

“May, Queen of Blossoms, and fulfilling life.”– William Morris

A102 Noise Barrier

To those of you living on the west side of Westcombe Park the barrier has been erected with no impact on your lives. In fact, you have probably not even known work has been carried out unless you have driven down the A102 towards the tunnels and noticed the new fence from the road, now covered in the inevitable ‘tagging’. On the east side of our community work has been very evident.



Barrier in Rear Garden

So how did all this come about? When the DCO (Development Consent Order) for the construction of the Silvertown Tunnel was being discussed in 2018 and the contents agreed a plea was made for a Noise Barrier to be installed for houses in Siebert Road and part of Westcombe Hill. Most of these homes have gardens which back onto or are very close

to the A102. In fact, a noise barrier was considered when the A102 was constructed. Since then, of course traffic volumes have increased substantially, and queues have been a regular occurrence.



Barrier and Invicta School

Paragraph 13 of the Development Consent Order stated: **“Siebert Road and Westcombe Hill area noise barriers.** Prior to the opening of the authorised development for public use, TfL must install noise barriers to protect properties in the Siebert Road, Invicta Road/ Westcombe Hill area from the effects of traffic noise from the A102. Details of these barriers must be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority after consultation with local residents before installation is commenced. The installation must

be undertaken in the form approved.” The Examining Authority advised, ‘We accept that the barriers are already needed to address the existing adverse noise climate experienced by residents and community facilities including

be addressed. In March 2024 plans for the construction of the barrier were approved by the Royal Borough of Greenwich. In October 2024 TfL advised that they were unable to build the barrier behind homes along Westcombe Hill due to a number of challenges around access and future maintenance. Construction started in November 2024.



Higher barrier and Wentworth House

the Invicta Road Primary school'. Various surveys and ground investigations then followed. In 2021 it was agreed that the barrier would extend to fully cover Invicta School, Wentworth House and the Invicta Road flats. The type of barrier which could be used was also agreed as being made of untreated timber. During 2022 residents were approached to confirm ownership of property and land and to seek their agreement to the access needed for the construction and future maintenance of the barrier. It was sometimes difficult to identify ownership, and some residents were not in favour of having the barrier erected in their gardens. In a small number of cases land ownership issues had to

A barrier of around two metres high for most of its length was felt to be most effective but was raised to three metres to give protection to the flats in Invicta Road and Westcombe House. The contractors had warned that some work would be noisy and that some nighttime work would be required. Heavy machinery was used and limited pile driving was necessary. Affected residents were warned by letter of these occurrences. The work was completed by the end of March 2025 before the planned opening of the Silvertown Tunnel on the 7th April.

Marilyn Little

Reminder: Westcombe Society AGM

Members are reminded that the Westcombe Society AGM is to be held in the Centenary room at Blackheath High School for Girls in Vanbrugh Park on 9th May at 7pm and a talk will be given by Sophie Wickham the Director of Action for Refugees in Lewisham (AFRIL), our charity of the year. She will outline the work of the charity to support refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable migrants to lift themselves out of poverty and rebuild their lives in our community. She will focus in particular on Rainbow Club, the very successful Saturday supplementary school for children of primary age.

Spring into a Quiz

Get your thinking caps on and head over to Mycenae House on 10th May at 7.00pm for a 7.30 start for a “mindful” evening of quizzing. The general knowledge questions promise to be as tricky as usual, but a lot of fun is guaranteed to ease the brain strain. An optional hearty fish ‘n’ chips supper is offered at half time, £12 per person. Westcombe Society members pay £7, non-members £8 and all proceeds go to the Society’s charity of the year. Tables of 6 will battle it out for a prize and, if this will be your first quiz, you’re sure to make new friends. There’s a raffle too so more chance to be a winner. BOOKING DETAILS: Tessa awaits your call or text. It’s mobile number 07757 105 808 during the day; landline 020 3759 5117 after 7.00pm.

Diane Blackwell

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Westcombe News

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Blackheath Open Space – 2025 events and how you can have your say

Event	Location	Set Up	Event Dates	Break Down
VE Day 80 th Beacon			8 May 8pm	
4 Corners Festival	Greenwich Circus Field	20-23 May	24-25 May	26-28 May
Race for Life	Lewisham		29 June	
Under 12 Funfair	Lewisham	17 July	18-20 July	21 July
Kisstory & Uptown Festival	Lewisham	21-25 July	26-27 July	28-31 July
Funfair	Greenwich Circus Field	10-13 August	14-31 August	1 September
Kite Day	Lewisham	10 October	11-12 October	
Circus	Greenwich Circus Field	19-22 October	23 October □ 2 November	3 November
Fair	Lewisham	22-24 October	25 October □ 2 November	3 November

The above is as known on 16 April 2025

Public meetings and non-ticketed events scheduled for May:

8 May - 6pm 4 Corners Festival online public meeting

8 May - 8pm A Beacon will be lit on the heath to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day

28 May - 5pm Kisstory and Uptown Festival public meeting – Clarendon Hotel

Date and venue to be confirmed - Blackheath Joint Working Party Open meeting

Please see www.westcombesociety.org for more information on all of the above.

Any residents who are interested/concerned/have questions are encouraged to attend these meetings. If you cannot make the meetings or have concerns at other times please contact the Westcombe Society Environment Committee on environment@westcombesociety.org

We have a representative on the Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) who will take your concerns forward.

Letter

Following Article - Is the Magna Carta out of Date?

I refer to Neville Grant’s piece on the Magna Carta in which he cautions against the threat posed by one Donald Trump to the basic rights and freedoms set out in that venerable document. Have we no self-awareness of what is going on in our own backyard? We are governed by elites – both elected and unelected - who, among other things, police what we say and write according to their own insular metropolitan values; cancel democratic elections in the event of an undesirable result; connive to disenfranchise those who voted for the ‘wrong’ party, weaponise the judiciary to hector and criminalise political leaders whose views they disagree with; and subvert the results of referenda. We have sleep-walked into a dictatorship of Orwellian proportions and the best answer we have is ‘blame Trump’.

Nick Sellens, 14 Glenluce Road

Egg-Cellent Fun



The Easter Bunny’s deputies had a busy Saturday afternoon hiding colourful eggs from youngsters who scampered around Mycenae House Gardens finding them as fast as they were hidden in bushes and behind trees. Pretty decorated bonnets and rabbit ear headbands bobbed in the shrubbery as the fun revved up and the chocolate reward eggs were eagerly consumed. The Westcombe Society’s ever popular Easter Egg Hunt proved once again to be lots of family fun as kids and parents got swept up in the joyful spirit of the day .The rain stayed away and

money was raised for the Society’s charity of the year. A delightful time was had by all. A special thank you to the Mycenae House staff for their help.



The Future of Royal Parks Police

Rumours have been circulating for some weeks about the future of the Parks Police given the extent of the cuts that the Met is going to have to make. On 4th April Inspector Nick McLaughline chaired a meeting which brought the Safer Parks Panel (SPP) up to date.

Cuts of £450 million have to be made to the Met's budget forcing the disbanding of the Royal Parks Police. Their functions will largely be fulfilled by local police Operational Command Units, some of whom may use the offices in the park, so providing some continuity and a police presence. These officers will respond to reports of crime, and particularly 999 calls, but will not be in a position to enforce park regulations.

Panel members were urged to continue to take an interest in the smooth running of the park and to offer to serve on the Safer Neighbourhood Panels that will replace the SPP.

The Royal Parks Keepers came into being in 1872, but they were not 'Constables' until 1974. They were responsible for enforcing the park regulations and for maintaining law and order in the 17 Royal Parks. The Royal Parks Police worked closely with the officers of the Met but had different contracts and terms and conditions. In 2004 they were merged into the Metropolitan Police.

Now change is certainly on the way. The only uncertainty is the exact timing and extent of that change.

Maggie Gravelle

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

The LTN: What Residents are Saying

The West and East Greenwich Neighbourhood management project, better known as the Low Traffic Neighbourhood, officially began on 27th November 2024. Its intention was to make 'the borough cleaner, greener, safer and healthier.' Initial problems with the signage led to an extension of the grace period until January 2nd 2025. During this phase the Council was 'reviewing, changing, removing certain signs which have caused some confusion'. The signs implied that Blue Badge holders, like cab drivers and buses,



were exempt from the charges. In fact, resident Blue Badge holders have to apply to the Council for exemption. The public were urged to comment on their experiences of the changes, although there were early problems with the website. Now, local amenity societies have written to Councillor Lekau suggesting that, 'Given the considerable length of time before the scheme concludes, we would like to propose that the Council should undertake to provide an interim public assessment after 9 months of the scheme'. At Westcombe News we also suggested that we would be interested in listening to people's views. We are aware that it is still relatively early in the trial and that people who feel strongly are more likely to comment than those who are broadly content. Nevertheless, we bring you a sample of some of the anonymised, responses that have come to the Westcombe News. Cllr Lekau quoted in Greenwich Wire stated that, 'Our babies are struggling to breathe. In all of London, Greenwich has the fourth-highest rate of newborns being admitted to hospitals for respiratory tract illnesses. The cause? Air pollution that soars well above what the World Health Organisation considers safe in many parts of our borough.' Some respondents pointed to studies that linked the incidence of respiratory diseases to social deprivation rather than pollution suggesting that

'deprivation significantly impacts lung disease outcomes, with individuals from poorer communities at higher risk of death and emergency admissions.' Another resident, while raising similar questions about the reasons for introducing the scheme, added, "It is, however, well worth keeping the reasons in mind because they provide a yardstick against which the council must expect the scheme's performance to be judged." Examples of the effects in Charlton indicate the fury of some of the residents, "380 buses are slower and more disrupted/over full in the morning rush hour coming from Woolwich towards Blackheath Standard, so my SEN daughter is struggling getting to school." and "Traffic was already queuing with long delays down Eastcombe Avenue, Wyndcliff Road (past Cllr Lakshan Saldin and MP Matthew Pennycook's houses) and Victoria Way at 4.30pm and queues continued till around 7.30pm." A few commentators mentioned the positive side of the scheme, "On the positive side, the scheme has reduced traffic in the area which is great. We walk our 6-year-old to school most mornings and we feel the traffic now is mostly made up of local cars and is a lot calmer." whilst also pointing out the drawbacks, "Our GP service is at the Greenwich Centre, which is on the other side of the camera filters. When we need to get our two children to the doctor, which happens often with two small children as you can imagine, we have to make a very long round trip which is unnecessary." Several comments concerned the additional length of necessary local journeys, resulting in delay and increased pollution. "My daughter has two afternoon sports clubs that have resulted in longer drives. Her swimming takes place at the Greenwich Centre at the end of Vanbrugh Hill. We used to drive there in 1-2 minutes. Now it's a nightmare to drive around. I have to go all the way into Charlton! And once again I am driving 10x as far and emitting that much more CO2 by doing so." Similarly, "A car run to Sainsburys now sends me way off track to bring me back past my place and adds 20 minutes to the usual journey. That simply adds to the problem the LTN is trying to be rid of." "My three small children have been unable to attend urgent doctor appointments because they too sick to walk/catch a bus and I've been forced to drive all around the A2/Trafalgar Road and be stuck in congestion which has resulted in not receiving the care/treatment they require. Why I am unable to use my local roads and then forced to make long commutes?" We are grateful to readers for sending these comments. Please keep them coming, both positive and negative.

Maggie Gravelle

The Arches

Many readers will be familiar with the former swimming baths and leisure centre, the Arches, on Trafalgar Road which has been left empty and neglected since its sale by Greenwich Council some years ago.



To save it from inappropriate development the late Ursula Bowyer made great efforts to get the building listed but without success. That battle may continue but, meantime, the building remains empty and risks further deterioration. It sits in a prime position close to the National Maritime Museum and the Old

Royal Naval College and its distinctive exterior surely merits preservation. So what is happening after all this time? As the building is marginally outside the area covered by the Westcombe Society we checked with our colleagues in the Greenwich Society. The Greenwich Society has been told that when sold, Greenwich Council stipulated that it should not be reopened as a leisure centre. There had also been a possibility that the University of Greenwich might have an interest in utilising the site but nothing seems to have come of that. The Greenwich Society's Tim Barnes has been in contact with the current owners Meritcape Limited who told him that they have had a continuing dialogue with Greenwich Council "with a view to a high-quality bespoke designed scheme that does justice to the site". When plans are ready the owners say they will consult the local community. We hope it will not be too long before that happens. Geoff Brighty

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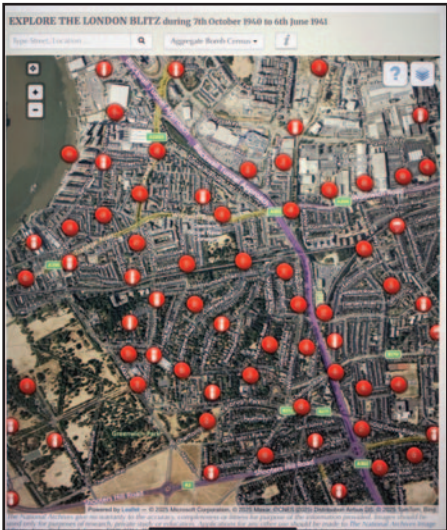
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FEATURES

Reflections on WW2 War Damage to our Neighbourhood

On May 8th, 80 years ago, Germany unconditionally surrendered marking the end of World War II in Europe (VE Day). Huge celebrations followed, and Churchill declared May 8th a public holiday to mark the occasion. Nearly six years of conflict had exacted huge tolls on every aspect of life, so it is not surprising that memories are still vivid today among the war generation, many of whom have described the reality of life during the war years to their children and grandchildren.



Location and number of high explosive bombs in Westcombe Park during seven months of the Blitz. Source: Bomb Sight-mapping of WW2 bomb census.

Greenwich and other neighbourhoods along the Thames were heavily bombed by the German Luftwaffe as the docks and industrial facilities were critical for shipping and trade and for supplying military hardware, all of which were of strategic importance to Britain's war effort. The heaviest bombing took place during the eight months of the Blitz, from September 1940 to May 1941. During this period 1,396 high explosive bombs and 25 parachute mines fell on Greenwich, around 70 of which fell on Westcombe Park. Bombs dropped across Greenwich caused widespread destruction, leaving many families homeless. The Government arranged for children, mothers with babies, and people



with disabilities to be evacuated to the countryside where it was considered to be safer. Being an evacuee child was exciting for some but distressing for others as they had to leave their families behind and try to fit in with host families they had never met. Invicta school suffered a direct hit from a parachute mine whilst children were evacuated, killing three civilians and 12 auxiliary firemen stationed there, including Arthur Grant who had been awarded the George Medal for, on a previous occasion, carrying a 50kg bomb from the school building into the playground and covering it with sandbags, which prevented major damage when it exploded. Many of Greenwich's historical landmarks suffered loss during the Blitz and the first raid set 10 miles of the riverside ablaze. The Royal Observatory domes were damaged in October 1940 and the south portico of the Altazimuth pavilion was partly destroyed. Fortunately, the observatory's operations and valuable equipment had been relocated for safety in the early days of the war. At St Alfege's, in March 1941, the church roof was hit by incendiary bombs and caught fire, destroying Hawksmoor's oval ceiling, the Grinling Gibbons carvings, and the Tudor organ console. The King Charles block at the Royal Naval College suffered direct hits in 1940 and 1943 and fire watchers were on constant patrol on rooftops to extinguish any fires from

incendiary bombs. Towards the end of the war, the elegant Georgian St German's Chapel facing the Heath was completely destroyed by a land mine in June 1944, and extensive damage was caused to the Chapel Wing of Charlton House by the blast of a nearby V2 rocket in January 1945. The Cutty Sark spent the war years at Greenhithe. The London County Council's bomb damage maps provide a detailed record of the devastation, showing the scale of destruction and the areas most affected. Post-war blocks of flats among Edwardian and Victorian houses, and post-war shops of Stratheden Parade opposite the Royal Standard pub, give clues

German's Place to provide emergency housing. The bombing campaigns left a trail of destruction across the area. The resilience of the community, however, shone through with neighbours supporting one another with a spirit of defiance. Many families in our community will have their own stories passed down from one generation to the next, as a local friend of mine recently recounted her mother telling how she saw a plane coming so low she could see the pilot's face as gunfire strafed the street, killing the lady she was speaking to, and going on to bomb the Sandhurst Road school, killing 38 children and six staff.



Damage to Stratheden Parade. Source: Steve Hunnisett in The Charlton Champion, May 2020.

as to the destination of some of the local bombings. Destruction in and around Westcombe Park Road led to the development of the Vanbrugh Park estate: temporary pre-fabs were built on what is now the John Roan lower school site. The Heath itself played a role in the war effort, hosting searchlights, anti-aircraft guns and barrage balloons, tethered with steel cables, designed to deter low-flying enemy aircraft. These balloons forced bombers to fly higher, reducing their accuracy and exposing them to anti-aircraft fire. Captured German prisoners-of-war were billeted in Nissan huts on the Heath. A row of pre-fabs was erected parallel to St

The free exhibition 'London in the Second World War' runs until October 30th at the London Archives. It tells the story of the people who lived and worked in the city at war, using bomb damage maps, personal diaries, rarely seen original artworks and atmospheric photos. <https://www.thelondonarchives.org/visit-us/exhibitions/london-in-the-second-world-war> To mark the 80th anniversary, a beacon will be lit on the heath at 8pm on Thursday 8 May. The outdoor ceremony will run from 7 to 9pm, beginning at All Saints' Church and proceeding directly to the Blackheath Gate of Greenwich Park. Ann Hill

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FEATURES

The Greenwich Wire

Darryl Chamberlain tells us about the much admired local news service.

London is in the midst of a local news crisis. Decisions are being made in town halls across the capital, yet most boroughs no longer have a news outlet that is based there and can keep an eye on them. Too many people have to resort to the rumour mills of Facebook and Nextdoor to get their news. And what remains of the old-fashioned local news industry would have you believe that our neighbourhoods are crime-ridden dumps - as if any of their editors have ever set foot in them.



But in Greenwich, thanks to about 180 people contributing a little bit of money each month, **The Greenwich Wire** is able to shed some light on the workings of the council. We also keep up with what developers want to do with our borough, and what other bodies, such as TfL and Lewisham Council, are up to. I'm proud to edit it and proud to put my name to it. I'm a journalist by trade who set the site up as a personal blog in 2008. After the rest of the local media fell away - the Mercury closed in 2019 and the News Shopper is now effectively a zombie title - it evolved into a local news site.

So now I keep an eye on council agendas, go to the meetings, and talk to people. I find out all kinds of interesting things. And I get tipped off about all kinds of things. There are only two publications in this borough doing this - **The Greenwich Wire** and the Eltham community magazine *SENine*, and I'm the only one covering the whole borough. I hope people read the stories and are better-informed about what's going on around them, which you won't get from what your embarrassing uncle Clive puts on Facebook or anonymously-written blogs.

Over the past few years we've revealed the council's hushed-up sale of the Borough Hall, examined the introduction of Greenwich's low-traffic neighbourhood and publicised the campaign to get new escalators at Cutty Sark station. We've been covering the Silvertown Tunnel - and its tolls - since they were a glint in Boris Johnson's eyes.

In Charlton, we revealed that the council spent a million pounds refurbishing changing rooms nobody used before trying to close the Maryon Wilson animal park to save £60,000, and in Woolwich we revealed the secret £300,000 sponsorship deal from a council-owned company to prop up Woolwich Works.

But all this happens thanks to readers - those who tip me off about stories, and the generous 180 who fund the site with a contribution each month, paying for a part-time wage for me, the tech that makes it work, and a space to work from.

Without them, none of this would happen, and I'm enormously grateful.

We'll be proudly taking part in Indie News Week from June 9-15, raising funds and awareness of how important independent news outlets like ours are to communities across the UK - and the uphill battle we face against legacy publishers who get hidden subsidies through the government forcing councils to advertise in print publications read by just a handful of people.

Please keep an eye on greenwichwire.co.uk for what we'll be doing - and to find out how to help or contribute to the site.

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Letter

CLEAR coalition set up to address concerns over Greenwich LTNs

Many of us have probably seen the eye-catching purple leaflet, produced by CLEAR, that was distributed door to door in the days just after Easter, headlining "Blocked roads. Unfair fines. Divided communities."

CLEAR stands for "Coalition for Liveable, Equitable and Accessible Roads".

CLEAR is an umbrella body covering the whole of the LTN area, from Greenwich South Street two miles across to the Blackwall Tunnel approach road, bringing together residents, businesses and local organisations concerned about Greenwich Council's West and East Greenwich "Neighbourhood Management Project" (also called Low Traffic Neighbourhood or LTN).

CLEAR's aim is to raise awareness of problems of access to work, schools, college and medical facilities, delays caused by traffic congestion on boundary roads and safety risks from excess traffic in border areas. Gathering data and stories about the daily impacts faced by people and businesses across the entire area, enables CLEAR to campaign against unfair or harmful traffic management schemes, to promote safer and accessible roads, and to champion changes which allow those who, for one reason or another, need to use their vehicles to reach their work, home and essential services without disproportionate inconvenience.

Membership of CLEAR is free and open to any resident, residents' association, community group or business - living, visiting or trading in the area who support the objectives of CLEAR.

CLEAR believes that its broad coalition, representing community interests across Greenwich, Charlton and Blackheath, can provide strong advocacy with which Greenwich Council will more likely engage. CLEAR is sharing resources and centralising efforts to raise funds, collect data and raise awareness

through media campaigns and door-to-door leaflet distribution.

CLEAR is engaging with local businesses such as those around Westcombe Park Station and Blackheath Standard, that are already feeling significant negative impact from the traffic restrictions. It has also compiled data on the bungled introduction of the scheme, including confusing signage and unjust fines, and the ensuing dangerous driving caused by drivers trying to manoeuvre out of unexpected camera traps or stalled traffic.

David Quarmby, CLEAR's Acting Chair has said our immediate priority is to build membership - of people, local organisations and local businesses affected by the LTN scheme. In this way we can not only build credibility and legitimacy as a representative body, but we can work with our members to identify the most important concerns and priorities for local people and businesses. This will focus our campaigning on the changes and remedies that people are looking for. We also want people to see the Statutory Objection to the LTN scheme we have prepared. This document sets out in detail a critique of the LTN scheme, both as to its design and its implementation, set against the wide range of legal obligations on the Council in implementing a scheme such as this. With all this evidence, the Statutory Objection document goes on to require that the Council takes various action necessary to remedy the defects and non-compliance in the scheme design and implementation.

Anyone may submit a Statutory Objection like this - or even this one again. It is available to download from the CLEAR website www.cleargreenwich.com. But to have legal force the Statutory Objection must be submitted to the Council before Monday 26 May 2025.

If you want to learn more about CLEAR, or join them, visit cleargreenwich.com

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ENVIRONMENT

Consultation on the future of the Thames Path in Greenwich

Greenwich Council is conducting a survey as part of a 'scrutiny review' to determine people's experiences of using the Thames Path. Unfortunately, the consultation period finished on

together with local campaign groups negotiating with landowners and local authorities, and lobbying politicians to restore the old towing path from the days of barges on the River Thames.



21st April but the results should help to suggest ways in which it could be improved.

Why does this matter?

The nearest section to us is one of the most well-used but neglected parts of the riverside and many sections here are narrow, poorly maintained and run down. Our friends in the East Greenwich Residents Association:

[<https://search.app/HjG76eJrndWAF5Zx6>] raise the issue of flood defences. The reed beds, planted to improve biodiversity, have failed (they lasted less than nine months as they were not installed well), and the Thames Path is being undercut and is in need of emergency repairs. Additionally, the planned high-rise developments at Enderby Place and Morden Wharf will add thousands of new residents but the current planning applications include very little genuine public realm apart from using the Thames Path, so it is important the path is not allowed to deteriorate further and is improved ahead, not after, those developments start.

The survey can be found here: <https://thames-path-greenwich.commonplace.is/>

The survey

The 182 mile-long Thames Path runs from the source near Kemble, Gloucestershire to the Barrier in Woolwich. It was named as one of the country's long-distance recreational routes in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. The River Thames Society, established in 1962, aimed to provide a continuous public walkway following the river. The Ramblers took a keen interest in the development of the path and in 1973 a meeting was held at which a possible route was discussed. From then the Ramblers and the River Thames Society worked

This gradually came to fruition until, in 1996, the final section was opened and the Thames Path National Trail inaugurated at the Thames Barrier. Today a Thames Path National Trail officer works with 34 organisations to manage the path.

Greenwich has the longest river frontage of all London boroughs but has suffered a chequered history. This is partly because, as local historian Mary Mills tells us, 'this section of the path is largely in private ownership and there are several organisations which have rights over it and which don't have to tell the Council what they do.



For example, a few years ago a Newcastle-based agency closed the path to install a drain.' In places it is very narrow, affecting the use by both walkers and cyclists. This narrowness is basically because this section originated as a walk along the sea wall.

Through considering the results of the survey the Council hope to regenerate the waterfront and promote public health as well as the local and tourist economy. In 1966 Ian Nairn described the walk along the path from east to west. He said, 'This unknown and unnamed riverside path is the best Thames-side walk in London'. What a pity it has deteriorated so much in places. Let's hope it will now be improved, not just at the superficial level such as just signage, as a result of this survey.

Newsbrief: Lime Bikes

We have regularly been reporting on the situation with Lime Bikes and urging the Council to work with the dockless cycle companies to limit the negative aspects of the scheme. A motion was passed by full Council on 26th March supporting the aims of the operation but urged it to improve its management.



In particular the motion called upon the companies to increase the levels of fines for anti-social use. It also regretted the apparent lack of company willingness to support mandatory parking bays and called upon the Council to consider banning dockless cycle hire companies which have not supported mandatory parking bays. The motion also called upon the operators to improve the ways in which residents can report issues which would then need to be rapidly resolved.

So, a motion full of good intentions but as yet, no direct action by the Council. Let us hope they are translated into effective action.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS*

www.westcombesociety.org

THE POINTER SCHOOL, 19 STRATHEDEN ROAD ref 25/1082/F
To replace safety rail on first floor roof terrace with glass balustrade.
62 FOYLE ROAD ref 25/0217/HD
To construct rear 'catslide' dormer.
104A WESTCOMBE HILL ref 25/0988/F
To replace bedroom and kitchen

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

Open Gardens Festival

Explore beautiful green spaces and support a great cause at the Open Gardens Festival, taking place across two weekends: 7–8 and 21–22 June. Organised by Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice, the festival invites you to discover a stunning variety of private gardens, lovingly opened by local residents.

This year, the Hospice Garden will be open to the public for the very first time, offering a special opportunity to see its tranquil setting.

Leaflets with full listings and a map will be available from the Hospice Shop on Stratheden Parade after Easter.

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One weekend £14 | Two weekends £20 | Single garden £5 | Under 16s £2
communityhospice.org.uk/opengardens
t: 020 8319 9230 | e: events@gbch.org.uk | Reg Charity No 1037406

All proceeds support the vital work of the hospice. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit communityhospice.org.uk/opengardens

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windows of ground floor with double glazed timber ones.
7 SHOOTERS HILL ROAD refs 25/1005/L and 25/1006/HD
To replace windows and part doors with double glazed timber ones.
PETROL FILLING STATION, 37A SHOOTERS HILL ROAD ref 25/0960/A
To install digital advertisement screen.

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

WHAT'S ON

Cutty Sark

Fabric of the Land: The Cutty Sark Wool Experience
This premiere of Paul Wyatt's short film Fabric of the Land coincides with London Craft Week. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session, a drinks reception, and live music.
Dates: 15 May 2025
Time: 18.30 – 21.30
Age: Suitable for an adult audience
Concert: Richard Thompson
Experience an unforgettable evening under the hull of Cutty Sark with Richard Thompson.
Dates: 1 May 2025
Time: 19.30 - 21.45
Age: Suitable for ages 16 and over
Admission: Adults £40 | Members £36
www.rmg.co.uk

Blackheath Music Appreciation Group

With Matthew Taylor Leading English Composer-Pianist-Conductor
MADE IN AMERICA SUMMER 2025 AT BLACKHEATH HALLS
Matthew's Summer Term will cover not just American born composers but also visiting Europeans.
BLACKHEATH HALLS 10 am 28 April, 12 19 May 2, 9, 16, 30 June 7,14 July
CHARLTON HOUSE 23 June 10.30
For further details contact:
Richard Perks 07957 749438
email: rfperks@gmail.com
www.blackheath-music.co.uk
Individual Lectures £15 Free Taster for Newcomers Full Course of 10 lectures £135 We are a non-profit body serving Blackheath Charlton and the local and wider community.
JOIN US

Mycenae House

Fri 2nd May 8pm - **Sonic Blue**. Funky, rocking blues and R&B, expect an evening of danceable grooves. £10.
Fri 9th May 7.30pm - **The SWOP Sessions**. Foot tapping, finger snapping, jazz, soul & blues with Open Mic. £8.
Thurs 15th May 4pm - **Bach to Baby concert**. Concert for families. £16.
Fri 16th May 8pm - **Icarus Club**. Featuring the very best in acoustic music. £15.
Fri 23rd May 7.30pm - **Chris Difford**. A musical Podcast of his South London upbringing. **SOLD OUT**.
Fri 30th May 8pm - **Mississippi MacDonald**. Award winning British Soul-Blues singer/songwriter/guitarist. £16. www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

Newbridge Social Club

Blackheath Creatives & Laurence O Music Festival
Newbridge Social Club,
Charlton Road SE3 7HG
12 noon-6pm Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th May 2025
Featuring Laurence O and the Blistered Mirrors, the Mooches and More!
Art, Stalls, Cakes Bar Vintage and more!
£5 entry
Follow on Facebook
[blackheathcreatives](https://www.facebook.com/blackheathcreatives)

Blackheath Halls

Trinity Laban Opera Scenes
Thu 1 May, 7pm, Fri 2 May, 6.30pm & 8pm
Join Trinity Laban Vocal studies students for a captivating evening of opera scenes showcasing the talent and artistry of these new, emerging vocalists. Free, booking required
Late Night Jazz in the Bar
Thu 1 May 9.30pm
Join us for some late-night jazz courtesy of Ethan Sweeting from the Trinity Laban Jazz department. Free for all and no booking required, just walk in and enjoy the jazz vibes and a drink in our bar.
Danny Baker: Aye Aye! Ahoy Hoy!
Fri 9 May & Sat 10 May, 7.30pm - Sold Out
Call the box office 020 8463 0100 to be put on the waiting list for returns
New Sussex Opera: The Silver Bell
Sun 11 May, 4.00pm
A poor, tormented artist, consumed with passion and ambition, is given a silver bell that will provide all his heart desires.
Tickets: £40/£35/£30/half price u16s
Anne Sebba: The Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz Wed 14 May, 7.30pm
The first book to tell the full, astonishing story of the women who played in the orchestra at Auschwitz, published to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps. Tickets: £10
Josh Widdicombe: Work in Progress
Thu 15 May, 7.30pm - Sold Out
Call the box office 020 8463 0100 to be put on the waiting list for returns
Lewisham Choral Society presents Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle
This performance will be given by a much larger choir than usual together with four excellent soloists. The unusual but highly effective accompaniment will be played by two outstanding musicians, Clodna Shanahan on piano and James Orford on harmonium, with singers and accompanists all performing under the dynamic baton of Dan Ludford-Thomas.
Sat 17 May, 7.30pm
Tickets: £18/£14 conc/£8 students/£3 (18 and under)
Puss in Boots
Sun 18 May, 3.00pm
Treat your children to the magic of live, professional dance and fire their imaginations with this lovely new show for the whole family!
Tickets: £17/£15 under 16s
Lunchtime Recital: Elgin String Quartet
Mon 19 May, 1.10pm
Beethoven String Quartet op 95 in f minor, 'serioso'
Schumann String Quartet op 41/1 in a minor.
Tickets: £10
Royal Greenwich Music Service: Singing Spectacular 2025
Mon 19 – Thu 22 May, 6.30pm
Tickets: £7/£5 conc
Young Songwriters Concert
Fri 23 May, 6.00pm
Tickets: £5
Midsummer Music at Garrison Church 2025
Sat 24 May, 6.00pm
Bring a picnic and make the most of what (we hope!) should be a glorious summer evening. There will be a licenced bar at the church.
Tickets: £12/£5 under 12s
www.blackheathhalls.com

National Maritime Museum and Queen's House

Pirates
A major exhibition tracing the changing depictions of pirates throughout the ages and revealing the brutal history often obscured by fiction.
Date: 29 March 2025 – 4 January
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: for ages 10 and above
Location: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
Admission: Adult £15 | Child £7.50 | Student £11.25
Astronomy Photographer of the Year 16
Date: Daily
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: National Maritime Museum, Photography Gallery
Admission: Free
The Keeper of All the Secrets
Jacqueline Bishop's The Keeper of All the Secrets is on display
Date: From 21 March 2025 onwards
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: Queen's House,
Admission: Free
Safe Harbour
Safe Harbour is a series of free workshops created to provide a safe space for foster and adoptive families.
Date: 31 May 2025
Time: 12.30 – 14.30
Age: Suitable for families with children aged 13 or under
Location: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
Admission: Free
SENSory Sailors
Families with children with special educational needs and disabilities are invited to a monthly session at the National Maritime Museum.
Date: 10 May 2025
Time: 11.00 - 12.30
Age: Suitable for ages 13 and under
Location: National Maritime Museum, Group Space
Admission: Free
Play Tuesdays
Bring your little ones along for song, stories, and sensory play as we explore the Museum together.
Date: Tuesdays during term-time
Time: 10.30 | 11.30 | 13.00 | 14.00
Age: Suitable for ages 5 and under
Location: National Maritime Museum, Learning space
Admission: £4 per child and accompanying adult | Under 6 months free
Discover Sundays
Each week a different artist will take visiting families on a journey into the Museum's collection.
Date: Sundays during term-time
Time: 11.00 – 13.00 | 14.00 – 16.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: National Maritime Museum, Learning space
Admission: Free
For updated information prior to visit please visit our web site:
<http://www.rmg.co.uk> or phone 020 8858 4422.

West Greenwich Library

Poetry Reading -Tuesday May 13 at West Greenwich Library.
Doors open at 7 for a 7.30 start

The Arts Society Greenwich



The Huguenot Silk Weavers of Spitalfields
Monday 12 May 2025 at 7.30 pm
Lecturer: Sue Jackson
Venue: James Wolfe Primary School, Royal Hill, Greenwich
Guests very welcome: £10
Sue Jackson talks about their early 18th-century houses that still stand, how they were decorated and lived in. And how, finally the trade died out, with some weavers literally dying in poverty at their looms. One of the weavers' houses can still be visited today. Originally in academic art and design publishing, Sue Jackson is also a Fellow of the Huguenot Society, a Freeman of the City of London, a tutor at the City Literary Institute and a Blue Badge guide, conducting a variety of walks and visits.

Woolwich Works

Baby Knees Up – VE Day 80 Special
9 May, an old-fashioned singalong led by Tom Carradine (of Carradine's Cockney Singalong). Marking 80 years since Victory in Europe, this fun-filled event brings together generations for an interactive celebration of resilience, hope, and camaraderie through the power of music. Expect wartime classics like We'll Meet Again, energetic singalongs including Knees Up Mother Brown, and plenty of flag-waving, bubbles, and dancing for all ages.
Breathe 27-28 May is an award-finalist immersive theatre experience that invites audiences to explore the hidden world of trees. Through breathtaking puppetry, stunning visuals, and a fusion of drum & bass with ethereal folk music, this show follows the journey of a tiny acorn as it discovers the mysteries of the forest. Young theatre lovers can also take part in a puppet-making workshop, where they'll craft their own woodland creatures using natural materials and learn puppetry techniques from the show's creators.
<https://www.woolwich.works/whats-on>

St Michael's, Blackheath Park

SMAG ART exhibition,
15th to 24th May, 2025.
As a not for profit company we have now given over £40,000 to local charities and this will be our 14th exhibition.
With around 300 works from 120 local artists.
Please come and enjoy the show with opening night, 15th May and both Fridays 16th and 23rd May having wine and music available to help appreciate the art.
For details www.smagart.com

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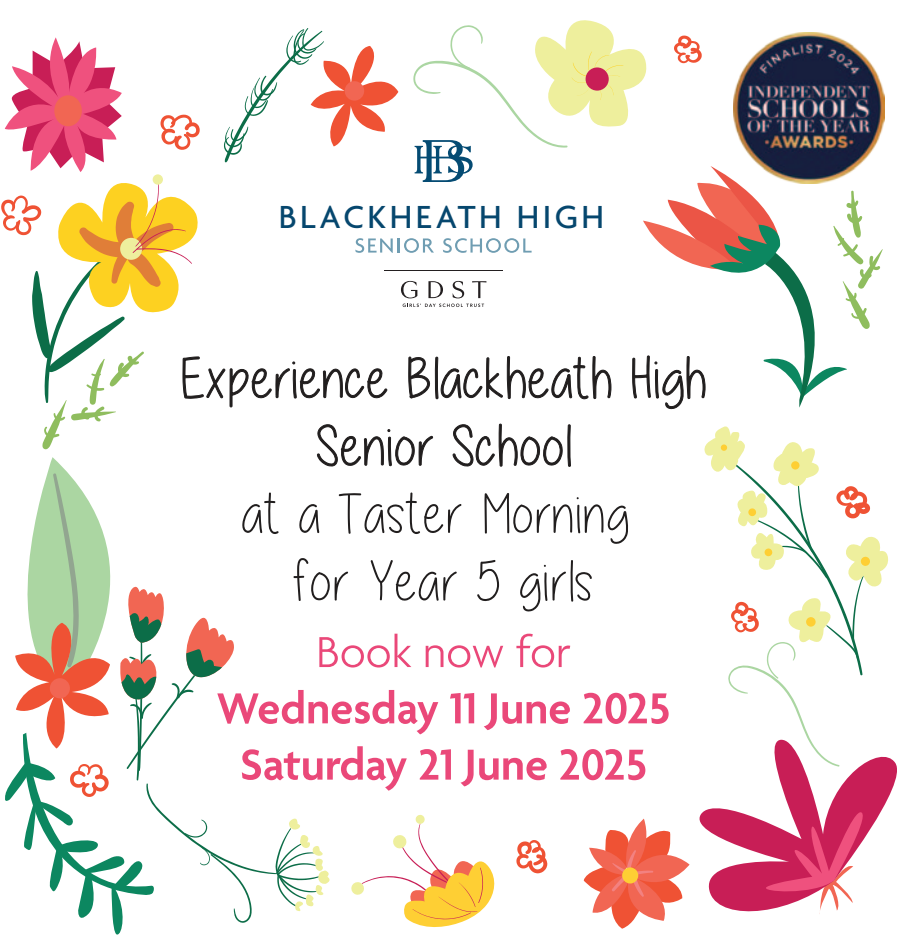
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