

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Westcombe News

PUBLISHER
The Westcombe Society
c/o 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP or
info@westcombesociety.org

CHAIR: Geoff Brighty

EDITOR: Christine Fells

EDITORIAL TEAM /
CONTRIBUTORS
Marilyn Little
Polly Morgan
Amanda Arthur
Helen Marley-Hutchinson
Anne Robbins
Ann Hill
Diane Blackwell

ALL EDITORIAL
CORRESPONDENCE/PRESS
MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:
wnews@westcombesociety.org
Deadline for October copy
12th September 2025

SUB EDITOR
Annie Grey

ENVIRONMENT
Editor: Maggie Gravelle
All comments and queries to
Emily Norton: 0208 853 2756
environment@westcombesociety.org

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Marilyn Little
advertising@westcombesociety.org
Deadline for October Advertising:
15th September 2025

DISTRIBUTION/DELIVERY
Emily Norton and volunteers
Tel: 0208 853 2756
info@westcombesociety.org

PRINTING
Trojan Press.
Email: info@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.com

The views expressed in the
Westcombe News are not necessarily
those of the Westcombe Society or
of the Editor. We take all reasonable
precautions to protect the interests of
our readers by ensuring as far as
possible the bona fides of our
advertisers but cannot accept any
responsibility for them. Any com-
plaints should be addressed to the
advertiser.
To access back numbers (in colour)
go to:
http://www.westcombesociety.org/
westcombenews

Westcombe Society
Membership

We would be delighted to receive
your support and annual
membership subscription.

Family membership £15

Individual membership £12

Senior Citizens and Unwaged £6

Please send payment to:
Christine Legg, 69 Mycenae
Road, London, SE3 7SE
or email:
membership@westcombesociety.org

Advertising Rates

SIZE	Per Issue Cost	5 Issue Discounted Cost
Standard 6cm x 6cm (one column wide)	£48	£220
2 x standard (horizontal or vertical)	£76	£350
3 x standard	£107	£485
4 x standard	£138	£620

PARKSfest means
Summer Fun

PARKSfest has always proved a fun way to welcome summer and this year was no exception.



Mycenae House manager, Mark Johnson-Brown, sure knows how to turn on a show! Singers and musicians had us all singing and clapping along. There were long queues of kids for the ever-popular face painting, craft stalls with lovely handmade items for everyone, and a stunning Iyengar yoga performance.



The Westcombe Society had a stall too and as well as signing up new members, the late Neil Rhind's last book, Walking Westcombe, was a hit.
A big thank you to the hardworking Mycenae House staff who made sure the afternoon ran without a hitch.

R.G. Austin

(Established 1963)

Heating Engineers,
Property Maintenance,
Electrics, Painting,
Decorating, Plumbing,
Central Heating,

GAS
SAFE

Shower and Bathroom Specialists

2A Hassendean Rd, Blackheath SE3 8TS
Telephone: 0208 858 7359
rgaustintltd@gmail.com

Emergencies: 07738124344
email: rgaustintltd@gmail.com

Advertising Manager

The Westcombe News seeks a
new advertising manager.
Many advertisers pre-pay for
future ads, so monthly invoicing is
minimal. Please contact Marilyn
on
Advertising@westcombesociety.org
or 07939386215

CARPENTER

Specialist in
refurbishment, repair and
replacement of
sash windows,
front doors overhauled.

Call
MALCOLM TIERNEY
07775 657371

Any Questions?

Westcombe Park was put on the map on 25 July when the BBC arrived in Mycenae House with its popular Any Questions? programme. In the chair was Alex Forsyth, a well-known broadcaster and the BBC's Political Correspondent. On the panel were: Sir Vince Cable, leader of the Lib Dems 2017-2019; previously he was the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills in the Coalition Government. In 2019 he left Parliament for academia and is currently visiting professor at the LSE.



Photo credit: Mary Bauckham

Sir Mark Lyall Grant, a former senior diplomat, was the UK's ambassador to the UN from 2009-2015. A qualified barrister, he is a visiting professor at King's College, London. His latest book came out in 2024 with the title Great British Commanders: Leadership, Strategy and Luck. Well, we all need all of those. . .
Baroness Hazarika is a Labour member of the House of Lords and a broadcaster. She was a special adviser for Gordon Brown, Harriet Harman and Ed Miliband. Among the books she has written or co-authored is Punch and Judy Politics. Yes, we need less of that.
David Simmonds is a Conservative MP for Ruislip Northwood & Pinner. Before entering politics, he worked in the financial sector. He is currently the Opposition Whip in the House of Commons and Shadow Minister for Housing, Community and Local Government. Yes, we need all three of those.

The questions were apt, and the answers were interesting, nothing bland about them.
Among the questions, which were: Should politicians be paid more than Resident Doctors?
Should the UK recognise a State of Palestine?
Is the two-party system broken?
How can we repair the social fabric and help local communities to thrive?
Many councils banned Donald Trump. Who would the panel ban?
Most of the panel were, on the whole, against banning people, though banning Elon Musk raised a cheer.
The answer to the above questions? On a postcard, please, dear readers. The answers of the panel? The answers, my friend, are blowing in the wind, the answers are blowing in the wind.

Neville Grant

TRAFALGAR
ROWING
CENTRE

A versatile venue offering a
captivating backdrop for
a wide range of events.

- Weddings
- Parties
- Conferences
- Filming
- Private Hire

Crane Street, Greenwich
trafalgarrowingcentre.co.uk

Bookings: [steven.deere](mailto:steven.deere@globerowingclub.co.uk)
[@globerowingclub.co.uk](mailto:steven.deere@globerowingclub.co.uk)

BLACKHEATH
PREP

Open Day

Discover our
outstanding
school

Saturday 20 September 2025

Closing soon - Applications for 2026 entry
Nursery (3+) & Prep (7+) places

Register online blackheathprep.co.uk/admissions

Follow us X @
@blackheathprep
#BeBlackheathPrep

Part of the Eltham College
Family of Schools

NEIGHBOURHOOD

A Romp in the Hidden Garden

What better way of spending a summer evening than a picnic in the park? Well, an even better way is a picnic in the park while watching a very funny play.

A highly entertaining production of Shakespeare's As You Like It was put on in Greenwich Park's 'Hidden Garden' around and below the Observatory. (Bear left at Wolfe's Statue, and go downhill all the way.)



Photo credit: Dr. R. Najmudin

The Hidden Garden is like a smaller version of the Forest of Arden, a very verdant glade, and is well known for hosting Shakespearian romps. And no doubt, too, for lovers' secret meetings.

The East London Shakespeare Company does a regular tour of London's Parks in the summer - and is famous for its delightful family-friendly productions of

Shakespeare's plays, all directed by the very dynamic Ursula Early. In her time she had produced several Shakespeare plays, including Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Twelfth Night. This time, it was As You Like It, otherwise known as the Rosalind/Orlando show.

The play didn't exactly have a cast of thousands - I made it eight (I may have got that wrong) - but in Shakespeare's time, traveling players always doubled up. So every actor in their time played many parts, from duke's daughters to shepherdesses; some also sportingly played the part of gormless sheep - very funny.

The play was very much a team effort; the characters included a wicked Duke, his exiled brother, their daughters, and sundry country folk borrowed perhaps from the Archers. But I have to say that I thought Rosalind - played by Emilia Harrild - was outstanding. A difficult part to play: in exile in the Forest of Arden, she hatched the cunning plan of disguising herself as a man, where she took on the task of trying to teach a clueless Orlando how to woo a woman - herself, in disguise. Yes, then as now, cross-dressing was all the rage.

If you missed the show, look out for another production next summer - and don't forget a well-stocked picnic basket.

Neville Grant

DEBUT at the Queen's House: An Evening of Classical Music

Westcombe News attended the stunning DEBUT Classical Music Concert held at the beautiful Queen's House on a baking summer's evening. It was a resounding success - a unique evening starting with a relaxed drinks reception on the terrace, soaking in the stunning views of the Thames, the London skyline and the iconic Old Royal Naval College. Then, as the sun began to set, ticketholders stepped inside the Queen's House for a beautifully intimate and velvety 60-minute hosted concert featuring a handpicked line-up of musicians in a specially curated programme with harpsichord, cello and voice. The concert was complete with a stunning rendition by the resident soprano of Somewhere Over the Rainbow. The music inside was equally brilliant and moving - from beautiful voices singing excerpts from Tosca and other operas, to harpsichord, and even a man playing a cello as a guitar!



Fabiana Pires Sciarotta, the Visitor and Sales Manager of the Queen's House, spoke about the reason behind the partnership with DEBUT and the future of the concert series: "For now, we just have one more

concert with DEBUT - on Thursday 4th September - however, the aim is to continue the partnership in 2026. The Queen's House was built in the 17th century to be a 'House of Delights' and a hub for artists. Since its redevelopment as an art gallery in 2016, the aim has been to revive this spirit and offer to the public a vibrant programme of events. Early and classical music concerts have played an essential role in this programming. In addition to our long-term relationship with the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of



Music and Dance, many renowned musicians and groups have performed at the Queen's House over the past few years. The partnership with DEBUT and their first-class performers is the most recent addition to our programme, offering an intimate and unforgettable experience to everyone, including those who are not familiar with classical music."

Do try and grab tickets to this one-of-a-kind event at: <https://debut.org.uk/whats-on-listing/queens-house-sept-2025>.

Polly Morgan

Our Support for Macmillan

First the Walk....

By popular demand, the fascinating seven-mile Cutty Sark to Victoria Park jaunt is our Macmillan charity walk of choice again this year. How could we resist when the visual and historic river/canal experience is such a winner? We meet at 9.30am on Sunday September 14th at the entrance to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel. Once through the tunnel we turn left and stroll by the Thames and inland for a bit, then at Limehouse we follow the Regent's Canal into a world of houseboats, bird life, greenery, and coffee and cake at a sweet café. Refreshed, we continue to Victoria Park in time for lunch by the lake. The Park's café is recommended but do bring a packed lunch if you prefer. There are toilets at the canalside café and also in the park. The walk is all on the flat and the most popular return route is to go back as far as Limehouse then catch the DLR.

£10 cash on the day please, all for Macmillan.

Then the Coffee & Cake...

Another must for the diary is Friday

September 26th, 10am to 2pm - the annual Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning at Mycenae House. Locals always support this event with enthusiasm for the wonderful cause ... and also for the delicious sandwiches and cakes on offer for a morning coffee break or lunch. Greenwich Mayor, Councillor Linda Bird, is popping by for a coffee too. If you'd like to contribute home-made sandwiches, cakes and biscuits we'd love to hear from you. Email us at info@westcombesociety.org.

Diane Blackwell

KUMON CONNECT

MATHS ENGLISH

Free Registration

16 September - 31 October

KUMON OPENS A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

Charlton Study Centre

07395 674369

kumon.co.uk St George's Church, Glenilue Road, Blackheath, SE3 75B

Terms and conditions apply. Fees vary. Participating centres only. Please refer to your local study centre. Subject to availability.

A & A LANDSCAPES

Landscape Specialists



Free advice & estimates



Qualified horticulturalist

All aspects of soft & hard landscaping work carried out including

- * Maintenance
- * Site clearance
- * Turfing
- * Tree surgery
- * Fencing
- * Patios
- * Brickwork

Tel. 020 8318 2530

St Olave's Prep School



Contact us for further information or to arrange a tour

“The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent”
ISI Inspection Report

www.stolaves.org.uk. Call 020 8294 8930

TROJAN PRESS

PRINTING IN BLACKHEATH SINCE 1978

1a Lizban St, Blackheath, London SE3 8SS

Tel: 020 8853 2268

Email: info@trojanpress.co.uk

www.trojanpress.com

FEATURES

Know your Neighbour

Neville Grant meets Vivien Life, CMG, one of our country's senior diplomats.



N.G. Vivien, very good to meet you, and thank you for agreeing to do this interview for the Westcombe News. So, let's start at the beginning. Where were you born?

V.L. In Epsom, where I went to what was then the local grammar school – Rosebery School for Girls.

N.G. And then?

V.L. Oxford, I was at St Hilda's, where I read English. That was in the mid-seventies.

N.G. And then? What was your first job?

V.L. At the Treasury. One of the big issues at the time was privatisation - British Gas, British Telecom, it all had to be set up, share ownership issues, that sort of thing. Then I worked on developing countries' debt problems, and that's how I found myself in a meeting in Geneva at UNCTAD – the 7th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a huge international meeting.

N.G. But then what made you decide to apply to join the Foreign & Commonwealth Office – the FCO?

V.L. Well, it was at UNCTAD that I met my future husband, Tim, who was at the FCO, and so I thought it would be a good idea to join up, so we would be together. That's how I joined the FCO – and got further involved in international trade policy.

N.G. Based where?

V.L. London, initially. My husband had been in two consecutive postings, in the Philippines and Israel, so luckily when we met was going to be working for a few years in London.

N.G. You have had some very interesting assignments in the FCO, which shows how broad a job description a diplomat may have. For example, in the 1990s you were posted to Washington to deal with trade policy?

V.L. Yes, the FCO offered us a joint posting, so I continued there, working on trade relations with the US.

N.G. That was, when, 1992 -1996? Were the Americans as tricky to deal with as Mr Trump?

V.L. Absolutely not. That was during Clinton's first presidency and trade policy was very different then. The UK has always been keen on liberating trade – the EU, the US and so on, and organisations that enabled it such as GATT - the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs which morphed into the WTO – the World Trade

Organisation. At that time the US was eliminating most tariffs and trade barriers between the three countries – the US, Canada and Mexico in NAFTA – what was The North American Free Trade Agreement, and we were interested in its wider impact on the world.

N.G. I believe it was since renegotiated in 2017 by Trump and more recently abandoned by him in his second Presidency.

V.L. Sadly, things don't always go forward. After that we were back in London for a while and bought a house in Westcombe Park – that was in 1997; a period of stability very welcome for our two daughters.

N.G. Then in 2008 –2010 you became Head of the Enlargement South-east and Wider Europe Group.

V.L. That was when Gordon Brown was PM. It was really aimed at using enlargement and neighbourhood policies to seek to transform European countries, with a view to their possibly joining the EU.

N.G. Which countries?

V.L. For example, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine – some easier to deal with than others. Turkey in those days was seriously engaged in possibly joining. Though it was always going to be difficult.

N.G. Sounds very challenging.

V.L. You could say that. But it was full of interest.

N.G. I believe you became Head of the Climate and Energy Department (2010-2012). What did that involve?

V.L. Making the best of a – let's say disappointing – job. COP 15 [Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change] had ended with a less ambitious outcome than many had hoped. When I took over we were trying to regain momentum.

N.G. Then in 2012 you became ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark – is one appointed, or does one have to apply?

V.L. People in the FCO used to be appointed – now, it is more usual to apply.

N.G. How usual was it for a woman to become an ambassador?

V.L. It is becoming increasingly common. There were a lot of women ambassadors in Copenhagen when I was there – and Denmark's ambassador to the UK was also a woman.

N.G. What did the job involve?

V.L. Well, it included informing the Danish government on the UK's policies on crucial issues, finding out what was Denmark's stance, and establishing common ground, for example on NATO. I had a team of fifty to lead – our main job was to support Britain's renegotiation of its relationship with the EU. Another priority was encouraging Danish investment in the UK, particularly energy. Cultural exchanges were important, too - the Globe sent a production of Hamlet to perform here – in Elsinor, of course! A great success.

N.G. Did you enjoy the job?

V.L. Very much, because you have to meet as many Danes as possible, and listen, to understand how Danish society functions. You also have to try to project a positive image of the UK. The 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony gave me a wonderful menu of what we collectively thought was great about Britain. I learnt Danish full time for four months before I arrived – that helped.

N.G. The job of an ambassador sounds very exciting - but what are the downsides? How does a career that takes you overseas affect family life?



The ambassador with Danish fans

V.L. We were very lucky. We were together in Washington, and had our daughters with us, and they could go to school there. We then stayed in the UK while they were at school and went to Denmark once they were both at University. My husband worked two weeks remotely from Denmark and two in the UK and we kept our house here in Westcombe Park. That worked because travel to and from Denmark was easy, and having a family home as a base here in Greenwich was really helpful for our daughters. But I did miss seeing all of them as much as I would have done if I'd stayed in the UK.

N.G. A typical day?

V.L. No such thing! It might involve meetings and visits of course, and visitors from the UK, helping VIPs visiting the UK, rendering assistance to the occasional DBS – Distressed British Subject.

N.G. After Denmark I believe you became Director and Chief Negotiator in the Department for

International Trade (2016-22).

V.L. Yes, I was part of the team creating an independent UK trade policy and negotiating capability after the Brexit referendum. I helped to negotiate trade deals with Singapore and Australia, the latter being the first from scratch UK bilateral trade deal after Brexit.

N.G. We've seen in recent years steady erosions in international law, and continuing abuses of human rights round the world. And the UN, while its agencies often do good work, seems to be politically almost impotent. How do you see the future planning out? Are you optimistic?

V.L. Try to be.

N.G. What advice would you give a young person who was interested in becoming a diplomat?

V.L. Be curious. Learn to communicate. Learn to listen. Be comfortable engaging with people. Keep up to date with what's happening in the world - not just the UK.

N.G. Any special advice to our daughters and granddaughters?

V.L. Follow your dreams. But the job you end up in might not be what you think is likely now. And it might not even exist yet - keep your options open.

N.G. Vivien, I believe you have now retired. What advice would you give to someone about to retire?

V.L. Plan ahead! Find opportunities for remaining active and contributing to society.

N.G. What about yourself?

V.L. I do a bit of training. I did a TEFL course and much enjoy teaching English to refugees and migrants.

N.G. Great ideas. Thank you very much Vivien for this interview. I don't want to embarrass you, but I believe that you have a gong in a drawer at home – a CMG – Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, a recognition that our country owes you grateful thanks for your service. All I can offer is another glass of Pimm's.





The Pointer School

Part of  Dukes Education Family

A leading London prep school for girls & boys 3-11 in Blackheath, SE London. Founded in 1950

“...our wonderful teachers and Head Teacher, Mrs Crookes. With patience, good humour, and just a little craziness, they have coaxed and inspired us to achieve things we would not have thought possible!”

Head: Charlotte Crookes

☎0208 293 1331 @pointers.school @pointerschool

FEATURES

75 Years of Gardening and 100 Years of Charlton House

75 Years of Gardening

The Charlton and Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society (CABAHS) is celebrating its 75th year, a perfect opportunity to “dig” out the Archive and take a look back through time. During the Second World War, great enthusiasm for the “Dig for Victory” campaign flourished in Blackheath, while Charlton’s own horticultural society had deep roots in Charlton House and ties to the Maryon-Wilson family. The two bodies amalgamated formally on 3 April 1950.



The newly combined Society hosted lively flower & veg shows with over 70 classes, where cups and medals were hotly contested. Venues included Charlton Assembly Rooms, Kidbrooke House and, for the last 35 years, Charlton House Old Library. In 1955, a monthly Show Table was introduced, and its cup is still proudly competed for today. Programme Cards listed monthly gardening lectures with past speakers including Fergus Garrett, Catherine Horwood, Tom Hart-Dyke, Nick Bailey and Val Bourne. In 1975, three CABAHS members were honoured to have their gardens chosen to be visited by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. In 1984 Mr Manning, then President of the Society, was invited to judge a “front gardens of Westcombe Park” competition by the Westcombe Society (that might be one to resurrect!). The Society hosted Radio 4’s Gardeners’ Question Time several times, most notably the Millenium programme in November 1999 when the outside venue was so cold and recording took so long that

many questioners missed their chance, having gone home to warm up! The highlight in CABAHS history has to be the years when it entered RHS Chelsea and won Silver for A Courtyard Garden in 1991. The cost would be unthinkable now, but even then it involved a huge fundraising and sponsorship effort. Alan Titchmarsh presented the BBC programme that year and committee members were interviewed by presenter Anne Gregg. The modern Society includes all the elements that made it so popular, featuring monthly talks, flower & veg displays, competitions and outings – and continues to promote a love of gardening for everyone.

100 Years of Charlton House

Built in the early 17th century, Charlton House stood as a private home and symbol of status for over 300 years. But in 1925, it began a new life, one that would open its doors to the public and weave it into the everyday fabric of local life. In the wake of the First World War, as Britain faced social and political change, Charlton House became part of this shift, moving from private grandeur to public resource. A new exhibition traces the House’s journey over the past century. The exhibition features objects, photographs, and documents drawn from the Royal Borough of Greenwich’s museum collection and archive, cared for by Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust. It also includes objects lent from the CABAHS archive and photos showing the progress of the volunteer scheme currently reviving the walled gardens and estate. Visit: Charlton House 100 exhibition in the Study and Delft Corridor, open Mon-Fri 9.30 -3.30pm and Saturday 9.30 – 3pm. Email www.greenwichheritage.org Join CABAHS: email garden@cabahs.com Volunteer in the gardens: email hello@rght.org.uk Next Plant Sale: Charlton House Horn Fair, October 19th

Walking Westcombe

Walking Westcombe
An Exploration of its History
by Neil Rhind



Walking Westcombe has proved very popular and sales are going very well. It is still available at The Blackheath book Shop and the Bookshop on the Heath. Copies for collection can be ordered via info@westcombesociety.org.

St George's gets a make-over

Decades of wear and tear have been put right in St George's Church in Glenluce Road, as the wooden floors, which were so damaged they had become unsafe, have been expertly sanded and varnished, creating a light and fresh feel to the main church hall. With a modern kitchen installed in recent years, the church is now opening up for hire for community or private use.



Before

"The church is a large space that could be brilliant for children's parties, sports clubs or community events," says Reverend Laura Faturoti. "We welcome all comers." The make-over inside follows the

work of volunteers outside the church to create a community garden that has won awards from Greenwich Council.



After

The refurbishments follow an independent review of the church by architects, which identified the roof as the most significant next step. Now that the internal improvements have been made, along with work to trim the trees bordering the church, attention turns to the roof. A fundraising committee has been formed, led by charity expert and popular local resident Carol Strickland, to raise donations and attract grants for this work. info@stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk

INVESTMENTS

PENSIONS

ESTATE PLANNING

STARKEY

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Contact us: 020 8853 7160
admin@starkeyfp.co.uk

2 Charlton Road, Blackheath Standard, London SE3 7EX

Independent and friendly advice from south east
London's top team of Chartered Financial Planners

Starkey Financial Planning Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



PSYCHOTHERAPY

For all your emotional and cognitive needs.

Psychotherapist with over 30 years experience in trauma, neurodiversity, depression, anxiety, nightmares, abuse.

I work with adults, teenagers, couples and families.
Based in SE4

email: secchitherapy@gmail.com
07957563320

Bruca Gardens | Local gardeners

We offer regular and one-off garden maintenance services for private and residential gardens.

- Garden design
- Landscaping
- Garden clearance
- Garden maintenance
- Planting and soft landscaping
- Trees and shrubs specialist pruning



Contact us at | 07896992548
brucagardens.co.uk



The John Roan School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Come and visit us this autumn!

Open Evening

Wednesday 8th October 2025 (5.30-7.30pm)

Open Mornings (all 9-10am)

- Tuesday 16th September
- Tuesday 23rd September
- Tuesday 30th September
- Tuesday 7th October

Book online at
www.thejohnroanschool.org.uk

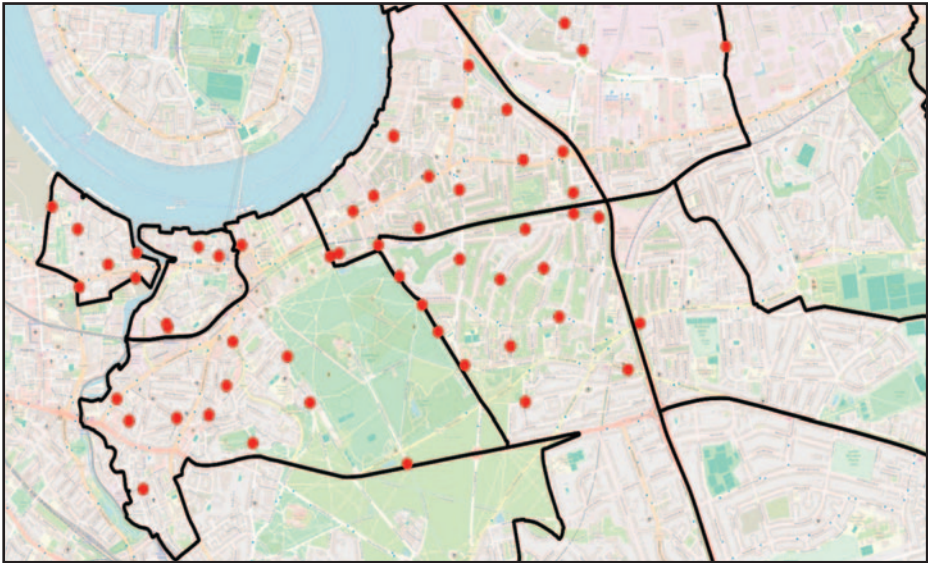


ENVIRONMENT

Lime Bikes

The saga continues - Parking Plans Published

On July 14th the Council took a key decision regarding the Memorandum of Understanding with Lime dockless e-bike operators. This sets out how the service will be run and is seen as an essential part of the Council's Transport Strategy. The agreement lasts for a period of 12 months in the first instance.



Lime bikes first appeared on Greenwich streets in 2022 and since then have become popular with users, but many residents have complained about the dangers they pose when parked inconsiderately. Now, the Memorandum of Understanding details the expectations on operators in terms of their services and the approach to parking as well as the financial implications.

It provides for the installation of 200 marked parking bays for the sole use of e-bikes. Each bay would hold up to eight bikes. Their locations were initially discussed with ward councillors and emergency services but not made public. Fines will be imposed on bikes left outside these bays. The scheme will be introduced in four phases, the first one for 78 bays in Greenwich town centre, and its success will be reviewed every month with the operators.

The Council have since published a paper revealing the proposed locations for Lime Bike parking in West Green and Westcombe Park. This is expected to lead to the publication of an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) and, hopefully, a consultation. If it proceeds, the bays will be installed on a trial basis for 18 months. The full Council report is available online.

The Westcombe Society Environment Committee is requesting more detailed information about the proposed Westcombe Park locations, and updates will be shared on the Westcombe Society website: www.westcombesociety.org. We watch with interest and hope the new bays will soon become operational and that the scheme is a success.

BASED IN GREENWICH, SERVING CLIENTS IN BLACKHEATH, GREENWICH AND BEYOND

Intruder Alarms and CCTV

Affordable security services for your home and commercial property by a local security engineer with 30 years' experience.

CALL OR EMAIL FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE

- ✓ INTRUDER ALARMS
- ✓ CCTV
- ✓ ENTRY SYSTEMS
- ✓ REPAIRS & TAKE OVERS

info@fanarsecurity.com || 07879011792

DBS CHECKED

PLANNING APPLICATIONS*

www.westcombesociety.org

- 61 LANGTON WAY
ref 25/2637/HD
To construct ground floor rear extension and loft conversion with rear dormer, and associated internal alterations.
- FLAT 14, 7 VANBRUGH PARK ROAD WEST
ref 25/2381/F
To replace timber framed windows at the front with double glazed UPVC windows.
- 4 HUMBER ROAD
ref 25/2613/HD
To construct single storey side infill extension and internal alterations.
- 4 GLENLUCE ROAD
ref 25/2555/HD
To replace rear dormer and install 3 rooflights, and replace windows to side and front.
- 76 COLERAINE ROAD
ref 25/2315/HD
To convert loft and install 8 rooflights, and construct rear dormer.
- 125 COLERAINE ROAD
ref 25/2514/HD
To construct single storey rear extension and associated external works.
- 62 FOYLE ROAD
ref 25/2461/HD
To construct ground floor side extension to rear, with skylight.
- 177 WESTCOMBE HILL
ref 25/2163/HD
To construct single storey side rear extension, replace front door and all UPVC windows.
- 187 WESTCOMBE HILL
ref 25/2425/HD
To replace existing ground floor rear extension with new one and construct part basement/lower ground floor extension at garden level (Resubmission).
- 84 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD
ref 25/2411/HD
Loft conversion with rear dormer, rooflight to side and rooflight to front slope.
- 44 VANBRUGH PARK
Royal Standard Pub
ref 25/2409/A
To display 3 external lettering signs, 1 projecting sign and 1 external lantern.
- TREE WORKS
26 GLENLUCE ROAD
ref 25/2653/TC
To fell 5 conifers.
- 48 SHOOTERS HILL ROAD
ref 25/2542/TC
To fell conifer in front garden.

* Please be advised that the planning applications noted here are based on information available at the time of print. For the latest updates, please visit our website www.westcombesociety.org

PAINTING & DECORATING

Interior/Exterior/
Experienced Reliable Clean
Fully Guaranteed/Insured.
References available.
Free no obligation quote
and advice given

JOHN at JAMES & LAMONT
Office 020 8462 4646
Mobile 07802 535695
jamlam.john@btinternet.com

Then and Now: a Sad Tale of Neglect

In 2002 Historic England ran a project called Images of England which was intended as a photographic record of all the listed buildings in England. One of the local entries in that project was the K6 telephone kiosk at the corner of Westcombe Park Road and Vanbrugh Park Road West. Since 2002 it has sadly deteriorated, largely through lack of use.



Pic 1: Telephone kiosk in 2002
(reproduction permission sought from Historic England)



Pic 2: Kiosk today

Some kiosks have been sold very cheaply for a variety of purposes. We are looking for innovative ideas from residents which might improve the appearance and use of this historic property.

Maggie Gravelle

Executive Function Coaching for Children & Teens

Struggling with focus, organisation, emotional regulation, or study habits?
I offer tailored executive function coaching to help young people build confidence and thrive — at home, school and beyond.

- ✓ Specialising in neurodiversity and executive functioning
- ✓ Ages: 5–18
- ✓ Virtual or In-Person (Blackheath)
- ✓ Friendly, qualified, 1:1 support

Call Joanne Maruri
MClinPsych on
07867 09 44 66 for a
FREE 30-min consultation

WRISTWORTH HEATING & PLUMBING

Installation - Servicing - Repair

Tel: 07725 008280
Email: wristworth@hotmail.co.uk

GAS safe REGISTER

Check Out Our Website: wristworthheating.weebly.com

GREENWICH Waldorf School

NURTURING CHILDHOOD

Encouraging each child to take their gentle first steps into learning

OPEN DAY 27TH SEPTEMBER



Waldorf UK
Member School



greenwichwaldorfschool.com
@greenwichwaldorfschool
90 Mycenae Road, London, SE3 7SE T: 020 8858 4404

WHAT'S ON

Greenwich Industrial History Society

9th September Richard Allen. The North Kent Line.
Richard has been studying work on the tunnel between Blackheath Station and Charlton
Talk will be by zoom at 7.30. Thirty bookings can be made on the Greenwich Industrial History Facebook page and information on how to get the link will be posted there in the week before the talk.

Blackheath Creatives Festival

Join Blackheath Creatives festival this September – for more information see: instagram is @blackheathcreatives #blackheathcreatives #blackheathcreativesmusicfestival



In the Studio Theatre
21st Aug - 12th Sep 2025 (16+)
..And Gin Tasting masterclass before Weds night performances!
See greenwichtheatre.org.uk for further info.

The Arts Society Greenwich

www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk

The Mysterious World of Salvador Dali.
Monday 8 Sept 2025 at 7.30 pm
Lecturer: Val Woodgate
Venue: James Wolfe Primary School, Royal Hill, Greenwich
Guests very welcome: £10; membership £65 for 10 lectures
If travelling by car, please note Greenwich New Traffic Management Scheme finishes at 7pm.
Dali “....the difference between a madman and me is that I am not mad.” At one time the most well-known and popular artist of the twentieth century, Dali was a self-publicist who filled gossip columns with accounts of his eccentricities for over 60 years.
Val Woodgate is currently a Lecturer and Guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, for the Art Fund, the National Trust, U3A, City of London libraries (Barbican and Guildhall), and other organisations. Lectures on Zoom for arts organisations.

Woodlands Farm Trust

Bat Walk
Friday 5th September
Adults £7 Child £5
education@thewoodlandsfarmtrust
020 8319 8900

Blackheath Halls Opera



Blackheath Halls Opera returns for another year with a cast of over 100 singers and musicians of all ages.
Tue 23 Sept and Thurs 25th 7.30 pm
Sat and Sun 27th/28th 3pm
See Blackheathhalls.com for further information

Royal Observatory

SPECIAL EVENTS
Talk: 1714 and all that: The Board of Longitude reconsidered,
A free online talk by Dr Richard Dunn, Keeper of Technologies, and Engineering at the Science Museum, goes beyond the commonly repeated narrative of the British Board of Longitude and the development of ways to find longitude at sea. This talk offers a wider look at state involvement in navigation and exploration.
Date: 23 September 2025
Time: 17:15 – 18:30
Age: 18+
Location: Online
Adult Astronomy Courses
Unlock the secrets of the universe with these adult astronomy courses. Whether you are completely new to astronomy or are looking to further expand your knowledge of the cosmos, the Royal Observatory has the course for you. From six-week introductory courses to a one-year intermediate course to a two-year course for budding astrophysicists, there is something for every astronomy enthusiast.
With the exciting renovation project occurring at the Royal Observatory Greenwich, the on-site courses have been moved to the National Maritime Museum, where the Observatory’s expert tutors will run their classes amongst the unique setting of the museum’s galleries and exhibitions. Several online courses are also on offer, so people can attend wherever they are in the world! These Zoom classes cover topics ranging from the introductory concepts of astronomy and astrophotography to the question of whether other lifeforms exist in the universe.

See www.rmg.co.uk for further details

Greenwich Open Studios 2025

Greenwich Open Studios 2025 will take place over two weekends, 13-14 & 20-21 September. They offer a unique opportunity for the public to meet local artists and see their work first LEARN MORE and Plan your visit:
www.greenwichopenstudios.co.uk,
Instagram @greenwich_open_studios.

National Maritime Museum and Queen’s House

EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS
Pirates
A major exhibition tracing the changing depictions of pirates throughout the ages and revealing the brutal history often obscured by fiction. While sometimes portrayed as tricksters or scoundrels, pirates are primarily swashbuckling adventurers associated with lush islands, flamboyant dress and buried treasure. The Pirates exhibition deconstructs these myths and illuminates the realities of pirate life,. across the globe looking at the South China Sea, Indian Ocean and Barbary pirates who operated off the coast of North Africa.
Date: 29 March 2025 – 4 January
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Recommended for ages 10 and above
Location:National Maritime Museum
Admission: Adult £15 | Child £7.50 | Student £11.25
ZWO Astronomy Photographer of the Year 17
For the seventeenth year of the ZWO Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition, images of awe-inspiring aurorae, serene galaxies and stunning shots of the night sky have been analysed by a team of expert judges from the worlds of art and astronomy. alongside a selection of exceptional shortlisted images. The competition is run by the Royal Observatory Greenwich, supported by ZWO and in association with BBC Sky at Night Magazine.
Date: Daily from 12 September 2025
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location:National Maritime Museum Photography Gallery
Admission: Adult £10 | Child £5 | Student £6.50
The Keeper of All the Secrets at the Queen’s House
The Jamaican-born artist has adorned a traditional British tea service with collages of Caribbean market women intertwined with local flowers and plants. The work focuses on women’s agency and resistance in the Caribbean, while exploring the legacies of the tea and sugar trades, empire and enslavement.
Date: Daily
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: Queen’s House, Greenwich
Admission: Free
SPECIAL EVENTS
International Talk Like a Pirate Day Weekend
The National Maritime Museum is celebrating International Talk Like a Pirate Day over the penultimate weekend of September. This will include talks, character actors, and a 2-for-1 discount on tickets for the Pirates exhibition*. Visitors who dress up like a pirate will also be in with the chance of winning prizes such as Cutty Sark Rig Climb tickets, a City Cruisers voucher, a pair of Old Royal Naval College annual passes, and a Royal Museums Greenwich Membership.
*2-for-1 tickets must be purchased from the International Talk Like a Pirate Day webpage
Date: 19, 20, 21 September 2025

Time: 10.00 -17.00
Age: All welcome but Pirates exhibition recommended for ages 7 and over
Location:National Maritime Museum
Admission: Exhibition ticket price - Adult £15 | Child £7.50 | Student £11.25
Caribbean Takeover
This annual festival curated by the Caribbean Social Forum, celebrating Caribbean culture will be taking over the National Maritime Museum and the Queens House. This year there will also be a celebration of the Caribbean Social Forum's 10th anniversary.
Date: 27 September 2025
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location:National Maritime Museum and Queen’s House.
Admission: Free
DEBUT Classical Music Concert
A unique evening starting with a relaxed drinks reception on the terrace, soaking in stunning views of the Thames, London skyline and the iconic Old Royal Naval College. Then as the sun begins to set, ticketholders can step inside the Queen's House for a beautifully intimate 60-minute specially curated programme with harpsichord, cello and voice.
Date: 4 September 2025
Time: 18.15 – 19.45 | 20.00 – 21.30
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: Queen’s House.
Admission: Adult £30 | Child £25
Queen’s House Classic Treasures
Tour with drinks on the loggia
This tour explores the unique architecture of the Queen’s House. After gazing upon the Great Hall, wandering down the Tulip Stairs and discovering the stories within the collection, visitors will head on to the balcony for a glass of prosecco or a soft drink, and take in the views of Greenwich Park.
Date: 14, 21, 28 September 2025
Time: 15.30
Age: Suitable for 18 and above
Location: Queen’s House, Greenwich
Admission: £20
www.rmg.co.uk

Sitopia Farm

Monday 8th September: September soiree! A rare opportunity to enjoy the farm in the evening!
Tickets online; free for veg bag and flower subscribers, £25 for others.
Friday 12th September: One-Day food and flower growing course. See web site for more info.
Tickets available to book online, any please questions email hello@sitopiafarm.com
Saturday 20th September: Open House London event. Special open day with farm tours and pop up shop (3rd Saturday of each month). 10-2pm see web site for more information
All details on our website
www.sitopiafarm.com.

You can also sign up for our newsletter via our home page to receive an occasional mix of seasonal farm musings, glimpses of farm life and special offers, discounts and news.

MARKET PLACE

THERAPIST

LOCALLY BASED individual CBT therapist and couples therapist working online and in person at Mycenae House. Book 15 min phone consultation by calling 07889755299 or email hello@Sasha-Louise.com. Visit my website www.Sasha-Louise.com

TUITION

HOME SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR YOUR DIGITAL DEVICES
Need some help with computers, phones and tablets? I'm a DBS checked IT trainer with 21 years experience, friendly and patient. £45/hour (£20 call out), discounted for block bookings.
To discuss options, call Paul on 07985 643506 or email paul.clayton@soulchip.co.uk
GERMAN TUITION, language and literature, in person, local German teacher. All levels and ages, DBS checked. Please contact Dr Katharina Rist at 07533 061757 or rist@ristconsulting.com
SPANISH TUITION, on line, latinoamerican Spanish teacher. All levels and ages, GCSE, A levels. Please contact: Miguel at 07910318513 or migansiergut52@gmail.com
MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION TO GCSE AND PREPARATION FOR 11+ AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SELECTION TESTS by qualified and experienced teacher. marystuition.com
Mary Bauckham 07709 089 838 marybauckham@gmail.com
MATHS TUITION
Qualified and experienced secondary teacher offers tuition to GCSE level.
Call Miv Whitaker: 07745 816338; or email miv.whitaker@gmail.com
COME DANCE WITH ME.
Fun dance sessions for over 50s. Fridays 11am -12pm at Mycenae House, Mycenae road SE3 7SE
Take part in regular exercise exploring a variety of dance and music genres, meet new people, have fun dancing together. The class aims at maintaining and improving flexibility, balance, strength and memory. Everyone welcome, regardless of ability and experience.
Qualified & experienced teachers, Joanna Clare & Justyna Sochaj. info: joclare@hotmail.it tel 07709952215

SERVICES & TRADE

REGULAR GARDEN MAINTENANCE
Lawn care, weeding, seasonal pruning, topiary, hedge cutting, planting, RHS qualified. Free quotes and advice.
Call John 07746121510 davidsongardenservices@outlook.com
CLOTHES ALTERATIONS
We fix Trousers, dresses and jackets. 07904 880 448
DV SERVICES PLUMBING & HANDYMAN Blockages & drains, Radiator valves and radiators not working, Change and fix toilets, sinks, showers & taps in bathrooms, toilets and kitchens. We can fix it!
Call Daniel on: 07904 880 448
PEST CONTROL SERVICES
Mice, Rats, Squirrels, Wasps, Foxes etc. Local Service 07850 839 655

UPHOLSTERER
Specialising in traditional upholstery. www.suemayesupholstery.net or phone 07932 040 298
FULLY INSURED & QUALIFIED CARPENTER
joiner & general building work/ specialist in traditionally handmade timber double glazed sash windows & doors/retrofit double glazing & vacuum insulated glass/listed and heritage building work undertaken. Tel: 020 3375 8597 Mob: 07930 453 310 Email: joseph@mcnamarabuildinganddevelopment.co.uk www.mcnamarabuildinganddevelopment.co.uk
A MAN AND A VAN
Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917842
T.TA ELECTRICS. NICEIC Approved Contractor, Quality Tradesman. All electrical work undertaken, Fully Insured & Guaranteed.
24HR EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL.
Please call Tony on 07961 509 403 OR 020 8488 7425 OR info@ttaelectrics.co.uk
HOMEWORKS All-round handyman for those DIY's you have no time for! General repairs. Painting & Decorating. General Carpentry and flooring. Flat-pack assembly. Patio and deck cleaning. No job too small. Contact Matthew Barron 07903 388658
ELECTRICIAN / ALARM & CCTV ENGINEER
30+ years' experience – No job too small Call: 07879 011792
WESTCOMBE CLEANERS
I'm a friendly, hard-working & organised domestic cleaner. Regular or single services. Competitive rates. Additional tasks. I love my clients to be happy. Phone 07746 291617
MARK CHEESEMAN, LOCAL CARPENTER AND JOINER WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE.

All Aspects Of Carpentry and Construction Executed Considerately and to a High Standard. Both Traditional and Contemporary Design Joinery - Cupboards, Window seats, Floating Shelves, Engineered Flooring Fitted Etc. Also Locks Changed. Sash Window Overhaul. If you have Rotten Window Sills, Door Frames Etc. rather than replace them with the associated upheaval and expense, why not have a Timber/Resin Repair?
Please Call Mark on 07767 456131 or H: 020 8854 4028.
ANGELO, ELECTRICIAN
No Job Too Small
T - 020 87616012/
M - 07850 767 283
Email - angelo@glennies.net
Part P Certificated
18th Edition & JIB Registered
LOCAL CARPET CLEANER
Specialist in cleaning Carpets, Upholstery & Rugs.
www.carpetcrew.co.uk
Phone 07828503132

CAKES

HOME MADE: Personalised BIRTHDAY CAKES AND CUPCAKES, Banana Cake and Muffins etc. Lunches: Hot meals, Pastries and Baguettes etc . Made with ♥ Love!
Menus are available.
Call : 07904 880 448

Open Morning
Sep 27
Book online now

**BLACKHEATH**
HIGH SCHOOL
GDST

My future is up there

Where girls boldly go
blackheathhighschool.gdst.net

Scholarships and bursaries available for exceptional applicants - **apply now** for September 2025

DISCOUNT!

(When you show your Westcombe Society membership card)

ALL CITY LOCKSMITHS LTD
offer upto a 15% discount for local residents
ROYAL NEPALESE RESTAURANT (Station Crescent) 20% OFF meals for two or more
Sunday - Thursday.
COTON & HAMBLIN LENS CLUB-
Complimentary standard coated single vision lenses worth £50 when purchasing complete spectacles.
T's & C's apply.
BLACKHEATH EYECARE OPTICIANS
Money-saving Eyeplan membership offered
TROJAN PRESS 10% OFF all quotations

WESTCOMBE DRY CLEANERS
10% discount on Dry Cleaning. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers.
A * DRIVING SCHOOL
£5 discount on the price of one x 2 hour lesson
KAREN STOREY OF HOMESPACE offers members 10% discount on decluttering & homestaging: 07951 191086
SHENDA FALVEY PERSONAL TRAINING, STOTT PILATES & BOOTCAMPS
M: 07887727335
E: shenda@shendafalveypersonaltraining.co.uk
Free Bootcamp worth £12.50
Free PT/ Pilates Consultation with 20% off first session

**BICKLEY PARK SCHOOL**
INDEPENDENT PREP SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 2½–13

Be All You Can Be

Weekly Tours
Come and Visit
Find out more here:


Now Co-ed!

14 & 24 Page Heath Lane, Bickley, Bromley, Kent BR1 2DS
www.bickleyparkschool.co.uk