2 bombing, and Bowie developing Ziggy Stardust in what's now Gee-Pharm's basement.

"What's new is that we'll soon be able to check all this out for ourselves via a new archive to go up on the Association's website."



Butler's Patent Velocycle 1887

The historical information comes from the work-notes of local historian Richard Cheffins, late of Ashburnham Place. When this Knight of the Order of St John of Malta died recently, his research card index was rescued from the house clearers by Tara Veitch of Ashburnham Place and Mick Delap of Egerton Drive. Mick and digital ace Tom Webb of Ashburnham Grove are in the process of turning these notes into an easily searchable, cross-checkable, digital archive, eventually to be a multimedia mixture of information and storytelling. It provides a new way to explore the Triangle's past. Mick introduced the archive and some of its contents on June 10th in the Ashburnham Arms.

If you have any information you can add to the archive, please contact Mick Delap at mick@delap.plus.com

FEATURES

How Mr Schmitz helped to keep the Royal Navy afloat

Question: What connects Charlton, James Joyce, the Royal Navy and the great Italian writer Italo Svevo?

To give a simple answer to a rather complicated story one could say that Charlton features as an unwitting ‘match-maker’ in what was to become a beautiful literary and human friendship between two major writers of European Literature of the first half of the Twentieth Century, who rank, with Proust and Kafka among the enduring pillars of Modernism.

But let us reel the story back to 1904, when the young and still unknown James Joyce and his girlfriend Nora Barnacle set off from his native Dublin for continental Europe in a quest for a living, but also for freedom from the oppressive society he considered Ireland to be.

After a few disappointing starts, their quest led them to the important and busy Austrian port of Trieste (now in Italy), where James Joyce found modest employment as an English teacher at the Berlitz Language School. (To this day there is a statue of Joyce in Trieste).

Joyce found himself teaching English to a local businessman, Ettore Schmitz, who was also an unrecognised writer writing under a pen name of Italo Svevo. The two men had much in common: both were writers who had to work hard in other occupations for a living, and both were equally versed in, and passionate about, literature. A beautiful and long-lasting friendship developed between the two as yet unknown writers.

Ettore Schmitz soon found himself working for his wife’s family firm, which was overseen by his formidable mother-in-law, Olga. The Veneziani’s firm produced the Moravia Anti-Fouling Composition: this was marine paint that protected the hulls of ships from corrosion, seaweed and barnacles. At a time when all the great

powers were building up their shipping fleets, there was a high demand for this in the shipping industry.

One very satisfied customer was a very wealthy Irish Peer, the 4th Baron Muskerry, who tried out the paint on one of his yachts in Malta. He quickly spread the word, and the information soon reached the ears of Admiral Sir John Fisher, then C-in-C of the Mediterranean Fleet.

In 1910 Ettore Schmitz was despatched to London by Olga to negotiate a deal. Feeling very nervous about how well his

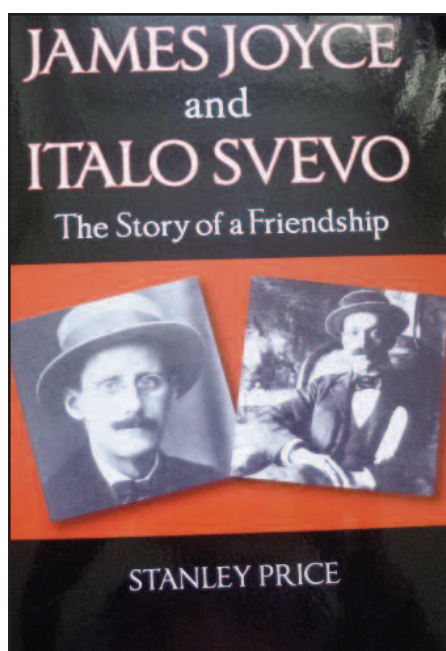
**Vesna Domany Hardy
& Irena Morvai Hill**

English could cope with complicated negotiations, he arrived at the Admiralty building – and to his amazement he was able to negotiate a sale on the spot. But to fulfil such a huge order for the entire Royal Navy, a local factory was needed.

A site was found and a factory was built by the Thames in Anchor and Hope Lane, Charlton (close to today’s Makro cash and carry), and a house was rented at 67 Church Lane for Svevo’s frequent stays to oversee the business. From Charlton Svevo/Schmitz wrote many letters to his wife and to his friend James Joyce, with his observations of life in London, about English customs and politics both before and after WWI.

While in Charlton he also made friends with, and became a fan of, Charlton Athletics. He enjoyed English beer, and read the *Times*; but it seems that he much preferred the company of ordinary Londoners to those who frequented the literary salons of Trieste.

He enjoyed discussing the world with a smith and fitter named D.D. Richards who ran a business next to the paint factory. All of these and much more has been



thoroughly researched and beautifully written in a recently published book, *James Joyce and Italo Svevo, The Story of a Friendship* by Stanley Price (Somerville Press, 2016). Svevo’s interesting and often witty and insightful letters to his wife Livia Veneziani are published in *This England is so different... Italo Svevo’s London Writings* (edited by John Gatt-Rutter and Brian Moloney, Troubador Publishing Ltd, 2003).



It was in September 1999 that the Italian Ambassador unveiled an English Heritage blue plaque on the facade of 67 Charlton Church Lane. It was here that the great novelist Italo Svevo, whose real name was Ettore Schmitz, lived from 1903 to 1913, and for a short period after the First World War. Not the first, and certainly not the last immigrant who enormously benefited our country.

Mrs May and David Davies, please note.

NHS plans for Our Healthier Greenwich

The local NHS is holding a series of events for the public to hear about plans for health and care services in south east London.

The ideas to be discussed at the events are part of Our Healthier South East London – the sustainability and transformation plan for six London boroughs aiming to help people lead healthier, longer lives and ensure the NHS makes the best use of the money available.

We want as many residents

as possible to come along, find out about the plans from local NHS leaders and discuss what this means for local services.

The health and care issues we are looking at include: how we can improve community care and care outside hospital; how different parts of the health and care system can work better together to give people the care they need; how we can best meet the rising demand for services from a growing and ageing population and respond to the financial pressures this places on the NHS; and crucially, what more can we do to stop people becoming unwell.

The next event in this area is at 1.00 - 4.00pm on 13th July at The Grand Salon, Charlton House, London, SE7 8RE

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New bus tours launch

Greenwich Volunteer Centre has launched its first ever bus tour to give both locals and tourists a unique chance to explore some of this borough’s hidden gems – a brilliant way of painlessly taking in some of the highlights of Greenwich.

On offer is a guided tour of Charlton House, and visits to the Thames Barrier and Severndroog Castle – one of the highest points in London. A local volunteer gives a lively commentary with interesting information, and local stories and anecdotes.

The guides receive the training and experience needed to develop the skills for a career in tourism, and all profits go to the Volunteer Centre Greenwich.

Greenwich Bus Tours will run weekly on Thursdays from 29 June from 10.15am to 1.30pm. Tickets cost £35 for adults, £22 for children and £106 for a family ticket for two adults and two children. To book onto a tour, please visit www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/greenwich-bus-tour/

Charlton Manor Theatre Group

The curtain’s gone up on another ground-breaking project at the remarkable Charlton Manor Primary School.

A weekly theatre group has been added to the curriculum at the school in Indus Road, already enriched by cooking classes for every age group, secret garden, chicken and bee keeping, a community farm and a news team that produces the school’s magazine, *Manor LIFE*!

The course is being run by James Haddrell, artistic and executive director of Greenwich Theatre, in partnership with Serin Ibrahim, artistic director of CultureClash Theatre Company. Said James: “We’ve had a lot of contact with the school in the last two years and we’re very excited about working with a group of eight Year 5 pupils every week.

“We have a board of governors as a charity, but I’ve always been interested in having a board of young people because of the number of family shows we present, so the theatre group at Charlton Manor seems to me to be the perfect pilot for that idea.”

Pupils from the school recorded a song called Rainbow Connection for *Peter Pan* at the theatre and large groups attended the last two pantos. “There was obviously a lot of talent at the school so it was great when head teacher Tim Baker agreed to have the theatre group,” said James.

“As well as running drama workshops to develop the children’s skills, we have decided to support them in creating a show by the end of term. The group will decide what it will be about, and they will write it. It could be about anything from the Egyptians to the importance of recycling, it’s completely up to them. In the group they learn to be confident, perform in front of lots of people, work as a team and learn about professional discipline.”

To find out more about the school, please visit www.charltonmanorprimary.co.uk.

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WHAT'S ON



ARTS

The ARTS SOCIETY BLACKHEATH (formerly BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY), St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath
We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month-except August and December. 2.00pm for 2.30pm
Non-members can pay on the door. **27th July:**
Dr Twigs on LIFE AND ART OF MARIANNE NORTH, Victorian botanical artist.
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, University of Greenwich Mon. 10th July : Dale Chihuly, American Glass Sculptor - talk by Charles Hajdamach Visitors may pay on the door
THE OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE
Visitors can mount a special observation deck for a close-up of the baroque masterpiece that is Sir James Thornhill's Painted Ceiling, currently being restored. **Open daily 10.00 am - 5.00pm £10.00 for adults, £5.00 for children.**

CHILDREN & FAMILY

MYCENAE HOUSE
Mon 24th July - Fri 1st Sept 8.00am-6.00pm
Mycenae Holiday Scheme: a range of activities for children age 5-11yrs. Contact Mel on 07748 746 618 or mycenaeholidayscheme@gmail.com
GREENWICH THEATRE CROOMS HILL London SE10 8ES 8858 7755
SUNDAY 2nd July 1.00 & 3.00 pm
THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE Music and puppetry enliven this wonderful version of Aesop's fable.**TICKETS £11.00 Children £8.50**
FRID. 14th - Sat 29th July 7.30 pm Sat 22nd 2.30 pm WE LIVE BY THE SEA Katy and Ryan make a connection that will change their world forever. Playful story-telling plus live electronic score about autism, friendship, & a very big wave **TICKETS £11.00 Concs. £13.50**
SHERINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE, Tel. 0208 - 3053140 - 14, Sherington Road SE7 7JW
SCIENCE MUSEUM: Until September 3rd: ROBOTS Over a hundred on display including a 16C mechanical monk and a 1950s humanoid

SPOKEN WORD

BLACKHEATH HALLS 23, Lee Rd. Blackheath SE3 9RQ Box Office: 0208 463 0100
Wed 26 July 20:00h CLAIRE TOMALIN - JANE AUSTEN: A LIFE Great Hall to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of one of England's finest authors £10.00
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY 11th July 7.39 pm Richard Buchanan on Cables at Telcon after 1866 Meeting at The Old Bakehouse, Age Exchange, Bennett Park.
WOOLWICH DISTRICT ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY 8th July 2.00 pm Charlton House
RESEARCH & DISCOVERIES: A PLAQUE TO TOM CRIBB Mike Thomas A Parish Boundary Stone from Shooters Hill Jim Marrett
IN-WORDS:
West Greenwich Library: 7.00 for 7.30pm
Tues. 11th July: 4 x 4 - Prizewinning poets: Graham High, Sally Festing, Wendy Klein and Peter Wallis: the joys and tensions of relationships - words, music and visuals.
The Crypt, St Margaret's, Lee 6.45 for 7.00pm
July 26th. D.H. LAWRENCE: poet Graham Fawcett's lecture/performance £12.50 On line booking from July 1st from in-words.co.uk

West Greenwich Library 7.00 for 7.30pm
Tues. 1st Aug. TIGER & CLAY: Poetry & memoir from the exiled Syrian author, Rana Abdulfattah, on the corrosive effect of exile. Syrian music and meze. In collaboration with Palewell Press. *Visit website in-words.co.uk*

GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS

Globalfusionarts.co.uk Tel 0208 858 9497
BLUES NIGHT! at The Guard House Bar and Dining Rooms No 1 Street, Woolwich Arsenal SE18 6GH Every last Sunday 7.30 - 10.00pm with **GREENWICH BLUES BAND**
Love to play the Blues? Then give us a call to book your spot **info@globalfusionarts.co.uk**

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Events in Mycenae House:

Sat 22nd July 7.30 pm Members' Evening
Sun 23rd July Mycenae House event: The Westcombe Society will have a stall
Sept 17th Macmillan Walk
Fri. 29th Sept. 10.00am - 2.00pm Macmillan Coffee Morning
Sat 21st Oct. 2.0-- 4.00pm Chrysanthimum Tea for Senior Citizens
Fri 10th Nov. 7.30 (8.00pm) Autumn Quiz.
Sat. 25th November Christmas Bazaar at Blackheath High School for Girls

The Westcombe Society really needs more volunteers to help out at these events. If you are interested, please ring Joanne on 07709 571777.

COMMUNITY

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Meets first Wednesday of every month, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Sunfields Methodist Church on Old Dover Road
ST LUKE'S CHURCH CHARLTON
Sun. 16th July 7.00pm MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING. Tickets including refreshments £12.50. In aid of Walker Organ at St Luke's. Box office: 8856 7373
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB
Duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Non-members welcome! Tel Ron 0208 319 1312
WESTCOMBE WOODLANDS Next volunteer days: **Sat 1st July; Sunday 6th August.**
CHARLTON HOUSE www.charltonhouse 0208 -856 -3001 Mulberry Tea Rooms
Jacobean Entrance Hall Mon-Fri 9am- 4pm
Lunchtime concert every Friday 1.00pm – 2.00pm
WOOLWICH & DISTRICT ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY Sat 13th May 2.00pm Vincent Memorial lecture: The Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr at Lesnes by Jim Marrett
FALCONWOOD MINIATURE RAILWAY
The public can ride 2.00- 5.00 pm on:
Sundays July 2nd, 16th, 30th. Aug.13th & 27th
Find it behind the Electricity Station in Rochester Way, between Falconwood Field & the railway line. Entrance in Rochester Way.
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
People Power: Fighting for Peace until 28th August Charting the history of anti-war protest
Exhibition of military hardware tanks etc: FREE
Peace - comes at a cost! £10 |£7 concs.
MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS
Until 26th July: 100.00 am & 4.00 pm
ARCHEOLOGICAL DETECTIVES: uncover London's past All Ages. Free. Book!
Until 31st Dec. The mysterious **LONDON STONE**
Until 13th August. Exhibition: **CROSSRAIL & DOCKLANDS REGENERATION**
FAN MUSEUM Crooms Hill SE10 8ER
Visit our two exhibitions - our permanent display downstairs, and upstairs, special exhibitions, including until Sept 16th. a unique collection of fans featuring All Creatures Great and Small. All this + tea in a Japanese garden!

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Woodlands Farm

The Woodlands Farm Trust, 331 Shooters Hill, Welling, Kent DA16 3RP
www.thewoodlandfarmtrust.org
Summer Events
Booking is essential for some events: 8319 8900.
Tues. 25th July Pond Dipping & Thurs. 17th Aug. 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm £2 per child. Pl. book
Thurs. 27th July Mad Hatters Tea Party 10.30am-12.30pm & 2pm-4pm. £5 per child. Dress up and make fun hats! Booking essential!
Wednesday 9th August Orienteering
10am-2pm £2 per child Have a go at our orienteering trails around the farm. No need to book just drop in.
Thursday 10th August Fascinated about Farming 11am – 3pm £3 per child Learn all about farming! No need to book just drop in.
Friday 11th August Make a cress head 1-3.00pm £3 per child Come and join us to make a fun cress head to take home. No need to book, just drop in!
Tues 15th August Paper Plate Weaving 1pm-3pm £3 per child. Come along and have a go at weaving using paper plates and wool. No need to book.
Other events: please see website

THEATRE

THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755
THURSDAY 13th -Sun 23rd July CHINESE WHISPERS See Page 6.
Performance times: Tue-Sat 7.30pm
Sat Mats 3pm. Sun 5pm Ticket £18.50 Concs £16
PROMENADE THEATRE
Starting from Deal Court, Southmere Drive
Thamesmead SE2 9AS: BELONGINGS
This performance, involving some 30 minutes of walking, combines dance, physical theatre, & unusual objects; it challenges notions of belonging and migration. **Thurs. 6th & Friday 7th July 7.00pm Sat. 8th July 3.00 and 6.00pm** £10.00 Thamesmead residents free via ticket ballot; some free on the day.
ALL ROADS LEAD TO WOOLWICH A series of "pop-up" performances Visit www.festival.org for locations. **Thurs. 6th - Sat 8th July. FREE.**
SEVERNDRÖOG CASTLE
July 19th 7.15 pm Changeling Theatre marks its 20th Anniversary with a production of **HAMLET**. Tickets £20 | £10 Booking: 01634 338338

MUSIC

THE CENTENARY COMPANY
SUN. 2 JULY Kingswood Hall Kingswood Place, SE13 5BU Concert performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's opera **IOLANTHE**. 6.30pm Tickets £16.00 - book on 8294 2939, or on the door
BLACKHEATH HALLS 23, Lee Road SE3 9RQ 0208 463 0100 **www.trinitylaban.ac.uk**
HAVEN'T STOPPED DANCING YET!
SAT 1 JULY 7.30PM It's back! After a hugely popular night after Christmas, **Haven't Stopped Dancing Yet** returns with more 70s & 80s soul, funk and disco classics. With Vinyl DJs, dance line-ups and free retro sweets and ice pops, it's going to be another night to remember. Recital Room, Blackheath Halls
TICKETS: £15 in advance | £18 on the door
WED 5th- SAT 8th July 7.00pm Great Hall:
Trinity Laban perform Monteverdi's **L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA**, based on historical events in the notorious reign of Nero. First performed 1642. £15,00 (£12.00 concs.)
BLACKHEATH COMMUNITY OPERA:
DER FREISCHUTZ by Carl Maria von Weber
Tues 18th, Wed 19th and Fri. 21st July at 7.00 pm
Sunday 23rd at 2.20 pm
Tickets: £18 | £16 (concs) | £6 under 12s

AGE EXCHANGE

11, Blackheath Village, London SE3 9L
Sat. July 8th. Sale Bakehouse Bookshop and Art & Craft sale. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
Fri July 21st. 1.00 - 3.00 pm Friends meeting: talk on beekeeping: **Bee Informed** - speaker Caiirus Chickey from the Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Centre Free to members. £5 for guests.
Thursday 27th July Coach Trip to Constable Country - Meet at The Exchange at 8.15 am, return approx 6.15 pm Tickets £27.00
Fri August 18th. Friends meeting: The Story behind the Portrait - speaker Sally Ward. Free to members. £5.00 for guests.

MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: SUMMER 2017

Thurs 13th July 4.00pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for families. £10.
Fri 14th July 8.00pm - JazzNights. Candlit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk featuring Barbara Snow plus JazzNights Allstars. £10.
Fri 21st July 6.00pm - Piano Recital. Erana's Piano School summer piano recital. FREE.
Sun 23rd July 12.00 -5.00pm - **Summer Sunday Extravaganza.** Fun day for the community as part of ParksFest in association with The Friends of Mycenae Gardens with music, dance, children's activities, workshops, stalls, food & bar and more. FREE. See also page 2
Fri 28th July 7.30pm - Global Fusion Music & Arts. Monthly ceilidh & acoustic night with guest Cheng Yu. £6.

For more information about events, visit **www.mycenaehouse.co.uk**



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FESTIVAL TIME IN GREENWICH

The free **GUIDE** to Royal Greenwich festivals is available in local libraries., The events include:
* The Greenwich + Dockland International Festival from June 23rd - Saturday 8th July
* The Greenwich World Cultural Festival on Sun. 16th July in Eltham Palace and gardens
* Eltham Music Festival Sat. 1st, 8th & 15th July in Passey Place, Eltham (Free)
* ParksFest until 30th July including Meerkats

"Greenwich Peninsula History in 20 Stories"
Sun 16 July 10.30am - meet North Greenwich Tube £10 (£5 unwaged)Facebook Events Page - richstories123 Booking Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peninsula-stories-east-greenwich-history-walk-london-tickets-3541493000>



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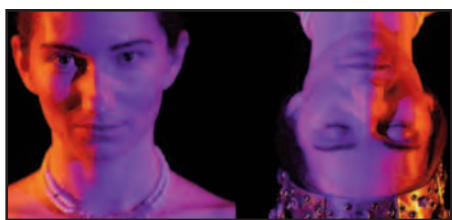
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THE ARTS

A Feast for Opera Fans

On our doorsteps, too, at Blackheath Halls!



L'Incoronazione di Poppea
by Monteverdi

Director: Harry Fehr

Musical Director: Nicholas Kraemer

This summer, Trinity Laban brings an opera of force and power to Blackheath Halls: L'Incoronazione di Poppea by Monteverdi: power, passion and corruption in Rome First Century AD.

Based on real historical events from the notorious reign of Nero in Rome, Monteverdi tells the tale of Poppea and Nero in a world of power, ambition, lust, corruption and greed, making politics in Washington seem like a kindergarten in comparison. In the immortal words of Frankie Howerd, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it infamy..."

Monteverdi's masterpiece is not to be missed: it was first performed in 1642, yet remains as relevant as ever with its very human emotions and glorious music. This opera contains scenes of a sexual nature and moderate violence, so it is not for the young and/or squeamish.

Wed 5th - Sat. 8th July at 7.00pm Great Hall, Blackheath Halls

Tickets: £15 (£12)



This year's community opera is Der Freischütz by Carl Maria von Weber

Der Freischütz is rarely performed in the UK and this production by the Blackheath Halls Community Opera brings together a wide variety of community groups singing alongside professionals – making this a fantastic event for all to enjoy.

Directed by Oliver Platt, with Musical Director Nicholas Jenkins, it features Blackheath Halls Chorus and Orchestra, and Vocal Students from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance.

It also features Royal Greenwich and Blackheath Halls Choir on 18th & 23rd July, and Lewisham Youth Choir 19th & 21st July, with the participation of pupils from Greenvale and Charlton Schools

This magical opera has all the ingredients of an old folk tale; a timid virtuous heroine wooed by a handsome but weak-willed youth who is led to the verge of ruin by dark honey-tongued villainy, a pious hermit, a just prince and a flirtatious woman!

Tues 18th, Wed 19th and Frid. 21st July at 7.00 pm Sunday 23rd at 2.20 pm

Tickets: £18 | £16 (concs) | £6 under 12s

Greenwich celebrates Mozart

The inaugural Greenwich Mozart Festival, which takes place this summer in the atmospheric setting of Alfege Church started in May, and continues until July 22nd.

Historic Greenwich provides the perfect location for a summer music festival where a day out walking or visiting museums followed by an early dinner can provide a wonderful 'aperitif' to the concerts of the Greenwich Mozart Festival, all of which take place on Saturday evenings.

The Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra of London (PCOL) founded this festival which this year features five fabulous concerts - some to be broadcast on the BBC. PCOL Artistic Director Christopher Petrie who used to live locally and holds teaching positions in Blackheath Conservatoire and Eltham College, has conducted and also composed music for orchestras across Europe.

The five concerts feature a varied programme from chamber music to



orchestral music, with music by much-loved composers including Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Grieg and Elgar.

The final concert on July 22nd will be Mozart's flute concertos followed by his celebrated Symphony No. 40 in G minor.

Tickets for Greenwich Mozart Festival are on sale now; for tickets and further information about PCOL's concerts and musicians please visit: www.london-orchestra.com. See also page 5.

Summer at St George's Garrison Church

Bombed during World War II, St George's Garrison Church survives as an evocative ruin with recently conserved mosaics, including the VC Memorial, and a tranquil garden. Open every Sunday this Summer between 10.00am-4.00pm.

St George's Garrison Church is hosting a series of Summer Events for all to enjoy. Set within the unique and beautiful ruins of the church, experience some Open Air productions of: Shakespeare's **Hamlet** performed by the Changeling Theatre on Tuesday July 4th.

5 Soldiers a thrilling portrait of front-line troops' life by the Rosie Kay Dance Company. (Friday 7th July 1.45pm & 5.45pm, Saturday 8th July 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Free.)

Billionaire Boy – Mon. 28th August. An adaptation of David Walliams' Hilarious children's novel.

St George's Garrison Church is in Grand Depot Rd Woolwich SE18

Please bring along a picnic and blankets – some refreshments available.

Tickets from: www.stgeorgeswoolwich.org

Re-inventing a bookshop

Sad news from Blackheath: the famous bookshop on the heath is for sale. The shop has been a treasure-trove of rare and second-hand books, as well as maps, prints, Film posters and collectible ephemera. The owner wants to move for family reasons.

Sad, because there has been a bookshop on this site in Tranquil Vale since 1949; and sad, too, because small independent bookshops are fast becoming an endangered species.

However, there is hope: Darren Taylor, social entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Eco Communities, wants to crowd-fund £131,000 to buy the shop. His plan is to turn the shop into a community library. It would still sell "second-hand books of distinction", as well as vinyl; in addition, Darren's idea is that the shop would also



host book and writing groups; any profits generated would go to support other libraries started by Eco Communities.

Over £20,000 has already been pledged; Darren has less than three months to reach the target. He says: "The money will only be used if we reach the amount we need."

Interested in donating? Please visit www.spacehive.com/ecobooks

Is education happening?

Yes. Michael Oakeshott famously said that education was a conversation between generations. In recent times a considerable gap has opened up, because children see a different world with different emphases and fashions. This makes education very difficult. Parents need to do everything they can to "talk the same language as their children". Schools need to do everything they can to win the trust of pupils. Without these moves much teacher talk in classrooms is a waste of time.

The P E R Group's new website: www.perprospero.co.uk

... and another treat for theatre goers

Greenwich Theatre is hosting a production of *Chinese Whispers* by Ian Lindsay and Jeremy Cantwell. Based on the bizarre life of Sir Edmund Backhouse, a Victorian confidence trickster who pulled off a string of audacious swindles against entire nations, *Chinese Whispers* is a highly-comic look at the notorious exploits of a man who claimed to have salacious affairs with everyone from Oscar Wilde to the Empress Dowager Cixi of China.

Amongst his stings, Backhouse tricked the British Government over an arms deal, John Brown's Shipyard over a large quantity of battleships, and the American Banknote Company regarding an order for

printing one hundred million banknotes.

Co-author Jeremy Cantwell, scholar and ex-BBC librarian, had access to the Bodleian Library in Oxford in order to research the story. Between 1913 and 1923 the Bodleian was in receipt of over eight tons of Chinese manuscripts (widely thought to be forgeries) from Sir Edmund in an attempt to gain a professorship.

Best known for his appearances in *Men Behaving Badly* as George, director Ian Lindsay has had a career on stage and screen for five decades, including *Z Cars*, *Boon*, *Casualty*, *Peak Practice*, *EastEnders*, and *Coronation Street*.

For performance dates & times see p.5



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OUT AND ABOUT



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

Sleep under the stars with RSPB

Now's your chance to escape the Big Smoke and get in closer touch with Nature. Join the RSPB's annual Big Wild Sleepout this July, and spend a night under the stars on your favourite RSPB reserve.

Between 28th and 30th July, the RSPB South East reserves offer unique environments for campers to pitch their tents and get up close to nature, including:

- West Sussex Dark Skies reserve**
The RSPB Pulborough Brooks on the South Downs is in one of only eleven Dark Skies Reserves in the world.
- Dungeness, Kent**
Here, families can watch the sunrise over the UK's only desert landscape – awash with wildflowers!
- Farnham Heath**
RSPB Farnham Heath, is part of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Information: Sara Humphrey –
Tel.07795224380
sara.humphrey@rspb.org.uk

Big Wild Sleepout at Rainham Marshes

Yes, there is life north of the river, too! Join us for a Big Wild Sleepout and camp in nature's home at RSPB Rainham Marshes: an amazing opportunity that gives you the chance to experience the reserve in a unique way.

Grab your sleeping bag, tent, and torch and get ready to explore the reserve on a late night walk to discover all the wonders of the night; sleep on the reserve, and watch the wildlife awake to a new day; and enjoy a nice cooked breakfast!

Saturday 29th July 6 pm - 9.00 am Sunday Price: £30 (£25 for RSPB members), Children: £15 (£12.50 for RSPB members) Booking essential: call us on 01708 899851.

Rainham Marshes Nature Reserve, New Tank Hill Road, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1SZ

Crossness: where art and engineering are one



The Crossness Pumping Station, a former sewage pumping station designed by the Metropolitan Board of Works Chief Engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette and architect Charles Henry Driver is at the eastern end of the Southern Outfall Sewer in the London Borough of Bexley.

This amazing structure was constructed between 1859 and 1865, as part of Bazalgette's ambitious redevelopment of the London sewerage system.

The spectacular ornamental cast ironwork, described by Nikolaus Pevsner as "a masterpiece of engineering – a Victorian cathedral of ironwork" is a wonder to behold – especially when "Prince Consort" is under steam!

It is adjacent to Erith Marshes, a grazing marsh, part of which is designated as Crossness Nature Reserve, providing a valuable habitat for wildlife.

Pamela Winders told the *WN*:

"I think your readers would like information about our Open Days this year. We are hoping to enable more people to be able visit this 'Hidden Gem' in South East London. We have the added advantage that for local people wishing to attend we have a coach operated by Ebdons Tours bringing people onto site on the days when Prince Consort is under steam. It picks up from outside Abbey Wood Station (anyone with their own transport can still drive to the site)."

Open Sundays 9 July 9th, August 6th & 20th*, Sept. 3rd October 15th* & 29th.
10.30 am - 5.00 pm. Last entry 4.00 pm.
Visitors are advised to wear trousers and flat shoes. Pre-booking is not required.

Admission Charges: Adults (from 16 yrs) (1) Dates marked * Prince Consort is under Steam - £8 increased to £10 including the return coach journey to and from Abbey Wood Station for visitors on foot, as below.
2) Prince Consort not under steam £6.
Children 5-16 - £2 Under 5s - Free
Visitors on Foot: On the Open Days when Prince Consort is steaming there is a coach running to and from Abbey Wood Station
Address: The Crossness Engines Trust, The Old Works, Crossness STW, Bazalgette Way, Abbey Wood, London, SE2 9AQ. Tel. 020 8311 3711
Email: info@crossness.org.uk
Website: www.crossness.org.uk

IKEA? Marilyn Little reports

The IKEA "reserved matters" application was passed on June 19th by a majority with two abstentions. We supported Philip Binns of The Blackheath Society who pushed for access into the store from the wildlife garden, but IKEA would not budge on security grounds.

Again with our support and that of some Board members he pushed for a "living wall" on the eastern flank of the building to reduce the impact of the amount of blue. This was again was turned down on sustainability grounds, ie the water

supply. IKEA were asked if more mature trees could be used to reduce the impact of the blue again with support from councillors. A councillor attempted to raise (again) the crucial traffic issue: this was dismissed as it had already been agreed at the pre-planning stage.

We asked Strategic Transport to confirm that the S106 contributions would be used to address concerns about the safety of cyclists and pedestrians. I met briefly with the IKEA team after the meeting and they were keen to discuss these issues further.

Community Arts Fund

The Royal Greenwich Community Arts Fund 2017/18 is now open for applications. Local community groups and arts organisations can apply for grants of between £250 and £6,000. The fund caters for a wide range of arts and cultural participatory projects facilitated by professional artists.

The borough has been running 'Meet the Funders' events to give local arts organisations and groups the opportunity to ask questions and receive support in making a funding application. The last one this year is on Tuesday 4th July, 5pm to 6.30pm at GLYPT, Tramshed, 51-53 Woolwich New Road, SE18 6ES. You can book your free place here:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-the-funder-thamesmead-royal-greenwich-community-arts-fund-201718-tickets-34750079423

For more information, email arts-greenwich@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or call 020 8921 8390. For an application form, please email arts-greenwich@royalgreenwich.gov.uk.

Stop Press!

Flying in from Sacramento, California. What a coup for Mark in Mycenae House!

Tavia's in Town



Mark Johnson-Brown has signed her up for his Parkfest event in Mycenae House on July 23rd. Her song 'Everything Is Wrong' reflects not only her unique gift as a storyteller but also her musical fluency as a singer and guitarist.

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