

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." - Leo Tolstoy

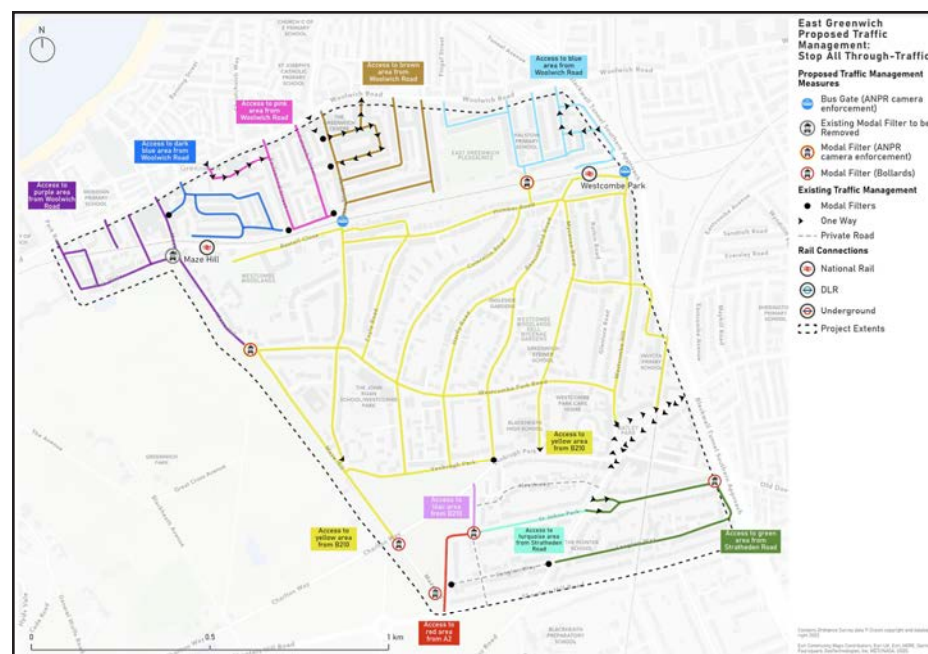
LTN - Greenwich Council Pushing on Though Most Residents Against

Very quietly, at the beginning of March, Greenwich Council slipped out a key decision report recommending the Council Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport to implement its Low Traffic Neighbourhood proposals in West & East Greenwich and the Westcombe area although the engagement process in late 2023 revealed that around 80% of respondents were against, or strongly against, those proposals. The recommendation is for Option A, arguably the more draconian, complex and confusing of the two options originally offered, but with some notable changes. Option A was designed to prevent traffic, except public transport and essential vehicles, from driving through the area so as to ensure safer, less polluted streets that would encourage walking, cycling and scooting. A shift away from car travel is seen as essential to making the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

take a different, longer route. This implies that delivery drivers, and even emergency vehicles and refuse vehicles, would need to make longer journeys at points where Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras were not installed. The Council further stated in its consultation material that local traffic would be able to "access these areas from the boundary roads of Trafalgar Road, Woolwich Road, Vanbrugh Park, Stratheden Road, Charlton Road and Old Dover Road". In some cases access seemed likely to involve the A2 (Shooters Hill Road), the A102 or Blackheath Hill, roads which are already hugely busy. The revised elements of the original Option A include replacement of hard closures with ANPR cameras "wherever feasible". Also, importantly, traffic is to be restricted only on weekdays between 7-10am and 3-7pm where ANPR cameras are in place. Some exemptions have also been added.

Traffic Order (ETO), which can last for up to 18 months while the effects are monitored and

addressed. * Details of monitoring procedures and how further consultation



assessed. The ETO has to be advertised and Officers would need to report back if objections were received which they were unable to resolve during the statutory consultation period. The Council says that further consultation and monitoring would take place during the ETO's operation and before a final decision on whether to make the LTN permanent is made.

would happen. * Clarification on plans in the St John's Park/Langton Way area which include closure of the southern section of Maze Hill between Charlton Way and the A2.

In the report the Council states that, in its view, the amendments proposed "would be anticipated to reduce the concerns expressed and still deliver significant benefits from the scheme". However, serious concerns do still exist and the Westcombe Society has asked the Blackheath Westcombe Councillors to call-in the decision if Cllr Lekau decided to go ahead, to allow further scrutiny. This is important with a decision which could adversely affect so many residents trying to go about their legitimate business and on a scheme which attracted so little support for the consultation on proposals.

* The legitimacy of the revised part-time operation of the scheme as it was not included in the original consultation.

The Westcombe Society favours encouraging walking, cycling, and use of public transport. The question is whether the gain in restricting traffic during the rush hour within the Westcombe area is offset by a possible worsening on the boundary roads due to displacement of traffic, longer circuitous journeys by residents, and increased congestion and idling of vehicles. Robust monitoring data before and during the trial will be essential to answer this question.

At the time of going to press the Society had just been advised that the call-in had been made by four Councillors with a meeting open to residents on a date to be announced.

If the trial is authorised, when the ETO is advertised there will be a period during which comment can be made. Further information on deadlines for comment will be made available on www.westcombesociety.org (and in the Westcombe News if time allows).

So the Westcombe Society Environment Committee has drawn attention to that lack of support for the original scheme and its potential imposition at a time when the disadvantages of LTNs are being more widely recognised. Amongst other issues raised by the Society are:-

* The massive inconvenience to residents, trades people and others of having to take longer routes.

* Lack of consultation with residents in the neighbouring West Charlton area whose concerns about the knock-on effects of displaced traffic need to be



The Council stated that all addresses would be accessible by vehicles at all times for both Options but drivers may have to

If the Cabinet member, Cllr Averil Lekau, decides to approve the revised scheme it would be imposed under an Experimental

Blackheath High Junior School
GDST

Here, every sport is a girls' sport.

Where girls boldly go
blackheathhighschool.gdst.net

Apply now - rated 'excellent in all areas' by the ISI



WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Westcombe News

PUBLISHER

The Westcombe Society
c/o 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP or
info@westcombesociety.org
CHAIR: Geoff Brighty

EDITOR: Christine Fells

EDITORIAL TEAM / CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Little
Polly Morgan
Amanda Arthur
Helen Marley-Hutchinson
Anne Robbins
Ann Hill

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE/PRESS MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:

wnews@westcombesociety.org
Deadline for May copy
12th April 2024

SUB EDITOR

Annie Grey

ENVIRONMENT

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

ADVERTISING

Marilyn Little
advertising@westcombesociety.org
Deadline for Advertising:
15th April 2024

DISTRIBUTION

Emily Norton and volunteers
Tel: 0208 853 2756

PRINTING

Trojan Press.
Email: dave@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.com

The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor.

We take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of our readers by ensuring as far as possible the bona fides of our advertisers but cannot accept any responsibility for them. Any complaints should be addressed to the advertiser.

To access back numbers (in colour) go to:
http://www.westcombesociety.org/
westcombenews

Westcombe Society Membership

We would be delighted to receive your support and annual membership subscription.

Family membership £12.
Individual membership £8.
Senior Citizens and Unwaged £4.

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

Secretary Wanted for the Westcombe Society

Would you like to get more involved with the work of the Westcombe Society?

We need a new secretary to take notes and arrange meetings (10 a year) starting in June.

For more information contact Jane Wilson at
info@westcombesociety.org

Quiz Mania Strikes Again

Diane Blackwell

We don't mean to boast but the Westcombe Society's quizzes are special. The general knowledge questions never disappoint in their ability to furrow brows (in a good way) and revive flagging brains with the scrumptious fish and chip supper (but only if you want it, £12 per person) that magically appears at half time.

The date of the next quiz 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 set the scene, come by yourself or in a group. There's a raffle too. Book a place by calling Caroline on 020 8853 0948.

The Easter Egg Hunt is nearly here!

The eggs will be hidden and the Creme Eggs will be ready for exchange on the 30th March.



BJWP Meeting — Kisstory/Uptown Festivals

A Public Meeting for the Kisstory/Uptown Festivals has been arranged:

Date: Thursday 2nd May 2024
Venue: The Clarendon Hotel
Time: 5-7pm

The purpose of this is for residents to comment on Kisstory/Uptown in 2023 and ask questions about Kisstory/Uptown 2024.

This meeting is in addition to the Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) public meeting to be held on 26th March.

Advertising Rates

SIZE	Per Issue Cost	5 Issue Discounted Cost
Standard 6cm x 6cm (one column wide)	£48	£220
2 x standard (horizontal or vertical)	£76	£350
3 x standard	£107	£485
4 x standard	£138	£620

One Big Thank You

Members and volunteers are the very lifeblood of The Westcombe Society. Without their passion for a safe happy environ-



ment for all residents, Westcombe Park's charm and beauty would be so much less.



Last month the Society was delighted to throw a party at

Mycenae House for all the tireless, generous volunteers and members to say a one big thank you for their efforts over the past year. A light supper and wine was served



to the tune of happy chat as friends caught up and new friends were made.

Volunteering to better your local area is so rewarding, be it writing for or distributing the Westcombe News, helping raise money for local charities or coming up with new ideas for functions to raise funds.

If the idea appeals, do get in touch by emailing us: wnews@westcombesociety.org

Letter

Heathway Matters

Thank you so much for continuing to distribute your newspaper to us here in Heathway. We are most grateful and read your articles with great interest. I am Chair of the Heathway Residents Association but I write here as an individual although all the matters I raise have been expressed to me by one or other of our residents.

We are delighted to see the colourful ink now used by Westcombe News, the new personnel on board and the colourful articles too.

We are a sister private road to Langton Way. Maybe our voice is less often heard so I mention just a few things of importance to us that have been raised by residents.

Several Westcombe Society members live in Heathway and many of the concerns expressed by our residents seem to be shared by Langton Way and Westcombe Society members including:- Shooters Hill Road and Stratheden

Road traffic issues; poisoning of local wild animals including foxes; dog issues such as those walking dogs to the Heath seeming to allow them to foul our open front gardens; estate agents coming close to overwhelming us with many For Sale signs at our eastern and western approaches; delivery and other vans and lorries not observing the 10 mph limits, and pedestrian priority signs and developers seeking to high build on every available garage space left in Heathway.

We often join with Langton Way in approaching these local issues but we have been recognised by the Council as a unique sylvan road in Greenwich and as such are very happy to be recognised individually and to be seen as part of the rich collage of society that makes up the Westcombe Park environment. Many thanks for your time.

Yours sincerely,
Linda Hodgson

AGM

Members are reminded that the Westcombe Society's AGM is to be held on the 24th May 2024 in the Centenary Room at Blackheath High School in Vanbrugh Park at 7pm.

After the business of the meeting an illustrated talk will be given by Joe Beale, a naturalist who has been leading groups of volunteers in improving the Vanbrugh Pits. Non-native species are being removed, together with the removal of litter.

R.G. Austin

(Established 1963)



Heating Engineers,
Property Maintenance,
Electrics, Painting,
Decorating, Plumbing,
Central Heating.

GAS
SAFE

Shower and Bathroom Specialists

2A Hassendean Rd, Blackheath SE3 8TS
Telephone: 0208 858 7359
rgaustinltd@gmail.com

Emergencies: 07738124344
email: rgaustinltd@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD

Blackheath Creatives Shop & Café – Upcoming Events

Blackheath Creatives Shop & Café continue to host a selection of talented creatives displaying and offering for sale, their work in their booths, on their walls and at their music events. This establishment, open six days a week, offers more than just a place to browse and shop and grab a coffee; they also have some wonderful events planned.

Firstly, the Blackheath Vintage Trail returns on 6th & 7th April. This spans two days when all businesses offering anything vintage for sale or view is placed on our map creating a trail. The Mean OldTimers Classic Car Club will be showing off their shiny vehicles on Saturday afternoon opposite All Saints' Church.

There will be live music during the day at Blackheath Creatives and in The Crown Pub and Royal Standard Pub in the evening.

Following the Vintage Trail, mark your calendars for the Blackheath Creatives Music Festival on 22nd and 23rd June. Set in the back garden, from 12-6pm each day, they have an eclectic mix of talent lined up.

Meanwhile they are also supporting their very own Laurence O Music; they're crowdfunding towards the launch of his next Vinyl Album & Launch. Anyone can support by following this link: Laurence O Music Album Launch Instagram:

@blackheathcreativespopup
FB: blackheathCreativespopup

Chocolate House Greenwich

Polly Morgan

A lovely new exhibition, called the Chocolate House Greenwich, is to open at the Old Royal Naval College, celebrating the Enlightenment and all things Chocolate. Just in time for Easter! Discover the complex history of chocolate and its surprising role at the heart of new cultural and

Flamsteed, and playwright and architect John Vanbrugh. A series of events will run alongside the exhibition, including an Easter Trail for families, and a series of hands-on chocolate-themed and chocolate-making workshops.

Image credit: A caricature of Lloyds Coffee House (ca. 1690s)



scientific conversations at the time. In the early 18th Century, Greenwich became a popular destination and was a hub for astronomy, science, and culture, with Sir Christopher Wren's iconic architectural project (now the Old Royal Naval College) at its centre. The Tosier Chocolate House, located in what became known as Chocolate Row, became a social space for the leading figures of the day, run by its flamboyant proprietor Grace Tosier – while her husband Thomas ran the chocolate kitchen at Hampton Court for King George I.

Chocolate House Greenwich will reveal the architects, astronomers, scientists – and chocolate makers – that made Greenwich a centre of innovation in Georgian Britain. Listen to an audio and visual experience on the great minds of the day including architect and astronomer Sir Christopher Wren, writer and diarist John Evelyn, the first Astronomer Royal John

Chocolate House Greenwich
Friday 29th March – Sunday 3rd November 2024 Old Royal Naval College, King William Walk, Greenwich, London SE10 9NN
Website

ornc.org/whats-on/
chocolate-house-greenwich/
Tickets: Included as part of Painted Hall ticket (£15, rising to £16.50 from 1st April). Kids Go Free. Also included as part of a £3 Discover Greenwich adult ticket (excludes entry to Painted Hall). Kids Go Free.

WRISTWORTH HEATING & PLUMBING
Installation - Servicing - Repair
Tel: 07725 008230
Email: wristworth@hotmail.co.uk
GAS safe REGISTER
Check Out Our NEW Website: wristworthheating.weebly.com

Future of Langton Way Sheltered Housing Geoff Brighty

It is several years now since Greenwich Council moved out the last resident of 133 Langton Way with the intention of modernising and adapting the building for the future. Since then the building has been used temporarily as a step down facility for discharged hospital patients generally awaiting home adaptations.

At a recent briefing meeting involving the Council's Greenwich Builds team and local resident and amenity groups, including the Westcombe Society, initial thoughts on what may happen next were shared. It is all at a very early stage but at present the Council is looking at an Extra Care home, for adults aged 55+, so very similar to the previous sheltered accommodation use with possible continuation of some step down/discharge from hospital care.

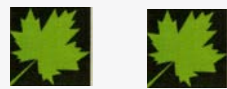
At present, the Council's preferred option seems to be to demolish the existing building in favour of a 3-4 storey new build. This appears to be on the basis of space, costs and building requirements.

Nonetheless, following the meeting, the Council has undertaken to look more closely at options for retaining and adapting the current building.

The Council has lots of work still to do and have promised to keep local groups and residents advised.

The main issue is likely to be whether demolition of the existing building, seen as attractive and unusual, would be acceptable. Any new build would need to be well designed and appropriate for Langton Way and the surrounding area.

A & A LANDSCAPES Landscape Specialists



Free advice & estimates
Qualified horticulturalist

All aspects of soft & hard landscaping work carried out including
* Maintenance * Site clearance
* Turfing * Tree surgery
* Fencing * Patios
* Brickwork
Tel. 020 8318 2530

CARPENTER

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

Call
MALCOLM TIERNEY
07775 657371

Advertising Manager

The Westcombe News seeks a new advertising manager as the paper goes colour. Tasks in this voluntary position include responding to queries for new ads, invoicing and monitoring payment. Many advertisers pre-pay for future ads, so monthly

invoicing is minimal. Basic spreadsheet skills a bonus but training could be given. Around 7/10 hours over the month would be needed. Please contact Marilyn on Advertising@westcombesociety.org or 07939386215

Rapid Transformational Therapy (RTT®)



We all have the POWER TO CHANGE!

Our past doesn't need to define who we are today.

Release your negative feelings and critical thoughts and give yourself permission to fly.

Try Rapid Transformational Therapy® and step into your amazing potential.

Scan the QR code to schedule a FREE 30 minute call with me to discuss what's holding you back and how I can help

Elizabeth Laing

<https://yourpowerwithinthrapy.com>

FEATURES

London Marathon Traffic and Parking Information



The 44th annual London Marathon takes place on Sunday 21 April 2024 and will require road closures and parking restrictions in our area.

Tens of thousands of participants will take on the 26.2-mile course, which starts in Blackheath and Greenwich Park and passes through central London and Canary Wharf before finishing on The Mall in Westminster.

Here are specific access details for Westcombe Park residents. You'll find further information, including a list of Vehicle Crossing Points to

help drivers cross the route, at [tcs-london-marathon.com/road-closures](https://www.tcs-london-marathon.com/road-closures)

Road closure times

A short section of Shooters Hill Road and Charlton Way will close at 04:00 on Sunday 21 April to enable us to install the Start Area gantry.

In order to make the event route safe, the following roads will close at 07:00: Shooters Hill Road, St Johns Park, Old Dover Road, Charlton Way, Vanbrugh Park, Charlton Road, Charlton Park Road, Charlton Park Lane and Woolwich

Road (A206).

Road reopening times

We will reopen roads as soon as it is safe to do so. Roads to the south of Westcombe Park are anticipated to reopen by 13:00, while roads to the north of Westcombe Park are anticipated to reopen by 15:00.

Vehicle Crossing Points

Drivers will be able to cross the route at the following times and locations:

Until 08:50 and after 13:30:

- Vanbrugh Hill to Blackwall Lane
- Kensing Road to A102 Blackwall Tunnel Approach

Please note: between the times stated, the Vehicle Crossing Points will not operate as TCS London Marathon participants will be using the full width of the roads.

A full list of Vehicle Crossing Points across the whole route is available at [tcs-london-marathon.com/road-closures](https://www.tcs-london-marathon.com/road-closures)

Parking restrictions

Any vehicles parked on the route will be removed from 06:00 on Sunday 23 April.

Please assist us by moving your vehicle off the route on the evening of Saturday 20 April. If your vehicle is relocated by event contractors, please visit [trace.london](https://www.trace.london) to find it.

Follow-up on the Petition about the Greenwich Heritage Centre Petition

Mary Mills spoke passionately to a recent meeting of the full council urging them to find a location for a professionally-run museum and archive. She pointed out that we have a tourist offer including important museums in Greenwich but added "there's nothing about us, there's nothing about the people of Greenwich."

The world is a different place because of things that happened in Greenwich and we're telling nobody whatsoever about it. We're telling nobody about our diverse and interesting population and its background. And that is something we are failing at very badly."

Councillor Adel Kaireh in reply said that the council was working with the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust to ensure that the archive was open for residents of the borough.

Running for a Cause: Local Residents Take on London Marathon in Unique Guinness World Record Bid

Four Westcombe Park and Greenwich residents will be running this year's London Marathon as part of a Guinness World Record attempt set to raise tens of thousands for charity.

The challenge, set by Humber Road breast cancer survivor Jackie Scully, will see Jackie and nine others take on the iconic 26.2-mile city race dressed as a London bus, designed

by ex pro Dancing on Ice skater Frankie Seaman. Jackie, who is attempting to break the record for the fastest marathon in a 10-person costume and who has a pelvis full of metal from hip surgery in her 20s, is running the race to mark being ten years clear from breast cancer.



The race is the first of four massive endurance challenges Jackie, her husband Duncan and friends are undertaking this year in the hope of raising £100k for Breast Cancer Now, NHS Charities Together and the Willow Foundation. The fundraising link is:

www.justgiving.com/team/100kourway

if you'd like to support them.

INVESTMENTS

PENSIONS

ESTATE PLANNING

STARKEY FINANCIAL PLANNING

Contact us: 020 8853 7160
admin@starkeyfp.co.uk



2 Charlton Road, Blackheath Standard, London SE3 7EX

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

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



The Pointer School

Part of **Dukes** Family
EDUCATION

A leading London prep school for girls & boys 3-11 in Blackheath, SE London. Founded in 1950

//...our wonderful teachers and Head Teacher, Mrs Crookes. With patience, good humour, and just a little craziness, they have coaxed and inspired us to achieve things we would not have thought possible! //

Head: Charlotte Crookes

☎ 0208 293 1331 🌐 pointers.school @pointerschool

FEATURES

Women of the RNLI Polly Morgan

To mark the bicentenary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) this year, the National Maritime Museum has opened a great new exhibition called 'Women of the RNLI', which Westcombe News was invited to view. This intricate and fascinating exhibition celebrates the vital role that women have played in saving lives at sea, highlighting the work and success of women in a variety of roles throughout the RNLI's 200-year history.



The RNLI was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary with the mission to preserve life at sea. The charity is funded by the generosity of supporters and relies on the tireless work of thousands of volunteers across the UK and Ireland. This exhibition highlights the experiences of current women volunteers, as well as those that have paved the way in areas such as fundraising, campaigning, technological innovation, training and as volunteer lifeboat and shore crew. Women of the RNLI features a series of 42 stunning photographs by Jack Lowe recently acquired by Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG). These images form part of Lowe's ongoing Lifeboat Station Project, an attempt to photograph all 238 operational RNLI lifeboat stations and crew members at each. Lowe used a 12x10 inch (30x25cm) Thornton-Pickard camera from about 1905. The photographs are then developed using a process called wet collodion, a technique invented in the mid-nineteenth century, that has created beautifully atmospheric photographs. Lowe's project began in 2015 and he has now photographed over 150 stations across UK and Ireland. Once finished it will be the

first complete photographic record of every single RNLI lifeboat crew. Alongside the portraits, the exhibition also includes recorded oral histories from some of the sitters. In the RNLI crew section of the exhibit, mother and daughter Máire and Síle Scanlon from Ballycotton RNLI station in Ireland share their story. Síle grew up around the station where both her parents volunteered and knew she wanted to join from a young age. She recalls: "I was about eight, nine ten and I used to come in and be like, seven more years, six more years, you know." Síle also experienced the other side of the RNLI's work when she and her friends were rescued by her mother when they were stranded while kayaking. As soon as Síle turned 17 and was able to join she signed up to the RNLI and has recently qualified as a navigator on Ballycotton's all-weather lifeboat.



The exhibition is formed of three main sections: Fundraising and campaigning, RNLI crew, and Equipment and Training - all fascinating in their own right. Jack Lowe, photographer said: "I'm proud beyond words that the National Maritime Museum are showcasing The Lifeboat Station Project in the Women of the RNLI exhibition, championing and highlighting the role of women within the charity, just as I hope and intend to achieve while making my project. It feels like the ultimate reward for all involved to have such a bright light shone on this aspect of maritime culture, a vital slice of island life that can be taken for granted all too often."

2 March 2024 - 1 December 2024
www.rmg.co.uk/
whats-on/national-maritime-museum/women-of-the-rnli

Improvements Promised for Rail Services

Southeastern, Network Rail and SGTR Thameslink all appeared at the Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting on 29 February to give a presentation and answer questions about the local rail service. The good news is that from 2 June the service frequency is to be improved, with 13/17 minute gaps between services instead of the present 7/23 minute gaps. The Users Group has been pressing for this since the timetable was introduced, without consultation, in December 2022 and is pleased that this improvement is to be made.

The line will also benefit from the closure of the 175-year-old Blackheath tunnel for substantial repairs. From 1 June to 1 August trains that normally use the Charlton-Blackheath line will be diverted along the Greenwich line, giving six trains an hour during peak periods. A welcome return to a 10-minute frequency, even if it will be short-lived!

Other improvements are promised as investment in the stations is included in Network Rail's five-year control period 2024 - 2029. Specifically, there is provision for work at Greenwich station and repairs at Maze Hill to take place, although no further detail was provided.

As far as the trains themselves are concerned, the procurement exercise for new trains is continuing, with a decision expected in 2025. The fleet of Networkers is 30 years old and they are causing maintenance and reliability problems which has led to reduced train lengths on some services. The other Metro fleet of Electrostars are going to be refurbished.

Southeastern reported that the number of journeys increased by 9% in the last year, and 15 February 2024 was the busiest day on the network since Covid. Thameslink is going to feature Greenwich as a recommended tourist destination in an advertising campaign, so trains may get even busier.

The approach of the companies seemed more positive than we have been used to of late, and the operators and Network Rail do appear to be listening to local groups. The increase in usage has given them confidence, but only time will tell whether plans for better trains and an improved station environment will come to fruition.

Trains to London

The standard Monday to Saturday timetable from 2 June to 10 August is as follows (minutes past each hour):

Westcombe Pk	07 11 24 37 41 54
Maze Hill	09 13 26 39 43 56
Greenwich	13 17 29 43 47 59

On Sundays the 07 and 37 services (Westcombe Park timing) will not run.

The Monday to Friday peak hour pattern will be different. In the morning, there will be a 10-minute frequency from 07.41 to 08.41 inclusive, plus until 9 August two additional diverted services at 08.08 and 08.38 (Westcombe Park timing). There will be nine services to London in that period until 9 August and seven thereafter.

In the evening period, between 16.00 and 21.00, the service pattern will be slightly different but there will be 6 or 7 trains an hour.

The last through train to Luton from Westcombe Park is the 18.11; thereafter Thameslink services stop at Kentish Town. The last train to London is 23.22 (Wednesday and Thursday), 23.24 (Sunday), 00.07 (other days).

Trains from London

The down services from London Bridge run to a standard pattern. The Monday to Saturday services leave London Bridge at (minutes past each hour): 01, 06, 18, 31, 36 and 48. The Thameslink services are, as now, at 18 and 48. Other services start back from Cannon Street. The diverted services are the 06 and 36. These do not run on Sunday and, from 12 August, will return to the Lewisham-Blackheath-Charlton routing.

The last train leaves London Bridge at 23.31 (Monday and Thursday); 00.02 (Friday); 00.01 (Sunday) and 00.31 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday).

Summer seaside services

The summer trains to/from Ramsgate return to the Greenwich line this year.

The full timetable can be downloaded at:

Table 5a
southeasternrailway.co.uk

Mike Sparham
 Greenwich Line Users Group

The Royal Borough of Greenwich receives Mayor of London's Cultural Impact Award

On Monday 11 March at City Hall, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan announced that the borough had beaten competition from across the capital to secure one of three Cultural Impact Awards.

The £200k award will fund a unique, creative collaboration between the council, local young people and

cultural organisations. It will bring them together to imagine positive futures by telling the stories of real, local people from all corners of the borough.

You can sign up to receive updates on the Royal Greenwich Cultural Impact programme at royalgreenwich.gov.uk/newsletter.



BICKLEY PARK SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AGED 2½-13

'Excellent'
in all areas

Independent
Schools Inspectorate
March 2023



Come and Visit
we'd love to meet you

Please arrange a tour
with our Registrar

admissions@bickleyparkschool.co.uk
0208 4672195





14 & 24 Page Heath Lane, Bickley, Bromley, Kent BR1 2DS
www.bickleyparkschool.co.uk

ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

www.westcombesociety.org

TREE WORKS

111 MAZE HILL

ref 24/0746/TC

To fell 9m ash in rear garden.

103 MYCENAE ROAD

ref 24/0582/TC

To fell eucalyptus in front garden.

53 ST JOHNS PARK

ref 24/0584/TC

To fell strawberry tree

* 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>

Blackwall Tunnel Closures

Drivers are advised of upcoming closures at the Blackwall Tunnel for southbound traffic during April, to support works needed to complete the new road layout, as part of Silvertown Tunnel construction.

Closure Periods:

Weekend of 13-15 April.

Closure Time:

From 00:01 on Saturday to reopening by 05:00 on Monday. Southbound traffic will be diverted, and alternative routes are recommended.

Use third party apps such as Waze to plan their journey.

Note that other crossings, including the Woolwich Ferry, are likely to be busier than usual due to the closures and queuing is likely.

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.

For the latest traffic updates, please visit:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/traffic/status>

Mycenae Gardens: pulling together to improve our park

The first Friends of Mycenae Gardens monthly Action Day brought a great turnout of people to help spread an unexpected bonus delivery of woodchip from locally felled and pruned trees. The woodchip will help with wear among the veteran plane trees, a major feature of the park. Among the volunteers was John, who had himself worked as a park-keeper based at Mycenae Gardens, one of a team of four.

It was a treat to hear about his time there: the Borough's resources are now much more stretched, but regular visitors will also have spotted a newly-fenced area. The turf on an area on the west side of the gardens has been removed or reduced, and wildflower seeds have been put in. We're hoping for a great display later this year, and improved support for pollinating insects.

The next Action Day will be on Saturday 30th March, 10:30 – 13:00, when we'll be pruning and weeding, but you can just come along and find out more. Look out for our new banner!



Photo credit Stewart Williams

The Royal Parks honours remarkable writer, composer and abolitionist as Ignatius Sancho Café opens in Greenwich Park

The Royal Parks charity is excited to welcome all park visitors to the brand-new Ignatius Sancho Café in Vanbrugh Yard - a newly created public space in the southeast corner of Greenwich Park.

The charity, which manages London's eight Royal Parks, has funded the project as part of the 'Greenwich Park Revealed' initiative, alongside a grant from the Parks for People programme that is jointly funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund.

Charles Ignatius Sancho was a remarkable British abolitionist, writer and composer who became the first known Black Briton to have voted in an election, as well as the first to have his letters published. After arriving on a slave ship from New Granada at around the age of two in 1731, he grew up enslaved by a family in Greenwich, before receiving an education and gaining employment with the Montagu family, and eventually starting his own business as a shopkeeper. Throughout this time, Sancho also continued to develop his artistic talents, composing music, acting, writing plays, and even writing a book on music, gaining celebrity in Georgian London.

The café building was previously a private, residential lodge and sits within a newly landscaped area of the park, transformed from a concrete yard into exciting community facilities. In addition to the café, there are accessible toilets (including a Changing

Places facility), a volunteer hub, and a community kitchen garden.

The new two-storey café will provide an important space for park visitors to relax in, meet friends and family, and enjoy this corner of the park in a new way. Catering will be provided by Benugo which also operates in the Pavilion Café and kiosks in Greenwich Park.



The café will open from 8am - 6pm daily, serving freshly made pastries and cakes, toasted sandwiches, flatbreads, wraps, salads as well as ice cream and sundaes.

Clare Lanes, Greenwich Park Manager, The Royal Parks said: "We are thrilled to be opening this brand-new café and to be able to transform this private yard into a beautiful, landscaped space for park visitors to enjoy, while providing new facilities for our important and valued volunteers.

"We are pleased to use this opportunity to recognise Ignatius Sancho as a key figure from British history and hope that naming the café after him will generate conversations and further discovery of his story – and who knows, maybe inspire a famous local writer in the future."

Protecting our Trees

Much of Westcombe Park is a designated Conservation Area and this means that extra planning controls are in place to preserve the unique character and appearance of our area.

Just as planning permission is often needed if we wish to alter our property, so also if we wish to prune or fell our garden trees. This regulation covers trees in a Conservation Area, those with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and those that are protected by a planning condition.

The council website explains that if we wish to prune or remove any trees in a Conservation Area the Council must be informed at least six weeks before the work is scheduled. The Council then has

six weeks either to object or to agree to the proposal.



Spring is in the Air – Flowers Blooming at Batley Green

Spring into a New Year with
Mycenae
House & Gardens

'An Exceptional Venue for Hire'

16 flexible rooms available for hire for 4 people upto 120 people

"South East London's best venue & garden bar none"

"Such a kind and professional team"

'Knowing that our event also benefited their wider community work was such a game changer for our family'

Explore your event with Anna on 020 8858 1749
Or email info@mycenaehouse.co.uk

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk
020 8858 1749

90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, SE3 7SE

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.

Mycenae Sessions Live

WHAT'S ON

The Woodlands Farm Trust

Friday 29th March (Good Friday)
Egg-cellent Easter Trail 10am – 2pm
It is time for our annual Easter Egg Trail. Drop by to find all the hidden Easter Eggs around the farm to claim your chocolate egg prize. No need to book, just drop in. £3 per child.

Wednesday 3rd April
Marvellous Minibeasts
10am – 12pm and 1pm-3pm.
Come and join us as we go in search of what minibeasts we can find around the farm. We will be searching under logs and around our woodland and then making our own minibeast to take home. £6 per child. Booking is essential, to book visit www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org

Friday 5th April
Silly about Sheep
11am- 3pm
Want to find out all about sheep? Have a go at our sheep facts trail, make a sheep craft to take home and enjoy meeting some of our sheep. It is also lambing season so there might be some newborn lambs to see too.£4 per child. No need to book just drop in.

Sunday 14th April
Lambing Day 11am – 4pm
Join us for our annual Lambing Day. Enjoy a chance to see our newborn lambs as well as browsing a selection of craft and food stalls. There will be local produce for sale and activities available for children as well as Tractor and Trailer Rides (weather permitting). £2 adults, £1 children (under 16 years), Family £5 (2 adults and up to 3 children). There is no parking available on the day so please use public transport where possible.

Sunday 28th April
Orchard Blossom Day
Come and enjoy the wonderful spring blossom of our orchards. This day will involve guided walks and the opportunity to explore our Orchards.

For more information, see our website or contact Hannah Ricketts on education@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org

Woodlands Farm is located on the borders of the London boroughs of Bexley and Greenwich. At 89 acres, it is the largest city farm in the UK. Our priorities are education and conservation, and we are part of the Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. Our education programme attracts visitors from pre-school to third-age groups. The Trust aims to involve local community groups, schools, volunteers and businesses in farming and conservation, helping to bridge the current town-country divide.

We are open 9.30am-4.30pm, Tuesday-Sunday (except Christmas Day). There is no entry charge except for special events, though donations are always welcome.

Nearest tube: North Greenwich
Nearest BR: Welling
Buses: 486 and 89

We are a farm so sensible shoes and clothing are recommended! Dogs are not allowed on the farm, unless they are assistance dogs.
331 Shooters Hill
Welling, Kent DA16 3RP
Telephone: 020 8319 8900
(registered charity no. 1051680)
Email:
education@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org
www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org

Westcombe News April 2024

Blackheath Halls

Jukebox Journeys | Children's Easter Musical Theatre Courses
8-16yrs - Apr 3-7 | 10am-4pm
3-4yrs - Apr 3 | 9am
5-7yrs - Apr 5 | 9am

The Rheingans Sisters
Apr 5 | 8pm

Limani Trio
Air 8 | 1.10pm

Teach Rex LIVE | Velociraptor Show
10 Apr | 10am & 12.30pm

Goldilocks
12 Apr | 3pm

The Witch & The Egg
13 Apr | 11am & 3pm

Jukebox Journeys | Adult Musical Theatre Course
Starting 16 Apr 7.30pm

Margaret Willes | Liberty Over London Bridge
19 Apr | 7.30pm

Spot's Birthday Party
20 Apr | 2pm & 4pm / 21 April | 11am & 2pm

Marty Wilde and the Wildcats
27 Apr 7.30pm

Opera Gala Night
28 Apr 6.30pm

James Kirby
29 Apr 1.10pm

www.blackheathhalls.com/whats-on/

Blackheath Music Appreciation Group With Matthew Taylor

BRAMHMS REVISITED

Summer term 2024
Start Date: 15th April
This nine lecture series will be a welcome return to the music of Brahms by assessing his supreme achievement and the radical and traditional tendencies to be found in his finest works. Matthew will examine some of the symphonies, concertos and overtures, as well as some of his finest chamber compositions and vocal works.

Mondays from 10am to 12 noon
In the Hearn Room
Blackheath Halls
April 15, 29 May 13, 20
June 10,17, 24 July 8, 15,
Full Course of 9 lectures £120
Individual Lectures £15
Free Taster for Newcomers

For further details contact:
Richard Perks 07957 749438
email: rperks@gmail.com
www.blackheath-music.co.uk

We are a non-profit body serving Blackheath and Charlton and the local and wider community.
JOIN US

Old Royal Naval College

Old Royal Naval College Secret Dome Tours

This spring, Secret Dome Tours at the Old Royal Naval College, will reveal hidden stories and allow visitors the rare chance to see 'behind-the-scenes' in one of Sir Christopher Wren's iconic Domes. This exciting opportunity to discover a hidden world at a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Following a sold-out run of tours in 2023, the Old Royal Naval College is bringing back the popular Secret Dome Tours, giving visitors the opportunity to climb the steps that very few have walked before, discover the rarely-seen interiors of the Chapel Dome, and enjoy incredible 360 views of the River Thames and the London skyline. Starts from 22nd March – October 2024, on Fridays, Saturdays and Bank Holidays.
ornc.org/whats-on/dome-tours/



Bunnies in the Beds
Return to Charlton House for our popular Easter trail & market!
Saturday 6 April 2024
Charlton House & Gardens
Gardens open from 10.00 to 15.00
£3 suggested donation

PLUS
Face painting for kids and a bouncy castle

CHOCOLATE TREATS

Mycenae House

Tues 9th to Thurs 11th April
10am-4pm - Easter Holiday Club.
Engineering Minds return with Lego Robotics, Stop Motion Animation and lots more for children age 6+!

Thurs 11th April 4pm - Bach To Baby. Easter Classical Music Concert for families. £15.

Thurs 11th April 7.30pm - Film Night. GFMA present a free screening of The Warrior Queen of Jhansi. Free.

Fri 19th April 8pm - The SWOP Sessions. Foot tapping, finger snapping, jazz, soul and blues plus Open Mic. £8.

Sat 20th April 1.30-5pm - Intensive Spanish Course. Learn Spanish fast with Language for Fun Greenwich over 3 Saturdays! For further information about all Mycenae House events visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

National Maritime Museum Special Exhibition

National Maritime Museum, Cutty Sark and Royal Observatory Special Events

All are holding events over the half-term holidays.

Easter Weaving Workshop at the Queens House -free
Easter Half-term at the National Maritime Museum-free
Character Actors at the Queen's House - free
Easter Half Term on Cutty Sark
Admission: Free with admission to the ship
Special Planetarium shows at the Royal Observatory
Admission £10 / Child £5

For further information on all the above events visit www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on

St Olave's Prep School

Contact us for further information or to arrange a tour

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

www.stolaves.org.uk. Call 020 8294 8930

MARKET PLACE

THERAPIST

Locally based individual CBT therapist and couples therapist working online and in person at Mycenae House. Book 15 min phone consultation by calling 07889755299 or email hello@Sasha-Louise.com. Visit my website www.Sasha-Louise.com

TUITION

KEYBOARD LESSONS AND ADVANCED COACHING FOR AUDITION AND PERFORMANCE

Past winner of the Trinity Laban Soloist Competition, with a Masters in Piano Performance and ten years of teaching experience, Alexandra has vacancies for tuition and accompaniment on piano and harpsichord. Lessons available in English, Russian and Bulgarian. All ages and levels welcome. Contact me via: kremakovakeyboard@gmail.com

PIANO TUITION

Having studied at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, I subsequently ran Monkey Music in the local area for over 25 years. I have recently relocated to Greenwich and am now in the position to offer private piano tuition.

Please send all enquiries to rebeccapianolessons@outlook.com

MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION TO GCSE AND PREPARATION FOR 11+ AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SELECTION TESTS

by qualified and experienced teacher. marystuition.com

Mary Bauckham 07709 089 838 marybauckham@gmail.com

HOME SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR YOUR DIGITAL DEVICES

Need some help with computers, phones and tablets? I'm a DBS checked IT trainer with 21 years experience, friendly and patient. £45/hour (£20 call out), discounted for block bookings. To discuss options, call Paul on 07958 251 448 or email paul.clayton@soulchip.co.uk

MATHS TUITION

Qualified and experienced secondary teacher offers tuition to GCSE level. Call Miv Whitaker: 07745 816338; or email miv.whitaker@gmail.com

SERVICES & TRADE

TRAINED CHIMNEY SWEEP & STOVE INSTALLER

Fast, friendly Happy to work! Call Anthony on 07772 649577 or email: chimneymaintenance@gmail.com

INTERIOR DECORATOR & CARPENTER

with over 20 years experience. A member of the guild of mastercraftsman. Free quotes & friendly advice on all your decorating requirements. Local references available.

Tel: Ashley Greaves 8858 2981

PAINTING & DECORATING, GARDENING SOME CLEANING

call 07538931621 email deebusybees@hotmail.com

UPHOLSTERER

Specialising in traditional upholstery. www.suemayesupholstery.net or phone 07932 040 298

T.TA ELECTRICS. NICEIC Approved Contractor, Quality Tradesman.

All electrical work undertaken, Fully Insured & Guaranteed.

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Mice, Rats, Squirrels, Wasps, Foxes etc. Local Service 07850 839 655

24HR EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL.

Please call Tony on 07961 509 403 OR 020 8488 7425 OR info@ttaelectrics.co.uk

HOMEWORKS

All-round handyman for those DIY's you have no time for! General repairs. Painting & Decorating. General Carpentry and flooring. Flat-pack assembly. Patio and deck cleaning. No job too small.

Contact Matthew Barron 07903 388658

ELECTRICIAN / ALARM ENGINEER

No job too small TMIET registered. Call 07879 011792

WESTCOMBE CLEANERS

I'm a friendly, hard-working & organised domestic cleaner. Regular or single services. Competitive rates. Additional tasks. I love my clients to be happy. Phone 07746 291617

TOM ELLIS BESPOKE CARPENTRY

Alcove bookcases, cabinets, wardrobes and window seats. M. 07510 869 947

MARK CHEESEMAN, LOCAL CARPENTER AND JOINER WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE.

All Aspects Of Carpentry and Construction Executed Considerately and to a High Standard. Both Traditional and Contemporary Design Joinery - Cupboards, Window seats, Floating Shelves, Engineered Flooring Fitted Etc. Also Locks Changed. Sash Window Overhaul. If you have Rotten Window Sills, Door Frames Etc. rather than replace them with the associated upheaval and expense, why not have a Timber/Resin Repair?

Please Call Mark on 07767 456131 or H: 020 8854 4028.

ANGELO, ELECTRICIAN

No Job Too Small
T - 020 87616012/
M - 07850 767 283
Email - angelo@glennies.net
Part P Certificated
18th Edition & JIB Registered
LOCAL CARPET CLEANER
Specialist in cleaning Carpets, Upholstery & Rugs.
www.carpetcrew.co.uk
Phone 07828503132

A MAN AND A VAN

Tel: 020 8858 3889
Mobile: 07885 917842

HOLIDAYS

WHITSTABLE WEEKENDS/WEEKS

Seawall house between Oyster Warehouse and harbour. Sleeps 5. Fantastic Views.
Email - tess.roberts@hotmail.co.uk
Phone - 07958377336



TROJAN PRESS
PRINTING IN BLACKHEATH SINCE 1978

1a Lizban St, Blackheath, London SE3 8SS

Tel: 020 8853 2268
Email: info@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.com

DISCOUNT!

(When you show your Westcombe Society membership card)

BODYWORKZ - THE FITNESS CLINIC

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

ROYAL NEPALESE RESTAURANT

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

CORIANDER RESTAURANT

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

COTON & HAMBLIN LENS CLUB-

Complimentary standard coated single vision lenses worth £50 when purchasing complete spectacles. T's & C's apply.

BLACKHEATH EYECARE OPTICIANS

Money-saving Eyeplan membership offered

TROJAN PRESS 10% OFF all quotations

PAINTING & DECORATING

Interior/Exterior/
Experienced Reliable Clean
Fully Guaranteed/Insured.
References available.
Free no obligation quote
and advice given

JOHN at JAMES & LAMONT
Office 020 8462 4646
Mobile 07802 535695
jamlam.john@btinternet.com

Bruca Gardens | Local gardeners

We offer regular and one-off garden maintenance services for private and residential gardens.

- Garden design
- Landscaping
- Garden clearance
- Garden maintenance
- Planting and soft landscaping
- Trees and shrubs specialist pruning



Contact us at **07896992548**
brucagardens.co.uk





Open Day

Saturday 18 May 2024

An opportunity to meet the Head and tour our outstanding school
9am & 11.15am tours

Applications open for Nursery and 7+ places - 2025 entry

Register for the Open Day
www.blackheathprep.co.uk/admissions
020 8858 0692

Follow us @blackheathprep #BeBlackheathPrep