



Westcombe NEWS

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April 2017 No. 3



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

Invicta: We will remember them



On March 16th, a plaque was unveiled at Invicta School to commemorate those who died on Nov. 14th 1940 when a parachute mine destroyed the school. A unit of the Auxiliary Fire Service had been based at the school, and twelve firemen and three civilians were killed. Full story on page 3.

The Tunnel: out of our hands . . .

Since the Silvertown Tunnel has been designated a National Infrastructure Project, the outcome is therefore being determined by the Secretary of State rather than Royal Greenwich.

TfL submitted the application in May last year to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS); they will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will ultimately determine the application.

The examination of the application began last October and continues. Royal Greenwich and other interested parties have been making submissions to PINS on the application at the Public Hearings.

Whilst Greenwich supports the Tunnel in principle, it has set out concerns over Traffic Modelling, User Charging and Economic Issues. There remain serious concerns about air pollution. The examination will close in April, and the Secretary of State's decision is expected by October.

IKEA's plans unveiled



An artist's impression of the new IKEA store.

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 biodiverse 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.

WN reporter

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 *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 naive. Until South East London receives more crossings then no more shop leases should be granted to superstores 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.



Newsbriefs



Council tax

The Royal Borough of Greenwich has set its Council Tax rates and budget for the coming year. At a meeting on 22nd February, councillors agreed to spend £279.6m on schools and £79.7m on Children's Services in 2017/18.

Other key spending areas include Health and Adults, which has been allocated £77.4m, and Community Services which will receive £48.4m, enabling the Council to continue to provide a weekly refuse collection and take tough action on fly-tippers.

The budget has been kept stable, protecting frontline services, thanks to a robust and forward-thinking four-year financial strategy which has seen the Royal Borough make over £100m in savings since 2010.

Council tax is set to rise by 4.99%, the maximum that is permitted by the government. The entire 4.99 per cent rise will be allocated to adult social care in recognition of the pressures on the service.

The Virgin London Marathon

This annual event is on Saturday 23rd April. Motorists need to take note of road closures.

Well done, Andy Chapman chairman of the VCA (the Vanbrugh Community Association which runs Mycenae House) for running this year in aid of Shelter. You can donate by visiting his page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndyChapman56>.

Greenwich & Docklands International Festival

Following last year's 21st birthday celebrations, the organisers have upped the ante again and are delighted to announce that this year's festival will span 3 weeks from Friday 23rd June - Saturday 8th July. They say it's going to be the biggest GDIF yet!

Tall Ships Festival

The Royal Borough is hosting the start of the Tall Ships Regatta in Greenwich and Woolwich on 12th - 16th April.

The Tall Ships are then due to sail across the Atlantic to Quebec in Canada to mark the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Federation.

Down by the riverside . . .

As developments proliferate along Greenwich's waterfront, local people are expressing increasing concern about the historic riverside path – its closure, but also its design, use, etc. Anyone interested in joining a steering group working to set up a Friends Group should contact Mary Mills marymillsmmmmmm@aol.com

Westcombe Society AGM

Graham Dear has agreed to speak on the Greenwich Park Revealed Project, at the AGM. The AGM is also a good time to make a bid for Power, by standing for the committee. All posts, including Editor of the *Westcombe News*, are up for grabs! The Editor of the *WN* is looking for an assistant editor, anyone interested?

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
for Girls, Vanbrugh Park
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.

WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Neville Grant, The Editor
wnews@westcombesociety.org
Tel. 020 8858 8489

ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO: wnews@westcombesociety.org

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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!

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Marilyn Little, 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 020 8853 1312
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We St Co mbe So Ciet y member Sh ip

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Family membership	£12		
individual membership	£8		
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Westcombe Society news

Westcombe Society AGM

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 Cttee
 - * Environment Cttee
 - * 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 how the submission is progressing and how it will affect the Park.
- 9 Wine and nibbles.

In case you wondered . . .

The Westcombe Society is a fully independent amenity 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, musters fifty or more volunteers ten times a year to contribute to or deliver the *Westcome News*.

However, the society needs

- * more members, and people to help out at events like the Senior Citizens' Teas
- * more editorial assistance for the *WN*.

“Old editors never die, they just produce a final editon...”

Interested? Please ring 8853 1312

Open Day at the Woodlands



Many readers of the *Westcombe News* are also Friends of the Westcombe Woodlands. But whether you have read about the woodlands before or have visited them on previous open days, you are warmly invited to the Open Day on the afternoon of Sunday 30th April.

By then the bluebells we have planted should be flowering, and the fruit trees in the glade should be in blossom. By then too we hope the beehive should be fully operational.

We are also creating a habitat for stag beetles and members of the Friends will be around to explain what we are seeking to achieve in various areas.

Access to the woodlands is via the Seren Park Gate adjacent to the London-bound platform at Maze Hill Station. The Open Day is to run between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. So do come along and bring children and grandchildren with you.

The Daffodil Tea: where would we be without our volunteers?



Over 40 senior citizens enjoyed this popular annual event; enjyed too by our happy volunteers. Thanks, everyone!



Photos: Di Blackwell



Letters

The opinions expressed are personal and do not necessarily represent the views of the Westcombe Society or the Westcombe News.

From: Isobel Hutchinson Animal Aid

Over the last few days, grey squirrels have been scapegoated again for the decline of the red squirrel. Horrific plans to kill grey squirrels have even been announced. But it is people, and not grey squirrels, who are largely responsible for the decline in red squirrel numbers. In the past, it was red squirrels who were being treated as 'pests' and slaughtered in their thousands. A series of harsh winters and disease epidemics reduced red squirrel numbers even further.

According to a Bristol University report, there is little evidence that killing grey squirrels is the best way of conserving red ones. But in any case, grey squirrels are just as capable of suffering as their red counterparts. All animals deserve to live, whether they are a well-loved species – like the red squirrel – or considered 'pests'. Free advice sheets on deterring unwelcome animals, including squirrels, can be ordered from Animal Aid by phoning 01732 364 546 or emailing info@animalaid.org.uk

From: Trevor Allman Coleraine Road

Whilst agreeing with Mr Nick Raynsford that there needs to be “.....serious political dialogue...if we are to restore confidence and overcome the cynicism....that now dominates political debate.” (Letter to *WN* March 2017),

I felt he lost an opportunity to acknowledge his part in assisting this growing cynicism: as was reported, while an MP Mr Raynsford garnered consultancies that brought him in more money than he earned as an MP, thus meaning he was taking his more-than-generous wage from the tax-payer for only doing a part-time job. The Socialist Party / Trade Union & Socialist Coalition, among other Left-Wing parties, believe a Member of Parliament should earn no more than the average worker's wage.

This would hopefully ensure we only had people in Parliament who were truly committed to serving their constituents, rather than viewing it as a means of self advancement and filling their pockets with “Loadsamoney”.

From: Alex McWhirter

Re: "It gets worse every year ..." by Mary Mills in your March issue. I wish Mary Mills would be more precise. She talks about "plans for new transport facilities on the Peninsula" and refers to a "planned new station." But is that really a brand new station or just a modification of the existing North Greenwich facility?

Referring to North Greenwich station, she notes that "at other stations there are proper facilities for local people to pick up and drop off passengers with luggage etc." Does she not

realise that N. Greenwich was originally designed and built as a park-and-ride station?

The car park remains (although far too small for today's passenger volume) so too do the original drop-off facilities for passengers being driven to the station. But the latter are now both a taxi rank and a parking area for contractors' vehicles.

Ed: Mary was referring to a new bus station. See next issue of the WN.

From: Thomas Turrell Greenwich Conservatives

Following the announcement that there are to be 12 low-emissions bus zones created across London in a bid to tackle air pollution, it was both surprising and disappointing not to see Woolwich Road included on this list. We have written to the Mayor of London calling on him to create a low-emission bus zone on Woolwich and Trafalgar Roads.

The Woolwich Road flyover, at the bottom of Westcombe Hill, has one of the highest air pollution levels in London. Tackling air pollution is one of the biggest challenges we face in London and I really do hope the Mayor of London will reconsider and add Woolwich Road to these new zones.

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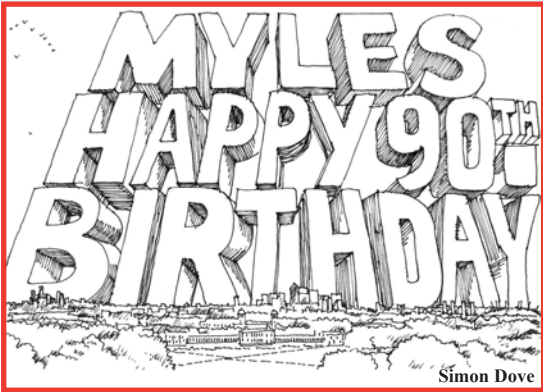


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LOCAL NEWS



Last month, Myles Dove, stalwart of the Westcombe Society, had a party to celebrate his ninetieth birthday. Here we include a shortened version of the speech made by his son-in-law, TOM FITZSIMMONS

Just before the 1st World War Stanley Dove and Jessie Harrison (clearly characteristically tough adventurous types) met in the remote Drakensburg mountains in Basutoland (now Lesotho) in southern Africa. After some to-ing and fro-ing 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 those 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, Sheppard Robson, in London, early in his career, that he met fellow architect Deirdre Downer. They married, and between them they produced three children, started their own architectural practice and – what is the secret ambition of most architects – 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 of the Warrells in Lee Road.

One of their great accomplishments was their house on Maze 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 restrained 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 were 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 apparently relaxed disposition. Like them, their children are multi-talented – Simon and Caroline both became accomplished architects, while Jonathan is a renowned composer of international repute.

Apart from his patience and tolerance, the other great qualities of Myles are his unquestioning welcome to his, and his children's, partners, and the way in which he and Barbara rebuilt their lives together after a difficult period for each.

Both keen cyclists (Myles having been brought up on two wheels in hilly windy Sheffield), I seem to recall that Barbara was introduced to us following an epic bicycle charity rally she did across Europe.

Myles and Barbara have been a blessing to his grandchildren (and their parents!) in their support both at difficult times when there was too much happening, but also in their relationship with them.



I know that Myles is proud of their accomplishments, all attending, or having attended, universities in Cardiff, Oxford Brookes, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Another aspect of Myles's character is his ongoing interest in the new. It was he who bought records by Bob Dylan and the Beatles when they came out. He took to windsurfing relatively late, memorably in Portsmouth Harbour on his 70th birthday. He has taken on computer technology effortlessly, and I look forward to reading his blog! The arrival of Skype has enabled a much closer relationship with his older sister Carol in Australia.

In recent years Myles, along with Barbara, has been tirelessly involved in his local community as a consultant to the planners, contributor to and distribution manager of the *Westcombe News*, remover of graffiti and supporter of the church,

amongst other things. He has maintained close friendships with his old friends and neighbours, many of whom are here today.

One thing that Myles and I, sort

of, have in common is that I was born in Lesotho at about the same time that Myles's fellow nonagenarian acceded to the throne in the UK. In Lesotho the traditional dress includes a blanket, worn as a cape. In 1868, Moshweshwe I, king of the Basutho, threatened by invasion by the Boers, wrote to Queen Victoria seeking her protection and requesting that Basutoland should be a 'flea in her blanket'.

I have been a flea in Myles's blanket this last 42 years or so, enjoying the embrace of his remarkable family, and in particular his daughter. This party bears witness to the ongoing mutually caring relationship in his extended family, and, on his behalf, as well as mine, I thank them all.

Lambing Day on Woodlands Farm



All are welcome at the Woodlands Farm Trust Lambing Day on Sunday 8th April. Come and welcome into the world our new-born lambs, and enjoy the chance to buy quality local produce at reasonable prices: on sale will be home-made preserves, cakes and honey, etc. Relax in our café, enjoy the treasure hunt or get involved in craft activities. A great family day out!

All proceeds from donations and our stalls go towards maintaining Woodlands Farm as a conservation project and a valuable resource for the community.

Entry: £2 adult, £1 children under 16, £5 Family Ticket (2 adults & up to 3 children). Sorry, no parking! Please use public transport. And sorry, no dogs allowed, the lambs wouldn't like it.

Charlton and the blitz: The bombing of Invicta School



The war began in earnest in Charlton on 4th September 1940 when St Paul's Church, at the junction between Charlton Lane and Fairfield Grove received a direct hit – the first church in London to be destroyed in the blitz.

But the main damage in Charlton was to the north, when throughout 1940-1941 the factories in the area were repeatedly bombed: factories that suffered included British Ropes, Harvey's, Johnson & Phillips, Stone Manganese, Siemens, and the Central Tram Repair Depot at Rainton Road. More information can be obtained at the Greenwich Heritage Centre.

On 14th November 1940, it was the turn of Invicta School, when the old Victorian building was destroyed by a parachute mine. At the time it was being used as an Auxiliary Fire Station, AFS Station 54X – and the bomb killed 12 firemen and 3 civilians.

Among those killed were the school caretaker, Charles White; Cecil Smith, a house decorator who lived at 2 Invicta Road; Mrs Rosetta Johnson, recently married to Albert Johnson of HM forces; Frederick Sutherland, of Kidbrooke Park Road; and Arthur Grant, from Eltham: he had been awarded a George Medal two days before he died for carrying a live bomb from the school out into the play-



ground earlier in the year during another raid. Sadly he did not live to actually receive his medal, which was awarded to his family instead.

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 Hunnisett has also been behind this project. The *WN* 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.

Stephanie Maltman, representing Firemen Remembered, and Stephen Hunnisett 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'll Meet Again*).

I ask God why

Inevitable concluding windows, angrily adults bawl
Unavoidably, men cry as Heinkels fly
Ashen buildings, black like charcoal
An inescapable end? Children once wailed where wardens struggle but fail
Their Majesty must plead, "When will this madness end?"
Petrifying banshees, cry 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 he ...
Invicta? Just debris
Odour; the scent of the deceased
Smoke – polluted air – mingle among 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
Scared, this sinister dream
I do not seem awake, instead furious and livid
"How can this 'appen?" the gossip
A loathsome sight, not just the flames but the incendiaries to be
Loving mothers just cry, and all I can do is ask God "Why?"

Dahir Jama

One of the poems by a pupil in Year 6 read out at the unveiling.

Should opera be heard, but not seen?

Many locals from this area take part in Midsummer Opera (MSO) which will be presenting Ponchielli's neglected masterwork *La Gioconda* at 7.00pm on Friday 7th April and at 5.00pm on Sunday 9th April, at St John's Waterloo, semi-staged and sung in Italian.

We hope that Midsummer Opera's semi-staging will strike a balance between a static concert performance and a melodramatic full staging, enabling the audience to appreciate Ponchielli's

marvellous music without the distractions of the many twists in the somewhat convoluted plot! The cast will include Zoe South in the title role and John Upperton as Enzo; the Chorus & Symphony Orchestra of MSO will be conducted by Artistic Director David Roblou.

Tickets £23.00 from the Box Office Tel. 020 7652 0070 or online at <http://www.midsummeropera.org.uk/> or £27 on the door.

FEATURES

Duncan Hamilton

12 March 1943-
27 February 2017

Duncan had lived in Heathway with his partner, Rosemary Gill, for 17 years, and often assisted her with her wonderful magic lantern shows. He was a convivial man who always had a smile, and often a joke, for neighbours and passers by.

He was an able Treasurer to the Heathway Neighbourhood Watch and Residents' Society as well as to The Blackheath Royal Standard Village Association who, with the help of Cllr. Geoff Brighty, erected the signpost at The Standard. Being a qualified chartered accountant he was a meticulous auditor to the Greenwich Borough Executive of the



Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Duncan was an enthusiastic sailor and owned many boats during his lifetime. Being part Welsh he also loved singing and classical music. He and his very old Volvo will be sadly missed in Blackheath, for his friendly approach and sharp wit as well as his astute business acumen.

Patricia Gillard

Fund-raising for Blue Cross

You know from Susan Donnelly's seriously well-stocked pet shop in Old Dover Road that her passion is animals.

But Susan's enthusiasm goes further. She is the major sponsor and the firecracker energy behind an annual community-inspired fundraiser for our furry friends.

The gala "family fun and dog show day" is always in memory of a very loved dog, Kharn, who belonged to Susan's friend Rachael Webb, the founder and other major sponsor of "Kharny Day". Rachael was left partly paralysed and unable to work after a car accident in 2011. She used to be a trainer for the RSPCA.

And this is when a gorgeous black Labrador Staff called Kharn came into her life. She trained him from puppyhood to be her very special personal assistant.

"Kharn became my wonderful mate," says Rachael. "He'd take my shoes off, take the washing out of the washing machine and bring it to me in a bucket, he'd open cupboards, pick things up when I dropped them, help me up steps, and most importantly, he'd help me get up when I fell over...which I did a lot. He'd stand in front of me, I'd lean on him, and then he'd take 2 steps gently forward".

Sadly, Kharn died in 2013 after being hit by a joyrider on a quad bike in Oxleas Woods. Rachael was devastated.

Now Kharny Day on May 1st honours her special friend, and this year raises money for Blue Cross, one of Britain's oldest animal welfare charities that finds homes for unwanted and rescued animals, and provides veterinary services.

Susan and Rachael are especially keen to



help the Old Blue Cross Pet Cemetery in Shooters Hill, which began in the 1930s and has over 200 memorial stones. The Friends of the Pet Cemetery (FOPC) aim to refresh the memorial stones, replant the garden beds and put up a plaque.

"Kharny Day was a great success last year," says Susan, "and we're hoping to do even better this year. But we need volunteers and stall holders and families to come along and make the day a really fun-filled community event, with face painting, donkey rides, raffles, live music, a BBQ, a bouncy castle, a dog show and more.

"Kharny Day is on May 1st. In the tranquil surrounds of Oxleas Wood with a breathtaking view of the Kent countryside: a terrific opportunity for local craft talent to show their wares, and for proud dog-owners to show off their clever pooches." **Kharny Day May 1st 11.00am - 5.00pm raising money for the Blue Cross Charity: Oxleas Wood Café, Crown Woods Lane, Shooters Hill SE18 3JA. For details call Rachael Webb on 07736 317 579; Susan is on 020 8305 1264.**

Di Blackwell

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 use of all available inheritance tax exemptions. Every individual's estate has a nil rate band of £325,000 before any inheritance tax is payable. The value of the estate over this figure is then taxed at 40%. This should also be transferable between married couples and also those in a civil partnership, provided certain criteria are met.

In addition, a new inheritance tax free allowance, the Residence Nil Rate Band, will be introduced from 6 April 2017. It will start at £100,000 and then increase each tax year by £25,000, until it reaches

£175,000 in 2020. To qualify for 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 at lbailey@grantsaw.co.uk or by calling 020 8858 6971.

New plans for Charlton Riverside



Residents are being invited to take part in the Council's consultation on the proposed new development of Charlton Riverside – an exciting opportunity for a mixed-use neighbourhood, characterised by medium-rise development.

The proposed development will continue to be an important employment area, with space for about 5,000 more jobs, as well as up to 7,500 new homes, schools, open space and community health facilities.

Future development could integrate modern, clean, hi-tech business and industrial with residential and community uses to create a dynamic living and working environment.

Consultation drop-in sessions took place in several locations during March. Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Sustainability, Cllr.

Danny Thorpe said: "The proposed Charlton Riverside development respects the industrial heritage of Charlton Riverside, natural environment and local community aspirations while delivering the new homes, businesses and thousands of jobs required, and we are asking local people to come along to have their say on our proposals."

The consultation started on 22 February and will remain open to receiving any comments by 5.00pm on 12th April.

To give us your views, please go online to: www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/haveyoursay - Or by letter to: Regeneration Team, Fifth Floor, The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington St, Woolwich, SE18 6HQ - Or by email: charlton-master-plan@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Mens sane in corpore sano

The motto at Charlton Manor? Carol Ann Walters

A new daily exercise regime has been rolled out across Charlton Manor School in a bid to improve fitness and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Pupils at the primary school on Indus Road, Charlton get their day off to a healthy start 'whatever the weather' by taking part in what the school is calling the Daily Circuit, a 30-minute exercise regime.

Children, parents and staff take part in the daily exercise sessions and circuit training to develop fitness. It's voluntary – but the children love it.

Mum Sidneia Thornton attends every morning with her two children, aged 5 and 7. She said: "It's a great start to the day and the children really enjoy it. For myself I have managed to lose weight and it sets me up for the day. As for the children, it starts their day and wakes them up. Getting them ready to spend the day learning in school. It's a great idea and I hope it continues. Exercise is important for everyone of all ages."

The class provides a whole-body workout and attracts lots of children and their parents.

Tess Collier, the PE teacher at the school, said: "It's all about encouraging a healthier lifestyle from an early age.

"The daily sessions include jogging, press-ups, sit-ups and burpees, all the exercises that develop upper body strength as well as stamina to encourage the children to improve their fitness.

"We're responding to Government recommendations, tackling childhood obesity and physical inactivity head on. We're the first school in Greenwich to do it, and we're urging all schools to get involved."

Charlton Manor School has a national reputation for its emphasis on healthy approaches through the curriculum. The school featured in Jamie Oliver's documentary 'Sugar Rush' as the leading school in teaching food education and healthy approaches.

The school's two full-time professional chefs deliver many aspects of the curriculum through cookery and the school holds an annual Food Education Conference that attracts celebrity chefs, schools and health professionals from all over the country.

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WHAT'S ON



ARTS

BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY, St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Thurs. 27th Apr 2.00pm Dr Geri Parlb: From Magic Lantern to MGM - birth and legends of the silver screen. Non-members may pay on the door
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, University of Greenwich 8th. May 8.00pm Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves - the Representation of the Working Classes in Art Talk by Linda Smith
BLACKHEATH HALLS Free Art Exhibition in the cafe bar by Nathalie Hesselstine. Until Thurs 13th April Celebrating our planet's most incredible, and sadly endangered, animals.
SCENES FROM POST-WAR LONDON 1946 – 1960 THE EARLY PAINTINGS OF TERRY SCALES 9th May – 10th June 2017 At West Greenwich Library, 146 Greenwich High Road, SE10 8NN Tel: 020 8858 428 Artist's talk on Friday 9th June 3.00– 4.00 pm at West Greenwich Library. <http://terryscales.blogspot.co.uk>
FELT, STITCH, QUILT. A Textile Art Exhibition by Moira Searle, Diana Mckinnon, Alison Kirkby at Capital Art Gallery, 13 Well Hall Parade, Eltham SE9 6SP. Open Sat. 20th - 27th 10 to 4 pm.
ART EXHIBITION: LONDON NIGHTSCAPES by local artist LUBNER SPEITAN 8th May - 8th June. Mon-Sat 9am to 9pm at Greenwich West Gallery. Entrance via: G-West Café, Lovibond Lane, Greenwich, SE10 8JA (rear entrance of Greenwich West Community and Art Centre, 141 Greenwich High Road) Enquiries contact: 07788 237 893 Website: www.lubnaspeitan.com

CHILDREN & FAMILY

GREENWICH PLEASANCE: THE BRIDGE traditional egg hunt for the Under 5s. Over 5s will have a fun word challenge hunt! Entry: £2 per child.
PLUS Easter cake stall, some Easter-themed craft activities, facepainting, games & lucky lollies
BLACKHEATH HALLS 23, Lee Rd. Blackheath SE3 9RQ 0208 463 0100 www.trinitylaban.ac.uk
Sat. 1st April 1.00pm & 3.00pm Ripstrop Theatre presents A REAL ALIEN ADVENTURE Why do aliens want to steal all the earth's fluffy things? £8.50 Ages 3+ (running time 50 minutes)
Sat 29th April 1.00pm & 3.00pm PIED PIPER Norwich Puppet Theatre £8.50 Ages 3+ (45 mins.)
GREENWICH THEATRE CROOMS HILL London SE10 8ES 8858 7755
Mon 3rd & Tue 4th April **THE EXPLORER** (in the Studio) A delightful new marionette show
Tues. 4th April **BIG HOWARD'S LOL-TASTIC YUKFEST FOR KIDS AND WELL-TRAINED ADULTS**
Wed 5th APRIL MORGAN AND WEST - UTTERLY SPIFFING SPECTACULAR MAGIC SHOW FOR KIDS (and Childish Adults)
Thurs 6th April **THE THING THAT CAME FROM OVER THERE!** with Gonzo Moose .
Sun 9th. April Sammy and the Snow Leopard [GT Studio] Sammy is 9 years old and likes animals.
Wed 12th April **GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU** Join Little and Big Nutbrown Hare,
Thurs 13th April /Fri 14th April **ELOISE & THE CURSE OF THE GOLDEN WHISK** a charming show for adults of all ages & youngsters aged 7+.
Fri 14th-Mon 18th April 11.00 am, 1pm & 3pm **CHESTER TUFFNUT** The treemole returns! Tickets £11.00, Children £8.50 Ages: 2-5 yrs
Sun 23rd April **THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW** by author/illustrator Eric Carle

SPOKEN WORD

BLACKHEATH HALLS 23, Lee Rd. Blackheath SE3 9RQ Box Office: 0208 463 0100
Wed. 26th April 8.00pm Francis Spufford talks about his Costa-nominated novel : Golden Hill Presented by the Friends of Blackheath Halls New York 1746. One rainy evening, a charming and handsome young stranger fresh off the boat from England arrives. . . But can he be trusted?
Recital Room, Blackheath Halls
Tickets: £10 (including a glass of wine)
BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
Fri. April 21st. 7.45pm Mycenae House.
Designing & Manipulating Molecules for Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine Prof Alvaro Mata Queen Mary College
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
11th April 7.30pm Julie Ricketts on St.George's Garrison Church, Woolwich - its history and future. Meeting at the Old Bakehouse, Age Exchange, Bennett Park, Blackheath Village

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY EVENTS

Sat 1st April 7.30 for 8.00pm Spring Quiz
Sat 15th April 1.00pm - 3.30 pm
(In garden) Easter Egg Hunt. Mycenae House open for toilets & cafe only
May 12th. AGM 7.30pm in the Centenary Room Blackheath High School. Graham Dear gives an update on Greenwich Park
Sat 10th June 7.30 Members' Evening
Sat in July Summer Picnic – TBC
Fri. 20th Sept. 10.00am - 2.00pm
Macmillan Coffee Morning
Sat 21st Oct. 2- 4.00pm Chrysanthemum Tea
Fri 3rd Nov. 7.30 for 8.00pm Autumn Quiz.

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
GREENWICH UNION PUB (MEANTIME) READING GROUP New local reading group- starting – first Wed. of each month. Read –Discuss–Share food) at members homes. Contact: Barbara Ward ward.barbara@mac.com 07960 107578 Free
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Tel Ron 0208 319 1312
DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION OF BEXLEY, BROMLEY GREENWICH & LEWISHAM Info: 07762265827 Help Line: 0300 999 1800
Thurs 20th April 7.45pm Talks on Handwriting, and Revision Tips and Techniques. At St Nicholas Church Hall (Village Hall) Church Lane, Chislehurst Kent BR7 5PE **Adult Dyslexia Group:** First Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH GLENLUCE ROAD
Wed. April 19th 7.30 Spiritual Film Night: Rabbit-Proof Fence: Three Aboriginal seek to girls escape an Australian boarding school to return home
KHARNY DAY May 1st 11.15 - 5.00 pm raising money for the Blue Cross Charity: Oxleas Wood Café, Crown Woods Lane, Shooters Hill SE18 3JA
BLACKHEATH FLOWER ARRANGING SOCIETY flowerarranginglondon.org.uk
3rd Friday of each month - 2.00pm, Mycenae House. Contact Sian Tribe 0208 852 3909)

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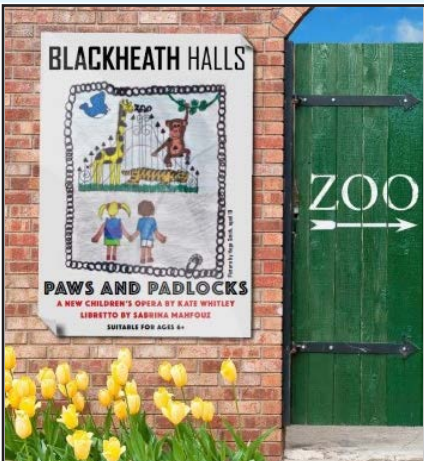
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This new children's opera can be seen on Sat. 8th April 2.00pm & 6.00 pm and Sun. 9th April 2.00pm & 6.00pm
Tickets: £11.00 | £6.00 under 12s.
Suitable for children 6+

Running time: 60 minutes

THEATRE

THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755 greenwichtheatre.org.uk
Sun. 2nd April 7.30 pm Fascinating Aida's DILLIE KEANE Lots of fun, gales of laughter, Dillie is accompanied by MICHAEL ROULSTON Tickets £21.00 | £18.50 concs.
Mon 3rd April 2 Wojtek: The Happy Warrior is a playful imagining based on the unbelievable true story of Private Wojtek, a Syrian Brown Bear who was enlisted into the Polish Army Corp during WW2
Tues.18th - Sat 22nd April Shakespeare's TWELFTH NIGHT
Tues 18th April MELANCHOLY (Studio)
Wed 19th April ROMEO & JULIET
Thu 27th - Sat 29th April HYSTERIA 1938. Hampstead, London. In Terry Johnson's hilarious farce, Sigmund Freud has fled Nazi-occupied Austria but does not escape hilarious mayhem . . .
Sun 30 April ULLA'S ODYSSEY fourteen-year-old Ulla attempts to become the youngest person to sail round the world single-handedly
MYCENAE HOUSE, 90 Mycenae Road Blackheath Standard, 7SE SE3
Wed 26th April 7.30pm RHODRI MILES takes on the role of BURTON, a vivid presentation of the life of the great Welsh actor from humble beginnings to Hollywood. Tickets: £8.00 ticketsource.co.uk

MUSIC

THOMAS TALLIS SOCIETY CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
Sat 1st April 7.30 in St Alfage Church, Greenwich SE10
Bach's ST JOHN PASSION Dir. by Eamann Dougan with Jeremy Budd (Evangelist), Tim Dickinson (Christus) Arthur Bruce (Pilate) and Zoe Brookshaw and Ciara Hendrick £18 | £14 www.ticketsource.co.uk
BLACKHEATH CHOIR
Sun. 2nd April 7.30pm The choir & the Vanbrugh Ensemble, conductor Patricia Williams, perform Handel's SEMELE, a musical drama after the manner of an oratorio. St Margaret's Church, Lee, Brandram Road SE13 5EA Tickets £12.00 (£16.00 on the door) Tel 07921 295430 or tickets@blackheathchoir.org.uk

BLACKHEATH HALLS 23, Lee Road SE3 9RQ 0208 463 0100 www.trinitylaban.ac.uk
Mon. 3rd April Lunchtime Concert: Blaze Ensemble 1.10 pm play Mozart & Poulenc Free
Sun. 23rd April Doors open 6.00 pm Start: 7.00pm
OPERA GALA NIGHT. Internationally renowned British Bass Matthew Rose hosts our Opera Gala Night. Guests will be treated to an evening of wonderful singing by Matthew and his friends from the world of opera. To raise funds for our 2017 Community Opera, Weber's Der Freischütz Tickets: £45.00 Table for 10: £400.00
Sun 30th April 11.00 am Blackheath Sundays: Naufau Mukumi, piano: Mozart, Liszt etc. £14 | £12.00 concs.
Sat. 29th April 8.00 pm Greast Hall
BUDAPEST CAFE ORCHESTRA play folk and gypsy music from Russia and the Balkans £16.00

MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: APRIL

Fri 7th April 7-11pm - Dirty Dancing 30th Anniversary Screening. A fundraising 1960s evening in aid of Debbie's Fight For Life.
Sat 15th April 2pm - Westcombe Society Easter Egg Hunt. Easter Fun in Mycenae Gardens.
Fri 21st April 8pm - Icarus Club. An evening of acoustic live music featuring John Aldington. £7.50.
Wed 26th April 8pm - Burton. Rhodri Miles vividly presents the life of the great Welsh Actor. £9.
Fri 28th April 7.30pm - Martin Simpson. As part of Global Fusion Music & Arts Monthly acoustic night; with guest John Sloman (ex-Uriah heap singer). £5.00 wegottickets.com or £7.00 on the door
For further information about all Mycenae House events visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk



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Belly Dancing with Maria-Louisa - first and last Saturday every month, and most Wednesdays. 'Fun, friendly, feminine' £7
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FEATURES

Book review

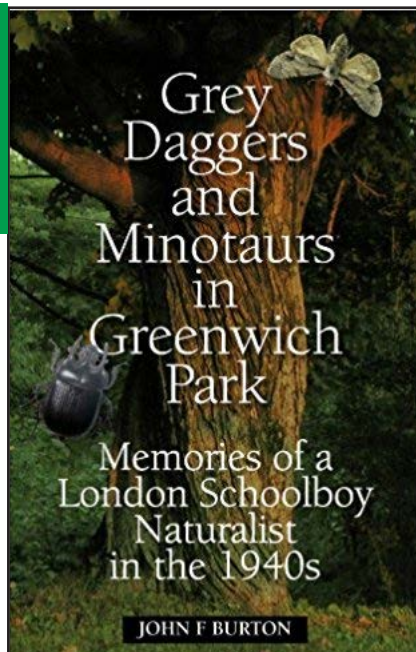
The Park in the 1940s Joe Beale

"All around me male Reed Warblers prattled away with their rambling, joyous-sounding songs... listening to them, I felt at peace with the world: all other cares were forgotten. I became part of a private world in which the sounds and concerns of the outside world seemed remote and unimportant."

These are words from this book, based on the illustrated Natural History diaries that the author, John F. Burton, began in 1942 when he was a pupil at John Roan School, and has maintained ever since.

It is the story of how one young South East London boy, amidst the war-time experience of the Battle of Britain, and the onslaught of the Blitz and the V1 and V2 attacks on London, developed his nascent interest and fascination in birds, butterflies, beetles, and other wildlife species into a post-war professional life dedicated to Ornithology and Natural History.

Many of his entries with accompanying drawings and photographs are reproduced in the book, and recall with immediacy and



freshness his memories of those now-distant days and field trips. Although the 1940s are long gone, 'Grey Daggers and Minotaurs in Greenwich Park' will pique the interest of all generations who are fascinated by wildlife.

This book is available from Amazon; but may be purchased at the reduced price of £15.00 from joetheillustrator@gmail.com

The woman who never gave up



In 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, and 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 Pak) was presented with a petition signed by 1499 women, many from Greenwich and Blackheath, as local researcher Anne Dingsdale discovered – calling on Parliament to give women the vote. The campaign failed – but Millicent did not give up; year after year she persisted, organising women from all over the country in support of the campaign.

Many people think of the Pankursts and the suffragettes: but as their campaign grew increasingly violent, Millicent and her organisation the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies remained

within the law; at the outbreak of WW1, the suffragettes stopped their campaign, and threw their efforts into supporting the war. Meanwhile Millicent fought her own war for women's suffrage, and in 1918 achieved partial success when women with property, and women over 30, were allowed the vote. But Millicent persisted: it was not until the Equal Franchise Act of 1928 that all women won the right to vote. As Baroness Shirley Williams once said

"The suffragettes got the publicity: the suffragists got things done."

Getting the vote is one thing: using it is quite another. Today, the Fawcett Society continues to campaign vigorously on gender equality, and many women have followed Millicent in the campaign – people like Philippa Strachey, and Mary Stott (who lived in Blackheath) – on issues such as equal pay, equal 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 1866 - 2016* is available from Francis Boutle Publishers, 272 Alexandra Park Road London N22 7BG (£15.00) Email: info@francisboutle.co.uk

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Coping with bullying

Award-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.

"Facing my fears, I confronted the girls who were bullying me by taking my horse to school," she said.

"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 out 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: masters4@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, Maiya and Thea – you continue to make me immensely proud"

Students from all year groups modelled in the show. The catwalk performances were accompanied with 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."

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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 is 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

WN reporter

For 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 fur – and down the big cat comes, a dead squirrel clamped between its jaws.

No, not a scene from Greenwich Park: just one of the dramatic shots in David Attenborough's *Planet Earth* series on TV.

However, Greenwich Park authorities were impressed. "Desperate times mean disparate measures," said Wilf Deerlove, head of animal welfare at the park.

"Many visitors have noted the amount of tree damage caused by the squirrels in the park."

So it is that it is hoped to introduce a pair of North American bobcats into the park to tackle the burgeoning grey squirrel population.

Animal welfare groups are already protesting. "To haul bobcats out of their native habitat in the Rockies is a form of cruelty," said Apryl-Foolehardy, who is current spokesperson for the Maze Hill Branch of the Cat Protection League.

"Surely the UN has rules against the forced migration of animals?" she said. UN rules do not bother President Trump,

The bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) is a smaller cousin of the lynx. Bobcats are common in the US, and feed on small mammals



who is funding the scheme as a goodwill gesture. In a Tweet to the *WN*, he said: "Squirrels. Especially red squirrels. They're bad. Sick! We need a wall. Serious!"

The park authorities are sticking to their guns, which readers may recall they were forced to stop using following protests by the Squirrel Protection Society – despite counter-protests by the US National Rifle Association.

If the public consultation proves favourable, the first two bobcats will be introduced – on a trial basis only – on April 1st 2018. Dog walkers are advised to keep all their animals on a leash during the six-month trial period.

The Canine Defence League is already limbering up for a campaign of protest. Algernon Doglove said, angrily: "How are dog-owners expected to cope?"

For more information on the Greenwich Squirrel Strategy, go to: www.royalsquirrels.org.uk

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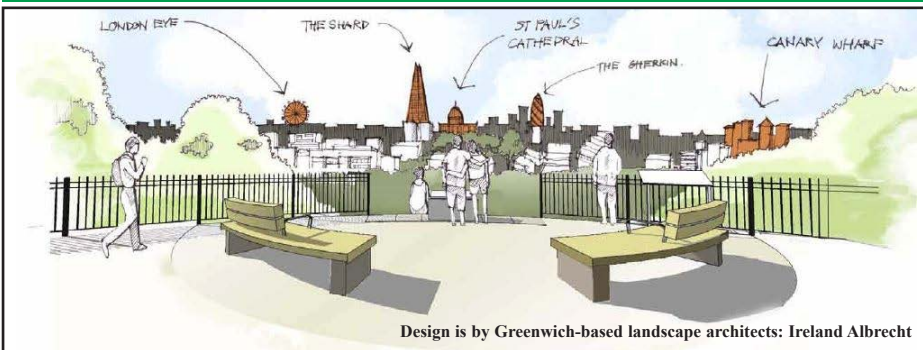


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Landscaping the Point

TIM BARNES



Design is by Greenwich-based landscape architects: Ireland Albrecht

The Greenwich Society has drawn up ambitious proposals for the complete landscaping of The Point. This is a view-point with panoramic views over London extending from Battersea in the west to the Dome and Canary Wharf in the East: one of the views towards St Pauls 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's Bags of Help scheme. (£1000, £2000 or £5000). 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 Pauls); 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 are planting further trees in the next few weeks to complete the circle of trees around the grassy area leading up to The Point. In addition Agincourt 600 has given us two 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 *WN* 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 part of Blackheath between 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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Marilyn Little, 163, Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP
8853 1312 Advertising@westcombesociety.org
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Maundy Thursday 13 April 7.00 pm Dinner followed by Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday 14 April 12:00 noon Church open for Prayer
2.00 pm Good Friday Service
3.00 pm Building of the Easter Garden and hot cross buns
Easter Sunday 16 April 11.00 am Holy Communion (Sung Eucharist)

Sceptics Group meets at 89 Westcombe Park Road) 1st & 3rd Sunday each month

Contact: Revd Tim Yeager
rtyeager@gmail.com / 07804 614245