

WestcombeNEWS



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June 2024 No 5

June's Canvas: Painting Our Lives with Summer's Hues

AFRIL: Westcombe Society Charity of the Year

Action for Refugees in Lewisham (AFRIL) is a dynamic local charity that has been supporting displaced families to lift themselves out of poverty and rebuild their lives in the heart of our community for the last 18 years. Each year with 15 mostly part time staff and 70 volunteers, AFRIL supports more than 500 people, over half of whom are children. Families have fled war, persecution and human rights abuses and are seeking sanctuary in South East London. Some are recognised refugees, and others are in limbo waiting for the Home Office to make a decision on their immigration case. AFRIL provides crisis support to meet people's immediate needs in the form of a Foodbank that provides vouchers, fresh food, toiletries and nappies, and crisis homelessness casework for families who find themselves destitute and street homeless.

The charity also provides longer-term, flexible programmes to tackle the underlying problems that lead families to crisis, and supports them to integrate, contribute and thrive. These are: the Rainbow Club supplementary school; a well-being food growing and climate resilience community at AFRIL's Allotment of Refuge; Advice and Advocacy, an Immigration project together with Southwark Law Centre, and supported volunteering roles. AFRIL works closely with Greenwich Council to support people prohibited from working and living in poor quality

Home Office accommodation. The Westcombe Society is supporting AFRIL's Healthy Start campaign: healthy food for children in extreme poverty, and Rainbow Club which is an award winning, fun and educational Saturday school that supports refugee children aged 4-11 years to bridge the educational attainment gap, improve their confidence and raise their aspirations. Please join us in supporting the campaign between 4th-18th June www.afril.org.uk/donate/



"It's so important my boy gets a good breakfast to start his day, thank you so much, now I don't worry." (Foodbank member)

"Best thing in my life." (Rainbow Club child)

"So very grateful you exist. Save me from sinking and I'm sure others feel the same." (Advice client)

Sophie Wickham, Director

Where Flowers Meet Philanthropy: The Open Gardens Festival

A summer highlight for local residents, the Open Gardens Festival in aid of the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice, comes round again this June. Last year they raised an astonishing £23,000 and it would be fantastic to match that again this year. Spread across two weekends, 8/9 and 22/23 June, 40 gardens of all

beautiful garden on Lee Road. On the west side of the heath, newcomers include Mary Bright in Granville Park and Amanda Agee, who is joined by other residents, in allowing access to the Dartmouth House gardens where footsore visitors will be offered refreshments. In fact many, if not most, gardeners are laying on



shapes and sizes will be open to visit, many of them easily accessible on foot for Westcombe Park readers. If you visited some of them last year, you may want to venture a bit further afield to some of the new or returning gardens: Tony Bradbury's delightful terraced garden which stretches from Eliot Place down to Baizdon Road hidden well below; the Surgeon's House in Royal Hill in Greenwich where Mary Sutherland has been creating a lovely sustainable garden with a tapestry lawn made of low growing herbs; Jane Laxey's enormous and very

refreshments which range from tea and cake to Pimms and fizzy lemonade. On Saturday, 22 June, there will also be an al fresco jazz concert on the Fords' amazing lawn in nearby Dartmouth Grove. Detailed information and tickets for this and for all gardens are available at www.communityhospice.org.uk/support-us/events/open-gardens-festival/ Tickets: One weekend £14, Two weekends £20, Single garden £5, Kids go free Timings: All gardens are open 2pm - 6pm

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020 8858 1749 www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

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

Blackwall Tunnel Southbound Closures

Drivers are advised of
upcoming closures at the
Blackwall Tunnel for southbound
traffic during weekends in June,
facilitating works for the new
Silvertown Tunnel.

Closure Periods:

Weekends of 1-3 June, 8-10 June
and June 29 - July 1

Closure Times: from 00:01 on
Saturday to reopening by 05:00 on
Monday

The closures aim to implement
road configurations for the
Silvertown Tunnel, set to open in
2025. Works include road
resurfacing, safety barrier
installation, and landscaping.

Northbound traffic will not be
affected, with diversions in place.
Drivers are urged to plan
alternative routes and anticipate
heavier traffic around Rotherhithe
Tunnel and A13 Commercial
Road. Progress on the Silvertown
Tunnel is ongoing, with
landscaping underway and safety
systems installation in progress.

For real-time traffic updates, visit:
<https://tfl.gov.uk/traffic/status/>

Music Festival on Blackheath - 27/28 July

At the recent resident's meeting
for the Kisstory/Uptown
Festival residents were assured
that the organisers want to put on
a Festival that takes into account
the concerns of residents.
Assurances were given that the
problems with noise, experienced
by many in Westcombe Park last
year, will be mitigated by changes
to the angle of staging and
redirection of speakers. More
information can be found on the
community information page
of blackheathlive.com. To further
mitigate the effect on residents a
small number of discounted tickets
remained at the time for residents
priced at £15 plus booking fee.
Email info@thefestivalcrowd.com



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4 x standard	£138	£620

Unforgettable Moments: London Marathon Tales of Triumph and Generosity

Cheering On Champions: A Heartwarming Marathon Weekend

On Marathon weekend Alison
Palmer hosted two runners,
mother and daughter Caroline and
Imogen, both of whom were
fundraising for their respective
charities - Muscular Dystrophy
UK and Brain Research UK.
Thanks to the Westcombe Society
offering members the opportunity
to obtain seats in the Grandstand
at the beginning of the race,
friends and family were able to
cheer them on their way from the
start, and subsequently at points
along the route. Both runners
finished in very respectable times
and exceeded their fundraising
targets. It was a fabulous day all round



Katie, Alison and Helena cheering
on the runners

A Head for Charity Diane Blackwell

As usual, the recent Westcombe
Society quiz at Mycenae
House gave the brain cells a solid
workout.

Quiz masters Robbie, Peter and
Patrick raised the bar even higher
than last time with tricky questions
on a wide range of topics from
health to quotations. Undaunted
by the heady challenge, the 72
contestants, including many new
faces, laughed their way through
the memory teasers. Fish and chips
beckoned at the halfway point. A
fun evening with about £400 raised
for charity.

Thanks to the Standard Fish and
Chip Shop and Mycenae House
staff for helping to make the
evening run smoothly.

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Local Heroes: Breaking Records and Raising Funds at the TCS London Marathon

Four Greenwich residents
joined friends from across the
UK to break the Guinness World
Record for the fastest marathon in
a 10-person costume at the TCS
London Marathon on Sunday 21st
April.



The team, put together by Jackie
Scully from Humber Road, ran
dressed as everyday heroes –
including a doctor, dentist and
farmer – in a London Bus
designed for them from
ex-Dancing on Ice pro skater,
Frankie Seaman.

Jackie, who is celebrating being
ten years clear from breast cancer
in 2024, came up with the idea as
a way of giving back to the
charities that supported her and
her husband, Duncan, while she
was going through active
treatment. Duncan ran as support
crew, helping the team get access
to water stops and navigate fellow
runners.

Following a BBC interview with
Gabby Logan, the bus set off from
Blackheath late morning and
completed the marathon course in
6hrs, 32m and 5s, wiping 23
minutes of the existing record.

The team raised more than £40k
for charities Breast Cancer Now,
Willow and NHS Charities
Together. If you'd like to sponsor
them, please head to:

www.justgiving.com/team/100kourway

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

Arthur George Jones Atom Bomb Scientist

The film "Oppenheimer" has aroused a lot of interest recently and has won awards at the Golden Globes, and the Oscars this year. The film is about the Manhattan Project, the code words used for the work in the United States to produce the first atomic bomb during the Second World War. A group of British atomic experts worked with the Americans and among them was a local man, Arthur George Jones.

EVENING STANDARD—PAGE 2

ATOM BOMB WORKERS RETURNING

NEW YORK, Tuesday.—Dr. John P. Baxter, British chemical scientist who worked on the development of the Atom bomb at Oakridge, Tennessee, was among 450 other civilians in the Aquitania, leaving New York for Britain to-day.

Dr. Baxter was on the staff of Imperial Chemical Industries, and was lent by the British Government for work on the Atom bomb.

Two other British atomic experts, Mr. Arthur Jones and Mr. Harold Evans, were in Dr. Baxter's party.

Besides the civilians in the Aquitania, there are 352 members of the R.A.F., 15 officers of the Royal Navy, and a number of British, French and Dutch soldiers.—A.P.

join the British team sent to work on the Manhattan Project at the top secret base at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The team, with its expertise in plutonium and the enrichment of uranium, played an important role in the development of the atomic bomb which was later used with such dramatic consequences against Japan towards the end of the Second World War. Arthur returned home on the RMS Aquitania from New York, landing in England in September 1945. He married Olive Mary and they had two children. In 1959, Arthur wrote a book, "Analytical Chemistry - Some New Techniques", but he knew that only a few copies would be sold to universities, colleges and libraries as it was so technically advanced a subject.



THREE British scientists—left to right, Dr. John P. Baxter, Mr. Arthur Jones, Mr. Harold Evans—arrived at Southampton yesterday in the Aquitania from New York. Dr. Baxter said it would take 10 to 20 years to harness atomic energy. It depended on the Government whether researches were continued in this country.

Arthur Jones lived in Lizban Street, close to Charlton Road, Blackheath. He was educated at Kidbrooke Church of England School and, after passing the eleven plus exam, attended Colfe's Grammar School as well as evening classes at Woolwich Polytechnic, where he studied Chemistry. He was awarded a Gold Medal by the Polytechnic for being an outstanding student. He worked for ICI and continued his studies, gaining a degree in Chemistry. Arthur, as a leading analytical chemist, was selected to

Arthur was a close friend and neighbour of the late Bert Street, who provided this information. Bert was groundsman for many years at the Rectory Field, Charlton Road, the home of the Blackheath Sports Club, which borders on Lizban Street. Arthur wrote to Bert every month throughout the war. Arthur died in 1973 in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mandy Allen & Peter Brown

Togetherness is the Vanbrugh Park Estate

Diane Blackwell

Nowhere in Westcombe Park is community spirit more vibrant than at the modernist Vanbrugh Park Estate. And this year the Estate's residents are celebrating its 60th birthday with a summer party in July, live music, and a commemorative calendar. There is much to celebrate for this is undeniably a unique place to live. The external boundary design and limited traffic access promotes unusually strong human interaction and connections. It proves the importance of architecture in developing community ties and improving the quality of life for all those who live there.

Originally built for council tenants, the estate is now home to owners, leaseholders and private renters as well.

In 1959, the architects Chamberlain, Powell and Bon, now most famous for designing the Barbican, were commissioned by Greenwich Metropolitan Borough, as it then was called, to submit housing plans for seven acres in the Vanbrugh Park area. The bold chosen layout provided a mixed development along the lines of their successful Golden Lane Estate (City of London) with low terraced houses, single level homes over garages and an iconic tower block of 64 flats.

There had been several Victorian houses on the allotted space, one of them the birthplace of suffragette Emily Wilder Davidson who, at a race meeting, threw herself in front of the King's horse while campaigning for women's rights.

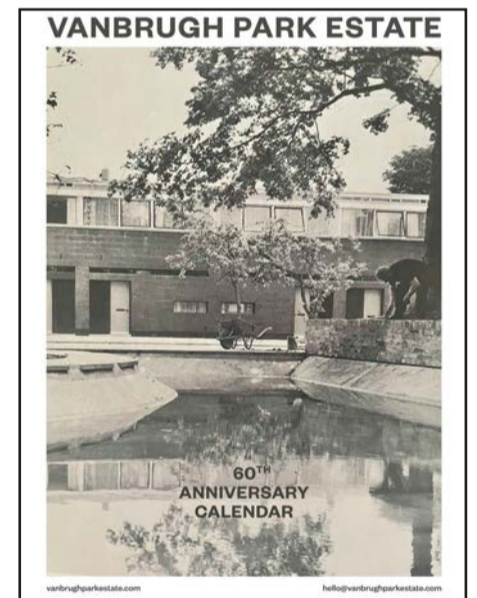
The bricks used for the walls around the Estate are from the original houses.

This architectural gem was completed in 1964 and for many years was sadly overlooked and only valued by its residents! Now, however, some committed architects live there and along with fellow Vanbrugh Estate dweller, architectural writer, Phineas Harper, they ensure that the Estate's clever use of space to create a community has become

more widely appreciated. To mark the Estate's 60 years milestone, the Residents' Committee has produced a 2024 calendar, designed by three residents, using original photographs to commemorate this significant event.

The council is currently planning some renovation works for the Tower Block and the Residents' Committee is very keen that this will be carried out to a high standard and in keeping with the original plans. Recent upgrades to the paved walking areas have been a welcome improvement and extra flower beds have been created to enhance the residents' 'Greening Scheme' for more trees and plants. All Westcombe Parkers can also enjoy this unique estate area when walking to and from Greenwich Park, the Standard shops, Mycenae House and the John Roan School.

And of course, all local children are invited to enjoy the Estate's swings.

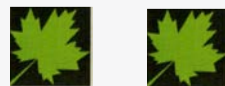


A Vanbrugh Park Estate commemorative calendar costs £15 and can be ordered from hello@vanbrughparkestate.com

Timetable Changes on the Trains

A reminder that the train timetable changes as from 2nd June, with welcome improvements to the schedule and a more even interval between services. Until 11th August there will be six trains an hour Monday to Saturday, as the Greenwich line will benefit from the diversion of trains due to the closure of the line between Blackheath and Charlton for much needed repairs to the Blackheath Tunnel. After that date, the service will revert to four trains an hour but they will be more evenly spaced; and from December there will be six trains an hour again at peak times.

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FEATURES

Blackheath Halls Transformed

Polly Morgan

In the presence of HRH Duke of Kent KG, Sir Bryn Terfel CBE, the famous opera singer, together with local patrons and music from Trinity Laban celebrated 'Blackheath Halls Transformed' In April 2024, a host of famous faces and local patrons came together to celebrate 'Blackheath Halls Transformed' - which has been a multi-million pound redevelopment programme to reinvigorate and modernise the interior and exterior spaces of this well-loved cultural venue in our very own local vicinity of Blackheath.



2018 saw the Great Hall stage levelled with much more redevelopment work taking place there too. During summer 2023, the exterior was revitalised with new paving, stone benches and planting, providing an inviting spacious and open area for the local community as well as audiences visiting the venue. The outdated signage was replaced with a backlit pillar and digital totem display.

To improve accessibility, a lift to The Hearn Recital Room has been fitted and a bespoke stage lift installed for performers and participants. This also means they

can now move pianos on and off the Great Hall stage. The Hearn Recital Room, also refurbished in 2013, now has a new wiring system, fixtures and energy-saving LED lights.

Blackheath Halls is in every sense a community venue. Funded by our local community this transformation has only been made possible by a major donation from the Hearn Foundation as well as the support of Friends and Patrons, Arts Council England, Viridor Credits, and others.

This special evening was a celebration of all this hard work, dedication and donations which has enabled the transformation of Blackheath Halls.

And what a special evening it was! Starting off with an opening address on this wonderful renovation work and the cultural significance of Blackheath Halls within our community and beyond, given by Professor Anthony Bowne, Chair of Trinity Laban.

Next came the much-anticipated and rousing performance by the legendary bass baritone opera singer,



Sir Bryn Terfel CBE, who is currently busy rehearsing for the summer opera season with Grange Park Opera.

Sir Bryn took the time to grant us a wonderful performance of stunning

Addressing Anxiety: what Shakespeare can teach us

A new book on Shakespeare reminds us there is nothing new under the sun. The book, Shakespeare in an Age of Anxiety by Neville Grant marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio.

The book shows how much we have in common with Tudor England under Good Queen Bess. They had the plague - we've had the pandemic; they had the Spanish armada (in fact, five of them) - we have Putin. They had to cope with internal security threats - so do we.

It doesn't end there; they had religious conflict, we have culture wars. These days we don't burn people at the stake, we simply crucify them on the internet.

At least they didn't then have climate change - but they had years

of bad harvests, and there were parts of the country where people starved.

Grant's book shows how Shakespeare coped with anxiety. He didn't escape into the world of theatre; he confronted the issues, by putting politics on the stage - thinly disguised as history plays.

They had to be disguised, or, at least, ambiguous. Playwrights could be murdered, imprisoned or tortured; one patron was poisoned; another imprisoned. Yes, they lived "in interesting times".

So perhaps, after all, things are getting better?

The book summarises some of the most recent research on Shakespeare and provides a critical appreciation of each of his works in the order in which they were written, so one can trace how he developed over time.

Addressing Anxiety
What Shakespeare can teach us

Community Lecture by author Neville Grant
Thursday 13th June at 8pm
Free and open to all. Refreshments after.

St Georges's Church
43 Glenluce Road,
London SE3 7SD

songs from the tongue-in-cheek 'If I were a Rich Man', followed by his powerful 'My Guardian Angel'.

He also gave a great speech about the importance of community-funded music venues such as Blackheath Halls, the vital cultural work done by Trinity Laban in the area plus the importance of supporting the next generation of musical talent as encapsulated by the wonderful Blackheath Halls Youth Choir, who gave a lovely performance. Music also came from Trinity Laban Jazz Ensemble.

HRH the Duke of Kent KG seemed to thoroughly enjoy and support the evening, taking the time to talk to Sir Bryn about his current endeavours as well as with the Blackheath Halls Youth Choir.

As Blackheath Halls wrote in their thank you address about the event; "Without local ongoing support, none of this would have been possible. It is a true reflection of the importance our local community place upon our historic building and the remarkable performances that take place here. Thank you!"

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FEATURES

The Railway Under Our Feet

On a recent walk with a friend, we passed along Vicarage Avenue near Royal Standard Blackheath. I commented that we were walking above a railway line that continued under the parking area of Marks and Spencer and down under Invicta Road. My friend was sceptical and doubted that it was still in use. Although long-term residents in the area, we had made many railways journeys up to town from either Blackheath or Westcombe Park but not towards Woolwich. So, when I got home I did some research.



What is remarkable is that the tunnel was finished as early as 1849 when the line was opened. It was a mile, or 1.6 kilometres, long (Bradshaw's London Guide of 1865 says 1,600 yards). It was an extraordinary achievement and was probably built in less than three years. Brunel had developed shield boring for his tunnel under the Thames that opened in 1840, but it had taken him 15 years to bore the 500 metres. I know of no other long tunnels in London at such an early date. The Metropolitan Line was built in the later 1860s using largely cut and cover tunnelling. One must remember that steam locomotives belched forth an extraordinary amount of smoke and steam; there must have been ventilation shafts for such a long tunnel. Where are they now? (A friend, who is a railway employee, told me that staff have access somewhere near Old Dover Road). The other problem was the steepness of the incline up from Charlton and Rhind tells of an early incident when a long passenger train stalled in the tunnel and additional locomotives had to be brought in to shunt it out.

An Ordnance Survey map of the Charlton area of 1865 shows the line exiting the tunnel with little but marshland between it and the Thames. The Angerstein freight line, built in 1852, crossed these marshes to bring in coal from barges on the river. Incredibly, it was almost 30 years before the 2½ mile link from Greenwich, via Maze Hill and Westcombe Park, to Charlton, was opened in 1878.

It is difficult today to see the entrances to the tunnel. That at the Charlton end is almost completely screened off. That at the Blackheath end behind the Paragon can be viewed with some difficulty. It has a large elegant brick arch.

There are many railway enthusiasts who might wish to correct or add to this story.
Malcolm Scott Hardy



Finding a recent timetable showing the Blackheath-Charlton line still in use was easy; finding out more about the history of the line proved more difficult. It was our historian of Blackheath, Neil Rhind, who shed some light on what is an extraordinary story.

The first suburban railway, the London to Greenwich, on its viaduct of arches, had reached Deptford in 1836 and was extended to Greenwich by 1838. Proposals to continue it east over the bottom of the Greenwich Park behind the Queen's House (either in a cutting or on a viaduct) ran into serious opposition, not only from the Astronomer Royal who argued that it would interfere with the instruments in the Observatory, but also from the Admiralty (particularly in the person of Admiral Hardy, Governor of the Maritime Hospital, who died in 1839).

The solution was to make the "Blackheath loop" running from Deptford to Lewisham, Blackheath, Charlton and Woolwich to connect with the North Kent Line coming in from Strood and Rochester. The most problematic section was that between Blackheath and Charlton. Plans to cut the line between embankments across the grounds of Morden College were abandoned in favour of a tunnel. I had assumed that, because it could not bear the weight of buildings above it, the section under Vicarage Avenue must have been of the "cut and cover" type, but Rhind writes that in places the tunnelling required 45 feet deep shafts. The deep part of the tunnel must have run at least from its beginning between the Paragon and Morden College to where it goes under Shooters Hill Road at the end of Kidbrooke Grove.

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Letter

Although Vanbrugh Park Estate is recognised as an important example of 20th century architecture, over the past 60 years it has suffered from lack of maintenance and unsympathetic changes which have led to it falling into shocking disrepair.

The iconic tower block is now due for 'improvement' which should start in autumn 2024 but architects and residents living on the estate are concerned that original features, like the central stair and lift block tiling, should not be replaced by cheap rendering. The windows and cladding will also be upgraded and much-needed fire safety upgrades are currently being undertaken.

The balcony flats overlooking the Vanbrugh Pits were initially built to an inferior quality by a different contractor and are now causing immediate concern due to damp and lack of insulation, in part due to a neglected undercroft area that has been disused for 30 years. These dwellings are homes to either council tenants or leaseholders who, as part of their agreements, are not allowed to repair any external problems that are causing damp and mould inside their properties.

Why did the local council chose to replace the original front doors with plastic mock Georgian fanlight and panelled monstrosities? Or the discreet down street lights with stuck on, out of character, projecting versions? It is such a shame that the cheapest options have continually been seen as acceptable for a council estate. Contrast this with the maintenance by the City of London of the Golden Lane Estate or Barbican by the same architects.

This year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Estate; we want to see it providing the wonderful mixed community for the next 60 years.

Name and address supplied

Newsbriefs

Neil Rhind

An event to celebrate the life of the late President of the Blackheath Society, Neil Rhind, is being planned by the Blackheath Society in conjunction with The Blackheath Halls. It will be at 7pm on Wednesday 10 July 2024. Tickets will be free and will be available from the Halls' box office in due course. The event will consist of about an hour of various presentations celebrating Neil's active life in Blackheath, after which we will adjourn to the bar to raise a glass and reminisce.

National Gallery - 200th Anniversary

The National Gallery was founded in 1824 in John Julius Angerstein's London townhouse in Pall Mall; the first 38 paintings came from his private art collection. Many of our readers will know that his country house was Woodlands in Westcombe Park and more about him, together with other interesting facts, can be found on the storyboard outside the house.

Congratulations

The 'Oscars of the retail and gift world' took place last night and The Voewood won an award. Others in their category included the National Gallery Shops.

What we are not teaching our children about overcoming adversity

Resilience, robustness and progress – what can we learn from the international best-selling children's book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'? Many of us remember this book with fondness - a family go in search of a bear, relentlessly overcoming obstacles including a swamp, a river and a snowstorm: "You can't go under it, you can't go over it, you've got to go through it".

It's an iconic, repetitive and metaphoric reminder of real life.

All of us, including our youngest, are reminded in the book that it is not possible to avoid, and sometimes overcome, adversity – this can include everyday changes; moving house or country, bothersome stuff at school or home, or sometimes even the upheaval of becoming unwelcome or unexpected refugees.

Protecting our children from stress can also undermine their bodies from gaining resilience, robustness and making progress.

If we don't plan, or allow, for our children to be in challenging, even stressful, situations they will never gain the toughness and resilience to cope, even get stronger, through later life experiences.

It seems that our children may flourish through self-repair and regeneration overcoming true adversity; pushed beyond our comfort zone, and with the right support, we can all gain growth, resilience and robustness.

Wendy Fidler, MontDip(Hons) FRSA MEWI MCMI MIOd AI DMS APIExpert

Head of School/Academic Director, MEFA Montessori, 135 Westcombe Hill, Blackheath



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ENVIRONMENT

Precis of Environment Committee Report for the Westcombe Society AGM, May 2024

The Environment Committee's role in the Westcombe Society is to look after our environment, both built and natural. Our remit includes planning, air quality, trees and open spaces, licensing, and traffic and transport. We meet monthly and have lively email discussions between meetings. The committee reports on its work in the Westcombe News and the WS website. We also appreciate your input. We try to be responsive to comments and questions, and we are grateful to everyone who has contributed to our work. Indeed, we would welcome new members; no experience needed, just good common sense.

Over the last year, we commented on a number of planning developments. The Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) Planning Department has clear advice on building and renovations in conservation areas, and we comment on proposals that might exceed the guidelines. We look at plans for redevelopment outside the immediate area that might affect us, most recently the Ikea/B&Q site, Peninsula Gardens. We also respond to consultations with the Borough, which have included planning policy changes and traffic.

Road traffic and transport have been a leading concern this year. The council has developed plans for implementing a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN), covering Westcombe Park as well as Greenwich town centre. We have tried to represent local views, which were largely critical of the LTN proposals in the Borough's consultation, while maintaining a balanced position. The LTN will be put into effect in the next few months on a trial basis, pending a formal review by the council. The

scheme will not be as restrictive as the initial proposals, but we have concerns that the revised plans have not been sent out to residents for consultation to assure broader acceptance.

We've also been closely involved in the Greenwich Line Users Group, because of the cuts to train services and the inconvenient timing of the remaining trains. It seems that our voices have been heard; a somewhat more evenly-spaced train service will go into use in June.

We comment regularly on proposals for tree work, because mature trees are important for local ecology and the character of the area, and try to encourage support for Mycenae Gardens, the Dell, and the Dips. We've also continued to advocate for stronger control on paving over front gardens, with the aim of protecting green spaces and allowing stormwater to drain into the ground rather than entering sewage systems where it can contribute to outfalls overflowing into waterways.

Another element of WSENV's work is support for traders at the Royal Standard. We do check licensing applications and try to protect residents from intrusive impacts, but mainly we look at signage, parking, and traffic issues, and hope to maintain a prosperous trading environment for all.

Finally, the Committee works to coordinate with other local and London-wide groups, including the Blackheath Joint Working Party, the London Forum, the Greenwich Planning Alliance, and more. This helps us to take a more considered view of local issues, and keeps us, and the area, in touch with the wider world.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

www.westcombesociety.org

9 GLENLUCE ROAD
ref 24/1453/HD

To construct single storey rear extension.

5 WYCHERLEY CLOSE
ref 24/1450/HD

To construct a two-storey side extension and loft conversion.

59 FOYLE ROAD ref 24/1161/HD

To construct ground floor rear infill extension and loft conversion including rear dormer roof extension and a roof extension to the outrigger, rooflights and front terracing and fencing.

FRADEN CONTRACTS LTD,
SIEBERT ROAD ref 24/0212/F

To demolish existing structures and construct a three-storey, 2-bedroom detached house.

14 MYCENAE ROAD ref
24/1371/HD

To construct single storey rear infill extension and landscaping to rear.

* 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

Healthy Streets - how does Westcombe Park score?

In 2018 the Mayor of London set out his Transport Strategy aimed at transforming our streets, improving public transport and 'creating opportunities for new homes and jobs'. To achieve this the plan sets out the Healthy Streets approach.

Healthy Streets Scorecard published for London Boroughs The Healthy Streets Scorecard sets out data to show the health of each borough's streets according to ten indicators. There are six 'input indicators' which are seen as things local Councils can do to help lower air pollution. The indicators used are:

1. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
2. 20mph Speed Limits
3. Controlled Parking Zones
4. Physically Protected Cycle Track
5. School Provision
6. Bus Priority

There are then four 'outcome indicators' which are proxies for success. These are:

7. Sustainable Modeshare (trips

made by sustainable mode of transport)

8. Active Travel Rate (proportion of people who regularly walk or cycle)

9. Road Collision Casualties

10. Car Ownership Rates

It is perhaps not surprising, for example, that car ownership rates are greatest in outer London boroughs and active travel and sustainable mode-share rates highest in a cluster of inner London boroughs.

Using all the factors, Greenwich is languishing in ranking overall. However, looking at the detail the borough does not fare badly on 'outcome criteria' and on many measures has improved since 2019. People may well have views on the inclusion of the various measures but the ideas behind it and the detail may be of interest.

See www.healthystreetscorecard.london/results/results_indicator_charts/ for more detail

Helen Warner

Wildflowers and Biodiversity

A grass verge on Webb Road where wild flowers are being encouraged as part of a plan to increase the number of sites in Westcombe Park where wild flowers and insects, such as bees, can thrive.

Photos: Westcombe Society Environment Committee



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WHAT'S ON

Mycenae House

Fri 7th June 7pm - Fairytales & Fantasies. A journey into the mystical and magical realms through opera and song. £15/£12.

Fri 14th June 7.30pm - Caribbean Night. GFMA present a fantastic night of live music, food, dancing and DJ celebrating the Caribbean. Price tbc.

Fri 21st June 8pm - The SWOP Sessions. Foot tapping, finger snapping, jazz, soul and blues. £8.

For further information about all Mycenae House events visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

Woodlands Farm Trust

Sunday 9th June
Open Farm Sunday
11am-4pm

Come and join us to celebrate the annual Open Farm Sunday. Discover what happens behind the scenes at Woodlands Farm with guided tours and animal talks throughout the day. There will also be stalls and traditional children's games as well as Tractor and Trailer rides. Or why not have a go at our Scarecrow competition, bring along your scarecrow you have created at home to display and be in with a chance to win a prize. This event is free to enter, though as a charity we do appreciate any donations. There will be a charge for some of the activities through the day.

Friends of Greenwich Park

Their Midsummer Jazz concert takes place on Sunday 16 June in the Royal Observatory Garden from 12.30pm to 3pm. It again features the fantastic South London Jazz Orchestra, who return by popular demand. This is a family event, with a bar, refreshments and ice cream. Tickets purchased in advance are just £5 (children go free) and available from Friends of Greenwich Park, 52 Greenwich Park Street, London SE10 9LT, telephone 020 8853 2150, email: cnbevan@hotmail.com Cheques made out to 'Friends of Greenwich Park.' Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Tickets are also available online at www.friendsofgreenwichpark.org.uk. Last year's concert sold out well in advance, so early booking is advised.

Bandstand concerts 2024

Sunday 30 June The Jolly Good Timers
Sunday 7 July KiX Jazz Orchestra dada
Sunday 14 July Greenwich Youth Band
Sunday 21 July Andy Smythe Band
Sunday 28 July Belvedere Concert Band
Sunday 4 August Phoenix Swing Quartet
Sunday 11 August Graham Pike Big Band
Sunday 18 August Sessions Soul Band
Sunday 25 August G'wich Concert Band
Monday 26 August Great Cross Country Band
Concerts are free and start at 3 pm www.friendsofgreenwichpark.org

Greenwich Park

June 15th Tango Sessions
June 15th Tai Chi Sessions

Greenwich Winter Night Shelter

An evening of international cuisine cooked and served by volunteers and guests to raise funds for GWNS'.

Future dates are:-

June 22nd 7.30pm

July 13th 7.30pm

GWNS - 360, Middle Park Avenue, London SE9 5QH

To secure a place - book via the website gwns.org.uk

Blackheath Halls

Mon 10th June 1.10pm
Lunchtime Recital - Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra

Sat 15 June 6pm
Midsummer Music at St. John's Garrison Church

Mon 17 June 1.10pm
Lunchtime Recital - Yana Burova (violin) & Evgenia Startseva (piano)
Tue 18 - Sat 22 June (Various time)
High School Musical

The Arts Society Greenwich

www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk

Tuplipomania: A 17th Century Passion in Art, Gardens and Collecting

Monday 10 June 2024 at 7.30 pm

Lecturer: Anne Haworth

Venue: James Wolfe Primary School,

Royal Hill, Greenwich

Guests very welcome: £10

The lecture explores the passion for the exotic and beautiful tulip flower which reached its height in Amsterdam in the 1630's.

During the seventeenth century, this rare and precious flower, beloved in art and a feature of botanical gardens, inspired the production of Delftware flower pyramids for the English court of William and Mary and examples can still be seen in the collections at Hampton Court Palace and Dyrham Park near Bath.

RECOMMENDED READING

Anna Pavord, 'The Tulip', London 1999

Deborah Moggach, 'Tulip Fever'

Thomas Tallis Society

Lambert's Rio Grande and a celebration of Charles V Stanford
Thomas Tallis Society Choir presents Constant Lambert's Rio Grande and part songs and piano works of Charles V Stanford (1852-1924). Conducted by Eamonn Dougan, with pianists Tyler Hay and Jack Redman.

7.30pm, Saturday 15 June 2024

St Alfege Church, Greenwich

Tickets £18 & £12, available online or on the door: www.ticketsource.co.uk/tts

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Go to info@ORNC.org for further information.

Exhibition



'LOCAL' a Stunning New Exhibition at Blackheath Library, Old Dover Road
An exhibition of the work of David Bray an established artist with local connections is being held from Friday 7th June 6-8pm and runs until the 30th of June. All welcome.

Royal Museums Greenwich

For the first time, the Royal Observatory will be open until 19.45, allowing more time for tourists to visit at the end of a day of sightseeing, as well as London residents who can now visit the site after work. Cutty Sark will stay open until 18.00. The latest opening information can be found at:

www.rmg.co.uk/plan-your-visit/opening-times

Royal Observatory Greenwich (excluding Peter Harrison Planetarium)

01/05/24-31/05/24 10.00-18.00 (last entry 17.15)

01/06/24-31/08/24 10.00-19.45 (last entry 19.00)

01/09/24-30/09/24 10.00-18.00 (last entry 17.15)

Cutty Sark

29/06/24-30/08/24 10.00-18.00 (last entry 17.15)

The Cove Playground at the National Maritime Museum

03/06/24-01/09/24 10.00-17.45

(Parkside Café and Terrace open until 18.00)

Queen's House

Opening hours as normal, 10.00-17.00 (last entry 16.15)

Trinity Laban presents a series of wonderful Harp concerts

Queen's House

Date and Times Friday 7 June | 7.30pm-8.30pm

Prices Adult: £10, Members: £7, Concessions (Students, Under 25s, Children): £5

Cutty Sark

Date and Times Tuesday 18 June 2024 7.30-9.30pm

Prices General admission: £15 | Members and Under 25s: £10

World Ocean Day in Greenwich Park

Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG) is teaming up with Royal Parks for a

celebration of World Oceans Day taking place across Greenwich Park on 8 June 2024. Activities on the day will revolve

around UNESCO's seven principles of ocean literacy, including the notion that the ocean makes Earth habitable. Therefore, the partnership with Royal Parks will allow

RMG to explore how marine environmental issues are linked to the land, and the importance of green spaces in tackling the climate crisis.

Special Events at National Maritime Museum and Queen's House

Democratising Architecture

A panel discussion on ownership and architecture at the Queens House for

London Festival of Architecture. The Queen's House, designed in the 1630s as a

space for leisure and decadence, represents an architecture of privilege and frivolity created for an elite few. In this panel discussion, we explore a vision for a democratic architecture that combines frivolity and function.

Date: 11 June 2024

Time: 19.00 - 20.30

Age: Suitable for adults

Location: Queen's House

Refugee Week

To mark Refugee Week, Royal Museums Greenwich will be exploring the rich stories of migration within the collection, looking at the complex issues that migrants face today and celebrating the culture and heritage of communities that have migrated to London.

Date: 16 - 23 June 2024

Age: Suitable for all ages

Location: National Maritime Museum and Queen's House

Admission: Free

Windrush Day

Royal Museums Greenwich's annual day-long celebration of Windrush Day is back, this time the festival will take place across the National Maritime Museum, Queen's House and grounds. The day will include talks, performances, music, food and workshops for all ages.

Date: 22 June 2024

Time: 10.00 - 17.00

Age: Suitable for all ages

Location: National Maritime Museum, Queen's House and grounds

Admission: Free

FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Half-term

The National Maritime Museum will have daily make-and-do workshops for families during the school break.

Date: 26 May - 2 June 2024

Time: 11.00 - 13.00 | 14.00 - 16.00

Age: Suitable for all ages

Location: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Admission: Free

Saturday Art Club

These weekly classes aim to introduce young people to a range of different art forms and practices. Club members will gain an accredited Bronze Arts Award.

Date: Saturdays during term-time

Time: 10.00 - 13.00

Age: Suitable for ages 13 - 16

Location: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Admission: Free

Safe Harbour

Safe Harbour is a series of free workshops created to provide a safe space for foster and adoptive families.

Date: 29 June 2024

Time: 12.30 - 14.30

Age: Suitable for families with children aged 13 or under

Location: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Admission: Free

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT www.rmg.co.uk

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