

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.”- John Keats

Thameslink:

Reliability Improves but Greenwich Line Service Cuts Continue

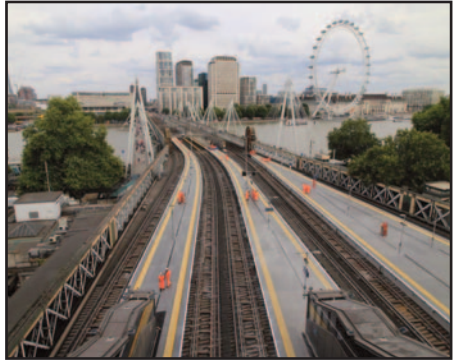
Local representatives from the rail users group attended a recent Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) Stakeholder Forum, the first the Company has held since being taken into public ownership. The CEO, John Whitehurst, said the transition into a Department for Transport Operator had been smooth and that the industry journey to form Great British Rail (GBR) will be complete by the end of next year. Integration with Network Rail is taking place and the plan for passengers is to get the basics right and improve performance. He acknowledged there had been large infrastructure failures which had affected performance and said there has been investment in the signalling in the core, between Farringdon and Blackfriars, to address this and improve reliability.



The Customer Services Officer, Louis Rambaud, acknowledged that improvements in reliability are needed and reported that 75 new Thameslink drivers have been recruited to improve driver availability. He also reported that the presentation of the Thameslink fleet of trains is to be improved with anti-graffiti wraps in the toilets and the insides of the trains will be given an enhanced deep clean. The outside of the trains will also have a deep clean and a polish. He went on to

defend the summer timetable adjustments by saying the timetable has to be cost effective and the savings made will allow for investment elsewhere. The summer cuts in the Thameslink timetable were robustly challenged in a later private exchange with Senior Stakeholder Manager, Martin Darby. It was pointed out that, on the Greenwich line, Thameslink are a vital part of the four trains per hour “turn up and go” service that rail users living in a metro area expect. Removing one train an hour, resulting in some 30 minute gaps between services, discourages rail use and potential passengers go elsewhere. The summer service cut on this line was defended on the basis that Luton-Rainham services at their eastern end (beyond Dartford) are very lightly loaded and not cost effective. In response, we said that is a longer term issue that timetabling experts could consider but it should not be used as an excuse to cut the service provision in Greenwich where, in our experience, Thameslink services are anything but lightly loaded. The direct service it provides to St Pancras and the City, and the connections at Farringdon, are welcomed and appreciated. Thameslink managers certainly got the message, but the timetable for the autumn school holiday week shows the same cut being made so the battle for a permanent reliable timetable goes on. Reliability of Thameslink has improved lately, although service cancellations and delays are still at an unacceptably high level, as the Managers at the Forum agreed. One way of improving reliability on this line that is being looked at is scaling

back the Thameslink service so it terminates at Kentish Town, as it already does on Sundays and in the evenings. The aim is to stop any delays on the East Midlands main line being imported into services on this line. Whether that will help or not remains to be seen. It depends upon whether that is the main cause of delays. Cancellations have also been the result of a lack of drivers and the cynic in me notes that a train service which is 44 minutes shorter requires fewer drivers to operate it.



AND ON SOUTHEASTERN..... After a three week closure Charing Cross and Waterloo East stations have re-opened on time, and can, once again, be reached by changing at London Bridge. At Charing Cross sections of platforms have been rebuilt and platform surfaces re-laid. 2km of track has been replaced and structural repairs undertaken to Hungerford bridge, which was opened in 1864 and takes the tracks over the River Thames to and from Charing Cross station. It was a major project which Southeastern say will “help keep the railway fit for decades to come”. Southeastern have also reported that their business case for a new fleet of metro trains has been submitted for government approval. It is hoped

this will be given in September, following which a preferred bidder will be announced. This has been a painfully slow process, which began in 2022. The aim had been for new trains to enter service in 2027, but the specifications were changed and the contract was re-tendered. The best that can be hoped for now is that new trains will arrive in the early 2030s. Meanwhile, passengers in south east London continue to travel on 40 year old trains and one of the few national train fleets left that do not have air conditioning.

Mike Sparham,
Greenwich Line Users Group

TfL News

London bus fares can be confusing.

- For a single journey they are frozen at £1.75 until November 1, 2026, after which single fares will rise by 10p to £1.85.
- There is a daily cap of £5.25 which will rise to £5.55 from November. The Hopper Rule allows you to make unlimited bus and tram journeys within one hour of touching in for the price of a single fare.
- These changes and freezes apply equally to Croydon's tram network.
- All 5-10 year olds travel free on buses and trams and only need a Zip Oyster photocard if they look older than 10.
- The cycle shuttle bus is run by TfL through the Silvertown Tunnel and is free. TfL are required to run it until April 2028 but it is not well used with an average of 100-130 journeys every weekday. One possible solution which TfL are considering is to allow pedestrians to use the buses.

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Diane Blackwell

Councillors

Following the Council elections
in May, Royal Borough of
Greenwich is represented by 55
councillors across 23 wards. The
political breakdown of the newly
elected Council is:

- Labour: 35 seats
- Green Party: 13 seats
- Conservative: 6 seats
- Reform UK: 1 seat

Anthony Okereke remains the
Council Leader.

In Blackheath Westcombe ward our
Councillors, Leo Fletcher, Mariam
Lolavar and Christine St. Matthew-
Daniel, were re-elected.

2027 Marathon

Two days One event, 10,000 people

It can now be confirmed that for
one year only the London
Marathon will take place over two
days - the weekend 24th and 25th
April.

Frequently asked questions can be
found at:
www.londonmarathonevents.co.uk/
london-marathon/2027-tcs-london-
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lives. Tell us who that unsung hero
is, what they do and why they
deserve a big show of gratitude in
The Westcombe News. Email to
info@westcombesociety.org.

Diane Blackwell

The Charity Walk We Love

Walking to raise funds for
Macmillan Cancer Support
has also turned into a memorable
way to explore and appreciate our
slice of London. This year, on
Sunday September 27, we're headed
to Trinity Buoy Wharf, Docklands,
a blend of industrial character, art
installations, a sculpture park and
historic landmarks including
London's only lighthouse.

Nestled in low key splendour
amongst high rise apartment blocks,
the O2, and all the noises of a city,
this treasure on the Thames is still a
bit of a secret location. Join us at
9.30 at Cutty Sark to discover its
charm. The walk is about 8
kilometres (4.98 miles) and takes 2
to 3 hours depending on speed and
coffee breaks.

We head off through the Greenwich
Foot Tunnel and turn right. A shiny
new-ish café offers refreshment and
toilets if needed at the start. The
Thames delights throughout the
walk. We pass warehouses converted
to flats, a stunning white art deco
apartment block, and then, for a bit,
go a little inland with Canary Wharf
towering to our left. Down a
cobbled street we go to the historic
Gun pub where Lord Nelson
romanced Emma Hamilton. The old
and new sit easily side by side. Still
in high rise land there's a delightful
café for coffee and a hotel nearby if
nature calls. Soon back by the
Thames, and with the O2 well in
sight, we enter Trinity Buoy Wharf.
New houses and flats built in the last
few years have increased footfall
along the road leading to the magic
stuff ... the sculptures, the art
studios, rehearsal rooms and other
creative hubs. There's a popular café
with toilets (and an old black cab on
its roof) and the lighthouse, which
you can explore, is a treat.

Getting back to Greenwich/
Blackheath: Catch the SL4 at the
stop just outside Trinity Buoy to
Canary Wharf where you can get
another SL4 to Blackheath or catch
the DLR to Greenwich Cutty Sark.
You can also walk to nearby
Canning Town and get the Jubilee
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The walk is £10 cash per person, on
the day please, all of which goes to
Macmillan.

Diane Blackwell

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

Yeshiwas Demilew



Yeshiwas Demilew died on June 29th, a much loved friend and neighbour. He was born in Ethiopia

and served in the Imperial Navy. He studied in London where he met Jill, a student nurse who was to become the love of his life. Faced with an uncertain future, he made the decision to leave his homeland and left on foot via Sudan, surviving six months of house arrest, before being helped to return to the UK, where he was reunited with Jill. They settled in Westcombe Park, where they raised their two children, Daniel and Miriam. They lived life to the full and travelled widely in

spite of Miriam's disability. Her untimely death at the age of 14 hit Yesh hard, but she was an inspiration to him when he was later struck with Parkinson's disease, which he and Jill met with courage and fortitude. Daniel and his wife live in Perth, Australia, and have been a great support, and their daughter Elena has brought them much joy. Yesh leaves behind a profound legacy of honour, resilience and boundless love. He will be greatly missed, especially by Jill.

Clean Sweeps at John Roan

This morning, celebrations at The John Roan School have once again begun as students receive their GCSE results – representing improvements on key headline measures and reflecting those seen at the school's Sixth Form last week. Today's celebrations add to the summer of success at The John Roan School – building on last week's results at A Level and BTEC with further improvements seen on key headline measures at the school. Dr Jennie Sanderson, Principal at The John Roan School, said of students' achievements: "It is fantastic to see such pride and excitement across our school as students receive their GCSE results and reflect on everything they have achieved so far in their learning. Each of them can take their next steps forward knowing that they worked hard, they displayed ambition and they have grown in confidence throughout their time with us. "What is particularly gratifying is that so many of these Year 11s will be joining us in the Autumn to begin their A Level and BTEC studies. This is in no small part due to the excellent support, challenge and encouragement students receive from our wonderful staff team, who also deserve our thanks and praise on days such as today. "We wish all our students well today and look forward to seeing them build on these achievements in the next stage of their education and lives."

Jenny Moloney



1st June 1945 – 11th June 2026 I had the good fortune to meet Jenny over 30 years ago, originally through the Westcombe Society. We became good friends and I got to

know her parents, brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, of whom she was immensely proud. Family was everything to Jen. Jenny contributed so much to the local community in Westcombe Park, which she treasured and supported, both through the Westcombe Society and St George's Church. If you needed a delicious home-made cake, jar of marmalade or chutney, she was the go-to person and always willing and generous with her help.

Jenny will also be remembered by many locals as the "Lollypop Lady", helping young and old to safely cross Westcombe Hill, always with a smile, a laugh or a joke. She loved to dance, certainly knew how to party, and you knew when you'd been hugged by Jenny! However, nobody's life is all plain sailing, and Jenny also battled life's problems with great fortitude. I last saw Jenny on 31st May and dropped off some copies of the Westcombe News for her to distribute to her neighbours, still serving her community to the end. Thank you, Jenny. You will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved you.

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FEATURES

Summer Activities for Wilder Greenwich

Wilder Greenwich (WG) had a busy day in July, with a bio-blitz at Siebert Road and a litter-pick at Westcombe Park Station.



What is a bio-blitz? The aim is to learn to survey a patch of land for all the living things it contains. It's a communal activity, with participants sharing knowledge and enthusiasm. While eyes alone can't discover creatures like bacteria and creatures within the soil, it's astonishing how much you can see if you look at patch of green, the less cultivated, the better. Past surveys have found up to 50 different species of plants and insect. These include things gardeners might consider weeds, like green alkanet – WG found a genetic variant with a white flower instead of the usual blue – and dandelions. But there were also more unusual wild plants. *Achillea millefolia*, or yarrow, has a white flower in its wild form, but has been bred for horticulture into a brilliant array of flowers, in red, orange and yellow shades. *Geum urbarum*, whose common name is wood avens, is related to a garden breed, *Geum 'Totally Tangerine'*, widely seen in gardens like Charlton House. And there are many more: thistles, several grasses, mustards, cow parsley, and mallow add to the diversity.

The plants at the Siebert Road site support a number of insect species. Surveys have found seven-spot ladybirds, hairy-footed flower bees, rove beetles, holly blue butterflies, hover flies, and clover beetles. Some of these were caught by swishing a net through the air, gently, and



A hoverfly found during the bio-blitz releasing any insects once they've been identified. Most were simple visual identifications. Other equipment was used: little clip-on lenses for phones, turning them into macro-cameras; little boxes with magnifying glasses in the lids; and apps to identify plants online. Ecologists prefer not to trap or kill specimens, if possible, so no creatures were harmed in the process of WG's surveys! Andy Chapman, chair of Wilder Greenwich, had a few spare plug plants of wildflowers, and these were planted to boost the diversity of the area. Of course, the weather hasn't been easy for new plantings, or even for established species. Further surveys will continue to monitor wildlife in the area. WG's aim is to plant a hedge this winter along the

hardcore put down to enable machinery building the barrier, and that needs to be removed and some topsoil added. During the afternoon, Wilder Greenwich organised a litter pick for Westcombe Park Station. Anyone who approaches the station on the north side, from the footbridge or Ormiston Road, will see plenty of empty drinks tins and bottles, crisp packets, and cigarette ends. While the station staff try to keep it tidy, rubbish has built up behind the fences for years. Eight volunteers spent an hour pulling trash out, and chatting about Wilder Greenwich's hope for planting at the station. Here, the intention is to plant thornless native hedging in the raised beds on the north platform, where it can be kept trim on the platform side and let go a bit wilder on the fence side. This will add some diversity to the vegetation, where the Network Rail land is predominantly filled with brambles. Not that brambles don't support wildlife: it's great for a number of butterflies, and the berries feed birds. But WG hopes to build on that and expand the variety of food sources for wildlife, adding to the corridor that runs from



Volunteers found plenty of litter at Westcombe Park Station

Westcombe Woodlands along the railway line, between Maze Hill and Westcombe Park which has been designated a Site Of Importance for Nature Conservation by the borough. Less litter would certainly help maintain that status!

Anne Robbins



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How Healthy are our Streets?

When the West and East Greenwich LTN was launched it was intended to make the area 'safer, cleaner and greener'. In practice this meant; a reduction in through traffic, greater road safety, improved air quality and increased walking and cycling in the area. So, how did we do?

A coalition of charities concerned about the environment have, since 2019, produced an annual score card rating all London Borough on a number of indicators. The Healthy Streets Coalition includes the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England, London Living Streets, London Cycling Campaign among others.

The report uses nine different measures to give each borough a score out of 10. The key indicators are:

- Borough-wide Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- A default 20mph speed limit on all borough and Transport for London controlled roads
- Small-area Controlled Parking Zones borough-wide
- Protected cycle lanes on main roads
- Traffic-free streets around all schools and safe walking and cycling routes to school
- Bus priority on all routes 24/7

Regretfully, according to the report, Greenwich has flatlined since 2025 maintaining its position as 22nd out of 33 boroughs surveyed.

On the plus side, Greenwich increased its coverage of 20mph speed limit and slightly improved the amount of protected cycle track coverage. However, the report argues that one of the main ways of reducing car trips is through the creation of CPZs (Controlled Parking Zones) and Greenwich's low score is a missed opportunity.

The borough also scored poorly in relation to safety around schools, although slightly better on safe travel to and from school. As far as bus priority on all routes is concerned Greenwich's score increased by just under 4% percentage points (30km) but this was due to improved mapping, rather than wholly new delivery.

The introduction of the West and East Greenwich Neighbourhood Management Scheme went live on 26 March 2026, probably too late to be considered in the 2026 report. It will be interesting to see whether it has had an impact by 2027.

It is also notable that the Healthier Streets report makes no reference to air pollution which, particularly in inner London, is of wide concern. Nevertheless, it is instructive to note successes and failures and to compare our streets with those of other boroughs and to look for where change is most needed.

Maggie Gravelle

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FEATURES

The Bayeux Tapestry in London

Neville Grant looks at some of the history – and its connections with Greenwich.

The hottest ticket in town at the moment is one for the Bayeux Tapestry at the British Museum, on loan to Britain as a goodwill gesture from President Macron. Merci Bien, M. le Président! It tells the story of the conquering Normans, led by William, Duke of Normandy, and the defeat of Harold II, King of England, at the Battle of Hastings.



Historians believe that the Bayeux Tapestry was probably commissioned by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, in the 1070s. It was possibly made by Anglo-Saxon nuns at Barking Abbey, but more probably in Canterbury; the tapestry records a unique moment in our history.

Strictly speaking, the Bayeux Tapestry is really a massive piece of embroidery – the stitchers used couching stitches and stem stitches for the figures, and the Latin text. For years, it was occasionally displayed in Bayeux Cathedral.

The warrior-bishop Odo was half-brother to William the Conqueror. Odo helped to finance William's campaign, paying for several ships, and taking active part in the Battle of Hastings in 1066, where the tapestry shows him wielding a huge club. The tapestry was probably created as a

compliment to Odo's half-brother, the new King William I of England – as well as being a compliment to Odo himself.

Odo was made Earl of Kent, and was rewarded by huge areas of south-east England and East Anglia; his landholdings included Eltham, called Elteham in the Domesday Book (1086), and the manor of Greenwich, which appears in the Domesday Book as Grenviz, in the hundred of Grenviz. (It became the hundred of Blackheath in the 12th century). At this time, Greenwich was in Kent – and remained so until 1889.

However, it was not long before Greenwich lost its noble Lord of the Manor: the noble Bishop had fallen out of favour: he was put on trial for defrauding the Crown and the Diocese of Canterbury – and many of his assets were confiscated. Odo spent five years in prison in Rouen, but was allowed to return to England when William I died.

Odo backed the wrong horse for the succession: he supported Robert Curthose's claim to the throne, but on the accession of Willliam Rufus as William II, Odo returned to Normandy. From there he set out on the First Crusade but died en route; he lies buried in Palermo in Sicily.

Even those who have visited the Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux in France (currently under renovation) are keen for a second view here in London, and queues are already forming! Those applying for tickets would be lucky to obtain them before November at the earliest, so quickly have the tickets been snapped up. But this fascinating record of an incredibly important moment in our history is not one to be missed and we have to thank the Lord of the Manor of Greenwich for its creation, as well as the skill and dedication of the craftswomen of Kent. The tapestry will be here in London until July 2027.

A Summer to Celebrate at Blackheath High

Behind every exam result is a young woman who worked incredibly hard for it, supported by teachers who challenged, encouraged and believed in them. This summer, there has been plenty to celebrate at Blackheath High School, with the strongest combined GCSE and A-level results in the school's history.

At GCSE, more than three quarters (77%) of all grades were awarded at Grades 9–7, and 54% at Grades 9–8. The proportion of Grade 9s has more than doubled since 2019, from 13% to 29%.

STEM subjects saw particularly strong results – more than 90% of grades across Biology, Chemistry and Physics awarded at Grades 9–7. Statistics students – who complete the GCSE in just one academic year – achieved 100% at 9–7.

Year 13 students celebrated record-breaking A-level results, with 60% of grades at A–A and 83% at A*–B, representing an 89% relative increase since 2019. Arts subjects including Drama, Art and Music achieved 80% A*–A, Languages achieved 100% A*–B, and STEM pathways remain exceptionally strong. Students are heading to Oxford and Cambridge, Imperial College London, UCL and the Courtauld Institute of Art, to study everything from Medicine and Aeronautics to Fashion and History of Art.

A Blackheath High education is about far more than grades though. It is about giving every girl the freedom to discover what excites her, the confidence to pursue it and opportunities that stretch far beyond the classroom – from leadership to global expeditions, work experience and specialist programmes across the GDST network.

Discover Blackheath High at our Senior School Open Morning on Saturday 19 September or Junior School Open Morning on Saturday 26 September. Meet students and teachers, explore the school and see for yourself the power of a Blackheath High education.

The Greenwich Wellbeing Retreat at the ORNC



Credit: Old Royal Naval College

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ENVIRONMENT

Winners, Losers and Survival Tips from Our Drought-Hit Gardens

One definition of “Gardening” is that it is a rewarding hobby which connects you with nature and reduces stress. Our local Garden Club members may disagree with the latter part of that definition this year! We have now been in drought conditions for longer than the notorious summer of 1976 and as I write there is little rain in the forecast.



I asked members of Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society (CABAHS) for their experience of which plants are “Winners” and which are “Losers” and if they have some tips to share. On the Winners list are many that you would expect, such as the shrubby salvias (eg Royal Bumble, Nachvlinder, Perovskia) and Mediterranean plants such as Hibiscus, Olive, Lavender and Rosemary. There is a wonderful olive tree in a members’ garden in Vanbrugh Fields, not watered and thriving. Of course, all succulents are loving it and happier than they have been in years! Climbers such as Wisteria and Campsis are showing slower growth that usual but are absolutely fine with no water. Members report that roses are doing surprisingly well and Phlox keep on flowering with minimal watering, as do Morning Glory and Campanula. On the losing side, many members have reported shrubs and trees that are usually “tough as old boots” are struggling this year – Forsythia, Amelanchier, Sambucus and even Buddleia for instance. Rudbeckia have universally hated the weather. Come the hosepipe ban and members

have focused watering cans on their edibles, as plants such as tomatoes will always need extra water to ripen. It will be worth thinking of installing a trickle irrigation system in key areas like veg beds in the future, or you can buy clay Olla pots or terracotta fixtures to use with an upturned bottle which drips water slowly to the roots. Watering cans have also been directed to keeping birdbaths topped up, and making sure ponds are accessible for wildlife.



Weeds are interesting - you might have thought they would cope, but even dandelions and the local endemic weed Alkanet have mostly failed. One member gloomily surmises the ground is probably inundated with weed seeds which will spring to life with the first rains! Here are some tried and tested tips on watering:

- Water plants early in the morning or in the evening, when temperatures are cooler and there is less evaporation. Watering deeply is more effective than giving plants a small amount frequently, as it encourages roots to grow deeper into the soil. Aim the water directly at the base of the plant rather than over the leaves.
- Mulching is another excellent way to conserve moisture. Adding a layer of compost or bark etc around plants helps reduce evaporation and keeps the soil cooler. Leave a small gap around plant stems to prevent rot caused by excessive moisture. BUT, unless soil is moist, there is little point mulching dry soil.
- There is a growing body of research which suggests that leaving patches of bare soil in herbaceous borders allows

soil to erode and dry out far more. It’s a good idea to group plants together to allow for minimum exposure of soil/evaporation.

- Plants growing in containers and hanging baskets need particular attention during hot weather because they can dry out very quickly. Try and place all pots into ‘saucers’ – if possible, place a layer of grit in each saucer as this will hold water for longer and also absorb any run off from watering and keep the plant moist for longer. Grouping pots together is also a good idea as it creates a micro climate - a Monty Don tip - which holds moisture for longer and larger plants also provide shelter for smaller pots tucked in between.



- Where possible, collect and use rainwater from water butts. If you can, use any grey water from washing up, rinsing vegetables etc. If you have a Combi boiler, keep a bucket by the sink to collect the water that runs before it heats up. It’s surprising how much water can be saved in this way.
- If you want to avoid scorch in a

heatwave, you can put up your redundant umbrellas over special vulnerable plants! One upside of the hot weather is that we are seeing many more butterflies and moths. Many members report seeing the Hummingbird Hawk Moth, a frequent visitor as it loves all our shrubby Salvia flowers. You can read more about our members tips by visiting our website cabahs.com

Kathy Aitken, Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society

PLANNING APPLICATIONS*

www.westcombesociety.org

5/5A COLERAINE ROAD ref 26/1473/F
To replace existing wooden windows with UPVC double-glazed windows and replace front and rear doors.
69 COLERAINE ROAD ref 26/1404/HD
To install new roof, roof lights and an additional window to the dormer, and demolish and construct single-storey side extension with side access gate and extend rear patio. To replace windows and doors and install fence, gate and metal railings to front.
171 WESTCOMBE HILL ref 26/2246/HD
To construct single storey rear extension and replace dilapidated garage.
TREE WORKS
42 ST JOHN'S PARK ref 26/2421/TC
To fell cherry tree 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

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WHAT'S ON

Blackheath Flower Club

Fri 18th Sept 1-3pm at Mycenae House “Scrumptiously Autumn” with Sue Tausig. Come & see her artistry & be amazed. Her creations will be raffled off. Admission £8

Blackheath Halls



Opera – CARMEN
Mon 7 Sept 4.30pm Carmen Grafitti Workshop 8-11years
7pm Carmen Grafitti Workshop 12-18 years
Tue 8 Sept 6pm Carmen Grafitti Workshops Adults
8pm Carmen Grafitti Workshop Adults
Carmen performances:
Sun 20 Sep 3pm
Tue 22/Wed 23/ Fri 25 (BSL signed) Sep 7pm
Sun 27 Sep 3pm
Tickets £35|£28|£19
From boxoffice@blackheathhalls.com
020 8463 0100

The ‘Big Half’

Sunday 6 Sept 2026.
Start Line: Next to Tower Bridge
Experience a vibrant, inclusive half marathon which celebrates the diversity of London.It also celebrates the communities of the four boroughs the route passes through: Tower Hamlets, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich.

West Greenwich Library

Fabulous poetry **Tuesday Sept 8:** ‘As it Must’ – poetry with Gale Burns, Golnoosh Nour and Jocelyn Page
Tuesday Oct 6: Blake Morrison
Tuesday Nov 10: Pindrop Press Poets – Sharon Black, Alex Josephy and Emily Wills

Greenwich Society

7pm Thursday 10th September
St Alfege Church Hall, Roan Street, SE10 9JT
The last Conversation with Distinguished residents will be with Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham KCB BA, a former Royal Vice Admiral and defence strategist. Advance booking is required via greenwichsociety.enthuse.com/

Sitopia Farm

The last of 1 Day Organic and No Dig Growing Course of the year on **11 Sept**
Seed saving workshop on **Wed 7 October 10am-1pm**
Our Pop up Farm Shop on Saturday **15 August and Saturday 19 September**
<https://sitopiafarm.com>

National Maritime Museum and Queen’s House

ZWO Astronomy Photographer of the Year 18 - Spectacular nebulae, awe-inspiring views of the Milky Way and March 2025’s partial solar eclipse all feature in the shortlisted and winning photos displayed. The winning images will be announced on **17th September**, and the exhibition opens on the **18th September**.
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: National Maritime Museum, Photography Gallery
Admission: Adult £12 | Child £6 | Student £9

250 Years of the Declaration of American Independence
Date: Daily
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: National Maritime Museum, Caird Library
Admission: Free
SPECIAL EVENTS
DEBUT Summer Concert

This September, DEBUT's five-star classical music experience returns to the Queen's House in Greenwich.
Date: 3 September 2026
Time: Standard: 18.30 | VIP: 18.00
Age: Suitable for ages 18 and over
Location: Queen’s House, Greenwich
Admission: Standard: £35 | VIP: £60
Stitching Communities Together:
Illuminated Arts presents the Pocket Parade, a community runway show,
Date: 11 September 2026
Time: 14.00 – 16.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: Queen’s House, Greenwich
Admission: Free | pre-booking required.

ASTRONOMY AT THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
Parts of the Royal Observatory site have closed for a transformative redevelopment project titled ‘First Light’.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. During this time, the Royal Observatory astronomers and astronomy programming has moved to the National Maritime Museum.
Moon Celebration Week
Visitors are invited to celebrate the wonder of the Moon. Date: 12-20 Sept.
Time: Various
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: Royal Observatory Greenwich and National Maritime Museum
Admission: Various

www.rmg.co.uk

Cutty Sark

RNLI Day
Come down to the ship to find out about the busiest lifeboat station in the country. The RNLI Tower Lifeboat Station team will be on hand to teach visitors lifesaving skills and tell amazing stories of historic rescues at sea.
Date: 26 September 2026
Time: 11.00 – 16.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Admission: Free with admission to the ship
Niki Gorick: Dock Life Display
Dock Life is a photographic display that captures the varied lives and activities along London’s dockside. A

Astronomers Take Over
This playful hands-on experience gives visitors the opportunity to meet astronomers, participate in science demonstrations and ask questions about outer space.
Date: Open daily except Tuesdays and Fridays
Time: 10.00 – 17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages, recommended for families
Location: National Maritime Museum, Special Exhibitions Gallery
Price: Experience + planetarium: £18
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: Weekends
Time: Term-time: 13.30, 15.30
Age: Recommended for ages 7 and above
Location: National Maritime Museum, Lecture Theatre
Price: £16

Evening of Astrophotography
Join Royal Observatory Greenwich astronomers and a panel of expert astrophotographers on International Observe the Moon Night for an inspiring evening exploring how they capture our nearest celestial neighbour: the Moon.
Date: 19 September 2026
Time: 18.00 - 20.00
Age: Suitable for ages 16 and above
Location: National Maritime Museum, Lecture Theatre
Price: £14 Adults | £10 Students
Astronomy LEGO® Brick Club
An interactive activity for families to explore the heritage of astronomy through an interactive LEGO® and DUPLO® brick workshop.
Date: Every Friday
Time: 14.00 – 16.30
Age: Recommended for children under 12 and their families
Location: National Maritime Museum, Group Space
Price: Free
Little Stars
An interactive storytelling session and social club for families with children under 5.
Date: 3 September 2026
Time: 10.30 – 13.30
Age: Suitable for families with children under 5
Location: National Maritime Museum, ReThink Space
Admission: Free | pre-booking required.

www.rmg.co.uk

Greenwich Industrial History Society

8th September. George Landmann. The Royal Engineer or the boy from Woolwich and the Greenwich railway. Details of how to register a place for this zoom only event will be on the Greenwich Industrial Society Facebook page the first week in September.

Blackheath Bakehouse

Bennett Park SE3 9RA
Sunday 13th September 5pm or 7.30pm
Ambiguous Proposition ‘outlining the legal test for sexual harassment and the applicable defence for each allegation’ Tickets: £18.50 from Millermoss.co.uk/ambiguous

The Arts Society Greenwich

www.theartsocietygreenwich.org.uk



Whodunnit? Agatha Christie's Life and Crimes in London
Monday 14 Sept at 7.30 pm
Lecturer: Simon Whitehouse
Venue: Blackheath High School, Vanbrugh Park, SE3 7AG
Our new season is starting: £65 for 10 lectures (guests very welcome: £10)
In this lecture we play armchair detective and follow trail of clues to discover more about the London life of the “Queen of Crime”. Although Dame Agatha Christie is closely associated with Torquay in Devon, the world’s best-selling author left a trail of clues for us to follow all over London.

Woodlands Farm

5K Run and Walk **Sunday 13th Sept.**
The run starts at 11am, with registration from 10.15am. Registration is £15 per person if you register online at www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org and £20 on the day.
Don't miss your chance to explore the wonder of Woodlands Farm with our challenging 5K course around the fields of the farm. Sign up to enjoy this unique course around our fields, an amazing environment for any runner or keen walker. With undulating terrain and the additional sheep, this challenging course gives you a chance to see areas of Woodlands Farm normally closed to the public. For more information contact admin@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org or 020 8319 8900.

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