

Westcombe NEWS

Monthly newspaper of The Westcombe Society - A voluntary group devoted to fostering a sense of community
Established 1973 Free to 3,200 homes October 2004 Issue 8

The World At Their Feet



Archie and Charlie in action in the park

Two little boys now have two little bikes - and the wonderful chance of a whole new life, thanks to kind-hearted locals.

Twins Charlie and Archie Collins need the specially-made trikes to help them in their battle to walk.

Friends from St George's Church on Glencuce Road organised a special charity concert to help raise money towards bikes for the two-and-a-half year old brothers - and *Westcombe News* readers joined in with a massive show of support.

The boys were born prematurely and suffer from cerebral palsy, a condition which affects their legs and balance.

Race against time

They need daily exercise to strengthen their legs, but their family were facing a race against time. As the boys' legs grew weaker, special trikes costing nearly £2,000 were needed to build their muscles and give them strength.

But thanks to an amazingly generous response from local people, the money was raised in one fantastic evening.

An incredible total of £5,000 was placed into a special church fund for the boys.

Some of the money was used to buy their two new bikes - which they now proudly ride to the park each day. The church is saving the remainder for the boys to attend the famous Bobath centre in North London - a 'walking' clinic to help children with cerebral palsy to stand, walk and fend for themselves.

Charlie and Archie's mum Amanda, dad Ray and five-year-old sister Ruby are delighted. Mum Amanda said: "It was the most fantastic evening and we were moved to tears."

Their first steps

"It's really hard to find the words to thank everyone enough. You've given our boys the chance of walking, of going to school and kicking a football like other children. They are so desperate to take their first steps. If they ever manage this, it will be because of all those people in Westcombe Park who went out of their way to help.

"From the pensioners who sent one pound coins, to the lollipop lady who collected in a tin, the city traders who had a whip-round, and the residents of Wentworth House, every single person has made an enormous difference to Charlie and Archie's future.

"We want to thank our friends at St George's - the vicar, Malcolm Torry and his family - the children and others who performed, and most of all Julie Mason, who organized everything.

"Even now, we are stopped in the park by readers of the *WN* who recognise us. It's a wonderful feeling, and Archie tells everyone that he's on his magic bike"

Organiser Julie Mason said: "We're thrilled that the people who packed the church had such a good time.

"The twins have fought so hard to survive, and it is wonderful that everyone in the local community have helped them in



The seventeen who made it: Paul is in the back row, second on the right. Where are the famous "snows of Kilimanjaro"? It seems global warming has caused them to become increasingly sparse.

He's done it! Paul Clarke, the 42 year old manager of John Payne estate agents at the Standard, has successfully climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro.

We reported recently that Paul decided to raise money for *Scope*, the cerebral palsy charity, after seeing a newspaper advertisement calling for people to carry out the sponsored climb.

Now he has completed the ascent of the 19,348 foot peak - the highest in Africa - called Uhuru Peak (*Uhuru* means "Freedom" in Kiswahili.)

Says Paul: "It was the most demanding and difficult thing I've ever done.

Amazingly, I didn't have any real problems regarding the actual ascent - even though only 17 of us finished out of the 55 who started.

"I met a great bunch of people from all walks of life. Now it's spurred me on to want to do the London marathon."

Paul raised around £3,000 for the charity - and the *Westcombe News* is sending him our promised £25.

Geoff Garvey

Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

The Westcombe Society's Dickensian Christmas Bazaar will take place this year on Saturday, 20th November at Blackheath High School, Vanbrugh Park, SE3, from 11.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Thanks to generous sponsorship provided by Local Estate Agent John Payne, and also Blackheath High School who are allowing use of their premises, the entire profits from their Dickensian Christmas Bazaar will be donated to King's Children's Hospital Silver Lining Appeal. This community appeal needs to raise £400,000 to pay for equipment to help care for sick children. Our aim is to raise £2,000 to fund the purchase of an Intensive Care Cot by this event.

As usual there will be an attractive assortment of craft and gift stalls, including a huge selection of Charity Christmas

cards, plus local charities and schools raising funds for their particular cause. We promise a day of family fun and serious shopping, with Dickensian characters, activities for children, tombola, raffle, music, and lunches, mulled wine, roasted chestnuts and mince pies in Mr Pickwick's Pantry - and Santa will be there too!

Don't be a Scrooge - this is the place to buy all your Christmas presents under one roof, whilst your children are entertained. Just by coming you will be helping us to raise money to bring Christmas Joy to the family of a child in need. Why not add to the Spirit of Christmas Past by coming in costume - there is a prize for the best-dressed Victorian to join us on the day!! To book a stall, or to offer help of any kind ring Caroline Owens (0208 853 0948) or Geoff Russell (0208 856 1624).

Apple n' orange

Purveyors of quality fruit and vegetables

Jeff and Sue Stevens now have an extensive range of organic produce, and free range eggs

20 Old Dover Road
SE3 7BT 8858 1307

NEW TO THE AREA?

If you arrived in the area in the last couple of years, the Westcombe Society invite you for informal "Drinks and Nibbles"

at Mycenae House,
90 Mycenae Road on Saturday
Nov. 6th 12.00 - 2.00 pm.
Children welcome!
RSVP to Caroline Owens on 0208
853 0948 or Jenny Maloney on
0208 293 1619.

The Westcombe Society's

Nearly New Children's Sale

Mycenae House Sat. 2nd October
2.00 - 4.00 pm .

*Bargains galore! *Stalls *Teas
Adult non-members 50 pence.

Members: 20p. Under 16s - free.

Chrysanthemum Tea

Mycenae House Sat. 9th October
2.00 - 4.00 pm

Free for senior citizens

Please ring 8293 1619 for details

INSIDE:

"One good tern deserves another":
a report on progress at the Greenwich
Urban Ecology Park (p.6)



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Avoiding the Loan Sharks (p.4)

COMMUNITY

WESTCOMBE

ALL EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Neville Grant, The Editor
13 Glenluce Road SE3 7SD
Tel: 020 8858 8489
WestcombeNews@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline for November issue: 20th
October 2004

News Editor: Geoff Garvey
Environment Editor: David Riddle
Editorial consultant: Sue Gay
Pictures editor: Kathy Shutt
Layout & Design: Merlinda Marshall

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
David Riddle All queries and
comments to: 020 7919 7546

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

DISTRIBUTION

Myles Dove & Barbara Henley
Volunteer distributors please phone
8853 3740, we need your help!

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Andrew Riley Tel: 8858 4086
Display ads payable in advance
Display Ads: Single column 6cm x 6cm
One issue £25 Ten issues £20 per issue
Deadline 12th day of preceding
month

CLASSIFIED ADS MANAGER

Geoff Russell Tel: 8856 1624
Classified Ads: 30p per word
Deadline 10th day of preceding month

Printed by: Trojan Press

Contact the Westcombe Society
at:
WestcombeNews@egroups.com

Publisher The Westcombe Society
Chair Dick Allard Tel. 8858 7305

The views expressed in the Westcombe
News are not necessarily those of the
Westcombe Society
Back-numbers of the Westcombe News
can be accessed on:
<http://westcombe.gold.ac.uk/westnews.htm>

WESTCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please send this membership form to:
Mr MA Qavi, 40 Parkside,
Vanbrugh Fields, SE3 7QG

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Please enclose payment as appropriate:

Family Membership	£6	[]
Individual Membership	£4	[]
Senior Citizens/unemployed	£2	[]

VANBRUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

AUCTION

Sat. 16th October at

Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road
Viewing 12.00 - 2.00 pm.

Auction starts at 2.00

Commission bids can be taken.

Admission 25p (inc. free catalogue)

Licensed Bar.

Coffee Bar open throughout the day
serving drinks and snacks

Support your local community centre!

End Of An Era At Invicta



Peter Hall retired from his job as premises manager at Invicta School in September - after 29 years.

He and his wife Ellen were very sad to leave. "I loved the job," said Peter. "I just hope that we will find somewhere local to live, near all our friends."

Peter started work with ILEA in 1966, at Charlton Boys Secondary School. "In those days, every classroom had a coal fire," he recalls. "We were up at 5.30 to light the fires. We had to carry coal skuttles up three flights."

In 1968 Peter went on to Greenwich Park Secondary School for Girls in Royal Hill. He was there for seven years before coming to Invicta in 1975.

The borough took over from ILEA in 1991, and his job as 'School Keeper' was renamed 'Premises Manager'.

"But the job and the money remained the same!" he says. "Personally, I liked

the name 'School Keeper'."

His job entailed opening up at the beginning of each day, locking up at the end, and general security and maintenance duties, dealing with the contractors. He never had any problems with security. "The Alsations I've had probably helped."

Two of their grandchildren went to Invicta, and his son is Premises Manager at Sherington. Peter and Ellen look much younger than their years - a sign of a happy and contented life.

"But we're not looking forward to moving," said Ellen. As I drank a cup of tea with them in their beautiful, well-tended garden full of fruit trees and lovely shrubs, you could see why.

"We shall miss Peter terribly," says headmistress Mrs Hage.

As will the whole school. Good luck, Peter and Ellen!

Chaos In The Park

Geoff Garvey

August Bank Holiday seems a long way away, now - but it is still vivid in the memories of those who visited Greenwich Park - and for all the wrong reasons.

The glorious weather brought motorists out in their droves - but when they came to leave in the late afternoon, tempers flared.

A combination of the sheer number of cars in the park, plus congestion caused by the neighbouring fun fair, resulted in cars taking up to an hour to get away.

Horns sounded, voices were raised and patrolling police officers were caught up in the rows.

One solution would have been to open the barriers to enable traffic to escape through the Cutty Sark exit. However, it seems the park officials - not the police - were not prepared to do this. The result - congestion, noise and fumes.

Wouldn't it have been better to have bent the rules just a little to enable the chaos to be eased? The toxic emissions from a huge traffic jam hardly improves the environment!

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but may be shortened through lack of space.

Dear Editor

I refer to your article on the Royal Mail in the September issue.

The 8th August 2004 was a Sunday: it was also my birthday. I love receiving birthday cards but none had arrived on Saturday so I resigned myself to receiving cards from family and friends on Monday 10th. This was not to be. No post! Had they forgotten me or just not bothered? Convinced that no one cared I became very despondent.

Tuesday 11th dawned and my cards arrived - but not until the afternoon. There was one from USA posted on 5th. Nine, all with first class stamps, posted on 6th, had also been mostly stamped on the 9th. One, with a second class stamp, was posted on the 1st. The following day I received another card, with a first class stamp, posted on the 6th August.

I telephoned the Royal Mail Customer Services and was advised that it has never been a guaranteed service. They could not answer why some of the mail had been stamped twice, nor why it had been delayed. It was thought that some staff had been off sick.

I wanted to say that I intended to take my custom elsewhere. But we are stuck with the Royal Mail.

It was never like this in the old days.

Disgruntled Blackheath

Dear Editor

I read Hugo Hadlow's letter regarding trains to Charing Cross / Cannon Street with some annoyance as well. It appears that Hugo has not considered the full facts. The difference in service is that two trains an hour used to go to Waterloo East and Charing Cross and now NONE do during off peak hours.

Two trains an hour do however speed through Westcombe Park and Maze Hill on

their way to Waterloo East and Charing Cross - but these stop only at Greenwich. This somewhat undermines the specious argument that trains serving the Greenwich line conveniently go straight to Cannon Street. And in the rush hour when Cannon Street is busy, our Greenwich line trains also go to Charing Cross.

The demand for trains to Charing Cross is strong throughout the day. A lot of passengers go to Waterloo East to access the main line Station and are carrying luggage.

Visitors travelling to Maze Hill (for the Maritime Museum and the Park) from Charing Cross and Waterloo East find their journey confusing and difficult.

I have had the misfortune following a serious illness to be very frail and almost blind. I find that the change at London Bridge is very taxing and difficult.

I hope that readers will continue to campaign for the reinstatement of off-peak services to Charing Cross.

Douglas Adams Coleraine Road

Dear Editor

I often read in the *WN* and other local papers about the increasing amount of crime in the area. One crime frequently mentioned is the defacement of walls, shops, buses, etc.

I do not condone such behaviour, but I have often wondered about the underlying reasons for it. I do not believe that teenagers always want to go around 'tagging' or 'graffitiing'. I feel that if there were somewhere young people could go and get involved in such activities such as sport or other interests then the desire to vandalise property could diminish.

I think many of the taggers are actually potentially creative artists who have no way of expressing that creativity other than by spraying walls.

I feel sure that if the local council were to provide "graffiti walls" or areas designated for creative "artwork" then the level of offending would decrease significantly. This would reduce the costs of cleaning graffiti - and make the job of Westcombe Society volunteers a little easier! Am I making a fair point, or is my view too simplistic?

Joseph Turner-Wing, Glenluce Road

Dear Editor

I refer to the application to build a temporary portable building by John Roan School.

When this application was first made three years ago, a number of residents objected. This was mainly due to the fact that the school planned to destroy a pond directly next to the building they had erected. This they subsequently did.

I am told that the pond was rich in aquatic life, including newts, toads, frogs and many insects. Just imagine how educational this could have been! Does the headmaster really put the construction of a pre-fabricated building before the education of his pupils?

I am certain I remember reading in the *WN* that the school would ensure that a fenced area adjacent to the playground (near where the pond used to be) would be turned into a habitat suitable for stag beetles, which the *WN* recently pointed out were on the endangered list.

I understand that no such habitat has been created. As the school has reneged on its original agreement, I believe that permission for the latest building should be denied.

I wonder if the *Westcombe News* has anything about this in its archives that could shed light on the situation?

Gen R. Heathcoat-Smythe Ulundi Rd.

LOCAL UPDATES



End mobile phone mugging misery

Police in Greenwich are working to reduce theft of mobile phones and other small electrical items through an innovative new scheme.

Greenwich has been chosen as a pilot site to increase awareness of a new database - MEND (Mobile Equipment National Database) - working in conjunction with the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit.

The free registration system aims to recover some of the 2,000 mobile phones and other portable electronic items that are stolen each day in the UK.

Police say many of the items are recovered but cannot be returned due to the difficulty of tracing the owner. And that's where the national database comes in useful.

Deterring thieves

Det.Sgt. Jason Fitzpatrick is managing the project for Greenwich Police. He said that awareness of a national registration database will deter thieves as it can prove if an item is stolen.

"We are trying to spread the word about this new database as widely as possible. Aided by our excellent police cadets, we have been leafleting in shopping areas around the borough. In the first month of the scheme, 17,000

people registered with MEND.

"Not surprisingly, we are especially targeting young people who tend to own a lot of items such as mobile phones, hand held electronic games and music players."

One example of how police are targeting is at Crown Woods Secondary School in Eltham. School Beat Officer PC Anna Warnett is spreading the news at the school - the largest in the borough with over 2,000 pupils - with the full support of Headteacher Michael Murphy.

Mobile phones and electronic games are not allowed on school premises but PC Warnett has devised a proforma to cover all the information needed to register and pupils can bring the completed form into school and register themselves, using a school computer.

"The system is really easy to use, says PC Warnett. "It's just a question of logging on to the MEND site and entering details of the item. Pupils I speak to think it's a really good idea and so do staff. If they all register and encourage their families to do the same, we could be signing up more than 5,000 new participants."

To find out more, or to register your items, access the website on: www.menduk.org

Congratulations!



Pupils from John Roan school received unexpected good news, when BBC London newsreader Asad Ahmad arrived to present awards to gifted and talented pupils.

The former pupil returned to his old school to present National Record of Achievement (NRA) Awards to Year 11 pupils. He also found time to step back into the classroom and meet four of his old teachers.

Asad returned to the school as part of the Greenwich First campaign, which is designed to encourage more children to attend Greenwich schools. Last year, over 200 more pupils stayed

on at Greenwich secondary schools after leaving primary schools.

The Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Cllr David Grant said: "Role-models can have an enormous impact upon the lives of young people, and positive role-models, such as Asad, can show young people what can be achieved if they put in the hard work. I'm delighted he's agreed to front our campaign to raise education here.

"I'd also like to wish the young people who received this award all the success in the future. I'm sure they'll go on to achieve great things - just like their former pupil."

Another Avenue of Pleasure Opens

Local people in East Greenwich joined councillors in July to celebrate the opening of a new park entrance that gives residents better access to the quiet, tree-lined haven of East Greenwich Pleasaunce.

The new entrance has been welcomed by parents, pupils and staff at Halstow primary school, which is close to the new park entrance. It's also proving a boon to other park-users.

When the Council first acquired the Pleasaunce in the 1920s, the only access was from Chevening Road. But last year the Council secured agreement with the developers of a nearby residential development to create a new entrance from Halstow Road.

Already the school has been making

good use of the new gate. Head teacher Mary Whitehead said:

"We're thrilled," she said. "It's always been good having a large open space nearby for sports and other outdoor activities. The new gate gives us a much greater ease of access."



Almost bowled over in the rush as the gates open!

Crime Update

The good news is that the ram raider who targeted *Your Move* estate agents to try and filch the computers has been sentenced to a four-year jail term. The bad news is that the same premises were again broken into, in early September - a laptop being looted. No laptops are now kept on the premises.

In a separate incident, at 4.00 pm on Monday 6th Sept. four men entered the newsagents at the bottom of Westcombe Hill. They took bottles of alcohol, and pushed the stock over. Running out, they then returned with four other hooded men. The young man behind the counter was hit on the head and the till was stolen.

The victim was briefly hospitalized. The suspects are described as black, and aged 18 - 20 years. The incident was captured on CCTV.

Anyone who witnessed these attacks, or can furnish information, should ring Greenwich CID on 8284 9493, or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

**BOILER SICK?
FIREPLACE ILL?**
CALL IN THE EXPERTS
* CORGI REGISTERED
* RELIABLE
* HONEST ADVICE
* REASONABLY PRICED
* NO CALL-OUT FEE

020 8858 0033
020 8293 0273



**J & D PLUMBERS
& ELECTRICIANS**
CORGI Reg No. 174946 (ACOPS)
Central Heating, Installation & Troubleshooting
All Boiler Work
Gas Safety Certificates Issued.
Gas Fires / Cookers Installed.
Qualified Electrician
Emergency Call Out 7am - 10pm
Contact **JOHN MAGWENZI**
13 Coleraine Road SE3 7PF
B.Sc (Hons) CITB
Tel. 020 8853 0693
Mob. 07961 835863

PAYING TOO MUCH TAX?
PAYING TOO MUCH IN FEES?

We can save you both!



SMITH & EADES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

We are a new Blackheath practice and we'd like to save you money

Tel - Nick on 020 8293 6006 or
Email - nick@smith-eades.co.uk

BLACKHEATH CARS
BCS
THE CAR HIRE SERVICE
24 HOURS RADIO CONTROL
LOCAL OR LONG DISTANCE
BUSINESS ACCOUNTS WELCOME
CARS 7 SEATERS
FULL P.C.O. LICENCE
020 8318 5432/1
FAX: 020 8297 0734
2a Blackheath Village,
SE3 9LA
www.blackheath-car-services.co.uk

cheese-board.co.uk
New online shopping
FREE local delivery
26 Royal Hill, Greenwich, 020 8305 0401

R. G. AUSTIN
(Established 1963)
Property Maintenance,
Painting, Decorating,
Plumbing, Central
CORGI
Registered
41 ULUNDI ROAD, BLACKHEATH, LONDON SE3 7UP
Telephone: 0208 858 7359

FEATURES

Keeping Sharks At Bay



A man knocked on my door last Christmas - he seemed very helpful. He offered me a voucher to help with Christmas presents. It seemed so easy."

Too good to be true you might think. But that's how hundreds, maybe thousands, of people start off on the slippery slope into debt - and deep trouble.

Mary Tressel (not her real name) borrowed £100 worth of vouchers and paid £30 of interest. Before long, letters arrived offering more cash loans.

The children needed a holiday, so she borrowed £400 and was charged almost the same sum again in interest. "I got deeper in debt than I realized," she said.

Soon, less friendly hands were pounding on her door. The loan sharks wanted to collect. Out of your depth, surrounded by sharks - that's not a great place to be.

Rescue at hand

Fortunately, for Mary, rescue was at hand. A friend told her about the Greenwich Waterfront Credit Union.

Like many people, she didn't know what a credit union is. The Greenwich Waterfront Credit Union (GWCUC) is a financial co-operative that offers savings opportunities and low-cost loans to its members. GWCUC is open to anyone

living or working in the borough or Thamesmead area. It is one of over 600 credit unions operating in the UK.

Members can borrow up to two or three times what they save. You can borrow money for home improvements, a car, a holiday - even to pay off a debt.

By law, credit unions cannot charge more than 1% a month on the reducing balance of the loan (an APR of 12.7%). What this means for example is that if you borrowed £1000 over a year, you would repay no more than £1067 in total. Many credit unions charge less.

Credit union offer cheap, flexible loans and there are no hidden charges and no penalties for repaying the loan early. Life insurance is built in, at no cost to the borrower, so if you were to die before you repaid the loan, insurance would repay the loan for you.

The credit union is owned and run by its members on a mutual basis and offers accounts to the whole community irrespective of income or employment status. In short, they're for anyone.

The Waterfront Credit Union also operates a number of community branches including one between 12.00 - 1.00 on Thursdays in The Forum @ Greenwich, Trafalgar Road.

The main office is at 48 Thomas Street

in Woolwich, between Marks & Spencer and GRETA Centre, open Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10 - 4.00 pm, Wednesday 1.30 - 4.00 pm, and Saturday 10.00 - 1.00 (It's closed on Thursdays).

To qualify for a loan, you need to have saved on a regular basis for up to three months. As a member, you are paid a dividend on your savings - about 1.5%,

"Interest on a small loan is very competitive, currently only at 12.68% APR," says Tobias Feisst, manager of GWCUC. "Among the other advantages: the money stays in the community, and is invested only in ethical funds." (i.e. no arms dealers, tobacco firms, etc.)

The Credit Union is "Owned by members, controlled by volunteers and managed by professionals" in that its Board of Directors is drawn from its membership and these ensure its paid staff run the credit union for the benefit of its members. Like banks and building societies, all credit unions are regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

This year, ABCUL celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Credit Unions Act, passed in 1979 by the outgoing Labour Government.

For more information about ABCUL, go to www.abcuc.coop. For details about the Greenwich Waterfront Credit Union, please ring 0208 855 4344.

Scramblers' Shambles

Now we know. Scrambler motorcyclists roaring unchecked across the dips on Blackheath can do so with impunity. A *WN* reader called the police one Saturday in July fearing an accident might happen.

It was a simple hope - that a police patrol would go to the spot off Vanbrugh Park and bring the scrambling to a halt.

First the excuse of lack of manpower

was trotted out. Then came the confession that the police had orders not to pursue the motorcyclists in case one of them crashed and sued the Met. At last came the admission: "They won't take any notice of us." What a sad state of affairs.

The reader pointed out that this was an accident waiting to happen - the area being near a gate to Greenwich Park where scores of people with children

were coming and going.

The officer agreed - and "hoped nothing happens." Our reader pressed on: "What if it was going on outside the home of our MP Nick Raynsford?"

Well, police would turn up and look into what was going on, he said. The officer was contrite - but claimed that their hands were tied.

So what if one saw someone hurling stones at cars, trying to break into a vehicle or attempting to burgle a house? Would the same blinkered attitude still apply?

Food Hygiene Award Presented

Geoff Garvey

The staff at the Pavilion Tea House in Greenwich Park were proudly displaying their Food Hygiene Award Certificate after a presentation by Greenwich Council's Cllr Angela Cornforth on September 6th. Their premises were the first to achieve the Award under the Council's new scheme that started last month.

Cllr Angela Cornforth, Greenwich

Council Deputy Leader, said:

"Congratulations go out to all premises who met the food hygiene standards. Gaining the award should be something the food premises should be proud of. This scheme aims to give reassurance to visitors. By accessing the council website, more details can be found on individual premises."

The award is part of a new scheme where caterers in the borough will receive a Food Hygiene Award Certificate if they are found to be maintaining good standards when Environmental Health Officers inspect them.

Sue Whimster

Superior hand-sewn curtains
& soft furnishings made to order

Wide range of fabrics available
Free estimates

Phone: 0208 293 0737
Fax: 0208 2937155
Mobile: 07714 215713

Cruise the Caribbean!

Sail amongst the beautiful islands

Diving,
Snorkelling,
Windsurfing.
With qualified crew

Tel.
8858 1656
Email: richard.w-j@zap-email.com
Web: www.sail-gulliver.com



SEERS FIREPLACES... a grate

New GIANT Warehouse place
8 Greenwich Industrial Estate
Greenwich High Road (next to DLR) SE10

Reproduction set-ups or original antiques - we can tailor a fireplace requirement exactly to your needs & pocket. Marble/stone/cast-iron & wood - the choice is yours. We make most items to order FREE of charge and with the best quality products at the lowest prices in Britain - GUARANTEED! Gas coal effect fires from only £175 and we stock amazing flue-less products.

CALL 020 8858 0033 or 020



Dance - or think - your way to good health

Neville Grant

Local playwright and theatre director John Retallack's latest play, *Ballroom*, closed recently at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, after a nation-wide tour.

In the play, four widowed people reluctantly turn up at a tea dance, still mourning their dear (or in some cases rather less dear!) departed.

Punctuated by evocative dance music and dance, the play explores the past - and potential future - of the four principal characters. It was hard for the audience to avoid a tear - and a good laugh, too, for good measure.

Make sure you see this play the next time it comes on. One of the messages of the play is that it's never too late to start a new life; another is that a three minute dance is as good as a walk round the park - and more interesting!

So why not try one of the tea dances at Blackheath Halls or Age Exchange? (See *What's On*) The Westcombe Society might like to turn their famous teas for senior citizens into tea dances, too. (Actually, people have taken to the floor on some of these occasions)

Less strenuous

Less physically strenuous, but as mentally arduous as you want it to be, is a game of bridge.

Recent research in Australia seems to indicate that bridge players are less prone to such afflictions as dementia, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimers than those who do not engage in this wonderful game. Age Exchange runs bridge lessons. Or why not go along to Blackheath Bridge Club at Mycenae House?

If bridge isn't your cup of tea, there's always Age Exchange computer courses. Alternatively, gardening, flower arranging, and art can all be therapeutic, and creative, and deeply satisfying. Mycenae House features all these activities - and many more!

Details of all these activities can be found in *What's On* on page 5. A much wider range of activities and courses is on offer at Greenwich Community College (8488 4800) Brochures are available in the library, or visit www.gcc.ac.uk

Healing Arts

Reflexology ~ Thai Foot Massage

Shiatsu ~ Indian Head Massage

Sarah Ramiah MAR (BCMA), ARC



For appointments: 077 7866 7247
email: healingarts@hotmail.com

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

The Fan Museum

Pankha 5th October 2004 - 16th January 2005 This exhibition of over 100 traditional, crafted hand fans of the Indian sub-continent is the first of its kind in Europe. It illustrates a fraction of the collection of a remarkable man, Jatin Das, an eminent contemporary artist, who, over several decades, has travelled throughout the sub-continent collecting over 2000 fans from every province. The Fan Museum is open to the public Tuesday to Saturday from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, and Sunday from 12 noon to 5.00 pm. Admission charges: £3.50 (adults), £2.50 (concessions). Free for OAPs and Disabled on Tuesdays from 2.00 - 5.00 pm (except for groups). Free for under 7s. For details, contact Alexandra Moskalenko at The Fan Museum, 12 Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ER. Tel: 020 8305 1441. E-mail: amoskalenko@fan-museum.org

Blackheath Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets at St Mary's Church Hall, Blackheath Village, at 2.30 pm on the 4th Thursday each month.

CHILDREN

GREENWICH PARK

Wed 27th Oct 10.00 am - 3.00 pm at Blackheath gate. "DROP IN" for wildlife-related children's activities, information, and a chance to see birds, deer and foxes

Regular event (last Wednesday of each month) run by Friends of Greenwich Park Information 020 8858 2608

Blackheath Conservatoire of Music and the Arts. Children's Art: Mondays 5.30pm-7pm for ages 7-8 Tues. 4.30-6.00 pm ages 9-11 **Children's Music: Music for Me:** for ages 3 - 4 Wednesdays 1.30-2.30

Sound Start: music for under 3's.

Junior Choirs: for ages 6-8 & 9-11

Concert Band: Saturdays 10 - 11am. Min. Grade 4 standard. For details call 020 8852 0234, or visit www.conservatoire.org.uk

CHURCH

St. George's Westcombe Park, Kirkside Road (entrance in Glenluce Road) **Every Sunday at 11 a.m. Parish Communion** (with a Children's Church at the same time)

Sunday 3rd October at 11.00 am. is the Harvest Festival service. Donations of tinned food would be welcome.

Sat. 9th Oct. Table Sale See poster for details **For your diary:**

The musical 'George' will be performed on **Saturday 27th November** at 7 p.m. and on **Sunday 28th November** at 4 p.m.. For more details ring John Statham, 8853 0802

DOUBLE CLEAN Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Leather suites from £50
Hard floor cleaning & polishing
Jet wash - patios etc.
Competitive rates

Call Eric 020 7564 6561

or 079 8494 3878

Evening & weekend bookings welcome

FRENCH!



French conversation in 1-to-1 or groups of 2-3, with native French teacher. Adults & teens. FrenchinSmallGroups.com
Tel. 8858 3825

COMMUNITY

THE WESTCOMBE SOCIETY

Sat 2nd October Westcombe Society Children's Nearly New Sale 2.00 - 4.00 pm Mycenae House Bargains galore, plus teas. In aid of Gt. Ormond Street Children's Hospital Details. Lindsay Davie 8858 0784

Sat. 9th Oct. 2.00 - 4.00 Chrysanthemum Tea for Senior Citizens. Free. Please ring 020 8293 1619 if you would like to come

BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL

Open Days:

Sat. 2nd Oct. 10.00am - 1.00pm Junior Department, Wemyss Road, Blackheath SE3

Sat. 9th Oct. 10.00am - 1.00pm Senior Department, Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath SE3

Sat 15th Oct. VCA Auction Mycenae House. Viewing 12 - 2.00. Auction at 2.00.

Thurs. Oct 21st Invicta School's Harvest Festival. Sorry, parents, teachers & children only. Donations welcome

Greenwich Historical Society

Wed. 27th Oct. 7.30 pm at Music Centre of Blackheath High School, Vanbrugh Park. To mark Black History month, Frances Ward from the Greenwich Heritage Centre gives a talk on 'People from Many Lands' about black communities in Greenwich. Non-members welcome (£2 donation) - or join! Enquiries to John Swindell on 020 8854-17

Sat 30 and Sun 31st Oct - 6.30pm- Spooky tales of Gruesome Greenwich & the River. with Rich Sylvester. Tickets: £4 adults (£3 concs) Enquiries and booking: 07833 538143 e/mail: richs@onetel.com Meet @ North Greenwich Tube

Escape the Fireworks! BOYS BRIGADE 2nd West Kent (Blackheath) Coy. Annual fund-raising dinner, informal five-course meal with wine, £20 per person **Sat 6th Nov 6.45** Ring Capt. Dave Andrews 020 8853 1733

Westcombe Writers' Circle First Thursday of each month 2.30 - 4.30 at Mycenae House. Ring 8305 1652, or 8858 5088.

Blackheath Bridge Club welcomes all players to its duplicate sessions held in Mycenae House on Monday and Thurs at 7.15 pm and on Wed. at 1.30 - 4.00 pm. Tel. 8851 2609

Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society 3rd Mon. of the month 7.45 pm at Charlton House Guests: 20p

Blackheath Scientific Society meets in Mycenae House 3rd Friday of every month 7.45 pm. Information: Ring Peter 8856 4078

Blackheath Male Voice Choir Meets every Wednesday in Mycenae House in Room 10. For info, ring 8687 1262

Blackheath Flower Arranging Society Meets at 2.00 pm on the third Friday of every month. Please ring Mrs J Mail 8318 0740

AGE EXCHANGE courses - Tel 8318 9105: Bridge (Thursdays) Word processing - introductory, and advanced (12 weeks beginning end Sept.) Internet and e-mailing courses (5 weeks beginning early October)

TEA DANCES **Blackheath Halls: Wed. 13th Oct, and Wed. 3rd Nov. 2.00 - 4.30** with the Hugh Ockendon Band. £4.00 including sandwiches - and a raffle. (Dave Kent has now retired - thanks, Dave for some great afternoons!)

Age Exchange, Blackheath Village: Thurs. 14th Oct. and Thurs. 2nd Dec. Greenwich Dance Agency

Sat 23 Oct 2 - 4.30pm Hugh Ockendon

MUSIC **Blackheath Halls/Trinity College of Music** Autumn season: Online booking now open for Blackheath Halls. Please visit www.blackheathhalls.com for full details. Phone bookings taken on 020 8463 0100.

Mon. 4th Oct. at 6.30pm Recital Age Exchange Theatre, Blackheath, SE3 The Scintille Ensemble Free

Tues. 5th Oct. at 1.05pm Concert Old Royal Naval College Chapel, SE10 Free

Blackheath Sundays at

Blackheath Halls at 11.00 am October - December.

Relax with the Sunday papers and our complimentary coffee and croissants before the concert, Tickets £12.50 (£10 concs.)

BARGAIN OF THE YEAR: Buy any 6 tickets for any Sunday morning concerts Oct. - Dec. for £48 - saving 36%! (Concert below on 26th October also included!)

10th Oct. Illustrated talk by Neil Rhind MBE on the history of Blackheath Halls

17th Oct. Raphael Wallfisch cello and John York piano play Schubert, Janacek, Martinu and Dvorak

24th Oct. Catherine Leonard violin and Charles Owen piano play Lutoslawski, Debussy, Tchaikovsky & Beethoven

31 Oct. Gerald Martin Moore piano Mhairi Lawson soprano & Anne-Marie Gibbons mezzo-soprano Programme includes Gounod, Saint-Saens, and Delibes

ALSO: Tues. 26 Oct. 7.30 pm Vellinger Quartet & Bronte Quartet play Haydn, Janacek & Beethoven in the Old Royal Naval College Chapel

Wed. 6th Oct. at 7.30pm TCM Symphony Orchestra Blackheath Halls, Blackheath, SE3 Holst, Elgar, E Wallen, Bax - £8 (£6)

Thurs. 7th Oct. 1pm Concert St. Alfege Church Sam Sherwood, cello. Free

Fri. 8th Oct. at 1pm Lunchtime Concert Charlton House Free

Mon. 11th Oct. at 6.30pm Recital Age Exchange Theatre, Blackheath, SE3 Alex Ellar, baritone Free

Tues. 12th Oct. at 1.05pm Lunchtime Concert Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, SE10 Free

Tues. 12th Oct. at 7.30pm Beats in the Bar Blackheath Halls TCM students with special guest Mark Bassy £3.50 (£1 conc)

Wed. 13th Oct. at 1pm Lunchtime Concert Peacock Room, TCM, Free

Thurs. 14th Oct. at 1pm Lunchtime Concert St. Alfege Church, Greenwich High Road, SE10 The Scintille Ensemble Free

Thurs. 14th Oct. at 7.30pm TCM Brass Band Blackheath Halls, Blackheath, SE3 Conductor, Stephen Maw £3

Fri. 15th Oct. at 1.00 pm Lunchtime Concert Charlton House Free

Sat. 16th Oct. at 10 am - 4pm Open Day Trinity College of Music, Greenwich, SE10 Junior Trinity Open Day Free

Tues. 19th Oct. at 1.05 pm Lunchtime Concert Old Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich, SE10 Free

Tues. 19th Oct. at 7.30 pm Beats in the Bar Blackheath Halls, Blackheath, SE3 TCM students play jazz £3.50 (£1 conc)

Wed. 20th Oct. at 1 pm Lunchtime Concert Peacock Room, TCM Free

Thurs. 21st Oct. at 1pm Lunchtime Concert St. Alfege Church Alex Ellar, baritone Free

Blackheath Complementary Health Centre

184-186 Westcombe Hill London SE3 7DH

Acupuncture Allergy Testing
Aromatherapy Cranial Osteopathy
Chiropody Cranio Sacral Flower-Essences Healing Herbal Medicine Homeopathy
Hypnotherapy Iridology Lymphatic drainage
Massage Mineral Therapy Myofascial Release
Osteopathy Psychotherapy Reflexology Reiki
Shiatsu Spinal Touch Stop Smoking Sports Injuries Thai or Therapeutic massage Tui Na

Gift Vouchers now available

020 8293 5380 8293 5405

info@healingpath.co.uk www.healingpath.co.uk

Fri. 22nd Oct. at 1pm Lunchtime Concert Charlton House Free

Tues. 26th Oct. at 1.05pm Lunchtime Concert Old Royal Naval College Free

Wed. 27th Oct. at 1pm Lunchtime Concert Peacock Room Free

Thurs. 28th Oct. at 1pm Lunchtime Concert St. Alfege Church Free

Thurs. 28th Oct. at 7.30pm Michael Nyman at 60 Blackheath Halls TCM Sinfonietta - Sinfonia and Saxophone Ensemble £8 (£6)

Fri. 29th Oct. at 1.00 pm Lunchtime Concert Charlton House Free

Sun. 31st Oct. at 11.00 am All Saints Day Eucharist Old R. Naval College Chapel, Greenwich TCM Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir with the ORNC Chapel Choir & Will Gaines Free

THEATRE

GREENWICH THEATRE Please ring the Box office on 020 8858 7755

Thu 7 Oct. - Sat 9 Oct. The Third Man Red Shift Theatre Company Celebrate Graham Greene's centenary with this thriller

Tue 12 Oct. - Fri 15 Oct. The Shakespeare Schools Festival One of the UK's fastest-growing theatre festivals - part of a nationwide celebration of Shakespeare in schools

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Queen's House William Hodges 1744-1797: The Art of Exploration 6th July - 21 Nov. Premiere of works by the painter who accompanied Cook on his second voyage to the South Seas

OTHER EVENTS

FRIENDS OF GREENWICH PARK

Friends of Greenwich Park **Wednesday 6th October at 8.00 pm** at John Roan School. **BBC Radio 4**

Gardeners' Question Time panelist Matthew Biggs is the guest celebrity at the **Friends of Greenwich Park's**

Gardeners' Questions Bring your problems for the experts to solve! Tickets £7.50 from Liz Coyle 3 Orchard Drive SE3 OQP Tel. 020 8852 8831

Book Sale organised by Amnesty is on **Saturday 13th Nov. 11 - 4.30 pm.** Church of the Ascension, Dartmouth Row

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Conservative: Cllr. Rhodri Harris can be contacted on 0208 858 9676

Labour: Cllr. Annie Keys: 8333 7244

Cllr. Alex Grant 8855 7292 (New number)

Surgeries: First Friday of every month 7 - 8.00 pm Mycenae House.

Second Tuesday every month: 6.30- 7.30 pm Committee Rooms, Fulthorp Road SE3 (opposite 47 - 59 Fulthorp Road)

Third Saturday of every month: 3.30 - 4.30 pm St James Church Hall, Kidbrook Park Road



'A fresh and colourful concept in casual and classic shoes for both men and women'

No. 7 Greenwich Market, London

Tel: 020 8853 8072

www.moshulu-london.co.uk

HEADSTART COMPUTERSERVICES

ALL YOUR BUSINESS AND HOME NEEDS COVERED.

Networking
Security/Virus
TroubleShooting
New

CHARLTON DENTAL PRACTICE

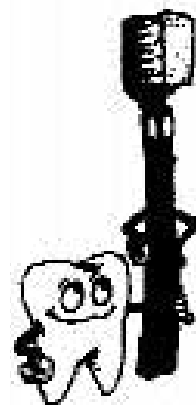
"The Friendly Practice"

NHS & PRIVATE DENTISTRY.
COSMETIC DENTAL WORK.
HYGIENIST AVAILABLE.
SEDATION.

Tel: 020 8858 0481

88 Charlton Road, London SE7 7EY.
(Adjacent to Blackheath Rugby Club)

Emergency patients seen without appointment.



THE WESTCOMBE NET

One Good Tern Deserves Another

Joanne Smith, the Warden for Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, gives us an update

Spring and Summer were very successful seasons for some of the bird life in the park. Five or more pairs of Reed Warblers nested and raised young in the reedbeds. These are shy birds (not often seen but often heard singing noisily) and it is great to have this many pairs breeding in a small area which humans also frequent. The young Reed Warblers are now busy feeding and fattening themselves up for their long flight south - like Swifts and House Martins, they migrate to warmer climes in the autumn.

The Swans returned to the Park this year but unfortunately abandoned their nest - the reason is unclear but we have been reassured by the National Swan Sanctuary that it was more than likely for entirely natural reasons and is not unusual. We had kept a close eye on the Swans this year, helped greatly by local residents and CCTV cameras after some disturbances last year. The Swans left to go onto the river but we hope they will return and try again next year. Swans, including two black Swans (escapees from animal parks!), can be seen regularly on the shores of the river at the moment.

Two pairs of Mallard ducks nested on Millennium Village resident's balconies this summer. In the country, Mallards often nest up in trees and the ducklings jump down when they are ready to go to the water. Here at the



Park, they were helped down by Assistant Warden, Tony Day, to make sure they reached the lakes safely.

Nesting successes
Other nesting successes include Coots,

Moorhens, Crows, Blackbirds, Wrens, Crows, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Little Grebes, Goldfinches, Sedge Warblers and Reed Buntings - an excellent record for a small urban site!

As the site is still fairly new, it is exciting to add new species to our records each year. This summer we were pleased to spot a Little Egret - a white heron-like bird, not often seen this far into London - and a Large Red Damselfly, to add to our 14 species spotted in the park since 2002. The less common Red-eyed Damselfly was also caught on camera this summer, by a keen amateur photographer.

The educational work of the Park has increased each year. Many schools have enjoyed day visits to the Park. Activities such as bug hunting, pond dipping, birdwatching and quiz trails mean the education trips are very

hands-on. Tied in to the National Curriculum, the visits are excellently suited to the primary level syllabus. Future plans are to fundraise for a full time Education Officer and to increase secondary level education.

Summer holidays are very busy with people in the Park and we aim to provide a range of fun but educational activities for all ages. The Grand Open Day in July was a great success.

The Friends

The Friends of the Ecology Park organise fundraising stalls at each event, selling cards, badges and gift items related to the Park. We were especially grateful to Millennium Village resident, Sally Thorburn, who created beautiful cards of scenes of the park from her wonderful photographs and to Compendium Games in Greenwich, who generously donated four environmental board games for a summer Prize Draw.

The Friends group meets about once every two months and is currently involved with three projects, now near completion. A People's Places funded project sowed seeds to plant out in the local community and encouraged people to get involved in the park.

A "Community Chest" project worked with people on the Caletock and Flam-steed estates to encourage visits.



The South East London Community Foundation generously funded our summer play work with local children through its Local Network Fund - this has proved invaluable in getting kids involved in the work of the Park and staying out of trouble this summer! The Friends group always welcomes new members, so why not join up?

The wardens rely on volunteers for many aspects of their work, including the weekly practical management work to maintain the habitats in the Park. We are lucky to have such a great group of people and more volunteers are always welcome! Special thanks go to Steve Roberts and Mark Pritchard, who have been volunteering since the early days of the Park.

Most of the practical habitat management work takes place in autumn and winter when plants have set seed and birds have finished nesting. From September, we plan to cut meadows, clear back vegetation, weed shingle areas and coppice willow trees, among many other tasks. The work is good fun, so if you are interested in taking part, we are out and about every Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm - ring Joanne Smith or Tony Day, for details.

Wardens also undertake a whole range of surveys each year, recording plants and animals in the park and



Nick Wheatly

No, NOT another dome! Local artist and weaver Lee Dalby and helpers construct a shelter from coppiced willows. Every year the willows are thinned out - what better way of recycling the branches? Ask Joanne in January if you would like some for a shelter in your garden!

No excuse now for being pale and wan! Geoff Garvey

A new shop in Old Dover Road is the realisation of a five-year dream for Sarah Buckley.

The 29 year old has opened a tanning and nail salon called "B-Brown. All year Round".

Sarah was previously a senior book-keeper for a firm of chartered accountants but had always wanted to work in the beauty industry.

Now - along with business partner Steve Clark - she has set up her salon in a former florists and opened up for business this summer.

Sarah qualified as a nail technician nearly five years ago and has been search-

ing for ideal premises for a year.

After scouring South East London and West Kent she hit upon Westcombe Park after learning there was no competition, free parking - and its closeness to Blackheath.

She's also set up a creche while mums have their beauty treatment.

Said Sarah: "I'm also very careful about monitoring the amount of time people will be spending on the beds because of the publicity there's been about tanning."

"Basically, I think people look and feel better with a tan - and it can also help to make you look better if you suffer from conditions like psoriasis and eczema."

Interested in being a friend of TRUE - or want further information? We welcome support from local residents for our surveys, so if you have a particular interest in plants or different animals, do contact us. We also welcome anyone who would like to help out with habitat management work - usually on Wednesdays.

Please contact:

Joanne Smith, Senior Warden, and Tony Day, Assistant Warden. Ecology Park Gatehouse, Thames Path, John Harrison Way, London SE10 0QZ 020 8293 1904 TRUE@btcv.org.uk

KITCHENS

Kitchens for your home, and for your rental.
Contemporary or Traditional styles.
Integrated appliances
Supply only, or supply and fit.
Laminated flooring, wood or tile effect.
All plumbing, tiling, and electrics.

And now for the free stuff!
Free survey, plans, cad design.
Free quote.
Free delivery.
Free phone.

08000 407717

mobile 07909 542556
www.kitchens-atp.com

Mobile Hair Consultant

West-end & international experience. Hair styling in the comfort of your own home

Kevin Noon

20 Webb Road,
London, SE3 7PL
Tel. 8858 5149
Mobile: 07771 868923

WESTCOMBES!

Come and visit Westcombes Fireplaces for the biggest selection of Antique, Reproduction and Contemporary fires in the Southeast. Ring for special discounts for Westcombe news readers and quote Ref: WN101. Made to measure service, restoration

ENVIRONMENT

Restless Close

Concerns have been expressed by members of the Westcombe Society, the Blackheath Society and others, over the way things are going - or have gone - with regard to the Restell Close development and the adjacent woods, known either as "Maze Hill Woods" or by some locals as "the Westcombe Woods" - the steep wooded area to the north of Ulundi Road, and the south and west of Restell Close.

Three issues cause concern:

1 Density

In the new development of the Restell Close site, critics point out that it is not clear what area was used in calculating the density (measured in 'habitable rooms per hectare'). Both the GLA and Greenwich Strategic Planning refer to Planning Policy Guidance note PPG 3 which defines the net area of a site for calculating hrh. In Annex C it states that open spaces serving a wider area should be excluded. But it is not clear which area has been included - for example it appears Woodland Heights was included in the drawing submitted to the Planning Board.

It would seem that according to some calculations, the density is not an acceptable 300 - 450 hrh (habitable rooms per hectare) but is nearer the much denser figure of 635 hrh - very high, especially for a conservation area.

The Council points out that a higher hrh is permissible given the proximity of the dwellings to public transport and local town centres. Their main aim is to get a good living environment for residents, with a high standard of design form, for the site. They also indicate that they will be continuing negotiations with the applicants to provide for a financial contribution for the upkeep of the woodlands at the rear of the site under a Section 106 agreement.



2 Parking issues

Why did the board decide to increase the parking provision to one car space per housing unit, when an important argument made in favour of the scheme was its closeness to transport links? It is argued that the corollary of more cars should be fewer housing units per hectare. And the designer of the scheme himself argued for only 75% parking provision.

It is noteworthy that the road serving Restell Close is Vanbrugh Hill - which will come under further pressure when the hospital site is developed.

3 The future of the woodlands

The other area of concern relates to several references both in GLA documents and Greenwich Council documents to possible alleged negotiations taking place between the owners of the woods and the developers of the Restell Close site.

Any worries on this score are dealt with in the adjoining statement by the Blackheath Development Trust. But questions remain as to who might have "controlled access" to these woods. Some argue that there should be no access, because of the dangerous nature of the terrain; others suggest that controlled access should be open to all living in the Westcombe Park area.

The Woods: Update From BPT

Announcement from the Blackheath Preservation Trust September 2004

The BPT refers to the GLA Report dated 6 August 2004 on the Restell Close Planning Application

The Blackheath Preservation Trust is the freeholder of The Woodlands, the wooded site to the south of the Restell Close development site and called Maze Hill Wood in the GLA report.

The Trust has been in existence for over sixty years and continues with its overall objective of preserving the buildings and character of Blackheath and its environs.

The Board is currently seeking a way of providing for the long term sustainable future of these woods, and are interested in the proposal by Greenwich Council that the site should receive some benefit from the adjacent development in Restell Close..

Ted Watts, Chairman of the Trust, said: "The Trust has only just seen the GLA Report on the planning application, and has found there are some inaccuracies in it relating to The Woodlands which we would like to correct, as follows:

1 Section 11: "the woodland will be managed by the applicant and secured through the s.106 agreement".

There is no arrangement for the wood-

land to be managed by the applicant (i.e. the developer). Indeed it is doubtful the developer would want to have this responsibility.

It is not clear what is meant by "the woodland will be . . . secured through the s.106 agreement". No agreement has been made between the BPT (owners of The Woodlands), Greenwich Council and/or the developer of Restell Close, although discussions are taking place to explore the possibilities which may be acceptable to BPT for securing the long-term future of the woods..

2 Section 15: "The applicant is to enter into a legal agreement to manage the woodland, and to allow residents access to the wood. This is to be welcomed." See 1 above.

The provision of controlled access to the site is thought desirable by the BPT, but we would hope we could provide this for all residents who live in properties adjacent to the site. There are also issues of liability and management of the access which need to be addressed, as the site is potentially dangerous due to the steep escarpment in the centre section."

Contact: Mary Sutherland: 8318 5692 bpt@blackheath-bpt.com

Book Review

How We Can Save the Planet

 by Mayer Hillman

Penguin Books, 2004. 189 pp; £7.99

Sir David King, the government's chief scientist, has called climate change a "weapon of mass destruction" and a greater threat than terrorism.

Dr Mayer Hillman has been researching environmental issues for over thirty years. This small book, written with Tina Fawcett, presents a critical and comprehensive analysis of the problems of climate change and of current strategies to deal with them, and proposes specific and practical actions that need to be taken now at international, national and individual levels if we are to "save the planet" or "avoid the extremes of climate change to which we are currently heading with eyes wide shut."

The book puts many current preoccupations in a broader context. Thus: "There is a popular misconception that we need to worry about the world running out of fossil fuels. But long before fossil fuels run out, the effects of continuing to use them at current rates will cause havoc to the climate and the planet, and that should be the greater cause for concern."

The only hope for achieving a just global agreement is through "fair shares for all" - or "contraction and convergence", a term proposed by Aubrey

Meyer, founder and director of the Global Commons Institute, in 1990.

Gandhi would have understood, and approved: when asked what he would wish for his people in independent India, he said: "that they may be able to satisfy their needs, and control their wants."

Such a global agreement can be obtained surely only under the auspices of the UN - and this may be its greatest challenge. But the book also provides challenges for the individual, listing for example the carbon dioxide emissions associated with household energy use, or journeys by road, rail and air, and contrasting these with the annual carbon ration which it sees as necessary now as food rationing was in World War II.

Sir Crispin Tickell once said something to the effect that significant change in behaviour requires three conditions to be met: strong leadership from the top, sustained pressure from below, and a monumental catastrophe.

Whether provoked by catastrophe or not, there is no doubt that people need to be much more aware of these issues than most are at present - which is why everyone should read and reflect on this important book. Peter Greaves

GRANT SAW s o l i c i t o r s

Our firm was established in Greenwich in 1851 by Samuel Saw and has been helping clients with their legal matters ever since. Grant Saw can offer assistance with most aspects of the law including:

Accident and Personal Injury

(no win no fee)

Commercial Conveyancing

Company Law

Court Actions

Family Law

Employment Law (no win no fee)

Landlord and Tenant

Residential Conveyancing

Wills, Probate and Trusts

For an appointment or general enquiry please call us:

Norman House, 110-114 Norman Road, Greenwich London SE10 9EH
Tel: 020 8858 6971 Fax: 020 88585796
website: www.grantsaw.co.uk
E mail: enquiries@grantsaw.co.uk

Calling All Gardeners!

The Garden Competition has been postponed until next spring. Christopher's Column has been held over until next month.

A&P BUILDERS



ROOFING, BUILDING, INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
PAINTING
DECORATING CONTRACTORS & GENERAL
BUILDERS
FREE ESTIMATES AND LOCAL REFERENCES
ON REQUEST

0208 - 853 2759
Mobile 0795 081 5412



**Trojan
Press**
Est. 1978

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 Stationery •

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

MARKET PLACE

Please send ads for the Market Place with payment by the 10th day of the preceding month to: Geoff Russell, 32 Kiddbrooke Park Road, London SE3 0DU 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 Lynn 8244 7011 or pritchard@selondonfsmnet.co.uk
NO ROOM FOR VISITORS? Flats for short-term lets, suit holiday-makers, professionals (Mon - Fri), between house-buying, weekenders. Tel Mrs. Matthey 020 8858 0338
HOST FAMILIES REQUIRED Caring host families needed throughout the year for our short-stay students. 020 8858 0577

FOR SALE

HANDSOME COFFEE TABLE in reclaimed pine, one metre square, £50. Also **green water butt** £10. Ring 020 8858 9415

GARDENING

ENJOY YOUR GARDEN ALL YEAR ROUND For Autumn/Winter tidying, planting schemes, landscaping, call Leslie on 020 8858 6541
AFFORDABLE GARDEN SERVICES, locally established 1991. Hardworking, reliable and experienced. No job too big or small. Also patio pressure washing. References available. Martin 020 8333 0839
FENCING, TREE WORK and other gardening services undertaken. References available. Reliable & friendly. Phone Tim on 8311 0964
ALL YEAR ROUND gardening maintenance, turfing, hedge and tree pruning. Tel. 8858 0965 or 8333 9112 evenings

HOLIDAYS

SARDINIA, BOSA ALGERO Medieval town house, sleeps 6, terrace, beautiful beaches. 013 0436 7443
WHITSTABLE WEEKENDS / WEEKS. Sea wall house between Oyster Warehouse and Harbour. Sleeps five. Fantastic views. 013 0436 7443 or 020 8858 6578
BARCELONA. Bed and Breakfast. Contact Keith 0034 93455 5068, kdwood@arrakis.es

Improve your gardening and your garden

Practical professional advice on how to improve your garden and brush up your skills.

Hands-on, on site, guidance on planting, plant care and maintenance, plus design tips on making the best of your garden. Whole or half-day sessions tailored to your needs.

Phone Christopher for details on 020 8691 2240

SAUNAS

Saunas are not a luxury, they are healthy living!

They are the best way to relieve stress and unwind. You can now have your own sauna. We can install anywhere - in a whole room, or just part of one, or in a shed, loft, basement - or even a bedroom. Using genuine Finnish materials, we can design, supply and install. Call Darren for a free survey and quote on 07957 307701 or 020 8297 1824

PERSONAL CARE

PILATES FOR MOBILITY & STRENGTH. Term-time Thursday classes at Mycenae House. 9.45 am Intermediates, 10.45 am Beginners & Improvers. To book please phone 013 2244 9211

LOW COST ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC.

Arthritis, back pain, menstrual problems, migraine and sciatica are just some of the conditions that acupuncture can help. Wednesday mornings 10.00 am to 1.00 pm with Sarah Pritchard LicAc., MBAcC., £20. One hour sessions for anyone on a low income. Blackheath Complementary Health Centre, 184-186 Westcombe Hill SE3. Appointments 8293 5380

SERVICES and TRADE

SIMMONDS HOME MAINTENANCE

Electrical, telephone extensions, decorating and general repairs. For a free estimate, contact D. Simmonds on 8249 9817 or 07941982895

STUART, TOP CLASS WINDOW CLEANER,

when quality is foremost. Serving your community for over five years. Specialises in interior (including mirrors) as well as exterior. Phone Stuart on 07818 888 495 or 020 8857 7862

GEEBEE PROFESSIONAL TYPING Services.

Prompt, reliable, professional. Letters / reports / CVs manuscripts theses, dissertations, Phone Gillian 020 8333 9544

INTERIOR SPATIAL DESIGNER for domestic & commercial properties.

Design, planning, extensions etc. Contact Liz Bull, BA (Hons) Interior Architecture on 077 3990 3752 or info@litzbulldesign.com

PLANNING APPLICATIONS Experienced Local Architect.

Residential Premises. Small works/ Extensions. Commercial Premises. Listed Buildings. Advice/Design/ Supervision of Construction.

Maintenance Work/Leaking/ Roofs/ Driveways etc Furniture Design and Interior Design. Reasonable Rates. 020 8858 6833

CLOTHING ALTERATIONS, repair, beading,

embroidery, & restyling. Blackheath. Contact Galdina tel. 020 7207 7739 / 078 8179 8028

CARPET CLEANING & PATIO JET WASHING.

Please contact Mark 079 5660 7321/020 8402 6387

MATURE, VERSATILE HANDYMAN: carpentry,

decorating, garden fencing, light building, etc. Ring Steven on 020 8985 2922

BESPOKE BOOKCASES & WARDROBES.

Contemporary or heritage designs. Happy to quote. Call Tom Ellis on 020 8519 8947

QUALIFIED PLASTERER, internal and external,

solid and fibrous plastering undertaken. Quick, clean and reliable. For free quotes, call Daniel Horgan on 077 3322 6164

EXPERIENCED INTERIOR DECORATOR

offers advice & quality workmanship, on all aspects of decorating. Free quotes. Local references available. Contact Ashley Greaves on 020 8858 2981. Guild of Master Craftsmen member

LADY DECORATOR experienced in both environ-

mentally friendly & orthodox paint finishes. Quality, reliability and very fair rates. Many local references. Tel 0797196 5517 / 8853 0087

DAVIDSON PLASTERING. Ceilings repaired or

renovated. Artex ceilings skimmed to a smooth finish. Kitchen & bathroom wall tile damage repaired. Insurance work undertaken inc. painting & decorating. C & G qualified Small jobs welcome. 020 8316 0990

A MAN AND A VAN. Tel: 020 8858 3889 Mobile:

07885 917 842

QUALITY PAINTING & DECORATING

Internal & external, wallpaper hanging, competitive prices. Call Arthur 88583393/07986557731

MALCOLM TIERNEY, CARPENTER &

CABINET MAKER. Stairs repaired, doors hung, sash windows overhauled and draught proofed, Computer workstation-cupboards & kitchens supplied & fitted. Bespoke furniture made to your specification. 0777 565 7371

HOUSE CLEARANCE, light removals etc.

079 6093 5398

KITCHENS AT TRADE PRICES. Free design, free delivery. 020 8305 1263 or 078 8591 7842

BRUSH STROKES OF BLACKHEATH

Quality painters and decorators, interior & exterior work, call Linda 0208 856 7289 / M 0798 9215956

THERAPY

BLACKHEATH HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICE

provides counselling, coaching, postural yoga, Alexander Technique Tel. 020 8858 5969/ 8854 5080. www.bhhs.selondon.co.uk

ACHIEVE HARMONY & BALANCE in Body,

Mind and Spirit with Reflexology, Lymphatic Massage and Aromatherapy. Experience positive results with female hormonal problems; PMT Painful Periods Menopause etc. Holistic Therapist with 15 years experience. For more information call Ellie Kopiel BSc. MIIR IFA. Tel. Clinic: 020 8463 0607, Home: 020 8857 2992

HYPNOTHERAPY, COUNSELLING, AND

PSYCHOTHERAPY. Christine Frischholz DipSACH.

Hyp., GHR Reg., offers professional help with smoking, stress, phobias, unwanted habits, weight control and many other conditions. Call in confidence to Healthwise Natural Therapy Centre, 5 Delacourt Road, SE3. 020 8293 1116

MOBILE MAKE-UP ARTIST. Gift vouchers avail-

able. Treat yourself or someone special! 020 8858 2338

LOSE WEIGHT AND DETOX with our 100%

pure aloe vera drinks! Quick results. Improve your skin, joints, and digestion and keep fit and healthy. Contact: 020 9293 1737, www.aloevera2bee.com.

Forever Living Products, Natural Health. Distributors

wanted.

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST - Vinita

Mothersole offers all aspects of chiropody and podiatry. 184 - 186 Westcombe Hill, 020 8293 5380; 13 Montpelier Vale, Blackheath Village, 020 8852 4366

TUITION

ENGLISH TUITION. All ages, GCSE, A/S levels, Coursework etc. offered by qualified, experienced English teacher. Hellin Halliday BA Hons. (PGCE). Tel: 020 8858 7704

PIANO LESSONS A.B. Exams taken if desired - all grades, a holistic approach to teaching and learning. **THEORY - for A.B. Grade 5 etc. GCSE MUSIC** - extra help with school tuition/ back-up lessons. Please ring 020 8856 1200

TRUSHARE COMPUTER TUTOR. Beginners a speciality. I come to your home and start from where you are. Desktop publishing, Databases, Email, Internet, Websites and much else. Only £10 per hour. Ring 020 8858 7052

GUITAR LESSONS Beginners welcome. Rock, Folk, finger picking. Tel John, 8488 2713 / 079 5837 0565

MATHS (to GCSE) & ENGLISH TUITION and preparation for secondary school selection tests by qualified teacher. Mary Bauckham 020 8858 3814, mary.bauckham@virgin.net

PRIVATE TUITION IN DRAWING, Painting and Sculpture with a practising artist. Either for pleasure or a more specific purpose - preparing a portfolio or for an exam. Steven Alley, M.A. 020 8985 2922

PIANO & DOUBLE BASS lessons. All ages / abilities welcome. Jazz and classical, theory and improvisation, exams preparation. Please ring 077 7928 5174

SPANISH TUITION Individual and group lessons. GCSE, A/S levels. All ages. By qualified Latin American Teacher, CLTA. Tel: Miguel 020 8305 0874

WANTED

VICTORIAN CLOBBER

The Westcombe Society urgently needs items of clothing and accessories suitable for use/adaptation as Victorian costume. Top hats and feather hats are particularly useful! Please ring 0208 853 0948 or 0208 856 1624 if you can help.

SURPLUS FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Fruit and vegetables still needed for making into marmalade, jam, and chutney. Please ring 8853 0948 or 8293 1619 or 8856 1624 if you can help

BUY LOCAL - FOR A DISCOUNT!

Discounts available on production of your Westcombe Society membership card

BLACKHEATH VILLAGE

BLACKS OF BLACKHEATH -

JEWELLERS 10% OFF purchases over

£100, excluding sale goods and repairs

CACTUS PIT -

TEX/MEX RESTAURANT 20% OFF

meals & drinks for two or more, Sunday to

Thursday

CHAPTER TWO RESTAURANT. 10%

OFF all meals for two, lunch/dinner,

Monday to Thursday

CHLOE LADIES FASHION FREE

PASHMINA SCARF with every purchase

over £150.

EL PIRATA SPANISH TAPAS

RESTAURANT 20% OFF meals & drinks

for two or more, Sunday to Thursday

JUST FOR SPORT 10% OFF purchases

over £50, Monday to Friday

PARES FOOTWEAR 10% OFF all

shoes over £20, excluding sale stock

RAFFLES DESIGNER WEAR.

10% OFF all non-sale goods

RIGHT ANGLE RETAIL - GIFTS

10% OFF special goods plus free delivery

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.

HUMBER ROAD

BODYWORKZ - THE FITNESS

CLINIC

109 Humber Road. 10% OFF all

treatments costing £30 or more except

Chiropody; excluding Saturdays.

CAFE EAST - RESTAURANT

(Station Crescent) 10% OFF meals for

two or more Sunday - Tuesday.

ROYAL STANDARD

COTON & HAMBLIN - OPTICIANS

5% OFF frames, sunglasses & accessories

GG SPARKS ORGANIC BUTCHERS

10% to all spending over £25, excluding

special offers

IVOR HOWELLS CAMERAS 10%

OFF

JOHN GIVEN 5% OFF white goods,

10% OFF household goods, other

discounts available

KARAN CHEMIST 10% OFF Weds. only

MARNELLS - DIY 10% OFF all goods

on Wednesdays

WELL BEAN - HEALTH GOODS

10% OFF all purchases over £20 (cash or

cheque, not credit cards)

TROJAN PRESS 10% OFF all printing

quotations.

Meridian Patients Forum Meeting

Mon. 4th Oct. 7.00 - 9.00 pm

at Christchurch Forum,

Trafalgar Road.

Focus on Diabetes

Two health care professionals will

talk, and answer questions

All welcome

Sponsored by Greenwich Primary Care Trust

If you're considering a care home, it's reassuring to find someone you can really trust. With a BUPA Care Home, you'll find care that's tailored to the needs of each individual and packages to suit a variety of budgets. To arrange a visit, just contact your local home.

The kettle is always on.

WESTCOMBE PARK NURSING HOME
 112a Westcombe Park Road
 Blackheath, London SE3 7RZ
 Tel: 020 8293 9093



BUPA
 Care Homes

