

And all at once, summer collapsed into fall – *Oscar Wilde*

Low Traffic Neighbourhood  
Proposals for  
Westcombe Park

Some Westcombe Park residents may be unaware that the Royal Borough of Greenwich is proposing establishing a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in our area, along with one for West Greenwich.

The areas affected are:

Westcombe Park and part of East Greenwich – between Maze Hill, the A2, the A102 (Blackwall Tunnel approach), and Woolwich Road.

West Greenwich – between Crooms Hill, the A2, Greenwich South Street and Greenwich High Road.

Traffic restrictions are proposed in these areas all day, every day, including weekends.

**The Proposals**

The project (entitled West and East Greenwich neighbourhood management project, stage 2 consultation) is intended to reduce traffic on both sides of Greenwich Park to create a safer, greener transport network. A previous scheme trialled in West Greenwich in 2020-22 led to severe congestion and increased pollution on some residential roads in Westcombe Park.

Five options have been offered for comment - three to the west and two to the east of the Park.

**In West Greenwich** two options could, in effect, resurrect the previous LTN. An alternative option offered is a simpler scheme using one-way streets and cameras

at crucial junctions along the A2 to prevent cut-throughs. All options are likely to have a knock-on effect on Westcombe Park.

**The proposals for Westcombe Park/East Greenwich are complex.**

For Option A, the area is divided into eight zones with cameras on Maze Hill, Vanbrugh Hill, Halstow Road and Westcombe Hill restricting north-south traffic. Cameras are also proposed for Vanbrugh Terrace and St Johns Park to prevent through traffic on those roads.

Option B would involve one-way traffic on Vanbrugh Hill (northbound only), Westcombe Hill (southbound only) and St Johns Park (westbound only), cameras on Maze Hill and Halstow Road to preventing north-south traffic plus exit only from Westcombe Park Road to Vanbrugh Hill.

For both options roads would remain open for TfL buses (in both directions), emergency vehicles, taxis, refuse lorries and local residents with blue badges.

**Implications:** Three scenarios below compare the two East Greenwich options:

**Option A:**

*Humber Road to Sainsbury's:* would mean going via Blackheath Standard and then through residential streets in Charlton, if they remain open, or via the A2 and the motorway to the Angerstein gyratory/Woolwich Road.

*Annandale Road to the Standard:* would mean going via the Woolwich Road, motorway and Sun in the Sands roundabout.

*Foyle Road to Greenwich Town Centre* (assuming LTN Option A or B for West Greenwich) would mean going via the A2 and then either the motorway and Woolwich Road or Blackheath Hill and Greenwich South Street.

**Option B:**

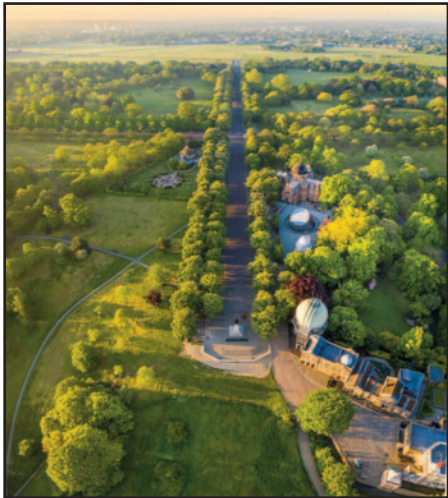
*Humber Road to Sainsbury's:* would mean going down Vanbrugh Hill, along the Woolwich Road and back via Westcombe Hill.

*Annandale Road to the Standard:* would mean going via the Woolwich Road, Angerstein gyratory and up Westcombe Hill then back via Vanbrugh Hill.

*Foyle Road to Greenwich Town Centre* (assuming LTN option A or B for West Greenwich) would mean going out via Vanbrugh Hill and

Trees in the Park Martin Guha

Greenwich Park as we know it today is full of trees. It appears from the accounts of Sir William Boreman however, that when Charles II ordered it to be emparked, it was likely to have



*Photo: The Royal Parks*

been largely heath, scrub and gorse. Sir William's accounts, held in the National Archives at Kew make very interesting reading [National Archive reference E351/3428]. They include payments to John Hull and John Woodruff 'for grubbing up the furze' and to Ralph Marr for staking, 'at 23d per diem' – far more than a normal wage for a labourer at that time, so this presumably includes wages to their assistants in clearing away the scrub. Following this are payments for 'Birches, Elmes and Sirkamores at 6s per 100... from Leezen Abby' [presumably Lesnes Abbey] and payments to 'Toby Rosse and several others employed in taking up Chestnutt trees at Leezen Abby for the planting... at 5d per diem' and to Roger Horton and sundry others for '36 days works...

employed in taking up trees and quicks at Kidbrooke for the planting... at 18d per diem.' Digging out saplings from nearby woods and transporting them to Greenwich was clearly a major task – William Willby, Thomas Swift and John Fisher got paid 'fore fetching of trees from Leezen Abby at 12d per load... Eltham and other places 7d per load... loads of earth to put about the rootes at 6d per load... with their foure teams about the trees and ascents.'

Far too many organisations and local authorities nowadays boast their green credentials, based purely on the number of trees they have planted, without their having made any arrangements for maintaining and watering them until they are well-established. It is therefore worth noting that, in Charles II's time, payment was made to 'the sayd John Smyth and Richard Nightingale for digging of hollow places to receive the water about the rootes of the sayd... trees at 4d per 100' and 'for two water carts to water the trees, with two great barrells to carry the water in' and 'for two horses bought to draw the watering carts 11s 10d.' There were several conduits in the lower part of the park at that time, but getting a cart with a great barrel-full up the hill must have been hard work for those horses.

All in all, the works organized by Sir William Boreman in 1664 seem to have cost £443 18s. Even by 17th Century standards this does not seem to be an enormous price to pay for making the park what it is today.

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Westcombe News October 23

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Local Success

**More2Childcare Nursery Greenwich** achieve **Outstanding Ofsted**, to make it a double Under 5s at More2Childcare Nursery in Greenwich are celebrating retaining their outstanding Ofsted Judgement. More2Childcare has been awarded the top mark again by Ofsted, following an Inspection at the end of July 2023.

**Blackheath High School** is celebrating their students' outstanding performance with **40% of students achieving straight 9-7 grades (A, A\* and above)** and the number of top **grade 9s doubling since 2019**. **John Roan** is delighted with their

students' results this year - especially for the 18-year-olds who have secured some very exciting university places. (A stunning 32% of them are going on to Russell Group universities). They are very excited that so many of their 16-year-olds are now moving into the 6th form following their summer exam successes.

**BoPeeps Preschool** located at Mycenae House SE3 and Welling, have just received a rating of Good from Ofsted. Kathryn Algar has been running the preschool for 20 years and the school, which is very family oriented, has gone from strength to strength.

Macmillan Cancer Charity Walk

Diane Blackwell

Rain clouds hovered but held off as we set off walking along the Regent's Canal from Kings Cross taking in all the delights of London's famous canal system. Such a brilliant way to raise money for Macmillan Cancer. From cygnets, ducks and joggers to the bustle of Camden market, colourful houseboats, the



It's a Question of Fun

It's a no brainer for a fun lively evening with new and old friends ... we're talking about our Autumn quiz at Mycenae House on November 25th.

Quizmasters Robbie, Peter and Patrick delight in revving up friendly rivalry as tables of six (make up a team or come on your own) go head-to-head. We break for fish and chips (£12 per person) and the bar will be open. Entry fee is £6 per person for Westcombe Society members and £7 for non-members. Bookings to Caroline 020 8853 0948 and the fun kicks off 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Do join us.

Over £20,000 raised for South London Special League!

Helen Marley-Hutchinson

4 Marathons, 4 Big-Half Marathons; over £20k raised for local charity South London Special League (SLSL) thanks to the wonderful generosity of our community.

"SLSL is a unique award-winning £6,500), on-going maintenance costs and travel to and from games.

"By providing activities such as powerchair football we're breaking down the social, economic, and environmental



(L-R – Helen Marley Hutchinson, Olga Bonde, Rachel Mai-Jones on their way to the Big Half start line)

registered charity that provides opportunities for young disabled people and adults to improve their lives through sport,' says Steve Johnson, SLSL's Strategic Development Manager.

This year, the fundraising focus continues to be Greenwich Powerchair Football Club (GPFC). The Club is one of SLSL's flagship projects. Since its inception in 2007, it has seen some notable successes including a promotion into the top division. Powerchair football is a fast moving, highly skilled game. Training takes place every Thursday evening at Woolwich Waterfront Centre. These are valuable moments of freedom in highly restricted lives, two hours to experience the joy of a game of football with friends.

"By providing these activities, we're breaking down the social, economic, and environmental barriers to inclusion along with the inequalities disabled people confront when accessing sport and leisure activities," says Steve.

Local surveying and property consultancy Faithorne Tyrell Timms are big supporters of CAFC. The firm are sponsoring GPFC with a generous £10,000 in 2023 -2024. This money will go towards paying urgent core costs of coach and administration salaries and equipment maintenance.

Money from this year's fundraising will go towards coaching, equipment (new powerchairs cost upwards of

barriers to inclusion along with the inequalities disabled people confront when accessing sport and leisure activities," says Steve. Rhea Daly, the coach of Greenwich Powerchair Football Club, says: "Greenwich Powerchair Football Club is seeing great numbers at training. We are now looking towards next season and hope to continue improving and becoming a more competitive team in the first division."

Sharon Brokenshire, MBE, founder of SLSL says, "Greenwich Powerchair Football Club opens our national game up to everybody, no matter what the level of ability. By supporting South London Special League, you are transforming lives by bringing people together through the power of sport."

There's still time to donate to this year's Big Half Campaign and help provide a sustainable future for these vital projects that do so much for the most disadvantaged in our community.



Big Half 2023 £390  
<https://2023thebighalf.enthuse.com/pf/helen-marley-hutchinson>  
Thank you very much for your on-going support.

Chrysanthemum Tea

Diane Blackwell

**Date for the diary:** October 14th from 2- 4pm when the ever-popular Chrysanthemum Tea for our senior citizens happens at Mycenae House. Apart from the catch-up chats over scrumptious sandwiches and cakes washed down with pots

of tea, there's a fun quiz and raffle prizes. Invitations will be sent out but if you don't receive one and would love to attend, please call Caroline on 020 8853 0948.

Everyone is welcome and the tea is a great way to make new friends.



# NEIGHBOURHOOD

## Community Lectures restart

St George's Church is restarting its popular Community Lecture series in October, with a local speaker, Giovanna Speciale, to hear from a local expert on what climate change means for us and what we can do."

Giovanna Speciale is CEO and



an inspiring entrepreneur who has won awards for her work on climate change. The title of the talk to be given by Giovanna at 8pm on Thursday October 12th is 'Empowering Greenwich: climate action in South East London.' "These talks are free and open to everyone" explains Reverend Laura Faturoti, vicar at St George's, which is at 43 Glenluc Road, SE3 7SD. "We all like to talk about the weather, but after a year of extremes here and around the world, this is a chance

founder of the renewable energy co-operative SELCE (South East London Community Energy). Under her leadership, the co-op has installed solar panels on the roof of seven sites, including schools across Greenwich and Lewisham. She also advises households on energy efficiency, how to save money on fuel bills and on access support to avoid fuel poverty. "Come along, bring a friend and let's explore what we can do together to tackle climate change" says Reverend Laura.

## New Chair of Friends of Greenwich Park

Tina Challacombe, a Greenwich resident of over 50 years and a former GP with interests in Teaching, Governance, Mental Health, and Older People's care, has been elected as the Chair of the Friends of Greenwich Park on June 13th, 2023. Living locally and regularly walking her dog Daisy in Greenwich Park, Tina is excited to lead the FoGP at a pivotal time, coinciding with the National Lottery-funded Greenwich Park Revealed project, bringing noticeable improvements to the park. She maintains regular communication with Park Manager Clare Lanes to address member concerns and stay updated on ongoing work. With 1728 members and a 14-member committee meeting

bi-monthly, the Friends provide updates through their website, monthly bulletins, and semi-annual newsletters. Membership perks include café discounts and Christmas tree sales discounts. They also sponsor bandstand concerts and hold an annual Midsummer Jazz event in June to raise funds. Mark your calendar for October 17th when the Annual lecture at Mycenae House features Park Archaeologist Andrew Mayfield discussing "Community Archaeology in a Royal Park: findings from the Greenwich Park Revealed project." Tickets at £10, which includes a glass of wine, are available to all. To purchase tickets or join the Friends, email [info@friendsofgreenwichpark.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofgreenwichpark.org.uk).

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## Greenwich Oxfam Bookshop launches new book club

Polly Morgan

Popular second-hand book retailer Oxfam Bookshop Greenwich is launching a new book club open to customers as well as their current volunteers. Next book club meets 19th October and for it they will be reading 'The Satsuma Complex' by Bob Mortimer. From the beloved comedian and author of the bestselling memoir And Away, comes a debut novel rich in Mortimer's unique brand of surreal whimsy, as nondescript legal

assistant Gary seeks a girl he met by chance, through the estates and pie shops of South London. Taken from Waterstones website. Come and join in what is sure to be a thought-provoking, social discussion group. Starting monthly, they will next meet Thursday 19th October, £5 per week register in-store and purchase book on site. *Oxfam Bookshop, 2 College Approach, Greenwich, SE10 9HY*

## Knife Crime in our borough a tragic reality - Council launches 'Let's Live #KnifeFree' campaign

Polly Morgan

In response to a concerning surge in knife-related offenses – 1,197 in the last three years – the Royal Borough of Greenwich launched the 'Let's Live #KnifeFree' campaign in September. This alarming statistic translates to one life lost every eight weeks, with 12 tragic deaths in just the past two years. The Council collaborated with community members, youth, and the police to develop this initiative. At its core is the short film 'Big Dreams,' a compelling portrayal of a local teenager brimming with potential. The film aims to inspire both young people and adults to value the potential of a life yet to be lived. The film is part of an outdoor and digital advertising campaign promoting the #KnifeFree lifestyle. All campaign content directs viewers to a web page offering local opportunities, including apprenticeships, career advice, guidance on safely surrendering knives, and information about safe spaces. Cllr Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, emphasizes the campaign's vital role as a lifeline for the community, underscoring the collaborative

effort to combat knife crime. Cllr Ann-Marie Cousins addresses a dangerous misconception, dispelling the belief that carrying a knife is normal and highlighting the life-altering consequences, including imprisonment. Hawa Haragakiza, mother of Tamim Ian Habimana, who tragically lost his life to a stabbing in 2021 at age 15, wholeheartedly supports the campaign and its mission to prevent further tragedies. The 'Big Dreams' film, a creation of the creative agency Nice and Serious following workshops with young people and community groups, stands at the forefront of this movement. Providing crucial refuge in emergencies, the Council's 'Safehaven Superhubs' ensure safety and medical assistance while waiting for emergency services. Tamim's Legacy, a grassroots charity, collaborates with the community to combat knife crime. Support Tamim's Legacy on Twitter and Instagram. For immediate assistance or to explore resources, visit [www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/knifefree](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/knifefree). In emergencies, dial 999.

## Upcoming Closures of Southbound Blackwall Tunnel

TfL warns drivers of southbound Blackwall Tunnel closures across the weekends of 30 September-2 October, and 7-9 October to allow TfL and Riverlinx CJV to complete works to the new southbound carriageway layout as part of the Silvertown Tunnel. Weeknight closures possible between

Oct 2-6, depending on progress. Northbound Blackwall Tunnel remains open for traffic. Route 108 will be split and terminate at Canning Town and North Greenwich. Customers can use the Jubilee line to cross the river and complete their journeys if required.

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# FEATURES

Continued from P1

and Woolwich Road and back via Woolwich Road, the Angerstein gyratory and Westcombe Hill or via the A2 as with option A. More details of the consultation are on <https://consultations.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/KMS/dmart.aspx> At the time of going to press the consultation deadline was 29th September 2023.

Depending on which scheme is selected the Council is also suggesting that there could be some 'complementary' measures which could 'provide added benefits'.

**The Westcombe Society Response**  
Time does not allow the Westcombe Society to consult all residents. The Westcombe Society response is agreed by the Westcombe Society Executive and Environment Committee based on study of the online responses to the consultation and discussion with a number of local residents. The view of the Westcombe Society at the time of going to press is that: Neither option is acceptable in its current form.

**24h restrictions are unnecessary.** The Council's own traffic surveys show that most traffic is 'through traffic' during peak hours. Solutions should therefore focus on peak hours.

**Displaced traffic will adversely affect residential streets.** No plan is in place as to where displaced traffic will go. Traffic will likely increase on Blackheath Hill (A2) and Woolwich Road which the Council have already identified as disadvantaged residential areas with unacceptable levels of pollution. Displaced traffic may also emerge on other roads e.g. Eastcombe Avenue, Victoria Way and Charlton Church Lane. If Option B is implemented, it seems likely that Humber Road will also see an increase in traffic.

**Longer journeys, more congestion and more pollution. Should residents be exempt?** The biggest problem is through traffic. Local residents will be inconvenienced by having to make convoluted journeys, often onto major roads, increasing congestion and pollution from idling engines and increased fossil fuel consumption, tyre wear etc. Consideration should be given to exemptions for local residents similar to those used in some other boroughs.

**No additional public transport.** Westcombe Park has steep hills and lacks direct public transport between many areas and the shops/amenities on the Greenwich Peninsula. Without improved bus services, residents may have no choice but to continue to use cars to access these facilities.

While we support actions that make walking and cycling safer, and accept that solutions are not easy to find, we consider the current proposals overly burdensome, especially 24h restrictions, and urge a more strategic and holistic view over a wider area.

The Westcombe Society requested an extension to the consultation given that the consultation was too late for inclusion in the September edition of the Westcombe News, took place partly during the summer holidays, was misleading and easily overlooked as no mention was made to Westcombe Park, or traffic, or LTN and included maps that are very difficult to read.

At the time of going to press, no response had been received. Updates and the full response from the Westcombe Society will be available on [www.westcombesociety.org](http://www.westcombesociety.org). We encourage residents to write to [transport-strategy@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:transport-strategy@royalgreenwich.gov.uk) even if they have missed the deadline.

## Festival sounds at Blackheath Creatives Pop Up

Amanda Arthur

There will be two days of live country & rock music on 30th September – 1st October 12-6pm in the Blackheath Creatives Pop Up garden. Laurence O and his band, The Blistered Mirrors, will be playing alongside seven other bands each day. This is a free community event, no need to book - café, handmade cakes, and drinks available – plus buy some amazing gifts available in the pop-up shop all made by artists and creatives.

16-18 Montpelier Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0TA



## Royal Observatory Announces the winner of Astronomy Photographer of Year 15

Polly Morgan

National Maritime Museum from Saturday 16th September 2023  
The overall winners of the Royal Observatory Greenwich's Astronomy Photographer of the Year 15 are Marcel Drechsler, Xavier Strottner and Yann Sainty for their photograph Andromeda, Unexpected that captures a surprising discovery – a huge plasma arc next to the Andromeda Galaxy (M31). Scientists are now investigating the giant object in a transnational collaboration. It could be the largest such structure nearest to us in the Universe. The image will be on display alongside the winners of the other categories in the accompanying exhibition. The Young Astronomy Photographer of the Year award was won by two 14-year-old boys from China. Runwei Xu and Binyu Wang collaborated to

capture The Running Chicken Nebula, Yuri Beletsky, judge and professional astronomer, described it as a 'strikingly beautiful picture'.

Visit: [rmg.co.uk/shortlist](http://rmg.co.uk/shortlist)



Photo: RMG

## Charlton House Garden Makeover

Ann Hill

The gardens in front of Charlton House are about to have a makeover. The house is one of the country's finest Jacobean mansions and was built in 1607-12 for the tutor to the eldest son of King James I. It is Grade I listed and has substantial grounds. Some changes to the garden beds in front of the house are planned to make them more resilient to our changing climate. Head gardener Jason Sylvan is masterminding the changes.

The shield, by the main road, previously brimming with annuals, required extensive watering and had no particular relevance to the house. This will become a children's play spot.

The beds around the lawn are being brought closer together to give a central focus in keeping with Jacobean tradition. They will be planted as an 'ethereal watercolour wash of blue, purple, and pink

perennials' with yellow highlights. The plants will be bee-friendly and drought-tolerant. Jason has drawn inspiration from the French impressionist painters Monet and Seurat. Sounds lovely....and next summer



we should be seeing the beds beginning to show promise. Several Westcombe Park residents help as volunteer gardeners. They are a very friendly bunch, and more are welcome. Enthusiasm is more important than gardening knowledge. For more information contact Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society. New volunteers welcome: Tue 2-4 & Thu 10-12





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# FEATURES

## The Inventor who lived in Westcombe Park: John Taylor Beale

Mary Mills

In the heart of Westcombe Park Road, among the elegant 19th-century houses, lies a hidden gem of history - the story of John Taylor Beale, a local inventor, and bicycle manufacturer. John Beale's roots traced back to his father, Joshua Taylor Beale, a renowned engineer and inventor. Joshua's Greenwich Peninsula foundry was a hub of innovation, birthing creations like the 'naphtha lamp' and a ground-breaking rotary steam engine. However, his most significant achievement was the 'exhauster', a device pivotal in gas



works and subsequent innovations. In 1866, Joshua passed away, leaving his legacy to his son, John. John took a bold step by not renewing the lease on the Greenwich factory. Instead, he redesigned the exhauster, securing a new patent in his name, which he later sold to Brian Donkin Co. of Bermondsey, a company that would eventually relocate to Chesterfield in 1903. Delving into the Derbyshire Record Office's archives, one uncovers letters from Benjamin Beale, John's uncle and Joshua's brother. Benjamin contested John's inheritance, alleging that John was a mere "John Jones, a workman in the factory", as he claimed Joshua had never married and couldn't have a son. Examination revealed that while banns for Joshua and Hannah's wedding were issued, they never officially married. Despite this, they lived together and raised three children. Hannah's life tragically ended in 1843, possibly by suicide. The court, however, dismissed Benjamin's claim that John couldn't be Joshua's son, resulting in a compromise. Benjamin sold the original exhauster patent to

Gwynne's, a pump maker in Hammersmith and Blackfriars. John chose to remain in Greenwich, carrying forth on his father's inventive legacy. In 1878, he patented the 'Facile' bicycle, a safer alternative to the 'penny farthing.' Initially it was produced at 32 Greenwich High Road by Beale and Straw, later at Ellis & Co. in Fleet Street and Farringdon Road. To promote it, the South London Facile Club was formed, and in 1880, W. Snook completed a remarkable 24-hour road race from Land's End to John o' Groats on a 42-inch front wheel. In Westcombe Park Road, John had a circular test track for his bicycles, now transformed into flower beds. Besides bicycles, John invented a 'magic lantern picture apparatus, registered as a 'useful design' in April 1875. His address, 'Conduit House, East Greenwich,' confirmed his authorship. This device projected a moving face using a series of sixteen pictures on a revolving disc, illuminated and displayed in various orders, known as a Choreutoscope. History occasionally muddles John Beale's contributions with another Mr. Beale—Lionel Beale, a physician and Professor of Optics, who created a similar device. Yet, John Beale's invention played a role in the evolution of motion pictures, even if it was occasionally misattributed. John Taylor Beale's journey in innovation concluded in 1899. His father's exhauster remained a cornerstone of the Donkin Company's output in Chesterfield, undergoing numerous redesigns and adaptations. Machines based on it were produced as late as the 1960s. Although the original works ceased operations in 1996, Chesterfield's AVK Donkin Division continues to craft 'high-performance valves and accessories for the gas supply industry', tracing their lineage back over 170 years. In the quiet elegance of Westcombe Park Road, John Taylor Beale's story resonates with the spirit of innovation that shaped the local community. His legacy endures, a testament to the enduring impact of a local inventor who once called Westcombe Park home.

## Westcombe Park resident and family embark on an exciting time travel trip

Christine Godwin, who lives in the Westcombe Park area, has had an exciting time travel adventure with her husband and grandson that she'd like to share with Westcombe News readers. She explained: "My husband and grandson acted as beach marshals when the royal shallop and six other boats arrived, after rowing from Isleworth (19 miles on a very hot day) to deliver the latest device to measure time to the Maritime Museum." A BBC News article on the subject explains further: A flotilla of 15 boats, led by royal barge Jubilant, has carried the extremely precise clock from Isleworth to Greenwich in south-east London.

clocks were more than 100 times more accurate than earlier iterations. The clock presented to the museum, is due to go on display soon, giving the public an opportunity to learn about its role in the UK's timekeeping history. NPL Leon Lobo, head of the National Timing Centre at NPL, said: "The UK has long been innovators in



Taken from BBC News website



IMAGE SOURCE,NPL

The unique object has been given to Royal Museums Greenwich by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) to mark the relationship between the institutions. The optical atomic clock uses an electronic transition frequency to tell the time. It made an almost identical journey to one in 2002, when the first Jubilant flotilla presented a caesium atomic clock that had been rowed down the Thames. The NPL said its latest optical

global timekeeping: Harrison's clocks enabling precise global navigation in the 18th Century. GMT was the global time scale in the 19th, the first accurate atomic clock supporting the transition to atomic time in the 20th, and the next generation of optical atomic clocks for future satellite navigation systems in the 21st. "This celebration reinforces NPL's close relationship with the Royal Museums Greenwich and showcases the criticality of time in our daily lives." Paddy Rodgers, CEO of Royal Museums Greenwich, said: "We are proud of our long relationship with National Physical Laboratory and delighted to welcome this remarkable clock to into our extensive collection, where it will benefit both researchers and the public alike."

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**October 2023**

Fri 6

Harriet Film (Black History Month)

Fri 13

SWOP Unplugged #11

Thurs 19

Comedy Club (Juliet Meyers/Mike Cox/Ben Van der Velde)

Fri 20

Caribbean Showcase (GFMA)

Mon 23

Dave Silks Jazz Nights Return

Fri 27

Cajun Live Music Night (GFMA)

tickets : [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

020 8858 1749  
[www.mycenaeahouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaeahouse.co.uk)  
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Committed to the development of your community. It is a place for learning, wellbeing, culture, support and socialising. We hire halls for Celebrations and Family Parties, activities, meetings, events and all manner of things! We are a not for profit charity.

Westcombe News October 23

5



# ENVIRONMENT

## Friends of Mycenae Gardens AGM: supporting wildlife in the Gardens

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens are delighted to invite anyone interested in wildlife and our area to enjoy a glass of wine and a great talk at our Annual General Meeting on Monday October 30th, 6:45 pm, at the Steiner School, 90 Mycenae Road. We're particularly excited because our speaker will be Joe Beale.



A Red Admiral, photo by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren under Creative Commons

Many of you will already know Joe; he's a local highly-qualified naturalist who has led great volunteer activities around the area. In the Vanbrugh Pits, his regular sessions have kept invasive species like gorse and holm oak under control, allowing a wider variety of plant life to thrive and support birds and rare insects such as the Green Hairstreak butterfly. He was a key team member for Westcombe Woodlands, where

volunteers maintain habitats for natural life. Now working full-time for the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, Joe was commissioned to do a survey of breeding birds and butterflies in Mycenae Gardens and the Dell this spring, thanks to funding from the Ward Budget scheme and the Parks and Open Spaces department. He'll be talking about what he found. The report shows that there's a greater variety of birds nesting and rearing young than you might have thought - wrens, robins, and four types of tit are all confirmed. Also there were good sightings of butterflies, despite the chilly spring. Joe found Red Admirals, a splendidly showy variety, along with Holly Blues and others. You can find the full report here: <https://mycenaegardens.org.uk/ecologist-survey-2023/>. The key question is whether the Gardens and the Dell are supporting as many species as previous reports showed, and Joe will outline changes over time and how you can help wildlife to thrive. Everyone is welcome to come. As it's an AGM, there will be a little bit of business electing committee members and hearing about progress over the year as well. It's a great opportunity to join the Friends as a member, but there's no obligation to do anything other than enjoy a nice glass of wine and Joe's talk, and increase your appreciation of this much-loved space.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS [www.westcombesociety.org](http://www.westcombesociety.org)

21D HUMBER ROAD ref 23/2595/F  
To construct rear dormer roof extension and install two rooflights to front slope.  
231 WESTCOMBE HILL room 1 ref 23/2836/SD and 23/2783/SD  
Details regarding Condition 5(refuse) and Conditions 4 and 6 (bins).  
49 FOYLE ROAD ref 23/2720/HD  
To construct single-storey side and rear extension, patio, bay window style dormer to rear roof, and

cycle storage.  
TREE WORKS  
71 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 23/2999/TC  
To reduce height and width of two sycamores by 20% in rear garden.  
6 WEBB ROAD ref 23/2923/TC  
To fell Chusan palm in rear garden.  
98 LANGTON WAY ref 23/2932/TC  
To fell 2 large Leylandii in rear garden.

07510 869947 [twhellis@gmail.com](mailto:twhellis@gmail.com)

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## Letter

Dear Westcombe News,  
Our party members had a collective guffaw upon reading "...cyclists would have to walk their bikes through the tunnel..." in reference to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel in the article titled "Consultation On Proposals For Cycle Shuttle-Bus" (WN - September 2023). As anyone who uses the Greenwich Foot Tunnel knows, the overwhelming majority of cyclists do not dismount in the tunnel as instructed, but speed through, endangering the safety of pedestrians,

and spew out abuse, and even threats of violence, to any of us mere pedestrians who dare to inform them that cycling is prohibited. We believe that cyclists should be banned completely from both Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnels, especially E-Bikes (and E-scooters), which have a propensity to burst into flames, which is not exactly ideal in the confined space of a tunnel. Cyclists should have to use Tower Bridge, the Woolwich Ferry or Thames Clipper boats to cross the River Thames, and utilize the plentiful lengths of virtually unused cycle lanes in South East London.

Trevor Allman

## Vote for your Tree of the Year in Greenwich Park

A magnificent 360 year old sweet chestnut in Greenwich Park has been shortlisted for Tree of the Year by the Woodland Trust. Show your support and cast your vote now.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-of-the-year>



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# WHATS ON

## Charlton House & Gardens

Horn Fair  
Sunday 15th October, 11am – 4pm  
Charlton House & Gardens  
By donation  
Join Charlton for the last hurrah for Greenwich’s warmer months and enjoy singing and dancing, kids’ activities, and a sea of indoor and outdoor market stalls.  
Out for the Count: A Halloween Murder Mystery Experience  
Wednesday 18th and Thursday 26th October, doors at 7pm  
Charlton House & Gardens  
£25 per person, including a glass of fizz



Vampires take hold of Charlton House in this spooky comic book-inspired murder mystery. Who had it out for the Count?  
Holiday Explorers: The Haunted Manor  
Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th October, 10am, 11:30am, and 1pm  
Charlton House & Gardens  
£5 per child aged 5-12, including Halloween treats and a spooky garden trail  
BOO! Visit Charlton House and discover the ghosts that haunt Charlton House. Who knows - you may even spot one...  
The Ghosts of Charlton House: Seeking the Grey Lady  
Saturday 28th October, 7pm – 1am  
Charlton House & Gardens  
Waiting list open – contact Greenwich Heritage at [marketing@rght.org.uk](mailto:marketing@rght.org.uk)  
An exclusive Halloween evening of haunted history and paranormal investigation!  
Ottoman Journeys: Life & Afterlife in Greenwich  
Mondays to Fridays 9:30am – 3:30pm,  
Saturdays 9:30am – 2pm  
Charlton House & Gardens  
Free entry  
Explore the connections between the Ottoman Empire and our borough today in this new exhibition.  
Visit:  
[www.greenwichheritage.org/events/](http://www.greenwichheritage.org/events/)



23rd November-7th January 2024  
For details and booking call 0208 858 7755



## Blackheath Music Appreciation Group

**SIBELIUS**  
**AT BLACKHEATH HALLS**  
This group has been around for 30+ years for classical music lectures by composer, Matthew Taylor. Held in term time on Monday mornings 10 am to 12, these musically illustrated lectures are designed for the experienced listener and beginners alike - no technical knowledge needed. Lectures are at Blackheath Halls or Charlton House.  
October brings us an eight-lecture series at the Halls on Sibelius starting on 9th October and ending on 4th December. You can book individual lectures at £13 each or pay a reduced figure for the term. Newcomers can have a free taster for their first visit.  
Contact Lionel Lewis on 020 8297 1075  
Website: [blackheath-music.co.uk/](http://blackheath-music.co.uk/)

## Blackheath Christmas Fair

Sunday 19 November 2023  
10.30am-4.45pm  
Blackheath Halls  
23 Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9RQ  
Entry £3.00  
Over 40 local artisans selling handmade and bespoke gifts. All sales support Age Exchange and their dementia services.

## St.Alfège

**St Paul’s Sinfonia** talented local classical music orchestra performs at St Alfège church in Greenwich  
October’s concert focuses on the Saxophone – featuring music from Huw Wiggin, Wallace and Glazunov  
Tickets and further info visit: [www.stpaulssinfonia.com/](http://www.stpaulssinfonia.com/)

## Yoga for the Mind

**We know how important it is to keep our bodies in shape – But what about our minds.**  
The courses, made up of four weekly classes, are designed to help local people come together to de-stress in a friendly and supportive environment.  
They use cutting edge neuroscience mixed with simple and effective meditation techniques. These are designed to help people develop long lasting well-ness strategies and better habits around mental health in an ever more demanding world; dealing with issues like stress and worry with effective, science-based techniques. Brain Hackers classes finally takes meditation out of the yoga studio and into the local community, demystifying it and making its benefits available to all ages and backgrounds.  
All 4-week courses take place at: St Richards Church Centre, 27 Swallowfield Road, Charlton SE7 7NR.  
More information about the classes and how to book a place is available at [www.brainhackers.co.uk](http://www.brainhackers.co.uk)

## Arts Society Greenwich

[www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk)  
**Art of the Atacama Desert: mummies, llama herds and the world's tallest giant**  
Monday 9 October 2023 at 7.30 pm  
Lecturer: Paul Bahn  
Venue: James Wolfe Primary School,



Royal Hill, Greenwich  
Annual membership: £55 (10 lectures). Guests very welcome: £10  
The Atacama Desert in northern Chile is not only the driest place on earth, filled with spectacular landscapes, but also houses two distinct kinds of prehistoric rock art: first, rock paintings and engravings, often very beautiful, and mostly depicting llamas; but second, the world's greatest collection of 'geoglyphs', huge drawings made on the landscape - both on the desert floor and (more commonly) on hill-and mountainsides. They include the "giant of the Atacama", 100 m high, by far the biggest human depiction known from prehistory. The talk presents the best examples of the Atacama's art, and discusses what we know of the purposes of these enormous drawings.

[www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk)

## Royal Museums Greenwich

**‘SHINE YOUR LIGHT’, A CELEBRATION OF DIWALI**  
**CURATED BY COMMONGROUND &**

Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG) will mark Diwali with a public festival titled ‘Shine Your Light’ on 11 November 2023 at the National Maritime Museum.  
Diwali is an annual celebration in the Hindu lunisolar calendar, and variations of the festival are also observed in the Jain and Sikh faiths. The National Maritime Museum hosts a public festival every year to mark the occasion, encouraging visitors to engage with other cultures and families, and learn more about the South Asian items in the Museum’s collection.

RMG has invited Mehala Ford, founder of South Asian arts platform **COMMONGROUND &** to curate the Diwali celebration at the Museum for the second year in a row. The theme this year is a celebration of the light within all of us, highlighting creativity, joy and well-being with an exciting programme to suit all ages and interests.

For more information visit: <https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/diwali>

## National Maritime Museum

**SPECIAL EVENTS**  
**Season of Identity**  
Royal Museums Greenwich will present a series of activities and creative responses in a new programme exploring our identities and their connections the Museum's collection from October 2023.  
The Season of Identity will celebrate culture through art, music and fashion to explore Britain's global connections and identities through the themes of the collection including trade, migration and the legacies of empire.  
Dates: Oct 2023 – March 2024  
Age: Suitable for all ages  
Location: National Maritime Museum, Queen’s House and Cutty Sark  
**Crossing Seas in Search of Identity**  
The Road to Nowhere presents an interactive programme looking at how our identities are as fluid as the sea. Founder Dalia Al-Dujaili invites guest speakers to deliver a pair of talks and a workshop exploring journeys taken across bodies of water.  
Date: Talks – 6, 27 October 2023  
Workshop - 21 October 2023  
Age: Suitable for ages 18 and over  
Location: National Maritime Museum  
Admission: Free  
**Creating Your Personal Culture For World Mental Health Week,**  
guest curator Mehala Ford, talks about creative expression and mental health to transpersonal transcultural integrative psychotherapist, Namalee Bolle, and founder of the south Asian magazine *Burnt Roti*, Sharan Dhaliwal.  
Date: 13 October 2023  
Age: Suitable for ages 18 and over  
Location: National Maritime Museum  
Admission: Free  
**The Alchemy of Identity**  
A therapy inspired workshop inviting a transpersonal exploration of cultural heritage through creative imagination, poetry, art and collage. This will culminate in a personal 'identity flag' of the participant's own unique view of their heritage, reflecting how all their cultural influences come together as a whole in their own vision of their personal 'country' of the self.  
Date: 14 October 2023  
Age: Suitable for ages 18 and over  
Location: National Maritime Museum  
Admission: Free  
**Rainbow Bridges**  
Ryan Lanji, curator, presenter and founder of club night ‘Hungama’ headlines a panel of guests to discuss their LGBTQ creative platforms, ethics, gatekeeping, and how to champion community during the rise of south Asian creativity.  
Date: 18 October 2023  
Age: Suitable for ages 18 and over  
Location: National Maritime Museum  
Admission: Free  
And special events for families and children for October half-term, check website for details: [www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum](http://www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum)



# MARKET PLACE

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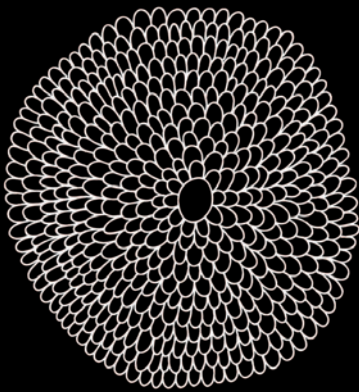
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