

Westcombe NEWS



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September 2022 No. 7

‘Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines ...’ William Shakespeare, Sonnet 18



■ PARCHED VISTA: Greenwich Park on the last day of the long drought. Rain fell for the first time in weeks on the evening of Monday 15 August



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£8m project to enhance park

Work starts on three-year plan to revive seventeenth-century landscape

WEEKS OF scorching sun and no rain have taken their toll on Greenwich Park. Acres of grass frazzled as daytime temperatures soared towards 100 degrees Fahrenheit. In the middle of August, heavy showers provided some relief, but it will be some time before one of London’s green gems is once again verdant instead of straw yellow. But there was good news in the shape of a three-year project to restore the park’s seventeenth-century landscape. Graham Dear, Greenwich Park manager, The Royal Parks, said: “If we don’t act now, the seventeenth-century features could disappear for ever. More Turkey oak trees

will die, leaving avenue gaps and stumps, as trees are removed on a piecemeal basis.” Andrew Scattergood, chief executive of The Royal Parks charity, added: “The restoration will revive, protect and future-proof this landscape, so that the local community can experience the view, right on their doorstep, as it was in its heyday, and be proud to call it ‘their back garden’.” “Our in-house specialists in landscape architecture, arboriculture, archaeology, and ecology are working closely with external experts, and in consultation with the local community to deliver this project to the highest standards of excellence.” **Full report, page 6**

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

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Memorial service date for church stalwart Vera O'Brien



A DATE has been set for a memorial service to celebrate the life of Vera O'Brien, a much-loved member of the local community.

Because of Covid restrictions, only five people could attend her funeral at the end of February 2020, just as the pandemic took hold. Now the family would like to hold a memorial to fully celebrate Vera's amazing life and all that she contributed as the life and soul of the St George's Church and the community.

The memorial service will be held at St George's on Saturday 8 October at 4.45 pm, with food and drink in the church afterwards. All are welcome, but in order to assist with catering it would be useful if you could let her daughter Margaret know if you are coming. Email: margaret_phillip@yahoo.co.uk

Grants appeal

Few applications to be selected as the Westcombe Society's charity of the year have been received. If you are, or know of, a local charity planning a small project which might benefit from an extra £1,000 or so please do apply. To be considered we need to know about your charity and its aims etc., and how you would use our money. To guarantee that you will be considered we need to hear from you by Wednesday 14 September and your application must be sent to Marilyn Little, Chair Westcombe Society at 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP.

Macmillan walk date

Don't miss what could be your walking highlight of 2022... a visual and historic 11-mile delight starting at Cutty Sark, Greenwich, and walking (on the flat) to Victoria Park.

We take in the mighty Thames, the peaceful Regents Canal with its houseboats,



Family arts festival at Mycenae House

On a hot day in late July Mycenae House hosted a fabulous family arts festival with the Westcombe Society doing their bit by organising those sure-fire hits... a tug of war, an egg & spoon race, a sack race and a face painter. Maddie's

queue for face-painting was constant with squeals of delight from youngsters as she worked her magic. The high point of the festival was a series of children's theatre shows in which two very lively actors had kids laughing and clapping at

their antics. Also contributing to the day's merriment was a live band, craft stalls and the Westcombe Society's ever-popular tombola, together with the sale of cards with photos of Westcombe Park in bygone days.

swans and tranquillity, and take a peak at bygone East London along the way. Coffee and cake awaits at the Victoria Park café by the lake.

It costs £10 per person to join the walk, on Saturday 24 September, with all money going to Macmillan. A bottle of water will be provided. To book your place please call Caroline on 020 8853 0948.

Life membership

The Westcombe Society have recently agreed to offer both an annual membership and also a life membership, which is ten times the annual membership fees. When you next renew your membership you might wish to consider the life membership option. e.g. individual annual membership is £8 and for life membership it is £80.

Cake call

Do you enjoy making cakes? We are looking to update our list of cake makers for our events.

If you would be willing to make and donate occasional cakes for our senior citizen teas, etc. please do get in touch with Caroline at the Westcombe Society at 84

Beaconsfield Road, SE3 7LQ. We would be delighted for your help.

New mast plan rejected

A revised plan for a 15-metre telecomms mast on the footpath in Vanbrugh Park Road, adjoining the Vanbrugh Estate, has been rejected by Greenwich councillors. An earlier application for an 18-metre mast was refused. Eighty-two residents and the Westcombe and Blackheath societies objected to the proposed 15-metre mast.

■ **Recent planning applications:**
(See also www.westcombesociety.org)
70 Coleraine Road ref 22/2534/F
To install 2 roof lights to gable end.
28 Wycherley Close ref 22/2679/HD
To construct single storey rear extension, two ground floor side windows and air source heat pump.
14 Mycenae Road ref 22/2558/HD
To construct dormer roof extension to rear roof and two roof lights to side roof.
■ **Tree works**
96 Langton Way ref 22/2627/TC
To reduce crown by 2m of purple maple on front boundary.

Building an intergenerational community

NOW MORE than ever, as society recovers from a global pandemic, we have been transformed into a world of technology, writes Lois Kennett-Brown.

There is no doubt that technology has created the accessibility of opportunities to many throughout lockdown. It enabled us to continue our education through teams meetings with teachers and classmates, but also virtually meeting with family and friends. However, we lost the interconnections in the communities around us and generations have never seemed so far apart.

This year at St John's Blackheath they have sought to mend the generational rift through Holiday Club and Holiday @ Home. Holiday Club is a great opportunity for primary aged children to have fun playing games, getting creative, taking on challenges, making new friends and learning about who Jesus is and why he came. Holiday @ Home is a similar

concept but is targeted for seniors, giving them the opportunity for fun and companionship. Individually each event creates positive relationships with those at a similar age to you.

However, this year St. John's has decided to combine the two, therefore creating a bridge between the generations. While both groups still have their separate spaces as Holiday Club is in the morning and Holiday @ Home meets in the afternoon, there is now a crossover period. This is where we see intergenerational relationships rebuilding and the chance to reform our community once again.

As a young volunteer helping the children at Holiday Club, witnessing those of different stages of life coming together, I'm noticing the impact it is having with both the children and seniors. I watched the delight on an older woman's face as she cuddled a baby, enabling the young mother to play with her toddler. During a

construction challenge involving making towers out of dried spaghetti and marshmallows the children watched in awe as the older generation passed on their design expertise which the children carefully executed.

I think it is so special and important that younger and older people are given the chance to have friendships through the ages. It helps strengthen and regenerate our community whilst creating a sense of inclusion, respect and understanding between generations. Intergenerational practice is an essential part of creating community relationships, it gives the opportunity to show the positive resources that different generations can offer to each other and to those around them. Finally, communities provoke a connectivity we lost through the global pandemic so now more than ever, like St. John's Blackheath, we need to find ways to reconnect our generations.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

BBC’s Chris Mason joins toy library’s birthday celebrations

THE BBC’s political editor, Chris Mason, took time out from his hectic schedule to help Charlton Toy Library to celebrate its fortieth birthday.

The father of two, who lives locally, sliced the birthday cake that had been specially made to mark the event in July.

The Toy Library, a registered charity based at Charlton House, was launched in 1982 by a group of local parents and provides a “safe welcoming space for families to come and socialise”. Since 2000 it has helped nearly 5,000 families and more than 10,000 children.

Services and activities offered include: the loan of toys, play and safety equipment; weekly stay and play, singing and story-telling sessions (term-time only); outdoor events too, such as Halloween and Christmas treasure hunts; an outreach service, supporting around 80 local disadvantaged families; and volunteering opportunities. For more information visit www.charltontoylibrary.co.uk or email info@charltontoylibrary.org.uk.



Partygoers at Charlton House

Council invites views on draft transport strategy



Changes during lockdown to the road layout in Woolwich Road, including island bus stops and cycle lanes, are being remodelled

RESIDENTS, businesses and community groups are being asked for their views on Greenwich Council’s draft transport strategy.

It says its proposals aim to help encourage walking and cycling, reduce traffic, improve air quality, and support the rollout of ultra-low emission vehicles.

Cllr Averil Lekau, deputy leader and cabinet member for climate change, environment and transport, said: “It’s vital we have an accessible, sustainable transport network which enables people to choose more active and healthy transport options, as well as cutting air pollution.

“Our new strategy is a key part in helping us reach our target to become net zero carbon emissions by 2030, in line with the council’s carbon neutral plan. “I would encourage local people to get involved and have their say, to make sure the strategy reflects the issues that are most important to you and help us identify where we can make improvements to transport around the borough.”

The consultation will close at midnight on Sunday 25 September 2022. The council says that all feedback received during the consultation will be analysed and used to help shape the final strategy.

Comments can be made online at

royalgreenwich.gov.uk/transport-strategy. Visitors to exhibitions about the proposals at Eltham, Greenwich, Thamesmead and Woolwich libraries, can fill in a questionnaire. Pop-up events where people can give their views are being held across the borough, including one on Wednesday 7 September, from 12pm to 2pm, at The Forum@Greenwich. Online webinars are taking place on Monday 12 September, from 5.30pm to 7pm, and on Wednesday 21 September, from 5.30pm to 7pm. Visit royalgreenwich.gov.uk/transport-strategy to read the draft strategy, sign up for a webinar or register for updates.

Hospice harvests £23,000 from garden open days

THE GREENWICH & Bexley Open Gardens Festival across 11/12 June and 25/26 June have raised an incredible £23,000 for the Hospice.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event by buying tickets, donating and purchasing refreshments and a huge thank you to our 42 garden hosts who so kindly opened their

gardens. We had lovely weather and over 300 visitors across the two weekends – a wonderful turnout! We will be announcing our dates for next year soon, so please keep an eye on our website and sign up to our newsletter to see when we announce the dates: www.communityhospice.org.uk or follow our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/gbchospice/>

You will also be able to see the other events we hold such as our Colour Run in September and our Christmas Grotto which will be launching soon!

If you are interested in opening your garden for the Hospice we are always delighted to hear from people so please do get in touch with us at fundraising@gbch.org.uk

IN BRIEF

COME AND SING DAY

Singers of all abilities are invited to participate in a Come & Sing event at St George's Church, Westcombe Park on Saturday 1 October from 2-5pm. This is a collaboration between St. George's Church and local community choirs from Blackheath Centre for Singing. Led by music director Joel Thomas, participants will spend the afternoon exploring the Fauré Requiem before performing it informally to friends and family. Sheet music will be provided. To reserve your place, and for further details, please book via the Blackheath Centre for Singing website: BlackheathCentreForSinging.com

A-LEVEL SUCCESS

Sixth-formers at Blackheath High School for Girls are celebrating exam success with 86 per cent achieving grades A*, A or B and over half A*-A grades. In Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths subjects, 71 per cent achieved A*-A across Maths and Art and 50 per cent were awarded A*-A across all three sciences. The Joan Roan School said that 47 per cent of A-level entries achieved A*-B grades and 71 per cent of entries achieved A*-C grades. For Level 3 equivalent qualifications, 41 per cent of entries achieved the highest marks of distinction or distinction*.

REACH OUT Walk and Talk Group

Mondays 12-2pm.
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FEATURES

Keeping up appearances

Top tips for maintaining trees in prime condition

By Helen Warner

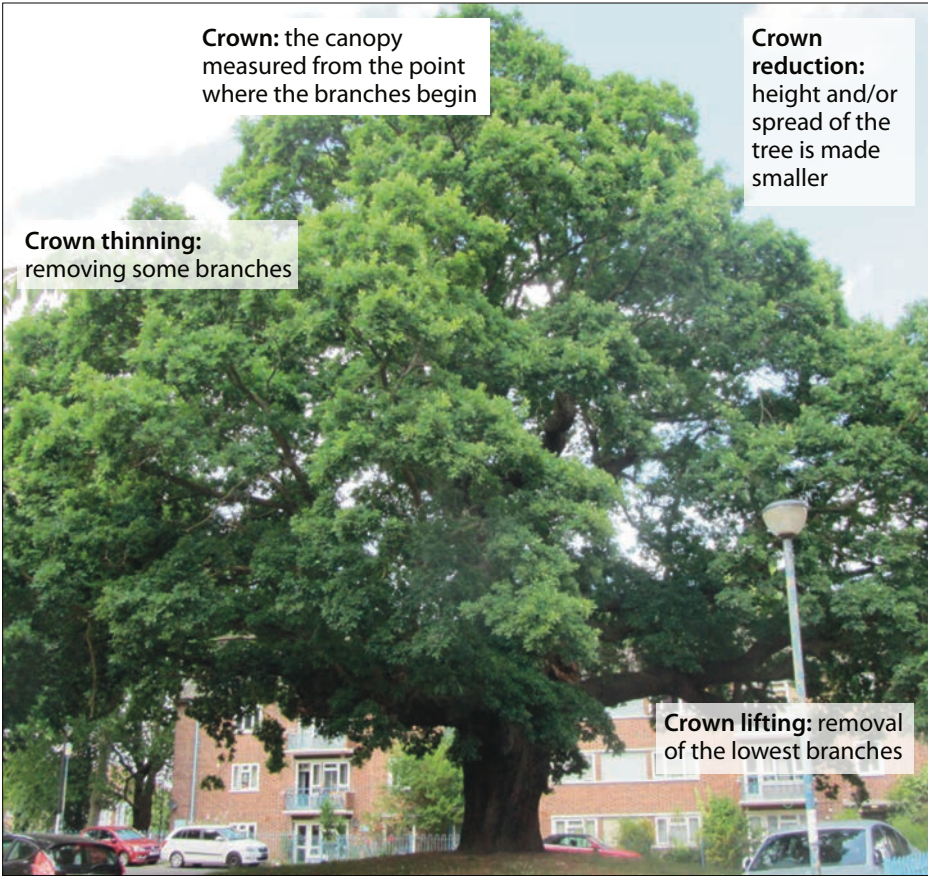
MOST OF Westcombe Park is a designated Conservation Area, and this means that extra planning controls are in place to preserve our area’s unique character and appearance. This means that not only is planning permission often needed if we wish to alter our property, but also if we wish to prune or fell our garden trees.

For many species the best time of year to prune is in the autumn or winter when the tree is dormant. This is also the best time to plant new trees provided the ground is not water-logged or frozen. Always remember to water new trees thoroughly and frequently so that they can get well established and put on growth in the spring.

Crown of a tree: the canopy, which is measured from the point where the branches begin.

Crown thinning: involves removing inner branches evenly throughout the canopy to allow in more light and air without altering the tree’s natural shape and size. Branches that rub or cross another branch are best removed. For trees with a very dense canopy, crown thinning allows high winds to pass through more easily. Crown thinning requires expertise and is best left to an arboriculturalist. It is more expensive than tree pruning, but is better for the tree. No more than a quarter of the crown should be removed at a time, as removing more would stress the tree.

Crown reduction: when the height and/or spread of the tree is made smaller. It is an extensive form of pruning the outer edge of the canopy. Crown reductions are often expressed as percentages, and a 15-20 per cent reduction is a reasonable expectation. Crown reduction can help balance a misshapen tree, or prevent tree branches



touching buildings etc. It is also useful when the tree has become too large for its location. However, it is best not to reduce the crown too frequently as the numerous pruning cuts stress the tree. It also means decay can spread quickly inside cut branches. Beech, oak and cherry often suffer badly from crown reduction.

Crown lifting: the removal of the lowest branches to a specific height. This is usually achieved by removing the smaller branches to minimise stress to the tree. Crown lifting is used to keep branches away from pedestrians, passing traffic, and

■ All young trees need watering in order to establish themselves which is why residents in roads with young ‘street trees’ undertook to water their local tree over the summer. So far, we do not appear to have lost those trees. However, not so lucky are the recently planted

sapling trees at the top of Dinsdale Road. We reported in March how delighted we were, after over three years of ‘chasing’, the area had been stabilised and replanted with a variety of young trees. However, the Housing Association who have responsibility for the

buildings, and creates a higher canopy. The tree trunk can be seriously injured if too many lower branches are removed at a time.

Pollarding: a tree is cut back repeatedly to the same point creating a ‘knuckle’. It involves the removal of all small branches and shoots. It is usually started once the tree is mature. Pollarding leads to masses of young shoots, and a very dense canopy. Once pollarded, this should continue, otherwise the tree will suffer damage and disease due to overgrowth of heavy branches. Pollarding can be carried out once a year, depending on the species, but is usually done every few years.

site, did not put in place any watering system and tragically it now appears that all the trees have died. Local residents, the Westcombe Society and local councillors have been assured that the plot will be replanted and an irrigation system implemented for next year.



Left, key points in tree maintenance. Above, a pollarded tree

Tree lopping and topping: Lopping is the removal of large side branches (vertical cuts) and topping involves removal of large parts of the crown (horizontal cuts), usually of the main stems. A crude technique, often considered inappropriate because it weakens the tree which may then die.

Tree felling and stump removal: Felling involves removing a tree to ground level. Removing the stump can be done by digging it out, or using a stump grinder, or by applying a chemical. Trees can also be shaped through **pleaching** – a method of training trees to produce a narrow screen or hedge by tying in and interlacing flexible young shoots along a supporting framework – and **coppicing** – cutting down to ground level so that multiple stems grow out of the main trunk. **Espaliers** are the result of training a tree to grow up a trellis, wall or other flat structure. This can be done for decorative purposes, but is also essential for increasing fruit production, exposing the plant to maximum sunlight, and ease of picking.

The special character of the Conservation Area is our trees. With climate change, it is important to maintain and manage our mature trees. Organisations providing advice include the Arboricultural Association at <https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Help-for-Tree-Owners/Guide-to-Tree-Pruning> and the Royal Horticultural Society at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/trees/pruning-guide>

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LETTER

Anti-car crusade is causing road chaos

The almost lunatic obsession of our local authority in its crusade against private cars is causing traffic chaos.

The conversion of so much of the width of Trafalgar Road to dedicated cycle paths for non-existent cyclists at the expense of bus lanes has led to near total paralysis for both cars and buses, and serious pollution problems created by stationary traffic.

Over the last two days I (a pensioner with mobility problems) have had to abandon blocked buses to walk considerable distances to reach the Greenwich riverside.

Admittedly the madness extends to much of London including Deptford Creek Road and Waterloo Bridge with two of its four lanes closed to traffic. Was it all meant to make us healthier by forcing us all to use bicycles?

Malcolm Scott Hardy
Blackheath

● Send your letters, including your name, address, email and phone number, to wnews@westcombesociety.org

‘We want our pictures back’

By Vesna Domani Hardy and Neville Grant

THERE HAS been a great deal of press coverage of the great Baroque woman artist Artemisia Gentileschi, whose work was exhibited in the National Gallery for the first time last year. What is often forgotten is that her work was once displayed in Greenwich.

Much about Artemisia’s private life and ordeals (she was involved in a rape trial which resulted in the conviction of Agostino Tassi) is reflected in her art work. At the peak of her career she travelled to England at the invitation of King Charles I to help her father fulfil a royal commission. Artemisia was much in demand as a successful artist in her own right, and she came to help her father, Orazio Gentileschi, who at the time was working on painting the ceiling of the Queen’s House in Greenwich during the reign of Charles I with a series called The Triumph of Peace. Before the work was finished, her father died, and daughter

Artemisia completed the work before returning to Italy.

During the reign of Queen Anne, the Queen’s House was given as a residence to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, but after they fell out with the Queen, they had to move out, taking with them the Gentileschi canvasses from the villa’s grandiose foyer. Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, in a disgraceful act of vandalism, actually had the paintings cut down in size to fit spaces in Marlborough House.

In the 1970s, the Queen’s House had facsimiles on display in place of the original Gentileschi paintings, making it possible to imagine how the place might have looked before being crudely despoiled.

However, in subsequent refurbishments, these paintings were taken down and so far have never been replaced. It seems the feeling was that facsimiles had no place when surrounded by originals. Shouldn’t we who live in Greenwich now demand the return of the originals to the original site?

Neville Grant adds: The then Director of the National Maritime Museum, Richard Ormond, told the Westcombe News: “During the refurbishment of the Queen’s House in the 1990s, we made vigorous attempts to retrieve the paintings for the Queen’s House. Apparently, they are in fact the property of the Crown. The then conservator of the Royal pictures opposed transferring them on the grounds that they were in a bad state, mauled as they were by the duchess’s agents.” He added: “They would be far more appropriate in the seventeenth-century ambience of the Queen’s House, and could be restored to their original size: they would fit in very well in their original position in the house.”

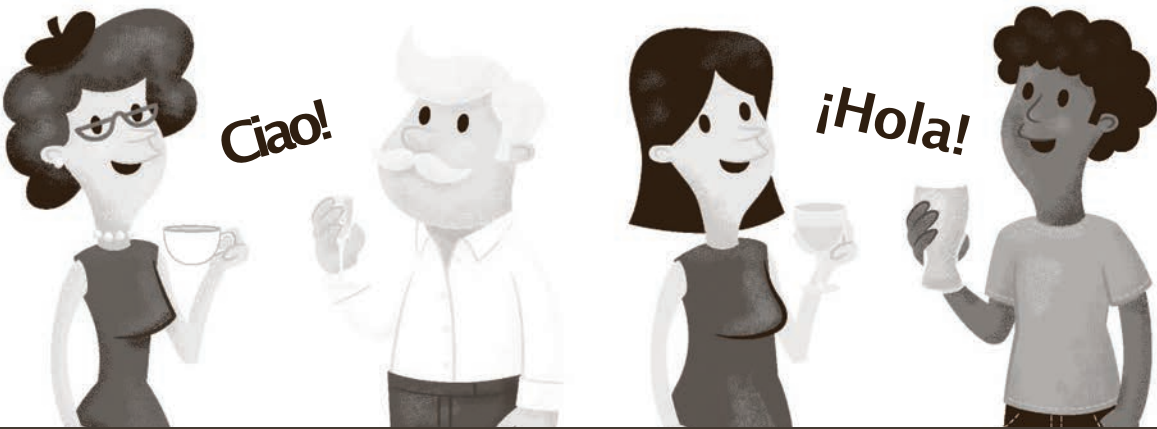


Self-portrait as the Allegory of Painting (La Pittura) c.1638-9. Royal Collection Trust

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ENVIRONMENT

£8 million improvements for park

By Maggie Gravelle

THE NEW Greenwich Park website claims that, "Greenwich Park is an amazing mix of seventeenth-century landscape, stunning gardens and a rich history that dates back to Roman times", writes Maggie Gravelle. At the moment it is brown and bare in many places – not at its best! But, following an enormous effort on the part of The Royal Parks team, staff, volunteers and the public, Greenwich Park Revealed attracted £8 million in grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund.

The ambitious project has already begun; additional staff have been recruited, plans submitted to the local authority and some tree restoration taken place. Works will begin in winter 2022 and will be completed by March 2025.

Perhaps the most significant part of the plan has yet to be started. The Grand Ascent as conceived by La Nôtre, who remodelled the park when Charles II transformed Henry VIII's hunting ground into formal parkland, is to be restored.

The parterre banks will be restored so that the original tree-lined view of the giant grass steps will again be visible from the Queen's House. This will involve planting young trees to replace those that are in decline. The new trees will be disease resistant elm and lime which are closer to the original design.

The Flower Garden was added at the turn of the twentieth century and has been laid out with temporary, seasonal bedding plants in keeping with trends at the time. But it is to



A replanting programme will see 87 trees removed, with 92 new ones planted. Photo: The Royal Parks

be adapted to more permanent, drought resistant perennials more appropriate to a modern climate. The water quality in the lake will also be improved.

Major changes are planned at the south-eastern end of the Park. The deer have already been moved to Richmond Park so that they will not be disturbed by work to provide a café and a learning centre. Part of

the current Nursery Yard will be brought into public use and the rear of the 1950's Arts and Crafts house will have a kitchen garden and greenhouse. A wildflower area and orchard are planned. The barn will house a tool shed, volunteer mess room and public WCs. The new learning centre will be light and airy, increasing the educational facilities. There are two main vantage points in the Park – One Tree Hill and the statue of Sir James Wolfe. The area around the statue is particularly popular with tourists who can also stand across the Greenwich meridian and visit Flamsteed House and the Observatory. To reduce crowding the paved area is to be extended and more seating provided.

Access to One Tree Hill is also being improved to promote visitor dispersal. A new bench around the tree will be installed and interpretation will be increased with reference to Turner, Lovers Walk and the history of One Tree Hill.

Greenwich Park is also well known for its magnificent avenues of trees, now sadly in decline due to disease and squirrel damage. Over the next two to three years a major replanting programme will see many of them replaced. Although 87 of them will be removed, 92 new, more environmentally-friendly, ones will be planted. No trees planted before 1970 will be felled so that at least some of the mature specimens will remain.

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Big heat brings some tomato delight for allotment holders

THE HIGH temperatures felt in the UK this summer appear to have had no adverse effects on this year's yields at the Humber Road allotments (pictured), writes Iris Brown.

Mark Brown, who obtained a half-plot at Humber Road in February of 2020, after spending more than a decade on the waiting-list, suggested that the warm weather may have instead caused yields to improve.

Potential problems caused by a lack of rainfall, as in recent months, were obviated by the steady supply of water which allotment-owners have access to. Additionally, the unusually high temperatures allowed tomatoes to be grown without the aid of a greenhouse, which would typically be required in milder years. With such plentiful yields Mark reports that there is often too much produce to be consumed by a single family alone, and that extra food is regularly shared among the allotment-holders and their families.

Plots in the Humber Road allotment, of which there are roughly eighteen, are highly coveted, as indicated by the lengthy waiting-list on which prospective plot-holders can put down their names after moving into the area.

Mark acquired the half-plot just a few weeks before the first lockdown in March of 2020, describing it as a source of great pleasure to be able to spend time with nature in a time when many were confined indoors. He also noted that following the



lockdown period the allotment appeared to become less busy, perhaps as more people returned to the office after working remotely.

Once all the produce has been harvested, Mark plans to clear the plot, which he will leave empty over the winter until the planting season begins in February of next year, hoping it will yield as much as it has done this summer.

● Thames Water imposed a temporary hosepipe ban from Wednesday 24 August. It said that July had been the driest on record, and that below-average rainfall in 10 of the last 12 months had left the water levels in rivers and reservoirs much lower than usual.



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To find out more
or to set up a £3 monthly donation,
please visit www.stamens.org.uk

Do you have £3 a month to help?

WHAT'S ON

LOCAL ARTIST EXHIBITION
“Have Palette, Will Travel” – 50 years of landscapes by Terry Scales.
The Gallery Space, West Greenwich Library, 146 Greenwich High Road, London SE10 8NN. Tel: 020 8858 4289. To 17 September 2022. Opening times: vary daily, closed Wednesday and Sunday. For more information visit: <https://terryscales.blogspot.com>

IN WORDS
Tuesday 13 September 13 at 7pm.
West Greenwich Library. Address as above. What: a fantastic line-up of eight of Irina Hill’s ‘faithful’ poets reading whatever they want, while we celebrate them and the 50th event in the life of In Words.
Who: Graham High, N.J. Hynes, Rosie Johnston,, Lorraine Mariner, Fiona Moore, Jane McLaughlin, Colin Pink and Sarah Westcott.
As always, this is a free event. Donations for refreshments welcome.

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY EVENTS
Saturday 24 September
Annual Walk for Macmillan starting from Greenwich
Friday 30 September
Macmillan coffee morning.
Anyone wishing to join in or support these events please contact: info@westcombesociety.org
Saturday 22 October
Chrysanthemum Tea
See page 2 for further details of these events.

ARTS SOCIETY GREENWICH
www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk
Monday 12 September, 7.30pm .
Mary Cassatt – Painting in Paris.
Lecturer: Jo Rhymer.
Mary Cassatt (1844-1926) was the only American artist to exhibit with the French Impressionists in their independent exhibitions. Like her Impressionist colleagues, Cassatt represented modern life, but the subjects suitable for a ‘respectable’ woman such as Cassatt were limited. However, Cassatt’s treatment of the traditionally acceptable subjects for women artists is both unconventional and thought provoking. Looking at paintings and prints, this lecture examines ways in which Cassatt – a professional woman artist in a male art world – produced idiosyncratic and significant avant-garde images of nineteenth-century French society.
This lecture will be presented at The Bakehouse, Blackheath SE3 9LA (entry via



Bennett Park) or on Zoom. Members will receive email joining instructions.
Guests are welcome for a payment of £10 (in person, subject to space) or £8 via Zoom, and should contact ticacark@hotmail.com to make a booking. Due to limited space, members will be given priority to attend in person at The Bakehouse. For those joining on Zoom, an email with the link to the lecture will be sent a couple of days before.

ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH
All visitors, including Members, are advised to pre-book their tickets at least 24 hours in advance. Please check rmg.co.uk for the latest information on what is open.

September events at the National Maritime Museum and Queen’s House
A full programme of events for child and adult visitors to the historic Greenwich National Maritime Museum, Queen’s House, and Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre.
Highlights
Last chance to visit the Canaletto’s Venice Revisited exhibition which contrasts the famous paintings of Venice with contemporary challenges facing the city today.
Visit the Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre for this year’s Heritage Open Days celebration to experience tours, talks and community fun.
Discover the greatest space photography from the past year in the new Astronomy

Photographer of the Year 14 exhibition.
September events at the Royal Observatory
A full programme of events for child and adult visitors to the Royal Observatory Greenwich. Admission charges apply to planetarium shows, Flamsteed House and Meridian Courtyard, courses, and some events.
Visit the planetarium on weekends and select weekdays for space-related workshops and shows suitable for a wide range of ages. Discover a range of



Valley in Shoreham, Kent, by Terry Scales. An exhibition of his work runs at West Greenwich Library until Saturday 17 September. See column one for details

astronomy courses suitable for beginners and more experienced students.
September events at Cutty Sark
A full programme of events for child and adult visitors to Cutty Sark.
Highlights
Seize the opportunity to scale the heights of Cutty Sark in the Rig Climb Experience, enjoyed in the photograph, left, by Westcombe Park resident Richard Brooks. Experience life at sea by talking to characters from the ship’s past. Explore the ship with a self-guided tour using only your mobile phone.

GREENWICH INDUSTRIAL HISTORY
Tuesday 20 September
Stewart Ash & Bill Burns.
The Pender Family and their roles in the development of the submarine cable industry.
Tuesday 18 October
Roy Fenton
Collier ships and the coal trade.

GREENWICH THEATRE
Treasure Island, to 4 September.
This new staging is for ages six plus and families.
Sherlock Holmes –The Valley of Fear 21 to 24 September. The final Sherlock Holmes novel brought to life. Age 11 plus. Visit greenwichtheatre.org.uk for further information.

BLACKHEATH CONCERT HALLS
Candide
Music by Leonard Bernstein. Book by Hugh Wheeler after Voltaire. Tuesday 27 September, 7pm. Thursday 29 September 7pm. Saturday 1 October 2.30pm (BSL signed performance with Wendy Ebsworth). Sunday 2 October, 2.30pm.

GREENWICH OPEN STUDIOS
10/11 September & 17/18 September.
Visit www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk for details
Instagram: [@greenwich_open_studios](https://www.instagram.com/greenwich_open_studios)

● Send submissions for What’s On to wnews@westcombesociety.org

A girl looking through a telescope. The girl is wearing a dark jacket and is looking through a large telescope. The background is a dark, industrial-looking structure.

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Live Events

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2 September - The Jazz Jam (Open Mic Jazz)
7 October - Nick Harper (‘One of the Finest’)
14 October - It Started with a Song
ft Robert Vincent/Peter Bruntnell/Isobel Kimberley/Dave Sutherland
21 October - SWOP (Swing to Bop & More)
28 October - Diwali with Global Fusion Music & Arts
18 November - Southern Aces (Sonic Promotions Event)
27 November - Corner@96 Craft Fayre

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