

Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and some shops

October 2020 No. 8



Unus pro omnibus, omnes pro uno

TRAFFIC CHAOS!

Marilyn Little

When the Hills and Vales traffic reduction scheme was first brought to our attention in late 2018 by Councillor Brighty, it was very unclear whether it would go ahead as some West Greenwich

residents including the shop owners on Royal Hill were very concerned about the effect it could have on their area.

The scheme was re-considered in late 2019 and throughout the intervening period

the Westcombe Society had deep concerns about the effect this would have on the roads within Westcombe Park as drivers tried to negotiate routes to Greenwich and beyond.

We were denied inclusion in the initial consultations despite the council admitting that there would be a knock-on effect on the 'Hills', Maze Hill and Vanbrugh Hill in particular, which they would monitor. The Council had a view then that most traffic would stay on the A2 to reach destinations beyond Greenwich. We were assured that our requests for ongoing monitoring and possible curtailment of the scheme would be possible if the effects were injurious to our area.

And where are we now....

The Hills and Vales traffic reduction scheme was introduced on the 20th August under an Experimental Traffic Order and our fears were realised!

Most of the roads in Westcombe Park are now experiencing additional traffic as vehicles try to negotiate routes through our area from the A2 to Greenwich Town Centre and beyond. These new routes now culminate in queues of mostly stationary traffic on Maze Hill. Vanbrugh Hill was also suffering queues until it was closed to through traffic due to the roadworks for the Cycleway 4 at its junction with Trafalgar Road. Some roads are gridlocked and journeys that used to take 10 minutes are now taking anything up to an hour and a half.

From Thursday 24th, access to Walnut Tree Road from Vanbrugh Hill, another route to reach Trafalgar Road, will be closed to traffic via a modal filter. The Westcombe Society wrote to the Council on the 18th September asking the following questions:

- Is this situation, as you anticipated by the modelling, done?

- Do you expect it to change? If so, how and over what timescale?

- Were alternative routes identified? If so, how were they advertised to drivers, many of whom start and finish their journeys outside the borough?

- Can you assure us that ongoing checks are proving that the number of vehicles queuing is reducing and that acceptable alternative routes are being taken?

We had hoped for answers from the Assistant Director of Transport at the Council before the Westcombe News went to press but to date we have had no response. We had also hoped that his response would reassure our residents that the current, wholly unacceptable situation, was improving; that drivers were finding alternative routes and that the current situation would be short lived. We have not received that reassurance!

The scheme has been in place for five weeks and urgent action needs to be taken to vastly improve the effects on Westcombe Park and particularly Maze and Vanbrugh Hills.

www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/westgreenwichtraffic



Maze Hill Action Group

COUNCIL HILLS AND VALES TRAFFIC REDUCTION SCHEME BACKFIRES ON MAZE HILL

Since the introduction of the Hills and Vales scheme in West Greenwich which coincided with the Mayor of London's Streetspace programme, and The Avenue closure in the Park, there has been a significant and serious traffic increase on Maze Hill and the Westcombe Park area. One local resident said that the streets in East Greenwich have been turned into "a car park of stationary, filth-chugging traffic for the duration of both rush hours".

In launching the West Greenwich traffic reduction scheme the Council failed to adequately consult or inform residents on the East side of the Park. No communication or consideration of the wider strategic impact of the scheme for East Greenwich was made.

In just three weeks since the scheme has been introduced Maze Hill residents have seen a huge increase in gridlocked traffic, noise and air pollution driven by the increased traffic volume. Residents are witnessing some very frustrated and aggressive driver behaviours, including damage to parked cars and increased risk to pedestrians and cyclists. Cyclists and motorcyclists are using the pavements to get down the hill in static traffic. In response to this, the residents of Maze Hill have started an action group.

An online and print petition went live last week attracting over 1,500 signatures

in just three days and numbers are growing by the day.

It is clear from the feedback on the petition that there are serious concerns about safety and pollution levels and that the scheme is negatively impacting keyworkers, school children and those most at risk.

The scheme appears to also be further disadvantaging people who rely on their cars such as people with disabilities, the elderly, carers and local tradespeople who live or have to travel to work in the area. The traffic congestion combined with limitations on bus usage makes it very difficult for people to use public transport and impossible for people who cannot walk or cycle.

One signatory added; "The traffic situation in East Greenwich is now untenable and dangerous, particularly for the number of school children who walk up Maze Hill every day to John Roan." and another said; "The traffic on Maze Hill has become totally intolerable and this experimental 'scheme' needs to be reversed immediately. The very long queues of traffic with engines running are an extreme health hazard to residents, pedestrians and drivers," adding, "I'm all in favour of measures to support cycling and walking, but these unintended consequences are having a massive impact on air quality."

A disabled resident commented; "I

couldn't receive my shopping delivery yesterday. I'm disabled and rely on my elderly parents to do my shopping for me. The traffic was so bad that they had to retreat back home."

The Maze Hill action group is calling for the immediate suspension of the scheme in West Greenwich, which is due to be trialled until February 2021. This would allow a fairer distribution of peak time traffic throughout the area, which would ease the localised pressure whilst a full review and improved resident engagement takes place.

In an attempt to engage the Council on an improved solution with East Greenwich residents, who have so far been excluded from the planning and implementation of the West Greenwich scheme, the action group have been allowed a question at the Open Council meeting on Wednesday 23rd September with the full

backing and support of Cllr Geoff Brighty, Cllr Mariam Lolavar and Cllr Leo Fletcher.

Cllr Geoff Brighty, who opposed the scheme from the outset, tabled a member's

continued on page 3.....



<< Newsbriefs >>

Bang!

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Lewisham Council has cancelled this year's firework display on Blackheath. The Mayor of London, Sadik Khan, has also announced the cancellation of the New Year's Eve fireworks in central London.

Reminder

Our timepieces will be 'falling backwards' on 25th October. British Summer ends at 2am...so an extra hour in bed for most of us.

The Voice of Charlton

Delighted to hear that Charlton resident Chris Mason is making waves at the BBC, chairing the Any Questions programme – on occasion from home, under lockdown. Keep it up, Chris!

The Addicks in Suspence

Businessman Paul Elliott's appeal to be granted an injunction to block the sale of League One club Charlton Athletic has, for now, been successful. A court case to determine his claim on the club is to be held on 23rd November.

Meanwhile, a selection of home supporters were allowed back into their stadium in the Valley on 19th September – only to see Doncaster win by three goals to one Doncaster who were celebrating at the final whistle as they secured a 3-1 victory at The Valley.

Said one supporter: "Yes, it was a disappointing result. But it was great to see the boys in action again!"

One way system a No-Go area?

Some barriers erected by the Council in Greenwich Town centre,

intended to help pedestrians and cyclists, have been removed, following complaints that cyclists were being forced to cycle in narrow streets too close to motor vehicles for comfort – or safety. It all goes to show that there are no easy answers when it comes to Greenwich Town Centre... Meanwhile, congestion continues along Trafalgar Road, as new cycle lanes – to be shared with buses – are being installed.

Signs of life

Great to see local resident Courtney

Mayo in action on a BBC news item, showing people round some of the sights of London featuring black history. Courtney became a fully trained London Guide last year.

Men in Sheds

The Men in Sheds project organised by Bromley and Greenwich Age UK in Eltham and Penge has proved so popular that there are plans to re-open the Woolwich centre soon. Watch this space.....

COMMUNITY

Westcombe News

PUBLISHER

The Westcombe Society
c/o 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP or
info@westcombesociety.org
Chair: Marilyn Little
Tel: 0208 853 1312

EDITOR

Anne Williams
All editorial correspondence to:
wnews@westcombesociety.org

EDITORIAL TEAM

Polly Morgan
Kathy Cullen
Diane Blackwell
Jo Burand

ALL PRESS

MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:
wnews@westcombesociety.org
Deadline for October copy:
16th October 2020

SUB EDITOR

Annie Grey

ENVIRONMENT

Editor: Maggie Gravelle
All comments and queries to
Emily Norton: 0208 853 2756
environment

ADVERTISING

Gavin Hose
advertising@westcombesociety.org
Deadline for Advertising:
10th October 2020

DISTRIBUTION

Emily Norton and volunteers
Tel: 0208 853 2756

PRINTING

Trojan Press
Email: dave@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.com

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 ensuring 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:
<http://www.westcombesociety.org/westcombenews>

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 []

A WALK ON THE WATERY SIDE

Never was the recent Macmillan Cancer Support fundraising walk more relevant than in this Covid crisis time. Like so many other charities, Macmillan is hurting financially and, as 17 of us set off on a



perfect late summer's day to walk 10 miles from Greenwich to the Globe Theatre, this was very much on our minds.

Despite the restrictions and the stresses of these troubled times, the walk was pure magic, throwing up London by the Thames in all its glory. Never had Canary Wharf and The Shard glistened more splendidly in the sunshine; and the hanging baskets at historic pubs like the Dog and Bell were bursting with blooms. A chatty cuppa at the Surrey docks Farm café allowed a brief respite before we walked towards the historic Mayflower pub and resplendent Tower Bridge.

Then it was on to The Globe Theatre. Here, buskers played and sang as in the good old pre-virus times and people strolled in the sunshine. The distances were kept but that didn't dim the happy, connected atmosphere. -*Diane Blackwell*

The day brought in £340 for Macmillan and their vital work.

A special thanks to Raj at Westcombe Food and Wine for providing the water for the walkers!



Letters

From: Len Phelps, Ulundi Road
I took this photo in Greenwich Park on the 23rd of May this year. I think it is the remains of a partly-eaten takeaway.

As one of the Keep Britain



Tidy generation, I cannot understand how anyone could leave this mess behind them, for someone else to clear up.

Is it some form of passive aggression? It seems more than just thoughtlessness. Perhaps a psychiatrist might be able to elucidate? *Regards*

From: Daren Wallbank, Delacourt Road

Thank you for featuring Grow with Ginkgo, our campaign to improve Delacourt Road, in your September issue. We've had a great response, including a lady from Blackheath Horticultural Society, who wanted to feature a picture on their website. It's wonderful to see passers-by stop to smell the flowers.

Most importantly, we've seen a noticeable decrease in littering and anti-social use of Delacourt Road since we planted it up. There are almost no nitrous oxide canisters to remove each day now (from around 20 a night before), and we've not caught anyone on camera using the building as a toilet for a while!

We're starting the next phase of planting soon, including sections of green wall and spring

LEND AND TEND

The Westcombe News has previously highlighted the decline of front garden space and the increase of car parking in its place. Now we have heard of a new initiative which might encourage those who have spare front garden space but find it a nuisance to keep in order, and those who have no garden but would like the challenge and satisfaction of keeping one.

LendandTend.com is a nationwide 'garden sharing' initiative which links those who don't have gardens with those who might like to share one locally. It could help to preserve some of that precious space.

SEEKING THE ARTIST



Does anyone recognise this beautiful creature? A local resident bought this piece of artwork at a Westcombe Society Christmas Bazaar. It is unsigned. It has been chosen as the ideal image for a conservation charity venture. Please send contact details or a clue as to who the artist may be, to the editor of Westcombe News.

Monthly quote: Unus pro omnibus, omnes pro uno is a Latin phrase that means One for all, all for one. It is the unofficial motto of Switzerland. A French version, Un pour tous, tous pour un, was made famous by Alexandre Dumas in the 1844 novel The Three Musketeers.

FAREWELL JUNE

June Ahmad

2nd June 1929 - 5th September 2020

Our beloved and wonderful mum, June Hazel Zohra Ahmad, a Westcombe



Society member, passed away peacefully around 8pm on Saturday 5th September 2020 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, London SE18, with both of us being by her bedside.

June had not been in the best of health for a number of months, but the amazing woman that she was, continued with her very positive outlook on life, whilst maintaining her wonderful sense of humour and fun, together with her infectious beautiful smile. We were so lucky and fortunate to have such a wonderful, loving and caring Mum, with such a positive spirit and outlook on life. She was, and always will be, an inspiration to both of us and a perfect role model in how we want to live our lives.

Born in Woolwich, June lived an amazing life travelling and living in most corners of the world. She came back in her later years, and completed the circle of life, saying her final farewell in Woolwich.

We were so lucky to have celebrated her 90th birthday last year. This included a special party in her garden, organised by the family, which many of her friends and relations attended. The family celebrated her birthday again this year in the garden and a few days later a couple of district nurses sang happy birthday to her which she loved.

June had always been young at heart and only saw the best in people. She made friends with everyone she met and her friendships lasted for a lifetime and beyond. That is how we hope you will always fondly remember her.

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

bulbs. We hope Grow with Ginkgo continues to make the people of Westcombe Park smile.

From: Neville Grant Stratheden Road

The traffic situation in East Greenwich is going from bad to worse, and is exacerbated by the Council's interventions: the warnings listed in September's WN about the Council's 'Hills and Vales' experiment have not been heeded.

Road closures may sound like a good idea in theory, but in practice, one person's road closure is another's nightmare. The "experimental" closure of Crooms Hill and Royal Hill to through traffic means that a burden that was shared, has now been downloaded onto one road, Maze Hill. Vehicles queue for up to an hour here and the queue

goes from the Traffic lights at Trafalgar Road up to the roundabout at the end of Westcombe Park Road and beyond.

Trafalgar Road itself is now worse than it has ever been: poorly judged traffic lights, and adjacent road closures, have created a huge traffic jam of stationary traffic on this road. The junction at the foot of Vanbrugh Hill has been made even more congested because of changes to the yellow box. As a result of all this, air pollution has massively increased and East Greenwich is becoming a No Go area.

The situation has not been helped by the closure of Greenwich Park to through traffic at key times. The road works on Trafalgar Road have not helped, either, coinciding with the "Hills and Dales experimental road closures" alluded to.

LOCAL NEWS

EASY DOES IT WITH THE E-SCOOTER

Most of us will have become aware and concerned about the use of e-scooters we see whizzing along the pavements and in the cycle lanes. Some go up to 30mph with their rider wearing no protective clothing. It was a trend that started last year and is becoming an increasingly popular choice of travel during the pandemic even though it is still illegal to use them in any public space in the UK. This includes on a pavement, public road or cycle lanes as well as in parks or other open spaces.

The government, in some areas of the country, are trialling a scheme to rent out e-scooters. However, privately owned e-scooters cannot be used on public roads legally, as they do not meet the requirements needed such as MOT, tax, licensing and registration. And the government has also prohibited their use on pavements, pedestrian-only areas and spaces designated for cycle use.

Any person who uses one of these devices in a public space can be prosecuted, issued a fixed penalty notice of £300 and receive up to six points on their driving licence.

A recent prosecution took place against an individual illegally riding an e-scooter



in Woolwich without insurance. The individual was issued six points against his licence, the e-scooter was seized and they must pay £199.

Cllr Jackie Smith, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement said: "Until the government confirms if e-scooters can be introduced in a controlled and regulated manner, we're encouraging residents and visitors in Royal Greenwich to opt for legal and safe methods of travel."

Cllr Sizwe James, Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Transport said: "The Council recognises we need more active and sustainable methods of transport, and the most active forms of transport remain walking and cycling.

"We introduced our electric bike scheme back in 2017, allowing residents to borrow an e-bike for £10 a month, and this is a legal and healthy way to travel."

Unfortunately the Council's E-Z Cycle electric bike loan scheme was put on pause due to the pandemic, but hopefully will resume soon. For more information, visit: www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/ezcycle.

PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST REFUSED

The application to erect an 18-metre telecommunications mast at the corner of Ingleside Gardens has been refused. This follows public protests and even a sit-in, as reported in September WN. The main reason for the refusal was given as "due to the inappropriate siting and appearance of the proposed monopole and ancillary equipment cabinets, the development would have an unacceptable impact on the streetscape and would cause visual harm to the surrounding area." There were 128 objections and two letters of support from the public. Internally, the Highways Department also objected on the grounds of possible damage to large street trees and of its "incongruous" location. The application was found to contravene Royal Greenwich Local Plan: Core Strategy which states that "telecommunications development should be sited and designed to cause minimal visual impact" and the London Plan which requires "street furniture and infrastructure to be of the highest quality, have a clear purpose, maintain uncluttered spaces."

Of course, HUTCHISON 3G UK LTD may appeal, but for now the Conservation Area is conserved. *Maggie Gravelle*

LOCAL RAINBOW TREE

The Old Dover Road has been host to one of the Rainbow Trees that the Council identified in the borough.

Residents were invited to send in messages of support and gratitude as part of the goodwill exchange. These were then used to decorate the local 'wishing tree'. The lighting and effect changed throughout September and looked particularly effective at night.



photo: E. Norton

continued from page 1.....

question at the meeting on the 23rd asking for an urgent review of the West Greenwich traffic scheme. Maze Hill residents also received a letter of apology from Cllr Lolavar and Cllr Fletcher over the weekend stating, "we want to apologise that the Greenwich West road closures have had such a negative impact on residents on Maze Hill," adding, "there are clearly serious issues regarding traffic displacement, which we have witnessed ourselves" and that they are, "fully aware that the residents cannot continue with the current traffic pressures for much longer, let alone 6 months." A zoom call is also scheduled to take place with Cllr Lolavar, Maze Hill residents and the cabinet lead for transport, Cllr Sizwe James, to discuss the issues on Maze Hill.

At the Open Council meeting residents and supporting Councillors will challenge the Council on how they intend to respond to the concerns raised by residents on the intolerable traffic and pollution levels which are now a persistent feature on local residential roads, including Maze Hill and surrounding streets.

Greenwich Council has so far repeated that the scheme will be trialled for a full six-month period to ensure that feedback is based on 'experiences not expectation'. However, it's very clear to the residents of Maze Hill and surrounding streets that after just three weeks experiencing the scheme it is not achieving what it set out to do. West Greenwich residents have also started a petition to reverse the scheme that is having such a disastrous effect on the residents in East Greenwich.

Matthew Pennycook MP has been asked by the Maze Hill action group to intervene and use his influence on the Council to get the decision reversed. Meanwhile, Maze Hill residents will be taking to the streets, whilst observing COVID guidelines, with their petition and flyers. There is a growing number of local constituents who feel that the scheme was ill-considered, unsafe and is causing a material detriment to those living in and around the affected areas both east and west of the Park. As one resident added to the petition; "Damming up the river doesn't stop the water - the whole approach to traffic management across East and West Greenwich is not fit for purpose. Radical review and community engagement is urgently needed."

For information or to give support:
<https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/westgreenwichtraffic>
Tel: 07827303957 or 07967 665362

A TIME TO LET GO AND A TIME TO....

Tim Yeager arrived in Westcombe Park in August 2014, to take up his position as Team Vicar at St George's Church. Tim has been supported in all things by his wife Caroline Moores. From the beginning they made a huge impact on both St George's Church and the local community. Standing at six feet seven inches tall, Tim was hard to miss in a crowd – especially when playing the bagpipes or accordion!

This no doubt helped in his assimilation into the community. In St George's Church he made an equally big impact turning the Church back to face East, removing the old pews and planting a wildflower meadow in a former scrubland. He was much loved by the congregation for his lively personality and thought-provoking sermons.

On 30th August we gathered in St George's for Tim's farewell service. Numbers were restricted because of the pandemic, but the service, which was led by the Team Rector of the East Greenwich Team Ministry, Rev Margaret Cave, was moving as we said goodbye to our friend and community leader. The theme was letting go and new beginnings as well as

recognising Tim's many contributions to the community and the Church. Video tributes from the Bishop of Woolwich, Councillors David Gardner, and Adele Khaireh of Islamic Centre were played



along with one from his daughter Ayse, who sent words of encouragement and love from the USA. In addition, the Hon Matthew Pennycook MP and Cllr Danny Thorpe Leader of RBG, sent messages of goodwill. Mark Johnson-Brown, from Mycenae House gave a moving tribute to the contributions Rev Tim had made to the community and

Ahmed Al Taobah spoke of his thanks for Tim's drive within the Sanctuary Project which brought him and his family out of Syrian refugee camps and into homes in Greenwich.

Finally, Tim and Caroline were presented with gifts from his congregation. The Churchwardens made an amusing speech of thanks recalling many aspects of Tim's life at St Georges. Tim's main gifts were two stoles commissioned from an English designer and reflecting his time at St George's. He and Caroline will be sorely missed. *-Judith Eastaugh*

IT SUPPORT

For ALL your home & business needs

Call now for FREE advice

020 8858 2002

www.headstart.it

A & A LANDSCAPES

Landscape Specialists

Free advice & estimates

Qualified horticulturalist

All aspects of soft & hard landscaping work carried out including

- * Maintenance
- * Site clearance
- * Turfing
- * Tree surgery
- * Fencing
- * Patios
- * Brickwork

Tel. 020 8318 2530

Grant Saw Wealth Management Limited

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL and CORPORATE FINANCIAL ADVISERS

Investments - Pensions - Estate Planning

2 Charlton Road. Blackheath Standard
London SE3 7EX (T) 020 3417 9760
email: enquiries@gswealth.co.uk
website: www.gswealth.co.uk.

HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR FUTURE
Grant Saw Wealth Management Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



FEATURES

FOR THE LOVE OF EMMA BRIDGEWATER

Laura Gaponenko

From a very early age I’ve always been an avid collector, my Dad dubbed me the bag lady because I always had so much stuff in tow. In fact, I’m writing this using a packing box for a desk. We are only weeks away from moving to a new house and I’ve spent hours painstakingly wrapping up all my treasures. Over the years I’ve collected stamps, first cover editions, thimbles, ornaments, Beanie Babies... and as I’ve gotten older, Lulu Guinness handbags following my stint at fashion school, and an assortment of unusual vases – my excuse for the latter, owning a floral design business.

However, my most treasured collection is my Emma Bridgewater pottery. The company dates back to 1985 and is one of



My trio of Oranges & Marmalade jugs featured on Emma Bridgewater website.

the largest manufacturers of pottery in the UK. All of the pieces are still to this day handmade, and hand painted in their Stoke on Trent factory. For me visiting the factory was like winning Willy Wonka’s golden ticket. The shelves were filled with beautiful vases, assorted jugs, mugs, plates... you name it, it was all there and at a discount. They offer factory tours so you can see how the pieces are made and decorated and you can try painting the pottery for yourself afterwards before refuelling in the café over afternoon tea served on their own pottery. I’ve never been lucky enough to have tea in the café, but I should imagine the staff have to regularly frisk sticky-fingered collectors on the way out for rouge teacups and sugar pots!

My collection started with our wedding gift list. Next thing I knew we were unwrapping serving bowls, jugs, sugar pots, cake stands, mugs and then the bug got me.

Whenever the sale was on, I’d find myself just buying ten dinner plates, so I had more than enough for a party or spares if someone decided to go Greek! Of course, we are never allowed to eat off them on a daily basis, so they sit nestled on the top shelf out of harm’s way for 364 days of the year. The dinner plates clearly needed side plates to go with, so a box of those swiftly arrived, followed by a cake dome, a selection of jugs ranging from half pint through to the enormous six pints.

At first I was laser focused on collecting just the one pattern but as the items became discontinued I’d find myself collecting rouge pieces from other patterns, which swiftly led to me falling madly in love with the various small mustard vases, retro milk bottles small and large, ginger beer bottles and straight vases. All of these were fine because they could easily be tucked away in the cupboard.

As time went by, more and more of the orange branded Emma Bridgewater boxes would arrive – each one a tell-tale sign to my husband that I’d been spending again – I was quickly branded an official EB collectors club member and given a lifetime 15% in-store discount and access to exclusive items, some of my photography featuring my collection of Orange & Marmalade jugs was featured on her website and I began joining EB Facebook



Laura busy working on her wedding and events floristry business, Wyld Strwbry.

forums to chat to other like-minded collectors. This only fired my passion for the pottery, as I stared seeing some of the other collectors selling rarer pieces, some of which I given a good home to, and then I would find myself awake at 3am trawling eBay for bargains when I couldn’t sleep.

As I look around at the boxes I’ve lovingly packed and think about where and how they will be displayed in our new house, I find myself thinking ahead to Christmas when I’ll swap out my usual day-to-day items for my Holly and Berry collection and bake mince pies and sausage rolls to sit on my personalised plates, hoping that we’ll be allowed to have friends round to share them with. Sad, I know, but there’s something so satisfying about my ever-growing ‘secret’ collection.

Does Laura’s story resonate with you?
#shareyourpassions and send to the WN

MAN & VAN Collections Deliveries & House Clearances

For a polite & prompt service please contact:

Edward on
**0208 301 5303 or
07906 169705**

Local Resource

“I’LL GO SEE KAM”

Anne Williams

Need a bit of plumbing kit, a couple of fence panels or perhaps you want to rent a ladder and get a key cut? Chances are you will go to the Standard DIY shop at the top of Westcombe Hill and meet a man called Kam. Not your average, ‘I run a DIY shop’ sort, even if generalisation is uncool these days. Kam looks at you over his glasses, a slim man with a ready smile. Faultlessly polite and cheery, although he can be a good commiserator too, as I found out when I told him about my builder’s no show one day.

“Umm” he replied ...his mouth turned down, his eyebrows raised and he nodded his head sagely.

Kam grew up in Kenya, Africa and most of his family immigrated early to the UK, with the common vision of progress and education. They established their family in Bexley, Kent and Kam joined them at ten years old. He went to school in Bexley and then had a further two years of education at college, studying business and economics.

So why the DIY business I ask him? “My older brother worked in the Selfridges DIY department and then he bought a hardware shop in Belvedere, which he sill runs...I used to help him weekends and holidays. Through my business studies I started to see that owning my own business could be a good way to earn a living.”

40 years ago, the family bought a second shop here in Westcombe Hill, which Kam has run for the last two decades. For many years keeping his holidays to week-ends with perhaps the occasional Monday off. Recently he has taken longer breaks but has to shut the shop to do this. He is a good businessman and belongs to the British Hardware Federation who regularly checks on manufacturing standards, prices and changes in the law.

“What about the future” I asked him, looking at the shop next door which is up for rent. “Will you expand d’you think?” Kam considered this, not discounting it but saying it depended on Government legislation, parking rules, rents, rates, leases and last, but not least, the post-Covid commercial world. If he leaves the shopkeeping business, I suspect Kam would do well as a teacher of small business practices.

Kam is married with three children, two girls and a boy. The eldest girl is working in finance and the second in a law firm. His son is at university studying IT; so none are following him into the hardware business then. Although they have contributed quite significantly it seems, by linking their Dad’s business with social media channels. Kam is quite chuffed as he shows me some pictures on Facebook and Instagram. “People can see what I stock and my children upload any new stuff I get in....it’s been good, especially the Likes!”

In the real world, Kam enjoys the interaction with his customers and likes the challenge of solving DIY puzzles. He’s conscientious and stayed open throughout

lockdown for essentials. He’s conscientious and stayed open throughout lockdown for essentials. He is there to provide to the local community to the best of his abilities and is more than happy to continue doing so.

What the neighbourhood says:

“Oh Kam! He’s a social star...well he is, isn’t he...a portal to all the trades....especially for someone like me...when they are new to the area and English is not my first language and I’m looking for a DIY man...I like shopkeepers who own their own businesses and are local as they work hard and are always there for you,” says Anastasia Panodova, Foyle Road.

“Who? Kam? Oh he’s so helpful and welcoming..always got time to help you source or identify what you need. It’s an emporium DIY treasure trove. In the last month, I’ve bought a single battery, Calor gas for my camper stove, and had some keys cut...and he’s so seasonal; compost and pots in the summer, Christmas trees in the winter,” says Becky Ham, from Siebert Road.

“Love him, never lets you down, always here...awesome,” says Mark Johnson-Brown from Mycenae House.



Photo: Cerys Luck



Photo: Cerys Luck



Learning is fun

St Olave's is a Prep School in New Eltham for boys and girls aged 3-11 years

- Broad, child-centred curriculum
- Excellent results in the 11+ selection
- Clubs, outings and residential trips
- Excellent pastoral care
- Small classes
- Specialist staff for PE, IT, Music, French and Drama
- Sibling fee reduction
- Before and after school care

Tel: **020 8294 8930**
www.stolaves.org.uk



SSD

Property & Maintenance

General Building and Roofing

Prompt viewing and assessmentFREE

Written estimate within 48 hrs of viewing ...FREE

Fully insured and accredited by AGE UK.



Mobile:
07931 536 533

Landline:
020 8305 1039

Email:
ssdbuilders2@hotmail.com

ask for Satish

WHAT TO DO

Polly Morgan, our in-house writer, has put together WN October's, What To Do page. Not an easy feat as entertainment of all kinds has been severely disrupted by Covid-19. At the time of going to press, the following events *were* open to the public and possible to attend. Please do check though with the websites of the venues before attending or booking your tickets. *Will do Polly and thanks - Ed.*

CULTURAL HUB DUE TO OPEN IN WOOLWICH

Exciting news from Woolwich: A new cultural hub, Woolwich Works, is due to open in the Royal Arsenal in Spring 2021. It will include a large-scale concert venue, rehearsal rooms, studio spaces, restaurants and internationally-renowned artistic companies. To keep up-to-date with their news and events, sign up for their email newsletter at: www.woolwich.works

INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY LECTURES

What was here before all the flats and houses? Monthly free lectures on Greenwich's unrivalled role in our industrial and technological history.
Tuesday 13th October - Greenwich and Woolwich, the birthplace of the global telecoms industry and the internet
Tuesday 10th November - Greenwich Marsh to Greenwich Peninsular - 300 years of regeneration.
Tuesday 8th December - The Eastern Telegraph Company's cable system - the Red Sea Line to India.
Live lectures online, starting 19.30 then available afterwards (free of charge)
Facebook page at
<https://tinyurl.com/GIHSoc>

NEW COMPOSITIONS COMPETITION

Nick Hardisty got in touch with our paper, to let us know about an inspiring endeavour by his fiancée and violinist, Ada Witczyk, who launched a new composition competition during July and August to try and inspire composers during the last lockdown.
Over 30 submissions have been entered from all over the world. Ada and a panel of judges, including baroque violin legend Simon Standage (also a local Greenwich resident), will consider the submissions and select three winners, to be announced on 1st October. These winners will not only have their works performed in recitals next Spring, but will have their music turned into video productions to be profiled in Artenzza magazine.
For more information:
<https://www.adawitczyk.com/composition-competition>

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA AND THEATRE

Going back to visit a favourite- the **Greenwich Picturehouse**, was a particular treat post-lockdown, albeit a slightly strange one! Face coverings are now compulsory in cinemas so we had a rather surreal experience wearing face masks whilst watching futuristic new thriller Tenet – fiction blurred with reality – life has really become a bit Sci-Fi these days!
Check out their other films to book online and support a great, local cinema:
<https://www.picturehouses.com/cinema/greenwich-picturehouse>

Greenwich Theatre say they hope to be opening their doors again soon, but like many theatre venues face an uncertain future. You can support them by becoming a Friend of Greenwich Theatre – find out more:
<https://greenwichtheatre.org.uk/covid-19-update/>

SUPPORT A LOCAL CLASSICAL MUSIC ORCHESTRA

Local classical music orchestra, St. Paul's Sinfonia played their first concert back in 2004 and for the last 17 years have held onto the majority of their core musicians and performed in local venues such as St. Alfege Church in Greenwich, to enthusiastic, loyal and supportive audiences.
The Sinfonia orchestra is lead by conductor Andrew Morley and James Widden, lead violinist. Andrew trained at Lancaster University and later gained a scholarship to study at Trinity Laban where he graduated with distinction and won the Ricordi Conducting Prize. He now teaches at Trinity Laban, is musical director of their Junior Trinity Symphony Orchestra, conducts for Norfolk County Orchestra and is also a freelance conductor and lead to many children's orchestras, both regionally and nationally.
With such top classical musicians at the helm, the rest of the orchestra are equally talented, highly trained professionals and together, they make for a winning team. Andrew said: "We are also a community of musicians who have maintained playing together over the years."
Their musical repertoire is of an equal

THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM REOPENS

Alongside Cutty Sark, the Royal Observatory and Queen's House Art Gallery, The National Maritime Museum has opened its doors again with a new, Covid-secure one-way route. Support your local wonderful museum and explore epic sea adventures now. See great new exhibitions such as:
Polar worlds, extreme environments
The Polar regions have been a focus for British exploration and scientific enquiry for centuries – and remain so today, in this era of climate change.
Tickets need to be booked in advance and you'll need to follow Covid-secure instructions for your visit, but what better time than to support a wonderful, local institution? To find out more about what's on, visit: <https://www.rmg.co.uk/wel-comeback>

MYCENAE HOUSE EVENTS

On 7th September, local community centre, Mycenae House, re-opened its doors to the public again. It features a socially-distanced, safe but lively programme of regular activities and one-off events. For more information and listings, please visit their events page:
<http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk/events.html>



Mendelssohn and a more modern piece by Emily Doolittle.
St. Paul's Sinfonia would love to see Westcombe News readers at their next concerts and are always looking for new patrons of the orchestra too. For more information on their next live concerts and their streamed performances, please sign up to their mailing list on their website: www.stpaulssinfonia.com
Below: St. Paul's Sinfonia orchestra being conducted by Andrew Morley



quality, with an always-interesting mixture of classical gems as well as modern music. Such is the high standard of the orchestra's playing, that they have attracted star global soloists such as the Kanneh-Mason siblings, Sheku - the young cellist who famously played at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's Royal Wedding - and his equally talented pianist sister, Isata. They also welcomed back renowned violinist Jennifer Pike. On these particular occasions with such top-notch soloists the audience is packed to the rafters. Andrew said: "We often attract top soloists who are training for tours and worldwide concerts, for example. They like to practise performing with our orchestra because we are also of a high standard and many say easy to get on with!"
Since the lockdown, as widely reported, the whole arts sector including musicians, has been badly hit. But ever enterprising, St. Paul's Sinfonia have been busy streaming live online concerts, to a receptive audience. One of their concerts featured worldwide pianist talent, Irina Lyakhovskaya, also a friend of the orchestra. Andrew said: "At the live stream concerts post-lockdown, there were lots of emotional reunions amongst our musicians who hadn't played together for many months."
On September 18th, their first post-lockdown live concert with a socially distanced audience was held, which proved popular and was also streamed online. It featured two famous pieces by Beethoven and



TROJAN PRESS

WE ARE NOW OPEN TO PRINT

• BUSINESS CARDS • FLYERS
• INVOICES • LETTERHEADS
• BOOKS • BROCHURES
• CALENDARS • FORMS • INVITES • ORDER OF SERVICES • PROGRAMMES
**1a Lizban St
Blackheath, London SE3 8SS
Tel: 020 8853 2268**
**Email: info@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.com**

WRISTWORTH HEATING & PLUMBING

Installation - Servicing - Repair
Tel: 07725 008280
Email: wristworth@hotmail.co.uk



Check Out Our **NEW** Website: wristworthheating.weebly.com



SENTINEL

—DESIGN AND BUILD—

SPECIALIST FOR EXTENSIONS, LOFT CONVERSIONS, KITCHEN/BATHROOM REFURBISHMENTS AND ALL HOME RENOVATION PROJECTS.

MUMSTRUSTED ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH EXCLUSIVE BUILD PARTNER.



Tel: 0203 302 8005 / 07747 517930
contact@sentinel-designandbuild.co.uk

www.sentinel-designandbuild.co.uk

FEATURES

TAKING BETTER CARE OF OURSELVES

There is much in the news about helping the NHS and one way we can do this is by taking better care of ourselves. Not to the point of putting the NHS out of business but sufficiently enough to help our minds and bodies resist the worst effects of the coronavirus. Doctors have advised that being overweight is something we can all

address and the majority of us can also become fitter thereby strengthening our lungs and hearts and raising the oxygen levels throughout our body.

The best place to start for some of us is addressing our negative thinking habits. Try it for an hour, a day, a week...you may be horrified at the heavy load you are put-

ting on yourselves. A positive attitude about our own capabilities is a prerequisite - to know we have an abundance of strength, poise and good nature - to deal with whatever comes our way. Plus we will need all the positive thoughts we can muster, I should imagine, to get us started with a serious boot camp regime!

So whether you are sitting at home in altered circumstances, actively looking for a job (dealing with rejections), feeling tired, lacking inspiration then maybe the ideas, suggestions, opportunities below will inspire you to take the first step or jolly those along who have already begun the process of taking better care of ourselves.

‘GET FIT FOR A FIVER’

WN Reporter

Were you in the army?

What drew you to teaching bootcamps, How long have you been doing it?

I have been teaching bootcamps for 15 years. I left a career in IT to follow my Ikigai (which is a meeting of passion, vocation and mission). Making fitness fun and delivering it in a way that people can come to love the process as well as the results is what I am all about. The workouts are always different and creative so that people can switch off and just enjoy challenging themselves to learn new moves in the hour they invest in their well-being.

Something I am passionate about is the impact of community, bringing people together and connecting people, and this is something at the heart of my bootcamp. The ‘bootcamp’ name is often associated with army training and shouty instructors but I prefer to encourage and motivate clients to push themselves to get their best workout. **“We keep it social and connected so that we have a sense of belonging to this fitness tribe.”**

Price/length of sessions, times?

Sessions are 60 mins and there is a full timetable throughout the week.

It has been a key motivation from the beginning to make Blackheath Bootcamp accessible and our slogan ‘get fit for a fiver’ reflects this. On our class passes the most you pay is £5 per class. It’s £50 for a ten-class card and £45 for four weeks unlimited bootcamps. We charge £10 for a single class.

Our classes are timed in a way that works for people who are commuting from town but also aren’t too late. Weekend classes allow for a lie-in but also give you the rest of the day free.

Who can do it? Is it difficult exercise?

How fit do you have to be to do it?

Anyone and everyone! Well, you need to be 14+ but our community is all ages. We even have a couple of clients in their 70’s. We always have new people starting their journey so no-one should feel intimidated by taking the first step. It is as easy or as hard as you want to make it. As we do interval training you just do as much as you can. For example, if we do a minute of press ups, you could have one person doing them on knees and another doing diamond press ups. One person might do five press ups in one minute and another might do 60. We are experts at taking people who have been doing no exercise and progressing them alongside the fitter members.

How many times a week need you go?

Whatever works for you! It depends what your goals are really. On our SHRED programme, which is for weight loss, I recommend 6 days a week as active days but these can be any form of activity. For complete beginners I recommend two days a week for the first eight weeks in order to

allow the body to rest and recover.

Do you need special equipment?

Nope, not at all! We are currently doing body weight training according to our Covid safety measures.

We are going to be introducing a weights

class once a week where clients will bring their own weights (please enquire if this is a class you might attend).

What’s the most rewarding part of teaching bootcamps?

The pleasure from seeing clients’ results is a constant but my proudest moments are

when I see a client’s mindset has shifted, and it gives me the greatest reward when I know they now have the toolkit to go where they want with it.

Have you seen an increase in attendees throughout Covid-19?

YES! I think that people are valuing the idea of being outdoors more and I suspect that people are reluctant to re-enter the gym. We have seen an increase in men joining bootcamp, which I think is indicative of this. I have also received feedback that my rigidity to the government rules and demonstrating a serious commitment to our social responsibility as a community has been something my clients’ have noticed and valued.

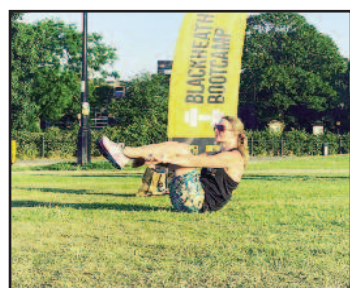
How is this form of exercise good for the Mind Body Spirit/Soul?

As a counsellor and life coach I am only too aware of the mental health pressures of life. There is a positive impact of belonging to a community, as well as making new local connections, which can be challenging within London so we also have (Covid-secure) social gatherings to connect with each other outside of class. Being outdoors, connecting with nature and seeing and feeling the change in the seasons, even if it’s subliminal, also has a huge mental health benefit. Some people think they will be put off by bad weather but overwhelmingly the feedback I receive is that people enjoy the exhilaration of bootcamp in the winter months. I believe it’s grounding to be outside for a workout, which is good for the spirit and soul. Our community is super friendly but above all we are completely inclusive so if you feel like making some fitness friends, come and check us out.

Sally Hammond

bootcampphysal@gmail.com

See www.blackheath-bootcamp.co.uk for the latest timetable.



10TH OCTOBER

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

WN Reporter

With its aim is to raise awareness of mental health issues, World Mental Health Day, helps mobilise us all in our efforts to support mental health.

With Government budgets overwhelmed with different needs, mental health issues will have to compete in a very crowded market place. Therefore those of us that feel able to take care of our own mental health are encouraged to do so. Over recent years there have been several tools developed to help us do this; here are three to get you started provided by Samantha Phillips, a Clinical Hypnotherapist and NLP Counsellor with a special interest in anxiety and trauma. She works in the local area and practices in the Greenwich Wellness Rooms:

Daily Meditation/Mindfulness:

“My number one go to strategy, for dealing with negative thinking, would be meditation and mindfulness. A study conducted by researchers at University of Oxford, found eight weeks of Headspace, a popular meditation app, reduced symptoms of anxiety in employees.

Mindfulness is bringing awareness to the present moment. This is often achieved through meditation, yoga and other practices that focus on the mind and body. The hope is to carry these practices into everyday situations.

This presence and awareness is the foundation to changing a thought pattern. We may not even be aware of how often we have negative thought pattern or comprehend its impact on our daily lives. Once we identify the patterns, we know what to target.

An app such as Headspace or Calm offers fantastic options for even the most basic beginner to the art of meditation.

Journaling: Specifically writing three things we are grateful for, either when we go to bed and/or first thing in the morning. Once the thoughts are out of our head and

down on paper it frees us up mentally.

Here are some benefits to keeping a ‘gratitude diary’:

- Improves Self-Esteem: You are finding out about yourself and acknowledging your own achievements.
- It Makes You Happier: It’s a feel-good activity.
- It Increases Positivity. When you take the time to focus on the good things in your life you naturally become more positive. ...
- It Helps You Sleep Better

Exercise

Even just a brisk walk will change the conversation in your head and increase endorphins, the feel-good hormone.

Samantha’s colleague, Nicola Vanlint, also a professional therapist, has this to add:

“According to science, negative thoughts aren’t a bad thing, they are designed to protect us. When we were Neanderthals, negative thinking alerted us to danger; what berries were poisonous? When to be on the alert for a wild animal on the prowl!”

“Today, given we are in the midst of a global pandemic, our negative thinking still alerts us to danger, so can be helpful but also we can be prone to more negative thoughts than usual, which can prove unhelpful.”

For every negative thought, Nicola suggests trying to think of three positive ones, however small, “I know negative chatter can make it hard to even think of positive things but it’s definitely worth trying to balance out your perspective on life.”

Samantha Phillips and Nicola Vanlint, would like to offer Westcombe News readers a free copy of the guided meditation they use in their Practice. Please send an email with the word CALM to info@greenwichwellnessrooms.co.uk. For more info: www.greenwichwellnessrooms.co.uk



The New Beacon
Ex Fumo · Dare · Lucem

Love Learning, Love Life

Great flexi-boarding

Our flexi-boarding helps manage busy lives at school and home. It allows boys to enjoy after school activities, develop independence and spend time with friends.

To find out more call our Registrar on 01732 452131.

newbeacon.org.uk
The New Beacon, Brittains Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2PB



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

LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE OPPOSED TO A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE HEIGHT OF WOODLAND HEIGHTS

Maggie Gravelle

This well known landmark on Vanbrugh Hill was a nurses' home for those working at Greenwich District Hospital down the road. It had been opened in 1927 by HRH Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles. It had been built on the site of a



small cottage, William's Lodge, which housed a succession of gardeners, coachmen and milkmen. In 1866 a much larger property, 'Woodlands', was built on the site beside The Lodge.

The Wheeler family occupied the house from the mid-1880s. Matilda Wheeler discovered a suicide victim while walking in the steeply sloping gardens. Woodlands was taken over by the Greenwich Union Infirmary in 1920 and converted into a Nurses' Home. The building was demol-

ished in 1926 as it was deemed too small, and a purpose-built property was erected.

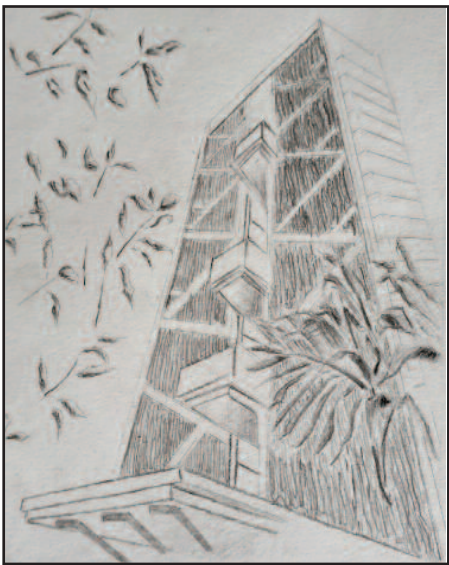
Greenwich District Hospital closed in 2001 and soon afterwards the Nurses' Home was converted to flats.

Now the owners want to build a further storey and private roof terraces to the five-storey block, essentially increasing its height to seven storeys. Objectors say that this is too close to Westcombe Woodlands which is managed by local volunteers on behalf of the Woodland Trust. They argue that the Woodlands is "of great environmental benefit to the whole area. It is a fragile resource which should be carefully safeguarded." Critics also say that the additional height will make it over-dominating and have a negative impact on the Conservation Area.



THE FUTURE OF HIGH RISE CLADDING

Jo Burand



The Tree House is a 24-storey condominium in Bukit Timah, Singapore. It features the world's largest vertical garden, occupying a surface area of 2,289 sqm.

With 70% of people predicted to be living in cities by 2050 this may well become a part of architecture in the future as we move to living with climate change. Vertical gardens are a way of insulating buildings, cooling our climate and encouraging biodiversity. They can also reduce the estate's carbon footprint by filtering pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air. This reduces heat absorption and lowers the energy needed to cool indoor spaces.

Left: Pencil sketch of 'The Tree House' by Jo Burand

NEIGHBOURS4NATURE INITIATIVE

Ros John

Residents of houses bounded by Ulundi Road, Westcombe Park Road and Vanbrugh Hill are fortunate to benefit from almost 40 adjacent back gardens, facing inwards to form an enclosed green area.

An informal community group of like-minded and enthusiastic residents, Neighbours4Nature, has been established with the aim of improving bordering gardens in this enclosed area, for wildlife and for the residents. Linked sections of suitable habitat and appropriate green corridors have been proven to benefit and encourage all wildlife - birds, small mammals and insects. Potentially, this collaboration could improve local conditions for existing wildlife, plus nurture and encourage more endangered species.

Though still in the early evolutionary stages, neighbours aim to collaborate and work together in the following ways:

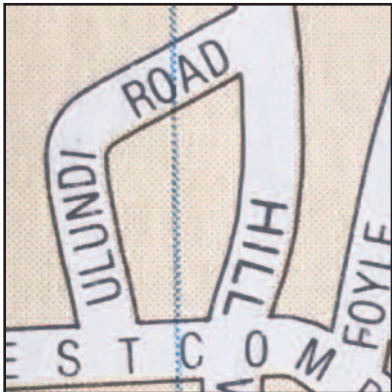
- share knowledge, support and possibly labour to assist where necessary.
- encourage alternatives to harmful chemicals and pesticides, such as slug pellets and weed killers that are detrimental to wildlife.

- aim to introduce a greater variety of plants and trees into our gardens that will encourage wildlife.
- leave some areas less 'tidy' with log piles and longer grass.

- consider the importance of water and ponds in our gardens
- share/swop beneficial seeds, nectar-rich plants and cuttings.
- open our gardens to the group and benefit from greater social interaction.

Neighbours4Nature would also welcome close collaboration with other groups such as Westcombe Woodlands, and will be using organisations such as Bug Life, the Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan and the RHS for advice where necessary. As current custodians of this special green area, Neighbours4Nature aim to work together to try and manage their gardens to benefit the natural world, and build a local community with wildlife at its heart.

For more information please contact Ros John Tel: 0208 858 1159



HAVE YOU A FAVOURITE LOCAL TREE? Ann Hill

Twenty years ago Myles Dove took on the mammoth task of mapping all the trees in the Westcombe Park area. He not only marked every tree on a local map but also identified each one and provided a detailed key. The Environment Committee is intending to update the map and assess the current state of local trees and would like to hear from readers of their favourite tree(s).

A favourite of mine is the ginkgo on Vanbrugh Park Road West. In autumn its leaves turn to shimmering bright gold from top to bottom and on a sunny day the whole tree is a dramatic picture of shining golden brilliance. It is very beautiful indeed and I always make a point of going to see it in its autumn glory.

The ginkgo has an interesting pedigree. It is often referred to as a 'living fossil' as it was around at the time of the dinosaurs over 200 million years ago and miraculously has survived from that time. Maybe its survival is linked to its hardness as it resists wind, snow, drought, disease, pollution, and even the radiation blast of the atom bombing of Hiroshima.

It has very simple fan-shaped leaves and evolved before flowering plants. Often it is the male tree that is planted in gardens as the female has seeds that when ripe are unpleasantly smelly! There is a female ginkgo in the flower garden in Greenwich Park if you are interested in just how malodorous the fallen seeds can be. The female tree only starts to make seeds

when it is 20-40 years old. Unusually, fertilisation takes place 4-5 months after pollination. Pollen grains from the male cones are shed in the spring and are carried by the wind and reach the female ovule.

Contained in the pollen are free-swimming sperm so water also has to be present for fertilisation to take place, which is usually after the seed has fallen off the tree in autumn. Commercial propagation is usually by taking cuttings.

Scientists have been exploring the ginkgo's genome and found it to be huge, comprising some 10.6 billion DNA 'letters', which is amazing when compared to the 3 billion 'letters' of the human genome! Research suggests that this complexity has enabled a variety of cunning defensive mechanisms. For example the ginkgo can synthesise one set of compounds to fight a specific insect pest and also another set of chemicals to attract the insect's enemies. Unfortunately for us, since the ginkgo is not a good host for insects and other species, it contributes little to biodiversity in the natural environment.

The ginkgo is native to China and the oldest known ginkgo trees there have been estimated to be 1,000-3,000 years old. Many health benefits are attributed to ginkgo and it is traditionally used in Chinese medicine but the scientific evidence of benefit is weak. What I do know is that its golden autumn beauty gladdens my heart and lifts my spirit.



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

93 WESTCOMBE HILL flats A and B ref 20/2650/F

To replace doors and all windows with uPVC double glazed

125 WESTCOMBE HILL flat A ref 20/2721/F

To replace ground floor bay windows with timber double glazed

82 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 20/2564/HD

To install air filter/heating system in rear garden

12A HARDY ROAD ref 20/2578/HD

To construct single storey rear extension,

garden decking, first floor rear door and roof terrace, and rear staircase.

TREE WORKS

69 FOYLE ROAD ref 20/2781/TC
Reduce row of conifers in rear garden by 2-3m and reshape

69 FOYLE ROAD ref 20/2783/TC
Fell cypress in front garden

55 VANBRUGH PARK ref 20/2772/TC
Fell purple plum in rear garden

30 ST JOHNS PARK ref 20/2784/TC
Fell 2 conifers in rear garden

140 HUMBER ROAD ref 20/2350/TC
Fell sycamore in rear garden

Don't want to commute any more?
Suffering the frustrations of working from home?
Solution: Run your enterprise locally, from a beautiful building in central Greenwich.

Situated in the hub of Greenwich, just 5 mins walk from the town Centre, DLR and mainline stations, this could be ideal for any business rethinking itself post Covid lockdown, and operating locally but away from the confines of home.

The thought of renting a local office or creative space within walking distance could be very tempting.....



One or two large and uniquely attractive spaces for creative work have become available to rent within Linear House in Peyton Place / Royal Hill.

If interested, contact Tony on 07956 456647

ACCOMMODATION/ROOMS FOR HIRE

COUNSELLING

Offers a professional, confidential and caring service in a quiet setting. We are trained as integrative counsellors working with many models – including CBT and Depth Psychology. 1 Hour sessions £50 concessions are available. We offer telephone and online counselling. Please contact either Brenda – 020 8858 5969 e: bmbt@btinternet.com or Linda – 020 8858 1991 e: linda@selondon.co.uk w: www.bhhs.selondon.co.uk. Remember no problem is too big or too small to share.

**WANT TO PLACE AN
ADVERT?**

Email:
Advertising@westcombesociety.org

Interior/Exterior/
Experienced Reliable Clean
Fully Guaranteed/Insured.
References available.
Free no obligation quote
and advice given

JOHN at JAMES & LAMONT
Office 020 8462 4646
Mobile 07802 535695
jamlam.john@btinternet.com

R.G. Austin
(Established 1963)

 Heating Engineers,
Property Maintenance,
Electrics, Painting,
Decorating, Plumbing,
Central Heating,

 GAS
SAFE

Shower and Bathroom Specialists

2A Hassendean Rd, Blackheath SE3 8TS
Telephone: 0208 858 7359
rgaustintltd@gmail.com

Emergencies: 07738124344
email: rgaustintltd@gmail.com

**BLACKHEATH REPAIR &
ALTERATIONS CLINIC**
Jackets re-lined, Trousers repaired and
Dresses re-shaped etc.
Over 25yrs Experience
07904 880448

SPANISH TUITION
all ages and levels, GCSE, A levels ,
conversation, literature, by Latin-American
native speaker. Also lessons online. Please
contact Miguel at
migansiergut52@gmail.com
or 07910 318513

BUY LOCAL!
Discounts available on production
of your Westcombe Society
membership card.

WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD
KAREN STOREY OF HOMESPACE offers
 members 10% discount on decluttering &
 homestaging
 services. Please note new number: 07951
 191086 www.home-space.biz
PENINSULA
SHENDA FALVEY PERSONAL TRAINING
& BOOTCAMPs Free bootcamp session at
 Greenwich Peninsula worth £10. Book to
 secure place (excludes existing customers)
 25% off first personal training session plus
 free consultation M: 07887 727 335
www.shendafalveypersonaltraining.com

