

# WestcombeNEWS



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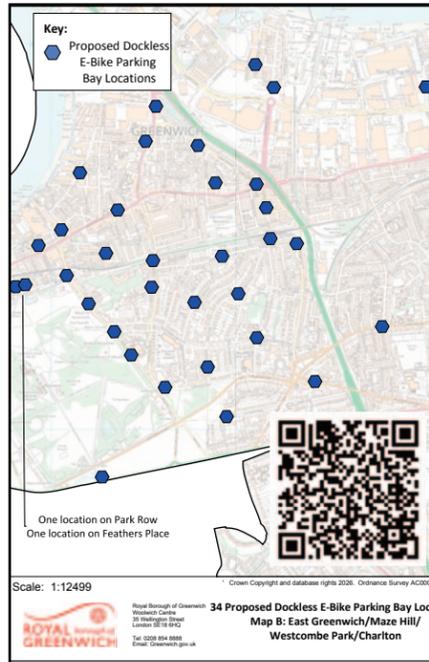
March 2026 No 2

*March is a month of expectation. Emily Dickinson*

## Dockless Bikes: The Council wants to hear from you

The Council is consulting on proposals to introduce 157 designated on-street parking bays for dockless e-bikes across the borough. For starters, the Council is proposing parking bays in East and West Greenwich (see map). For more information, please visit [royalgreenwich.gov.uk/dockless-bikes](http://royalgreenwich.gov.uk/dockless-bikes)

If you have views about whether there should be designated bike parking, where the bike parking should be, or anything else to do with the parking of dockless e-bikes, please write to [transport-programme-delivery-tmos@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:transport-programme-delivery-tmos@royalgreenwich.gov.uk) or the Technical Support Team, FAO Programme Delivery Team, Transport, 3rd Floor, The Woolwich Centre SE18 6HQ



## Cuts to 386 Bus

Transport for London have reduced the frequency of the 386 bus, the only bus that goes up the very steep Vanbrugh Hill. For those that need and use the 386 it is essential. This includes many of our elderly residents or those with any physical or health constraints because Vanbrugh Hill is just too steep for many to walk up. The 386 takes residents to and from the shops (The Standard / Blackheath / Greenwich / Trafalgar Road) and importantly to the QE Hospital. Vanbrugh Hill is also in the Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) during peak times so cannot be crossed by cars.

usage data means there is insufficient demand. TfL are also on record as saying they "will continue to keep the 386 under review. If residents are experiencing instances where they are regularly unable to board the bus due to crowding" they would use this to inform any future review. This suggests that their justification is, if the buses are not full, services are cut. For the 386, this ignores the geography and the associated access and inclusion issues. If we are to have more of us moving onto public transport - then TfL need to work with the Council on this. Greenwich council really ought to do more to scrutinise TfL. The Greenwich Wire



For those of us that wait for a bus in all weathers, you will know that there is a big difference between waiting 15 minutes, to waiting 20 minutes, particularly when buses get delayed and the gap widens. It dissuades use and potentially curtails the most vulnerable from travelling. The online paper The Londoner, [www.the-londoner.co.uk](http://www.the-londoner.co.uk) reports that TfL's own modelling has found that for every 10% longer a journey by bus gets for a user, ridership drops by 6%. So, why are TfL cutting back on the 386 service? Firstly, they say the

reports that in Lewisham and Bexley, there are special council committees that hold meetings in public with the transport providers about once a quarter. In Greenwich, they do it just once a year. The 386 is not alone in Greenwich. The 486 has also just seen cuts in service. TfL has been making a string of cutbacks or changes to services over the last months across London. Are we witnessing a managed decline? You can write directly to TfL about this issue at: [Customerservice@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:Customerservice@tfl.gov.uk)

## LTN to be permanent as Council blocks further scrutiny

The Westcombe Society Environment committee finds it sad that an Authority that claims to work to tackle 'poverty, hardship and inequality' (Royal Borough of Greenwich mission statement) should decide to make such an unequal scheme permanent. The Council claim that 'after extensive trial and consultations' the scheme has contributed to making the area 'safer, cleaner and greener' and that more people have been encouraged to walk or cycle thus improving air quality. The reality is that, although many of us living in the LTN now enjoy even quieter streets than previously, this is at the expense of those living on the boundary roads and in Charlton.

There is particular cause for concern in the emphasis put on 'modest improvements in air quality at most locations'. The results do not in fact show a reduction in pollution as the air quality results are 'judged to be not significant.' (Appendix B - Air Quality Report, October 2025). Councillors do not appear to understand that this term means that the data do not support one side or the other and that the small difference between them could be due to chance.

There is no excuse for this. The misinterpretation of air quality data has been raised repeatedly by residents' groups, including the Westcombe Society, and by Councillors at the Scrutiny committee meeting in November 2025.

A similar problem arises from the misrepresentation of the traffic data. While roads within the scheme appear to have experienced a reduction in traffic those on the

boundary and in Charlton are more congested than previously. In their evidence some residents describe how seriously they have been affected making them anxious to move away from the area. Assessing the impact of the scheme should not be just a matter of numbers but also of the severity of the changes. Mitigation has been promised but whether that will work is not proven.

There is also a suggestion that the decision to make the scheme permanent may not have been based purely on the data due to wording in the most recent Royal Borough of Greenwich report (February 2026). This says that 'If the scheme is not progressed, there is a risk that funding bodies may reconsider future investment in Greenwich's transport programmes. The Council has already invested resources in developing, implementing and monitoring the trial scheme; discontinuing it at this stage would result in a loss of that investment without delivering the intended long-term benefits' and that 'Choosing not to proceed with the TMO at this stage could damage public confidence in the Council's decision-making and its commitment to delivering long-term improvements.'

In our view misinterpretation of data and lack of mitigation measures before making the scheme permanent also erode trust in our Councillors and the system.

The Westcombe Society Environment Committee will continue to question the interpretation of the data. However, the requested call-in for further scrutiny by some Councillors has been blocked.

## Mycenae House Live

- Friday 6 Mar International Womens Day **UKEDELIX** Isobel Jane Kimberley & Raie (for Int. Womens Day)
- Friday 20 Mar **St Patricks Day (GFMA)**
- Friday 27 Mar **NICK HARPER**
- Friday 10 Apr **The SWOP Sessions**
- Friday 17 Apr **CLIVE CARROLL**
- Friday 24 Apr **GFMA 25 Anniv Celeb.**
- Friday 6 June **Amnesty Int. Concert**

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[www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)

020 8858 1749 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath Standard, London, SE3 7SE



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3 x standard	£107	£485
4 x standard	£138	£620

## Here's to a Special Lady



This year's thank you bash for volunteers and members of The Westcombe Society was as jovial and uplifting as ever, with guests enjoying a delicious buffet and bubbly. The highlight of the evening was shining a light on one woman's extraordinary contribution to our local community for 30-plus years.



Shirley Little was surprised and delighted when Geoff Brighty, Chair of the Westcombe Society, presented her with a gift on behalf of us all.



Shirley is truly the spirit of community service, always up for everything from delivering the Westcombe News to supplying goodies for raffles and washing up after charity fundraising events. As ever, Mycenae House staff helped make it a memorable



evening.  
If you'd like to help further the work of The Westcombe Society as a member or volunteer, please get in touch at [info@westcombesociety.org](mailto:info@westcombesociety.org)

*Diane Blackwell*

## HOP along to our EGG HUNT



The Easter bunny's coming to town and that means The Westcombe Society's Easter egg hunt on April 4 in the Mycenae Gardens. We're looking for amazing Easter bonnets so don't hold back on creativity. And there'll be loads of eggs lurking in the shrubbery to challenge little detectives who'll be rewarded with treats. The fun is from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m and for grownups the Mycenae bar is open all afternoon.

## Greenwich failing to mend potholes

Greenwich is one of only 13 local highway authorities rated as 'red' for failing to maintain its highways effectively. (Local road maintenance ratings 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK) The government measure how well each local highway authority is maintaining its local roads based on three areas:

- the current condition of local roads
- how much each local highway authority is spending on maintaining its local roads
- how effectively each local highway authority follows best practice in highways maintenance - for example

by using technologies to fix and prevent potholes more efficiently. The government will provide red-rated local highway authorities with a dedicated support programme to help improve outcomes. This support will be in the form of peer reviews where sector experts will work with authorities to improve processes. Lewisham rates as 'green' – so maybe will be asked to help ...? It is also down to us, the public, to report issues. You can do so at: [www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/parking-transport-and-streets/report-issues-street](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/parking-transport-and-streets/report-issues-street)



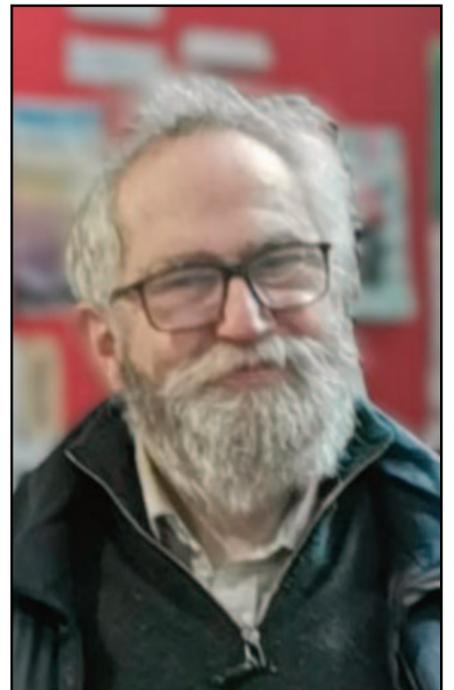
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## Andrew Spence



Andrew Spence, who was well known in the local area, sadly died at home on 21st January 2026. His funeral will be held on Monday 9th March 2026 at 10am at St George's Church, Glenluce Road, SE3 7SD, followed by a short service of committal at Eltham Crematorium and a wake at St George's church. All are welcome to attend to pay their respects and say goodbye to Andrew.

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# NEIGHBOURHOOD

## Violence against Women and Girls - Walk and Talk

On Monday 12th January I attended a walk arranged by two female officers within the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for Kidbrooke Village. We met in Peglar Square by Kidbrooke Station at 7.30pm and carried out a walk around the local area. The aim was to highlight particular areas that were poorly lit and/or had no CCTV monitoring or, in fact, any other safety issues. Our route took us around the back of Kidbrooke Station, which has a number of alleyways, through some of the quieter roads within Kidbrooke Village and onto Sutcliffe Park. The group identified a number of areas that we would feel unsafe walking

alone, particularly at night, due to them being dark, secluded and without CCTV. This was a valuable experience for the police to gain insight from the public and the information gathered can be used to implement street lighting and surveillance in those areas. I personally found it very useful and would encourage all women and girls to look out for details of other walks arranged by the local policing team. You can sign up to Met Engage for further information and alerts on local issues and events. [www.metengage.co.uk](http://www.metengage.co.uk)

*Caroline Buhagiar Vice-Chair  
Blackheath & Westcombe Ward Panel*

### Walk and Talk – March Dates

**7th March @ 7:30pm - Outside The Conservatoire, Blackheath Village (Blackheath Westcombe SNT)**  
**19th March @ 4:30pm - Dursley Road /Woolacombe Road (Kidbrooke Park SNT)**  
**11th April @ 8:00pm - Dover Patrol Shops, Rochester Way (Blackheath Westcombe SNT)**  
**29th April @ 7:30pm - Flintmill Crescent (Kidbrooke Park SNT)**  
**3rd May @ 10:30am - Mycenae House (Blackheath Westcombe SNT)**

## What's a Beatle doing here?

Readers may have been bemused to see a long line of identical filming vans stretching almost the whole length of Vanbrugh Park by the dips in early February, and then closure of Beaconsfield Road whilst filming was in progress. Various



rumours circulated as to what was happening but according to the BBC

and Neal Street Productions' websites, Sir Sam Mendes is directing 'four theatrical feature films, one from each band member's point of view, to tell the astonishing story of the greatest band in history'. The films cover the period from 1960 until their split in 1970. The cast includes Harris Dickinson (John), Paul Mescal (Paul), Barry Keoghan (Ringo) and Joseph Quinn (George).

Filming took place in the vicinity of 82 Beaconsfield Road as it is similar to Paul McCartney's house at 7 Cavendish Avenue, St John's Wood. Filming crews will be back again in the summer to film in a different season of the year. Expected release date is April 2028.

## A Bird's Eye View

There's a cottage on the Dorset coast where we installed our bird feeder. Different varieties of tits, finches, robins – you name it – even two goldfinches: they were queuing up, almost politely taking their turn, and sometimes sharing, two at a time.

So we put up a bird feeder in our garden in Blackheath, but it was raided by bullies – pigeons, magpies and squirrels, even the occasional jay – keeping the small fry away.

Until one day the bird feeder was vandalised, I think by a squirrel, and it ended up wrecked on the ground, scattering the bird feed for easy picking.

So we got a different kind of bird feeder, one inside a cage, and more sturdy. Small birds had easy access, and squirrels had to make do with leftovers scattered on the ground below. It was too far from our back window to scare off the feathered mafia, so we moved it closer, where we could try to do a bit of peace-keeping, or mediation perhaps – some hope. The bullies were still frightening off the smaller birds lurking hopefully in the bushes, and we banged on the window whenever they tried to take over, to give the smaller birds a chance. No goldfinches so far.

One day, a squirrel got too close to a magpie – a fatal error. The magpie began to demolish the carcass, chasing off another magpie who wanted a share of the action. Talk about 'red in tooth and claw'. The moral: don't mess with magpies...

The bird feeder is definitely a positive addition to our garden. At one point we had four magpies parading across the grass, as well as two squirrels and sundry pigeons. But the dice were stacked against the underdogs – or under-birds – who still struggled to get a look-in, especially when the odd parakeet, with its vulgar green colouring and aggressive red beak, moved in. I thought parakeets were quite small, but the one I saw on our bird feeder was fat and greedy: definitely not a turn-taker.

So the bird-life dramas continue, and we hopefully continue to replenish our stock of bird feed from our friendly neighbourhood pet supply shop in Old Dover Road, seeing if the law of unintended consequences will continue to be applied – for the bigger birds tend to prevail. My wife says it's an allegory of life itself. She may have a point there.

*Neville Grant*

## PART-TIME POSITION FOR MUSICIAN

St George's Westcombe Park, a Church on Glenlucce Road, are seeking a musician who is a committed Christian, with a well developed inclusive theology and a passion for sung worship, to work closely with the Vicar and leadership team to drive and develop our worship at St George's.

This is a pivotal role that will help bring hope and wholeness to our growing congregation.

This is a part time role – 8 hours a week, paid at £15.60 an hour. Full details at

[www.stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk/worship-leader-recruitment/](http://www.stgeorgeswestcombepark.org.uk/worship-leader-recruitment/)

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# FEATURES

## Protect our Pits

If you have ever taken a shortcut across the former 18th-century gravel quarries known as Vanbrugh Pits to get to the Maze Hill gate of Greenwich Park, the chances are that you will have come across Joe Beale at one time or another. He cuts a distinctive figure clad in his bushwacker hat and multi-pocketed safari vest with camera and binoculars slung around his neck; in his backpack he has the full panoply of a skilled all-round naturalist, including tripod, magnifying glass, bug jars and a notepad and pencil.



The unofficial “Guardian of the Pits”, Joe lives nearby and is an RSPB conservation officer, having previously worked as an ecologist at the Natural History Museum wildlife garden. He is a Fellow of the British Naturalists’ Association and the author of *The Birds of Greenwich Park*, one of many papers and publications on flora and fauna to his name.

But what is driving him now is the desire to raise awareness among local people of the ecological significance of “the Dips”, and to encourage Greenwich council to better protect the site by applying for it to be designated it as an official Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

68 spider species, 26 butterfly species, 12 dragonfly species, over 50 species of bees and digger wasps, and over 70 plant species have been recorded at Vanbrugh Pits - high biodiversity for a relatively small area.

“Being an LNR would give it a statutory designation under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949,” says Joe. “This would grant Vanbrugh Pits greater protection from inappropriate use or development on and around it, improve its standing in terms of a presumption against development in future Local Plans. It would also make it easier to seek support for routine, evidence-led habitat maintenance and enhancement such as removal of invasive tree species, and to claim ward funding or potential other grant funds to enable this.

“Designation as an LNR would raise awareness of the site’s true value, with most people easily understanding the term ‘nature reserve’ and what that entails. This would help people to value ‘their’ nature reserve on their doorstep, and to understand

that it should be treated with respect.”

Despite it being a long-term aspiration to designate the Dips as an LNR, the process has stalled. Joe is grateful for the support he has received thus far from the council and is reluctant to criticise anyone for the delay, and will only say tactfully: “The Royal Borough of Greenwich doesn’t have capacity to commence work on this at the moment.” The cost of LNR designation is negligible, though a certain amount of council time is

needed to discuss the idea and approve the plans before they are sent to Natural England for review, to ensure the site meets the necessary criteria.

Vanbrugh Pits represents what much of Blackheath would have looked like in times past and holds an interesting mosaic of habitats that have been lost from other areas. Places like this are rare in London, and consequently the Pits holds a surprisingly rich assemblage of invertebrates, plants, birds, lichens and other wildlife. There are many species of bee and butterfly, for example, some of which are nationally rare, and it looks beautiful in late spring and early summer with golden Gorse flowers and a haze of brick-red Sheep’s Sorrel. The geology is also of interest as the underlying pebble beds can still be seen in places. “The bee-specific count for this mosaic of acid grassland and scrub is exceptionally high for an urban London setting.”



Joe says. “The Pits can be seen as a critical pollinator hotspot in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.” He adds: “For all this to thrive, it is crucial that the Pits continue to be a

balanced mosaic of habitats with open spaces, fine grasses, low-nutrient soil, some mature trees and scrub, and bare ground, and not taken over by invasive plants such as Holm Oaks and Turkey Oaks, or for grassland to be lost entirely to brambles. If left unmanaged it would largely become dark and species-poor secondary woodland with less variety, with the rare habitats taken over by ubiquitous ones. While some of that is fine, balance is key.”

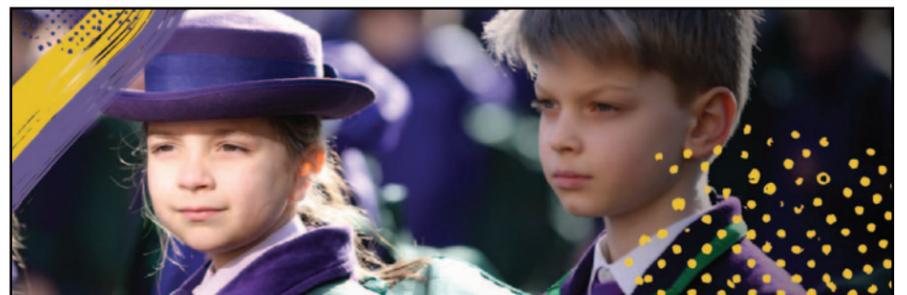
A loyal band of local residents - the “Vanbrugh Volunteers” - help Joe maintain the habitat outside the nesting season, with between 10 and 20 volunteers typically participating in each two-hour session. Tasks include pruning the Gorse, digging up bramble roots and collecting rubbish. Volunteers range in age from eight to 80, and Joe hopes for a wider demographic of volunteers once LNR status has been achieved.

*Andrew Riley*

### SPECIES FOUND IN THE PITS

Scarce or notable species found at the Pits include: Five-banded Weevil Wasp; Squat Furrow Bee; Hawk’s-Beard Mining Bee; Purse Web Spider; Drab Wood-soldierfly; Horehound Long-horn Moth; Cinnabar and Blood Vein moths; Green Hairstreak butterfly; Small Heath butterfly; Clustered Clover and Bird’s-foot; *Cetraria aculeata*, a terricolous lichen at its only known London site; records of Hairy Dragonfly and Red-veined Darter are the only representatives of these dragonfly species so far in Greenwich borough.

The Pits supports a good range of common birds, including nesting Common Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Song Thrush; Lesser Whitethroat has bred in recent years. Birds seen on passage include Cuckoo, Whinchat, Stonechat and Reed Warbler, with Stonechat occasionally overwintering. Greenfinch, a Red-listed bird species of Conservation concern, nest at the Pits every year.



# FEATURES

**Celebrating Greenwich Women**  
Saturday 14th March 2026 2-4 pm

**Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, London SE3 7SE**

Join us to share the stories of remarkable women who have lived in Greenwich in the past. Not just the famous but also the forgotten, including activists, scientists, entrepreneurs, as well as writers, mothers and carers. This community project has discovered dozens of stories of remarkable women. Our enthusiastic volunteers have researched their stories, and will share them at this celebration. Join us to hear about their lives, and the project to create a book remembering them.

There will be a donation of £1 to cover room hire.

To reserve a place please send an email with the event title "Celebrating Greenwich Women" as the subject to: [eustanceclaire@gmail.com](mailto:eustanceclaire@gmail.com)

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## Astronomers Take Over

**SPACE-THEMED GALLERY TO OPEN AT THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, GREENWICH**

27 March 2026 – March 2028

Opening 27 March 2026, Astronomers Take Over, is a new temporary gallery at the National Maritime Museum. This playful hands-on space gives visitors the opportunity to meet Royal Observatory Greenwich astronomers, participate in science demonstrations and ask questions

standing of the Universe. Professor Sanjeev Gupta shares his work on some of humankind's most amazing space missions, including his work on Mars, and curator Dr Louise Devoy explores the history of the Royal Observatory Greenwich.

A scavenger hunt will take visitors on a trail to discover some of the most weird and wonderful items that astronauts have taken into space including a gorilla suit, Luke Skywalker's lightsabre and an espresso machine.



about space and astronomy. It is a family-friendly experience suitable for anyone with an interest in astronomy.

Astronomers Take Over includes a gallery and a Planetarium where visitors can learn all about the night sky. 'Animals in Space!' explores the contributions and influences of animals, from the space race to what we see in the stars. 'The Night Sky' provides a classic guide to the cosmos and 'Solar System Sightseeing' is an introduction to our celestial neighbourhood.

The gallery covers key areas of our Universe including zones on Mars, the Moon and stars and starlight. The immersive Galaxy Box gives a feel for outer space and shows how vast the Universe truly is.

In addition to the interactive elements, the gallery features interviews with experts. Sir Brian May and J-P Metsävainio, visual artist and astrophotographer, explain how technology has changed our under-

Science theatre shows will also be running from 3 April 2026 at the National Maritime Museum.

Elizabeth Avery, Head of Astronomy at Royal Observatory Greenwich said, 'Astronomers Take Over is an incredible opportunity to meet the Royal Observatory Greenwich astronomy team and try something different. We are very excited to share what we have been working on with our visitors and have some science fun together.'

Astronomy programming is kindly supported by Bloomberg, CGI and Michael Edwards OBE.

Venue: National Maritime Museum, Dates: 27 March 2026 – 2028

Tickets: Adult (16+) £16

Child (4-15) £16

Experience only: £8

Website: [rmg.co.uk/takeover](http://rmg.co.uk/takeover)

Visitor Enquiries: 020 8858 4422

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# ENVIRONMENT

## The Blackheath Butterfly Survey Report



A survey of Blackheath's butterflies was undertaken by Joe Beale across two Blackheath sites, Vanbrugh Pits and Hyde Vale. These took place in 2020, 2021, and

open habitats and scrub edge. Several butterfly species are stable or increasing overall. Vanbrugh Pits appears to be particularly important, likely in part because it is the larger site, which helps buffer it from the impacts of scrub succession but may also mask the threats it faces. Some results may be reflecting much wider factors, such as climate change.

The results suggest that Vanbrugh Pits may be benefiting from volunteer habitat management work, but it needs a long-term strategy. Hyde Vale requires a similar evidence-led approach; it is still



2024. This was to determine how the butterflies of the area are faring and to assess any changes during that time, and whether they might need help, such as through habitat improvements. The survey was funded by the OnBlackheath community fund via the Blackheath Joint Working Party and supported by the Blackheath Society.

A set route for each location was walked monthly during the butterfly season for each year of the survey. The final report has now been completed and should be available online soon. The results show just how important these places are to butterflies and, by implication, many other species, with 873 individual butterflies of 22 species recorded during the total of 30 transect walks. This survey shows that a wide range of species are present at both sites, including many butterflies of

important for butterflies locally, but some species have not increased in the same way as they have at Vanbrugh Pits, and numbers of other species could perhaps be higher. Maintaining a dynamic, interconnected mosaic of habitats, open sunny areas and banks, while managing invasive tree species and brambles at the edges of the grasslands, will help ensure a positive future for butterflies and other invertebrates across these two biodiverse Blackheath sites that we are fortunate to have in our area.



## Growing Vegetables and Salads in Pots

There's nothing quite like the flavour of homegrown vegetables and freshly-gathered salads, and much satisfaction is gained from growing these yourself. Growing vegetables in pots is a practical and cheap way to grow fresh produce and is especially useful if you have limited outdoor space. Bountiful crops can be produced, even with our unpredictable weather, and children enjoy eating vegetables they have grown themselves.



Many vegetables are well-suited to container growing. Lettuce, rocket, pak choi and spinach grow quickly and can be harvested multiple times using a "cut and come again" method. Try to avoid very hot, dry conditions. Herbs like basil, parsley, chives, and mint also thrive in pots. For larger crops, tomatoes are a popular choice, particularly cherry varieties. They like deep pots and a sheltered, sunny wall. I plant in individual pots and tie each to a cane pushed into the pot. Other good options include sweet peppers and chillies. Climbing French beans can be grown in deep pots; I make a wigwam of sticks or canes for support. There are varieties of cucumber (such as Patio Pickle) and tomato (Tumbling Tom) that can be grown in hanging baskets.

With imagination, all sorts of containers can be used, but they must have drainage holes to prevent waterlogging. I add crocks at the bottom to further improve drainage. Aim for pots at least 45cm wide and deep. Terracotta pots retain warmth

better than plastic pots so are very suited to herbs, but plastic pots have the benefit of drying out more slowly. Using good-quality, peat-free compost helps retain moisture while allowing excess water to drain away. Don't forget to water regularly especially in hot weather. A layer of mulch at the top helps to reduce moisture loss. You also need to feed since nutrients in compost get used up in 1-2 months. A liquid fertiliser, such as tomato feed, applied every one to two weeks can keep plants healthy and productive.

Now is a good time for seed sowing. With a little care and attention, container gardening can provide fresh, home-grown vegetables and a great sense of satisfaction, even in the smallest of spaces. *Ann Hill*

Lettuce: Little gem, Salad bowl  
 Rocket: Runway, Victoria  
 Pak choi: Ivory, Red choi  
 Spinach: Missouri, Apollo  
 Tomato: Gardener's Delight, Sungold  
 Sweet pepper: Mohawk, Redskin  
 Chillies: Apache, Radiance.  
 Radish: Sparkler, Cherry Belle  
 Cucumber: Burpless Tasty Green  
 Climbing French bean: Cobra  
 Carrot: Early Nantes,  
 Amsterdam Forcing  
 Beetroot: Action, Pablo

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS\*

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 25 HUMBER ROAD ref 26/0173/HD  
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**TREE WORKS**  
 10 CHARLTON ROAD ref 26/0442/TC  
 To fell acacia in front garden.  
 55 COLERAINE ROAD ref 26/0441/TC  
 To fell yew in front garden.  
 89 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 26/0337/TC  
 To fell sycamore and 3 elms in rear 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](http://www.westcombesociety.org)



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# WHAT'S ON

## Musical Treats at Royal Museums Greenwich this Springtime

**Evening concert: Trinity Laban Chamber Choir**

27 March | Queen's House | 7.30pm  
**Opera at Cutty Sark with Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras**  
Experience Purcell's Dido and Aeneas like never before beneath the hull of Cutty Sark. This performance brings together the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists.  
[www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)

## Charlton House & Gardens

**Horticultural Society : Monday March 16th 7pm**

Monthly meeting at Charlton House Old Library, featuring a talk from specialist nursery Moore & Moore on shade plants and how to use them. Raffle, refreshments, Show Table. £2 for members and £5 for guests. New members welcome.  
<https://cabahs.com/calendar/>

**Bunnies in the Beds :**

**Sunday March 29th 11am-3pm**  
Our Annual Easter Trail is back and this year the Bunnies are going to Wonderland! Join the Charlton House Garden Volunteers in the lovely Walled Gardens to see what "Bunnies in the Beds" are getting up to this year. Lots of other fun activities. £3 suggested donation.

Check the What's On page at [www.greenwichheritage.org/events/](http://www.greenwichheritage.org/events/)

## Harmony Sinfonia



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Piano Concerto  
Grieg  
Soloist: Neus Peris Ferrer

Finlandia  
Sibelius

Symphony no.1  
Sibelius

6pm, Saturday 21st March

Tickets: £15/£10 / 11hrs free  
Tickets available from [harmonysinfonia.co.uk](http://harmonysinfonia.co.uk) or on the door

St. Margaret's Church Blackheath SE13 5DL

## West Greenwich Library

Do save the date for some wonderful poetry on **Tuesday March 24th**, with Alex Josephy, NJ Hynes and Rosie Johnston, and some music, too!

## GREENWICH THEATRE CONNECTS



**GT**

**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL**  
by Neil Labute

America The Beautiful: Chapter 1 & 2  
**9th - 21st March 2026**  
America The Beautiful: Chapter 3  
**31st March - 4th April 2026**

## Maritime Museum

**SPACE-THEMED GALLERY 'ASTRONOMERS TAKE OVER'**  
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<https://we.tl/t-2t3G6TTxQ3>

Includes a Planetarium, with live astronomer presented shows, and a science learning space. A chance for visitors to meet and chat to real astronomers and ask all their space questions.

Other programming throughout the year includes science theatre and astronomy events.

## Cutty Sark

**The Sounds of Cutty Sark**

Available on the Smartify app, a new immersive experience will guide visitors through the sounds of a ship at sea. All that is needed for the tour is a phone and the Smartify app.

Date: Daily

Time: 10.00 – 17.00

Age: Suitable for ages 7 and over

Location: Cutty Sark

Admission: Free with admission to the ship

## National Maritime Museum and Queen's House

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

## Mycenae House

**Fri 6th Mar 7.30pm - The Ukadelix.** 5 women playing a fun & eclectic set, joined by Isobel Jane Kimberley + Raie. £12.

**12th + 31st Mar - Drawing Inward.** A calming, mindfulness-based drawing workshop for all abilities. £20/£15.

**Sat 14th Mar 10.30am - Baby Broadway Concert.** The whole family can sing along to songs from hit musicals. £14.

**Sat 14th Mar 2pm - Celebrating Greenwich Women.** Stories of remarkable & often forgotten women with connections to Greenwich. £1.

**Fri 20th Mar 7.30pm - St Patrick's Day Celebration.** GFMA present a night of Irish traditional music, food & dance. £26.

**Tues 24th Mar 7.30pm - Gong Bath.** Journey through meditation & sound, a chance to relax & let go. £19.

**Fri 27th Mar 7.30pm - Nick Harper.** One of the UK's best kept musical secrets returns with solo show '58 Fordwych Rd'. £20.

**30th Mar-2nd Apr - Tiptoes & Tappers Easter School.** Ballet, Contemporary, Acro & more for children 4-11yrs. POA.

**31st Mar-2nd Apr - JK Performing Arts Holiday Club.** Singing, drama, dancing & more for children 4+. POA.

**31st Mar-2nd Apr - Design Camp.** Jewellery making, sketching, sewing & more for children 6-11yrs. POA.

**Tues 31st Mar 10.30am - Bach to Baby concert.** Classical Concert for families. £16.

**Flower arranging displays March 20th 1-3pm** £8 admission for visitors or £50 per year for members. Come and see professional demonstrators create extraordinary, artistic displays which are raffled off... you may be lucky and take one home!

[siancaroline@googlemail.com](mailto:siancaroline@googlemail.com)

For further information about all Mycenae House events + workshops visit [www.mycenaehouse.co.uk](http://www.mycenaehouse.co.uk)

## The Arts Society Greenwich

[www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk)

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**The Art of the Steal:**

**Nazi looting during World War II Monday 9 March at 7.30 pm** (please try to come a little earlier to check in)

Lecturer: Shauna Isaac

Venue: Wollstonecraft Room, Blackheath High School, Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath SE3 7AG

Guests very welcome: £10; reduced membership from February 2026 (5 lectures): £45

The Nazis looted over 20% of Western Art during World War II, confiscating art from Jewish families and emptying museums throughout Europe. This lecture will provide an overview of Nazi looting by setting the scene in Nazi Germany, discussing Hitler's obsession with art and how the Monuments Men recovered art after the war. Several landmark cases will be discussed in detail, including Gustav Klimt's celebrated Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer and the stash of over 1200 artworks found in possession of the son of a notorious Nazi dealer.

*Shauna Isaac has been active in World War II art restitution for several years and has worked with families and government organisations to recover Nazi looted art. She set up the Central Registry on Looted Cultural Property and served as a member of the Working Group for the Holocaust Era Assets Conference in Prague. Shauna studied at the Courtauld Institute of Art in the UK and Smith College in the USA.*



**Step back in time: 'Fans in the age of Jane Austen' Exhibition Open at The Fan Museum, until 21st March**

Visitors of all ages are invited to explore, learn and enjoy the intricate beauty and craftsmanship, with one special fan giving a nod to the brooding Mr. Darcy, who's sure to have his admirers among the crowd. Tickets: Available on-door.

Price: Standard entry £5, Senior (above 60) entry £3 with concessions including children under 6, Disabled, and National Art fund.

Information on access & Facilities: We have an operating lift to access the orangery and the first floor (our temporary exhibition), used with a supervising member of staff.

For more information visit - [www.thefanmuseum.org.uk/access-facilities](http://www.thefanmuseum.org.uk/access-facilities)

#JaneAustenFans

#FanMuseumGreenwich

#FansInTheAgeOfJaneAusten



**National One rugby at The Utilita, SE9 6TE. Kick off at 15:00, £15 on the gate.**

Mar 14th Rotherham

**Blackheath Women at Rectory Field, SE3 8SR. Kick off generally 14:00 — check social media. Free entry.**

Mar 29th Beckenham

[www.blackheathrugby.co.uk](http://www.blackheathrugby.co.uk)

## Blackheath Halls

**Lunchtime Recital: Blaze Ensemble**

**Mon 2 Mar, 1.10pm**

Franz Schubert Octet in F major, D. 803  
This recital is presented in memory of Tom Butler, who programmed the lunchtime concerts at Blackheath Halls for over twenty years, in celebration of what would have been his 90th birthday.

**Soloists' Competition Final 2026**

**Wed 4 Mar, 7.00pm**

Deep breath. The stage is yours. Finalists showcase their skills in this popular and prestigious competition, performing a concerto of their choice to be in with a chance of winning the Trinity Laban Soloists' Competition 2026.

**Sophie Ward: Our Better Natures**

**Thu 5 Mar, 7.30pm**

Join us for an evening with Sophie Ward, acclaimed stage and screen actress and writer, as she discusses her powerful third novel Our Better Natures.

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show**

**Sat 7 Mar, 1pm & 4pm**

**Sun 8 Mar, 11am & 2pm**

Created by Jonathan Rockefeller, the critically acclaimed show features a menagerie of over 75 magical and larger-than-life puppets, including the star of the show –The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

**International Women's Day 2026: Women in the Groove/Siren Cycle**

**Mon 9 Mar, 6.30pm**

An exceptional evening of music, dance and spoken word celebrating International Women's Day 2026.

18:15 Doors open

18:30 Pre-concert talk

19:30 Concert

**National Opera Studio: Act Three**

**Wed 11 Mar, 7.30pm**

Young Artists present an extraordinary evening celebrating the Studio's collaboration with two of its partner companies: English National Opera and Scottish Opera.

This one-night-only event features highlights from the Studio's residency with Scottish Opera, accompanied by the award-winning English National Opera Orchestra.

**Michael Tippett's: A Child of Our Time Sun 22 Mar, 7.30pm**

Francesca Chiejina soprano  
Veena Akama-Makia mezzo-soprano  
Ronald Samm tenor  
Blaise Malaba bass  
Chris Stark conductor  
Blackheath Halls Chorus and Orchestra perform Michael Tippett's A Child of Our Time, joined by four world-class soloists.

**Lunchtime Recital: Trio Rossetti**

**Mon 23 Mar, 1.10pm**

Clara Wernig Violin  
Ben Matson Cello  
Mischa Carr Piano  
Haydn Piano Trio No. 39 in G major 'Gypsy Rondo'  
Bridge Phantasie Trio (Piano Trio No. 1 in c minor)  
Beethoven Piano Trio in D major 'Ghost' op 70 no 1

**Beatrice the Amazing Astronaut Returns Sat 28 Mar, 2.00pm**

Beatrice the Amazing Astronaut Returns' with another dazzling piano performance for children and their adults with pianist Beatrice Nicholas. All children invited to come in Outer Space themed fancy dress costumes. An unforgettable introduction to classical music for children aged 3-9yrs (babies and toddlers welcome)

**PROGRAMME**

Star Trek Generations Overture,  
Dennis McCarthy  
Song to the Moon, Antonín Dvořák  
Diva Dance from Fifth Element,  
Éric Serra  
The Planets, Gustav Holst  
(Jupiter and Venus)  
Star Wars, John Williams (Main Theme, La Cantina, Imperial March)

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