Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and shops and online

"Colours are the smiles of nature" - Leigh Hunt

An Improvement? Mike Sparham Convenor, Greenwich Line Users Group

greenwichline@outlook.com

Tsers of Westcombe Park station could be forgiven for thinking that the proposed closure of ticket offices has already been implemented, as it has been closed for over four weeks (at the time of writing). In fact this is not the case as Southeastern have explained that there are two staff posts located at the station, but one post is a long standing vacancy and the other postholder is on special leave for a family emergency. This explanation raises two issues in respect of the present consultation on the future of ticket offices: there are currently insufficient staff to support the advertised opening hours of the ticket office, and there is no provision to cover for absences. On just one day in August, Southeastern's website listed 42 stations across their network where the ticket office would not be open for the advertised hours.

Southeastern's consultation on the proposed closure of ticket offices

promises that where stations are staffed at present "staff will [continue to] be there to provide a wider range of customer support". It does not specify what that wider support consists of, what the staff will be able to do, where they will be situated, or whether they will still be able to sell tickets. Southeastern are reluctant to give any such detail, just bland statements of intent, and so the commitment to provide customer support for longer hours than at present must be queried. If they cannot keep ticket offices open at the advertised times at present, how can anybody be sure that the longer revised times will be adhered to and could be relied upon by passengers?

Southeastern say on their website that the aim of the consultation is to reduce costs. This contradicts the proposal to provide a staff presence for a longer period of time and casts further doubt onthe veracity of the proposals. *Continued on page 4*

The Giant Steps

The six giant steps are one of the archaeologically interesting parts of the Greenwich Park Revealed Project and a visually and historically important development on the hill beneath

part of the project. Before work begins Archaeologists are to investigate whether anything remains of these historic steps first built in the 17th century. Should anything be



the Observatory. Whilst other work has recently been undertaken to restore the lake in the flower garden and start the build of the learning centre in what was part of the deer enclosure, the Giant Steps are a very large and visibly important

Royal Observatory Greenwich,

special events this summer

visitors will enjoy experiences and

including the 'The Van de Veldes'

Picture: The Royal Parks

found, the Royal Parks will ensure that they are retained beneath the newly-developed steps. Work is expected to start this winter after planning approval from Greenwich Council.

Greenwich World Heritage Site included in map of UK UNESCO Sites Polly Morgan

I gnite your summer adventures and discover Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site alongside 57 other unique UNESCO sites in the UK and crown dependencies thanks to a newly illustrated map, now available to download for free from the UK National Commission for UNESCO.

From expansive mountain ranges and stunning coastlines to vibrant cities and rural landscapes - the UK's UNESCO sites are destinations of world-class natural and cultural heritage. For the first time a map, designed by the creative cartographer Tom Woolley, brings together all of the Biosphere Reserves, Creative Cities, Global Geoparks and World Heritage Sites across the British Isles that are waiting to be discovered. The new map, available online, includes 29 World Heritage Sites, 13 Creative Cities, 9 Global Geoparks and 7 Biosphere Reserves that cover 13% of the UK's landmass. Most of the sites are free to enter and conveniently accessible by public transport offering the public new experiences, to discover UNESCO

sites in the UK and mark this summer with a visit to one of the world's most special places. At Maritime Greenwich, famous as the home of time and for the



Maritime Museum, Greenwich plus the Docklands International Festival and Secret Tours of the Wren Chapel Dome at the Old Royal Naval College. James Bridge, Chief Executive and Secretary General of the UK National Commission for UNESCO said: "This new 'UNESCO in the UK' map will inspire people for places to visit. It shows at a glance the breadth of amazing natural, cultural and built heritage designated by UNESCO as internationally significant in the UK. This great map highlights places to explore on your doorstep and further afield, both the famous and those to discover for the first time." The map was produced by the UK National Commission for UNESCO as part of its 'Local to Global' project, made possible with the GREAT Campaign and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to National Lottery players. 'Local to Global' aims to develop a resilient network for UNESCO Designated Sites in the UK.

Westcombe News September 23

The map can be downloaded from: unesco.org.uk/our-sites

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Westcombe News

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Macmillan Coffee Morning Diane Blackwell

A must for the diary is September 29th,10.30 to 2pm - the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning at Mycenae House. Being part of the UK's biggest coffee morning, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, is always one of The Westcombe Society's most popular and well-supported events because the cause is so very worthy. Pop in for a quick coffee and snack, or stay for lunch.

As well as joining us for coffee, cake and sandwiches, we'd really appreciate help from the local community to bake up a storm and also make some delicious sandwiches. If you can contribute we'd love to hear from you. Call Caroline on 020 8853 0948 or email

info@westcombesociety.org.



Macmillan Cancer Charity Walk

Toin us for the 2023 Macmillan Cancer Charity Walk on September 17th. Experience London's captivating canal system while supporting a great cause. We'll traverse the Regent's Canal from King's Cross to Little Venice, starting at 9.30 from Maze Hill station, reaching King's Cross by train. The day promises a delightful blend of sights - from flourishing nature and waterside mansions to vibrant shops, street art, and houseboats. Take in iconic spots like Primrose Hill, London Zoo's monkeys, Camden markets, and a floating café. Setting off west from King's Cross, we'll follow the Regent's Canal towpath, indulging in a visual feast. For just £10, you contribute to a worthy cause. To reserve your spot, contact info@westcombesociety.org or call

New storyboard unveiled at Mycenae House

A new storyboard on the history of Woodlands and new storyboard on the Mvcenae House and Gardens was unveiled on 30th August. This tells the story of the building of Woodlands (now home of the Greenwich Steiner School) by John Julius Angerstein and the creation of a renowned garden around the building, part of which survives as the current gardens and the Dell. More recent history includes the Little Sisters of the Assumption who built Mycenae House in the 1920s and created a grotto in the

gardens in imitation of the shrine in Lourdes.

The storyboard was inspired by a talk on Angerstein by a local historian, Lynne Dixon, at a Westcombe Society AGM some years ago. Lynne wrote the text and the board was produced through a partnership between the Westcombe Society, the Friends of Mycenae Garden, Mycenae House, the Greenwich Steiner School and the Royal Borough of Greenwich who kindly funded it via the Ward Budget.



Unveiling the storyboard, from left: Mariam Lolavar (Ward Councillor), Marilyn Little (Westcombe Society), Leo Fletcher (Ward Councillor), Lynne Dixon, Mark Johnson-Brown (Mycenae House), Geoff Brighty (Westcombe Society), Mark Barnes (Friends of Mycenae Gardens).

Caroline on 020 8853 0948. This Regent's Canal journey unveils London's beauty, leading through Camden, Primrose Hill, Regent's Park, and Little Venice, ending at Paddington Basin. Bask in the sun and explore diverse areas without the need for public transport. The approximately 5-mile, 2-hour walk (with detours) showcases the city's charm while supporting Macmillan Cancer Support.



PLANNING APPLICATIONS (See also

(See also www.westcombesociety.org)

FLAT 1, 73 HUMBER ROAD, BLACKHEATH, LONDON, SE3 7LR 23/2542/F

Installation of a new window opening to the rear and side elevation. Enlargement of an existing window opening in the rear and side elevation. Removal of the existing side porch extension.

135B MAZE HILL, GREENWICH, LONDON, SE3 7UB 23/2602/TC

Tree of Heaven Ailanthus altissima. removal to ground level. Reasons for the work -- it is very large, grows rapidly, is too close to buildings. 17 LANGTON WAY,

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2



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BLACKHEATH, LONDON, SE3 7T 23/2559/TC

Palm fell to ground level due to excessive shading and other tree works. 2B BEACONSFIELD ROAD, BLACKHEATH, LONDON, SE3 7LZ 23/2548/TC

Ash Tree Proposed works - 1 limb to be reduced up to 1 metre below previous pollard points to reduce back from the building 31 ST JOHNS PARK, BLACKHEATH, LONDON, SE3 7JW 23/2484/TP RHB: To carefully section fell as close to ground level as possible and to

to ground level as possible and to poison stump with appropriate use of herbicide (eco plugs) to prevent regrowth.

5B VANBRUGH TERRACE, BLACKHEATH, LONDON, SE3 7AP 23/2248/F

Replacement of glazed roof and windows on side stairwell.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

A Goodbye & a Hello

With sadness but excitement, GG Sparkes Traditional Butchers (est 1952), for generations, will be saying goodbye. Guy is retiring, handing over to the new owner, Nick from Ellis Butchers. The two shops become one, Village and Standard, combining a great wealth of knowledge and experience, with new and exciting things ahead for both shops. They plan on keeping the great provenance and husbandry of the produce plus a shop that has been an important



part of the community for a long time, not just for customers, but also for friends.

Margaret, Guy's partner will be hanging up her skilled sausage-making apron and Alex, their daughter, will be continuing to support and promote UK farmers, suppliers, as well as her passion to keep the high street and community alive.

As one of the first butchers to source, support and sell Organic farmers' meat in the UK, Guy was a pioneer. He was an advisor and consultant in the initial stages for 'Fresh & Wild', 'Planet Organic', and 'Able & Cole'; for a small butcher's not an easy feat. He then went on to support free range rare breed farmers all over the UK, facilitating agents to help support other surrounding farmers selling award-winning produce. GG Sparkes was featured as one of the top 15 Butchers in 'Meat London: An Insider's Guide', a Rick Stein Food hero, Gary Rhodes Highly Commended Butchers. Guy helped lay the foundation for the meat industry for many up and coming butchers to follow. Taking up the mantle will be Nick, his team and new Manager, Robert, for Ellis Butchers at the Standard.

'The new team at the Standard butcher's shop state they are a group of butchers, chefs, foodies and wine connoisseurs, who are passionate about food and our industry.

Our ethos is centred around three things:

Firstly, the product and its provenance; we believe in providing the best possible product. Secondly, pride. We have a combined experience of over 60 years and a history of butchery stretching back generations. We will take pride in continuing to build on this and take care to deliver the best experience we can to everyone who comes into our shop. To ensure that each customer leaves knowing a little more about our industry and our food, not just for a pound of our homemade sausages, made in-house daily.



Finally, at the core of our shop is the people. We want everyone, from our farmers and suppliers, to our team of trained butchers; making fresh handmade burgers and cutting our minimum of 28 day aged steaks for our new customers and our regulars to have an undeniably awesome time in our shop. Our shop is not just a business but a place where people can come to chat and enthuse about good food.

Our sister shop in Blackheath has undergone in a huge refurbishment. A shop that celebrates its 100th birthday this year and we are very excited to welcome everyone in our local community through our doors.

Both of our shops are wholecarcass butchers and we are seeking to carry on a craft and trade that generations have passed on to us and it is our job to ensure that such a prestigious legacy continues. But at its heart are people who just love what they do and want people to share in that.

Pay by Cash Drivers Face Higher Parking Charges

reenwich Council is Uintroducing changes to its parking charges and to resident and business permits. How much you pay will reflect your vehicle's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions - low emissions being charged less than those with higher emissions. The Council says it is part of its commitment to achieving net zero by 2030 but while that may be welcomed by some residents it seems the Council's emissions-based parking charges could mean big increases particularly for those on lower incomes and, in effect, a penalty for using cash for on-street parking. Businesses are likely to be affected and there could be an impact on shopping parades. For Pay & Display - pay by phone and you may get a discount if your vehicle's emissions are less than 255gCO2/km but pay by cash and it will cost you £2, £5 or £7 per hour depending on the location and regardless of emissions.

With Parking Permits - how much you pay depends on which of the different emissions bands you fall into with up to a maximum of £300 for 255g/CO2/km emissions vehicles. Greenwich is also imposing a £50 surcharge for diesel vehicles. There are rates for multi-permits. Amongst those most likely to be paying more could be older citizens and the less well-off who can't afford to upgrade their vehicle. The new arrangements also appear to discriminate against those who don't own a smart phone or are uncomfortable using a pay by phone app for payments. The new parking regime came into force from 24 July 2023. However, permit prices in Abbey Wood, Blackheath Standard, Charlton, Eltham North and Westcombe Park change at a later date pending a review process in these CPZs. For more detailed information, see royalgreenwich.gov.uk/emissionsbased-parking

Consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge placed on developers of new projects to help pay for the infrastructure and community facilities, from transport to schools and doctors' surgeries, that such developments entail. It also pays for the Neighbourhood Growth Fund which provides relatively small sums of money to

local initiatives. RBG recently launched a consultation over the changes that they propose for CIL. Residents are invited to comment by 25th September. The survey consists of one question and a space for comments. More information at https://consultations.royal greenwich.gov.uk/KMS/dmart.aspx

The Duke of Greenwich

Residents may have noticed the recently re-opened public house near Maze Hill station - the Duke of Greenwich. This is most welcome to the many involved in the unfortunately failed campaign to have the public house listed as a 'community asset'. The pub has been through a couple of iterations since its opening in 1871, beginning life as the Duke of Edinburgh, then rebranded as The Vanbrugh and now The Duke of Greenwich, the second pub for the independent hospitality group Hucknall Pubs Limited. We are all aware of the hardship for hospitality over the last four years in these difficult economic times, so the new owners "hope to overcome all the issues through the quality of our product". Taking the spotlight in the garden is the handmade, bespoke fire cage BBQ and smoker, with its long-burn-time 'Marabu coals' giving a distinctive flavour to meat or vegetables. They butcher their meat on site and "partner only with trusted premium suppliers". Rare breed meats come from the Lyons Hill Farm in Dorset, fish fresh from the Wright Brothers in Cornwall, and seasonal vegetables are sent fresh from farmers across the south of

England thanks to Shrub Provisions. The Duke of Greenwich is "all about supporting other local and independent businesses". They have their own Duke house lager on tap, brewed just down the road by Signal Brewery, feature an IPA and a Pale Ale from Brew by Numbers, also in Greenwich, as well as venturing further across South London for various other lagers and ciders. For the wine lovers, "there is a diverse range of choices by the glass or bottle and a cocktail menu and low and no alcohol drinks are coming soon". They "provide the London living wage to all the staff". www.dukeofgreenwich.com







Meet the new lease owners Jonathan Kaye (Operations), Daniel Blucert (Chef) and Nick Blucert (Drinks).

FEATURES

Continued from Page 1

On the Elizabeth Line and at Overground stations TfL have given a public commitment to provide a "first to last" staff presence to provide customer support. The same commitment from Southeastern would be welcome, but what is being proposed falls well short of that. A cynic might think that the commitment in the consultation document to provide a wider range of customer support for longer periods of time in place of the ticket offices will fast disappear if they are closed. The temporary closure of the Westcombe Park ticket office has also demonstrated the problems that arise when relying on a twenty-year old ticket machine



with nobody available for advice. When the present ticket machines were introduced twenty years ago they were advanced for their time, but they are now outdated and have limited functionality. They will only sell an anytime (open) ticket or an off-peak ticket. There are now a wide range of other tickets available, including advance tickets, that cannot be purchased from the machine. More seriously in London, they do not sell Zone Boundary tickets that enable London pass holders to buy a ticket from the Zone 6 Boundary on to their destination. These tickets can only be purchased from a ticket office. Not everybody is able use a ticket machine, and the closure of ticket offices would be a barrier to travel for passengers with disabilities. Southeastern have

addressed that in their Equality Impact Assessment, which accepts that closures would impact on older people and people with disabilities. Their mitigation is that "full retail facilities will remain available at our Travel Centre in London Bridge" and have concluded that the ticket office closures would have a low impact on older and disabled passengers. What that mitigation overlooks is how to get to London Bridge in the first place without a valid ticket, and how to get through the gate line to the Travel Centre without being considered a potential fare dodger. Whilst the numbers affected could be low, the impact on them will be high. The Greenwich Line Users Group has responded to the consultation opposing the proposals to close ticket offices. It has also set out the minimum requirements if ticket offices are to be closed: the updating of the ticket machines to ensure the full range of tickets can be issued; at least two machines at each station;

customer support staff to be able to issue tickets; the continued acceptance of cash payments; and good contact between customer support staff and the Operations Centre.The consultation period has been extended and now closes on 1st September. Anyone can send in comments to southeastern.consultation@ londontravelwatch.org.uk or by post to Freepost RTEH-XAGE-BYKZ, London TravelWatch, PO Box 5594, Southend-on-Sea, SS1

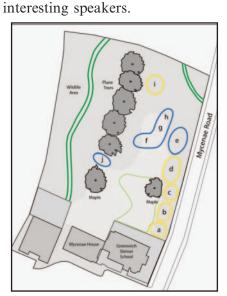
9PZ. There is a parliamentary petition opposed to the ticket office closures. This can be signed at: https://petition.parliament.uk/ petitions/636542

Improvements Ahead for Mycenae House Gardens

s a result of meetings with A the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Parks and Open Spaces Department, the Friends of Mycenae Gardens committee is optimistic about improvements for this much-loved local feature. In June, during a walk round the site with Robert Goring, the head of the Parks Department, and Tony Bigwood, manager for the area, several ideas emerged that should help make the gardens more welcoming for its varied groups of users. These include repairing some of the lawn, adding wildflower areas, pruning and protecting shrubs and trees, and expanding some of the area devoted to wildlife. We hope to see lower branches of the big London Plane trees removed, for instance, to let more light in and allow freer movement for kids playing. Reseeding the lawn may mean restrictions on walking on it while the new growth stabilises, but the result will be a lovelier prospect from Mycenae House, which often hosts wedding receptions. This, we hope, will be edged with low-maintenance but pretty wildflowers, similar to those along the borders of the Heath. We hope to fence more of the areas with shrubs, allowing them to thrive with less soil compaction. Several young trees died following 2022's particularly tough summer; we'll be looking for those to be replaced. You can see our proposal below. We've had a proper survey of the birds and butterflies this spring, thanks to the ward budget scheme, the Parks Department, and local expert Joe Beale. You can find it on the Friends of

Mycenae Gardens website, mycenaegardens.org.uk. The snapshot survey results were mixed, but included suggestions for improving biodiversity and green corridors.

The works still need final agreement, including with tree officers, so you won't see changes till later this autumn. We're very encouraged by the Council's involvement. The Steiner School has been part of the consultations throughout, and we are grateful to the staff and parents for their input and agreements on which areas their pupils can use. They've been super supporters of the wildlife areas, too. Your own responses to our survey have been a big help – and it's not too late for you to tell us how you use the Gardens and would like to see it improved. Again, you'll find it on our website. And if you would like to be more involved, please ioin as a member. Our occasional news emails give updates on changes, opportunities to get stuck in for volunteer days, and invitations to special events like our annual meetings with



Summer Sizzler

Yes, it rained, but spirits were high at this year's PARKSfest Summer Sizzler at Mycenae House.

As ever this free community

everyone. To delighted squeals from the kids a Chinese dragon kicked off festivities, then two acrobatic jugglers performed to musical accompaniment in the woodland glen. Live music is always a highlight and this year it kicked off early afternoon with blues and country bands and Morris dancers twirling to lively tunes. There were arts and creative activities for the youngsters, crafts like Chinese fan making, stalls selling ceramics, jewellery, candles and jams, and delicious cakes and scones to enjoy indoors when the rain came. The Reach Out charity had a stall, as did The Westcombe Society, where lovely historic cards of Westcombe Park proved very popular, funds raised going towards the Society's next Charity of the Year.



garden party (held on July 30 this year) attracted lots of local families, and there was fun for



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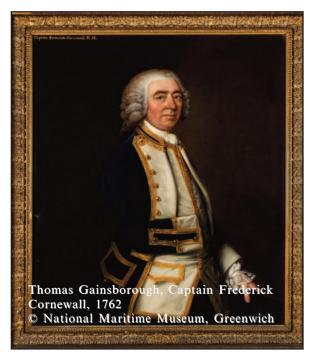
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FEATURES

Discovery of Gainsborough Portrait in Greenwich Polly Morgan

Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG) has announced the discovery of a portrait by famed eighteenth-century artist Thomas Gainsborough (1727 – 1788). Recent research into the painting Captain Frederick Cornewall, 1762, by art historian Hugh Belsey and RMG curators has led to the exciting reattribution to Gainsborough.

Gainsborough was a leading artist



in the second half of the eighteenth century. He is celebrated for his intimate and characterful portraits produced with lively brushwork. He was a founding member of the Royal Academy and has had a lasting influence in British art. The three-quarter-length portrait of Captain Frederick Cornewall (1706 - 1788) entered the RMG collection in 1960. It was recorded as a Gainsborough but the curator at the time did not deem it of a high enough quality. It was attributed to an unknown artist and has been in storage for at least three decades. Historian, Belsey had discovered a photograph of Cornewall's

portrait from the early twentieth century when the painting was owned by the London dealers, Agnew's. He then traced the painting through several sales to the collector, Edward Peter Jones, but here the trail went cold. Unbeknownst to Belsey, Jones had bequeathed the painting to 2022, when Belsey's friend was looking through the illustrated catalogue of the National Maritime Museum's collection, that Belsey became aware that the painting may be in the RMG collection. Belsey requested to see the portrait in the museum stores in February 2022 and, on inspection of the painting, it became clear from the warm palette and unrivalled

> draughtsmanship that it was a Gainsborough. Belsey dated the painting to about 1762 when Gainsborough was working in Bath and it is an impressive example of his work from this period. Cornewall stands against a plain brown background in undress uniform and a bag wig. Gainsborough's delicate brushwork is especially obvious in the most detailed areas of the picture, such as the lace cuff around Cornewall's left wrist.

Fundraising has now started to conserve the painting and frame for display. Urgent treatment is needed as the paint layer is loose and there is flaking in some areas. RMG's crowdfunding campaign will aim to raise £60,000 towards the conservation, which will return the portrait to something closer to Gainsborough's original intentions in preparation for display at the Queen's House. Visit: https://donate.rmg.co.uk/ Hugh Belsey, Art Historian, said: 'I have been studying Gainsborough's works for over forty years and during that time I have taken every opportunity to look at as many paintings and drawings as possible. I am delighted that this splendid portrait is now identified as a fine early work by Gainsborough. Gainsborough's work was developing at a very fast pace in the early 1760s and during the decade and as he attracted more commissions his style became more assured and his brushwork freer.'

Festivals on the Heath

The Uptown Festival on Sunday July 30th (preceded by the Kisstory Festival on Saturday 29th) were smaller affairs than the pre-pandemic OnBlackheath music event. Supported by DJs from Kiss FM (Kisstory) and Magic FM (Uptown), the festivals were aimed at slightly different audiences – mainly 30s for Kisstory and 40s plus for UpTown. There was also a children's funfair. Audiences were enthusiastic and had an enjoyable time despite the dreadful weather on Sunday, when 73-year-old Billy Ocean was reportedly a highlight for many. However, many residents in the Westcombe area were upset by the noise which, for some, far exceeded previous events. Although the blustery wind conditions may have contributed there were, we feel, failings by the promoters over the organization of the event. There was a lack of engagement with the community ahead of the event and scant information was circulated. The website also had limited information and, on the day, the helpline seems not to have been operational.

The Blackheath Joint Working



Dear Westcombe News, Further to the article on Gambardella's by Malcom Hardy in the last issue of the Westcombe News.

Gambardella's did occupy both 47 and 48 Vanbrugh Park. 47 was a newsagent's that was the domain of Adelaide (Adi to all who knew her) Gambardella. After her death, 47 was turned

Party (BJWP) has volunteer representatives from local amenity groups including the Westcombe Society. They are taking up the issues with the Council. Key is that the lessons learnt on noise control and community engagement from OnBlackheath are put in place. The BJWP also wishes to influence the total number of events on the Heath so they are limited to a reasonable number. A public post event review meeting about the Kisstory/Uptown events will take place this month. We encourage residents to attend. The provisional date is 15th September.

On 30th September there is a new event called Groovefest taking place on Circus Field featuring 'House Music'. This is licenced by the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the allowed levels of noise are lower than they were for the Kisstory/Uptown events. Hopefully this will reduce nuisance for residents. The confirmed date for the Kisstory/Uptown review meeting, plus further details for residents about Groovefest, will be posted

on westcombesociety.org as soon as we receive more information.

into a coffee shop which enabled an ad hoc social club to form.
The 2009 film mentioned was
"The Boat That Rocked", not
"The Boat That Roared" as stated, which was based very loosely on Radio Caroline.
48 Vanbrugh Park is still owned by descendents of the Gambardella family, and part of

the conditions of the lease is that the original 1930's décor is maintained. *Trevor Allman, Coleraine Road*

Mycenae House & Gardons



Westcombe News September 23

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tickets : www. wegottickets.com 020 8858 1749 www.mycenaehouse.co.uk 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, SE3 7SE

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ENVIRONMENT

Letter

Dear WN,

I was delighted to see your cover story "Why Pave Your Environment When You Could Use it to Help the Environment?" It baffles me why Greenwich Council is continuing to allow green spaces to be concreted over, when they specifically claim they will reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. It seems like the Planning Department operate in a self-governing bubble, outside of the Greenwich Carbon Neutral Plan, and ignoring our historic architecture (front walls etc). Front gardens may seem small and insignificant but every green patch

soaks up carbon from the air, and helps the fight against climate change. Green areas also soak up the heavy rain and prevent it running along the concrete to flood properties and drains. We see this happening in our hilly area. Often two parking bay spaces have to be removed to allow for one private driveway - imagine if everyone did this, there would no parking for those paying for residential permits, no parking for workmen and deliveries, more congestion and fumes on the roads. There is talk that more residents will change front gardens into drives if parking permit prices increase for highpolluting vehicles. I wonder if Greenwich Council have thought this through? It's better for the

environment to preserve those green spaces, as those high-polluting models will still be on the roads. Some neighbouring kids from a paved garden were marvelling at the array of bees, dragonflies and Red Admirals in my wild front garden this week. I would like to thank everyone in Westcombe Park who keeps their spaces green and help preserve a future for us and other species.

Concerned resident (Name Supplied)

Editor's note: Residents have to apply to RBG for a dropped kerb and may need to apply for permission to install hard-standing or changes to the boundary wall.

Consultation on proposals for cycle-shuttle bus Margaret Gravelle

In October 2016 Sadiq Khan gave his backing to the Silvertown Tunnel and promised a dedicated cycle bridge between Rotherhithe and Canary Wharf. This has proved too expensive and has been scrapped. An alternative is to use the Greenwich Foot Tunnel, but cyclists would have to walk their



bikes through the tunnel and carry them up or down the stairs while one lift is out of operation. The London Cable Car is another method but this is currently only free for cyclists during the morning rush hour.

TfL have launched a consultation, ending on September 10th, on proposals for a 'cross-river cycling service'. Since cycling will not be permitted through the Silvertown Tunnel the alternative they suggest is for shuttle buses to carry cyclists and their bikes. The consultation document, which can be found at https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/ silvertown-cycling-service, offers a choice of two alternative designs. It also outlines the routes and stopping points of the service adding that, "It is intended that bus stops would be spacious for cyclists to wait with their bikes, with good quality customer information available." It is proposed that the service could run every 10 minutes, although whether this also applies during off-peak times as well is not made clear.

Critics of the proposal point out that a similar cycle-bus scheme was introduced when the Dartford Tunnel opened, but was scrapped due to lack of uptake and today cyclists have to request a special pick-up vehicle which only operates at certain times of the day. Greenwich Cyclists suspect that the same fate will befall the current proposal. They suggest instead that "Reallocating a bore of the tunnel for clean travel is one solution. Dirty traffic in one bore and segregated two-way pedestrian, cycling and zero emission public transport lanes through the clean bore."

Another option is to run a ferry service for cyclists but this would require considerable infrastructure and therefore expense, and is not at the moment being considered. Readers, particularly those who are cyclists, may well have their own suggestions.



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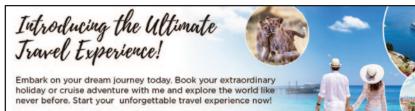
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WHATS ON

SMAG Art

SMAG Art is a not-for-profit company which organises physical art exhibitions at St Michael's Church, Blackheath Park and online on www.SMAGART.com that benefit local charities including Greenwich Foodbank and Greenwich Winter Night Shelter plus Age Exchange. Their next exhibition takes place from 19 to 28 October 2023 at St Michael's Church Blackheath. Works have to be delivered from 15/17 October. Artists wishing to exhibit can email

info@smagart.com or follow link at

https://form.jotform/201307683015 346.

The Woolwich Lates

The Woolwich Lates programme is heating up this summer, featuring a series of free events to encourage people of all ages to make the best of everything Woolwich has to offer in the evening. ROYAL ARSENAL SUMMER LATES

Saturday 2 September, 12noon to 8pm Artillery Square Street food, ice cream, churros and delicious drinks from market traders from Royal Arsenal Farmers' Market, with live music, arts and crafts and fairground rides for the kids.

WOOLWICH CARNIVAL

Saturday 16 September,

12noon to 8pm

General Gordon Square and Royal Arsenal

A spectacular parade of dancers, musicians, local people and schools in colourful costumes. TARU's band will be bringing a taste of Brazil to Woolwich as well as free face painting, live music and arts and crafts throughout the day and into the evening.

HI! STREET FEST FINALE Friday 22 September, 7pm to 8pm Across Woolwich Woolwich will come alive with dance, music, song and costume specific to the area to celebrate the return of Woolwich's own Farrah the Fox a 5-metre-tall

West Greenwich Library

Poetry evening at West Greenwich Library or on Zoom September 5th will be a hybrid, so that if you're unable to join in person at West Greenwich Library, you can attend on Zoom. If you are planning to attend virtually, please email: irena.mh50@gmail.com The reading is entitled Nevada Street Poets - Five Voices. An apt title for such different and talented voices, those of Graham High, Lorraine Mariner, Richard Meier, Jocelyn Page and Sarah Westcott.

Mycenae House

Fri 15th Sept 7.30pm - Rob Bartlitz. A Modern Classical Composer piano concert. £10. Fri 22nd Sept 7.30pm Caribbean Night. GFMA present a fantastic night of live music, food, dancing and DJ celebrating the Caribbean. £20. Thurs 28th Sept 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for families. £15. Fri 29th Sept 8pm - It Started With A Song. Featuring singer/songwriters Dan Raza, Steve Simpson, Isobel Kimberley, Dave Sutherland. £17.50.

For further information about all Mycenae House events visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk Take a look at some brand-new sessions The Reach Out Project are offering alongside our usual sessions here www.mycenaereachout.co.uk Coming soon Art with Xavier - September dates to be confirmed Tuesdays - NHS Time to Talk Workshops 9:30- 11:00am 12th September -Getting Better Sleep. Monthly session in October - December Booking essential. Thursdays monthly between 1-3pm Mini Hand Massages

Arts Society Greenwich

www.theartssocietygreenwich.org.uk

Mayan Civilisation Monday 11 September 2023 at 7.30 pm Lecturer: Duncan Pring Venue: James Wolfe Primary School, Royal Hill, Greenwich Guests very welcome: £10



Whilst a great deal is known to many about the Greeks, and the Romans and even the Egyptians, the great ancient civilisations of the New World (The Maya, the Aztecs and the Incas) are much less well known. My focus is on the Maya, arguably the greatest of the 3, who achieved remarkably high levels of civilisation in the inhospitable jungles of Central America. I will attempt to provide a geographic context, give some details about their timescale, and highlight their numerous achievements and their way of life.

Thomas Tallis Society Choir

- 7.30pm. ST ALFEGE CHURCH GREENWICH

The 2023/24 season of the Thomas Tallis Society Choir commences with a concert on Sunday 17th September at 7.30pm at St Alfege Church Greenwich. Solo piano items will include the well known 'To a Wild Rose' by Edward MacDowell and Peter Dickinson's 'Wild Rose Rag'. Tickets: £15 & £10, online and at the door Royal Museums Greenwich

Visit Exploring Mars at the Royal Observatory see details www.rmg.co.uk/royalobservatory/attractions/ exploring-mars-exhibition For details of other events visit www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/ royal-observatory. For details of events at The Queens House, the Maritime Museum and the Cutty Sark visit www.rmg.co

Blackheath Halls

Semele - Blackheath Halls Opera A musical drama in three acts Music by George Frederic Handel Text based on an existing opera



libretto by William Congreve Performed by arrangement with King's Music Tuesday 26th September 7pm onwards Music by George Frederic Handel With Francesca Chiejina in the title role who has recently performed in 'Aida' at the Royal Opera House. 26th, 28th and 30th September. Book now to avoid disappointment: www.blackheathhalls.com/ whats-on/semele-blackheathhalls-opera-2023/

Greenwich Industrial History Society

September 12th 2023 Tracy Stringfellow, ex-CEO Greenwich Heritage Centre.

October 10th 2023 Mark James on trams and tram depots in Greenwich

mechanical puppet of a young fox.

Charlton House & Gardens

410-year-old Charlton House & Gardens to open behind-the-scenes spaces to public this September. "After-Hours" tours are the first of their kind at the Jacobean manor, built for Prince Henry of Wales's tutor and managed by Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust. Dates: Wednesday 13th and Wednesday 20th September at 19:00 Price: £15 per person, including a glass of prosecco. Bookings for this new tour are now open book soon as places are limited: Wednesday 13th & 20th September: www.greenwichheritage.org

Includes mini workshop to learn to give massage to others 7th September - Monthly session in October - December Friday Music and Poetry Group -Performers and others welcome to listen and relax. Any song/poetry welcome - yours or others 6th October - Monthly session in November/December Sessions returning September (call for more information) Help with your Gadget

Greenwich Open Studios

Weekends of Sept 9 & 10 and 16 & 17 2pm - 6pm See greenwichopenstudios.co.uk for further details www.ticketsource.co.uk/TTS

The Blackheath Society in association with the Greenwich Historical Society presents ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!



Thursday 7th September 2023 Doors open at 7 o'clock, the receive commence at 7.30pun me trapal.can tavens, park now, one environ, selo own

OLL UP: By popular densard, Harris Biod care spin growth his larkid humand Lanera Lower (boiled) for 2m 2h Sound) exising the year goins and unstabilit increased of evidence (DRIM) for 2018 and his, size a care as Lanes and Wilson, sounds of planare series Belief Inflore to Generaldy for the edge of Ba, this and julity THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION / ALL, ARE WELCOME For facther details and reservations planare go to areas.blackbooth.arey November 14th 2023 Chris Foorde, ex-Plumstead Museum & ex Crossness on industrial links between Greenwich and Kingston.



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS By William Shakespeare Cartoonish capers in Shakespeare's funniest farce! 20th to 23rd September Suitable for all ages.

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Information, contact Joanna Clare tel 07709952215 email joclare@hotmail.it

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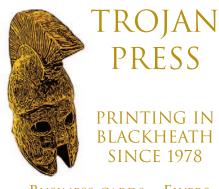
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