In January, IKEA unveiled plans for its first new store in London for over a decade, and in early March submitted detailed planning proposals to Greenwich council for the site in the Millennium Way Retail Park. The Swedish furniture giant has promised that this branch will be its most sustainable outlet in the UK, and that the new store will create 500 new jobs for Londoners. The plans include a restaurant, a creche, a pavilion and a biodiversity garden on the roof. The roof will also feature solar panels and collect rainwater to cut down on water consumption.

Six bus routes are planned to serve the site, and 90 cycle spaces will be available, but it is hoped that staff and customers will travel to the store by public transport. There will also be 20 charging points for electric cars.

Head of IKEA UK, Steve Howard, said the company was investing millions in becoming more sustainable. He said that in 2016 consumers in the west had hit “peak stuff” and that IKEA would in consequence realign some of its priorities to offer more repair and recycle products.

IKEA’s plans unveiled

IKEA said that recruits for new jobs will earn the Real Living Wage rate (£9.75 an hour in London). It also pledged to hire from the local area as far as possible.

IKEA’s plans for this new store were presented to local community groups, including the Westcombe Society, towards the end of January, and in February, the \textit{WN} asked for readers’ comments. A combined response with comments and suggestions on the plans has since been submitted to IKEA; so far, no response.

One comment came from Dion, on an online forum, who said: “The areas of Charlton, Blackheath, Shooters Hill, Woolwich, Kidbrook and Eltham will become trapped by traffic at weekends with the Blackwall tunnel tailbacks reaching new levels of hell. The idea of anyone taking the bus or cycling to IKEA is very naîve. Until South East London receives more crossings then no more shop leases should be granted to supermarkets on the peninsula and surrounding area.”

She added: “Take a trip down Purley Way in Croydon on Saturday and Sunday and see for yourself what IKEA does to the roads (but pack some sandwiches and make sure you go to the toilet before you go!”

Another comment from a local resident: “On weekends you can often sit for half an hour or more waiting to go North... IKEA is bound to make the problem here and on adjacent roads much worse.”

But another resident said: “Great to have an IKEA store so close. No more drives for miles to Croydon, or through the Dartford tunnel, to shop in IKEA.”

IKEA say they recognise the importance of ensuring that traffic to and from the store is managed properly and does not negatively impact existing traffic flows.

The Assistant Director, Strategic Transportation in the Council has been asked for assurances that the Council’s plans for improved traffic and transport, as stated at the “Better Together” meetings will underpin IKEA’s promise of sustainable transport by providing safe pedestrian, cycle routes to the store. There is also an urgent need to address air quality problems around the Woolwich Flyover area which will be subject to higher levels of traffic.

Westcombe Society

Easter Egg Hunt - Sat 14th. April 1.00 to 3.30 pm
Two hours of fun hunting for eggs in Mycenae House Gardens £2.50 per child. (£2 members) Prizes for best Easter hat and basket. Face painting.

Westcombe Society AGM
Friday May 12th at 7.30 pm.
In The Centenary Room, Blackheath High School
by kind permission of the Head, Mrs Carol Chandler-Thompson
Including a talk by Graham Dear on the future of Greenwich Park
The Agenda is on page 2.

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Westcombe Society news

Friday May 12th at 7.30 pm,
in The Centenary Room,
Blackheath High School for Girls,
Vanbrugh Park
by kind permission of the Head

AGENDA
1 Welcome, and apologies for absence
2 Minutes of last AGM & matters arising
3 Brief reports:
   • Chairman
   • Events Ctte
   • Environment Ctte
   • Westcombe News
4 Treasurer’s report & presentation of audited accounts
5 Election of new committee
6 Charity of the year 2017 - 2018
7 Any other business
8 Graham Dear, manager of Greenwich Park, talks about the
   Greenwich Park Revealed Project
9 How the submission is progressing and how it will
   affect the Park.
9 Wine and nibbles.

The Westcombe Society is a fully independent amateur group which aims to forge links within the community to make this area a better place for all who live and work here. We strive to – protect and improve services and amenities which impact the local area – foster relationships amongst residents, councils, businesses, local societies and others who can influence the well-being of our community.

To this end the society holds numerous community events; and from the income generated and advertising from the Westcombe News, offers financial support to local charities and organisations.

The Westcombe Society depends heavily on local residents volunteering to help out at the various events during the year – and amazingly, volunteers fifty or more volunteers ten times a year to contribute to or deliver the Westcombe News.

However, the society would like to thank all members, more members, and people to help out at events like the Senior Citizens’ Teas * more editorial assistance for the WBN  “Old editors never die, they just produce a final edition...”.

Interested? Please ring 8553 1312.

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Just before the 1st World War Stanley Dove and Jessie Harrison (clearly characteristically tough and ambitious types) met in the remote Drakensburg mountains in Basutoland (now Lesotho) in southern Africa. They eventually got married and settled in the wilds of Sheffield, where, 90 years ago today, Myles was born. The gritty toughness persisted throughout his childhood and he was packed off to Abbotsholme, where, as all of us familiar with the downstairs loo here know, the rules for the use and maintenance of the earth closets were strictly enforced. School was followed by National Service in the RAF in India and training as an architect back in Sheffield. It was while working at the architects practice, Sheffield & Ranson, in London, early in his career, that he met fellow architect Deirdre Downey. They married, and between them they produced three children, started their own architectural practice and developed the secret of being the finest architect – built their own house. Together they ran a very successful practice, based in this house, producing, amongst other things, the Civic Trust Awarded Rippon Hall in Oxford, as well as a number of works including, latterly, the house at the University of Leeds. One of their greatest accomplishments was their house on Mare Hill. The land was a very complicated site to design on. Yet they have produced a masterpiece, beautifully planned and uncompromisingly detailed, with a fine and remained judgement of materiality. Moving into it from the Georgian Montague House was a formative experience for the children. Sadly, Deirdre passed away in her mid-fifties; her warmth, wisdom and humour was inspirational, as was her regard for Myles. Myles comes from Church of England stock, while Deirdre was a Roman Catholic. Together they passed on to their children a rigorous work ethic and an intelligent, cheerful and valuable resource for the community. I ask God why

Inevitable concluding words, angrily adults bawl
Unavoidably, men cry as Heinkels fly
Ashen buildings, black like charcoal
An inescapable end
Children once wailed where wandens struggle but fail
Their Majesty must plead, “When will this madness end?”

Shrieking bands, cf Germans as they fall
Shrieking voices, penetratingly asking “How can we survive?”
Says Mr White – from within Station 54X – “We will remain”
Then nothing from here – Invicta? Just debris
Odour, the scent of the deceased
Smoke – polluted air – mingling at the gates of a hell
Contaminated, floating and oxygen blocked
Diesel leak, smolders reek after cordite collides
There’s but a subtle fragrance of what was once but now left behind

For some years, the charity Firemen Remembered has been planning to erect a memorial plaque to honour those killed and to create a lasting memorial to their sacrifice. A teacher at Invicta, Emily Perfect, has been working with an organisation that has been campaigning to put up plaques around London to remember those who died in the Second World War. Local Battlefield Guide and Military Historian Stephen Hunsilliet has also been behind this project. The BVY is grateful to both Emily and Stephen for supplying much of this information.

Finally, these plans came to fruition on March 16th, when Invicta’s schoolchildren took part in a ceremony unveiling a plaque which will be placed on the one remaining wall of the old Victorian building that housed Invicta School.

Stephen Maltman, representing Firemen Remembered, and Stephen Hunsilliet spoke to the children before the short but moving ceremony, which included a display of old photos, a reading out of the names of the fifteen victims, poetry reading, and a minute’s silence. After the unveiling, war-time songs were sung (including ‘We Meet Again’).
Inheritance Tax

How can people help their loved ones pay less inheritance tax? There have been significant changes from April 2017.

It is always important to make sure that you have a valid Will which suits your current circumstances and makes provision for any subsequent amendments.

A new inheritance tax free allowance, the Residence Nil Rate Band, several conditions need to be met, including that there is a residential property in the estate, which the deceased lived in during their lifetime.

The deceased’s estate also needs to have been left to lineal descendants outright i.e. children, grandchildren or step-children. At Grant Saw, we are committed to providing bespoke advice to you and your family regarding your inheritance tax liability and how this can be minimised.

Please contact Laura Bailey, who is a solicitor in our Wills and Probate Department via email a.bailey@grantssaw.co.uk or by calling 020 8858 6971.
Children's Events: FAMILY THE CURE - The traditional St George's Day event that has become a Blackheath tradition. Blackheath Park, 20th April, 2pm. Free Entry.

Arts: BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINES ARTS SOCIETY St Mary's Church Hall, Penrose Road, SE3 8NP. Tel: 020 8863 0100. Thursday afternoons, 14th April to 12th May, 2.30pm - 4.30pm. Contact: June Tuite. A three-day course on Perspective. £57 per day. 

Theatre: BLACKHEATH, GREENWICH & LEWISHAM THEATRES 1.10 pm play Mozart & Poulenc Free ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, Blackheath Lane, SE3 9LD. Mon. 3rd April  Lunchtime Concert: Blaze Ensemble 

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Arts: RELIGIOUS ARTS FESTIVAL 2017 King William Court, University of Greenwich, SE10 8QG. Fri 21st April 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Free Showing of a DVD and talk by Alastair Hume, Director of the Religious Arts Festival. Blackheath and Greenwich. 

Arts: MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: APRIL Sat 3rd April, 1.00pm - 3.00pm Spring Quiz 
Sun 4th April 2.00pm & 7.00pm Tickets: £11.00 | £6.00 under 12s. Suitable for children 6+

Running time: 60 minutes

Music: THOMAS TALLIS SOCIETY CHOIR & ORCHESTRA Sat 1st April at St Alfege Church, Greenwich SE10 Bk St. JOHN PASSION by J. S. Bach. Directed by Benjamin Bond. 

Food: BLACKHEATH FLOWER ARRANGING Kharny Day May 1st 11.15 - 5.00 pm BLACKHEATH HALLS 23, Lee Road, SE3 9RQ 0208 463 0100 www.trinitylaban.ac.uk

Music: ANNA ITALIA贫血的国王与小熊的故事．春游黑血压

Greenwich High Road) Enquiries contact: Greenwich West Community and Art Centre, ART EXHIBITION: LONDON NIGHTSCAPES Eltham SE9 6SP. Open Sat. 20th - 27th 10 to 4 pm. at Capital Art Gallery, 13 Well Hall Parade, by Moira Searle, Diana Mckinnon, Alison Kirkby FELT, STITCH, QUILT. A Textile Art Exhibition 9th June 3.00– 4.00 pm at West Greenwich BLACKHEATH HALLS Free Art Exhibition in show for adults of all ages & youngsters aged 7+.

USA: COURSE OF THE GOLDEN WHISK Wed 12th April GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE FROM OVER THERE! Sun 9th April Sammy and the Snow Leopard [GT 

Industries: MYCENAE HOUSE Live Events: April Grant Saw Wealth Management Limited INDEPENDENT PERSONAL AND CORPORATE FINANCIAL ADVISERS Investments - Pensions - Estate Planning 2 Charlton Road, Blackheath Standard London SE3 7EX (0) 10 3417 9760 www.grantsawwealth.co.uk website: www.gswlc.co.uk. 

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Millicent Fawcett, the Fawcett Society, and activist Jane Grant gave a talk on Women’s Suffrage Societies remained her organisation the National Union of property, and women over 30, were in the law, and violence against women. Today, the Fawcett Society continues to take on issues such as equal pay, representation in public and private bodies, education, the law, and violence against women.

Jane Grant’s book In the Steps of Exceptional Women: the Story of the Fawcett Society, Jane highlighted the role that Millicent Fawcett, the women of Blackheath and Greenwich have played in the field of women’s equality. Millicent Fawcett, born in 1847, and her horse was her guardian angel, and she takes Trigga to school. Meloni said her own horse was her guardian angel, and gave her the inspiration for the film. “Facing my fears, I confronted the girls who were bullying me by taking my horse to school,” she said.

Coping with bullying

A ward-winning film director and London South Bank University (LSBU) Film Practice Lecturer Meloni Poole’s heartening anti-bullying short film TRIGGA has been selected to screen at the Toronto International Film Festival KIDS. Based on events from Meloni’s own life, TRIGGA follows Mae as she confronts her bullies with the help of her horse. As physical assaults become a daily reality, Mae’s only escape is by galloping out at twilight on her trusty steed, Trigga. Everyone thinks that Mae’s horse is a figment of her imagination until, one day, she takes Trigga to school. Meloni said her own horse was her guardian angel, and gave her the inspiration for the film. “Horses gave me the confidence to be myself and not disappear but say ‘Here I am’. My horse saved me, but many girls are not so lucky and I wanted to make a film where love wins over cruelty and meanness. I hope it will inspire girls to be brave and not suffer bullying in silence.”

The film was part-funded by the Creative England iShorts scheme together with the BFI NET.WORK, and crowdfunded through Crowdfunder UK.

The 16-minute short is aimed at young girls, aged between 11 and 13, and explores how to overcome bullying and create supportive friendships.

For more information or images, please contact LSBU Senior Press Officer Stephanie Masters: masters6@lsbu.ac.uk or 020 7815 6717

A Passion for Fashion

Perfectly complementing London Fashion Week, this year’s Blackheath High School Fashion Show was a thrilling and original showcase of Sixth Form talent, performed to a lively and full house. The show was entirely organised, produced and directed by the students; with girls from all year groups modelling designs that Sixth Form students had conceived, designed and made themselves.

This year, student designers chose the theme “ Morphology”. The designers explored different forms, textures and shapes to showcase a diverse and innovative range of collections.

Highlights of the show included many intricately constructed laser cut garments, boldly printed puffa jackets, intricately printed skirts and dresses, and very beautiful garments inspired by wildlife.

Art teacher, Mrs Gilbert commented: “This year’s show was truly outstanding. I would completely agree with the parent who described it as a ‘total triumph’. Well done to everyone involved and particularly to the Fashion Show Committee: Angele, Mya and Tha – you continue to make me immensely proud” Students from all year groups modelled in the show. The catwalk performances were accompanied by bespoke films and enhanced with exciting choreography and music, together with impressive singing and dancing from the school’s students.

Carol Chandler-Thompson, Head of Blackheath High, was full of praise: “Absolutely stunning Morphology Fashion Show. I am totally in awe of my talented students.”

The woman who never gave up

At the March meeting of the Greenwich Industrial History Society, local author and activist Jane Grant gave a talk on Millicent Fawcett, the Fawcett Society, and how women got the vote in Britain. In her talk, entitled In the Steps of Exceptional Women: the Story of the Fawcett Society, Jane highlighted the role that Millicent Fawcett, the women of Blackheath and Greenwich have played in the field of women’s equality. Millicent Fawcett, born in 1847, and who went to Miss Browning’s School on Dartmouth Row, got involved in the women’s suffrage campaign in the 1860s. John Stuart Mill (who lived in Blackheath and threw their efforts into supporting the suffragettes stopped their campaign, within the law; at the outbreak of WW1, violence against women.

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Spring comes to the Park

Park Manager GRAHAM DEAR reports

On the 9th March we held a Greenwich Park Revealed consultation event in the park at Vanburgh Gate. It was a beautiful sunny day and an impressive 340 visitors gave feedback on their thoughts on Greenwich Park.

Many of these visitors were residents of Westcombe Park, although one person came from Perth, Australia and another from Rio Brazil. The response from park users is very valuable in shaping our plans for the future and it is great to talk to people who care about the park as much as we do. If you are unable to make one of the open days please take the time to complete our on-line questionnaire www.royalparks.org.uk/greenwichparkrevealed.

I have been keeping my ears open for the first summer visitors of the feathered kind but so far have not heard a Chiffchaff or Blackcap. Both of these birds breed in the park. The best place to hear the Chiffchaff is halfway down The Avenue where a pair breeds most years on Castle Hill. The last of the winter visitors are still hanging on though. Flocks of Redwings were seen in mid-March in the deer park feeding on the ground before they soon depart for Scandinavia and Russia.

Spring is well on its way though and one of the best seasons to enjoy a walk around the park with the Camellia and cherry blossom. The two best cherries in the park, in my opinion, are the large double white Wild Cherry Prunus avium ‘flore pleno’ beside the Flower Garden lake and the later flowering Prunus Ukon beside the Rose Garden, which is an unusual off white with a hint of yellow-green. Most photographed however is the cherry tree avenue of double pink, Prunus Pink Perfection.

Solving the Park’s Squirrel Problem

F or a silent five seconds, the bobcat freezes on its hind legs at the base of the tree. Twenty feet above him, a squirrel sits without a care in the world. Then, as quick as a thought, the bobcat streaks up the tree, claws biting the bark; a flurry of small mammals who is funding the scheme as a goodwill gesture. In a Tweet to the RF, he said: “Squirrels. Especially red squirrels. They’re sick! We need a wall. Serious!”

The park authorities are sticking to their guns, which means they may recall they were forced to stop using following protests by the Squirrel Protection Society – despite guarantees to owners expected to cope?”

Landscaping the Point

TIM BARNES

The Greenwich Society has drawn up ambitious proposals for the complete landscaping of The Point. This is a viewpoint with panoramic views over London extending from Battersea in the west to the Dome and Canary Wharf in the east. This is one of the views towards St Paul’s protected under the London Management Plan.

The current seating area, the surfacing of the ground on which the benches stand and the information board are tired and out of date. The board has no mention of Canary Wharf, the Shard, the Gherkin, the London Eye or other landmarks, all of which are visible.

The Society’s proposal for the restoration, improvement and landscaping of The Point won second prize (£2,000) in the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. (£1,000, £2000 or £3000). The Society has already received firm financial commitments for £15,000 towards the costs of the scheme. Experienced local landscape architects have devised a scheme which has four key aims:

1. to create a sustainable and appropriate design that produces a high quality setting for the enjoyment of a significant view across London;
2. to create a variety of seating options to enjoy the view;
3. to clear the overgrown vegetation from the sloping bank to ensure that the full panorama of the central London skyline is visible, (with a new information board showing the Gherkin, the London Eye, and the Shard as well as St Paul’s); and
4. to ensure biodiversity is considered and enhanced eg. by replacing non-native with native species, only clearing plants where appropriate, and adding wild flowers to the grass embankment where clearance has occurred.

Greenwich Council, the landowner, is very supportive of the proposals and is planning further trees in the next few weeks to complete the circle of trees around the grassy area leading up to The Point. In addition AccessPoint 400 not has recently been custom-made benches, to be located at the side of that area.

A recent public meeting enthusiastically supported the proposals and the setting up of a Friends of The Point Group. Further information will be provided in the RF as things move forwards (subject to the editor’s consent!). But if you have not visited The Point, or not recently, walk across Greenwich Park and the park and the Blackheath area, looking from Crooms Hill and Hyde Vale, and see for yourself the point of The Point, and what a remarkable place it is.

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April 2017

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