Westcombe NEWS

Free to 3800 homes, in libraries and shops and online

November 2026 No 9

"Even a leaf in the wind settles sometimes."- Alison Goodman

Fireworks



We are promised 'spectacular fireworks' on November 7th on Blackheath. Details are to be distributed by the organisers in a letter to residents 'in the vicinity of the event'. The critical details are set out below.

The event is ticketed. Gates will open at 5.00 p.m. Closure is at 10.00 pm. The fireworks are due to be let off at 8.00 p.m and last for approximately 25 minutes.

Travel and parking; Local roads in and around Blackheath Village will be closed from 3.30 p.m until midnight and this will affect all traffic, including buses.

For details of the effect on bus routes consult the website; www.blackheathfireworks.com/travel

Taxis can also be contacted at this site.

Parking for those attending the event will be restricted on roads to the north of the site; Maze Hill, Vanbrugh Park, Charlton Way and Vanbrugh Terrace.

The footpath between Vanbrugh Terrace and the Princess of Wales will remain open.

Noise/problems; In the event of any problems e-mail jools@slamminevents.com.

A dedicated Residents' line is available from 9 a.m to 6 p.m daily during set up and de-rig and until 11p.m on November 7th 01749 574016. This is also the number to use if there are concerns about noise.

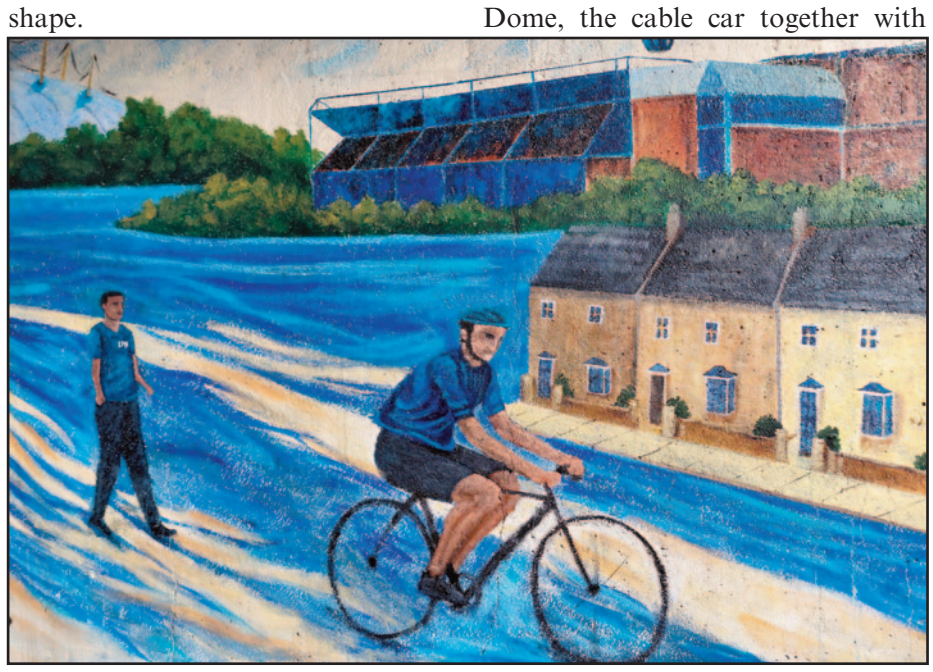
Newsbriefs

- At the beginning of October, the Council announced that it had begun considering locations for the storage of 108 dockless e-bikes. A statutory consultation process will begin in 'early autumn'. This should help to provide safe storage and keep footways clear.

- Roadworks on Shooters Hill will start on 2nd November for 18 months which may involve bus diversions. Residents are advised to check their routes on TfL and other travel planning sites.

Angerstein Mural

The Mural at the Angerstein Flyover is certainly taking shape.



Funded by the Royal Borough of Greenwich and with the help of the local community the mural certainly brightens up a very dismal area.

With its depictions of events and buildings old and new there is certainly much to take in. The Dome, the cable car together with local homes are portrayed. The construction of the transatlantic cabling and the gas works can also both be found on the 15ft mural being painted by Anugrah Mishra.

Met Engage



Your chance to raise concerns with our local police team.

- Friday 6th November 7pm - Walk & Talk - Blackheath Park j/w Pond Road
- Wednesday 11th November 1130-12pm- Street Briefing – Old Dover Road
- Wednesday 25th November 6pm - walk and talk – Maze Hill Train station
- Tuesday 1st December 12-1pm - Coffee with a copper - Mycenae House
- Thursday 10th December 5:30 - Walk and Talk- Kidbrooke Park Road
- Wednesday 16th December 11:30 - coffee with a copper - Age Uk Blackheath Village

INVESTMENTS

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Mycenae House

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Sonic Blue
Guitar and Hammond-driven grooves with super-tight rhythm section

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER
Diwali Celebrations (Global Fusion)
Festival of Light Celebrations with live music, dance, film and food.

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER
Oli Mississippi MacDonald
Hall of Famer & 4 time UK Award winner brings his soul-drenched blues
Support **Chris Corcaran**

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER
Linda Moylan Trio Support **Louise Hatch**
Irish born stunning singer-songwriter, the lady with the voice to die for

DECEMBER
4 Citizens of the World Choir **14** Ding Dong Evening Craft Fair
15 Choral Christmas w St Georges & GFMA **18** The Kimberleys Krimbo

WeGotTickets
www.mycenaehouse.co.uk
020 8858 1749 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath Standard, London, SE3 7SE

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Please send payment to: Christine Legg, 69 Mycenae Road, London, SE3 7SE or email:
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SIZE	Per Issue Cost	5 Issue Discounted Cost
Standard 6cm x 6cm (one column wide)	£48	£220
2 x standard (horizontal or vertical	£76	£350
3 x standard	£107	£485
4 x standard	£138	£620

Macmillan Fundraising Total

Once again Westcombe Park locals have opened their hearts and purses to give generously to Macmillan Cancer. The coffee morning at Mycenae House and walk to Trinity Buoy Wharf raised £1,208. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort. Here are some photos from the events. *Diane Blackwell*











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Quiz

Yes, it's another Quiz Night at Mycenae House on Saturday November 14th. Tables are selling fast, so make your move now to secure a place. You don't want to be left out in the cold! Peter, Patrick and Robbie, your quiz meisters, have been meeting each other, in order to create a devilish set of questions. We can't reveal any subject details in advance as we know you will spend all your free time between now and the Quiz swotting up on those subjects! Come along on the night and test your brain power against all the other Westcombe Parkers dedicated to winning. It will be an intense evening as you all grapple with the questions. But, fortunately, in between the intense grappling, there will be wine, beer, fish and chips, a raffle and finally the announcement of the winners! What a fantastic evening awaits you.
To book email
events@westcombesociety.org

Please note the email for bookings was incorrect in the October issue for which we apologise. The correct address is as above.

Autumn Open Day

On a warm sunny day in October the calm of Westcombe Woodlands was ruffled by excited children making decorations and necklaces from string, conkers and elder beads.
Supporting adults looked on while sampling a mouth-watering range of home baking. It was an oasis of calm in this hidden green space, with observant visitors glimpsing bees, wood mice and wrens in contrast to the urban soundscape of trains rumbling through Maze Hill station and the sirens of emergency vehicles drifting up from Trafalgar Road.
Donations from the cake stall raised £140 towards our woodland management costs, but equally important, as with many local events, the real dividend was bringing together residents and neighbours, old and young, to enjoy the woodlands and create a sense of community.
The event was traditionally called "Apple Day", but with the dry, hot summer the apples and other fruit fell in July, much of it shrunken and undeveloped. Reflecting our shifting climate, we now call it "Autumn Open Day". Although the Woodlands is a gated site, we do welcome volunteers each month (see website: volunteer morning alternates between the first Sat or Sun). You can help with a wide range of seasonal woodland management tasks. from sweeping leaves, trimming back bramble or ivy, and checking bird boxes. We hold "open day" events in May, June and October, a bat walk in August, and you can sign up for a range of surveys (e.g. plants, fungi, birds, small mammals).



For more info, contact: Westcombe Woodlands westcombewoodlands@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.westcombewoodlands.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD

New Experience at the Old Royal Naval College

Following the success of Time last year, critically acclaimed artistic duo Luxmuralis return to the Old Royal Naval College with a new immersive light and sound experience, Lost Worlds.



Designed as an immersive walking journey through our historic buildings and grounds – including the Painted Hall, Chapel and Colonnades – Lost Worlds invites you to discover a breathtaking world of light, sound and storytelling inspired by prehistoric wonder, myths and legends.

Expect to be dazzled by imagined and historical lost worlds, from the mythical cities of Atlantis and Troy to the age of dinosaurs, prehistoric cave art and evolving ancient patterns to the vivid worlds of knights, castles and illuminated manuscripts.

As part of the 300th anniversary of the Painted Hall, exclusive bespoke projections will light up our iconic buildings, as Sir James Thornhill's Painted Hall masterpiece is reimagined on Sir Christopher Wren's magnificent dome, transforming the buildings into a spectacular canvas of light.

Created for audiences of all ages, Lost Worlds offers moments of wonder, reflection and shared discovery, transforming one of London's most spectacular landmarks into an unforgettable after-dark experience.

Lost Worlds will guide you on an immersive walking route through our baroque buildings and grounds – all tickets include entry to the Painted Hall, which will be reimagined like never before. The route will also take you through the Chapel, the historic Undercroft, and out on the magnificent Colonnades.

Bespoke projections will light up Sir Christopher Wren's iconic domes, bringing the Painted Hall to life in a new light, as we celebrate 300 years of this baroque masterpiece. These projections have been developed by Luxmuralis as part of the anniversary celebrations and can only be seen at the Old Royal Naval College.



Group and family tickets are on offer, as well as off-peak options later in the evening. Children under 5 go free.

Renowned for transforming some of the UK's most treasured landmarks through light, sound and storytelling, Luxmuralis is made up of artist and sculptor Peter Walker and composer David Harper.

The internationally acclaimed artistic duo creates experiences that reveal historic spaces in unexpected and inspiring ways, using cutting-edge projection technology to bring these extraordinary immersive installations to life.

SEND Sessions are available at 5pm, 5.15pm & 5.30pm on each live show date. If you are interested in booking for one of our SEND accessible sessions, please contact the learning team at learning@ornc.org

6–8 & 11–15 Nov | 5.45pm-9pm

Tickets: £22 (Adults), £16.50 (Concessions), £68 (Family)

Old Royal Naval College, London SE10 9NN. www.ornc.org/whats-on

Polly Morgan

Exclusive Talk in Blackheath

Sarah Raven and Adam Nicolson reveal the inside story of Sissinghurst Castle and Perch Hill at an exclusive talk in Blackheath

Gardener, author and podcast host Sarah Raven joins her husband, prize-winning author Adam Nicolson, at Blackheath Halls on 17 November 2026 to host a rare joint talk covering gardens new and old.



An Evening with Sarah Raven & Adam Nicolson: Sissinghurst, Perch Hill and a Life in Gardens, offers guests the chance to hear the inside story behind how Perch Hill and Sissinghurst differ, learn more about the family's history in creating both landscapes, and the ideas behind the famous gardens.

Sarah draws on three decades of growing at Perch Hill, where she tests plants, teaches gardeners and refines her ideas. Her bold use of colour, enthusiasm for cut flowers and practical approach to productive gardening have inspired gardeners across the country.

Adam recalls life growing up at Sissinghurst with his grandparents, Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, offering unique insight into how Vita shaped the planting at Sissinghurst, while Harold supplied its architectural structure. Together, they created one of England's most influential gardens.

After the talk, Sarah and Adam take questions from the audience before carrying out book signings. The Sarah Raven pop-up shop offers guests the chance to browse for something for their own garden or a Christmas gift for friends.

Sarah Raven says: "Adam and I know Sissinghurst and Perch Hill in completely different ways. Sissinghurst carries his childhood and family history, while Perch Hill is both our home and where I garden season after season. Bringing our perspectives together in this talk takes us straight to a question every gardener faces: how do you respect a garden's history while making room to experiment? Gardens give us beauty, solace and tremendous optimism, but they also keep us looking and learning. I'm so looking forward to sharing that conversation."

Sarah is one of the UK's most renowned gardeners, having written 15 books, and with her weekly podcast, Grow, Cook, Eat, Arrange, which boasts more than five million downloads. Meanwhile, Adam has written more than 25 books on history, literature, landscape and the natural world, and is an elected fellow by The Royal Society of Literature.

Adam Nicolson says: "My grandparents created Sissinghurst, and I grew up there, so I first knew it as a family landscape rather than a famous garden. Sarah has created Perch Hill in a very different spirit, with bold colour and a readiness to try something new. Looking at them together asks how we honour the past while keeping a garden vividly alive. I'm looking forward to exploring the subject with other enthused gardeners in Blackheath."

At Blackheath Halls, Sarah and Adam bring gardening, literature, and family history into one conversation. Their different perspectives offer two routes into the same questions about place and change.

Tickets cost £29 and doors open at 6.30pm. There will be a book signing and pop-up shop.

www.sarahraven.com *Polly Morgan*





FEATURES

20th Anniversary Opera



To celebrate their 20th Anniversary of Community Opera at Blackheath Halls, we were treated to a stunning performance of Carmen. No mean feat given their Arts Council England support was recently withdrawn, but through fundraising, generous friends and patrons the show must go on.

And what a show it was! Stunning visually with wonderful colourful costumes and set design as we are getting used to at this favourite local arts venue.

The chorus were fantastic as ever and the children's chorus was from special educational needs school Charlton Park Academy and did the production proud.

Vocally the performance was stellar too. With such a dramatic storyline focusing in and around the city of Seville and honing in on the love rivalry between seductress Carmen, played fantastically by seasoned mezzo-soprano Katie Bray, and Jose played expertly by British tenor Oliver Johnston, and Escamillo, brought wonderfully to colourful life by Chuma Sijeqa.

Don José played the young lover with charm and vulnerability in both his acting and singing. His voice suited the role. In Escamillo's role, a touch of bravura was delivered in his presence and what a terrific voice he has.

Zuniga played by Grant Doyle, was given a lot of swagger, with Grant's fine baritone voice and Meeta Raval's Micaela had a great voice with fantastic acting and her aria was beautiful.

As is customary with this favourite community opera, the chorus, usually made up of local opera enthusiasts as well as children from local schools, did a seriously good job. They certainly enhanced the narrative of the opera and sang with much clarity in their delivery. The acting was well rehearsed and all the little stories within the ensembles made it even more interesting to watch. And last but not least, Tom Butler as Morales had a nice, rounded tenor voice. Good to see an alumni of Blackheath Children's Opera Chorus return to perform as a professional adult opera singer; just goes to show the power of these community operas - long may they continue.

Polly Morgan





Pocket Chronometer by the National Maritime Museum

The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich has acquired a rare pocket chronometer – a timekeeper used on ships to determine longitude while navigating at sea – known as 'K'. It is one of only two surviving pocket chronometers from the Beagle Voyage (1831-1836), the expedition during which Charles Darwin carried out research leading to his theory of evolution.



The instrument was saved for the nation following an export bar in 2025 and will go on public display at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich in October 2026.

HMS Beagle set sail to survey the coasts of South America, but the voyage is now most famous for the research carried out by Darwin. During the expedition, he collected specimens, recorded observations and sketched the flora and fauna he encountered. This work later became evidence for his groundbreaking theory of evolution.

Robert FitzRoy, captain of the Beagle, took 22 chronometers on the voyage. He selected 'K' as the observation chronometer and referred to it affectionately as the 'journeyman watch'. Whilst most of the chronometers remained secure in the captain's cabin, FitzRoy took this pocket watch on shore to measure the celestial observations essential to his timekeeping measurements. He describes it as 'a very good pocket chronometer, carried by hand, in a box, [and] was always used for taking time' on shore.

Charles Darwin wrote of the chronometers that, 'There is a most important error in the longitude of S America to settle, which this second trip has been undertaken. Our Chronometers, at least 16 of them, are going superbly; none on record ever have gone at all like them'. The Beagle returned after the five-year journey and Captain FitzRoy reported an error of only 33 seconds in the chronometric calculations, despite only 11 of the chronometers functioning fully on their return.

Funded by the Admiralty since 1818, the Royal Observatory, Greenwich played an important role in the management and testing of Royal Navy chronometers in this period. The Astronomer Royal, John Pond, reported on the best instruments and these were reserved for the Beagle voyage. Francis Beaufort, the Hydrographer of the Navy – the officer responsible for the production of charts – specifically requested pocket chronometer 'K' for use on the voyage.

The Royal Observatory still holds the ledger books in which staff recorded the sea lives of these chronometers. As Admiralty hydrographers surveyed the globe, they relied on these timekeepers for measuring locations relative to Greenwich. Decades later, the widespread use of these British charts based on the Greenwich meridian contributed to its designation as Prime Meridian of the World (0° longitude) in 1884.

The chronometer was acquired following a successful fundraising campaign with support from Art Fund, Society for Nautical Research, The Tanlaw Foundation, National Heritage Memorial Fund and private individuals.

Paddy Rodgers, Director, Royal Museums Greenwich, said: 'This is a lovely object, with beauty and functionality, which sits at a lovely intersection between navigation, Darwin's emerging science of evolution and FitzRoy's emerging status as a pioneer of meteorology. The charting of the globe with the Greenwich meridian at its centre, the understanding of evolution, and the mapping of weather systems are all cross-referenced by one very special timepiece. What a treasure!'

For more information visit www.rmg.co.uk

Polly Morgan

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FEATURES

Letters and Responses

A letter regarding "cycle path"

Dear Editor,

September's Westcombe News rightly reported on the drought, and its Environment editor lamented that Greenwich ranks 22nd of 33 London boroughs for healthy streets, measured partly by protected cycle lanes. So it was baffling to read, one issue later, an Environment Committee piece so clearly weighted against the Greenwich–Eltham cycle path across the heath.

A safe, direct route between Eltham and Greenwich, linking schools and stations, is one of the most practical ways our area could get people out of cars and reduce pollution. I believe the Environment Committee should be its loudest supporter.

Instead, the October piece relays objections that a wider path would make cyclists go faster and would not stop cyclists and pedestrians wandering into each other's path. But the proposal is a dedicated two-way cycle track alongside the existing path, and separating bikes from walkers is precisely what stops everyone getting in each other's way.

The piece also raises concerns about damage to the heath's grassland. That concern is understandable but misplaced. This summer, Blackheath's parched grass made the national press. Damage like this will sadly become more common as the climate heats, and transport is the UK's largest source of the emissions driving this.

If the Committee wants to protect nature in our community, it should be backing the cycle path, and those like it, as a way to support active, carbon-free travel.

Local Resident,
Name and address supplied

Please promote our environment!

I've been a faithful reader of the Westcombe News since we came to the area over 10 years ago, and I must say that I am a bit disappointed by the obvious pro-car bias in the paper in recent years, to the detriment of the positive changes around protecting and rebuilding our air and pedestrian friendly infrastructure for my children as they grow up. The October issue this year has made this obvious with a very critical piece on the new cycle path across the heath (after significant resistance to the low traffic neighbourhood initiatives of recent years). If we want to protect the heath, the right thing to advocate for is the reduction of car access and not the prevention of cycle traffic. We need more cycle infrastructure to help folks transition away from car use, so that my children can continue to breathe in the city.

Name and address supplied

Westcombe Society Responds:

The Westcombe Society Environment Committee are definitely not pro-car. As an example, we have been very successful in lobbying for the removal of car parking for events on the heath. We also lobby hard for improvements in public transport, both buses and trains and for safer routes for cyclists. However, when responding to consultations, we do try to look at all sides of the argument which means that in some cases we are pro the aspiration but concerned about whether the negative impacts of a specific proposal might outweigh the benefits in the form in which they are proposed.

With regard to the LTN, the benefits are clear for some who live in Westcombe Park, especially those able enough to walk or cycle up and down the steep hills. For others the LTN makes life worse. We are therefore still not convinced that the benefits for some of those lucky enough to live in Westcombe Park justify the disbenefits for those who are less able and/or live in the surrounding areas and on the main roads to which traffic has been diverted.

With regard to the proposed Eltham to Greenwich cycle path we are definitely not against the creation of a safe cycle route but feel that the shared paths on the heath section of the route are adequate in their current form. We, and many others, do not feel that widening the path is a good idea for the following reasons:

There are many examples of wider paths that in theory separate cyclists from pedestrians but where, in practice, both stray into the path of the other. On the heath there is plenty of space for both pedestrians and cyclists to move out of each other's way onto the grass. We therefore don't feel that widening the path would lead to significant improvement.

A wider path would result in loss of grassland and all its benefits, without replacement elsewhere.

Widening the path would require a significant amount of money which we feel could be better spent making other hazardous routes safer for cyclists.

A dedicated cycle path might encourage some cyclists to cycle even faster than they do already. Speeding cyclists are a problem on the heath. Unfortunately, some even approach the road crossings at speed with scant regard for pedestrians, other cyclists and vehicles.

The Westcombe Society Environment Committee will continue to look at any proposals affecting our area and are grateful for contributions from our readers.

Bins on the Pavement: A Hazard and an Eyesore

Dear Editor,

As your good delivery person may have noticed on their rounds the bins being left out on the A2 end of St. John's Park is an issue on multiple levels. If you don't mind, I will list for you why:

Bins are becoming contaminated with passers-by waste and council are refusing to empty them. The green bin at 99 has been overflowing with putrid waste, bags of dog fowl and attracting vermin + foxes for months now. The bin men are refusing to empty it due to it being contaminated. This is happening with all bins left out over the week,

The bins being left out are creating a hazard and blocking path for pedestrians especially to those with reduced mobility and or buggies.

It is a massive eye sore to be greeted with overflowing bins every day.

It is inspiring multiple incidents of fly tipping

The area falls within a conservation area and as such residents are obliged to take their bins in.

Each house has a front garden and rear access through a gate on old dover road.

Below are the reference numbers from reports on fix my street:

10191426, 9337808, 9337799, 9271728, 9313723

I have messaged the councillors and the council but don't know what to do next.

Local Resident, Name and Address and images supplied

Bikes Parking on the Heath

Dear Westcombe News

For days now a bike or two left obstructing the road by the Blackheath Pond creating danger for road users apart from being unsightly, unwelcome and selfish. The bikes on the grass are unattractive too.

Car reg numbers and pedestrian edited to preserve privacy.

No one has an obligation to keep them tidy?

Clive Lambert RBG Resident

Fireworks – Pets and Neighbours



As we head into prime time for setting off fireworks, it may be worth remembering a few points:

• Many pets are distressed by fireworks, so keeping cats and dogs indoors after dark, especially on "busy" firework nights, is advised.

• Keep the TV/radio on to help cover the noise and stay with them as much as possible.

• Spare a thought for your neighbours, too, who may not find loud bangs and flashes of light particularly congenial.

• If you are having a bonfire, check for wildlife before lighting your bonfire pile.

• Remember, there are restrictions on when fireworks can be set off. It's illegal after 11 pm, except on Bonfire Night itself, when the time limit is midnight.

• For Diwali and New Year's Eve, fireworks are allowed until 1 am.

• It is also illegal to let off fireworks in a public space.

• Only buy fireworks from a licensed seller.

• The public can only set off fireworks in categories 1–3.

Have fun, but stay safe!

Geoff Brighty

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ENVIRONMENT

Cycling

Last month we featured several items concerning cycling. As you would expect, the Environment Committee is broadly in favour of support for cycling but some initiatives deserve greater discussion. So, there is more this month!

In 2024 the Starmer government introduced an initiative to 'remove barriers to active travel for people of all ages.' In part, this involves a grant of £150 per child to encourage more of them to cycle. It was to be administered by local authorities. In March 2026 the government confirmed more than £100 million in funding to 'deliver hands-on training, community programmes and school initiatives that give people across England the skills, confidence and freedom to walk, wheel and cycle.'

Now Greenwich Council has announced that the programme will roll out at the beginning of 2027. £150 in the form of vouchers will be available for all children between the ages of 4 and 16. The vouchers can be used to buy bikes, scooters and safety equipment. Cycle training for children will also be offered, some through existing organisations, so that children become more confident and safer on our streets. This initiative is intended to contribute to improving the health of children in the borough.

On a less positive note, Greenwich Wire reports on e-bikes being left in and around the foot tunnel creating a 'bike graveyard'. Both Forest and Lime have been formally warned that the bikes must be removed or the Council will 'reconsider' their operating agreement. E-bikes are not permitted in the tunnel and fact that the lifts are regularly out of service exacerbates the problem.

Most cyclists are considerate and sensible but the management of Greenwich Park report an increase in dangerous cycling, making some visitors feel unsafe. A code of conduct has been introduced which urges cyclists to slow down, control their speed and respect other visitors and the environment. New signage indicates the paths on which cycling is allowed. E-bikes are not permitted in the Park. There is an e-mail address where you can report a concern:

greenwich@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk



Thank you, Community Rail Network!

Wilder Greenwich had good news in October: it's been granted over £600 to improve the raised beds at Westcombe Park Station. Thanks to the Community Rail Network's small grants programme, we have funds for adding to the soil on both platforms, supporting plants which will soon include native hedging on the north platform.

Wilder Greenwich's aim is to fortify biodiversity in small sites around the borough, using relatively neglected bits of land to plant shrubs and trees that will support local populations of insects, birds, and other wild creatures. Planting hedges at the station will mean a better supply of flowers for pollinating insects and berries for winter food. And on the south platform, which is gardened for human enjoyment especially, better soil will help flowering plants to brighten rail users' wait for the train.

The project is dependent on volunteer help, and we hope that many who use the station will get involved. To prepare, the regular station volunteer gardeners will be clearing some of the rubble from the beds on the north side over the next few weeks, with another litter pick of the area. Then, toward the end of November, we'll need help distributing three bulk bags of soil and compost. It's heavy work, and we're hoping that Good Gym will be on hand as well as plenty of others. Finally, the really fun part will be planting around 150 small whips – young plants – which will have the rest of the winter to settle in before they start into growth. This will happen early in December. Eventually, there will also be maintenance to keep the hedge happy, pruned for platform users but wilder behind.

We're grateful for the grant. Community Rail Network supports some 1300 station adoption groups, who work on various rail improvements: growing projects, promoting tourism by rail, helping people travel with confidence. Wilder Greenwich wants to make a positive contribution at the station, making all our journeys a bit better. You can find dates for these activities on the Wilder Greenwich website, https://wildergreenwich.org.

QR Code for Wilder Greenwich

Anne Robbins, Wilder Greenwich



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PLANNING APPLICATIONS*

www.westcombesociety.org

92 Westcombe Park Road, London, SE3 7QS Ref. No: 26/2820/HD | Received: Wed 30 Sep 2026 | Status: Registered (Consultation ends 4 November)
Construction of loft conversion comprising of rear box dormer, side window dormer, front roof windows and associated external alterations.

Tree Works

55 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, London, SE3 7SF Ref. No: 26/2985/TC | Received: Fri 16 Oct 2026 | Status: Registered (Consultation ends 9 November)
ONE triple-stemmed sycamore tree (T1) (ht.15m) Full fell. Removal due to tree being too big for its confined location and undermining side walls of 11 Kirkside Rd. Falling branches also a potential hazard to adjacent house, pedestrians and cars.

* 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

WHAT'S ON

Greenwich Industrial History Society

In the next free talk from the Greenwich Industrial History Society, Mike Jones Crossness Engines Trust will speak about the work of the trust. The talk will be on **Tuesday 10 November by Zoom.** For details of how to register, scroll down. How to reserve your place at this free talk. You can book a place now by emailing **greenwichindustrial@gmail.com** with the subject line 'Mike Jones Crossness Engines' and we will send you Zoom log-in details *just* before the talk starts on **Tuesday 7pm for 7.30pm start.** You'll be able to ask questions via the chat function. Please book your place by **19:00** on the day of the talk, so that we can send you the log-in details.

Mycenae House

Events + workshops:
Tues 3rd + 10th Nov 8pm - Stargazing for Beginners. A perfect introduction to find out more about the night sky. £15.
Fri 6th Nov 7.30pm - Diwali Celebration. Join GFMA for a fantastic evening of live music, dance, film and food from the Indian Sub Continent. £25.
Tues 10th Nov 7.30pm - Gong Bath. Journey through meditation & sound, a chance to relax & let go. £19.
Fri 13th Nov 7.30pm - Earth Star Breathwork. Monthly breath club, a place to regulate, release, & reconnect. £30.
Thurs 19th Nov 6.30pm - Life Drawing. An informal, relaxed, creative 2.5 hour session led by Brian Bath.
Fri 20th Nov 7pm - Oli 'Mississippi' MacDonald. Four-time UK Blues Award winner brings his soul-drenched blues. £20.
Sat 21st Nov 1.30pm - Mosaic Workshop. Design and craft your own mosaic lamp. From £59 per person.
Tues 24th Nov 7pm - Anama Sound Healing. Gift yourself an hour of peace & restoration. £20.
Thurs 26th Nov 4pm - Bach to Baby concert. Classical Concert for families. £16.
Fri 27th Nov 7.30pm - Linda Moylan Band. Experience the spellbinding narrative power of this Irish-born, London-raised folk singer songwriter. £12.
For further information about all Mycenae House events visit
www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

Woodlands Farm

Hedgelaying Course
Saturday 21st November 2026
Take part in a full day of hands-on hedge-laying while learning all about the skill and why it is done here at Woodlands Farm. The day will cover topics such as preparing the ground, how to use hedge-laying tools, cutting of wooden stakes and the skilled art of 'pleaching'. This is a one day course which runs from 8.30am until 4pm. Please wear suitable clothing and hard wearing work boots or wellies. Please also bring a packed lunch. The course is £90 per person and is only suitable for those over 18 years.To book visit
www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org
For more information contact
admin@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org
or 020 8319 8900

St Paul's Sinfonia

Start following this local talented classical music orchestra for sure as they bring a vibrant musical repertoire of lively concerts to the local area.
Catch their November concert: From Woodlands to the Sea: Tchaikovsky Symphony No 4 at St Margaret's Church Blackheath
Sibelius | Tapiola | Elgar | Sea Pictures
Tchaikovsky | Symphony No 4
Ash Howard mezzo soprano
Andrew Morley conductor
Friday 21st November 2025 at 7.30pm.
https://www.stpaulssinfonia.com/2025-26/

BLACKHEATH 1858 RUGBY

Join newly promoted Blackheath Rugby this season for their Champ matches at the Utilita (SE9 6TE)!
v Bedford Blues, Sat 7 Nov, 3pm
v Rotherham Titans, Sat 21 Nov, 3pm

Old Royal Naval College

A Christmas Carol
Fri 20 Nov & Sat 21 Nov |
7:30pm - 9:30pm
Tickets: £28 (Adults), £18 (Concessions), £78.20 (Family)
Chapel of St Peter & St Paul.
The Three Inch Fools invite you to step into the supernatural world of Dickens' immortal classic. A biting cold Christmas Eve. The clock strikes midnight and Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the first ghost, bringing this timeless tale of the supernatural vividly to life.
https://ornc.org/whats-on/

The Arts Society Greenwich

www.theartssocietygreenwich.org.uk



Edouard Manet and Music
Date: 9 November at 7.30 pm
Lecturer: Lois Oliver
Venue: Blackheath High School, Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath SE3 7AG
Music was a constant theme in Edouard Manet's life and art. His wife Suzanne Leenhoff was a gifted pianist, and regular musical soirées were held at the Manet family home. His pictures of musicians and their audiences range from major early canvases depicting itinerant gypsy musicians and Spanish dancers, through to paintings encompassing the full range of Parisian musical culture, from private performances to street entertainment, café concerts and the Paris Opera. Manet also designed cover illustrations for music composed by his friends.
Dr Lois Oliver is Professor in History of Art at the University of Notre Dame in London, and a Visiting Lecturer at the Courtauld Institute. She has worked as a Curator at the V&A, the National Gallery, and the Royal Academy.

Harmony Sinfonia

A vibrant local symphony orchestra providing music to the community. On **Saturday 14th November at 7pm** we're performing the next in our concert series: Harmony Sinfonia Presents 'Musical Isles'. The concert is a celebration of music from around the British Isles. Tickets are £15 full price and £10 concessions. Under-18s can come for free and don't require a ticket. Refreshments will be available during the interval. The concert is at the beautiful St. Alfege Church, SE10 9BJ.

National Maritime Museum and Queen's House



The Queen's House ice rink is back
November 18th - Jan 3rd
Bring your friends and family to this beautiful ice rink set in the stunning grounds of the Queen's House. This year, the rink has doubled in size while maintaining the same capacity, creating a more spacious and unhurried skating experience. This commitment to quality and authenticity sets The Queen's House Ice Rink apart from the hustle and bustle of crowded festive ice rinks, giving visitors the space to safely enjoy the setting, the skating and the experience.
https://thequeenshouseicerink.com/
The winners of the RMG Astronomy photographer of year 2026 competition have been announced and the results are stunning!
Check out these beautiful images of the wonderful favourite exhibition of RMG Astronomy photographer of year competition held annually.
Remembrance Day: A Call to Mind
This commemoration aims to broaden the conversation around Remembrance by bringing new stories, lived experiences, mental health perspectives and performance into the Museum. The event will create meaningful, accessible opportunities for adults to reflect on how conflict, memory and resilience continue to shape lives today.
Date: 1 November 2026
Time: 12.00–16.00
Age: Suitable for ages 15 and over
Location: National Maritime Museum.
Admission: Free
Diwali: All Together Now
Celebrate the Festival of Light, Diwali, at the National Maritime Museum. With music from Eternal Taal, rangoli, storytelling, diya making, percussion and dance workshops, talks and tours. Watch shows from Story Hour Puppet Theatre and shop at small business stalls in the Diwali Bazaar. Join the parade of lights through Greenwich Park to end the day. In partnership with Common Ground&.
Date: 7 November 2026
Time: 10.00–17.00
Age: Suitable for all ages
Location: National Maritime Museum.
Admission: Free
www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/

Blackheath Fireworks

7/11/26 Ticketed event. See page 1

Christmas events in Greenwich and beyond

Lantern Parade & Christmas Lights Switch-On: On **Wednesday 18 Nov. (4:00-6:00 pm),** local schoolchildren carry handmade lanterns from the Old Royal Naval College through Maritime Greenwich to Greenwich Market for the **5:00 PM** light switch-on.
Father Christmas at the Old Royal Naval College: **Starting Thursday 19th Nov.**
Bach to Baby Christmas Family Concerts: **Thursday 26th Nov 2026** at Mycenae House and **Friday 11th Dec** at Christ Church on Trafalgar Road.
Santa Paws at Charlton House: **On Friday 11th Dec,** bring your dogs to meet Santa in his magical grotto at Charlton House & Gardens.

Blackheath Halls

Regents Opera And New Palace Opera: Strauss' Elektra **Sun 1 Nov, 7.00pm**
The Poozies **Tue 3 Nov, 7.30pm**
Olamony **Fri 6 Nov, 8.00pm**
Track Dogs: 20th Anniversary Tour **Sat 7 Nov, 8.00pm**
Make a Noise: Choir Concert **Sun 8 Nov, 6.00pm**
Lunchtime Recital: Blaze Ensemble 26 **Mon 9 Nov, 1.10pm**
London International Festival of Early Music **Thu 12 Nov – Sat 14 Nov from 10am**
Concerts as part of LIFEM26 – all bookable through Blackheath Halls Box Office.
LIFEM26: Ensemble Inventio **Wed 11 Nov, 7.00pm**
Venue: St Michaels & All Angels Church.
LIFEM26: Nigel North Thu **12 Nov, 2.00pm**
Venue: St Michaels & All Angels Church.
LIFEM26: Phantasm & Elizabeth Kenny **Thu 12 Nov, 7.30pm**
Venue: St Michaels & All Angels Church.
LIFEM26: Eun Sol Lee **Fri 13 Nov, 1.00pm**
Venue: St Michaels & All Angels Church.
LIFEM26: Early Music Young Ensemble **Competition Final Fri 13 Nov, 2.30pm**
Blackheath Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 9RQ
LIFEM26: L'Artefice Fri **13 Nov, 7.30pm**
Venue: St Michaels & All Angels Church.
LIFEM26: Festival Evensong **Sat 14 Nov, 3.00pm**
Venue: St Michaels & All Angels Church.
LIFEM26: Erik Bosgraaf & Baltic Baroque Orchestra **Sat 14 Nov, 6.00pm**
Venue: St Michaels & All Angels Church.
An Evening With Sarah Raven & Adam Nicolson **Tue 17 Nov, 7.00pm**
Blackheath Goes Gospel Advanced Choir Course 2026 **Wed 18 Nov 7.30pm (first session)**
Emma Smith: An Evening of Swing and Celebration **Thu 19 Nov, 8.00pm**
Trinity Laban String Ensemble and Leon Bosch: Marking 50 years since the Soweto Uprising **Fri 20 Nov, 7.30pm**
The Blackheath Vintage Furniture & Flea Market **Sat 21 Nov, 11.00am**
Masters of Melody: The Mohan Brothers with Harkiret Singh **Sat 21 Nov, 6.30pm**
Billy The Kid Family Concert **Sun 22 Nov, 4.30pm**
Copland's Billy The Kid Performance **Sun 22 Nov, 7.00pm**
Lunchtime Recital: Eva Doroszkowska **Mon 23 Nov, 1.10pm**
Turning of The Year 2026 **Mon 23 Nov – Wed 25 Nov - Public Booking Opens Wed 4 Nov**
Junior Trinity Winter Concert **Sat 28 Nov, 1pm & 7pm**
A Festive Family Sing-A-Long 2026 **Sun 29 Nov, 1.30pm & 4pm**
Blackheath Halls Orchestra Christmas Concert 2026 Course **Mon 30 Nov, 7.30pm**
Box Office: 020 8463 0100 / blackheathhalls.com

W Greenwich Library

The Pindrop Poets will launch their latest collections on **Tuesday 10 November**. You may recall that Sharon Black, Alex Josephy and Emily Wills had to post-pone their launch because of a delay in the printing process. So come and cele-brate with them now their books are out!
Sharon Black is from Glasgow and lives in a remote valley of the Cévennes mountains, splitting her time between rural France and Scotland. Much of her work focuses on place and on the body. She is editor of Pindrop Press.
www.sharonblack.co.uk
Alex Josephy lives and writes in Rye and Italy. She has worked as a state school teacher, university lecturer, and NHS education adviser. A Little Bridge, published by Pindrop Press, is her third full collection; her pamphlet Again Behold the Stars was a Cinnamon Press award winner 2023. **www.alexjosephy.net**
Emily Wills' latest collection is The Overview Effect just published by Pindrop Press. Emily lives in Gloucestershire, having grown up in West Cornwall. Following a career as a GP she now works as a facilitator in Restorative Justice. **www.emilywills.co .uk**

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