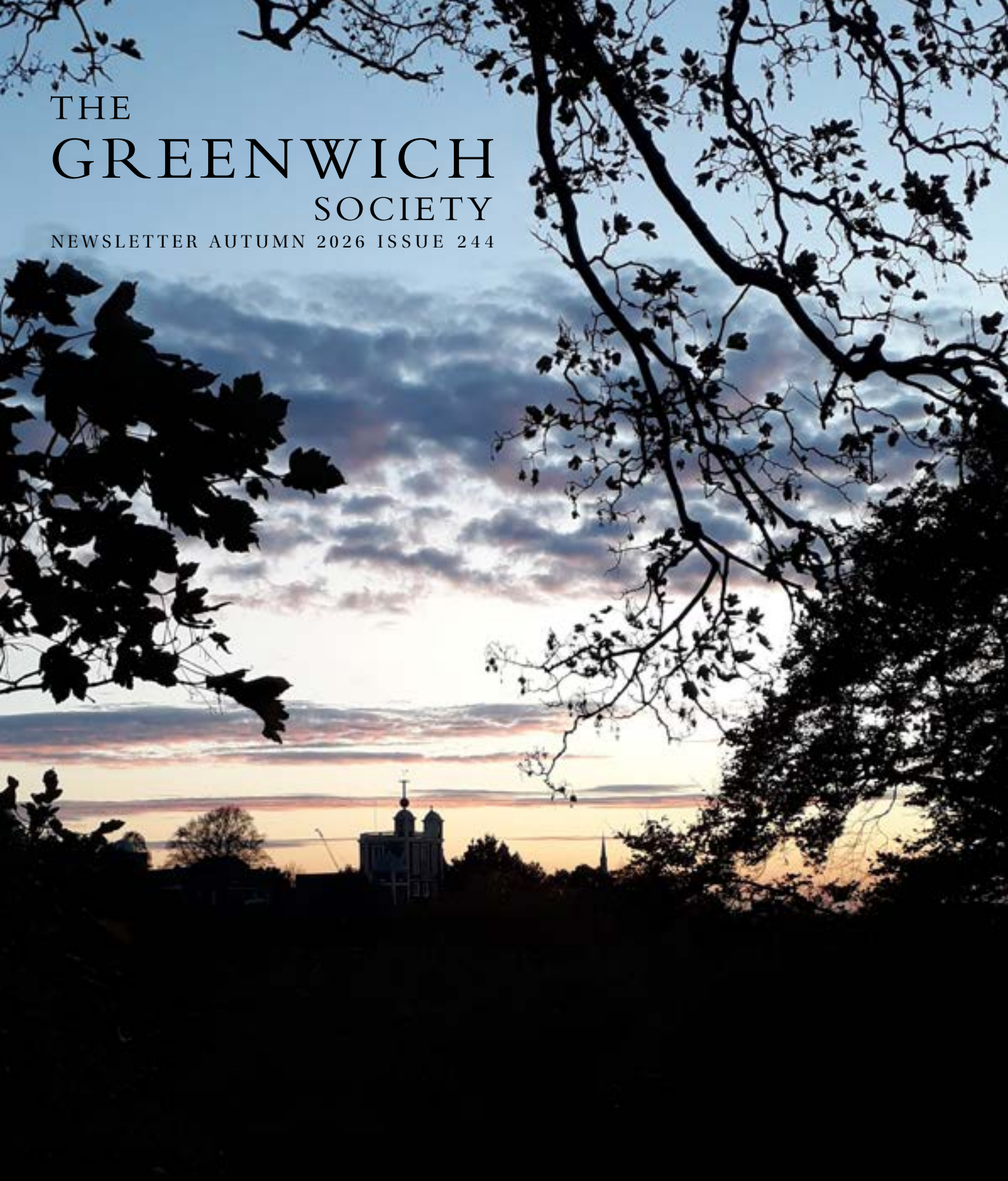
THE GREENWICH SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2026 ISSUE 244



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Councillors Q&A

Planning and Events updates

The Other Queen's House

THE GREENWICH SOCIETY
Our heritage and our future

Editorial

There's a grim fascination in local instances of wider situations. This issue holds notes on both Greenwich and Lewisham mass-housing proposals, now often including lower-spec student accommodation blocks, that answer the cry for 'more homes'. Vast warehouse datacentres (London already has over 200) are also adding to local contest for acreage. Among recent housing behemoths, the new Lewisham Gateway has won the 'Carbuncle Cup' as an architectural eyesore, with a large part uninhabitable for a further year from a pipe-burst flooding its electrical plant. Lewisham has negatived another towering mega-scheme at Deptford Bridge (see p.5) and local councillors have frowned on a datacentre of multi-football-pitch scale at Charlton Riverside even before its planning submission. At more day-to-day level, ongoing rumblings over town-centre management are punctuated with brief flashes of one-off 'improvement', such as replanting degraded garden areas (at Cutty Sark and Burney Street). Although welcome, customary absence of clear provision for upkeep risks them not lasting better than what they replace. Even without impacts from high visitor numbers, the state of much UK urban public realm reflects a similar 'cycle of dereliction': occasional fits of 'capital project' spend, small or large, then – after photo-ops for credit – maintenance neglect on a familiar downward curve until deterioration reaches critical-mass for the next spasm. More day-to-day public mistreatment is, I suspect, outcome of neither early home nor school experience instilling good 'civic' habits (if they ever did), the ineffectuality of penalising bad ones at scale, and the apparently wide assumption that 'personal liberty' includes a right to expect others both to tolerate them and pay for cleaning up resulting debris. Apart from the ever-depressing effects, and the endless costs of doing so, it's primarily an attitudinal disease. The prescription for curing it is simple and cost-free: 'don't make a mess in other people's lives', which also has the benefit of reducing it in your own. Europeans, with longer warm-climate and family-based traditions of civilised outdoor sociability, tend to treat public space as a valued common asset rather than a general no-man's land for *ad lib* spread of trash, spat-out chewing gum (most now made of unbiodegradable polymer/plastic), and other abuse. It would be good if ongoing global warming tipped average 'urban-Brit' habits more that way but don't bet on it.

Application site boundary for the datacentre at Charlton Riverside

Unexpected changes

Despite announcement in the last issue of Stephen Howlett as the Society's Chaiman-elect, we regret that he has stood down for personal reasons. We are also again seeking a new Honorary Secretary: expressions of interest always welcome.

Getting Greener: how will having two Green Party councillors change Greenwich Park Ward?

Greenwich Society committee members meet regularly with as many local councillors as possible to share concerns and receive updates on local matters. As noted in the last *Newsletter*, the May 2026 local elections shifted the ratio of the Labour majority on Greenwich Council from 10:1 to 7:4, mainly by the addition of 13 new councillors from the Green Party, now the main opposition group. In Greenwich Park Ward, where many Society members live, the two Labour councillors were replaced by two 'Greens', **Karin Tearle** and **Stacy Smith**, who also live locally. The Society's co-vice chair, Catherine Guest, recently met them to ask about their experiences in the role so far and to understand their priorities. Both began by expressing thanks to everyone who had voted for them and describing their pride when they first walked into the Town Hall as elected representatives.

Q: What has surprised you most about your new role?

A: The Council has been very helpful, offering plenty of training for new councillors since the elections. Though there have been a few gaps in the handover process, partly as a result of the pre-election period, the surprise has been the delay on information the Council holds about residents' associations. These are an important part of community-building and we want to support them. Some key issues we're repeatedly asked about by residents are bins and fly-tipping!

Q: How have Council officers and Labour councillors reacted to having so many more opposition councillors than before?

A: Individuals have been very helpful, though perhaps there is a sense of wariness about getting too friendly! An example of the friendliness was a walkabout in the town centre with enforcement officers and traffic wardens where we looked at Blue Badge abuse and discussed the scale of the problem and how to prevent it.

Q: What improvements would you most like to see in Greenwich Park Ward in the next four years?

A: There are plenty of small improvements that would make a difference to the area as a whole. For example: greening the A2 near Wickes and on Blackheath Hill; planting on other small, paved areas, and working with community groups on these projects to create a sense of ownership. We'd like to see an end to the use of glyphosate (a toxic weedkiller) in streets across our area and to improve the synchronisation of rubbish collection in the town centre so that pavements aren't blocked and bags of waste left out overnight are not burst open by foxes. This will need us to work with businesses as well as residents and the waste services. We'd also like to resolve the issue of leaking soil stacks in blocks of flats on the Orchard Estate, Lewisham Road, something we've been pushing for since 2022. The foot-tunnel lifts are another priority in which we've been supporting the community group EscalateNow in highlighting problems, as we did previously with the escalators at Cutty Sark DLR station, and we're delighted that TfL acknowledges them as a credible stakeholder.

Q: How can the World Heritage Site and town centre be made better for both tourists and residents?

A: We're tackling the 'itinerant ice-cream van problem', where vans take up parking spaces and leave engines idling, sending out pollution, and where prices are often not displayed and tourists get ripped off. We'd like to see a resolution to this problem and for enforcement to take legal action as promised in October 2024. We've already mentioned restaurant rubbish collections and would like to see adherence to new governmental recycling regulations.

Karin and Stacy

Re-planting in Cutty Sark Gardens was delayed because of the extreme heat over the summer, but the work has now resumed and we understand drought-resistant plants will be chosen. We are pushing for some trees to be included on the periphery to provide shade in this exposed area.

We're supporting residents who want to clean up the vandalised telephone boxes and we also actively help a group of gardeners who maintain the planters outside the University building on Stockwell Street. The difference has been amazing with people regularly sitting here and enjoying the space. It's all about community empowerment and supporting grassroots action for the benefit of all.

Our conversation continued on the inconsiderate parking of Lime bikes (residents are encouraged to take a photo of a bike's QR code and send to Lime via the app or email), on improving recycling (a possible information campaign on what can actually be recycled, and what not), and on bikes in the Greenwich foot-tunnel. We ran out of time, but Karin and Stacy took away a list of further questions and promised to come back with some answers which we hope to report on in a future *Newsletter*.

Planning Matters

Sheila Keeble

Town centre pedestrianisation
The long-running saga of improving the pedestrian experience in the town centre seems to be back on the agenda. Apparently, TfL and the Council are nearly agreed on the details, subject to some issues about bus stops. Unfortunately, it seems that implementation will require yet another public consultation.

The former North Greenwich gasometer site (ref: 26/2624/F), sandwiched between the entrance to the Silvertown Tunnel and Millennium Way, has recently arrived on the planning portal. It includes a 29-storey student housing block containing 426 units/834 bedspaces, a 25-storey co-living block with 378 units and a 15-storey residential rental block with 72 units. The developers, Scape, also promise a public park using the foundations of the gasometer. In the current political climate, it is unlikely that any development including housing will be turned down. Greenwich Society concerns are mainly about the amount of student accommodation appearing in this area and relying on a continuing supply of overseas students, since UK student-maintenance grants would not cover the rents. We have also reiterated our desire for far better waste-handling systems to be incorporated, so we do not see commercial bins left for days in public space and bin lorries having to use public walkways.

Meridian House and the Borough Hall
It is a relief to see large-scale works under way for the conversion of Meridian House into rental-only flats. The threat of a mobile mast on the roof has also now been averted. The only remaining issue is access to the clock tower, where the Fire Brigade have objected to use of the lift because of the impossibility of ensuring the safe evacuation of users in the event of a lift failure.

There has also been a recent consultation about proposals to turn the two borough halls into a hotel, restaurant and bar complex similar to the Ned, in the old Midland Bank Banking Hall in the City of London. This plan would retain the original features of the halls while adding hotel rooms on top.

Cutty Sark Gardens
Many people will have followed the halting progress of greening works in Cutty Sark Gardens, apparently caused by water leaking into the car park underneath. The planting theme is intended to reflect the places to which *Cutty Sark* sailed and the fences will remain in place for two years while plants get established. There are ornamental stones dotted in the planting which will provide handy missiles in the event of trouble.

Disappointingly, the Greenwich Society had a number of meetings with Borough councillors and officers over recent years and the consensus was that the large, planted areas were almost impossible to maintain with the limited staffing available. There was also clearly a lack of seating for visitors as well as no public toilets, water-refill points or clear signage. These issues remain unaddressed and it is unclear what long-term maintenance budget is available.

Business Improvement District launch for Greenwich town centre
Business Improvement Districts exist across the country and there are around 70 in other London boroughs dating back over 20 years. The aim is to encourage businesses to contribute some extra tax, which is used directly to improve cleaning, maintenance, lighting, safety and public spaces, while increasing footfall by hosting special events. While the launch included representatives from Royal Museums Greenwich and Greenwich Park among others, there were few small business representatives. Ultimately, it will be up to local businesses to decide on the merits of the scheme and with so many chains now established in the town centre there would need to be clear financial benefits.

Thames Path closures
The 30th anniversary of the establishment of a Thames National Trail, from its source in Gloucestershire to Gravesend, generated a lot of enthusiastic walkers who completed the whole course – except in Greenwich, where the Council permitted two significant closures at Morden Wharf and the Victoria Deep Water Terminal as well as a two-week closure for an event at Magazine. Walkers arriving at Greenwich had to tackle the filthy, pot-holed northern stretch of Tunnel Avenue instead. We need better co-ordination so that public events are not affected in a way which damages the visitor economy and the reputation of the area.

Burney Street Garden
Work to upgrade this green corner at the junction with Royal Hill are scheduled for completion by the end of October. It will be paid for by 'Section 106' money from the former police-station redevelopment (Amparo House). However, there is currently no ongoing maintenance plan or budget, although Dring's have volunteered to water when necessary.

Former Lewisham College site at Deptford Bridge
This important site is situated partly in Greenwich but mainly in Lewisham and therefore requires planning permission from both boroughs. The proposals are for 802 homes in blocks up to 30 storeys with only 3% designated as 'affordable'. Greenwich officers had recommended granting planning permission while Lewisham recommended refusal. Both applications were scheduled to be heard on 24 September but in the event Greenwich decided to defer a decision until it was clear what Lewisham would do. The scheme was roundly rejected by Lewisham, not just on grounds of height and impact on heritage views but also because of the effects on boat-dwellers in Deptford Creek, who would be completely over-shadowed by the blocks. Despite that, Greenwich has now approved its smaller part but, for access reasons, work cannot start until Lewisham approves the rest. Next steps are unclear but developer appeal to the Mayor of London is possible.

More entertainment venues at North Greenwich
Two new venues on the Peninsula have recently received planning permission. Secret Cinema is now under construction with a capacity of 1500 while Troubadour, reportedly the largest theatre in London, will have two auditoria, each with capacity for 1500. On top of the existing 20,000 capacity at the O2 and 10,000 at Magazine, it is likely that this will have real issues for users of the North Greenwich transport hub which is already at breaking point during large events. The planning conditions include provisions for co-ordinated entry and exit times from events but – given how poorly current events are managed, with enormous queues for the escalators and a lack of stewarding for car traffic that results in vehicles blocking access to the bus station – this seems like wishful thinking.

25 Gloucester Circus: update *Tim Barnes*
Readers may recall (see *Newsletter* no. 242) the application by new owners of this house to half-infill the void between it and no. 26. The Council planning officers recommended approval, despite objections from the owner of no. 26 and the Society, in writing and subsequently before the Planning Committee. Practical impacts on no. 26 aside, both emphasized that these houses, with a wide gap above their ground-floor entrance halls, are the only pair in Gloucester Circus in which that original design survives. The Committee agreed, rejecting the application, against which no. 25 lodged an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate: it has also now been dismissed, with a detailed refutation of the supporting arguments. That is very good news and reflects the value of the Society as a voice on this kind of issue. It will be interesting to see whether the proposed legislative changes introduced under Sir Keir Starmer will prevent Planning Committees overriding officer recommendations in such cases, where narrow-focus regulatory 'box-ticking', rather than a broader long-term view, can easily erode historical design quality bit-by-bit with each encroachment reinforcing precedent for the next. We will keep members informed.

The Other Queen's House

Alistair J. Sinclair*

Anne, by John de Critz, *c.*1605 © National Maritime Museum, London

Few people familiar with the Queen's House in Greenwich probably realise that it was preceded by a Queen's House in Dunfermline, Fife. Even fewer are likely to know that, like Inigo Jones's classical Greenwich villa, the Dunfermline house was also built bridging a narrow roadway.

In 1600 Anne of Denmark – queen to James VI of Scotland (James I of England from 1603) – had the Dunfermline house rebuilt, so was long familiar with its bridge element when Jones designed his Greenwich variant in 1616. Whether he knew of the precedent is not recorded but it is at least intriguing to speculate what, if any, direct exchange they may have had – as architect and patron – on the feature for Greenwich.

Queen Anne was given the Lordship of Dunfermline as a 'morning gift' on her marriage to James in 1589. The gift was substantial because it included a royal palace that had grown out of the guest house of Dunfermline Abbey, which was one of the largest and richest in Scotland, and the Queen's House there (as later at Greenwich) was part of the palace. The Abbey itself was burial place of seven Scottish kings including Robert the Bruce who, as victor of Bannockburn in 1314, established the independence of Scotland, with Dunfermline effectively its capital until Edinburgh took over later in the century.

Anne's 1600 reconstruction of its Queen's House was by William Schaw (1550–1602), then Scotland's royal 'Master of Works' – as Jones later became to both King James and Charles I in England – and also famous for the 'Schaw Statutes', part of the history of freemasonry. Charles, Anne's second son, was born at Dunfermline Palace on 19 November 1600, perhaps even in her new House if sufficiently finished.

Ebenezer Henderson's authoritative *Annals of Dunfermline* (1878, p. 254) describes the building as follows:

'In the year 1600, a new palace [i.e. the House] was erected for the Queen on the site of the former one (which stood on the north-east end of the King's Palace), adjacent to the entrance to Pittencrieff. Part of the west end of the wall of its pend, or archway, which went under it, is still to be seen on the west side of the street adjoining Pittencrieff Lodge. The new erection was built in a modern style, was very high, consisted of three stories, and had, of course, many convenient apartments, but how many is not now known. Having been built by Queen Anna, it was always known by the name of the 'Queen's House', or 'Queen Anna of Denmark's House'. A long, narrow pend went under it, leading to the main courtyard of the palatial buildings. Immediately over the south key-stone of this pend, there was a large sheet of copper, secured to the wall by copper bolts, having on it the following inscription in Latin [here omitted but which Henderson translates as] 'This porch, and the house built above it, having through age and the injuries of time fallen down and come to ruin, have been restored from the foundation, and built on a larger scale by Queen Anne, daughter of Frederick, the most august King of Denmark, in the year 1600.' (Continues on p.7)

**Alistair gave the Society 'Coffee & Chat' talk in July: this is an edited version.*

The Dunfermline Queen's House, as recorded in 1790

'Anna', the Danish spelling, was then a common usage and she is still celebrated in Dunfermline by Queen Anne Street (a prominent one), and the Queen Anne High School. The Dunfermline Abbey Church also still receives a small, historic annuity from Queen Anne's Mortification, originally established for its choral school. Another local legacy is the remarkable Dunfermline monument that she commissioned to William Schaw in 1602. It is today near the main doorway of the Abbey and part of the Latin dedication translates as follows:

'This humble structure of stones covers a man of excellent skill, notable probity, singular integrity of life, adorned with the greatest of virtues – William Schaw, Master of the King's Works, President of the Sacred Ceremonies, and the Queen's Chamberlain. He died 18th April, 1602. Among the living he dwelt fifty-two years; he had travelled in France and many other Kingdoms, for the improvement of his mind; he wanted [i.e. lacked] no liberal training; was most skilful in architecture; was early recommended to great persons for the singular gifts of his mind; and was not only unwearied and indefatigable in labours and business, but constantly active and vigorous, and was most dear to every good man who knew him. He was born to do good offices, and thereby to gain the hearts of men; now he lives eternally with God. Queen Anne ordered this monument to be erected to the memory of this most excellent and most upright man, lest his virtues, worthy of eternal commendation, should pass away with the death of his body.'

Anne died in 1619, with the two wings and linking archway of her Greenwich Queen's House only at ground-floor height. That at Dunfermline was demolished in 1797 as again in a ruinous condition: the last known monarch to stay there was Charles II in 1650, when he was crowned King of Scotland in defiance of Cromwell, who then marched up and defeated the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar. Back in England, Charles escaped into near ten-year exile after final defeat at Worcester in 1651. In June 1652 Inigo Jones died and was buried in St Benet's Church in the City of London, where his grave and monument were lost when it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. In the late 1870s, however, his recorded and much simpler Latin inscription as 'renowned architect to the King of Great Britain' was reinstated in Wren's new church, opened in 1683.

Schaw's monument, Dunfermline

Recent Events

Greenwich Park Walk David Scales

On 12 August, 29 enthusiastic and intrepid Society members braved the scorching heat (and the distraction of the solar eclipse) for a memorable walk around the upper end of Greenwich Park led by Clare Lanes, the Park Manager.

We started promptly at 4.30 p.m. from the Park Office at Blackheath Gate. After a warm greeting, Clare guided us through the Flower Garden. This area had been closed during our July 2025 walk due to high winds, so we were glad to explore it this time. While the weather co-operated, the intense summer heat had clearly taken its toll on the Park leaving the lawns parched. However, as we continued, I was struck by how many of the trees and plants remained in robust health despite the dry conditions and lack of rainwater.

Clare explained that changes to the planting scheme and Park environment were inspired by a visit to Normandy by the gardening and grounds maintenance staff earlier this summer. To combat drought conditions, they have introduced climate-resilient trees and plants that are already thriving. I noticed one particularly striking, small, fern-like tree with delicate, vibrant pink flowers: known as Albizia, or more commonly the Mimosa tree, it is remarkably drought-tolerant. The experience made me think how useful a physical nature trail, rather than just a digital screen, would be to help visitors identify the diverse plant and tree species as they pass them.

Our next stop was the new Learning Centre. Developed under the Greenwich Park Revealed restoration project, this eco-friendly facility hosts local community meetings, nature workshops, and wildlife activities. It regularly runs welcome days, heritage events, and well-being programmes designed to connect local residents with the Park. It also serves local schools, with primary and secondary groups visiting for science and geography projects, habitat exploration, and biodiversity activities. During our visit, we saw a project where schoolchildren had been measuring rainfall in glass bottles over the past six months. Unsurprisingly, July and August 2026 showed barely any compared to the period from March to June.

The tour concluded at the kitchen garden adjacent to the Ignatius Sancho Café, where a variety of vegetables and plants are grown and sold to the community. The café's namesake, Ignatius Sancho, was a pioneering and once-local black writer, composer and abolitionist. A voter in Parliamentary elections of 1774 and 1780 he was thought to be the first of African heritage to have done so, but in 2024 was put into second place by John London, who voted in 1750. Both became Westminster shopkeepers, which gave them the property qualification to do so.

From there, our walkers said their farewells and thanked Clare for an exceptionally inspiring and informative afternoon. My sincere thanks go out to all the new and long-standing members who joined us. These walks have become so popular that Clare has kindly agreed to make them an annual event. Next year's will focus on the historic conduits, One Tree Hill, and the Queen's Oak area. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

The Society is always eager to welcome new members from all backgrounds and demographics and to branch out to new communities. If you have neighbours, friends, or relatives who might like to join or learn more about what we do, please direct them to our website or share one of our membership postcards. Better still; encourage them to come along to our free 'Coffee and Chat' events on the first Wednesday of each month: for dates of the next, and the usual venue and times, see p.9.

Conversation Break Tim Barnes

This last of our recent 'Conversations' with distinguished local residents was with Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham at St Alfege Church Hall on 10 September. Jeremy had a varied and distinguished career, his sea service culminating with command of HMS *Ark Royal* before promotion to flag rank, in which he held a senior naval staff position and doubled as Admiral President of the Royal Naval College. The exchange covered many topics: the legitimacy of sinking the *Belgrano* during the Falklands war, the introduction of women to service in warships, the authority of captains to act on personal initiative during offensive operations, the maintenance of discipline at sea and the present state of the Royal Navy compared to when Jeremy joined in 1964. He was an erudite and interesting conversationalist and his take on the rationale and likely effectiveness of the 'two-aircraft-carrier' Navy, to which much else has been sacrificed, was particularly telling. There was a good-sized audience, with some interesting follow-up questions. I would like to hold a further series of conversations in 2027 and hope that, with suggestions from others in the Society, we can identify some more notable local interviewees. I am particularly keen to recruit one or two from the fields of literature and stage.

Quiz Evening

The Greenwich Society quiz on 26 September, also at the Church Hall, proved a lively affair: Kaya Safa as a new (and younger than usual) quiz master, pushed it along at a fast pace over two well-wined halves with a break for brought-in pizza. Six tables of six battled it out, one representing Morden College and one comprising law students from the University of Greenwich who – to general applause – carried the day by an impressive margin of 70 points above the 59.5 of the running-up 'Ancient Mariners'. Ten tables (60 people) is the maximum and, since September appears to be still a busy month for other things, there is view that we might do better shifting the event back to its former winter (February) timing.

New Society Dates

The Greenwich Society Annual Lecture 2026

This will be on **Sunday 15 November at 11.00 a.m.** in the University's Tessa Blackstone Lecture Theatre at 10 Stockwell Street, with refreshments to follow (members £10, others £12.50: tickets via the Society website). The speaker is **Professor Jane Harrington**, now Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the London and South-East University Group, after previously being the same for the University of Greenwich since December 2019. With a career in higher education spanning 35 years, she is widely recognised for her inclusive, values-led leadership, with a strong focus on student success, social mobility, civic responsibility, partnerships and education without boundaries. Jane's career started as a researcher focusing on gender and work, and she has held senior and executive roles for over 20 years. Her new one, formally since August, is as inaugural leader of the UK's first multi-university group (Greenwich and the University of Kent). We hope to hear something of that and progress on the current redevelopment of Devonport House for university teaching use.

5 NOV

3 DEC

Coffee & Chat

5 November and 3 December: Wednesday sessions in the upper level of the NMM Parkside café (11.00 for 11.15 a.m. start)

15 JAN

As an early 2027 diary date, the Society's informal **New Year Supper** will be on Friday 15 January: further details in due course.

Out and About

Nigel Fletcher

Churchill and The Queen: Writing History. An evening at Greenwich Theatre on **2 November** (7.30 p.m.) where historians Dr Nigel Fletcher and Katherine Carter will discuss the relationship between these two remarkable figures, who helped define the present age, and take audience questions. Though perhaps best known in Greenwich as a former local Conservative councillor, Nigel is an academic historian, Ken Young Memorial Research Fellow at the Mile End Institute and a visiting fellow at King's College London, where he taught politics and contemporary history for seven years. Katherine is longstanding curator/ manager at Chartwell, Churchill's country home in Kent. Both have recently published related books: Nigel's is *Churchill's Queen*: *the Remarkable Friendship that Shaped our Age,* Katherine's *Churchill's Citadel: Chartwell and the Gatherings Before the Storm*. Tickets are £15 but buying them online in advance from the Theatre includes purchase options for signed copies of either or both books at a discounted rate (the price for both and the ticket is £37). Copies will also be available on the night.

Lantern Parade and Christmas Lights switch-on.

This is also scheduled for **Wednesday 18 November,** 4 – 6 p.m., when local schoolchildren will parade handmade lanterns from the Old Royal Naval College through Maritime Greenwich to the covered market for the 5 p.m. switch-on.

Swaying in the Wind, the new exhibition at the **Fan Museum** until **9 January**, showcases work of the contemporary French fan-maker Frédérick Yvan Manuel Gay. It's spectacular stuff, more *Folies-Bergères* meets David Bowie than 'polite antique accoutrements', and well worth a look. 'Stories and Dreams of Egypt' (see photo) is one theme – Gay's take on a subject that French *savants* accompanying Napoleon there in 1798 first brought to both European scholarly and popular attention, not least in fashion: it still holds a close grip.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is being marked on **7 November** at the NMM with *All Together Now*, a free family event showcasing South Asian artists, performers, storytellers, makers and community organisations from across the UK. A major addition for 2026 is the Diwali Bazaar, bringing in South Asian designers, artists, makers and independent businesses. Visitors will be able to browse stalls featuring jewellery, clothing, prints, accessories, gifts and handmade products from South Asian creatives and local Greenwich-based businesses.

The Queen's House ice rink will also return to the NMM grounds, **18 November – 3 January**, this year doubling in size while retaining the same capacity to create (we are told) 'a more spacious and unhurried skating experience'.

Lost in the Wash **Pieter van der Merwe**

In the mid-1970s the Thames foreshore covered the lower water stairs of the Royal Naval College at a level about two metres higher than it is now, with even their granite-slab foundation platform well above it. All the surviving wooden jetty pilings of the Tudor Palace of Greenwich were then fully buried: today all are well exposed. A prime cause is thought to be turbulence created by the water-jet propulsion of the passenger catamarans since 1999, which is ironic given that it was then thought likely to have less effect than conventional hull and propeller wash. This time last year, the two western-end granite foundation slabs started to tip out of line. They have now been levered back and the whole platform packed round with the same caged-rock shield against undermining that, in huge mesh bags, was earlier added along the river wall on that side for the same reason. The third image here shows a base-timber of a probably 17th-century 'dolphin' (a vertical support for a vanished Palace landing-stage) now only suspended in place, like an accusing finger, by the bag of rock pinning it there: the untrapped cross-piece, parallel to the wall behind, has washed away like everything else not firmly held in place.

A Greenwich Society member offer from Lynne Gilchrist who runs Greeenwich Park Life-Coaching, a recent local start-up.

She holds four-week group programmes (the next starting on 4 November) and is offering members a 25% discount (£75 rather than the usual £99) and/or a free 30-minute discovery call for anyone interested in one-to-one coaching, plus a 20% discount if they sign up. For more details, search for 'Greenwich Park Life Coaching' on Instagram or Facebook, or contact Lynne direct on **lynne@greenwichparklifecoaching.co.uk**. You may also like to receive her regular newsletter at **Bit.ly/gplc-newsletter**.

Have a Happy Chiristmas...

...and perhaps make a cheerful start to it with some of the Society's bespoke Greenwich Christmas cards, contributed by our very own and ever-inimitable Banx.

Bearing in mind the exactions of postage, cost is as low as possible at £5.00 for a pack of 5. Limited stock available: purchase at the Greenwich Tourism Information Centre (Pepys House [ORNC], 2 Cutty Sark Gardens) or from our ever-helpful *Newsletter* printers – SBS, at their 7 Greenwich South Street address, as below..

Support us and receive our Newsletter four times a year.

To join online visit our website at **greenwichsociety.org.uk** and follow the links or use this QR code. For membership enquiries or changes to contact information (address, telephone, email etc.), write to: membership@greenwichsociety.org.uk (or see the address below)

The Greenwich Society Newsletter

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THE GREENWICH SOCIETY
Our heritage and our future

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