

Westcombe NEWS



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October 2019 No. 8

Happy Diwali!

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

Silvertown Tunnel Update

ANNE ROBBINS & FIONA MOORE

The Silvertown Tunnel, which TfL hopes would relieve traffic congestion at the Blackwall Tunnel, received its Development Consent Order in 2018, and some work is starting, including tests to determine what sort of fencing will work best to shield residents of Siebert Road and Westcombe Hill.

At the moment, though, the project is being delayed, as the consortium that lost its bid to build the tunnel is challenging the procurement process in court. Readers will recall that the Westcombe Society objected to the plans, and still has concerns.

Here, local resident and Greenwich council Green Party candidate Fiona Moore puts her case for opposing the project.

The UN gives us 11 years to avert catastrophic global heating, and London Mayor Sadiq Khan and local councils including Greenwich have declared a climate emergency. But actions don't match words.

Khan and TfL still push the Silvertown Tunnel - a £1 billion Thames crossing that would lock us into high traffic volumes for decades. Labour-led Greenwich Council supports it, even though MP Matt Pennycook and local Labour Party groups including Labour councillors for Blackheath Westcombe are against it.

The Stop Silvertown Tunnel Campaign (SSTC), an alliance led by a local teacher, has strong local support, but has found no readiness to reconsider from City Hall.

The tunnel would run from Greenwich Peninsula north-east to Silvertown, under the cable car route. It would have a bigger bore than Blackwall Tunnel, allowing larger HGVs.

The consortium chosen to build the tunnel would recover the cost by tolling both Blackwall and Silvertown Tunnels. Construction is due to start late 2019 and last six years.

HGVs and other traffic would use existing, already busy approach roads. Major lorry logistics centres are planned near the Tunnel mouths on both river banks.

City Hall and TfL claim a new tunnel would relieve traffic pressures at Blackwall - but it would only move them elsewhere, into congested roads from Lewisham to Newham (whose councils oppose the project).

Traffic is like water: give it space, and it will fill it. When the second Blackwall bore opened, traffic doubled within a year.

The expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone and electric vehicles won't solve the air pollution problem: what about the cheat cars (eg. VW scandal), or HGVs? Low-carbon vehicles still emit dangerous particulates from brakes and tyres.

Research shows conclusively that the poorest suffer most from ill-health caused by air pollution. Why should Greenwich, Lewisham and Newham residents, already living with high pollution levels, have to put up with more, to satisfy big business lobbyists such as the Freight Transport

Association, Canary Wharf Group? Why is Greenwich Council supporting this against its own population?

15 head teachers of local schools signed a letter to Sadiq Khan asking him to stop the project. We staged a die-in outside City Hall with Thomas Tallis science pupils, who were terrific explaining on TV why the tunnel must be stopped. Extinction Rebellion blocked the Angerstein roundabout and leafleted motorists.

On the streets, people haven't heard about Silvertown Tunnel or assume it's not happening. Many recent arrivals in Greenwich Peninsula are shocked that a massive construction project may happen on their doorstep.

Imagine investing £1 billion in local public transport rather than sucking it out by extracting tolls. There are many better options than Silvertown. Cycling and pedestrian bridges could cross the Thames. Commuter ferries at key points could take cyclists, pedestrians, and e-delivery vehicles. Let's extend the DLR to Thamesmead and beyond, and install proper cycle hire schemes and buses with routes designed around mass transit points.

Tolls imposed now could cut traffic through Blackwall Tunnel - an infinitely cheaper solution than Silvertown and a step towards city-wide smart road tolling.

To the relief of campaigners the project is now on hold, pending a legal challenge from the reserve bidder for the contract. We're hoping that the delay will let people see that Silvertown Tunnel must be scrapped. It already looks like a hugely old-fashioned project, the sort we can't afford any more - so imagine the world in 2025 when it's supposed to be opened. Climate concerns will only have grown. Do we want to host this monster in Greenwich?

*** Follow SSTC on Twitter at @silvertowntn**
*** Write to two key tunnel supporters, asking them to change their mind:**

Greenwich Council leader Danny Thorpe: danny.thorpe@royalgreenwich.gov.uk; and our London Assembly representative, Len Duvall: len.duvall@london.gov.uk. Also mayor@london.gov.uk

For more information, read 853's blog at <https://853london.com/tag/silvertown-tunnel/>



This boat, the *Polly Higgins*, is on loan from Extinction Rebellion to the National Maritime Museum - one of six boats used during the XR protests earlier this year. She last saw action outside the Royal Courts of Justice, where she was "moored" for five days in July. The Met issued a Section 12 notice banning boats, vehicles and other structures from being used in protest demonstrations. The police then escorted her to the Museum on Friday 19th July.

Polly Higgins, who died in April this year, was a lawyer who campaigned tirelessly to have ecocide declared an international crime in order to protect Planet Earth from ecological and climate ecocide, ecosystem loss or damage caused by corporate and/or State senior officials. She took the issue to the United Nations. PHOTO: Neville Grant

Westcombe News to become history?

It was in June 1992 that the *Westcombe News* carried this banner headline:

"Is This the Last Issue of the Westcombe News?"

At that time the editor, Mary Barker, was struggling a bit: Dan and Jan who were in charge of setting, scissors and paste(!) were leaving, and typing and the ability to wield a pair of scissors were at that time seen as essential publishing skills.

Well, the *Westcombe News* is in danger of carrying a similar headline in the near future, for reasons to be explained.

Fortunately, in 1992, the members of the Westcombe Society rallied around, and the next issue carried the headline

"SAVED!"

And now? Scissors and glue-wielding skills are no longer required: the *WN* has moved on a bit. Producing the paper has never been easier: a very simple layout design system (called Quark, much easier than Word) with template already in place, enables the paper to be quickly and easily composed, saved onto a USB (memory stick) and in it goes to the printer. Hey presto! Another issue done and dusted.

The *WN* has never been on a better footing: thanks to the internet, and email, news, features and photographs come rolling in. So much is going on in Greenwich that the *WN* is never short of copy. And a great team is in place: apart

from the editor, we have a distribution manager (Emily), an advertising manager (Gavin), and an environment editor (Maggie). We even have a proof reader (Annie), a roving reporter (Vivienne), and Dave, our very helpful printer at the Trojan Press, a stone's throw from Old Dover Road. Not forgetting a great team of distributors who ensure the paper arrives through everyone's letter box each month.

But: yes, there's always a but! Your editor, Neville Grant, is standing down as sole editor after over seventeen years. So Neville is now looking for one or more people to act as joint/assistant editor this year, to learn the ropes, ready to job-share.

Chairman of the Westcombe Society, Marilyn Little, says: "We are all greatly indebted to Neville for his contribution to the society - in fact, for well over 17 years! Neville, who was 80 last year, now feels it is time for someone else to take over, and tells me he is happy to hang around as needed to work together with a new co-editor and indeed, to write (for that was his profession). We really don't want to lose the *WN*, which reaches the parts of the news that other publications do not reach. So I do hope we can find someone to join Neville in a job-share.

"Otherwise, in February, you will be reading the headline below ..."

" THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE WESTCOMBE NEWS".

<< Newsbriefs >>

Parking wars

Last year Greenwich Council issued 42,400 parking tickets. And Lewisham's fearsome traffic wardens made £3.5m from parking fines. The aim appears to be to raise money; very few parking offenders create an obstruction. Traders in Blackheath are complaining that aggressive parking enforcement is affecting local business. Could this be one explanation for the number of shops that have closed down?

Which way is North?

History was made in Greenwich in September when, for the first time for 360 years, magnetic north as indicated on compasses coincided with "true" North.

For the last 300-odd years, all compass needles have pointed west of true north: the earth's magnetism varies, and so do those compass needles, as any hiker will tell you.

We can expect magnetic north to shift eastwards, perhaps for the next 360 years ...

Wanted:

A new co-editor!
The February edition of this popular local newspaper could be the last if we cannot find a new co-editor! If you have any interest in this rewarding job & would like to become part of a mutually supportive and friendly team please ring Neville on 8858 8489 to arrange an exploratory meeting to discuss what is involved.

The Westcombe Society

"Monster" Quiz Night - Oct 26th.

in aid of the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter

The Greenwich Winter Night Shelter is the Society's Charity of the Year and we are having the Quiz at St George's Church, Glenluce Road so we can have more tables.

Book as an individual, or as part of a team of six, and order 'Chippy' suppers if desired. BYO Bottles.

7.30 for 8.00. Booking with Caroline as usual on 0208 853 0948

COMMUNITY

WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Neville Grant, Editor
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ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:

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Deadline for the November issue: 16th October
Environment Editor: Maggie Gravelle
Sub-editor: Annie Grey
Roving reporter: Vivienne Raper
Reporters: The community – that means you!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Emily Norton All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2756
environment@westcombesociety.org

DISTRIBUTION Emily Norton and volunteers. More volunteer distributors needed, please phone 020 8853 2756

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Gavin Hose, 26 Webb Road, SE3 7PL
Advertising@westcombesociety.org

All adverts payable in advance by cheque to **The Westcombe Society**.
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Classified Ads (Market Place) 30p per word (A telephone number = one word. An email/web address = 3 words.) Deadline for all adverts is 10th day of the preceding month.

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Contact the Westcombe Society:

WestcombeNews@egroups.com
Publisher: The Westcombe Society
Chairman: Marilyn Little Tel. 020 8853 1312

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To access back-numbers (in colour) go to:
www.westcombesociety.org/westcombe-news/
Westcombe Society's Blog:
http://westcombe.blogspot.com

WANTED! More volunteers to distribute the W/N – and to help with Westcombe Society's community events. Please phone 8853 2756 if you would like to help.

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:
Christine Legg, 69 Mycenae Road, London, SE3 7SE

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Email:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family Membership	£12	[]
Individual Membership	£8	[]
Senior Citizens/unwaged	£4	[]

Membership cards

A membership card is only issued at the time you join the Westcombe Society, and should be retained.

Should you require a replacement card, please contact the Membership Secretary, as above.

Raising funds for the WS Charity of the Year: the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter

The Greenwich Winter Night Shelter has been chosen as the Westcombe Society's Charity of the Year.

The Parish of East Greenwich was one of the founder groups which provide fellowship and a safe place to sleep for homeless people in our community.

For four months every winter, St Georges Church in Glenluce Road provides shelter on Tuesdays for up to 15 people. Other churches in Greenwich cover the other nights.

What's involved?

Every Tuesday, volunteers arrive at St George's to prepare a hot evening meal, and prepare the beddings.

A skeleton staff stay on duty overnight in case of emergency. Next day, another team of volunteers arrive to prepare a cooked breakfast. They also strip the bedding, and take it home for laundering. Table tennis, piano music, chess and scrabble are on offer.

To help fund this important community initiative, a special Quiz Night has been

organised by the Westcombe Society on Saturday 26th October.

Quiz Night!

This time, the Society's Quiz Night will be held in St Georges Church, Glenluce Road. All the proceeds will go to the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter and we are hoping to welcome not only our regular quizzers but also many newcomers. Book in as an individual, and we will find you a team. Or, better still, fix up your own team of up to six people.

Generous prizes!

There will be the opportunity to order 'chippy suppers' in advance (fish 'n' chips or chicken 'n' chips – or just chips), and, as there is no bar in the church, there would be a suggested £5 corkage charge on bottles of wine, and a voluntary donation on other drinks that you may want to bring along. We hope you agree that this is a worthwhile cause and we look forward to your support.

Booking details are on the front page of this Westcombe News.

J-J Aune



Letters

Views expressed are not necessarily those of either the Westcombe Society, or the Westcombe News.

Lystra Riches Lansdowne Lane SE7

Apparently the UK is responsible for about 1% of human CO2 emissions; the figure for China is 29% and that country continues to build coal-fired power stations and has no intention of curbing its emissions. That being the case, any strategy devised by the 'climate experts' of Greenwich Council to deal with the issue would amount to mere tokenism, and would just inconvenience us to no avail.

Average world temperatures have risen by a mere 0.8 deg C in the last 150 years so talk of a "climate crisis" is hysterical and irresponsible.

Extinction Rebellion, the green terrorist organisation, aims to impose its climate views on the rest of us by direct action; its leader, Rupert Read, recently likened the schoolgirl Greta Thunberg to Gandhi and Martin Luther King. 'Nuff said!

Ed: The world is getting warmer, mainly through human activity – so China is moving towards renewables. The 150 years figure is misleading: two-thirds of the warming has occurred since 1975. 0.8°C Celsius may seem small, but based on NOAA data, 2015 - 2017 were three of the warmest years on record. It is a fact that glaciers are disappearing at an alarming rate - and the sea is warming up. Already a new Thames Barrier is planned. If everyone thought their actions were mere "tokenism" climate change would continue unabated: small comfort for the Bahamians and millions already affected by climate change.

From: G Bailey Humber Road

Decades ago, Exxon's own research confirmed the role of fossil fuels in global warming. It is true pollution levels have been gradually falling in London, due to the introduction of cleaner vehicle engines, and the ultra-low emission zone ULEZ aims to cut toxic air by up to 45%.

However, Kings College London estimates that it won't be until 2025 that ULEZ will help to bring the capital's air within acceptable limits. Small comfort to the 400,000 children among the two million Londoners living in toxic hot spots. 9,000 Londoners die prematurely every year from exposure to toxic air.

In addition, Kings College researchers have now produced evidence of an association between toxic air and mental health problems among teenagers. The Silvertown Tunnel is likely to generate more local traffic, compounding the problem. Good luck to the anti-tunnel campaigners. They will need it.

From: Simon Black Lizban Street

I was pleased to see that my article in August's W/N on the changes at Hervey Road Playing Fields provoked further contributions in the September edition – albeit from a different viewpoint. However,

I'm afraid I cannot retract anything from the piece, as requested by Richie Hart (Letters). The 'inflammatory' opinions expressed came from my interviews with local residents, some of who were presumably his neighbours.

His description of the site as 'a drug, murder and fly-tipping hotspot' – Gomorra-by-the-A2 - is a bit of an exaggeration. Hervey Road Fields was no better nor worse than other local green spaces. The problems he mentioned – fly-tipping, etc. – occurred because the security of the site had long been neglected by Greenwich Council. These problems could have been solved by securing the boundaries and gates properly. This would not have required the £1.4m spent on new facilities.

Indeed, I still believe that money is the root of the current unfortunate state of affairs. Greenwich Council chose to expend considerable grant money, topped up with public funds, on an ambitious building project. However, it did this without researching local needs. The most recent response from the Leader of Greenwich Council, states openly that "the financial viability of the field is paramount".

In effect, public access is still being restricted so that Blackheath Rugby Club can maximise its income from running the site. Making local residents feel included will take more than a token 'community day' and the opportunity to plant some bulbs on the outfield.

From: Ruth Wheeler Hervey Road

I have huge respect and admiration for Annie Hart and her tireless work to protect Hervey Road Sports Field from development. Like her, I too have been seriously ill and am lucky to be alive.

One of the main things aiding my physical and mental health is walking my dog. I know of quite a few other people with various health issues who live around Hervey Road sports field who also own dogs that are unofficially 'assistance dogs'. Some of these dog owners can barely walk because of the pain they are in. To come to Hervey Road and let their dogs run around, while they rested and were able to chat to other people there, meant a huge amount to people often isolated during the day.

Yes, not being able to walk their dog on Hervey Road field is "terribly vexing" to those people.

The dog walkers never wanted to "dislocate an entire community from its sponsors" – we just wanted to continue to share the space with the rest of the community. In fact the CEO of Sport England (one of the main funders of the field) told me that dog walking was originally going to be part of the 'healthy activity' on the field: it was the council who decided to ban dogs. Once again I must say that Annie has worked incredibly hard supporting the biodiversity on the field, but surely her son must have noticed an area of trees including a wonderful plum tree (amongst many small trees), which along with the brambles produced abundant amounts of food for

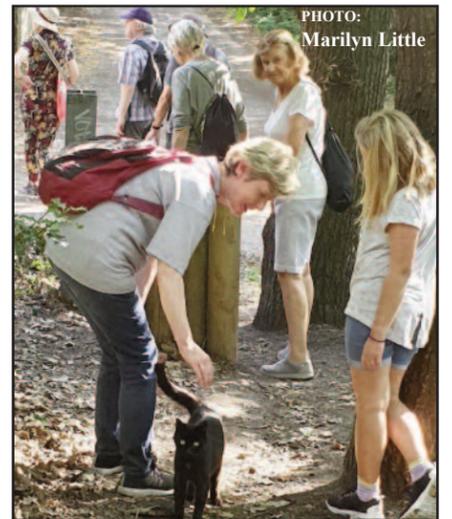


PHOTO: Marilyn Little

"Pussycat, Pussy cat, Where've you been? I've been to London To see the Queen." Well, no: this pussycat appeared out of nowhere to see who was

invading her manor. The invaders were of course the Westcombe Society walkers, raising money for Macmillan on September 15th.

Fireworks in Blackheath

Nov. 2nd
Fireworks



This year's Blackheath Fireworks is on Saturday 2nd November at 8.00pm.

At a meeting of the BJWP, Kellie Blake from Lewisham Council told Mike Norton

"Even though we have some support from the London Borough of Greenwich, we are still facing financial challenges and I am busy fundraising. For the first time this year we have a Crowdfunder, <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/blackheath-fireworks-2019>."

They also need as many volunteers as possible to help with the collection on the night. Potential volunteers should contact kellie.blake@lewisham.gov.uk

the wildlife and helped promote a rich feeding habitat for the bats. This area was destroyed just days after it was agreed with a council-employed biodiversity expert that this was an important area of biodiversity that should be preserved.

We should be encouraging biodiversity to help counteract traffic pollution – not destroying it.

Our health is at stake. Spraying the field with glyphosate, which the latest studies in February, by the University of Washington, found increases the risk of some cancers by more than 40 percent, has also not contributed to the community's health. We need a large sign on the field's gate welcoming everyone in so the field becomes a true community. facility – open to all.

From: Name and address supplied

My car was stolen from outside my house one night in September. I have been living on Westcombe Hill for five years and never had any problems. I recently heard from the Met that a house was also burgled on our street just a month ago. I would like this to be reported in the W/N so that residents can be extra vigilant.

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LOCAL NEWS



A big thank you to Karim and the team at the Coriander Restaurant and to Charlie Morrin for staging a charity comedy night on 2nd September.

Anyone expecting a quiet curry would have been very surprised, but hopefully delighted, to be treated to live stand-up by Charlie Morrin.

Charlie is only 12, but he treated his audience to his comic musings on the 108

bus, what it might be like to be on X Factor, and of course, his famous Brexit song. Most importantly, £345 was raised for Cruse Bereavement Care.

The charity Cruse is celebrating 60 years of supporting bereaved people this year, and the money will go towards helping bereaved people in Greenwich and beyond.

Helen Causley

London International Screen Dance Festival



Sea Change - on Loss at Sea was filmed on Spurn lighthouse near Hull. with Lizzi Kew Ross

PHOTO: Roswitha Chesher

Dance fans had a big treat in September; and for those for whom dancing was a far off country of which they knew little, they were offered a superb opportunity to investigate dance as an incredibly dynamic art form. For two nights, 19th and 20th Sept. at 7.30pm Trinity Laban brought us the London International Screen Dance Festival, celebrating new independent short films from around the world.

The Festival showcased the inventive and experimental integration of movement, choreography and the moving image on screen. Anyone interested in dance, in film and creative ways of thinking about movement, were offered food for thought and a superb opportunity to view works from all over the globe.

On two evenings audiences were offered a diverse range of films from the international dance community including experimental films, animation and films bringing movement to life on the big screen at the Laban Theatre on Creekside.

Blackheath Flower Club

Siân Tribe



It's a very exciting year for the Blackheath Flower Club: we celebrate our 60th Birthday on Friday October 18th, when Sophie Beaney presides over the club's Diamond Celebrations with a special demonstration,

Blackheath Flower Club meets on the third Friday of the month (1.45 for 2pm - 4.00pm (except December), at Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Rd., SE3 7SE. Visitors £5, raffle tickets extra.

The club offers attendees the chance to sit and watch a colourful demonstration of flowers and foliage. Refreshments are available in the Mycenae House Cafe. The arrangements are raffled at the end.

For further information please contact: Siân Tribe on siancaroline@googlegmail.com or ring 07887790028

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Do we need more buses on Westcombe Hill?

While applauding the increase in public transport, the Westcombe Society were disappointed in the route chosen for the new 355 between Kidbrooke Village to North Greenwich.

Both the Westcombe Society and the Westcombe Traffic Group have given their responses to the recent consultation over the route with their objections.

Two routes for the new 355 service were proposed; one via Blackheath Royal Standard and Westcombe Hill and the other down the A2 and A102. Opposition to the first option was based on a number of concerns:

- * increased pollution caused by congestion on the narrow road;
- * the on-going danger of speeding traffic on Westcombe Hill, even in some cases by buses themselves;
- * noise and vibration caused by heavy vehicles passing over speed cushions.

We pointed out that an additional ten buses per hour on a residential road was unacceptable to residents who already have some 30 TfL buses passing every hour – as well as coaches, and HGVs.

As part of their response the Westcombe Society pointed out that, while residents in the east of the area are well served by public transport, those towards the west have no direct bus service to the Peninsula.

Given the increase in traffic generated by Charlton Riverside we urged TfL to consider running a direct service to North Greenwich and the Peninsula via Vanbrugh Hill rather than adding to the number of buses using Westcombe Hill. Otherwise, Option 2.

TfL received 1,165 responses to the consultation; 65% supported or strongly supported Option 1, while 16% opposed or strongly opposed it,

50% supported or strongly supported Option 2, while 20% opposed or strongly opposed it. Following detailed analysis of the responses they decided on the first option.

The full report can be found at https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/route-335/user_uploads/bus-route-335-consultation-report.pdf. This route is therefore expected to be operational from October 26th.

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FEATURES

The Humber Neighbours The origins of the Westcombe Society

The origins of the Westcombe Society lie with a group of neighbourly people living in Humber Road. This was in the early seventies, when social action was big on the agenda.

One day a note came through our letter-box advertising a meeting to set up a sort of neighbourhood support and community self-help organisation. We discovered that it came from the inhabitants of No.1. Humber Road.

The house had recently been bought by social workers Kath and Trev. They had a wide circle of local contacts. (One of these was a commune in Charlton, which featured an ongoing accumulator). The winter of 1971 was extremely cold, and they were concerned that many old people could suffer, and needed to be looked out for.

They shared their house with two tenants acquired long term tenants – father and son, Eric and Jim. Eric was out most of the time on his motor scooter since a great deal of their living space was taken up with the aeroplane Jim was building.

So Humber Neighbours was set up. They included Alan Mills, Pat Dodson, and others. The idea was for neighbourhood self-help and that we would all get to know and support each other. Despite missing one leg, Eric acted as hospital co-ordinator: the Humber Neighbours ran a service helping people to get to Hospital.

So most of the support which went on

was undertaken by friendly, helpful, Eric, an octogenarian who knew almost everyone in the road. I did a newsletter. We did have one very big success and got a lot of support for a family blighted by a terrible hereditary condition. Otherwise all I remember was a number of bonfire parties overseen by fireman Jim.

As time went on there was talk about setting up a local amenity society – a bit like the long-standing Greenwich Society and the more recent Charlton Society. There was also talk of modelling it on the Humber Neighbours. In due course there was an inaugural meeting and the Westcombe Society was set up. After that, the Humber Neighbours more or less fizzled out, having been replaced by something rather larger. Sadly, Trev had been killed in a road accident and Kath had moved to a commune in Oldham. The rest of us joined the Westcombe Society.

I guess that the neighbourhood self-help ethos would have done better in Deptford or New Cross and that Westcombe Park was really rather keener on something more conservation and amenity focused.

But the ethos of Humber Road has left its mark, and the Westcombe Society deserves the community's full support for the work it does in mounting community events, its work on planning and the environment, its support of local charities – and in providing us all with the *WV*.

Mary Mills

Blackheath Halls celebrates Diwali



Diwali, Divali, Deepavali or Dipavali is "The Festival of Lights". It is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists every autumn in the northern hemisphere or, in southern hemisphere, in the spring. It celebrates the victory of good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

A good place to celebrate the festival is in Blackheath Halls which is putting on a series of events this year.

They include:

Thurs 17th Oct. Film: E M Forster's A PASSAGE TO INDIA £10.00

FRI 18 OCT 19:00h DIWALI DINNER WITH INDIAN DANCE An evening of Indian food by Babur Brasserie with a performance of Indian Dance to celebrate the Festival of Lights. £48.00

Sat 19th Oct. 11.00am Same Same...But Different Inspired by the well-known Anglo-Asian phrase 'same, same...but different' three dancer musicians from the award-winning Sonia Sabri Company conjure a magical atmosphere to celebrate the bonds which connect us all.

£10 / Under 16th £8.00

SAT 19 OCT 12:15 CHILDREN'S INDIAN DANCE WORKSHOP With KAVITA GUPTA A fun and light hearted workshop for younger children where they can enjoy learning some classic Indian dances. Tickets £8.50 per child

SAT 19 OCT 2.00pm DRUM WORKSHOP WITH BOLLYWOOD BRASS BAND Bring a drum and learn some Bhangra beats or try out the dhol, the exciting drum from the Punjab. Age 8 plus. 3.00pm same again for older children

Tickets: £8.50 Booking advised.

Sat 19 OCT 19:30h BOLLYWOOD BRASS BAND in the GREAT HALL Six hot horns and four funky drummers blend Hindi film hits with riotous Indian wedding music and Punjabi beats offering a unique London take on the world's most popular music.

Tickets: £16/£14 concs/£10 under 12s.

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An Open Letter to our Leaders from a very disgusted and frustrated headteacher.

I am finding it very difficult to explain some things to the young children in my school. As you know, the Government says we must teach the children about British Values, (including democracy), and this is difficult enough at the moment with the political situation we are in; but my concern is about much more than that.

The children know that there are some very important people called politicians who make decisions about the country. At the moment they know they are called the Tories, and have a person who is in charge of them called the Prime Minister. Quite reasonably, they expect them to set a good example and be outstanding role models. Unfortunately what the children are seeing and hearing daily on the television and in the newspaper is confusing them.

Good sitting

The children in Reception are praised for 'good sitting'. They know that in a group where everyone else is sitting, it would be very rude to lie about on the seats.

If other people near you remind you to sit up properly, it would then be very rude and disrespectful to just smirk at them (and still not sit up). They want to know why Jacob Rees-Mogg wouldn't sit up properly in his meeting, even when other grown-ups were reminding him.

Lying

Of course everybody knows lying is wrong. When they get caught out, our children have to learn to take responsibility for their lies, and say sorry. They heard that the Prime Minister was sacked from his last job for lying, (so they know that he has told lies before), but they keep hearing that he has made up more lies, like how much money it costs to be in the EU. They are wondering why he keeps making up stories and then not saying sorry.

Politeness

Obviously all children know that calling someone names is never acceptable. Being rude to someone because she is different to you is very serious and everyone knows it's nasty and unkind. Definitely saying that women wearing their traditional dress 'look like letterboxes' is very rude, so they don't understand why the Prime Minister would say such a nasty thing to someone just because she is different to him! The

Prime Minister has said things about African people which the children know are racist, and they know about the poem where he called the Turkish president a 'wanker'. They just don't understand that if the government is so strict about how children need to behave in school, why does he say all these terrible things! Who should tell him off?

When children are first learning about how speaking and listening works, they understand that if you are asked a question, then what you do is listen politely to the question and then give the person your answer. It would be very rude to shout over them while they were asking you the question. They think that interrupting and shouting at each other is very rude, and they wonder why someone doesn't explain that to the Prime Minister and the other people in Parliament.

Setting a good example

Also, the children know when you're playing a game with a group of people, you can't just stop them being able to play the game just so you can win. They know that's not really fair. You also can't threaten to throw people off your team and tell them they can't play just because they think differently to you because everyone knows that's really mean (and nobody will want to be on your team if you bully them anyway). Surely it is very important everyone has the democratic right to say what they think (especially MPs), and it is shocking that we have heard that MPs have lost their jobs for just exercising their democratic rights.

So you can see that at the moment our politicians are not setting a good example or doing a very good job of being role models for all the children growing up in Britain. The children are watching and just can't believe that the people in Parliament don't behave better, when they are the people with the most important job in the whole country.

Imagine if the teachers and the headteacher suddenly all started behaving like the politicians towards each other in schools! It doesn't bear thinking about.

So when I am asked why they behave like they do, how should I answer?

I know you are very busy at the moment, but an answer for my children (who behave beautifully) would be really great.

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WHAT'S ON



ARTS

THE ARTS SOCIETY, BLACKHEATH
James Gillray: the First Political Cartoonist
Ian Keable Thu. 24th Oct. 2.00pm At the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, Gillray's cruel wit was the talking point of smart London. 2.00pm. with tea and coffee, and lectures at 2.30. Venue is St Mary's Church Hall, Cresswell Park Blackheath Visitors welcome, please pay on the door.
THE ARTS SOCIETY GREENWICH
Sir Stamford Raffles Denise Heywood
Mon. 14th Oct. Raffles, the enlightened colonial administrator of Java, Indonesia, and founder of Singapore, Lectures are held at Greenwich University, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich SE10 9LS. Tickets at the door: £10 for guests. Wine from 7.15p.m.
THAMES VISTAS - BERMONDSEY TO GREENWICH. Exhibition of oils, watercolours and prints of Thames views by artist **TERRY SCALES.** At the West Greenwich Library, SE10 8NN.30th Sept. - 2nd Nov. 2019. Meet the artist; Sat. 19th Oct. 12.30 - 4.30pm. For more detail please visit <https://terryscales.blogspot.com>

SPOKEN WORD

IN-WORDS
Tues. Oct 8th: Mental Health Awareness Week
Poetry reading: Sally Festing, Tessa Foley and Peter Wallis with Mick Delap. At W.Greenwich Library at 7.30 (doors open at 7). Free, with refreshments. All donations to CALM, a charity for the prevention of suicide among men.
 in-words is also collaborating with Tony Othen of the Greenwich Gallery (Peyton Place, bottom of Royal Hill) as part of the Greenwich Performs Festival with an informal reading on Saturday October 12 from 1.00pm on the theme of the *On the Line* exhibition (Oct 4th-13th).
 Visit in-words.co.uk for more information.
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
15th October Mary Mills: A PLAN FOR A BOROUGH INDUSTRIAL HISTORY Meeting will be in the Studio in Age Exchange
BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
Fri Oct. 18th 7.45 The Ageing Clock: Drs Adrian Liston & Clara Novo of the Babraham Institute. At Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE Visitors welcome at all meetings, and are requested to donate £3 to the Society.

BLACKHEATH HALLS

WED 16 OCT 8.00pm PRETI TANEJA: WE THAT ARE YOUNG £12.00 inc glass of wine AND COMEDY, COMEDY:
FRI 11 Oct 8.00pm DALISO CHAPONDA Blah Blah Blacklist Star Radio 4's acclaimed Citizen of Nowhere, presents a hilarious and daring new show.
SAT 12 OCT 8.00pm OUTSIDE THE BOX with Reginald D. Hunter Award-winning Comedy
Fri 22nd Nov. 8.00pm SOFIE HAGEN
The Bumsing: British/Danish comedienne on the things you wish you could forget,

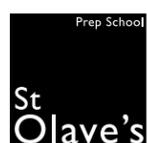


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THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Sat 26th Oct - Quiz Night in aid of the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter, the Society's Charity of the Year. It's at St George's Church, Glenluce Road so we can have more tables. Book as an individual, or as part of a team of six, and order 'Chippy' suppers if desired. BYO Bottles (small corkage charge!) On your own? We'll find you a team to join! 7.30 for 8.00. Booking with Caroline as usual on 0208 853 0948

COMMUNITY

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
 Every Wednesday at 12.30 p.m. Soup Lunch Fellowship (Soup, bread, fruit and cheese)
St George's Lecture series:
Thurs. 4th Oct 8.00pm talk by The Revd Canon **DR ROBERT REISS** Canon Emeritus, Westminster Abbey, in which he asks "What can we really believe about Jesus Christ?"
Sat 5th Oct. Country & Western dancing
Sun 6th Oct. HARVEST FESTIVAL Urgently needed are tinned fruit, peas, carrots, custard/ rice & Longlife Fruit juice
Tues 15th Oct 7.30 Spiritual Film Night: THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION
WOODLANDS FARM Half term activities
Tues. 22nd Oct. 1-3.00pm Make a bead bracelet £3.00 per child No need to book
Wed. 23rd Oct. 10am - 12 noon Passionate about Ponies £3.00 No need to book Find out all about ponies and meet our pony, Bob.
Fri. 25th Oct. Horrible Halloween 11am - 3pm Explore the farm and try and find all our creepy hidden creatures and then make your own Halloween craft to take home. No need to book, just drop in £3 per child.
BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Meets first Wednesday of every month, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Sunfields Methodist Church on Old Dover Road
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon & Thurs 7.15pm and on Wed at 1.15pm. Newcomers welcome.
Would you like to learn this fascinating game? Bridge lessons Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 at Mycenae House, Mycenae Road. For more details, please contact Ivy McGeorge on 020 8293 5354 or ivymcgeorge@hotmail.co.uk
CHARLTON HOUSE www.charltonhouse
 0208 856 3001 Mulberry Tea Rooms Jacobean Entrance Hall Mon-Fri 9am- 4pm
 Lunchtime concert every Friday 1.00pm - 2.00pm
SUNDAYS AT SUNFIELDS at Sunfields Methodist Church 95 Old Dover Road, Blackheath SE3 8SJ
 1.00 - 4.00 pm First Sunday of each month. ALL older people and their carers are welcome to join us for lunch and lighthearted activities, including reminiscence, arts and music. Carers also invited. Sundays at Sunfields is provided free; please do just come along - there is no need to book. FREE

THEATRE

THE GREENWICH THEATRE, Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES Box Office: 8858 7755
 Until Sat 19th Oct: **BJLYN - The Musical**
 Sun 13th Oct 3.00 pm **LIVE CANON 2019:** the top twenty poems shortlisted for the Poetry prize. FREE
 Wed 23rd -vSat 29th Oct. **WHAT YOU RISK:** the threat of the Far Right in 1936 - and 1978
 Sun 27th Oct. 8.00pm **MARTIN LUTHER KING TRIBUTE** - part of Black History Month.
 Tues 29th Oct - Fri. 1st Nov.: **SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL** 7.00 pm £10.95/concs. £8
 Sat 2nd -Sun 3rd Nov: **GETTING THE THURD DEGREE** - the ongoing battle against discrimination in football.
BLACKHEATH HALLS Sun 3rd Nov. 3.00pm
KATHLEEN FERRIER: WHATTALIFE! a new one woman play with music: the story of the great English contralto, whose voice and recordings are treasured to this day. £10 | £8.00 concs.

MYCENAE HOUSE LIVE EVENTS: OCTOBER

MYCENAE HOUSE, Mycenae Road SE3
Fri 4th Oct 1-4pm - Tea, Cake & Talk. Information awareness event with expert advice from local organisations. Free.
Fri 4th Oct 7.30pm - Nick Harper. An evening of outstanding live music at Harper's 58 Fordwych Road tour. £16.
Thurs 10th Oct 4pm - Bach To Baby. Classical Concert for families. £10.
Fri 11th Oct 8pm - JazzNights. Candelit Live Jazz music event hosted by Dave Silk. £10.
Fri 25th Oct 7.30pm - Global Fusion Music & Arts. A wonderful evening of live music and fun to celebrate Diwali. £15.
Thurs 31st Oct 2-4pm - Daytime Disco for people with disabilities. Dance the afternoon away with live DJ's playing great tunes! £2/carers free.
Fri 1st Nov 7.30pm - Clive Carroll. Acoustic guitar phenomenon performing live with friends. £16.
 For further information visit www.mycenaehouse.co.uk

MUSIC

BLACKHEATH HALLS
 Box Office 020 8463 0100
Mon 30 Sep 10:00h Music Appreciation With Matthew Taylor: Dvorak's great symphonies
 Ten week course £100. Every Monday.
Mon 30 Sept. 7.30pm Blackheath Goes Gospel 2019: Course 8 session course which leads to a large scale performance £80/£72 concs.
Wed. 2nd Oct. Fabian Langguth Baritone & Camille Lemonnier Piano: Schubert and Faure
Sun 6th Oct. 2.30pm **BLACKHEATH HALLS ORCHESTRA COURSE** Come and join our impressive orchestra. £76/£68 concs.
MON 07 OCT 6.30pm **THE ROYAL GREENWICH YOUTH ORCHESTRA** Greenwich young people aged 8 and above who play instruments at grade 3 standard or above FREE
Sun 13 OCT 19:30h **UBUNTU ENSEMBLE** £10.00 / £8.00 concs.
Wed 16th Oct. 2.00pm and 7.30pm **MASTER-CLASS** Peacock Room, King Charles Court
 Join the Royal Opera House's Jette Parker Young Artists Stephanie Wake-Edwards, mezzo-soprano, and Michael Mofidian, bass-baritone, for a vocal masterclass. FREE
Frid 18th Oct. 6.00 pm **SIDE BY SIDE** with the **PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA:** Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky FREE
Mon.21st Oct. 1.10 pm Free recital
Thu. 31st Oct. Trinity Laban Winds: £5.00
Fri 1st. NOV 7:30h **AHMED DICKINSON CARDENAS:** Award winning Cuban guitarist

CHILDREN & FAMILY

GREENWICH THEATRE
Sat 26th - Sun 27th Oct. RISE AND FALL Age 2+ **Balloons have a life of their own ...**
BLACKHEATH HALLS
Sat 12th Oct. 3.00pm **COMEDY CLUB 4 KID-SHEARN RECITAL ROOM** The best stand-ups and sketch acts from the international circuit doing their thing for a family audience....but without the rude bits! £8.50
SHERINGTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE, Tel. 0208 - 3053140 - 14, Sherington Road SE7 7JW
DAD'S STAY AND PLAY session every Wednesday, 1.00pm -2.30pm -free drop in Sherington Children's Centre, all home dads welcome Contact Daniel.hall1985@hotmail.co.uk for more details, www.selondondads.org.uk
WOODLANDS FARM APPLE DAY
Sun. 13 Oct. 11.00am - 4.00pm. Discover and buy different types of traditional British apples. There will be music by Skinners Rats, tea and cakes, plus a BBQ + apple pressing to make juice, stalls selling local produce., and cider tasting.. A great day out for all the family. Entry: Adult £1, Child 50p.

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THE ALBANY

Wed. 16th - Saturday 19th October, 8.00pm. At Canada Water Theatre. BSL Interpreted. Paines plough and Tamasha Present
I Wanna Be Yours A tender, funny and lyrical play about finding love and holding on to it with everything you've got. Love is more than just a game for two.
 Previews Wed 16 - Fri 18 Oct: £12 / £8. Sat 19 Oct: £14 / £10 concs. Ages 14+
Thursday 24 October, 7.30pm. At Canada Water Theatre. Abu-Zayd DeGale Presents
Living in Limbo using storytelling, spoken-word and song to map Abu-Zayd's life in Sudan and his journey to Newcastle. Demystifying the myths around refugees. Living in Limbo shows how art can get you into trouble but also save your life.
NOTE: Contains strong language, disturbing images and content, including themes of death and the Sudan Revolution.
 £10 / £8. Ages 14+.

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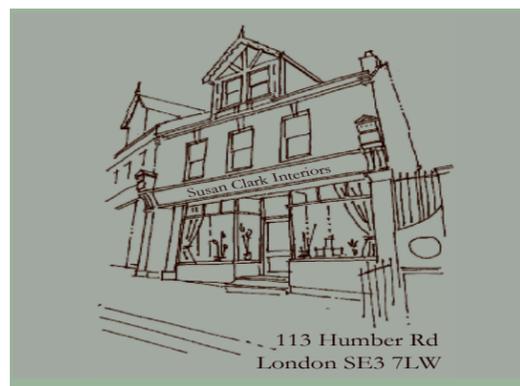
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FEATURES

Greenwich at its Best

We seem to be passing through divided, and divisive, times. Yet the arts can bring the community together, says **KATHRYN McDOWELL**.

Greenwich Performs is supported by the Harris Trust, the Trafalgar Tavern, the Greenwich Society, and the Royal Borough of Greenwich

As Autumn draws closer, our local community arts festival *Greenwich Performs* is presenting a jam-packed programme of events guaranteed to keep the end-of-summer blues at bay. A diverse cultural celebration of all that Greenwich has to offer, this year's *Greenwich Performs* takes place between the 4th and 13th October and features a host of big-name stars.

Notable appearances include Deaf Men Dancing at the Laban Theatre, as well as influential dance music legends, DJ duo Eton Messy.

The bumper autumn schedule blends classical, jazz and contemporary music, dance activities, music and lyric workshops, photography exhibitions, a vegan Oktoberfest in Greenwich Market, and a community Fun Palace.

Musical highlights include acclaimed chamber choir, Canticum at the Queen's House, and Trinity Laban at the Painted Hall. This absolutely packed programme culminates in a finale performance from Stefan Bednarczyk who performs his outstanding Flanders + Swann + Noel Coward Cabaret.

EVENT CALENDAR

Welcome to a festival and celebration of the arts. Bringing our community together through music, theatre, dance and outdoor events.

Performances are taking place over a 10 day period in beautiful and iconic venues around Greenwich.

For event details and to book your tickets please visit our website.

Friday Oct 4th

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich gallery £ Free

 Fireworks - The Rock Choir @ The Point £ Free

 Vegan Oktoberfest @ Greenwich Market £ Free

Saturday Oct 5th

 FUN @ Fun Palace @ Northbury Hall £ Free

 The Garden Party @ Cutty Sark Gardens £ Free

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich gallery £ Free

 Eton Messy @ Lower Deck £ 10 (Students £5)

Tuesday Oct 8th

 Trinity Laban Lunchtime concert @ The Chapel at the Ounc £ Free

 Pop up cinema @ The Cooverage £10.00

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich gallery £ Free

 Open Evening / Nick Naylor @ The Greenwich gallery £ Free

Thursday Oct 10th

 Trinity Laban Lunchtime concert @ St Alphege's £ Free

 Pop up cinema @ The Cooverage £10.00

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich £ Free

 Deaf Men Dancing @ Laban Theatre £16

Saturday Oct 12th

 The Autumn Fair @ Cutty Sark Gardens £ Free

 In Line In words @ The Greenwich £ Free

 Apply Yourself (YUAT) @ Cutty Sark Gardens £ Free

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich £ Free

 Procession @ Cutty Sark Gardens £ Free

 Music & Majesty @ The Painted Hall £40

Sunday Oct 6th

 Chamber Music Concert @ The Ian Museum £ 20

 The Garden Party @ Cutty Sark Gardens £ Free

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich gallery £ Free

Wednesday Oct 9th

 Chamber Concert @ Morden College Chapel £10

 Pop up cinema @ The Cooverage £10.00

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich £ Free

 Deaf Men Dancing @ Laban Theatre £16

Friday Oct 11th

 Trinity Laban Lunchtime concert @ The Chapel at the Ounc £ Free

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich £ Free

 Eileen Page's Eleanor of Aquitaine @ Greenwich Theatre £10

 Jazz - Gin crawl @ Oazy's, The Old Brewery and the Trafalgar Tavern £15

Monday Oct 7th

 Canticum Concert @ The Queen's House £25

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich gallery £ Free

Sunday Oct 13th

 The Autumn Fair @ Cutty Sark Gardens £ Free

 In Line Photography Exhibit @ The Greenwich £ Free

 Organ Recital Stephen Davies @ All Saint's Church £ 5

 Stefan Bednarczyk performs Noel Coward @ The Peacock Room £20

GREENWICH PERFORMS 2019

www.greenwichperforms.com



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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

Euro 2020 Fanzone in Greenwich Park

Local people have grave concerns about the decision by The Royal Parks to support the use of Greenwich Park for the GLA's proposed FanZone next year. This involves showing matches on big screens mounted for viewing from the Queens Field for up to 30,000 football fans.

Comments from Westcombe Society members on this proposal express strong opposition to using the Park in this way, which they feel is quite inappropriate.

A joint letter from the Greenwich and Westcombe Societies to the GLA, RBG, our MP and Ward Councillors express similar concerns.

The accommodation of 30,000 football supporters on the much-used Queens Field for up to 14 days during the busy summer months is insupportable. There will also be 'Community Events' on non-match days).

We also have concerns over crowd control both within and outside the Park and the effect these very large numbers will have on the infrastructure of the Park itself and surrounding businesses.

The 30,000 expected is very much more than the number visiting the Equestrian Olympics. Regular visitors to the Park will face restrictions on the routes they can use to cross the Park on Match days. Coupled with this there will be restricted views from popular areas of the Park again on Match days, affecting both regular visitors and tourists alike. The road through the Park will be closed around match times

which will encourage commuter traffic to use alternative local roads. The use of Circus Field for parking of HGVs before and after the event is also very unwelcome.

There are also real concerns about the ability of the local transport options to cope with these additional passengers especially on weekday matches during rush hours. Although visitors will be encouraged to use public transport, any who ignore this advice will add to the already busy roads around the Park.

We have attended meetings with the GLA who are aware of our concerns. Details of how these could be mitigated have yet to be made available, and a request for updates has yet to be responded to.

The Chairman of the Westcombe Society, Marilyn Little, commented: "We hope this decision will be re-considered urgently and this event should not be used as a precedent for future activities of this size and nature."

The planning application was due to be submitted to the Council in September, followed by a further Consultation Period and a licensing application.

All Westcombe Park residents will receive a letter from the organisers giving details of the arrangements, and your views would be very welcome. **Our website will provide details of the Planning Application as and when available: www.westcombesociety.org**

Dire effects of road closures?

Greenwich Council are considering proposals to close roads in the area around Hyde Vale and Crooms Hill.

The purpose would be to prevent rat-running between the A2 on the heath and the main roads in Greenwich.

These ideas have been mooted a year or more ago, and so far nothing concrete has emerged.

This area is known as the Greenwich Hills and Vales. The Westcombe Society fear that these proposals, if implemented

may have a knock on effect on Westcombe Park, particularly perhaps Maze Hill and Westcombe Hill.

The Environment Committee of the Westcombe Society therefore suggest that residents of Westcombe Park respond to the impending consultation giving their views.

The Westcombe Society will update its website to provide further information as soon as it becomes available.

The London Forum DickAllard

The London Forum is a London-wide organisation of local amenity societies (including the Westcome Society), and has on several occasions in the past given high praise to the Westcombe News.

The core function of the London Forum is to raise the general concerns of its member societies, primarily at the London level through contacts with officers and members of the Greater London Council.

In addition, the Forum raises concerns when appropriate at the national level through representations to Government Departments.

Of more general interest to individual members of societies, it also organises a series of open meetings (around five per

year, and free to members of its societies) on a range of issues. Recent topics have included "Energy efficiency and Climate Change", Buses and sustainable transport", "Considerate Construction", and "The provision of affordable housing".

These meetings, which take place at: The Gallery, 75 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6ELT, a couple of minutes walk from Farringdon Station (on the direct Thameslink line from Westcombe Park), also provide the chance to discuss issues with members of other societies from across London – as well as the speakers.

To find out more, go to their website, londonforum.org.uk

Could a Tsunami caused by an explosion hit Greenwich?

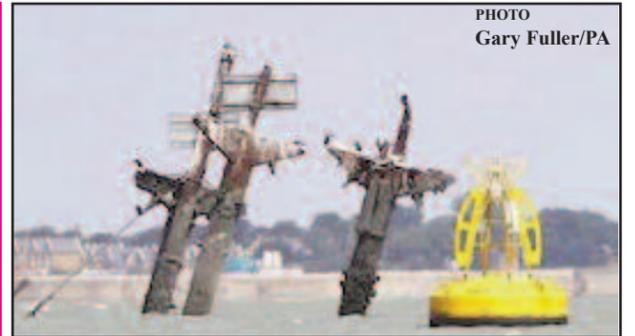


PHOTO Gary Fuller/PA

Seventy-five years ago, in August 1944, the US cargo vessel SS *Richard Montgomery* sank off Sheerness on the Kent coast. On its way to support the D-Day invasion forces in France, it carried on board more than 6,000 tonnes of munitions. Ever since, it has haunted the Thames estuary with its dangerous cargo.

The Guardian reports that salvage experts are divided over the extent of the threat of an explosion, but there are now fears that the ship is breaking up, and its cargo could pollute the waters of the Thames. In a worst case scenario, the munitions could explode, causing a 15 metre tsunami which could overwhelm river defences – and could easily reach Greenwich. Don't worry, though, the government says it's monitoring the situation. So that's all right, then.

A near miss in the park

The problem of speeding cyclists going north down The Avenue in Greenwich Park has been of ongoing concern to Parks Police. In the morning rush hour traffic is frequently slow moving in King William Walk waiting to turn left into the Greenwich one-way system. At times this can back up into the park. On occasion, cyclists coming down the hill at speed avoid the queues by overtaking on the right.

A recent report to the Safer Parks panel described how a pedestrian was nearly hit by a cyclist who, having overtaken the stationary traffic, then proceeded through the right-hand gate into King William

Walk, almost causing an accident.

The Parks police have increased their presence in the area during the morning rush, but their visibility acts as a deterrent and few cyclists are apprehended and warned.

At one time it was suggested that the central gates at St Mary's Gate be opened during the rush hour which would allow cyclists, but not cars, through. The disadvantage may be that motor-cycles could also use these gates.

Once again the thoughtless and dangerous behaviour of a few damages the reputation of the majority of careful and considerate riders.

The New 3Rs

A leading education company has said that climate change should be taught from the start of primary school.

Currently, the subject is restricted to chemistry and geography in key stages 3 and 4 when children are aged 11-14, but leading education resources company PlanBee has called for children to be taught the subject much earlier.

With this in mind, PlanBee has developed an entire primary school curriculum that focuses on climate change – and what children can do about it, including 'the new 'Three Rs': Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Children should not be shielded from the problems, but should not be left feeling anxious and helpless about them, either.

The curriculum covers seven key topics: Ethical trading, Fulfilled lives, Water scarcity, Ecosystems, Climate change, Biodiversity and Finite planet.

The themes are explored in an age-appropriate fashion, ensuring not only that children can develop a realistic understanding of both the problems the planet faces, but develop ideas of what they can do about it.

The lessons also challenge children to take action to help Britain's bee population survive and thrive. They generate their own ideas for ways in which they can teach adults to make more eco-friendly decisions in their daily lives.

London City Airport Expansion

Airport planning staff held an estimable consultation event on future plans at The City Centre (Guildhall).*

There are many facets to expanding the airport, depending on your particular viewpoint, so readers will need to look at the consultation documentation/website on www.londoncityairport.com.

Local resident Christopher Peters had a quick look, and highlighted these points –

- Estimates of passenger growth and likely destinations (mainly in Europe) have been made but are heavily dependent on Brexit, the economy, Crossrail completion and HS2 continuation.

- A future extension of Crossrail to Ebbsfleet could result in an airport station, thus forming a connection with Eurostar and SE Highspeed and saving on the need for passengers to come by car.

- It is hoped that one of the bus routes planned for the Silvertown Tunnel will serve the airport.

- Quieter and more efficient planes and ecars and evehicles will evolve and reduce noise and pollution.

* *The City Corporation's Model of London at Guildhall is worth seeing by itself, and compares well with the geographical "map" of London at the GLA.*

The Real Point of Education

The point of trying to get educated is to cultivate mental grip. We all need this urgently today because the total environment is getting more and more complicated by the minute. 'Grip' means having the basics of keen observation, avoiding bias, cool abstraction, and awareness of the pitfalls of partial knowledge.

These disciplines are not motivated by a thirst to know more, or to get more marks in a memory test. They are about a determination to sort it out, so that the whole "makes sense" and provides a source of confidence. Today schools on the whole are not doing this, or even trying to do this: they are mostly trying to maximise marks in a test or exam. So children urgently need to be helped at home to get this get this kind of approach and grip.

See: www.philosophyforeducation.moonfruit.com

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