



Westcombe NEWS



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October 2014 Issue 8

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

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

Next year's draft train timetable

MIKE SPARHAM

Remember the old British Railways Ad. "This is the age of the train"?

Railusers are now more likely to call it "the age of the strain" as they struggle to get onto overcrowded trains.

However, maybe help is at hand: the Greenwich Line Users' Group (GLUG) has been studying the draft timetable that Southeastern propose to apply to train services from January 2015; and has been trying to mitigate its worst side-effects.

As expected, there will be no direct services to Waterloo (East) and Charing Cross from Westcombe Park and the other stations on the Greenwich Line. The nearest direct services will be from Charlton, Blackheath and Lewisham. Cannon Street station will be open all day, including Sunday, as will the underground station.

The number of trains

stopping at Westcombe Park and Maze Hill throughout the day will be the same, but at Greenwich there will be three fewer trains in the evening, and one fewer in the morning peak.

The withdrawal of these semi-fast trains puts additional pressure on the remaining trains, but GLUG has succeeded in persuading Southeastern to increase total capacity across the evening peak period as a whole, with most trains being 10 cars long. However, the period between 17.30 and 18.30 will inevitably see a reduction in capacity.

The rebuilding work at London Bridge means that it will not be possible until 2018 to change trains there to reach Waterloo and Charing Cross on other Southeastern services.

GLUG has received a commitment that the intention is to allow travel to these

stations by other means at no extra cost, but this depends upon the Department for Transport and Transport for London reaching an agreement on funding.

GLUG's view is that there are two aspects to this: onward travel from London Bridge and Cannon Street by underground or bus; and travel by bus, train or DLR to Charlton, Blackheath and Lewisham to pick up direct Charing Cross services from there.

Southeastern have listed the alternative routes on which free travel should be allowed, and GLUG are continuing to press on the detail. GLUG are also pressing for alternative routes to be well publicised at stations and in timetables.

GLUG now has a website: www.greenwichline.org.uk



We are sailing ...

On board two of the Tall Ships that set off from Falmouth to Greenwich were nearly 50 local young people from the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Aged between 16-25, the young crew members were from various schools and backgrounds in Greenwich. They were on board two of the Tall Ships: the *Dar Młodzieży* and the *Gulden Leeuw*.

RIGHT: The Tall Ships Festival was best viewed when the ships were sailing by



PHOTO: Penny Player

BELOW: Ashore, young & old had a great time. Here youngsters defy gravity as they practise scaling the rigging..



RIGHT: The festival was great for local trade. This balloon seller looks as though he is about to take off.



BELOW: Sea-shanty time – but shouldn't that boat have floated? [RIGHT]



The EU ban on growth hormones was ignored by lobster fishermen ...



Our schools 'among the best'

Greenwich's primary schools have proved they are among the best in the country at helping pupils to make progress, the latest national results have confirmed. They show that our 11-year-olds' achievement in maths, reading and writing exceed the national average in all the main measures of achievement and have improved on 2013 results in every category.

Impressively, Greenwich came equal fourth in the entire country and equal third in London for reaching or exceeding the required standard (level 4) in reading, writing and maths – areas seen as the most significant gauge of achievement.

The GCE and A level results are also very encouraging. Three quarters of Greenwich students achieved A*- C grades in English, 13 points ahead of national results and were 4 points better than the national average in Mathematics.

Greenwich's A level students results were in line with the national average: the overall pass rate in A-levels was 98 per cent. 39.1% passed at grades A* to B. BTEC passes continued their upward trajectory: passes in top grades were 66.1% (in 2012 the figure was 49.1%).

Well done to all our young people!

The Pleasaunce

LIZZIE COOPER

Now the holidays are over it's all happening down at East Greenwich Pleasaunce (off Halstow Road). The Market at the Pleasaunce will be back in full swing 11am to 4pm on 28th September and on 19th October. Also on the 19th there will be a Barrow Sale at the children's play centre to raise funds for this facility, which is run by volunteers. (Second hand clothes and toys). The cost is £10 per stall. For further details, contact thebridgese10@gmail.com

On the 5th October, the 3rd Great Greenwich Treasure Hunt starts at 11.00 am and ends at the Pleasaunce. This event is in conjunction with Oxfam. Search Greenwich for answers to the clues you are given. See Facebook for further details.

There is a Malcolm Hardee tribute night on Saturday 11th October. Clare Hardee will be talking about her brother and the winners of the Malcolm Hardee 'Cunning Stunts' award from the Edinburgh Festival will be entertaining you. Kick off 7.00pm; there will be burgers on sale, and a Pay Bar.

On Friday 31st October there will be an after-school Halloween party for the little ones: dressing up encouraged. Scary play and refreshments.

So, why not visit the Pleasaunce with its ecoface and children's play areas – one of our best kept secrets!

News briefs

Macmillan Coffee morning

The Westcombe Society took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 26th September in Mycenae House. In our case, the title is a bit of a misnomer, as many people enjoyed a delicious sandwich lunch, too; and there were also cakes galore on sale for people to consume on the premises, or take away. Many thanks to Caroline, her usual team of stalwart helpers – and to the many people who turned up to support this annual event raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Research.

Nearly New Sale

September was a busy month for the Westcombe Society, as the next day, the 27th, saw the Children's Nearly New Sale, always a very popular event.

Congratulations to

* Jonathan Dove, son of our Distribution Manager, Myles, on the public performance of another musical work – his hauntingly beautiful *Gaia Theory*, which was heard by listeners to the BBC Proms this year.
* Cynthia Finnerty, on completing six years as a curate at St George's.
* Vera O'Brian on reaching ninety.

Congratulations also to

M A Qavi, who had letters published in *The Independent* (and *The Week*) and the *Guardian* on the Middle East; and our editor also had a letter in *The Guardian* on international trade.

John Roan School

The building on Westcombe Park Road will be opened on 3rd Nov. [See p. 2].

Welcome

A warm welcome to the Rev'd Tim Yeager and his wife Caroline who have come from Chicago to live and serve in Westcombe Park. Tim was licensed by the Bishop of Woolwich as Team Vicar for St George's on Sept.1st; a service was followed by celebratory refreshments – many thanks to Tracy and her team of helpers.

'Across the Bridges' Walk

Twelve walkers from the Westcombe Society took part on 14th Sept. from Tower Bridge to Vauxhall Bridge 15 miles there and back. The rain held off – but WHO held a cycle race the same day! Well done to all the walkers and many thanks to those who sponsored us. Details of how much was raised for Macmillan will be given next month.

The Westcombe Society Members' Evening

Sat. 11th Oct. 7.00 - 10.00 pm the Main Hall of Mycenae House
Invitations have already gone out but if you haven't received yours, please ring Caroline on 8853 0948 or email peterlewins@gmail.com

Chrysanthemum Tea for senior citizens

Sat. 25th Oct. 2.00 - 4.00 pm in Mycenae House. If you are not on our Tea Guest List already, please ring Caroline on 8853 0948 for an invitation.

QUIZ Night

is on Friday 7th November 7.30 for an 8.00 pm start. Get a team together, or come on your own to make up a team.
Please book in advance by ringing Caroline 8853 0948.
Members £5.00; Non members £6.00. Fish n chips (or just chips) to be ordered when booking. Complimentary nibbles. Bar. Raffle. Prizes!

COMMUNITY NEWS

WESTCOMBE NEWS

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 (marilyn.little@btinternet.com)

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Residents' concerns over Roan Community Use Scheme

Several local residents have expressed some concerns about the John Roan School's sports centre and the Community Use Scheme, and at least eight objections (ref.14/1671/SD Community Use Scheme) have been recorded by the Council.

Surely the local community having access to a sports facility is a good thing? Well, yes. But there are concerns that it may stay open until late at night, leading to noise disturbance, with engines running while drivers wait to pick up people. There are also concerns over parking.

The Westcombe Society Environment Committee have formally supported the request for reducing the proposed hours of use. Emily Norton, who serves on the Westcombe Society's Environment Committee, told the *WN*:

"The school are responsible for the Maze Hill site lettings as they own that site/building, but the Westcombe Park Road site is owned by the Council and part of the BSF (Building Schools for the Future) funding conditions require it to be available for community use.

"Up until the redevelopment of both sites, residents enjoyed quiet evenings, weekends and school holidays. Since the redevelopment started they have suffered noise and disruption all year round – but not for most of the weekends.

"Now they are being told that the facilities will be available for community use both indoors and outdoors all year round including evenings and weekends. It is not surprising that they are concerned."

However, there are only outline plans at the moment as the details will be down to Greenwich Leisure Ltd. and the Council to sort out so it may not actually happen for months or even years.

Originally residents thought that it would just be the Sports Hall that would be available for community use, and that use would finish at 9.00pm with everyone off site by 10.00pm. A recent Working Party meeting was told that no lights would be on in or around the school after 10.00pm

However the current planning application says that activities may go on until 10.00pm – and outdoor facilities are also available. Residents want more restrictions on use of outdoor facilities so that there is a least one day a week when they are not used, and a limit of no later than 9.00pm for activities. They would also like everyone off site by 10.00pm.

These are issues as the car park abuts on the rear gardens of Vanbrugh Fields and Westcombe Park Rd, which are not huge, and the outdoor facilities are adjacent to gardens in Vanbrugh Fields, Wycherley Close and Vanbrugh Park Road West.

Emily adds: "In practice the Community Use may be much less than feared but I can understand why residents are concerned. I currently live in Vanbrugh Fields and it is very noisy, the road is much busier than Coleraine Road; both schools are noisy at break times and the building site is even noisier at times."

Cllr Geoff Brightly told the *WN*:
 "The issue will shortly be going to Greenwich Area Planning for a decision. It may be that there will be discussions between Planning Officers and Gillian Edgar, the BSF Programme Manager, who is the applicant, to try to address the objections; if new proposals emerge there would have to be a reconsultation.

"It was always likely that residents would have understandable concerns about aspects of the community use scheme and those concerns certainly need to be taken into account."

We Happy Few Janet Sweet

The Alexandra Players' next production in October is very exciting as it is our entry for the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages Project.

The RSC invites applications, and chooses from, amateur dramatic societies country-wide to put on plays with a Shakespeare-related connection.

Most of the groups put on one of Shakespeare's plays, but our play is *We Happy Few* by Imogen Stubbs. It is about an all-female theatre company that took Shakespeare's plays around a culture-starved Britain during WWII, performing wherever they could – schools, barns, church halls, etc. We are supported by the RSC with advice, training and publicity.

The play is a comedy but there are moments of pathos. The play was first performed on a London stage, and fitting all the different scenes onto a tiny stage has been a work of art by the set designers. **The play will be on from Wed. 29th Oct to Saturday 1st Nov. at the Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Avenue, Charlton at 7.45 nightly. Tickets £9 (£8 Concessions) 07867 627987**



Action stations

PHOTO: Frank Smith

The Friends of Westcombe Woodlands are a group of local people set up to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of the Westcombe Woodlands – a steep and densely wooded area, 3.6 acres in size, to the south of Maze Hill Station that is today almost completely surrounded by housing. The last volunteer day was in early September. The work included weeding the hedge in the glade, removing sycamore seedlings, opening up the old path leading to the Seren Park car park, and digging up brambles.

The next volunteer days are Sunday 6th October and Sunday 11th November. **Please call Carolyn Watkins on 8856 4656 or 07974 033 434 with any queries you may have, or write: Friends Of Westcombe Woodlands, The Old Bakehouse, 11 Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LA or email westcombewoodlands@hotmail.co.uk.**

PETITION from SEIBERT ROAD

This calls on TfL to erect pollution and noise barriers along residential areas adjoining the A102. Please sign up:

<https://submissions.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/67894>

Letters to the editor

Any views expressed are those of the writers only, and are not necessarily those of the *WN* or the Westcombe Society.

From: John Card Plymouth

In issue 6 of the *WN* I found the item "Three weeks in Nepal" very interesting. It reminded me of the extreme poverty in which many Nepalese live, and in particular the men who have been part of our army and have fought alongside our soldiers in many conflicts for over 200 years.

Their government provides nothing in the way of pensions or health care in any shape or form, and after such loyalty to us I think we owe them more than just a verbal "thankyou".

I shall be sending you a News Letter from the Gurkha Welfare Trust, and hope that it may be possible for the *WN* to include a follow-up to the item about his trip to Nepal by Ben Mountain.

From: John Bartram Blackheath Society

The Blackheath Society will be running an online survey after the OnBlackheath music and food festival on September 13/14 to find out how people felt about the event. We would like as many people as possible to take part – those who attended and anyone who felt impacted by the event.

The survey is open for members and non-members alike until 7th October. The Society will be passing on the results of its survey to the Council as well as publishing them.

We would also welcome any responses on Facebook at www.facebook.com/blackheathsociety or to its Twitter account @Blackheathsoc. or contact committee member John Bartram on 0208 852 2322 or at johnbartram75@hotmail.com.

Steve Tribble

Westcombe Hill

Many thanks to Sarah Sutton for her letter in September's edition regarding the 286 buses. I too noticed the atrocious noise.

There is a back story to the change of ownership: I campaigned for two years against the black smoke that was being emitted from the 286 buses, with the help of Cllr Alex Grant and Martha Mingay, in Len Duvall's office, and TfL.

Arriva, the previous owner was not very co-operative, but eventually we heard that the 286 route would be operated by Go-Ahead. However, to my shock TfL did not insist on hybrid buses despite saying that they were pledged to implement them throughout London. An opportunity wasted...

Anyway, the buses are brand new so I thought that was something, until like Sarah, I heard the noise. My family said, "Leave it Dad!" but I can't leave it when living on Westcombe Hill, where there are three bus routes adding up to 36 buses an hour passing by during the day. At the moment they are still very noisy, and eventually they will be churning out black diesel smoke, I am sure. Shame on you TfL.

Ed: Anne Robbins told the *WN* that TfL are going to provide one extra 108 service, north-bound, between 8.00 and 9.00 am each day...

From: Name and address supplied

My car is likely to be off the road for a couple of weeks for a bodywork repair (don't ask!). Greenwich Council Parking Services tell me that I

will have to buy a Visitors Permit (sold in books of 10 for £34 for the Westcombe zone) for each day that the courtesy car provided by my insurers is parked in the road where I live (or anywhere else in the zone).

I argued that this was double-charging: the courtesy car will not be an extra vehicle parked in the zone but a substitute for my own permit-holding car which will be temporarily off the road.

I was told that I could not be issued with any other type of permit for a vehicle that did not belong to me and that if I failed to display the Visitors Permit I would run the risk of a parking fine. This seems extremely unfair. How many residents are aware that this kind of situation can arise?

From: Gabi Marston Coleraine Road

Thank you for continuing to publish my lightweight letters (July/August issue). But, though I know my handwriting is not first-class, I did not write "enfuriating".

Nor, I think, could my signature be taken for Gabi Martin – both the presence of 's' and the absence of a dot for the letter 'i' mitigate against such a mistake.

Apart from that, another worthwhile issue of the *WN*.

Ed: Very sorry Gabi, you must have found it infuriating to be called Martin. I am often called Nigel, when every one knows I am called Ne Vile. But should sentences begin "But"?

LOCAL NEWS

Meet Frank, Klink & Klank

Julia Marsen



Ottie and the Bea, the children's shop on Old Dover Road, have an exciting book launch on the 4th Oct.: John Scieszka talks about his latest book 'Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor' – fun reading for those aged 8+.

Julia Marsen told the *WN*: "We are the first venue of his UK tour. John will be in the shop signing books and then we will have a procession to Mycenae house at 2.45pm behind the large robot who will be in our shop window from early September. All the kids will be dressed as scientists, and there will be lots of fun from 3.00 pm at Mycenae House."

Frank Einstein looks like becoming an iconic character in children's reading. Jon Scieszka and Brian Biggs have created a unique world of fun and Sci-Fi in what will be an irresistible chemical reaction for kids.

In *Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor*, one of Frank's inventions – the robots Klink and Klank, – come to life! Not exactly the ideal lab partners, but they help Frank attempt to perfect his Antimatter Motor, until Frank's arch enemy, T. Edison, steps in. Aimed at middle-grade readers, these books encourage young readers to question

the way things work and explore how they, too, can experiment with science.

Ottie and the Bea is stocking the book (£8.99), and selling tickets for the event

Keeping fit

Burn it Fitness are the new occupants of the old bookies at the top of Westcombe Hill. They are opening a fitness studio specialising in personal and semi private training, small group classes and well being services. They have been running bootcamps on the Heath for over 7 years and this is an exciting new opportunity for them.

Their phone number is 0203 6012365.

Our latest carbuncle?



Every year the magazine *Building Design* awards the Carbuncle Cup for 'unforgivably' bad design. In 2012 the *Cutty Sark* won this doubtful honour.

The Woolwich Central construction, above, put Greenwich on the carbuncle map again this year. This Tesco supermarket clad in striped metal, mounted on a multi-story carpark and topped with hundreds of apartments has been named Britain's worst new building. The judges described it as "oppressive, defensive, arrogant and inept", and possibly "inspired by the 1948 Berlin blockade."

Chair of the Planning Committee at the time, our own Alex Grant, displays a rare glimpse of honesty in public life in his blog by expressing regret over the scheme. With refreshing candour, he writes: "When I am chatting with friends and the conversation turns to new development in Greenwich, I freeze. Between 2006 and 2010 I was chair of Greenwich Council's Planning Board – the committee of councillors that makes decisions on all the big applications – so if we're talking about a new building in the borough there's a fair chance I was somehow involved in granting it planning permission.

"All big developments take several years to go from drawing board to

construction, and the credit crunch often made the process even longer than usual. So several schemes that were going through the planning process during my time as chair have only recently been built. "Some of them – the new Thomas Tallis School, the Sammy Ofer wing at the National Maritime Museum, the exemplary new housing development at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich, and the new homes and a health and leisure centre being built on the old hospital site in East Greenwich – I can look at with pride. But there were a few more controversial developments..."

And the Tesco building is one of them. In his blog, Alex points out that he inherited the proposal, and had some input into it: but subsequently, the scheme was marred "by a welter of cost-cutting changes in the four years between planning consent being granted in 2007 and the Tesco opening its doors in 2012" and the end product looks remarkably different from the one that the planning board looked at initially.

Usefully, Alex lists some of the lessons that planners can learn from the saga.

Readers may have heard the treatments of the issue in the Today programme on Radio 4 on Sept 3rd; and seen accounts by Alex and others in *The Guardian*.

Closely observed trains?

A creative relationship has been forged between Made in Greenwich Gallery and South Eastern Railways.

Some people are able to make things happen, without putting endless (and often unnecessary) obstacles in the way. One such person is Sonia Maulson, Station Manager (Dartford and Woolwich Group).

Last year Irena Hill of Made in Greenwich Gallery approached her to allow Camille Desmarest, a Laban graduate, to perform a piece in the ticket hall at Greenwich station to mark Remembrance Day as part of a London-wide event of public art performances.

'No problem' was Sonia's response.

Through Irena again Sonia has provided Halstow Primary School with the materials necessary to create a visual piece to embellish Westcombe Park Station underpass

And in August Sonia and Irena secured an art residency at Greenwich Station for three visual artists (Gillian Burrows, John Govett and David Weekes) and a poet (Nancy Hynes).

The three artists were chosen because of their completely different approaches.

Nancy, who has just had her first work published by Live Canon after winning their First Poetry Collection Competition, was able to interview staff, hear lots of stories and even ride in a train cab!

So, if on your train journey you spotted people sketching or lurking with artistic intent, you'll be pleased to know that from October 1 to 19 the outcomes of the residency will be on display at Made in Greenwich Gallery, 324 Creek Road (open Tue - Sun 11-5.30) and that the poetry and some of the visual works will also be on display as posters at the station itself.

Another local artist, Michele Franklin, will be having a solo show at the gallery from October 22nd - Nov 12th. Please visit www.madeingreenwich.co.uk for further details

Beware the phone scammers

Christine Godwin warns us to beware the creeps who bear gifts: the phone scammers who often target elderly people.

The culprits call themselves Telecom Protection Service, and claim to be able to stop all silent and nuisance calls, for a fee of £89.99. They sound friendly, efficient and extremely plausible – but it is a fraud.

They will take your credit card details, and they promise a seven-day cooling-off period if you subscribe: also a lie.

If you have any doubts at all about a caller, contact the Police on 101 (the non-

emergency number); they will take you seriously, and put you in touch with the Action Fraud service. Remember that the national Telephone Preference Service is FREE (though not always very effective)

The Telephone Preference Service (TPS) is the official central - opt out register on which you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls. You can register with the Telecom Protection Service by ringing this number: 0845 070 0707; or go on line and register: <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/index.html>

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From: The Editor, *WN*

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FEATURES



Welcome to Delacourt Road

Delacourt Road today is a far cry from what it all those years ago before the A102 was built. It was a buzzing high street with lots of shops and a bus route going to Eltham. Though it is a lot quieter nowadays it has not lost its village feel with everyone happy to smile or say hello. Delacourt Road is coming back to life with a buzz of activity from new businesses opening and family-run businesses continuing, a great community feel with a friendly, happy atmosphere from business owners willing to help you in your quest. Check out Delacourt Road businesses and hear what they have to say.



Village X-press MiniCab Service

We are a small family run business who have been operating at Delacourt Road since 2007. We are very familiar with the Greenwich & Lewisham areas, we do airport, and train station transfers with competitive rates. No job too big or too small, we are here at your service so give us a call on 020 8858 6969/ 020 8858 5959.

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Handcock & Co at 2 Delacourt Road is a leading estate agent in Blackheath situated at 2 Delacourt Road. It offers a wide range of services for people wanting to sell or let their property. **To find out more about the services we offer please call 0208 858 5337.**



HydroZone UK is a new innovative business opening up in 13 Delacourt Road SE3 8XA. We will be supplying horticultural and hydroponic systems to buy from our shop and or online. Hydroponics is a subset of hydroculture and is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrients solutions, in water, without soil. The systems we will be selling are used for indoor/outdoor cultivation that is 100% organic and are used by many restaurants in London already. We stock Dutch Pro, Canna, Biobizz, Rhino pro, Ionic, Maxibright lighting and many more major brands. Opening times Mon-Fri 10am-8pm. Sat 10am-5pm **Want to know more? Visit www.hydrozoneuk.com or call us on 020 8858 3503**



Mental Health Activity Trust

The brainchild of Toni Hale, MHA Trust was set up to help people with mental health problems get back into full time and part-time employment. Since opening in March we have seen a flux of people looking for help and support in many ways - not just with their mental health.

We have been overwhelmed by the amount of people who are already employed coming forward seeking our advice. The MHA Trust shop is forever evolving, social enterprise becoming a service and a drop-in centre. Let's not forget we are a charity shop too, selling top quality items from our donors who have been so kind to support our venture.

If you would like to know more visit

www.mhatrust.webs.com or call us on 0203 638 4712 or pop in to 15 Delacourt Road for a chat.



HealthWise Natural Therapy Centre opened its doors in August 2003 offering a wide range of Complementary therapies including Sports Massage, Osteopathy, Cranial Osteopathy, Reiki, Reflexology, Hypnotherapy and Child Family Therapy. HealthWise is owned by a couple who have created a warm and friendly practice in which to come and have your chosen treatment. They have strayed away from the typical clinical environment whilst continuing to offer their clientele a professional and confidential service. www.healthwisetherapy.com



Diggens & Martin Off-Licence is a family-run business which has been serving the people of Blackheath for over 25 years. This local convenience store is especially convenient: it offers a wide range of everyday needs to people such as Groceries, Oystercard, Bill Payment (Gas, Electricity, Water, TV licence etc), National Lottery, Collect Plus, Off-Licence as well as a Newspaper delivery service. We are committed to providing better service and quality goods for our local people. We are open from 6 o'clock in the morning until 9.00 in the evening.



Delacourt Motors is a small family business of automobile engineers. The company was started in South East London in 1972 by Reg King and is today being run by his grandson Jonathan Harley. Over the years, the business has established an enviable reputation for quality workmanship and service on all makes and models of cars and light commercial vehicles.

If you would like to know more about what services we provide, check out our website www.delacourtmotors.co, or call us on 020 8858 2041



Cut Above The Rest This Barber's shop is at 9 Delacourt Road, and is under new management. A Top Barbers, it provides haircuts (£10), a Crop cut (£8) Kids Cut (£8), Beard Trim (£4), and a Hot Towel Shave (£10). It is offering a special price - 50% off! Opening times 10 - 7 weekdays, 10 - 6 Saturdays, and 10 - 2.0 pm Sundays.

The Greenwich TV Show

Greenwich Show, the hyper-local TV programme, was launched on Sept 1st at 9.30 pm. on Sky 212, FreeSat 401 & online.

The show is on the first Monday of each month, so the next programme will be on October 6th. The Greenwich Show team told the *WN*:

"If you don't have access to satellite TV you will be able to watch the programme on our brand new website.

"As part of our strong commitment to showcase the talent of local filmmakers we were delighted to have included a short film about Thames Watermen, directed by local filmmaker Danny Bullman."

The first programme also included an award-winning vintage car club event "Park it in the Market", and a look round the recently restored Severndroog Castle. There was also a feature on the Tall Ships, and a local events guide.

During the inaugural programme the presenter Robert Gray appealed for help in finding people who used to work at Greenwich Cablevision or who may have any photographs or footage. Launched in 1972 Greenwich Cablevision was the country's very first local TV station.

Robert Gray [pictured] said: "The Greenwich Show is replicating history by reinventing the first ever local TV station in the country, so we want

to remember and honour the pioneering work of our Greenwich Cablevision forefathers.

"We also want to emulate the opportunities that Cablevision gave to the people of the borough to be involved in television production, many of whom went on to big things in the media industry."

The Greenwich Show's website, also launched in September, will be the only place you will be able to watch the programme online, after broadcast.

The Greenwich Show Team added: "We'd love to hear what you think of our programme. Please do email your thoughts, and suggestions for future shows, to info@thegreenwichshow.co.uk."

Web: www.thegreenwichshow.co.uk
**The Greenwich Show transmits at 9.30pm on the first Monday of every month on Information TV (Sky 212 and Freesat 401) If you're interested in advertising, contact info@thegreenwichshow.co.uk If you would like to be involved with production of the programme, or offer some of your work to be broadcast, email: ian@thegreenwichshow.co.uk
Twitter: @GreenwichShow
#GreenwichShow
Facebook.com/ TheGreenwichShow**



Art exhibition

Terry Scales is a prolific local artist who is best known perhaps for his scenes of river life, which he got to know intimately during his time as a docker.

In his latest exhibition, *London City of Music and Other Delights*, Terry Scales pays homage to the cultural life of his native city - and, in particular to its young musicians. In it, he brings together the two art forms of music and painting.

Terry Scales told the *WN*: "Over the last decade, my paintings have been increasingly inspired by the performances of the Trinity Laban students who have given us so much pleasure at St. Alfege's and other venues."

Terry's introduction to classical music

began at the age of ten, when as an evacuee

during World War II he found himself in a small cinema in Devon. He was utterly spellbound by Walt Disney's film *Fantasia*. Disney's vision of music and images "had entered my psyche."

The exhibition London City of Music and Other Delights runs from 1st - 29th October at, appropriately enough, Blackheath Concert Halls. Terry will be present to discuss his paintings in the gallery on Saturday 4th and Sunday 29th October 2.00 - 4.00 pm.



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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
THE QUEEN'S HOUSE: WAR AND MEMORY
 Until Nov. 16th: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm Free.
 Rozanne Hawksley's work examines remembrance, representation and memory in the fitting setting of the Queen's House **ALSO in the QUEEN'S HOUSE: WAR ARTISTS AT SEA** Until February 2015 A new display showcasing the very best of the museum's collection of First & Second World War art **THE ART AND SCIENCE OF EXPLORATION 1768 - 1780** From August 7th onwards in The Queen's House. See the Stubbs Kangaroo (and Dingo) saved by the public, and work of artists from all three of Captain Cook's voyages
FORGOTTEN FIGHTERS: THE FIRST WORLD WAR AT SEA Until Nov. 2018 10.00-17.00 daily
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 23rd Oct: Clare Ford-Wille talks on **Either Side of No Man's Land: images of World War I** Non-members £5 on the door.
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, the University of Greenwich NEXT LECTURE: 13th Oct 2014: **The Gilded Stage - A Social and Cultural History of Opera** Talk by Daniel Snowman 020 8852 7873 Non-members £8.00
WEST GREENWICH LIBRARY
 Exhibition by Cristiana Angelini: Oct. 6th-Nov. 8th A Selection of Drawings and Pastels
DEPTFORD ARTS FESTIVAL Until 5th Oct. 14 Creekside, Deptford London SE8 4SA
 Maggie Learmonth's 'Occam's Razor' at 5-9 Creekside SE8 4SA and elsewhere; 'Precious' group exhibition at Arthub Gallery, Creekside, SE8 4SA
 The full DeptfordX programme is now available at <http://www.deptfordx.org/>

CHILDREN & FAMILY

BLACKHEATH HALLS
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 SAT. 11 Oct 3pm | Recital Room
 Based on the Robert Browning poem with puppets & specially composed music. Tickets £7.00
Sat 25th October PINOCCHIO
GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich Box office: 020 8858 7755.
THE QUEEN'S KNICKERS
 Thu 30 & Fri 31 Oct. What would you do if you lost the Queen's pants?!
JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
 Thu 20 Nov. - Sun 11 January 2015
 Andrew Pollard returns with yet another all-singing, all-dancing pantomime spectacular!
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 - 11:30am. Contact: www.SELondonDads.org.uk or email: info@selondondads.org.uk

DANCE

BLACKHEATH HALLS
TEA DANCE Wed. 1st Oct. 2.00 - 4.30 pm
CANCER RESEARCH keep fit & in shape plus Line Dancing at Kingswood Hall, Kingswood Place, off Dacre Park SE13 Donation £5.00 for Cancer Research Every Wed. 10.00 - 12 noon Please ring Rosalie Vexter on 8852 7127

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Members' Evening - Saturday 11th October
 Chrysanthemum Tea Saturday 25th October
 Quiz Friday 7th November - evening, main hall
 Christmas Bazaar Sat. 22nd November at Blackheath High School, Mycenae Road
 Please ring Joanne on 07709 571777 if you would like to help out on any of these events!

COMMUNITY

GREENWICH HERITAGE CENTRE
 Wed 8th Oct. at 6.00 pm Kate Adie talks on 'Fighting on the Home Front' The Legacy of Women in World War One' Tickets are FREE but limited. Order tickets through Eventbrite <http://tinyurl.com/RGHTevents>
 Or contact carolyn.ayers@greenwichheritage.org
WOODLANDS FARM 020 8319 8900.
Apple Day: Sun. 12 Oct. - 11am - 4pm
 Join us for a celebration of British apples
CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH
 Thurs. 6th November at The Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath SE3 0RW Prize draw & Raffle. To book, call Wendy on 8265 0335 by Mon. 3rd November. £8.50.
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
 14th Oct. 7.30 Tim Smith 'Commercial Road Stoneway, its origins and successors' Meeting at The Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, SE3, Please use the car park behind the station. Non-members £1.
BLACKHEATH AND GREENWICH UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION The branch is holding its AGM on Tuesday 28th October at the Old Bakehouse, Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LA (entrance in Bennett Park immediately opposite Blackheath Station.) A short AGM will be followed by a talk illustrated with Powerpoint called "Eye Witness Palestine" by Jane and Neville Grant, following a recent visit to the West Bank. Refreshments at 7.00 pm, meeting starts at 7.30 pm All welcome
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon. & Thurs. 7.15 pm & on Wed. at 1.15 Tel. 8851 2609
BLACKHEATH FLOWER CLUB Third Friday of every month at 1.45 pm at Mycenae House
BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: First Wed. of every month at 7.30 pm at Sunfields Methodist Church, Old Dover Road
LIVE JAZZ AT MYCENAE HOUSE
 Candlelit jazz, special guest on the second Friday each month. Bar & Food available. 8pm. £10/£8
GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS Free workshops Fortnightly Tuesday & Friday evenings 7.30 - 8.30 at Mascalls Meeting Rooms off Victoria Way Charlton SE7 7TT: Tai Chi. Singing, Drumming, Writers' Group, African Dance Info: 020 8858 9497
THE CLARENDON HOTEL, Montpelier Row, Blackheath Tel. 8318 4321 Jazz at the Row very Wednesday from 7.00 pm in the bar!
BLACKHEATH HALLS Comedy events:
SHAPPI KHORSANDI SAT. 4th OCT.
 Shappi celebrates her haphazard zigzag towards her dreams. Tickets: £16 | £14 concessions
MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE WED. 22nd OCT.
PAUL CHOWDHRY SAT. 25 OCT.
 Multibuy Discounts available. Comedy Happy Hour! 20% off all drinks 6.30-7.30pm at all shows
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THEATRE

THE GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755
Fri 3 - Sat 18 October ALTAR BOYZ
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Mon 20th & Tues 21st Oct. THE TRENCH new play inspired by the true story of a miner who became entombed in a tunnel during World War One
Thu 23 Oct. QUENTIN CRISP: NAKED HOPE
 From a conventional Surrey upbringing to international notoriety via The Naked Civil Servant, Quentin Crisp was an extraordinary raconteur and wit.
Fri 24 & Sat 25 Oct. ERIC AND LITTLE ERN
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QUARTET by Ronald Harwood 11th - 18th Oct.
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TRINITY LABAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Thu 30th Oct 7.30 pm play Bridge, Takemitsu, Muxworthy & Rimsky-Korsakov (Scheherazade) Great Hall, Blackheath Halls £12 | £7.00
BLACKHEATH SUNDAYS are on 12th & 26th Oct and 9th Nov. 11.00 am in the Great Hall £14 | £12.00
ST ALFEGE CHURCH GREENWICH
 Free concerts at 1.05 pm: **Thu 2nd Oct.** Beethoven sonata; **Thu 9th Oct** Guitar concert; **Thur. 16th Oct** GMTEN Brass Ensemble; **Thu 23rd Oct** Piatti Quartet; **Thu 30th Oct** Beethoven & Granados
SUNDAY EVENINGS AT STEINBERG STUDIO
 137 Vanbrugh Hill Greenwich SE10 9HP
 The Studio is at the bottom of Vanbrugh Hill in the Plaza building next to the bus stop
Sunday Evening Chamber Music 26 Oct. 1800 hrs Violin & Piano Recital: Brahms & Schumann Sonatas
 Next concert: 21 Nov. 1901 Brahms & the Schumanns
 Tickets £10 booked online in advance
<http://www.steinbergduo.com/events/categories>

AGE EXCHANGE

BOOK SALES: on the second Saturday every month (except August & December) 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.
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1 Peartree Way Greenwich SE10
WAR POETS EVENT Sat 25th October: 7.00pm at the Club. Poetry from the Great War and other conflicts, performed by Live Canon theatre. In Members' Bar overlooking the Thames. Full bar + snacks. £5. (contact: oonachantrell@yahoo.co.uk)

WORSHIP

St George's
 Glenluce Road:
 11.00am Parish Communion with Children's Church for ages 3 and up. First Sunday in the month is an all-age service

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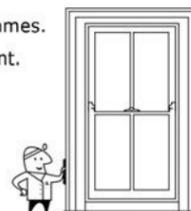
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FEATURES

BEN WEST

Showcasing local talent

I've always lived in the Blackheath area and have recently devised a variety show that I hope will become a regular fixture in the Greenwich/ Blackheath area.

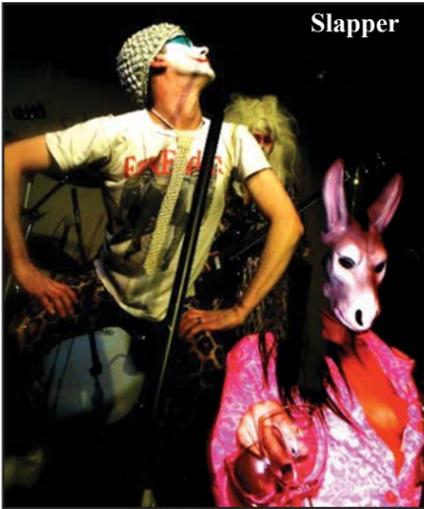
We're calling our new variety show The House of Fun, and it's coming to The Blackheath Halls, London SE3, on Saturday 18 October at 7.30pm.

It is intended that the show will always involve local talent: this inaugural show includes Arthur Smith, who grew up in Blackheath and went to John Roan School, and who presents the show; stand-up David Whitney, who lives locally; Harry McFarland from the band Slapper, who has lived in Blackheath for many years; and many of the band Danny and the Moonlighters live in the area.

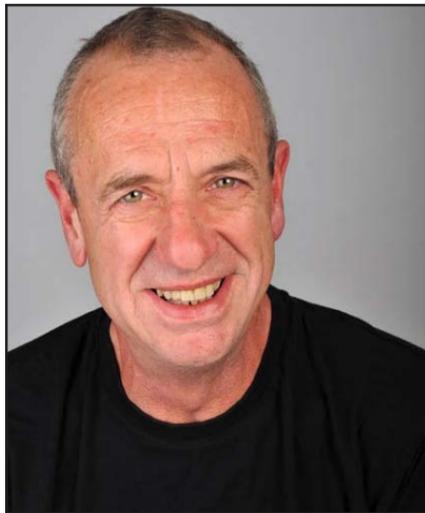
It will be an uproarious night of variety with fantastic comedy, sparkling music, saucy stand-up, scintillating theatre and more in the company of Arthur Smith, compere beyond compare, playwright, king of comedians, professional Leonard Cohen impersonator and star of radio's 'Loose Ends', 'The Smith Lectures' and TV's 'The One Show' and 'Grumpy Old Men'

The line-up so far:

The *Spectator* dubs comedian DAVID WHITNEY 'the silver-tongued warrior', while Will Self says 'very funny - I'm going to keep my eye on you'. And Reginald D. Hunter says: 'You can't stop him; you can only hope to contain him.'



Slapper



Arthur Smith: "compere beyond compare"

Be prepared - be very prepared - for SLAPPER, where old-style music hall meets avante garde punk cabaret. A seven-piece band with a highly visual, rather outrageous theatrical style, they're full of attitude and humour.

Now she's not touring the world with *Mamma Mia!*, FELICITY DUNCAN can grace us with her presence as the manic cleaner Eva, scattering inappropriate malapropisms all over the place;

Then there's DANNY AND THE MOONLIGHTERS: expect irresistible upbeat, catchy tunes in a 50s high-school-prom rock'n'roll style.

Surreal, irreverent, hilarious and downright amazing, PETE HEAT is something like Derren Brown crossed with Russell Brand. In the words of the *NME*, Pete is 'the rock & roll magician'. In the words of Iain Lee on Absolute Radio, he's 'mind blowing - you're in for a treat.'

If you like your magic a little bit more conventional, you'll be amazed by SCOTT PENROSE, Vice President of The Magic Circle, no less. 'Spectacular' says the *Daily Telegraph*.

Please note: line-up subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control
Tickets are available from The Blackheath Halls (23 Lee Road, London SE3 9RQ; box office +44 (0)20 8463 0100, open Mon - Fri 10.00am - 5.00pm; www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/blackheath-halls).

Link to the show: <http://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/whats-on/events/blackheath-halls-events.55466.the-house-of-fun-with-arthur-smith.aspx>. For further information please get in touch with Ben on 07966 753441 (ben@benwest.info)

Next in our series on local schools, DES MALONE writes on

John Roan School "Good and on the way to Outstanding"



At the John Roan we continue to serve our community, as we have done for the last 300 years, with values that matter and achievement for all.

We are particularly proud that our community spirit was recognised by Ofsted, and our volunteering is a large part of students' experiences. Please go to our website (www.thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk) and have a look at the *John Roan News* which will give you a flavour of the immense range of extra-curricular activities, educational trips and residential trips abroad that our students have an opportunity to engage with.

We finally opened the doors to our new building in Westcombe Park Road on 1 September as planned, and students, teachers and support staff are all delighted with the stunning design, light and space. The older students (Years 9-11) are based in this building, with some use by the Sixth form, mainly in the specialist science laboratories.

We would like to thank all of our neighbours for putting up with the noise, inconvenience, and dust, and we will continue to work with them to ensure any concerns are addressed.

The building is available for community use after school and during the school holidays, but we are still working on the details, and again I want to ensure that neighbours are not inconvenienced.

We are also absolutely delighted with the quality of refurbishment and extension of our listed Maze Hill building, and are particularly pleased the architects managed to meld the best of the old with the best of the new. Years 7 and 8 and the Sixth form are based in this building, with the only movement between sites eventually being for Years 7 and 8 to use the magnificent new gym at Westcombe Park. We still have some environmental works going on

at both sites, and the Tech Block and new 6th form Block at Maze Hill will not be finished for a few more weeks, so temporarily we have some additional movement of students between sites.

I have been stopped many times by neighbours commenting on how fabulous the new building looks and we will be holding open house mornings and evenings for neighbours to have a tour as soon as the dust settles. I will make sure dates and

times are put on our website and in the next edition of the *Westcombe News*.

The students are delighted with the new uniform and I think this is all helping them to be immensely proud of both our school and our community. Clearly it has been a

difficult few years while we have had to use temporary buildings and a third site at Royal Hill, but we have continued to be successful in both GCSEs and A levels.

The Sixth form is the only part of the school expanding. This year we have recruited 250 students, and we will continue to expand to reach our target of 350.

The new buildings and the £1.5m state-of-the-art ICT will obviously mean our expectations for even better results and an Outstanding from Ofsted (we got a Good in November 2013) will be enhanced.

I would personally like to thank Emily Norton and The Westcombe Society for their helpful comments throughout the design and build process, and I hope we can continue to work with them and the rest of the community to ensure the school truly becomes the heart and soul of Westcombe. We will be having a grand opening in early November with hopefully a Baroness cutting the ribbon. Watch the website for further details.

BELOW: The entrance to the new building



PHOTOS: Colin Stevenson



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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

Westcombe wildlife

In the first of a new series, local naturalist **JOE BEALE** reminds us that nature is all around us

There is plenty of interesting flora and fauna around the Westcombe area although it isn't always obvious.

On the open Heath and the Vanbrugh Dips are uncommon plants that thrive on the thin, sandy soil. In June, Knotted and Clustered Clovers put on a fine display. These low-growing plants have pretty, pinkish flowers.

The very tiny Bird's Foot flower is not as scarce but, when seen closely, the flowers are surprisingly beautiful.

A relic population of delicate blue Harebells in one corner of the Vanbrugh Dips is more noticeable.

Less well-known, perhaps, is that the males of the Large Bellflower Bee like to hide in the Harebell flowers on rainy days! According to David Notton, who has been surveying the biodiversity of Blackheath, there are an astonishing 84 species of bee (and counting) in the area. A number of these are scarce or rare and show what a complex and important area this is for wildlife.

Butterflies

2014 appears to have been good for our butterflies, with Small Tortoiseshells common in the spring for the first time in years. Let's hope that this species is recovering. Grassland species did well, with a new species for recent years, the Small Heath, seen on the Dips and counts of 100+ Gatekeepers in Vanbrugh Dips and the Hyde Vale "butterfly bank", especially on Ragwort flowers.

The Council's nuanced managerial approach now allows for swathes of Ragwort to grow in certain sheltered spots, providing an important nectar source for pollinators over the drier summer weeks when other flowers may not be thriving. Other 2014 highlights include numerous Common Blues, Small Coppers and Brown Argus – tiny gem-like butterflies – as well as increasing sightings of Marbled White, with its pied chequerboard pattern. Perhaps this species is joining the others as a resi-



PHOTO: Joe Beale

Marbled White Butterfly

Some of this success is doubtless due to the more relaxed mowing regime so sensibly agreed for the Heath. On the Greenwich side of Blackheath, at least 29 species of butterfly have been seen in the last three years – not bad for SE London!

Birdlife

Nuthatches nested in the Westcombe Woodlands this year, in an old nest hole that was used by Woodpeckers in 2013. They plastered mud around the edges to make the entrance hole smaller.

In Greenwich Park, successfully breeding species included Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Goldcrests and Song Thrushes.

Recent Tawny Owl sightings in Greenwich Park are exciting news and raise hopes that this species might once again nest locally, either there or in the Westcombe Woodlands.

House Sparrows are still holding on locally after their decline in London. In midsummer they commute between their nests in the Westcombe area's roofs and the Vanbrugh Dips to gather food for their young. Such proximity to grassland and scrub with plenty of insects and seeds may help explain why these populations have managed to survive.

On the Vanbrugh Dips, three warbler species bred - Whitethroats raised at least one family as did Chiffchaffs and

Blackcaps. With the resident Song Thrushes, Robins, Blackbirds and Wrens, the dawn chorus is often impressive here in May. By mid September, these Whitethroats will be on their way back to southern Africa for the winter, while the other two will have left, probably for the Mediterranean, by mid October.

It is not just birds that migrate here – in July I found a Vestal moth in the grass on Vanbrugh Dips. This creature comes from southern Europe and is tiny and delicate, cream-coloured with a strawberry-coloured stripe on its wings. It honestly doesn't look capable of flying half a mile never mind across the Channel!

This autumn try looking for Wheatears on the open Heath. Dapper little birds (even more so in spring) with a black and white tail and black mask, they are long-distance migrants that stop by in our area in September/October and return in April.

Another feature of sunny autumn days is the Red Admiral butterfly, which feeds at ivy flowers (the ivy around Vanbrugh Castle, for example) and Michaelmas Daisies. Many will migrate to escape the British winter, and it is even possible to witness this on a warm autumn day as they fly determinedly south across the open Heath.

Light at the end of the tunnels



The foot tunnel in Greenwich

At long last, Greenwich Council has proposed a way to make better use of the foot tunnels linking Greenwich and north of the river, reports Ian Blore, who is Hon. Sec. of FOGWOFT (Friends of Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnels).

The Council has asked Fogwoft to join them to bid for Greater London Authority money to try out a new scheme in both tunnels. The proposal would allow shared use between pedestrians and cyclists at times when the tunnel is fairly empty. It would require cyclists to walk when necessary – and to cycle when safe.

Fogwoft have agreed to become full partners to the Council bid, together with Tower Hamlets and Newham. Fogwoft has always called for proper policing of the rules of both foot tunnels, and welcomed a recent police presence to enforce the ban on cycling in the tunnels.

Tom Blore told the *WN*: "The trials could last until 2016/17. That's a long time to wait for some sort of resolution to bad behaviour in the Greenwich tunnel.

"Fogwoft is pressing for an interim policy of enforcement until any scheme is implemented. Fogwoft is aware that any shared use policy can be contentious. In the past, some cyclists have behaved "appallingly".

Tom Blore adds: "We, and you, will be fully involved in assessing the trial. And we hope to begin that process at our AGM on 2nd October. By then we should know of the Council's success in getting funding for the proposed trial.

"We hope that that meeting will inform our policy in working with the Council to implement a better traffic management system in the tunnels.

"As to the name of the fund for which the Council is bidding; it is the Mayor's Future Streets Incubator Fund. Let's hope it hatches something good."

Sainsbury's Update

Maggie Gravelle

One possibility that the No to Ikea campaign were hoping for was that English Heritage would halt demolition plans by designating the Sainsbury's store as a listed building.

The Twentieth Century Society argued that the building was 'the most innovative supermarket building to have been built in the last 50 years' and that it was designed to reduce waste and environmental damage. It won numerous awards and was shortlisted for the prestigious Stirling Prize when it was built only fifteen years ago.

English Heritage, while acknowledging its 'inspiring design' nevertheless deemed that it was not 'of sufficient importance as a pioneer of, or turning point for, sustainable retail architecture' to be listed.

So it is to be demolished and perhaps replaced with an Ikea blue and yellow box.

Negotiations continue with local groups to mitigate problems of congestion and pollution.

Christopher's Column

Period gardens

In the 1920s, there was a fashion for 'Shakespeare Gardens', using plants mentioned in his work and making in the style of his times. Most surviving examples in the public domain are in American parks, botanical gardens or university grounds.

In New York's Central Park, a four acre scheme was begun in the 1880s but dedicated officially to Shakespeare in 1913. After massive neglect it was restored in 1987 with 'rustic wooden benches and bronze plaques with quotations from the Bard'.

A more modest knot garden by Ernest Law in Stratford upon Avon (1920) was modelled on one shown in 'The Gardiner's Labyrinth' (Thomas Hill, 1586), which also inspired the 1969 Queens Garden at Kew Palace.

The list of plants mentioned by the Bard is long, and hard to decode with modern names so different. ('Woodbine' is honeysuckle and 'gillyflower' is a dianthus, though herbs have the same names). Of course in the texts they 'stand for' actions, emotions and so on, rather than having a horticultural context.

E. F. Benson satirises the fad for period gardens in 'Mapp & Lucia' (1931), describing Lucia's 'Perditas Garden', which is 'gay in Spring' with plants true to Perdita, but only 'gay all Summer' by importing other 'Shakespearean' flowers (pansies, roses and honeysuckle).

Courtesy of the National Trust, the interest in period gardens resurfaced in the 1970s. In the small period gardens at the Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch, you can see the difference between the 16th century style, with a specimen of each variety standing alone, and the lush 'cottage garden' style which foreshadows to the 'Chelsea fullness' we expect now.

If you fancy a period patch yourself, look for modern cultivars of the old varieties – the period plants are hard to find and only flower once. A modern aster amellus like 'King George' or 'Violet Queen' flowers longer, and a new golden rod (solidago) likelike "Fireworks" is brighter and less thuggish than the trueprairie plant. Other newly fashionable period plants are cerinthe and ammi, while corn-flowers, larkspur, nigella and marigolds are easy and authentic.

Christopher Raven



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