

# Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and some shops

July/August 2020 No. 6



*“Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.” ~ zen proverb*

## OUR SHOPS ARE OPENING - AT A DISTANCE

Marilyn Little

We are very lucky to have a diverse mix of shops and businesses within Westcombe Park. Some come and others go but our basic needs continue to be happily met. Over the years we have gained some attractive new shops but there have been many challenges to local high streets.

Our loyalty to our local high streets has ensured that we continue to be well served. However this pandemic has been the most challenging yet and one that has been in the main outside our control. As we have been urged to shop local, keep our journeys short and avoid public transport we are very lucky to have local options in our essential traders.

But high streets have been very quiet, as weekly big shops for essential goods were encouraged. On-line deliveries also an option, if you could get a delivery slot!

However, we now need to help our local economy recover from what, for some, has been a very bleak and uncertain time. But we have to do this safely.

As lockdown is changing and social distancing is being relaxed we are pleased to see more shops at the Standard and surrounding areas have been able to re-open.

These non-essential shops and businesses, even after some rent free months and on-line activity, really need your custom to help them ensure their continuing viability.

But life will be a little different... The council has provided floor stickers to demonstrate the social distancing requirement in the shops and window stickers to

press the point. Some businesses have commented that the stickers should have been provided months ago when essential shops were allowed to open! However there is currently nothing planned to ensure that the same is adhered to outside their premises.

The Westcombe Society have pressed the council to tell us what measures they are putting in place locally to achieve the London Mayor's Streetspace initiative (see June issue). This includes the social distancing requirements for pedestrians but so far little detail has been made available.

However work has been carried out at either end of Invicta road to help with the social distancing of pupils and to discourage the use of vehicles at designated drop-off times and again at designated pick-up times.

Whilst we would encourage you to support our local shops we urge everyone to follow current guidelines both inside and outside the shops, when queuing. The wearing of a face mask is encouraged and do remember to wash your hands both before and after leaving home.



If you feel that recommendations are not being followed or you feel unsafe do please come back at a quieter time to protect yourself, but also advise the council at [Danny.thorpe@royalgreenwich.org.uk](mailto:Danny.thorpe@royalgreenwich.org.uk) who

may then consider other distancing measures that could be put in place in our locality. Please copy your comments to [info@westcombesociety.org](mailto:info@westcombesociety.org)

## A NEW FLOOR REVEALS HISTORY

During the Covid 19 lockdown, Mycenae House staff discovered that the main hall floor was no longer safe to use and sadly needed to be replaced immediately.

In removing the old floor, the workmen found a copy of the Mercury newspaper from the 20th September 1933 and also a small paper bag from a bakers shop of the same age on Westcombe Hill. Both these items are now being conserved for future reference. (Incidentally houses in the Westcombe Park area were being advertised for sale at £590 each).



On installing the new flooring into the main hall, it was decided to honour the spirit of this discovery by hiding a new set of items for people to find way into the future. It was decided to put a copy of the Westcombe News (June edition), a government leaflet containing the advice and instructions for risk management of Covid 19 and a hand written letter from the staff of Mycenae House under the floor giving some context to the time it was relaid.

I guess we won't be around to see when they get discovered!  
-Mark Johnson-Brown

## KEEPING INVICTA SCHOOL SAFE



New paved area at Junction of Invicta Road and Charlton Road to dissuade traffic and support the road closure during school opening and closing hours.

## NHS TEST AND TRACE SCAM

Unfortunately, there have been reports of some criminals exploiting the NHS Test and Trace programme. Please be aware that this official scheme is free, and you will never be asked for payment or to give your bank details.

## SILVERTOWN UPDATE

Readers will know that the Westcombe Society has always had serious concerns about the modelling behind the Silvertown Tunnel proposals and has joined with others to ask for the decision to be reconsidered a number of times. In the light of the Covid-19 crisis we feel a rethink is now essential both on Environmental and Financial grounds. We are therefore putting our support behind a new document produced by a consortium of groups and experts arguing that in the light of changing times, the GLA claiming to be leading the world on climate change and the way in which the covid crisis has highlighted the benefits of cleaner air the decision to build the tunnel should be reconsidered. Ditching the tunnel would also save TfL huge amounts of money. The press release and report are published in full on the Westcombe Society website.

## WESTCOMBE SOCIETY BULLETIN BOARD

### DIARY DATES

Fri 25 Sept

Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning (morning & lunchtime)

TBC - Macmillan Walk

Oct 24th Quiz Night at Mycenae House Dates confirmed in the September issue.

### AGM

Members will be advised of arrangements in due course.

### SUPPORT GROUP

Very many thanks to those of you who had volunteered to help folk who have needed, shopping, prescriptions or just a friendly chat.

As needs are very much reduced, we are closing our support group, although calls will still be taken forward.

Thank you all once again for being part of our 30+ strong team. Your willingness to help has been very much appreciated.

-Marilyn Little, Chair

### Greenwich Park

**Good news!** The Avenue toilets were opened today with a steward to help maintain social distancing, as per the Government guidelines. Depending on how this is received The Royal Parks will then look at the option of opening the Rockery Toilets in a few weeks.

### Road Recovery

The AA reported a high number of "Home Start" emergency calls to deal with flat batteries from drivers who have not been using their vehicles much during lockdown.

### Thieves strike again

Last year there was a surge in thefts of catalytic converters from

cars. As lockdown eases, there have been more local incidents. If you can, park your car with its rear end against a wall: that greatly reduces the risk of your car being interfered with.

### Climate leadership needed

Local MP Matt Pennycook said: "The rescheduled COP26 summit will be a critical moment in the fight against runaway global heating. As COP President, the onus is on [the UK] to establish our credibility at the earliest opportunity in order to build momentum and rally the world to raise its climate ambition."

### Black Lives Matter

A painting of a large "Black Lives

Matter" sign in General Gordon Square in Woolwich as a gesture of solidarity was welcomed by many residents; but one local commented: "No substitute for meaningful action!"

### Charlton Rocks

Local campaigners have welcomed the rejection by the Secretary of State of the developer Rockwell's appeal in support of the plans for their proposed massive development of Charlton Riverside. The Chairman of Greenwich Council's planning committee had described the proposed development as "reminiscent of Stalingrad."

### Bored with lockdown

One person has tweeted this

remedy: "I post on Twitter 180 Sumeru-Akkadian cuneiform tablets that profoundly influenced me at any point of my life, each day, for 180 days." Highly recommended, especially for those who care about Ancient Mesopotamia.

### Apologies

We now understand that the planter at the Standard, is planted, watered and cared for, by Graham Wood a local resident. Thank you Graham your efforts are appreciated by all!

### Announcement

Sadly Rosemary Gill, a long time volunteer for the Westcombe Society, passed away on the 22nd June 2020. Our condolences to her family and friends.

< < Newsbriefs > >

# COMMUNITY

## Westcombe News

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To access back-numbers (in colour) go to: [www.westcombesociety.org/westcombe-news/](http://www.westcombesociety.org/westcombe-news/) Westcombe Society's Blog:

<http://westcombe.blogspot.com>

### WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:  
Christine Legg, 69 Mycenae Road,  
London, SE3 7SE

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Email: .....

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family Membership	£12		
Individual Membership	£8		
Senior Citizens/unwaged	£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.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Readers,

This issue is a joint one to cover the July/August months because, in the past, these months were traditionally holiday months! Aeroplanes filled our skies and there were deals aplenty to choose from. Now, instead, we are grounded as the UK eases itself out of lockdown. We spend hours trying to understand the quarantine laws/logistics of leaving and arriving as well as doing our personal risk assessments.

Are we healthy enough to be in that close quarters with others, on a two, three, five or more hour flight? Will mask wearing be enough to protect us on a coach journey? Or should we wear a hazmat suit like Naomi Campbell, which she swears by as her go-to travel attire. Will Europe let us in and out again if we drive to a holiday

there? Perhaps a camping holiday in the UK is the safest option with one or two of our personal bubble-besties? For the very cautious amongst us though, I'm afraid it's going to be yet more staycation.

The pandemic may be breaking up into smaller more digestible pieces but the illuminating nature of the year 2020 continues to reveal itself. Leadership styles are in the spotlight; the people-pleasing ways of Boris, the Divide and Rule posture of Trump, the firmness of Merkel, the feminine charm of the prime ministers of Iceland and New Zealand. Scores are in and it's the female leaders who have had the most success in quelling the virus and keeping their public calm.

An ugly murder in the City of Minneapolis, USA, of a black man by the very people employed to catch murderers

was seen by many on their social media feeds. The horrific act has fuelled worldwide condemnation and support through anti-racist demonstrations. Here in the UK we are shielding our street statues from those that would see them tumbled or defaced. (See Readers' letters.)

Pride is just round the corner, and promises to be a lively virtual event. Greenwich Council painted the rainbow pedestrian crossings again this year. What with the NHS rainbows, 2020 might become known as the year of the rainbows and there are still six months left for the pot of gold to be revealed. What will it be? Racial harmony, a black female VP in the White House, a vaccine for all corona viruses, or perhaps a free winter holiday courtesy of the Queen? See you in September.

The Editorroom

## COMMUNITY AWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HM The Queen has delayed her Birthday Honours List so as to include Covid heroes and helpers. The WN also wants to acknowledge those who have helped the vulnerable members of our community.

Perhaps our readers would like to send in their nominations? We can't offer a place on the Birthday Honours List but we can acknowledge your voluntary efforts in the Westcombe News!

### MHA TRUST

The MHA Trust stepped up for the vulnerable during lockdown. A winner in recent years of the Westcombe Society's Charity of the Year, the Mental Health Activity Trust (MHA Trust), based in Blackheath Standard, is used to supporting people through mental health crises and helping them back into employment, but they had to really increase their hard work even further during the period of lockdown.

Sterling CEO Toni Hale hired a team of 38 more volunteers to help with food and medicine deliveries to those self-isolating. Toni herself was busy making video calls to offer expert support to those isolated in their flats, as well as running the charity as the CEO and Director. 3,009 tasks achieved over a three-month period across the Greenwich, Lewisham and Deptford boroughs.

Toni said: "It will be harder for people to integrate back to their communities after being isolated. However, the MHA Trust has maintained contact with those who are more vulnerable, offering support and comfort to all those in need."

"We have been helping people to get back to their workplace and supporting them through the transition period.

"Our team of volunteers have been fantastic in their dedication, we couldn't have done it without them.

"We plan to have a big celebration event to thank them all in December, if we are allowed to!"

Please visit: <http://mhatrust.org/>  
-Polly Morgan

### AGE EXCHANGE, BLACKHEATH

People with dementia are especially vulnerable during this lockdown, with routine vital for their wellbeing. Some regular users struggle to understand why they can't leave their houses, or why their families aren't visiting, which inevitably upsets both the user and the volunteers.

So when Age Exchange had to close its doors on March 17th the charity was faced with difficult decisions of how to support its vulnerable clients, and their carers, from behind closed doors.

Within four days two solutions were agreed upon. The first entailed the making and filling of 'creative boxes' designed to keep their users entertained and stimulated in their own homes. The second was to start a befriending phone scheme.

Volunteers have been delivered these boxes to over 100 households. A DVD for seated movement and another 'Singing for the lungs' have also been delivered.

Age Exchange is hosting a virtual balloon race to raise money – see the Ecoracing website for more details. To donate directly, visit the Age Exchange website.

### WESTCOMBE NEWSPAPER DELIVERERS

To all those of you who have directly or indirectly (via your children) helped to deliver the Westcombe News. Thank you for being part of our 50+ strong team. Your willingness to help has been very much appreciated.

Marilyn Little Chair, Westcombe Society

## OBITUARIES

Madge Knight who was a Life member of the Westcombe Society sadly passed away last month, she was 99 years old.

She had lived on Westcombe Hill since 1952 when she and new husband Ted moved into a newly-built house on Westcombe Hill following bomb damage.

Both were heavily involved in the voluntary sector for over 65 years. Madge received a long-service medal for her work with the

Red Cross of which she and her family were very proud.

Latterly she volunteered for many years at QEH Woolwich and was on the Management Committee of Greenwich Housing Society.

Madge was independent, strong, chatty, with a lovely sense of humour. Principled and passionate about the local area and community. She had a good life until she needed assistance as dementia was disrupting her day-to-day living. Her ashes will be scattered at Eltham Crematorium when restrictions allow. Donations in her memory may be made to Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

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Sydney Leslie James Hulls, aged 96 of Blackheath, sadly died on 21st May 2020 after a short illness. Beloved husband of Brenda who passed away in 1976, brother to Anthony Hulls and uncle to Linda, Jacqueline, Steven and Stuart. And a dear friend of St John's Church.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Revd Dr Eddie Scrase-Field, Vicar of St John's, Blackheath.



## Letters

Trevor Allman (Leader of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party - Greenwich Branch)

Dear Westcombe News, The Official Monster Raving Loony Party (Greenwich Branch) notes with interest Greenwich Council is going to review street names in the borough in relation to connections with the slave trade.

If this is to be more than just an act of liberal, virtue-signalling tokenism, then Greenwich Council has to rescind its royal borough status and title, given the monarchy's historical role in aiding and abetting the slave trade, and return to being the London Borough of Greenwich.

We await to see if the Labour Party has the moral courage to do this.

Of course, should the Official Monster Raving Loony Party storm to power in the 2022 local elections, we will naturally become the Loony Borough of Greenwich.

It would be only apt.

From: G. Bailey Humber Road No one could possibly argue with the statement that Black Lives Matter. It is certainly time that the recommendations of numerous reports on how a more fair and equal playing field can be given to all groups in education, employment, housing and the criminal jus-

tice system.

More difficult to legislate on are attitudes. There is a serious danger that the racial issue is being conflated with the statue issue. Those who demand the demolition of statues of such national heroes as Churchill and Nelson need to be aware that they are in danger of losing support. No one claims that these icons of our history were blameless. It is very easy to take the high moral ground by judging people who served their country well in the past by the standards of the 21st century. We must hope that Greenwich Council does not overreact to the debate – and involves all of the community in

any proposed outcomes.

It should be added that mass demonstrations also help to spread the deadly COVID-19 virus. Even if those taking part do not die, they can become infected, and pass on the virus to others. It's not just a case of Black Lives Matter: it's everyone's lives that matter. Death is not colour coded. It might be more effective if those demonstrating wrote to their MPs making the same point so forcefully as that made by David Lammy, the Shadow Secretary of State for Justice, demanding current recommendations be acted on, not kicked into the long grass with yet another Commission of Enquiry.

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

# LOCAL NEWS

## GREENWICH UNIVERSITY INVOLVED IN NEW RESEARCH ON FACE MASKS

At the onset of the pandemic, scientific evidence on the effectiveness of face masks in slowing transmission of respiratory diseases was limited, and there was no data on COVID-19 since it was a previously unknown disease.

But, prompted by some new research in recent weeks, the World Health Organization said on Friday it now recommends that everyone wear fabric face masks in public to try to reduce disease spread.

This research, led by scientists at the Britain's Cambridge and Greenwich Universities, suggests lockdowns alone will not stop the resurgence of the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, but that even homemade masks can dramatically reduce transmission rates if enough people wear them in public.

"Our analyses support the immediate and universal adoption of face masks by the public," said Richard Stutt, who co-led the study at Cambridge.

The study found that if people wear masks whenever they are in public it is twice as effective at reducing the R value than if masks are only worn after symptoms appear.

In all scenarios the study looked at, routine face mask use by 50% or more of the population reduced COVID-19 spread to an R of less than 1.0, flattening future disease waves and allowing for less stringent lockdowns.

Experts not directly involved in the latest British study were divided over its conclusions.

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

As COVID-19 ravages the economies of the world, one of the big concerns is youth unemployment.

A report from the Resolution Foundation think-tank indicates that youth unemployment in Britain will reach the one million mark over the coming year unless the government takes action. Otherwise, an extra 600,000 people under the age of 25 would join the dole queue.

The 'corona class of 2020' – the 800,000 school leavers and graduates about to join the labour market – is the most exposed age group to the probable unemployment.

It is estimated that in the EU, about 70% of the current cohort are in danger of being unemployed, hopefully gradually diminishing from year to year. There is no reason to suppose that the situation in the UK will be any better. According to an OECD report, young people in the UK spend on average almost two and a half years out of work, longer than in many of other countries.

In 2014 all EU countries except the UK signed up to the European Youth Guarantee – a commitment to ensure that all young people under the age of 25 receive opportunities to secure their future. This meant a promise that within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education, anyone under the age of 25 could be offered a job, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship.

In the EU, there is a proposal to allocate some 50 billion Euros to support the European Youth Guarantee. It would be good to think that the present UK government is laying down similar plans. Our young people deserve nothing less.

-Neville Grant

## 'BLACK LIVES MATTER'

Greenwich Council welcomes the Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm, which will focus on increasing representation among London's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, women, the LGBTQ+ community and disability groups.

Cllr Danny Thorpe, Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, said: "Royal Greenwich proudly stands against racism. Our borough's diversity is one of our greatest strengths and we want to make sure this is reflected in our public realm."

"The recent Black Lives Matter protests have prompted many of us to consider the relevance of statues and landmarks that commemorate and celebrate those who made their fortune from exploitation.



BLM painted across General Gordon Square, Woolwich.  
Photo: Brian Aldrich

"It is an uncomfortable truth that our borough, with its rich Maritime history, has ties to the slave trade. We will be reviewing the whole of our public realm to identify these links and develop a way forward."

"Our history is important, and we are not looking to rewrite or forget the past. But we do have a responsibility to question and discuss the place of commemorative structures from bygone eras in our borough's future."

## 400-YEAR-OLD LOCAL CHARITY OFFERS HELP TO LOCAL RESIDENTS OVER 55

A local charity, begun in the late 1600s is alive and active in 2020 offering grants to help ease COVID-19 hardship.

Greenwich Hatcliffe was founded by one William Hatcliffe, and then in the 1800s the Misses Smith added their own bequest to the charity. Their money was used to build homes and shops in East Greenwich, and the proceeds of renting these premises is used, to this day, to support mature and elderly people in Greenwich and Westcombe Park.

Says Katrina Taylor, Administrator of Greenwich Hatcliffe: "These are trying times, especially for the vulnerable in our community, and we at the Greenwich Hatcliffe would like to help."

So, if you're a local resident over 55 this enduring charity can perhaps help ease difficulties you may be facing due to lockdown and self isolation. "It is our mission to help older residents in the Greenwich borough stay living safely and comfortably

in their homes for as long as possible."

Small grants of up to £500 are available from Greenwich Hatcliffe for things like the purchase of laptops, PCs and tablets/Ipads and contributing to the set up cost of installing internet access. "Many vulnerable people are looking to shop online but lack an easy way to do so" Katrina points out.

And of course a computer can ease loneliness, keeping isolated residents in touch with their families and friends.

Applicants for a grant are expected to contribute at least 10 percent of the costs. Greenwich Hatcliffe will also contribute (up to their limit per applicant) to more costly items like stair lifts.

Applications can be requested via:  
Email: Greenwich.hatcliffe@gmail.com  
Phone: 020 8123 4147  
Address: The Grants Administrator, Box 55, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, SE10 9TX  
-Diane Blackwell

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## HEALTHY HEARTS

The number of takeaway food outlets has risen in recent years and Heart Research UK suggests (politely) that this may have contributed to the rise in rates of obesity in the UK.

Takeaway food is often cheap, convenient and tasty, but it also tends to be high in fat, salt and sugar.

Regularly consuming takeaways can have a negative impact on your heart health as well as your waistline. Heart Research UK have some tips to guide you on choosing healthier takeaways:

- Choose a food outlet that has healthy options on the menu
- Choose wisely from the menu
- Keep an eye on portion size
- Make your own 'Fakeaway' at home
- Think about what you drink

Keeping our hearts healthy is going to require a few culinary sacrifices. Perhaps we can reduce our take-outs to once or twice a week, using them as treats rather than everyday meals perhaps?

## SUCCESS FOR JOHN ROAN'S 120 CHALLENGE



John Roan School reached 100% of its target, raising £14,400 for the school and local community.

With match offers from United Learning and The John Roan Foundation, this now equates to £28,800 to bridge the digital divide.

John Roan has 250 laptops, of which 110 have now been set up and given out to students in need as identified by the heads of year.

A Year 8 recipient of a school laptop shared her take on the difference it had made: "It was really difficult for me to complete the work set by teachers before because my computer was very slow and the PowerPoints didn't open on it which was stressful. Now I can complete and submit all of my work. Having a school laptop has made it much less stressful for me and makes it more fun to do my work, and it gives me much more motivation. Thank you."

The School thanks everyone who helped, either through fundraising, donating, or offering verbal support!

## DRIVE-IN CINEMA ON THE HEATH 6TH-12TH JULY?

The Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) have received an application for a Drive-In Cinema to be held on the heath this summer.

The company specialises in 80's classic and 2010 blockbuster films shown in 'true 50s fashion'. Permission has not yet been granted but the proposal is for the screenings to be held from 6th - 12 July at a cost of £35 per car. Viewers would stay in their cars facing the screen and the sound would be transmitted via the car radio.

For more information check the website www.mainstagefestivals.com, or contact Alan Crofton 07961 246 844 or alan@mainstagefestivals.com

Hopefully by the time WN has been delivered, we will have a cinema date for the Heath. Wonder what will be showing... Grease... a really good horror movie? See you there! -Ed

# FEATURES

## A TEACHER WHO IS MAKING MATHS FUN

A South London primary school teacher has spent his time in lockdown hand making maths games to send to pupils in the post.

Roy Clutterbuck makes educational games to show his pupils that maths can be playful and enjoyable.

He ran a successful crowdfunding campaign to get his 'Lampogo 3' game manufactured so that more children can benefit from it. They managed to hit their crowdfunding goal of £3,500 and even reached their stretch goal of £4,000 which means that he is going to give away ten extra games to schools.

So far during the lockdown he has sent 61 games out to pupils, from Years 3 to 5, with many going to the homes of the most disadvantaged pupils.

Even though there are plenty of resources online to help children continue learning whilst at home, many youngsters will not have access to games that don't require a screen. Lampogo 3 is designed for many players and will help families to start discussions about maths.

"Parents/carers don't have to be amazing at maths to play Lampogo 3," Roy says. "The most important thing is that they show their child that they are willing to try."

Lampogo 3 is a game "a bit like a cross between sudoku and snap" Roy explains, it

is "an antidote to boring maths worksheets." There is no pencil, no writing, and - once the rules are learned - there are no words to read. Instead there are visual puzzles, tactile counters, opportunities for rich mathematical conversations, "and most importantly, there is laughter," says Roy.

"Many pupils are scared of writing the wrong answer," he explains. "The counters give pupils confidence; it helps them with the process of trial and improvement. You end up moving the counters as part of your thinking, testing out ideas as you go." In their feedback, pupils said that the level of challenge was one of the things they enjoyed the most. "It's the challenge of the puzzle that gives satisfaction when you solve it," claims Roy.

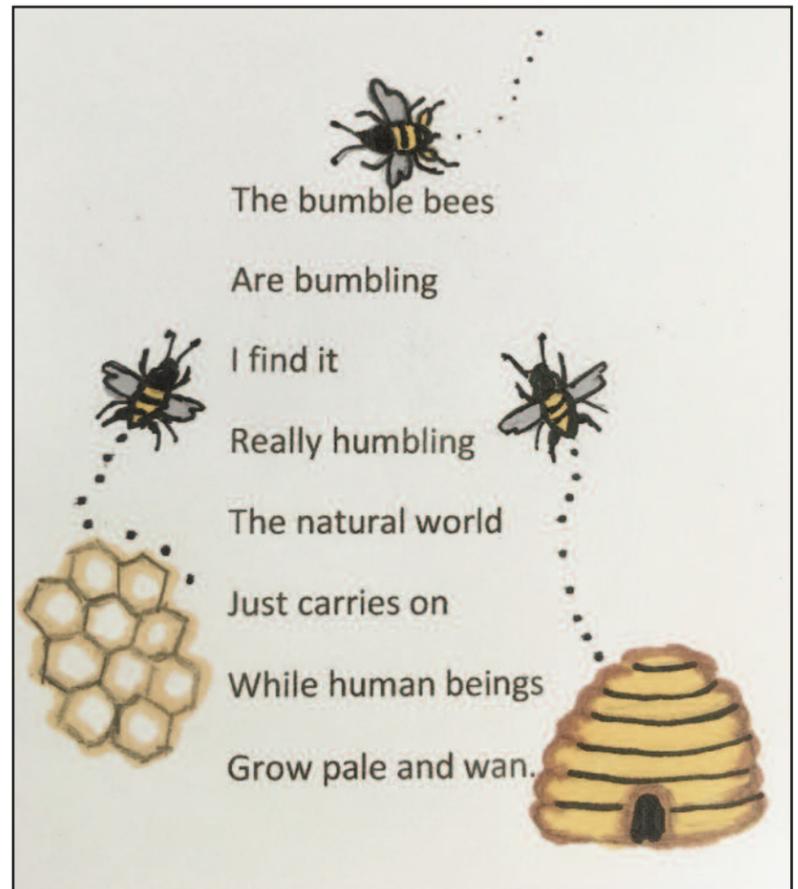
Roy set up Lightning Maths as a social enterprise in order to share his games and change attitudes towards maths. Lightning Maths has received support from the School for Social Entrepreneurs and Roy has won a Let Teachers Shine award from the educational charity SHINE.

The game, Lampogo 3, should be available to buy for the general public by September.

To find out more information, please visit: <https://lightningmaths.co.uk/> Facebook / Twitter / Instagram @Lightning\_Maths

## THE ART OF LOCKDOWN

Creativity abounds in these isolating times. Below is a poem written by Gabi Marston, a resident in Coleraine Road since 1958. It has been lovingly illustrated by Westcombe Hill resident, Natalie Golden, a long time bee befriender.



## GET WISE TO SCAMMERS'S TRICKS

Since lockdown began many of us are using more technology at home and in new ways. Which can make us vulnerable to being scammed as, sadly, gangs who make money from online scams are still working. Scams and malware can enter via numerous paths; email, websites, social networking, phone calls, smart phones and more – the rules below should help you to avoid some of the most common ones.

### Passwords

Make them strong, 12+ characters including numbers and characters like £\$%^&\*, passphrases may be easier to remember.

Use different passwords for different services, with services like LastPass one master password can help.

**Read the language** – ask yourself whether your bank, friend etc would write like that.

**Check the sender's address** – an email might display the name of a friend, but the email address may be completely different.

**Check where the link goes** before clicking – if you hover over a link you should see where it goes, scams might contain links like "Barclaysrefund.wxyz.com" - Barclays in the name it doesn't mean it's Barclays. Just like attachments - if you're not sure, don't click.

**Enable spam filters** and two-factor authentication on your email service if possible. Gmail and Hotmail provide this.

**If you are unsure** - call someone. If it's your bank, find their number on your card

and call them. If it's a friend, call them on a number you already have.

Don't be embarrassed to ask - even if you think you've been duped - scammers are very good at what they do, everyone is a target and quick action is important.

**If you receive a suspicious call** then use a mobile phone to check, a scammer calling you on a landline can still be there after you hang up.

**Make sure you have a good backup**, good security software - and keep software updated.

**Online shopping** – look for independent, detailed, reviews of the site, remember some people get paid to write fake reviews. Credit cards and payment systems like Google Pay usually offer more protection than debit cards.

**Social networking** – exercise caution even if something appears to be from a friend.

**If something seems too good** to be true – it probably is.

The above list has been provided by Headstart IT. It is not exhaustive so, if you are unsure of something you are seeing on one of your devices, call them on 020 8858 2002 they will be able to help you. If you'd like to start keeping up with recent technology there are regular news articles at [www.headstart.it](http://www.headstart.it) and there are lots more great online resources like <https://staysafeonline.org/>

## THE RETURN OF THE CAFE IN THE PLEASAUNCE

Lizzie says her cafe will re-open soon. Hopefully people in Westcombe Park know Lizzie's cafe. It doesn't qualify for post-lockdown cash and so she needs our support to make up for that.

Lizzie's cafe is in East Greenwich Pleasaunce. This was the old Royal Hospital burial ground which was handed it over to the Council in 1926. It has specimen trees and a memorial to dead seafarers –there is an annual parade of old sailors with flags and bugles. It wasn't until 2008

that the Council was able to make an entrance into the park from the top of Halstow Road –so people from Westcombe Park have easy access.

The new gate made the cafe a possibility and Lizzie has run it since 2009. Since then lots has happened The Bridge is a lively centre run by locals which provides for mothers with young children with lots of extra events and ideas. There are all sorts of events through the year and in all of this Lizzie has been a focus and an anchor. With the cafe in the park it feels safe there, vandalism is kept down, there are clean toilets.

So – please support her now over these bad times so we can keep the cafe going and this beautiful little park can flourish again.

-Mary Mills.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/please-help-our-little-community-cafe>



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# THINGS TO DO



## ZOOM DATE

### COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES

#### Tuesday, 14th July - 8:00 pm "URBAN MINISTRY IN CHICAGO: LIBERATION THEOLOGY ON THE WEST SIDE"

Our Community Lecture Series concludes with an illustrated talk by our local vicar. Rev. Tim was a trade union organiser, attorney, priest and social justice activist in the USA before coming to St George's in 2014. He was based in Chicago from 1991 to 2014, and spent the last two and a half years there as the Priest-in-Charge of St Andrew's Episcopal (Anglican) Church on the Near West Side of Chicago.

St Andrew's is a Black majority church of the Anglo-Catholic tradition known for its activism in one of Chicago's most economically deprived neighbourhoods. Tim will tell the history of the West Side - a

place where immigrants came from around the world to work in America's growing industries, the birthplace of May Day (International Labour Day) and the early trade union movement, and now one of the largest African-American communities in the USA.

He will discuss the realities of life in that hard-hit neighbourhood, and highlight the role of the Church in the struggle to save the public (state) schools, for housing and job opportunities and against gun violence in Chicago. This talk is made all the more timely as we consider how to overcome racism and inequality today in the UK. A Q&A session will follow.

Click on the Zoom link to join the event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9250186130>

## ZOOM DATE

### CREATIVE DANCE CLASSES – WITH NO AGE LIMIT!

Joanna Clare is a self-employed dance teacher living in Eltham, and since the lockdown has shifted all her creative dance classes onto video conferencing facility, Zoom. Joanna's classes are inclusive, with students ranging from the age of three to 93!

Gentle Fitness class for 50s plus: Joanna set this class up at the beginning of lockdown, which has proved successful. People also enjoy the after class chat sessions, a way of socialising during lockdown. She is now offering 1:1 gentle fitness sessions as well as the group class.

Creative Ballet for children and Ballet for adults: Both classes she usually leads in church halls in Eltham and Blackheath. Students are surprised at how they can turn their kitchens and sitting rooms into ballet studios.

Come Dance with Me, a dance class for 50s plus: Joanna has been running this class at Mycenae House for more than ten years and it is now on Zoom.

Short courses on Creative Movement in Small Spaces: Encouraging people to be creative in their home space and to explore Laban's principles of movement.

Joanna keeps the cost of classes lower than her usual rate and puts 20% of her earnings towards the National Emergencies Trust's Coronavirus Appeal. Those whose earnings have been affected by COVID-19 can attend classes for free.

Please see her Facebook pages, email or call the below details:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Joannaclaredance/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Joannaclaredance/about/?ref=page_internal)

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Joanna-Clare-Creative-Ballet-101363844893821/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Joanna-Clare-Creative-Ballet-101363844893821/about/?ref=page_internal)

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Email: [joannaclaredance@gmail.com](mailto:joannaclaredance@gmail.com), phone number 07709 952 215.

## GREENWICH & BEXLEY HOSPICE OPEN GARDENS GOES VIRTUAL

Fancy taking short two-minute peeks at over 40 diverse and beautiful gardens in South East London - whilst helping a valuable asset to this Community ride out the pandemic easier?

Available now until 31st July at <https://www.community-hospice.org.uk/support-us/our-events/fundraising-events/open-gardens-festival/>

Normally in June, Hospice supporters and keen gardeners would make their way around Greenwich and Bexley to discover the hidden gardens as part of an Open Gardens Festival organised in aid of the Hospice by trustee Tim Barnes. Unfortunately, like many of the Hospice's events this year, they are unable to go ahead as planned. Instead, this year's event has gone virtual and visitors can explore these beautiful gardens from home. In over 40 self-made video tours, garden owners from Bexley, Blackheath, Charlton, Eltham and Greenwich showcase their lovingly-tended gardens, sharing gar-



dening ideas and inspiration.

Due to COVID-19, the Hospice is expecting a huge shortfall in funding. Open Gardens has been a major fundraising event for the Hospice raising at least £12,000 each year, as well as providing much enjoyment to both garden openers and visitors. With daily running costs totalling around £23,000, the Hospice is fighting to keep vital services going and provide their specialist palliative care and support to local families.

Matthew Pennycook,

Member of Parliament for Greenwich and Woolwich, says: "In the midst of the current crisis, Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice's care and support are needed more than ever. I hope the community will take the time to appreciate remotely the many splendid residential gardens and also donate to the Hospice's Emergency Appeal so that they can continue to provide outstanding specialist end of life care to families in our community".

## BUY A UNIQUE GIFT?



visitors, raising over £3,000 for charity. "We take a small admin fee per picture and 30% commission on sales."

So if you have that special present to buy but are still too wary to go shopping outside then let this collection of paintings inspire you.

The organisers intend to combine a physical exhibition with a virtual gallery when things do return to normal!

<https://www.smagart.com>

A group of local artists, connected to the Blackheath Conservatoire welcome both browsers and buyers to visit their virtual art show. The paintings are hung in the beautiful interior of St Michael's Church. Normally the group hold twice-yearly exhibitions at the church and last year attracted a footfall of 700



## ANSWERS TO JUNE'S QUIZZES

### QUOTATIONS AND SAYINGS

1. Even God cannot change the past
2. Honi soit qui mal y pense
3. A large income is the best recipe
4. This little bit of ivory...
5. We're waiting for Godot
6. A thing of beauty is a joy forever
7. L'Enfer c'est les autres (Hell is other people)
8. You pays your money and you takes your choice
9. All is for the best in the best of possible worlds
10. Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.

### WHO

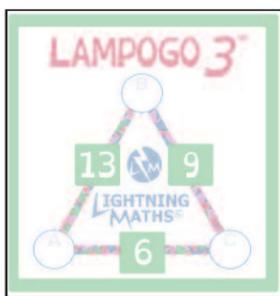
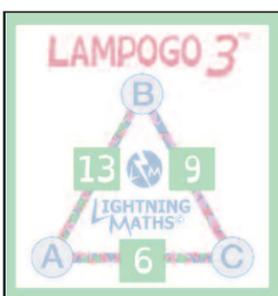
1. Glenda Jackson
2. Rio Ferdinand
3. Dominic Cooper
4. Jude Law
5. Peter the Great
6. Queen Elizabeth II
7. Dame Molly Green
8. John Julius Angerstein
9. Thomas Tallis
10. Caroline of Brunswick

## MATHS TIME FOR THE KIDS

EXAMPLE



YOUR GO



Instructions:

A, B and C are digits 1 - 9. The digits in the circles have to add together to equal the sum shown in the green boxes between them. What could A, B and C be?

The answers for this puzzle would be: A = 1, B = 8, C = 5

## MYCENAE HOUSE GETS BACK TO THE NEW NORMAL

Mycenae House has been closed since the 20th March due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Most of the staff have been furloughed and the rest working from home.

We have been running a skeleton programme to support the most vulnerable members of the community and have been contributing to the local emergency response.

Since the 2nd June the house has been open for the Bo Peeps Pre School to run.

The cafe (take away only) is open and available daily for visitors to the garden.

The next stage in re-opening is to offer limited access to the house and an ad-hoc programme of activities from Monday 5th July.

The house will run a full programme from the beginning of September, however it is expected that some regular activities may not return until January.

The house will be making updates from July and will distribute its regular brochure from September.

We are looking forward to welcoming all people back to the centre as we go along.

All enquiries 0208 858 1749 or email at [info@mycenaehouse.co.uk](mailto:info@mycenaehouse.co.uk)

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# FEATURES

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR: Caroline Moores

Jane Grant

**How does one combine life in the performing arts with life as a vicar's wife? Jane Grant finds out . . .**

Caroline Moores was born in Britain, and stayed until she went to the US on a gap year in 1978. This eventually became a gap of more than thirty years while she negotiated what was to become a stellar career in opera and stage management.

Her first move as a harpist at the University of Houston proved a false start, "I was a hopeless harpist," she says.

However, once she had taken the Houston BA in Acting and Directing, there was nothing to stop her. She took on multiple roles in a wide range of projects all over the United States: assistant stage-manager, stage manager, production manager, - you name it: she developed a wide range of skills to assist artists to deliver what they had to offer to the public.

For 21 years, until March 2015, she was the Senior Stage Manager at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, one of the premier opera companies in the US. In addition, since 2005 she has been the Production Stage Manager for Beyond the Score - the Chicago Symphony's highly successful multi-media series created by Gerard McBurney.

Caroline has stage managed Beyond the Score for many other orchestras and festivals, including the Ojai Music Festival and the Aldeburgh Music Festival (both in 2015). She has also worked as a Stage Manager at many other opera houses

including the Seattle Opera, Los Angeles Opera, San Francisco Opera and the Royal



Opera House.

"I have been very lucky," she says. "This work has meant I've worked with a very impressive list of creative directors, stage directors and conductors including Sir Mark Elder, Pierre Boulez, and Peter Hall."

Caroline has also worked for Complicité, the international touring theatre company, based in London, alongside its Artistic Director Simon McBurney OBE and, until 2018 Judith Dimant. The company has played in more than forty countries across the world and has won more than fifty awards. It has been described in The Times as "the most influential and consistently interesting theatre company working in Britain."

On one fateful day in 1998 Caroline was on a railway platform in Illinois when she met the man who was to become her husband - and our local vicar - Tim Yeager (profiled in the WN in 2015). At that time, he was working as a Trade Union representative and negotiator for the Automotive Workers Union. A year later they got married in the back garden of their house in Oak Park, Illinois.



Life became a series of very difficult choices. In 1998 Caroline was offered her dream job as a stage manager at Glyndebourne - and turned it down because she had only just met Tim. She continued to work in the US, notably in Chicago, while Tim was ordained (that happened in 2011) and worked as a vicar on the West side of Chicago (with a predominantly black population).

Two years later, Caroline was beginning to think of moving back to England, partly because her mother was still alive but frail (in Barnet) and her brother was also here. It must have been very difficult, I suggest, apart from anything else, you must have found it very hard to pull away from such a satisfying professional life. "Yes, you could say it was difficult," she says.

At last, in 2014 they crossed the pond: Tim became vicar of St George's, in Glenluc Road, and they moved into the vicarage at 89 Westcombe Park Road. Caroline returned on frequent visits to Chicago in 2014 and 2015 to complete her contract there before finally moving to Westcombe Park. She took on a number of high-powered assignments for Complicité, the Royal Opera House and, in 2016, became a lecturer in opera stage management at the Guildhall School of Music. She finds Guildhall's emphasis on a very practical approach to learning both satisfying and challenging. She also had a range of freelance jobs as stage manager for various orchestras

So how on earth has Caroline somehow managed to combine this high-powered profession with the equally tricky role of being the vicar's wife - taking multi-tasking to new heights. She says:

"I coped by taking on the volunteer roles I could manage - reading the lesson, saying prayers, helping at communion, singing in the choir - and not agonising about those things I couldn't do.

### THANKS TIM!

Of course, you saw him in church, at St George's, almost always with Caroline in support. And of course you heard him - not just his bagpipes! His sermons were outstanding - in presentation, (no notes), in scholarship (he knew his Bible - and the social background of the contributors'), and he socked the message to us all it led up to: "What are you going to do about it?"

But the community, the streets, they too were his milieu. You could always call on him if you were sad or in distress. Because

And I was lucky that once at the Guildhall, I'd have three weeks off at Christmas which of course coincided with Tim's busiest period."

Caroline and Tim both share the same social conscience. The part of the 'job' in Westcombe Park which has given Caroline the greatest pleasure and satisfaction has been to be able to offer the vicarage - which is large - as a haven for those who need it: asylum seekers, homeless people, visitors from US. It has operated like a "Columban House" (named after St Columba), a concept evolved in the UK by

*In 1998 Caroline was offered her dream job as a stage manager at Glyndebourne - and turned it down because she had only just met Tim.*

the Iona Community in Scotland: those who embrace the concept open their house to anyone in the community that needs it.

Caroline and Tim have lighted up our community in Westcombe Park. But this year they are leaving us - sadly for them and sadly for us. Tim will be 70 in August and the Church of England says categorically that that is retirement age. Caroline's work will continue but they will be moving to their small house in St. Albans. Hopefully we can all operate as Columban houses - and lure them both back very soon. Meanwhile we say "Good luck," "Au revoir," and "God bless."



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# ENVIRONMENT



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

## THE VALUE OF TREES

Maggie Gravelle

**I think that I shall never see  
A billboard lovely as a tree.  
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall  
I'll never see a tree at all.**  
*Ogden Nash, American poet*

We are not quite in that situation yet but today more than 80% of the UK population live in urban areas where trees have to compete for space with houses, roads and industry.

Trees are important to us in helping to mitigate some of the less desirable aspects of urbanisation. Firstly, they are important wildlife habitats providing food and shelter to many insects, birds, small mammals and other creatures.

Even small trees and shrubs, such as buddleia, known as the butterfly bush, or holly and hawthorn which can be kept under control through pruning, are valuable and can be grown in quite compact spaces. Silver birch, a light and airy species, supports more than 300 different insects. Fruit trees have the added advantage of giving us fresh produce.

Secondly, trees play an important part in helping to reduce the effects of climate

change through capturing CO2 by photosynthesis. They 'lock' the CO2 into the timber, leaves and branches, and release oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees do more than just capture carbon, they also help to prevent flooding, which is likely to increase as the earth becomes warmer. Tree



Pic: Anne Williams

roots stabilise the soil and improve drainage and the leaf canopy can reduce the physical impact of heavy rain and disperse the water over a wider area. Some scientists suggest that planting more trees is the cheapest and most effective way to combat global warming.

Trees, thirdly, are significant absorbers of pollution. They absorb some of the harmful gases, such as carbon monoxide,

and filter fine particulates that are emitted by traffic, industry and domestic appliances. Lime trees which are often planted in streets are particularly effective in this regard, although they can become large.

Perhaps above all, as Ogden Nash indicated, trees are an attractive part of our environment. The GLA estimate that there are over 8 million trees in London, but there are opportunities to plant more.

## ENJOYING THE GARDEN IN JULY

Ann Hill

This is a good time to sit out and enjoy the rewards of efforts in the garden. This is a good month for day lilies, phlox, dahlias, sweet peas, alstroemerias, salvias, larkspur and agapanthus. Dead-heading will encourage continued flowering. My borders would have benefited from much more mulching in the spring and I will strive to make as much compost as I can for future needs. The first of the new potatoes, peas, beans, carrots and beetroot can start to be harvested now. Of the salad crops, I find useful the cut-and-come-again lettuce (variety 'salad bowl'). It's not too late to sow beetroot, carrots, French beans, and lettuce.

Here are a few jobs to keep you busy:

- Keep newly-planted trees and shrubs well-watered. Use grey water if possible.
- Pinch out the growing tip of annuals (like cosmos and sunflowers) if you prefer a bushy plant.
- Keep container plants and hanging baskets well-watered and give them a liquid feed every 2-4 weeks.
- Divide bearded iris. The knobby rhizomes like the sun so do not plant deeply.
- Cut back all foliage of geraniums after the first flush to encourage a second flowering.

- Prune wisteria and clematis montana. Stake dahlias.
- Take cuttings of pinks and carnations.
- For good-sized apples and pears on cordons or espaliers, thin so that there is one fruit about every 6 inches (15cm).
- Pick courgettes whilst they are young. They soon become marrows!
- Watch out for aphids on young shoots and leaves.
- For outdoor tomatoes, pinch out the growing tip after the fifth truss. Stop after four trusses if they were planted out late or are a large variety. Continue with potash-rich liquid feed weekly. Keep moist. Remove side shoots.
- Keep vegetables well-watered in mornings or evenings.
- Give chives a haircut: new growth will soon appear.
- Top up the bird bath.

Our nearby public parks also have gardens to enjoy. Maybe you will spot a lovely plant that you might like to try growing for next summer. My neighbour planted wildflower seeds in her front garden in the spring and they are fabulous and a joy for passers-by. A big thank you to all those whose front gardens gladden the eye and bring such pleasure.

## OUR NEW STREET TREES

The Council has kindly planted new trees on several roads in the Westcombe Park area. They are interesting varieties, will look beautiful and help reduce pollution. Please do water them. They need a lot! By each tree is a black tube leading underground for pouring in the water. Two bucketsful weekly would be good. If there is a tree near your home please consider 'adopting' it.

Below is a *Pyrus Callaryana* Chanticleer (known as the Callery Pear) and there are two new plantings of these in Beaconsfield Road. The Westcombe News photographer went to take their picture and found one to be in need of a bit of TLC. Dr

John Lee, a retired GP who lives nearby, has kindly declared himself to be this tree's guardian. He has removed the beer bottle from its base and promises to keep it's pipe free of weeds. The tree also suffers from leaf scorch (see pic on right).

The second tree on this road is thriving.



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

**44 GLENLUCE ROAD ref 20/1593/HD**  
To construct single storey rear extension, loft conversion with rear dormer, chimney to gable end, and front lightwell for lower ground floor.

**70 FOYLE ROAD ref 20/1685/HD**  
To install new Velux roof light to front.

**LAND REAR OF 76 VANBRUGH PARK ref 20/1557/F**

To construct new house part 2/part 2.5 storeys over basement.

**76 FOYLE ROAD ref 20/1469/HD**  
To construct rear dormer roof extension and change rear pitched roof to a flat roof for use as a roof terrace.

**58A HUMBER ROAD ref 20/1348/F**  
To demolish rear extension and conservatory and construct single-storey rear extension, and replace ground floor front windows.

**TREE WORKS**

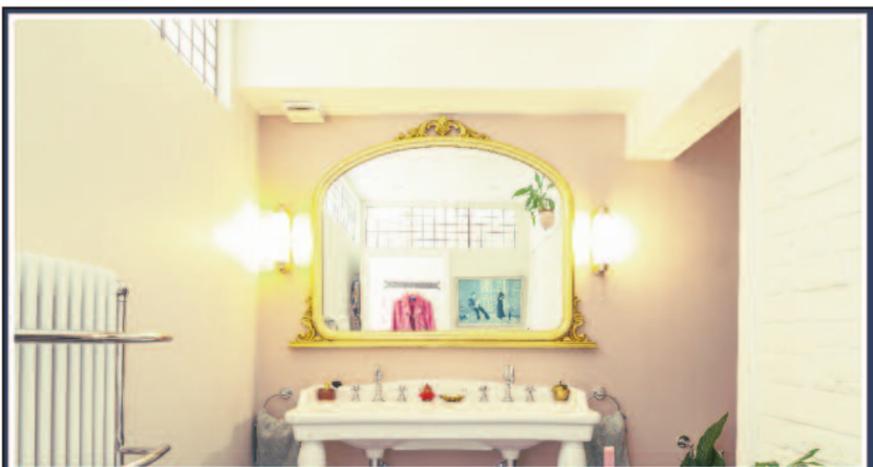
**33-35 GLENLUCE ROAD ref 20/1722/TC**  
In rear garden to remove one-third of oak branches and fell ash.

**55 MYCENAE ROAD ref 20/1626/TC**  
To fell eucalyptus in front garden.

**103 MYCENAE ROAD ref 20/1732/TC**  
In rear garden of no.105, to reduce height and width of ash tree.

**64 BEACONSFIELD ROAD ref 20/1630/TC**  
To fell chestnut in rear garden.

**82 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 20/1682/TC**  
To fell Prunus in rear garden



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