



Westcombe NEWS

Est. 1973 Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops December 2012 Issue 10

A community newspaper commended by the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies

Monthly newspaper of The Westcombe Society: fostering a sense of community

Seren Park: Crossed wires replaced with crossed fingers . . .

By WN reporter

Talk to anyone living in Seren Park, and the frustration is almost palpable. For years they have been waiting for what they were promised by the developer, Urban Solutions, when they bought into Seren Park – direct access to Maze Hill Station, the only alternative being a very long detour.

Their frustration is matched by those living in nearby Tom Smith Close, because people – no names no pack drill – have taken the law into their own hands, and created their own short cut through what was Tom Smith Close.

“It’s no longer a close,” said resident Angela Durham. “Because people living in Seren Park – and I think probably further afield too – regularly walk through the close as a short cut to the station, and the park; and they walk their dogs here as well. What was a peaceful close has become a public footpath.”

Another resident complained of dog-fouling, and damaged cars.

It’s happened time after time: no sooner does the Council fix the gate and fence, than they are vandalised.

“You get children playing around our flats,” said another resident. “Not that I’m against children: but they shouldn’t be there. This is meant to be a quiet cul de sac for old people. Yet people wander through all the time – sometimes you even hear them going home in the small hours. And when you ask if they have seen the notices saying there is no right of way, you get a flea in your ear.”

Look at it from the point of view of residents of Seren Park: faced with a large hole in a fence, who could resist going through it to save a twelve minute walk to the station, or a twenty-minute walk to the park? Especially if you are disabled, or pregnant, or pushing a pram.

A solution may be around the corner: the WN has heard that Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) is expected to take over ownership of Seren Park soon from the

The padlock and chain hang uselessly, the gate hangs open, and the wire fence has been cut and rolled back.



PHOTO: Neville Grant

There is a gateway between Seren Park and Tom Smith Close, intended for allotment owners only. But on numerous occasions the lock on the gate has been removed or destroyed; go there today, and you will find a bolt-cutter has been taken to the chain fastening the gate – and the wire fence separating the properties has been cut and coiled back.

“On one occasion, I saw a lock being fitted to the gate,” said Mrs Durham. “But a young man on the other side of the fence said ‘That won’t last a day!’ Sure enough, next day, it was gone.”

original developer, Urban Solutions, which has gone bust.

So it is now hoped that RBS will be able to enter into an agreement over the railway access problem that has dogged residents for years.

A condition placed on the previous developer, and any new owner, was to fund the necessary infrastructure to operate the access point – including Oyster card validators, CCTV and lighting.

RBS is currently in dialogue with Network Rail and Southeastern to satisfy this requirement. (cont. on page 3)

“God bless us, every one!”



PHOTO: Neville Grant

Two of the many colourful stalls at the Westcombe Society’s annual Dickensian Christmas Bazaar on 17th November, raising money for the society’s Charity of the Year, Woodlands Farm Trust. More picture and story on pages 2 and 8.

Threat to our A&E services

With Lewisham Hospital’s A&E department currently under threat, waiting times at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) are set to get even longer.

With a target waiting time of less than four hours (four hours!) for patients to be dealt with, official figures show that South London Healthcare Trust’s (SLHT) is only just missing its goal by 4%.

However, the WN has been contacted by readers who have had to wait well over the target time in an overcrowded and dirty reception area, packed full of vending machines selling unhealthy snacks and fizzy drinks, to receive a service which at best could be described as unsatisfactory and at worst a “complete waste of time”.

As ‘the most financially challenged Trust in the NHS’, the SLHT, which ran the QEH in Woolwich, the Princess Royal in Orpington, and Queen Mary’s in Sidcup, is being faced with radical cost-saving measures put forward by Matthew Kershaw, the Trust Special Administrator (TSA) brought in by the Government.

The proposed closure of Lewisham’s brand-new A&E department (which cost £22m) so that patients in Lewisham would have to go to QEH, is just one of a raft of money-saving measures put forward by the TSA. Other critical services at risk include the consultant-led maternity services for high-risk mothers at Lewisham.

The TSA’s draft recommendations are subject to a public consultation until the

13th of December, and can be found on www.tsa.nhs.uk. Along with proposed cuts in services, the report also calls for the Department of Health (DoH) to help bear some of the financial burden.

It recommends that the DoH funds the ‘excess’ costs of the PFI buildings at QEH and the Princess Royal University Hospital, as well as writing off the debts accumulated by the SLHT deficits – estimated to reach £207m by March next year. Feelings are running very high – demonstrations are planned against the proposed closures and an online petition has been set up on www.savelewishamhospital.com.

No decisions will be made until after the public consultation period has ended and Matthew Kershaw has submitted his final report to the Secretary of State for Health early in the New Year.

Cllr. Geoff Brighty says: “Closing Lewisham A&E raises serious questions about capacity at QEH. Unmistakable sound of chickens coming home to roost though! The SLHT is in the hands of the Special Administrator largely because of the ruinous terms of the Private Finance Initiative agreed under the last Labour Government.”

Echoing these comments, Cllr. Alex Wilson added: “One silver lining to this decision to close Lewisham A&E is that the PFI debts will be paid off, meaning QEH will be able to continue functioning and plan properly for the future.”

Sarah Winterbottom

The Westcombe Society RENT A SANTA

News Flash.....

Santa has agreed to help us raise funds for the Woodlands Farm Trust by making a few visits to homes in the area as a special treat for children.

If interested please contact Santa’s local agent:
Caroline Owens
on:
020 8853 0948



Ho Ho Ho
Hope I get invited to your home
HURRY AS VISITS
ARE LIMITED . . . !

Cost from £15 per visit

NEWS BRIEFS

Putting Charlton on the map

Our local Olympian Gemma Gibbons, who won the Silver Medal for Judo, has been named the new patron for the Balfour Beatty London Youth Games. She follows in the footsteps of Paralympic gold medallist David Weir, and Commonwealth weightlifting medallist Zoe Smith (also from this borough).

Gemma slightly blotted her copybook recently when invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace. She sneaked a photograph of a Royal Loo at the palace, published in the *Telegraph*.

“Very posh,” she reported. History does not record whether H.M. was amused. Will Gemma be invited back, one wonders?

Carol singing

The Westcombe Society’s Christmas carol singing this year is on December 17th. Meet-up is at Mycenae House at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Musicians with instruments are particularly welcome. If you can’t make the start, and want to catch up, the mobile number to ring is 07709 571 777.

Good news of Father Thames

Angler Rick Dodson caught a 9lb cod near Gravesend. Mr Dodson was winner of the City of London Corporation’s annual angling competition. Other fish caught included two pouting, three dab, and 520 whiting. (No points awarded for tyres, shopping trolleys or traffic cones.)

COMMUNITY NEWS



WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Neville Grant, The Editor
 westcombenews@yahoo.co.uk
 Tel. 0208 858 8489

ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:
WestcombeNews@yahoo.co.uk
Deadline for the February issue:
 15th January
News Editor: Geoff Garvey
Environment Editor: Sarah Winterbottom
Reporters: Denise Scott-McDonald

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Dick Allard All queries and comments to: 020 8858 7305
 The Planning and environment sub-committee: westpes@gmail.com
<http://westcombe.gold.ac.uk>

DISTRIBUTION
Myles Dove & Barbara Henley
Jean-Jacques and Maureen Aune
Volunteer distributors please phone 8853 3740, we need your help!

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Marilyn Little, 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 020 8853 1312 (email:marilyn.little@btinternet.com)

All advertisements payable in advance by cheque to **The Westcombe Society**. Costs:
DISPLAY: Single column 6cm x 6cm: One - four issues £35, five-plus issues £30 each. Other sizes: please inquire.
Classified Ads (Market Place) charged at 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. Any email/web address = 3 words.)
 Deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month

Printed by: Trojan Press
Contact the Westcombe Society:
WestcombeNews@egroups.com
Publisher: The Westcombe Society
Chairman:

Marilyn Little Tel. 8853 1312

The views expressed in the Westcombe News are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or of the Editor.

Back-numbers (in colour) can be accessed on:

<http://westcombe.gold.ac.uk/westnews.html>

Westcombe Society's Blog:

<http://westcombe.blogspot.com>

The Dickensian Christmas Bazaar



The Westcombe Society is still recovering from yet another highly successful (and very enjoyable) Christmas Bazaar, raising money to assist the society's Charity of the Year, Woodland Farm Trust on Shooters Hill. Marilyn Little, chairman of the society, writes:

"I really appreciated the efforts of all our volunteers who did so much to make the event a success. It was hard work, but well-worth the effort and strangely very enjoyable. New helpers are always very welcome, so do get in touch if you have a few hours to spare - you would be warmly received. We raised a substantial amount on the day which will fund the projects that Woodlands have in mind.

"I would particularly like to thank the headmistress of Blackheath Girls High School and local traders for their generous support."

Christmas fun at the bazaar



Great fun was had by all. The children enjoyed Punch n Judy, and other activities - and a scrummy lunch provided by our jolly cooks!



PHOTOS: Neville Grant

The Westcombe Society thanks all the advertisers in the *Westcombe News* for their support, and for all the following for their generous support of the Dickensian Christmas Bazaar:

Sponsors: Westcombe Dry Cleaners, Multivoice

Bids:

Adappt, Blackheath Conservatoire, David Lloyd Kidbrooke, John Cockcroft, Mark Titman

Raffle prizes

Apple and Orange, B Brown, Bella, Blackheath Cooks, Blackheath Pet Supplies, Collins Cleaners, Cookery Nook, Davys of Greenwich, DIY Standard, Fergus Noone, Gallery on the Heath, India Jane, Jools Holland, Marnells, Pares, Passion Flower, Pegga Stores, Picture House Greenwich, Precious Skin Care, Regeneris, Royal Nepalese, Sewing Time.

Hamper/Tombola

Boots, Day Lewis Chemist, Goldings, Mini Market, MOCA, Newsagent Westcombe Hill, Nicky News, Oattie and the Bea, Pravin Supermarket, Premier Shop, Sainsburys, 2nd Impressions, Sparkes Butchers, Standard Post Office, Well Bean, Westcombe News.

Letters

Letters to the editor may be edited through lack of space. Any views expressed are those of the writers only, and are not necessarily those of the Westcombe Society or the *WN*.

From: Philip Binns Greenwich

I note that in the November issue the *WN* carried a piece about Henry, Prince of Wales - "Remembering Prince Henry".

It would be helpful in the next issue if you could highlight the excellent exhibition that is currently running at the National Portrait Gallery - "The Lost Prince: The Life and Death of Henry Stuart."

The exhibition closes 13th. January 2013.

From: Emma King Meningitis UK

We are asking your brave readers to run the Virgin London Marathon 2013 for Meningitis UK to help us stamp out the deadly disease.

We were only allocated a few guaranteed places (Golden Bond) and are asking kind-hearted people with, or seeking, an independent place to take on the 26-mile chal-

lenge on April 21st for us. Full support will be given and everyone who participates will receive a free running vest or T-shirt, and a handy information pack including hints on how to prepare. If you would like to take part and help us achieve our vision, please contact Emma King on 0117 303 33 45.

From: Name & Address supplied

I have recently become aware of a number of so-called tree surgeons in the area. A neighbour appears to have had some quite drastic work done on two trees in the front garden. The work seems to have damaged the trees and, I suspect, was done without planning permission.

I hope readers are aware that planning permission is obligatory for all tree work in this conservation area.

The Westcombe Society's 2012 Christmas Card: an image taken 112 years ago. They are A5 size and are available in packs of five cards with envelopes at £4.90 or individually at £1.30. To order, please ring Caroline Owens on 0208 8530948.



In celebration of the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens, the Westcombe Society was delighted to welcome Mr Charles Dickens, United Kingdom's most prolific, adored, and influential author, to open the 2012 Dickensian Christmas Bazaar.

At enormous expense, the Westcombe Society is proud to present to our esteemed readership this photographic image [above] of the occasion, in which one can clearly discern Ms Marilyn Little, Chair of the society, and Mr Charles Dickens, aka Mr Adam Smethurst, a local actor.

In the words of Tiny Tim, immortal creation of Mr Dickens:

"God bless us every one!"

From the Editor:

Dear readers, please remember this is YOUR newspaper. So make it yours by writing for it, sending in news, features, articles, letters, photographs . . .

Suggestions are always welcome. But don't ask "Why doesn't the *WN* ?"

Instead, do it yourself, and send it in! We don't have a team of roving reporters.

The roving reporters are YOU!

St Luke's Players present

BABES IN THE WOOD

A Traditional Pastime
 Written and Produced by GWEN ZAMMIT

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS
 THE VILLAGE
 CHARLTON SE7

FRI: 18th & 25th
 SAT: 19th & 26th
 JANUARY 2013
 At 7.45pm (Saturday Matinee: 4.15pm)

TICKETS: £10
 (£5 children)

BOOK NOW! 020 8319 8369
 All profits to "SHELTER"

Speak with clarity and conviction
Sounding Confident:
 "An excellent vocal confidence coach"

Reduce nerves, feel secure and improve diction & delivery.

Professional access to help with Presentations, Public-speaking, Auditions, Exams...

Contact: Judith
 07941 529 322
soundingconfident@handsandvoice.com
www.handsandvoice.com

Hot Desk Available In Blackheath Village

Serviced office in the centre of Blackheath Village with internet, 24 hour access and a lovely location.
 Fabulous views of the Heath and Canary Wharf.
 All for £250 per month.
 Contact: Karan Browne on 020 8297 4863

LOCAL NEWS



Blackwall Tunnel to fund new River Crossing?

SARAH WINTERBOTTOM

With the East and South East of London earmarked for half of all London's population and employment growth over the next 20 years, increasing the number of river crossings between the East and South East of London is being described as "essential" by both local politicians and business leaders alike.

This sentiment is also echoed by over 90% of those who took part in Transport for London's (TfL) 'informal' public consultation which took place earlier this year (see the May issue of *WN*).

The consultation also revealed that despite overwhelming support for new crossings there are real concerns over increased congestion in the Blackwall area, and funding.

With a price tag of £600m for the Silvertown Tunnel and £150m for the Gallion's Reach Ferry, these two main infrastructure projects as set out in the Mayor's Transport Strategy do not come cheap, and TfL has made it clear that there is a significant funding gap. One option is the proposed introduction of a £2 toll for cars using the Blackwall Tunnel.

Paul Watters from the AA feels this will not be well received by drivers: "We need another crossing, but this will put more pressure on hard-pressed drivers who are already dealing with high fuel prices.

"In practical terms I think London's businesses and regular car users are probably not in the mood to pay for Blackwall."

The A102 will serve as the main feeder road to the new tunnel – already an infamous traffic hot spot leading up to the Blackwall Tunnel. The Westcombe Society wonders what effect the

Silvertown tunnel will have in the Greenwich / Blackheath area. Will the inevitable disruption during construction, followed by the additional traffic generated by the new tunnel, cause significant extra traffic on the A102?

The fear is that the A102 in its present form will not be able to cope and the resulting increased congestion will have a knock-on effect on local roads.

Dick Allard, chair of the Westcombe Society's Planning & Environment Committee raised the issue at a recent transport scrutiny meeting organised by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

In response to his question as to whether any analysis had been undertaken of the likely impact on congestion levels on the feeder roads to the Silvertown tunnel, Colin Mann, representing TfL, revealed that some computer simulation work had been done. It was requested that this work should be made public in good time before the end of the second phase of consultation (launched last month).

Have your say

This second, statutory public consultation by TfL on these major proposals is set to run until 1st February 2013. A series of public roadshows are being held across the areas affected, and locations include Woolwich Library and North Greenwich tube station.

If you are unable to attend one of these then log on to <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/rivercrossings/consultation> to find out more, and to make your views known. A printed information leaflet can also be requested by calling 0843 222 1234.

JO BURNAND reports on the South London Special League

A league of their own

With South London Healthcare NHS Trust in administration, and social care budgets being severely cut, the work Sharon Brokenshire, MBE, does with the South London Special League is now hugely significant especially in the South East where poverty and disability often go hand-in-hand.

When working in special needs in Greenwich, Sharon saw at first-hand how children with learning difficulties were outside of the school day largely excluded from the culture of sport. Taking football as her focus, she used the Millennium to secure funding to stage a festival which she describes as, "a turning point. A big upwards learning curve which set my mind on feeling this was the way forward."

Spending the next three years pulling at the heart strings of all and sundry in education and associated charities Sharon was able to launch the South London Special League in 2004.

From its beginning as a one team division for children with severe learning disabilities, the organisation now encompasses a youth league, two clubs for girls aged over 16, the Greenwich Wanderers and Long Lane Terriers and 'A league of their own' for adults.

Many of the children come from schools in some of the poorest areas in South East London while most of the adults are referred by NHS Oxleas. 3000 players currently take part annually in around 50 small-sided football tournaments.



With the large majority of women with mild to severe learning disabilities dropping out of sport after school Sharon is particularly proud of the standard charter achieved by the Terriers and is hoping for similar success with 'A league of their own'.

Taking advantage of the 2012 London Olympic Games, Sharon has now set up 'Special League Sport in the Community' which opens up sport to children with physical disabilities while offering work experience to a range of ages of people with special needs.

Beside sports such as 'Table top cricket', instead of running with the ball, players now manoeuvre it with a joystick on their wheelchairs.

Use of a donated minibus allows Sharon greater access to those with physical disabilities who are unable to travel, but funding is now a worry. While other revenue streams have come in the lead up to and following London 2012, Sharon says much hangs on a decision from the National Lottery to renew funding this year. The outcome could make downsizing an inevitability.

Seren Park

(Cont. from page 1)

Once ownership of Seren Park has transferred to RBS and subject to the legal agreement and infrastructure being finalised, this should enable the platform access to be opened for the use of Seren Park residents.

Our local councillors have been much exercised over the current situation. Cllr Alex Grant said:

"I hope that now the development has been taken over by RBS they will move quickly to open up the direct access to the station for Seren Park residents, so Tom Smith Close is no longer used as a cut-through. Residents of both places have had enough of being given the run-around."

Cllr Geoff Brightly adds: "This has been a long standing bone of contention for Seren Park residents and has also become an issue for those in neighbouring Tom Smith Close which has become an unofficial cut through to the station.

"That there is already, I understand, a

dialogue between RBS and Network Rail and Southeastern is the most positive sign yet that Seren Park residents might, at last, get the direct access to Maze Hill platform they were promised when they moved in. It is also a hopeful sign that the real concerns of Tom Smith Close residents can be resolved."

Unfortunately, no time scale has yet been established as to when the access is likely to be opened. A spokesman for Network Rail said:

"Network Rail appreciates that it has been the residents of Seren Park who have suffered the consequences of the lack of regulated platform access and we are now pleased to be able to take action with the prospective new owner of Seren Park to reach a solution in the near future."

It cannot come too soon for their neighbours in Tom Smith Close. For one thing is sure: good fences make, or ought to make, good neighbours.

Ladies exercise group LOUISE WHYTE

We're a group of ladies who meet in East Greenwich Pleasance on a Monday morning at 9.30am and Saturday mornings at 10.00 am for a fun workout suitable for all abilities.

We continue throughout the winter no matter the weather. We'd love some more ladies to join us for a great exercise class and local gossip. We also have a

group of joggers who meet at 8.00 am on a Saturday morning for a jog round our beautiful locality – we've been known to take in Blackheath Village, the Isle of Dogs, & The Peninsular.

Ring Louise on 07787 432230 or email her on info@penelopefitstar.com for more info and prices.

Good news for Greenwich

The Cutty Sark has been named the best new tourism project in the UK at the 2012 British Guild of Travel writers' awards.

Meanwhile, in November,

the Heritage Lottery fund awarded £350,000 to the Old Royal Naval College for work renovating the baroque masterpieces on the West Wall of the Painted Hall.



Architecture lecture

Joanna van HEYNINGEN, of the award-winning van Heyningen and Haward Architects, is giving the next Friends of Blackheath Halls Annual Architecture lecture.

In the lecture, she will be looking back over 35 years in practice at what motivated and influenced her and her colleagues in the early days, and how their thinking changed over the years.

Joanna van Heyningen has taught and lectured widely and was a Stirling Prize judge in 2012. She was profiled in the

January 2012 issue of Architects Journal, about her life as a successful woman architect in what is still largely a man's world.

The Friends' Annual Architecture Lecture is Wednesday 6 February 2013 at 8.00 pm: JOANNA VAN HEYNINGEN on Advancing Traditions Tickets: £12 (£10 seniors, £6 students) Information on www.blackheathhalls.com, or box office 020 8463 0100



Good news for Greenwich

The Cutty Sark has been named the best new tourism project in the UK at the 2012 British Guild of Travel writers' awards.

Meanwhile, in November,

the Heritage Lottery fund awarded £350,000 to the Old Royal Naval College for work renovating the baroque masterpieces on the West Wall of the Painted Hall.

the glass shop

www.the-glass-shop.biz

- 24hr glass repairs
- glass & glazing
- double glazed units
- timber & upvc windows
- traditional lead lights
- glass shelving
- table tops
- shower doors
- splashbacks
- mirrors cut to size
- picture framing

call Grant on 07988 760269

A & A LANDSCAPES Landscape Specialists



Free advice & estimates
Qualified horticulturalist
All aspects of soft & hard landscaping work carried out including
* Maintenance * Site clearance
* Turfing * Tree surgery
* Fencing * Patios
* Brickwork

Tel. 020 8318 2530

FEATURES



The Bugsby's Group

OONA
CHANTRELL

Greenwich, as seen through the eyes of its river-loving artists, is the theme of the Bugsby's Group show at the Old Royal Naval College, throughout December until 6th January. The group was founded by sailing friends at Greenwich Yacht Club, bringing together an enthusiasm for the river Thames, sailing – and painting.

The name Bugsby comes from the reach on the Thames between the O2 and the Woolwich Barrier where the yacht club has existed for more than 100 years.

Nobody knows who Bugsby was, though of course the peninsular area was once called Bugsby's Marsh, and there is today Bugsby Way.



The paintings, by these seven local artists, present a range of personal views of Greenwich as seen through many facets of time, space and style.



TOP:
Waterman's Arms Slipway
by Steve Chantrell

LEFT:
Deptford Lifting Bridge
by Kyria Connor
(Arachnaphobes, can you spot the spider? A touch of genius, thought the *WN* art critic ...)

PHOTOS: ANNIE McCOMBE

The exhibition is open daily from 1st December to 6th January, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm in the Exhibition Gallery of the Discover Greenwich Centre, adjacent to the Cutty Sark.



Westcombe Woodlands

The volunteer days in the woodlands continue to be a success with a good turnout of volunteers and a gratifying amount of work being completed. Our efforts are concentrated in the glade area towards the Maze Hill side and the level strip just inside the gates from Lasseter Place, off Vanbrugh Hill. We have created paths in both areas and continue to clear and tidy the glade area prior to planting meadow grass, bulbs and shrubs.

The Friends Committee is in the process of updating the Management Plan based on the one last year by Trees for Cities, starting up. We hope to create an orchard in the glade and possibly a pond.

There is no intention of over-managing the woodlands or of allowing regular public access. But it is an exciting challenge to restore and open parts so as to encourage a

diversity of flora and fauna, such as the Stag Beetle (pictured)

The next volunteer day is on Sunday 2 December from 10am to 2pm and it would be good to see some new faces. If you send an email we will arrange for you to get details of future volunteering events.

We have produced our first newsletter –

email us if you would like to receive a copy at westcombe-woodlands@hotmail.co.uk. We hope in the next few weeks to obtain final clearance from HMRC which will enable us to benefit from Gift Aid on subs.

and donations. We will then formally invite people to sign up as Friends.

If you have any questions about the Friends organisation or this special green space generally, please email as above or call Tim Barnes on 8858 1185 or Frank Smith on 8852 6390. **Frank Smith**



Second Chance Choir

The Second Chance Choir will for the second year running be singing carols in Blackheath Village to raise funds for Shelter, the charity for homeless people.

Last year we raised £250.00, and many people said how much they enjoyed our singing. We had a wonderful time, too, singing our hearts out. On Thursday 13th December we shall be singing opposite Blackheath Station at 6.30pm for an hour.

The choir has changed its practice venue this term, and we are now established at the beautiful new Sunfield Methodist Church at 95, Old Dover Road, near the Standard.

However, the choir is not a church

choir. We sing a huge range of music, including show tunes, popular jazz classics, folk songs from all over the world, as well as wonderful religious music written by Mozart, Vivaldi, Faure, and others.

We are always keen to swell our numbers, and new members will be given a warm welcome. There is no need to read music and there are no auditions.

More information can be found on
www.secondchancechoir.co.uk/html

OR contact Jean Vaisler on 0208852 7548 or email

brookjean@btinternet.com

Or David Sprackling on 07956 857661

or emaildavid@sprackling@btconnect.com

CHRISTMAS PRESENT SUGGESTION

For the man who has everything: This extremely rare veteran motor car built by Irish-born Walter Wilson, an inventor credited with the invention and development of the first tank ('Little Willie') in 1915, is going under the hammer at Bonhams, London. The 1904 Wilson-Pilcher four-seater is expected to fetch £180,000 - £220,000. A snip!



Westcombe Park Dental Practice



13 Station Crescent,
Westcombe Park, London SE3 7EQ Tel. 0208 853 3304 Fax: 0208 858 1784

Treatments Available

Zoom Tooth Whitening

Dental Implants

Invisalign

Smile Makeovers

Tooth Colouring Fillings

Anti-Wrinkle Treatments & Dermal Fillings

The Friday Club

Lyn de Swarte

The Senior Citizens' Social Club, known as 'The Friday Club' by its members, has been meeting on the second and last Friday of the month at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road, Blackheath SE3 7SE.

Organised by volunteers Revs Cathy Gibb and Lyn de Swarte, those attending, from 2pm til 4pm, have an afternoon of entertainment, tea and biscuits and 'Bingo'.

The entertainment is varied, and one of the favourites is Vic Parker, the talented accordionist who provides an hour-long singalong of popular songs from every decade of the twentieth century! Vic also provides song books and anyone who wishes can purchase one after his performances which are all in aid of the Coombe



Vic plays Underneath the Spreading Chestnut Tree while everyone joins in

Trust, a charity that provides holidays for underprivileged children - and a soup run for homeless youngsters.

The last meeting of the 'Friday Club' this year is the Christmas Lunch on December 14th, with entertainment from The Shortland Singers who will be singing Christmassy songs and Carols.

Douglas Adams

Douglas Adams, of Coleraine Road, died on 21st September 2012. Born in Devon, he arrived in Greenwich in the mid 1970s following his Applied Physics degree at Lanchester Polytechnic, now part of Coventry University.

He lived in the Westcombe Park area for most of his life and was a regular at many of the businesses in the area.

Most recently Doug worked as an energy management consultant with the Atkins group, following a career change in 1997 when he was awarded an MSc with distinction in Energy Engineering from London South Bank University.

His main interest outside work was English traditional music and dance, and he has led and played in bands throughout his time in London, most recently, the Pigeon English Band, a house band at the Musical Traditions Club at the King and Queen, in Foley Street, Fitzrovia. His main instrument was melodeon and he played for several Morris teams in south

east London as well playing at English music sessions, including the Lord Hood.

He joined Greenwich Morris Men in the 1970s, playing the pianoaccordion and then the melodeon. In the early 1980s, he joined Blackheath Morris Men who, in the early 1980s, revived the tradition of Fowlers Troop and the Deptford Jack in the Green for which Doug was musician on most May Days.

The tradition continues and Doug was out on with Fowlers Troop on May Day 2012. Doug also played for Fowlers Molly Dancers and the border Morris team Tylers Men. Most of these teams have performed in the Greenwich and Blackheath area. Doug underwent treatment for cancer in 1999 and June 2011.

Unfortunately the cancer recurred in August 2012 and Doug died in Guy's Hospital; his funeral was on 4th October in Devon. Doug leaves behind his brother Bruce and family, and many friends.

+Sarah Crofts

WHAT'S ON



ARTS

BLACKHEATH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY, St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park, Blackheath 4th Thursday of every month, 2.00 for 2.30. Next meeting: 4 Jan 2013 Imogen Corrigan "Here be dragons...": Mediaeval Monsters Non-members £5 on the door. See www.artsinblackheath.org.uk or ring 83187550

GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, the University of Greenwich NEXT LECTURES:
Monday 10th Dec 2012 MASKS – a history of a universal phenomenon - Dr Libby Horner
Monday 14th Jan 2013 Imperial Purple Denim Blue: The colourful history of textiles - Dr Susan Kay-Williams 020 8852 7873. Non-members £8.00

THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
Until 28 April 2013 ANSEL ADAMS' PHOTOGRAPHS: From the Mountains to the Sea. You don't have to go to the Peabody Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, to see these amazing photographs: this is a rare chance to see Adams's photography in the UK. Members go free | Adults £7 | Cons £6 | Children £2 – includes a voluntary donation

ART AT THE CONSERVATOIRE
 Westcombe Society's Hon. Sec. Jan Barnett's Solo Exhibition of her still life paintings continues at the Conservatoire in Blackheath until Friday 7th December.

MYCENAE HOUSE
 Your community centre will close at 1.00 pm on Sat 22nd Dec., reopening Sat 5th Jan. at 9.00 am.

CHILDREN

GREENWICH THEATRE
Until Sun. 6th Jan. PANTO TIME!
 Andrew Pollard's **ROBIN HOOD** £19 £25 Cones. £16 & £23. Children half price.

WOODLANDS FARM
 331 Shooters Hill. Tel. 0208 319 8900
 Every Thursday Toddler Club 10am - 12pm £2 per adult, children free
 Sun. Dec 2nd 11.00 - 3.0 pm **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

GREENWICH HERITAGE CENTRE
 Artillery Square, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich SE18 4DX 020 8854 2452 **FREE** Saturday mornings: 10.30am to 12 noon. Free art and craft activities for 5 to 12 year olds. Under fives must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear suitable clothes.

SE LONDON DADS GROUP
DADS ALERT: Regular stay-and-play for dads and children under five @ Sherington Children's Centre, 14 Sherington Road every Wednesday from 9.30 - 11.30 am. Contact: www.SELondonDads.org.uk or email: info@selondondads.org.uk

COMMUNITY

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS:
 If you didn't stock up during the Dickensian Christmas Bazaar, a wide range of cards and other goods are on sale at St Alfege's Church, Greenwich.

DAVY'S WINE SHOP 161 Greenwich High Road SE10 8JA 5th December Monthly Cheese and Wine Tasting £25 Book online at www.davy.co.uk/events or call 020 8858 9147.

CANCER RESEARCH UK LUNCHEON CLUB
Thurs. 6th Dec, at the Clarendon Hotel, Montpellier Road, Blackheath 12 noon - 2.30 pm. Sit down buffet lunch with glass of wine or soft drink - donation £8.40. All welcome. Prize draw, raffle and musical entertainment. To book, ring Wendy on 8265 0335 by 3rd Dec.

GREENWICH DANCE
The Borough Hall, Royal Hill SE10 020 8293 9741 info@greenwichdance.org.uk
Sat 8th Dec. FAMILY CHRISTMAS CABARET 5.00 pm Doors open 4.30 pm £10 / £7.50
Sat 8th Dec. CHRISTMAS CABARET Doors open 7.30 Start time 8.00 pm. £15 / £10. Group deals for table bookings. BYO food. Bar.

TEA DANCE Dec 15th 2.00 - 4.30 pm Borough Hall in Royal Hill SE10 8RE - the perfect setting for an afternoon of socialising, live music and dancing. Tea and cake is included in the entry price. For more information contact Greenwich Dance on 020 8293 9741 £8 (£6 concessions)

GREENWICH CIRCUS FESTIVAL
Harrington Way, Near Thames barrier Dec. 14th, 15th & 16th. Three days jam-packed with all things circus. Shows, cabarets, workshops, food, drinking and dancing. Something for the whole family during the day, then party all night once the kids are in bed! Discounted tickets for Greenwich residents. <http://www.greenwichcircusfestival.org/>

BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
 Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, Dec 21st **AGM and Members Evening Jan 19th 2013 Damascus Steel Mr Owen Bush** Visitors are welcome, and requested to donate £ 3.00 to Society funds.

BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB welcomes all players to duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon. & Thurs. 7.15 pm & on Wed. at 1.15 Tel. 8851 2609

WESTCOMBE WRITERS' CIRCLE 1st. Thursday each month, 2.30-4.30 at Mycenae House. Ring Joan Paice on 8305 1652 or Rosemary Gill on 8858 5088

BLACKHEATH FLOWER CLUB Meets third Friday of every month at 1.45 pm at Mycenae House

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: First Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm at Sunfields Methodist Church, Old Dover Road, SE3 8SJ eileenflanagan194@btinternet.com

SECOND CHANCE CHOIR We rehearse Thursday evenings during term time, in Blackheath. New members welcome, contact Margery Nzerem 0208 858 3544 gery@nzerem.bbmax.co.uk.

PERFORMANCE JAZZ IN MYCENAE HOUSE
 Every Monday evening, £5.00. Bar!
ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC
 9.00 pm every Tuesday at the Lord Hood pub, Creek Road; mainstream jazz every Thursday.

MUSIC

BLACKHEATH HALLS Tel 020 8463 0100
Mon 3 Dec 13.10h CLASSICAL FUNDRAISERS:
HANSON DUO Harriet Murray, violin & Alice Murray, cello Free
Thurs. 6 Dec 19.30h GREAT HALL TRINITY LABAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA plays Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, Mahler and John Gardner £12 & £8
Mon 10 Dec 13.10 CLASSICAL FUNDRAISERS:
HELEN BAILEY, SOPRANO Free
Mon 31st Dec. CHICAGO THEMED NIGHT!
 Great costumes, great jazz, great fun this New Year's Eve at Blackheath Halls! £22 until Fri. 7th. Dec.; £25 until 6pm on Mon. 31st. Dec.; £30 from 6pm on the night. Group discounts.
CELEBRATE ROYAL GREENWICH
 Wed Dec 5th. 1.00 (£2) & 7.00 pm (£5) Great Hall Showcasing the wealth of musical talent among young people in the Royal Borough.

BLACKHEATH CHOIR

Christmas Concert with St Paul's Sinfonia:

Sunday 9th Dec. 7.30 pm
 St Margaret's Church, Lee
Bach: Magnificat
Corelli: Christmas Concerto
Respighi: Lauda per la nativita del Signore
 Tickets from: 8852 9263

An Holistic Healing ~ Introduces

Sound Circle

Sonic Meditation Group



Discover and free your true voice, whilst finding a simple, effective way-in to meditation
 Venues East Greenwich & Covent Garden
 Contact: Judith - 07941 529 322
Judith.healinghands@gmail.com
www.handsandvoice.com

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

All our local churches have special candle-lit Christmas services, in addition to which are:
Sun. Dec. 2nd: 6.30 - 9.00pm THE GREENWICH & BEXLEY COMMUNITY HOSPICE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION at the Old Royal Naval College. This will feature readings and classic carols. The evening also includes a torch-lit procession by the sea cadets, and carols led by the ORNC Choir. **Tickets £20 and £25. Glass of mulled wine & mince pie included.. Tickets available either online www.community-hospice.org.uk, or ring 020 8319 9230.**
5th December, from 7.00 - 8.00 pm ACTION AGAINST HUNGER CONCERT at St Alfege Church, Greenwich, with live performances and readings plus all your favourite carols. Free with complimentary mulled wine and mince pies.
Sunday Dec. 9th, 7.00 pm SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS CONCERT at the ORNC. With the ORNC choir, James Grainger (Organ) and Brass directed by Ralph Allwood. Readers include Christopher Godwin, and Illona Linthwaite. Box Office 8463 0100, and cost £20.00, £18.00, or £15.00. Some tickets may be available on the door, (payment by cash or cheque only please).
Fri. 14th Dec. 7.30pm BLACKHEATH HALLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Vivaldi Gloria, Festive music Carols for all. With the Trinity Laban World Choir. Tickets £14 (£12 cones) £5 under 12s Includes a glass of mulled wine (over 18s only) and mince pie

THEATRE & OPERA

THE GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755
Until 6th January ROBIN HOOD - another ANDREW POLLARD PANTO 020 8858 7755 www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk
THE SPACE 269 Westferry Road London E14 3RS 0207 515 7799 / www.space.org.uk
 Nearest stn: Mudchute (DLR) Buses: D3, D7, 135
FULFIL ME FULLY, PHIL Until 15th December 7:30pm £14/£10 - A play with songs Suffering a minor existential crisis, Phil creates man. From that moment on, Phil hasn't got a moment's peace. **CAPITAL THEATRE COMPANY** presents **The Country** by Martin Crimp at St Margaret's Crypt, Lee on 18th- 19th Jan. at 8.00pm. £10, or £8 cones from the box office 020 8852 3258 or e-mail: msmith51@supanet.com

WORSHIP

St George's, Glenluce Road
 Every Sunday at 11.00am Parish Communion with Sunday Special for children age 3 and up.
Sunday 2nd Dec. 11.00 am Family Communion
Sunday 23rd Dec. 6pm Carol Service of lessons and carols
Mon. 24th Dec. Christmas Eve 2.30 pm, repeated at 4.00pm Crib Building with carols - the story of the first Christmas for all ages
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist
Tues. 25th Dec. Christmas Day 10.30am Family Communion
Jan. 6th 11.00am Epiphany - a family communion service; followed by refreshments
Sat. Jan. 12th Jumble Sale 11.00 - 1pm The church will be open on Wed. 9th 2 - 4pm, Thurs. 10th & Fri. 11th 7 - 9pm for donations. If you are able to help with collection or on the day please ring Julie on 020 8858 7756,
Saturday January 26th 11.00am - 1.00 pm Clearance Sale

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Labour: Cllr. Alex Grant Tel. 8855 7292 E-mail Alex.grant@greenwich.gov.uk **Surgeries:** 1st. Friday of each month, 7.00 - 8.00 pm, Mycenae House; 3rd. Saturday of each month, 3.30-4.30 pm, St James Church Hall, Kidbrooke Park Rd.
Conservative: Cllr. Geoff Brighty Tel. 8921 5663 (Town Hall) or 8858 9731 (Home) geoffrey.brighty@greenwich.gov.uk
 Cllr. Alex Wilson Tel. 07783 611607 Email: alex.wilson@greenwich.gov.uk
Surgery: 1st Monday of the month 6 - 7.00 pm Blackheath Library, Old Dover Rd.

"Made in Greenwich" Gallery

324 Creek Rd, SE10 9SW
Poetry Readings
 £4 | £3 concess. inc. Glass of wine
Tues. 4th Dec. 7.30 pm
 Greenwich poets, including Mick Delap, & Westcombe Park's answer to Wendy Cope, Lorraine Mariner
<https://www.facebook.com/events/16394325744431/>



Learning is fun

St Olave's is a Prep School in New Eltham for boys and girls aged 3-11 years

- Broad, child-centred curriculum
- Excellent results in the 11+ selection
- Clubs, outings and residential trips
- Excellent pastoral care
- Small classes
- Specialist staff for PE, IT, Music, French and Drama
- Sibling fee reduction
- Before and after school care

Tel: 020 8294 8930
www.stolaves.org.uk



Don't forget - you have childcare options!

Childcare places for children from 3 months - 5 years



Choosing the right kind of childcare is one of the biggest decisions that you will ever have to make.

At Zoom, we believe nursery childcare could be the best way of supporting your whole family. With the right nursery, you're able to enhance your child's development and add to your experience as a parent.

We have gone to great lengths to ensure that our well-equipped environment, exceptional team, healthy planned menus, additional classes and planned curriculum all meet and exceed you and your child's expectations.

Childcare at Zoom could be more affordable than you think. The term after your child turns 3 means you are eligible for The Nursery Education Grant. We also have access to the Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP) and Working Families Tax Credit.

Why not call us for an informal discussion, or to arrange a visit? We could be just what you are looking for! Call me, **Justine O'Hare, Manager**, on 0208 331 6703. Alternatively, email me at bella@zooms4321.fsnet.co.uk



We're based near to the Yorkshire Grey Roundabout, bordering Kidbrooke, Blackheath, Lee & Eltham, just off the A2

THE POINTER SCHOOL

"Doubles in size"



- First Class Examination Results
- Organic Food
- Breakfast Club & After School Care
- Christian Evangelical in outlook
- Numerous Extra-Curricular Clubs
- Large variety of outdoor and PE activities
- 3 languages taught

OFSTED: OUTSTANDING IN ALL AREAS



020 8293 1331

The Pointer School | 19 Stratheden Road | Blackheath | London SE3 7TH and also at 37 Shooters Hill Road | Blackheath | London SE3 7HS (Nursery & Reception) email: secretary@pointers-school.co.uk Website: www.pointers-school.co.uk

FREE Christmas Event in East Greenwich Pleasaunce

Sunday 2nd December
 at 1.30 - 4.00 pm
 Christmas Carols sung by Halstow Community Choir, Father Christmas visiting from 2.00 - 4.00pm
 Mulled Wine, mince pies & other goodies.

Entrances in Chevening Road and Halstow Road, Greenwich SE10

See the website: <http://fegp.typepad.com>
 Email: pleasauncefriends@hotmail.com



Mend your English

or

What you should have been taught at Primary School [New international Edition] by

Ian Bruton-Simmonds

Price: £9.99 from the British Library Bookshop or other good bookshops

Publisher: Ivy Publishing

ISBN No: 978-0-9546862-1-5

Focuses on the BBC



The Way to Modern Living

RESIDENTIAL REFURBISHMENTS • KITCHENS BATHROOMS • INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE
 LOFT CONVERSIONS • CUSTOM CABINETS BEDROOMS • JOINERY • BUILDING EXTENSIONS
 ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES • ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Please call: 020 8463 9300
info@element-construction.co.uk
www.element-construction.co.uk

ENVIRONMENT



Planning applications can be viewed in the library, or at the Woolwich Library on the lower ground floor of the Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington St. They may also be viewed on www.greenwich.gov.uk/planning

What's happening in the park?

SARAH WINTERBOTTOM reports



PHOTOS:
EMILY NORTON

With memories of London's summer of sport fading fast, the Westcombe Society's Planning and Environment Committee (WSPEC) was invited by LOCOG to take part in a stakeholders' walkabout in Greenwich Park and the Circus Field to view progress and reinstatement work.

Greenwich Park

Stakeholders were reminded that, as with the construction process, the weather plays a significant part in the pace of the reinstatement work. According to LOCOG, if all goes according to plan, returfing the area covered by the main arena is due to start in December. Grass is still growing in the areas that had been covered up and the soil, which was described as being in a good condition, is already being worked on by staff from the Royal Parks. Returfing is also in progress on the National Maritime Museum grounds. Areas close to the cricket pitch and bandstand have been reseeded.

An unexpected benefit of the Park being closed over much of the summer is that there has been significantly less wear and tear and as a result at-risk acid grassland areas seem generally to be doing well.

In places affected by the cross country course rye grass had been sown and we could see signs of recovery.

The Rye grass will be removed in the spring using selective weedkiller, which has been approved by various bodies including Natural England. We were told that all acid grassland areas are being monitored and that the lack of wear and tear in some areas this year has meant that it was possible to collect seeds for future use.

Work to restore the ground under the practice areas between the Avenue and the Arena will be left until the earth has had a chance to dry out a little.

The rainfall experienced this spring was exceptional and this area, which housed a number of significant structures, looks the most damaged although there are signs of grass beginning to grow again.

Circus Field

Situated outside the Park, but an integral

part to the Park as a venue, the Circus Field has been cleared and has its own reinstatement programme managed by a specialist Suffolk-based sport and amenity surfaces consultancy, Agrostis.

Reinstatement of the bunds (embankments) was in evidence at the end of October and soil previously removed has now been returned and reseeded with wildflowers and grasses.

The phased reinstatement of the grass, with seeding and returfing is due to start immediately on cleared areas. Further remedial action will be taken as necessary.

Additional measures for vulnerable areas were discussed during the site visit including protective strategies for large events such as the Marathon and the Easter fun fair. Representatives from WSPEC and the Blackheath Society raised concerns that the newly reinstated grassed areas will be too fragile to cope with April's heavy-duty use, particularly from the fair.

"We also raised concerns over damage to the Heath caused by the footbridge," said Shirley Broughton from WSPEC, "LOCOG confirmed that this would also be dealt with."

LOCOG is committed to the funding restoration work until 2015.



Good news for cyclists

MARGARET GRAVELLE

Last summer the *WN* canvassed the views of local residents with regard to extending the permitted cycle routes through Greenwich Park.

It was suggested that Bower Avenue, which is the wide path that runs alongside the flower gardens diagonally from Blackheath Gate towards Maze Hill, should be open to cyclists as far as the permitted cycle path from Vanbrugh Gate to Great Cross Avenue.

Following discussions with the Park Manager, Graham Dear, and the Greenwich Safer Parks Panel, it was agreed that this would be implemented for a trial period.

Preparations for the Olympics have delayed the trial, but as the Park returns to normal there are now plans to begin the experiment and to monitor its impact.

Although no date has yet been set, this will be welcome news to the many resident cyclists who responded enthusiastically to the original proposal – with only one comment in opposition.

Christopher's column

Gender trouble

Do men and women garden differently? The topic arose from a debate on the ethics of cut flowers, but applies across the whole area of designing gardens or landscapes, and ways of combining plants.

Although plantswoman Beth Chatto has a background of flower arranging, no-one would describe her style as feminine, but one writer describes designer Sarah Price's planting style as 'graceful feminine airiness.'

Her Chelsea sponsors, the *Telegraph*, counter, though, that most avoid 'crass gender-laden observations'. As it happens no-one of any gender has asked me for a garden using pastel colours, but that's because dark plummy tones or clashing colours are 'on trend'.

It's not a new issue – historically, images of women 'gardening' often show them cutting flowers for the house or doing a little watering in the conservatory (an extension of the home). In the 1950s women were shown working in the garden using lightweight lawnmowers which (even) they could use.

But modern gardening 'kit' (leaf blowers, shredders), seems like 'boys toys' with obligatory noise and bits to tinker with ('adjust'). American academics are on the topic, inevitably, even suggesting that 'regardless of sexual orientation' you can see designers as nester or hunter (guess which is more feminine).

The (male) Sheffield team designing pictorial meadows are scientific boffins, as well as visually acute, so on this scale are the middling nester-hunters.

Barbara Morris adds:

There is a problem with the Vanbrugh Gate: no-one – whether on foot or on a bicycle – can see who is coming in the opposite direction until they are right in the gateway. Nearly all the other gates into the Park have better sightlines, because they have railings either side of the gateway. But Vanbrugh Gate is set into the wall at its full height.

Recently, I was once again faced by a cyclist blocking the way in to the park as I entered through Vanbrugh Gate, I stopped and asked him to get off his bike to allow me to enter. He courteously did so, and saw the point of it when two small children suddenly appeared in the gateway too, more or less under the wheels of his bike.

BUY LOCAL!

The Royal Standard Business and Traders association is mounting a series of events at the Standard throughout December, including a procession with Santa, buskers, and donkeys dressed as reindeer.

Also listen out for the Boys Brigade Band, Carol Singers, and Les Zoings Band. Many special Christmas bargains are also on offer!

To return to our original topic of the cut flower trade, I'm not keen to have anyone cutting flowers from the borders, and will always suggest a small 'picking garden' for flowers and other produce, if there's space. A recent ad campaign showing shirtless 'hunks' proffering bouquets was specifically aimed at getting women to buy (even) more flowers.

But if men don't buy flowers, why aren't they the target for advertising – or are they a lost cause? Speaking personally, I don't like the assumption that any bunch of flowers I hold is for some 'lucky girl'. To respond to the American blogger who pondered loudly 'why can't a dude like flowers?' – no reason at all, but they should be growing their own.

Christopher Raven



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(See also <http://westcombe.blogspot.com/>)

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL, MAZE HILL ref 12/2516/F and 12/2517/L
Construct mini-substation to rear of gym block

57A MYCENAE ROAD ref 12/2588/F
Install 3 replacement timber windows

TREE WORKS
46 HARDY ROAD ref 12/2785/TC
Fell hawthorn at rear and crown reduce oak by 30%

71 BEACONSFIELD ROAD ref 12/2724/TC
Fell magnolia grandiflora by side of house.

JOHN ROAN TREE APPLICATION 12/2629/TC
An application has been submitted by the Council to fell the Flowering Horse Chestnut (T5) at the junction of Vanbrugh Park Road West and Westcombe Park Road. In its application in 2011, the Council gave specific assurances that this tree would be retained.

The Westcombe and Blackheath Societies have written to oppose the application, as have a number of local residents. Objections can be made by letter or online.

STARKEY FINANCIAL PLANNING LIMITED

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL and CORPORATE FINANCIAL ADVISERS

Investments - Pensions - Estate Planning
2 Charlton Road, Blackheath Standard
London SE3 7EX (T) 020 8853 7160
email: admin@starkeyfinancialplanning.co.uk
website: www.starkeyfinancialplanning.co.uk

HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR FUTURE
Starkey Financial Planning Ltd. is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority





TOM ELLIS
KITCHENS
BOOKCASES
DRESSERS
WARDROBES
TABLES
DESKS
CABINETS

020 8519 8947
07540 579027
tomellis@talktalk.net

MARKET PLACE

Please send ads for the Market Place with payment by the 10th day of the preceding month to: Marilyn Little, 163 Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 0208853 1312 email:marilyn.little@btinternet.com ALL classified adverts 30p per word. Please make cheques payable to The Westcombe Society

ACCOMMODATION

GOOD RELIABLE HOST FAMILIES wanted for foreign students. For more info. please contact Lynne on 01732 822649 or email sesgreenwich@aol.com
FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE Blackheath area, up to 150 people, Bar, disabled access. Tel 07940 296290

GARDENING

BORDERS, BEDS AND CONTAINERS planned, prepared and planted by local experienced qualified gardener. Call Leslie on 0208 858 6541
GOOD GARDENING . . . For hands-on gardening, practical advice, or low-maintenance planting designed for you & your garden, call Christopher Raven 020 8691 2240
GARDEN MAINTENANCE: mowing, weeding, pruning, communal garden contracts, fruit and vegetables, gardening tuition, RHS qualified, also domestic cleaning. Call John and Rachel 0208 316 0990 / 07746 121510

HOLIDAYS

WHITSTABLE WEEKENDS / WEEKS Sea wall house between Oyster Warehouse and Harbour. Sleeps 5. Fantastic views. 8858 6578 or 013 0436 7443
NORFOLK HIDEAWAY Traditional cottage in rural hamlet - sleeps 5/6. Easy access to coast, Burnham Market, Holt. Great location for walking, cycling, bird watching visiting castles and stately homes. Tel 020 8858 1515 / 07768 340477 www.baileycottage.co.uk
NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS The Georgian House. Delightful period house in charming Pickering market town. Sleeps 10. http://www.thegeorgianhouse.co.uk/ Tel: 07876 385189
HOLIDAY IN PROVENCE Beautiful, spacious villa, recently built, with 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a swimming pool and a vast garden. Close to the beach, the village of la Cadière d'Azur, and Frégate Golf course. Weekly rentals only. Please ring 07778640894 for further details.

PERSONAL CARE & THERAPY

LONDON HOLISTIC COACH: Cognitive Behavioural Therapist & Life Coach; Need guidance on Relationships, Emotional Eating, Career, Confidence Building & Parenting? Call Today M: 07886088062
E: info@LondonHolisticCoach.com
W: http://www.LondonHolisticCoach.com
BLACKHEATH HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICE. COUNSELLING, ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE, YOGA tel: 020 8858 5969 / 1991, www.bhhs.selondon.co.uk
KUNDALINI YOGA - Connect to your spirit through breath, yoga postures and meditation. Teacher with over 10 years experience. Beginners welcome. Wednesdays, 20:00-21:15, The Yogi Tree, Woolwich Road, £10/class. Contact Satwant on 07971217770 or satwant.kr@gmail.com
PILATES CLASSES AT MYCENAE HOUSE. Thursday's 1-2pm. All levels welcome, mats provided. Please contact Hilary for further details on 07970290818

SERVICES & TRADE

CHRISTMAS IS COMING and Homespace can help you declutter and organise your home in time for the festivities. Call Karen on 0844 846 5854 to book a free appraisal or visit http://www.home-space.biz/
TRAINED CHIMNEY SWEEP AND STOVE INSTALLER Fast, friendly Happy to work! Call Anthony on 07772649577 or email: chimneymaintenance@gmail.com
NEED HELP WITH YOUR COMPUTER? Local technician provides home technical support & tuition. No job too small. all in your own home. Glenn 84734091
WELLING 2 WOOLWICH Cleaners of homes, Surgeries and factories in both Greenwich & Bexley Boroughs. For windows and carpets, curtains to driveways Ring 0203 2593335 or 07938733355
SIMMONDS HANDYMAN Property and maintenance services. Electrical, decorating, telephones, general repairs. 079 4198 2895
BLACKHEATH AND GREENWICH WINDOW AND GUTTER CLEANING Mike Smith 07791 465052 www.blackheath-window-cleaner.co.uk
C.S. CARPENTRY-JOINERY Decorating and all building work undertaken. Joseph McNamara 02088575480, mobile 07947155366
FRIENDLY LOCAL PLUMBER available for free estimates and advice. I am a family man and have always lived in the locality. I pride myself on listening to my clients concerns, and taking care that they are satisfied with all aspects of my work. I am fully insured and all of my work is guaranteed. Local references available. Call today 07775439121, or 02035360273
INTERIOR DECORATOR & CARPENTER with over 20 years experience. A member of the guild of mastercraftsman. Free quotes & friendly advice on all your decorating requirements. Local references available. Tel. Ashley Greaves 8858 2981

FOR SALE

Two part, Glass top Pine dresser for sale - 45" wide, 77" High and 17.5" deep £400.00 Ph. 020 8858 9293

HAVE YOU GOT THE SKILLS, OR TIME, FOR DIY? Or is it all just such an effort!

If that's your problem, I can solve it
Decorating including preparation, painting, wall-papering & special finishes.
Re- hanging doors and putting up shelving.
Re-laying floors-lino, wood laminates & ceramics.
Domestic Electrical work.
Plumbing-taps, showers,radiators and external.
Garden revival and maintenance
If you need help with any of these please call tony T: 0208 856 9398 M: 07961 540836 w: http://www.tonysdiy.com/

AFFORDABLE, LOCAL PICTURE FRAMER - collection & delivery possible. Happy to quote or advise. Email: frederick@fmjbotham.co.uk
DECORATING, ELECTRICS Plumbing and Property Maintenance. Established 25 years. References available. Phil McNamara 020 8857 5480, mobile 078 1436 0862
HOME STAGING HELPS SELL HOUSES For information on cost-effective ways to present your home, call 0844 846 5854 or visit www.home-space.biz

DAVIDSON PLASTERING AND DECORATING SERVICES Ceilings repaired or renovated. Artex ceilings skimmed to a smooth finish. Painting and Decorating. Insurance work undertaken. C&G qualified. Small jobs welcome. Free advice and estimates. Phone 8316 0990/07746 121510
TOM ELLIS BESPOKE CARPENTRY Kitchens, Alcove units, bookcases, wardrobes, dressers and tables. Happy to quote. 02085198947 (m) 07540579027
ARCHITECTURAL INTERIOR DESIGN Liz Bull Design specialises in innovative and inspirational interior and exterior design. Complete service from concept through to planning permission and completion. Services also include bespoke furniture & landscape design. Call for a free consultation. Email: info@lizbulldesign.com Tel. 07739903752. www.lizbulldesign.com

HOMEWORKS All-round handyman for those DIY's you have no time for! General repairs. Painting & Decorating. General Carpentry and flooring. Flat-pack assembly. Patio and deck cleaning. No job too small. Contact Matthew Barron 07903 388658.
HOUSES CLEARED of unwanted items. Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917 842
A MAN AND A VAN Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile: 07885 917 842

EXPERIENCED PAINTER AND DECORATOR Interior and exterior work, wall papering a speciality. Free estimates. Fully insured. Friendly and reliable. James Leslie 07973 491 264 Email address: jwldec@btinternet.com
WESTCOMBE PARK KITCHENS AT TRADE PRICES Free design & delivery. Tel. 8305 1263 or 0788591 7842
MALCOLM TIERNEY, CARPENTER Specialist in refurbishment, repair and replacement of sash windows. 077 7565 7371

ANDREW FLETCHER Painting, Decorating & Tiling services. Over 20 years' experience, fully insured. References available. Call 077 0209 4382
S.S.D BUILDERS LTD. Long established Building & Roofing Company available for free estimates & advice. ALL works undertaken, from guttering to Refurbishments. All works viewed within 24 hours, fully insured & guaranteed. Call us today on 07931 536533 or 020 8305 1039
PUBBLE PLASTERING Need a plasterer with excellent references? Work is of high standard. Qualified C&G. Plastering-Rendering-Plasterboarding - Repairs. Free quotes! Call Alex on 07547468459 / 0208 465 5844. pubbleplastering@googlemail.com
S.S.D PLUMBING AND HEATING Friendly local plumber available for free estimates and advice. All works undertaken, no job too small, from boilers to bathroom suites, all works viewed within 24 hours, fully insured and guaranteed. Call today on 07931 536533 or 8305 1039

SMARTT SOLUTIONS... for the jobs you don't have time for. Friendly, reliable and trustworthy handyman service for your home. £2 million liability insurance. Plumbing (not gas), electrics, carpentry, decorating. Contact us if the service you require is not listed. 07912 549 662 - 020 8858 6679 info@smarttsolutions.co.uk www.smarttsolutions.co.uk
CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Alcoves, wardrobes, radiator covers & general household woodwork. Showroom: 0208 852 7222 www.carpentryandinteriors.co.uk
DECORATOR & TILER Experienced and reliable service. Free estimates and local references. David Birch 07956 264011

WESTCOMBE CLEANERS I'm a friendly, hard working & organised domestic cleaner. Regular or single services. Competitive rates. Additional tasks. I love my clients to be happy. Phone (020) 8853 8671
DOG WALKING/PET SITTING, reasonable rates. Contact Lucy: 07545 998789.
PHOTOGRAPHIC DARK ROOM AVAILABLE for rent in Charlton - Phone Alexis on 0208 853 8767 for more details.
PIANO TUNER Prompt friendly service from an experienced, fully qualified tuner technician. For tuning and repairs call Jim Kimberley 0208 305 0033

EXPERIENCED LOCAL ARCHITECT offering full range of architectural services, including planning and building regulations applications, technical and construction drawings, full project management, and site work. Registered with the Architects Registration Board. Mob: 07853423130 Email: gj@gjanjeearchitects.com

TUITION

SHOW YOUR COMPUTER WHO IS THE BOSS Are you looking for some extra help working with your computer? Need some help with your digital photos, online shopping and the jargon? To discuss the options, call Paul on 07958 251 448 or email paul.clayton@soulchip.net
IRISH DANCING CLASSES COMMENCING AT MYCENAE HOUSE taught under the tuition of Tanya Dirrane-Hobbs ADCRG a very well established teacher and adjudicator. Please contact Tanya for further details on 07775 943723

ITALIAN TUITION Native Italian speaker offers lessons at all levels. Preparation for GCSE, A-LEVELS courses, Grammar, Conversation Tel 07788 743371
PIANO LESSONS Enjoy playing your instrument from the very first lesson - favourite pieces and much more - a holistic approach to teaching and learning. A.B exams taken if desired. Tel. 8856 1200
MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION (aged 8-16) and preparation for secondary school selection tests by qualified & experienced teacher. Mary Bauckham 07709 089838 mary.bauckham@virgin.net

ENGLISH/PRIMARY/11-PLUS TUITION All ages welcome. GCSE, A/S-Levels, Common Entrance, Primary, etc. Fully qualified, experienced teacher. Call Hellen Halliday BA(Hons), PGCE on 020 8858 7704 / 07928 017762 to discuss how I can help.
MATHEMATICS TUTOR For secondary level, GCSE and A-Level by qualified teacher, Tom McNamara [MMath]. £30 per hour. 0795348976 or Email thomasmcnamara@gmail.com
VIOLIN LESSONS ON VANBRUGH HILL. Experienced professional violin teacher with 100% pass rate for ABRSM exams and over 10 yrs teaching experience. The Steinberg School offers individual lessons at all ages and levels. Call 020 123 7659 or email louisastonehill@gmail.com http://www.steinberg-music.com

MUSIC LESSONS: Piano, Guitar, Saxophone. Experienced, educated musician / teacher. Creative but structured approach. Beginners welcome. CRB checked, References available. email: rfrancomb@ntl-world.com or call Roger 07980 379044
SPANISH TUITION One-to-one or small groups, all ages and levels, at your home or office. By qualified Latin-American teacher. CLTA Call Miguel 020 8305 0874 or 079 1031 8513 migansiergut52@gmail.com
MULIHILL ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE Adult and Child Irish Dance Classes available in the Blackheath area. Come along for a fun-all-in-one workout. For more information call Rachel on 07707100521

ONE-TO-ONE LESSONS WITH FRENCH LADY Telephone Monique: 07891031073

BUY LOCAL!

Discounts available on production of your Westcombe Society membership card.

BLACKHEATH VILLAGE: BLACKS OF BLACKHEATH - JEWELLERS 10% OFF purchases over £100, excluding sale goods and repairs
CACTUS PIT - TEX/MEX RESTAURANT 20% OFF for two or more, Sun. to Thurs.
CHAPTERS RESTAURANT 10% OFF lunch/ dinner for two Mon. to Thurs.
PARES FOOTWEAR 10% OFF all shoes over £20, excluding sale stock
RAFFLES DESIGNER WEAR. 10% OFF all non-sale goods
RIGHT ANGLE RETAIL - GIFTS 10% OFF special goods plus free delivery
CAVE AUSTIN WINE BAR & GARDEN 5% discount at any time

GREENWICH: NORTH POLE RESTAURANT 12.5% OFF Meals only for two
3D DIVING 10% discount on all scuba diving courses. Offer excludes scuba diving equipment.

GREENWICH COMMUNICATION CENTRE at 164 Trafalgar Road offer 10% discount on all Computer Maintenance and Repairs (including Laptops!) Your local friendly independent computer shop!
HUMBER ROAD: BODYWORKZ - THE FITNESS CLINIC 109 Humber Road. 10% OFF all treatments costing £30 or more except Chiroprody; exc. Saturdays.
ROYAL NEPALESE RESTAURANT (Station Crescent) 20% OFF meals for two or more Sunday - Thursday.

THE CURIOUS COMB 10% discount on services over £30 Weekdays 8am-10am, 2pm-4pm (excludes retail purchases).
CORIANDER RESTAURANT (Station Crescent) 25% off Sunday to Thursday. Bookings only!
THE STANDARD: COTON & HAMBLIN - OPTICIANS 5% OFF frames, sunglasses & accessories
KARAN CHEMIST 10% OFF Weds. only
MARNELLS - DIY 10% OFF Wednesdays
WELL BEAN - HEALTH GOODS 10% OFF all purchases over £20 (no credit cards)

BLACKHEATH EYECARE CENTRE 25% off 2nd pair of spectacles. (same prescription. Not in conjunction with any other offer. (Complete glasses start from £49.95 with single vision lenses). 5% off contact lens solution and accessories
GAMBARDELLA'S CAFE 10% off meals from Monday to Thursday for members of the WS
TROJAN PRESS 10% OFF all quotations
WESTCOMBE HILL A * Driving School £5 discount on the price of one x 2 hour lesson for WS members.
THE WONDER WOMEN NETWORK Offers a 10% discount

YOGA
At Blackheath Complementary Health Centre Westcombe Hill, SE3
New courses starting in January 2013
Beginners, Improvers & Intermediate levels
Bookings & info: www.experienceyoga.co.uk 07702 226735

SEWING TIME
7 DELACOURT ROAD, BLACKHEATH, SE3 8XA
CALL: 02084655520/07403583001
INFO@SEWINGTIME.CO.UK / WWW.SEWINGTIME.CO.UK
FOR: CLUBS, COURSES, WORKSHOPS
FABRICS, HABERDASHERY AND MORE!



IT SUPPORT
for ALL your home & business needs
Call now for FREE advice
headstart IT Solutions
020 8858 2002
www.theheadstart.com

R.G. Austin
(Established 1963)
Heating Engineers, Property Maintenance, Electrics, Painting, Decorating, Plumbing, Central Heating, Shower and Bathroom Specialists
2A Hassendean Rd, Blackheath SE3 8TS
Telephone: 0208 8858 7359
rgaustin@fsmail.net




JAMES REMOVALS
Fully trained uniformed staff
Full insurance included in ALL quotes
Prompt free estimates
On-site containerised storage
Discounts for long-term storage
Well-established family business
Pianos - our forte
Call 0800 0157775 for a free survey or visit jamesremovals.com to request a quotation online




PLUMBING GAS
ALL PLUMBING, BOILER AND GAS WORK, LOCAL REFERENCES
CALL CWD HEATING
020 8858 2234
07799003545



2013 : Preview of Regulator N°1 & new website
Miles Campbell
A traditional clockmaker striving toward absolute accuracy
Clockmaker • Woolwich, London
0208 331 0201 www.milescampbell.co.uk

WRISTWORTH HEATING & PLUMBING
Installation - Servicing - Repair
Tel: 07725 008280
Email: wristworth@hotmail.co.uk
Check Out Our NEW Website: wristworthheating.weebly.com





The Westcombe Society wishes all our readers and advertisers a very Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.



PHOTOS: Neville Grant



PHOTO: Marilyn Little

Here, Blackheath Pet Supplies reminds us that pets like to enjoy Christmas too; as long as they aren't pet turkeys ...



Woodlands Farm Trust stall [above], was one of many at the Westcombe Society's Christmas Bazaar. Also on offer were: Christmas cakes, fashion, music (Mary Andrews on piano, with singer Sian Tribe). We also welcomed the Mayor, Cllr. David Grant [Right] – and Santa!



TROJAN PRESS
Printing for Blackheath since 1978

BESPOKE CALENDARS
13 PAGE A3 CALENDARS WITH YOUR OWN PICTURES
FROM £6 EACH
MINIMUM ORDER 10

1a Lizban St
Blackheath, London SE3 8SS
Tel: 020 8853 2268
Email: dave@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.com



CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday, 8 December, 2012 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice, 185 Bostall Hill, Abbey Wood, SE2 0GB

Admission: FREE & FREE parking
Everything you need for Christmas plus mulled wine & mince pies and a good old fashioned raffle!
Contact: 020 8319 9230, email info@gbch.org.uk or visit the website www.communityhospice.org.uk

Let your mouse sell your house

0208 858 0099
Mousesale.co.uk your local Estate Agents online.
A full service from inquiry to completion at a very reasonable price.

mousesale.co.uk
your local online estate agent!

ACCOUNTANT
CIS, Tax returns, Accounts, VAT.
Low rates.
02082890868
info@das5.co.uk

Go Easy Self Drive Hire
BUDGET BUSTING DEALS

MILEAGE ALLOWANCE ON ALL VEHICLES 100 PER DAY!
Option to prepay £10.00 for an extra 100 miles per day!
Mileage over 100 charged at 25p per mile.
Call us on 0208 858 7211 for a full price list!

Small cars from £19.95 a day or £99.00 per week!
Ford Transit! FROM £27.95 per day high roof and luton also available!

Unit 3, Building 6, 87 Westmoor Street, Ashleigh Commercial Estate, Charlton, London, SE7 8NQ

Christmas at Mycenae House

Saturday 24 November - 11am - 3.30pm
Blackheath Arts & Craft Fair

Wednesday 12 December - 7.00pm
Blackheath Centre for Singing – Carol Concert

Friday 14 December - 1.00pm
Senior Citizens Club Concert

Friday 14 December - 8.00pm
Dave Silk's Jazz Nights Ensemble

Saturday 15 December – 11.00am
Diddi Dance Christmas Party

Monday 17 December - 7pm
Becky Dell Academy Concert

Wednesday 19 December - 8pm
One Good Turn Cabaret Event

Saturday 22 December - 11am
Tiptoes & Tappers Demon

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk
020 8858 1749

Adapt
Personal Training Solutions
0208 318 7373
www.adappt.info

Exclusive 1-2-1 Fitness Studio
Local to Blackheath

EXCLUSIVE OFFER
FIRST 500 BOOKINGS
£10 PER PERSON
(MINIMUM 2 PERSONS PER SESSION)

39 Lee Church St, London, SE13 5SG

CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday 2 December 2012
11.00 am - 3.00 pm
331 Shooters Hill, Welling

Carol singers, Café, Local produce, Country crafts, Santa's Grotto, Mulled wine, Homemade cakes

Admission FREE
Donations always welcome

The Woodlands Farm Trust
For further details visit our website:
www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org
or Tel: 020 8319 8900

Estate agents & surveyors, established in 1975. Branches in Westcombe Park, Blackheath, Greenwich & Lee, alongside dedicated branches for Lettings & Commercial.
Contact the Westcombe Park branch on 020 8858 6101

John Payne johnpayne.com