



Westcombe NEWS



Free to 3800 homes, and in libraries & some shops

April 2015 Issue 3

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

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

How should the Council spend our money? WN reporter

We are lucky, here in Greenwich, that our Council Tax has yet again been frozen – for the eighth year in succession.

The leader of the council, Cllr Denise Hyland, was keen to state that the council was still able to protect and enhance vital day-to-day services. But “we are also aware that all our residents . . . are finding managing the household budget a strain.” Hence the laudable aim to keep council tax bills as low as possible.

However, the announcement that the Council is to fund the Tall Ships Festival in 2017 has had a mixed response. Last year, the festival cost some £1.7m. There are those who, like our sister paper *Greenwich Visitor*, asks whether it isn't right that some of our money be spent on a community event we can all enjoy – though this may depend on one's definition of a community event.

Conservative councillors take a different view, claiming that this “vanity project” should be scrapped, and the money should go instead to assist disabled people with their council tax.

In the words of Cllr Matt Hartley, “How on earth can Labour councillors

prioritise spending £1.7m on the regatta over extra support for the people most in need in this borough?”

If one takes the view that money spent on community events is well spent, then one could also look at community resources rather than one-off community events such as the Tall Ships Regatta.

A case in point is the Maryon Wilson Animal Park. In 2010, the Council announced it was withdrawing financial support for the park, despite a petition with over 7,000 signatures. The park includes deer, pigs, sheep and goats, which have to be fed and watered by volunteers.

The charity formed to keep the park going – MWAP – is now in financial straits. Maintained by volunteers, MWAP has had to raise some £100,000 a year to keep going, as one can imagine a difficult if not impossible task.

MWAP have now asked the Council to take over the ownership, and to work in partnership with the community to keep the park open.

So, Regatta, animal park – or people in need? Tough decisions! Who would be a politician! What do our readers think?

Happy Days are Here Again!

As we go to press, once again, the London Marathon is about to take place – always a good time to publicise (and raise funds for) worthy causes – Save the Rhino, Cancer Research, our local Hospice, you name it.

Sacha Bright of Greenwich Cystic Fibrosis Trust told the *Westcombe News*:

“A number of local residents signed up to our fund-raising B&B scheme for runners, which gave them a local bolthole to relax in before the big day. Many of the runners are from all over the country, and this scheme made a huge difference to them.

“Thanks, Westcombe News!”

PHOTOS: NG Photo agency



WW1 Hero honoured

Rear Admiral Eric Robinson RVC, OBE, who was recognised by the WN in July last year as being one of four local VC winners in WW1, has at last been given the honour due to him in Greenwich.

The Mayor of Greenwich unveiled a commemorative stone at his place of birth in Greenwich in Diamond Terrace last month – almost exactly a hundred years after taking part in the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.

The commemorative stone is the first of four commemorative stones to be laid in the Royal Borough. So who was this admiral, and what did he do?

Eric Gascoigne Robinson was born in 1882 in Greenwich. His father was the



chaplain of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich and almost from birth, Eric was destined for a naval career.

He first saw action when serving on HMS *Endymion* at the age of eighteen. He took part in the relief of Peking during the Boxer Rising; he was wounded, mentioned in dispatches, and was awarded the China medal, with the Relief of Peking bar.

Gallipoli

Ten years later he was placed in command of a shore raiding party of sailors and Royal Marines to destroy a heavy Turkish gun battery on the Southern shore of the Dardanelles. They landed undetected early on February 15th. *(cont. on page 3)*

Blackheath High Juniors meet Invicta

Blackheath High Junior School joined with Invicta Primary School last month to perform a cantata which was the culmination of four months' collaborative work. Blackheath High School is a member of the Girls' Day School Trust which, together with HSBC, sponsored the project involving children aged 8-11.

Teachers and children worked together with the composer, Lin Marsh, to learn the cantata of eleven songs. They performed it to a packed audience in the theatre at Blackheath High. ‘The Song of the Earth’ cantata follows the fairy tale of ‘The Nightingale’ by Hans Christian Andersen about an emperor who prefers hearing a mechanical bird to a real nightingale.

Instrumentalist rehearsals were led by Ed Scolding from the Conservatoire. The backing track to the song ‘Got the T-shirt’

was mixed and produced by older children at Invicta, using their iPads.

Ruth Coles, the Music Coordinator at Blackheath High Junior School and leader of the project, explained: “The essence of this new project has been to bring children together in a community concert. Singing improves brain and language development and builds children's self-confidence.”

Sarah Skevington, Head of Blackheath High Juniors, paid tribute to the effort and determination of all the children and the high standard of music they had achieved: “It was a truly joyful occasion and we are so proud of all who take part.”

Vicki Cuff, Head of Invicta Primary school, said: “It was absolutely brilliant! The whole project was so well organised and Blackheath High's hospitality was very much appreciated by all.”

News briefs

London Marathon
The marathon is on April 26th. As usual, there will be road closures, so be warned.

Funfair
Cllr Geoff Brightly reminds us that the fun fair is booked to be on Circus Field this Easter.

If any local residents find good reason to complain, the number to ring is 8921 8921.

We are sorry to say goodbye to David and Barbara Hall who have moved to pastures green in Bath. David did outstanding work for the Friends of Mycenae Gardens. He was one of those who started the Friends Group five years ago and has been a very proactive member as well as Chair of the committee for the past two years.

David produced newsletters, programmes and fliers, created the website, and liaised regularly with other interest groups and the council. He also organised events and edited and finalised the Management Plan that was submitted to Greenwich Council Parks Department last October.

The Daffodil Tea

The Daffodil Tea in March was much enjoyed by all who came. Our thanks as usual go to our wonderful team of volunteers. Delicious food, a free raffle, a quiz and good company – what's not to enjoy?

The numbers were down somewhat this year – in the past we have had up to sixty people attending. All senior citizens who live in the area are invited to add their names to the list, so

if you would like to attend these twice-yearly events, please ring Caroline on 8853 0948.

General Election 2015

A pre-hustings “We the People” Meet-up takes place in Mycenae House on April 14th. This will be followed by a Hustings on April 15th, when you can meet and question local candidates. Both events start at 7.30 pm.

The Jimmy Mizzen Good Hope Festival has been delayed until 2016.

We are very sorry to announce the death of Ros Sharman. Our deep condolences to Dave and the family.

The Westcombe Society

Sat 4th. April Easter Egg Hunt Mycenae Gardens 2.00 - 4.00pm
£2.50 per non-members' child. £2 members. ADULTS go free!
The Bar will be open. Squash is provided for the children, & face-painting, crafts & cakes will be on sale. Prizes for best Easter Bonnet and Basket!

Spring Quiz Friday April 17th
Main Hall of Mycenae House at 7.30 for 8.00pm
£5.00 entry per person for Members & £6.00 for Non Members.
Why not form a team (six people) or just sign up, and we will find you a team!
Fish n' chips (or just chips) to nourish those little grey cells, can be ordered in advance by April 10th. by ringing Caroline on 8853 0948.
Generous prizes. And if you don't win the quiz, you might win the raffle!

COMMUNITY NEWS

WESTCOMBE NEWS

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Neville Grant, The Editor
wnews@westcombesociety.org
Tel. 020 8858 8489

ALL MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO:

wnews@westcombesociety.org

Deadline for the May issue:

16th April

News Editor:

Environment Editor: Maggie Gravelle

Reporters: The community - that means you!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

DISTRIBUTION

Myles Dove & Barbara Henley
Brian Carroll, Roger Kidley, Joanne Lucas, and Patricia Slade-Baker.

Volunteer distributors please phone 020 8853 3740, we need your help!

ADVERTISING MANAGER

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

All adverts payable in advance by cheque to **The Westcombe Society.**

Costs:

DISPLAY: Single column 6cm x 6cm: One - four issues £35, five-plus issues £30 each. Other sizes: please inquire.

Classified Ads (Market Place) 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

Printed by: Trojan Press

Contact the Westcombe Society:

WestcombeNews@egroups.com

Publisher: The Westcombe Society

Chairman: Marilyn Little

Tel. 020 8853 1312

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

We take all reasonable precautions to protect the interests of our readers by ensuring as far as possible the bona fides of our advertisers but cannot accept any responsibility for them. Any complaints should be addressed to the advertiser.

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

Westcombe society membership

please send this membership form to:
peter Lewins, 221 Westcombe hill, se 3 7Dr

Name.....

Address.....

tel.....

e mail:

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family membership	£12	[]
individual membership	£8	[]
senior citizens/unwaged	£4	[]

IT SUPPORT

For ALL your home & business needs

Call now for FREE advice



020 8858 2002

www.theheadstart.com

John Roan news



The last year has seen what seemed like the wholesale removal of trees on the John Roan Maze Hill site, culminating in the loss of the Cherry Trees on the Maze Hill frontage.

But Dean Kirkwood of Kirkwood McLean Architects told the *WN*: "Construction is currently underway to create a new memorial garden in honour of the former students and fallen soldiers of WWII.

"The new design – overseen by The John Roan Foundation – has been inspired by the original formal garden arranged by Sir Banister Fletcher in 1926 to best complement the distinguished Grade II-listed school building."

Mr Kirkwood continued: "The layout will largely remain as a formal lawn, but will be accompanied by the addition of flowering bulbs and colourful perennial planting.

"The hard surface materials will also be upgraded to more appropriate heritage-sensitive materials.

"There will be also an increased number of trees in the garden, with a formal avenue of Honey Locust trees along Maze Hill, and two groupings of colourful Tibetan Cherry trees enclosing the seating areas at either end of the garden. The garden is due to be completed shortly, on cue for the spring blossom."

Hopefully residents will be proud to see such a fitting frontage to these fine buildings.

Some replacement trees have already been planted in both the school grounds and the street to the rear and side of the buildings though many still wonder why some money could not be put aside to screen the car park, and repair and screen the Science block

Residents are hoping that these omissions will be rectified in the near future as most local people live at, or pass by, the rear of the site rather than the front.

Emily Norton

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.

Mary Smith Humber Road
I was pleased to see the coverage given to the housing issue in March's *WN*. It's a disgrace – and it's going to get worse: next year, the help-to-buy mortgage guarantee is to come to an end.

I hope the public will support the Royal College of Nurses' demand for more key worker housing for nurses and para-medics. Currently there is a 14% vacancy rate in London's hospitals – nurses just can't afford to live in London, and beds are being shut as a result.

38% of new homes on the peninsula were supposed to be 'affordable' – that's out of the window, now. But affordable houses aren't affordable, and first time buyers are seeing prices being driven up by "Buy-to-Let" landlords who are making a killing. Time for rent controls, now, surely.

From: Dr David Senior FFARCS Parkside
In response to Cllr Pennycook's comments about local housing problems in March's *WN*, we are very fortunate to live in the Socialist Utopia of Greenwich. Taxpayers in London already subsidise the lifestyle of Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and waste tracts of Northern England.

Now Mr Pennycook is inviting his future constituents of limited means to pay their own housing costs and subsidise the housing costs of people who wish to live in the borough but cannot actually afford to do so. It is possible to buy a whole row of houses in parts of County Durham for a £1.

He complains about overseas investors who are actually prepared to pay the market price of property. These are people who provide jobs and increase the wealth of the country. He complains about being unable to provide socially inclusive homes – code for cheap housing for Labour voters. We all agree the problem is supply and demand . . .

Instead of complaining about the shortage of housing there are 1 million people living here illegally. It must be cheaper and easier to remove them than to build 1 Million 'affordable' houses.

Planning issues are difficult but I notice if someone tries to build a house in Westcombe Park there is a long list of objections. If we get 350 MPs who think like Cllr Pennycook, we can look forward to a Greek lifestyle without the nice weather.

From: Matt Hartley Conservative Party
I commented on the front page of the March issue of the *WN* that while local Labour councillors like to talk a good game on affordable housing, they don't deliver. In the same issue, my opponent in the forthcoming General Election, Matt Pennycook, proved my point: warm words and carefully crafted pre-election language like "regeneration cannot come at any price" simply will not cut it. We need an MP who will stand up to the Labour Party political machine that runs this borough, and force the council to drive a harder bargain from developers to secure the affordable housing we need.

G Bailey Westcombe Park Road
The devil may be in the diesel, in the words of February's *WN*, but not for much longer, as a new generation of diesel-fuelled cars is coming on the market. By September, all new diesel vehicles have to comply with new standards. The new Euro-6 diesel engines are fitted with filters that will catch 99% of particulate matter (PM10s) linked with respiratory problems. The new engines will also eliminate 90% of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. What will happen to the 11 million diesel cars already on our roads? It will take years to phase them out. Perhaps there should be a scrappage scheme to speed up the process.

From: Abbey Akinoshun Green Party
As the Green Party parliamentary candidate I would like to reassure your correspondent Trevor Allman that I strongly support the No Silvertown Tunnel campaign. I am firmly opposed to this ill-planned and ruinously expensive project that would increase the congestion it's supposed to ease and would make pollution even worse in the area.

Both I and my colleague James Parker applaud the energy and professionalism of the campaign group, which is a shining example of how to organise locally and get a powerful message across for the common good.

From: P M Rogers Heathway
In response to G Bailey's letter, City Airport noise does not usually trouble us – we are a touch off the usual flight paths and the planes are smaller – but Heathrow is a menace. First flight wakens me at 0427, give or take a few minutes, quickly building

Open Gardens Festivals

Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice in Abbey Wood is looking for local garden lovers to open up their gardens for the Hospice this summer. The Hospice's second annual Open Gardens Festival will be held June 6 – 7 and June 13 – 14.

Last year's festival in Royal Greenwich was a resounding success with 26 Greenwich gardens raising over £21,000. **Full details can be found by calling 020 8319 9230 or emailing info@gbch.org.uk.**

The Westcombe Society would like to invite its members to open their gardens to other members in mid July. Your garden does not have to be immaculate as the aim is to promote a sense of community. The idea will be to open your garden for 1 hour on a (yet to be chosen) day and at a time convenient to you.

Viewers will pay a small sum to visit each garden; profits will go to a local charity.

Interested in taking part? Please contact chair@westcombesociety.org

General Election 2015

To mark what many believe as the most important general election in decades, Mycenae House serve up two events designed to get the grey matter working and to provide a chance for issues that concern our community to be aired and discussed



LIVE – AND LOCAL!

Meet your candidates at a Hustings

on Wednesday 15th April 7.30 - 9.30 pm
at Mycenae House

Your chance to ask questions – & hear their answers!

Organised by Mycenae House Community Centre and Blackheath & Greenwich United Nations Association

Or are you tired of "politics as usual"?
If so, why not come to a "We the People" Meet-up at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 14th April in Mycenae House.

This will be an evening of open conversation about topical political issues designed to allow everyone to have their say.

Do come along and add your voice to the conversation. It could be the start of something big!

Information: 8858 1749

to flights at 2 minute intervals throughout the day. Sometimes conversation has to stop until an aircraft has passed. More important, planes do fall out of the sky, e.g AA587 (2001) and US1549 (2009) in New York. Having the flight paths of 'planes using one of the world's busiest airports over a major city seems exceptionally dotty. We need Boris Island or something similar.

From: John Large, Repository Road
I thought readers of the *WN* might like to find out more about the Introduction to Beekeeping Course and Apiary Days available at the Oxleas Wood Apiary. Details of the course are available on the Oxleas Wood Apiary website under the tab 2015 Beekeeping Season, and registration is available online. The 2015 Introduction to Beekeeping course starts on 29th April and the Apiary Days are bookable throughout May to September.

I can be contacted direct at oxleaswoodapiary@oxleaswoodapiary.com and/or johnlarge@oxleaswoodapiary.com

St George's

WESTCOMBE PARK

REGULAR WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays 11am Parish Communion

Weds at 8.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesdays at 12.30pm Soup lunch

EASTER:

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 2

7:00 pm Re-creation of Last Supper

(Seder meal with lamb)

GOOD FRIDAY - April 3

12-1:00 Quiet Time for Prayer and Reflection

1:00 - 2.20 People of the Passion

2.20 - 3.00 Good Friday Service

3.00 Building of Easter Garden – then tea with hot cross buns

HOLY SATURDAY - April 4

9:00 pm Easter Vigil Service – (Christ Church, Trafalgar Road)

EASTER DAY - April 5

11:00 am Choral Eucharist

Your neighbourhood church on Glenluce Road.
Rev'd Robert T (Tim) Yeager 07804 614245

LOCAL NEWS

WWI Hero honoured (Cont. from page 1)

They destroyed two smaller Turkish artillery pieces, but by mid-afternoon, they were pinned down by Turkish snipers.

Unbelievably, the sailors were still wearing their tropical whites, and so proved easy targets, and casualties began to mount. Undeterred, Robinson led his men through gullies to a position behind the main gun battery. In front lay open ground covered by Turkish snipers.

Dodging bullets in his white uniform, Robinson ordered his men to give covering fire, and, alone, ran across to the battery through a hail of bullets; fortunately for him, the battery was unoccupied. Robinson was able to lay fuses which destroyed two large 9.4" guns, and two anti-aircraft emplacements.

He led his men back to safety, dodging Turkish reinforcements. For these feats, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Later, in preparation for the invasion by allied forces, Robinson led four sorties to clear the minefields protecting the sea lanes around Gallipoli. His minesweeper was hit 84 times by Turkish shells, but he managed to clear wide lanes to enable the invasion forces to land.

Later, Robinson volunteered to lead two



The stone in Diamond Terrace PHOTO: NG

boats armed with torpedoes to destroy a British submarine which had run aground to save it from being captured by the Turks. The mission succeeded – but one of the boats was hit by a heavy Turkish shell. Under heavy shell fire, Robinson steamed across to rescue the crew before escaping.

After these exploits, he was badly wounded on the front line on the Gallipoli Peninsula. However, he was back in December 1915, and recovered and served continuously for the remainder of the war.

Later life

Robinson later took part in the Russian Civil War against the Bolsheviks, and was awarded an OBE on 11 November 1919 for "valuable services in command of the Coastal Motor Boats in the Caspian Sea."

In 1933 he retired from the Royal Navy with the rank of Rear-Admiral, but in 1939 aged 57, he again volunteered for military service, and spent three more years at sea, commanding convoys in the Atlantic in the face of the U-boat menace.

He retired finally in 1944 and settled in Petersfield in Hampshire. During his career he amassed a large array of medals and honours. He died in 1965 aged 83.

BHSG girls showcase their fashion designs

At your heart out, London Fashion Week (LFW)! This year's Blackheath High School Fashion Show was a most impressive punchy and funky showcase of Sixth Form talent, performed to a lively and full house.

The show, on 11th February, was entirely organised, produced and directed by the students; with girls modelling garments they have conceived, designed and made themselves. Yes, clothes someone would actually like to wear (unlike LFW...)

The students chose the theme 'Nouvelle Vague', showcasing their creative talents to the full. Highlights of the show included garments made from shimmering jewel-like plastic, everyday-wear customized into fairytale dreaminess, white haired mythical demigods and fauns, gold capes, intricately printed aprons and wild animals.

The walks were accompanied with bespoke films and presented with exciting choreographic and theatrical performances, and excellent performances of singing and dancing interspersed the collections.



The sixth form organisers, Kathryn Doran, Phoebe Chard and Maddy Harrington smoothly co-ordinated the evening's dazzling entertainment, which was rewarded with rapturous applause.

Ian Whitfield, Head of Art, was full of praise for the students: "This fantastic show really did encompass both a sense of crest-of-the-wave innovation, as well as humorous nostalgia and playfulness."

Crisis: the penny drops

New research by Ipsos MORI has found that by three to one, the public and MPs agree rather than disagree that there is a housing crisis in Britain.

Three-quarters of the public (75%) and two-thirds of MPs (67%) agree that "there is a housing crisis in Britain". The survey of MPs found that they believe British governments have the power to tackle the issue – 86% disagree with the statement that 'there isn't much that British governments can do to deal with Britain's housing problems.' The government's decision in 2010 to cut grants for affordable homes by 60% has come in for strong criticism.

Meanwhile, a new report from London Councils warns that Londoners are being particularly hard-hit by reductions in housing benefit.

Mayor Jules Pipe, Chair of London Councils, said: "Discretionary housing

payments (DHPs) are an invaluable safety net for Londoners struggling with their housing costs. This reduction will hit the capital harder than the rest of the country..."

"This decision comes just weeks after central government announced it will stop funding for local welfare provision, another vital form of emergency funding. Any reduction in DHP funding will place more London families at greater risk of homelessness, and we strongly urge against it."

The report is the latest update on welfare reform by London Councils, the cross-party umbrella group for the capital's local authorities, which is monitoring the impact of welfare reforms on the capital.

The trends outlined in the report indicate that rents are continuing to rise in London for all private renters, despite, and possibly because of, the government's reforms.

Parliament on the move

According to House of Commons officials, it now seems certain that Parliament will have to relocate for up to five years whilst essential repairs are made, said an official spokesman. And it could be heading our way.

The Speaker of the House John Bercow reiterated a warning he gave nearly three years ago: much of the stone-work is crumbling, the plumbing and electrics need radical overhauling, parts of the building are sinking, and massive roof repairs are needed.

In a recent report into the renovation of Westminster chaired by John Bercow, one of the options mentioned is relocation. One of the venues suggested is "the Dome" – the O2 in Greenwich.

Among the options being considered is earmarking the affordable housing units in

the pipeline on the peninsula for the use of MPs, so they could live "above the shop" for as long as was necessary. The luxury apartments being built on the peninsula have been ruled out for the use of MPs as it was felt that this would "create a bad image for Parliament."

"The O2 has lots going for it," said a spokesperson for the Commission, Ms Apryl Foole-Hardie. "It has good transport links, and there would be plenty of space both for a debating chamber and offices, and the superb bars and restaurants would be an added attraction."

The Pilot Inn and the Angerstein Hotel can expect huge bar profits. However, the move is unlikely to take place before April 1st 2016, by which time it is hoped some at least of the so-called affordable housing would be ready.

Tena wins prize

The playwright Tena Stivicic highlighted in February's *WN* has won the 37th annual Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for her play "3 Winters," that was premiered in December at the National Theatre. Tena is to receive \$25,000 and a numbered print by the artist Willem de Kooning.

The Blackburn is the oldest and largest prize awarded to female playwrights. It is given annually to an English-language theatre work of outstanding quality.

Writing about the show last month, Ben Brantley said it "considers the moral price



exactod for survival through decades of divisive political foment" with the "layered, quotidian naturalism of fat family sagas like Thomas Mann's 'Buddenbrooks' or Elizabeth Jane Howard's Cazalet chronicles." So now you know.

If you missed the play, it is to be put on for six nights in New York later this year.

www.mycenaehouse.co.uk
02088581749
Supported by ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

What's on in April – a sample:

- Sat.4th April 2-4.00 pm: Easter Egg Hunt (Gardens)
- Friday 10th April 8.00 pm Jazz Nights
- MUSIC MAESTROS! Three-day Easter Course for Ages 7+ Singing - and All instruments welcome. Fee: £80.00 Booking: info@thefuturemusicfoundation.co.uk
- Artists FELICITY MOSS & ANDREW HOWARD display their work throughout April 9.00 am-10.30 pm
- Every Wednesday at 8.00 pm: Community Cinema For details, go to www.pvr.co.uk/cinema or ring Terry Grant on 0780 1265713
- Fri. 24th 8.00pm Steve Knightly 'Grow your own Gig'

MEND YOUR ENGLISH
or
What We Should Have Been Taught At Primary School
Ian Bruton-Simmonds

Fifty years ago . . .

Another reason for remembering April Fools Day: fifty years ago, on April 1st 1965, the two former Metropolitan Boroughs of Greenwich and Woolwich were merged to form a new local authority, to become part of the Greater London Council.

The GLC was abolished in 1986, but the borough goes from strength to strength, as it enjoys the status of a Royal Borough, granted in 2012. (The GLC came back as the Greater London Authority in 2000.)

When the new borough was formed, there was some disagreement about what it should be called. Some argued it should be called the Borough of Woolwich, because Woolwich was bigger and more people lived there. In the end, honour was satisfied by calling the borough Greenwich, but

making the seat of government the lovely Victorian Town Hall in Woolwich.

Greenwich is a member of London Councils, which represents London's 32 borough councils and the City of London. London Councils provide London-wide services such as the Freedom Pass.

John Bennett

It is with great sadness that we announce the recent death of John Bennett. He was a well-known and respected member of the Westcombe Society with a wide circle of friends.

John was born in Greenwich and lived in the Blackheath area for most of his life apart from a short time during evacuation. A German speaker, he also served in the Army Intelligence Corps in Germany in the early fifties.

John went to Colfe's Grammar School and gave lectures at Colfe's about being evacuated during the war. He worked for HM Customs and Excise, and played an important part in developing VAT.

John delivered the *WN* from the very beginning in 1973 until finally retiring in 2012. He was Treasurer of the Westcombe Society for many years and supported many local events with much vigour and enthusiasm. John will be sadly missed by everyone and we send our condolences to his family at this sad time. Dale Snait

Its focus on the BBC is unique

www.churchill-society-london.org.uk/ChLect2K3.html

£9.99 from the British Library Bookshop or other good bookshops. Also available at Nicky's News in Old Dover Road & The Bookshop on the Heath

FEATURES

In another of our occasional "Meet your neighbour" series, the *WN* talks to

Rev'd Robert 'Tim' Yeager

the new incumbent at St George's Church, Glenluce Road

WN: Tim, first of all, can you tell us about where were you born and raised, and what was your family background?

TIM: I was born and raised in Charles City, Iowa. No it was not named after an English king - it was named after the son of its founder, Joseph Kelly, who built the first settlement on the site of a Winnebago Indian village. Charles City is famous as the place where the tractor was invented.

WN: And your family?

TIM: My father was a dentist, my mother a nurse. They met singing in the choir at the First Presbyterian Church at Iowa City, but we were raised in the Methodist Church, mainly because they had the best choir in town.

WN: Was your family very religious?

TIM: In a very non-dogmatic way, I would say. My father had a strong social conscience, and put good works above faith, I guess, or at least on a par with it. Curiously enough he was Republican, and so I became one too,

and at 14 I campaigned for Barry Goldwater—**WN:** Mr Conservative!

TIM: Right, yes, the Republican nominee for the President in the 1964 campaign.

WN: But then you saw the light?

TIM: Well I went on to study Russian and History at the University of Iowa. The Vietnam War was raging then, and I became involved in the anti-war movement. That opened my eyes to a whole host of issues. I moved away from Christianity and became a Unitarian. As time went on, I became a leader in left-wing student activities, and was the Editor of the editorial page of the Daily Iowan, the student-produced daily newspaper on campus. By this time, I had read Karl Marx on Ludwig Feuerbach [a German philosopher and anthropologist], and decided that I had to move away from religion altogether, and became a Marxist.

WN: And after College?

TIM: I didn't know what to do with my education, and ended up in a number of different jobs, working in a factory making auto parts, as a cook in various restaurants, playing in a rock and roll band, and as a cab driver.

WN: You were musical?

TIM: Yes, our family is musical. I was the assistant organist at my home church starting when I was 15. I played in the marching band in college, and continued to pick up jobs as an organist over the years.

WN: But then you went back to school?

TIM: Yes, when I was driving a cab, another cab driver friend of mine said he had taken the law school entrance exam, and had been admitted to the Law College. He said that I should take it too, so I did, got a good score on it, and ended up in law school with him.

WN: You became a lawyer?

TIM: Yes, and I went to work at Legal Aid, representing poor people.

WN: Pro bono?

TIM: Yes: they couldn't afford a lawyer, but there were various charitable outfits that helped pay the bills. I also became chief organiser of the Communist Party in Iowa, and found myself at the World Youth Festival in East Berlin in July 1973. I met some wonderful people from Chile in Berlin, but soon after I came back, the President of Chile, Allende, was gunned down in a right wing coup, and a lot of those people I knew disappeared. All that strengthened my resolve to become more active in the struggle against the Nixon Administration and imperialism in general.

WN: Pretty high risk in small town America!

TIM: Yes, there were times when I did have some problems. But I had a reputation as an advocate for workers and the poor, and I had a lot of support from them. Coming out of the McCarthy period, in which the Left was under attack in the US, a lot of Americans had acquired an aversion to anything smack-

ing of socialism. There was great social, political and legal pressure to conform to a very conservative world view. One of the effects of my work was to dispel false notions about who Communists were, and what socialism was about. I was a church organist and an Eagle Scout (the American equivalent of a Queen Scout), and lawyer fighting for the poor. When people got to know me, we got past the stereotypes and the propaganda, and could talk about issues. And I am happy to say that we grew in that period. But not everyone was friendly, of course, especially the powers that be. A local newspaper ran a campaign to run me out of town. There were threatening letters, at one point a hangman's noose was hung outside our door, and my father lost a few dental patients because of who I was. I also had a fairly thick FBI file, but that's another story.

WN: Did this all cause havoc with family relationships?

TIM: I was so lucky in my parents. I know they worried, but there was a lot of love in our family, and we supported each other. And even though our stated politics were quite different, the ethics and morality were much the same. When I told my Dad that I had joined the Party, he sat down with me, poured us both a whiskey, and said, "Son, we are working for the same thing, really." And I know it might sound strange to some, but it was the Christian values of my parents that led me to become active in the Marxist movement. And I never cut the cord to my home church, but visited there often, even when I stated verbally that I was an atheist.

WN: You both had this social conscience?

TIM: Right. In 1968, Charles City was flattened by a tornado - over 1200 homes were destroyed, along with the Salvation Army building my father got put up as a resource for the poor. But this only reinforced our beliefs. In fact, my father started a mission in Mexico, working among poor people, and we all travelled down there for several years. My father also started the Iowa Eye-Bank - you know, the corneas of the deceased were packed in ice to restore sight to blind people.

WN: I think you came to the priesthood later in life rather than earlier . . .

TIM: Yes, for 23 years, I worked for the United Autos Union supporting workers rights.

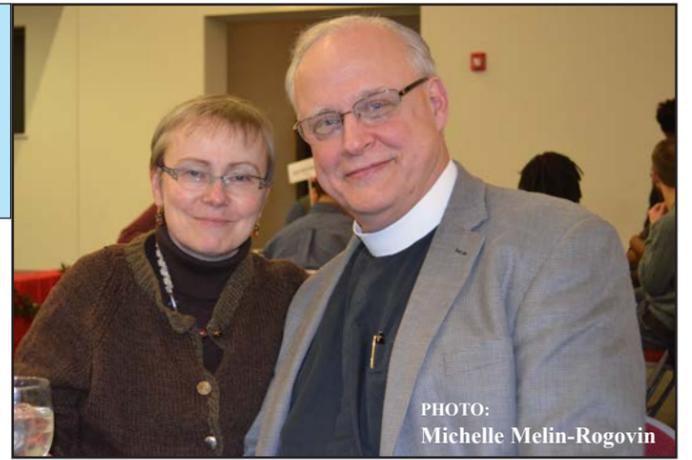
WN: So was becoming a priest part of a rational progression, or was there a sort of Road to Damascus?

TIM: A bit of both. You know, Marxism and Christianity are not as far apart as people think. Marx was an atheist, true, but Jesus Christ advocated the Kingdom of God, in which the last would be first, and the first would be last. He preached love and justice, and bringing all of God's children to the banqueting table. The Gospel of Christ is quite radical. The early Christian Church practised a form of communism. You find that in the Book of Acts. And in the early Church fathers you find strong prophetic voices for social and economic justice, for example St Augustine of Hippo, and St John Chrysostom.

WN: So you think Marxism and Christianity can be reconciled?

TIM: Yes, you find it in the Gospel itself, and in more recent manifestations such as the Social Gospel movement in the nineteenth century, and in today's liberation theology. In fact, there is nothing new about liberation theology. It goes back to the beginning. Sadly, however, it is not always welcome in some circles of the religious establishment. I think Marx was justly critical of the Church of his day, but he never met Dr. Martin Luther King or Archbishop Romero, and I think he would have been impressed. I wish I could hear the conversation they might have had. Perhaps they're having it now!

Tim Yeager and his wife, Caroline Moores, a professional opera stage-manager



WN: So how did you see the light, as it were?

TIM: It was gradual. I never really lost my connection to my home church in Iowa. It was part of my family. And then I met a wonderful man named Gil Dawes. He was a Methodist minister and liberation theologian who showed me what I had not really taken on board, that Christianity and socialism had much in common and so I joined his church: the organist left in protest, and so I then became the organist. It was a wonderful congregation, but I have to admit that I had not yet become a Christian again in my heart. And then in 1998 I fell in love with an English woman, Caroline, a member of the Episcopal Church (like your Church of England).

I went with her to a service in her church, and in the recessional hymn, with the choir marching down the aisle, I heard the words "awake my soul and sing" and, you know, I burst into tears and Caroline looked up, wondering why raindrops were falling on her head. I suddenly felt I had come home.

WN: And you became a priest?

TIM: Not immediately. For a while, Caroline did not want to be married to a priest, and I became a lay preacher combined with my union activities. But I felt that the call to ordained ministry was strong, and Caroline came to be my greatest supporter in it.

WN: So when did you become ordained?

TIM: Not until 2011. By that time I had a track record as an active layperson in the church, and the Commission on Ordained Ministry advised me that I would not have to go to seminary. That was pretty unusual! I was advised to "read for Holy Orders", which is basically individual study with some oversight by a mentor. And before long I found myself a priest in the Diocese of Chicago, and I took on an inner-city parish on the West side, St Andrew's Episcopal Church.

WN: The tough side of Chicago?

TIM: One of them! Yes, it was tough for those living there, with unemployment levels the highest in the country. When Dr King - Martin Luther King - was murdered, there were massive riots there, and it still bears the scars.

WN: Mainly black people? How did they take to a white minister?

TIM: No problem! They were, and are, wonderful people, it was a privilege to work among them. St Andrew's had a history as a place of social activism. The priests before me were both white, and both activists. The church played a leading role in ministering to the needs of the people in that neighbourhood, and worked jointly with the Black Panther Party in a breakfast program for the kids in the council housing estates.

WN: So how come you moved to London?

TIM: My wife Caroline is a London girl. When she married me, she passed up an opportunity to move back to England for what she considered a dream job. She is a professional operatic stage manager, one of the best in the world at what she does, and she had already applied for the Stage Manager position at Glyndebourne. When she met me, and we fell in love, she withdrew her application, and stayed in the US to help me raise my young daughter, for which I am eternally grateful. I told her that if the time came that she needed to move back to the UK, I would be willing to do that. That time came, and so here we are. Caroline had spent

34 years in my country, so I told her we could spend the next 34 in hers!

WN: So was it a good move?

TIM: A very good move. This is a wonderful place to work. I am very happy to be on a team with the Rev'd Margaret Cave, who is our dynamic team rector. I was attracted to St George's because I saw it as a working people's church, and I find it has a strong musical tradition, some excellent cooks, and it is also strong on volunteering.

And there are other good things going on in London. I was very happy to have been involved in the COEXIST Pilgrimage for Peace in February: we had 150 faith leaders from Britain's major faiths set out on a pilgrimage across London to affirm a shared commitment to freedom, equality, democracy and respect for life. The pilgrimage started at the Regent's Park Mosque, went on to the Central Synagogue in Great Portland Street, followed by Westminster Abbey and Parliament. I am glad that a number of people from St. George's took part.

WN: So what is your vision for St George's?

TIM: We are changing around the church building itself - we've restored its orientation - placing the altar at the east end, as it was originally designed - and removing the big red beam (which by the way has no structural significance). We are looking to remove much of the fencing around the perimeter, to create a more welcoming and park-like space around the church.

The church has a strong musical tradition, and we have just hired a new Parish Musician to organise a choir, and to enhance the organ and piano contributions to our worship. Joe is a wonderful young man who composes and arranges music, and I am looking forward to good things from him. The new choir will be having their debut on Easter Sunday, so please join us for that! The congregation has also embraced the idea of outreach in the community in a very inspiring way. They are playing a big role in the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter programme for homeless people that's been started - we have people sleeping over in the church every Tuesday, and our wonderful volunteers are making sure that they are comfortable and well fed; and our volunteers are helping out in other centres in Greenwich, too.

We have also begun a spiritual film series. The next showing will be on April 29th, and it features a film about the late Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was martyred in El Salvador for his defence of the poor. In June we will be having a Flower Festival to which individuals and community organizations from the around the area will be invited to bring displays. So we have a lot coming up!
WN: Liberation theology comes to Greenwich, then! Thank you Tim!

SPECTRUM

Painters & Decorators
Interior/Exterior

No job too Small
Clean and Reliable

Free Estimates
30 Years Experience
020 8853 2759
or 0795 0815412

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM THE QUEEN'S HOUSE
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF EXPLORATION 1768 - 1780 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
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 April Angela Findlay on The role of the arts in the cycle of crime, prison and offending. Unique insights into the minds and lives of prisoners. Non-members £5
GREENWICH DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY King William Court, the University of Greenwich **NEXT LECTURE: 11 May 2015: Art and the Napoleonic Wars** : complementing a major exhibition to be held at the Royal Academy in Autumn 2015 marking the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 020 8852 7873 Non-members £8.00
MADE IN GREENWICH GALLERY 8293 9823 www.madeingreenwich.co.uk 324 Creek Rd SE10.
Friday 10 April - Sun. 26 April Deborah Larne's "Signs of Serendipity" Amazing encaustic works by Deborah Larne. You can meet Deborah on Sunday 19 April from 12.00 - 5.00 over a drink. Details of an 'artists evening' when Deborah describes her wax technique pending.
GREENWICH GALLERY Peyton Place SE10 8RS Until April 5th Crowds - prize contest with Award.io April 8th - 22nd Light Chaser prize contest with Award.io
Mon-Friday 9.30-5.30 weekends 12-4pm. Free.
BLACKHEATH HALLS From TUE 7 APR 10:00 am **LEE GREEN OPEN STUDIOS** in the Cafe and Bar. Every Tuesday and Thursday throughout April

CHILDREN & FAMILY

BLACKHEATH HALLS BRUNDIBAR: Children's community opera about a villain who persecutes a fatherless boy and girl busking to raise money for their sick mother. Tues. March 31st 6.00 pm
April 1st 2.00 and 6.00 pm
April 2nd: 6.00 pm
GREENWICH THEATRE
April 1st - 2nd ARABIAN NIGHTS Meet Sheherazade, the greatest storyteller of them all. She has a feast of stories to tell... But she must keep her husband the king entertained with her stories to save her own life and the lives of all the maidens of the land.
Fri 3rd April ADVENTURES WITH SAM on the farm Suitable ages 3 - 6
Sat 4th April ADVENTURES WITH SAM in Outer Space
Thurs. 23rd - Sat 25th April DON Q: Aventures of Don Quixote Ages 10 - 11!
WOODLANDS FARM TRUST
Thurs. 2nd April 10am-2pm Drop in for our Egg-cellent Easter Trail. We all know that chickens lay eggs but what other animals in the world also lay eggs? Find all the hidden animals and you will get your own chocolate egg to take home. £2 per child. No need to book, just drop in anytime between 10am and 2pm. For more information, see our website or contact Hannah Forshaw on education@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org.

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Sat 4th April Easter Egg Hunt Mycenae Gardens
Fri 17th April Quiz Night
May: AGM: Friday 22nd May 7.00 - 10.00 pm in the Centenary Room, Blackheath High School for Girls (Main entrance)
Sat 27th June Members' Evening
Fri 25th Sept Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning
Sat 26th Sept Nearly New Sale
Sat 10th Oct. Chrysanthemum Tea
Fri 23rd Oct. Quiz Night
Please ring Joanne on 07709 571777 if you would like to help out on any of these events!

COMMUNITY

CANCER RESEARCH LUNCH
Thurs. 2nd April at The Clarendon Hotel, Montpelier Row, Blackheath Prize draw & Raffle. To book, call Wendy on 8265 0335 by **Mon. 30th March.** £8.50.
INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY
14th April 7.30 pm Mary Mills on George Livesey, the capitalist who worked for workjkers' rights. Meeting at The Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, SE3. Please use the station car park. Non members £1.
BLACKHEATH BRIDGE CLUB duplicate sessions in Mycenae House Mon. & Thurs. 7.15 pm & on Wed. at 1.15 Tel. 8851 2609
BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: First Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm at Sunfields Methodist Church, Old Dover Road, SE3 8SJ eileenflanagan194@btinternet.com
GREENWICH MERIDIAN CHOIR If you are interested in joining the choir as a regular member, (rehearsals are Thursday evenings during term time), contact **Jean Valsler on 0208 8527548** or email brookjean@btinternet.com
GLOBAL FUSION MUSIC & ARTS BARN DANCE Friday 3rd April 7.30 - 10.00 pm
Admission £5.00 on door, or go to www.wegotickets.com 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 Tel 020 8463 0100
Wed 15th April 8.00 pm Recital Room
Dr Alstair Niven talks on **JUDGING THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 1994 & 2014** Tickets: £10.00
TEA DANCES at MYCENAE HOUSE. Ballroom Sequence Line Dancing. Every 1st & 3rd Thursday in the month. 1.45 - 3.45 pm £3.00
Call Harold 020 8851 4272
WOODLANDS FARM TRUST Shooters Hill Easter Holiday Activities 2015
Tues. 31st March Craft Day! 10.00am-12.00pm. Design and decorate your own item to take home. Prices between £3 - £5 per child depending what you make. No need to book just drop in!
Wednesday 1st April
Guided Farm Tour 10am, 12pm and 2pm
 Find out more about our animals and visit our new-born lambs. Booking is essential, to book call 020 8319 8900. £1 per person.
BLACKHEATH FLOWER ARRANGING SOCIETY Monthly Meetings at Mycenae House - 3rd Friday of the Month. 2.00- 4.00 pm £3.50.
Next meeting April 17th. A Flower Demonstration by Sophie Beanie

THEATRE

THE GREENWICH THEATRE Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ES 020 8858 7755
Wed 8th - Sat 18th April THRILL ME The Leopold & Loeb Story. Chicago 1924 Two students - one obsessed with crime, one obsessed with love.
28th April - 2nd May TITUS ANDRONICUS
THE GEOFFREY WHITWORTH THEATRE Beech Walk, Crayford, DA1 4NP 01322 526390
bookings@the.gwt.org.uk
2nd to 4th April 2015 DRACULA by David Calcutt from Bram Stoker
25th April to 2nd May 2015 ENRON by Lucy Prebble
LONDON THEATRE 443 New Cross Road, Outer London, SE14 6TA (Near New Cross Station)
Box office 0208 694 1888
Tues 14th to Sat 18th April 8pm £12
BACKSEAT DRIVERS by Claire McGowan (COME DOG WITH ME) Great comedy!
Thurs 23rd April to Sat 25th Apr. 8pm THE BRIDGE by Harry Denford £12 (Members £5)
THE SPACE Email: info@space.org.uk Tel: 020 7515 7799 269 Westferry Road, London E14 3RS
24th March - 11th April 7.30 pm. VERNON GOD LITTLE From the novel by DBC Pierre
14th - 19th April BIRD PHOBIA (especially for pigeon lovers?)
CAPITAL THEATRE COMPANY rehearsals every Tues. & Thurs. in Mycenae House. New members wanted! Call Barrie on 8852 3258

FILM SHOW

"Romero", the 1989 film starring Raul Julia, will be on **Wed. April 29th at 7:30 at St George's Church, Glenluce Road.** The film is about the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero in San Salvador.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romero_%28film%29

ROYAL GREENWICH STRING QUARTET FESTIVAL

Fri 24th - Sat 25th April

All FREE except last two events:

Friday 24th April:

1.05 pm Mendelssohn's Octet
The Chapel, Old Royal Naval College
2.30 pm Debussy, Brahms & Janacek, & Aaron J Kernis's Musica Celestis
St Alfege Church
4.00 pm Unique Mozart film screening
Lecture Theatre, National Maritime Museum
5.15 The Wigmore Hall Prize-winners perform in the Peacock Room, King Charles Court
7.45 Wihan Quartet play Dvorak, Boccherini & Beethoven. *Chapel, ORNC*
Sat 25th April

10.00 am Wihan Quartet Masterclass
Stuart Room, King Charles Court
11.00 am String Quartet Competition
Theatre Studio, King Charles Court
1.30 pm Music for Silent Movies
King William lecture Theatre
5.00 pm Screening of the legendary silent film NOSFERATU film with live music accompaniment £10.00 (£5.00)
King William Lecture Theatre
8.15 pm Carducci Quartet "Plus" play Boccherini, Shostakovich & Phillip Glass's Mishima Quartet
Chapel, ORNC £10. (£5.00)

WRISTWORTH HEATING & PLUMBING

Installation - Servicing - Repair

Tel: 07725 008230

Email: wristworth@hotmail.co.uk



Check Out Our NEW Website: wristworthheating.weebly.com

Grant Saw Wealth Management Limited

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL and CORPORATE FINANCIAL ADVISERS
Investments - Pensions - Estate Planning

2 Charlton Road, Blackheath Standard
London SE3 7EX (T) 020 3417 9760
email: enquiries@gswealth.co.uk
website: www.gswealth.co.uk.

HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR FUTURE
Grant Saw Wealth Management Ltd. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



TROJAN PRESS
Printing in Blackheath since 1978
FROM YOUR IDEAS OR ARTWORK WE CAN PRINT AT A REASONABLE COST:
 · BUSINESS CARDS
 · INVOICES · LETTERHEADS
 · BOOKS · BROCHURES
 · FORMS · INVITES
 · WEDDING STATIONARY

Ia Lizban s t
blackheath, London se 3 8s s
t el: 020 8853 2268
e mail: dave@trojanpress.co.uk
www.trojanpress.com

MUSIC

Thurs 2nd April 1.05 pm Trinity Laban Chamber Musicians, St Alfege Church **FREE**
Thurs 16th April TAIKO MEANTIME WITH CHIEKO KOJIMA Famous Japanese legend of unrequited love Laban Thetare £16.00 (£12.00)
BLACKHEATH HALLS Tel. 8463 0100
Fri 24th April 5.00 and 7.30 pm OPERA SCENES Trinity Laban post-grad students perform operatic excerpts. Free, but ticketed.
STEINBERG MUSIC STUDIO, 137 Vanbrugh Hill, London SE10 9HP Sun 26th April, 6:00 PM The Steinberg Duo play Elgar & Ireland. Followed by refreshments. Tickets £10

WANTED
 Have you a **COLD** room?
 The revolutionary insulating material **AeroTherm** may be the solution!
It's Just 1mm thick!
 Email: surveys@hipitas.co.uk
 for a **free** brochure to **explain how it works!**



Learning is fun

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

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

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



The Pointer School (Blackheath)



- First class examination results
- Organic food
- Breakfast club and after school care (8am-6pm)
- Christian Evangelical in ethos
- Numerous extra-curricular clubs (Archery to Horse Riding)
- Large variety of outdoor and PE activities
- *The Brazilian Kickers* - teaching football the Brazilian way
- Holiday Club (Christmas, Easter, Summer and half-term)

ISI Inspection - "EXCELLENT" IN ALL AREAS (HIGHEST GRADE) 2014

OFSTED Inspection - "OUTSTANDING" IN ALL AREAS 2008

T. 020 8293 1331

E. secretary@pointers-school.co.uk W. www.pointers-school.co.uk

FEATURES

As the Election looms, local artist and historian ANN DINGSDALE warns us

Don't take that vote for granted

Since 1990, Ann has been researching all the 1,499 women who signed the 1866 petition

Blackheath women played a vital part in campaigning for votes for women as early as 1866, long before the Suffragettes. M.P. John Stuart Mill (who also wrote *The Subjection of Women*) lived in Blackheath Park. He suggested that friends of his step-daughter Helen Taylor should collect signatures for a petition for women's suffrage.

1,499 signatures were delivered to him at the House of Commons by Elizabeth Garrett (who went to school in Blackheath) and Emily Davies (elected to the Greenwich School board in 1870).

At this time the idea was considered outrageous, but Emily Davies, who later founded Girton College, had the names of supporters printed and sent to the press. Seventeen women signed in this area, including ship-owner's wives Ellen Laird and Annie Brockelbank.

Annie's step-daughter Emmeline Harman also signed. She was pregnant with her first child. Two supporters were teachers: Maria Mondy ran a dame school



A labour of love: Ann created a beautiful wall-hanging embroidered with the names of the brave women who signed the petition [Detail]

in her father's shoe shop near Blackheath Hill, as did Emma Roberts, in her mother's Berlin Wool shop in Upton Grove, Greenwich.

Mrs Selina Spratt, the wife of the architect of Vanbrugh Park, also signed up. (Her father designed the Manor House, which stood in Vanbrugh Fields, on the corner of

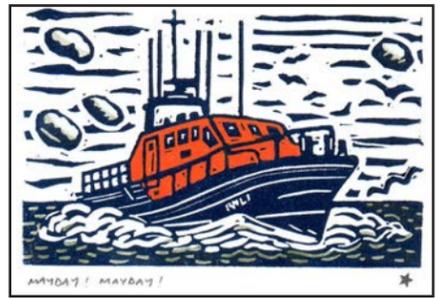
Westcombe Park Road and Westcombe Hill.) Sadly, Ellen Adams, living in Mycenae Road, sent her form in too late! It is among Helen Taylor's correspondence that is now preserved at the LSE.

These courageous women signed the first of thousands of petitions for the vote over many decades. Helen Taylor tried to stand as a parliamentary candidate in 1885. The returning officer would not even accept her deposit. The Headmistress and staff at Blackheath High School also supported the campaign in the 1890's.

In 1897, seventeen of these groups came together to form the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), who held public meetings, wrote letters to politicians and published various texts.

In 1903 a number of members of the NUWSS broke away and, led by Emmeline Pankhurst, formed the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). But that's another story . . .

Keep us Posted



Westcombe Society volunteer and artist Sarah Durham is organising 'KEEP ME POSTED', a charity postcard exhibition and auction at Art Hub Gallery, Creekside, Deptford to take place 1st – 4th May 2015. Now in its 3rd year the event attracted over 300 visitors last year who bid generously on over 350 original postcards from across the UK and overseas and helped to raise almost £3,500 for 2 local charities, The Deborah Ubee Trust and The Ahoy Centre. All artists, professional and amateur can donate up to 3 postcards and be in with the chance to win a prize! More details can be found at www.arthub.org.uk & www.ahoy.org.uk

Magna Carta: our place in its history



2015 is the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta. One of the 25 barons who brought King

John to sign it was Geoffrey de Saye, whose main manor was West Greenwich. He was born in 1155, in West Greenwich, Kent, the son of Geoffrey (II) de Saye, first Lord of West Greenwich, and Alice Maminot.

Geoffrey de Saye had served with King John's army in Ireland in 1210, and fought in France for both King Richard, and, later, King John in the defence of Normandy. He lost land there when Normandy was overrun by the French. On his return to England he reactivated his family claim for land and property in Essex, but was unable to obtain justice.

No surprise, then, when he became one of the 25 rebel barons.

In 1219 he went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and died in 1230 in Poitou.

Magna Carta and Us

To read the full story of Magna Carta, one of Britain's most respected historians, David Starkey, has written a new book *Magna Carta and Us*, following his television series. In his book, David Starkey explores the many aspects of Magna Carta and its relevance today.

Magna Carta was the corner-stone for much of what we today take for granted, at least in western society: that no man or monarch is above the law, and the presumption of innocence, the right to freedom of speech, to property, and to no incarceration without just cause – or habeas corpus as it is known.

The Magna Carta, originally issued by King John, was designed as a practical

solution to a political crisis he faced. It has since become a universal symbol of individual freedom against the tyranny of the state.

Today, only four copies of the original 1215 charter remain in existence, held by the British Library, and the cathedrals of Lincoln and Salisbury.

The original charters were written in abbreviated Latin on vellum sheets, using quill pens. (It is interesting to observe that had they been written on paper, they may well not have survived).

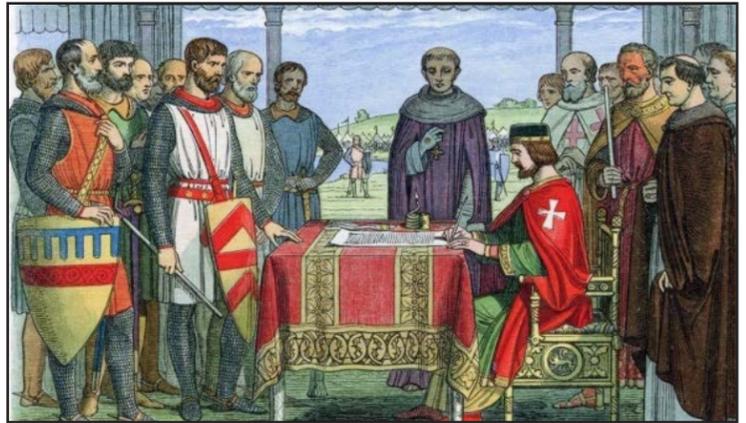
They were each sealed with the royal great seal using beeswax and resin, most of which have not survived. The four original 1215 charters were displayed together at the British Library for one day, 3 February 2015, to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta

Still relevant?

No one claims that this document, which was cooked up by (and for) barons, was definitive or perfect. For example, the liberties in the Charter were granted not to "all the men" of the kingdom, but to "all the free men". It was likewise only freemen who were protected from arbitrary imprisonment and dispossession. So, forget the villeins...

What about freewomen? To be fair, "man" at the time was understood to mean "human being". But women did not get equal treatment under the terms of the Charter: for example, a woman could expect judgement by her "peers" (social equals) – but these were always men. And women could not be outlawed, and tried when caught: they were instead declared to be "waived" – which meant in effect that they could be shot on sight.

A somewhat romanticised nineteenth century picture of the signing at Runnymede



Starkey's book is not merely a historical record – it also raises a number of questions, including: with ever-increasing government control of our lives, is it time to resurrect Magna Carta? With May's General Election impending, is it worth asking whether it is true that everyone is still subject to the law?

For example, it seems that small business people, and the man and woman in the street are hounded rigorously for comparatively small sums of money by government agencies; whereas the uber-rich bargain their way out of trouble with a mere slap on the wrist. So maybe we are not so far from the world of barons and villeins as we think . . .

And what about our laws on immigration etc? René Cassin comments:

"Innocent, but locked up. No judicial oversight, no legal redress. It sounds like something from Kafka, but it is happening now, here in the land of Magna Carta and the rule of law. Britain is the only European country that detains asylum-seekers indefinitely."

The international dimension

What about the impact of globalisation, through which individuals seem to be able to manage to place themselves above any laws – the barons of the multi-national

corporations and banks?

And what about the impact of international treaties? For example, while many are happy that the European Arrest Warrant makes the job of the police much easier in bringing malefactors to justice, others argue that the EAW breaks habeas corpus: British citizens can be extradited, and held incarcerated for extended periods, without compelling evidence.

In fact, the prosecuting authorities don't have to supply any evidence whatsoever of a crime having been committed in order to get an accused person extradited to another European Union country. And in some member states, suspects can then be held for years without trial – and in most EU countries there is no trial by jury. It would appear very odd that habeas corpus is not written into EU law.

We rest our case: Magna Carta is still relevant.

Neville Grant

Westcombe Park Dental Practice



Treatments Available

- Zoom Tooth Whitening
- Dental Implants
- Invisalign
- Smile Makeovers
- Tooth Colouring Fillings
- Anti-Wrinkle Treatments & Dermal Fillings

13 Station Crescent,
Westcombe Park, London SE3 7EQ Tel. 0208 8533304 Fax: 0208 8581784

Go Easy Self Drive Hire

The Greenworks, 145 Nathan Way, Thamesmead, London, SE28 0AB
0208-858-7211

Cars From £19.95

Vans From £21.95



2 Doors Cars, 5 Door Cars, Transit Connect, Short Wheel Base Transit, Long Wheel Base Transit and Luton with tail

£200.00 Security Deposit
100 Miles included per day
Liable Excess of Collision Damage up to £500.00 we do offer a waiver
Check out our website or call us for a full price list



www.goeasyhire.co.uk



Susan Clark Interiors



113 Humber Rd
London SE3 7LW

Construction to complete renovation
Project Management • Interior Design
Upholstery • Joinery • Lighting
Curtains • Blinds • Paint
Antique Furniture • Gifts • Cards
sales@susanclarkinteriors.com
www.susanclarkinteriors.com
0208 305 2299

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

Protecting the Heath

MAGGIE GRAVELLE reports on the work of the BJWP

“In past times, it was planted with gibbets, on which the bleaching bones of men who had dared to ask for some extension of liberty, or who doubted the infallibility of kings, were left year after year to dangle in the wind.” (Edward Walford, *Old and New London*, 1878)

Today Blackheath presents a more peaceful outlook although strong opinions about its use can still be expressed. One forum for discussion is the Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) which has a remit to look after the interests of the heath and is made up of Councillors and Council officers from Lewisham and Greenwich plus representatives from amenity societies and other interested bodies.

Large events on the heath always arouse passions, and last year's OnBlackheath festival was no exception. However, it did raise funds, £15,000 of which are to be used for projects to improve the heath.

The heath is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, largely because of the areas of relict acid grassland. Such sites contain the best examples of London's habitats and are of the highest priority for protection.

Several of the suggestions reflect this. A recent public meeting was held to decide which of these projects to support:

- A Bee bank in Eliot Pits
- St German's Place bollards to prevent cars parking on and damaging the grass
- A scrape in a small area to test how best to restore and preserve the acid grassland
- Improvements at Prince of Wales pond
- Hare and Billet Pond improvement as part of an ongoing project
- Interpretation signs at key locations

Following discussion it was agreed that the final decision would be announced after the next BJWP meeting.

The Westcombe Society Environment Committee attends BJWP meetings and members are active in their support for wildlife preservation. We have also helped to formulate an events policy and are working towards greater recognition of the issues that affect residents who live to the north and east of the heath.

We welcome input from readers of the WN while we 'dare to ask for some extension of liberty' without the threat of our 'bleaching bones' being left 'to dangle in the wind'.



PHOTO: Roger Marshall

Something to ponder on

In response to a private funding offer the Blackheath Society has set up a small group, including a member of the Westcombe Society Environment Committee, to investigate whether the Prince of Wales pond on the Heath could be improved.

This group unanimously agreed that much could be done to improve the surroundings, relieve the barrenness and make the pond friendlier to wildlife. In the past, the pond has been used by model boat enthusiasts, but fashions change and few people sail their boats today, whilst many adults with children enjoy feeding the ducks, and learning about wildlife.

One problem with the pond is its close proximity to two busy roads; the solution being considered is to plant more trees and shrubs, and create more islands to attract more wildlife.

50% of the funding is on offer from our generous benefactor, but the rest could come from the money being distributed by the Blackheath Joint Working Party (See above). But public donations would also be welcome!

Roger Marshall

Death of a tree

A tree can be a friend: strong, stalwart, always there, offering shade . . . When it goes, you feel bereaved.

And that's how some residents of Vanbrugh Park felt when they found one day that the Lebanese Cedar outside no 53 was reduced to a stump . . .

They were outraged – but were they right? The *WN* investigated, and learnt that the Council warned, last September, that the tree was in decline, and authorised the felling as it could be a danger. Emily Norton of the Westcombe Society Environment Committee told the *WN*:

“Although we, like you, are sorry to see this cedar go, there was justification as it was in a poor state and was not expected to live for much longer. Permission was

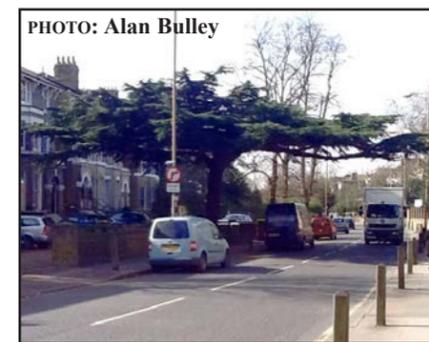


PHOTO: Alan Bulley

sought and no objection raised by the tree officer, and a replacement tree of the same species is to be planted.

“However this was not before efforts had been made to save the tree . . . The link <https://goo.gl/maps/IYWgD> shows the state of the tree in September 2014. The full application to fell the tree is numbered 14/2655/TC.”

Fortunately, there is no threat to the other Lebanese cedar nearby, above.

The new Swing Bridge over Deptford Creek

This new bridge has been in use since early January 2015, linking up the riverside paths and has ramps as well as steps at each end. So it is very useful for cyclists, walkers, joggers, wheelchair users and people with buggies or prams.

It can open up for river traffic to enter or leave Deptford Creek, when the bridge is turned to point northwards towards the Isle of Dogs, pivoting where a tall post at one end has suspension cables fixed to it.

Whether, as a walker or cyclist, you get to the new bridge by the Peter the Great statue or from Greenwich Pier, it is a new experience to be able to keep going with the river views. At the same time you avoid the traffic hazards and pollution linked to any detour inland in order to cross the old lifting bridge on Creek Road . . . Myles Dove

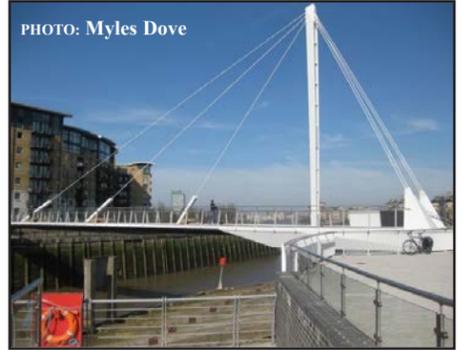


PHOTO: Myles Dove

Developing BHSG

The first meeting of the working party regarding the redevelopment of Blackheath High School was held at the school on the 12th February to discuss the outline programme, impact on local residents and to develop lines of communication for the future.

The meeting was attended by the Head teacher, Mrs Carol Chandler Thompson, Tony Sutherland, Director of Finance and Operations at the school, Ben Woolf, Girls Day School Trust Estates Department, Councillor Geoffrey Brightly, Marilyn Little, Westcombe Society and Mr Manzur, representing the residents of Vanbrugh Park.

At the next meeting we would hope that representatives from Westcombe Park Road, Beaconsfield and Mycenae Road will be able to attend. A private email group for any neighbours who would like to be kept up to date with developments on the project will be set up.

Email addresses will not be shared and if you would like to receive updates please do let the school know. The date of the next meeting has yet to be planned but it is expected to be after the Easter break in April 2015.

Any residents who feel they would like to represent their road should contact the school: t.sutherland@bla.gdst.net

The no-brainer: Solar Power

South East London Community Energy was formed by a group of people living in Greenwich and Lewisham who wanted to do something positive to combat climate change and reduce fuel poverty. The aim: renewable energy in SE London 'by the community, for the community'.

SELCE is a new organisation registered as an Industrial and Provident Society for the benefit of the community. There are many other successful organisations like it around the country (eg. Brighton) known collectively as 'energy co-ops'.

Here is how they do it, and this is how everyone (including you) benefits. First, SELCE raises funds from investors through a community share offer. This is used to buy solar panels to go on the roofs of our "partners" (schools and community venues). These generate very cheap electricity, and surplus electricity is exported to the national grid.

An incentive known as the Feed in Tariff is paid to SELCE for every unit of electricity generated – whether the school or community venue uses it or not. An additional payment is made for units exported to the grid.

The money raised is used to repay investors (3 - 4%), to maintain the solar panels, and to create a fund to tackle fuel poverty in SE London. So it's a win:win deal for SE London – and the Big 6 energy providers don't get a penny.

SELCE has been singled out by the

Royal Borough of Greenwich for its pioneering approach to using solar energy for the benefit of local people. At a civic ceremony held at Woolwich Town Hall in March the Mayor of Greenwich, councillor Mick Hayes, presented three of SELCE's directors with a business and innovation award designed to recognise the work of 'unsung local heroes'.

Receiving the award, founder director Dr Giovanna Speciale said: "A growing number of community groups around the country are seeing the sense in making their own renewable energy. It's a particularly good concept for cities where communities can use something as simple as solar panels to support each other and reduce carbon emissions."

One of SELCE's first successes was to secure a solar partnership with Mulgrave Primary School in Woolwich. In the next few months, the not-for-profit co-op will install solar panels onto the school's roofs, free of charge. As a result, the school will benefit from cheaper electricity bills while SELCE will use funds received from the government's Feed-in-Tariffs to administer the co-op and provide community outreach for those affected by fuel poverty.

Opportunities here for our local schools - and Mycenae House?

For more information on SELCE, please go to the co-op's website: SELCE.org.uk or contact Camilla Berens on 07811-451417.

Neville Grant

r. G. Austin
(Established 1963)
Heating Engineers,
Property Maintenance,
Electrics, Painting,
Decorating, Plumbing,
Central Heating,
Shower and Bathroom Specialists

2A Hassendean Rd, Blackheath SE3 8TS
Telephone: 0208 8858 7359
rgaustin@fsmail.net

GAS SAFE

JAMES REMOVALS
excellence through effort

- Fully trained uniformed staff
- Full insurance included in ALL quotes
- Prompt free estimates
- On-site containerised storage
- Discounts for long-term storage
- Well-established family business
- Pianos – our forte

Call **0800 0157775** for a free survey or visit jamesremovals.com to request a quotation online

VIKING POWER

BASED IN GREENWICH, WE ARE YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICAL SERVICES COMPANY.

From changing a light bulb to a full rewire... Carrying out an electrical safety inspection to fault finding...

WE CAN DO IT ALL!

We are NICEIC approved and a member of the Electrical Safety Register.

For a free quotation, please call or email and we'll be happy to help.

p: 020 83336759 m: 07887 571058 e: tpn@vikingpower.co.uk

A & A LANDSCAPES
Landscape Specialists

Free advice & estimates

Qualified horticulturalist

All aspects of soft & hard landscaping work carried out including

- * Maintenance
- * Site clearance
- * Turfing
- * Tree surgery
- * Fencing
- * Patios
- * Brickwork

Tel. 020 8318 2530

MARKET PLACE

Please send ads for the Market Place with payment by the 10th day of the preceding month to: Marilyn Little, 163, Westcombe Hill, SE3 7DP 020 8853 1312 marilyn.little@btinternet.com ALL classified adverts 30p per word. Please make cheques payable to The Westcombe Society

ACCOMMODATION

GOOD RELIABLE HOST FAMILIES wanted for foreign students. For more info. please contact Lynne on 01732 822649 or email sesgreenwich@aol.com

ROOMS FOR HIRE

FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE
Blackheath area, up to 150 people, Bar, disabled access. Tel 07940 296290

GARDENING

GARDEN MAINTENANCE: mowing, weeding, pruning, communal garden contracts, fruit and vegetables, gardening tuition, RHS qualified, also domestic cleaning. Call John and Rachel 0208 854 4886. / 07746 121510
HEDGE AND GRASS CUTTING, garden clearances and tree work. 0208 3097910 / 07434204673

HOLIDAYS

WHITSTABLE WEEKENDS / WEEKS Sea wall house between Oyster Warehouse and Harbour. Sleeps 5. Fantastic views. 8858 6578 or 013 04 367443
NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS The Georgian House. Delightful period house in charming Pickering market town. Sleeps 10. <http://www.thegeorgianhouse.co.uk/> Tel: 07876 385189
HOUSE TO RENT Sole Rose is a charming and beautifully furnished period house in the popular seaside town of Southwold, Suffolk. Situated within easy walking distance of the High Street, beach and pier. Sleeps 4/6. <http://www.solerose.co.uk> 07876385189

PERSONAL CARE & THERAPY

BLACKHEATH HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICE. COUNSELLING, ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE, YOGA tel: 020 8858 5969 /1991, www.bhhs.selondon.co.uk
PILATES CLASSES AT MYCENAE HOUSE. Mondays at 1.45pm and Thursdays at 2.00pm. All levels welcome, mats provided. Please contact Hilary for further details on 07970 290818
LOCAL PRIVATE PRACTICE: Counselling & Psychotherapy. I work with individuals, couples & groups in a quiet setting. Contact Christina 07963143618, christinacondron@yahoo.co.uk.

SERVICES & TRADE

JEWELLERY AND WATCH REPAIRS AND VALUATIONS from Michele Franklin. British Jewellers Association accreditation 07809 502 714 Michele@personaljewellerylondon.co.uk
PEST CONTROL SERVICES All types of pests dealt with including fox control. Call John 0208 300 3496
PUBBLE PLASTERING Need a plasterer with excellent references? Work is of high standard. Qualified C&G. Plastering-Rendering-Plasterboarding - Repairs. Free quotes! Call Alex on 07547 468459 / 0203 092 0684 pubbleplastering@googlemail.com
C.S. CARPENTRY-JOINERY Decorating and allbuilding work undertaken. Joseph McNamara 8857 5480, mob. 07947155366
TALLGABLES PICTURE FRAMING All works undertaken at very reasonable prices. Contact Emily on 07787 524265, @tallgables or Tall Gables via Facebook
ANDREW FLETCHER Painting, Decorating & Tiling services. Over 20 years' experience, fully insured. References available. Call 07702 09438
CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Alcoves, wardrobes, radiator covers & general household woodwork. Showroom: 0208 852 7222 www.carpentryandinteriors.co.uk
PHONE/BROADBAND SOCKETS. Improved Broadband speed plates, Fault Finding Repairs, New Extensions, Tidying of cables. 25 yrs BT, Insured. 07845 705900
WINDOW & GUTTER CLEANING Blackheath-window-cleaner.co.uk 07791 465052
ELECTRICIAN / ALARM ENGINEER No job too small TMIET registered. Call 0787 9011792
WESTCOMBE CLEANERS I'm a friendly, hard working & organised domestic cleaner. Regular or single services. Competitive rates. Additional tasks. I love my clients to be happy. Phone 07746 291617
INTERIOR DECORATOR & CARPENTER with over 20 years experience. A member of the guild of mastercraftsman. Free quotes & friendly advice on all your decorating requirements. Local references available. Tel. Ashley Greaves 8858 2981
LOCAL CARPET CLEANER Specialist in cleaning Carpets, Upholstery & rugs. Competitive rates. M: 07828503132 Email: adam@carpetcrew.co.uk <http://www.carpetcrew.co.uk/>

ARCHITECTURAL INTERIOR DESIGN

Architectural interior design for internal and external projects. Concept through to planning & build. Contact : info@lizbulldesign.com or 07739 903752
DECORATING, ELECTRICS Plumbing and Property Maintenance. Est. 25 years. References available. Phil McNamara 8857 5480, mobile 07814 360862
DAVIDSON PLASTERING AND DECORATING SERVICES Ceilings repaired or renovated. Artec ceilings skimmed to a smooth finish. Painting and Decorating. Insurance work undertaken. C&G qualified. Small jobs welcome. Free advice and estimates. Phone 0208 854 4886 / 07746 121510
PIANO TUNER Prompt friendly service from an experienced, fully qualified tuner technician. For tuning and repairs call Jim Kimberley 0208 305 0033
HOMEWORKS All-round handyman for those DIY's you have no time for! General repairs. Painting & Decorating. General Carpentry and flooring. Flat-pack assembly. Patio and deck clearing. No job too small. Contact Matthew Barron 07903 388658.
S.S.D BUILDERS LTD. Long established Building & Roofing Company available for free estimates and advice. ALL works undertaken, from guttering to Refurbishments. All works viewed within 24 hours, fully insured & new work is guaranteed. Call us today on 07931 536533 or 0208 305 1039 ssdbuilders2@hotmail.com

EXPERIENCED LOCAL ARCHITECT offering full range of architectural services, inc. planning and building regulations applications, technical and construction drawings, full project management, and site work. Reg. with the Architects Registration Board. Mob: 07853423130 E: gj@gjhanjeearchitects.com
MARK CHEESEMAN, LOCAL CARPENTER AND JOINER with 30 years experience. All aspects of carpentry and construction carried out considerately and to a high standard. Reinstatement of original Victorian/Edwardian/Georgian details, ie shutters, skirtings, plinth blocks, picture rails, cornices etc. Bespoke joinery, wardrobes, cupboards, stairs, kitchens. Sash windows overhauls. Resin timber repairs. Please call M: 07767 456131 or H: 020 8854 4028

TRAINED CHIMNEY SWEEP & STOVE INSTALLER Fast, friendly Happy to work! Call Anthony on 07772 649577 or email: chimneymaintenance@gmail.com
CRAFTY PEAR COFFEE AND CROCHET Come along and improve your crochet skills in a relaxed environment whilst enjoying tea, coffee, homemade cake and chat! Tuesdays 12.30-2.30 at 45 Mayhill Rd, Charlton. £10 per session. Call Lisa on 07771647618 for information or to book a place
HAVE YOU GOT THE SKILLS OR TIME FOR DIY? Or is it all just such an effort!

If that's your problem, I can solve it!
* Decorating including preparation, painting, wall-papering & special finishes.
* Re- hanging doors and putting up shelving.
* Re-laying floors-lino, wood laminates & ceramics.
* Domestic Electrical work.
* Plumbing-taps, showers, radiators and external.
* Garden revival and maintenance
If you need help with any of these please call Tony: 0208 856 9398 M: 07961 540836
<http://www.tonysdiy.com/>

S.S.D PLUMBING AND HEATING Friendly local plumber available for free estimates and advice. All works undertaken, no job too small, from boilers to bathroom suites, all works viewed within 24 hours, fully insured and new work guaranteed. Call today on 07931 536533 or 8305 1039 ssdbuilders2@hotmail.com
MALCOLM TIERNEY, CARPENTER Specialist in refurbishment, repair and replacement of sash windows. 0777 5657371

SIMMONDS HANDYMAN Property and maintenance services. Electrical, decorating, telephones, general repairs. 079 4198 2895
TOM ELLIS BESPOKE CARPENTRY Kitchens, Alcove units, bookcases, wardrobes, dressers and tables. Happy to quote. 85198947 (m) 07540579027
UPHOLSTERER SPECIALISING IN TRADITIONAL UPHOLSTERY www.suemayesupholstery.net or phone 07932 040298

S.S.D DAMP PROOFING SPECIALISTS in the treatment of RISING & PENETRATING damp. Repair/ renewal of rotten structural timbers as a result of damp. Chemical injection and render using tried and tested systems. Specialists in providing horizontal and vertical barriers against damp/ water ingress. Please contact us for a free consultation and written estimate. Mobile: 07931 536 533
Land: 020 8305 1039
A MAN AND A VAN Tel: 020 8858 3889
Mobile: 07885 917842

TUITION

MATHEMATICS TUITION for students aged 11-16 from a friendly experienced maths teacher in your home. Weekly classes, or intensive holiday/weekend sessions to prepare for GCSE examinations. 07752 008 036. Alexandrahelm@yahoo.co.uk
NEED HELP WITH YOUR COMPUTER? Local technician provides home technical support & tuition. No job too small, all in your own home. Glenn 84734091
ITALIAN TUITION Native Italian teacher offers lessons at all levels. Preparation for GCSE, A-LEVELS courses, Grammar, Conversation Tel 07788 743371
MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION and preparation for 11+ and independent school selection tests by qualified and experienced teacher. marybauckham@virgin.net Mary Bauckham 07709089838
ENGLISH/PRIMARY/11-PLUS TUITION All ages welcome. GCSE, A/S-Levels, Common Entrance, Primary, etc. Fully qualified, experienced teacher. Call Hellen Halliday BA(Hons), PGCE on 020 8858 7704 / 07928 017762 to discuss how I can help.
SHOW YOUR COMPUTER WHO IS THE BOSS Are you looking for some extra help working with your computer? Need some help with your digital photos, online shopping and the jargon? To discuss the options, call Paul on 07958 251 448 or email paul.clayton@soulchip.co.uk
SPANISH TUITION all levels and ages at your home or your office by latinoamerican tutor CLTA. Please call Miguel on 07910 318 513 or email: migansiergut52@gmail.com
MULVIHILL ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE Adult and Child Irish Dance Classes available in the Blackheath area. Come along for a fun-all-in-one workout. For more information call Rachel on 07707 100521
MUSIC LESSONS: jazz & classical, all ages and abilities, ABRSM, TCL & GCSE, exam preparation, theory & instrumental tuition, creative & holistic approach. RSM, FTCL, LTCL, PGD, GBSC, PGCE music specialist, call Viktor: 0777 9285174



Join us for a new yoga class at Mycenae House
Tuesdays 18:30 - 19:45
All Levels Viniyoga

Contact Lisa Kaley-Isley
Lisa@LifeTreeYoga.co.uk
Life Tree Yoga on Facebook

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL?

Peter Bowyer Professional Will Writing Services
(Member of the Society of Will Writers & the Institute of Professional Will Writers)

- Single/Double Wills
- Professional Insurance
- Powers of Attorney
- Home Visits

0800 389 7387

Visit www.londonwills.com

BUY LOCAL!

Discounts available on production of your Westcombe Society membership card.

BLACKHEATH VILLAGE: PARES FOOTWEAR 10% OFF all shoes over £20, excluding sale stock
RAFFLES DESIGNER WEAR. 10% OFF all non-sale goods
GREENWICH: NORTH POLE RESTAURANT 12.5% OFF Meals only for two
3D DIVING 10% discount on all scuba diving courses. Offer excludes scuba diving equipment.
GREENWICH COMMUNICATION CENTRE at 164 Trafalgar Road: 10% discount on all Computer Maintenance and Repairs (including Laptops!) We are your local friendly independent computer shop!
HUMBER ROAD: BODYWORKZ - THE FITNESS CLINIC 109 Humber Road. 10% OFF all treatments costing £30 or more except Chiroprody; exc. Saturdays.
ROYAL NEPALESE RESTAURANT (Station Crescent) 20% OFF meals for two or more Sunday - Thursday.
THE CURIOUS COMB 10% discount on services over £30 Weekdays 8am-10am, 2pm-4pm (excludes retail purchases).
CORIANDER RESTAURANT (Station Crescent) 25% off Sunday to Thursday. Bookings only!
THE STANDARD: COTON & HAMBLIN - OPTICIANS 5% OFF frames, sunglasses & accessories
KARAN CHEMIST 10% OFF Weds. only
MARNELLS - DIY 10% OFF Wednesdays
WELL BEAN - HEALTH GOODS 10% OFF all purchases over £20 (no credit cards)
BLACKHEATH EYECARE CENTRE 25% off 2nd pair of spectacles. (same prescription. Not in conjunction with any other offer. (Complete glasses start from £49.95 with single vision lenses). 5% off contact lens solution and accessories
TROJAN PRESS 10% OFF all quotations
WESTCOMBE HILL A* DRIVING SCHOOL £5 discount on the price of one x 2 hour lesson for WS members.
THE WONDER WOMEN NETWORK Offers a 10% discount
OLDSTUFF 10% discount on all products at <http://www.theoldstuff.co.uk>
WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD Karen Storey of Homespacer offers members 10% discount on decluttering & homestaging services 0844 846 5854 www.home-space.biz
PENINSULA SHENDA FALVEY PERSONAL TRAINING & BOOTCAMPS Free bootcamp session at Greenwich Peninsula worth £10. Book to secure place (excludes existing customers) 25% off first personal training session plus free consultation M: 07887 727 335 www.shendafalveypersonaltraining.com

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
(See also <http://www.westcombesociety.org/>)
TREE WORKS
63 MYCENAE ROAD ref 15/0772/TC
Fell holly in rear garden.
Reduce height of prunus to 2m.
111 MAZE HILL ref 15/0707/TC
Crown reduce fig tree by 30% in rear garden and thin ash tree by up to 20%
39 WESTCOMBE PARK ROAD ref 15/0580/TP
Thin cedar of Lebanon by 20% (Has a TPO)
221 WESTCOMBE HILL ref 15/0626/TC
Crown reduce Japanese acer by 20% & thin 10 Mycenae Road 14/3673/F
Photovoltaic on side roof slope.

Childcare for ages 3 months - 5 years

I can see a great nursery from here



If you're looking for a nursery that will help your child to grow and develop - choose Zoom Nurseries.

At Zoom every child enjoys an individual Learning Journey. A record that tracks their daily progress through our fantastic fun-filled learning environment.

It's just one of the tools we use to keep our parents up-to-date with their child's achievements, as well as their personal, social and emotional development. It's an important tool, one that helps us ensure that when they leave Zoom to start school, they leave as independent learners and thinkers, ready for the challenges ahead.

With nurseries in **Eltham, Hither Green** and **Blackheath**, that between them have three Ofsted 'Outstanding' judgements, and places available, you don't have to go far to give your child a great start.

To find out more and arrange an informal visit please call Ann Briley, Assistant Childcare Director on 020 8318 1133 or email annbriley.zoom@gmail.com



Or visit our website for more details www.zoomnurseries.com

MEfA:

Exceptional education for all children
Montessori Weekly Family Programme (in term time) at Montessori House, 135 Westcombe Hill, Blackheath, SE3 7DP

All enquiries 07710 433994

• Tuesdays 3:30-5:30
After-school Nurture Group @ Mycenae House Community Centre

• Wednesdays 9:30-11:30
Preschool, 1:30-2:30
Baby Montessori, 2:45-3:45
Toddler Montessori @ Montessori House

• Thursdays 1:00-3:00
Montessori Afternoons @ Montessori House
ALSO: Teenage Transitions After-school nurture Group (11 - 14 years)
www.montessorieducationforautism.com



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

John Payne

johnpayne.com