GREENWICH PARK REVEALED

The Planning Board 12/2/20 was well attended. Objections were heard from Amenity Societies and groups and residents. Concerns and issues were raised regarding the disruption and overcrowding such large numbers could cause on the Town Centre and surrounding areas, parking and the ability of public transport to cope. Many of these concerns were shared by Board members and planning conditions had been raised to ensure they were addressed. Despite this lack of detail the Planning Board approved the plans for the FanZone by nine votes to one feeling that the benefits to the residents of the borough as a whole outweighed the concerns.

The Westcombe Society has also objected to the Licensing Application for the event in similar terms to the Planning Application. This will be heard by the Licensing Sub Committee on Friday 6th March 2020 at 11am.

Further details are available on the Westcombe Society website at www.westcombesociety.org

- Marilyn Little

ITS BEEN A PLEASURE...

...and a great privilege to have acted as editor of Westcombe News for over 18 years. I am so thankful for the many good people of Westcombe Park - and beyond - who have given their time and support.

I would single out particularly Marilyn Little, tireless chair of the Westcombe Society, and Myles Doyle, distribution manager, who has been a constant friend and support.

I would also mention other members of the team - Maggie Gravelle, environment editor, Gavin Hose, our new advertising manager, Anne Gregory, our meticulous proof reader, and our countless street-delivery volunteers.

I would also like to thank him for his contribution to the publication of the paper. He has been instrumental in achieving the Warner Bros media award for local papers, twice, against very strong competition from the London area.

He provided content on both national and local issues which are of interest or importance to our community and has never been afraid of putting forward a controversial view. Always well-informed, he set a high journalistic standard and I feel sure that he will continue and supply the paper with articles and features.

On behalf of the Westcombe Society and all our Readers, Advertisers and contributors ‘Thank You Neville’. - Marilyn Little

A huge thank you to Neville for making the paper so interesting for so many years. I personally would also like to thank him for his contribution in the distribution of the paper. As well as being an editor who is helpful to others such as myself and the WS Environment committee in what he put in the paper for us he also helps distribute the paper and will continue to do so. His contribution is much appreciated.

- Emily Norton Westcombe Society Environment Committee

Thank you Neville for your many years as Editor of the Westcombe News. It’s a support and I read it from cover to cover. What dedication and skill to produce a monthly gem for our community. Yes, we’ve had our ups and downs - my apologies! We have been very fortunate to have you in our midst, beavering away filling eight large pages to tight deadlines - Ann Hill, Beaconfield Road
Westcombe News March 2020

COMMUNITY

WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Anne Williams, Editor
wnews@westcombebuddy.org

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

Deadline for the April issue: 14th March 2020

Environment Editor: Maggie Gravalle

Sub-editor: Annie Grey

Roving reporter: Reporters: The community – that means you!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Emily Norton – All communications to: 020 8853 2756

DISTRIBUTION Emily Norton. Volunteers. Please volunteer distributors needed, please phone 020 8853 2756

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Gavin hose, 26 Webb Road, SE3 7PL

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The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor. We take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of our readers by fax. As far as possible the bona fides of our advertisers but cannot accept any responsibility for them. Any complaints should be addressed to the advertiser.

To access back-numbers (in colour) go to: www.westcombemembers.org/westcombe

Westcombe Society’s Blog: http://westcombe.blogspot.com

Front page quote by – Doug Larson

Do you have a Fitbit? Are you keen to “up” your step count?

Why not take up a Westcombe News delivery? Some runs even have steps!

Only around half an hour a time you’ll be there, but are you doing your bit for the community at the time that suits you?

Call 020 8853 2756 for more info

WESTCOMBE NEWS MARCH 2020

Letters

Friends of Mycenae Garden

F riends of Mycenae Gardens would like to invite you to their next Annual General Meeting on 23 May 2020 at 7.30pm at the Greenwich Steiner School (the first building on the right, as you approach the gardens of Mycenae House from Mycenae Road).

If you are not already a member, you can join on the day or online at mycenae-
gardens.org.uk. New members bring new ideas and new networks, which are always welcome. For example:

-How should we balance the use of the gardens with conservation?
-What more should we do to support wildlife, and to enable people to observe and appreciate it?

-How do we propose to introduce beehives? Or play equipment?

An illustrated talk by Rich Sylvester (http://richtobaccofoxseyt.org) ends the evening. Rich will cast the lights and shadows of history and folklore to illuminate our understanding of the gardens, and will draw on a range of experiences elsewhere in the borough to suggest practical ways for people of all ages to engage with the Gardens and management of Mycenae Gardens and the Dell.

MARCH EVENTS AT ST GEORGE’S

Thurs 5 March 8:00 pm COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES ‘The Palestine Exploration Fund, Mapping, Exploring, and Digging the Holy Land in the 19th and 20th centuries’ Talk given by Ms. Rachel Cobbiny, Executive & Curator of the Palestine Exploration Fund

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments provided.

A voluntary retiring collection will be taken.

Thurs, 19 March 7:30 pm SPIRITUAL FILM NIGHT - Dead Poets Society (1989) Robin Williams stars as a teacher of a literature in a boys’ school, who instills in his students a love of poetry and more. When, in an attempt to save the boys from the real world of drugs and alcohol, the Principal, available served by the Social Committee. There is discussion afterwards. Free and open to the public.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of either the Westcombe Society, or the Westcombe News.

Westcombe Society celebrates Springtime with its annual Daffodil Tea for the local community’s senior citizens.

21 March 2-4 p.m at the Mycenae House.

This is the time to catch up with friends over cake and coffee, and also to great opportunity to make new acquaintances.

The Daffodil Tea is by invitation, but if you didn’t get one and would like to come, please call Caroline on 020 8853 9484

WESTCOMBE NEWS

Friends of Mycenae Garden

V olunteers and members are the beating heart of the Westcombe Society; without their consistent giving of time, talent and enthusiasm, the Society couldn’t be the vibrant presence in the local community. This year’s party to celebrate their unfailing spirit was a lively affair at Mycenae House with National Service in the Royal Army Service Corps. Keith trained at the Royal College of Art in South Kensington as an interior designer, and went on to establish his own practice. He was a fellow of the Society of Industrial Artists in 1979, and in 1995 was a visiting lecturer at Kingston School of Art. Keith was a local resident in Westcombe Park since 1965, and he greatly loved Blackheath and Greenwich. With his wife, Anna he was involved in voluntary work to preserve the local environment in green spaces and woodlands such as Oxlens Woods, and in particular establishing a wildlife and schools co-ordination Orchard at Park Vista, before campaigning to re-unite this with Greenwich Park now known as the (Queen’s Orchard). Keith’s beautiful wife Anna and their twins by bike if there were high-quality safe routes available.

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K E I T H V I N C E N T T O W N E N D

In MEMORIAM

K en Vivian Downsway Des. R.C.A. FIEA died suddenly but peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday the 15th January 2020 aged 89. Following his wish having added musical magic to the fun.

Chairman Marilyn Little also had pleasure in presenting a cheque for £1300 to Team Rector Margarat Cavo on behalf of the Greenwich Winter Night shelter.

The Westcombe Society’s charity of 2019. If you’d like to get involved we’d love to hear from you. Maybe you like organising events, writing to the local paper, or raising money for charities in the area.

There’s plenty to do and new friends to make. Call the Westcombe Society on 020 8853 1312

–Douglas Blackett

The Westcombe Society is still open to receiving applications for their charity of the year 2020.

Applications should be made by the end of March for the Society to consider.

The Charity of the Year is then ratified by members at the AGM in May.

Send your application stating how any funds would be spent to info@westcombebuddy.org.

From: Elliot Brunn, Westcombe Park Rd While sympathetic to the aims of Extinction Rebellion, their activities can be counter-productive. Climbing on top of tube trains during rush hour is but one example of their disruptive behaviour. On our doorstep last December, the famous Coca-Cola Christmas truck’s visit to the O2 was cancelled because of safety fears. ER wanted to protest against Coca-Cola’s Plastic pollution with “a bat- tlement of diets.”

This year, Coca-Cola pledged to give 50 home to the pensions’ charity crisis for every can placed in their recycling bins on their UK route.

Mark Etherington, Dinsdale Rd, (delivering copies of the Westcombe News since 2004) I was disappointed to read the negative coverage of Cylex 4 in the “Newshub” section of the February 2020 issue. This new route is going to be of massive benefit to local people, particularly when it is extended onwards through Greenwich towards Woolwich.

This just isn’t a scheme for everyone. People who cycle every day; many more people would choose to go by bike if there were high-quality safe routes available.

And the cost? It’s less than a roadbridge in Greenwich. The Silver Tunnel will cost £1 billion for less than a mile of road.

From: Neville Grant, Streatham Rd

The winter garden in Avery Hill is said to be the second largest of its kind in the UK. It was only to Kew. First began in 1888, it now faces an uncertain future as the University of Greenwich doesn’t want it, and neither does Greenwich council. A lottery application failed.

This is a shocking state of affair. Surely someone in council, with its much-vaunted bid to the Millennium, would want to find a way to save this beautiful garden for posterity.

E T C O M B E  N E W S

Please send this membership form to: Christine Liggio, 69 Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE.

Names: ___________________________ ___________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________

Tel. __________________________ Email: __________________________

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family Membership £12 [ ]

Individual Membership £8 [ ]

Senior Citizens/underage 5 £4 [ ]

Membership cards

A membership card is only issued at the time you join the Westcombe Society, and should be retained.

Should you require a replacement card, please contact the Membership Secretary, as above.

From: Pat Preston, The Keep, Blackheath

I often read the WN in Age Exchange here in Blackheath. Thank you for a good read all these years.

The planning and setting up of the UFFA 2020 Festival Greenwich Park and take up to a month, making the Queen’s Field unavailable to ordinary park users. What is the justification for this?

The plan would lead to congestion on the roads and a need for a different management strategy. It is entirely possible to watch these games on TV without disturbing the peace and quiet of the park.

The park was not established to cater for such sporting events. I recently tried to walk across the Jubilee Square during the screening of a football match – on a Saturday. It was not possible to make your way across to the National Gallery because of the crowds watching the match. I ask the organiser to think again. And I call on residents to make their voices heard.

From Chris Hoffman, St John’s ParkDear Sir

I’m sorry to say this but your newsletter brief short piece on a new cycle lane in Jamaica Road (from February 2020, asking if it may increase pollution levels by slowing traffic) belongs to another century. It presents a straw argument. As so eloquently summarised by Chris Boardman at Question Time recently, increasing cycling levels will lead to a more active, happier population, decrease the burden on the NHS, and reduce climate change.

So by this should a stop cycle is no brainer. And if you really only want to fix it on pollution levels from vehicles, electric cars are coming. Yours faithfully

From: E. Jenkins, Humber Road So pleased to see that the Waterworks Square was confirmed as an anchor point for the Cycles for the O2. I was very pleased to see that the Cycles was possible to make your way across the National Gallery because of the crowds watching the match. I ask the organiser to think again. And I call on residents to make their voices heard.

From: Chris Hoffman, St John’s ParkDear Sir

I’m sorry to say this but your
LET’S BEAT LONELINESS

The John Roan School are launching a new ‘Let’s Beat Loneliness Lunch Club’ for local senior citizens. Every Monday during term time, local senior citizens will be able to have a two-course lunch with our lovely students at our Maze Hill site from 12:15pm. We are hoping that this new club will give local senior citizens a chance to

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

The work of the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch involves recording the local birds that are seen or heard within a garden site or during one hour. In the three acre Westcombe Woodlands, a keen group of members met up with local ecologist Joe Burns. They recorded 18 species including a Firecrest – a pretty rare visitor, Goldcrest and great spotted woodpeckers were also present. Tawny Owls, not recorded but are heard regularly by residents, it seems likely they were ‘sleeping’ when the survey took place at 9am.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Learn A New Skill

The Talking Newspaper forms a nationwide network of some 300 local groups, one of which being Greenwich (GTN). The idea is to render a digest of local news to our blind and partially-sighted listeners. Using local press, news is edited or compiled into categories aimed to be of interest, and then recorded. The memory sticks are sent by post for playing on the GTN-supplied devices.

Events in Greenwich Park

1st March The Big Half - this is a half marathon finishing in the park. 25th March - 30th March Quantum Theatre will stage Treasure Island in the Royal Observatory Garden 29th March, Sunday, Bird Walk, 8.30am Blackheath Gate. Fri 6th March/Sat 28th March The Parks Police will run surgeries in the Pavilion Café from 10.00-11.00 a.m. These are informal drop-in sessions to talk with residents and visitors about any topic of concern.

HAVE YOUR SAY WHAT AND WHEN YOU THROW AWAY

T he three alternative bin collection proposals are:
1. Reduce the frequency of when rubbish (black top) bins are collected to every two weeks.
2. Collect your rubbish every week but the bin is smaller.
3. Reduce the size of rubbish bins and collect them every two weeks. This could increase our recycling rate by around 5% and save the Council £400,000 per year.

HA VE YOUR SAY WHAT  AND WHEN

MAKE DO AND MAINTAIN!

Craft and Skills Sharing

Do something different, as well as giving different generations a chance to socialise together. There are limited spaces available, so please contact Jenny Allen on 020 8516 7537 or Jennifer.allen@thejohnroanschool.org.uk to reserve your space.

Learn to Play Day

A free national event to encourage everyone in the UK to start making music - is coming to London this March. Supported by Jools Holland OBE, and run by the charity Music for All, the 2020 Learn to Play Day will take place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March, and will see music shops, teachers, venues and schools throughout the country partner with leading musical instrument brands to offer thousands of FREE music lessons. So far, participating venues include:
• Yamaha Music London in Soho
• PMT London on Old Street, EC1V
• World Heart Beat Music Academy in Southwark
• Musicroom London on Denmark Street

Find a FREE music lesson near you, visit https://musicforall.org.uk/learntoplay/

NEW DANCE

A new dance in Greenwich Park is one of the most beautiful places to dance in London. The dance is on the 5th April.

THE UN AT 75 DIARY DATE

Thursday 2 April 2020 will mark the 75th anniversary of the UN. Speaker, Neville Grant, who worked for years attached to UNDP in China, Refreshments and Q&A discussions.

THE UN at 75: Unnecessary or Indispensable?

A free public meeting at St George’s Church, Glenlake Road, SE3 7SD on Thursday April 2nd at 7.45pm. The talk marks the 75th anniversary of the UN. Speaker, Neville Grant, who worked for years attached to UNDP in China.

View and share your treasured images on your computer.

I’m local and can DIGITIZE:
• negatives (all types)
• slides
• photographs
• glass plates

GET YOUR COPY NOW:
www.headstart.it

jimfour@outlook.com www.jimfour.com

HAYES AVENUE

T his year The John Roan School is planning on hosting a birthday celebration for a former student who is turning 100.

We would love to create a mini exhibition of photos and stories tracing the history of The John Roan School as part of the celebrations.

If you have any resources or stories that you can share, please contact Jenny Allen on 020 8516 7537 or Jennifer.allen@thejohnroanschool.org.uk.

All stories or resources would be greatly appreciated.

Let’s Beat Loneliness Lunch Club for local senior citizens. Every Monday during term time, local senior citizens will be able to have a two-course lunch with our lovely students at our Maze Hill site from 12:15pm. We are hoping that this new club will give local senior citizens a chance to

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We are always keen for new blind listeners; likewise, new volunteers for compiling or reading the copy, or engineering the recordings, to boost our roster. It is a privilege to share events for community garden teams with leading musical instrument brands to offer thousands of FREE music lessons. So far, participating venues include:
• Yamaha Music London in Soho
• PMT London on Old Street, EC1V
• World Heart Beat Music Academy in Southwark
• Musicroom London on Denmark Street

Find a FREE music lesson near you, visit https://musicforall.org.uk/learntoplay/

A new dance in Greenwich Park is one of the most beautiful places to dance in London. The dance is on the 5th April.
AN ARCHITECTURAL GEM IN OUR MIDST

Controversy over this 1930s building, unique to our area, has been going on for several years. It is featured in the 2010 Westcombe Park Character Appraisal, described as being of the International Modern Style.

In 2014 there was an application to demolish the house, which was then in a poor state of repair, and to build 8 flats on the site. This was refused. In 2019 a planning application was submitted to convert the house to 8 flats. This included building a third storey. In their refusal the Planning Officers argued that, “The proposed roof and rear extensions, by reason of their unacceptable bulk, scale and materiality, would result in unacceptable harm to the host building, immediate streetscape and wider Westcombe Park Conservation Area”.

Recently a further application was submitted. The new proposal is for somewhat reduced extensions at the side and rear and a smaller third storey, to provide 5 flats. The Environment Committee of the Westcombe Society expressed a number of concerns about the plans. As well as felling 12 trees, most of the front garden is to be converted into a parking area with the consequent loss of green space. We also queried the amount of living space in each flat, particularly those intended for families. But our principal concern is the bulk and visual prominence of the additional third storey which brings the building to the same height as the neighbouring house at 59 but with a flat roof.

The Environment Committee has submitted objections to the proposal.

-Margaret Gravelle

A VICTORY FOR THE VANBRUGH

Royal Borough of Greenwich has rejected a further set of plans to build a house on the outdoor space behind The Vanbrugh pub in East Greenwich, after significant opposition from local residents. This was the third such planning application in recent years from the pub’s freeholders – Isle of Man-based Hamna Wakaf Ltd. – which would have seen the loss of 29% of the pub’s outdoor space, including part of its beer garden.

As with the previous sets of plans, the reason for refusal centred around the amenity (garden) space that would be provided alongside the proposed three-bedroom house. The previous application was rejected by the Council in July 2018, with the subsequent appeal dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate on the basis that “the amount and layout of the amenity space would be inadequate”. In response, the applicant revised the plans by rearranging the footprint to provide more amenity space. However, these plans were refused in January on the grounds that the development ‘would fail to provide a high quality living environment’ because the amenity space would still be split between two different locations and half of it would be located beneath the upper floors of the proposed house.

Plans to develop the site have attracted significant opposition from the local community. The latest application received 379 objections, including from Westcombe Society which considers the pub to be an important and popular local amenity – particularly its beer garden.

Meanwhile, The Vanbrugh lost its status as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) in December. Previously, the pub had been placed on the Council’s list of community assets in April 2018 following a successful nomination by East Greenwich Residents Association, which successfully made the case that uses of the pub further the social wellbeing of the local community.

However, a subsequent appeal by Hamna Wakaf Ltd. led to the listing decision being reviewed and overturned by a Council officer who wasn’t involved in the original decision. While ACV status does not protect a property from development proposals, it does afford the local community additional time to arrange a bid to acquire the property should the owner put it on the market.

Forthcoming events at The Vanbrugh include Tap Takeover (26th to 29th March), London Marathon Day (26th April) and the annual Garden Party (11th July). See www.thevanbrugh.co.uk for further details.

-Zoe Stanworth

‘YEAR OF PROMISE’ FROM BLACKHEATH HIGH

Blackheath High begins ‘Year of Promise’ Sustainability Project to Tackle Climate Change

The work Greta Thunberg has done in bringing the issue of climate change to the forefront of the political agenda around the world is highly admirable. However, there is a downside. More than ever before, children are being exposed to the devastating cause by changes to our climate. This is creating a growing trend of ‘eco-anxiety’ - an accumulation of feeling powerless in the face of an inevitability beyond their individual control.

Given this new reality, Blackheath High School GDST has decided to celebrate its 140th anniversary by committing to 12 months of environmental pledges – 140 of them in 2020.

Already the school’s Head has pledged to not print anything for a year in a move to reduce paper waste at the school.

Meanwhile the Design & Tech department have pledged to set up a ‘Bamboo Bicycle Club’, where students can make bikes from the sustainable material.

Appreciating their Maritime Greenwich location near to the River Thames, they’re adding the study of our oceans to the curriculum and getting their students out into nature to teach them how to protect it.

The school is also helping the local community will get involved. So, if you have any good ideas for how you or your business can help the planet in 2020, email in your pledge at BHSYearofPromise@bla.gdst.net or if you’re in need of some inspiration go to the 140th Anniversary page on the school website here: https://www.blackheathhigh-school.gdst.net/1830/140th-anniversary-year-of-promise-project

-Ann Faul
SAT 21 MARCH Daffodil Tea at Mycenae House, afternoon tea (by invite)

FRI 15 MARCH 7.30pm at Blackheath High School for Girls, followed by a talk on the Angora fox.

FRI 25 MARCH Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning (morning & lunchtime)

TBC - High School for Girls, followed by a talk Fri 15 May 7.45pm. Guests: £10 at door. Please

SAT 21 MARCH College, Greenwich SE10 9LS. Wine evenings. In such sceneries their
dates. Tckts: £10

Every Thursday 7.00 - 9.00 pm  £15.00

The intriguing title The Slasher and the
tales. From Memories of

Tuesdays evening 7.30 to 9.30 at

Mycenae House, Mycenae Rd., SE3 8SS. Visitors £6, raffle tickets extra.

Friday of the month (2pm-4pm) at

Meetings held 7.30 The Old

20 March 2020 5

Westcombe News March 2020 5

WHAT’S ON

COMmunity

The BRiDe in East Greenwich

Blackheath Halls

Box Office 020 8463 6100

-Sun 1 March Evgeny Kissin, Samoylov piano

Tues 10th-11th March Box office: 8858 7755

Tues 24 March

Mussorgsky

From Memories of Childhood: A Night on the Bare Mountain Pictures at an Exhibition Tckts: £10 £8(+)

-Mon 2 March 1.30pm Great Hall

A magical afternoon in the friendly atmosphere of a Blackheath Hall tea
dance, quickstep, cha cha and much more.

Tckts: £7 inc light refreshments

-Tues 2 Mar Trinity Laban Beats in the Bar 7.30pm ! The Hearn Recital Room

Trinity Laban’s Jazz Department is one of the strongest in Europe, and their
performances are a great chance to hear the stars of tomorrow on stage today.

Admission FREE booking required

-We 4 March Here’s To Good Women 8pm The Hearn Recital Room. An all-

female panel discussion with former anaesthetist and police doctor Dr Clare Rosen and nautical scientist and Master Mariner Mette Enevold Peterson, in celeb-

ration of International Women’s Day.

Tckts: £12 inc glass of wine

-Thu 5 March Piano Masterclass with Joaquín Achúcarro 10am & 2pm Great Hall.

An unique opportunity to observe one of the greats as he shares his insights with Trinity Laban students.

Admission FREE booking required

And lots more... check BWW website for

THEATRE & FILM

The GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooks Hill, London SE10 8ES

Box Office: 8858 7755

Tues 10-19 March Women (Like Romans, but with a W) ...a raucous and

hilarious tale of the first female resist-

ance Tckts £18 Friends of GT £9.50

11-15th March The White Plague

7.30pm Tckts £13

Tues 17-21st March

The In My Room 7.30pm Sat mat

230pm Tckts £20 Friends of GT £10

And lots more (see Features page).....

spoken word

Tues 4 March In-words poetry at West

Greenwich Library 7.30 (doors open 7.15pm)

two poets with very different voices -

Edward Fagg, who lives in China, will

read from his book Exploring Rights; Ian

Gregerson will launch his collection with

the intriguing title The Washer and the

Vampire as Role Models.

Free, all welcome.

Children’s events

28 March ‘Drop In’ at the Greenwich

Park Wildlife Centre, Saturday 1-3pm.

South end of the lake in the Flower

Garden - nature crafts and guided tours of

of the Nature Trail and Deer Hide

Sun 8th March The Naughty Fox

Snuggle up with Honk, Splash and Tali

Woo. Immerse yourself in

friendship and play for little ones.

2-4pm £9.50 Family rates available

Sat 1st March Mark Thompson’s

SPECTACULAR SCULPTURE Show (award-

ed 'one of the top shows to see') 2pm

Tckts £18 Children £9.50 Family rates available

ST OLAVE’S

Learning is fun

St Olave’s is a Prep School in

New Eltham for boys and girls

aged 3-11 years

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TAP TAKEOVER

TAP TAKEOVER

ANSPACH & HOBBS TAPE TAKE OVER

thursday 26 March to sunday 29 March

Founded in Bermondsey in 2014 by school friends Paul Anspach & Jack Holiday, Anspach & Hobbs has been brewing quality ales by traditional English

methods. Having just expanded to a larger brewery in Croydon, the Anspach & Hobbs brewery are excited to showcase new branding and new beers at The Vanbrugh in March Expect a full range of styles, from pale ales through to a first

taste of London's most traditionally brewed ales.

thovanbrugh.co.uk 190 Colombe Street SE10 9EZ 020 8353 1007

THOMAS TALLIS

Sat 7 March Celebrations &

Commemorations in St Alfege Church, Greenwich. A sequence of choral

laments, tributes and memorials for spe-

cific occasions including music by Tallis, Howells, Byrd, Gibbons and Walton

Thomas Tallis Society Choir conducted by Eamonn Dougan. Tickets £15/£10, available online or at the door

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

WIN apologies for any omis-

sions, if you know of, or would

like to have your event(s) included

on this page then email details to

blackheath, London se3 8ss

Tel: 020 8853 2265

Email: dave@trojanpress.co.uk

www.trojanpress.com

• Business cards

• Since 1978

• Paul Anspach & Jack Holiday

• Anspach & Hobbs has been brewing quality ales by traditional English

methods. Having just expanded to a larger brewery in Croydon, the Anspach & Hobbs brewery are excited to showcase new branding and new beers at The Vanbrugh in March Expect a full range of styles, from pale ales through to a first

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thovanbrugh.co.uk 190 Colombe Street SE10 9EZ 020 8353 1007

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

MYCENAE HOUSE EVENTS

Fri 6 March Sing Together choirs. An evening concert of joyful, uplifting melodies. 7.30pm £8.

Thurs 12 March Bach To Baby Classical Concert for families. 4pm £10.

Fri 13 March 8pm JazzNights, Candil Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Skil.

Sat 20th March 7.30pm St Patrick’s Day Celebrations. Live music, dance and food with GJMA, £13 online/£15 on door.

For further information about all Mycenae House events visit

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

Horticulture

Mon 16th March “Dig for Victory” a talk by Russell Boulton, followed by plans from sales, raffle, refreshments. Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society, Charlton House Old Library, 7.30pm.

Visitors (£2) and new members (£10)

Westcombe News March 2020

COMMUNITY

The BRIDGE in East Greenwich Pleasureous ears ear play experiences for under 5's and their

parents/carers. We have a large, secure outdoor play space for the little ones to explore and waterpools to borrow for rainy days. We run gardening sessions and a mini Forest School. Our indoor space has a variety of activities includ-

ing; play, arts & crafts. Low cost admission and hot drinks and snacks included. Off Chevening Road, Greenwich, SE10 9LS

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

SUNDAYS AT SUNFIELDS at Sunfields Methodist Church Old Dover Road, Blackheath SE8 5JH 1.00-4.00 am 7.00-9.00 pm first Sunday of the month. tickets to all, no need to book.

Info: Tel Jon on 07435 569963

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

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WINTER GARDENS FOR SALE?

L

ast year, the WN featured two articles about Eltham Palace. However, not to be forgotten is another very special place – Avery Hill House and park – including especially, the indoor Winter Garden.

If you won the lottery, then you could put in a bid for the House, which is currently on sale by the University of Greenwich.

Avery Hill was an Italianate Victorian mansion on a site with a fascinating history.

The land around what was then the village of Eltham goes back to the Domesday Book, where it was called ‘Eald Ham’ by the Anglo-Saxons. It came into the possession of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, the half-brother of William the Conqueror. It was Odo who probably commissioned the Bayeaux Tapestry. The land was held for him by Haimo, Sheriff of Kent, as Odo was far too busy helping to rule England, being both scandalously immoral, and almost ungovernable (he was imprisoned twice for rebellion.) He died en route to the First Crusade.

The area of land that is now Avery Hill Park was originally a number of individual farms; in the eighteenth century they were combined to make up the estate of ‘Avery Hill’. The mansion house on the site was built in about 1841, and was the family home of James Boyd, a Scot, a sugar baron. Following Boyd’s death, John Thomas North, an entrepreneur who made his money from Chilean nitrates, rented the mansion, and the adjoining acres from Boyd’s widow, Anne Boyd, for £500.00 a year.

There he kept racehorses and greyhounds, and played at soldiers, reforming his money from Chilean nitrates, rented the mansion, and the adjoining acres from Boyd’s widow, Anne Boyd, for £500.00 a year.

The domed winter garden is open daily, from 10.00am to 12noon, and from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. Address: Avery Hill Road, Eltham, London SE9 2EP.

Admission is free.

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There he kept racehorses and greyhounds, and played at soldiers, reforming the Tower Hamlet Volunteer Engineers, and acquiring the honorary title of “Colonel.” North later bought the entire estate and added a further 100 acres, including Ox Leas and Shepherd Leas woods. In 1888, he bought Avery Hill House, and later in the year, never doing things by half, he bought too many pictures at the Italian Exhibition in Earl’s Court.

What next? Naturally, to house the pictures, he needed a bigger house: he commissioned the architect T W Cutler to do the job for £45,000, and then went back to missioned the architect T W Cutler to do the job for £45,000, and then went back to...

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GREENWICH COUNCIL’S CARBON FOOTPRINT PLAN

In June 2019, the Royal Borough of Greenwich unambiguously declared a climate emergency, this followed stark warnings in 2018 from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that urgent action, to reduce carbon emissions, must be taken within ten years. It also grew out of a petition, lobbying, and protests outside the Town Hall from Greenwich Green Party activists, local Extinction Rebellion activists, and concerned residents. The declaration was supported by councillors from all parties.

This declaration has led to a report, published at the end of January, on Development of the Greenwich Carbon Neutral Plan. This provides the evidence base from which Greenwich can form their plan, and points out how ambitious it is to aim for carbon neutrality within a decade. The Borough is also calling for a climate emergency network of individuals, businesses, and organisations. At the cabinet meeting on January 29th, the council agreed to bring the plans to full council for approval in Autumn 2020. Both motions were passed unanimously at cabinet and full council. Councillors agreed that this was a cross-party issue for which all needed to work together.

Councillors also noted that these ambitious targets would be expensive to implement but, as campaigners have said, even more expensive to ignore. It will be a challenge to keep support from the residents of Greenwich as infrastructure for travel by car is reduced in favour of walking, cycling, and public transport.

Education and engagement are seen as key priorities so that street closures and reduced parking spaces, ambitious tree planting, and re-wilding proposals are embraced as progressive and necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The report has been largely welcomed by activists as a way to start making changes. However, Simon Pirani, a research fellow at Oxford Institute for Energy Studies and Greenwich XR supporter, has warned that “there is a serious danger that, by falling in line with the conservative and inadequate policies of the government and the Mayor of London...the council will miss decarbonisation targets by a long way.” Campaigners have pointed to Transport for London’s Silvertown Tunnel project as symptomatic of how a ‘flawed framework' could affect how thoroughly Greenwich will be able to reduce its carbon usage.

Greenwich will be consulting widely on its report and the measures it proposes, later in 2020. Among the recommendations are moving to 100% renewable energy supplies, replacing street lighting with LED low energy bulbs, planting trees, and improving access to electric car charging points. Other boroughs in London are also working on carbon neutral plans, with Hackney taking a particularly strong stand on the need for major policy changes.

There is a large resource waiting to be tapped in the community both to help make these plans as ambitious as they need to be. And local people can sign up to the council’s Climate Emergency Network and Partnership online (https://www.royal-greenwich.gov.uk/sxfp/form/309). As Extinction Rebellion argues, once people realise the scale of the emergency, they will want to act to lessen the effects of global warming so that we, and our children, will have a safer and healthier future.

> Victoria Rance/Editorial team

GREEN ENVIRONMENT

A geography books from your school days show, water falls from the sky, enters the soil and slowly drains through to emerge as springs and streams. But what happens when the earth has been paved over?

In urban settings, rain has far less chance of draining into the soil. Instead, we’ve constructed a series of drains for houses and roads, and these carry the water away. Not all of it goes into the sewage system, though: the storm drains in roadways often carry their waste into the river systems. That’s true of much of north Greenwich. With the Thames right on hand, Victorian and later road builders did the obvious thing, and built storm drain systems to empty straight into the river.

Now, though, the system isn’t ideal. So much land has been built on or paved over that water table levels aren’t being replenished. London is slowly subsidizing.

Global heating will likely bring wetter winters: using land to absorb the rain can help avoid flooded rivers. And storm drains carry lots of pollutants with the rainfall. Particulates from exhaust fumes, tyres, brake linings and solid traces from petrol and diesel are being swept into the Thames.

We need to clean up our rivers, to make them safe for humans, fish, and all of their natural inhabitants. These are the reasons why the Westcombe Society recommends permeable systems, if you feel you must pave over your front garden.

A new scheme in East Greenwich has been installed this winter, which aims to help with the problem. In Blackwall Lane, just outside the Christchurch School Community Garden, is a new Sustainable Drainage System, or SuDS. The new SuDS looks a bit like any council tree planting scheme: there are half a dozen ornamental pear trees, Pyrus ‘Chanticleer’, often used as street trees.

Look more closely, though, and you’ll see that the tree pits are all connected by a long strip of greenery, planted with wildflower and meadow plants to absorb moisture and feed pollinating insects. What you can’t see, beneath all this, is the clever soakaway that carries water off through a couple of pumice-based filtration systems. The runoff is stored in a shallow cistern, under a couple of car parking spaces, and the gardeners will be using it to water their new orchard over the coming months and years.

This isn’t the first of its kind in the area: the Borough has also installed ‘rain gardens’ in Plumstead and Eltham, and some of the Peninsula developments have SuDS systems. It can be difficult, though, to bring together all the funding and the permissions. Along with the pocket parks, along Trafalgar Road, the Blackwall Lane system will help to improve the Borough’s sustainability profile in East Greenwich.

Clearly, every borough in London could be creating sustainable drainage systems to help improve water quality in the Thames and its feeder rivers, and lessen the risk of flooding. Thames Water currently is being pressed for answers on how often it allows raw sewage to flow into the river, which happens when the drains from buildings are unable to cope with heavy rain. But the storm drains are a constant source of pollutants.

The Zoological Society of London’s Mother Nature campaign has raised the regeneration of the river, but points to how much work still needs to be done. ZSL, and other organisations, like the Thames Water Keeper, have teams of volunteers monitoring London’s rivers, with regular tests of water quality near outfalls. With the Borough so closely tied with the Thames, it makes sense for us all to be kind to our river and try to protect it from pollution.

> Anne Robbins

GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Let it rain!

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (see also http://www.westcombecouncil.org)

68 HUMBER ROAD ref 20/0105/HD To construct 2 rear dormers and install 3 roof-lights to front.
43 MYCENAE ROAD ref 20/0285/F To construct single storey rear extension, relocate rear steps, demolish rear outbuilding, install decking over sunken part of garden, install railings to rear boundary, fell tree.
69 ST JOHNS PARK ref 20/0127/HD To construct single storey side extension 69 ST JOHNS PARK, ref 20/0127/HD To construct single storey side extension 69 ST JOHNS PARK.