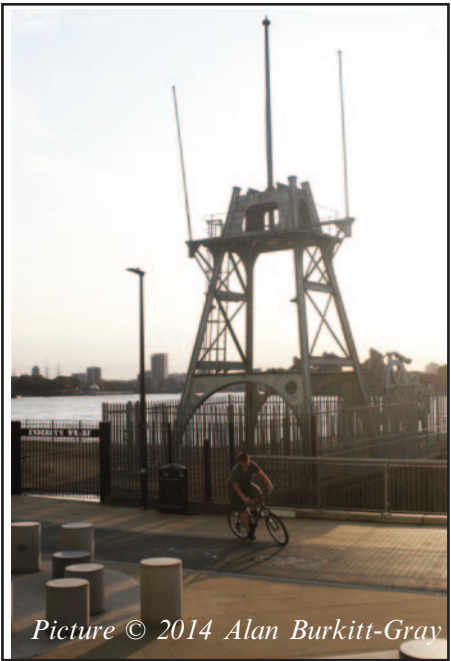


“Navigating local history and building community”

Move to Protect Historic Greenwich  
Jetty that Connected the World

Alan Burkitt-Gray

Historic England is considering a proposal that one of Greenwich’s most important relics should be listed, putting it side-by-side with the country’s precious buildings, gardens and monuments. The subject of this proposal is not a Georgian house or a Norman church, but the winding equipment and jetty on the bank of the river at Enderby Wharf. Less than 60 years old, this equipment was built for the first ever transatlantic telephone cable, to take it directly from the factory, where new flats are today, onto



Equipment on Enderby Wharf, built in 1955 to load the first-ever transatlantic phone cable.

the ship that laid it at the bottom of the sea. It seems odd that, in these days when we can swap Facebook

impossible until that first cable, called TAT-1, went into service in September 1956. This site in Greenwich, with a history of 170 years, is responsible for our present connected world. The company was the pioneer in subsea telegraph cables – no voice, just written telegrams – including the first Dover-Calais cable in 1851. In its first century, 1850-1950, it built 82% of the submarine telecoms cables in the world. Alcatel Submarine Networks still makes telecoms equipment in Greenwich, but the company occupies only about 60% of the area it used to, after selling off the portion nearest the river for development. That move left two vital treasures at risk: first, 200-year-old Enderby House, which had been the head office of the subsea cable maker. The developers, for unexplained reasons, surrounded it with a flimsy fence that a group of vandals could have pulled over in minutes. A group of locals set up the Enderby Group in 2015, to alert people to the state of the Grade II listed building. It got a more secure fence, and it was restored and extended so that it could be leased as a pub. The next challenge is that 1955 jetty and winding gear, which handled not only TAT-1 but many other telephone cables for decades – until production moved first to Southampton and then to Calais, where Alcatel Submarine



pictures and have WhatsApp chats – via video, text or voice calls – with friends in Asia, Africa and the Americas, that only a few decades ago most people made only local phone calls. Transatlantic phone calls were

Vandals were already threatening Enderby House in 2014. Networks is based. If Historic England accepts my suggestion, made in January, the next step is up to Lucy Frazer MP, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. She will decide.

A Grand Bandstand

The bandstand in Greenwich Park was erected in 1891 as an expression of Victorian civic pride and encouragement of the health benefits of the outdoors in the face of rapid urbanisation. It was designed and erected by Coalbrookdale Foundry Company although there is some evidence that a local firm, Deane & Co. assembled it and installed the iron columns.

and considering the inclemency of the weather until nearly the time for the beginning of the performance the number of people strolling about within hearing of the music was very large. The Park is just now seen at its best. The hawthorn and horse chestnuts are in full bloom and light up the green turf and trees which the late heavy rains have helped to deck in luxuriant coats."



The opening concert was held in June with a performance by the Northumberland Fusiliers Band and an estimated 5,000 people in the park enjoyed the music. The Kentish Messenger reported that, "A large concourse of people was attracted to Greenwich Park last evening when the Northumberland Fusiliers, under Bandmaster, W.H. Dencer, began the summer series of Thursday evening performances with a well-chosen selection of popular melodies. The chairs within the enclosure round the bandstand were mostly occupied

The bandstand itself is Grade II listed and is described as, "Late C19 octagonal bandstand. Cast iron columns with ornamental spandrels support low, conical copper roof. Cast iron railings rest on plinth of multicoloured stock brick, partly rendered." The Friends of Greenwich Park stage concerts at the bandstand every summer Sunday. It is now in urgent need of renovation and repair, and an application has been submitted to RBG by the Royal Parks for this work to be undertaken.

Westcombe Society  
EASTER EGG HUNT  
Mycenae Gardens

Saturday 30th March 2024  
1.30pm-3.30pm Face painting  
Prize for the best easter bonnet or basket



# WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

### Westcombe News

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## Obituaries

### Neil Rhind MBE FSA



We were very sorry to learn that Neil Rhind MBE FSA passed away on 10th February after a short illness.

Neil, 87, was a remarkable resident of Blackheath all his life. No-one knew as much about its detailed history, and he shared his knowledge generously over the years through his many books. Most recently Neil had completed a booklet "Walking the Westcombe Area" which we hope to see published soon.

A journalist by training and a historian by inclination, he built an enormous archive concerning the history of local buildings, assembled a complete collection of publications and created detailed records of the local amenity societies.

He was Chair of the Blackheath Society for many years and became President in 2016.

As Secretary of the Blackheath Preservation Trust, in the 1970s he was centrally involved in raising funds and building support to prevent the demolition of the Blackheath Halls and the Conservatoire. His direct involvement also saved many architecturally outstanding Blackheath buildings.


In addition, for over 50 years he gave talks and conducted many local walks. His comprehensive knowledge of the local area was unmatched, and his three volumes of "Blackheath Village and its Environs", written over 40 years, are the definitive works on this outstanding area of London.

Neil was awarded the Freedom of the Royal Borough of Greenwich in May 2017

Neil will be much missed as will his knowledge and expertise built up over so many years.

*(Acknowledgements to the Blackheath Society)*

### Anna Townend - Death of local urban greening champion.




Anna trained as a designer and along with her husband Keith was a local resident in Westcombe Park since 1965. Anna was very involved in local societies in Greenwich and Blackheath and worked over many years to preserve and enhance (making use of her 'designer's eye') the natural and built environment in this part of London, which she greatly cared about. Alongside her work in the Greenwich Society, Anna established a wildlife garden for schools in Greenwich at the former Dwarf Orchard (now known as the 'Queen's Orchard') at Park Vista, which she managed from 1980 until 2008, when after much lobbying it was re-united with Greenwich Park.

Recently Anna and Keith moved up to Shooter's Hill, close to Oxleas Woods, which is an area of ancient woodland that Anna (as one of the 'Oxleas Nine') also campaigned to save from destruction by the proposed East London River Crossing.

She died peacefully at Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 24 January and is survived by her sons, Bruce and Alexander and their respective families.

### Doris Taylor



It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Doris Taylor on 26th January. She will be much missed - a much-loved mum, nan and grandmother.

The funeral will be held at St George's Church on 22nd February and donations can be made to the building fund for St George's Church

## Egg Hunt

The Fun's in Finding the Eggs

The Easter bonnets and baskets in Mycenae Gardens are always a highlight of the Westcombe Society's Easter Egg Hunt. So, with this year's egg-citing party scheduled for March 30, 1.30 to 3.30pm, it's time to get creative. This year there promises to be more hidden eggs than ever to find, with yummy treats at the end of the search. There'll be face painting too.

For grown-ups, cards with historic pictures of Westcombe Park will be on sale, and the Mycenae House bar will be open throughout the afternoon. This is one Easter parade you won't want to miss!

## You Can't Beat a Quiz

Calling all local quizaholics. Get your brain skates on for another rousing evening of general knowledge questions, a hearty fish and chip supper (but only if you want it, £12 per person) and jolly banter.

The date is April 27th, the venue is Mycenae House, the time is 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Westcombe Society members pay £6, non-members, £7. Tables of 6 will be slogging it out to win. Come by yourself or in a group. There's a raffle too, and we need prizes. So, if you think you have something that will go down a treat, do let

Caroline know on 020 8853 0948. Call her as well to book for the evening.

## AGM

**NOTICE OF MEETING**  
Members are invited to -  
**The Westcombe Society's - AGM 2024.**  
**7.00pm on Friday 24th May 2024**

**LOCATION**  
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 2023 AGM  
3. Reports from the Chair, Events Sub-Committee, Environment Sub-Committee, Membership Secretary,  
Editor of the Westcombe News  
4. Treasurer's Report and presentation of audited statement of accounts for year ending 31/03/2024

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**6. A.O.B.**

Wine and nibbles will be served

Westcombe News March 2024



# NEIGHBOURHOOD

## Blackheath Joint Working Party Public Meeting 26 March 2024

The BJWP advises the London Borough of Lewisham and the Royal Borough of Greenwich on their management of the Heath. It includes councillors from both Lewisham and Greenwich and representatives of the Blackheath, Greenwich and Westcombe Societies and other residents' groups bordering the heath. Local residents are invited to the Blackheath Joint Working Party open meeting which will be held on Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 7.15pm at Blackheath High

School. This is an opportunity for residents to find out more about how Blackheath is managed and what events are coming up in 2024. There will be an opportunity for questions and for residents to make their views known, both positive and negative, about anything to do with Blackheath including past and future events. If you would like a particular topic raised and/or cannot attend and wish to share your views please email [environment@westcombesociety.org](mailto:environment@westcombesociety.org)

### 2024 Events on Blackheath (as known in January 2024)

Event	Location	Set Up	Event Dates	Break down
Under 12's Fair	Lewisham side	8-9 February	10-18 February	19 February
Zippo's Circus	Lewisham side	23-27 March	28 March -14 April	15-16 April
Funfair	Greenwich Circus Field	24-27 March	28 March – 14 April	15-16 April
Marathon	Lewisham/Greenwich	15-20 April	21 April	22 April
Traditional Funfair	Lewisham	28-29 May	31 May – 2 June	3 June
Race for Life	Lewisham	N/A	30 June	N/A
Under 12's Fair	Lewisham	11-12 July	13-21 July	22-23 July
Kisstory & Uptown Festival	Lewisham	22-26 July	27-28 July	29-31 July
Funfair	Greenwich Circus Field	11-14 August	15 August – 1 September	2-3 September
Kite Day	Lewisham	N/A	12-13 October	N/A
Circus (EU Events)	Greenwich Circus Field	17-22 October	23 October – 3 November	4-5 November
Funfair	Lewisham side	23-25 October	26 October – 3 November	4-5 November

## The Mystery of the Migrating Bus Stops

A considerable section of the pavements on both sides of Prince Charles Road, near the Gibb Memorial were recently dug up and inaccessible for some weeks. Unfortunately the result is that the bus stops on both sides of the road have now been moved about 50m further away from the nearest residential area and the Gibb Memorial. The additional paving also contravenes an agreement that any part of the heath that is paved over is replaced like for like with new grass elsewhere. A local resident and the Westcombe Society have asked TfL why passengers are expected to walk 50m further and, in the case of Blackheath, Lewisham and Deptford bound passengers, shelter from the wind and rain on an extremely exposed corner of the heath at a bus shelter open to the prevailing wind. TfL have not yet replied. In the past the Gibb memorial made a much better shelter where one could wait for a bus within reasonable reach of the stop. This is no longer possible.

The Westcombe Society are wondering if this has been done to improve traffic flow. They have asked many times for the traffic light sequence to be changed so that south bound traffic exiting Maze Hill does not follow the buses immediately to no avail. They have now written to both Council officers and TfL asking for an explanation and whether changing the sequence of the traffic lights and inconvenience to local residents, especially the less able, was considered. We would really like to hear from you if the movement of these bus stops affects you. Please contact the WS Environment committee on [environment@westcombesociety.org](mailto:environment@westcombesociety.org)



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## Blackheath Community Fund

Applications for funding of Community projects on Blackheath can also now be submitted.

The Blackheath Community Fund was established in 2015 to distribute and manage funds donated by successive providers of live Summer music festivals on the Heath. The original company "OnBlackheath" provided £15,000 each year of their operation. There was long gap during the pandemic and the most recent festival in 2023 has now contributed £2,400. The money must be used for projects aimed at the protection or improvement of the Heath or to fund other developments which will benefit residents and other users of the Heath. The London Borough of Lewisham, where all of the music festivals to date have been held, have asked the Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) to organise and oversee the allocation of the funds. Financial management of the Fund is provided, on behalf of the BJWP, by the Blackheath Society. Projects which have been funded include the wild fowl islands on Prince of Wales pond, new flower bunds along the edges of Prince Charles Road and St German's Place, storyboards detailing the history, flora and fauna of the Heath, wildlife surveys and new, larger litter bins in popular areas. The Fund currently has approximately £20,000 to allocate and the BJWP would like to hear from local people, both individuals

and organisations, who have projects they would like to have funded.

**Application process**  
For projects which need to be funded during the current year, detailed and costed proposals must be submitted by 1st April 2024 by email to [BJWP@blackheath.org](mailto:BJWP@blackheath.org) Projects which are being planned but that are not yet ready for a detailed application should also be notified to the BJWP with probable dates and estimated costs so that appropriate provision can be made if necessary. The BJWP welcomes smaller scale applications (i.e. of no more than £5,000 each) as this will allow a wider selection of projects to be funded. However, larger proposals of particular value to residents and users of the Heath will also be considered. Projects that include matched funding from other sources are encouraged and, where relevant, details should be included. Applications will be considered at an (electronic) meeting of the BJWP on the evening of Tuesday 9th April. Please make a note of the date as applicants may be invited to attend and speak about their applications.

If you have any questions, for example about the type of projects which can be considered or the application process, please send these by email to [BJWP@blackheath.org](mailto:BJWP@blackheath.org)

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

**67 WESTCOMBE HILL**  
Ref 24/0397/HD  
To construct rear dormer loft conversion with 3 rooflights to front slope.

**44 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD**  
ref 24/0365/HD  
To construct single storey rear extension and associated works.

**TREE WORKS**  
**8 VANBRUGH TERRACE**  
Ref 24/0321/TC  
To reduce and thin holm oak by 10% and reduce 8 limes on Angerstein Lane by 2m.

\* Please be advised that the planning applications noted here are based on information available at the time of print. For the latest updates, please visit our website <http://www.westcombesociety.org>

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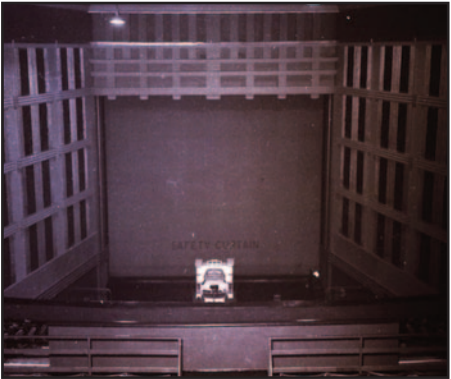
# FEATURES

## Greenwich Granada

On the corner of Trafalgar Road and Vanbrugh Hill stands a prominent Art Deco-style building with a fascinating history from the glamorous 1930s era of the cinema.

It is now called the Plaza Building and contains apartments and retail businesses but when it was completed in 1937 it was part of the Granada Theatres Ltd chain founded in 1930 by impresario Sydney Bernstein.

Sydney Bernstein commissioned the famous American architect C. Howard Crane (1885 - 1952). Based in Detroit he was noted for over 250 other cinemas and theatres, as well as the Art Deco-style Earls Court Exhibition and Entertainment

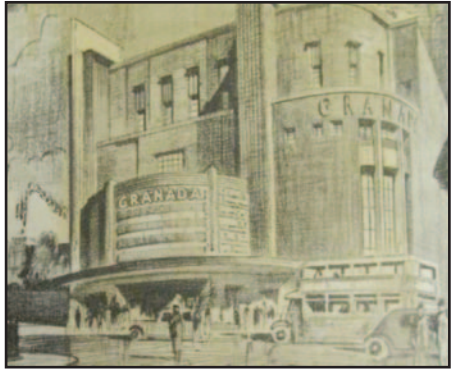


Centre, sadly now demolished. Following the Great Depression, Crane moved to London and designed many cinemas in the UK, including the Greenwich Granada. However, the interior he proposed for this building was not favoured by Bernstein and the commission was given to the Russian theatrical director and designer Theodore Kormisarjevsky (1882-1952). Komisarjevsky's early theatrical career started in Imperial Russia where he was the principal tenor at the Imperial Opera St Petersburg. He was also a talented theatre designer and had studied at the Imperial Institute of Architecture. After escaping from Russia in 1919 he was advised by the famous fellow emigre Serge Diaghilev to travel to

London.

Komisarjevsky became a British national in 1932 and worked with and later married Peggy Ashcroft. He also collaborated with Sir Thomas Beecham on productions at Covent Garden and was involved with very innovative productions of Shakespeare plays at the RSC Stratford and many plays by Chekov staged in London.

The interior he designed for the Greenwich Granada has been lost but we do have a photograph of it and a local newspaper description. "The predominate colour in the scheme of wall decoration is silver set off by natural and pastel shades of various hues". The cinema could seat over 1900 patrons in the stalls and balcony. As with the Granada Woolwich, which was also designed by Komisarjevsky, it had a mighty Wurlitzer 3 manual/8 rank organ that could replicate a full symphony orchestra and even human voices, sirens, aircraft engines and bells. Like most Granada cinemas there was a fully equipped stage behind the screen. The Greenwich Granada was



opened by the superstar Gracie Fields in September 1937 to a reported crowd of 8 to 10 thousand people. She sang from the roof terrace her well-known songs 'Sing as We Go', 'Sally' and 'I Never Cried So Much In All My Life'. She described the cinema as "proper posh". A very young Joan Collins who lived in nearby Tyler

Street at the time recalled that she was taken by her father to see the opening ceremony. I wonder was that the inspiration for her cinema career?

The 1930s was a boom period for cinema building but sadly by the early 1960s cinema audience numbers had fallen and the Greenwich Granada survived but only as a Bingo Hall and later as the Granada Social Club. In 1992 it became Stars Nightclub but by 1996 Stars was gone and the building was then sold to developers and completely gutted to enter a new life as a residential/retail building.

It did not possess the glamour and opulence of the now Grade II-listed Woolwich Granada which has a new life as a church, its exterior and interior preserved and protected.

But Greenwich Granada's history and those individuals involved is, I think, quite fascinating and at least its exterior will now survive for decades for future generations to enjoy.

David Fletcher FCSD

Fellow of the Chartered Society of Designers

Petition up-date.

In 2018 the Greenwich Heritage Centre was moved out of its premises in the renovated Royal Arsenal. Thousands of artefacts and historical records were then stored in Charlton until such time as a more permanent home could be found for them. Meanwhile people wishing to explore the local history, such as the Enderby Wharf cable gear or the Plaza Cinema, both featured in this edition, have found access to the store is very limited.

The December Westcombe News included an article about the archive and a petition has been circulating, (see <https://greenwichindustrialhistory.blogspot.com/>) and has attracted over 2,000 signatures.

## GreenwichPark Revealed - Update

We are very excited that Vanbrugh Yard will soon be open to park visitors. The previously private space has been transformed into a volunteer space, community kitchen garden, accessible toilets, and a brand-new café. The café will open in March with an official opening event taking place on the 23 March.



Pic: The Royal Parks



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# FEATURES

## The Reach Out Project wins Award Polly Morgan

The Reach Out Project at Mycenae House, Westcombe Park, Blackheath, South East London, is combatting the social isolation we witness in our modern society brilliantly and has now won a prestigious award for their inclusive work in our community. Ironically, given the rapid rise of social media and technology in our society that purports to keep us all connected, real isolation and loneliness is dramatically on the rise in our country and cities – by 2025/26, the number of over 50s who experience isolation is set to rise to 2 million in the UK. Plus, over 2 million people over 75 in the UK live on their own. (According to research conducted by charity Age UK: [www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-press/articles/2018/october/all-the-lonely-people-report/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-press/articles/2018/october/all-the-lonely-people-report/))



However, one woman and her wonderful team of volunteers at Mycenae House Reach Out project, have been on a mission to change all this in recent years. Deborah Fitzpatrick, Community Project Outreach Co-ordinator, has run the Reach Out project at Mycenae House community centre, Westcombe Park, Blackheath, since 2017, determined to bring people out of their isolation into their community, making friends and engaging in meaningful activities. Deborah, the Reach Out Projects Coordinator, received The British

Citizen Award in the January 2024 Roll of Honour. Deborah, along with School Community Librarian Jennifer Allen, was honoured with The British Citizen Award (BCAc) for Services to Community, receiving the coveted BCA Medal of Honour for their partnership work to develop intergenerational projects between Mycenae House and The John Roan School. The Reach Out programme offers events and regular programmes to help the surrounding community reduce isolation and loneliness and to develop skills, find support and capacity to enjoy life to the full. Deborah explains further: “Jennifer Allen and I were delighted to hear that we were each selected to receive the prestigious ‘British Citizen Award’ (BCAc) for our contribution to working together on community ‘intergenerational projects’. We were honoured. The BCA Awards recognises the value of the collaboration of the community partnership between The Mycenae House Reach Out Project and The John Roan School. Through our joint initiative, we wanted to work towards valuing the importance of the elderly in the family and in the community. The Project focused on isolation and gave the pupils and residents a chance to exchange and share knowledge and past experiences with each other. The Award is a great encouragement for those who work in schools and in the community to make these projects happen. Though Jennifer left The John Roan School in May, the legacy of her contributions continues to inspire. “In a world where people live longer and individuals with complex needs from all walks of life become isolated due to circumstances beyond their control, it is more and more important that they have someone to turn to in their hour of need. The Reach Out Project at Mycenae House helps our community to become less isolated, to make new friends and enjoy activities.

Community members have become old friends and support each other in turbulent times. Our volunteers play an important part in the success of the project.” I visited the Reach Out Project programme of activities on several occasions this year and walked into a wonderfully warm and friendly, busy, environment of clients with volunteers fully engaged in meaningful, helpful



conversations and activities – it was a delight to witness. From weekly activities such as the popular seated exercise, to bingo, arts and crafts, music sessions and tech help with your gadget from Paul Clayton and Jon, Deborah and her volunteer team are creating a wealth of opportunities for engaging activities. I spoke to some of the people who attend the project to find out why they feel they have found such a special place that encourages them to keep attending week after week. A Reach Out family member spoke movingly about his mother’s involvement with the project, saying: “My mum has lived alone in Greenwich for many years and is keen to stay independent. After some health issues, it became clear that mum needed an outlet where she could socialize and meet new friends with whom she could chat, laugh and get some company. The Reach Out Project at Mycenae House provided the opportunities for her to achieve this and much more. As her son, I was looking for where to get my mum help and a place that she could go, feel safe and engage with others in the community. For us as a family, Reach Out provides a service that is invaluable, giving us the comfort of knowing mum has a happy place. Mum now has a wider circle of friends and friendly faces that she engages with and consistently feels part of an ever-increasing group that is mutually supportive. My mum is happier, more engaged and more fulfilled thanks to Reach Out, Mycenae House, the staff and people that make use of the opportunities on offer. Our thanks are

only matched by how grateful we are that Reach Out exists, helping keep my mum and so many others away from loneliness and isolation.” One volunteer for the Reach Out Project said: “I came in contact with the Reach Out Project two and a half years ago, as I was interested in volunteering locally and read about it on the Nextdoor website, contacted Deborah who runs the project and the rest, as they say, is history! “It’s a fantastic project and I love helping out with different activities. I love chatting to the people who attend for social reasons who may have physical or mental disabilities that have left them feeling isolated in the community; these events bring everyone together in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. I love introducing people to make new friends. I truly get as much out of volunteering here as the people I help. I wanted to give something back to society and this project has really helped me achieve that. I’m very grateful as I can now wake up each day thinking what I can give back to my local community.” Another lady who attends the group agrees she said: “I started off in the crochet group and I love knitting with friends at Reach Out events. The events they run really bring people out of isolation and stop people sitting indoors on their own and brings them together, it is great. Deborah who runs Reach Out, is brilliant and does wonderful work.” And one young lady who attends Reach Out Project activities, also added: “I’ve been coming to Reach Out events for about a year now and think they are great. I like attending bingo the most. I’m doing arts and crafts today which I like also. All the staff are helpful and friendly and it’s great to make friends and be supported.” Deborah wishes to thank the BCA organisers, causes, sponsors and charities who support the Awards. She would like to say a special mention to Carol Foyle, Greenwich Music School, Bo-Peeps nursery at Mycenae House and all the care homes who played a part in Reach Out activities. Also to Bernadette Walters and William Bruce as nominees. Deborah wanted to convey her heartfelt gratitude to Mycenae House staff and the Vanbrugh Community Association and said: “Behind every successful project, there’s a team of amazing people who not only deliver support but also sprinkle magic dust of determination and enthusiasm to help support The Reach Out Project.” To find out more, visit: <https://www.mycenaereachout.co.uk/>



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# ENVIRONMENT

## Action days at Mycenae Gardens

With spring arriving, there's plenty of life in Mycenae Gardens: birds, bees, and buds all are emerging. Bulbs are sending up flowers, helped particularly by the fencing in several areas which keeps pets, and humans, from walking on them. The Friends of Mycenae



Gardens were thrilled to see snowdrops last month, for instance. The committee was also excited to get two loads of woodchip from a local tree surgeon - and an abundance of

help to spread it across some of the much-used areas around picnic benches and under the magnificent plane trees. The work certainly warmed us up! Thanks to all who took part.

There are more opportunities to help in the gardens coming up, with monthly action days on the last weekend of each month, 10:30-12:30, alternating Saturdays and Sundays.

Dates for the next few months are Sunday 24th February, Saturday 30th March, Sunday 28th April, and Saturday 25th May. You don't need any gardening experience: the work will include anything from cutting back branches and maintaining the barriers that keep wildlife areas safe, to light weeding, all under capable direction. Stout footwear is recommended, and clothes that can cope with a bit of mud. But we will welcome anyone wanting to see how the gardens are shaping up, whether you want to work or are just curious.

You can check the Friends of Mycenae Gardens website to learn more, join the Friends group, make a donation, or sign up for email reminders of action days.

Photo credit: Fiona Machen Harrison



## Letters

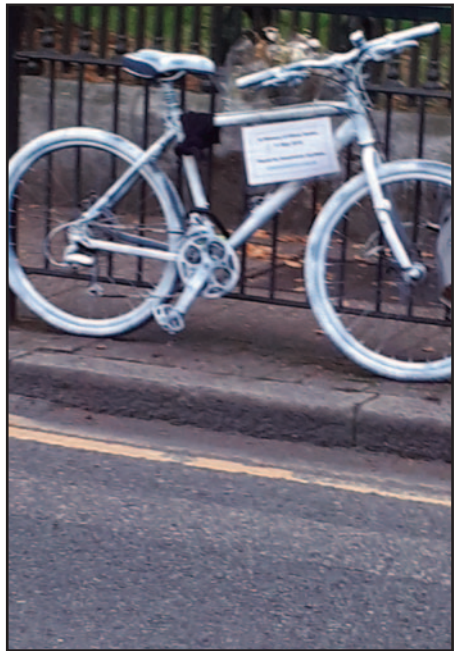
I have used Old Woolwich Road for many years now, travelling back and forth to Greenwich by bus.



The introduction of cycle lanes is complete anarchy to the running of London's traffic by TfL.

Look at the picture of the bus stop by what was East Greenwich Library. You have to get off the bus and look out for anyone flying along on a bike or "that's your lot" a little bit of pavement, big cycle lane and some pavement on the other side. Who thought this up?

The Ghost bike, a tragic reminder of the price you pay for riding a bike in a built-up area of central London,



but let's get things in perspective - the bike lanes are not used anywhere like the main roads are for buses, cars and vehicles delivering goods.


I'm a disabled OAP and, like many people these days, we are becoming a majority through old age throughout the country, we can't just jump on a bike and fly up the road to get our pension.

No need for further bike lane lunacy. Please "Use Your Loaf" TfL, wake your ideas up and think of the working class of this country.

Many thanks  
KJBARRY  
St John's Park  
Blackheath SE3

I'm sure other people have written about the parking regulations and charges but I've just been brought up sharp by PayByPhone in the village. I'd parked by All Saints and tried to pay using their website. It is interminable and extremely confusing. I eventually managed to pay but couldn't fully understand what the

fee was, I was just pleased to have completed the process. When I got home I decided that maybe downloading the App would make it quicker. I duly downloaded and got an update on my latest transaction. PayByPhone charged me £4.20 for parking for half an hour! Be warned.  
Chris Godwin - Address supplied



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Friday 8 March 2024 9.00am onwards

[www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)  
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# WHAT'S ON

## National Maritime Museum and Queen's House Greenwich

**Women of the RNLI**  
To mark the bicentenary of the RNLI, Royal Museums Greenwich will host an exhibition celebrating the vital role that women have played in saving lives at sea.  
Women of the RNLI will highlight the work and success of women in a variety of roles including their pioneering contributions to fundraising, campaigning, technological innovation, training and as members of onshore and offshore crew throughout the RNLI's history. The exhibition will feature a series of Jack Lowe photographs taken from Lowe's ongoing Lifeboat Station Project, an attempt to photograph every RNLI station and members of its crew. Alongside these images, the exhibition will include oral histories from some of the sitters, sharing their experiences of life with the RNLI.  
Date: 2 March 2024 – 1 Dec 2024  
Time: 10.00 – 17.00  
Age: Suitable for all ages  
Location: National Maritime Museum, Special Exhibitions Gallery  
Admission: Free  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/women-of-the-rnli](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/women-of-the-rnli)  
**International Women's Day with CommonGround&**  
Visit the Queen's House on International Women's Day to take part in activities relating to this year's theme: Inspiring Inclusion. Influenced by the new display at the National Maritime Museum, *Pioneers: A Renaissance in South Asian Creativity*, as well as new art-work going on display in the Queen's House, the day will look back at pioneering South Asian women and reclaiming the creative feminine.  
Date: 8 March 2024  
Time: 11.00 – 16.00  
Age: Suitable for ages 15 and above  
Location: Queens House, Greenwich  
Admission: Free  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/womens-history-month-2024](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/womens-history-month-2024)



**Women of the RNLI Tour**  
Join the curators of the National Maritime Museum on a tour of the new exhibition, *Women of the RNLI*, celebrating the bicentenary of the RNLI and the vital role that women have, and have always had, in saving lives at sea.  
Date: 22, 29 March 2024  
Time: 14.00 – 15.00  
Age: Suitable for ages 15 and above  
Location: National Maritime Museum, Special Exhibitions Gallery  
Admission: Pay what you can - £5, £7, £10  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/womens-history-month-2024](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/womens-history-month-2024)

## Royal Observatory

**Evening of Astrophotography**  
An after-hours panel discussion on International Women's Day highlighting and celebrating the work of women in astrophotography, from pioneers like Annie Maunder to the modern day. Guests include judges and astrophotographers from the Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition. Following the discussion, ticketholders will be able to view the exhibition of shortlisted and winning photographs from Astronomy Photographer of the Year 2023.  
Date: 8 March 2024  
Time: 18.00 – 20.00  
Age: Suitable for ages 11 and above  
Location: Royal Observatory  
Admission: Adult £12 | Student £8.50  
[www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/evening-astrophotography](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/evening-astrophotography)  
**St Paul's Sinfonia**  
**Local talented St Paul's Sinfonia performs**  
Friday 15th March, St Alfedge Church, Greenwich, 730pm.  
*Contours of Light*, Carmichael & Sibelius 4th Symphony  
Tickets: £20 on door, £15 concessions.  
[www.stpaulssinfonia.com](http://www.stpaulssinfonia.com)

## West Greenwich Library

**Shakespeare at West Greenwich Library!**  
West Greenwich Library on Tuesday March 5th at 7pm.  
Local writer and scholar Neville Grant will talk about some aspects of his recently published book *Shakespeare in an Age of Anxiety* (Greenwich Exchange, 2023) - his motivation and process of writing, and a very 21st century perspective (our own age of anxiety).  
Neville's talk will be followed by readings from 154 (Live Canon 2016), an amazing project where each of 154 poets responds to one of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets. Lorraine Mariner, NJ Hynes, Rosie Johnston, Doreen Hinchliffe and Gillie Robic form the outstanding line-up, possibly joined by one or two more. Do join us for this unique evening. As always, it is a free event with plenty of food for body and mind! Not essential, but if you aim to attend please send email re: numbers to: [irena.mh50@gmail.com](mailto:irena.mh50@gmail.com)  
Website: [in-words.co.uk](http://in-words.co.uk)

## Arts Society Greenwich

**Grace Darling and the Fine Art of Saving Lives at Sea**  
Monday 11 March 2024 at 7.30 pm  
Lecturer: James Taylor  
Venue: James Wolfe Primary School, Royal Hill, Greenwich  
Membership: £35  
(5 lectures - Feb-July 2024).  
Guests very welcome: £10



Grace Darling's daring rescue of steamship passengers off the Northumberland coast in 1838 brought her international fame. Discover more about her bravery and short life (died aged 26) and the artistic contribution that has helped to keep her in the public eye. Grace became the 'poster girl' of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and was the first woman awarded their medal for gallantry. This talk coincides with the commemorations to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI in 2024.  
[www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk)

## Blackheath Halls

Sat 9th 2.30pm - There Was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly  
Mon 11th 1.10pm – Lunchtime Recital | Clélia Irzun & Yoko Ono  
Wed 13th 7.30pm – Trinity Laban Solists Competition Final  
Fri 15th 7.30pm – Trinity Laban Studio Band and Latin Band  
Sat 16th 7.30pm – Lewisham Choral Society | Poulenc and Vaughan Williams  
Sun 17th 7.30pm - Blackheath Halls Orchestra and Blackheath Halls Choir | Fauré & Elgar  
Sat 23th 6.30pm - Eltham College Symphony Orchestra & Choral Society  
Thu 28th 7.30pm – Trinity Laban Symphony Orchestra  
<https://www.blackheathhalls.com/>

## Charlton Village Theatre

**A Tribute to 'Mega Musicals'**  
This Tribute to 'Mega Musicals' promises to be a great night out for all, produced by Charlton Village Theatre team which always gives delightful performances in the local community.  
Venue: The Assembly Rooms, The Village, Charlton, SE7 8DU.  
Friday: 1st, Saturday, 2nd March 7.30pm  
Sunday 3rd March, 6pm  
To Book Call: 077385 61544 or 0208 856 7373  
TICKETS: £12  
(Family: 2 Adults 2 children £30).

## Community Lecture

'Will artificial intelligence take over the world?' a timely local lecture  
The second Community Lecture at St. George's Church, open and free to all, will be held on Thursday 14 March at 8pm on the topic 'will artificial intelligence take over the world?'  
The speaker will be Rob Hornby, technologist, digital entrepreneur and an adviser to the World Economic Forum.  
Rob Hornby will explore how human-like is AI, whether we should be worried about bias and errors, what new applications we will see in the next few years, whether we are going to be replaced by AI in the workforce and how do we regulate AI to keep it safe.  
There will be refreshments after and the lecture will take place at St George's Church, 43 Glenluce Road, SE3 7SD.

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## National Maritime Museum roof to be under refurbishment from March 2024

From 11 March 2024, the central area under the glass roof of the National Maritime Museum (NMM) will be closed to members of the public, while the glazing in the roof is replaced.  
The existing glass roof covering the central Ocean Court area is now 25 years old and requires a significant refurbishment to counter the increasingly frequent overheating of the space underneath.  
The NMM is not closing. Only the central area located under the glass

roof will be unavailable to the public during the refurbishment of the roof. The rest of the NMM (including popular galleries such as 'Nelson, Navy, Nation' and 'Polar Worlds') and other RMG sites will remain open as usual, throughout the project. The main entrance to the Museum will be via the Parkside Entrance on King William Walk, next to the 'Ship in a Bottle' statue.  
The refurbishment work is due to be completed in spring / summer 2025. and upon reopening the area will be

known as 'Ocean Court'.  
[www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum/plan-your-visit/roof-works](http://www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum/plan-your-visit/roof-works)





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**GUITAR TUITION:** I am an experienced musician who has recently moved to Vanbrugh Park and am looking to take on new guitar students. All ages and abilities welcome, all styles and techniques catered for: classical, rock, jazz, folk fingerpicking, or all of the above. Please write to [kiranleonard@gmail.com](mailto:kiranleonard@gmail.com) if interested.

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