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May 2026 No 4

“Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May.” – William Shakespeare

Return of A Turn Up And Go Train Service?

The Mayor of London has a strategic aim that, by 2041, 80% of travel in London should be by either public or active (walking/cycling) transport. Train services will have a key role in achieving that target and, to encourage their use, services should be regular, reliable, clean and safe and the station environment welcoming and secure. Good communication is also essential, particularly when disruption occurs.

20 minutes. This was a long way from being a “turn up and go” service and local Stakeholder groups, including the Greenwich Line Users Group, widely criticised this timetable.

Ever since then, groups have been campaigning for the reinstatement of the pre-Covid service level. Some success was achieved when the peak hour service was restored in December 2024. Now, Southeastern have announced a major increase in



A regular “turn up and go” train service in an urban metro area means the ability to travel spontaneously by turning up at a station without the need to check timetables in advance, and having only a short wait for a service to arrive. There is no agreed definition of what this means in time, but the consensus view seems to be around 10 minutes. A passenger going to Cutty Sark for the DLR, or to North Greenwich for the Jubilee Line, or to Woolwich for the Elizabeth Line, can normally be assured of a service within that time frame and will rarely check timetables in advance. The same cannot be said of National Rail service passengers using the Greenwich Line stations.

It is welcome news, therefore, that it looks as if this is about to change from December this year. In 2010, Southeastern introduced a daytime service of six trains an hour on this line at regular 10-minute intervals. In 2018, two of these trains an hour were replaced by Thameslink services but the overall interval frequency was retained. Unfortunately, but probably understandably, this level of service did not survive Covid restrictions and the service was reduced in 2020. In 2022 a timetable was introduced with some gaps in the service of over

their Metro services from December this year, subject to regulatory approval. This include the daytime “rounder” services via Greenwich and Sidcup being re-introduced, thus restoring the six trains an hour service at Greenwich line stations. The timetable has yet to be published, but it is a reasonable assumption that the present peak time service will run Monday to Saturday daytime.

This is a very welcome improvement but to make it a true “turn up and go” service, reliability will need also to improve. Southeastern services are generally reasonably reliable but Thameslink services have a relatively high level of cancellations and some long delays. This problem was raised with them at their last Stakeholder Forum, and they acknowledged the problem, which they put down to a lack of drivers and unreliable equipment in the St Pancras – Blackfriars “core”. GTR, which run the Thameslink services, is being taken back into Government ownership in May 2026 and the company have said that reliability will improve. If so, then we will have a “turn up and go” service that hopefully will encourage greater use of the trains and go some way to achieving the Mayor’s target.

Mike Sparham

Marathon 2026



Newsbrief

South Eastern Trains Summer 2026 timetable:

Over the school holidays South Eastern trains will again run extra services from South East London stations to coastal destinations such as Broadstairs, Herne Bay and Whitstable. There will also be more late-night services to support events at Dreamland Margate. See Southeasternrailway.co.uk for further information.

AGM Reminder

**Westcombe Society
AGM 2026**

Members are reminded that the MAGM will take place at 7pm on 15th May 2026 in the Wollstonecraft Room at Blackheath High School. After the business of the meeting Joe Beale will give an illustrated talk on our local wildlife. Light refreshments will be available.

Remember to Vote

Local Elections are being held on Thursday 7 May 2026.

Your poll card gives details of your polling station and voting hours are from 7am to 10pm. You must remember to bring photographic identification with you to

allow you to vote.

You can find a list of candidates for your Ward at:- www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/find-councillor-candidates-ward/nominated-persons-blackheath-westcombe-ward

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& South London Samba Band.**

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Westcombe News

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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

Let's get Quiz-ical



It's a question of whether you've
noted May 29 as quiz night in
your diary. Have you? Quizmasters
Robbie, Peter and Patrick have
rounded up more silly, easy, obscure
and hard questions; the fish 'n' chips
(£14 per person) for half-time are a
sure thing; money raised goes to The
Westcombe Society's charity pot
and, as ever, the evening will be
rowdy and fun. It's 7.00 pm for a

7.30 start. Tables of 6 quizzers each
will compete for prizes, there's a
raffle, and new friends will be made.
What are you waiting for!

The entry fee is £8 for members of
the Westcombe Society; £9 for non-
members.

Bookings: Please call Tessa on
mobile 07757 105808 or email her at
tessalewiscross@gmail.com.

2026 Easter Egg Hunt



It was more beanies than bonnets
at this year's Easter Egg Hunt,
thanks to the cheeky chill wind, but

BJWP – upcoming meeting

Blackheath Joint Working Party
Public Meeting is scheduled for
the evening of Tuesday 9 June.
Anyone is welcome to attend. This
is your chance to have your say
about what happens on Blackheath
and to also hear about how the
money collected from event
organisers is spent to benefit the
heath. It is also hoped that there
will be a presentation about wildlife
on the heath. More information
will be available on westcombesoci-
ety.org nearer the time.

Advertising Manager

The Westcombe News seeks a
new advertising manager. Tasks
in this voluntary position include
responding to queries for new ads,
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Many advertisers pre-pay for future
ads, so monthly invoicing is
minimal.

Basic spreadsheet skills a bonus but
training could be given. Around
7/10 hours over the month would be
needed.

Please contact Marilyn on
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or 07939386215

pretty Easter baskets, carrot
headbands and masks saved the
dress-up day. The weather certainly
didn't slow down the kids one bit.



Dozens of them were seen
scampering around Mycenae
Gardens for two hours, hunting
down colourful eggs and filling
baskets with them in order to be
rewarded with a chocolate egg.

As ever, the afternoon was a lively
affair with parents swept up in the
fun too. All money raised goes into
the Westcombe Society's charity pot
to help deserving local causes. A big
thank you to the friendly Mycenae
House staff for their help and
support.

Diane Blackwell



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The Blackheath Standard
Foodbank Welcome Centre
recently celebrated its 5th birthday
and the volunteer team, together
with the Volunteering Lead from the
Greenwich Foodbank, marked the
occasion in style with a jovial
evening greatly enriched by delicious
home-made cakes, and plenty of
laughter.

Foodbank Welcome Centre operates
every Saturday morning at St John's
Church on Stratheden Road. There
are 32 volunteers in total, and each
Saturday six are on duty, including
a session leader. During these five
years, the team has fulfilled 2,426
vouchers and supported 5,336
people, including 1,863 children.
The team is well known in
Foodbank circles for its warm
welcome, kindness, respect, and
genuine care. Dignity is always at
the heart of the service offered.

A voucher is needed before coming
to the Welcome Centre and
vouchers are issued by various
registered agencies, including Live
Well at the Woolwich Centre (0800
470 4831). A typical food parcel
contains a minimum of three days of
nutritionally-balanced, non-perish-
able tinned and dried foods, with
quantities appropriate for the
number of adults and children in the
family. But volunteering isn't just
about giving out food to those in a
crisis. It's also about spreading hope
and positivity, and signposting
individuals and families to various
sources of longer-term help; for
example, to individualized help in
overcoming debt, or to outlets
offering a free hot meal, or cheap
fruit and vegetables.

As one volunteer said 'I like helping
and I look forward to the friendship
of the other volunteers. It's
rewarding to see the positive change
in the clients' demeanour when they
leave on a Saturday compared with
their arrival'.

Ann Hill

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

Review: Blackheath in South West Greenwich



BLACKHEATH VILLAGE & ENVIRONS 1600-2000

by Neil Rhind

Volume 4: Blackheath in South West Greenwich

architectural development of Blackheath.

As well as the research and the books he undertook a great deal of community activity in Blackheath. He was president of the Blackheath Society and involved in Blackheath Preservation from the 1970s. He also worked closely with the Greenwich Society and was involved in many campaigns on buildings like Blackheath Concert Halls and Blackheath Art Club. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

There are several entries here which relate to various people but without some of the details I might have expected. For example, William Joyce in Diamond Terrace where Joyce's father,

Jeremiah, is discussed but without saying that William was a shipbuilder of the first iron steam ship in Greenwich. In early 19th century Greenwich the rare books must have been looked after by a parish official, John Bicknell. I'm very glad to see the story of Bicknell's mother, Sabrina, who was a young girl 'taken over' by two men who wanted to train her to become the perfect wife. She married somebody else in the end.

But this is all very trivial stuff and I don't want anybody to think that I'm criticising the book overall. Nothing's ever perfect and there is so much more here which really is very, very good and makes for an interesting book to enjoy.

So look out for Blackheath in South West Greenwich at Waterstones and the Blackheath Bookshop, both in Blackheath Village.

Mary Mills

The late Neil Rhind made notes for a proposed book which has now been edited by John Coulter and Julian Watson for the Blackheath Society as a memorial. Neil Rhind was a local historian researching and writing about Blackheath and its residents over the years. He described not only the area and its buildings in enormous detail but also wrote about the people who had lived in them. He published many books and pamphlets but what stands out are his three encyclopaedic works on Blackheath. The latest volume is called 'Blackheath in South West Greenwich' defined, by Neil, as 'Blackheath Slopes'.

I first met Neil in 1969 when I moved to Greenwich and had a very short-term job with Greenwich Theatre in its first few weeks. Neil was working as a journalist and was in and out of the theatre every day. Apparently 1969 was when he began his work on the social and

£77m Renovation of Greenwich Royal Observatory Started

Work has begun on the renovation project, known as the First Light programme, which started last month and is due to be completed by spring 2028. The aim is to make the whole site more accessible, bringing more people to, and safeguarding the heritage site for future generations. A lift and new stairs will be added to the Great Equatorial Building. A new entrance pavilion is being created to better direct people from Greenwich Park into the Royal Observatory. Visiting hours will be extended in the summer.

The Peter Harrison Planetarium is currently closed, but the rest of the site will remain open while the works continue, and a new temporary gallery, Astronomers Take Over, has opened at the National Maritime Museum, offering visitors the chance to meet astronomers and take part in science demonstrations.



The transformation is being funded through the Royal Museums Greenwich's own reserves, government funding, and external grants and donations. This includes £9.7m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and £21.9 million from the Government's Public Bodies Infrastructure Fund.

Welcome, Pilates

There's a shiny new kid on the block at the Standard shops. It's a Pilates studio in a space that was once part of a bank. Aaron and Giti are the driving force behind our exciting new local hub that offers fitness and wellness for everyone using reformer machines.



Mat and reformer Pilates has grown in popularity over the last decade, largely because they provide

low-impact exercise that strengthens and tones, and is accessible to all age groups.

"We have classes for Over 60s, for pregnant women (who've checked with their GPs first) and new mums and there are routines too", says Giti. Even mums with a child up to one year old are welcome. "We have a little playpen if needed but usually the baby is in a pram asleep during class".

Too busy during the week to take a class? You can get your Pilates fix on Saturday and Sunday too; Aaron and Giti have six freelance instructors to put you through your paces. Also on the premises is The Detox Rehab where hair analysis, to assess mineral balance and screen for heavy metals, is offered along with advice on nutrition and lifestyle. And you can get vitamin injections too.

Diane Blackwell

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FEATURES

Yellow-legged (Asian) Hornets are Invading the UK: What you need to know

Yellow-legged hornets on the move: from over there to over here

Predatory yellow-legged hornets (YLH) or Asian Hornets (*Vespa Velutina*) are endemic to South-East Asia, yet have a striking proclivity for territorial expansion. They first arrived in Europe (France) in 2004, concealed in earth-containing pots. And they didn't come just to enjoy a quick glass of wine. Visaless or not, they came to stay. Within 15 years, they had conquered North-West Europe and are currently expanding both Eastwards and, unfortunately for us, into the UK - probably hidden in shipments/transport rather than on the wing. Since first spotted in 2016 in Gloucestershire, there have been sporadic but numerous (>500) sightings of YLHs and their nests.



Yellow-Legged (Asian) Hornet feeding on ivy in garden (Author)

Why worry about yellow-legged hornets?: The threat

A horror-movie-like scenario of panicking citizens assaulted by vast swarms of malicious hornets is improbable since, despite the occasional fatality following multiple stings, unless you are daft enough to poke a stick into their nests, you are unlikely to be targeted. Nonetheless, if you dislike wasps, you are going to hate yellow-legged hornets, and your kids will almost certainly freak out when they start buzzing around the garden.

Moreover, bees have a much more serious problem. Asian honeybees, *Apis cerana*, have evolved protective measures to deal with YLHs.

Though hunting ("hawking") YLHs hover in front of their hives, bees evade capture by rapidly darting home. Furthermore, guard bees envelop the YLHs, killing them by thermal shock. Conversely, our Western honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, YLHs lacks defensive mechanisms. In addition, each YLH captures up to 50 honeybees in its 2-3 weeks lifespan: this leads to hive starvation and even colony collapse.



European Hornet feeding on ivy in garden (Author)

YLH predation of wild insects is another serious issue. A single YLH nest, which produces up to 25,000 workers, can plunder 11kg of prey! In the countryside, they focus on social wasps, but DNA retrieved from the gut and faeces of YLH larvae also reveals bumble bees, beetles, bugs, butterflies and assorted flies. YLH elimination of insects further reduces pollination of flowers and crops, not least since YLH themselves, though seeking nectar, are lousy pollinators.

Finally, YLHs may import pathogens and parasites that infect insects like honeybees, already weakened by *Varroa* mites.

Countering invasions and the deleterious impact of YLH

First thing first: know thy enemy! YLH can be distinguished from European hornets, *Vespa crabo*, by their smaller size (15-25 versus 25-30 mm) and colour (Photos 1 and 2). Furthermore, YLH nests are located in tall trees and have an entrance at the side rather than the bottom (Photo 3). Tracking tagged YLHs can help, but Citizen Scientists (you and I!) have an important role in reporting YLHs and nests to the Council and the

Non-Native Species Website (below). Nests can be professionally destroyed by injection with Pyrethrum, Sulphur Dioxide or Steam. As for individuals, flattening the odd YLH may make you feel better, yet is not advised. If you really must, try a badminton racket but remember that YLHs may, in contrast to shuttlecocks, bite back! Baited traps are likewise not recommended, since they catch bees and other insects.

Beekeepers can exploit a variety of



Nest in tree top of Yellow-Legged Hornet ('Notre Temps')

contraptions like: 1) 'e-harps' (electrified grids with rods spaced to zap YLHs but not honeybees), and 2) meshes small enough to let honeybees in and out, but not YLHs.

Nature itself may also help. European Hornets, irked by these upstart competitors, attack and kill YLHs. As for birds, bee-eaters consume them while honey buzzards devastate YLH nests, robbing larvae to feed their young. Regrettably, honey buzzards are uncommon in the UK and bee-eaters entirely absent. A biocontrol-based strategy using parasites such as roundworms and flies (Conopid) may help, but would probably be insufficient alone.

Facing the challenge of invasive YLHs: Future minimization of risk

Honey buzzards are admittedly enjoying a few extra meals, but is there any other good news?. Well, if you can't stand spiders, YLHs catch them as well, and (so far) we don't have to worry about Giant Asian

Hornets (4-6 cm long). Further, 'thanks' to other YLH-invaded countries, we can profit from lessons already learned, like how to destroy nests and protect beehives.

Suspected sightings of YLHs should be reported to the GB Non-native Species Secretariat, preferably with a photo.

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/asian-hornet-watch/id1161238813>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.ac.ceh.hornets>

http://www.brc.ac.uk/risc/alert.php?species=asian_hornet

Mark J Millan

Greenwich Foot Tunnel

The 124 year-old Greenwich Foot Tunnel has been the focus of dispute for many years. Now the two councils responsible for its maintenance, Greenwich and Tower Hamlets, have finally agreed on a "full regeneration" project. This is planned to include new dual lift shafts so that in the case of a breakdown, at least one will still be usable.



Picture: Greenwich Wire

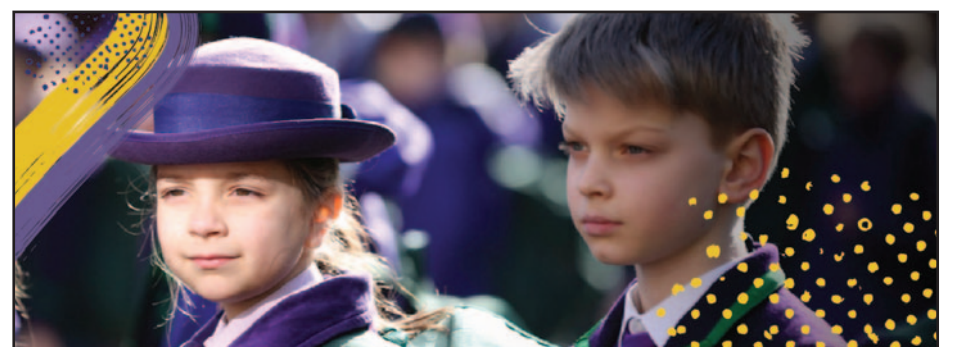
This will come as some relief to campaigners from Lifts Now! who have argued that responsibility should be transferred to TfL. However, a return to fully functioning lifts at both ends of the tunnel will take months if not years to achieve. Around 4,000 use the tunnel every day, but since early April the south, Greenwich, lift has only been operational 30% of the time.

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FEATURES

The Ocean Map

New illustrated book **The Ocean Map** launches for World Ocean Day at the National Maritime Museum

To celebrate World Ocean Day 2026, the National Maritime Museum is publishing a new illustrated book, **The Ocean Map**, and hosting a free festival inviting families to explore the wonders of the ocean.

Challenger Deep, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the Great Barrier Reef, the Suez and Panama Canals, and Thwaites Glacier.

The book can be preordered online now: www.shop.rmg.co.uk (Credit all images © National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.) On 6 June 2026, the National Maritime Museum will host its annual World Ocean Day Festival,



Written by Aimee Mook, ocean expert and Museum curator, the book is published on 4 June 2026 and presents the ocean as a single, connected system using the Spillhaus projection. It guides readers through deep ocean trenches, glaciers, coral reefs, wind farms, shipping canals and other natural and humanmade features. Illustrated throughout, the book provides clear explanations of ocean processes, habitats, biodiversity, climate and renewable energy.

The Ocean Map draws on the Museum's work in ocean literacy, encouraging readers to see the world from an oceanfirst point of view. Written for younger audiences as well as anyone beginning to explore ocean science, the book highlights how people and animals rely on the ocean, and how scientists study this vast, interconnected environment. Locations featured include the

offering a full programme of free activities helping families connect with the ocean through science, creativity and live performance. Events will take place across the Museum's galleries and outdoor spaces, with opportunities to engage with marine science, ocean conservation and global maritime cultures. Highlights include live storytelling inspired by the Ocean map, hands-on ocean activities and talks, demonstrations and tours.

World Ocean Day is recognised internationally on 8 June, and Royal Museums Greenwich has celebrated it annually since 2018.

www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/
Venue: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Dates: 6 June 2026
Opening times: 10.00 – 17.00
Admission: Free
Visitor enquiries: 020 8858 4422

Polly Morgan

Johnny did it!

As reported in our April issue.



Johnny completed the London marathon in memory of his mum Caroline and has so far raised over £2,300 for Alzheimer's Research UK. He completed the run in just under 5 hrs 30 having started training Couch to 5k last September and is proud of his achievements and happy to support an important cause. Caroline was a huge supporter of many local causes and like mother like son, Johnny is continuing the charitable endeavours.



The day itself was a spectacle of the best London has to offer, with glorious weather and unbelievable crowd support every inch of the 26.2 miles. A day to be proud of being a Londoner.

<https://2026tcs.londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/johnny-owens>



Stop Press

As the Westcombe News went to press we learnt that an open letter had been sent to the CEO of the Royal Borough of Greenwich detailing the issues that are of concern to traders at Blackheath Standard. Issues such as the implementation and effects of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) and the proposed sale of the Old Dover Road car park together with the council's perceived overall lack of interest and support for the traders and local community they serve. A number of recommendations and suggestions for corrective action were offered and a response to the letter is awaited.

We await the reply from the council to the open letter and will report more fully in the next or subsequent issue of the Westcombe News.

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Frances Cumming



Frances Cumming of Humber Road, aged 79, died peacefully on the 6th of April 2026.

Born and raised in Dulwich, she lived in the Greenwich area for over 40 years, an area she loved in the city where she spent all her life. She dedicated her working life to education, working at South Rise Primary School as Deputy Headteacher, before becoming Headteacher at Cherry Orchard Primary School, Charlton, until her retirement in 2006.

Outside work, she enjoyed time with family in Dorset and life in London with her late husband, John. She loved visiting art galleries, attending concerts and theatre, doing tai chi and travelling. She was kind, generous and full of laughter.

In later years she lived with Parkinson's disease and was cared for in Wiltshire near her beloved brother.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

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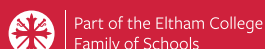


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ENVIRONMENT

Betting on Hedges

Friends of Mycenae Gardens have been making further improvements to our local park. Not by financial jiggery-pokery – far from it! – but by adding a new layer of protection for the woodland area, to enhance the habitat for wildlife. A new set of stakes was installed during February and March, thanks to a grant from the Postcode Lottery

live hedge will mean food and shelter for other types of wildlife, from the birds that depend on berries to caterpillars that need fresh leaves so they can develop into butterflies. The park has locally-recognised status as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, and this project will help us keep that designation.



Some of the many volunteers at our February work day, planting the new live hedge. Stewart Williams

Fund and with help from the Greenwich Parks and Open Spaces Department. These are being used to build up a new dead hedge, using pruning waste and donations of tree material. And between this and the older dead hedge, we've planted a live hedge, full of young plants of native hedging. Among them are common and buckthorn alders, hazels and hornbeams, guelder roses and European spindle. This will make a colourful display, with autumn berries and leaves and fresh new growth for spring. The hedge has also been extended into the lower reaches of the park, to counteract wear and tear.

We welcomed help from a record number of people, with groups from Good Gym and the Charlton House and Gardens team. The project took several weekends in all, plus



Baskets of young plants for the live hedge. Stewart Williams

Why build hedges? The dead hedges give shelter and nesting spots to all sorts of insects and small animals, protecting them from predators and bad weather. These help pollinate garden plants through the wider area, support the food chain for birds, and maintain a balance for better biodiversity for all. It also helps us dispose of pruned plant material which would go into the waste system otherwise. And the

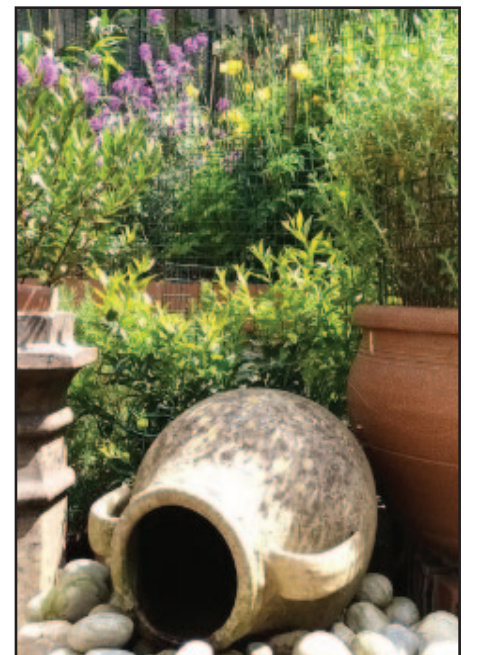
the time that the Parks staff put in. Of course you will notice the green protective fencing; it's there to stop humans from running over the new hedges. In time, once the dead hedge is fuller, we'll be able to take that down. We welcome volunteers at our regular work days: Sunday 31st of May and then Saturday 27th of June, at 10:00, will be the next opportunities to help and find out more about what the Friends are planning.

The Open Gardens Festival: Westcombe Park and Beyond

The Open Gardens Festival will take place again this year and will showcase over 50 unique gardens on the weekends of June 6-7th and June 20-21st in Blackheath, Greenwich, Charlton, Lee, Eltham, Abbey Wood and Bexleyheath. A list and description of the gardens along with information about dates and times of opening can be found on www.communityhospice.org.uk The gardens are very varied and include tranquil woodland escapes and rewilded spaces, more formal Georgian bowers, riverside gems and vibrant community gardens. Some lovely front gardens give a clue to more loveliness to the rear but there are also amazing gardens to be discovered behind quite ordinary-looking front gardens. I was astonished one year to find even a small lake with pebbly beach in an extensive garden on the Cator estate!

pass is £14 and a pass covering both weekends is £20. All money raised goes to the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice.

In Westcombe Park we have Open Gardens at: Westcombe Park Rd no. 96 ; Mycenae Rd 10 and 101; Heathway 2, 30 and 34; Mary Lawrenson Place 1; Vanbrugh Park 85-104; Beaconsfield Rd 79; Delacourt Rd 2; Restell Close Maze Hill allotments; Westcombe Woodlands. The gardens will be a delight: let's hope for equally delightful weather. *Ann Hill*



PLANNING APPLICATIONS*

www.westcombesociety.org

- 75 MAZE HILL ref 26/0965/HD
To construct outdoor gym and sauna in rear garden, and a terrace with hot tub.
- EVERDENE, 10 HARDY ROAD ref 26/0846/F
To construct upward extensions to provide 4 additional flats.
- 48 RUTHIN ROAD ref 26/0930/HD
To convert loft and install two rear dormer windows and 2 front rooflights

* 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

Single garden entry is £5. A weekend



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WHAT'S ON

Blackheath Halls

The music of Franz Schubert
The series of 10 two-hour lectures on Monday mornings by British composer Matthew Taylor are at 10.00am in the Blackheath Halls and they started on **April 20**. They will cover a wide range of Schubert's offerings. The lectures cost £17 each or a reduced charge of £153 for the full programme. For more details, please contact me by email at johnbartram75@hotmail.com or on my mobile **07849 744471**.

Trinity Laban Opera Scenes Spring 2026 Fri 1 May, 7pm
Back for Spring, Trinity Laban vocal students perform a range of opera scenes at Blackheath Halls.

Danny Baker: Aye Aye! Ahoy Hoy! Sat 2 May, 7.30pm
The Unstoppable Talking Panjandrum Is Back In Town!

Ronnie Scott's Presents: Natalie Williams' Soul Family Fri 8 May 8pm
Soul Family's 'Motown and More' captures the defining sound of 60s pop, R&B and soul.

A Day at the Musicals! Sat 9 May, 10.00am
Step into the spotlight and lose yourself in a world of show-stopping music.

Haven't Stopped Dancing Yet May Disco Ball Sat 9 May, 7.30pm
HSDY are back to give everyone a burst of feel-good 70s and 80s disco.

Lunchtime Recital: Sarah-Jane Bradley Mon 11 May, 1.10pm
Sarah-Jane Bradley viola
Matthew Taylor piano
Robert Schumann Märchenbilder Op.113

Matthew Taylor Fantasy Pieces
Johannes Brahms Sonata in F minor
Lindisfarne Sat 23 May, 8.00pm
With a repertoire of unforgettable songs.

Next Up Festival x Blackheath Halls Thu 28 May & Fri 29 May, Doors 5pm
2 electric nights of live performances from the brightest talent on Trinity Laban's BA (Hons) Music Performance and Industry degree.

The Very Busy Bumblebee Fri 29 May, 11.00am & 1.00pm
Can Beatrice teach Mr. Grumpy to tidy up and just how important she is for the garden and for the whole world?

www.blackheathhalls.com/whats-on/



National One Play Off Blackheath Rugby v Plymouth Albion Sat 9 May, The Utilita, SE9 6TE
Gates open 12:00, kick off: 15:00

Mycenae House

Sat 9th May 2-5pm - Children's Chess Tournament. Suitable for beginners making their first competitive steps. £25.

May 15th - Blackheath Flower Club Come & see professional flower arranging demonstrators create modern artistic displays which are raffled off for £2 - £8 admission.

siancaroline@googlemail.com
Sat 16th May 1.30-5pm - Introduction to Face Painting. Learn basic application techniques & design skills. £130.

Tues 26th May 9am - 3pm - JK Performing Arts Holiday Club. Join JKPA for singing, dancing & acting for children age 4+ . £40 per child.

Wed 27th-Thurs 28th May 10am - 4pm - Engineering Minds STEM Camp. Ignite curious minds with a mix of science, technology, arts & play for children age 6-11. £57 per day.

Thurs 28th May 7.30pm - Gong Bath. Journey through meditation & sound, a chance to relax & let go. £19.

Fri 29th May 10.30am - Bach to Baby concert. Classical Concert for families. £16 adults/up to 2 children free.

Sat 30th May 10am - 5pm - Family Constellations Workshop. Experience your life through the lens of the profound and healing work of family constellations. £60

ORNC



Greenwich Dog Show

Sun 24 May | 10am-late

The Greenwich Dog Show is back – and it's set to be bigger, better, and more tail-waggingly fun than ever!

King Arthur and the Holy Grail

Wed 27 May | 7pm-9pm

Join the Three Inch Fools for an outdoor performance of the iconic Arthurian adventure.



Film Tour: Wigs, Weddings, Powder and Palaces

Sat | 11.30am & 1.30pm

Discover the backdrop of your favourite period dramas and uncover the secrets of filmmaking.

<https://ornc.org/whats-on/> for further information

Sitopia Farm

In May/June at your local Sitopia Farm Veg bag and flower subscriptions: we deliver to Westcombe Park! **Growing courses!** We have a number of half and full day workshops Sat 9th May/ Wed 10th June or Sat 4th July: - 1 Day **Organic and No Dig Growing Course.** Wed 13th May/ Wed 22nd July- 1 Day **Flower Growing Course.** **Pop-up Farm Shops & Open Days.** and we're opening Sitopia Farm for you to visit free of charge. **Farm Shop & Plant Sale Sat 16th May 10am-2pm** and **Farm Shop & Midsummer Solstice Event Sat 20th June 10am-2pm**

The Arts Society Greenwich

www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk

Sorella: the Artist of Light Monday 11 May at 7.30 pm

Lecturer: Arantxa Sardina
Venue: Blackheath High School, Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath SE3 7AG
Guests very welcome: £10; reduced membership from February 2026: £35
Joaquín Sorolla hated darkness. Claude Monet once said that painting in general did not have enough light in it. Sorolla could not agree more. Sorolla believed painters could never reproduce sunlight as it really is, and he could only "approach the truth of it". He managed to capture like no other the light of the Mediterranean beaches he loved and the energy of Spanish life. He painted what he saw, quickly, to capture that precise moment. As he said "I could not paint at all if I had to paint slowly."



Arantxa Sardina is an official volunteer guide at Tate, Modern and Britain. Arantxa is an Ambassador for Amantani: www.amantani.org.uk, focused on promoting inclusion and equality for rural Peruvians through opportunities in education, employment, and fair trade. A percentage of fees from all lectures goes to support their mission.

West Greenwich Library

Poetry Reading on **May 5th at 7 for 7.30pm**

A change of programme for the May date. Poets from the Live Canon stable, Helen Eastman, who runs Live Canon (and many other literary and theatrical ventures) and was recently shortlisted for the National Poetry Competition; local poet Andrew George who will read from his intriguing latest collection, Portrait of the Artist with Daughter and Dead Hamster; Barbara Barnes and Tessa Foley will complete this impressive line-up.



Catch "Please correct me if I'm wrong, but 'casual' doesn't usually involve making you hot chocolate when you're ill or holding hands in co-op?" But what happens when everything is far from perfect?

18+ 6th to the 9th May.

Dead Air

Since Alfie's dad died, he's visited everyone's dreams but hers. Rude. Desperate to talk to him, she uses AiR, an AI chatbot for the dead. A heartfelt, funny, and glitchy deep dive into grief, ghosts, and digital obsession. Written and performed by Alfrun Rose, Dead Air is a play with dark humor and offbeat storytelling.

13th - 16th May 2026

Cutty Sark

Heritage Crafts Weekend

This interactive event includes a selection of drop-in activities to celebrate the heritage craft skills used to build and maintain Cutty Sark. Visitors will be able to learn about crafts such as rope making, fender making and traditional caulking. There will be a range of historical objects and contemporary craft objects on display that can be handled.

Dates: 16, 17 May 2026

Time: 11:00 – 16:00

Age: Suitable for ages 5 and over

Location: Cutty Sark

Admission: Free with admission to the ship
Opera at Cutty Sark with Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras

Experience the drama of Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas underneath Cutty Sark's hull in this immersive production, which combines music, movement and staging. The night will also feature Purcell's Funeral Sentences, performed at the funeral of Queen Mary II. Directed by Andrew Staples and conducted by Jonathan Sells, the opera will be performed by the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists. Tickets to both concerts include a short self-guided tour of the ship beforehand.

Dates: 21 May 2026

Time: 19:00 – 20:00, 21:00 – 22:00

Age: Suitable for ages 16 and over

Location: Cutty Sark

Admission: Adult £40-£80, includes self-guided tour of the ship

May Half Term: Stars

Come along to Cutty Sark this May half term for crafts, stories and sensory music, exploring our connection to the stars. Discover how stars are used for navigation, in mythology and in art and design.

Dates: 23 – 31 May 2026

Time: 11:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 16:00

Age: Suitable for all ages

Location: Cutty Sark

Admission: Free with admission to the ship
Niki Gorick: Dock Life Display

Niki Gorick: Dock Life is a photographic display that captures the varied lives and activities along London's dockside. A London-based photographer, Niki Gorick has achieved recognition for her candid images, which document the capital's diverse communities.

Dates: Opened 7 November 2025

Time: 10.00 – 17:00

Age: Suitable for all ages

Location: Cutty Sark

Admission: Free with admission to the ship
www.rmg.co.uk/cutty-sark

Astronomy at the National Maritime Museum

Parts of the Royal Observatory site have closed for a transformative redevelopment project titled 'First Light'. The first phase of the project has started with the closure of the Peter Harrison Planetarium, Modern Astronomy galleries and the Victorian Altazimuth Pavilion. Work is planned to be completed by spring 2028. The Prime Meridian line, Meridian Observatory and historic Flamsteed House galleries remain open to visitors until spring 2027.

www.rmg.co.uk/royal-observatory/transformation

During this time, the Royal Observatory astronomers and astronomy programming has moved to the National Maritime Museum.

Astronomers Take Over

Astronomers Take Over is a new space for families at the National Maritime Museum that hosts astronomy activities while works are carried out at the Royal Observatory Greenwich. This playful hands-on experience gives visitors the opportunity to meet astronomers, participate in science

demonstrations and ask questions about outer space. While the Peter Harrison Planetarium is closed for refurbishment, Astronomers Take Over features an alternative planetarium where visitors can learn all about the night sky, with a variety of shows led by astronomers.

Date: Open daily from 27 March 2026

Time: 10:00 – 17:00

Age: Suitable for all ages

Location: National Maritime Museum
Price: Experience + planetarium: £16 | Experience only: £8

Unboxing the Universe

Unboxing the Universe is a multi-sensory live science show that turns big space questions into exciting moments of discovery.

Date: Opened 3 April 2026

Time: Weekends 13:30, 15:30 | Friday – Monday (school holidays only) 11:30, 13:30 and 15:30

Age: Suitable for all ages

Location: National Maritime Museum

Price: Adult £16 | Child £16 | Student £16

www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on

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