

WestcombeNEWS

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March 2025 No 2

March: summer in the light, winter in the shade. - Charles Dickens

7,000 LTN Fines in First Month Though Signage not Complete

Residents will be aware of the West and East Greenwich Neighbourhood Management Project better known as the Low Traffic Neighbourhood, or LTN scheme which came into operation in November 2024. Most households were leafleted in advance of the implementation, but a substantial proportion had no knowledge of the changes and claimed that the first they knew of it was through the Westcombe News.



Some of the warning signs are badly placed so that motorists have to turn round in order to avoid the cameras and cause traffic jams

The Council claim to have three main aims which the scheme is designed to address:

- Making it easier and safer to walk and cycle
- Cleaning up the air we breathe
- Reducing road danger

From the start it was beset with difficulties. In some cases warning

signs were not yet installed leading to drivers being confronted with ANPR cameras immediately before the restriction and then attempting turns in very restricted roads. Some of the information was unclear and even misleading and with cumbersome methods of obtaining exemptions, for example for blue badge holders.



Still long queues in Maze Hill (Photo Greenwich Wire)

In recognition of these problems a three-week grace period was in place since information about restrictions and fines was not complete. Greenwich Council has admitted that 7,000 drivers have been fined since 2nd January when the grace period ended, even though complete ANPR warning signage is not in place. The Council, they tell us, was 'still awaiting compliant signage from the manufacturers.'

The Westcombe Society recognise that it is still early days in the

18-month life of the scheme and that road users need time to become accustomed to the changes. Opinions have been varied.

"My road is quieter in the mornings providing safer journeys to school" local resident

"A journey from home to the doctor which used to take 10 minutes now takes up to an hour."

From a local tradesman, " My supplier will no longer deliver daily fresh food since the journey takes too long."

"I am dismayed and disappointed that a Labour administration should consider introducing such an inequitable scheme"

"Charlton is bearing the brunt of traffic outflow from the new LTN."

We have a number of questions that we hope our local Councillors will be able to address.

In particular:

We want to know how each of the three criteria are going to be monitored and any changes assessed. We would expect, at the least, to have some measures of traffic flows, pollution levels, critical incidents, bus journey times.

How wide is the area being covered by the monitoring? We are concerned that pollution and

congestion will be displaced to immediate boundary roads and beyond.

What weight are they going to give to each of the impacts?

What weight will public responses have, particularly if, as was the case with the West Greenwich LTN, there is rejection of the scheme?

Feedback on the impact of the scheme would be welcomed.

Comments can be made on:

<https://greenersafergreenwich.commonplace.is/>

Or sent to:

transport-strategy@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

We would also like to have your

feedback and comments on this important issue. Please email:

environment@westcombesociety.org

Maggie Gravelle

Clarification: Silvertown Tunnel

Please also note that the off-peak charges only apply to vehicles registered for autopay. It appears that peak charges will apply if payment is made on a one-off basis by phone or online. The Westcombe Society apologises if this was not made clear in the recently published February issue of Westcombe News and for the incorrect link printed.

Newsbriefs

Escalator replacement means six-month closure

As reported in the last issue of the Westcombe News, the escalators at the Cutty Sark DLR station, which are currently out of action are to be replaced.

TfL have secured funding of £4m to carry out the work which has been estimated to take six months. During this time, this busy station used by commuters and visitors, will be closed and passengers will need to use the Greenwich DLR station 10 minutes away.

Planning for the work is under way and the closure date will be communicated as soon as it is known.

Siebert Road Underpass

At a recent council meeting Officers confirmed that they are working with the local ward councillors on proposed improvements to the subway.

The improvements include:

- Lighting Enhancements: Upgrades to the lighting at the entrances and within the underpass to improve safety and visibility.

• Planting Improvements: Landscaping on the ramp approaches to enhance the public realm and encourage a safer cycling speed.

• Environmental Enhancements: Additional planting and environmental improvements on the Siebert Road side to make the link more attractive and user-friendly.

The Council is currently working with consultants on finalising feasibility designs for these improvements. Public consultation on the proposed designs was programmed for February 2025.

Greenwich Foot Tunnel Lift Issues Persist, Causing Access Problems

The Greenwich Foot Tunnel's lift reliability remains a major concern, with the north-side lift failing 27% of the time in the past year, while the south-side lift was out of order for 20%. This has caused significant difficulties, particularly for those with mobility issues. Greenwich Council has introduced Automatic Fault Monitoring to detect issues faster

and provide status updates online. Meanwhile, Cutty Sark DLR station has also faced escalator breakdowns, limiting access. On a positive note, plans are underway for improved lighting at the

Greenwich southern entrance near Cutty Sark Gardens, aiming to improve safety and aesthetics for users. Residents are encouraged to check the operational status of the lifts before travelling.



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Caroline Owens 1948-2025

Caroline was born on 16th September 1948 in Croydon, but lived all her life in Blackheath, as had her mother's family for several generations. Her father came from Wales and was an officer in the Royal Artillery in Woolwich. Though not a Catholic, she went to a local Catholic primary school in Blackheath followed by a scholarship to Blackheath High School. She had a very happy childhood and had many friends in Blackheath.



Caroline then pursued her professional career until, following her marriage to Robert in 1972, her son Jonathan arrived in 1980, followed by Henrietta in 1985. Caroline always believed in supporting the community and doing voluntary work. As a teenager she helped out in the first Oxfam shop in Blackheath at the Standard. She was on the committee of Blackheath High School Old Girls association for over 30 years and was chairman for many of those. When she and Robert moved to

Westcombe Park in 1978 she very soon became involved in the Westcombe Society, first on the Environment Committee and then the Main Committee and the Events Sub Committee.

Caroline was a brilliant organiser and took on the organisation of the annual Christmas fair which she rebranded as the Dickensian Christmas Bazaar, which was very successful for many years. Around this time, she developed osteoarthritis in her hips and was in a wheelchair for a few years before having hip replacements - but this did not stop her activities. In addition to the bazaar, she also persuaded Eric Knowles to do an Antique Valuation Day with Bonhams in 1997 as another fund-raising venture which was also a great success. Her other main activity has been to organise the Macmillan Coffee morning each year, and she raised over £20,000 for MacMillan over the last twenty years.

Caroline was delighted to become a grandmother in 2018, to Sophia and later in 2021 to Louise- both of whom she doted on.

In May 2021 Caroline suffered further health issues which eventually led to permanent damage, but this did not stop her getting back to her committee work at the Westcombe Society and helping with events where she could.

Caroline will be remembered for being kind, generous and community hearted.

Letter

Dear Editor,

Like the unfortunate Malcolm Hardy (Feb letters), I did not notice the signage regarding new parking rules at Kidbrooke Aldi, and received a £70 fine in the post.

Presumably, the reason for the new system is to discourage long-stay or commuter parking. However, the duration of my stay (15 mins) was confirmed by timed photos of my car entering and leaving the car park. The requirement to register car details at an instore terminal (my crime) provides information of dubious value to site managers. Cynics might conclude the new system has been designed to entrap unwary shoppers and make easy money for Parkingeye Ltd.

My advice is to beware the new rules, or simply shop elsewhere.

Simon Black, Blackheath Standard

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Grateful Thanks

Outside it was pouring down but inside Mycenae House it was party time, as The Westcombe Society thanked its dedicated members and volunteers for their tireless efforts over the past year.



The room rang with the laughter and chat of 50 plus guests as a really delicious light supper was enjoyed and the bubbly flowed. Geoff Brighty, Chair of the Westcombe Society, welcomed and thanked everyone for the hours and efforts they contribute gladly all year round, raising money for charity and helping our locals where they can.



A special thank you as always to Mycenae House staff for helping make the evening so delightful. If you'd like to get involved as a member or volunteer we'd love to hear from you at info@westcombesociety.org.

Diane Blackwell

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

Her Future Starts Now at Blackheath High School

There is much expert evidence to demonstrate how crucial the first few years of a child's education are – OFSTED says “a high-quality early years education... affects not only future educational attainment but also future health and happiness”, while the Centre for Early Childhood explains that “Our relationships, surroundings and experiences during our first five years shape the adults we become”.

At Blackheath High Junior School, an independent school for girls aged 3-18, rated ‘excellent in all areas’ by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, we are passionate about delivering an outstanding early years education and creating a joyful, enriching foundation for your daughter's future. Our welcoming environment includes specially designed indoor and outdoor learning spaces and a dedicated Forest School. Our rich curriculum and engaging co-curricular program offers endless opportunities for children to explore the world around them, nurturing independence, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning. And as every Early Years class is guided by both a highly-qualified, experienced teacher and a teaching assistant, each girl will receive the attention, care and encouragement they need to flourish.

As an all-through school, your daughter will also enjoy the continuity and support of the Blackheath High community from age 3 all the way to 18.

We welcome you to come and meet our passionate teachers, explore our facilities, and experience the magic and warmth of our community in action. To book a Nursery, Reception and Forest School tour, email us at admissions@bla.gdst.net or visit www.blackheathhighschool.gdst.net

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Everything you and your home need to get into Springtime shape is at the Westcombe Hill shops

First stop, Burn It Fitness, which offers workout classes by appointment where co-directors Gareth, Louise and Andy are committed seven days a week to “helping locals lose weight, get stronger and boost body confidence”. There are small classes in the studio and larger ones on the heath. They stress the importance of mobility and flexibility with stretch classes. Strength training is also big news at Burn It amongst clients who



range in age from early 20s through to 80. “We’re a very inclusive community,” says Gareth, “with a membership of about 200 training with us, 70 percent of whom are women, many with careers and kids.” See burnitfitness.co.uk for details.

If cycling is your favourite way to get and keep fit then count yourself lucky to have OneSixSix Velo (French for bicycle) bike shop on your doorstep. Owner Richard Kerr and his “right hand” Wesley are self-confessed bicycle fanatics who sell high-quality cutting-edge bikes to thrill all ages.

From kids’ bikes to commuter bikes to E bikes and racing bikes, Richard has bikes ranging in price from £600 to electric bikes at £5000. OneSixSix Velo which is affiliated with British Cycling has an official cycling club. Sunday mornings see about 20 lycra clad bodies peddling off for a ride. They offer a range of services, from your basic ‘check and tune-up’, regular ‘general service’, through to the ‘full strip-down service’. At 166 Velo you’ll get personalised recommendations from top brands and be equipped with all the essential accessories for a wonderful experience on two wheels. For more details go to www.onesixsixvelo.com Winter may have left you feeling under the weather, with aches and pains requiring attention. Step forward Blackheath Complementary Health Centre, which has cared for locals and the wider community since May 2000. It is an almost hidden treasure in Westcombe Hill with just one door leading upstairs to complementary and alternative approaches to health care that have earned this centre a solid reputation. A team of experienced professional practitioners and therapists are on hand to help in areas like muscular skeletal pain and injuries, digestive troubles, nutrition, stress and podiatry.

Andrew and Marija have, over the course of 14 years with Mara Interiors & Coffee, created a ver-

itable haven which embraces you the minute you step inside, the stylish surroundings which are an



antidote to a challenging workout and ideal for a cosy catchup with friends over coffee and cake. Once you’ve sunk into Mara’s comfy chairs you’re faced with the “hard task” of enjoying delicious coffee (from The Drury Tea and Coffee Co. Ltd in Woolwich) and yummy cakes and biscuits cooked by Marija right there in the shop.

And there’s another flourishing side to Andrew and Marija’s story. If you’re thinking of a Spring facelift then look no further than Mara. Working mostly with commissions, beautiful soft furnishings like curtains, blinds and cushions are made on the premises.

Spring heralds the need to get your warm weather wardrobe in order.



Ozzie, 79, has been working his magic on locals’ clothes since 1983 when Elegance Dry Cleaners came to Westcombe Hill. He is a familiar friendly sight in the shop window working at his sewing machine, the same machine he’s had from the start. Whether you need clothes repaired, drycleaned, or need refreshing for a special occasion or whether you need a garment taken

in after all that exercise, Ozzie’s your man.

Another Westcombe Hill treasure is Kam, the Standard DIY hardware genie for 48 years. If he hasn’t got it stocked on the packed-to-the-rafter’s shelves, he’ll do his utmost to get it for you. Spring may mean livening up the home with a new coat of paint, coaxing the new season garden to look its best, with a new fence perhaps, or stocking up on tools. Standard DIY is an example of the old-fashioned hardware store you just know will have everything you need.



So your hands and feet have been hidden away all winter and are now being called to go on show. New kids on the block, Blackheath Nails Spa, to the rescue with expert manicures and pedicures. Linh and Hannah, partners and other family members have done all the hard work to create what is a bright, sparkling addition to Westcombe Hill.

And then there’s the all-important springtime hair. A new style perhaps, or maybe highlights to lift a winter mop that’s been stuck under hats, caps and scarves. You’re spoilt for choice at Westcombe Hill with Go West and The Standard Studio. Need to upgrade your sunglasses? Check out Coton & Hamblin. And of course that all important sunscreen is waiting for you at the Blackheath Standard Pharmacy. *Diane Blackwell*



Her future starts now



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FEATURES

Bienvenue à tous en Guadeloupe

January and February are peak times when the Brits go sun-seeking and the Caribbean calls! Naturally, one's inclination is to go to an English-speaking island – Jamaica, Barbados among the favourites, but there are many other places in the region where you can have a great relaxed holiday – and those who watch *Death in Paradise* on TV need have no fear that there is a murder once a week!



It's been a tradition for my wife and I to go on holiday with two long-standing American friends, and this year it was their turn to choose a holiday destination. The Caribbean, they said! Why not French-speaking Caribbean?

Indeed, why not Guadeloupe, where *Death in Paradise* is filmed? Practise one's French, try out some French-Creole food ... yes, bound to be interesting. So we settled on Guadeloupe. We flew there with Air-France via Charles de Gaulle airport. Our friends from Philadelphia got there via Miami.

Guadeloupe (Pop. 2024: 395,762) is an overseas department and region of France in the Caribbean. It consists of six inhabited islands – Basse-Terre, Grande-Terre, Marie-Galante, La Désirade, and two Îles des Saintes – as well as many small uninhabited islands.

The capital city is Basse-Terre, on the southern west coast; the most populous city is Les Abymes and the commercial capital is

neighbouring Pointe-à-Pitre, both on Grande-Terre.

We stayed in a small villa in Saint Felix in Grande-Terre, off the beaten track, with a beautiful garden, a welcoming host, and – essential – a swimming pool in which to cool off; this was a time when temperatures during the day were in their eighties.

Saint Felix is about 20 km from Pointe-à-Pitre, the commercial centre of Guadeloupe, and where the international airport is situated. That's where we picked up our rental car. Saint Felix is a mixed area not overrun by tourists. Down the hill, one way, were small shops, with an infinite supply of wonderful fruit; also, a first-class boulangerie, with freshly baked bread, croissants and pastries.

Down the hill in the other direction, a fishing village, with a small harbour, a fish market, a very good fish restaurant run by locals, with a beach nearby, again frequented by locals – not overrun by tourists. We made a point of not going anywhere near big hotels though these, too, would be an option. There are a number in nearby Le Gosier.

We had two weeks in Guadeloupe, and when not relaxing in our villa, there was lots for us to do. A wide range of sea sports is available, but apart from swimming, these were not for us. A must-visit is the town where *Death in Paradise* is filmed – the Caribbean island of Sainte Marie n'existe pas. No, it is the very pretty town of Deshaies on the north-west coast of Basse-Terre.

We visited two wonderful botanical gardens – Valombreuse has the largest collection of tropical flowers in Guadeloupe. It also has a flamingo lake, and a little train that takes you round on a short tour. However, there are flowers everywhere in Guadeloupe, including, of course, the ever-present bougainvillea.

Much of Basse-Terre is forest, and the Guadeloupe National Park,

created in 1989, has been declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, and there are over 100 waterfalls and cascades. One can also cautiously view La Soufrière Volcano crater and its fumaroles.

On the east coast, just south of Goyave, in an area known as Sainte Marie, we happened on a pillar topped by Christopher Columbus – he landed here in 1593, but did not stay. He later named the island Guadeloupe in honour of the Santa Maria de Guadalupe monastery of Extremadura in western Spain.

We also took a boat trip to Les Saintes, one of a group of small islands off the south coast of Basse-Terre, to visit an impressive castle built by Louis Napoleon to keep out Les Anglais; the Brits occupied Guadeloupe for about four years in the early 1860s, when, curiously, trade boomed.



The Eastern tip of Grand Terre is marked by beautiful beaches – and some amazing rock formations called Les Chateaux, battered by incoming waves from the Atlantic.

Inland, there are beautiful tropical forests, with an extraordinary variety of birdlife; also fields of sugar-cane, feeding into rum distilleries that offer interesting tasting sessions. The popular drink through French-Caribbean is Ti-Punch, a rum-based drink made with lime and sugar cane. Bonne santé à tous!

We had great fun in Guadeloupe, and recommend it, but our next trip to the Caribbean will be to one of the Anglophone islands, where you don't have to look up the French for windscreen wiper!

Neville Grant

Swashbuckling Pirates

29 March 2025 – 04 January 2026

In March 2025 the major exhibition *Pirates* will open at the National Maritime Museum.

While sometimes portrayed as tricksters or scoundrels, pirates are primarily swashbuckling adventurers associated with lush islands, flamboyant dress, and buried treasure. Pirates will deconstruct these myths and illuminate the realities of pirate life, including those of the pirates Edward 'Blackbeard' Teach, William Kidd, Anne Bonny and Mary Read.

In Britain today, we think of pirates from the Caribbean seas, but historic piratical activity was far reaching, taking different forms throughout the world. The exhibition will cover piracy across the globe looking at the South China Sea, Indian Ocean and Barbary pirates who operated off the coast of North Africa.

Covering theatre, film, and fashion the exhibition brings together material from early literature on piracy in the eighteenth century to 1980s fashion. The exhibition will show nearly 200 objects including loans from the National Archives, V&A and BFI.

The first section of the exhibition 'The Pirate Image' will explore popular culture and why pirates generate such fascination. Whether as comical characters, like Captain Pugwash, villains like Captain Hook and Long John Silver or anti-heroes like Captain Jack Sparrow, pirates have captured the imagination for generations.

Textile loans include the costume worn by Orlando Bloom in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* and a Vivienne Westwood ensemble from the 1981 'Pirate' collection. Westwood's designs, created with Malcom McLaren, were immediately impactful coinciding with the New Romantic movement popular in the early 1980s.

Polly Morgan

Tickets: Adult (16+) £15; Child (4-15) £7.50; Student £11.25

www.rmg.co.uk/pirates

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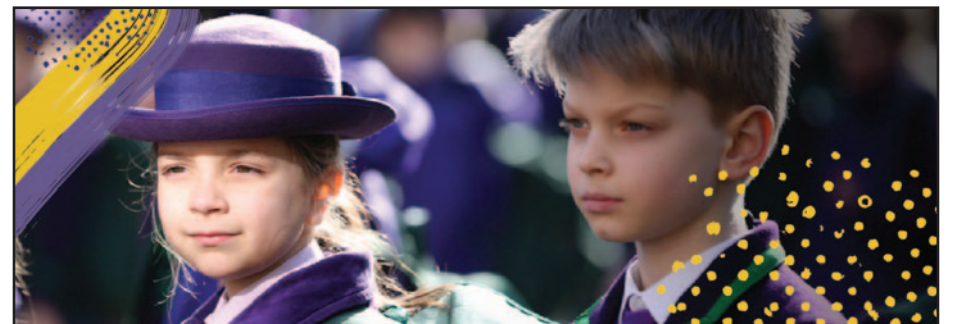
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FEATURES

Greenwich Millennium Embroideries



An early resident, fishing from the wooden walkway that once led through the marshes of Greenwich Peninsula.

Picture credit: Image taken from 'Stitches In Time: the making of the Greenwich Millennium Embroideries', edited by Mary-Jane Cattle and Audrey Ringros

In the last issue of Westcombe News, Mary Mills gave you an update on the Greenwich Archives. Now I would like to tell you what I know about one of the objects within the Greenwich Archives, the eight panels that are the Greenwich Millennium Embroideries.

This work was produced between 1998 and 2000, to celebrate 2000 years of Greenwich history. It was the brainchild of Beverley Burford, the Manager of the Borough Museum, which in those days was in Plumstead. Her idea was to bring together a team of volunteers who would make an embroidery showing Greenwich's history. After thought and discussion, that's pretty well what happened. Around a dozen volunteers, not necessarily highly trained, but interested, met on Fridays. Supported by a historian and an artist, they settled on dividing 2000 years of history into 8 scenes. The illustrations were based on little watercolour sketches by Sally Jenkinson of the people, buildings and objects selected to portray the story. The panels were an absolute delight.

Then came consideration of how best to display them. Special environmentally controlled display cases, one for each panel, was the best option. The first case was bought by public subscription – they were not cheap! The remain-

ing 7 cases were donated by Sir Anthony Jay, the co-writer of Yes Minister, in memory of Sally Jenkinson, his sister, who died just as the embroideries were completed. That was a most generous donation, and it allowed all 8 panels to be on display at the same time. It was Sir Anthony who told the News Shopper 'This is a stupendous achievement which gives Greenwich their very own Bayeux Tapestry'.

In the early 2000s that the Borough Museum and the Local History Museum that had been in Woodlands were merged into the Greenwich Heritage Centre, and moved to a building on the Arsenal. That merger allowed the permanent display of all 8 panels. A beautiful book was published telling the story of the project, plus a set of full colour postcards.

We no longer have the Heritage Centre, and responsibility for it has been transferred to the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust. To my horror I have heard that the embroideries were taken out of their special display cases, rolled up and taken to storage with other archives. We have no idea whether they are being kept with the care required. The display cases were initially 'lost', but we understand have finally been 'found'. I have recently asked the Trust more than once about the embroideries and whether I could still purchase the book and any of the postcards. I had suggested Charlton House was the perfect place to display the embroideries. The Trust never replied.

This sad tale is another reason to sign the petition Mary mentioned, available here:

<https://chnng.it/sWLvJmYPRs>

Judy Smith MBE

Outdoor Chess in Greenwich is the latest thing to do!

We caught up with Nick Templar who set up and runs the Greenwich Peninsula Chess Club with co-founder Andrew. They set up a chess club from a shared passion for the game in 2020-2021.

Nick and Andrew set up two chess boards on the riverside in Greenwich and invited people to play. More and more people came along, they got a few more boards and clocks and started a Facebook group which soon had around 150 members. Now they meet regularly in and around Greenwich and it has grown from small beginnings to big tournaments played with people from all walks of life and all ages. They have even been featured on a BBC News feature on successful outdoor chess playing.



Nick told us: "The chess club started with one board, a table and two stools being set up along the river walk in Greenwich and me taking on all passers-by in friendly banter-filled encounters. It soon grew into a recognisable conglomeration of like-minded individuals meeting weekly to play chess.

We then moved to the Spanish Galleon pub in Greenwich, the club was growing in popularity and the winter months dictated we find somewhere warm.

At this point we were finding we had a rich vein of talented kids attending.

In the summer of 2022, my chess partner Andrew secured us a spot

in the Old Brewery pub on the site of the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, on a Sunday. There, we further expanded our community engagement deeper into the Peninsula and evolved our mission of providing a free forum for people to meet and play chess, and for us to make friends.



We are about providing chess activities for free in Greenwich.

Now we organise and throw Fide-rated chess tournaments in venues such as Woolwich Works and we held a tournament in the GMV Community Centre.

We have today launched our next May 11th tournament and have been approaching schools in Greenwich, offering them a free spot for a girl or boy in their chess club to take part in a chess tournament and hopefully in some small way we plan to nurture and develop talent in the borough.

We have also agreed to take part in the Urban Village fete in the Peninsula later this year.

We also did a charity appeal as a club to encouraged girls to play chess in Africa. We ended up deciding on sending the money raised in dribs and drabs to a reputed school, Epitome Chess in Kenya."

Please support GP chess or come along to one of their chess club meet-ups or tournaments, visit: <https://gpchess.com/>

Polly Morgan

ENVIRONMENT

Even more Dangers from Flea Treatments of Dogs and Cats

Since last month's February issue we have learned from a reader that pet fur is often put out for birds to use for nesting material, and this can lead to high mortality of the baby chicks. Research just published from the University of Sussex (February



Photo credit: Andrew Howe

2025) found that nests lined with pet fur contained high levels of the harmful chemicals that are used in pet flea and tick treatments. The researchers collected 103 nests from blue and great tits that were lined with pet fur and found 100%

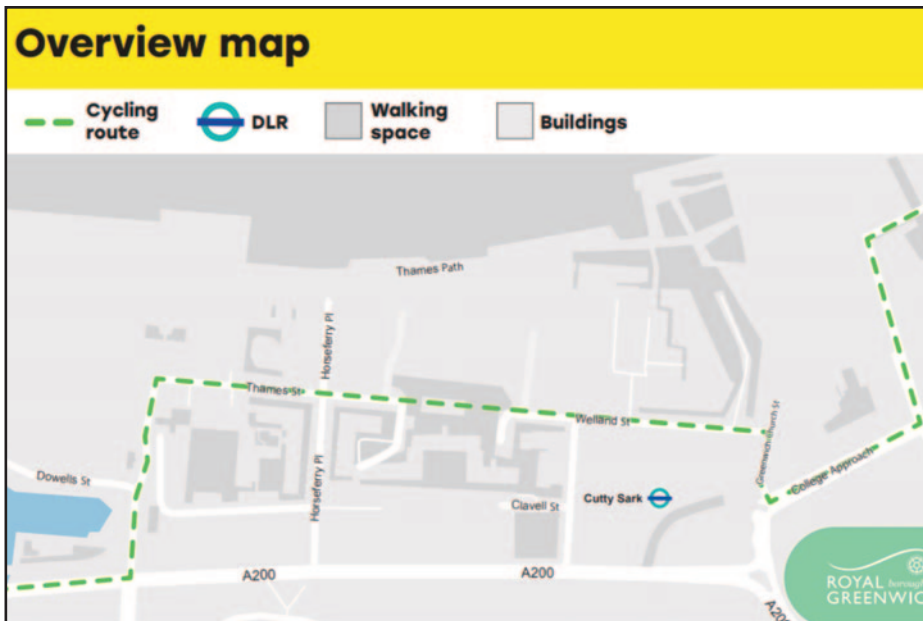
of nests contained fipronil and 89% also contained imidacloprid and permethrin. Higher levels were linked to higher numbers of dead newborn chicks or unhatched eggs. These neurotoxins are banned for agricultural use in the UK due to their harmful effects on wildlife. There is no ban in the UK on their use in veterinary products. Two take-home messages are therefore: a) avoid using flea treatments (shampoos, spot-on treatments, sprays, or impregnated collars) that contain any of these harmful chemicals, b) do not put out for birds pet fur from grooming if pets have been treated with these flea products.

Our UK songbirds are under threat: more than half are already in decline, which is why taking action is so important. Several species line their nests with animal fur. An estimated 80% of dogs and 82% of cats receive flea treatment using a harmful pesticide at least once per year. Safer alternatives were listed in last month's Westcombe News. *Ann Hill*

Cycleway 4 - Central Greenwich

A consultation document has been released by Royal Borough of Greenwich outlining the proposed improvements to Cycleway 4 route from Deptford Creek to the Old Royal Naval College. This would complete the cycleway between central London

and approached for their comments and welcomed the attempt to find safer routes through central Greenwich. They anticipate that it would attract more cycling by offering a safer route. They were also pleased with proposals to route the cycleway along Welland



and Anchor and Hope Lane. The changes involve re-routing cyclists to quiet streets to the north of Creek Road, using Thames Street and Welland Street rather than the main road. To improve cyclists' safety, College Approach would have a dedicated cycle lane. There would be a wider pavement on the southern side of College Approach with the possibility of including seats and planters. The play space on Welland Street would be redesigned to make it more attractive. All this to be funded by TfL. Greenwich Cyclists were

Street, arguing that greater use and upgrade of the street could help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Greenwich Cyclists commented on the importance of aligning the current project with the intentions for the future of central Greenwich through the Liveable Neighbourhood project. Unfortunately, the closing date for the consultation is 28th February, but plans can be seen at <https://gtcinterimconnection.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/overview/step1>

108 Bus will soon be free!

After April 7th when the Silvertown Tunnel opens, local residents will benefit from free 'pay as you go' fares on the 108 bus route for at least the first 12 months. This is a concession to support local residents take advantage of the new public transport connections. Customers will be able to start and end their journey at any point along the route and do not have to go through the tunnel; for example, travel from the Standard to Blackheath will be free on the 108 bus.

Customers must continue to touch in as they board the 108 bus and must use one of the following methods:

- Contactless card or device
- Valid concession photocard
- Pay as you go Oyster card

For both contactless and Oyster cards the fare will show as £0. Customers with Older Person's Freedom Passes or 60+ London Oyster Cards will need to touch in as usual; they cannot use these cards between 4.30-8.59am (but during these times travel will be free if they use contactless or Oyster cards).

Travel will also be free on the DLR between Cutty Sark and Island Gardens, and between Woolwich Arsenal and King George V stations.

Former NatWest

The former NatWest Bank on Old Dover Road may be in for a makeover. The bank closed more than 5 years ago and the external ATMs remained in use for a while but were later removed. In January this year, an application was made to the Council (ref 25/0044/F) to reinstate the ground floor as two separate Class E units with traditional-style shopfronts including large windows. A white pilaster would separate the two units.

The proposed development is described as one that will significantly improve the appearance of the site and will benefit the viability and vitality of the Parade as a whole.

Class E for planning purposes is a broad commercial class that includes shops, cafes, restaurants, offices, gyms, health/medical uses, and workshops.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS*

www.westcombesociety.org

42 DINSDALE ROAD

Ref 25/0136/HD

To convert loft and install 2 rear dormer windows and 2 roof lights to front slope and to install AC unit and replace window.

125 COLERAINE ROAD

Ref 25/0294/CP

To make changes to the southwest boundary wall of this locally listed house.

14-15 STRATHEDEN PARADE

* Please be advised that the planning applications noted here are based on information available at the time of print.

Ref 25/0044/F

To convert the former NatWest bank into two Class E units with new shopfronts.

5 COMBE AVENUE

Ref 24/4229/HD

To install front and rear windows, roof light and solar panels.

TREE WORKS

4 HIGHMORE ROAD

Ref 25/0318/TC

To fell Acacia in rear garden.

For the latest updates, please visit our website www.westcombesociety.org

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