

WestcombeNEWS



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September 2024 No 7

“September tries its best to have us forget summer.” – Bernard Williams

The Saga Continues

In 2020 the West Greenwich Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme was introduced in order to improve air quality and increase pedestrian and cyclist safety. Traffic was prohibited along certain roads and 'modal filters' (otherwise known as planters) appeared.

This roughly coincided with the permanent closure of Greenwich Park to through traffic. The combined impact of a number of measures was felt most severely in Westcombe Park when displaced traffic found its way from the A2 northwards to the lower road. During rush hour long queues developed, particularly down Maze Hill and Vanbrugh Hill. The West Greenwich scheme was withdrawn before the first consultation on both East and West Greenwich started.

In 2023 new proposals for the West and East Greenwich Neighbourhood Management Project were circulated for consultation with the intention of using the results to inform an Experimental Traffic Order. The proposals included restricted access to a number of roads enforced by CCTV cameras and the use of automatic number plate recognition.

scheme back to the Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Sustainability and Transport. She was asked to:

- ensure that she was satisfied with the adequacy of the consultation, including during any trial;
- consider the amendments proposed in the call-in report;
- reflect on the comments made about specific roads;
- ensure that, if the scheme went ahead, there were sufficient arrangements for monitoring the impact of implementation, particularly on boundary roads and neighbouring areas.

Unfortunately, the panel set no date for her response.

The Council must balance the desire for safer streets and better air quality with the need for equality. As one speaker put it, "I am really pro the net zero target, and I don't think anyone is against public health, but that applies to the public en masse rather than the selected few who will be impacted positively by what's being recommended. We don't feel the solution being proposed is inclusive or stands to benefit everyone in the community".



Traffic on Maze Hill

The consultation was used to amend the scheme and in March 2024 a revised scheme was brought forward. However, there were considerable concerns about the newest proposals. The Westcombe Society wrote to our councillors asking why, despite between 70% and 80% of respondents being against the original proposals, it was still decided to go ahead. We argued that there was no mandate for the revised scheme.

At the end of July the Overview and Scrutiny Call-In Sub-Committee considered the proposals. It was a lively meeting with members of the public speaking passionately both for (eight speakers with an additional five expressing some reservations) and against (13 speakers). After careful and lengthy deliberation, the panel of three councillors decided to refer the

Stop Press - update on the Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme

On the 20th August, Greenwich Wire reported: "A rush hour low-traffic neighbourhood in parts of Greenwich and Blackheath will go ahead after all, but with additional monitoring and consultation in neighbouring areas.

The decision means that north-south through traffic will be barred from streets east and west of Greenwich Park between 7-10am and 3-7pm on weekdays. Those streets include Point Hill, Crooms Hill, Maze Hill, Vanbrugh Hill and Westcombe Hill."

No start date for the scheme was mentioned in the decision which was published as the Westcombe News was going to press. We hope to include more on this in the next issue.

Blackwall and Silvertown Tunnels

TfL have now released the proposed scale of tolls which will apply both to the new Silvertown Tunnel and the existing Blackwall Tunnel. Consultation via the TfL website runs from July 10th to September 3rd. Have Your Say Transport for London (tfl.gov.uk) <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/>

opens in 2025, will be the bus shuttle service for cyclists. We are told that a vehicle fitted with bicycle storage will run at least every 12 minutes, seven days a week between the hours of 6.30am and 9.30pm. The exact route is still to be confirmed. This will be a free service, at least for the first year.



At peak times drivers will pay £4.00. They will need to register for TfL's Autopay system to get the off-peak rate. Peak rates will apply between 6.00 and 10.00am northbound and between 4.00 and 7.00pm southbound. Off-peak rates will be £1.50. Between 10pm and 6am no charges will apply. There are also some exemptions (see website). TfL hope that charging more during peak times will help to regulate the flow of traffic. Also operating when the tunnel

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Westcombe News

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2 x standard (horizontal or vertical)	£76	£350
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4 x standard	£138	£620

Local News

Lime Bikes

Residents have expressed concern about the number of Lime Bikes left on pavements and the inconvenience caused to pedestrians. The Westcombe Society has taken this up with Greenwich Council.

A Council spokesperson said: "We're in discussions to establish a partnership with dockless e-bike operators to encourage the use of sustainable modes of travel, while minimising the impact on other road users.

We are exploring the idea of designated parking bays, and other ways to prevent inconsiderate or obstructive parking of bikes. Illegally or inappropriately parked bikes should be reported to the operator in the first instance. For Lime this can be done here <https://help.lime/hc/en-gb/requests/new>."



2024 Music Festivals: the Kisstory and Uptown events were held on the Heath on the last weekend of July. The organisers are promising a public consultation - date to be announced but September a possibility - an opportunity for residents to comment. Meantime, you can also provide feedback via the Westcombe Society to take forward through the Blackheath Joint Working Party.

Email: info@westcombesociety.org

Tunnel Closure

The Silvertown Tunnel is moving closer to completion and requires a further weekend southbound closure to complete the final road layout for a Spring 2025 opening. A weekend closure of the southbound Blackwall Tunnel on 7-9 September is required to support the opening of the new Silvertown Tunnel, Transport for London (TfL) has confirmed.

This will allow for the final road configuration to be implemented, as well as road resurfacing and safety barrier works to be carried out. TfL will also take the

opportunity to carry out works within and around the Blackwall Tunnel to help deliver future maintenance work more efficiently and ensure the tunnel can continue to safely operate.

Shoplifting

Retail theft around the Standard is currently a concern. Marks & Spencer is a constant target but is currently closed for refurbishment. This has increased shop-lifting in the smaller shops in the Old Dover Road and surrounding area. This is being considered important by the police and is one of the priorities of the Blackheath /Westcombe Ward Panel for the next 3 months.

Blackheath High School celebrates A-level results

Blackheath High School celebrates its best-ever A-level results in 2024, with 53% of grades at A*-A and 83% at A*-B. Notably, 37% of students achieved straight A*/A grades, doubling last year's figure. Outstanding performances include 100% of Arts and Biology students earning A*-B, and all Drama, Music, and Computer Science students securing A* grades. Four students will pursue medical degrees, and many have secured spots at prestigious universities including the University of Oxford, University College London (UCL), London School of Economics (LSE), Imperial College London, Queen Mary University of London, University of Bristol, University of Exeter and Durham University. Head Natalie Argile praised the students' hard work and the school's commitment to fostering their passions and academic success.

Community Lecture - After the riots

Wednesday October 9th, 8pm at St George's, Glenluce Road SE3 7SD, free (with drinks and nibbles after).

A public lecture open to all on Wednesday on the theme of 'After the riots - community responses and how hardship harms us all'. The speaker is Laurence Smith of a local charity, the Lewisham Donation Hub. The event is in memory of the much-loved late vicar at St George's, Tim Yeager. Further details in our next issue.

Fundraisers for Macmillan Cancer Support 2024

Our annual fundraisers for Macmillan Cancer Support can't come around fast enough, so popular are they each year. The coffee morning, at Mycenae House from 10am till 2pm on Friday September 27th, will deliver delicious sandwiches and cakes and it's a delightful snatch of time out to catch up with friends. All money raised, of course, goes to Macmillan.

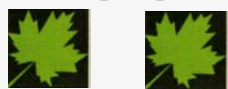


Westcombe society members Patricia (left) and Tessa enjoy coffee at the café by the Regents Canal which is part of the walk we'll be doing on Sept 29.

Then, on Sunday September 29th, there is the eagerly anticipated charity walk. This year's walk is a repeat of the hugely successful Cutty Sark to Victoria Park jaunt which is a visual and historic river/canal treat. We meet at 9.30am at Cutty Sark, walk through the foot tunnel and turn left for a 10 mile, on the flat, sensory delight. We walk by the Thames for a while, dip inland for a bit, then pick up the Regent's Canal at Limehouse, escaping into an oasis of swans, houseboats, lush greenery....and a terrific little café for coffee by the canal. Lunch at Victoria Park (great food at the café), a stroll around the park's lovely lake, then we head back. There are toilets at Victoria Park. If you'd rather not walk the full distance back to Greenwich you can catch the DLR at Limehouse. This brilliant day costs £10 per person. To book, call or text Diane on 07734 976243.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

Banners

It is difficult not to notice these beautiful ads, booklets and now colourful banners around the banners. This is as well as winning



Royal Standard. They are the brainchild of local shop owner, Nicola of the Voewood, who is always searching for ways to promote the independent local shops which she mentions on her poster; be this by

a national retail award and now being short-listed for 2 more prestigious awards. Her efforts are much appreciated and we hope they will bring new custom to the area. Well done and thank you.

Energy Efficiency and Your Home

In the UK, we have some of the oldest housing stock in Europe, which means homes that are colder, damper, and more expensive to heat. Locally, buildings account for 51-68% of Lewisham and Greenwich's carbon emissions respectively. The actions we take in our homes really do matter, for our own comfort as well as as for the planet. Insulation is the key, and there are small changes that can make a difference, as well as large ones.

"Living in a Victorian terrace house, the walls are solid brick, so there's no insulation there. We constantly struggle with damp in the outside walls and corners, anywhere there isn't a radiator," says Sarah Amandes, organiser of Greenwich Parents for Future. "We've draught-proofed our windows and doors, installed chimney balloons and made lots of small changes that have made our home more comfortable and cheaper to run."

Heat doesn't only escape through uninsulated walls: it also rises. Across England, 35% of homes have no or very little loft insulation resulting in energy bills that literally go through roof. "With 25% of a home's heat lost via the roof, loft insulation is one of the most cost- and time-effective ways of reducing your energy bills and your carbon footprint at the same time," says CEO of South East London Community Energy, Giovanna Speciale. It takes a day or two to insulate a loft and the investment can be very cost-effective. "We noticed huge difference with the loft insulation," says Tamasin Rhymes of Greener Greenwich Community Network. "Getting exterior wall and loft insulation felt

like something that would make a noticeable difference," says Rhymes. She and her partner benefited from access to a government grant while working full time and raising two small children. "Now it feels more like a comfortable home, because it's just a nicer place to be."

Other improvements, such as interior and exterior wall insulation and heating system upgrades, require a larger investment of time, energy and money. "Tasks like clearing out the loft, understanding different technologies, finding a grant or trusted contractor can be a real barrier to making impactful change in one's home" Speciale points out. Her organisation, a Greenwich and Lewisham-based co-op, has built an advice programme over the last decade, including free sessions for lower income families, with information on their website.

To find out more about Selce's Future Fit Homes and Love Lofts pilot programmes visit www.selce.org.uk/upgrade-your-home or call 020 4566 5764.

About Selce:
Founded in 2014, South East London Community Energy (Selce) – a co-operative working across South East London – is dedicated to ensuring that local residents are able to maximise their comfort at home, while minimising their energy bills and their carbon footprints. An award-winning organisation known locally for providing clean, affordable energy to community buildings and providing impartial energy advice to local residents, the organisation has recently extended its range of free and low-cost services to help homeowners who would like to make their home's structures more energy efficient.

PARKSFest 2024

As always, this year's PARKSFest Festival at Mycenae House and Gardens was everything it promised to be - a family fun day. In brilliant sunshine mums, dads and kids (of all ages) enjoyed dance

performances, wellbeing workouts, arts and crafts stalls and activities, live music, face painting and delicious food. The hard-working staff at Mycenae House ensured the day was very memorable indeed.



Dolphins spotted in the Thames near Greenwich in August - photos taken by Richard Lord

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FEATURES

Meet your neighbour - Ursula Bowyer

Ursula Bowyer (née Mayer), has lived in Greenwich for nearly seventy years, and was interviewed by Neville Grant. Ursula, a renowned architect, was founder of the Greenwich Society, is its life president and has campaigned for the preservation and improvement of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage site. Originally a German national, she came over to England with her family in 1937 at a time of increasing Nazi violence against Jews.



Dr Ursula Bowyer, awarded in 2010 by the University of Greenwich

NG: That must still be an ugly memory?

UB: It must not be forgotten, though I try to forget it, it was so terrible.

NG: But you survived.

UB: My father had been a banker in Berlin, and our family was very well-off. But he was concerned about our safety, and he packed off my mother and sisters to Switzerland, while he tried to find a country where he could work.

NG: And that meant England?

UB: It was a choice between Amsterdam and London, and he chose London – fortunately, my grandmother had insisted that I should learn English.

NG: You became a well-known architect. Where did you do your training?

UB: Although I was only sixteen, I was accepted by Regent Street Polytechnic. That was where I met my husband, Gordon.

NG: And your first job?

UB: Jane Drew took me on board – she was a leading exponent of The Modern Movement in London and was very keen to promote women in architecture.

NG: How did you come to live in Greenwich?

UB: Because our friend, Trevor Dannatt, lived here at the time. He did a lot of work on the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank. Still there, of course. It's a Grade 1 listed building.

NG: That was built as part of the 1951 Festival of Britain, which was put on to celebrate British achievements.

UB: That's right, and that was

Royal Festival Hall.

NG: Sadly no longer there.

UB: It was only meant to be a temporary structure. But my goodness, it was hard work – it was very last minute, and Gordon was working day and night

NG: That must have been disappointing if it was only temporary.

UB: Yes, well, the Festival only lasted about five months, from May to September, and then, along with all the other pavilions, the Dome of Discovery, and even the Skylon – they were all demolished.

NG: And you had other commissions?

UB: Yes, but by this time our two children had arrived, they still live quite near. This was a period when we did a lot of residential jobs which were interesting, but not



A view of Vanbrugh Castle from Greenwich Park

where I had my first big job, with Gordon. We were appointed, very late, to design the sports pavilion.

NG: I believe it won an award.

UB: Yes, it was very highly thought of at the time. Both Gordon and I worked on it.

NG: Where was it?

UB: It was right next to the river, between Waterloo Bridge and The

very profitable. 2 Langton Way, I remember, and the houses in Lyndale Close, and Montpelier Row.

NG: And then there was Sir John Vanbrugh's Castle on Maze Hill, a Grade 1 listed building?

UB: It was rescued by the

Blackheath Preservation Trust.

NG: Apparently he built it in 1718, and modelled it on the Bastille where he was imprisoned in 1690. I gather he spent two years in the prison, accused of being a spy.

UB: Yes, a fascinating building.

NG: Converting it into four flats must have been quite a challenge.

UB: And quite a change from modernism! But we then moved on to larger housing and commercial projects – IBM, Max Factor and so on, in Europe and the US.

NG: I see you even designed a modernist hair salon in New York for Vidal Sassoon, the famous hair stylist and philanthropist.

UB: Yes, he was a great fan of modern architecture, I think he saw himself as a sort of Mies van der Rohe of hairdressing!

NG: You mean simple, close-cut styling!

UB: You could say that.

NG: I believe you've donated a lot of your archives to the Prints and Drawings Gallery of the British Museum.

UB: They seemed to think they were worth preserving. It was at the BM, and also the RIBA, that we did some exhibition designs.

NG: You founded the Greenwich Society, and you are President for Life? Also, you have an honorary Doctorate at the University of Greenwich?

UB: Yes, well, I care a lot about preserving all that is best in the borough – I was very keen to save the beautiful Jacobean building, Charlton House, and, of course, the old Arches leisure centre; it's a shame that the building still stands, derelict. There was a piece in the Westcombe News about the building some years ago but nothing seems to have happened since.

NG: Maybe there's still hope!

UB: There's always hope.

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FEATURES

Navigating Uncertainty: Top Self-Care Tips on Managing Anxiety and Boosting Wellbeing

With levels of uncertainty rising in our current culture and across the world and living in an age when digitally everything has sped up, we caught up with a great Therapist and Coach, specialising in personal development and performance, on her top tips for self-care this year.

Nicola Vanlint, Therapist and Coach with nearly two decades of experience, specialising in personal development and performance, said:

“It’s human nature to fret in the face of uncertainty, but excessive worry can harm mental health and impair long-term decision-making. It’s important to acknowledge that worrying often revolves around future events rather than staying present in the moment.

“A helpful technique for managing worries is to designate specific ‘worry time’. Set aside a brief period each day, such as 15 minutes at 6pm, to allow yourself to worry. This focused approach

can help us from creating a ‘worry loop’ and catastrophising: to imagine the worst possible outcome of an action or event. Afterwards, treat yourself to a self-care activity, such as a soothing bubble bath and or watch an uplifting film.”

Regarding the news and media which is now all around us and so easily accessible, Nicola advised:

It is essential for us to stay informed, however, excessive exposure to negative news can impact mental wellbeing and can lead to heightened anxiety. The biggest emotional impact can be a sense of helplessness. Reducing our intake of news isn’t about disregarding facts; it’s about selecting what we expose ourselves to. It doesn’t absolve us of responsibility; rather, we can also gather information through discussions with others instead of solely relying on the media.

Recognise that news tends to highlight the negative rather than

the positive. While we can’t completely avoid it, we can actively seek out positive news. It’s about striking a balance to uplift our spirits.

And to remember, humans are wired to look for negativity in life to survive from a primeval point of view. But in modern day times, it can mean we can find ourselves ‘doom scrolling’.

If we recognise this, it is about having the awareness to try to take control of our media and social media consumption.

In 2024, when considering children’s mental health and wellbeing, much of it comes down to individual parenting choices regarding how much they expose their children to current events. It’s crucial to keep in mind that children’s prefrontal cortex is still developing, meaning they may not fully grasp complex concepts. Encourage open communication by inviting them to ask questions about topics they’re curious about,

saying, “Do you have any questions about this?”

In response, it’s best to give them practical answers as much as possible as children’s responses can come more from an emotional place and it’s vital we don’t project our emotions onto our children, such as fear.

And to conclude, Nicola says:

“The best way to look after our wellbeing is by prioritising and embracing self-care and engaging in activities that bring us happiness and joy in the present moment. Even simple actions like taking daily walks in nature or exercising can uplift our spirits. Cultivating connections with positive individuals is also essential, as feeling connected can help alleviate some of the stressors in daily life.” Nicola is a Therapist and coach specialising in personal development and performance.

More info:
www.nicolavanlint.co.uk

Polly Morgan

Letter to the Editor

The apparent reduction of Canada Geese on Blackheath

Is it just me or did there used to be whole flocks of Canada geese on Blackheath? Now I only ever see a handful down by the Princess of Wales pond alongside a few greylag geese. These birds are survivors, they’re not robins. Robins are altricial, meaning they



need looking after. Canada geese are precocial, standing on their own two feet more or less from the out.

Watching one relentlessly trying to drown the other down by the Thames I wondered where these great survivors might have gone. Since arriving here among the entourage of Charles II in 1665 they have grown in numbers, increasing by 106% between 1995 and 2020 alone (British Trust for Ornithology). They now number at around 150,000 across the UK. In their native land they’ll sojourn in North America during the winter but here in the UK they tend to be sedentary.

Until quite recently you could watch skeins in V formations flying north and south between somewhere close to the Thames and Blackheath but now nothing. The birds are monogamous, forging life-long bonds but will mate again if one of a pair dies. They may live for 20 years in built-up areas and a female will produce more than 50 young in her lifetime. Blackheath is for them a dream come true. With low grass, still waters and our generosity they have little reason to hope for more.

It may be that their habit of moulting during the Summer, leaving them flightless for six weeks, gives them cause to move on but they have a strong tendency to return to where they hatched, using the same nesting and feeding sites year after year. Who would want to go to all that effort to migrate if it wasn’t absolutely necessary?

One possibility is that London City Airport has taken measures to curtail the birds, legally responsible as it is for managing the risk of bird strikes within a 13km radius. Bird strikes are the greatest threat to aircraft with four flights having been affected arriving and departing from the UK in the past six months. One of these was BA8474 arriving at London City from Malaga which struck birds upon landing. While all wild birds are protected under the

Countryside and Wildlife Act of 1981, exemptions are made for specific reasons including public health and air safety. An airport, provided it adheres to the terms of a General Licence, can lawfully, if needs be, kill wildlife, including Canada geese.

Another possibility yet still connected is the growing population of peregrine falcons in London. Since pesticides were made illegal at the end of the sixties these birds have grown in number, with London now housing the second largest population second only to New York. A search on Google will show how the fastest member of

the animal kingdom has set up home both in Lewisham and Greenwich. Interestingly enough, one of the methods that Natural England allows for in guaranteeing air safety is targeted falconry. Believe it or not, and a search on YouTube will convince you, a peregrine falcon, weighing up to 1.5kg, is capable of bringing down a Canada goose, weighing between 2.5 and 5.5kg.

Either it’s me and my fading memory or there seems to be some mismatch here between nature and nature. Perhaps Boris Island wasn’t such a bad idea after all.

Jo Burnand

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ENVIRONMENT

Trees on the Heath

From time to time the Blackheath Joint Working Party receives questions or suggestions about the planting of trees on the heath. Societies and representatives of Lewisham and Greenwich councils. They advise and act in relation to the management and maintenance of the heath.



The ownership and management of Blackheath is divided. The part south of the A2 is owned by the Lord of the Manor of Lewisham. The part north of the A2 is owned by the Crown as part of the Royal Manor of East Greenwich. Since 1871 it has been held in trust for public benefit through the Blackheath Supplement to the Metropolitan Commons Act of 1866 which requires the local authority to make byelaws 'for the regulation and preservation on the common'. Blackheath Joint Working Party consists of the Blackheath, Greenwich and Westcombe

Decisions have to balance the needs of nature conservation, sports and recreation. It is argued, for example, trees would contribute to reducing pollution if they were planted along the A2. However, the heath is a priority habitat and needs to be protected from encroachment by shrubs and trees. Tree planting generally is deemed to be inappropriate on the heath and there are no plans to plant trees other than to replace those that are lost. Widespread planting of trees on the heath is specifically forbidden by an Act of Parliament.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

www.westcombesociety.org

FLAT 1, VANBRUGH HILL ref 24/2670/F
To construct single storey side extension.
61 MAZE HILL ref 24/2596/HD
To construct loft extension, Juliet balcony, and 3 roof lights.
17 STRATHEDEN ROAD ref 24/2143/F
Minor external and internal alterations to M&S front and rear entrances.

TREE WORKS
45D SHOOTERS HILL ROAD ref 24/2814/TC
To fell holly in rear garden and reduce 7 trees on rear side boundary and 2 trees at front boundary.
85-104 VANBRUGH PARK ref 24/2602/TC
To fell ash tree, reduce 2 limes and crown lift oak.

* 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>

Westcombe Woodlands and Plot 9 Maze Hill

A stone's throw apart, both opened our special sites for the Hospice Open Gardens fundraising event in June.

Westcombe Woodlands is a beautiful corner of our area with a 3.5 acre wood, preserved by the Trustees as a nature reserve to increase biodiversity whilst allowing limited visiting opportunities. We clear invasive species, giving more light and space, for existing and newly planted native trees and shrubs.

potential to create a beautiful wild gathering space that could greatly benefit the local community. The main parachute-covered structure has hosted over 500 people at a dozen events this year, including their monthly themed "Plot 9 Presents..." event (with speakers, music and poetry), a monthly acoustic music jam, men's and women's circles, birthdays, meditation and yoga events, to name a few.

The garden is open for events and



We have a pond (great for children's pond-dipping at our Open Days) and beehives in the fruit glade. Recent plantings include oak, beech, hornbeam and elm, with native hedgerows providing cover for lower-nesting birds.

We carry out regular surveys of birds, flowering plants, butterflies and other invertebrates and join the RSPB Great Garden Birdwatch and Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count. We invite disadvantaged groups to spend time beneath the trees.

Do join us in our work and enjoy the peace of this lovely wood. We open the first weekend of each month, alternating Saturdays and Sundays, 10am to 1pm for volunteering and hold Open Days in May and October and an annual Bat Walk.

Plot 9 Maze Hill, a formerly derelict, overgrown and badly polluted allotment plot at the eastern end of Maze Hill Allotments is now a vibrant community space after a complete transformation by Maze Hill local and artist, Andy Millns.

Andy took over the site in 2018 and, after initially using it as a typical allotment plot, saw the

when Andy is around (pop in if the gate is open) but hopes to establish regular opening times and volunteering days. Plot 9 was initially self-funded but this year donations, council ward funding and a crowd-funder paid for timber for their new (pyramidal!) compost-loo, tools and other improvements.



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Council Community Arts Funding has just been won to put on a site-specific (free) play at Plot 9 in October.

Further info:
www.westcombewoodlands.uk
& www.Plot9MazeHill.com

*Nigel Duncan,
with thanks to Andy Millns*

Westcombe News September 2024

WHAT'S ON

National Maritime Museum & Queen's House, Greenwich

A full programme of events for child and adult visitors to the historic Greenwich National Maritime Museum, Queen's House, and Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre. For Royal Observatory Greenwich, Peter Harrison Planetarium and Cutty Sark events, please contact the Royal Museums Greenwich Press Office at press@rmg.co.uk.

All visitors, including Members, are advised to pre-book their tickets at least 24 hours in advance. Please check rmg.co.uk for the latest information on what is open.

Highlights this month include: Visit the new Astronomy Photographer of the Year exhibition for free at the National Maritime Museum. Join a tour of the Museum's conservation centre to learn more about how RMG's vast collection is cared for. Discover different characters from history and hear their fascinating stories.

Woodlands Farm Trust

Hedgelaying Course

One day course, dates available third Saturday of each month from September to March. Take part in a full day of hands-on hedge-laying while learning all about the skill and why it is done here at Woodlands Farm. The day will cover topics such as preparing the ground, how to use hedge-laying tools, cutting of wooden stakes and the skilled art of 'pleaching'. The course runs from 8am until 4pm. Please wear suitable clothing and hard wearing work boots or wellies. Please also bring a packed lunch. The course is £80 per person, to book visit www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org



St Paul's Sinfonia

Local, professional orchestra performs Triumph Unleashed – Brahms, Barber and Tchaikovsky **Friday, 20th September, 7.30pm**, St Alfege Church, Greenwich www.stpaulssinfonia.com/2024-25/

Greenwich Open Studio weekends

Always a wonderful treat to see artists older and younger display their work, Greenwich Open Studios returns to the area.

They have two new members, **Edythe Peters** and **Amabel Barlow**, showing their paintings at 151A Humber Road, SE3 7EG on both weekends from 2 to 6pm and long-standing member **Felicity Boothman** showing at Mycenae House on the **Saturdays, 14 and 21, 1-5pm**.

For more information, visit: www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk/

Blackheath Halls Community Opera

Cavalleria Rusticana – 23rd Sept

The flagship South-East London community opera returns with a reimagining of Mascagni's classic tale of love, betrayal and revenge. A community chorus and orchestra of all ages, including teenagers with special needs, perform alongside a stellar cast of professional singers, giving Blackheath Halls Opera its distinctive and celebrated flavour.

Old Royal Naval College

Touring company brings a fresh spin on Shakespeare to the Old Royal Naval College. The Three Inch Fools are bringing their brand new show *The Secret Diary of Henry VIII*, and a fresh spin on *The Comedy of Errors*, to ORNC on **13th and 14th September!**

The Fools have been touring their two new shows, in the great British outdoors at over 80 different venues across the UK. The Fools will present a madcap musical take on a historical figure and a Shakespearean classic and perform these in the grounds of the Old Royal Naval College for audiences of all ages! <https://www.threeinchfools.com/upcomingperformances/2024-09-13/>

Cutty Sark



A full programme of events for child and adult visitors to Cutty Sark. For Royal Observatory Greenwich, National Maritime Museum, and Queen's House, please contact the Royal Museums Greenwich Press Office at press@rmg.co.uk.

We recommend that all visitors, including Members, pre-book their tickets. Please check rmg.co.uk for the latest information on what is open.

Highlights this month include:

- Seize the opportunity to scale the heights of Cutty Sark in the Rig Climb Experience.
- Explore the ship with a self-guided tour using only your mobile phone.
- Hear traditional sea shanties performed by Cutty Sark's resident sea shanty singers.

The Arts Society Greenwich

www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk



Turner and Constable - the Great British Paint-off

Monday 9 September 2024 at 7.30 pm

Lecturer: Nicola Moorby
Venue: James Wolfe Primary School, Royal Hill, Greenwich

Guests very welcome: £10

This is the story of the epic rivalry between the two giants of British art, J.M.W. Turner and John Constable. As unlike in background and temperament as their paintings were in style, these two creative geniuses transformed the art of landscape. This lecture/study day sets them head-to-head and examines their differences, their similarities, their battles and their shared triumphs. But who will ultimately be crowned star painter?

Royal Observatory

A full programme of events for child and adult visitors to the Royal Observatory Greenwich.

For Cutty Sark, National Maritime Museum, and Queen's House, please contact the Royal Museums Greenwich Press Office at press@rmg.co.uk.

All visitors, including Members, are advised to pre-book their tickets at least 24 hours in advance. Please check rmg.co.uk for the latest information on what is open. Highlights this month include: Discover the Arabic stories behind popular constellations during a show on the connections between Islam and astronomy.

Visit the Observatory as a family on weekends to watch a variety of planetarium shows for all ages

Mycenae House

Reach out project at Mycenae House Announces new workshops for older people. We are announcing a wonderful opportunity for our community, as we proudly introduce three brand new sessions designed to uplift, engage, and inspire individuals.

Arts reminiscence sessions in collaboration with The European Reminiscence Network. These sessions offer a unique chance for participants to delve into the rich tapestry of memories through the medium of art, fostering connections and sparking meaningful conversations. They are also looking for volunteers to help on the Project. Please visit www.rememberingyesterdaycaringtoday.com. **From 15th October 2024.**

Eleanor Meynell, will lead Saturday interactive singing sessions that promise to be both joyous and invigorating. These singing sessions are funded in memory of Doris "Dot" May Neil 27/6/1924 - 29/2/2024 who discovered the joy of singing with Eleanor. **Starts 7th September 2024.**

And, seated boccia and seated sosa dance sessions with Paul Fosu. These activities promote physical well-being making them accessible for individuals of all mobility levels. **12th September, 10th October, 14th November, 19th December**

These sessions are all free. Email: mycenaehouseoutreach@gmail.com

tel: 0208 305 0922/0208 858 1749

Two Left Feet Ceilidh - with live music and International Folk Dance workshop at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE, Tuesday 15th October at 7.30pm. Come along and dance your feet off! Info and tickets joclare@hotmail.it tel 07709952215

Blackheath Conservatoire

Autumn Term 2024 children's courses and workshops for adults, are now on sale at the Conservatoire in Blackheath and they're starting from 9 September. They offer your children fun and educational workshops in art, music, drama and dance as well as a variety of great art, drama and music courses for adults. The PDF brochure and/or a link to the courses is available on our website.

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