

WestcombeNEWS



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May 2024 No 4

“May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope” - Emily Brontë

Important steps towards the completion of Greenwich Park Revealed

Visitors to the Park will be aware of the major work being undertaken to complete the steps will be finished by the end of April.



undertaken to recreate the Giant Steps (or Grand Ascent) beneath the Wolfe Statue viewing area. This work has been progressing over recent weeks and the steps are now nearing completion and are covered in a resplendent lush green turf and trees have been planted to line each side. (The re-creation of a prominent historical feature). The footpath running along the bottom of the steps is to be widened and final work to com-

Similarly, the area in front of the Wolfe statue is currently being extended to accommodate a growing number of visitors to the site to reduce congestion. The paved area behind the statue is being extended to create a car-free space with updated catering and café-style seating. This work is also expected to be complete by the end of April. At the end of April work commences at Blackheath Gate. New trees are to be planted and tarmac

removed at the top (south) of the Avenue to create an area more appropriate and welcoming as the entrance to the Park, though some car parking will be lost. The trees will boost carbon absorption and increase bio-diversity.

Other work will be ongoing. Tree avenue restorations will continue; turkey oak trees and beech trees need replacement and this will be done by replanting semi-mature and more resilient elm and lime

need replacement and mixed planting is to be undertaken to help control aphids. New rose planting will be continued but be mixed with perennials.

A visit (on foot) to the Park on a sunny day in early April underlined the growing number of visitors the Park attracts. Very many families and friends were enjoying the open air. Both the refurbished Pavilion café and the new Sancho café were proving very popular.



trees. Elm trees were used in the original design and lime trees are attractive to insects.

The Rose Garden is subject to a three-year phased approach to renovate the entire Rose Garden. Pests and diseases have built up in the area and new rose planting will be impacted. The existing roses

Parking space was difficult to find, perhaps exacerbated by the arrival of the circus and fair at the same time and the reduction in car park spaces due to the work around the Wolfe Statue (some of which will be permanent).

For further information go to Greenwich@royalpark.org.uk



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WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Westcombe News

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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

Gordon Baker RIP

The Westcombe News is sorry to announce the death of the former Chairman of the society, Gordon Baker, in March this year. Gordon served as chair from April 2007 – 2012, during which he had to cope with numerous local issues, not least the London Equestrian Olympics, and Paralympics, which took place in Greenwich Park in August and September 2012.



The Olympics were just one of many controversial issues that Gordon and his committee had to deal with – the impact on transport, and on the Park, were

among the causes for concern, and a hostile minority got the usual raucous publicity that the media chose to highlight in its coverage. Gordon ably and diplomatically kept a cool head, and his hand on the wheel; he made known the many reservations being expressed by the community both to our MP and to the Olympic organising committee, LOCOG. In the end, the events, as recorded in the July through October issues of the WN, were a triumph.

Gordon's able chairmanship skills were honed during his years working for the FCO.

He served in a number of different countries, including Chile. It was there that, as our man in Santiago, he was a guest of the Chilean navy. He sailed 50 miles off the coast to lay a wreath to mark the grave of more than 1500 Royal Naval personnel who died during the Battle of Coronel on 1 November 1914: the Royal Navy didn't really stand a chance against the German Imperial Navy's armoured cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. The ships, HMS Good Hope and HMS Monmouth, sank with all hands.

One of Gordon's first postings was in Lagos, Nigeria, where he met someone who was also one day to become chair of the Westcombe Society, and later editor of the Westcombe News, Neville Grant, who was lecturing

at the University at the time on secondment from the British Council. Later, Gordon was posted to Brazil, where he met his wife Sheila, who played an active role in many *Westcombe Society* events. His last posting was, I think, in Barbados.

Gordon was an excellent chair of the society, was fully committed to the welfare of our local community and, as such, was widely admired and respected. Many of us enjoyed his generous hospitality in Foyle Road. He chose to retire from the Chairmanship after five years – he used to say that no one should hold such a position for more than five years. In his end of term report in the *WN* June 2012, he wrote:

"I have been Chairman for five highly active years. It has been very hard work, as well as great fun. I have enjoyed, and am deeply grateful for, the support and companionship of my committee colleagues and fellow volunteers. However, the time has come for me to stand back and entrust the Society's welfare and activities to those with fresh ideas and vigour. I send my very best wishes to my successor, to whom I pledge my full support, and warmest thanks to all of you."

Neville Grant

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

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.

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Newsbriefs

- Greater London Authority Elections: Polling Day is Thursday 2nd May between 7am and 10pm. Information has been made available which is your allocated local polling station and remember to take accepted photographic identification with you in order to vote. Additional details on candidates' details and how to vote can be found at www.londonelects.org.uk/im-voter/information-booklet.

- LTN: Call-in date is 15th May. Updates will be posted on our website westcombesociety.org.
- Our local area is represented in 'The Greats' National Gift Retailer Awards 2024. Congratulations to the Voewood; our local womenswear, homeware and gift shop which has made it to the finals in two categories - Best Non Specialist and Best Retailer Initiative (in recognition of their community magazine). We wish them success in the finals in May.

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD

Egged on by a Sunny Day

Diane Blackwell

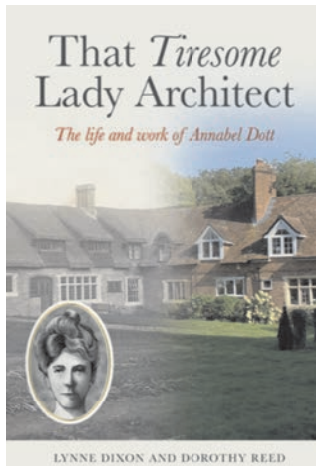


It was a bumper Easter Egg Hunt, the best we've ever had. Thanks to the sun, which had its hat on brilliantly all afternoon, some 200+ children, with parents in tow, dashed around Mycenae Gardens on Easter Saturday with their baskets hunting for hidden eggs. The queue to enter started early and rapidly grew. Volunteers worked flat out to keep everyone happy and their efforts were

rewarded when the total raised for our charity of the year hit a record of over £200.

The Easter bonnets were fabulous and worn by the kids with flair. Our regular face painter, Maddie, was popular as usual, and grownups grabbed the chance for a catchup chat with neighbours and friends. All in all, a fun time was had by everyone.

That Tiresome Lady Architect



We are happy to share the flyer of the book 'That Tiresome Lady Architect.'

One of the joint authors Lynne Dixon is a local researcher and (as some of you will know) has given a talk on John Julius Angerstein of Woodlands at a recent Westcombe Society AGM. She was also instrumental in providing much of the content for the 'Story Board' outside Mycenae House and we were very grateful for her input.

Was Annabel Dott (1868 - 1937) tiresome, or more likely as we see her, adetermined and tireless woman trying to make her way in a male-dominated world - 'a vigorous and delightful personality with a striking genius for designing and building houses'?

Our book follows this self-taught architect's life story from her first thirty years in Hackney where she came under the influence of Henrietta Barnett; on to Bournemouth to care for her mother; her marriage in Cape Town

and subsequent life-long support for her husband, the Reverend Patrick Dott, in his four parishes in England; her passion for creating buildings and engaging with some of the issues then facing society; and the circumstances which led her to challenge Eton College, and later to be writing letters negotiating with the church authorities from her sick bed just shortly before her death. It details her building projects and the ideas behind them which she wrote about at length in the years at the end of World War 1.

Dorothy Reed is a local historian, speaker and writer with a focus on personalities who bring a particular perspective to history. As a church archivist her research led to an introduction to this remarkable vicar's wife.

Lynne Dixon researches and writes about women's history and has a particular interest in housing, architecture and social history. Annabel's story has provided lots of opportunities to delve deep into these areas.

Talks:

The Norwood Society at Upper Norwood Library on Thurs 16th May, 7.30

In Goathland Village at the Village Hall on Tues 21st May, 10.00

East Hoathly and District Preservation Society at The Village Hall on Friday 14th June, 7.30

Croydon Natural History and Science Society at East Croydon United Reformed Church on Wednes 17th July, 7.45

Rev Tim Yeager



leading a procession around local streets to mark Palm Sunday. That was Tim; making Christianity a living experience.

He had a lifelong passion for social justice, having come to the priesthood after a career defending human and workers' rights - he was a proud member of the AAWU, the American Automobile Works' Union, where he honed his negotiation skills. He worked tirelessly on refugee projects in the local area, as well as the Winter Night Shelter among many others, receiving a community Award from Greenwich Council in 2019 in recognition of this work.

He remained a good friend of St George's after his retirement in 2020 and although he and his wife Caroline moved away they could still both be seen around the area on their regular trips back.

It is with great sadness that we share with you that Rev Tim Yeager died on Tuesday 2nd April 2024. Tim was vicar of St George's, Westcombe Park from 2014 to 2020 and in that time had a huge impact on the church and the wider community. He was instantly recognisable due to his height, his friendly nature and his American accent.

He was engaged fully with the local community during his time here and was a well-known character, from the local shops to the local mosque. Local residents were startled on a Sunday morning to hear Tim playing the bagpipes,

If you would like to record memories of Tim, to comfort his family in their shock and grief, then there is a memorial book in St George's Church on Glenluc Road, which will be passed to his family when it is complete. Alternatively, you can do so online at timeyager.muchloved.com. If you would like to donate in his memory then the family have asked for donations to go direct to one of three charities which were close to Tim's heart- Oxfam Gaza Crisis Fund, Médecins Sans Frontières, or OneBodyOneFaith.

Was it too loud?

It is rare that both the fair and the circus are operating at the same time, but this year there has been 'the greatest occupation' at any one time. Many people will have enjoyed the activities but there have also been complaints to both the Blackheath Joint Working Party and the Friends of Greenwich Park.

The two main issues were noise and parking. Since parking on the heath has been banned, drivers have searched for spaces in Greenwich Park and neighbouring streets. The competition for places led to arguments and sometimes scuffles.

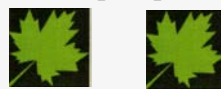
The noise came from loud music which could be heard some

distance away. Screams of enjoyment, or terror, are part of the experience but the music was very disturbing.

Responding to some of the complaints Janine Whittaker, Deputy Events Manager at the Royal Borough of Greenwich, said that the fair could be asked to reduce noise levels adding, "we can enforce on their contractual terms once the Council's environmental health team are involved and have taken their professional readings which confirm the noise levels". She urged people to register any complaints at:

www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200205/pollution_and_noise/656/noise_complaints

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FEATURES

Greenwich Town Hall and Borough Hall

Greenwich Town Hall was completed in 1939 to replace the old Town Hall, which still exists on Greenwich High Road. The civic leadership at the time considered it no longer able to meet their needs and decided to commission a new building. The new Town Hall remained the headquarters of the Metropolitan Borough of Greenwich until 1965 when the borough merged with Woolwich and the building was then renamed Meridian House.

It was designed by architect and artist Clifford Culpin in the Art Deco / Modernist style using steel and reinforced concrete and clad in widely admired red brick. The building has an elegant 183-foot clock tower surmounted by a viewing gallery. It has very little external decoration apart from a canopy above the door at the foot of the clock tower where a panel depicts the signs of the Zodiac. The windows on all floors have rectangular steel frames with some large circular porthole windows on the clock tower itself.

Unfortunately, much of the original Art Deco interior decoration was lost during alterations to its interior between 1972 and 1974 when the two-storey glass sky-lit Council chamber had an extra floor inserted.

What has survived is the very impressive and stylish entrance foyer and grand staircase clad in marble with bronze handrails.

Greenwich Council sold the former Town Hall building to developers, who submitted plans in 2021. These include adding extra floors to create community spaces and residential apartments. They also planned to make the tower into a viewing



Photo Greenwich Wire

platform open to the public, although this would involve installing a lift.

Part of the complex is the Borough Hall, designed with slightly different detailing but complementary in style and still retaining some of its original internal features. Both are Grade II-listed buildings. The

Borough Hall remains in the ownership of the Council but its future use is still uncertain.

At the time it was built the Borough Hall was considered part of one of the most sophisticated and complete Town Hall complexes in London. Whereas the Town Hall contained the Council Chamber and administrative offices, the Borough Hall was designed

interior features. It still retains its original plan and form and almost all of its internal fixtures and fittings remain intact. These include its marble-lined staircase, timber panelling to both halls, original light fittings, doors, handrails, terrazzo floors and the heating system.

David Fletcher

Developments at Borough Hall

David Fletcher has detailed some of the architectural features on the Borough Hall, a Grade II listed building that was at one time the town hall. When Woolwich and Greenwich became a single borough the town hall was relocated in Woolwich. There were several plans to repurpose the Borough Hall, including plans to reopen it as a theatre, all of which came to nothing and in 2021 it was sold.

Earlier this year a planning application was submitted and approved by the Planning Board subject to a number of conditions. We now learn that the building has been bought by Lita Homes, the developer behind plans to build flats and a new stadium for the non-league football club Welling United at the Park View Road site. We await further developments!

Letter

Re: 'The Mystery of the Migrating Bus Stops', WN March 2024.

Dear Westcombe News, I agree with the March 2024 article. The Prince Charles Road southbound bus stop is now further away from the people who will mostly need to use it - it's further from residential areas and the Greenwich Park entrance. It is no

longer near the Gibb Memorial shelter, which was helpful in bad weather while waiting for a bus, and so that shelter has now lost some of its usefulness. Those who decided to move it are clearly not local bus users, or they would have realised the new location is much less practical. In particular for disabled people, that extra 50m onto the Heath can make all the difference - my mum, for example,

has missed a few buses, which she would have caught before when the stop was in its in the old site. Sometimes the drivers kindly wait, but it's not their fault if they can't, or if they don't realise someone so far from the new stop might need the bus! Then there's the issue of paving over a fair amount of grass to extend the pavement and whether that should be compensated. It all seems very user-unfriendly,

especially for those who can't walk so far, and it would be good to know what the reasons are for this change and if those reasons are convincing. If it has been moved to enable faster traffic flow, it seems unfair that public transport users - who we should be encouraging to help reduce traffic quantity and reduce vehicle emissions - have to bear the brunt.

Joe Beale

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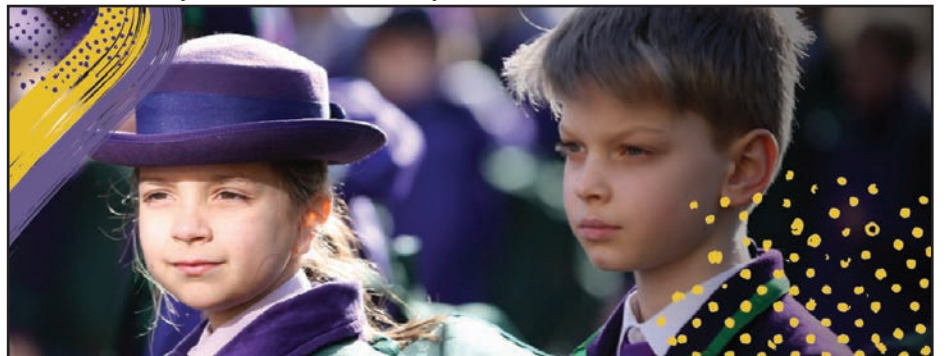
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FEATURES

Visit Whitstable!

An hour or so's drive from Greenwich, Whitstable is a great place to go for a breath of fresh sea air. Better still, go by train, although it takes a bit longer as you have to go via Gravesend.

Apart from its famous oysters and other fish food, and its local gin, Whitstable has so much to offer, including an attractive harbour, and a long beach (make sure the tide is in if you fancy a swim - low tide means a long walk, or rather, paddle).



*A Fire engine
What's that monkey doing there? Apparently, it was a monkey that upset a candle that started the big fire in 1869 which swept through the town*

Handily, next door to the beach are two of Whitstable's many pubs - The Old Neptune, and, near the harbour, the New Inn.



*The Old Neptune.
We nipped into the Neppy for a delicious fish lunch and a pint or two.*

There is also a wide range of good shops, including Rock Bottom Records for vinyl lovers. A visit to Whitstable Community Museum (5A Oxford Street) is a must; there you can see an amazing display of photos and documents, many about the 1954 East Coast Floods. Among the artefacts on show is Invicta, one of the world's oldest steam engines, and a vintage fire engine (1867) which put out a



The Peter Cushing. W Somerset Maugham stares down, disapprovingly

huge fire in the town in 1869.

The local Wetherspoons in Oxford Street is known as The Peter Cushing., who starred in many a horror movie. There is a mural of the writer W Somerset Maugham nearby - his classic novel Of Human Bondage centres largely on Whitstable.



*Fancy a stroll in a beautiful garden, followed by tea and home-made cake?
Don't miss Whitstable Castle, a fairytale folly built in the 1790s*

Whitstable is a great day out. Better still, take off for a few days - there's lots to explore, not just in Whitstable, but in the surrounding area.



*Steam engine
The Invicta is Britain's oldest steam engines.*

Neville Grant

Modern Morris Men of Greenwich

Last summer, readers of Westcombe News may well have come across a group of men in white, with brown waistcoats and bells, dancing with sticks or handkerchiefs outside a pub, by Cutty Sark or the park gates. For 40 years, on summer evenings and warm weekends, Greenwich Morris Men have danced about the Royal Borough. Last July we celebrated our birthday with a day of dance, inviting several other sides to join us. One hundred people, from different Morris traditions, dancing by the river; it was a colourful, cheerful, and a musical spectacle.

Every May Day, as the sun rises over Blackheath, we dance near the south entrance to the park. We have huge, appreciative audience - unfortunately, it's in a hurry, but we get a wave and a honk as coaches, lorries and cars speed along the A2. And there are always a few bleary-eyed people who, despite it being 5.15am, come along to watch us dance, welcoming the summer.

Then, every Thursday evening (until it gets too dark for us to catch the sticks), and on many weekends, Greenwich Morris dance somewhere local: at Cutty Sark (both the ship and the pub!), in the Old Royal Naval College and outside the station. We venture further afield, too; never missing Rochester Sweeps Festival. People are curious about the origins of Morris dancing - no one knows for sure but there is a longstanding idea that Morris is a contraction of Moorish, and that the dances might have come from North Africa.

We always dance to live music, played mostly on assorted squeeze-boxes, and come from all walks of life! Neither is Morris stuck in the past: contemporary choreographers and hip-hop dancers are incorporating Morris in new works. There's a video, viewed by thousands, of us dancing and swapping moves with Tommy Xpensive, a famous and fabulously funky You Tuber from Ivory Coast.

When the nights draw in, Greenwich Morris Men retreat from the streets to our winter home, Mycenae House, in Westcombe Park. We're not hibernating, but practising and learning new dances - ready for our return, with the sun, on May Day. If you would like to join us, to have a go at this wonderful, ancient, modern, English and global dance of the people and the streets, or if you are a musician and would like to play, please come along, we are there usually on Thursday evenings, 8-10pm, followed by a liquid physiotherapy session in the bar.

More information can be found at www.greenwichmorris.org.uk/

Julian May



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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

www.westcombesociety.org

40 MAZE HILL
ref 24/1050/HD and ref 24/1051/L
To make multiple internal and external changes to this Grade II listed building including creation of a recreational annex. The application affects the Grade II listed mausoleum of Greenwich Hospital and the listed group 32-40 Maze Hill.

158 LANGTON WAY
ref 24/1206/HD
To install dormer loft conversion with two front roof lights and to enlarge side extension and change ground floor fenestration.

120 HUMBER ROAD
ref 24/1091/HD
To demolish front brick garden wall and install bicycle shed and bin storage.

73 HUMBER ROAD, Flat 1
ref 24/0926/F
To construct part 1, part 2 storey rear extension.

TREE WORKS
53 ULUNDI ROAD
ref 24/1190/TC
To fell cabbage tree Cordyline Australis in rear garden.

53 ULUNDI ROAD
ref 24/1172/TC
To fell cabbage tree Cordyline Australis in front garden.

* 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 www.westcombesociety.org



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ENVIRONMENT

Surveying our Wildlife

Joe Beale, who organises the Vanbrugh Pits Conservation Working Parties, has presented a proposal to the BJWP for a follow-up on the 2020 butterfly survey. He argues that, "parts of Blackheath provide excellent habitat for a good variety of butterflies, with 29 species - around half the UK's resident and regular migrant species - recorded since 2010. Gorse scrub, a wide range of shrubs and trees of various ages, unimproved grassland, gardens and lowland dry acid grassland are amongst the key habitats and features of the area." This is of particular importance to safeguard vulnerable species such as the Small Heath butterfly which is found in the Pits. Joe argues that a new survey



would "provide some regular monitoring to allow comparisons should there have been any habitat or management changes, as well providing evidence of any future threats. The concise survey report will be put online and will show people what butterflies are living locally. It would form a permanent record, so everyone will be able to see which butterflies occur, how they are faring compared to 2020, and where people can go to try to see those butterflies for themselves."

Letter

I declare my interests in transport: I am the mother of a stereotypical cycle lane user - a 40-year-old non-disabled male who cycles to a job in Westminster. I hate him cycling on the often convoluted cycle paths next to lorries, buses and cars, it's dangerous, polluted and yet another energy-reducing activity in his busy life. He would catch the train but it lets him down in arriving on time for childcare deadlines and the ticket pricing system is expensive when working from home on some days. He has a car but would never use it to get to work.

Where is the evidence about pollution, and who is going where on public and private transport journeys that supports a LTN or cycle lane along already increasingly gridlocked roads?

Where is the evidence that rat running in our area is a problem?

How is success of a LTN to be measured?

Where are the financial capital and revenue costs for the Council and for users?

Rat running, gridlock and its associated pollution; increased journey times on public and private transport can be causally linked to blockages on the two-lane section of the A102 more than any other factor. This can only increase from the summer of 2025 when two more tunnel lanes of traffic, including juggernauts, will be using the Silvertown Tunnel. The LTN would mean no new traffic could enter our area to pass out for 30 of 168 hours a week, i.e. 18%.

People live, walk, work, shop, catch buses, cycle along Woolwich Road; where is the evidence that their lives will improve through a LTN or cycle lane? To the level of the already lightly-used roads in Westcombe Park? The LTN Equalities Impact Assessment clearly says that elderly people will suffer, but the report is mostly cut and paste statistics. It doesn't actually look at reality, like how many hours working mothers with kids waste on waiting for delayed buses compared to whoever is using the cycle lanes.

There are many other "nudges" to reduce road use, e.g. if people had to pay for online deliveries to their homes whilst it was free to pick up at shops and lockers etc, traffic would reduce much more than from a LTN and payments redistributed to zero hours couriers. Bring back bus lanes and reduced stop buses (e.g. 188?). Build cycle lanes physically separated from mechanical vehicles on new developments e.g. the proposed Ikea/Odeon car park development. In the 1970s I worked to develop Planning for Real and it's soul-destroying to see it reduced to a Post-it note on a Plan. In those days Traffic Engineers worked with the community on "General Improvement Areas" with evidence and predetermined outcomes to measure success against, they had genuinely open meetings to gather info and discuss the possibilities; the resultant LTNs are still there today. I think the issues today are due to failures following fragmentation of service deliveries, lack of money, and quality of university courses for highway engineers.

Resident, Kemsing Road (Name and Address supplied)

More Train Improvements on the Way

Southeastern held a forum for Stakeholder groups recently and there are some welcome improvements on the way. In the last issue of Westcombe News I reported on the improved

but a deep clean will improve the station environment. There is also an allocation of funding for station improvements and cosmetic repairs, as well as the introduction of roaming cleaning teams.



timetable, with a more evenly spaced frequency of services, to be introduced in June. Now Southeastern have announced that, from December 2024, the "rounder service" via Greenwich and Sidcup is to be re-introduced during peak hours. This will mean a return to six trains an hour on this line at peak times.

They also announced that every station on the network is going to be given a deep clean. No timescale for this was provided,

The lesson seems to have been learnt that cutting services post-Covid smothered the recovery. Whereas TfL services on the DLR and Overground reinstated services and now have more passengers than before Covid, the same is not true on Southeastern. Hopefully, these changes will go some way to restoring passenger numbers by improving the services and the station environment.

*Mike Sparham
Greenwich Line Users Group*

Cherry Blossoms in Greenwich Park



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WHAT'S ON

Mycenae House

Mississippi MacDonald & Band
Mississippi MacDonald is an English Soul-Blues singer/songwriter/guitarist, fronting a four piece band. He is a 6 times British/UK Blues Awards and three times US Independent Blues Awards nominee.

17th May 8pm—10.30pm

Tickets £12

available via www.wegotickets.com

KT Bush Band

Original Band Members performing the music of Kate Bush.

As seen through the eyes and ears of Brian Bath, her original guitarist and vocalist, performing on her early singles, recordings, first tour and tv shows and on many official videos.

Hear first-hand the many stories that propelled this remarkable, unique, and enchanting lady to world fame.

24th May 7.30pm-10.30pm

Tickets £16

available via www.wegotickets.com

A Night of South African Jazz Standards

Enjoy a slice of the rich melodic history of South African jazz composers. Led by veteran pianist and harmonica virtuoso Adam Glasser.

In support of Amnesty International

31st May 7.30pm

Tickets £15

available via www.wegotickets.com

SMAG ART

EXHIBITION OPENS

The next SMAG ART Exhibition will take place from **30th May to 8th June 2024** at St Michael and All Angels Church, Blackheath Park, open to locally based artists.

The last exhibition in October 2023 had over 98 artists displaying 286 pieces of artwork, nearly 1000 visitors and led to sales of 86 pieces for £8,589. As a not-for-profit company we gave £4,700 to local charities, now cumulative giving of nearly £35,000. More details of timings, continuing online exhibition and SMAGART are available on www.smagart.com. Artists interested in participating should email info@smagart.com

Greenwich Concert Band

SPRING SPECTACULAR

Saturday 11th May 7:30pm

Holy Trinity Church

59 Southend Crescent

Eltham SE9 2SD Tickets £10/£7

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gcb>

Music includes: West Side Story; Hairspray; Peer Gynt; Chorus Line; Scheherazade

Local Westcombe Park'ers Susan (sax) and Katherine (trumpet) will be playing

www.facebook.com/greenwichconcertband/

Greenwich Park

May 12th

Hospice Run Mini Marathon

May 13th Archaeological Dig

May 26th Park Run

Blackheath Halls

Fri 3 May 6.30pm

Elisabeth Schumann | Voice and Piano Competition Final

Sun 5 May 4pm

The Dragon of Wantley | New Sussex Opera

Mon 13 May 1.10pm

Lunchtime Recital | Ognisko Ensemble

Tue 14 May 7pm

Wine Tasting with Davy's Wine Merchants

Mon 20 May 1.10pm

Lunchtime Recital | Waldstein Trio

Wed 22 May 7.30pm

Literary Event | John Willis, Fighter Boy | The Many Lives of Geoffrey Page

Sat 25 May 2pm & 4pm

Sun 26 May 11am & 2pm

Tom Fletcher's There's a Monster In Your Show

Tue 28 – Sat 2 Jun Various Times

BAMPI Changemaker Festival

www.blackheathhalls.com/whats-on/

The Arts Society Greenwich

With a Little Help from Their Friends: The Beatles and the Art World

Monday 13 May 2024 at 7.30 pm

Lecturer: Barry Venning

Venue: James Wolfe Primary School, Royal Hill, Greenwich

Guests very welcome: £10



A journey through the 60s in music and images, following The Beatles from the Hamburg Reeperbahn in 1960 to Abbey Road in 1969. The band was always fascinated by the visual arts - the 'fifth Beatle', Stuart Sutcliffe, was a much better painter than he was a bass player - and they also learned very early on that artists and designers could help promote their image and their music. Their rise to global fame was aided and recorded by an impressive roster of photographers, including Astrid Kirchherr, Bob Freeman, Robert Whitaker, Angus McBean and Linda McCartney.

Barry Venning is an art historian whose interests and teaching range from the art of late medieval Europe to global contemporary art. His media work includes two BBC TV documentaries, radio appearances for BBC local radio and ABC Australia, and a DVD on Turner for the Tate. www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk

St Paul's Sinfonia

Friday 17 May 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

St Margaret's church, Blackheath

Kraus, Symphony in C minor Tom

Coult, Beautiful Caged Thing

Sibelius Luonnatar Arnold

Symphony No. 4 Philippa Boyle

soprano.

Andrew Morley conductor

www.stpaulssinfonia.com/

Royal Museums Greenwich

MAY EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM AND QUEEN'S HOUSE, GREENWICH

Highlights this month include:

Visit the latest exhibition at the National Maritime Museum to find out more about the Women of the RNLI.

Enjoy a day of talks, workshops and music celebrating the impact of Caribbean culture in Britain.

For further information see

www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on



Old Royal Naval College

Popular Dog Show returns on Sunday 26th May 2024 at King William Walk Greenwich SE10 9NN with Celebrity Judge Jodie McCallum.

Dog Show classes from 11am.

Blackheath Conservatoire

CHILDREN'S COURSES AND WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS ON SALE.

Summer Term children's courses and workshops for adults, are now on sale at the Conservatoire in Blackheath and they're starting from Monday 15 April. They're a great way to try a new skill or dip your toes back into artistic waters and to offer your children fun and educational workshops in art, music, and drama as well as a variety of great art, music and drama courses for adults.

Specific skills covered on courses

Charlton House & Gardens

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday May 18th

Selling surplus plants grown in the walled gardens and by members of the Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society (CABAHS). Blackheath & Greenwich WI will also be holding its popular stall, with yummy cakes baked by members. Frilly's café will be open for drinks and snacks.

Find out more at:

www.greenwichheritage.org/events/plant-sale-market/

TUESDAY CLASSICAL CONCERTS

May 7th

Countess of Wessex's String

Orchestra

May 14th

Bridget Yee piano -Ligeti, Haydn, Liszt, Debussy & Dutilleux

May 21st

Royal College of Music presents - Tian Chen piano & friends

May 28th

Anglo-American Duo- Works for violin and piano by Walton, Osbon & Jennifer Higdon

June 4th

Stefanija Nikolich piano

June 11th

Amphion Brass Quintet

June 25th

Presented by the Royal College of Music - Anson Tang piano

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