

## Problems continue at Southeastern

The Greenwich Line Users Group exists to put forward the views of passengers and to lobby for improvements to both the railway service and the stations. In the last four years, the train service has declined from a reliable 10-minute daytime frequency to an unreliable and irregular frequency. Our aim is for a return to a regular and reliable train service that people will want to use. Readers are encouraged to continue to email [customerservices@southeasternrailway.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@southeasternrailway.co.uk) or [@Se\\_Railway](https://twitter.com/Se_Railway) (Twitter)

The Westcombe Society feel a bus review is long overdue. *cont p3*

Westcombe News April 23



# WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Westcombe News

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

GUEST EDITOR:  
Marilyn Little

EDITORIAL TEAM  
Westcombe Society  
Polly Morgan

ALL EDITORIAL  
CORRESPONDENCE/PRESS  
MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:  
wnews@westcombesociety.org  
Deadline for May copy  
18th April 2023

SUB EDITOR  
Annie Grey

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

ADVERTISING  
Andrew Cai  
advertising@westcombesociety.org  
Deadline for Advertising:  
18th April 2023

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

We would be delighted to  
receive your support and  
annual membership  
subscription.  
Family membership £12.  
Individual membership £8.  
Senior Citizens and Unwaged  
£4.

Please send payment to:  
Christine Legg, 69 Mycenae  
Road, London, SE3 7SE or  
email:  
membership@  
westcombesociety.org

Members are invited  
to the  
WESTCOMBE  
SOCIETY  
– AGM 2023

7.00pm on Friday 19th May 2023  
In the Centenary Room at  
Blackheath High School by kind  
permission of the Head Ms Argile

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for  
absence
2. Approval of and matter arising  
from Minutes of 2022 AGM
3. Reports from the Chair, Events  
Sub-Committee, Environment Sub-  
Committee, Membership Secretary,  
Editor of the Westcombe News
4. Treasurer’s Report and presenta-  
tion of audited statement of accounts  
for year ending 31/03/2022
5. Election of Officers
6. A.O.B.
7. Our speaker Chris Hawkins will  
give an illustrated talk on one of his  
favourite places Lesnes Abbey at  
Abbey Wood. We invite all our  
members to come and learn more of  
the history of this historic site on  
our doorstep.  
Wine and nibbles will be served

Dates for your Diaries:

AGM 19th May Blackheath High  
School 7pm  
Quiz 10th June 7:30 Mycenae House  
(details of how to book will be in  
the May issue).  
MacMillan Fund raising Walk 17th  
September (details to follow)  
MacMillan Coffee Morning 29th  
September  
Chrysanthemum Tea 14th October  
Mycenae House 2pm  
Quiz 25th November Mycenae  
House 7:30

ADVERTISING  
MANAGER

Needed for popular local paper with  
10 issues per annum.  
Recording details of new advertisers  
and recording payment details for  
existing advertisers. Passing details of  
new ads and updated ads to  
Westcombe News editor.  
Would suit a volunteer with a few  
hours a week to spare. Knowledge of  
simple spreadsheets would be useful  
but training could be given.

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

EASTER  
EGG HUNT



Saturday 8th April  
2023  
1.30 – 3.30pm  
Mycenae Gardens

PRIZES FOR HATS & BONNETS

£2.50 ENTRY

HERE’S TO  
VOLUNTEERING

When it comes to volunteering  
her time, skills and friendship  
to the Westcombe Park community,  
Joanne Lucas is a local treasure. You  
see, Joanne has been involved with  
The Westcombe Society for more  
than 30 years. During that time she’s  
helped organise many a fundraising  
event, delivered the Westcombe News  
(as well as editing an issue ), made



sandwiches for community teas, gone  
on charity walks, and basically made  
herself available for anything and  
everything while also holding down a  
demanding full-time career.  
“Volunteering has had such a  
positive, uplifting impact on my life,”  
says Joanne. “It’s wonderful knowing  
you are making a difference in  
people’s lives and there’s the fun of  
doing things in a team of like-minded  
people.  
“Joining The Westcombe Society  
helped me enormously when I first  
came to the area knowing no-one. It  
helped me quickly make friends and  
feel connected to the area. This is  
turn improved my confidence and  
social skills generally.”

If you fancy checking out the  
rewards of volunteering please do get  
in touch by emailing  
info@westcombesociety.org

**Note: We are currently looking for  
deliverers of the Westcombe News  
particularly in the Old Dover Road  
area.**

If you can help please contact Emily  
on 020 8853 2756

DAFFODIL  
TEA

To smoked salmon sandwiches  
and luscious cakes on a  
sunny spring afternoon, add  
friends old and new and you had  
the setting for the delightful  
recently held Westcombe Society  
Daffodil Tea.  
Top the high spirits and chat with  
a challenging quiz (with prizes of  
course) and Mycenae House was  
buzzing.  
Be sure to pop the following  
dates into your diary for similar  
get togethers later in the year; the  
MacMillan coffee morning on  
Sept 29 and the Chrysanthemum  
Tea on Oct 14.

We look forward to seeing you!



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

Advertising Rates  
for Display Adverts  
in the WN

Size	Per Issue	Five Issue Discount
Standard 6cm x 6cm (one column wide)	£40	£185
12cm x 6cm (horizontal or vertical)	£63	£290
18cm x 6cm (horizontal or vertical)	£89	£405
12cm x 12cm	£115	£515

For further details please contact:  
Advertisingmanager@  
westcombesociety.org



# NEIGHBOURHOOD

## BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL has new Head Teacher

Natalie Argile, formerly Assistant Head, who became Acting Head in September 2022, has now been appointed. She intends to build on the school's reputation for academic excellence, as well as enhancing existing offers such as wellbeing and pastoral care.



### Blackheath/Westcombe Ward Councillor Surgery times

Leo Fletcher, Mariam Lolavar and Christine St Matthew-Daniel  
Details are below, please come, and say hello to us.  
No appointments needed

1st Saturday of the month -  
10am - 11am - Mycenae House, 90  
Mycenae Road, London SE3 7SE

1st Saturday of the month  
- 1.00pm - 2.00pm - Age Exchange,  
11 Blackheath Village, SE3 9LA

She says it "... is really important in a world where women are often underrepresented [to] allow them to have every choice available to them. We want girls to leave at age 18 ready to face life with courage, intellectual flexibility and emotional resilience to succeed whatever their chosen path."

Cheryl Giovannoni, Chief Executive of GDST, added: "What sets Natalie apart is her commitment to Blackheath High School, her passion for girls' education and her fierce dedication to helping each individual student reach their full potential. The GDST's focus is on preparing young people to build a better world for the future and understanding how education fits into that ambition – Natalie is the ideal person to lead Blackheath High School into that future, and I am incredibly excited to see the next chapter under her leadership."

For more information visit:  
[www.blackheathhighschool.gdst.net](http://www.blackheathhighschool.gdst.net)

## Runners lace up for 43rd Annual London Marathon

On Sunday, the 23rd of April 2023 expect some road closures as thousands of runners will pass through or near Westcombe Park. The organisers will have delivered information on the closures and crossing points to all residents before the day.

A short summary is given below. Road closures will begin at 04:00 with all roads expected to be cleared by 15:00. Please note, roads will not reopen until deemed safe to do so, therefore times are approximate. A short section of Shooters Hill Road will close at 04:00 on Sunday 23 April to enable the organisers to install the Start Area gantry. The following roads will close at 07:00:

## New Park Manager for Greenwich Park

The Royal Parks charity announces that Clare Lanes will join the organisation as the new Park Manager for Greenwich Park in April. This is following Graham Dear's retirement after 13 years. Clare will be the first female Park Manager at The Royal Parks



in over 30 years. Clare has over 25 years' experience of working in the landscape industry across the South of England and in Sydney, Australia.

Her experience will be applied to the ongoing delivery of Greenwich Park Revealed - a multi-million pound, four-year restoration project which will restore the park's 17th century landscape, enhancing it to boost biodiversity, as well as creating opportunities for the local community through free cultural events as well as learning, volunteering, and training opportunities. Clare Lanes, Park Manager, Greenwich Park, said: "Greenwich Park represents all the things that are important to me in my work - nature conservation, horticulture and heritage in an urban park with access to nature for the local community. I am really excited to be joining the Royal Park's team as Greenwich Park Manager at such an important time, with the Greenwich Park Revealed project in full swing, and working with the team to deliver the improvements, events and benefits funded by the National Lottery.

## And .... New PACE Officer at Greenwich Park

Daniella Briscoe-People has just joined as the new Partnership & Community Engagement Officer (PACE) on the Greenwich Park Revealed project. Daniella was previously Communications Manager at The Heritage Alliance, working in sector support and heritage advocacy, and before that worked in Marketing and Communications with Historic Houses. She recently worked on an exhibition with the University of Winchester, 'unearthing' the history of the St Vincent Botanical Garden.

## Obituaries

Martin Christopher Robson  
1949-2023.

Chris, as he was known to the family, was a familiar figure around the Standard and Blackheath Village for many years. With hair and raincoat blowing in the wind and carrier bag in hand he would be out and about almost every day. He lived at Parkside for over 20 years first with his mother and father and later on his own. Apart from an abiding interest in films, in later years he was very much involved with several clubs and societies including the Byron Society, the Pilgrims Society, the English Speaking Union and the Mid Atlantic Club. His death followed an accident. He will be much missed. - David Robson



FROM JUST £999\* A MONTH

- ✓ Expert childcare from 7:45 to 18:30 everyday
- ✓ Small classes taught by qualified teachers (during term time)
- ✓ Step up from day nursery and prepare your child to start school

A NURSERY PREP SCHOOL EDUCATION IS MORE AFFORDABLE THAN YOU THINK

\*lunches and incidental costs extra, includes government early years funding

THE POINTER SCHOOL

<http://pointers.school>

**WRISTWORTH HEATING & PLUMBING**

Installation - Servicing - Repair

Tel: 07725 008280  
Email: [wristworth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wristworth@hotmail.co.uk)

**GAS safe REGISTER**

Check Out Our **NEW** Website: [wristworthheating.weebly.com](http://wristworthheating.weebly.com)



**ELL ARCHITECTS**

[WWW.ELLELLARCHITECTS.COM](http://WWW.ELLELLARCHITECTS.COM)



# FEATURES

## Westcombe Park: the influence of classical architecture

Classical architecture generally refers back to Greek and Roman styles, typified by generous, spacious, often symmetrical, buildings frequently with elegant pillars. Greenwich possesses examples of some fine classical buildings, one of the reasons it has been designated as a World Heritage Site. Masterpieces by several of the most famous architects of the 17th and 18th Centuries including Inigo Jones, Sir Christopher Wren, Sir John Vanbrugh, Nicholas Hawksmoor, James Athenian Stuart and even a modest gatehouse building by John Nash, are to be found in Greenwich.

Inigo Jones's Queen's House is his own rather severe interpretation of the Palladian style he observed on a visit to Italy. It is claimed to be the very first truly classical building in this country.

Nelson Road, Greenwich Church Street and College Approach in the town centre have elegant classical Regency style facades.

Westcombe Park has many examples of domestic architecture of late Victorian and Edwardian styles but there are also one or two buildings with classical influences.

Woodlands, now home to the Steiner School, was built in the mid-1770s for John Julius Angerstein. Designed by George Gibson it was intended to be a small country villa set in parkland. Neil Rhind quotes a description of the 'face' of the building with a "handsome portico enriched by two niches, one on each side, containing elegant statues".

The so-called neo-Georgian style has features of classical architecture, marked by symmetry and proportion with restrained decoration. The John Roan school, situated at the top of Maze Hill, was designed by Sir Banister Fletcher and Percy Boothroyd Dannatt in a neo-Georgian style.

It is described by English Heritage as having "flanking fluted stone columns and raised brick quoins, with dentilled cornice and stepped pediment above".

A few houses in Westcombe Park display elements of the classical style. No 3 Westcombe Park Road next to Vanbrugh Castle, was the original site of Vanbrugh's Red House. In the mid-1890s the house was demolished and in 1867 the current property, The Cedars, was built. It is described in the local list as



having a classical portico in Corinthian style. Similarly, a number of houses in both Charlton Road and Humber Road, have "projecting classical porches with columns". So, although Westcombe Park cannot match its famous neighbour, it has its own modest, classical heritage.



David Fletcher

cont from p1

Residents in the west of the Westcombe area have no direct bus to Blackheath Village, North Greenwich or Charlton Riverside. The considerable walk to a suitable bus and the very steep hill encourage car use by those who have one. The Westcombe Society would like the Council to work with TfL to explore solutions that make shopping using public transport more attractive.

The Westcombe Society are also keen to see the local shopping area, 'The Standard', flourish. They have requested that the Council do not to make changes that detrimentally affect the bus routes or reduce short-stay car parking in this area and also ask that the Council do not reconsider closing the Old Dover Road to traffic as passing trade is very important to the viability of local businesses.

Walking should be as safe and attractive as possible in the area so the Westcombe Society would like to see improvements for pedestrians around the Angerstein roundabout and the Angerstein railway crossing areas to provide safe walking routes to the Bugsby's Way and A206/Woolwich Road shopping hubs.

Additionally, the Westcombe Society would like to see a handrail installed on the Halstow Road railway bridge to make this walking route safer in winter and easier for those who are less able. *Environment Committee*

families to stay in the area and relieve the housing pressure that is driving insensitive high-rise development on the waterfront. Such developments include mansards, dormers, rear extensions and single-storey basements within the existing footprint. All of these can be done in a sensitive way that reflects the architectural vernacular of the largely-Victorian houses. The Victorians would have encouraged such additions, as they exist on Victorian houses elsewhere in London, and the reasons they don't exist are doubtless to do with the relative wealth of Westcombe Park at the time. Sadly, conservation seems too focused on turning houses into museums, rather than meeting the housing needs that exist today without the results looking crass.

- Vivienne Raper

*The Westcombe Society Environment Committee reply:*

The Committee has been discussing Article 4 Direction with the council for some time, but only in respect of paving over front gardens to provide off-street parking. We're concerned about how the Conservation Area looks, but also about how the loss of front gardens diminishes biodiversity and habitats for birds and pollinating insects, and adds considerably to the amount of rainfall entering the drains and causing overflows (including sewage) into the Thames via the ancient sewage system. We also regret the loss of boundary walls, often built at the same time as the dwelling, and of on-street parking when cross-overs are installed. We are not advocating for Article 4 Direction on home extensions, dormer windows, or similar changes to dwellings, and of course we are aware that people's needs for accommodation can change. We do sometimes comment on planning proposals for extensions etc where the plans appear out of keeping with the host property or the Conservation Area's valued aspects. But these are always done on a case-by-case basis.



## Letters

I was very interested to read that the Westcombe Society is supporting an Article 4 either in the Standard or more broadly in the conservation area. It is unclear who supports even stricter planning restrictions. Speaking to local families, the existing rules prevent the types of building work that would allow growing

# ALLTYPE

## ROOFING SOLUTIONS

Specialists In All Types Of Roofing And Building Projects

All work comes with an Insurance Backed Guarantee

PRICE MATCH PROMISE

100% GUARANTEE

FREE QUOTATIONS

LOCAL TRADESMEN

PLEASE CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES & FRIENDLY ADVICE

Mobile: 07498 330 704

Mobile: 07414 466 046

## WestcombeNEWS

### Editor Wanted

The Westcombe News seeks an editor or guest editors to work within a team to plan, revise and co-ordinate material for publication together with input from the WestcombeSoc.

This is a voluntary position.  
For further details please contact  
info@westcombesociety.org  
or call 07939 386215  
(Marilyn Little)



# FEATURES

## The Van de Veldes: Greenwich, Art and the Sea 2 March 2023 – 14 January 2024

Stunning new exhibition at the Queen’s House, Greenwich, on the founders of English marine painting, 350 years after their arrival in England

Westcombe News was granted an exciting preview tour of this exceptional free exhibition at the stunning Queen’s House in Greenwich which

Willem van de Velde the Younger worked in oils, often using his father's extraordinarily detailed drawings as source material. He trained with Simon de Vlieger and collaborated closely with his father, creating more dramatic, atmospheric paintings, particularly the stormscapes that appealed to an English market. These works would establish



has reopened its doors from 2nd March 2023. Willem van de Velde the Elder and Willem van de Velde the Younger were the most important and influential marine painters of the seventeenth century. During a visit to the Dutch Republic in 1667, Cosimo de Medici visited two artists’ studios – Willem van de Velde the Elder and Rembrandt. Following Het Rampjaar, or the Disaster Year of 1672, the Van de Veldes moved from the Netherlands to England at the invitation of Charles II, who awarded them a salary equivalent to that of his ‘Principal Painter’, Sir Peter Lely, and a studio at the Queen’s House. Together, they became the founders of the English school of marine painting. Willem van de Velde the Elder was a self-taught draughtsman who pioneered the technique of ‘pen painting’, allowing him to capture a ship’s likeness or a naval battle in astonishing detail. He was also a war journalist, who went out to sea to sketch ships and record naval actions, witnessing historical events including the Battle of Solebay, the last naval battle James, Duke of York (later James II) engaged in.

his reputation as one of the leading marine painters of the seventeenth century.

Returning to display in this exhibition is The Burning of the Royal James at the Battle of Solebay, 28 May 1672, otherwise known as ‘The Solebay Tapestry’. Originally part of a set of six, it is the only Solebay Tapestry in the collection at the Queen’s House, where the original cartoons were first designed by Van de Velde the Elder. In February 2022, Royal Museums Greenwich partnered with the Art Fund to crowdfund £15,000 to save the Solebay Tapestry. The campaign broke records, reaching its target in a single day. This monumental tapestry has been saved from further deterioration and is able to return to display for the first time in over twenty years. It’s a stunning remastered tapestry that must be seen in person to really take in the amazing artistry on display and intricate renovation involved in this great restoration work. Sketches of battle scenes at sea follow in the sumptuous art on display and have been drawn in incredible detail, considering they were drawn on a rocky boat at sea, something which is hard



@National Maritime Museum London

to fathom in today’s age. There is also a fascinating mock-up of their artist studio at the front of the Queen’s House, which is smaller than some may have imagined but that may well be (the curators say) because a second larger room at the rear might have been used to house their sketches and pigmentation. The exhibit ends with a stunning room full of Turner paintings amongst others that inspired Turner to announce the Van de Veldes ‘made him a painter’. Allison Goudie, Art Curator at Royal Museums Greenwich, said, “The Van de Velde collection at Greenwich is remarkable not only for its sheer size but for what it reveals about how a 17th century artist’s studio functioned. This exhibition celebrates this extraordinary aspect of the Van de Velde collection here and the unique connection it now has with the Queen’s House, the location of the Van de Veldes’ studio for over twenty years.”

For more information and to book your free tickets to visit this exhibition, please visit: [www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/queens-house/van-de-veldes-art-exhibition](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/queens-house/van-de-veldes-art-exhibition)

## RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON IN MEMORY OF EMILY CAMPBELL

Head to Woolwich Leisure Centre on a Thursday afternoon and you’ll see members of Greenwich Powerchair Football Club (GPFC) at their weekly practice session. ‘Greenwich Powerchair Football Club was set up 2007 by South London Special League (SLSL) to provide sporting opportunities for severely physically disabled players,’ says Sharon Brokenshire (MBE), founder of SLSL. ‘Powerchair football provides a way for the most disabled in our community to play our national game. A month ago, we were devastated to learn that one of our players, Emily Campbell had died. Emily was a trailblazer. Her enthusiasm for powerchair football was infectious and she represented the Club in the South East England Powerchair Football League.’ Helen Marley-Hutchinson is running the London Marathon in memory of Emily, raising funds for Greenwich Powerchair Football Club. Kay Campbell, Emily’s mother, tried for years to find a sport suited to Emily who had cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus. Kay was a familiar face at the Westcombe Society, and committed to Charlton Riding for the Disabled. Emily loved horses, but once she tried Powerchair Football, she was hooked, the sport quickly becoming a huge part of her life. ‘As the founder of South London Special League and Greenwich PFC, I am asking you to support Helen as she runs the 26.2 miles from Blackheath to Pall Mall in memory of Emily,’ says Sharon. If everybody reading this paper donated £1, we’d have £4000 towards a legacy for the sport Emily loved. Thank you very much for your support! <https://2023virtualtcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/helen-marley-hutchinson>



## INVESTMENTS PENSIONS ESTATE PLANNING STARKEY FINANCIAL PLANNING

Contact us: 020 8853 7160  
[admin@starkeyfp.co.uk](mailto:admin@starkeyfp.co.uk)

2 Charlton Road, Blackheath Standard, London SE3 7EX

Independent and friendly advice from south east  
London’s top team of Chartered Financial Planners

Starkey Financial Planning Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



**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  
[rgaustintld@gmail.com](mailto:rgaustintld@gmail.com)  
Emergencies: 07738124344  
[email: rgaustintld@gmail.com](mailto:rgaustintld@gmail.com)

PAINTING & DECORATING

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](mailto:jamlam.john@btinternet.com)

Westcombe News April 23

5



# ENVIRONMENT

## FRIENDS OF MYCENAE GARDENS: WINTER WORK DAY

The weather for a Saturday in March is hard to predict, but the Friends of Mycenae Gardens were lucky with their planned work day. It was dry and mild, just right for a big session of pruning



and lopping branches and enjoying the atmosphere of the park. If you've visited this space, just behind Mycenae House, you'll know that it's a real resource for the community. While the volunteers were there, visitors included dog walkers and many children; playing, chasing, and taking a interest in our activity. We were glad to collect a number of our questionnaires, because we want to build a good picture of who uses the park and what they love about it or improvements they might like to see. If you haven't filled one in

already, you'll find a link in the Friends of Mycenae Gardens website. Please do fill it in: it's short but we value the views of users. The work itself was great fun, aided hugely by the Greenwich Good Gym team. Their members spent a couple of hours building up the dead hedge that protects the nature area from human and canine incursions. A dead hedge is made of prunings from overgrown shrubs and trees, piled between stakes that give it shape. It will break down over time, so needs to be renewed. But it offers shelter to all sorts of creatures, including many insects like beetles and bees that are important for maintaining plant life cycles, or ladybugs that eat aphids and blackfly. The other most visible work was building a woven willow fencing around an area we are keen to protect from damage. We hope you'll take time to admire the craft that went into creating this, and not let dogs or children jump over the barrier. Also, there are now several new bird boxes, just in time for the nesting season. You might not notice the pruning as much, but we hope that the garden will seem a little more light-filled, too. The Friends group aims to make this space welcoming for all, human or otherwise, and we're grateful to everyone who helped, whether it was to answer questions, hack away brambles, or bring biscuits – or the delicious cupcakes that many of our smaller assistants enjoyed!

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(See also [www.westcombesociety.org](http://www.westcombesociety.org))

- 16 KIRKSIDE ROAD ref 23/0763/HD  
To construct two rear dormers and two roof lights to front slope.
- 26 GLENLUCE ROAD ref 23/0005/F  
To repair/replace roof covering, roof cheeks, mock Tudor framing, soffit and fascia boards, window surrounds, and windows of three dormers.
- 139 LANGTON WAY ref 23/0635/HD  
To construct single storey outbuilding in rear garden.
- 70 FOYLE ROAD ref 23/0641/HD  
To construct single storey rear infill extension and modify terrace.
- 13A ULUNDI ROAD ref 23/0427/F  
To demolish conservatory and construct single storey rear extension.
- 22 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 23/0679/HD  
To construct part single/part two storey side and rear extension, loft conversion with rear dormer and roof lights, new front boundary wall, landscaped front garden.

## 'Forever chemicals': should we care?

Ann Hill

What are they? These are synthetic chemicals that are used in a wide range of everyday household products because they enable the items to repel oil, grease, water, dirt, and stains. They are of concern because it is almost impossible to clear them from the environment, so we will continue to be exposed for generations. They are getting into our bodies and have been found widely in blood and breastmilk, even in people living in the Arctic. Over 4700 of these PFAS (per- and polyfluoro alkyl substances) and their subgroups are available on the global market. Examples of their use are the Teflon coating for pans and baking trays, disposable food packaging such as takeaway boxes, sandwich and bakery bags, waterproof membranes on outdoor jackets, cosmetics, ski wax, bike oil and polishes, to mention a few. They are easily dispersed and are in the atmosphere, soil, dust, water, oceans, plants and animals (and us). Are they harmful? PFAS can be toxic. Studies have found links between PFAS exposure and a number of health problems including cancer, infertility and reduced immunity. The UK currently regulates only two PFAS but there are no toxicity data for many that are in use. GenX, which is a newer generation of PFAS, has also recently been deemed potentially harmful. In 2021 the UK Environment Agency reported multiple gaps in environmental monitoring of PFAS. Neither drinking water nor food is routinely tested for PFAS in the UK.

Reducing exposure: Although we cannot avoid exposure to PFAS completely, here are some ways that have been suggested for reducing our overall exposure:-

- Non-stick coated pans: avoid pre-heating an empty non-stick pan and only cook on low or moderate heat. Avoid lightweight non-stick pans as they quickly exceed 5000F (2600C) and the coating can begin to break down. Discard pre-2013 non-stick cookware.
- Select alternative cookware: choose stainless steel, cast iron or ceramic alternatives.
- Food packaging: a quick test at home is to put a small drop of olive oil onto the surface. If it forms a small bead (rather than soaking in and spreading) then it is likely to be coated with PFAS.
- Clothing and textiles: read product specification: check for PFAS-free labels. Avoid those with Scotchgard or Gore-Tex coating.
- Household items: avoid those containing perfluor or other PFAS derivatives, such as those commonly abbreviated to PTFE and PFC.
- Cosmetics: avoid products containing 'fluoro' ingredients.

Over a million Big Mac boxes are used and discarded every day. McDonald's have committed to remove PFAS from their packaging by 2025. European health and environment groups have called on EU member states to ban all PFAS in consumer products by 2025, and across all uses by 2030. Only Denmark has prohibited the use of PFAS, and only regarding paper and cardboard food packaging. In the UK, the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency have been asked to investigate how to manage the risks of PFAS. Legislation is the only way to stop the continual pollution of our planet with PFAS, and our MPs need to be aware of our concerns. (For further information see <https://chemtrust.org/pfas/>)

## NEWS BRIEF

### Keep Britain Tidy Awards.

The Council took home the Excellence in Enforcement Award for its outstanding work cracking down on environmental crime in Royal Greenwich, reducing illegal business waste, and tackling fly-tipping across the borough

### Blackwall Tunnel

Transport for London (TfL) has warned drivers that the south-bound Blackwall Tunnel will be closed from 10pm on Friday 31 March until 5am on Monday 3 April in order to facilitate the construction of a new walking and cycling bridge across the A102 in Greenwich. The new bridge, which is being delivered by Riverlinx CJV as part of the Silvertown Tunnel project, will replace the existing 1960s foot-bridge across the A102 with a new, fully accessible bridge. .



St Olave's Prep School



Contact us for further information or to arrange a tour

“ The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent ”  
ISI Inspection Report

[www.stolaves.org.uk](http://www.stolaves.org.uk). Call 020 8294 8930



# WHATS ON

## Woodlands Farm, Shooters Hill

Drop-in Easter Crafts, 11am – 2pm, Tuesday 4 April 2023  
All children must be accompanied by an adult.  
No booking necessary, drop in anytime, £3 per child

• Egg-cellent Easter Trail, 10am – 2pm, Thursday 6 April 2023  
No booking required, drop in at any time. £2 per child

• Get Wild in the Woods!, 10am – 11am or 1pm – 2pm sessions,

Wednesday 12 April 2023  
Come and join us for an adventure in the woods.  
Have a go at building a shelter and wild cooking over a fire.  
All children must be at least 7 years old and accompanied by an adult

£6 per child. Child spaces must be booked via [www.the-woodlands-farm-trust.org](http://www.the-woodlands-farm-trust.org)

• Children’s Basic Sewing Skills, 11am or 1pm sessions, Thursday 13 April 2023

Learn some basic sewing skills and design your own felt padded key ring.

Children must be 6 years and over and accompanied by an adult.

£4 per child. Child spaces must be booked via [www.the-woodlands-farm-trust.org](http://www.the-woodlands-farm-trust.org)

• Lambing Day & Food Festival, Sunday 23 April 2023, 11am – 4pm

See our new-born lambs, tractor/trailer rides [weather permitting], food stalls, local produce, Kentish cider, craft stalls ... a great day out for all ages

Adult £2, Children under 16 £1, Family £5 [2 adults and up to 3 children]

Buses 89 and 486 stop outside the farm [no parking at this event]

N.B. The only dogs allowed onto the farm are assistance dogs.

All events are at The Woodlands Farm Trust, 331 Shooters Hill, Welling DA16 3RP

For more information please contact us: [education@thewoodlands-farmtrust.org](mailto:education@thewoodlands-farmtrust.org) or 020 8319 8900

Parking is limited, so please use public transport where possible.

## GREENWICH PARK

Greenwich Dance Classes in the Park, every Saturday, 9.30 -12.30  
4 March – 29 April (excluding 22 April)

## Charlton House and Gardens

Bunnies in the Beds: Easter Trail & Market  
Sunday 2nd April, 11am - 3pm  
£3 suggested donation  
You and your family are invited to return with your family to Charlton House & Gardens this April for a half-term family day! Search for the bunnies and veggies on a trail through our walled gardens, discover the remarkable history of the House's original Jacobean halls, and enjoy an Easter market and crafts for kids 0-12.

Holiday Explorers: Easter is Coming!  
Wednesday 5th April, 10am, 11:30am, 1pm  
£3 per child aged 5–12  
Every holiday Wednesday, get hands-on with history and explore past Greenwich through craft and play.

Holiday Explorers: Busy Bees  
Wednesday 12th April, 10am, 11:30am, 1pm  
£3 per child aged 5–12

Trinity Laban alumnus Stephen Maw presents classical concerts with exceptional local musicians at Charlton House and Gardens.  
Friday Concerts: We’ll Meet Again: Music & Words of the Second World War  
Friday 14th April, 1pm  
Friday Concerts: Inis Oírr Asano (viola) and Alexia Daphne Eleftheriadou (piano)  
Friday 21st April, 1pm  
Friday Concerts: Orpheus Winds Reed Trio  
Friday 28th April, 1pm

## Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society (CABAHS)

Next meeting Monday April 17th 7.30pm. This is our members Spring Show meeting. Please contact [cabahshortisoc@gmail.com](mailto:cabahshortisoc@gmail.com) if you would like to come as a guest.  
Charlton House Walled Gardens Volunteer scheme meets every Tues 2-4pm and Thurs 10-12, and anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome. We are a friendly group, usually with 12-15 volunteers at each drop-in session. Please bring own gloves and a mug for tea break.  
Regular volunteers can look after their own bed in the Old Pond Garden, under the direction of Jason the Head Gardener. Occasional volunteers are very welcome to help with the varied tasks that now cover the whole estate. Latest project is to beautify the area around the Summerhouse and update the Peace Garden planting. Contact [cabahshortisoc@gmail.com](mailto:cabahshortisoc@gmail.com) for info or see our website <https://cabahs.com/old-pond-garden/> for details.

## National Maritime Museum and Queen’s House

EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS  
The Van de Veldes: Greenwich, Art and the Sea  
Please see our special review of this exhibit in this edition.  
Date: 2 March 2023 – 14 January 2024  
Time: 10.00 – 17.00  
Location: Queen’s House, Greenwich  
[www.rmg.co.uk/van-de-velde](http://www.rmg.co.uk/van-de-velde)

Astronomy Photographer of the Year  
Now in its fourteenth year, the awe-inspiring winning and shortlisted images from this year’s Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition are on display at the National Maritime Museum.  
Date: 17 September 2022 – 13 August 2023  
Time: 10.00 – 17.00  
Location: National Maritime Museum, Photography Gallery  
[www.rmg.co.uk/astrophoto](http://www.rmg.co.uk/astrophoto)

Our Connection to Water  
Our Connection to Water brings together seven artists to explore our human connection to water through photography, audio, film, illustration and installations.  
Date: Daily from 31 March 2023  
Time: 10.00 – 17.00  
Location: National Maritime Museum, New Insights Gallery  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/our-connection-water](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/our-connection-water)

All the Queen’s Men  
Uncover the lives of Elizabeth I’s male courtiers and their personal and political relationships with the monarch in this display at the Queen’s House.  
Date: Daily  
Time: 10.00 – 17.00  
Location: Queen’s House, Greenwich  
[www.rmg.co.uk/queens-house/attractions/all-queens-men](http://www.rmg.co.uk/queens-house/attractions/all-queens-men)

The Tempest and the Thames  
On display will be a copy of William Shakespeare’s First Folio, on loan from Dulwich College, in our Maritime London gallery, marking the 400th anniversary of its publication and drawing out the links between the nautical in Shakespeare’s works and the city in which he wrote them.  
Date: 31 March – 24 September 2023  
Time: 10.00 – 17.00

## Mycenae House

International Folk Dance Caeli and Performance of Two Left Feet project at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE, Friday 5th May at 3.30pm.

Two Left Feet Project funded by English Folk Dance and Song Society Mini Grants. Come along and dance your feet off!

Book your ticket on Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.com/o/j-c-dance-62393145003](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/j-c-dance-62393145003) or email [joclare@hotmail.it](mailto:joclare@hotmail.it)

Location: National Maritime Museum, Maritime London Gallery  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/tempest-thames-shakespeare-first-folio](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/tempest-thames-shakespeare-first-folio)

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Folio 400 Celebration  
As part of a nationwide series of events for the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s First Folio, on the Bard’s birthday we will be offering special tours of our Tudor and Stuart Seafarers Gallery and Queen’s House, alongside the display of a copy of the Folio in the Maritime London gallery.  
Date: 23 April 2023  
Time: 10.00 – 17.00  
Location: National Maritime Museum and Queen’s House  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/tempest-thames-shakespeare-first-folio](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/tempest-thames-shakespeare-first-folio)

Caribbean Takeover  
Enjoy a family day out at the National Maritime Museum this April courtesy of our friends at the Caribbean Social Forum. This unique event celebrates the fusion of cultures from Africa, the Caribbean and Britain. From free masterclasses to fabulous performances, we’re dedicating the day to celebrating black history and culture in Britain.  
Time: 11.00 – 17.00  
Location: National Maritime Museum  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/caribbean-takeover](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/caribbean-takeover)

Drawn Together  
A season of events for a range of ages and abilities from March–June dedicated to the art of drawing:  
Ways into Drawing  
Take part in creative workshops during the Easter holidays, play with mark-making and materials to turn drawing on its head.  
Date: 1–16 April 2023  
Time: 11.00 – 13.00 | 14.00 – 16.00  
Location: National Maritime Museum, Learning Space  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/learning-space/easter-holidays-ways-drawing](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/learning-space/easter-holidays-ways-drawing)

For events at the Royal Observatory see their website  
<https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/royal-observatory>

For events at the Cutty Sark, please see their website for more information: <https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/cuttysark>

## WESTCOMBE WOODLANDS

SPRING ANNUAL BLUEBELL OPEN DAY  
This year, our regular Open Day takes place in the afternoon of Sunday, the 30th of April, with the gates opening at 2:00 pm. As always, expect refreshments, homemade cakes, children’s activities, opportunities to meet the Westcombe Woodlands committee members and of course, to see the bluebells in flower.



# MARKET PLACE

## COUNSELLING

**HOLISTIC COUNSELLING**  
(over 20 years experience)  
For Anxiety – Depression - Relationship problems & Other Issues  
1 full hour session £50 –  
Concessions available  
Please contact Brenda T: 020 8858 5969  
E: bmbt@btinternet.com Or Linda T: 020 8858 1991 E:  
lindachenderson45@gmail.com  
W: holisticcounsellingandyoga.com.  
No problem is too big or too small

## THERAPIST

I'm a locally based BABCP registered CBT therapist and couples therapist offering sessions online and in person. For a 15 minute phone consultation contact me via hello@Sasha-Louise.com or 07889755299.  
Website - www.Sasha-Louise.com

## GARDENING

**PARADISE TREE SURGEONS AND LANDSCAPING**  
www.treesurgeonsblackheath.co.uk  
admin@reesurgeonsblackheath.co.uk  
Text 07789 700777  
**REGULAR GARDEN MAINTENANCE:** mowing, weeding, pruning, planting schemes, gardening tuition, communal garden contracts. RHS qualified. Call John 07746121510

## HOLIDAYS

**WHITSTABLE WEEKENDS/WEEKS**  
Sea wall house between OysterWarehouse and harbour. Sleeps 5. Fantastic views. Tel: 8858 6578 or 01304 367443

## TUITION

**MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION TO GCSE AND PREPARATION FOR 11+ AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SELECTION TESTS** by qualified and experienced teacher.marystuition.com  
Mary Bauckham 07709 089 838 marybauckham@gmail.com  
**HOME SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR YOUR DIGITAL DEVICES**  
Need some help with computers, phones and tablets? I'm a DBS checked IT trainer with 21 years experience, friendly and patient. £45/hour (£20 call out), discounted for block bookings. To discuss options, call Paul on 07958 251 448 or email paul.clayton@soulchip.co.uk  
**MATHS TUITION**  
Qualified and experienced secondary teacher offers tuition to GCSE level. Call Miv Whitaker: 07745 816338; or email miv.whitaker@gmail.com  
**PRIVATE TUITION:** CEM, GL, ISEB, 11+, KS2 English/Maths  
Josephine Elliss MSc, PGCE, 20 Years experience. Contact Jo@josephineelliss.co.uk or 0771 253 0218  
**ADULT & CHILD IRISH DANCE CLASSES - SE7**  
07707 100 521  
www.mulvihillirishdance.com  
info@mulvihillacademy.com  
No experience needed

## CARPENTER

Specialist in  
refurbishment, repair and  
replacement of  
sash windows,  
front doors overhauled.

Call  
**MALCOLM TIERNEY**  
07775 657371

## SERVICES & TRADE

**INTERIOR DECORATOR & CARPENTER** with over 20 years experience. A member of the guild of mastercraftsman. Free quotes & friendly advice on all your decorating requirements. Local references available.  
Tel: Ashley Greaves 8858 2981  
**PAINTING PLACE DECORATORS**  
Interior & Exterior  
Female Painting Team  
We cover South London  
Call +44795 808 4728  
email:Paintingcolour15@gmail.com  
www.paintingplacedecorators.co.uk  
**A MAN AND A VAN**  
Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917842  
**LOCAL LADDERLESS WINDOW & GUTTER CLEANING SERVICE**  
Call/Text Mike 07791 465052  
**DIY PAINTING DECORATING & LANDSCAPING.**  
Parts of **CLEANING** Years of experience  
Call 075389 31621, 075332 03133  
email: deesbusybees@hotmail.com, ade2may@yahoo.com  
**UPHOLSTERER**  
Specialising in traditional upholstery.  
www.suemaysupholstery.net  
or phone 07932 040 298  
**DV SERVICES**  
**PLUMBING & HANDYMAN**  
Blockages & Drains,Radiator valves and radiators not working. Change and fix toilets, sinks, showers & taps In bathrooms, toilets and kitchens. We can fix it!  
Call Daniel on: 07904 880 448  
**T.TA ELECTRICS.** NICEIC Approved Contractor, Quality Tradesman. All electrical work undertaken, Fully Insured & Guaranteed. **24HR EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL.** Please call Tony on 07961 509 403 OR 020 8488 7425  
OR info@ttaelectrics.co.uk  
**HOMEWORKS** All-round handyman for those DIY's you have no time for! General repairs. Painting & Decorating. General Carpentry and flooring. Flat-pack assembly. Patio and deck cleaning. No job too small. Contact Matthew Barron 07903 388658  
**ELECTRICIAN / ALARM ENGINEER**  
No job too small TMIET registered. Call 07879 011792  
**WESTCOMBE CLEANERS**  
I'm a friendly, hard-working & organised domestic cleaner. Regular or single services. Competitive rates. Additional tasks. I love my clients to be happy. Phone 07746 291617  
**TOM ELLIS BESPOKE CARPENTRY**  
Alcove bookcases, cabinets, wardrobes and window seats. M. 07510 869 947  
**TRAINED CHIMNEY SWEEP & STOVE INSTALLER** Fast, friendly  
Happy to work! Call Anthony on 07772 649577 or email: chimneymaintenance@gmail.com



**TROJAN PRESS**

**PRINTING IN BLACKHEATH SINCE 1978**

- 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**

**MARK CHEESEMAN, LOCAL CARPENTER AND JOINER WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE.**  
All Aspects Of Carpentry and Construction Executed Considerately and to a High Standard. Both Traditional and Contemporary Design Joinery - Cupboards, Window seats, Floating Shelves, Engineered Flooring Fitted Etc. Also Locks Changed. Sash Window Overhaul. If you have Rotten Window Sills, Door Frames Etc. rather than replace them with the associated upheaval and expense, why not have a Timber/Resin Repair? Please Call Mark on 07767 456131 or H: 020 8854 4028.  
**PEST CONTROL SERVICES**  
Mice, Rats, Squirrels, Wasps, Foxes etc. Local Service 07850 839 655  
**ANGELO, ELECTRICIAN**  
No Job Too Small  
T - 020 87616012/ M - 07850 767 283  
Email - angelo@glennies.net  
Part P Certificated  
18th Edition & JIB Registered  
**LOCAL CARPET CLEANER**  
Specialist in cleaning Carpets, Upholstery & Rugs. www.carpetcrew.co.uk  
Phone 07828503132

## RECRUITMENT

**PRIVATE P/T CARER** Few hours weekly Female/own car preferable. Book appointments and other general admin. Hand over available for right candidate  
Call Beverley on 020 8305 0149



## MEfa Montessori School

**Montessori House, 135 Westcombe Hill, Blackheath SE3 7DP**  
**Tel: 0208 305 2203**

## All enquires welcome

**Montessori School Classes for 2-11 years**  
**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**  
**Forest School Classes: all age - Tuesday and Thursday**  
**Toddler Montessori: 16-24 months - Thursday**  
**Baby Montessori: pre-birth -15 months - Wednesday**

**Our teachers include English, French and Ukrainian native speakers**

**Enquiries: Call Wendy on 07710 433 994**  
**Charity Registration No: 1136552**



**DISCOUNT!**  
(When you show your Westcombe Society membership card)

**PARES FOOTWEAR - Blackheath**  
10% OFF shoes over £20 excl sale stock.

**BODYWORKZ - THE FITNESS CLINIC**

109 Humber Road.10% OFF all treatments £30+ except Chiroprody; exc.Saturdays.

**ROYAL NEPALESE RESTAURANT**  
(Station Crescent) 20% OFF meals for two or more Sunday - Thursday.

**CORIANDER RESTAURANT** (Station Crescent) 25% off bookings Sun/Thurs.

**COTON & HAMBLIN LENS CLUB-**  
Complimentary standard coated single vision lenses worth £50 when purchasing complete spectacles. T's & C's apply.

**BLACKHEATH EYECARE OPTICIANS**

Advanced Eye Examinations £95 or £45 with NHS concession. 25% off 2nd pair of spectacles with the same prescription.

**TROJAN PRESS** 10% OFF all quotations

**WESTCOMBE DRY CLEANERS**

10% discount on Dry Cleaning. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers.

**A \* DRIVING SCHOOL** £5 discount on the price of one x 2 hour lesson  
**KAREN STOREY OF HOMESPACE** offers members 10% discount on decluttering & homestaging : 07951 191086

**SHENDA FALVEY PERSONAL TRAINING, STOTT PILATES & BOOTCAMPS**  
M: 07887727335

